

Great Britain - Military Situation - July 1940



~~SECRET~~

PSF
G.B.

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

Early on June 28th the last known disposition of important units of the French Fleet were as follows:-

- Portsmouth: One battleship
Two light Cruisers
Five torpedo boats
Two submarines
- Plymouth: One battleship
Two light cruisers
Two destroyers
One torpedo boat
Three sunmarines
- Leverander: One large destroyer, 96% complete
- South France: Four light Cruisers
Three destroyers
- Dakar: One battleship
One destroyer
Two submarines
One armed merchant cruiser
- Casablanca: One battleship, incomplete
One cruiser
Six destroyers (plus two completing)
One submarine parent ship
16 submarines
Five armed merchant cruisers
One torpedo boat
- Oran: Four battleships
One cruiser (expected)
Seven light cruisers
Two destroyers
Four submarines

Plus one cruiser and one torpedo boat
(expected)
- Algiers: Six cruisers
- Bona: One submarine
- Bizerta: One destroyer
Seven submarines

Sfax: /



Sfax: Four cruisers
Eight light cruisers
Two torpedo boats
Three submarines

Sousse: Two submarines

Alexandria: One battleship
Four cruisers
Four light cruisers (one expected)

Levant: One destroyer
Six submarines

Convoying at Sea:

Two cruisers
One aircraft carrier
Five destroyers
One torpedo boat
Five submarines

Martinique: Two cruisers
One aircraft carrier

Gibraltar: One destroyer

Malta: One submarine

Singapore: One cruiser
One armed merchant cruiser.

BRITISH EMBASSY

WASHINGTON, D.C.

July 1st, 1940



PSF
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C..

~~Secret~~

July 1st, 1940

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
the latest report on the military
situation. This was sent off early
on the evening of June 30th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

L. Hoare

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

Telegram despatched from London
on evening of June 30th.

Enemy reconnaissance aircraft, probably carrying out weather reconnaissances, active over east and west coasts of England yesterday. One Dornier 17 shot down. About 50 enemy aircraft raided United Kingdom last night, dropping bombs in Yorkshire, Staffordshire, Lincolnshire, Cambridgeshire, Sussex and South Wales. No damage or casualties reported except at gas works and at infirmary. Two people killed and 8 wounded. Deterioration of weather conditions prevented interceptions, and probably also caused enemy to curtail operations.

Blenheims attacked Dheville aerodrome yesterday and report that all bombs fell on aerodrome area. Photographic reconnaissance also carried out over northwestern France and coasts of Norway. Enemy battleship and camouflaged warship observed in Trondheim harbour and one large ship together with much activity in Kiel harbour. Three out of 88 heavy bombers missing as result of attacks on explosive factories and marshalling yards in northwest Germany last night. Thirty-five tons of bombs dropped on chemical factories at Cologne, Dusseldorf and

Hoechst/

Hoechst on night of June 28th - 29th, causing large fires and explosions. Aerodromes and marshalling yards also subjected to heavy attacks.

No change reported in location of French fleet. Very doubtful however if anything can be done to secure cooperation of this fleet, and short of surrender to the enemy position cannot deteriorate further. Feelings of officers vary from definite hostility to negative wishes not to embarrass British fleet.

Reported French "Emile Bertin" started unloading bullion at Martinique on June 28th. French Chief of Staff has informed British authorities that aircraft carrier "Bearn" is to unload her aircraft at Guadaloupe before returning to France.

French authorities at Dakar have refused fuelling facilities to British ships which have troops on board.

British destroyers in Mediterranean report sinking one Italian submarine on June 27th and two Italian submarines on June 29th. One other Italian submarine sunk in Mediterranean on June 29th, by flying boat, which picked up four survivors. British submarine "Orpheus" now presumed lost. One Dutch ship sunk by torpedo off west coast of France yesterday.

It is considered likely that death of Air Marshal Balbo will probably have adverse effect/



effect on morale of Italian air force.
Blenheims from Egypt inflicted severe casualties
on enemy troops and aircraft at Birelgubbi on
June 29th. One enemy fighter shot down and
another severely damaged. Two Blenheims shot
down and another missing.



PSF
G.B.

*File personally
confidential*

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

July 2nd, 1940

~~SECRET~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
the latest report on the military
situation. This was sent off late
last night.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

**REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED**

L. Moran

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

dock, one pocket battleship (stem damaged) in drydock, two cruisers, one aircraft carrier and two or three destroyers. Activity also with lighters or pontoons. General evidence accumulated that Germany is preparing for sea-borne invasion.

3. Customary weather, mine laying, reconnaissance and transport activities of German air force continued.

4. German troops reliably reported to have landed in Guernsey but no further details received.

5. Four British ships torpedoed off Western coast of Europe, two of which sunk. One enemy submarine reported sunk by His Majesty's Ship in Eastern Mediterranean.

6. No change reported in Mediterranean and African dispositions of French fleet. "Jeanne D'Arc" is at Guadeloupe. Most of French navy has now lost its fighting spirit though morale at Alexandria is better than elsewhere and generally smaller vessels have shown up better than battle fleet. Units not in contact with British appear content to remain in harbour.

7. Participation in war reported still unpopular in Italy. German division reported at Trieste and two more expected at Naples.

8. On June 29th and 30th seven Italian aircraft shot down by British fighters near Libyan frontier and one in Port Sudan area. Italian air attacks Malta yesterday caused six casualties/



-3-

casualties and slight material damage. Royal Air Force successfully attacked troop concentrations and bombed dumps south west of Djibouti.

PSF.
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

July 4th, 1940

~~SECRET~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
the latest report on the military
situation. This was sent off on the
evening of July 2nd but was delayed
in transmission.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

L. Hurian

**REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED**

The Honourable
Franklin D. Roosevelt,
President of the United States of America,
Washington, D.C.



Telegram despatched from London
on the evening of July 2nd, 1940.

Yesterday enemy aircraft displayed some reconnaissance activity over our coasts and dropped bombs on Wick resulting in nine civilians killed, fifteen injured, also at Hull setting fire to oil tanks. Four enemy aircraft reported shot down. During the night smaller number of bombers than July 1st were in area of Bristol and South Wales. No serious damage reported, four people reported injured. Mine laying suspected off East Coast.

2. During day Blenheim and Coastal Command aircraft carried out numerous photographic reconnaissances over French Coast and aerodromes. Fighter escort were provided but no enemy aircraft encountered, all our aircraft returned. Promising air attack carried out on Moselle east of Larne. Another submarine destroyed by Sunderland in Western approaches, survivors rescued. Last night 73 heavy bombers continued attacks on marshalling yards, air frame factory, inland docks and oil targets. Satisfactory explosions and fires reported particularly at Hamm. Heavy attack also directed against Scharnhorst in dry dock. Reports highly satisfactory, many hits claimed and huge fire started, two aircraft missing. Eighteen
Swordfish/



Swordfish were detailed to attack large concentration of barges east of Rotterdam, results not yet known. Mine laying operations also carried out.

3. Reported increase in German air transport activity. Flights were made from North-West Germany along Baltic Coast. Some special form of training continues in Baltic but exact nature not yet ascertained.

4. Reports received of two British ships torpedoed also one Greek and one Dutch.

5. No change reported in Mediterranean and African disposition of French fleet. Unsatisfactory reports of French in China (sic), Algeria and Morocco, although Consul at Aleppo has been inundated with French officers offering their services. Strong lead by virile Government with clear cut policy might still achieve success.

6. Small Sudanese force from Gallabat together with Abyssinian rebel band, attacked Italian colonial battalions inflicting approximately 30 casualties including three white officers. Our casualties one killed, ten wounded. Sidi Azeiz and Fort Capuzzo in Libya reoccupied by Italian forces on June 28th. Supported by artillery and A.F.Vs. June 20th bombers attacked troop concentrations East of Kassala scoring hits and two Italian naval vessels near Commowa. Also bombed dump at Macaaca resulting in heavy explosions. One aircraft missing. Enemy aircraft bombed Berbera resulting in 42 native casualties, also His Majesty's ship/



ship in Perim without result. Royal West
African Frontier Force consisting of two
brigade groups arrived.....

Quoted in Langer and Gleason,
Challenge to Isolation, p. 573

PSF
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

July 4th, 1940

~~SECRET~~ *Personal*

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
the latest report on the military
situation. This was sent off late
last night.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

**REGRADED
UNCL. SIFIED**

L. Norton

*You will see that Winston Churchill has taken
the same action in regard to his British fleet*

The Honourable *which we discuss & you approved*
Franklin D. Roosevelt,
President of the United States of America,
Washington, D. C.

Telegram despatched from London on
the evening of July 3rd, 1940.

German aircraft bombed Newcastle and Bristol areas yesterday afternoon. Casualties twelve killed, one hundred and twenty three injured. No damage to war factories reported but warehouses seriously damaged at Newcastle. Bombs were dropped last night in Bournemouth area, Glamorganshire, Hereford and at Shepton Mallet. No reports yet available. One oil tanker at Hull set on fire in attacks July 1st.

2. Fifty heavy bombers attacked marshalling yards and oil targets in western Germany and aerodrome at Brussels last night. All aircraft returned. Daylight operations hampered by lack of cloud cover but mine laying operations and routine anti-invasion, anti-submarine and convoy patrols and minor attacks on enemy shipping were carried out. One DO 17 was set on fire over England. Attack on "Scharnhorst" on night of July 1st-July 2nd was carried out under ideal conditions and was very successful, considerable damage being done to ship and floating dock. Attacks same night on other targets were also successful.

3. Ship carrying twelve hundred and thirteen German and Italian male internees and eighty-six prisoners of war, with British armed guards, was sunk by enemy torpedo in western

approaches/

approaches yesterday. Canadian destroyer has picked up eight hundred survivors. Two other British ships also sunk by torpedo yesterday. Four Italian submarines sunk in Mediterranean between June 27th and June 30th, three by destroyers and one by flying boat.

4. Support for Bordeaux Government among units of French navy appears to be increasing, and in North African ports anti-British feeling appears marked. It is possible that individual officers and men may join us if they can get away, and also individual ships, especially small craft.

5. Italian reinforcements drawn from troops in reserve behind French frontier now reported on Yugoslav frontier. Fifty German airmen reported to have arrived in Libya.

6. Oil targets in Sicily successfully attacked by Swordfish aircraft on June 30th. Further successful attacks on Macaaca aerodrome yesterday. Two enemy fighters shot down and two destroyed on the ground. One Blenheim forced landed on return journey. Aircraft from Sudan bombed aerodromes in Gondarr area on July 1st seriously damaging six aircraft on the ground. All our aircraft returned.



PSF
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

July 5th, 1940.

~~Secret.~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
the latest report on the military
situation. This was sent off from
London yesterday evening.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

L. Moran

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.



Telegram despatched from London
on the evening of July 4th.

1. French Fleet.

Certain demands were delivered to French Admiral at Oran yesterday morning. After waiting for some hours for reply British Naval force opened fire during the afternoon on French fleet at Oran and an engagement ensued. Damage to French warships reported as follows:-

1 Battleship sunk, one battleship hit, one battle-cruiser hit and on shore, aircraft carrier on fire, two destroyers sunk.

Warship, battle cruiser "Dunkerque" was undamaged and escaped to sea. Dunkerque subsequently attacked by aircraft. One hit by torpedo. Certain measures also have been taken at Alexandria, Malta and in United Kingdom to secure French naval vessels in these ports. French Government have issued orders that all British ships and aircraft are forbidden to approach within 20 sea miles of French harbours at home or overseas, under penalty of being fired on without warning. British destroyer on patrol off Casablanca reported yesterday evening being fired at by French shore batteries.

2. Yesterday morning enemy bombed areas near Newbury, Godalming and in Sussex and Kent.

Some/

Some damage caused to ordnance sheds but little other damage reported. Further attacks were made yesterday evening principally on East and West Coast areas. Only serious damage was at Saltburn Iron Works where 33 persons injured and work may have to stop for 24 hours. Intensive raids took place last night in Central England but very little damage done. British fighters yesterday destroyed six enemy aircraft (confirmed) and four enemy aircraft (unconfirmed). Two aircraft missing. No interceptions reported last night. Activities of German bomber reconnaissance aircraft and transport aircraft continued on same level.

3. Yesterday Blenheims attacked air frame factories, marshalling yards and oil targets in western Germany and aerodromes and barges in Low Countries. One Messerschmidt 109 shot down and five Junker 52's destroyed on the ground. One Blenheim missing. Attacks on similar targets and further mine-laying carried out last night. One Hampden missing. Further reports of attacks on night of July 2nd-3rd indicate that direct hits were obtained on many targets attacked.

4. Following is latest information regarding survivors from "Arandora Star" referred to in paragraph 3 of my immediately preceding telegram. 868 survivors have been landed in United Kingdom from Canadian Destroyer. Of these, 586 were German and Italian internees or prisoners.

5. No attacks on shipping reported. Attack

on/

on enemy submarine in western approaches with promising results.

6. Considerable transportation by train of fast motor boats, probably M.T.B.'s, is understood to be taking place from Italy to Germany. Large Italian practises in disembarkations in Germany also reported, procedure being for ships to run close in shore and hoist out lighters, each containing two tanks. Lighters towed ashore and run up the beach, lowering specially fitted prows to enable tanks to drive ashore.

7. One Italian aircraft shot down off Malta yesterday.

8. Four aircraft of South African Air Force bombed Moyale on July 1st, obtaining direct hits on two gun positions.

9. 3,000 Polish troops and 300 French and Czech troops arrived in Palestine up to July 2nd.



PSF
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~Secret~~

July 7th, 1940.

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein copies of the latest reports on the military situation, the first was sent off from London on the evening of July 5th and the second on the evening of July 6th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

W. A. R. L. H. H. H.

**REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED**

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.



Telegram despatched from London
on evening of July 5th, 1940.

Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean

reports following agreement with French warships at Alexandria.

(a) fuel oil to be discharged; (b) ships to be made incapable of fighting; (c) disposal of ships companies to be matter for further negotiation. Italian aircraft attacked fleet at Alexandria on July 4th, but no damage reported. One French ship opened fire in this attack.

Enemy aircraft attacked Portland yesterday morning. Naval anti-aircraft ship sunk, 50 - 60 of crew seriously wounded and a number slightly wounded. British merchant vessel beached and two small craft sunk. Twelve casualties amongst dockyard workers. Aeroplane works near Bristol attacked yesterday, but no damage to works. One enemy aircraft shot down. Two convoys off the south coast attacked by enemy aircraft. Four British and one neutral ships were damaged. One Messerschmidt shot down and another probably destroyed. Fighter aircraft also shot down one of several enemy aircraft attacking shipping off South East Coast. Minor enemy air activity/



activity last night and raids recorded in South West England, South East England and Humber. No damage and few casualties reported. No casualties reported from enemy raids on night of July 3rd - 4th.

Blenheims attacked oil targets and marshalling yards in Western Germany yesterday. Last night, heavy bombers attacked "Scharnhorst" at Kiel, also air frame factories, railway targets, ship building yards at Hamburg and naval base at Wilhelmshaven. One aircraft missing.

British warship successfully attacked submarine off Dakar yesterday. Two British ships torpedoed by enemy M.T.B's in home waters yesterday.

British flying boat attacked by three fighters in Western Mediterranean yesterday. One fighter shot down and another is probable casualty. Enemy fighters attacked aerodrome at Malta yesterday, causing no casualties, but slight damage to aircraft on the ground.

Sudan area. Enemy armoured cars and motorised infantry, supported by bomber aircraft, captured Kassala yesterday. British garrison of Gallabat attacked in similar manner and forced to withdraw after inflicting heavy casualties. British losses one killed and six wounded. Wellesleys successfully attacked military camp in Western Abyssinia.

Italian/



Italian forces attacked Sollum on July 3rd but retired on intervention of British tanks.

Germans reported to be sending considerable troop reinforcements to Northern Norwegian ports.

On July 2nd one battalion of the K.A.R., supported by bombers of S.A.A.F. who engaged enemy's guns and strong points, drove back enemy forces which had penetrated Northern frontier district of Kenya near Moyale.



Telegram despatched from London
on evening of July 6th, 1940.

French fleet. Situation reported to be in hand at Alexandria. French have instituted submarine patrol at Casablanca. French auxiliary vessel "Cabaibe", which left Mombasa on July 4th, has returned of her own accord.

Main enemy air activity yesterday over British Isles was in the southwest area. Twelve slight casualties and minor damage caused. Slight activity last night, mainly seaward on northeast coast. Bombs also dropped in Yorkshire and Kent causing one minor casualty and no important damage. Two Heinkel 111's reported shot down, but not yet confirmed. Enemy fighter aircraft reported over Straits of Dover and Kent. British fighter shot down one Heinkel 111 in this area yesterday.

..... Blenheims missing. Last night, heavy bombers attacked railway targets and dockyards in north western Germany. One aircraft missing. Further reports on attack on "Scharnhorst" referred to in my immediately preceding telegram are that two direct hits with two thousand pound bombs were seen on the dock in which "Scharnhorst" is located and ship has listed to port.

British/



British destroyer torpedoed by submarine and subsequently sunk in western approaches. Fiftyseven officers and ratings killed. Further details regarding enemy air attack on convoys off South Coast referred to in my immediately preceeding telegram are that five additional British ships were damaged. Two additional British ships were damaged in enemy air attack on Portland. Attacks were made on one enemy submarine in western Mediterranean and one enemy submarine in home waters by destroyers and auxilliary vessels yesterday, but results not known.

Mediterranean On July 4th, three Gladiators shot down two enemy fighters near Sollum, and later six Gladiators shot down seven enemy fighters and badly damaged two more. One Gladiator shot down, but pilot saved. On same day, Blenheims attacked enemy military camp at Bir-el-Gobbi, and enemy raided Aboukir and Alexandria. Little damage caused by enemy's raids. One enemy aircraft believed shot down. Enemy camp at Metemma successfully attacked by aircraft from Soudan on July 4th. German-French aircraft attacked Gibraltar yesterday, no damage caused.

Following figures show proportion of population in United Kingdom serving with armed forces :

Total male population of United
Kingdom

Kingdom(20 - 41 years) seven million three hundred and fifty thousand.

Reserved occupations (including mercantile marine) three million six hundred and sixty-six thousand.

Less 20% unfit. Numbers available two million nine hundred and forty-seven thousand.

Numbers serving in Army - one million four hundred and thirty thousand.

Numbers serving in Navy - one hundred and seventy-three thousand.

Numbers serving in Royal Air Force - two hundred and forty-three thousand.

A.R.P. and A.F.S. - one hundred thousand.

Deferments - two hundred thousand.

Total - two million one hundred and forty-six thousand.

Balance 20 - 41 year olds - eight hundred and one thousand.



PSF
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.
July 8th, 1940.

~~Secret.~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
the latest report on the military
situation. This was sent off from
London yesterday evening.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

L. Attie

**REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED**

The Honourable
Franklin D. Roosevelt,
President of the United States of America,
Washington, D. C.



Telegram despatched from London
on the evening of July 7th.

1. As result of further operations against French naval units at Oran, it is considered that "Dunkerque" will be unfit for service for twelve months. In this action, one Fleet Air Arm aircraft shot down, but crew saved. One French flying-boat has arrived at Malta. French naval guards have been placed on British merchant vessels at Dakar and French flag hoisted.

2. Considerable enemy air activity yesterday in southwest area, Aldershot area and east coast of Scotland. Seven killed and twenty-three injured Aldershot area. One killed and five injured in Plymouth area. No damage reported to war factories. Relatively little bombing last night. Three killed, one injured.

3. Blenheims attacked aerodromes and inland water communications in Low Countries yesterday. Ship-building and storage yards in Germany were attacked last night, and mine-laying carried out. One enemy aircraft shot down yesterday, and two HE 111's on July 5th.

4. No enemy attacks on shipping reported. One British destroyer damaged by air bombing yesterday and another by collision. Two enemy U-Boats attacked in western approaches and one

in Mediterranean by destroyers yesterday. Successful submarine attacks have been made on enemy merchant vessels off Norwegian coast.

5. Mediterranean. Fleet Air Arm and Royal Air Force attacked Tobruk yesterday evening. Hits registered on enemy submarine, two destroyers, and five or six merchant vessels. Twenty enemy bombers attacked Malta yesterday. Four persons reported wounded, and some material damage done. One enemy aircraft shot down (unconfirmed).

6. In Gallabat area, Italian forces are initiating turning movement to threaten British position on road Gallabat-Ghedaref. Further dispersal of petrol and munitions is reported throughout Italian East Africa.



BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

July 9th, 1940.

~~Secret~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
the latest report on the military
situation. This was sent off on the
evening of July 8th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

L. Hurzen

**REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED**

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.



Telegram despatched from London
on the evening of July 8th.

Following is summary of present
situation regarding main units of French fleet

- 3 battleships and 5 cruisers in British
hands in home ports and Alexandria.
- 2 battleships, 1 battle cruiser (at Oran)
and 1 six inch cruiser believed destroyed
or out of action.
- 1 battle cruiser (damaged) and 9 cruisers
in Western Mediterranean ports.
- 2 new battleships and 1 cruiser off Morocco
and West African coast.
- 1 aircraft carrier, 1 training cruiser and
1 cruiser in West Indies.

On July 6th British warships
attacked shipping in Bardia harbour (Libya).
2 supply ships heavily hit and probably sunk.
Our warships were subsequently unsuccessfully
attacked by enemy bombers. One British submarine
severely damaged in enemy air attack on Malta.
One mine sweeper and 1 M/S trawler slightly
damaged by enemy air attack in home waters.
One Esthonian ship sunk in western approaches.
One British ship and one Swedish ship and one
tanker also attacked in same area.

Enemy/



Enemy aircraft operating against United Kingdom displayed increased activity yesterday directing their main effort against South Coast ports and shipping in Straits of Dover. No material damage to war industries but 27 persons killed and over 40 injured. Our fighters shot down 3 Messerschmitts 109s, 1 Dornier 17 and 1 Junker 88 (confirmed) and 1 Messerschmitt 110 (probable). One Hurricane shot down and 3 missing. Anti-aircraft guns shot down 1 Messerschmitt 109. Enemy activity last night below normal and mainly over East Coast. No serious damage reported up to the present.

Blenheim aircraft yesterday attacked oil targets, air frame works, airdromes and barges in northwestern Germany. One aircraft reported concentration of barges and trawlers at Ostend. Two Blenheims missing. One aircraft was attacked by five Messerschmitt 109s of which one is reported to have been shot down. Last night heavy bombers attacked targets in northwestern Germany including shipbuilding yards and dockyards. Two aircraft missing. Medium bombers attacked Ostend report direct hits on one large ship and on dockyard gates. Mine laying operations continue. Reports received of considerable railway disorganisation in Rhineland and Westphalia. Traffic blocks in areas such as Hamm and Soest, Dusseldorf and Cologne, are increasing.

Egypt/



Egypt. British cavalry destroyed 12 out of 20 enemy motor vehicles engaged in western desert yesterday. July 5th Blenheims successfully attacked enemy aircraft on airdrome near Tobruk and mechanised transport and troop concentrations near Bardia. All our aircraft returned. On the same day enemy aircraft attacked airdromes and armoured troops in western desert. Damage and casualties not serious. Our forces have cut pipe line Bardia-Capuzzo.

Enemy aircraft attacked dock area and airdrome at Malta yesterday and preceding night, few naval and civilian casualties caused but no serious material damage reported. One enemy aircraft shot down by anti-aircraft fire and one by fighters. Enemy aircraft recently bombed repeatedly for three days British convoy in Eastern Mediterranean but with no result, although convoy escort was weak in anti-aircraft defence.

We have been forced to withdraw temporarily from main positions in Gallabat area but are sending reinforcements from Gedaref. Italian casualties during occupation of Kassala estimated at three hundred personnel and eight light tanks and probably aircraft.



P.S.F.
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.
July 10th, 1940.

~~Secret.~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
the latest report on the military
situation. This was sent off from
London yesterday evening.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

L. S. F.

**REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED**

The Honourable
Franklin D. Roosevelt,
President of the United States of America,
Washington, D. C.

~~Secret.~~

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

Telegram despatched from London
on the evening of July 9th.

As a result of attack on French battleship "Richelieu" at Dakar by depth charges laid by a naval motor boat, and subsequently by naval aircraft yesterday, "Richelieu" was reported to have settled by the stern and considered to be disabled. Later reported that "Richelieu" had been moved to shallower water where she is immune from torpedo attack. Shortly after above operation, French aircraft attacked our ships, but no damage has been reported. Our naval forces off Dakar have now dispersed.

2. Main enemy air attacks yesterday were directed on ports in southwest of England, East Anglia and Humber. Shipping was attacked off Sunderland and heavily attacked twice off Dungeness. Bombs dropped on Plymouth, Portland, Portsmouth, Teignmouth, Falmouth, Ipswich, Walton, Northcoates and Grimsby. Some damage caused to Falmouth docks but no other damage to war industry reported. Casualties reported up to the present, six killed fifteen injured. Seven enemy aircraft shot down. Three Spitfires lost. Last night enemy aircraft bombed various places on the east and south coasts. Preliminary reports one killed and one wounded and no serious damage/

damage done. Usual minelaying and operational training continues. Transport aircraft activity from Germany to the west less numerous but traffic to Denmark and Norway was intensified.

3. Yesterday Blenheims successfully attacked German occupied aerodromes in Northwestern France. Large number of barges were observed in canals in northern Belgium. Minelaying also continued. Last night Royal Air Force attacked shipbuilding yards, marshalling yards and oil targets.

4. One anti-submarine trawler and one British ship sunk in home waters yesterday. Two British ships hit by enemy bombs in attacks in home waters yesterday. Three attacks made on enemy submarines in western approaches yesterday. Two of these thought successful.

5. Mediterranean. Naval aircraft successfully attacked Catania aerodrome on July 6th-7th. No fighter opposition encountered despite presence of large number of fighter aircraft in Sicily. Two enemy aircraft (confirmed) and one (unconfirmed) now reported destroyed in enemy attacks on Malta dockyard on July 7th. Five enemy aircraft dropped five bombs on Alexandria on July 7th. No damage and no casualties. Three aircraft bombed Gibraltar yesterday. No damage done. One enemy submarine sunk by air action in Eastern Mediterranean.

6. Italian East Africa. Present bomber dispositions indicate enemy intention of continuing attacks/

attacks along Sudan border and not on Aden but report received of movement of troops and enemy tanks towards Port Sudan. Three enemy aircraft bombed Atbara on July 7th. Three minor casualties. British Moyale shelled heavily on July 6th and indications point to enemy infiltration into Mandera triangle. Reinforcement of one Indian battalion has reached British Somaliland.



PSF
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

July 11th, 1940.

~~Secret.~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
the latest report on the military
situation. This was sent off late on
the evening of July 10th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

L. S. L.

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.



Telegram despatched from London
late in the evening of July 10th

On July 9th one of our aircraft
attacked U-boat east of Cape Spartivento and
claims to have sunk it.

It is reported that the French
have now agreed to reduce crews of warships at
Alexandria to a quarter in respect of combatant
ratings and to an overall reduction to one third
of the full complement. Seven French submarines
reported to have left Casablanca during the
night of July 5th to 6th.

During the night of July 8th to 9th
hostile aircraft activity increased. Attacks
directed chiefly against East and South coasts
where small number of bombs were dropped at
various places widely dispersed. Very little
damage was done. At Llanelly bombs dropped on
steel works but production not affected.
Mine-laying activities proceeded. Early on
July 9th abnormal activity noted off Dutch coast
which developed into attacks on shipping in the
Thames Estuary and English Channel. At Cardiff
docks damage estimated repairable in 48 to 60
hours, is reported. At Norwich two factories
were hit, at one of which production will be
affected/



affected to some extent. Reconnaissances of aerodromes carried out in area of Portland, Bristol, Oxford and Shoreham. During the night of July 9th to 10th enemy air activity less than usual. Some bombs dropped in Yorkshire, East Kent and at Bournemouth and Edinburgh: damage slight and casualties few. This morning some casualties caused and mains damaged at Plymouth and three aerodromes in East Anglia were bombed. Further details not at present available. Total casualties of all above operations reported as seventeen killed and sixty-one wounded.

Results of R.A.F. night raids mentioned in paragraph four of yesterday's telegram indicate that bombs burst in dockyards at Kiel and Wilhelmshaven, and very large explosions followed the attack on synthetic oil plant at Homburg. Hits observed on marshalling yards at Hamm and on six aerodromes and 30 bases in north-west Germany and Holland. Successful mine-laying also carried out. Yesterday, Blenheims attacked Sola aerodrome near Starangeo. Large numbers of enemy aircraft in the aerodrome and more than 20 fighters encountered. We lost 7. As result of enemy attacks, 9 enemy aircraft destroyed and further probable casualties; in addition, an enemy bomber was shot down off east coast of Scotland and another off Yarmouth. Six fighter aircraft lost. Last night, heavy bombers attacked oil refineries at Monheim, railway targets

at/



at Hamm and Soest, dockyard at Wilhelmshavn and canals in northwest Germany; all aircraft returned, reports not yet available. Successful mine laying operations also carried out; all our aircraft returned.

Mercentile shipping casualties reported yesterday amount to three British ships sunk in home waters by U-boats or M.T.B.s and two others attacked; one other ship hit by bomb had to be beached. A French sloop in our hands and also a British anti-submarine vessel were damaged by bombs but can be salvaged.

Mediterranean. At Malta yesterday, an enemy bomber escorted by seven fighters was attacked and shot down by Hurricanes after which the enemy fighters were engaged without conclusive result. One of our aircraft slightly damaged.

In the Sudan, enemy has been dropping leaflets printed in Arabic, proclaiming Italy's love for Mohammedans and Mussolini as "The Protector of Islam" also that their attacks are directed against Englishmen and not Sudanese.

At six hours on July 9th Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean was about 150 miles west of Crete - heading northwest. At ten fifteen

hours/



hours flying boat reported two Italian battleships and five destroyers about 130 miles to the north-northwest. Further air reports received later were very mixed but it appears that Italian force, which had two battleships, six cruisers and eleven destroyers, had by July 9th been joined by several more cruisers and destroyers from Augusta. As a result Italian naval force heavily outnumbered the British force in cruisers. At fifteen forty-two hours Commander in Chief reported that he was engaging enemy and wireless silence then came into force. It appears that a short and confused action followed during which the British battleship obtained one hit on the enemy battleship at very long range. Enemy soon turned away under cover of smoke and made for Messina pursued by Commander in Chief of Mediterranean, at utmost speed. At sixteen thirty-one hours all available British torpedo-carrying aircraft flew off to attack enemy. Result of this attack not yet known but damaged enemy cruiser reported in tow about 70 miles from Messina at nineteen hours. Report also received of bombing attack by aircraft on our Naval forces in Western Mediterranean yesterday. Two of these aircraft shot down by gun fire, two by fighters and seven others damaged, three seriously.



*PSF
G.B.*

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.
July 12th, 1940.

~~Secret.~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
the latest report on the military
situation. This was sent off from
London early this morning.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

L. Sturges

**REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED**

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.



Telegram despatched from London early
on the morning of July 12th.

British aircraft carrier and armed
merchant cruiser in collision July 9th in
dense tropical storm in the South Atlantic.
No casualties but the armed merchant cruiser
badly damaged. British cruiser bombed and
hit in the Mediterranean July 9th. Several
casualties and captain killed. Confirmed
that the Mediterranean Fleet suffered no
casualties either in material or personnel in
the fleet action July 9th, but force was bombed
at intervals this day without result. Four
enemy aircraft shot down, 7 others damaged.

2. Casualties at Norwich July 9th were
16 killed 17 wounded. Enemy bombing activity
yesterday occurred South Wales, southwest
England and on convoys in Thames estuary and
east Channel. Casualties in second locality
slight. In Wales bombs were dropped on docks
at Pembroke, Cardiff and Swansea, and on a Royal
Ordnance factory. Twelve persons killed;
extent of damage not yet known. Operational
training in Baltic maintained same level; mine
laying carried out off the east coast. Numerous
flights of transport aircraft from Cologne
area to aerodromes in the Low Countries, leading

to/



to Le Bourget and Lisieux.

3. Royal Air Force day bombing yesterday much hindered by lack of cloud cover. Omer, however, was bombed. In enemy attack on convoy in Thames estuary by 1 bomber, escorted by 10 Messerschmidts, enemy lost 1 fighter (confirmed) probably 4 more, and was driven off. Large force of about 120 enemy aircraft approached a convoy between Dover and Dungeness from the direction of Calais. Interception by 5 squadrons of British fighters resulted in 7 enemy fighters, 2 bombers destroyed (confirmed), 7 fighters, 4 bombers probably destroyed. Total result of fighter operations July 10th 12 enemy aircraft destroyed certain, 17 probable. Our casualties 2 Hurricanes lost, 2 badly damaged. Royal Air Force night bombing operations 10th/11th July abandoned through unfavourable weather. Fleet Air Arm attacked port Augusta during night and sank 1 destroyer.

4. Yesterday enemy aircraft active against convoys in Irish Sea, off Portland and in the Thames, but very little damage. British shipping losses reported; 1 ship by air action. Neutrals, 2 Dutch ships by aircraft, 1 by U-Boat, 1 from unknown cause; 1 Latvian ship sunk by air action.

5. Mediterranean. Air attacks on Catania Macaaca recently have not drawn any fighter defence, although attacks pressed home with the intention of inducing fighters to take to the air. Further movements of fighter squadrons from the North to the South of Italy reported indicating probability that/



-3-

that Italians consider further attacks in the North unlikely.

6. Sudan. Police garrison of the frontier post at Kurmuk about seventy strong, forced to retire before enemy attack of 300 Colonial troops supported by light artillery and machine guns. Garrison inflicted 50 casualties in a stout fight and sustained one killed six missing. Italians thought to have withdrawn from Kurmuk same day, our police patrols now reconnoitring with the intention of re-occupying the town.

East Africa. British Moyale was being heavily attacked 1000 hours on the 10th by Italian regular troops considerable artillery, mortar and light machine gun fire, and post now partially surrounded. Reinforcements and aircraft are being sent to assist the defence.

7. Units of French fleet still capable of service:

(A) Under British control. At Portsmouth: Battleship "Courbet". One light cruiser and five torpedo boats being commissioned under White Ensign. Two submarines. Plymouth, battleship "Paris". One light cruiser two destroyers and one torpedo boat being commissioned under White Ensign. Two defective submarines. Swansea: One submarine (just off the stocks). Dundee: one submarine. Alexandria (partly demilitarised and with reduced crews):
Battleship/

Battleship "Lorraine". Suffren, Duquesne, Tourville and Inquay Trouin eight-inch cruisers. Lynx light cruiser. Three destroyers. One submarine.

(B) Not under British control. At Le Verdon: one large destroyer (possibly incompleated).

Brest: One obsolete battleship.

Vendres: Three destroyers.

Cette: Three light cruisers.

Toulon: Battle cruiser "Strasbourg" (possibly damaged). Five light cruisers.

Six 6-inch cruisers, one destroyer.

Dakar: Battleship "Richelieu" (disabled). Two light cruisers. One destroyer. Seven armed merchant cruisers. Two submarines.

Casablanca: Battleship "Jean Bart" (not yet completed). One six-inch cruiser. 10 destroyers, 13 submarines (7 at sea).

Oran. 5 light cruisers, 2 destroyers, 2 of these vessels sunk. Six submarines.

Bizerta: 1 destroyer, 7 submarines.

Sousse: 2 submarines.

Sfax: 4 8-inch cruisers, 8 light cruisers, 2 torpedo boats, 3 submarines, some or all of these ships may be at.....or may have arrived at Toulon.

Beirut: 5 submarines.

Martinique: 6-inch cruiser "Emil Bertin". Aircraft carrier "Bearn".

Guadeloupe: Training cruiser "Jeanne d'Arc"./

d'Arc".

Aruba: 1 armed merchant cruiser.

Saigon: 6-inch cruiser "La Motte
Picquet". 1 armed merchant cruiser.

There are two light cruisers and possibly
7 destroyers and 22 submarines unaccounted
for.

Later.

Damage sustained by British cruiser
referred to in third sentence was slight and
did not prevent her from taking part in engage-
ment with Italian fleet.



PSF
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

July 12th, 1940

~~SECRET~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
the latest report on the military
situation. This was sent off in the
evening of July 12th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

L. L. L.

**REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED**

The Honoursable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

Telegram despatched from London on the evening of July 12th, 1940.

British fleet at sea in Eastern Mediterranean was bombed and constantly shadowed during July 11th. No further details available. At midday on the same day His Majesty's destroyer Escort returning with naval force in Western Mediterranean was torpedoed by enemy submarine and sunk. Number of casualties not yet known. As a result of enemy air activity off Portland July 11th His Majesty's yacht Warrior II was sunk. Promising attack on U-boat by H.M.S. Deptford July 10th followed up attacks in the same vicinity by His Majesty's destroyers Havelock and Harvester; this attack probably successful. Two British transports have arrived at Iceland with troops.

2. Royal Air Force bombing operations yesterday carried out by 36 Blenheims on aerodromes in north-east France and Holland, barges on Furnes canal and oil targets and aluminium works in north-west Germany. Large concentration of barges between Furnes and Dunkirk was bombed also Boulogne aerodrome where 5 aircraft on the ground believed damaged. All Blenheims except one returned. Last night 55 aircraft attacked industrial plants and railway targets in north-west Germany. Three bombers missing.

3. Enemy air activity yesterday directed against east coast between Great Yarmouth and Flamborough Head, Portland and Portsmouth. At Bridlington station an ammunition dump was blown up

and

and goodsyard set on fire. About fifty fighters and bombers attacked shipping in Portland area. No damage on land; two ships slightly damaged in addition to casualty mentioned in paragraph 1. Similar number of aircraft attacked Portsmouth 18.00 hours. Little naval damage done but two barges half loaded with ammunition were sunk. Several fires caused many buildings damaged. Total casualties from these raids 27 killed, 52 injured. Enemy aircraft lost 13 bombers, 10 Messerschmidt 110s (confirmed) 12 bombers, 3 fighters (unconfirmed). One seaplane also destroyed. Of the above two confirmed and one probable claimed by anti-aircraft at Portland. Our casualties 5 aircraft. During night of July 11th/12th ineffective hostile raids mostly by single aircraft on the coastal districts of east and south west. Few bombs dropped except in Dartmouth district where 29 H.Es. fell. Present reports give no serious damage or casualties.

4. Shipping losses reported yesterday as follows:- 1 Finnish ship torpedoed and sunk, 1 unknown ship torpedoed reported by aircraft.

5. Malta raided on July 10th by 20 aircraft. Bombs dropped on dockyard Misida and Manoel Islands area. Slight military damage few casualties. Two enemy aircraft shot down for certain and another probable. Aden. Aircraft from Aden dropped two tons of bombs on railway workshops at Diradawa July 8th and on Macaaca aerodrome on July 9th and July 10th. Direct hits scored on hanger and two or three fighters on the ground. Egypt. Enemy aircraft bombed Sidi Barrani July 10th. One Lysander aircraft destroyed

otherwise/

otherwise no damage or casualties. East Africa. Counter attack on British Moyale by our troops from south regained escarpment but touch with our garrison not yet established. Our casualties 10 killed 16 wounded. Those of enemy not known but believed heavy.

6. Further reports on effects of our bombing raids on Hamburg and elsewhere have been received. They mention destruction of administrative buildings, severe damage to largest drydock and to bridge connecting Hamburg and Harburg. Reported air raids have made working conditions so difficult that several factories have closed and fuel will no longer be stored at Hamburg. Reports from neutral countries state that our constant air attacks make it difficult for the Germans to assemble troops and stores for operations against the United Kingdom and that former extreme optimism of quick and successful invasion of England is now changed in certain high quarters in Germany to one of hesitation.



DECLASSIFIED
UNCLASSIFIED

PSF
G.B.
BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

July 14th, 1940

~~SECRET~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
the latest report on the military
situation. This was sent off late
last night.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

L. Horan

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

Telegram despatched from London
on evening of July 13th, 1940

1. French battleship "Paris",
Centre Torpilleur Le Triomphant, destroyers
Mistral and Ouragan commissioned July 12th as
tenders of H.M.S. "Drake". Flying boats report
sinking one Italian submarine morning of July 12th
and another same afternoon between Malta and
South Italy. A third reported damaged by two
anti-submarine trawlers.
2. Fleet air arm carried out successful
mine laying operations on north-west coast of
Holland last two successive nights. Last night,
22 Royal Air Force bombers despatched against ship-
building yards at Kiel and Emden. All returned
safely. Reports not yet received. Bad weather
prevented other projected night operations.
Reconnaissance yesterday reported 50 barges on
Zeebrugge-Bruges canal and unbroken line of
barges three abreast for eight miles in Ostend-
Bruges canal.
3. A single enemy aeroplane, unannounced
by air raid warning, dropped 10 bombs on
Aberdeen yesterday mid-day. 35 persons killed,
several wounded. A direct hit on boiler house
has put yard out of production, this machine
brought down ten minutes later. Convoy attacked
off Suffolk coast and bombs also dropped at
Newport/

Newport and Hamble. Last night sporadic attacks chiefly with incendiary bombs, in Clyde, Cardiff and Tyneside areas. No serious damage reported. Casualties few. During yesterday 16 enemy bombers and 2 Messerschmidt 110s. were destroyed, another 6 bombers probably casualties. We lost 6 aircraft.

4. Shipping losses reported yesterday, one British trawler sunk off Iceland, one British ship sunk off East Coast, both by aircraft. One Danish ship damaged during Portland air raid.

5. Egypt. On July 10th 22 Blenheims attacked Italian petrol dumps near Tobruk. Hits registered on target. Damage unassessable owing to clouds. All aircraft returned. On July 11th Wajeyr attacked by 3 enemy bombers. 2 aircraft of South African Air Force intercepted, shooting down one and badly damaging another.

PSF
G.B.



BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.
July 15th, 1940.

~~Secret~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of the latest report on the military situation. This was sent off from London yesterday evening.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

L. Sturges

**REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED**

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.



Telegram despatched from London on
the evening of July 14th.

Further report by Commander-in-
Chief upon British-Italian naval action
Mediterranean July 9th states:-

"Warspite" also engaged two 8" gun
and two 6" gun cruisers and may have obtained
one hit on 8" gun cruiser. Yesterday an air-
craft of Royal Dutch air force attacked U-boat
near Holyhead. No visible result. Eight
dive bombers attacked British A/S "Swallow"
off Dover inflicting slight damage.

2. Night July 12th-13th ten Whitleys
reached naval armaments target at Emden. Large
fires which could be seen 70 miles away were
started in target area one stick of bombs seen
to completely demolish a building. Owing to
bad weather only four Whitleys reached naval
armaments target Kiel; about 50 medium bombs
dropped, observation results difficult.
Yesterday 22 Blenheims despatched against
aerodromes and industrial targets in northwest
Germany; majority of aircraft forced to abandon
task owing to weather conditions however oil
plant at Monheim aircraft Brussels canal bridges
near Burges attacked. Two aircraft missing.
One Hudson aircraft bombed Harlingen quay and
warehouses hit and fires started. Another

Hudson/

Hudson attacked two mine-sweepers off Terschelling region obtaining a close miss. Last night twelve Blenheims attacked barges Bruges-Ostend area several fires started; one aircraft missing. Ninety-nine bombers despatched against ship-building yards and docks and industrial and railway targets northwest Germany also aqueduct over Dortmund-Ems Canal. All aircraft returned. Successful mine laying carried out Elbe estuary and at Zeebrugge.

3. Enemy air activity July 13th on reduced scale. Some attacks on shipping but no damage or casualties reported. Chief fighter engagements were off Portland in Dover area and off Calais. Enemy aircraft destroyed six bombers six fighters (confirmed) five bombers three fighters (unconfirmed). Our casualties three hurricanes. Transport flights from northwest Germany to north Denmark continue on large scale.

4. Two neutral ships sunk in western approaches reported yesterday.

5. Mediterranean. Reported Italian air staff worried about large number of casualties among experienced pilots over short period and are urging German support in aircraft and crews. Enemy M/T columns engaged near Capuzzo and casualties inflicted.

6. East Africa. On July 13th enemy forces attacking Moyale appeared greatly reinforced. Our reinforcements held up on south side by light machine guns and artillery. Situation of garrison/

garrison considered serious owing to water shortage. In this area one Hartebeeste aircraft shot down and two others driven down on our territory by Fiat fighters. Two aircraft of S.A.A.F. bombed Kismayu July 11th. On night of July 10th-11th patrol Somaliland Camel Corps attacked enemy frontier post Au Boba inflicted casualties and made successful withdrawal on July 12th. Two enemy battalions attacked and captured frontier post west of Dobo pass.



PSF
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~Secret~~

July 16th, 1940

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
the latest report on the military
situation. This was sent off from
London late on the evening of July
15th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.



Telegram despatched from London
on the evening of July 15th.

1. The channel convoy was bombed yesterday afternoon. H. M. ship "Vanessa", escorting destroyer, hit in engine room, no casualties. One small British merchant ship, 780 tons, sunk; one Norwegian, one Dutch merchant ship damaged.

Same day; armed merchant cruiser "Esperance Bay" bombed and badly damaged western approaches, has safely arrived Plymouth. New Turkish sloop under British delivery crew attacked off Portland by enemy aircraft, slight casualties. Two southward bound British transports escorted by two destroyers bombed west of Ushant without result. M.T.B.s made sweep to mouth of Texel Maas and Scheldt during night.

2. During the night of 13th to 14th majority of R.A.F. aircraft which were despatched to northwest Germany successfully attacked primary targets or alternatives. Observation of results in most cases difficult owing to weather, intense anti-aircraft searchlight activity. Main attacks were against aircraft factories and parks, railway targets and oil installations. Out of 69 aircraft one Wellington, no fighters, out of 12 Blenheims which attacked oil plant and petrol tanks in Ghent area, one missing. Mine-laying

carried/



carried out Copenhagen - Aaleborg areas, all machines returned. Day operations on July 14th not completed owing to bad weather.

3. Yesterday afternoon about 40 dive-bombers escorted by single seater fighters attacked Dover harbour and convoy in Straits. Three fighters and three bombers, one by anti-aircraft, were destroyed, (confirmed). One fighter, one bomber (unconfirmed). Our casualty one Hurricane. Hostile air reconnaissances over Portland and Plymouth afternoon of July 14th. No bombs dropped. Last night two air attacks at Avonmouth. Some damage to main line station and dock's railway line, ineffective attacks by H.E. and incendiaries near Colchester and in Isle of Sheppey: a fire at Duke of York's school successfully extinguished, full information not yet available. At 06.30 hours today attacks delivered on Brighton and Hove. Preliminary reports indicate several casualties and damage to Hove. Mine-laying carried out, probably in Thames estuary and between Wash and Middlesborough. Large amount of air transport continues from northwest Germany to Oslo and Stavanger via Copenhagen or Aaleborg.

4. July 14th Panamanian S. S. "Beme" 3,039 tons sunk by gunfire from enemy submarine 120 miles west of Beirut; crew saved.

5. Malta. Enemy aircraft attacked Malta night of 13th to 14th. No damage or casualties.

Egypt



Egypt. On night of 12th to 13th July air attacks carried out on Bardia, shipping at Tobruk harbour, and aerodromes at Eladem and Elgubbi; fires caused at Bardia. Following night six British aircraft again attacked Tobruk harbour. All aircraft returned from these operations.

Sudan. Nine Wellesleys made dive bombing attacks on Massawa aerodrome July 12th; bursts seen amongst hangars. One aircraft shot down by enemy fighters.

Libya. Light and ineffective air raids on Mersamatruh 12th and 13th July. Further reinforcement of Italian C. R. 42 fighters has been sent to Libya. Rumoured air force is also now using German Henschel 126 aircraft probably bought by Italy operated by Italian pilots.

Aden. Enemy aircraft bombed Aden, damage and casualties slight.

On night of July 13th to 14th British machine attacked naval stores and barracks south of Assab and returned safely. Large fires started.

Kenya. Aircraft of South African Air Force attacked enemy concentrations Moyale area July 11th with bombs and machine guns. There are indications that Italian East Africa will shortly

be reinforced by a squadron of S 79 bombers.

Somaliland. Second battalion, King's African Rifles and one light battery have arrived at Berbera.

6. Extensive damage caused by explosion High Alloys Limited, Slough, night of July 13th to 14th, production will be seriously affected for some days, three persons killed, forty-eight injured. Cause of explosion under investigation.

7. Connection between three Baltic States and Germany has been severed for last two days; frontier traffic stopped and no telephone communication.



PSF
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

July 17th, 1940

~~Secret~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of the latest report on the military situation. This was sent off from London on the evening of July 16th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

**REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED**

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

Telegram despatched from London
on the evening of July 16th.

1. Northbound convoy attacked by about 15 Dorniers off Orfordness yesterday afternoon. British ship "Heworth" (2855 tons) and Polish ship "Zbarag" (2088 tons) set on fire. Our three escorting Hurricanes claimed two enemy aircraft (unconfirmed).

Reference to telegram of July 13th, paragraph 1. H. M. Ship "Drake" being shore establishment: this paragraph implies that ships mentioned have been placed under the command of Commander in Chief at Plymouth.

2. Results of night bombing by heavy bombers July 14th to 15th, to Gelsenkirchen synthetic oil plant; fires and large explosion, red glow visible for 40 miles. Hamm railway target; large and extensive fires accompanied by heavy explosions. Soest railway target; large fires, black smoke visible for 50 miles. Bremen airframe factory; large fire. Buer Vught Huntlosen and Borkum aerodromes; hits registered, satisfactory results reported.

Attack by Blenheims on oil tanks at Ghent; 4 direct hits on tanks and storage buildings searchlights machine-gunned and large fires observed.

Yesterday/



Yesterday afternoon Blenheims visited aerodromes at St. Inglebert, Chartres, le Tréport and aluminium factory at Ludwigshafen. Last night despite unfavourable weather 20 heavy bombers attacked Paderborn aircraft park and oil refinery at Strasse . Mine laying operations carried out in Copenhagen area. From these night operations, all machines returned. Reports are awaited.

3. Enemy air raid on Brighton and Hove previously reported resulted in three persons killed five wounded only, though considerable damage to houses.

Normal railway traffic resumed at Avonmouth.

Yesterday light bombarding of Barry docks, Plymouth, Angmering, Pembroke dock, St. Athan and Llandow, only minor damage and no casualties reported. Last night weather unfavourable and little enemy activity. Aircraft reported mine-laying in Liverpool Bay and today this port is closed. Bristol Channel partially closed following report of unknown vessel being mined.

Enemy air training has begun again after a period of apparent inactivity in Zeltwig and Vienna areas. Considerable training still continues in East Prussia and the Baltic.

Transport aircraft show increase from northwestern Germany to northern Denmark and southern Norway, also to Bruxelles and Paris.

Two enemy aircraft destroyed, two more probably destroyed and one Hurricane brought down off Plymouth during period under review.

4. Yesterday afternoon patrolling aircraft sighted British ship "City of Limerick" (1260 tons) and Portuguese "Alpha" (850 tons). Both ships have been abandoned by crews after bombing, destroyers are standing by. Neither was in convoy.

5. Malta. On July 10th R. N. hospital at Bigelow was bombed; a protest is to be made.

Egypt. At Cappuzzo an ammunition and petrol dump were set on fire by our shelling; an enemy column trying to enter Cappuzzo withdrew under our shell-fire.

East Africa. At 20 hours on July 14th garrison of one company withdrew from Moyale owing to lack of water. Company brought back rifles, individual machine-guns complete and some ammunition, any equipment left behind was destroyed. Our total casualties since attack started 10 killed, 35 wounded, 9 missing. North of Lake Rudolf 2 companies of our troops supported by Ethiopian battalion raided enemy post at Namaraput driving off strong force of enemy tribesmen with loss; our forces now withdrawing to British territory.

Somaliland/



Somaliland. Our frontier post west
of Dobo Pass mentioned in paragraph 6 of
telegram of July 14th was reoccupied on July 14th.



PSF
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~Secret.~~

July 18th, 1940

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
the latest report on the military
situation. This was sent off from
London early on the evening of July
17th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

L. S. L. L.

**REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED**

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.



Telegram despatched from London
on the evening of July 17th.

1. A force of 4 cruisers and 8 destroyers left Scapa Flow yesterday to intercept enemy forces expected to pass through area west of Jutland.

Enemy aircraft shadowed the force from 1530 onwards when visibility was good; our reconnaissance aircraft having sighted no enemy our naval force withdrew. At 16.30 they were bombed; no damage was reported.

At 18.45 an enemy force of 1 cruiser or destroyer, 6 submarines, 12 smaller vessels was sighted by reconnaissance aircraft 80 miles west of Jutland. The submarines were steering west having left the surface ships which were retiring southeast and were attacked by our aircraft without result.

Our naval force was unable to re-enter Scapa Flow owing to thick fog and about midnight the cruiser "Glasgow" and the destroyer "Imogen" were in collision. Ten officers and 125 men from "Imogen" were taken on board "Glasgow", the others believed to be in boats. Visibility was nil; "Glasgow" has one small compartment flooded forward.

Air/



Air reconnaissances on July 15th over Kiel showed Scharnhorst, 1 Hipper class cruiser, Koln and Lutzow in dock; also several destroyers and U boats. Aircraft carrier located at Kiel on July 3rd was not there on July 15th. Scharnhorst reported seriously damaged and likely to be out of action for some time.

2. Bombing attacks on the night of July 16th at Hanover and Paderborn reported yesterday were successful; fires were observed at the former place. Other targets attacked were marshalling yards at Osnabruck and a blast furnace at Hamborn where explosions and large fires were caused. Aerodromes at De Kooy and Norderney, a hangar was set on fire and other intense fires started.

Yesterday bombing had to be curtailed by bad weather. One aircraft bombed aerodrome at St. Inglebert, another bombed barges near Armentières. One aircraft missing. All operations last night were cancelled owing to weather conditions.

3. Proportion of recent enemy air activity has been in the form of shipping reconnaissances of southern North Sea, English Channel, Bay of Biscay and southwest approaches as far as 250 miles west of Ushant.

Enemy air activity yesterday on much reduced scale; some bombs dropped, no serious casualties or damage. Two enemy bombers shot down.

4. British ship "Bellerock" (1200 tons) sunk by mine in Bristol Channel July 15th and British tanker "Scottish Minstrel" (7000 tons) homeward-bound (in convoy) torpedoed by U boat northwestern approaches.

5. Egypt. Successful air attacks by Blenheims July 14th to July 15th on ships and dumps at Bardia and on aircraft at El Gazala aerodrome. Night of July 15th to 16th three Blenheims attacked oil tanks at Tobruk, attack successful, one Blenheim did not return.

Malta. On July 16th six Italian C. R. 42 fighters were engaged by one Hurricane and one Gladiator; one Hurricane and one C. R. 42 shot down.

Haifa. Enemy air attack on Iran Petroleum Company's tanks July 15th registered six direct hits, three tanks set on fire.

Libya. Italian air force reinforced here by 33 C. R. 42 fighters flown from Pantelleria. Official Italian air force casualty list includes many of Italy's most famous pilots.

6. Further reports on the effects of our bombing in northwest Germany refer to growing exhaustion amongst the population in the areas frequently attacked and adverse effect on production especially in larger factories. Evacuation

of/



of women and children from the Rhineland towns to Czechoslovakia said to be in progress. Reports from Hamburg state that many of the population leave the city at night and sleep in the neighbourhood, often in fields. A Bremen report states that Krupp's works have been badly damaged.



PSF
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

July 19th, 1940.

~~Secret~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy
of the latest report on the military
situation. This was sent off from
London on the evening of July 18th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

L. S. Brown

**REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED**

The Honourable
Franklin D. Roosevelt,
President of the United States of America,
Washington, D.C.



Telegram despatched from London
on the evening of July 18th.

1. The "Glasgow-Imogen" collision resulted in one killed, 7 wounded, 23 missing; "Imogen" is abandoned and may have sunk.

2. Bad weather hindered the Royal Air Force operations yesterday; out of 13 Blenheim sorties despatched 11 abandoned tasks. Two aircraft however bombed barges in Zuider Zee and on Bruges Canal and one formation bombed Gare Maritime, Cherbourg, where one Junker 87 was shot down. All our aircraft returned.

Major operations last night cancelled owing to weather, but 6 Blenheims bombed aerodromes, 7 Wellingtons Gelsenkirchen synthetic oil plant and 6 Blenheims petrol tanks at Ghent, where operation was successful; elsewhere results awaited. Three aircraft laid mines Friederickshaven area and returned safely.

3. Numerous enemy reconnaissances of English Channel, Southern North Sea and Bay of Biscay as far as Northwest Spain. Yesterday bombs dropped on Portland also Tunbridge Wells and Ashford areas; damage slight, casualties 4 killed, 22 injured. Considerable damage caused upon an Imperial Chemical Industries works at Ardeer. Production not seriously interrupted/

interrupted. Interception by our fighters difficult owing to cloud, but one Junker-88 and one Dormier-17 believed damaged; one Spitfire shot down pilot wounded.

Last night, little possibility of activity. Mine-laying suspected in Bristol Channel, few bombs dropped at Gillingham near Felixstowe and in Neath area where some damage was caused to railway and road communications.

Regular transport flights continue between Germany and Paris district, and also from Northwest Germany to Aalborg and Oslo.

4. U-boat shipping casualties reported yesterday; British "Manipur" (8500 tons) torpedoed in convoy, Swedish "Brodin" (2000 tons) inward-bound from Canada; both July 17th in North Scottish waters. Greek "Ia" (5000 tons) torpedoed, probably July 18th. Cable-laying lighter "Steady" sunk by mine.

5. Egypt. On July 18th in Capuzzo area, 5 field-guns, 3 anti-tank guns, 1 ammunition lorry destroyed by 7th Hussars, 12 prisoners captured. Our casualties one officer killed, one officer and two other ranks wounded. Some motor transports escorted by tanks succeeded in entering Capuzzo but three lorries containing men were destroyed.

On July 17th 3 British aircraft bombed fuel tanks and coal depot at Tobruk, also aerodrome at El-Guwei. Results appeared successful.

Mersa/

Mersa Matrup, Sidi Barrani and Alexandria bombed July 16th one casualty, one Lysander slightly damaged at Sidi was down.

Libya. Reliable indications 20th Italian corps moving to Cirenaica. This is the first information of reinforcement from Tripolitana to Cirenaica since Franco-Italian armistice.

Reported that Italian authorities in Libya having great difficulties organizing supplies of petrol, water and heavy trucks.

Malta. The Hurricane casualty reported yesterday was first over Malta since outbreak of hostilities; Italian losses have been 10 confirmed and 7 others probable; our formations of 2 or 3 have sometimes engaged enemy formations up to 20 strong.

Gibraltar. Admiralty reports that Gibraltar bombed 03.00 hours today, particulars not yet available.

Aden. Our aircraft attacked Assab night of July 16th - July 17th; fires and explosions observed.

Sudan. Four Wellesleys bombed Abordat aerodrome, scoring direct hits.

During/

During latter operation, one Wellesley destroyed in collision.

Somaliland. On July 15th camel corps patrol attacked and occupied post at Demerabob. Post was destroyed, also twenty thousand rounds small arms ammunition, and counter-attack driven off. Post then evacuated.

Reliable report states that Italian pilots are being trained at Graz, Austria, in dive bombing tactics on Junker-87s.

PSF
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

July 20th, 1940

~~Secret~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
the latest report on the military
situation. This was sent off from
London on the evening of June 19th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

L. Moran

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

The Honourable
Franklin D. Roosevelt,
President of the United States
of America,
Washington, D.C.



Telegram despatched from London
on the evening of July 19th

1. Yesterday, enemy aircraft attacked south-bound convoy off Orfordness. Three anti-submarine trawlers machine gunned, one of which was set on fire, and one badly holed. No damage to convoy. Attacks also on trawlers in Thames Estuary and "Sunrise" and "West Goodwin", light vessels. Two trawlers damaged with some casualties, and "East Goodwin" light ship (not manned) was sunk. H.M. Trawler "Rinovia" attacked off Portsmouth claims one enemy aircraft. Four Belgian trawlers attacked off Lands End, one sunk.

2. During the night of July 17th-18th, Royal Air Force successfully bombed 6 aerodromes in Northern France; a large explosion followed by fires observed after attack on Gelsenkirchen. Yesterday morning, 24 Blenheims left with objectives of aerodromes and barges in Northwest France; observation of results difficult but barges successfully attacked near Pernis. In the evening 18 Blenheims bombed Boulogne, causing damage to Quays and Harbour works. One aircraft missing; one shot down off Harwich. Crew saved. Last night 85 heavy bombers/

bombers despatched against aircraft factories in Northwest Germany, railway targets at Hamm and Soest the Dortmund-Ems Canal, battleship "Scheer" at Wilhelmshaven. All aircraft except one returned, results awaited. Propaganda leaflets dropped in Northeast France. Six Blenheims of Coastal Command successfully attacked oil tanks at Ghent. Mine-laying operations carried out in Emden area, all aircraft returned safely.

3. Enemy aircraft active. Yesterday some damage caused to aircraft on the ground and oil store at Montrose, 2 R.A.F. and one civilian killed, 3 R.A.F. and civilians wounded. Also extensive damage to dock shed at Leith dock; bombs also dropped without serious damage following areas: Burnt Island, Kirkcaldy, Newport, and Saint Athans (South Wales). Enemy mine-laying suspected between Solway Firth and Liverpool, also off Yorkshire coast. Zenit (meteorological) flights carried out north of Faroes between Iceland and Norway.

Enemy casualties yesterday: one bomber shot down, two enemy aircraft claimed by anti-aircraft Aberdeen, 2 more probable casualties by our fighters. One Dornier shot down early this morning Sussex coast. Our casualties 3 Spitfires, 2 pilots saved.

4. Shipping casualties:

(a) by raider; British "King John" (6000 tons) and "Davisian" (6500 tons) sunk by
armed/

armed merchant ship near West Indies July 13th. British "City of Bagdad" (7500 tons) shelled Indian Ocean.

(b) by U-boat; Greek "Eudoxia" (2000 tons) sunk July 15th, not in convoy.

5. Kenya Colony. Three aircraft S.A.A.F. attacked Moyale July 15th by dive-bombing, four direct hits on camp buildings.

Gibraltar. Fifteen heavy bombs dropped on catchment area July 18th, no details received.

6. Present estimate of total strength of Italian forces in East Africa:

White troops - 47,000 of which 37,000 black-shirt militia.

Colonial Regulars - 100,000.

Colonial Irregulars - 25,000.

Total, including garrison and mobile artillery and services, about 200,000.

PSF
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

~~Secret~~

July 21st, 1940

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy
of the latest report on the military
situation. This was sent off from
London on the evening of July 20th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

W. L. ...

**REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED**

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D.C.



Telegram despatched from London
on the evening of July 20th.

During morning of July 19th an action took place off the island of Zante (off west coast of Greece) in which H.M.A.S. "Sydney" (6,800 tons with 8 6" guns) with five destroyers in company engaged and sank an Italian cruiser "Bartolomeo Colleoni" (5,000 tons with eight 6" guns). Another Italian cruiser escaped, through superior speed. H.M. destroyer "Havoc" having picked up 250 Italian survivors was attacked by aircraft while returning to base: she continued without assistance although one boiler room flooded.

Anti-submarine vessel "Beryl" co-operating with aircraft carried out promising attack against enemy submarine outside Grand Harbour at Malta on July 19th.

2. During the night of July 18th-19th following targets were successfully attacked. Air depot at Rotenburg, oil refinery at Hannover, rail junction at Hamm, air park Diepholz and Paderborn, air frame factory at Bremen, large factory at Rotzeneerg, armament factory at Essen, aerodrome at Eschwege and dock area of Emden. Of sixteen Blenheims despatched yesterday all returned,
results/

results not yet available. Ninety aircraft despatched last night against industrial and railway targets northwest Germany also barges at Emden and Admiral Scheer at Wilhelmshafen; three aircraft missing; reports still awaited. Mine laying operations carried out great belt Frederikshaven and off Northwest German coast.

3. Enemy aircraft during night of July 18th-19th damaged one hangar at Norwich aerodrome. These aircraft reported to have carried circular markings. Yesterday afternoon two attacks made on Dover where destroyer "Beagle" patrolling slightly damaged by near misses and Belgian destroyer "Griffin" damaged in Dover harbour. Enemy aircraft numerous and were engaged by three and a half squadrons of our fighters. A major engagement took place: enemy was driven from point and prevented from locating our convoy. At New Romney enemy aeroplanes dived down to one hundred feet and machine-gunned some soldiers; this machine reported as either Spitfire or Hurricane with no markings. Some bombs dropped at Milton Aerodrome (Pembrokeshire), and at Glasgow where two persons killed, two injured. Last night considerable enemy activity. Mine-laying reported at Plymouth and suspected in Thames Estuary, East Coast, Firths of Forth and Clyde. Bombs dropped near Manston Aerodrome near Kilmarnock and at Scoonie,

Moffat/

Moffat, Largo, Peterhead, no damage reported. At Stirling two houses destroyed, 26 civilians wounded. Yesterday's reckoning; three enemy fighters, four bombers (one A.A.) one seaplane destroyed (confirmed) eight fighters, two float planes, one bomber (unconfirmed). Our losses six Defiants, three Hurricanes.

4. Shipping losses reported yesterday by U-boat July 19th Norwegian ship (name and tonnage unknown) sunk in Northwestern approaches. By air; Estonian "Leola" (500 tons) sunk western approaches, Finnish "Wiiri" (3,500 tons) sunk near Malta.

5. Egypt. Blenheims attacked aerodrome at El Gubbi.

Aden. Two attacks on Macaaca aerodrome, hits observed on camp buildings.

Enemy air activity.

Egypt. Mersa Matruh heavily bombed daylight of July 18th and following night. Results not known, one of the enemy's machines brought down.

Kenya Colony. Two attacks on Buna July 17th, one aircraft on the ground badly damaged.

PSF
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

~~Secret~~

July 22nd, 1940

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy
of the latest report on the military
situation. This was sent off from
London late last night.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

L. Moran

**REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED**

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D.C.


Telegram despatched from London
late on the evening of July 21st

1. The recent Anglo-Italian naval action took place in Antikithera Channel off northwest Crete. Early in action, "Sydney" hit the "Colleoni" in engine-room and stopped her; "Sydney" then left some destroyers to sink the "Colleoni" and continued to chase the other cruiser, "Federico da Barbiano" of the same class. Chase lasted 1½ hours and "Sydney" obtained several hits but enemy retained her speed and drew out of range. Our destroyers fired 4 torpedoes at the "Colleoni", 2 hit and sank her. 545 survivors including the Captain were picked up by destroyers which were bombed during this operation without result. There were no casualties in His Majesty's ships as a result of this action.

Channel convoy heavily attacked by about 30 enemy aircraft yesterday afternoon. Destroyer "Brazen" hit in engine room sank later off Dover when in tow; 3 wounded. Slight damage to one anti-submarine trawler. S.S. "Pulborough" (1,000 tons) sunk, S.S. "Westown" (700 tons) damaged and towed into Dover, no casualties.

Reported/

Reported that battle cruiser "Gneisenau" left Trondjhem at 0900 hours July 20th.

French S.S. "Ile de France" (43,500 tons) has been requisitioned at Singapore. Believed that one-third of the crew will volunteer to serve.

2. Night of 19th-20th work of our heavy bombers difficult to observe owing to weather conditions. Successful attacks made on oil plant at Gelsenkirchen, railway target at Essen, air frame factories at Bremen, Wismar and Wenzendorf, and 3 aerodromes in northwest Germany and Holland. Single aircraft located and bombed warships "Scheer" and "Tirpitz" at Wilhelmshafen, results unobserved. Attack on barges and shipping at Emden resulted in large explosion and several fires; terrific explosion reported at Harlingen. Two Messerschmitts 110 shot down during these operations.

Yesterday 24 Blenheims despatched against specified oil targets aerodromes and aircraft factories in northwest Germany and to Kiel Canal; majority obliged to abandon tasks, one aircraft missing. One Hudson patrolling off Norwegian coast bombed wireless station at Utsire, wireless mast collapsed, station also damaged.

Last night 117 aircraft despatched as follows: 38 Wellingtons against oil and railway targets, 21 Whitleys against aircraft factories, 23 Hampdens to attack "Tirpitz" in Wilhelmshafen docks, 12 Blenheims against oil plants at Ghent and Vlaardingen, 3 Hudsons to attack Emden Basin,

12 Hampdens and 8 Swordfish mine-laying in Copenhagen area, Ems River and Hubertgat. Reports awaited; two Wellingtons and three Hampdens missing, one Hampden down in sea off Middlesborough.

3. Little enemy aircraft activity yesterday except at Dover. One bomb fell on British Oxygen Works at Cattedown, Plymouth, extensive damage, works out of production for some time.

Last night very extensive mine-laying operations off southwest coast and east coast, especially Harwich and Thames Estuary. Following ports closed today: Plymouth, Milford Haven, Preston, Newhaven, and Belfast.

Few bombs dropped at West Hartlepool, Lowestoft, Harwich, Swansea, Mountain Ash and Maryport: casualties slight.

Yesterday aircraft casualties in fighter operations: 9 enemy aircraft confirmed, 13 unconfirmed; our losses 5 Hurricanes and 1 Spitfire.

4. Shipping losses:-

(a) By U-Boat: British "Woodbury" (4,500 tons) sunk in western approaches on 18th; British "Pearlmoor" (4,500 tons) sunk northwest approaches on 19th.

(b)/

12 Hampdens and 8 Swordfish mine-laying in Copenhagen area, Ems River and Hubertgat. Reports awaited; two Wellingtons and three Hampdens missing, one Hampden down in sea off Middlesborough.

3. Little enemy aircraft activity yesterday except at Dover. One bomb fell on British Oxygen Works at Cattedown, Plymouth, extensive damage, works out of production for some time.

Last night very extensive mine-laying operations off southwest coast and east coast, especially Harwich and Thames Estuary. Following ports closed today: Plymouth, Milford Haven, Preston, Newhaven, and Belfast.

Few bombs dropped at West Hartlepool, Lowestoft, Harwich, Swansea, Mountain Ash and Maryport: casualties slight.

Yesterday aircraft casualties in fighter operations: 9 enemy aircraft confirmed, 13 unconfirmed; our losses 5 Hurricanes and 1 Spitfire.

4. Shipping losses:-

(a) By U-Boat: British "Woodbury" (4,500 tons) sunk in western approaches on 18th; British "Pearlmoor" (4,500 tons) sunk northwest approaches on 19th.

(b)/

(b) By Air: H.M. M/S Trawler "Crest Flower" sunk on 19th off Isle of Wight.

(c) By Mine: British "Troutpool" (5,000 tons) sunk off Bangor.

(d) By Raiders: "British Petrol" (7,000 tons) sunk on 14th West Indies. This German raider reported as ship of 9,000 tons painted in Swedish colours and armed with two 5.9 inch and two 3 inch guns and number of pom-poms and machine guns.

5. Egypt. During the night of July 19th-20th Blenheims searched Tobruk Harbour for Italian cruiser chased by "Sydney"; ship not located but shipping in harbour attacked by Blenheims and Swordfish, three direct hits, one causing major explosion.

Mediterranean. Further arrival of 15 S.79 bombers at Rhodes increases total strength of bombers in the Dodecanese to 77. Reinforcements comprise 12 Stormo, reputed as Italy's most famous bomber formation. This Stormo probably carried out recent Haifa raid. Reported German parachutists, engineers, and airmen have arrived in Lybia and more are expected.

Sudan. On 19th Wellesley aircraft bombed Agardot and Barentu aerodromes; one enemy aircraft destroyed and others damaged as well as W/T station at Barentu.

Kenya. On 18th four aircraft of S.A.A.F. blew up petrol dump destroying one enemy aircraft and severely damaged another at Neghelli aerodrome.

PSF
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

July 23rd, 1940

~~Secret~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
the latest report on the military
situation. This was sent off from
London on the evening of July 22nd.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

L. Horne

**REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED**

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

Telegram despatched from London
on the evening of July 22nd.

1. Early yesterday morning German merchant vessel, believed tanker, escorted by five destroyers or sloops, sighted off Norwegian coast proceeding south. Two attacks carried out by our aircraft obtained hits both times. When last seen, tanker was stopped and on fire.

During attack on Dover yesterday, destroyer Beagle shot down one enemy aircraft.

Destroyers Vanoc and Havelock collided in Liverpool approaches July 20th; Vanoc holed above water-line; Havelock slightly damaged.

H. M. submarine Phoenix now four days over due is presumed lost.

Attack on U-boat by Beryl reported in summary of July 20th considered successful, oil still rising from position. Two promising attacks carried out July 21st against U-boats northeast approach by one of our aircraft and sloop Weston.

2. Our night bombing July 20th - 21st was generally successful, most targets located and attacked. No definitely successful results Wilhelmshaven dockyard but one 2000 lb. bomb fell near the Admiral Scheer. During a successful
mine/

mine-laying operation, one Hampden claims a direct hit with one 250 lb bomb on a 2000 ton vessel off Copenhagen.

Last night 112 aircraft were despatched as follows:

Eighty-one bombers against aircraft factories and store depots, with oil plants and railway targets as additional objectives, 6 medium bombers to petrol tanks at Ghent, 18 medium bombers to enemy aerodromes, 8 heavy bombers for mine-laying in the Helsingor area, 5 heavy bombers leaflet dropping in northwestern France. All aircraft except one returned safely.

3. Enemy activity on the night of July 20th - 21st in addition to that reported yesterday:

Tin box factory at West Hartlepool demolished, with 13 minor casualties; some houses destroyed at Plymouth and 1 person killed; structural damage atport, 5 persons killed. Bombs were dropped without serious damage in the Orkneys, near Seaham, Sunderland and Houghton, near Aylsham, Shoeburyness, near Gillingham and Margate, and at Falmouth. Near Bishop Auckland canisters of crude oil were dropped on farm land but did not ignite. Yesterday the enemy were active chiefly against Channel fleets and attacks on shipping. In two instances formations preparing to attack convoys turned back on seeing our fighters.

Last night enemy air activity was less, but widely dispersed. Bombs were dropped at

Portobello/

Portobello, Tyneside, in Leicestershire, at Milfordhaven and near Plymouth. Small material damage and only one casualty reported. Mine-laying suspected in the Thames Estuary, Plymouth, and Tyne areas.

Subsequent information corrects enemy casualties reported in yesterday's summary to 15 confirmed and 8 unconfirmed. Yesterday 4 enemy aircraft confirmed as destroyed, 1 unconfirmed; our casualties 2. One Sunderland despatched July 21st on reconnaissance Trondheim failed to return.

4. Shipping casualties:

(a) By U-boats:

British Fellside, 3500 tons, outward bound in ballast sunk July 17th northwestern approaches.

(b) By air:

Panama Frossoula, 1300 tons, sunk Bay of Biscay July 15th.

Yesterday westbound Channel convoy repeatedly bombed off south coast; British Terlings, 2300 tons, sunk; Norwegian tanker Kollbjorg, 8000 tons, set on fire; Norwegian tanker Nina Borthen, 6000 tons, damaged.

5. Malta. Early yesterday 3 Italian aircraft made a low bombing attack on Kalfarana, causing slight damage. Later the same morning, during the second attack, 1 bomber shot down by anti-aircraft.

PSF
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~Secret~~

July 24th, 1940

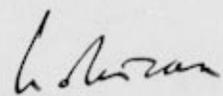
Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
the latest report on the military
situation. This was sent off from London
late on the evening of July 23rd.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,



REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

Telegram despatched from London
late on the evening of July 23rd.

1. H. M. Destroyer "Hasty" on
night of 7th/8th north of Alexandria carried
out two promising attacks against U-boats.
First depth charge attack followed by heavy
under-water explosions considered successful.
Few hours later second U-boat attacked, is
believed damaged and possibly sunk.

As sequel to enemy mine-laying
activity recently: 27 magnetic mines destroyed
in sweeping operations yesterday.

2. Royal Air Force night bombing
21st/22nd generally successful. Hits
observed on aircraft factories and depots at
Gottingen, Rotenburg, Wismar and Kassel, on
railway targets at Hamm and Soest, and on oil
plant at Gelsenkirchen. Aerodromes at
Rotterdam and in northwest France and north-
western Germany also oil tanks at Ghent were
attacked with success and mine-laying opera-
tions carried out.

Yesterday, all Blenheims despatched
obliged to abandon tasks owing to lack of
cloud cover.

Last night 78 aircraft despatched
as follows: 50 heavy bombers against aircraft
factory and depot at Bremen and Paderborn; oil
plant/

plant at Gelsenkirchen; railway targets at Hamm, Essen and Dusseldorf; aerodrome at Eschwege. Of these, one aircraft carried leaflets for northwest France. 18 medium bombers against aerodromes; 10 aircraft for mine-laying in Helsingfors area, Ems Estuary and Hubert Gat. 2 aircraft missing.

3. Addition to yesterday's report: enemy aircraft caused considerable damage to Albert Docks Station, Leith Docks, night of 21st/22nd. Casualties one killed, six injured; shipping and main traffic not affected.

Only slight enemy air activity yesterday. Duff House, Banff, was bombed, four German prisoners killed, twenty-three injured. Meteorological flights carried out, chiefly over north Scottish waters, and in one case as far as Iceland, also shipping reconnaissance flights. Our convoys, protected by fighters, were approached but enemy seemed reluctant to attack. Several incendiary bombs dropped in Northumberland, but fires quickly extinguished.

Last night, considerable enemy activity over wide-spread area, but damage was slight and casualties few. Incendiary bombs dropped in Fife, and a few H.E.s in Lincolnshire, Essex, Yorkshire and South Wales; at Chepstow a factory was damaged without causing casualties or affecting output. Mine-laying was on extensive scale. Casualties: Enemy two bombers confirmed/

confirmed and one unconfirmed. Our fighter casualties nil.

4. No shipping casualties were reported yesterday.

5. Aden. 12 Blenheims dropped five bombs on Diredawa aerodrome July 21st; results not yet available, one Blenheim missing. Night of 21st/22nd, two of our aircraft bombed Macaaca aerodrome.

Egypt. On July 20th a unit of our armoured brigade engaged enemy column of twelve guns and motor transport north of Capuzzo and forced enemy to withdraw. Enemy aircraft on July 21st bombed Sollum, Mersa Matruh, Fuka and area west of Sidi Barrani. No damage reported.



PSF
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

July 25th, 1940

~~Secret~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
the latest report on the military
situation. This was sent off from
London on the evening of July 24th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

L. Murray

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

Telegram despatched from London
on the evening of July 24th.

1. Force of eight enemy destroyers and six merchant vessels reported by our aircraft 22.00 hours July 23rd off southwest Norway, course northwest 10 knots. Fifteen aircraft of Fleet air arm left to attack between 23.30 hours and midnight. One Swordfish registered hit on enemy destroyer with torpedo, other machines failed to locate enemy. One of a force of our M.T.B.s operating off French coast engaged six enemy E-boats early this morning.

2. During night of 22nd - 23rd heavier scale attacks against Gelsenkirchen oil plant, Paderborn air depot and Bremen air factory all observed very satisfactory.

Yesterday, attacks by Blenheims were hampered by bad weather and inconclusive.

Last night, one hundred aircraft despatched as follows. Three Blenheims to aerodrome at Amsterdam, eleven Blenheims to aerodromes in Germany, thirty Wellingtons to aircraft factory at Gotha and oil plant at Gelsenkirchen, twenty-four Whitleys to aircraft factory Kassel, marshalling yards at Osnabruck and Oldenburg, and oil refinery at Hamburg,

fourteen/

fourteen Hampdens aircraft factory
Wenzendorf, three Wellingtons and three
Whitleys leaflet dropping in northern France
six Blenheims barges at Amsterdam, six
Swordfish minelaying in the Scheldt off
Terschelling Gat and off Texel.

One Messerschmidt 110 shot down
by Wellingtons on the way out. One Blenheim
missing.

3. Full reports indicate enemy bombing
activity night of 22nd-23rd almost entirely
confined to coastal districts as follows.
Firth of Forth, Humber to the Wash, Thames
Estuary, South Wales coast. No serious damage,
only ten minor casualties.

Yesterday morning two small enemy
formations attempted to penetrate; one crossing
the coast near Shoreham as far as Kenley, other
approached to within a few miles of North
Foreland; both turned back on seeing our fighter
squadron patrols. Only bombs dropped were in
Chatham and Worthing districts, no damage or
casualties reported.

Last night enemy activity was on a
reduced scale, almost entirely confined to
coastal flights, probably minelaying; chief
attention paid to east coast from Dover to
the Tyne and the Forth Estuary.

Soon after midnight, a smoke screen
about 100 yards long and 30 feet high
reported off Dover by Observer Corps.

4. Summary of air casualties:

Day of July 23rd

Enemy: Confirmed - 1 bomber (Kinnaird Head)
1 flying boat

Unconfirmed - 1 bomber (Great
Yarmouth)

Our own: Nil

Night July 23rd - 24th

Enemy: 1 Messerschmidt 110 confirmed,
1 Heinkel 111 confirmed.

Our own: 1 Blenheim missing

Total - Enemy 4. Our Own 1.

5. No attacks on shipping reported during period covered by summary: but enemy aircraft attacked 4 mine-sweeping trawlers Thames Estuary and caused some damage.

6. Egypt. During the night of the 21st - 22nd and on the 22nd, Blenheims attacked El Gubbi aerodrome, where fires were started and three bombs fell among enemy aircraft; and Tobruk harbour, where direct hits were obtained on submarine jetty.

Same night, enemy aircraft bombed Sidi Barrani, Mersa Matruh, Akasaba and Fuka; no damage. On the 22nd, ten enemy bombers attacked troops Hamra; no important damage.

Malta /

Malta. Yesterday one Sunderland aircraft attacked three merchant vessels and three tankers in convoy with one destroyer off Cape Spartivento. Direct hits observed on two merchant vessels and convoy dispersed.

Sudan. Successful attacks made on aerodromes Asmara and Umm 21st and 22nd.

Kenya. Aircraft of S.A.A.F. on the 20th and 21st bombed 5 gun emplacements and 50 camels north of Huca and native troops at Derkali and motor transport on Takaaba-Buna road.

Indications point that enemy's entire Italian air forces in Italian East Africa are concentrated in northern Eritrea opposite Aden and the Sudan and in eastern Abyssinia opposite British Somaliland, leaving southern Abyssinia and Italian Somaliland completely undefended by fighter aircraft. These dispositions evidently rendered necessary by constant R.A.F. raids on Italian aerodromes in northern Eritrea and eastern Abyssinia.



PSF
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.
July 26th, 1940

~~Secret~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
the latest report on the military
situation. This was sent off from
London early on the evening of July
25th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

**REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED**

The Honourable
Franklin D. Roosevelt,
President of the United States of America,
Washington, D. C.

Telegram despatched from London
on the evening of July 25th.

Two convoys attacked yesterday
off East Kentish coast. Both
by our fighters. East-bound convoy attacked
between 08,00 and 09,00 hours, one Dornier
shot down. South-bound convoy attacked by large
force of enemy bombers with fighter escort at
12.30 hours. Eight fighters, two bombers
brought down; two of our Spitfires missing.
No damage to either convoy, but during the
second attack two trawlers sunk, two damaged.

2. Our nightly bombing 23rd to 24th
generally successful; number of direct hits
reported on aircraft works Gotha, Kassel,
Wenzendorf; barracks north of Gotha also
attacked. Satisfactory results also obtained
on railway targets Oldenburg, Osnabruck, Soonl,
and Hamm, oil refinery Hamburg, railway bridge
Rheine.

Ten Blenheims despatched yesterday
unable to complete task owing to unfavourable
weather.

Last night 14 Whitleys sent to attack
"Europa" and "Bremen" at Hamburg, and 13 Hampdens
to aircraft factories Wenzendorf and Wismar;
all aircraft returned, reports awaited.

3. Early yesterday, enemy aircraft dropped 4 HE and 8 I bombs Paisley, negligible damage; afternoon, some bombs dropped Walton-on-Thames, slight damage to gas works, production unaffected, four minor casualties. 5 HE bombs also dropped at Vickers Weybridge, no casualties or damage. One Junker 88 brought down in Bristol Channel near Lynton.

There was no enemy air activity last night.

Air transport activity still maintained from northern Germany to aerodromes in north Denmark and south Norway.

4. Summary of air casualties, July 24th.
Enemy: 8 fighters (ME 109) 4 bombers (includes 1 Chance-Vought American) confirmed.
12 fighters 5 bombers unconfirmed.

Our own: 4 fighter aircraft.

Night of the 24th - 25th. No casualties.

Total: Enemy 12. Our own 4.

5. Shipping casualties. French "Meknes" (6000 tons), going to Marseilles to repatriate French personnel, believed torpedoed by E-boats off Portland Bill last night. About 1000 survivors rescued.

On July 21st, British "Ellaroy" (700 tons) sunk by U-boat gunfire West of Cape Finisterre.

6. Egypt. Transport of one of our armoured brigades bombed on the 22nd July; 200 incendiary bombs dropped, 30 per cent duds, no casualties or damage.

Malta. Early yesterday two small bombing formations caused slight damage to R.A.F. quarters at Kalafrari.

Palestine. "Shell" installation Haifa successfully bombed yesterday by 8 Italian aircraft, about 35 persons killed.

Eritrea. Five Wellesleys attacked Massawa fuel installations on July 23rd, 7 direct hits observed, and 21 further hits registered on railways..

Yesterday, 3 Elenheims bombed Macaaca aerodrome and scored direct hit on one hangar.

PSF
G.B.

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

July 27th, 1940.

~~Secret.~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
the latest report on the military
situation. This was sent off from
London early this morning.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

L. L. L.

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

Telegram despatched from London early
on the morning of July 27th.

1. French "Meknes" carried 100 French naval officers including Admiral Cayol, 1186 French naval ratings. 99 officers and 798 men saved.

Destroyers "Boreas" and "Brilliant" despatched yesterday afternoon to drive off 9 enemy E-boats threatening west-bound channel convoy, were heavily bombed and fired on by shore batteries. The "Boreas" severely damaged and towed into Dover, 15 killed, 29 wounded. "Brilliant" hit aft but no casualties. E-boats retired behind smoke screen.

2. Our night bombers 24th/25th experienced very bad weather conditions, some machines unable to identify targets, however dock areas at Hamburg, Wilhelmshafen, also aircraft factories at Wenzendorf, Wismar attacked; results unobserved. Yesterday afternoon 16 Blenheims despatched against enemy E-boats attacking Channel convoy.

Last night 193 aircraft despatched as follows: 12 Battles against aerodromes at Evere and Hingene; 12 Blenheims against aerodromes in Holland and Northern Germany; 59 Wellingtons to aircraft factory at Gotha,

oil target at Dortmund, Eschwege aerodrome and railway targets; 24 Whitleys against oil targets at Wanne-Eikel, Castrop-Rauxel and Dortmund-Ems canal aqueduct; 6 Hampdens leaflet dropping in Northern France; 3 Swordfish mine-laying in Meuse estuary; 6 Blenheims against oil tanks at Cherbourg, 6 Hudsons against oil tanks at Amsterdam; 6 Blenheims against barges building yards at Spaaram. All aircraft, except six reported missing, returned safely.

3. Enemy aircraft attacked convoy off Spurn Point early yesterday and again in the evening. Two Heinkels lll probable casualties.

West-bound channel convoy heavily and frequently attacked by large formations, one of which fifty strong. Fifteen enemy aircraft shot down, of which one by A.A. Forty enemy aircraft approached the Needles yesterday morning and moved towards Portland, our fighters engaged and shot down six. Near Stroud four bombs dropped near one of our aerodromes. One enemy aeroplane shot down by A.A. and one by a training aircraft. Last night no reports of bombs dropped, but enemy mine-laying aircraft activity.

4. Summary of air casualties: Day of 25th:
Enemy. 15 off Dover (one by A. A.). 6 off Portland. 1 Portsmouth. 2 Gloucester area (1 by A.A.). All confirmed. 11 off Dover. 2 off Portsmouth. 2 off Spurn Head. Unconfirmed.

Our losses: 6 fighters.

Night of 25th/26th:

Our/

Our losses, 6 bombers missing. Total enemy 26 confirmed and 14 unconfirmed.

Our own - 6 fighters and 6 bombers - total 12.

5. Shipping Casualties.

By air: during attack on Channel convoy British "Corshorn" 1000 tons, "Polgrange" 800 tons, "Leo" 1100 tons, "Henry Moon" 1100 tons and "Portslade" 1100 tons - all sunk; British "New Minister" 1000 tons, "Hodder" 1000 tons, "Tamworth" 1300 tons and Danish "Gronland" 1250 tons - severely damaged; "Suminity" 500 tons - beached. M/S Trawler "Fleming" sunk by dive bombers off Harwich on evening of 24th. M/S Trawler "Berberis" in company of "Fleming" shot down one enemy aeroplane and severely damaged another. By U-Boat: on 14th. Norwegian tanker "Sarita" 6000 tons torpedoed and sunk in Atlantic.

6. Mediterranean.

Considerable civilian air traffic reported between Lybia and Dodecanese.

Italy.

Italian air patrols west coast of Greece have started again.

Egypt.

Ammunition dump near Bardia successfully attacked on 24th. Six Gladiators acting as escort shot down four and possibly five out of eighteen enemy fighters met. All our aircraft returned safely. Derna aerodrome successfully/

successfully attacked by Blenheims on 25th, five escorting Gladiators shot down into sea five out of seven enemy aircraft. All our machines returned safely. Considerable enemy activity reported on 25th north of Capuzzo.

Italy. Conditions at Trieste reported depressing. General discontent attributed to severe black-out conditions serious shortage of meat, coffee and tobacco.

PSF
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

July 29th, 1940.

~~Secret~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein copies of
the latest reports on the military
situation. One was sent off on the
evening of July 27th; the other on
the evening of July 28th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

L. L. L.

**REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED**

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

Telegram despatched from London
early on the evening of July 27th.

1. Weather not good over north Germany night of 25th to 26th; however, about half aircraft despatched located and attacked primary objectives, majority of remainder bombed alternative targets.

Attacks particularly successful on air stores at Eschwege, aircraft factory Gotha, oil targets at Dortmund, Castrop, Rauxel, Bottrop and Sterkrade; delayed action bombs dropped on last two targets.

Lighter scale attack on aerodromes in Holland and Germany, aircraft factory Kassel, blast furnaces Ruhr, and oil targets Kamen and Bremen.

Yesterday weather unfavourable for bombing operations, tasks abandoned most cases; nevertheless two aerodromes and one power station attacked, all machines returned safely.

Last night 33 aircraft despatched against oil targets Ludwigshafen, St. Nazaire, Cherbourg, Nantes and railway target Hamm; one aircraft missing.

2. Early yesterday morning enemy aircraft dropped ten H. E. bombs on Hastings and in
vicinity/

vicinity causing 12 casualties and some material damage. Unsuccessful attack on convoy off Spithead. Enemy activity generally on much reduced scale; several formations approached the coast but showed marked disinclination to press home attacks when confronted by our fighters.

Last night enemy aircraft active over wide area though very little damage caused. Mine-laying suspected off southeast and northeast coasts. Bombing was scattered and in no locality were attacks heavy or damage or casualties important.

3. Summary of air casualties:-

Day of July 26th: Enemy: 5 confirmed, 2
unconfirmed

Our own: 1 Hurricane

Night of July 26th - 27th:

Our own: 1 missing

Total: Enemy 5, our own 2.

4. Shipping casualties.

By U-boat, yesterday: British "Accra" (9300 tons) and "Vinemoor" (4300 tons) both in outward-bound convoy torpedoed off northern Ireland. "Accra" sunk, 340 rescued; "Vinemoor" had stern blown off, but still floating. Early this morning British "Sambre" (5200 tons) in same convoy torpedoed; further details awaited.

By mine: yesterday, British "Haytor" (1200 tons) mined and sunk in Thames Estuary; Norwegian "Balzac" (1000 tons) mined and sunk off Sunderland.

5./

5. Albania. Italian forces again reinforced by 10,000 troops July 20th, raising estimated garrison to 135,000.

Gibraltar. Air raided night of July 25th to 26th, did no damage to ships or dockyard.

Middle East. On July 25th 4 Wellesleys from the Sudan attacked petrol storage depot at Massawa. Group of buildings believed demolished.

Yesterday Blenheims from Aden successfully attacked enemy aircraft on the ground at Melle, also bombed wireless station at Raheita.

4 Italian S. 79s bombed Bugama and destroyed 1 Gladiátor. Two or three enemy formations approached Malta on July 26th but turned away before our fighters.

Telegram despatched from London
early in the evening of July 28th.

1. Enemy aircraft yesterday morning attacked north-bound convoy off East coast of which British "Westavon" (2800 tons) disabled; this convoy and also south-bound convoy attacked in afternoon when no damage or casualties were reported. His Majesty's destroyer "Wren" on patrol bombed and sunk off Orfordness, four officers and ninety-nine rescued. Casualties of destroyer "Montrose" in company with "Wren" seriously damaged and towed into Harwich. "Montrose" reports having shot down one and probably two aircraft.

Yesterday afternoon enemy aircraft attacked Dover Harbour. Following casualties to H. M. ships reported. Destroyer "Codrington" sunk in attack by seven M. E. 109s. Destroyer "Walpole" damaged by near misses. H. M. repair ship "Sandhurst" alongside destroyer "Codrington" sustained considerable damage.

H. M. salvage vessel "Tedworth" bombed off North Foreland, sustained slight damage and some casualties.

Early on July 26th nine Skuas of Fleet air arm claimed to have sunk one 3000 ton merchant vessel in Bergen area.

On/

On July 27th one Hudson attacked Norwegian merchant vessel off Stavanger and registered direct hit on stern: ship abandoned by crew. Another Hudson attacked three merchant vessels off Terschelling and registered one hit.

2. During night of July 26th to 27th weather conditions prevented our aircraft from locating oil targets at Ludwigshaven, three aircraft however attacked railway targets. Seventeen aircraft attacked oil targets at Nantes and St. Nazaire; no definite results observed.

Yesterday fourteen Blenheims despatched singly, all returned; weather conditions caused abandonment of their tasks but following targets attacked: Nordsee Canal, one hit on canal bank; barges at Staravon; Terpitz at Wilhelmshaven. Results unobserved of last two targets.

Fifty-four bombers despatched last night as follows: Twenty-four Wellingtons, seven Hampdens oil targets at Hamburg, twelve Hampdens mine-laying in Elbe Estuary, two Hampdens and six Wellingtons leaflet dropping in Brest and Beauvais areas, three Blenheims oil tanks at Amsterdam; all machines returned.

3. Enemy activity on night of July 26th to 27th more widespread. Bombs dropped northeast Scotland, parts of Essex, including outskirts of London, in Kent and southwest England. Only minor damage, two killed and fourteen wounded according to latest reports.

Yesterday/



Yesterday besides operations already reported our fighters intercepted raider on convoy Weymouth area, two enemy aircraft destroyed. Other formations approached South coast, including one of twenty aircraft, making for Dover on sighting our fighters.

Last night enemy activity probably mine-laying reported along west and east coasts. Some bombs dropped without result. Kiddwelly, Upwell-on-Severen, Earls Croombe. At Swansea damage to railway track, water mains and telephone lines, but no casualties reported.

4. Summary of air casualties:

Day of July 27th:

Enemy: confirmed 2 Weymouth area.

One H.E. 113 and one naval reconnaissance aircraft off Dover.

One by anti-aircraft, probably 2.

Our own: Two fighters.

Total: Enemy 5, our own 2.

5. Early on July 26th four ships from westbound Channel convoy, bombed July 25th, were attacked by E-boats while proceeding to Shoreham. British "Lulonga" (800 tons) in ballast, "London Trader" (650 tons) and "Broadhurst" (1000 tons) both carrying coal, were sunk.

On/

On July 27th British tanker "Thiara" (10,000 tons) with whale oil mined and sunk off Inchkeith Lighthouse. Ten missing, 20 injured on British "Auckland Star" (13,200 tons) general cargo and not in convoy torpedoed and sunk off southwest Ireland.

6. Mediterranean. Enemy aircraft dropped bombs on Malta and Alexandria on July 27th with negligible results.

Libya. The 33 Repeap, Sicily, (S.79 bombers) has moved from Sicily to Benina (Libya).

Six troop-carrying aircraft have arrived at Benghazi from Italy. Carrying capacity 18 each.

Mille aerodrome (Eastern Abyssinia) again attacked by Blenheims on July 27th. One bomber set on fire on the ground, others damaged.

PSF
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

~~Secret~~

July 30th, 1940

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy
of the latest report on the military
situation. This was sent off from
London on the evening of July 29th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

**REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED**

L. Huran

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

Telegram despatched from London
on the evening of July 29th.

Naval. Yesterday armed merchant cruiser "Alcantara" engaged enemy raider for about 1 hour 600 miles east of Rio. The "Alcantara" received hit in engine-room, two killed, seven wounded, her speed reduced to 10 knots. Raider escaped southerly course 15 knots.

Strong force carried out sweep off Norwegian coast yesterday, no enemy ships encountered.

E-boats reported off Beachy Head last night.

Two anti-submarine attacks made yesterday by our anti-submarine trawlers, one attack off Malin Head considered promising.

2. Royal Air Force. Night bombing 27th-28th affected by adverse weather; majority of aircraft failed to locate primary targets, most cases impossible to observe results. After light-weight attack on two oil refineries at Hamburg, fires and explosions seen. Hudson reports registering hits and starting fires fuel tanks Amsterdam.

Yesterday, of 5 Blenheims despatched 4 abandoned the task owing to unsuitable weather.

Remaining/

Remaining Blenheim bombed Leeuwarden aerodrome, some enemy aircraft believed damaged.

Last night 90 medium and heavy bombers attacked following targets: aerodromes Brussels and elsewhere; oil targets Cherbourg, Homburg, Kamen, Bremen, Hambourg; aircraft factory at Wismar; marshalling yards at Hamm, Cologne; barge-building yards at Spaardam. 12 Hampdens sent mine-laying eastern Danish waters.

2 Blenheims 1 Hampden missing.

3. During early part of yesterday, enemy activity reduced scale. One JU 88 landed intact Bexhill, another JU 88 shot down Plymouth. In the afternoon, 100 enemy aircraft approaching Dover engaged by 4 squadrons of our fighters; 5 enemy fighters and 2 reconnaissance aeroplanes shot down, our casualties 2 Spitfires.

Last night, considerable enemy mine-laying activity Thames Estuary and East Coast. Most raids by single aircraft. Bombs dropped northeast Scotland, Newcastle, near Crewe, Cardiff, and southeast England. No serious damage reported, casualties 11 wounded.

One enemy aircraft crashed near Newbury; occupants escaped by parachute, still at large.

4. Summary of air casualties:-

Day 28th

Enemy

Confirmed, 2 bombers (one landed intact) 5 fighters, 2 reconnaissance.

British/

British

2 Spitfires.

Night of 28th/29th

Enemy

1 bomber

British

3 medium bombers.

Total: Enemy 10. British 5.

5. Shipping casualties by air; early 28th, British "Orlockhead" (1500 tons) sunk off Thurso. British "Mathura" (9,000 tons) hit by bomb Aden; cargo of lorries wrecked.

6. Mediterranean. Malta bombed six times 28th by aircraft single or in pairs: some damage to property Grand Harbour district: later, one enemy fighter shot down by anti-aircraft.

Yesterday, a Sunderland, after attacking 3 warships near Augusta without result, was seriously damaged by enemy fighters, one or possibly two of which were shot down. Same day, another Sunderland shot down enemy fighter Malta area.

Italy. Three independent reports state that food situation Dodecanese very unsatisfactory;

if/

if blockade maintained, morale of garrison, already low, may deteriorate into open insubordination.

Fighter defence Dodecanese, reinforced by nine C.R. 42s now believed consists of 29 fighter aircraft.

Deliveries of German aircraft to Roumania, suspended about a month ago, have now been resumed.

PSF
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.
July 31st, 1940.

Secret.

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy
of the latest report on the military
situation. This was sent off from
London yesterday afternoon.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

L. S. G.

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

Telegram despatched from London
on the afternoon of July 30th.

Yesterday morning in an attack on Dover harbour by about 40 enemy aircraft, destroyer depot ship "Sandhurst" received slight damage. One auxiliary patrol vessel sunk and one Danish merchant vessel (1100 tons). Same evening destroyer "Delight" bombed by 16 enemy aircraft off Portland seriously damaged by near misses; 147 personnel believed landed. Casualties one killed 33 wounded.

Armed merchant cruiser "Alcantara" describes enemy raider as about 8000 tons with director firing. Firing opened at 6000 yards with great accuracy, second salvo rendered useless "Alcantara's" fire control and aerial. Range subsequently closed 9,200 yards when raider turned away behind smoke-screen after having been hit. Damage inflicted on enemy not known. No damage to "Alcantara's" armament.

Early on morning of July 29th destroyer "Skate" unsuccessfully attacked by torpedo off Beachy Head. Subsequently four attacks carried out by two of our destroyers and one trawler resulted in oil rising.

Position/

Position buoyed and trawler standing by.

About 20 E-Boats located July 28th in North French ports.

2. Royal Air Force. Night bombing operations July 28th/29th hampered by weather, intense anti-aircraft and searchlights. Oil targets, aircraft factory and railway targets engaged as primary and several aerodromes as secondary. Accurate estimate of results not possible. Oil tanks at Cherbourg successfully attacked several hits and serious fires seen.

14 Blenheims despatched yesterday, 7 abandoned task, one missing. Targets attacked: aircraft depot, oil refineries, aerodromes also shipping and barges. Photographs of Dortmund Canal show new aqueduct empty but old one still in use.

Last night 5 Blenheims 64 heavy bombers sent to attack shipping at Emden, 4 oil targets, also railway targets; 12 Hampdens sent mine-laying Copenhagen and Emden. All aircraft returned safely.

3. German Air Force. Yesterday morning enemy aircraft attacking Dover harbour engaged by 4 fighter squadrons. 13 bombers and 9 fighters shot down, our losses 3 fighters. Unsuccessful attack also made on convoy off Orfordness same evening by 30-40 aircraft. This formation intercepted, two ME.110's shot down. No British casualties. Another large formation approached southwest coast about 6.15; majority turned/

turned back, a few attacked naval vessel off Portland as already reported. This formation not intercepted. Last night enemy mine-laying suspected entire length of east coast; few aircraft crossed coast and little bombing. Only casualties reported, 4 slightly injured.

4. Summary of air casualties: Day of July 29th.

Enemy: Confirmed; 7 ME. 109's, 2 ME. 110's
10 JU. 87's, 2 JU. 88's, 1 HE. 111. Total 22.

Unconfirmed; 2 ME. 109's, 1 ME 110, 5
JU. 87's, 1 DIT 215, 1 DIT 17. Total 10.

British: 2 Spitfires (1 pilot safe) 1
Hurricane, 1 Blenheim. Total 4.

5. Shipping casualties. By mine July 29th.

British ship (5,500 tons) inward-bound,
carrying iron ore sunk off Liverpool; British ship
(6000 tons) carrying iron ore damaged off Harwich,
tug sent to assist; British ship (1,200 tons)
carrying coal sunk off Harwich; last two in north-
bound convoy.

6. Malta.

Yesterday formation of fighters and bombers
approaching the island turned back without dropping
bombs.

Aden.

Three Blenheims attacked naval barracks
at Assab and another aerodrome. One Blenheim
missing. Yesterday formation of five Italian
bombers attacked fuel tanks at Aden. Negligible
damage.