

indiscriminately throughout London suburban area, but both damage and casualties were astonishingly slight. Liverpool area was bombed at many points with both H.E. and incendiary. Fires were caused and damage done to house property, water mains, and railway communications. Lime Street railway station was hit and damage caused to the track and telephone system.

4. Shipping Casualties.

Reference paragraph 5 of yesterday's summary. From further reports received figure of 12,250 may be reduced to 5,500.

(a) By U-boat.

Between August 23rd and September 3rd 3 additional British ships (total tonnage 9,000) were sunk in Northwestern approaches. One was in convoy.

(b) By air.

An outward bound convoy was attacked without success yesterday.

The S. S. Melbourne Star (11,000 tons) homeward bound from Australia with passengers and refrigerated cargo and not in convoy, was torpedoed and machine gunned off Western Ireland. One bomb hit forecastle and wounded one man.

5. Middle East.

Libya. September 4th 34 medium bombers attacked aerodromes in Eastern Lybia. Hits were registered on buildings, at least one aircraft was destroyed on the ground and 2 seaplanes damaged at Bomba. One machine failed to return and the pilot of another was killed, but the observer brought the aircraft back.

Kenya. September 3rd 3 aircraft of South African Air Force bombed an enemy aerodrome and position. Three enemy aircraft were destroyed on the ground. One of our machines was shot down by anti-aircraft fire, and another forced landed in enemy territory.

Malta. Yesterday an enemy formation of 17 fighters and 8 bombers appeared over the island, but dropped no bombs. Our aircraft destroyed one fighter and severely damaged two more. We had no casualties.



~~Secret~~

REGRADED  
UNCLIFIED

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

September 8th, 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,

(for the Ambassador)

Harold Butler

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

Telegram despatched from London  
early on the morning of September 8th.

1. Naval. Three drifters and a motor-torpedo boat were attacked by enemy aircraft off Folkestone yesterday whilst attempting to rescue German airmen. The captain and three of the crew of the motor-torpedo boat were wounded.

A naval corvette was sunk in collision with a merchant steamer off Northeast Ireland yesterday.

H.M.A.S. "Hobart", escorting a convoy, was attacked several times by aircraft in the Red Sea on September 5th but sustained no damage.

H.M. Submarine "Tribune" reports firing two torpedoes at a U-boat in Northwestern approaches and claims one certain hit.

2. Royal Air Force. During the night of September 5th/6th the Stettin synthetic oil plant and oil targets at Hamburg, Kiel, and Regensburg were attacked and fires were started. About 20 forest fires were caused in the Hartz and Black Forest areas. Railway communications were also attacked. Boulogne harbour was heavily bombed and many hits were recorded. Gun emplacements opposite Dover and Calais Harbour

were/

were attacked but results unobserved. Other objectives reached were docks in Ems Estuary, seaplane base in Northern Holland and several aerodromes.

Reports indicate that successful results were obtained at Fiat factory. At aero-engine works a huge yellow explosion occurred, and at one large square building a fire was seen twenty minutes later and only the walls appeared to be left.

Last night 88 bombers were despatched with the following principal objectives. Oil stocks and power station at Berlin, forest areas, railway communications, aerodromes in Northern France, gun emplacements opposite Dover, barges and shipping at Ostend and Boulogne, also to undertake mine-laying operations. Two heavy bombers are missing.

3. German Air Force. During the night of September 5th/6th one enemy bomber was shot down and another damaged, both by anti-aircraft fire in the Tyne area.

[i.e. Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>]  
Yesterday about 700 enemy aircraft are estimated to have been operating over the United Kingdom. The first attack consisting of about 375 machines appeared over Southeast England at 8:30 a.m. and was intercepted by our fighter squadrons and dispersed after an hour's fighting with the loss of 37 aircraft. Bombs were dropped in South and Southwest Outer London/

London suburbs but apart from very slight damage at an aircraft works no damage of importance has been reported. Another raid approached Portland but no attack developed. In the afternoon at about 12:45 a second formation of about 30 came over Kent, East Sussex, and the Thames Estuary areas. Bombs were dropped chiefly in the Medway Estuary area where fires were caused but were quickly under control. This raid also was strenuously opposed by our fighters and by 1:30 the enemy had been forced back, retiring into strong escort patrols concentrated in the Straits of Dover.

A third and smaller raid approached the Thames Estuary in the evening and a further attack was made on Thameshaven oil wharves. Serious fires were started, the refinery is now destroyed and one cistern is still burning.

[i.e. Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup>]  
Last night enemy activity was on a reduced scale, raids which approached London ceasing soon after midnight. Scattered raids occurred in the Midlands and South Wales, mine-laying was suspected off the East Coast. Bombs were dropped in London area in Southeastern Inner suburbs. Damage was caused to property and public services at Southwark where there were/

were 70 casualties and fires were caused in a number of streets in the West Ham quarter, where 102 casualties occurred. At Liverpool damage to houses and public services was caused and fires were started at 2 oil mills.

Fires in London docks previously reported are now extinguished.

Night fighter patrols are being maintained off the Dutch coast and over the Ruhr.

4. Summary of air casualties:-

Enemy by fighters:

<u>Fighters:</u>	Destroyed	Probable	Damaged
	37	16	7
<u>Bombers:</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>7</u>
Totals	44	20	14

British: 22 aircraft (7 pilots killed or missing).

5. Shipping casualties. By U-boat. Survivors landed at Baltimore report that their British ship (4,000 tons) was sunk on August 24th whilst rescuing survivors from H.M.S. "Penzance".

One British ship (4,600 tons) home-ward bound was sunk by aircraft off East Scottish coast yesterday evening.

6. Middle East.

Egypt. On September 5th one enemy bomber attacked Suez, no casualty was caused. Gladiators of Royal Egyptian Air Force were despatched but failed to intercept. 14 enemy bombers attacked Mersa Matruh causing damage to railway sidings.

Italian Somaliland. On September 4th four bombers of South African Air Force attacked an Italian aerodrome and damaged four bombers on the ground, of which 2 were probably destroyed.



PSF  
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

REGRADED  
UNCLASSIFIED

~~Secret~~

September 9th, 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  
September 8th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

*L. S. L.*

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.



Telegram drafted in London on  
September 8th.

1. Naval aircraft have successfully attacked two merchant ships off the Norwegian coast, which, when last seen, were abandoned and sinking.

A convoy of 15 British ships has arrived in home waters from West Africa.

2. Royal Air Force.

During the night of the 6th - 7th a power station, motor works, marshalling yards, cable works and two oil targets were attacked in the Berlin area, causing fires and/or explosions. Many fires also caused in the Black Forest. Successful attacks also carried out against marshalling yards in Ruhr area, aerodromes near Brussels and in Northern France, gun emplacements at Cap Gris Nez and Boulogne docks.

Last night 93 bombers despatched to attack barges and shipping at the channel ports, shipping and docks at Emden, railway and marshalling yards, enemy aerodromes in Northwest France, southern zone of Black Forest. All aircraft returned.

3. German Air Force.

About 70 aircraft attacked targets in East Kent yesterday morning. At 16.30 hours some 90 enemy aircraft attacked London and the Thames Estuary areas. These were followed at 17.00 hours by a second wave, involving 250 aircraft, and by 18.00 hours heavy attack had been made on industrial and dock areas on both sides of the Thames. Serious fires started at oil installations at Purfleet and Shellhaven and at gas works at Barking. Large number of bombs also dropped in dockland, causing serious fires.

Enemy activity recommenced last night and from 20.10 hours until 04.30 hours, a stream of single aircraft attacked the docks, railways and power station in the greater London area. A few aircraft also reached Liverpool, Birmingham, and South Wales. Preliminary reports do not permit of accurate review of the damage caused in London area but many key points were hit and probably damaged, affecting chiefly food storage, flour mills, graneries and oil installations. Serious damage caused to London docks, and fires have necessitated evacuation of Silvertown. Several railway lines in East and South London are at present blocked, and certain minor damage has been done to London railway termini. Although it is feared that considerable damage has been done, preliminary reports indicate that very little damage has, up to the present, been done to our

war/



war industries. All A.R.P. services are functioning admirably and all fires are already less intense and are being brought under control.

4. Summary of air casualties  
(exclusive of reports from A.A.)

Enemy - by fighters

	Destroyed	Probable	Damaged
Fighters	45	19	13
Bombers	<u>29</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>20</u>
Totals	74	34	33

British - 27 fighters (13 pilots safe)

5. A German soldier parachutist, dressed in civilian clothes and in possession of a receiving and transmitting wireless set, was captured in North Hants on September 6th. His mission was to report on damage to aerodromes.

6. Middle East.

Three Blenheims scored direct hits on Awash railway bridge 90 miles east of Addis Ababa on September 6th.

Mersa Matruh attacked by enemy aircraft on the same day, but no reports available.

Five aircraft attacked Haifa on September 6th, causing no damage.

Malta/



Malta. Eleven Italian bombers, escorted by 24 fighters, caused slight damage to the dockyard and to a British submarine yesterday. One enemy fighter shot down and another probably destroyed by A. A. fire.

7. Projected action against United Kingdom.

Bulk of striking strength of German Air Force remain disposed in a crescent from Brest to Amsterdam. This striking strength recently increased by transfer of long-range bombers from Norway to Belgium. Short-range dive-bomber units, recently withdrawn from attack on England, have now been moved to forward aerodromes, presumably in preparation for re-employment against this country.

During the past week, German Air Force has devoted main efforts towards weakening fighter defences in Southeast England. Their air attack on this area will probably be greatly intensified, weather permitting, from now onwards.

Information recently received regarding west and south movement of barges and small ships to ports between Ostend and Havre suggest very early date for invasion, since these craft would not be moved unnecessarily early to positions so exposed to our bombing attacks. Disposition of German Air Force suggests initial landing operations may be attempted south of the line from Wash to Southampton, since fighters and short-range dive-bombers are unlikely to be able

to/



to give adequate support outside this area. Furthermore, the moon and tide conditions during the period of 8th - 10th are most favourable for sea-borne invasion on our southeast coast. In addition to attacks on our southeast coast, it is likely that main expedition will come from Hamburg or Baltic, which could be launched via Kiel Canal or Skagerrak.

PSF  
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

September 10th, 1940

~~SECRET~~

Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

*L. Attie*

REGRADED  
UNCLASSIFIED

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

Telegram drafted in London early  
in the morning of September 10th,  
1940.

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Royal Air Force

During the night of 7th/8th, attacks on shipping were carried out at Calais, Dunkirk, Boulogne and Ostend. Observation was difficult on account of haze and searchlight activity. Several direct hits were, however, observed, and fires were started. Large explosions were caused at railway sidings in Northern Germany, and direct hits on hangars were registered at Colmar resulting in a fierce fire. Extensive fires were started and explosions caused in Black Forest. Fires were also started at Krupp's works.

Yesterday, unsuitable weather conditions prevented bombing against objectives in Germany but Dunkirk and Boulogne harbours were bombed and also an aerodrome in Holland. Three medium bombers did not return.

Last night, 90 heavy and medium bombers were sent out all but two to attack shipping at Emden, Bremen and Hamburg and Northern France and Belgium ports, the remaining two heavy bombers were directed against railway targets. Nine bombers are missing.

2. German Air Force.

Further reports of damage caused by  
attack/

attack on London docks area during evening of 7th and night of 7th/8th tend to confirm that, although damage and casualties were severe, the general effect on war production is very little. At Woolwich Arsenal damage to the plant is considerable but certain sections are untouched. At the Royal Dockyard, no machinery was damaged, but three store houses with stores were damaged.

Yesterday morning at 11.30, about 300 enemy aircraft collected and approached South-East coast, only about 60 penetrated inland. Dover and one aerodrome were attacked soon after noon; formations were intercepted and withdrew. No damage reported.

Last night again the enemy's attack was devoted almost entirely to London, about 150 aircraft were operating and were active from dusk until near dawn. The same areas were attacked, with special attention to railway communications. Damage was generally less heavy, but considerable dislocation was caused on all rail exits from London to the East and South. Some important roads are also temporarily blocked. Three large fires were started in the City; and seven key points were hit, including Ford Motors and two oil installations. There was also some isolated bombing in Eastern county and Bristol areas.

### 3. Summary of air casualties.

#### Enemy casualties

By our fighters:-

<u>Bombers</u> :	destroyed	probable	damaged
	1	2	4

	destroyed	probable	damaged
<u>Fighters:</u>	3	1	4
By anti-aircraft fire			
<u>Bombers</u>	<u>3</u>		
Totals	<u>7</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>8</u>

British casualties

4 fighters and 2 pilots.

12 bombers missing.

It is now known that 21 additional enemy aircraft were shot down by anti-aircraft fire on September 7th, bringing total enemy casualties reported on September 8th to 95.

4. Shipping casualties.

Dutch steamer (8500 tons) was torpedoed from the air yesterday and subsequently beached.

5. Naval

Last night, light craft carried out a sweep off French and Belgian Channel ports, destroyers and motor torpedo boats entering (sic) Calais, Dunkirk and Ostend. Little or no opposition encountered and no concentration of shipping observed. One cruiser was mined, but not seriously damaged on the return to base.



PSF  
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

September 11th, 1940

~~SECRET~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of  
the latest report received from London  
on the military situation. It was  
dated September 10th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

*L. Moran*

REGRADED  
UNCLASSIFIED

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

Telegram from London dated  
September 10th, 1940

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1. Naval.

Further details of naval operation reported in paragraph V of yesterday's summary state that one cruiser approached Calais and sent destroyer into the inner harbour; no shipping was seen. Another cruiser bombarded the port of Boulogne, in cooperation with aircraft which dropped flares. At Dunkirk, 2 motor torpedo boats entered the harbour and attacked 4 E-boats, otherwise nothing was seen. At Ostend, 2 motor torpedo boats entered the harbour and fired 4 torpedoes, seriously damaging 2 ships of 2,000 and 1,000 tons.

Last night 5 destroyers in cooperation with aircraft, made a sweep off North East French coast; motor torpedo boats carried out a similar operation between Ostend and the mouth of the Scheldt. No report yet received.

An auxiliary patrol vessel was sunk by mine yesterday.

Last night Dover was shelled between 6 and 11 p.m., between 150 and 200 rounds were fired at the town, harbour and shipping. Damage and casualties were slight. The guns at Dover returned the fire.

Yesterday one merchant ship reported  
that/

that she was being shelled by a raider east of Mauritius, and a British tanker was shelled by a U-boat near the Azores.

2. Royal Air Force.

During the night of September 8th/9th, the majority of our bombers succeeded in carrying out attacks on shipping as ordered, and dropped their bombs in target areas. Results were difficult to assess owing to unfavourable weather. The crew of 1 heavy bomber previously reported missing is safe.

Yesterday 7 medium bombers despatched were obliged to abandon their tasks owing to unsuitable weather. One aircraft is missing. Four fleet air arm aircraft bombed a concentration of shipping near Ostend, and registered one hit and several near misses.

Last night 125 aircraft were sent out; 48 to attack harbours and shipping in ports in North East France and Low Countries, 16 heavy bombers to attack 2 gas works at Berlin, 33 heavy bombers to shipbuilding yards at Hamburg and Bremen, and other tasks were railway communications and mine laying; leaflet dropping in Northern France, and dropping of flares in cooperation with naval units. 1 Whitley and 1 medium bomber have not returned.

3. German Air Force.

3 out of 5 fires at Thameshaven are out, and all other fires in London area except one were reported under control yesterday evening. About 5 p.m. yesterday, a raid, consisting/

consisting of about 300 aircraft, approached London from the South, but only a section penetrated to Central London. 52 enemy aircraft were destroyed. Bombs were dropped in outer suburbs of South London, and also at Canterbury, where damage to property was extensive and 8 persons were killed and 12 wounded.

Last night enemy aircraft were active over London during the whole night until 5 a.m. A few of the raiders also penetrated to South Wales area, Midlands, and Liverpool area. The main attack developed on the City of London, where several fires were caused, 2 being of major importance. One of these joined up with a fire already burning, and is now a 250 pump fire, but is under control. One large and several small fires were started at the Royal Arsenal at Woolwich, and a cordite shed was blown up. Many important road and rail blockages have been caused in the London area, and the tracks at Charing Cross Station are temporarily out of action.

4. Summary of air casualties:

Enemy:

	destroyed	Probable	damaged
by our fighters			
bombers	21	1	5
fighters	29	8	8
by anti-aircraft			
bombers	1		
unknown	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	
Totals	52	11	13

British casualties: 20 aircraft (15 pilots safe), 3 bombers missing.

5. Shipping casualties.

By U-boats. A British ship (2,500 tons) and a Greek ship (3,800 tons) were attacked in convoy in North/

North-West approaches on September 8th .....  
presumed sunk in the Red Sea on September 6th.

During the last 2 days 45 ocean-going  
ships have arrived in United Kingdom ports,  
including 8 tankers, and 15 cargoes of minerals  
and iron ore.

6. Middle East.

Egypt. On September 8th enemy aircraft  
attacked Mersa Matruh, cutting main railway  
line and destroying 500 gallons of petrol. The  
arrival at Rhodes of a flight of modern Italian  
bombers with radius of action of 1,100 miles  
indicates the possibility of increased scale of  
air attack on Haifa and Egyptian ports, and  
brings Iraq within bombing range.

Kenya. 3 medium bombers of South African  
Air Force attacked on September 7th a mechanical  
transport concentration and aircraft at  
Niogadiscio. It was noticed that main mechanical  
transport park was completely burnt out as a  
result of the raid on August 28th.

Palestine. On September 18th, 7 enemy  
aircraft attacked Haifa. There was considerable  
damage to power house, distillation plant and  
oil refining pipes.

PSF  
G.B.



BRITISH EMBASSY,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

September 12th, 1940

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of  
the latest report on the military  
situation. It is dated September 11th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

*L. Loran*

REGRADED  
UNCLASSIFIED

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

  
Telegram from London dated  
September 11th

1. Naval. Reference paragraph 1, sub-paragraph 2, of yesterday's summary. There was no shipping in Calais harbour; destroyers were engaged by heavy shore batteries and several shots were close. At Boulogne only 1 small auxiliary craft was met and was probably sunk; while returning an E-Boat was engaged and damaged.

Light naval forces were again operating off French and Belgian coasts last night; destroyers off Ostend engaged a steamer, 3 barges and a trawler which are believed to have been sunk.

Yesterday aircraft of the Fleet Air Arm operating off the Norwegian coast attacked and hit 1 merchant vessel (about 2,500 tons), damaged a small tanker by near misses, and destroyed oil cisterns at Dolvik. One aircraft did not return.

A Norwegian fishery-protection vessel has returned to Iceland and reports having destroyed 2 German meteorological stations on the east coast of Greenland.

2. Royal Air Force. During the night of September 9th/10th direct hits on  
barges/

barges and other targets in northeast French ports were followed by fires and explosions. A gas works at Berlin was attacked, and a violent explosion resulted. Extensive damage was caused at railway sorting [si] yards at Brussels. Ship yards at Hamburg and Bremen were both attacked by several aircraft; observation was difficult but results believed satisfactory. Single aircraft also attacked railway stations at Cuxhaven and Kiel.

A corrected report states that only 1 of 125 bombers was lost.

Yesterday Cherbourg aerodrome was attacked and fires were started. In the afternoon, E-Boats and merchant vessels off Dieppe were bombed. Two E-Boats were probably sunk.

Last night 114 bombers were despatched. Objectives were as follows:

Calais, Ostend and Flushing harbours, Bremen dockyard, barges and shipping Boulogne and Flushing, Brussels aerodrome and one other in Holland, Potsdam railway station, railway yards at Brussels, gun-emplacements opposite Dover and E-Boats and destroyers off Le Havre.

Mine-laying was also carried out. Two heavy and 2 medium bombers have not returned.

3. German Air Force. Additional reports of night of September 9th/10th. Outside London area: some fires were started in New Forest but are not serious. Blast furnaces at a steel works near

Manchester/

Manchester were hit but production is not affected.

Within London area: the districts where principal damage occurred were the East and East Central. In two areas interference to electrical services has resulted. Some serious fires were caused, chiefly in docks area, and major damage was done by incendiary bombs at one other railway terminus; but on September 10th evening all fires in London region were reported as under control, and fire at Thameshaven as gradually subsiding, one more cistern having been extinguished during the afternoon.

Yesterday owing to weather conditions, enemy aircraft operating singly or in pairs carried out reconnaissance flights only. Two were shot down. A few bombs were dropped in South Coast area and one demolished a railway electricity sub-station.

Last night enemy raiding started at dusk and continued until 4:30. London was again the objective, where docks and railways appear to have been their objective. About 120 aircraft were operating over the metropolis which was a little less than on the previous night and casualties are thought to have been on a greatly/

greatly reduced scale. A few aircraft also went to South Wales and the Liverpool area but caused little damage and no casualties. In the London area a major fire was caused in the docks near the Tower Bridge, and elsewhere in the docks hydraulic mains were burst. One Thames bridge is temporarily closed owing to the importance of the fire in an adjoining factory. Unexploded bombs fell in a goods yard, fires were caused in a tea warehouse and a timber yard. Other fires and damage caused was not of a military nature.

Previous fires. The fire in the City is still burning and 75 pumps are in action. Those at oil installations on the south bank of the Thames estuary have been extinguished but require watching.

It is now reported that on the night of September 8th/9th Somerset House and the Royal Courts of Justice were hit causing serious damage at both places.

4. Summary of Air Casualties.

Enemy casualties:

By our fighters:

	Destroyed	Probable
Bombers	2	1

British casualties:

1 fighter destroyed (pilot safe)

5. Shipping casualties.

By submarine:

Early this morning 1 British ship (4,700 tons) and 1 Dutch ship (2,000 tons) were torpedoed in the Northwestern Approaches.

Yesterday morning a Norwegian ship (4,300 tons) was bombed and sunk when in convoy. Yesterday morning a British ship (5,800 tons) was bombed by aircraft about 500 miles east of Mauritius.

A convoy of 51 ships has arrived. Cargoes include 16 of steel, 20 of lumber, and there are 2 tankers.

6. Middle East.

Egypt and Libya. On September 9th 35 medium bombers attacked harbours, landing grounds and mechanised transport in Eastern Libya. Two enemy aircraft were destroyed on the ground and bombs fell among concentrations of aircraft and mechanised transport.

All our machines returned safely. On the same day, the enemy bombed Mersa Matruh but only slight damage was done and there were no casualties.

Sudan. On September 7th three aircraft successfully bombed an Italian aerodrome where one enemy aircraft was shot down.

Palestine/

Palestine. On September 9th enemy aircraft attacked Tel Aviv, fires were started and several houses were damaged.

7. Reference summary of September 10th, paragraph 3, sub-paragraph 2. It is known that during this raid the German Air Force had orders to break off their task if our fighter opposition proved too strong.



PSF  
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
September 14th, 1940.

~~Secret.~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of  
the latest report received from London  
on the military situation. It is  
dated September 13th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

(For the Ambassador)

*Neville Butler*

REGRADED  
UNCLASSIFIED

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

Telegram from London dated September 13th, 1940.

1. Naval.

In the early morning yesterday a British destroyer sighted a destroyer off Casablanca steering north-west at 25 knots. She illuminated her and opened fire but ceased on discovering that the destroyer was French. No hits were made and the fire was not returned.

The same afternoon the armed merchant cruiser "Wolfe" was attacked by four enemy aircraft off West Ireland. A delayed action bomb fell on the deck and was thrown overboard; one near miss did superficial damage.

2. Royal Air Force.

Night bombing September 11th/12th reported as extremely successful. Eighty-three aircraft aircraft attacked shipping and barge concentrations in harbours from Hamburg to Boulogne causing large fires and explosions. . Bombs fell near the bow of either the "Bremen" or "Europa" at Bremerhaven with unknown results. Four heavy bombers attacked the Anhalter railway station at Berlin and most bombs fell across goods yards.

Yesterday three Blenheims, escorted  
by

by three fighters, attacked fifteen merchant vessels off Le Havre; one merchant ship and one tanker were hit.

It is reported now that on September 11th six Blenheims attacked a convoy of seventeen merchant vessels off Calais; one was hit and set on fire, another probably damaged by near misses. One enemy fighter was shot down.

Last night forty heavy bombers were sent out to the following targets: Emden dockyard, Brussels power station, and railway objectives in northern Germany. All our aircraft have returned.

3. German Air Force.

Night of September 11th/12th.

The attack on London continued for nine hours and, although widespread, was considerably less effective and casualties are thought to have been much smaller than on previous night. An outstanding feature was the large number of incendiaries dropped and extinguished before harm was caused.

Another noticeable feature was that attack on the Southern Railway was further away from London terminuses. A fire at one engineering works has been extinguished with no damage to plant. Several other medium and minor fires are all under control or extinguished. Two enemy aircraft were shot down by anti-aircraft fire during the night. Fire at Thameshaven has been put out.

/Yesterday

Yesterday owing to changed weather conditions enemy activity consisted mainly of reconnaissances by single aircraft. Bombs dropped on railway at Reading and Banbury causing temporary stoppages on main lines. Some interceptions were made and our fighters destroyed one enemy bomber. Damage was caused to public services at Harrogate and a barrage balloon, breaking loose from Coventry, did serious damage to telephone cables at Rugby. At Hastings a few houses were demolished and enemy aircraft machine-gunned rescue parties at work.

Last night for the first time for several days the weather was continuously overcast. Enemy activity was on a reduced scale although more dispersed; nevertheless about 100 enemy aircraft were operating principally over London. Damage was appreciably less than on previous nights and for the second time a strong anti-aircraft barrage hampered raiders; one telephone exchange was put out of action and three operators killed. Two medium fires were caused but both are under control.

4. Summary of air casualties.

Enemy: one bomber destroyed and three bombers damaged by our fighters.

Unidentified: one destroyed, one damaged by our anti-aircraft; one destroyed by our balloons.

Totals: 3 destroyed. 4 damaged.

British casualties nil.

5. One British ship of 2500 tons was mined and sunk off Humber yesterday morning.

6. Middle East.

Egypt and Libya.

On September 11th nine Blenheims attacked a column of 300 mechanical transport near East Libyan frontier and obtained direct hits and started fires. At the same time a harbour, a seaplane base and two landing-grounds were attacked and bombs were seen to fall near objectives. Yesterday a Blenheim fighter shot down an Italian bomber into the sea off Alexandria.

On September 11th three formations of Italian bombers attacked Sidi Barrani, which is unoccupied.

Sudan.

On September 10th nine enemy attacked Khartoum aerodrome causing slight damage. Same evening 30 bombs were dropped at Atbara and one on railway to Port Sudan.

Eritrea.

Three Blenheims from Aden dropped bombs on harbour works at Assab on September 12th and obtained direct hits.

7. Recent reports of British bombing in enemy territory state that at Dortmund damage estimated at three-quarter of a million marks was caused at an asbestos and rubber works at Mannheim and a chemical works has been severely damaged. The Fiat works on the night of August 13th/14th were more seriously damaged than the Caproni plant. The

/damage

damage was mainly to buildings most of the machinery was intact and has been removed to other shops. Casualties to workers were ~~forty~~ four killed.



PSF  
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

September 14th, 1940

~~SECRET~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of  
the latest report received from London  
on the military situation. It was  
dated September 12th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

(For the Ambassador)

*Mark Butler*

REGRADED  
UNCLASSIFIED

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

Telegram from London dated  
September 12th, 1940

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1. Naval

Our destroyers have been operating during the night off the French and Dutch coasts.

During yesterday evening His Majesty's destroyer "Atherstone", while escorting a west-bound Channel convoy, was bombed and hit. No ships in the convoy were damaged.

Dover was bombed and shelled yesterday afternoon and two motor torpedo boats were damaged.

Two of the recently acquired American destroyers have been damaged in collision in the West Atlantic and will require 1 week and 1 month respectively to repair.

His Majesty's submarine "Sturgeon" has reported that she sank a 10,000 ton transport in the Kattegat on September 2nd and attacked and apparently sank a large U-boat on September 10th.

2. Royal Air Force.

Night operations September 10th/11th.

At the Potsdam railway station Berlin, 6 out of 7 heavy bombers detailed for attack claim direct hits; 12 500-lb., 30 250-lb. and also incendiary bombs were seen to burst in the target area. The majority of the remaining bombers carried out the attacks assigned to them, though only a

very/

very light scale attack was made on Bremen docks and Brussels railway yards.

Day operations September 11th.

One medium bomber attacked a convoy off the Belgian coast. No hits were obtained, but the bridge of one merchant ship was machine gunned. In the afternoon convoys of merchant ships, escorted by E-boats, were reported; 5 medium bombers attacked one convoy off Dunkirk, and after an explosion 1 merchant vessel appeared to be missing. Later 12 medium bombers attacked shipping off Calais, but no hits were observed. They met heavy anti-aircraft fire and 36 enemy fighters of which 3 were shot down, and 1 enemy bomber damaged. Three of our aircraft failed to return.

Last night 131 bombing aircraft were sent out.

33 heavy and 67 medium bombers to attack shipping and barges in North-German, Dutch, Belgian and Northern French ports. Other objectives were railway targets in Germany, the Anhalter railway station at Berlin and gun-emplacements opposite Dover. Mine-laying was also carried out. Three heavy bombers are missing.

3. German Air Force.

Night of September 10th/11th. Considerable use of incendiary bombs caused a number of fires, particularly in one of the London docks; this fire has been surrounded. Other major and minor fires in London area were under control yesterday evening except one timber-yard in East London. Damage to property was considerable but casualties much fewer.

Reports yesterday evening gave 18 killed and 280 injured.

One major attack was made yesterday evening.

About/

About 250 enemy aircraft crossed Kent coast, of which about 30 penetrated to Central London. About 75 also came in over Hants. Both raids were intercepted and heavy casualties inflicted, especially to bombers. At a conservative estimate air crews killed or captured would amount to 250. Bombs fell near Woolwich Dockyard, other damage was caused in South-Eastern suburbs and various London areas. An aircraft factory at Southampton was also hit, casualties 41 killed and 91 wounded.

Last night between 8.30 p.m. and 5.30 a.m. about 150 enemy aircraft were operating over London. They approached first from the East and South-East and later from the North-East. The attack was principally against docks, railways and parts of the City, although most parts of London were visited. Light attacks were also made in the country districts around Liverpool, and mine laying was suspected in the Thames estuary, off the east coast and Sussex coast, and near the Isle of Man.

Summary of damage caused in London area.

Docks. A report yesterday morning disclosed that, with minor exceptions, all quay facilities in the Port of London remained intact. Since attacks on the dockyard area began 18 ships have been sunk or seriously damaged by fire and 12 have suffered minor damage.

Early this morning a fire was started in the Surrey Commercial Docks and some delayed action bombs are suspected. 3 heavy high explosive bombs caused damage to sheds and sank a fire float.

Railways. Considerable dislocation was caused to suburban lines in the south-eastern London area.

Industry. Fires were caused at 2 engineering factories, 1 flour mill and 2 other industrial factories.

Other/

Other damage. The Central Post Office was hit: there were few casualties and an emergency telegraph and telephone scheme is in operation. One 30-pump fire was started in south-east London.

4. Summary of air casualties.

Enemy casualties.

By our fighters:

	<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Probable</u>	<u>Damaged</u>
Bombers	47	22	27
Fighters	33	12	17

By anti-aircraft

Unidentified	8	--	9
Bombers	<u>1</u>	<u>00</u>	<u>-</u>
Totals	<u>89</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>53</u>

British: 28 aircraft (17 pilots killed or missing).

5. Sea borne trade

A convoy of 19 ships has arrived safely in home waters. There were 10 tankers and other cargoes included steel and grain.

6. Middle East

Egypt. Reported on September 10th that enemy force, estimated at one division, had made a considerable move eastward and had halted south-west of Sollum on Egyptian-Libya border.

On September 10th our medium bombers attacked about 700 mechanical transport vehicles in Libya and started fires amongst them. Six of our fighters engaged a formation of enemy bombers off Mersa Matruh and shot down four.

Sudan: On September 9th our heavy bombers attacked Asmara aerodrome and on September 10th armoured fighting vehicles near Kassala. One aircraft was lost.

Kenya: On September 7th medium bombers of South African

Air Force attacked aircraft on the ground at an Italian aerodrome. One Savoia was burnt and 4 others extensively damaged. One aircraft failed to return.

7. Mediterranean.

Three Italian seaplanes alighted in Turkish territorial waters on September 9th. The crew of one aircraft comprising six, were interned and also one officer from the crew of the other two machines. Before the remaining personnel could be detained, they were rescued by two other Italian seaplanes. The 3 aircraft have been retained by the Turks.

8. France

The French are reported to be maintaining 10 divisions in unoccupied France, of which 2 colonial divisions are on the coast and 8 metropolitan divisions in the interior. This agrees with a previous report which stated that the French Government intended to maintain a force of 250,000 men in France.

PSF  
G.B.



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

~~Secret~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of  
the latest report received from London  
on the military situation. It is  
dated September 14th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

*Lotman*

REGRADED  
UNCL. & CONF. (C)

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

Telegram from London dated September 14th.

1. Naval.

During the night of the 12th/13th sweeps by light naval forces along Brittany, the coast between Cape Barfleur and Le Havre and between Cslais and Boulogne were unproductive. The three destroyers sweeping in the last-named sector were ineffectually engaged by shore batteries.

Yesterday afternoon nine aircraft of the Fleet Air Arm attacked oil cisterns at Bergen but were driven off with loss of two aircraft. A merchant vessel was set on fire as a result of this attack.

Two convoys totalling 62 ships have arrived safely in United Kingdom ports. Cargoes included fuel oil, grain, iron ore, steel and bauxite.

2. Royal Air Force.

Owing to unfavourable weather during the night of 12th/13th our operations were reduced and several aircraft returned with their bombs. Six machines attacked Emden docks; direct hits were obtained along the harbour and on one ship. Lightweight attacks were made on railway targets at one of which a huge fire started/

started. Individual aircraft attacked Flushing dock, a seaplane base, and two aerodromes. Fires and explosions were caused at a Brussels marshalling yard.

During yesterday a number of successful reconnaissances and attacks were made by 25 medium bombers on enemy shipping in the Channel ports. All aircraft returned safely.

Last night 91 medium and heavy bombers were sent out to attack shipping in Dutch Channel ports. Two have not returned. Mine-laying was successfully carried out.

### 3. German Air Force.

During the night of 12th/13th enemy raiding was very widespread although London was again the primary objective. Casualties so far reported from London area are 40 killed and 58 wounded. Some dislocation was caused on railways especially the Southern; on the Great Western railway the two main lines reported as temporarily blocked yesterday are already open to traffic. Reported evening of 13th that all fires in the London area amounting to 27 medium and 279 small fires were extinguished or under control.

Yesterday enemy activity was confined to about 20 aircraft acting individually over the London area probably on combined reconnaissance and bombing duties. A further 25 were reported in the Bristol area some of which went to Liverpool. Bad visibility made interception very difficult but 1 enemy bomber was destroyed/

destroyed by our fighters and three more were damaged. I Hurricane was lost but the pilot is safe. Buckingham Palace was bombed. Two H.E. bombs fell in the quadrangle and 1 on the royal chapel but damage was slight. Some incendiary bombs fell in Downing Street and in Whitehall area but very slight damage was caused. A school in West Ham was bombed where the occupants were evacuated families; 50 casualties have been reported. Reports have been received of damage to property in several localities; some of it included industrial premises but there are no reports of major damage. Outside the London area there was little bombarding of importance.

Early morning an unsuccessful attack was made on shipping in Belfast Lough and later on an enemy aircraft dropped incendiary bombs in County Down which caused no damage.

Last night enemy activity was on approximately the same scale as the previous night and lasted for about 8½ hours. Preliminary reports indicate that damage caused was less serious and casualties at present only amount to between 30 and 40. One enemy aircraft was shot down by a Blenheim fighter and another destroyed by anti-aircraft fire. Main damage was as follows: Clapham Junction temporarily closed owing to unexploded bomb; an electrical generating sub station damaged and one suburban post-office set on fire. At Cardiff a cold storage/

storage plant was gutted and damage was caused to streets and gas mains.

4. Middle East.

Lybia. Reference to summary of 12th paragraph 6. Throughout September 11th forward movements of Italian units towards the frontier continued. Four columns of mechanical transport were located each containing from 200 - 350 vehicles. In addition there was great air activity against our forward troops throughout the day. During the past month Italians have adopted a plan of gradual approach to the frontier on a line south of the main coastal road. This plan was probably adopted with the dual purpose of preventing our patrols from crossing the frontier and of establishing forward bases and supply dumps in preparation for an advance.

On September 13th the C. in C. Middle East reported that the enemy had occupied Musaid during the night and an attack had developed on Halfaya; our forward post withdrew and Royal Tank Regiment engaged the enemy at midday. Six hundred and fifty mechanical transport vehicles reported in the vicinity of Capuzzo and enemy infantry and mechanical transport started to move northeast from Sidiomar at 11.0 a.m. on the 13th. Enemy's intention appears to be to pinch out Sollum.

On September 12th three medium bombers made a dusk attack on a concentration of about 400 mechanical transports at Sidiomar and fires were started.

PSF  
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

September 16th, 1940

~~SECRET~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of  
the latest report received from London  
on the military situation. It was  
dated September 15th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

REGRADED  
UNCLASSIFIED

*L. L. L.*

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

Telegram from London dated  
September 15th, 1940

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Royal Air Force

1. The majority of the aircraft despatched during the night of 13th/14th successfully attacked barges and shipping in Dutch and Channel ports. Direct hits were seen on all targets and it is considered that extensive damage was inflicted.

Last night 154 bombing aircraft were sent to attack the following objectives:

Barges and shipping in Dutch and Channel ports

Railway targets in North Germany and Belgium

Gun emplacements opposite Dover and Chateau d'Argenteuil, believed to be Field Marshall Goering's headquarters.

All our aircraft except one returned safely.

2. German Air Force.

Industrial damage additional to that reported on September 13th was caused at one London oil company, where fires are under control and at an automobile engineering works where severe damage was done to buildings.

During the night of September 13th/14th more recent reports indicate that enemy aircraft were less active than usual. Rough estimate/



-2-

estimate of casualties in London area are 25 killed and 19 wounded. The fire mentioned at a suburban post office is under control, and one telephone exchange, which was hit, has resumed services. Some serious fires occurred but all were reported yesterday evening as under control. Some damage was caused to dock area and also to industrial premises at Cardiff.

Yesterday morning, enemy activity was confined to reconnaissance flights by individual aircraft making use of cloud cover. Two of these were shot down. In the afternoon 2 raids were directed against London via Kent and Thames Estuary respectively. About 150 operated in the first, and about 100 in the second. A few of these penetrated inner artillery zone on both occasions, but interceptions were made by our fighters and casualties were inflicted. Damage is reported as follows. Although Battersea Power Station received direct hit, the damage was confined to the control room and plant is not badly affected, but a suspected unexploded bomb has temporarily suspended working. Some seaside towns on the South and East Coast were attacked, and extensive damage to property and some casualties occurred at Eastbourne. At Brighton a direct hit on a cinema killed 32 people and seriously wounded 82, and at Warrington 2 H.E. bombs dropped on a recreation ground, where a gala performance was in progress, killed 14 people and seriously wounded 21.

Last night although weather conditions were favourable enemy activity was slight. Several small raids, mainly of single aircraft operated over Sussex, Kent, East Anglia and North Midlands, and a few over London. The country was clear by 4 a.m. A 50 pump fire was started in one London district, and about 50 casualties are/

are reported from another. Otherwise, no reports of damage or casualties have been received.

Air training activity in Baltic continues at a high level.

3. Summary of air casualties.

<u>Enemy</u>	Destroyed	Probable	Damaged
by fighters			
Bombers	4	-	6
fighters	11	3	6
by anti-aircraft fire			
type unknown	1	-	-
Totals	<u>16</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>12</u>

British: 12 aircraft (4 pilots killed or missing).

4. Shipping Casualties.

By U-boat: on September 4th an Irish ship (1,000 tons) was sunk by gun fire in South Western approaches.

On September 7th a Norwegian ship (4,200 tons) was torpedoed and sunk in North Western approaches, and on the 11th a British ship (5,00 tons) was sunk by torpedo in Eastern Atlantic.

5. Middle East

Libya. Reference summary of the 13th, paragraph 4. The situation on the Libyan front at 5 a.m. on the 14th was

Sollum barracks was in Italian hands. Enemy were infiltrating down the escarpment and advancing in 3 columns. 2 squadrons of 1st battalion of the Royal Tank Regiment were engaging the columns.

There still appears to be no depth to Italian advance and there is at present no evidence of any other troops having been brought up to replace those that have now moved forward.

On September 13th, 3 Blenheims bombed the Bomba  
seaplane/

seaplane base, and 13 more again attacked mechanical transport concentrations at Sidi Omar, causing fires.

Abyssinia. On the 12th 3 medium bombers of the South African Air Force attacked an Italian aerodrome, making direct hits on buildings and on enemy aircraft on the ground, one of which was burnt. However, they were intercepted by 4 enemy fighters, and one machine crashed in flames, while a second is missing.

On the same day, 4 aircraft attacked an aerodrome South West of Addis Ababa, registering direct hits on hangars and destroying one aircraft.

PSF  
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

18th September 1940.

~~Secret.~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of  
the latest report received from  
London on the military situation. It  
is dated September 17th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

*L. S. Brown*

REGRADED  
UNCLASSIFIED

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D.C.

Telegram from London dated 17th September 1940

Royal Air Force.

During the night of September 15th/16th extensive damage was done by our aircraft to docks, shipping and barges at Boulogne, Dunkirk, Calais, Ostend, Antwerp and Havre. Many direct hits also obtained on marshalling yards in North West Germany and at Brussels. Hamburg ship-building yards, Berlin west power station, gun emplacements at Cap Gris Nez, naval docks at Wilhelmshaven and shipping at Terschelling were all successfully attacked. Direct hit on enemy cruiser claimed at Terschelling. Yesterday Blenheim aircraft carried out offensive reconnaissances over French, Belgian and Dutch coasts and dropped bombs at Calais, Dunkirk, Ostend, Zeebrugge and at Heemstede aerodrome. Coastal command aircraft sank merchant vessel in enemy convoy west of Borkum.

Last night all operations cancelled owing to unfavourable weather conditions rendering bombing of specific targets impossible.

2. German Air Force.

Enemy air activity on the night of

/September

September 15th/16th resulted in further damage to railways in London. All Southern Railways London termini are temporarily closed. All electrical supplies are being maintained. Fires caused at St. Thomas's, Guy's and Lambeth Hospitals. Two factories in London damaged; negligible damage caused to Woolwich Arsenal. One pier-head hulk set on fire in West India Dock. All fires reported under control 0600 hours September 16th. Approximate casualties in London area were 130 killed and 400 injured. Bombs also dropped at Avonmouth, Cardiff, Liverpool and in the Midlands, and in South East England, causing a few casualties but no important damage.

Two raids comprising 150 aircraft crossed the Kentish coast early yesterday, but were turned back before reaching London. During most of the remainder of the day enemy activity was confined to single aircraft operating mainly in Thames and Thames Estuary areas. No interceptions reported. Unexploded bombs dropped on Southern Railway in South London caused suspension of traffic. A few bombs dropped in South East England. Casualties believed slight.

Last night London received the brunt of the attack, though the Midlands and South Wales were also bombed. Large number of fires started in London area, but all now reported under control.

3. Summary of Air Casualties.

Enemy: Destroyed one bomber by balloon barrage, one seaplane. Total 2.

Damaged one bomber by fighters.

British: 1 Spitfire - pilot safe.

4. Shipping.

Casualties by aircraft. Two British ships (8,300 and 6,600 tons) and one Danish ship (1,200 tons) sunk in home waters.

Convoy of 35 ships arrived in home ports. Cargoes 9 of oil and 6 of steel.

5. Middle East.

By the evening of September 16th two enemy columns reported in occupation of Sidi Barrani covered by force of armoured fighting vehicles South and East of the village. Yesterday enemy sustained heavy casualties from harassing action by our tanks and artillery fire. Now suspected probable that three Italian divisions have crossed the frontier. Air reconnaissance still discloses no important movement towards Bardia from the West.

On September 15th British fighters intercepted 10 Italian bombers over Sidi Barrani. Enemy jettisoned bombs and 6 aircraft shot down (confirmed). Another 2 being probable casualties. We lost one Gladiator. Attacks by Blenheims on the night of September 15th/16th

/caused

caused numerous petrol fires amongst Italian mechanical transport moving towards Sidi Barrani.

No indication at present of any major enemy offensive against Sudan.

6. Projected action against the United Kingdom.

Coastal movement to the Westward, particularly of enemy merchant vessels up to 5,000 tons, still continues. Large assemblies however of various types of craft and barges still remain at Flushing, Antwerp, Zeebrugge and Ostend. General conclusion is that there is no change in the situation regarding imminence of the invasion.

PSF  
G.B.



BRITISH EMBASSY,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

September 19th, 1940

*Personal*

~~SECRET~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of  
the latest report received from London  
on the military situation. It was  
dated September 18th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

*L. Murray*

REGRADED  
UNCLASSIFIED

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

Telegram from London dated  
September 19th, 1940

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Royal Air Force

During September 17th Blenheim aircraft attacked cargo boats at Zeebrugge and barges at Ostend, Antwerp, and Stelburg.

During September 17th/18th, 208 aircraft attacked barges and shipping in French, Belgian, Dutch and German ports, and railway marshalling yards. Mine laying was also carried out. 2 aircraft missing.

2. German Air Force

Considering widespread nature of attacks on London during the night of September 16th/17th, comparatively little major damage was done. Several railway stations and lines were damaged, but not in a manner to affect main line traffic which is now normal from many termini. Some damage was done to electric power stations, but this is not serious. There were no casualties in hospitals reported damaged in my telegram of September 17th. Certain main roads in London were blocked and traffic has been temporarily diverted. Preliminary reports indicate that 20 to 30 were killed and 250 to 350 injured, but these figures may be increased when final reports are received. Slight damage and no casualties are reported from Midlands, except Coventry where 14 people were killed and 21 seriously injured. House property damaged at Liverpool and one person killed and 9 injured.

The/

The principal enemy activity yesterday was attack by approximately 300 aircraft during the afternoon. Leading 110 aircraft reached Maidstone, remainder spreading out over East Kent. Our fighters obtained interceptions before the enemy aircraft withdrew, and Thames Estuary was not crossed. Single enemy aircraft attacked many places in South East England and Portsmouth but only slight damage and few casualties resulted.

Last night London was frequently bombed, and in the provinces chief areas of attack were Liverpool, South Wales and Glasgow. Extensive use was made of incendiary bombs. What are believed to be magnetic mines were dropped in London suburbs and at Tunbridge Wells. Some fires caused in London docks but no serious damage resulted. Southern Railway again suffered damage, but not to main lines. Large number of fires reported in London area, but all are under control. Figures of casualties not yet available. In Liverpool property was damaged and 24 fires started. Dock in Glasgow damaged by fire. Incendiary bombs dropped at Swansea - no serious damage. Bombing caused considerable damage to house property in Exeter.

3. Summary of air casualties.

<u>Enemy by day</u>	Destroyed	probable	damaged
by fighters			
bomber	1	-	1
fighters	4	4	1
by anti-aircraft fire			
fighters	2	-	-
<u>by night</u>			
by fighters			
bomber	1	-	-
by anti-aircraft fire			
unknown	2	-	-
Totals	10	4	2

British/

British: 5 aircraft (1 pilot killed or missing).

4. Shipping

Casualties. One British ship (5,300 tons) sunk by torpedo on September 14th while homeward bound.

Convoy of 39 ships, including 19 Allied and 3 neutral, has arrived in home waters. Cargoes include 8 of pit-props, 15 of lumber, and 8 of steel.

5. Middle East

Italian advance from Libya reported to be led by 2 motorized metropolitan divisions extended between Sidi Barrani and Sollum, while Libyan division is dispersed between Sidi Omar and Halfaya preparing defensive positions.

On September 16th Blenheims attacked mechanical transport concentrations East of Buq-Buq, and fleet air arm aircraft made successful attack on shipping in Derna harbour. Hangars and aircraft also destroyed by British air attack on Benina aerodrome. Sudan. Our positions at Boma and Gallebat bombed September 15th. No casualties.

Situation on Kenya front reported all quiet.

5. Projected action against the United Kingdom.

There is no material change in the situation regarding invasion.

PSF  
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

~~Secret~~

September 20th, 1940.

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of a  
supplementary resumé from London for the  
period September 5th to 12th. It is dated  
September 18th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

*L. Murray*

REGRADED  
UNCLASSIFIED

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D.C.

Telegram from London dated September 18th.

The following is a supplementary resumé of operational events covering the period September 5th to September 12th.

1. Naval.

German attack on London docks has caused appreciable casualties to merchant vessels.

Sinkings by U-boat have decreased. Reports of raiders in the South Atlantic and Indian Ocean have been received.

There has been a very marked movement of enemy merchant ships and barges westward along the southern shores of the North Sea and the English Channel.

Our light forces have been carrying out sweeps off the French, Belgian, and Dutch coasts, during which they have encountered and sunk several enemy vessels.

Sweeps have also been carried out towards Iceland and the Norwegian coast by heavy forces, but, apart from a few merchant vessels near the coast, nothing was encountered.

2. Military.

In Italian East Africa there are indications that an attack may soon be launched against the Sudan along Asmara-Kassala axis.

This/

This offensive may be accompanied by a thrust southward towards Kenya, although no abnormal troop concentrations have yet been reported in this region.

There is further evidence in Italy of a lack of enthusiasm for the war; of a desire to preserve intact as long as possible the Italian armed forces in the hope that German offensive against Great Britain will bring victory at little cost in Italian blood; and of serious effects on the morale and industry of R.A.F. attacks on Northern Italy.

3. Royal Air Force.

Our bombing operations against Germany were on a similar scale to those of the previous week, but, in addition to continuing our offensive against the usual targets, a considerable augmentation of series of attacks was directed against concentrations of barges and shipping along the coasts of France and Holland. A number of varied targets in Berlin were bombed with satisfactory results. Attacks against Italy were restricted to a night raid on Turin.

The enemy's tactics at first consisted of renewed and unsuccessful attempts to break down our fighter defense by further attacks on British aerodromes. Later a new phase developed and attacks were directed with the object of disrupting communications and creating chaos in London dock area. A third phase followed which seemed to have as its aim the demoralisation  
of/

of the civilian population by indiscriminate night bombing. Although general damage has been considerable no serious dislocation of the country's war effort was caused.

It is satisfactory to note that in spite of the enemy's attacks on our aerodromes no aircraft were lost on the ground during this period.

Our aircraft successfully attacked a number of enemy aerodromes on Libyan ..... In East Africa several Italian aircraft were destroyed or damaged on the ground by bombers of the South African Air Force.

The most destructive raid took place on the afternoon of September 7th against London docks area by about 250 aircraft, and continued throughout the night. Bombing was accurate and considerable damage resulted. Eighty of the enemy were destroyed by our fighters, and large scale daylight attacks were not repeated until the 11th, when equally heavy losses were sustained by the attackers, this time without any compensating success. A feature of the enemy's daylight attacks has been the very heavy fighter protection provided for his bombers.

4. German Air Force.

The dispositions of the German Air Force remain substantially unchanged. The two long range bomber formations from Norway are now stationed in Belgium. The short range dive bomber force, which was withdrawn from operations against this country on August 18th, has not been concentrated in the Calais area.

The examination of over 100 prisoners shows that the morale of the German Air Force is still high. This is specially so amongst fighter pilots - high morale of heavy bomber crews being not quite so outstanding. A report by a medical officer says however that many of the prisoners show signs of nervous exhaustion. There is no apparent shortage of trained pilots.

Italy.

The 200 Italian pilots who were undergoing dive bombing instruction in Germany were recalled to Italy before the completion of their training. The reason for this curtailment was stated to be that the physique of the Italians was unequal to the strain.

5. Switzerland.

There is reason to believe that the Swiss Government under German and Italian pressure may be forced to take more serious measures to secure interception of belligerent aircraft. It is reported that an order has been given to station anti-aircraft batteries high in the Swiss mountains.

6. Home Security.

Damage caused by enemy bombing has been regularly reported in daily telegrams during the week as it occurred.

Nearly all of those factories in Birmingham and Coventry, which in the last few weeks have sustained damage, are now on full production.

None of the damage caused to electric power stations has caused more than a temporary failure of electric light or power; but a large area of East London has been cut off from gas supplies for at least a week, owing to damage caused at a gas works.

Casualties for the week ended September 11th were 1,211 killed and 5,547 wounded. These figures include 976 killed and 4,149 injured in the London area.

Unexploded Bombs.

Arrangements have been made not only to strengthen bombs disposal sections, but to add to them a number of trained men, who can carry out reconnaissance of the site of reported unexploded bombs. It is hoped that this procedure will save a considerable waste of effort on the part of the sections themselves, who are frequently called to places unnecessarily.

Although/

Although there have been many cases of direct hits and near misses on shelters of all types, public confidence in them remains high. Large number of people take their beds to a public shelter every night.

One shelter had a direct hit while some thousand people were inside, 162 casualties resulted, whereas of 600 refugees in a school which was hit in West Ham over 200 people were killed and many more severely injured.

The civil defence services have been very heavily engaged and have endured long hours of very heavy duty with efficiency and cheerfulness. Remarkable examples of skill and determination have been reported from all services, and in at least one area they have been officially thanked for their work by a deputation of members of the public.

7. Operational Aircraft Casualties.

<u>British</u>	<u>In the Air</u>	<u>On the ground</u>
Bombers	25	-
Fighters	114	-
Coastal	<u>4</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	143	-

At least 69 of the fighter pilots are known to be safe.

<u>German</u>	<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Probable</u>	<u>Damaged</u>
Bombers	114	51	62
Fighters	153	44	51
Miscellaneous	<u>32</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>21</u>
Total	299	97	134

N.B./

N.B. Included in the above are 15 destroyed, 2 probable and 10 damaged by anti-aircraft fire. No account is taken of German aircraft destroyed on the ground.

Middle East.

<u>British</u>	<u>In the air</u>	<u>On the ground</u>	
	3	-	
<u>Italian</u>	<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Probable</u>	<u>Damaged.</u>
	17	11	14

8. No. 1 Canadian Squadron Hurricanes has been in action on most days during the period September 1st to 15th. This squadron has destroyed 8 enemy aircraft (and probably a further 6) and damaged 16 others. During this period the squadron has lost 11 aircraft, 4 of the pilots of which were killed.

During the same period the Natal Squadron (Spitfires) has also been heavily engaged. They have destroyed 26 enemy aircraft and probably a further 15, while they have damaged 16 others. During these engagements they lost 8 aircraft, although some of the pilots were saved.



PSF  
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
September 20th, 1940.

~~Secret.~~

file →

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of  
the latest report received from London  
on the military situation. It is  
dated September 19th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

*W. A. R.*

REGRADED  
UNCLASSIFIED

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



Telegram from London dated September 19th.

1. Naval.

Mine sweeper "Golden Eagle" hit and exploded enemy mine laying aircraft in mid-air on the night of September 17th/18th.

On September 16th carrier borne aircraft of the fleet air arm attacked Benghazi. A destroyer was probably sunk, a merchant vessel set on fire, and other vessels damaged. One enemy aircraft was shot down by our fighters.

On the night of September 17th/18th 2 destroyers and one gun boat bombarded the road at Sollum, and enemy concentrations at Sidi Barrani.

2. Royal Air Force.

On September 17th/18th heavy and successful attacks were made by 145 aircraft on enemy shipping in the channel ports. 7 marshalling yards were also attacked and hits scored on all of them. The docks at Hamburg were bombed and hits were registered in target area, although results were difficult to observe.

Last night 187 aircraft were sent out to the following objectives:

Shipping and barges in Channel ports (160 aircraft);  
Marshalling yards in Germany and Belgium,  
Gun emplacements opposite Dover and one aerodrome.

In addition mine laying was carried out, and leaflets were dropped in Northern France.



6 aircraft have not reported back.

3. German Air Force.

Night of September 17th/18th 4 telephone exchanges in West End of London are threatened by unexploded bombs. Casualties during this night are reported as about 100 killed, 350 injured.

A situation report of September 18th indicates that in one district electricity services, which were interrupted, are completely restored.

On London, Midland and Scottish system all lines are reported clear. On Southern Railway system power supply and signalling at Victoria is restored, several suburban lines are reopening to traffic, and up and down main lines to Clapham Junction are clear. One of London docks is temporarily closed by unexploded bombs.

During the day 3 major attacks developed against London, in the morning, at mid-day, and about 4.30 p.m. The first attack consisted of about 200 aircraft, all fighters; they were intercepted, and did not penetrate beyond Tilbury. The second raid of about 300 aircraft approached London area, and was dispersed by our fighters. The third of about 350 aircraft approached from the southeast, but turned away before reaching Central London. No major damage is reported as result of these raids, and enemy casualties were as follows:-

<u>Enemy</u>	<u>destroyed</u>	<u>probable</u>	<u>damaged</u>
<u>by fighters</u>			
Bombers	36	5	7
Fighters	10	11	12
TOTALS	<u>46</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>19</u>

Our losses 12 aircraft, but 9 pilots are safe.

Last night at about 8 p.m., a formation of approximately 200 aircraft approached London. This is the/

the first occasion that such a large formation has been plotted at night, enemy activity was continuous, and until 3 a.m. aircraft were plotted from many directions, and not merely from the usual areas. At 3.30 a.m. detachments again approached from Havre-Dieppe area. The "all-clear" was given at 5.30 a.m.

Besides London, the northeast, northwest and Bristol areas were visited. In London area bombing was similar in extent to previous night, coming chiefly to central London and East End. No serious damage was reported to docks, nor was there special concentration on railways, but certain industrial premises were hit, including 4 engaged on armament work, but at none of them was the damage serious. A rough estimate of casualties so far recorded is 90 killed and 350 wounded. Damage was caused to main railway lines at Liverpool, and some bombs were dropped on other towns in Lancashire.

4. Shipping Casualties, by submarine.

On September 17th British ship 5,000 tons was sunk in N.W. approaches. The same day the "City of Benares" (11,000 tons) and "Marina" (5,000 tons), having left an outward convoy, were torpedoed and sunk in N.W. approaches, the former had on board 100 children and 100 adults for Montreal. The British warship which rescued 18 women, 15 children and 46 men, reports that boats were rushed by Lascars and capsized.

5. Sudan.

Kassala Area. Report received yesterday that considerable enemy troop movements, including black shirt detachments, are reliably reported arrived at Kassala from the East, and crossing to the west bank of the River Sash. Possible number of the latter 6,000 probably include some medium artillery/

artillery and tanks. Latest report indicates concentration completed, early move likely. Royal Air Force are taking action.

Egypt - Libya.

On September 17th our medium bombers attacked an aerodrome near Nenghazi. A hangar and petrol dump were destroyed, also two enemy bombers on the ground. Enemy concentrations near Sidi Barrini were also attacked. Previous night Mersa Matruh had been bombed by the enemy without damage.

Erythrea - Ethiopia.

On September 16th/17th/18th our medium and heavy bombers attacked Massawa, enemy aerodromes and railway station on the Jibouti railway.

RSF  
G.B.



BRITISH EMBASSY,  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

~~Secret~~

*file* ↗

September 21st, 1940.

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of  
the latest report on the military  
situation. It is dated September 20th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

*L. S. L.*

REGRADED  
UNCLASSIFIED

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

Telegram from London  
dated September 20th

1. Naval. A British submarine reports that she fired 4 torpedoes at a large enemy convoy off Texel on September 16th; and estimated 2 hits.

On the night of September 17th/18th H.M.S. "Kent" was hit by a torpedo dropped from an aircraft when off Bardia. Resulting damage necessitated her being taken in tow and she has now safely arrived in harbour.

2. Royal Air Force. Bombing attacks on enemy shipping on the night of September 18th/19th were successful. The heaviest scale attack was at Havre, where many hits on shipping and docks were reported. Marshalling yards in Germany and Belgium and an enemy aerodrome were also located and attacked. One aircraft obtained a direct hit on a destroyer off the Dutch Coast. 9 of our aircraft are missing.

During September 19th a number of offensive reconnaissances were carried out by our own bombers in areas of the Channel ports. All our aircraft returned safely. During the night owing to less favourable weather conditions a smaller force of bombers was despatched. Objectives were enemy shipping  
in/

in the Channel ports, railway targets in Western Germany, and aqueduct on the Rhine Canal. Mine-laying was also carried out. All our aircraft returned safely.

3. German Air Force. It was reported on September 19th that fires caused during the night of September 18th/19th were well in hand and unlikely to be visible at night. A very approximate estimate of casualties during this night is 200 killed and 500 wounded. September 19th enemy activity was considerably less and confined to operations by single aircraft. A considerable number of reconnaissances were made over Southeast England, South Wales and Liverpool areas. Six enemy bombers were destroyed, 4 of them by our fighters, one by anti-aircraft at night, and 1 forced to land intact. We lost no fighters.

During the night of September 19th/20th London was again the principal enemy objective; from 8 p.m. to 5:45 a.m. indiscriminate bombing took place on the usual scale. The East End suffered chiefly, but no reports of major damage have yet been received, and accurate casualty figures are not yet available. A few fell in Whitehall area, but damage was only slight.

During September 18th long range reconnaissances were made from Bordeaux, covering West Coasts of Ireland and Scotland and Irish Sea and from Trondhjem to a point Northwest of Faeroes.

Fighter/

Fighter patrols were maintained by day over the Channel and by day and night over the Low Countries and the Ruhr district.

4. September 19th one British tanker (1,000 tons) was sunk off the East Scottish Coast either by mine or explosion.

5. Middle East. On September 18th 5 heavy bombers attacked various Italian bases in the Dodecanese.

On the same day, aerodromes in Eastern Libya and military targets in operational zone were bombed by 18 Blenheims; considerable damage is thought to have been caused to enemy aircraft on the ground. One Blenheim was shot down.

Sudan. On September 18th Kassala station was successfully attacked by 9 British bombers.

6. Messina. Reference my telegram of September 2nd, paragraph 1, sub-paragraph (2).

It is now reported that a 10,000 ton Italian cruiser was probably sunk on this occasion.



PSF  
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

~~Secret~~

September 24th, 1940.

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein copies of the latest reports on the military situation. One was sent off on the afternoon of the 21st September and the other on the morning of the 22nd September.

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 Evening of September 21st 1940.

Following information on aircraft attacks against this country may be of value as a background and for talking points.

The German Air Force commenced a full scale air offensive against this country on August 8th. Until recently heaviest attacks took place by day. Recently however large-scale day attacks have been more spasmodic while night bombing raids particularly directed at London have become more intensive. This change of policy on the part of the German Air Force may be attributable to the heavy losses which they have sustained by day both to bombers and fighter escorts. On September 16th the relative casualties since August 8th were as follows:-

German.	Destroyed in combat;	1,799.
	Probably destroyed;	628.
	Damaged;	785.

Our Own. (including a small number of bombers lost in our extensive day and night bombing of Germany and German occupied countries and our Coastal reconnaissance) aircraft 638, from which 292 pilots are safe.

A large number of German losses have been to bombers, with resultant heavy losses to crews which average from three to five per aircraft. Further, except in the case of  
damaged/



damaged aeroplanes, few German pilots are able to bale out over their own territory and be saved.

Indications are that the Germans have been drawing on their reserves to make good fighter aircraft losses and on more than one occasion recently attacking formations by day have deliberately refrained from pressing home their attacks when faced with heavy fighter and anti-aircraft defenses.

Although inevitably the enemy bombing has caused widespread damage to property, damage to military targets has on the whole been small and production of aircraft and of naval and military supplies has been very little interfered with. Attempts by enemy to paralyze shipping in the North Sea and the Channel by air attack have failed.

Aircraft production has now overtaken that of Germany. Although our fighter defenses have been continuously employed for many weeks now the morale is high and strength is relatively greater than it was at the beginning of August.

During the recent raids the enemy has suffered casualties from anti-aircraft fire which with experience is steadily improving in performance. Civilian morale remains high and certain destruction on Sunday the 15th of 186 aircraft plus a further 42 probable, some within sight of watching crowds in London, has greatly enhanced this. Our own losses for that day were as low as 25 aircraft from which 12 pilots were saved. It is significant that

proportion/



proportion of enemy fighters to bombers on this day was five to six whereas formerly it had been in the proportion of five to two. This may be another indication of the necessity of the Germans to conserve their fighter force in view of recent losses.

Our bombing raids against military targets in Germany and occupied territory continue and reports received indicate that very satisfactory results are being achieved. The concentrations of shipping in enemy ports facing this country have been primary targets recently and undoubtedly plans for invasion of this country, if they exist, must have been interfered with thereby.

With the benefit of the increased production and importation of bomber aircraft from America we shall be in a position to increase the scale and area of attack and to reinforce Africa and West Africa with both defensive and offensive aircraft. Reinforcements to the Middle East have already commenced.

We will endeavour to send similar telegrams one quarterly as occasion offers. You will no doubt see daily telegrams on air activities received by your Air Attaché from Air Ministry and make use of this in consultation with him.

Telegram despatched from London  
on the morning of September 22nd, 1940.

1. Naval.

It is now reported that on the afternoon of the fourteenth, an aircraft of the fleet airarm almost certainly destroyed a U-boat off North Scotland.

On the 19th, a French ship (ten thousand tons) was fired on by a raider one thousand miles south east of Mauritius.

2. Royal Air Force.

On the night of the 19th-20th, our bombing attacks on shipping were made extremely difficult on account of low cloud, rain and sleet. Ostend and Flushing Harbours were however attacked, and explosions and fires caused. A direct hit was made on a railway bridge at Trier and one burst was obtained on Ems Canal Aqueduct. Two Railway marshalling yards were also located and attacked, and some aircraft carried out intensive fire raising attacks in various localities.

On the night of the 20th-21st, 195 aircraft were despatched. Their targets were:- Shipping in the Channel and Dutch Ports (one hundred and sixty aircraft), Railway targets and the Ems Canal Aqueduct. In addition 8 aircraft/



aircraft were sent to lay mines and one to drop leaflets in Northend France. From these operations one heavy and two medium bombers are missing.

3. G. A. F.

During the night of 19th-20th one major fire, one serious and other small fires were caused. A food factory was set alight and some .....s were caused in the docks. Casualties are reported as 70 killed and 150 wounded, plus 170 at present unspecified. Several temporary interruptions in Railway and public services have been remedied. Repairs to watermains are proceeding satisfactorily and the level of water in reservoirs is maintained. A main drain system, which has been damaged, is now working again. Some parachute mines have exploded and caused damage to property; five have been successfully dismantled, and others remain to be dealt with. Outside London damage to house property at Reigate, minor interruptions of local railways in the South East of England, and reduction of production to forty per cent at one artificial silk factory are the only further items of importance.

On September 20th at about 11 a.m. a raid by two hundred aircraft consisting almost entirely of fighters was plotted over Kent and the Thames estuary; they appeared to be  
converging/

converging on East London and docks but by noon all had recrossed the coast. Minor bombing was reported in a south east London area, and 11 people were killed 45 wounded at Brighton.

Summary of air casualties:

<u>Enemy</u>	<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Probable</u>	<u>Damaged</u>
By our fighters			
Reconnaissance Aircraft	1		
Fighters	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
Totals	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>

British:

Seven aircraft (pilots safe)

2 enemy bombers were shot down by anti-aircraft fire on the night of 19th-20th.

During the night of 20th-21st activity was on a smaller scale than recently, and consisted of the usual succession of single aircraft flying over London and East Anglia. Apart from mine laying off the East Coast, no activity is reported elsewhere. In London area, damage to Railways was less than on recent nights but 15 factory, dock and food storage key points were hit, though in no case has vital damage been reported.

A Yorkshire ironworks damaged 2 days ago has already resumed full production.

4. Shipping Casualties.

By U-boat: the Norwegian ship "Lotos" (1300 tons) from Canada was torpedoed in the North Western approaches on the 16th. 8 of the crew were saved. Last night an outward bound convoy was twice attacked in the North Western approaches; full details not yet received.

Early this morning an inward bound convoy was attacked also in the North Western approaches and 2 British ships of 5100 and 4400 tons were torpedoed.

By Mine: Yesterday, 1 British ship (1000 tons) was sunk in channel.

5. Military Operations.

Egypt. Air reconnaissance no movement in Sollum area on September 19th but 1600 mechanical transport were dispersed between there and Caplizzo. A column of 200 mechanical transport had its head on Sidi Barrani. A small party of Italian A.F.V's crossed the frontier at Maddramna and Egyptian frontier patrol opposite withdrew. Although no movement was seen in Giarabub there are indications from other sources of impending activity in Giarabub-Siwa area. Italian forces in Libyan theatre of operations are estimated as follows:-

Advanced troops: 1st Blackshirt division, Sidi Barrani, protected by an armoured group of medium and light tanks. Supported by a mixed force from the 1st and 2nd Libyan divisions amounting probably to 1 strong Libyan division.

Main/

Main Body: 62nd and 63rd Italian  
workman divisions.

On September 19th our medium bombers made a continuous attack of 4 hours duration on a convoy of 1200 mechanical transports at Sidi Barrani. On the same day heavy bombers attacked shipping at Benghazi scoring 4 hits.

Sudan. Kassala area 19th no enemy movement reported on the west bank of the river Gash. 6 more enemy guns reported arrived. Enemy did not reply to our shelling of his west bank position 18th.

6. Following new methods of employment of Italian aircraft in Libyan operations have recently been improvised. Fighters, about 100 in all, have been used in endless protection of advancing columns and to attack British concentrations.

Bombers are being used for offensive reconnaissance operations for which they are well suited owing to range and speed.

PSF  
G.B.



REGRADED  
UNCLASSIFIED

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
September 24th, 1940.

~~Secret.~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein copies of  
the two latest reports received from  
London on the military situation. They  
are dated September 22nd and 23rd  
respectively.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

*Lottin*

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D.C.

Telegram from London dated  
September 22nd, 1940

Naval.

Further report on recent attack made by our aircraft on Genghaza states that subsequent air reconnaissances show two ships on fire and two large and two largely destroyed out of action.

Yesterday morning a British corvette reported heavy under water explosion in position of attack on homeward bound convoy mentioned yesterday. Seemed to indicate that a U-boat had been destroyed.

2. Royal Air Force.

Night bombing operations on the 20th/21st were particularly successful excellent results being obtained in heavy scale attack on Channel and Dutch ports visited at all of which large fires and explosions were caused by accurate bombing.

At Boulogne eight bursts were seen across a concentration of twenty ships and at Flushing a very large fire was started. Lighter scale attacks on marshalling yards were carried out and a factory east of Maastricht received direct hits causing fires visible from a considerable distance.

One fleet air arm aircraft registered direct hits with incendiary bombs on two vessels of 6000 and 1000 tons respectively off the Dutch coast. One aircraft previously reported missing has now returned.

Yesterday 21 Blenheims carried out offensive  
reconnaisances/

reconnaissances in the Channel ports area. Shipping and docks were attacked with considerable success and also two aerodromes. All our aircraft returned. Last night 92 bombers were sent to attack shipping and barges in the Dutch and Channel ports. All returned safely. Reports are awaited.

3. German Air Force.

Further reports of damage caused during the night of September 20th/21st state that all fires in London Dock area were under control by morning. A fire at the Royal Small Arms Factory, Enfield has caused extensive damage to buildings. Parachute mines destroyed a block of flats in South East London causing temporary evacuation of one telephone exchange.

Similar mines were also dropped in the areas of Kent and Essex which did appreciable damage to property but caused no casualties. Approximate total casualties in London area of this night 70 killed and 250 injured.

September 21st. Enemy reconnaissances mostly by single aircraft were active during the day. About 6 p.m. a concentration of about 200 enemy aircraft approached the London area.

Enemy formations which consisted largely of fighters were quickly dispersed. Two enemy bombers were shot down. We had no casualties. During the morning three enemy aircraft attacked an aircraft works at Weybridge; minor damage resulted causing a small delay in production.

Last night London was again the main target and bombing is reported from most districts of Greater London. Number of medium fires were started most of which were quickly under control.

Outside/

Outside London fires were started in timber yards and warehouses in the docks area of Merseyside where damage to house property and some interruption to railway services was caused.

In London damage is reported to two flour mills, an electrical power station and gasometers in South East London. There is also some minor interruption of suburban lines and roads chiefly in South East London.

4. Shipping Casualties.

As a result of attack on outward bound convoy mentioned in yesterday's summary two British ships "City of Simla" (10,000 tons) and "New Sevilla" (13,000 tons) were sunk. Panamanian tanker (11,200 tons) inward bound has also been sunk in the North Western approaches at a time and date unknown.

5. Middle East.

Egypt. On September 20th and 21st our medium bombers in Libyan area attacked mechanical transport columns and in conjunction with military action maintained a sustained attack on mechanical transport concentrations.

September 20th 60 enemy bombers escorted by 12 fighters attacked Matruh. Army petrol dump was set on fire and damage caused to mechanical transport and railway lines. One enemy bomber was shot down by anti-aircraft fire.

Italian East Africa. Air attack on Diredawa September 17th damaged Sran aircraft workshops. This may add to the present maintenance difficulties.

Dodecanese. Report from Rhodes states that there is a shortage of food stuffs and that recent naval and air bombardments have affected the morale of the people who feel that worse is to come.

Telegram from London dated September 23rd, 1940

1. Naval.

A British trawler engaged two E. boats on the night of the 21/22 and claims to have hit one of them.

Aircraft of fleet air arm attacked shipping at Trondheim yesterday. Bad visibility hampered operations and checking of results. Six aircraft are missing.

On night of 21/22, one British gunboat and four destroyers bombarded the enemy positions at Sidi Barrani.

2. Royal Air Force

During night of 21/22, 91 aircraft attacked shipping and docks at Calais, Dunkirk and Boulogne, and, on a lighter scale, Ostend. Weather over the target areas was favourable for accurate bombing and very successful results are reported.

Yesterday owing to lack of cloud cover only four of the fifteen Blenheims despatched could carry out their tasks and no definite results were observed.

Last night 130 bombers were despatched, the vast majority again against shipping targets in the Channel ports. One heavy bomber succeeded in attacking its objective, and

aluminium/

aluminium works near Dresden, in spite of very bad weather. Five aircraft successfully laid mines. All returned safely.

3. G.A.F.

Yesterday enemy activity was confined to reconnaissance flights of single aircraft or small formations and continued without intermission until merged into the night bombing. In the afternoon and again in the evening three or four machines entered the inner artillery zone and caused an air raid warning in the London area. A few bombs were dropped in London suburbs and upon the sea side towns on the South East and East Coasts where some casualties and considerable damage of property resulted. A 10,000 ton tanker standing off a jetty in Thames estuary received a direct hit followed by a shower of petrol filled glass bottles. The fires caused are under control.

Last night, considerable enemy activity concentrated on London area was maintained until dawn. Outside this area minor raids occurred and bombs were dropped on three R.A.F. stations but no damage is reported. Damage in London area so far reported is as follows. One warehouse fired in London docks; some minor interruption to rail and road services; two serious fires at Woolwich Arsenal; [? soap] factory severely damaged by H.E. No complete report of casualties is yet available but those which occurred were chiefly in [? South] East

London/

London. A parachute mine which exploded at Ilford caused severe damage to houses but only twelve casualties.

One enemy bomber was shot down by our fighters. We sustained no fighter losses during this period.

4. Shipping casualties.

Referende to attack on inward-bound convoy reported in summary of September 21. Three additional British ships totalling 22,500 tons and 1 Norwegian ship (6,000 tons) are believed sunk. One British ship (5,000 tons) is afloat with volunteer crew on board and another British tanker (9,000) is beyond salvage.

British ship "Collegian" (7,800 tons) in the same convoy, was attacked by gun fire but drove off the submarine and escaped.

A British ship (6,300 tons) was sunk by a raider of about (9,000 tons) about 500 miles West of Canaries on September 2. The Captain and three of the officers were picked up by a Panama ship and remaining crew by the raider.

5. Middle East

Egypt. Early morning report of September 22 states that no further forward enemy movement and the situation unchanged. All quiet Sudan, 300 enemy troops, white and native, reported killed as result of our bombing of Cassala on the 18th.

On the 21st three medium bombers attacked enemy positions at Sidi Barrani; a group of three fighters and a supply dump are believed to have been hit.

Palestine During the afternoon of the 21, 5 enemy aircraft attacked Haifa setting on fire a benzine cistern in the port area and three cisterns at refinery. A power station was also hit but not seriously damaged. About 30 Arabs were killed.

Erythrea During an attack on Asmara aerodrome September 21, bombs fell among the aircraft and a fire was started at a petrol dump.

Kenya On September 20th, aircraft of the S.A.A.F. made three dive bombing attacks on an Italian encampment. Severe damage was done and all buildings including possibly the Trinity wireless telegraphy station, were probably destroyed.

Malta Yesterday, a French seaplane from Malta dropped leaflets over the towns and aerodromes in Tunisia.

Libya Bombs are being transported by air from Rome to Libya. This is a most uneconomical way of delivering bombs and it is thought that they may be a new or special type required for some particular operation.

Abyssinia. There are indications that the Italians are showing considerable activity regarding safeguarding against possible sabotage by rebels.

PSF  
G.B.



BRITISH EMBASSY,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

September 26th, 1940

~~SECRET~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of  
the latest report received from London  
on the military situation. It was  
dated September 24th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

(For the Ambassador)

*Henke Butler*

REGRADED  
UNCLASSIFIED

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

Telegram from London of

September 24th, 1940

Naval.

A British submarine reports having sunk an enemy merchant vessel of 8000 tons off Gironde on September 22nd.

During the last two days 51 ocean going ships have arrived safely in convoy in United Kingdom ports. Cargoes included 18 grain and cereal, 5 of iron and 3 other metals.

R.A.F.

It is considered that extensive damage was done to shipping and barges in Dutch and channel ports during our night bombing operations on September 22nd-23rd. Now reported 4 aircraft successfully attacked aluminium works near Dresden and 4 other railways in Germany.

September 23rd 6 Blenheims were despatched on offensive reconnaissance of the channel ports, but 5 could not complete their task. All returned safely.

Eight aircraft of Coastal Command attacked Brest harbour. It is thought that a large number of bombs attained the target areas, although results could not be observed.

On the night of September 23rd-24th, 186 aircraft were sent out, of which 120 heavy bombers/

bombers went to attack utility services at Berlin. The remaining 66 were given shipping targets in Dutch and channel ports. In addition 6 medium bombers carried out a security patrol over Calais and 9 other aircraft leaflets over Northern France and the channel islands. All the aircraft except 2 returned safely.

3. G.A.F.

Of 4 serious fires caused during the night of the 22nd-23rd and already reported, 3 were under control yesterday evening. One is still serious and threatens the complete destruction of a factory. At 1 gas works, there was serious damage to three gas-holders, and one flour mill, normally employing 1800 hands, has been practically destroyed and will be out of commission for a long period. Casualties reported during this night in the metropolitan police area were 72 killed and 224 injured. Repair works on Sewers in one London district caused by previous raid was delayed by further damage, and an unexploded mine has temporarily stopped pumping at a station supplying Eltham district with water.

September 23rd, enemy activity consisted of 2 main raids. About 200 enemy aircraft operated over Kent and the Thames estuary during the morning. They consisted chiefly of fighters. Our fighters intercepted and destroyed 10 aircraft before they withdrew. In the evening, about 100 enemy aircraft were plotted over East Kent. Bombs were dropped  
chiefly/

chiefly in Eastbourne and Hastings area.

During the night of September 23rd there was again considerable enemy activity in the London area and raids also occurred in East Anglia, the Midlands and Liverpool area of Lancashire. In London, only partial dislocation of suburban lines was caused, and railway damage generally was less than usual. The same applies to damage to factories although Woolwich Arsenal and a factory at Dagenham damaged the night before were again hit.

Preliminary reports indicate that casualties in London were widespread and rather heavier than of late. No important damage is reported from Liverpool district.

4. Summary of Air Casualties.

<u>Enemy</u>	<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Probable</u>	<u>Damaged.</u>
By our fighters:			
Fighters	11	6	6
By A.A. fire:			
Fighters	<u>nil</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
Total	<u>11</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>

In addition an enemy bomber is reported down near Chobham during the night of September 23rd/24th and a Heinkel aircraft destroyed off Lands'

End/

End by coastal command aircraft.

British

11 aircraft (8 pilots reported safe)

5. Shipping Casualties

During the night of September 23rd/24th 2 E. Boats attacked a northbound convoy off the east coast and fired torpedoes. One small British ship of 500 tons was sunk.

32 of the crew of a British tanker (10,500 tons) have been rescued. It is assumed that this ship, which was in a homeward bound convoy attacked on September 21st, was sunk on this occasion.

6. Middle East

Libya. During the night of September 21st/22nd, 4 heavy bombers scored direct hits on a ship and on several warehouses in Benghazi harbour, and on the 22nd 6 Blenheims attacked mechanical transport at Sidi Barrani.

35 Enemy bombers attacked Matruh harbour and station the night of September 22nd/23rd. The station is believed damaged, and 2 other ranks were killed.

On September 22nd, an enemy air attack was made on Cyprus for the first time. There was no damage and no casualties.

7. Present situation with regard to the Port of London.

The Port of London has never been unusable.

Use/



Use of the port has been reduced to vessels of 6000 tons maximum, and vessels must discharge at once and leave the port. Within these limitations the port is functioning normally and is dealing successfully with the present volume of traffic. Railway congestion at the docks is very much eased. Although some warehouses have been destroyed, the equipment and essential services of the docks have sustained little damage.



*File personal + confidential PSF G.B.*

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

September 26th, 1940

~~SECRET~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of the latest report received from London on the military situation. It is dated September 25th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

(For the Ambassador)

*Harle Butler*

REGRADED  
UNCLASSIFIED

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

The above governing plant and direct plant were used  
except, and the letter will be required during

Telegram from London dated

September 25th.

1. Naval.

A British submarine sank a U-boat on September 24th in the East Atlantic; another British submarine attacked and sank a large merchant vessel, escorted by two ex-Norwegian destroyers in the Bay of Biscay the same day.

Five German mine-sweepers were reported sweeping a British minefield nine miles off Dover the morning of September 24th. Twelve Blenheims sent to attack obtained direct hits on two vessels and a near miss on a third. Enemy fighters intercepted and one of them and also a Blenheim were shot down.

Dakar. His Majesty's Ship "Cumberland" has arrived at Bathurst.

During the morning and afternoon of September 24th Dakar fort and "Richelieu" were fired on by the capital ships. Visibility was bad and no apparent effect was obtained on either target.

Air action against our ships is increasing and French morale remains high.

Gibraltar. Gibraltar was bombed September 24th by unidentified aircraft; about 150 bombs were dropped, some of which fell ashore and a few in the dockyard. The steam generating plant and Diesel plant were both damaged, but the latter will be repaired shortly.

2. Military.

Egypt/



salvaged; in the other two, production will be resumed in a few days. The latest estimate of casualties in the London area is 140 killed and 350 seriously wounded.

During the morning of September 24th two formations of about 300 and 200 enemy aircraft crossed the south east coast. Elements of both raids reached the Thames and East London but did not approach within ten miles of the centre of the City. During the first raid bombs were dropped in the Thames Estuary and notably at Gravesend where training ship "Cornwall" was sunk. During the second raid bombs were dropped indiscriminately over Kent and Sussex. In the afternoon a smaller raid of about 20 attacked Southampton, where 25 persons were killed and 40 injured at an aircraft factory shelter. No serious damage was done to the factory and the effect on production will be slight. About 40 casualties including 28 killed, also occurred at Brighton. Weather conditions during the day were unfavourable for fighter action and comparatively few interceptions took place.

During the night London was again the main target for enemy bombing which was very widespread. Railways and hospitals appeared to receive most attention, 6 hospitals being hit; damage very slight. Dockland was almost untouched. Fires throughout London area were extensive but are now under control. Other areas visited by enemy bombers were Liverpool, Dundee and the Midlands and South Midlands. Some interruptions were caused to railways in inner and suburban London and serious damage was caused to "The Times" building. Little damage was done at Liverpool and no casualties are reported. One aerodrome was bombed and an unexploded mine is reported inside an aircraft factory.

5. Summary of air casualties.

Enemy	destroyed	probable	damaged
by fighters			
Bombers	4	2	7
Fighters	<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>
Total	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>13</u>

British: 5 fighters (3 pilots safe).

6. Shipping Casualties.

2 more British ships totalling 11,000 tons are now considered sunk in enemy attack on convoy on September 21st but Panamanian tanker mentioned in the summary on the 22nd is safe in harbour, the ship of this nationality sunk being a smaller one of 5,000 tons.

One tanker (8,000 tons) not in convoy was torpedoed on September 21st.

7. Middle East.

Libya. On 22nd our medium bombers attacked Italian concentrations causing fires and explosion and on 25th they attacked Tobruk where bombs fell on buildings and jetty. All our aircraft returned.

East Africa. Between 22nd and 25th in attacks made on Italian encampments and aerodromes in addition to damage caused to buildings 2 enemy fighters and 1 bomber were destroyed on the ground.

PSF  
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
WASHINGTON, D. C.



~~Secret~~

Sept 26, 1940

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of  
the latest report received from London  
on the military situation. It is  
dated September 26th, 1940.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

(for the Ambassador.)

*David Butler*

**REGRADED  
UNCLASSIFIED**

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

Telegram from London dated  
September 26th.

Naval

Our operations at Dakar have been discontinued. Previous bombardment of September 25th, one British battleship was hit by a torpedo and another suffered slight damage from shell-fire. Three other warships were slightly damaged.

During an air attack on Gibraltar September 25th about 200 bombs were dropped and one naval trawler was sunk. Two naval officers and twelve ratings were killed. Three or four aircraft are claimed shot down by anti-aircraft fire.

British naval forces again attacked Sidi Barrani morning of September 25th causing fires and explosions.

2. Royal Air Force.

During the night of September 24th - 25th two important factories, one power station and a principal transformer station at Berlin were attacked. With the exception of the last target, direct hits were seen and fires started. The attacks on barges and shipping were generally successful especially at Havre, Boulogne and Calais. Several large fires and station at Havre was hit. Railway targets in Germany and Belgium/

Belgium were also successfully attacked.

September 25th an aircraft of coastal command scored a direct hit on one of three small merchant vessels off the Dutch coast and a Blenheim shot down an enemy flying boat near Brest.

Night of September 25th - 26th aircraft were despatched against the following targets: three German capital ships at Kiel, two power stations in Berlin, railway targets in northwest Germany and Belgium and dock and shipping in Dutch and Channel ports. All aircraft have returned.

3. German Air Force.

Unexploded mine in aircraft factory reported in last summary has been dismantled.

September 25th in the morning about 100 aircraft approached Dover. Our fighters were in the air and no interceptions were made as the enemy turned back towards the French coast. At about 11.45 about 50 enemy aircraft approached Bristol where an aircraft factory was bombed and damaged; repair work and accurate assessment of damage are at present hindered by an unexploded bomb; 60 persons are reported killed and 150 wounded; our fighters intercepted and shot down 18 of the formation. Later in the afternoon a formation of 24 bombers escorted by 12 fighters attacked Plymouth; our fighters intercepted and dispersed the raid; no serious casualties or damage to ships or naval

establishments/

establishments were caused. Other seaside towns on south coast were bombed and damage caused to private property and some casualties inflicted. Some machine gunning took place at Brighton.

Summary of Air Casualties.

<u>Enemy</u>	<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Probable</u>	<u>Damaged</u>
<u>by our fighters</u>			
Bombers	16	4	7
Fighters	4	3	3
Type unknown	2	1	0
<u>By anti-aircraft fire</u>			
Type unknown	4	0	2
<u>Totals</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>12</u>

British 4 aircraft (2 pilots safe).  
One bomber missing (yesterday).

Night of September 25th - 26th enemy bombing in London was on a similar scale although East End was almost entirely neglected and indiscriminate bombing over the rest of England was more extensive. Some damage was done to house property and small factories but no reports of damage to important factories have been received. There were fewer fires than on previous nights and all were under control by the morning.

4. Shipping Casualties.

September 25th British ship "Salaria" (5,800 tons) in convoy with a general cargo for Montreal was torpedoed and sunk in the northwestern approaches. Another British ship (6,200 tons) in convoy was torpedoed in the same area but is still afloat; H.M.C.S. "Ottawa" has 55 survivors on board.

A British warship reports that she has on board 46 additional survivors from the "City of Benares".

A French escort vessel has arrived in port towing a British merchant vessel torpedoed in an attack on homeward bound convoy on September 21st.

A convoy of 32 ships has arrived safely in home waters. Cargoes include steel and scrap, pig iron and iron ore, oil, lumber and paper and pulp.

5. Middle East.

Erythrea. Between September 21st and 24th <sup>our</sup> medium bombers attacked various aerodromes in Erythrea. At one aerodrome a large petrol fire was started and bombs fell amongst five fighters. On the night of September 23rd - 24th two of our aircraft made dive attacks on enemy groups in Kassala.

Malta. On September 24th 8 Italian fighters of the latest type were intercepted by Hurricane fighters and two Gladiators; one enemy fighter was show<sup>+</sup> down and two damaged, one by anti-aircraft fire.

6. Italy.

Two groups of Italian fighters, about 54 aircraft, and two wings of bomber aircraft, about 70 aircraft, are leaving Italy for Germany. It seems fairly certain that these units are moving completely with their own maintenance personnel and will operate under German control.

PSF  
G.B.

BRITISH EMBASSY,  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

~~Secret.~~

September 28th, 1940.

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein copy of the latest report received from London on the military situation. This is dated September 27th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

*L. Nazan*

REGRADED  
UNCLASSIFIED

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D.C.

Telegram despatched from London  
on September 27th, 1940.

Military. Two or three Italian colonial battalions with pack battery were reported on September 25th on the frontier 20 miles south of Kassala, and indications suggest the formation of forward dumps in this area.

2. Royal Air Force.

Weather was comparatively good for our bombing operation in Berlin area on night of September 25/Sept. 26 but intense searchlight glare made accurate observation difficult. Bursts were observed at one power station and several fires were started at another. Two marshalling yards and air port at Templehof were attacked. Other railway marshalling yards in northwest Germany were bombed and at one a chimney was seen to fall across the yard. The target area at Kiel was located but results could not be observed. Especially successful attacks were made on shipping at Boulogne and Calais, and light attacks took place on several other channel ports. Other aircraft attacked aerodromes as secondary targets and fire-raising leaves were dropped in the country districts.

September 26th six aircraft were despatched

on/

on offensive reconnaissance of the channel ports. One is missing.

Night of September 26/September 27th ninety-two aircraft were sent to the following objectives: three German capital ships in Kiel dockyard, an enemy convoy off St. Malo, shipping in channel ports (sixty-eight heavy and medium bombers) and Ems Canal Aqueducts. In addition nine aircraft were detailed to lay mines. All our machines are back except one which has not yet reported.

G.A.F. Night of September 25/September 26th According to latest reports casualties in London area were 180 killed and 350 seriously wounded. Normal .... has been resumed at chief London railway termini though there is still some reduction of service at other stations. No serious damage was reported to the cathedral nor factories but a few important factories are affected by unexploded bombs.

September 26th, morning enemy activity consisted only of isolated raids and reconnaissance of east and southern coasts of England. About 5.00 p.m. three waves of enemy aircraft totalling about 90 attacked aircraft factories at Southampton. Direct hits were obtained on two shops of one factory and fires were caused which are under control; ten persons were killed and thirty wounded and production is temporarily suspended. Other casualties

casualties were caused at Southampton gas works and a warehouse was set on fire in docks. Elsewhere, some damage was done to an iron works in Yorkshire, Merseyside was bombed at about eight p.m. and severe fires which were still burning at six a.m. were caused in docks at Liverpool, Birkenhead and among shipping. Several R.A.F. stations were attacked, but no important damage is reported.

Night of September 26th/September 27th, activity was wide spread over the whole of England south of line from Liverpool to Humber and continued most of the night, but the enemy effort seems to have been directed less towards London than recently. No important damage is reported, although some factories in various parts of the country were hit. In the London area bombing was evenly spread and two major fires were caused both of which are under control. There was the usual damage to house property and at one hospital many casualties are reported.

4. Summary of Air Casualties.

	<u>Enemy</u>	<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Probable</u>	<u>Damaged</u>
By our fighters				
Bombers		17	5	8
Fighters		15	5	3
By anti aircraft fire		<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
Totals		33	11	13

British/

British 10 aircraft (7 pilots safe)

1 medium bomber missing.

5. Shipping Casualties.

By U-Boats. 2 British ships totaling 9,600 tons were torpedoed in outward convoy in northwest approaches morning of September 26th, one is wholly disabled and the other is on fire.

New Zealand ship Port Denison (8,043 tons) London to Auckland in outward convoy attacked by aircraft evening of September 26th is on fire and abandoned. About 40 survivors including the commodore of the convoy are in a naval trawler.

6. Middle East Lybia. On September 25th 27 medium bombers attacked Tobruk and started a large fire in the docks and scored direct hits on buildings and mechanical transport.

Sudan On the 26th our heavy and medium bombers attacked various aerodromes, at one of which fires were started and damage probably caused to 3 grounded aircraft.

Palestine Haifa was attacked by 10 Italian bombers on the 26th. About 100 bombs were dropped without causing damage or casualties to naval personnel.

Italian East Africa.

During R.A.F. attack on September 23rd a large munitions dump was hit near Asmara and continued burning for 12 hours. Periodic explosions rendered/  
rendered/

rendered it impossible for the personnel to approach and deal with the fire until it had burnt itself out.

7. Naval. Five ex American destroyers have arrived in the United Kingdom.

Most recent reports estimate French naval losses at Dakar as follows; Submarines 2 sunk and 3 severely damaged; Destroyer of Fantasque class and one destroyer burnt out and beached; Richelieu hit by two 15 inch shells and damaged by two near misses from air bombs and one possible hit on Gloire class cruiser.

PSF  
G.B.



BRITISH EMBASSY,  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

~~Secret~~

29th September 1940.

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy  
of the latest report received from London  
on the military situation. It is dated  
September 29th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

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

REGRADED  
UNCLASSIFIED

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

Telegram from London dated September 29th, 1940.

1. Naval.

During September 27th twenty shells were fired at Dover; one naval and one military officer were seriously wounded.

September 22nd His Majesty's Submarine Osiris sank Italian destroyer north-east of Brindisi.

September 26th His Majesty's Canadian armed merchant cruiser "Prince Robert" captured German steamer of 9,000 tons off Pacific coast of Mexico.

Two aircraft, probably French, flew over Freetown on the evening of September 27th but dropped no bombs; a fleet reconnaissance aircraft was attacked by two machines 200 miles north-west of Konakri.

2. Royal Air Force.

During the night of September 26th/27th Kiel docks were attacked but no definite results could be observed, enemy convoy was not located, 48 aircraft successfully attacked shipping in the Channel ports and Ems aqueducts were attacked by three aircraft, but owing to clouds results were unobserved. Some minelaying was

/carried

carried out.

During the night of September 27th/28th 95 aircraft were despatched against the following objectives:

Shipping in the Channel ports (80 heavy and medium bombers);

Torpedo workshops in northern Holland;

Railway targets in north-west Germany.

In addition 6 aircraft were sent on a minelaying task.

All our aircraft, except one Wellington bomber, have returned.

3. German Air Force.

Standard Motor Works at Coventry bombed on September 26th; three large workshops were damaged but aircraft production will not be affected and other production not seriously delayed. Southampton Gas Works hope to obtain 50 per cent. of normal output by Monday. At the Supermarine Aviation Works there was widespread damage to sheds but damage to plant, aircraft and stores did not exceed 33 per cent. and restricted production is continuing.

Night of September 26th/27th small fires were caused in London docks; minor interruptions of rail and road services in London suburban area were caused and some unexploded mines were reported. One major and six serious fires were started; otherwise no important

/damage

damage has been reported.

During the daylight of September 27th the enemy was exceptionally active and about 850 aircraft were operating over the country during the day. About 9.00 a.m. some 120 aircraft spread over Kent of which 60 dropped bombs in the London area. A number of our fighter squadrons intercepted. Between 11 and 12 noon two raids of about 40 and 500 respectively crossed the coast; the former went in the direction of Bristol and the latter towards London but none entered the inner artillery zone and at about 1 o'clock the enemy withdrew. Later in the day about 100 enemy aircraft crossed the coast and about 25 flew over London and dropped bombs in south and south-western districts. The second wave of 50 enemy aircraft was turned back.

All of these raids were intercepted and attacked by our fighters and enemy casualties were heavy. Results for the number of aircraft engaged were most ineffectual; an attack on the Bristol Aircraft factory miscarried and only a few bombs were dropped on the aerodrome. Other Royal Air Force stations attacked sustained no important damage. Apart from 18 people killed and 80 injured and damage to property at Maidstone

/results

results from the enemy point of view were poor.

Summary of Air Casualties:

<u>Enemy:</u>	<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Probable</u>	<u>Damaged</u>
By our fighters:			
Bombers	40	12	21
Fighters	91	21	31
By anti-aircraft fire:			
Type unknown	2	2	nil
	—	—	—
<u>Totals</u>	133	35	52
	—	—	—

British:

27 aircraft, but 9 pilots are safe.

2 bombers missing, one from yesterday.

Night of 27th/28th, the enemy attack was again chiefly directed against London and continued throughout the night almost without interruption. Bombing was less intense than usual, the damage less severe and there were no major fires. There were scattered raids throughout the night in the Bristol, Liverpool, Birmingham and Nottingham areas and four raids over Edinburgh where little damage was caused.

4. Shipping Casualties.

By U-boat on September 27th a Norwegian ship of 1,300 tons was sunk off northern Ireland.

The "Port Denison", reported on fire yesterday, has now sunk.

A Dutch ship of 6,000 tons sank on account of an explosion on September 15th in the west Atlantic.

A convoy of 28 ships arrived safely in Canada and another convoy of 27 ships reached home ports from the west Atlantic. The latter included 5 tankers and 2 ships carrying aircraft.

5. Middle East.

Libya. Two groups of 100 M/T and 6 tanks and 40 M/T respectively reported moving from the north on Giarabub September 26th; otherwise all areas quiet.

Six Blenheims destroyed three aircraft and probably damaged a fourth on Sollum landing-ground on September 26th.

Palestine. Ten enemy bombers attacked Haifa on September 26th. No hits on the oil tanks, slight damage to transformer and power station; no casualties.

Malta. On September 27th about 20 enemy aircraft bombed the British [sic] aerodrome where some damage was done to hangars and buildings and to two aircraft. Two of the enemy aircraft were shot down.