

Great Britain: Military Situation: Aug. 1940



PSE
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

August 1st, 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 31st.

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
early in the evening of July 31st.

1. Destroyer "Whitshed" struck a mine off Harwich, being towed into harbour. Greek ship "Hermione", carrying petrol and oil, intercepted July 28th by cruiser "Neptune" in the Aegean. Later the "Neptune" and H. M. Australian ship "Sydney" were bombed while escorting the "Hermione" and were obliged to sink her. Captain and crew were sent away in ship's boat close to land.
2. R. A. F. Bad observing conditions, low clouds, severe icing hindered night operations on the 29th to 30th. Attacks on oil targets were successful especially at Monheim where refinery was left burning fiercely.
3. Twenty-four Blenheims despatched yesterday, principally against aerodromes, oil targets, and aircraft depot in enemy occupied territory. Bombs seen to fall amongst dispersed aircraft on various aerodromes and on railway trucks and sidings. Barges in Ostend Canal also attacked, results unobserved. One aircraft registered two hits on 5000 ton ship/

ship off Flushing. All aircraft returned.

Last night 14 Wellingtons sent to attack oil targets. Other operations cancelled owing to weather conditions. All our aircraft returned.

German air force only slight activity yesterday. One aeroplane attacked southbound convoy off Harwich; few bombs dropped, no damage. Single aircraft dropped bombs on Norwich, a printing works and some houses damaged; casualties 10 killed, 16 injured. Formation of 15 enemy aircraft approached South-west coast but turned away.

Last night, enemy activity much reduced, probably owing to weather. Some aircraft reached outer London suburbs; few bombs dropped, no damage or casualties. Some barrage balloons reported fired at. Sporadic bombing, without material result, reported from southwest England.

4. Summary of air casualties:-

Day of July 30th. Enemy (confirmed)
one HE 111. One ME 110. Total, enemy 2.
British: nil.

5. Shipping casualties.

By U-boat; 2 Greek ships (3500 and 4000 tons), carrying grain and wood to Ireland, sunk 14 and 15 miles off Portuguese coast and French Atlantic coast. Yesterday, British "Clan Menzies" (7300 tons), carrying wheat and tinned fruit from Australia, torpedoed and sunk off

northern/

northern Ireland. Master and 35 of the crew landed in Ireland.

6. Egypt. On July 26th to 27th two armoured car patrols 11th Hussars attacked Libyan frontier by enemy aircraft; two armoured cars burned, one man killed, three wounded. One officer and twelve men with two armoured cars and lorries missing.

7. Libya. Indications received Italians considerably reinforcing Egyptian frontier area. Artillery activity has increased, very large column of M.T. and tanks seen south of Bardia July 28th.

8. Sudan. Heavy rains reported in the whole area.

PSF
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

August 2nd, 1940

~~SECRET~~
REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

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 morning of
August 2nd.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

L. S. Brown

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

Telegram despatched from London
early on the morning of August 2nd.

Destroyer "Whitshed" reported
damaged yesterday arrived at Harwich under
own steam. Casualties five killed, fifteen
wounded, eight missing.

Strong naval forces covering convoy
in Eastern Mediterranean attacked five times
by enemy aircraft on July 27th; fifty-three
bombs dropped, no ship hit. July 31st
cruiser "Sydney" had two ratings slightly
injured.

On July 29th southeast of Crete two
aircraft from British aircraft carrier
engaged three Italian aircraft; shot down one,
damaged another. One of our aircraft forced
to land on the sea and sank, pilot rescued.

On July 31st British armed merchant
cruiser proceeding to Freetown attacked
three times, some damage caused by near misses.
During last attack two enemy bombers driven
off by one Anson.

British merchant ship reported having
sighted yesterday morning disguised as merchant
ship raider 900 miles southwest of Freetown.

Polish/

Polish merchant ship arrived at Freetown on July 30th having escaped from Dakar on July 27th although part of her machinery had been removed by the French authorities. Captain reports that "Richelieu" hit by two torpedoes in attack by our aircraft on July 8th.

2. R.A.F. During bombing on July 30th - July 31st, two large explosions observed on oil refinery and synthetic oil plant set on fire. Two fires caused in railway yards. Aluminium factory at Cologne, aerodromes and anti-aircraft batteries in northwest Germany and Belgium all successfully attacked.

Yesterday of twenty-eight Blenheims despatched twelve obliged to abandon task. One shot down enemy fighter and one is missing. Direct hit on hangar on enemy aerodrome reported. In the afternoon four Blenheims bombed three E-boats off Havre; boats dispersed and at least seven near misses registered.

Last night thirty medium bombers despatched against oil targets in Hannover aerodrome, also twelve Hampdens sent mine-laying in Kiel area. Three machines missing.

3. German Air Force. During night of July 30th- 31st, later reports state, two R.A.F. fuel oil depots straddled but missed, two bombs dropped close to Octane factory.

No/

No air bombing reported yesterday; very slight activity.

Last night, enemy activity on wide area, but few bombs dropped, no casualties reported. Bombs, mostly incendiary, dropped in Thames and Mersey Estuaries and in Cardiff and Bristol areas.

4. Summary of air casualties:

Day of July 31st: Enemy confirmed 2 Messerschmitts 109, unconfirmed 2 bombers and 1 fighter. British confirmed 1 Blenheim and 2 Spitfires.

Night of July 31st - August 1st: Enemy nil, British 3 missing.

Total: Enemy 2, British 6.

5. Shipping casualties yesterday.

By U-boat: British ship (6,300 tons) outward bound in convoy torpedoed and sunk off northern Ireland.

By mine: Norwegian ship (1,300 tons) carrying coal, sunk in Bristol Channel.

6. Malta. Yesterday morning nine enemy fighters and one bomber engaged by three Gladiators over Islands; bomber turned back, one fighter shot down. One Gladiator shot down, pilot rescued.

7. Reported from four separate sources that Italian battleships "Giulio Cesare" and "Conte di Cavour" recently inadvertently attacked by Italian aircraft and severely damaged with numerous casualties. Reports suggest that resemblance to British "Hood" when viewed from air accounted for the mistake.

8. German divisions in France believed distributed as follows:-

Northern France (within approximately 50 miles of the coast between Dunkirk and Brest) forty.

Swiss Frontier (Bale to Geneva) seven,
(Possibly including one armoured).

Bordeaux to Spanish Frontier, three, (possibly including one motorised).

West of France, fifteen.

Total: sixty-five.



PSF
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~Secret~~

August 3rd, 1940.

Dear Mr. President,

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

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
August 2nd, 1940.

Naval.

Armed merchant cruiser "Alcantara" permitted by Brazilian authorities to remain four days in Rio for repairs.

East Coast convoys continually attacked by submarine yesterday as many as ten times. Only casualty one British tanker 2500 tons damaged.

A Canadian convoy has arrived safely in home waters.

2. Royal Air Force.

Dense cloud over all target areas hampered medium bombers night of July 31st - August 1st.

Heavy bombers attacked oil refineries, railway targets, aeroplane base Amsterdam various aerodromes Holland. Results unobserved in most cases but bombs straddled one oil refinery and caused big explosion at another.

Yesterday morning lack of cloud cover largely prevented bombing operations but direct hit registered on new hangar one aerodrome. One Blenheim missing. In the afternoon; reconnaissance - Blenheim reported thirty enemy aircraft Cherbourg; thirteen Blenheims escorted by ten Blenheim fighters

/sent

sent to attack. Hits obtained on hangars, enemy aircraft and barrack blocks; enemy aircraft machine gunned, fires and explosions reported. Three aircraft failed to return.

Air reconnaissance Keil yesterday showed "Gneisenau" and "Scharnhorst" in floating docks, "Lutzow" in dock, one Hipper class cruiser in dry dock one K class cruiser. Approximately seven submarines. Considerable activity in Canal.

Last night 43 heavy bombers despatched against oil targets and military objectives in Germany. Projected operations by other bombers cancelled. All our aircraft returned.

Early this morning 14 Blenheims left to attack aerodromes in enemy-occupied territory, also aircraft depots and factories elsewhere.

3. German Air Force.

Yesterday morning enemy activity slight and chiefly restricted to reconnaissance by single aircraft or small formations. Extensive damage caused Boulton and Paul factory Norwich but not aircraft factory; steel works also slightly damaged. Six killed, 54 injured. Little doubt that this attack carried out by hostile Blenheim.

Last night activity slight. Bombs dropped on Officers' Mess, Pembroke Park. One officer killed, six wounded; also in Scotland. Leaflet giving translation of Hitler's speech dropped Southampton. Mine-laying suspected Thames estuary and off the northeast and

/Scottish

Scottish coasts.

4. Summary of air casualties day of August 1st: enemy confirmed, two, unconfirmed three. British, confirmed, one fighter, four medium bombers. Total, enemy two, British five.

5. Shipping casualties. By U-boats: on July 30th British ship 5500 tons sunk off Hebrides. Early this morning three British tankers 8000 tons, 6500 tons and 11,000 tons sunk off northern Ireland during dispersal of outbound convoy. Late reports indicate sinking of Norwegian ship 1500 tons, Swedish ship 2000 tons off northern Ireland 18th, and Greek ship 3300 tons in the western approaches 17th. By mine: British ship 7500 tons mined Orfordness yesterday. Ship did not sink, tugs sent to assist.

6. Italy.

Considerable air transport activity last three days on the routes Italy - Libya, Dodecanese - Italy and Dodecanese - Libya.

One hundred German dive bombers previously reported Pola have now moved to southern Italy. Also reported 38 German dive bombers have gone to Libya via Austria and Italy.

7. Middle East. On July 29th five of our heavy bombers attacked munitions dump at Massawa. Results unobserved. Four of our aircraft damaged. On July 30th attacks by

/medium

medium and heavy bombers made on troop concentrations, buildings and railway station at Kassala. All our aircraft returned.

PSF
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

~~Secret~~

August 4th, 1940

Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

L. Scurran

**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 August 3rd.

1. Naval. Reference to summary
375 page two, first paragraph. Fourteen
U-boats located at Kiel August 1st.

Submarine "Oswald" presumed lost
following Italian claim of sinking and report
that fifty-two of the crew including the
Captain rescued.

Reinforcement of fighter aircraft has
safely arrived at Malta.

U-boat attacked yesterday afternoon
off northern Ireland by British aircraft which
claims to have caused damage by near misses.

2. Royal Air Force. Heavy bombers
carried out very effective work night of
August 1st/2nd. Fires were started in four oil
plants at Krupps, at Essen and on marshalling
yards, one aerodrome also attacked. Particu-
larly successful results at Kamen oil plant,
three successive aircraft caused explosions,
one being particularly violent, target appeared
completely destroyed.

Yesterday owing to weather condi-
tions no day bombers reached Germany; very
successful attacks delivered by twenty-four
on their aerodromes in Belgium and Holland,
one aircraft missing.

Last/

Last night fifty heavy bombers sent to attack oil plants, railway target and electric power station at Bremen, twelve aircraft mine-laying in Lubeck area and northeast Danish waters, two machines not returned.

3. German Air Force. British merchant vessel believed "Highlander" twice attacked by enemy aircraft early yesterday. One Heinkel shot down in flames by Lewis gun during first attack; during second by air torpedoes enemy aircraft hit ship and crashed on deck. Ship has arrived in Scottish port with enemy aircraft on board.

Enemy activity yesterday slight. Confined to coastal reconnaissance and some light attacks on shipping.

Last night activity chiefly by single aircraft. Some bombs dropped in South Wales, Thames, Medway areas and also on convoy off Scotland.

4. Summary of air casualties:

Day of 2nd: enemy two bombers, British one medium bomber, confirmed.

Night of 2nd-3rd: British two bombers; total: enemy two, British three, all confirmed.

Shipping casualties:

By U-boat.

Three British tankers reported sunk in yesterday's summary, paragraph 5, are making for port under own steam with naval and air escort.

By air. Early this morning British Law 6800 tons in convoy off North Scotland set on fire/

fire and reported sinking. Tugs sent to assistance.

Yesterday British ship 8000 tons, aground Thames Estuary previous day was bombed and severely damaged.

5. Middle-East. Confirm principal munitions dump at Bardia destroyed by our air attack on August 1st. The same day successful attacks carried out on two aerodromes in Abyssinia and heavy explosion caused to oil refinery near Massawa.

On July 31st five and a half tons of bombs dropped on enemy aerodrome near Diredawa where 27 enemy aircraft located; one of our aeroplanes forced land in enemy territory.

Italian aircraft attacking Port Sudan August 1st reported using English type camouflage and British marking.

Regular night air-mail service not in operation between Libya and Italian East Africa.



Secret.

PSF
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

August 5th 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 August 4th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

W. Stimson

**REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED**

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,
Washington, D.C.

Telegram despatched from London
early in the evening of August
4th.

1. Naval. Cagliari aerodrome (Sardinia) successfully attacked by fleet air arm last Thursday. Direct hits on aerodrome and hangers. Heavy anti-aircraft fire encountered, one aircraft lost, crew believed taken prisoners. Another aircraft crashed taking off, crew lost. During this operation our naval forces supporting aircraft carrier unsuccessfully bombed. Three enemy aircraft shot down in this area that day.

Last night, the fleet air arm attacked barges and fuel tanks near Rotterdam; large fires caused.

Armed trawler attacked by four enemy aircraft off Harwich August 2nd, sunk by near miss; she shot down one of these aircraft. Yesterday another armed trawler shot down enemy aeroplane.

His Majesty's cruiser "Berwick", in collision yesterday during fog sustained above-water damage.

2. R.A.F. Four oil plants successfully attacked during night of August 2nd - 3rd.

Railway/

Railway targets and power station not attacked although bombs were dropped on alternate industrial and aerodrome targets. Mine-laying was successfully completed. Of eighteen medium bombers despatched yesterday, five were unable to complete task. Remainder registered hits on stores, park and barges; an armoured train was attacked near Dunkirk.

Last night fifty-eight heavy bombers sent against oil plants, railway targets, Dortmund canal and "Gneisensau" at Kiel. Twelve aircraft despatched mine-laying Kiel area. All aircraft returned except one, crew of which rescued from sea.

3. German Air Force. No important damage or casualties by enemy aircraft reported night of August 2nd - 3rd but bombs dropped North-East Scotland, Liverpool area and country districts, Bristol area. Only few enemy reconnaissance aircraft reported yesterday.

Last night fairly wide spread
operational/

operational activity, though chiefly by single aircraft. No serious damage or casualties reported and no key points hit. Bombs were dropped in Essex, Medway estuary, South Wales and Edinburgh areas. Leaflets were dropped in South Wales and North London areas.

4. Summary of air casualties day of August 3rd.

British: One bomber missing.

Night of August 3rd - 4th -

British: One bomber lost, crew rescued.

Total enemy one (by trawler)

British two.

5. Shipping casualties.

By air: British ship reported set on fire yesterday has been towed into port, all crew saved.

By mine: Yesterday British ship 2,800 tons carrying coal mined and sunk off East coast.

By submarine: Early this morning British ship 4,000 tons homeward bound from Canada carrying flour torpedoed off Northern Ireland; sinking.

6. Middle East.

On August 1st one of our aircraft

bombed/

bombed naval barracks, Assab; fire started followed by explosions near ammunition dump.

Yesterday French pilot in American aeroplane carried out successful photographic reconnaissance, despite enemy fighter patrols, over Diredawa area.

PSF
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

August 5th, 1940

~~SECRET~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose, as I promised, a note summarising an appreciation of Hitler's probable future strategy sent to the Prime Minister by General Smuts.

I also enclose a note of the proposals about landing grounds and naval facilities in British possessions off the East Coast of the United States which Mr. Churchill would agree to as one of the elements in the possible deal about destroyers. It is important that no public statement should be made about this as His Majesty's Government have to make the necessary arrangements with the various Colonial Governments concerned.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Yours very sincerely,

L. Murray

The Right Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States.

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

MEMORANDUM.

General Smuts was sent a copy of the Aide Memoire presented to the State Department on July 12th setting forth the anxiety of His Majesty's Government as to possible economic peace proposal to be launched by Hitler. The essence of this proposal was that the world would enter a new and unparalleled era of prosperity if it accepted the totalitarian management of Europe by Germany and ^{that} the only obstacle in the way of this era of prosperity was the resistance of Great Britain. To this General Smuts has replied saying that he thinks that it is probable that Hitler will start a peace offensive at an early date with either suggestions for a conference or of peace proposals launched before or after an attack on Britain. General Smuts has doubts about a blitzkrieg on Britain for the present because he thinks that British naval supremacy and the efficiency of the Royal Air Force are two formidable obstacles.

General Smuts thinks therefore that an alternative plan may be in contemplation, that would consist of further encirclement of Great Britain by attempts to seize the Faroe Islands and Iceland on the right flank and Spain, Portugal and Gibraltar on the left. Hitler would then have isolated Britain from Europe, especially if the surrender of Gibraltar entailed the withdrawal of the British fleet from the Mediterranean and the loss of the middle East. With practically the whole of Europe in his hands and with Russia

and/



and the Balkans in his pocket Hitler might think that the auspicious time to launch his peace offensive would be just before winter comes. He would then pose as the regenerator of an effete European system and would propose a United States of Europe composed of so-called free states, between whom tariff walls and economic barriers would have been abolished and some currency plan of Dr. Schacht's devising would have been instituted. Being in fact master of Europe Hitler could afford to restore a semblance of freedom to his victims. America would then be plausibly reminded of the Monroe Doctrine and the Continent would well have become a closed German market from which Britain and America would be largely excluded.

A scheme of this kind could be dressed up in such a plausible appearance as to make a formidable appeal to world public opinion sickened by the horrible destruction of war and the spectre of threatened famine in Europe. If, in addition, Hitler were big enough to renounce annexations and indemnities the appeal might become irresistible and might induce Europe to accept a peace which would be a moral and political disaster of the first magnitude. General Smuts thinks consultation and agreement with the United States on a positive alternative plan will be essential. Meanwhile a warning note could be sounded in the press and in speeches in both countries to help prepare public opinion against Hitler's manoeuvres. Advance ridicule, Smuts thinks, might well take much of the strength out of it.

August 5th, 1940.

The facilities which His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom are prepared to extend to the United States Government are as follows:-

(1) The continuation of the facilities already granted to the United States Government in June, 1939 allowing United States aircraft and ships to use the waters of Trinidad, St. Lucia and Bermuda and the United States naval authorities to lease premises, land stores and in general make use of the ports in these three islands. Leases embodying these facilities were drawn up and signed by the United States authorities and the appropriate British Colonial authorities in the second half of 1939.

(2) American military aircraft to be allowed to land at Jamaica, British Guiana and Trinidad.

(3) Pan-American Airways acting as agents of the United States Government to be allowed to lease a small area approximately 1500 feet by 500 feet adjacent to the Trinidad aerodrome where they could store supplies, erect a small radio station etc.

(4) Pan-American Airways acting as agents for the United States Government to be allowed to lease an area of approximately one square mile near Georgetown, British Guiana on which an aerodrome could be constructed.

(5) Pan-American Airways acting as agents for the United States Government to be allowed to construct an aerodrome near Kingston, Jamaica on similar terms to the seaplane station which the Company already operates there.



-2-

(6) The United States Army aircraft to be authorized to make occasional training flights to Newfoundland and make use of the airport there.

PSF
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

August 6th, 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. Huron

**REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED**

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

~~SECRET~~

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

Telegram despatched from London
in the evening of August 5th, 1940.

Naval. Three of His Majesty's Trawlers sunk by mines yesterday off East Scotland and England and South Wales respectively. One of His Majesty's Trawlers destroyed enemy mine-laying aircraft off Humber yesterday.

His Majesty's Sloop in company with Canadian destroyer "St. Laurent" carried out eight attacks on U-boat which had sunk two British merchant ships.

2. Royal Air Force. Night bombers August 3rd/4th started fires at three oil targets, eleven fires were started at Hamm and hits registered on three aerodromes. Our aircraft unable to locate German warships but dropped their bombs on estimated position and on docks; results unobserved.

Mine-laying operations were successful.

Six aircraft attacked oil tanks and barges near Rotterdam where large fires were seen. One aircraft failed to return.

Yesterday Blenheims of Coastal Command bombed eight E-boats making for Havre; near misses claimed. Also one ME. 109 claimed shot down and another seriously damaged.

Last/

Last night eleven aircraft sent to attack oil targets, Dornier aircraft works and "Gneisenau" at Kiel. All our aircraft returned safely. Reports awaited.

3. German Air Force. During night of August 3rd-4th bombing in Scotland was on larger scale than previously reported. Bombs were dropped in 14 places but damage was negligible and only one boy wounded.

Yesterday enemy activity much reduced and chiefly concentrated along South Coast. Single enemy aircraft patrolled off North-East Ireland early morning.

Last night single enemy aircraft were active over East and Central England. A military camp was bombed and one soldier killed, 13 injured.

4. Summary of air casualties.

Day of August 4th. Enemy one ME. 109, one mine-laying aircraft. British; four medium bombers. Total. Enemy two: British four.

5. Shipping casualties. By U-boat. On or before August 3rd Greek ship 1,000 tons sunk off Crete. On August 3rd Swedish ship 2,000 tons sunk off North Ireland.

Yesterday two British ships 5,000 and 7,000 tons carrying pit-props and paper respectively sunk in convoy off North-West Ireland. U-boat concerned was attacked as reported above.

6. Middle East and Libya.

Blenheims thrice attacked Derna
harbour/

harbour on August 3rd; direct hits obtained on jetty and ships alongside. Bombs were dropped on aerodrome near hangars and 4 aircraft.

Sudan. August 2nd two oil depots in Ethiopia attacked also Asmara aerodrome. One attack made at 100 feet. Direct hits obtained on both oil targets and explosions observed.

On August 1st one enemy aircraft shot down 200 miles South-East of Khartoum, crew was captured.

Kenya. Aircraft of South African Air Force during extensive reconnaissance south of Moyale silenced an MG post and inflicted heavy casualties on enemy troops by MG fire. Following day they carried out individual dive-bombing attacks on enemy aerodrome in Abyssinia; one hangar and 3 aircraft damaged.

PSF
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~Secret~~

August 7th, 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 August 6th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

L. S. L.

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

Telegram despatched from London
on the evening of August 6th

Naval. Submarine "Thames" overdue from patrol is presumed lost. Submarine "Spearfish" reported German wireless August 5th to have been sunk off Norwegian coast. On receipt of this news she was ordered to withdraw from patrol and report, but no signal has been received.

One M/S trawler sunk yesterday off East Coast.

"E" boats were active last night, possibly mine-laying, off Northwest Kent and Isle of Wight.

2. Royal Air Force. 12 tons high explosives and over 1,000 incendiary bombs dropped on synthetic oil plant at Sterkrade night of August 4th/5th. All fell in target area, fires and heavy explosions resulted. One aircraft successfully attacked enemy aerodrome hitting hangar and causing three fires.

Last night total of 79 bombers despatched as follows:-

39 to attack oil and "Gneisenau", Kiel; 15 to aircraft factory and Kiel docks; 17 to attack "Bismarck" at Hamburg, electric power station at Bremen "Tirpitz" at

Wilhelmshaven/

Wilhelmshaven; 12 mine-laying Elbe Estuary.
All aircraft returned; reports awaited.

This morning 14 aircraft were despatched to attack aerodromes in Northern France, Germany and Denmark.

3. German Air Force. During night of August 4th/5th leaflets were dropped near Harwich. Yesterday morning threatened attack on Channel convoy off Dover by over 50 aircraft was beaten off by our fighters. 4 squadrons were despatched; 2 managed to intercept and shot down 4 ME 109s confirmed and 4 more unconfirmed. One of our fighters missing.

During afternoon there were several inconclusive engagements between fighters over Channel.

Last night enemy activity on very reduced scale principally devoted to mine-laying. Some bombs were dropped in Northern Kent and Dover areas, also in Southern Wales. No damage or casualties reported. Leaflets dropped in Kent and Yorkshire.

Early this morning one bomber shot down off Norfolk coast.

4. Summary of air casualties.

Day of the 5th. Enemy confirmed 4 fighters, unconfirmed 5 fighters.

British: 1 Spitfire.

Night of 5th-6th August.

Enemy: 1 bomber.

Total: Enemy 5, British 1.

Confirmed/

Confirmed air casualties all theatres noon July 25th to noon August 1st: German 78; Italian 12; British 53. Total confirmed losses to noon August 1st: German 2,990; Italian 133 all fronts since September 3rd, 1939.

5. Shipping casualties.

By U-boat. 1 British ship 5,500 tons torpedoed August 5th in outbound convoy north of Ireland. All crew rescued; tug sent to assist.

6. Middle East.

Egypt. On August 4th two attacks by about 10 aircraft each rendered aerodrome Sidi Barrani temporarily unserviceable; two of our reconnaissance aircraft damaged. Third attack by 5 aircraft intercepted by 3 of our fighters and enemy jettisoned bombs into the sea.

Libya. On August 4th one of our reconnaissance aircraft, escorted by 4 fighters attacked by 50 enemy fighters. 3 enemy aircraft destroyed, one of our fighters missing.

Same day our medium bombers while attacking enemy motor transport were set upon by about 50 enemy fighters. 2 were shot down. All our machines returned safely.

Eritrea/

Eritrea. Three medium bombers attacked submarine base Massawa on August 4th: two bombs fell between two submarines moored close together and direct hit obtained on naval vessel. Heavy bombers successfully attacked fuel storage depot same day.



PSF
G.B.

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

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

~~Secret~~

Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

L. S. Mountbatten

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

Telegram despatched from London
early on the evening of August 7th.

1. Naval. Two attacks against submarines were carried out yesterday without definite result. One by aeroplane off Land's End, the other by an anti-submarine trawler off Liverpool. Extensive enemy mine-laying by air reported round the coast last night and also by E-boats off Portsmouth and north Kent.
2. Royal Air Force. During night operations August 5th - 6th all targets mentioned in yesterday's summary were attacked; in addition four large fires were started at Borkum Island. Results were hampered by bad observation, but fires and explosions were caused. Three aircraft successfully laid mines. During yesterday formations of medium bombers despatched three times during the day; in all cases tasks had to be abandoned through unfavourable weather. One Blenheim, however, dropped bombs at Le Bourget. Last night 27 Wellingtons despatched to attack oil targets and 12 Hampdens to lay mines off South Norway and North Denmark. One Hampden not returned. Photographs taken on August 5th show Amsterdam seaplane base occupied for first time by 32 enemy aircraft.

3. German Air Force. Although Llandow aerodrome was bombed during the night of August 5th - 6th, there were no casualties to personnel and only slight damage caused to one hangar and 2 aircraft. During yesterday only small isolated raids reported. Interception difficult on account of cloud and mist. One enemy attack off Northumberland chased out to sea for 60 miles without conclusive results. Last night some incendiary bombs dropped on Firth of Forth area without damage and leaflets in South Wales.

4. Summary of air casualties:

Enemy: nil.

British: one medium bomber.

5. Shipping casualties.

On evening of August 5th Yugoslavian ship 4,000 tons sunk by U-boat southeast of Cape Verde Island; British ship 5,000 tons collided with wreck and sank later. On evening of August 4th unknown Greek ship torpedoed and sunk off North Ireland.

6. Boulton and Paul works previously reported damaged has now resumed full production in some departments and partial production in others.

7. Middle East.

Egypt. Air reconnaissance August 5th located concentration of 250 M/T vehicles, 54 fighter and 21 bomber aircraft near East

Libya/

Libyan frontier. Eighth Hussars withdrew August 5th from high ground 15 miles west of Sollum in the face of attack by enemy tanks and infantry.

Italian East Africa. The Italians are dispersing their fuel into small dumps. Shortage of M/T petrol reported at Dessie, which thought may soon immobilise mechanised forces.

Somaliland. Italian attack in three columns has ground Oaweeila, Hargeisa and about 40 miles inside border towards Zeilah. Strength estimated at two brigade groups with tanks.

PSF
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~Secret~~

August 9th, 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 August 8th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

L. Hurain

**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 August 8th.

Naval. Yesterday evening British ship 7,000 tons with 732 naval and military details for Gibraltar escorted by destroyer, torpedoed off Northwest Ireland and sank three hours later. Nearly all ship's company got away in boats and rafts.

Four motor torpedo boats carried out offensive reconnaissance off French Northeast Coast.

2. Military.

Somaliland. Enemy strength reported in yesterday's summary referred only to centre column. Estimated enemy troops concentrated in immediate vicinity of Somali frontier at beginning of operations on August 4th 18,000.

On August 5th Italian column entered Zeila unopposed and same day strong enemy force estimated at four/five thousand troops, twenty light field guns 120 L/A and 30/40 machine guns occupied Hargeisa. Our delaying force fell back with slight losses, having inflicted severe casualties including three tanks out of twelve. Following morning Oadweina occupied by Italian force of 2,000 infantry with guns and A.F.V.'s. Small motorised force of Somali Camel Corps harassed enemy without loss. Air reconnaissance afternoon of August 6th reported no enemy movement east of Hargeisa.

3. Royal Air Force. Bad visibility hindered night bombing August 6th/7th. Nevertheless satisfactory attacks made on one oil refinery, an enemy factory, an anti-aircraft battery and several aerodromes in Western Germany and Holland.

Yesterday 28 sorties of medium bombers despatched; all returned. Most tasks could not be completed owing to weather conditions but two aerodromes were bombed.

Last night 20 heavy bombers sent to attack oil plants and railway targets and seventeen to attack Gneisenau at Kiel and twelve mine-laying. All returned safely.

Reliable sources state that Italian submarine was hit by 250 pound A/S bomb during our attack on Massawa on August 4th.

4. German Air Force. Very little enemy activity August 7th and no bombing reported.

Last night warnings given over extensive area. Bombs fell in Southern Wales near Aylesbury, exeter, Canford School, Poole, in Northumberland and Yorkshire and mouth of the Clyde. Leaflets dropped near Manchester. No damage reported, no key points hit and casualties slight.

Mine-laying suspected off East Coast.

Transport aircraft very active on August 6th from Cologne area to aerodromes in Belgium and Northern France.

5. No shipping or air casualties reported during period.

6. Middle East.

Egypt. Reference paragraph 7 of yesterday's summary. Eighth Hussars lost two tanks in this action and enemy column was halted near Egyptian border.

On August 6th one Sunderland attacked tanker escorted by destroyer off Tobruk. Same day another Sunderland whilst shadowing these ships was forced down with one of crew killed and four wounded. Same evening a reconnaissance aircraft sighted Sunderland being towed into Tobruk harbour by enemy destroyer.

Kenya. On August 6th Wajir aerodrome attacked by two enemy bombers one of which was damaged by our fighters before escaping. One of our aircraft badly damaged.

Palestine. On August 6th Haifa bombed by ten enemy aircraft; no details of damage yet available. Nine civilian casualties.



PSF
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

August 10th, 1940

~~SECRET~~

Dear Mr. President,

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



Telegram despatched from London
on evening of August 9th, 1940.

Naval

West-bound Channel convoy repeatedly attacked yesterday: first by E-boats off New Haven in early morning and subsequently off the Isle of Wight about 9.00 a.m., noon and 5 p.m. by large formations of enemy aircraft, each about 100 strong. During the first attack three ships approximate total tonnage 2500, sunk and destroyer "Bulldog" claims sinking one E-boat. During air attacks our fighters broke up enemy formations and several bombers jettisoned their bombs into the sea. In all four attacks exclusive of two balloon trawlers sunk and two damaged, total five ships sunk (5100 total tonnage) two abandoned, seven damaged; remaining seventeen ships of convoy were undamaged and proceeded into Portland. Enemy lost 52 aircraft destroyed (including seventeen bombers and fourteen further probable casualties). Our losses were 18 fighters. Six hundred survivors from British ship reported sunk in yesterday's summary have reached Scottish port.

2. Royal Air Force.

Low cloud and heavy haze made night bombing August 7th and August 8th very difficult: "Gneisenau" not located but 9 Hamptons attacked dock area at Kiel: Wellingtons also attacked railway/

railway and oil targets. Other machines bombed secondary targets and hits were seen on large factory in West Ruhr. Six aircraft successfully laid mines.

Yesterday 13 Blenheim sorties despatched against enemy aerodromes and 6 on offensive reconnaissance. Weather generally unfavourable but 2 aerodromes attacked. One aircraft missing.

Last night 28 heavy bombers sent to attack "Bismarck" at Hamburg and military targets in North-west Germany: 18 to attack synthetic oil plant. All returned safely except 1.

During afternoon of August 7th nine F.A.A. aircraft attacked petrol installation near Bergen. All tanks destroyed and workings hit by 1 250 lb. bomb.

3. German Air Force.

Last night single aircraft active over England, bombs being dropped near Dover, Bristol Channel and Birkenhead areas and in residential outskirts of Birmingham. Some damage to private property and 1 person killed and 2 wounded: about 20 people trapped in houses in Birmingham.

4. Shipping Casualties.

Yesterday one British ship 9,000 tons with cargo of meat sunk by U-boat off northern Ireland. Estimated that between beginning of May and end of July some 100,000 tons of German and neutral shipping sunk off German coast in Baltic, and its approaches as result of our bombing operations. It is not suggested that these are the only losses.

5. Middle East.

Egypt. Three Italian bombers attacked

Icsemi and Gebeit area on August 7th causing slight damage to latter.

Same day 4 Blenheims escorted by Gladiators caused severe fires at Army store south of Bardia.

Aden. One British fighter destroyed on the ground during Italian bombing on August 8th.

Eritrea. On August 7th two medium bombers registered direct hits on naval vessel and on quay at Massawa submarine base: five heavy bombers also attacked Italian air force headquarters at Massawa where buildings were hit.

Somaliland. At Hargeisa our aircraft bombed transport on August 5th and attacked barracks on August 7th. On August 8th they covered disembarkation operations at Berbera during which enemy bomber believed damaged.

Battalion of Black Watch arrived at Berbera evening of August 8th.

PSF
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

August 12th, 1940

~~SECRET~~

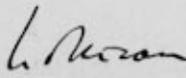
Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein copies
of the latest reports on the military
situation. These were sent off late
in the evening of August 10th and in
the evening of August 11th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,



**REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED**

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States,

Washington, D. C.



Telegram despatched from London
late in the evening of August 10th, 1940.

Royal Air Force. Night bombing 8th/9th August again hindered by clouds, only one-third of aircraft despatched reached main objectives. Light attacks made on all primary targets, large fires and explosions seen. Aerodromes and power stations at Bremen were attacked without visible result.

Fourteen Blenheims despatched yesterday, one successfully attacked thirty to forty enemy aircraft on Guernsey aerodrome and another bombed seaplanes and hangars near Brest. All our aircraft returned.

Last night sixty-two aircraft despatched as follows:

Twenty-four Wellingtons, aluminium works at Cologne and other military objectives; fourteen Whitleys to aluminium works at Ludwigshafen; six Blenheims to attack docks and shipping at Flushing; twelve more to Guernsey aerodrome; six mine-laying aircraft to Ems river. All machines have returned safely.

2. German Air Force. Yesterday enemy activity slight and confined to the coastal reconnaissance, with one casualty. Single bomber attacked Sunderland where bombs fell in shipyards, at a concrete works and near a colliery. Casualties reported as one killed, seventy-two injured.

Aircraft/

Aircraft was subsequently intercepted and shot down.

Early this morning considerable enemy air activity. Bombs were dropped on or near aerodromes and at an ironworks. Also in north-east England near Liverpool, Manchester, and in Essex and Hampshire. There was no serious damage and casualties slight.

Mine laying suspected off east coast.

Weather flights are being carried out fairly regularly over western approaches and including southern Ireland.

3. Naval armed merchant cruiser "Transylvania" torpedoed off northern Ireland and sank early this morning.

Reported Dutch steamer 9,300 tons captured by German raider in south Atlantic July 1st and arrived Lorient with armed guard July 18th.

4. Middle East. Egypt. On August 8th a ground W/T set simulated reconnaissance aircraft being despatched on patrol, but instead thirteen Gladiators were sent across Libyan frontier. As hoped, they found twenty-seven enemy fighters waiting. Our fighters attacked and destroyed fifteen enemy aircraft. We lost two Gladiators.

Same day, one enemy aircraft bombed Mersa-Matruh without causing damage.

Somaliland. On August 8th three Blenheims dropped ten hundredweight of bombs among enemy troops in a pass seventy miles south west of Berbera.



Telegram despatched from London
in the evening of August 11th, 1940.

1. Naval.

Destroyer "Fearless" in collision with His Majesty's Trawler "Wilful" probably need docking. Trawler badly damaged.

2. Royal Air Force.

Heavy bombers during night of the 9th-10th August dropped 13 H.E. and 680 incendiary bombs on aluminium factory at Cologne; many hits observed causing fires and explosions. Aircraft attacking during latter stages of operation reported seeing burnt out buildings.

Nine heavy bombers located and attacked aluminium works at Ludwigshafen, results doubtful; various railway targets also attacked apparently successfully. Our medium bombers started fires among hangars at Guernsey aerodrome and obtained direct hits on oil tanks at Flushing.

Yesterday 22 Blenheims carried out harassing attacks on aerodromes in the Low Countries and Northern France.

Three twin-engined aircraft damaged on ground. Two of our aircraft missing.

Last night 20 heavy bombers despatched against shipbuilding yards, oil stocks and other military objectives and 2 to drop leaflets on

prescribed/

prescribed areas in France. 17 medium bombers left to attack synthetic oil works and 12 coastal command aircraft to lay mines at Ems and attacked oil tanks at Cherbourg. All but one returned.

3. German Air Force.

Little enemy activity during yesterday beyond one attack on aerodrome where some buildings were damaged and four casualties; spasmodic raids off coast. Weather conditions hampered fighter operations and only one interception made. Unsuccessful M/G attacks by fighter aircraft against balloon barrage at Dover.

Last night mine-laying suspected off East coast and Plymouth. Some bombs were dropped in Norwich district and on viaduct at Swansea necessitating diversion of traffic, otherwise no further activity. No damage or casualties yet reported.

4. Attacks on Trade.

(a) Several convoys off East Coast and North West Ireland shadowed without attack. "Warwick Castle" 2,500 tons unescorted not in convoy bombed off Northern Ireland, not hit.

(b) It is pointed out that convoy which has been subjected to heavy scale air attack on two occasions recently, is coastal convoy composed of number of small ships trading between United Kingdom ports only. Despite all forms of enemy opposition during week ended August 3rd ocean-going vessels in convoy discharged in United Kingdom ports 1,161,638 tons of cargo including following tonnages:

cereals/

cereals 189,478. Other food 98,291. Oil fuel 308,588.

5. Middle East.

Somaliland. Yesterday 3 medium bombers again attacked troops and anti-aircraft positions at Karrin Pass. Now confirmed that enemy main column from Hargeisa forced withdrawal of our outpost on to main position. Enemy tanks and vehicles approached position after dark and flanking columns are also reported. Movements of right enemy column obscure, but so far no advance on Durao reported. This town and Berbera both raided by enemy aircraft recently, damage insignificant.

Egypt. On August 9th shipping and oil tanks at Tobruk harbour successfully attacked. All our aircraft returned.

Aden. Yesterday 3 medium bombers twice attacked water-hole near Hargeisa, probable troop concentration and transport.

Kenya. South African Air Force successfully attacked enemy aerodrome on August 9th. Two Italian bombers destroyed 2 damaged.

Sudan. On August 9th 5 heavy bombers attacked barracks Massawa, hits observed. Five more attacked fuel dump same area. Also 3 Blenheims bombed harbour and floating dock. All aircraft returned, but 5 severely damaged. One enemy fighter claimed destroyed.



PSF
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~Secret~~

August 13th, 1940.

Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

**REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED**

Robert

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

Telegram despatched from London
on the evening of August 12th

(1) Naval Yesterday morning enemy aircraft made large scale attack on Portland and Weymouth. Destroyer "Scimitar" had several holes caused by near misses; no serious damage, one killed, 14 wounded. In dockyard, floating dock badly damaged also office block and hospital buildings. Considerable minor damage to other buildings. One oil fuel tank ignited and another damaged. Only two wounded in dockyard.

Northbound convoy attacked from air off Harwich. One tanker (5500 tons) had stern blown off and is anchored, another ship (3800 tons) damaged.

Submarine "Sealion" reports having sunk Norwegian ship (3300 tons) off Norwegian coast August 3rd. Later, when making a further attack on convoy she was rammed by small ship and sustained some damage to periscope. A M/S trawler claims to have shot down one or possibly two enemy aircraft during attack on shipping in Thames estuary; same area in afternoon destroyer "Windsor" attacked by dive bombers and hit

art/

aft. Returned to harbour with two wounded.

(2) Royal Air Force

During night bombing August 10th - August 11th fires and explosions caused at chemical factory and blast furnace at Frankfurt-on-Main and power station at Cologne. Oil and military targets successfully attacked elsewhere. Six bursts seen near "Bremen" and "Europa", Hamburg large explosion reported by squadron. Yesterday medium bombers sent reconnaissance North Sea alternative attack aerodromes North West Germany, Netherlands and Northern France. Seaplane base Brest attacked, also oil tankers Cherbourg. Results generally satisfactory, one M.E. 109 shot down; one aircraft did not return.

Last night 59 heavy bombers sent to attack oil and military targets north west Germany, 18 aircraft mine-laying in Kiel and Ems areas, 5 dropped leaflets on Brittany, 14 coastal command Blenheims despatched oil tanks Amsterdam and Cherbourg; large fires started at Cherbourg other target not located. Two of our aircraft did not return.

(3) German Air Force

Night of August 10th - 11th. Diversion of railway traffic South Wales reported yesterday expected last 3 or 4 days only. Extensive damage to working class houses this district - 17 killed, 8 wounded.

Considerable activity early yesterday morning developed into attacks employing 300-

400 aircraft. Beside Portland raid, convoys attacked off East Coast and in Thames estuary. 70 bombs dropped Portland, 30-40 Weymouth. Fairly extensive damage to houses, only casualties report^{ed} so far one killed 22 wounded in 4 attacks on Dover balloon barge, 7 balloons destroyed.

All raiders intercepted by our fighter squadrons, enemy lost 37 aircraft (..... by anti-aircraft) confirmed and another 47 (one by anti aircraft) probable. Our casualties 25 fighters, from which 3 pilots saved.

Last night activity fairly general except in Midlands. Bombs reported dropped on railway sidings near Nottingham, in Bristol Channel, and South Devon areas and in Wiltshire and Sussex. No particulars yet received.

(4) Shipping Casualties

British "Llanfair" (5000 tons) from Australia, straggler from convoy torpedoed yesterday off West of Ireland.

(5) Italian East Africa

Reported that owing to Royal Air Force attacks on Massawa area, an aerodrome

has/

has been evacuated and fuel tanks at oil Port have been emptied, oil having been taken in barrels to underground tanks in preparation in the vicinity.

(6) Summary of damage caused by Royal Air Force bombing reported between 1st and 8th August.

Osnabruck. Factory seriously damaged.

Krefeld. Station, steel works, factory offices and Port on the Rhine seriously damaged. Barracks and water tower destroyed.

Hanover. Largest motor factory has stopped work owing to severe damage.

Kassel. Aircraft factory hit; complete stoppage of 10 days.

Bremen. Considerable damage done to wharves.

Essen. Krupp Works hit; considerable part stopped for 10 days.

Railways. Bombing most effective, very serious interference to both military and non-military goods traffic.

St. Nazaire (Donges). Two small lubricating-oil tanks destroyed.

Bergen. Ammunition dump hit and blew up.

Minelaying. Several reports received of successful operations.

Kiel Canal damaged. Large transport and several fishing craft struck mines in sound, Germans compelled to send additional mine sweep-

ers this area. Ferry services Denmark
to Sweden interrupted.



file

*PSF
G.B.*

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~Secret~~

August 14th, 1940.

Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

L. Horne

**REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED**

*P.S. This does not give much confirmation
to the former claims!!*

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



Telegram despatched from London
on the evening of August 13th

1. Naval. Yesterday three oversea convoys totalling 71 ships including four tankers and seven cargoes of iron ore arrived at United Kingdom war ports.

Two mine-sweeping trawlers bombed and sunk in Thames Estuary.

2. Royal Air Force. Four oil targets, two power stations, a blast furnace and railway targets successfully attacked by our night bombers on August 11th/12th. In every instance fires and explosions caused. Several large fires started among oil tanks and on aerodrome at Cherbourg.

Last night fifty-one heavy bombers despatched against aircraft factories, aluminium works and oil refinery at Dortmund, Ems Canal and other military targets. Twelve aircraft sent mine-laying and four to distribute leaflets over unoccupied France. Four of our aircraft missing.

Five medium bombers sent to attack aerodromes in Northern France. One of our aircraft missing. Eighteen aircraft of coastal command sent to attack docks and shipping in Northern Holland.

3. German Air Force. During the night of August 11th/12th a Heinkel bomber was shot down by our fighters in Dorsetshire.

From eight a.m. yesterday throughout the day large-scale activity along South coast, in Southeast England and Thames Estuary. About noon enemy aircraft reported approaching Isle of Wight, fifty of which attacked Portsmouth and Gosport. Some damage caused at dockyard, Royal Navy barracks and naval training establishment. Other raiders attacked Manston aerodrome, which is reported temporarily unserviceable owing to craters, but no damage to hangars or aircraft. Lympne aerodrome attacked. Two Royal Air Force W/T stations on Sussex coast bombed, of which one destroyed.

These raids were on a considerably larger scale than any previously attempted; total casualties reported: 39 killed, 166 injured. Raids were intercepted by our fighters and enemy casualties were heavy. In the afternoon enemy attacks continued on Southeast districts and two Royal Air Force aerodromes. Our fighters again intercepted and many enemy aircraft were destroyed. Apart from aerodromes no key points are reported damaged.

Enemy lost yesterday 19 bombers and 36 fighters destroyed by our fighters, also 7 by anti-aircraft fire. In addition 36 aircraft

probably/

probably destroyed and 39 damaged by our fighters. Total: enemy 62, British 13 (4 Spitfires and 9 Hurricanes).

Considerable enemy air activity last night; bombs dropped in Southwest Scotland, Northeast England, South Wales and Plymouth; particulars not yet received.

Mine-laying suspected off East coast, in Thames Estuary and Bristol Channel.

Reported that German reconnaissance machine on August 11th made circuit: Bordeaux, West Coast of Ireland, North Scotland to North Denmark.

4. Shipping casualties. Yesterday British tanker of 8500 tons outward bound in ballast not in convoy torpedoed and sunk in Atlantic.

5. Albania. Belgrade report announces clashes between rebels and Italian forces near Yugoslav frontier also that Italian aircraft have been removed from aerodrome at Tirana to dispersed positions.

6. Middle East. Somaliland. Our positions attacked by blackshirt battalion on August 11th, by dusk they had failed to penetrate defences. We suffered 8 casualties.

Our aircraft from Aden are actively engaged attacking enemy batteries and positions

with/

with considerable effect.

Libya. Ten Blenheims escorted by Gladiators successfully attacked enemy camp on August 10th.

Italian East Africa. To effect further dispersal of aircraft preparation of new landing-grounds north of Eritrea being hastened. August 10th five of our heavy bombers made successful low level attack on Italian aerodrome at Eritrea.

PSF
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

August 15th, 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

W. Churchill

*I hope that Mr Churchill's excellent
reply of his message will enable you
to proceed our destroyers!!*

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.


Telegram despatched from London
in the evening of August 14th, 1940

Naval

Early yesterday morning three MTB's encountered E-boats and anti-aircraft ships off the Dutch coast. They engaged enemy with hand grenades and MGs and one MTB rammed an E-boat which reduced her speed to 6 knots, damage to enemy unknown. All our MTBs returned safely.

Somaliland.

Yesterday destroyer "Kimberley" and sloop "Auckland" bombarded and dispersed enemy troops and lorries on the coast road west Berbera and probably delayed enemy's advance.

One M-S trawler bombed and sunk in Downs.

2. Royal Air Force.

Night operations on August 12th-13th again hampered by cloud. Only small number of aircraft bombed primary targets. Fires started at Gotha aircraft factory, other aircraft attacked aerodromes as secondary targets. Five Blenheims attacked aerodromes north-west France, one missing. Bocks in Northern Holland successfully attacked, some mine-laying also accomplished.

Yesterday 9 out of 17 Blenheims bombed aerodromes at Jersey and north-west France, 7 others obliged to abandon task, 1 failed to return.

Of/



-2-

Of 12 Blenheims sent to attack large aerodrome in North Denmark one returned early, remainder missing.

Last night, 101 heavy bombers despatched as follows: 62 to Northern Germany to aluminium works, aircraft factories, railway targets. 37 to Italy to attack Fiat aero-engine factory at Turin and Caproni aircraft factory at Milan. All these aircraft returned. Two to make photographic reconnaissance of dockyard and oil plant at Stettin and seaplane base elsewhere. Six medium bombers to attack aerodromes in occupied French territory.

From all the above operations two aircraft missing, crew of one safe.

3. German Air Force.

Further reports of night of 12th-13th notified few casualties and slight damage Sunderland, South Wales and Plymouth. Leaflets dropped in Derbyshire.

Exceptional air activity throughout yesterday. Estimated that over 2000 enemy aircraft engaged operations over Great Britain during day. Severe enemy casualties inflicted by fighter squadrons from which 13 aircraft lost but only 3 pilots. Attacks began at 6 a.m. when formations crossed Sussex coast and raiders operated almost continuously over southern and south-eastern counties as far inland as Wiltshire and Berkshire. At 4.30 p.m. about 500 enemy aircraft reported over coast from Thames Estuary to Weymouth. Enemy attacks directed chiefly against aerodromes and Southampton where premises and contents of cold-storage building burnt out. Damage

to/

to aerodromes slight except at Detling which was attacked by 15 dive-bombers, 8 Blenheims destroyed on the ground, operations room destroyed and Commanding Officer killed. At Andover, offices and quarters badly damaged, one aircraft hit. At Eastchurch operations room destroyed. Four barrage balloons destroyed at Dover. Casualties determined light considering extensive attacks. Enemy air losses 39 bombers and 36 fighters destroyed, 31 more aircraft probable casualties and 49 damaged. In addition 3 aircraft destroyed by anti-aircraft. Our losses 2 Spitfires and 11 Hurricanes, only 3 pilots. Last night several small raids by single aircraft or small formations over widespread area. Offices and tool room badly damaged at Nuffield's aero factory, casualties two killed, 50 wounded. One hundred incendiary bombs dropped on Castle Bromwich, only slight damage.

4. Shipping Casualties.

A. By U-boat. Swedish ship of 5,800 tons torpedoed and sunk off Northern Ireland on August 9th.

B. By aircraft. Swedish ship of 900 tons sunk in Western Approaches on August 10th. Attack made on two convoys off north Scotland during last night, no damage reported.

5. Middle East.

Somaliland. Situation at 6.0 a.m. August 13th. After heavy attack, preceded by low flying M.G. fire and bombing, August 11th on Mill Hill, in left centre, our position astride Hargeisa-Berbera road, in which we suffered some casualties;/

casualties; enemy reached the road before being forced back by our counter-attack. Subsequently the enemy in heavy infantry attack supported by tanks compelled our evacuation of Mill Hill with loss of two 3.7 inch howitzers after removal of breach blocks. Anticipated slight infiltration of enemy would be cleared by the morning of August 13th, but no general counter attack contemplated owing to importance of maintaining reserves. Enemy casualties believed heavy, ours slight except at Mill Hill. Enemy column of 400 strong reported moving along the coast road west of Berbera. Enemy heavy artillery ineffective, many duds. Our troops resisted stubbornly but are tired after two days of fighting.

Our Blenheims while heavily attacking enemy artillery positions were intercepted by fighters. Two Blenheims forced-landed at Berbera (one crashed), another returned to Aden but is probably a "write-off". On August 13th three of our medium bombers dropped 1½ tons of bombs on Italian aerodromes, reconnaissance aeroplane called for fire from destroyer on enemy troops and 3 more attacked targets in battle area.

Libya.

On August 12th 9 Blenheims with fighter escort attacked floating crane in Torbruk harbour, two small vessels hit. Total of 13 escort-fighters and 29 fighters have arrived from Sicily and are being sent to Benghazi.

1

PSF
G.B.
File
Personal
Confidential

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

Naval.

A motor torpedo boat while picking up survivors from enemy aircraft in the Channel, was machine gunned by enemy aeroplane and three of the crew wounded.

Greek minelaying cruiser torpedoed and sunk yesterday morning by Italian U-boat whilst at anchor in Aegean Sea. It is believed there were many casualties.

A convoy of sixty seven ships has arrived at United Kingdom ports. These included twelve tankers twelve cargoes of iron and steel, six iron ore and one bauxite.

2. Royal Air Force .

Very successful attacks by heavy bombers on oil targets in occupied western France during night 14th/15th August. Of three important refining and storage plants on Gironde Estuary, two were left a mass of flames extending over wide area and other is probably completely destroyed. Hits were registered on three aerodromes and four more were attacked. Fires were seen at marshalling yards at Cologne.

Yesterday eight medium bombers were despatched against oil targets, aerodromes, etc.

in/ ..

in Germany, Belgium and France but in almost every case were obliged to abandon tasks owing to unfavourable weather. Six more carried out North Sea reconnaissance. All returned safely.

Last night one hundred and three bombers despatched as follows:

Eighteen Blenheims to gun emplacement Cape Gris Nez and aerodromes Calais district. Seven Blenheims to docks and shipping north Holland. Fortyone heavy bombers to oil targets northwest Germany. Seventeen heavy bombers to aluminium works Cologne. Four heavy bombers against railway targets Ruhr. Four heavy bombers to aircraft factories Turin and Milan. Six heavy bombers leaflet dropping and six swordfish mine-laying.

Two Blenheims missing and one of machines sent to Italy is reported in sea off Beachy Head. All others returned safely.

3. German Air Force.

Five main raids of more than one hundred aircraft each were made during the day in Dover (twice) Tyne and Humber areas and convoy off Thames Estuary was attacked. Attacks were made against aerodromes Royal Air Force wireless stations and aircraft works.

Later in day, two raids of three hundred to four hundred aircraft were reported between Portland and Portsmouth about sixty more approached London attacked Croydon area.

Following is summary of most important damage.

Military. One aerodrome rendered temporarily/

PAGE MISSING IN THE ORIGINAL

unserviceable twenty two casualties. At another aerodrome two hangars hit four aircraft damaged. Bridlington area some ammunition ignited and some army cars destroyed. Six casualties. Dover and Southampton eleven balloons shot down.

Civil. Croydon airport buildings seriously damaged small factory engaged on air work seriously damaged. Sunderland some houses demolished no industrial damage four killed eight wounded. Seaham district some houses demolished eight killed twenty injured. Folkestone some damage to private property twelve wounded. Rochester Short's aircraft factory hit by heavy bombs work temporarily entirely stopped morale among workers reported excellent. Hastings some damage in residential district one killed two wounded. Portland some damage Borstal institution six casualties Croydon area some industrial and commercial damage 53 casualties Wandsworth large rubber store set on fire.

In all cases enemy raiders were intercepted by our fighters and heavy casualties caused to enemy aircraft.

Air losses, August 15th.

Enemy/

Enemy: by fighters, bombers 57 destroyed, 14 probable, 17 damaged; fighters: 62 destroyed, 20 probable, 23 damaged; unidentified, 34 destroyed, 21 probable, 23 damaged by A.A., unidentified 8 destroyed, 6 probable, totals 161 destroyed, 61 probable, 58 damaged.

British: 34 fighters shot down (18 pilots lost). Two Blenheims, 1 Whitley (in sea) missing. Four damaged on ground during attack on aerodrome.

Last night air activity was slight and chiefly confined to single aircraft. Some bombs were dropped in Birmingham district and production at a motor factory has been interrupted probably for ten days. One bomb hit Bristol Aircraft Factory but little damage caused.

Considerable air transport activity August 14th from Cologne, Berlin, Leipzig to aerodromes at Paris and Brussels. Recent activities of German Air Force suggests that it is the opening phase in an attempt to gain air superiority by exhausting our fighter defences. On August 12th/13th and August 14th approximately 50% of total first-line strength of dive-bombers and fighters was probably employed. This policy is not proving successful and Germans have suffered heavy casualties.

4. Shipping casualties. Yesterday British ship 1500 tons in convoy carrying coal from Newcastle to Thames mined and sunk off Harwich, all crew saved.

5. Somaliland.

Commander-in-Chief Middle East reports that our position at Tug Argan was heavily attacked and that enemy, using greatly superior forces and fire-power, broke through. No further details available yet. We still held Bulhar yesterday.

On August 15th our aircraft operating from Aden successfully attacked troops and transport and also two aerodromes in Abyssinia, one aircraft destroyed on ground. All our machines returned safely and shot down enemy bomber on return journey.

6. Malta.

Ten enemy bombers escorted by 25 fighters attacked aerodrome yesterday. One of our aircraft destroyed on the ground, others only slightly damaged. Hurricane attempting to intercept this raid was lost.

PSF
G.B.

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

Naval.

At naval air station Lee-on-Solent yesterday 2 hangars were destroyed and considerable damage done to buildings in air attack. Casualties estimated 14 killed and 9 wounded. Yesterday evening an aircraft attacked U-boat off Northern Ireland, it was damaged and possibly sunk.

2. Royal Air Force.

Night bombing August 15th - 16th was again very successful. Two oil plants and 1 aluminium works were heavily attacked and explosions and fires were seen. A lighter attack was successfully made on Krupp-Essen and on another large factory; also on dock installations in northern Holland and on several aerodromes in enemy occupied territory.

One heavy bomber attacked Fiat Turin and another Caproni aircraft factory at Milan. There were several explosions and many fires started. A third bomber successfully attacked a blast furnace near Genoa.

No bombing operations took place during yesterday owing to unsuitable weather. Last night 2 medium bombers sent to attack
aerodromes/

aerodromes. In addition 149 heavy bombers were sent further than usual into Germany and to districts in the Leipzig and Augsburg area hitherto not visited. Forty-eight attacked aircraft factories and stores, 15 the Zeiss factory at Jena, 19 a synthetic oil plant and power station and 63 bombed largest synthetic oil plant in Germany at Leuna. Four attacked railway targets in northwest Germany and six Swordfish were engaged in mine-laying. Six heavy bombers are missing.

3. German Air Force.

Preliminary reports of casualties at Croydon August 15th give 42 killed and 35 injured. It is estimated that about 600 enemy aircraft were operating yesterday between the Isle of Wight and Thames Estuary. At midday about 150 reported off coast between Dungeness and North Foreland. This formation split up and main raid passed up Thames Estuary. At Tilbury one ship of 7500 tons was hit by a bomb and fire caused in magazine. Chatham was also bombed and at Northfleet fires were started and 25 persons reported killed, 18 injured. In early afternoon about 100 enemy aircraft approached Portsmouth district where aerodromes were attacked and two balloons. About four o'clock a large concentration of about 200 strong approached coast at Dover and split up. Majority turned northwards and bombs were dropped

in suburban area of southwest London. Later about five o'clock more enemy aircraft crossed the south coast and penetrated inland where aerodromes were attacked. Slight damage was caused at Farnborough and at Manston, three of our aircraft were destroyed on the ground in dive bombing attack. About fifteen aeroplanes were destroyed on the ground at Tangmere and three more at an aerodrome near Portsmouth. Bombs dropped in suburban area caused some temporary dislocation of railways.

Casualties due to bombing reported yesterday:

R. A. F. personnel, killed 16, wounded 19, civilians killed 72, wounded 192.

Little enemy activity last night but isolated machines dropped bombs in South Wales and Portsmouth areas and at Ipswich. Electricity plant at an armament works at Cardiff was put out of action. Minelaying suspected off Isle of Wight and parachutes were dropped in Worcestershire but evidence points to absence of parachutist personnel.

Air Casualties: Enemy casualties inflicted by our fighters as follows: bombers destroyed 33, probable 17, damaged 25; fighters 33, 12, 7 respectively; unidentified 6, nil, 9 respectively/

respectively; totals 72, 29, 41; plus 3 unidentified destroyed by anti-aircraft making 75 destroyed.

British casualties: shot down 22 fighters (14 pilots saved); missing 6; destroyed on the ground about 21.

4. Shipping casualties.

By U-boat. Three ships belonging to outward bound ocean convoy were torpedoed August 16th in the northwestern approaches; Swedish 2,300 tons, a straggler from convoy; Dutch 6,200 tons, still afloat; British 6,600 tons. In addition a British ship 5,000 tons in ballast, not in convoy and Swedish ship 2,000 tons with wood pulp from Newfoundland were sunk off Northern Ireland. Latter was straggler from convoy.

By mine. British ship 5,000 tons sunk off Humber and another 1,600 tons sunk by explosion off Holyhead.

5. Middle East.

Libya.

On August 15th 15 Blenheims carried out low level attack on Italian aircraft in harbour. Two flying boats were sunk and two more together with a petrol tender set on fire. Remaining eight aircraft were severely damaged. Our aeroplanes returned safely. Same day one Blenheim scored direct hit on hangars at an Eritrean aerodrome.

PSF
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

August 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 August 18th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

L. Stovall

**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 August 18th.

Naval.

Early yesterday morning three battleships and one cruiser bombarded Capuzzo and Bardia. Many salvos were seen to fall in the target area. The fleet was heavily but inaccurately bombed later in the morning; the fighter patrols, provided as air cover for our capital ships, are reported to have shot down 11 or 12 enemy bombers.

On August 15th one of three enemy aircraft thought to be engaged in mine-laying at Alexandria was forced down, but the crew burnt it, before being taken prisoner.

The last Gibraltar to Malta cable has been cut about 50 miles north of Pantellaria.

2. Somaliland.

By 1900 hours August 16th 1100 personnel including about 300 Abyssinian women and children had sailed for Aden. All the wounded had been evacuated. During the day two Elenheims and one American machine, with French crew, maintained a standing patrol over Berbera to cover the evacuation. French crew shot down one enemy aircraft.

On/

On August 17th British cruiser
bombardeed enemy positions on coastal road west
of Bulhar.

3. Royal Air Force.

Night bombing operations on August
16th - 17th were successful, hits were obtained
on all primary targets and fires and/or
explosions were observed in every case. At
Leuna in particular, which was bombed by 28
aircraft, fires were observed over the whole
target area although full extent of the damage
could not be assessed owing to anti-aircraft
fire and searchlights. Krupp works, a blast
furnace and factory south of Magdeburg, railways,
motor roads and several aerodromes were also
attacked. A Messerschmitt 110 is reported shot
down near Jena. Yesterday 3 Blenheims attacked
2 aerodromes in northwest France and returned
safely.

All aerodromes reported damaged are now
servicable again and in use. Last night 100
aircraft from bomber command were engaged.
Thirty-five medium bombers were sent to aerodromes
in northwest France, Holland and Belgium. Sixty-
five heavy bombers were despatched as follows:
20 to synthetic oil plant southwest of Leipsig;
20 to railway targets, aircraft parks and aero-
dromes in northwest Germany, Holland, Belgium;
20 to the Krupp works and 5 minelaying. All
aircraft have returned.

In/

In addition 7 medium bombers, escorted by Blenheim fighters successfully bombed a dock at Boulogne. Hits were obtained on jetty and on a number of seaplanes; both banks of the dock were set on fire and are reported to be burning freely. All our aircraft returned.

4. German Air Force.

Yesterday no important activity took place and it is estimated that not more than 50 aircraft operated over this country. An enemy aircraft was shot down in the early morning by anti-aircraft fire at Southampton.

Last night scattered bombing occurred over most of England. This was carried out by about 50 machines acting independently. Up to the present no damage or casualties have been reported except at Liverpool where there was some damage to a graving dock and grain store. One enemy aircraft was shot down by a Blenheim off Lincolnshire coast.

Air Casualties: Enemy 2, British nil.

5. Shipping Casualties.

During yesterday several small merchant ships were attacked by aircraft in the Irish Sea. In addition a ship was attacked by a flying boat off the Hebrides. Apart from one small British ship of 800 tons hit in the engine room and being towed/

towed into harbour, no damage has been done.

6. Ocean going ships in convoy discharged in United Kingdom ports during the week ending August 10th 894,515 tons of cargo.

This included the following tonnages: 204,756 of oil; 136,526 of steel, scrap iron and iron ore; 216,051 of cereals and 99,200 of other food.

PSF
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

August 19th, 1940

~~SECRET~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein the report
on the military situation for the day
of August 15th. For some reason this
report was delayed in despatch and was
only received here this morning.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

L. S. King

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.



Telegram despatched from London
in evening of August 19th, 1940

1. Naval. During the night of 13th/14th August two destroyers carried out sweep off Texel. Six enemy trawlers and three E boats encountered and engaged. When illuminated they retired behind a smoke screen. One trawler and one E boat believed sunk.

Same night nine aircraft of fleet air arm, of which three torpedo-carrying, attacked shipping off Augusta. No definite results observed but subsequent reconnaissance reported large merchant vessel very low in the water. The three torpedo-carrying aircraft were lost, but crew of one rescued.

Early this morning British merchant vessel in Atlantic reported being followed by suspicious vessel.

2. Royal Air Force. Results of night bombing August 13th/14th generally satisfactory in spite of bad weather. Two German aluminium works located and bombed by five and four aircraft respectively. Many fires and explosions caused at one works and at other results unobserved. Junker aircraft factories at Dessau and at Bernburg attacked by twelve aircraft, large explosion caused at each and considerable damage estimated.

Photographic/

Photographic reconnaissance was unsuccessful on account of the weather.

Fiat at Turin and Caproni at Milan. At least twenty-eight aircraft located these targets. Fifteen tons of H.E. and 800 incendiaries dropped on each, major bursts observed in target areas. Road and rail junctions also bombed at Turin and a blast furnace attacked in vicinity.

Yesterday all medium bombers returned safely from operations, though majority unable to reach objectives owing to unfavourable weather. Four aerodromes in Northern France however were attacked, at one of which hits observed on hangars. In early afternoon Sunderland aircraft escorting convoy off the west coast of Scotland was attacked by enemy four-engined land plane. Enemy aircraft broke off engagement after being hit; Sunderland forced to return owing to tank damage from cannon fire.

Last night eighty-three aircraft sent to attack enemy aerodromes and oil targets in occupied France and railway targets in north west Germany. Four aircraft did not return.

3. German Air Force. Now reported that Perham M.T. School was bombed on afternoon of August 13th. Damage caused to workshop and several lorries; casualties ten killed and twenty-three wounded.

Enemy attacks yesterday were on a much lighter scale chiefly directed against aerodromes, ten of which attacked. Except for three aircraft destroyed at Manston, where two enemy fighters brought down by ground defences, only further damage was to two hangars/

hangars and one wireless installation.

During the morning, dive-bombing attacks carried out on Folkestone and Dover, where seven balloons shot down. One lightship was sunk.

Other enemy bombing results as follows:- Southampton, main line blocked, some damage to property and four slight casualties; London-Portsmouth road blocked by unexploded bombs; Portland, some damage to public services and naval residences, two small naval craft slightly damaged. Blaenavon, fires started at steel works, soon under control.

Last night very little enemy activity. British report of enemy air casualties: thirty destroyed, of which seven by anti-aircraft including twenty-nine bombers, eight probable casualties, and nine damaged. Our losses eight fighters, three pilots safe.

4. Somaliland. August 13th enemy again attacked our forward posts of Tug Argan position (astride Hargeisa-Berbera Road). His efforts were half-hearted and attacks slackened. Enemy column movement along coast road has reached point about eighty miles west of Berbera. Its M.T. and transport were bombed on August 13th and again on August 14th.

Main column operating from Hargeisa estimated at eight colonial battalions, probably four black shirt battalions, pack artillery, about three medium and twenty-four light tanks. Approximate strength 10,000. Odweina column

estimated/

estimated strength 1,400. In addition reserves including medium and pack artillery amount to about 3,000.

August 12th and 13th enemy aircraft bombed Berbera and machine-gunned two of our aircraft which had force-landed there. No damage to our aircraft, but one enemy aircraft disabled by fire from British warship and pilot captured.



*File
Personal Confidential*

*PSF
G.B.*

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON.

August 20th, 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,

Hotel

**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 August 19th.

1. Naval.

On the evening of August 18th an armed merchant cruiser signaled she was attacked by U-boat in the Atlantic. Three hours later, she reported that she had attacked the U-boat with depth charges with promising results.

Since the start of the war up to August 14th a total of 249 enemy merchant ships of 1,212,000 tons has been sunk, captured, seized or destroyed. Of this total 923,000 tons were German 259,000 Italian and 30,000 tons neutral under enemy control.

2. Somaliland.

The evacuation of allied small outlying details has been completed with little loss. Heavy losses are believed to have been inflicted on the enemy who did not follow up the final retirement. A demolition party has been landed from H.M.A.S. "Hobart". About 6,000 troops have embarked. Support afforded by the Navy and Royal Air Force during the evacuation was exceedingly effective.

3. Royal Air Force. Bombing attacks during the night of August 17th-18th were very successful. 8 aircraft bombed synthetic oil plant Southwest Leipzig and caused heavy explosions. Severe damage was also caused to aircraft depots. 11 aircraft attacked Krupp and hits were observed in the centre of the target area. 3 other factories were also bombed. 25 aerodromes in occupied territory were bombed with satisfactory results. Mine-laying also was successful.

Last night's major proposed night operations cancelled owing to bad weather. 4 Whitleys were sent to Turin and Milan; 20 Whitleys to attack aluminium works in Southwest Germany and 10 medium bombers to attack E-boats and shipping at Boulogne. All our machines have returned.

4. German Air Force. Further reports on night bombing of August 17th/August 18th state that incendiary bombs were dropped in Woolwich without causing casualties or damage; slight casualties were also caused at Swansea and in Cheshire.

During Friday's bombing 50 of our training aircraft were destroyed on the ground at 2 training aerodromes. Yesterday at about noon about 360 enemy aircraft in 3 waves approached London from the South-east. Kenley aerodrome appeared to be the main objective, though the first wave came nearer London before being turned back. Bombs were dropped in South and Southwest suburbs, and in Northwest Kent and Surrey, many failed to explode. Some damage to railway trucks resulted. All major fires caused had been/
been/

been extinguished by evening. In the early afternoon about 80 enemy aircraft made attack in the Portsmouth area and a similar number approached the Thames Estuary. 12 ME 109's attacked Manston aerodrome and destroyed 2 of our fighters. Towards 5.30 p.m. another raid of about 320 strong was reported in the Thames Estuary and Harwich areas. Summary of damage caused.

Kenley Aerodrome, major damage reported and many casualties.

Croydon, serious fires at airport were quickly under control; 12 casualties reported. Only 2 casualties reported and minor damage South London suburbs.

Sevenoaks, fire at gasometer in the gas works soon extinguished.

Thorney Island aerodrome, damage to hangars and 3 aircraft destroyed.

Ford aerodrome, large oil and petrol fires caused.

Gosport aerodrome, damage to stores work (?.....) was also caused to one R.A.F. wireless station.

Last night enemy activity was widespread but again chiefly by single aircraft. Casualties are believed to be slight and no major incident is reported.

5. Summary air casualties:
by our fighters.

Enemy bombers destroyed 65,
probable 13; damaged 24;
Enemy fighters 59, 12, 21 respectively;

Enemy unidentified 3, destroyed:

by our anti-aircraft: enemy unidentified 13 destroyed:

Total 140, 25, 45 respectively.

British casualties: shot down 22 (12 pilots safe), 1 reconnaissance machine missing.

6. Shipping casualties. By U-boat, on August 14th, British ship 2,300 tons, inward bound carrying rice, not in convoy torpedoed and sunk Northwest approaches; on August 15th British ship 5,700 tons inward bound torpedoed and sunk same area. Early yesterday morning British ship 4,500 tons outward bound torpedoed same area.

7. . Aden area. On August 17th 2½ tons of bombs were dropped on enemy troop billets at Hargeisa and five heavy bombers registered hits on suspected petrol dump in Ethiopia.

8. Enemy losses by types during period August 8th to August 16th inclusive were as follows:
Long range bombers 124 confirmed, 61 probably destroyed, 81 damaged; short range bombers 88, 20, 25 respectively;
fighters 248, 127, 69 respectively;
other types 41, 23, 19 respectively;
totals 501 confirmed, 231 probably destroyed, 194 damaged.



*file
personal
confidential*

*PSF
G.B.*

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~Secret~~

August 21st, 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 August
20th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

L. Horan

**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 August 20th.

Naval.

H. M. submarine Cachalot reports
sinking an enemy submarine off Lorient early
this morning. There were no survivors.

2. Somalliland.

The second Black Watch with two
companies of the King's African Rifles covered
the final stages of the withdrawal, and were
heavily attacked on August 17th. The enemy
suffered severe casualties and did not follow
up their attack. The Black Watch had 15 killed
and 20 wounded. All the carriers of anti-tank
and anti-aircraft guns were successfully embarked
and large quantities of other mechanical transport
and ammunition were burnt. H. M. Australian ship
Hobart successfully carried out demolitions and
bombarDED Berbera before sailing. More than
5000 combatants including 175 casualties have
been safely landed.

3. Royal Air Force.

On the night of August 18th to 19th
our heavy bombers effectively attacked an
aluminium works in Southwest Germany, where
fires and explosions were seen and it is thought
that an ammunition dump was hit at Frieberg
aerodrome. An electro-chemical works and another
aerodrome/

aerodrome were also successfully attacked. Results of an offensive sortie at Boulogne were difficult to assess, owing to mist and intense and accurate anti-aircraft fire, and searchlights, but some aircraft dropped bombs in the target area. Bombs dropped by Whitleys burst on the Fiat factory causing several fires and explosions, and equally good results were obtained at Milan where one enemy single seater is believed to have been shot down. Yesterday 14 Blenheims were despatched against objectives in Northwest Germany, but lack of cloud cover prevented carrying out of the operations. One aircraft is missing. Last night 147 bombers were despatched to the following objectives. Forty-nine Blenheims aerodromes in Northwest France, Holland and Belgium, 9 medium bombers shipping at Boulogne. Seventy-eight heavy bombers as follows: 24 "Gneisenau" at Kiel; 16 Berlin electrical power station near Dessau; 12 oil plant in Hanover; 14 oil storage tanks Gironde Estuary; 12 aqueduct Dortmund Canal and railway targets Northwest Germany. Five heavy bombers and 6 Swordfish were sent mine laying. Three medium bombers are missing and one heavy bomber forced landed in Holland.

4. German Air Force.

Further reports of enemy bombing August 18th as follows. Shoeburyness, 150 bombs dropped/

dropped; considerable damage private property, some damage to the railway and public services; casualties slight. Paddockwood, minor damage to rolling stock and permanent way. Caterham over 50 H. E. dropped, only slight casualties. Croydon, factory previously mentioned again hit; considerable damage also to gas mains. Southwest London latest report gives casualties as 12 killed and 40 major injuries. Night of August 18th to 19th spasmodic bombing chiefly in open districts. No material damage and no casualties reported.

Yesterday morning, enemy appeared chiefly engaged on air reconnaissance. Raiding started in the afternoon, but was carried out by single aircraft, mainly on targets of a military nature. Two salvos of 8 bombs hit Admiralty oil depot at Pembroke dock 8 out of 12 tanks were set on fire but fire was under control early this morning. Some damage was caused to buildings at Naval Aircraft Station at Worthydown and a smithy at Chatham dockyard was wrecked. At a training aerodrome 3 Wellingtons were destroyed on the ground. Two other aerodromes were attacked, at one of which some civilian casualties were caused; at the other heavy damage was done to barrack buildings, 3 aircraft were damaged and craters were caused on aerodrome. Some damage was done to H~~o~~tments at Dover, where 6 sailors and a soldier were killed and several wounded.

Last/

Last night, enemy activity was widespread, but chiefly carried out by single aircraft. Mine laying is suspected in several areas. Following particulars of damage by areas:

Derby, L.M. and S. main line, up and down damaged.

Bridlington, General Post Office completely destroyed.

Aerodrome in Yorkshire serious fire.

Pembroke dock was again bombed but no particulars of damage yet received.

5. Summary of Air Casualties.

Enemy: by fighters

destroyed 1 fighter, 4 bombers
(5 total), probable 1 bomber destroyed
and 1 bomber damaged.

Our own: 3 fighters (2 pilots safe). 4
bombers not returned.

6. Ethiopia.

On August 18th 4 Wellingtons bombed hangars at Addis Ababa and started a petrol fire. On the same day, bombers and fighters assisted the evacuation of Somaliland. One of our bombers was shot down but crew are safe.

7. Assessment of effect of our bombing attacks in enemy territory reported last week.

Confirmed that as result of our bombing of Canal viaduct across the Ems, all barge traffic ceased for at least 12 days.

The highly successful results of attack
against/

against oil targets in Gironde estuary are confirmed, by photographic reconnaissance. Several tanks were burnt or damaged as well as parts of plant and buildings.



REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

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

~~Secret~~

August 22nd, 1940.

Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

L. Hurin

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 August 21st

Naval

1. Early yesterday, British ship "Turakina" (9,000 tons) reported that she was being fired on 330 miles west of North Island of New Zealand.

At 3 a.m. yesterday fleet air arm aircraft on patrol attacked 4 E-boats and dropped bombs near enough to cause superficial damage. The E-boats broke formation and made for Cherbourg. Other aircraft of fleet air arm attacked shipping off southwest Norway: one ship (3,000 tons) was hit with 2 bombs and 2 oil tankers were attacked.

74 ocean going ships in convoy, including 18 tankers, have arrived safely in United Kingdom ports during the last 2 days.

2. Royal Air Force. During the night of August 19th/20th about 30 aerodromes, mainly in France and Holland, were attacked. In some cases results could not be seen, but in others fires were started. The "Gneisenau" at Kiel could not be located, but 13 aircraft bombed the harbour with good results. The Berlin electric power station was attacked by 8 aircraft, a

large/

large explosion was caused and extensive fires broke out. Oil targets were attacked in Germany, and especially satisfactory results were obtained at Gironde Estuary. Thirteen aircraft bombed target, which is thought to be completely destroyed. Flames rose to 2,000 feet. Attacks on railway communications and on Ems Canal are thought to have been successful.

Yesterday 2 Blenheims successfully bombed the aerodromes at Ostend and Amsterdam, but last night all operations were cancelled owing to bad weather.

3. German Air Force. The fire at Yorkshire aerodrome was less serious than originally thought, and was soon under control. But at Pembroke dock, where 9 oil tanks out of 15 were involved, the fire had not been extinguished this morning, but is reported as under control.

Yesterday enemy bombing activity was slight, bombs were dropped in South Wales, where casualties were not numerous and in Essex, comparatively no damage or casualties have been reported. In the afternoon, about 190 aircraft crossed near Dover, and later an attack developed, by fighters only, on Manston aerodrome. The raid was intercepted by our fighters and 5 enemy aircraft were shot down. There was no damage to material or personnel at the aerodrome. One train was attacked at Newton Abbot and 9 persons were killed and 47 wounded. The line was blocked but is now clear.

Last/

Last night, enemy activity was negligible.

4. Summary of enemy air casualties:

Destroyed by our fighters 7, probable 4, damaged 5.

British Air Casualties:

2 fighters (1 pilot safe).

5. Aims of German Air Force.

Attacks on this country by German Air Force have lately been directed against aerodromes of Royal Air Force. Long range bombers have played a small part in these attacks. It would, therefore, appear that immediate aim is to obtain, even at great cost, air superiority over Great Britain by use of short range bombers and fighters, relying upon greater numbers to draw our fighter defences. Long range bombers could then operate in force by day against industry and ports with little interference.

6. Attacks on trade. Although attacks were made on 2 convoys yesterday and 4 other ships were bombed, there were no casualties beyond slight damage to one ship of 2,500 tons.

7. Malta. Yesterday 10 enemy bombers, escorted by 20 fighters, bombed 2 aerodromes. One Blenheim was destroyed and 5 other aircraft were damaged while on the ground.

Considerable/

Considerable damage is also reported to works and buildings at one of these aerodromes. The enemy was engaged and dispersed by our fighters, but there were no casualties.

Gibraltar. One enemy aircraft reported shot down during a raid last night, which caused no damage.

Ethiopia. 5 Blenheims attacked Diredawa on August 20th and dropped 2½ tons of bombs on hangars and railway stations. One aircraft was shot down by 2 Italian fighters.



PSF
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

~~Secret~~

August 22nd, 1940.

Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

L. Stutzan

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

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

Telegram received from London
on the evening of August 22nd.

Naval.

Our aircraft on patrol Tuesday morning attacked 2 large destroyers and 1 large submarine off west coast of Denmark. The U-boat was forced to submerge and aircraft registered near misses on the destroyer which was also machine-gunned.

Yesterday morning our air patrol reported an 8,000 tons transport, screened by 4 destroyers, off West Denmark; other aircraft sent to attack failed to locate this force, but bombed without definite results 4 enemy merchant vessels. One of our aircraft attacked by 7 M. E. 109's for 35 minutes, shot down one into the sea.

A British cruiser was unsuccessfully bombed by the enemy yesterday afternoon in St. George's Channel; 3 trawlers were also attacked in the same locality, and one enemy machine was believed to have been hit.

One minesweeping trawler was bombed and sunk off Falmouth on the night of August 20th.

2. Royal Air Force.

Twenty Blenheims were despatched yesterday to attack aerodromes and other military objectives in Germany; all returned. Weather conditions were unfavourable and 14 could not complete their tasks, but hangars were hit at 3 aerodromes.

Last night some operations were cancelled owing to bad weather, but 14 Hampdens left to attack an oil target at Magdeburg and lifting plants on Mittelland Canal. All except one returned. Six medium bombers were sent against aerodromes, and one other to shipping at Boulogne. Five Swordfish went on mine-laying operations, one of them did not return.

3. German Air Force.

A large number of attacks by single enemy aircraft took place yesterday during daylight over a wide area, and extended to Scilly Islands, where an R. A. F. wireless station was damaged. There was no important damage to military objectives, but indiscriminate bombing and machine gunning of open towns caused 19 fatal casualties. Various aerodromes were attacked with little result, but at one of them 22 casualties occurred, and at Royal Naval Training Establishment at Skegness considerable damage to buildings and services put one-third of the camp temporarily out of action.

The fire at Pembroke dock, started on Monday, assumed a more serious character
yesterday/

yesterday evening, owing to a change in the direction of the wind, and was last reported burning furiously and out of control.

Last night only about 30 enemy aircraft were operating and, for the most part, singly. No damage is yet reported.

4. Summary of Air Casualties.

Enemy: destroyed 13, probable 2, damaged 2.

British: 1 fighter (pilot safe), 2 bombers missing.

5. Ethiopia.

Several aerodromes were attacked by bombers of South African Air Force on August 19th. One Italian bomber was damaged, and hits are reported on other targets. On August 20th 3 heavy bombers registered hits on railway buildings and track at Kassala station.

Gibraltar.

On the night of August 20th to 21st 2 raids were carried out by single Italian aircraft against the harbour and upper rock. Damage was slight, and there were no casualties. The first aircraft was shot down by anti-aircraft fire.



File Confidential **RAF**
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

August 24th, 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. Moran

**REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED**

The Honoursble

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

Telegram despatched from London
on evening of August 23rd, 1940

1. Naval

At 9.24 yesterday, the East-bound Channel convoy, when off Folkestone, came under long range artillery fire from the neighbourhood of Gris Nez. The bombardment continued until 12.15, the convoy then having reached Deal; 108 rounds were fired apparently in 4-gun salvos.

An enemy battery of 4 guns and another of 3 guns were observed, firing was short at first but later straddled the convoy. 2 shells landed in Dover Harbour.

Although there were several near misses, no damage was inflicted on the convoy or escort.

Soon after mid-day an air attack was made on the same convoy, but this was also ineffective and resulted in no damage to shipping.

In the evening Dover was shelled, $1\frac{1}{4}$ hours by 2 enemy long range guns firing singly from the neighbourhood of Calais. 23 rounds fell in the back of the town causing slight casualties, amongst which were 1 army and 2 naval officers killed. Considerable damage was done to property and gas mains.

2. Royal Air Force.

Heavy clouds and rain hampered bombing operations during the night of August 21st/22nd but 30 aircraft carried out their tasks. 10 tons of bombs/

bombs were dropped on synthetic oil plant at Magdeburg causing fires and heavy explosions. A mine was dropped in Mitteland canal and a direct hit and several near misses were obtained on ship lifts and lock gates. An oil refinery at Hanover, marshalling yard and two aerodromes elsewhere were also bombed. Hangars and a probable petrol dump were set on fire at 2 aerodromes by coastal command Blenheims. Some mines were also laid successfully.

During the day weather conditions prevented fulfilment of most tasks, but one aerodrome was bombed, photographs were taken of gun emplacement at Cap Gris Nez and an enemy 2 seater biplane was shot down into the sea off Havre. All our aircraft returned safely.

Last night 103 aircraft were despatched; all returned safely. Objectives were as follows:

Forty-six Blenheims, enemy aerodromes; six Wellingtons, a synthetic oil plant; 10 Wellingtons, railway targets; 24 Hampdens, air component factory at Frankfort; five Battles, shipping Boulogne Harbour; twelve Hampdens, mine-laying.

3. German Air Force.

The attack on the Channel convoy yesterday by about 30 enemy aircraft was intercepted and dispersed by our fighters. One enemy was destroyed, two more probable casualties; our losses were two Spitfires. Other enemy activity was slight and mostly confined/

confined to single aircraft, although towards evening about 30 enemy machines crossed the coast near Deal; about an hour later some more aircraft approached and bombing was reported at Dover, Deal and Manston. A few interceptions were made by our fighters.

Additional incidents. A train was machine-gunned in Somerset, no casualties; the fire at Pembroke dock is still burning; the Great Western Railway main line at Newton Abbot is likely to be out of order for some time; Purley Way is temporarily closed owing to explosion of delayed action bomb. Last night enemy activity although confined almost entirely to raids by single aircraft, was on a larger scale and more widespread than usual. Bombs were dropped in northern and north-eastern London suburbs, casualties and damage so far reported as slight. One hangar was set on fire but was extinguished at Filton; and near Aldershot 9 trucks of an ammunition train were set on fire. Other spasmodic bombing took place over a wide area, and mine-laying is suspected in the Thames Estuary and off the East Coast.

4. Summary of air casualties. Enemy. Destroyed. By our fighters 3 fighters and 3 bombers; total six. Probable. 3 fighters 1 bomber, total 4. Our own. 5 fighters (3 pilots safe).

5. Shipping casualties. One British ship (1700 tons) carrying coal was bombed and sunk in St. Georges Channel; one man was killed and ten are missing.

6. Middle East. Libya. On the 21st 8 Blenheims destroyed 3 enemy bombers on the ground at an Italian aerodrome. All returned safely.

Sudan. On the 17th 3 heavy bombers carried out a low level attack on Kassala fort. All bombs fell in the target area and hits were registered on the fort.

Kenya. On the 19th, aircraft of the South African Air Force registered hits on the jetty and a hangar at Mogodishu and also bombed fuel stocks and enemy aircraft at 5 Italian aerodromes in Ethiopia.

7. Albania. The Italian nineteenth Infantry division and one hundred and thirty-first armoured division have moved up near the Greek frontier; there are also reports of further Italian troop movements towards the Greek frontier.

PSF
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~Secret~~

August 25th, 1940

*File
confidential*

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,

**REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED**

L. S. C.

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

Telegram despatched from London
late on the evening of August 24th

1. Naval. H.M. Destroyer

"Hostile" mined and sunk off Cape Bon Tunisia early August 23rd. No detailed report yet received but survivors were picked up by accompanying destroyers.

On August 23rd three Swordfish aircraft supported by Royal Air Force aircraft made torpedo attacks on Bomba Libya sinking one Italian destroyer one depot ship and two submarines. All aircraft returned.

2. Royal Air Force. Following

results observed during operations night of August 22nd/23rd. Fires on eight out of seventeen aerodromes attacked. Fire and explosion in oil plant at Bottrop and fires on railway targets. Fires observed on explosive factory near Frankfurt and Cologne power station and Duisburg-Ruhrort inland ports. Results of attacks on Frankfurt and Boulogne harbour not observed due to weather conditions.

During August 23 twenty-one Blenheims attacked enemy-occupied aerodromes and Dieppe harbour and various communications. Six Battles from Coastal Command attacked E-boats in Boulogne harbour. One Blenheim and two Battles missing.

During/

During the night of August 23rd-24th 85 aircraft attacked enemy occupied aerodromes, gun emplacements at Cape Gris Nez, oil plant at Magdeburg, marshalling yards at Mannheim and laid mines in certain areas. All aircraft returned but reports not yet available.

3. German Air Force. During August 23rd sporadic raids made by enemy aircraft operating singly. Bombs caused some damage but no casualties at Warwick and Leemington, one casualty at Daventry. 23 people killed and 12 injured in attack on New Milton (Hants).

During night of August 23rd-24th light enemy raids reported in south Wales, Bristol Channel, Somerset, Cornwall, Midlands, Northeast Coast, East Anglia and Kent. On previous night bombs caused damage to communications and gas mains at Birmingham, two casualties. Wembley district water supply seriously damaged and two aircraft and two hangars destroyed at Manston aerodrome.

Attack previously reported on Pembroke Dock resulted in loss of 5 oil tanks, nine tanks intact and two still burning. Some casualties to fire fighters.

4. Summary of air casualties

Enemy. By our fighters 2 bombers destroyed by anti-aircraft fire 1 bomber, total 3.

Our own. 2 bombers reported above destroyed at Manston aerodrome.

5. Shipping casualties. One British ship (6,700 tons) sunk by enemy air attacks in Moray Firth and another set on fire. Three ships attacked by aircraft in St. George's Channel without result.

6. Convoy of 28 ships including 24 British has arrived in United Kingdom ports. Convoy includes 3 tankers, 4 cargoes of grain, and 8 of pit-props.

7. Libya. On night of August 21st-22nd one British aircraft destroyed 6 enemy sea planes at Bomba seaplane base. August 22nd successful attacks made on 70 aircraft at El Adem and on shipping and aircraft at Derna. All our aircraft returned.

There is no evidence of preparations for launching of major offensive for Libya within next 3 or 4 weeks.

8. East Africa. August 2nd (? 22nd) our aircraft attacked Massawa, Wells and enemy position south of Moyale and aerodromes.

9. Enemy aircraft bombed Alexandria on night of August 22nd-23rd causing little damage and no casualties.

10. Enemy aircraft approached Malta on August 23rd but made no attack.

PSF
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.



~~SECRET~~

August 26th, 1940.

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,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'L. S. Mountbatten', is written below the typed signature.

**REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED**

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

Telegram despatched from London
early in the morning of August 26th, 1940

1. Naval.

His Majesty's Sloop "Penzance" sunk by U-boat 650 miles off Ireland on August 24th whilst on convoy escort. No survivors reported.

Report just received of Norwegian ship (6000 tons) sunk without warning by enemy raider on August 4th 950 miles South East of Bermuda. Survivors landed Gibraltar August 23rd reported raider a ship about 4000 tons.

Two destroyers damaged in enemy air attack on Portsmouth dockyard yesterday, one seriously. Some damage to dockyard buildings, but no vital targets hit. 24 killed and 42 injured in dockyard area.

Armed trawler destroyed one enemy aircraft and probably another when attacked in home waters yesterday.

2. Royal Air Force.

During night of August 23rd-August 24th, fires and explosions were observed on majority of 20 enemy-occupied aerodromes attacked. Oil target at Magdeburg, marshalling yard at Mannheim, and Brest, Dieppe harbours were also hit. Mine laying successfully carried out.

Two enemy aerodromes and one seaplane base bombed by Royal Air Force yesterday. Results unobserved.

144 British bombers attacked enemy-occupied aerodromes, oil targets, communications and munitions factories last night. No reports yet received. Two bombers missing. Ten bombers also attacked aircraft factory near Milan, returned safely. Reports not yet available.

3. German Air Force.

About 500 enemy aircraft attacked British Isles on August 24th. 6 attacks, comprising between 30 and 80 aircraft each, were made on South East area, including heavy attack on Ramsgate, and a particularly heavy attack on Portsmouth area. Our fighters intercepted and dispersed these raids, the last of which crossed the coast near Dover, turning away in face of our fighters without apparently attacking any objective. Heavy fires and damage caused by 2 enemy attacks on Manston aerodrome. Airport buildings and A.R.P. personnel machine gunned by low flying aircraft at Ramsgate, where military and naval headquarters and customs house were damaged by bombs, and gas and water mains fractured. Casualties here reported 20 killed and 42 wounded. North Weald aerodrome and aerodrome in Glamorgan damaged. H.E. and incendiary bombs caused fires at Portsmouth, which were quickly got under control. Railway damaged. Exclusive of dockyard casualties, 49 were killed and about 250 injured (most of these were due to direct hit on cinema). One killed and three wounded at Great Yarmouth. One killed at Dover by cross-Channel shelling.

Position/

Position at Pembroke Dock now much improved. Hoped to save at least 7 tanks and to salvage quantity of oil from the most.

Enemy air activity on an increased scale last night, bombs caused fires in city of London and West Indian Docks, which are now under control. Small fires also in Eastern districts of London. Small area of the City temporarily closed as precaution against unexploded bombs. Bombs also dropped in Southwest suburbs. Casualties not yet known. Other important attacks were against targets in Midlands and Tyneside, but casualties and damage were not proportionately heavy.

4. Summary of air casualties.

<u>Enemy</u>	<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Probable</u>	<u>Damaged</u>
By our fighters	17 bombers	3 bombers	6 bombers
By our fighters	23 fighters	10 fighters	9 fighters
By anti-aircraft fire	one	four	nil
(type of aircraft unknown)			
Total	41	17	15

In addition, 2 enemy bombers thought to have been destroyed by our fighters during last night's attacks.

British: 20 fighters, (14 pilots saved).

5. Shipping casualties.

1 British ship (10,000 tons) torpedoed and sunk in home waters night of 23rd/24th. 2 other ships (total 11,000 tons) in the same convoy damaged. 1 British ship (6,000 tons) damaged by torpedo in home waters yesterday. 1 Panamanian ship (4,000 tons) sunk by torpedo 340 miles West of Ireland on August 20th. 1 additional British ship (5,000 tons) also sunk in enemy air attack in Moray Firth, recorded in paragraph 5 of my immediately preceding telegram.

6. Malta.

6 enemy bombers, supported by 16 fighters, attacked and slightly damaged aerodromes yesterday. Four Hurricanes intercepted and shot down 1 Italian fighter.

7. Libya.

One "Bombay" attacked Tobruk Harbour night of 23rd/24th causing fires.

8. Sudan.

Enemy bombed Khartoum area without result, and Omdurman where some civilian casualties resulted.

PSF
G.B.



BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

August 27th, 1940

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

~~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,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "L. L. L. L.", is written below the typed signature.

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

Telegram sent off from London
in the morning of August 27th, 1940

1. Naval. Mediterranean. During the night of August 23rd/24th five destroyers successfully attacked seaplane base at Bomba, and 2 ships bombarded shore targets and troop concentrations at Bardia.

Light forces have carried out a sweep East of Crete but no encounters with enemy vessels have been reported. On August 22nd a 14 inch gun mounted in the vicinity of Dover replied to German fire from French coast. Our firing was only preliminary and no attempt at a serious bombardment was made; after a few rounds had been fired, 50 hostile aircraft took off and our spotting aeroplane was recalled.

2. Royal Air Force. During the night of August 24th/25th an Italian air component factory was successfully located and attacked, medium bombers also bombed 16 enemy aerodromes, a particularly heavy attack being made against Dinard aerodrome. The gun emplacements at Cap Griz Nez were also bombed. A heavy scale attack by heavy bombers was made against Daimler Benz factory at Stuttgart where large explosion was caused. Other primary targets which were bombed were

electrical/

electrical power station at Cologne, and oil stocks and munitions works elsewhere. Owing to unfavourable weather 10 aircraft could not locate their targets and brought their bombs back. Mineslaying on a larger scale than usual was carried out successfully.

Yesterday 7 Blenheims attacked 6 enemy aerodromes; all returned safely.

Last night 126 aeroplanes were sent out. 12 medium bombers to aerodromes, and 35 heavy and 46 medium to Berlin, where objectives were electrical factories, the power station, and airport. Other heavy bombers were sent to attack railway targets, and 24 medium bombers of the Coastal Command to attack shipping, oil targets, surface craft, and seaplanes in Northern French harbours. From these operations 2 Blenheims are missing, and 3 Hampdens have landed in the sea of which the crew of one is safe.

3. German Air Force.

August 24th. At a Surrey aerodrome on which 200 to 300 H.E. and several thousand incendiary bombs were dropped, there was no damage to aircraft or hangars. The power station was seriously damaged, and also mains of public services. Casualties at Portsmouth are now given as 83 killed, 191 wounded, and 700 homeless. At Ramsgate at least 250 bombs were dropped; all fires are put out; considerable damage was done to house property, but there is no difficulty in housing the homeless

families/

families. Night of August 24th/25th, although bombing was widespread, damage was not proportionate to the bombs dropped. Principal attack was on Teeside where damage was done to gas works, electric cables and public services; a nitric acid plant was badly damaged and a foundry demolished. Casualties in this area 7 killed, about 85 wounded, and 100 rendered homeless. Damage in the Midlands was slight. All fires are extinguished in London Docks area; some damage is reported to suburban railway lines. The Portsmouth road, which had been closed, is now clear. A railway line in South Wales was temporarily blocked and the Great North Road near Berwick is expected to be closed for 4 days. Casualties in London, Middlesex and Surrey are 9 killed and 58 hospital cases. August 25th. Enemy activity up to 5 p.m. was slight. About 180 enemy aircraft then approached South West Coast; our fighters repulsed this attack, destroying approximately 40 enemy aircraft and pursuing them out to sea. Further enemy activity involving about 80 aircraft was reported over South East Coast during the evening; these raiders were attacked by our fighters and casualties inflicted. 3 aerodromes were reported as having been attacked. Night of August 25th/26th. Enemy activity was on a large scale until 2 a.m., large numbers of aircraft coming from Holland and Brest, crossing the coast

at/

at numerous points. Minelaying was suspected round South East and East Coasts. Birmingham area heavily bombed and damage caused to factories, but particulars not yet available. Some South Coast towns were attacked, and in London area bombs were dropped in South West and Northern suburban areas. An aerodrome in Berks was also attacked.

4. Summary of air casualties.

Enemy casualties, by our fighters; bombers destroyed 8, probable 2, damaged 2; fighters 38, 13, 14 respectively; unspecified 1, nil, nil, respectively; by our anti-aircraft, unspecified 6, destroyed; total 53 destroyed, 15 probable, 16 damaged.

British casualties: 16 fighters (10 pilots killed or missing); 2 bombers missing; 3 bombers lost.

5. Shipping Casualties.

By U-boats; yesterday one British ship (5,700 tons) and one tanker (6,800 tons); home-ward bound in convoy were sunk in North Western Approaches. Another tanker (7,500 tons) was torpedoed same afternoon off West Coast of Scotland. 2 other British ships, total tonnage 9,200 tons, not in convoy, were torpedoed off West Coast of Ireland. One is reported sinking.

By aircraft:- An unknown ship was reported sunk off North West Scotland, and a small British ship (500 tons) was set on fire in St. Georges Channel. Other ships were unsuccessfully attacked in this area and also off Western Approaches.

During/

During the week ending noon August 21st, 1,082 ships were convoyed, of which one was torpedoed and sunk.

Imports into Great Britain by ships in convoy during the week ending August 17th were 1,062,016 tons. This included following tonnages; 165,268 oil, 278,866 minerals, including steel, scrap, pig iron, pig ore; 249,170 cereals; 107,735 other food.

During the first 17 days of August sinkings of cargo amounted to one ton for every 36.6 tons safely landed.

Middle East.

6. Yesterday 6 Blenheims attacked an aerodrome in Abyssinia. Fires were started in hangars, and a motor transport yard.



~~Secret~~

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

PSR
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

August 28th, 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. Huron

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

Telegram despatched from London
late on the evening of August 27th.

Naval.

Early this morning a British tanker reported she was being shelled by a disguised merchantman south of Madagascar.

Four officers and eight ratings from H. M. Sloop "Penzance" have been rescued, and 5 others are believed rescued.

2. Royal Air Force.

Bad weather hampered operations over Germany during the night of August 25th - 26th. Thirty-two aircraft attacked targets in Berlin and its immediate neighbourhood. Largest attack was on power station where a large fire was started. The airport and aircraft factory and electrical factory were attacked and direct hits seen on the last two targets. Observation was very difficult. Elsewhere railway targets, docks and aerodromes were also attacked and severe fires were caused at oil depot at Cherbourg and in docks at Boulogne. Eight machines are missing, and not five as reported yesterday. One crew is safe. Nineteen Blenheims were despatched yesterday, two of which bombed two aerodromes; remainder were obliged to abandon the tasks owing to the weather, one machine was lost.

A Sunderland patrolling off Tromsø attacked 8 seaplanes on the water, sinking 2 and setting fire to another. Last night 99 aircraft were despatched to the following objectives: medium bombers to enemy-occupied aerodromes in the Low countries and northwest France, heavy bombers to attack aircraft factory and oil target at Frankfurt, and railway targets and wharves, chemical factory, aerodromes and power stations in various districts of Germany. Thirty-two heavy bombers were sent to bomb the synthetic oil factory at Leuna, also an aerodrome, a gas works, and Dortmund Canal aqueduct. One aircraft is missing.

Italy.

Eleven heavy bombers left last night to attack the Maresei Magneto factory and also an aircraft factory at Turin. Two aircraft are missing. Reports not yet available.

3. German Air Force.

Night of 25th - 26th August. At Birmingham about 60 fires were started; serious damage was caused to market hall, two keypoint factories were damaged as well as four others. Casualties so far reported 13 killed, 31 wounded. At Croydon damage was caused to streets, gas mains, and telephone services. Other damage of no great importance was caused on Teeside and at Coventry.

During/

During the early part of yesterday enemy activity was confined to isolated raids. In the latter part of the morning 2 raids of about 30 and 50 aircraft attacked Folkstone and balloon barrage at Dover. These raids were intercepted. Towards evening about 250 enemy aircraft approached London from the Thames Estuary, but turned off and appeared to make for military objectives and aerodromes in southern Essex. Considerable damage was caused to public services and to a railway embankment in this area, but casualties were very few. Another 250 converged on Portsmouth where the chief attack was on Fort Cumberland, considerable structural damage was done to buildings, water mains, and electric light supply; four officers and four other ranks were killed, and three officers and ten other ranks wounded. In other districts a military camp was bombed causing some casualties and minor damage, and an aerodrome at which 3 aircraft were damaged. These raids were also intercepted by our fighter squadrons.

Last night enemy bombing activity was widespread and about 300 airplanes were operating. Warning in London lasted for 6 hours and bombs were dropped chiefly in northern suburbs.

Principal/

Principal attack seems to have been on Birmingham and district. Casualties so far reported are 9 killed, 40 seriously wounded. Fires were caused in a goods yard, and at B.S.A. Ltd.; there was also damage to a rubber factory, and an aircraft factory. Three factories and a goods yard were also bombed and damaged at Coventry; no casualty report yet received. The following areas were also visited, but damage reports are not yet available; northeast coast, Midlands, south coast, Bristol area, and South Wales.

4. Summary of Air Casualties.

Enemy casualties by our fighters: bombers destroyed 22, probable nil, damaged 14; enemy fighters 23, 7, 3 respectively; by our anti-aircraft: enemy fighters 1, nil, 1 respectively; totals: destroyed 46, probable 7, damaged 18.

British (in the air): 28 fighters but only 4 pilots and air gunners are missing. Four bombers missing.

5. Shipping Casualties.

Reference paragraph 5 of yesterday's summary, two additional British ships (3900 and 5200 tons) of this convoy were torpedoed. One is reported on fire and the other has sunk.

During the period of this summary, 29 ships have safely arrived in convoy including 13 tankers.

6. Somaliland.

On August 24th four aircraft of the South African airforce successfully dive-bombed oil tanks at Mogador.

7. A Royal Air Force Czech squadron in action for the first time yesterday, brought down one bomber and one fighter and lost 3 Hurricanes but no pilots.



PSF
GIB.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

August 29th, 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

**REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED**

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

Telegram despatched from London
in the evening of August 28th, 1940

Naval.

Last night a British armed merchant cruiser was hit by two torpedoes in North Western Approaches.

A British cruiser was unsuccessfully attacked by a torpedo carrying aircraft off Alexandria yesterday morning, and a British submarine reports on August 21st she attacked two enemy merchant vessels escorted by a destroyer. The merchant vessels are considered to have been sunk.

Royal Air Force

Some very satisfactory reports of bombing operations on night of August 26th/27th have been received. Aircraft factory at Frankfurt, large fires started; oil stocks at Frankfurt, large fires increasing in intensity; an explosive factory, very large fire, many explosions; another explosive factory, series of explosions followed by intense white fire; Leuna synthetic oil plant, fire started; Leipzig gas works, large fires; chemical factory at Cologne, big explosion, many fires. A number of other targets including aerodromes were also bombed. One enemy bomber, probably returning from England, was shot down near a French aerodrome.

Italy/

Italy.

Many bursts were observed on targets and fires and large explosions were caused at both Marelli factory and Fiat aircraft factory.

All our aircraft despatched yesterday returned safely. Majority obliged to abandon tasks owing to unsuitable weather, but one bombed a ship off Northern Holland, result unobserved.

Last night 49 aircraft were despatched against industrial, railway and oil targets and docks in Germany with "Gneisenau" at Kiel as special target. Aircraft were also sent to Italy and on mine-laying operations. All except one have returned safely. Reports awaited.

3. German Air Force.

During the night of August 26th/27th, 3 enemy aircraft were destroyed; German bombing resulted as follows.

London area, damage negligible. In Birmingham area a sustained and intensive raid lasted 4 hours; A.R.P. services fully extended and maintained; casualties so far reported are 10 killed, 51 wounded; various serious fires were started but were all under control by morning. 3 factories were seriously damaged, the effect on production not yet estimated; morale and cheerfulness of public outstanding. At Coventry industrial damage was slight; production not interfered with. Other industrial damage in East Yorkshire has not hindered production.

Yesterday only about 75 enemy aircraft were operating over British Isles. One more bomber was destroyed by our fighters.

Night/

Night of August 27th/28th enemy active, although considerably less than on two previous nights. Scattered raids over most of the country caused some damage to railroad and telephone communications. The principal areas attacked were: London area chiefly northern suburbs; no serious damage reported. Birmingham slight damage only. Portsmouth area sporadic bombing and only slight damage; no casualties so far reported but unexploded bombs suspected in dockyard. Some dislocation to railway traffic caused at Southampton and Crewe. In Kent a bus garage was hit and 16 people killed.

Three key point factories were hit. Two were undamaged and at the other the only damage was to a water main.

4. Summary of air casualties.

Enemy. Bombers destroyed 4, probable 1, damaged 1.

Fighters destroyed none, probable 1, damaged none.

British. One fighter (pilot safe)
One bomber missing.

5. Shipping casualties.

By aircraft: August 25th British ship "Remuera" (11,500 tons) [undecypherable] both sunk by aircraft off East Coast of Scotland. The crews were saved.

By U-boat: Yesterday 2 Allied ships (1600 and 3900, tons), homeward bound in convoy, were torpedoed; one was set on fire but may be saved.

6. Egypt.

On August 26th, a Sunderland, on reconnaissance, was obliged to come down on the sea/

sea off Crete, has been detained by Greeks.

Sudan.

On August 26th, 5 of our heavy bombers carried out a low-level attack on military hangars at Asmara; one aircraft is missing.

In Ethiopia on August 27th our medium bombers successfully attacked a large mechanized transport yard and barrack buildings.

PSF
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

August 30th, 1940

~~SECRET~~

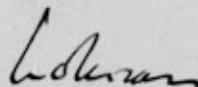
Dear Mr. President,

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

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 August 29th

1. Naval. Reference to paragraph 1, yesterday's summary, this armed merchant cruiser was afloat for seven hours before sinking, and a large number of the crew were saved.

It is now reported that vessel described as a depot ship sunk at Bomba on August 23rd was a merchant vessel of 2,000 tons.

2. Royal Air Force. Results of night bombing of August 27th/28th. "Gneisenau" was not located, but large fires and explosions in Kiel dockyard resulted from attacks by six heavy bombers; intensity of anti-aircraft and searchlights hampered observation. A large explosion occurred at a transformer station near Frankfurt, which apparently destroyed the plant. Three aircraft attacked the air frame factory at Augsburg, and other alternative targets were bombed. Fires were caused at fuel installations in Gironde Estuary and at Cherbourg and mines were laid successfully elsewhere.

Italy. Six aircraft sent to northern Italy returned safely; one bombed Fiat works and caused extensive fires; another attacked Marelli works, results unobserved. Remaining four were obliged to return with their bombs.

Norway/

Norway. Yesterday afternoon, nine fleet air arm aircraft attacked targets in south-west Norway. Two oil cisterns were hit, an enemy patrol boat was machine-gunned and caught fire, and two hits were scored on a merchant vessel. All aircraft returned.

Last night 91 aircraft were despatched. Six heavy bombers to an electric works and 17 to an electric power station at Berlin; ten heavy bombers to Junkers factory at Dessau and another aircraft factory at Leipzig; seven heavy bombers to Kiel shipbuilding yards and to two oil refineries; fifteen medium bombers to enemy aerodromes and six from coastal command to Caen aerodrome; mine-laying was also carried out. All machines returned.

3. German Air Force. Yesterday four main enemy raids took place, all in same area. During morning three formations exceeding 100 and in evening one formation of about 60 aircraft came up the Thames Estuary. All raids were intercepted and broken up by our fighters, with loss to enemy. Few bombs were dropped. At one aerodrome all communications were put out of action except wireless telegraphy. A few bombs were dropped on Ramsgate and Margate. Only minor damage and a few casualties reported.

Last night enemy activity was heavy, the Midlands being chief objective, considerable

damage/

damage to private property was caused at Coventry, where casualties so far reported are 9 killed and 26 wounded. Elsewhere, damage was not proportionate to the number of bombs dropped. Bombing covered a wide area, including London district, Yorks, Lancs, Tyne, and Tees-side, the South Coast, and South Wales. In Cheshire a 50,000 gallon cistern was set on fire, but was put out by 3 a.m. Some important railway lines and roads are temporarily blocked by unexploded bombs, and production at 2 Birmingham factories is held up for the same reason.

The German air force is apparently making great efforts to improve night-flying training on all types.

4. Summary of air casualties.

Enemy:

By our fighters:

Bombers

Destroyed	7
Probable	3
Damaged	3

Fighters

Destroyed	19
Probable	11
Damaged	7

(including a Curtis Hawk)

Seaplane 1 destroyed.

Total 27 destroyed, 14 probable, 10 damaged.

A training type machine, carrying mail from France to Jersey, landed intact in Sussex.

British:

20 Fighters (7 pilots and 3 air gunners
killed or missing)

5. Shipping Casualties.

By U-Boats: British ship (4,000 tons) inward bound in convoy, was torpedoed off North-west Scotland, a tug has been sent to assist. In addition, 3 British ships in outward bound convoy (total tonnage 12,500) were torpedoed in Northwestern approaches; two (7,800 tons) were sunk.

6. Middle East. On August 27th, 17 Blenheims set fire to 2 ships and obtained hits on jetty in Derna Harbour. Gladiators covered the withdrawal and all aircraft returned safely. Yesterday enemy aircraft dropped bombs near Alexandria causing only minor damage, and also flew over Port Said.

Palestine. On August 27th, 10 Italian bombers attacked oil refineries and marshalling yards at Haifa. An oil cistern was hit, but not fired; other damage was negligible, casualties slight.

Sudan. On August 26th, a mechanised patrol composed of British Sudanese troops raided an enemy post north of Kassala. The raid was successful, the post was set on fire and many casualties inflicted. Our casualties killed and wounded were 13.

7. The following reports of damage caused by British bombing and mining operations have been received during the fortnight ended August 22nd.

(A) (1) Germany.

Gelsenkirchen. Synthetic oil plant damaged and was out of operation for 14 days. 500,000 litres of aviation spirit and contents of 6 tanks of naphtha were lost. Coke ovens and by-product plant was hit.

Essen. Coke ovens hit.

Dusseldorf. After our raid on June 18th/19th, fires lasted 24 hours. Chemical factory damaged, production curtailed owing to lack of sleep amongst workers.

Hamburg. Great damage caused. Some shipping has ceased to use the port.

Hanover. Chief naphtha plant has been hit and seriously damaged.

Further reports received of accuracy of our bombing and of its demoralising effect on the Germans. On August 15th, the blackout was to be relaxed in Berlin in order to improve civilian morale.

It is reported that synthetic petrol is now reserved for military use only and that lorries are to run on charcoal gas.

(2) Norway. In one raid on June 26th, 17 German aircraft were destroyed.

500 tons of oil were destroyed at Dolvik.

(3) Denmark. Petrol tanks at Nyborg have been completely destroyed.

(4) France. After our bombardment of oil refinery and storage plants on Gironde Estuary during the night of August 14th/15th, photographs were taken on August 20th. Some oil tanks at one plant, and oil refinery works at another, were left burning. At least 6 storage cisterns had been destroyed. The refinery itself had been considerably destroyed.

(B) Mining operations. 21 vessels have been sunk by mines in The Sound between July 6th and July 27th. At the end of July, there was virtually no traffic in these waters. In the months of May, June, and July, German losses alone due to our mines are estimated at 22 ships of a total tonnage of 93,910 tons.

In Oslo Fjord a transport was sunk in June, and on August 11th a minesweeper and 3 other German ships arrived in port damaged and port was closed for 3 days.

file
Personal

PSF
G.B.

Telegram despatched from London
late on the evening of August 30th.

Naval.

A British sloop has been enthusiastically received in French Camaroons which have now declared for General de Gaulle.

A promising attack on a U-boat by an aircraft, in conjunction with a destroyer, was carried out yesterday afternoon in North-western approaches.

2. Royal Air Force.

Bombing operations during the night of August 28th to 29th were most successful. Fourteen aircraft attacked the Siemens Electric works at Berlin, where a large fire and explosion were caused, and 14 heavy bombers attacked the Berlin Electric Power Station, where fires and explosions were also caused, and crew of 1 aircraft report that only the girders were left of one of the buildings. Three hits were made on Junkers factory, and 2 oil plants were also attacked. The remaining heavy bombers attacked numerous other targets, including Berlin airport. A large vessel in a canal south of Berlin was seen to explode.

Medium bombers attacked 12 aerodromes and 3 large explosions were caused at Amsterdam aerodrome. Six machines also laid mines.

Yesterday/

Yesterday absence of cloud cover hindered bombing operations. Nevertheless one aerodrome was bombed and shipping off northwest Holland was attacked. All our aircraft returned safely.

Last night a total of 78 aircraft were despatched. Of these 57 heavy bombers were directed against oil targets in occupied France and northwest Germany, other heavy bombers against railway communications; medium bombers were sent to attack aerodromes. All aircraft but one have reported back.

3. German Air Force.

During the night of August 28th to 29th casualties reported in London area amounted to 11 killed, 46 wounded. A fire caused in an ordnance depot was soon extinguished. A locality in south London had to be ultimately temporarily evacuated owing to unexploded bombs and repair work is delayed at an instrument manufactory, but production of new instruments is not affected. Other minor damage was caused in the North Midlands.

Yesterday activity during the morning was slight; there was only one major raid during the day. In the afternoon 170 enemy aircraft, followed shortly afterwards by about 20 more, crossed the Kent coast. Fighters intercepted and dispersed the enemy. No reports of bombs being dropped have been received. A small-scale attack by bombing and machine guns was made on the Scilly Isles;
damage/

damage to R.A.F. establishment was slight, though fires were caused in the town. Last night enemy activity was general over most of United Kingdom, except Scotland, although chiefly by single machines. No major damage has been reported and very few casualties.

4. Summary of air casualties:

Enemy - by our fighters: Enemy fighters destroyed 8, probable 8 and bombers 2, damaged 3 fighters and 2 bombers.

By anti-aircraft fire: destroyed 1 fighter.

Total: destroyed 9, probable 10, damaged 5.

British - 9 aircraft and 2 pilots.

5. Shipping casualties.

By U-boat: during the night of August 26th to 27th one British ship (5000 tons) inward bound, was sunk in the Atlantic. All the crew have been landed.

6. During the period of summary 53 ocean going merchant ships have safely arrived in convoy. Cargoes include steel, scrap, iron ore, iron and chromium.

7. Middle East.

Yesterday our medium bombers attacked a suspected petrol dump and started a large fire.

8. Malta.

Yesterday 12 enemy bombers escorted by 12 fighters, dropped about 30 bombs causing slight damage and a few civilian casualties. Fighters were engaged by our Hurricanes without result.

9. Northern Italy.

It is reported that the population in the industrial areas of Northern Italy is in a state of panic, most of the people who can afford it have evacuated to the country, the remainder spending whole nights in temporary and very inadequate shelters. Anti-aircraft fire is so poor that shells often fall on to houses and actually explode on roofs. Central portion of railway station at Milan collapsed as a result of the raid on August 14th to 15th.

10. Projected action against the United Kingdom.

A photographic reconnaissance carried out on August 28th shows an increase of shipping at Kiel. This may be caused by a hold up due to our mining operations. There is also an increase of small craft at Emden, many of these are of the same type and are not typical of the craft previously seen here.

No definite conclusion can yet be drawn from this information.