

Great Britain: Military Situation: Jan. 1941

PSF
YB: reports
handwritten military
situation
BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

January 1st, 1941.

Dear Mr. President,

I beg leave to enclose
herewith a message for you from the
Prime Minister which was received by
telegram late last night.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

W. A. Butler

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.



Message for the President
from Mr. Winston Churchill

At this moment when the New Year opens in storm, I feel it my duty on behalf of the British Government and indeed the whole British Empire to tell you, Mr. President, how lively is our sense of gratitude and admiration for the memorable declaration which you made to the American people and to the lovers of Freedom in all continents on Sunday last.

We cannot tell what lies before us, but with this trumpet-call we march forward heartened and fortified and with the confidence which you have expressed that in the end all will be well for the English speaking peoples and those who share their ideals.

15F
21B

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~

2nd January, 1941.

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein copies of the latest reports received from London on the military situation. They are dated 30th December, and 31st December, 1940.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

W. A. R. Butler

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

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

Telegram from London dated December 30th.

Attacks on Shipping. British merchant vessel (5,000 tons) bombed and set on fire in North Western approaches yesterday and has been abandoned. Greek ship (4000 tons) also attacked in the same area but no report of damage received.

2. Yesterday afternoon, a coastal convoy was unsuccessfully attacked by aircraft in the Thames Estuary.

3. It is understood that progress is being made with the clearing of the block in the Kiel Canal referred to previously.

4. On December 28th eight enemy bombers and seven fighters made two attacks on Sollum but only caused slight damage. Our Hurricanes shot down one bomber and one fighter (confirmed) one fighter (unconfirmed) and damaged four other bombers.

5. In the Southern area Italians now have four infantry divisions, part of one armoured division, and various other units totalling 80,000 - 90,000 men.

6. During the night 29th/30th, twenty-seven aircraft despatched to attack aerodromes in occupied territory, inland port at Frankfurt, marshalling yards at Hamm and docks and shipping at Boulogne. Reports not yet received. Two aircraft missing.

7. German Air Force.

During raid on Plymouth night of 28th/29th over a thousand incendiaries but only nine high explosive bombs were dropped. Most damage was done to dwelling houses. Casualties now reported at eleven killed and thirty-four seriously injured.

8. During December 29th main enemy activity took place/

place over the channel and North Sea, and the majority of our fighter aircraft were directed against these aircraft for the protection of shipping. One enemy bomber was probably destroyed and two others damaged. Six enemy aircraft operated inland, and Crewe was bombed, one war factory being damaged, but not seriously.

9. During the night of December 29th/30th an intense but comparatively short attack was made on London by about 140 enemy aircraft. Attack developed from 18.00 hours to 22.00 hours. Main attack concentrated on the City and practically the whole area from St. Pauls to the Guildhall and from the Guildhall to Finsbury was set on fire. The roof of the Guildhall was destroyed and St. Lawrence Jewry Church gutted. Various key points including docks were affected but details not yet available. Up to the present the number of casualties reported is remarkably small.

10. Aircraft casualties in the above operations over and from the British Isles.
Enemy: one bomber probably destroyed, 2 bombers damaged.
British: two heavy bombers missing. In assessing comparative results it will be appreciated the summaries of casualties do not include enemy night bomber casualties approaching or returning from this country.

Telegram from London dated December 31st.

Naval.

Two remaining ships of convoy referred to in telegram of December 26th, first paragraph, have been located and were expected to join the main body this morning. Senior officer of escort reports that one ship of the convoy was hit above water line and might be one of the enemy claimed to have sunk.

2. Attacks on shipping. A British tankers of 8000 tons was damaged by mine off Liverpool yesterday morning.

3. A convoy of ten ships has arrived safely from Sierra Leone.

Royal Air Force.

4. Home Front. Night of December 29th/30th. Owing to very bad weather conditions only ten bombers attacked certain targets in Germany and aerodromes in German occupation.

5. There were no operations by our bomber command during night of 30th/31st.

6. Home Security. London night of 29th/30th.

7. All fires are now out except for some smouldering.

Factories. One platinum factory; work seriously reduced from loss of gas pressure. One diving apparatus and one machine tool factory seriously damaged by fire.

Railways. Services to three London railway termini temporarily stopped but since resumed. Six underground stations temporarily closed.

Public utility. No really serious damage either to gas or electric services. Water supply normal except in city and other central areas where pressure is low.

Docks/

Docks. Some damage to docks and considerable damage to certain food warehouses in the dock areas.

Tele-communications. One main telephone exchange completely out of service. Central telegraph office and Phonograms temporarily out of action. London temporarily not in telephonic communication with South East England and telegraph service with South and South East England is severely interrupted. Communication between London and important towns in other districts are available.

8. The Guildhall was burnt out as were several churches and nine hospitals were affected to a varying extent by fire.

9. Casualties so far reported; Killed 89, seriously injured 314.

10. Roumania. It now seems probable that German troops destined for Roumania are those of twelfth army. This army has recently been in South West Poland and is commanded by Field Marshal List. Average strength of an army is 10-12 divisions. Projected train movements suggest that this figure may be exceeded to allow for internal security in Roumania. There are indications that the Army will include mostly motorised and armoured divisions.

PSF
LB
BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

3rd January, 1941.

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
the latest report received from London
on the military situation. It is dated
January 1st, 1941.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Wavile Butler

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.


Telegram received from London
dated January 1st, 1941

Naval.

West Africa. British Naval Control Officer Lisbon reports that a French submarine was torpedoed and sunk off Rio de Oro while on the surface escorting a French tanker which was also sunk. No British submarine was in the vicinity.

2. Attacks on shipping. A Norwegian ship (5500 tons) and a British tanker (8500 tons) were both torpedoed and sunk by a German submarine west of Dakar on December 21st and December 31st, respectively. A Swedish ship (5600 tons) was damaged by a mine in Liverpool Bay yesterday afternoon.

3. The west-bound channel convoy was unsuccessfully attacked by enemy aircraft in the Thames Estuary.

4. Military. No operations of importance reported from any front officially.

5. Royal Air Force. During daylight on December 31st, 22 Blenheims were sent out. Fourteen were forced to abandon their tasks owing to weather. Six acting independently claim the following hits. An anti-aircraft ship at Flushing, a building at a Dutch aerodrome, a factory at Cologne and a bridge near Emmerich. Two failed to return.

6. Night of 31st /1st. All operations were cancelled.

7. Libya. On the night of December 29th/30th Tobruk and an Italian landing ground were bombed and a number of fires started.

8. Italian Somaliland. Four Hurricanes of the South African Air Force attacked Barder an aerodrome on

December/

December 29th where they destroyed one bomber and possibly damaged two others. They were intercepted by Italian fighters and two failed to return.

Night of 31st/1st. No enemy activity reported.

9. Italy. Italian air activity was very strong on December 29th and efforts were made to hamper the Greek offensive along the whole front. An Italian naval bombardment of Himara was covered by continuous strong patrols over Corfu.

10. London. Night of 29th/30th. Having regard to the severity of the attack it is considered that the amount of damage to food in warehouses is surprisingly small.

PSF
MB
BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

4th January, 1941.

~~Secret~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
the latest report received from London
on the military situation. It is dated
January 2nd, 1941.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Harold Butler

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.


Telegram received from London
dated January 2nd, 1941

Naval.

On January 1st at Tripoli were 3 cruisers, 4 destroyers, 20 large merchant vessels. Tanker "British Zeal" reported torpedoed 180 miles west of Dakar on December 31st was still afloat p.m. January 1st and has been boarded again.

2. Royal Fleet auxiliary "Attendant" mined and sunk in Thames Estuary a.m. January 1st and anti-submarine trawler "Bandolero" sunk in collision p.m. December 30th in Gulf of Sollum.

3. Since the beginning of the war 48,810 ships British Allied and neutral have been convoyed; representing shipping of 165 million gross tons with a cargo carrying capacity of 250 million tons. Total losses of ships in convoy amounted to 987,000 gross tons.

4. Mediterranean. An East-bound convoy of 4 French merchant ships escorted by an armed trawler was intercepted off the Spanish Moroccan coast outside territorial waters by 5 of our destroyers and is being escorted back to Gibraltar.

5. On December 30th a Naval trawler was in collision with a British destroyer in the Gulf of Sollum and sank.

6. Military. Libya. Check of Italian captured war material to January amounts to: field and medium guns 261, anti-tank guns 48, heavy anti-aircraft guns 20. Many pieces are unserviceable.

7. Albania. Central sector. During the mopping-up operations Greeks have occupied some heights and several

small/

small villages North East of Kelcyre.

8. Epirus sector. Italians launched an unsuccessful attack with armoured fighting vehicles. Greeks captured one armoured fighting vehicle and eight guns.

9. Royal Air Force. Night of January 1st/2nd. A total of 151 aircraft were despatched as follows:

<u>Locality</u>	<u>Target Raided</u>	<u>No. of Aircraft</u>
Bremen	Industrial, shipping and transport.	113 heavy and 15 medium
Flushing	Train ferrys	14 Coastal
"Invasion Ports"	Docks and shipping	4 heavy 4 medium and 1 coastal.

10. All aircraft returned safely except 3 heavy bombers which crashed on landing. The crew of one aircraft is safe but crews of other two were all killed except for one person.

11. Italy. It is becoming increasingly evident that Italian air resources are being severely taxed. Our bombing of Adriatic ports has forced Italians to rely more and more on air transport and the presence of several German troop carriers indicates a serious effort by the Italians to develop air communications and (some words undecypherable) mean to do so by themselves. It is reliably reported that the aircraft supply situation for Albanian campaign is causing anxiety, especially as regards fighters owing to the requirements of the Libyan front.

12. Germany. Serious railway dislocation resulted from recent Royal Air Force raids on Mannheim owing to the cutting of the lines between Mannheim and Ludwigshaven;

this/

this sector is specially important since it carries military traffic between Germany and occupied France and also North-South traffic including coal supplies for Italy.

13. German Air Force. Night of January 1st/2nd. About 80 enemy aircraft were operating over the country. The attack was scattered and was not heavy. Reported one aircraft flew as far as Dublin.

14. Home Front. London. Night of January 1st/January 2nd. Two parachute mines were dropped in the London area; elsewhere only a few bombs are reported causing slight damage and few casualties.

15. France. It has recently been reported from Brittany that fishing activities which had been severely curtailed by lack of fuel are now in full swing and that fishermen have no difficulty in obtaining diesel oil. One French boat has even fished off the Irish coast.

PSF
AB Reports
from London 10-11
Military
Situation

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

0940
January 6th 1940.

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein the text of a message, received late last night, which I have been instructed to convey to you from the Prime Minister.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Yours sincerely,

Herle Butler

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States,

Washington, D.C.

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

Telegram from London dated January 6th, 1941.

Following from former Naval person for
President, begins:

PERSONAL AND ~~SECRET~~.

I dare to say you will like to know
our latest war news. Following just received from
General Wavell.

Begins.

~~SECRET~~

Bardia operations proceeding satisfactorily.
News is scarce but refers to mopping up. Indicates
enemy resistance only in isolated places.

Prisoners may exceed 25,000 including there
might be 2 corps commanders, 4 divisional commanders
and rumoured one bishop accompanied by three nuns. The
General has now telegraphed that all resistance has
ceased.

Every good wish for tomorrow's momentous
statement.

PSF
EB

JP

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

7th January, 1941.



Dear Mr. President,



I enclose herein copies of the latest reports received from London on the military situation. They are dated January 3rd, 4th and 5th, 1941.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Harold Butler

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

Telegram received from London

dated January 3rd, 1941

Naval

Merchant ships lost by enemy up to December 29th, 1940:

German

250, representing 1,257,000 gross tons approximately.

Italian

89, representing 453,000 gross tons approximately. In addition 27 ships of 44,000 gross tons (approximately) under enemy control or useful to the enemy have been sunk.

2. Mediterranean In bad weather during the night of January 1st/2nd the destroyers escorting Vichy French convoy to Gibraltar lost touch with 3 of them. Additional destroyers have been sent to search.

3. Attacks on shipping. A British ship (6500 tons) not in convoy was torpedoed on the night of January 2nd/3rd. 350 miles North East of Cape Verde Island.

4. Convoys. Two convoys totalling 36 ships have arrived from Canada. One British (6400 tons) is feared sunk. Cargoes included 10 of steel and metals, 9 of grain, and 3 tankers.

5. Italy. A photographic reconnaissance on January 1st showed three 6-inch cruisers, 4 destroyers, and 20 large merchant vessels at Tripoli; and an air reconnaissance on December 31st reported a large convoy approaching Valona.

6. Royal Air Force. Night of January 2nd/3rd. Forty-seven heavy bombers were sent out; 39 to Bremen, 7 to a shipyard at Emden and 1 to an oil target at Amsterdam.

One aircraft missing.

7. On the night of January 1st/2nd ten Wellingtons dropped 18 tons of bombs on the port and shipping at Tripoli. Two or three merchant ships received direct hits. All our aircraft returned undamaged.

8. German Air Force. Night of January 2nd/3rd about 170 enemy aircraft were operating main concentration being directed against the Cardiff area. Our night fighters damaged one enemy bomber over South coast and probably destroyed another over France.

9. Aircraft casualties in operations over and from British Isles:

<u>Enemy:</u> by our fighters	<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Damaged</u>
By day	1	1
Probable by night	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
Total	2	2

British: One bomber missing.

10. Home Security. Night of January 2nd/3rd. Cardiff. One ship in docks was hit. Three gasometers were hit and gas supplies have temporarily failed. Extensive damage was done to private and commercial property principally in the centre of the city.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED FROM LONDON

DATED JANUARY 4th, 1941

1. Naval

On January 3rd 8,000 ton tanker mined 180 miles west of Gironde. Aircraft sent to attack, 1 located tanker and near missed her. Reconnaissance January 3rd showed 1 Hipper class cruiser in dock at Brest and 16 U-boats at Bordeaux. During the night of January 3rd and 4th aircraft attacked these U-boats, reports not yet available.

Two ships of French convoy intercepted off Moroccan coast have arrived at Gibraltar and other two were expected to arrive yesterday afternoon. Attacks on shipping. British ship (2,500 tons) sunk by mine in Thames Estuary yesterday.

Convoy of ships has arrived in home waters from Sierra Leone.

2. Military.

Albania.

In the central sector 4 Italian counter-attacks on Mt. Tomor repulsed. Elsewhere nothing to report.

3. Royal Air Force.

Night of January 2nd and 3rd.

Shipyards and railways at Bremen attacked by 20 heavy bombers with good results. Five more heavy bombers attacked miscellaneous targets. During the same night 3 Blenheims from Fighter Command carried out offensive patrols against enemy aerodromes/

aerodromes in Northern France and at the same time made bomb attacks.

Night of January 3rd and 4th.

Seventy one aircraft sent to Bremen. Early reports indicate this attack very successful. One aircraft missing.

Libya.

On nights of January 1st/2nd and 2nd/3rd both heavy and medium bombers attacked military targets at Bardia and during daylight on January 2nd 44 Blenheims carried out similar operations.

Albania.

January 2nd 8 medium bombers attacked El Basan and started large fires in the centre of the town.

4. German Air Force.

January 3rd. Enemy activity chiefly over Channel and North Sea. Reconnaissance by single aircraft made over Glasgow and Cardiff. Weather was bad and our fighters made no interceptions.

Night of January 3rd/4th. About 200 enemy aircraft operated, main attack was made upon Bristol area.

5. Aircraft casualties over and from British Isles.

Enemy	Nil
British	1 bomber missing.

6. Home Security.

London. 4 fires still showing in the City on the night of January 2nd/3rd. Glare was caused by smouldering debris which cannot be extinguished until dangerous buildings in the vicinity are/

are demolished. January 3rd delayed action bomb exploded while being dealt with; 4 men killed and one wounded.

Cardiff.

Night of January 2nd/3rd. Latest casualties 48 killed and 160 seriously injured. Many fires but only about 10 buildings actually gutted. All fires extinguished by 2.a.m. Same night. Roof and windows of Llandaff Cathedral extensively damaged. No key point factory affected except indirectly through interruption of public utility services.

Bristol.

Night of January 3rd/4th. Attack started at 6:30 p.m. and continued throughout the night. Several serious fires but all under control by 6 a.m., although not before considerable damage done to private property and to some food stores and warehouses. Main damage is to principal railway station.

Number of fires caused at Bath by incendiary bomb and high explosive bombs but quickly brought under control.

Scattered bombing occurred in Newcastle West and in Lancashire.

Telegram from London dated
January 5th, 1941

Naval

Air reconnaissance on January 3rd showed one Hipper class cruiser in dry dock at Brest and 16 U-boats at Bordeaux.

2. H.M.S. "Terror" was unsuccessfully attacked by 5 enemy aircraft off Libyan coast.

3. The other 2 French merchant vessels referred to in yesterday's operational telegram have arrived at Gibraltar.

4. A British contraband control vessel bombarded Bulhar in British Somaliland yesterday morning and demolished the Residency. She was unsuccessfully attacked by enemy aircraft.

5. British ship "Nalkora" was shelled by 2 U-boats about 350 miles N.N.E. of Cape Verde Islands at 2100/2 and was last seen burning; some survivors have been picked up.

6. Military

Libya. By the evening of January 4th, 8,000 prisoners had been captured and operations were proceeding satisfactorily.

7. The garrison of Bardia was estimated on December 31st to be 20,000 with 80 field and medium guns.

8. Royal Air Force.

January 4th. During the late afternoon Blenheims from the coastal command attacked the Hipper class cruiser at Brest. It is believed that direct hits were obtained. In addition a Maas class destroyer was hit and also another vessel thought to be a destroyer. One German fighter was destroyed and one of our aircraft is missing.

One Hudson obtained six direct hits on a three thousand ton merchant vessel and another aircraft scored three direct hits on an 800 ton vessel both off South West Norwegian coast.

9. Night of the 4th/5th January. A total of 103 aircraft sent out:

<u>Locality</u>	<u>Target</u>	<u>Number of Aircraft</u>
Brest	Enemy cruiser	54 heavy bombers
Hamburg and Rotterdam	Oil	28 medium bombers.
Duisberg-Ruhrort	Inland port	9 heavy bombers
Mine-laying	-	10 aircraft
Lille and Paris	Propaganda leaflets	2 heavy bombers.

All our aircraft returned safely.

10. Libya.

On January 3rd Blenheims bombarded Bardia, Tobruk and enemy landing grounds. Three enemy aircraft on the ground were hit and one Blenheim is missing. Our fighters maintained offensive patrols and one Hurricane intercepted five Italian bombers which were attacking H.M.S. "Terror"; the Hurricane destroyed three of them and damaged a fourth.

11. Photographs show that a 10,000 ton merchant vessel was sunk during attack by our heavy bombers on Tripoli harbour on January 1st.

12. Italian East Africa

On January 3rd a Blenheim dropped bombs on the main quays at Massawa and probably hit a destroyer. Three other medium bombers severely damaged buildings at two Italian bases in Ethiopa.

13. German Air Force.

January 4th. Enemy activity was chiefly confined/

confined to shipping reconnaissances off our coasts. Only 10 aircraft came inland two of which reconnoitred Liverpool and Glasgow areas respectively. One enemy fighter and one bomber were destroyed.

14. Night of 4th/5th. About two hundred and forty aircraft were operating, main attack being directed against Avonmouth area. Mining is suspected off various East coast ports.

15. Aircraft casualties in operations over and from British Isles.

<u>Enemy</u>	<u>Fighters</u>	<u>Bombers</u>	<u>Total</u>
Destroyed by our fighters	2	1	3

British

2 bombers missing.

16. Home Security

Cardiff. Night of 2nd/3rd January. Casualties now reported 74 killed and 156 seriously injured.

17. Bristol. During air raid on Bristol night of 3rd/4th Corvette Orck Rose and one boom vessel slightly damaged. Considerable damage done to commercial sheds and timber yards.

18. Night of 4th/5th. Although a few bombs fell in Bristol and South Wales area, the main attack was on Avonmouth where a number of fires were started but all were extinguished by 10 p.m. Damage cannot yet be assessed. At Weston Super Mare, damage was caused to houses and railway property but public utility services were generally undamaged.

cx

P5F
SB

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

~~SECRET~~

January 7th 1941.

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
the latest report received from London
on the military situation. It is dated
January 6th 1941.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Henke Butler

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D.C.

Telegram from London dated January 6th 1941.

1. Naval.

Commander-in-Chief Mediterranean with the fleet which bombarded Bardia on 3rd has arrived at Alexandria. During these operations enemy aircraft attacked on several occasions but no damage or casualties were sustained apart from a few casualties in one gunboat due to a near miss.

2. Attacks on shipping.

One British vessel (5000 tons) was sunk by a submarine on January 5th 250 miles north-east of Cape Verde islands.

3. Two east-coast convoys and a channel convoy were attacked by enemy aircraft yesterday. No damage has been reported.

4. Royal Air Force. Libya.

On January 4th Blenheims damaged at least 5 dispersed aircraft at Derna and other landing grounds where direct hits were also registered on stores and tents. Other successful raids were carried out against Bardia and Tobruk which was bombed again on the same night.

5. German Air Force. Night of 5th/6th. About 80 enemy aircraft were engaged chiefly in the London area.

6. Aircraft casualties in operations over and from the British Isles:

Enemy: 1 fighter destroyed by our bombers.

British: 1 aircraft missing.

7. Home Security. Bristol.

Night of 3rd/4th. Casualties are now given

as 91 killed and 135 seriously injured. Gas supply is still badly affected and also the water supply at high levels. Electricity is normal.

8. Avonmouth.

Night of 4th/5th. No key points were seriously affected.

9. London area. Night of 5th/6th. Minor damage to some suburban railway services. Extensive damage to buildings in two districts from parachute mines.

PSF
LB
BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

January 9th, 1941

~~SECRET~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
the latest report received from London
on the military situation. It was
dated January 7th, 1941.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Herle Butler

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

TELEGRAM FROM LONDON DATED JANUARY 7, 1941.

Naval.

Two destroyers were in collision when leaving Pa (some words undecypherable) yesterday morning. Considerable damage occurred to both ships.

2. During the Libyan operations besides covering the passage and unloading of supply ships running from Alexandria to Sollum naval units have supplied 250 tons of water to the army. 18,136 Italian prisoners have been evacuated from Mersa Matruh.

3. A convoy of 12 ships has arrived in home waters from Sierra Leone without loss.

4. Royal Air Force. January 6th a Blenheim sent on a task to North West Germany was obliged to abandon it but instead attacked a 5,000 ton tanker off the Dutch coast and obtained a direct hit with a 250 lb. bomb.

5. Night of 6th/7th. All operations were cancelled owing to weather.

6. Libya. On 4th and 5th January our Hurricanes shot down 7 enemy bombers and 7 fighters. One Hurricane failed to return. During the same period heavy and medium bombers dropped 17 tons of bombs on military objectives and shipping at Tobruk and at Tripoli where they also dropped 9,000 copies of the Prime Minister's speech.

7. Home Security. All railway services in the London area are now practically normal again and at Cardiff normal traffic has been resumed.

8. Italy. There still is not sufficient
evidence/

- 2 -

evidence to say whether there are any German combatant troops in Italy. There seems no doubt however that a large military mission consisting of specialists and technicians is in Italy and that the Gestapo is extending its influence.

PSF
SB

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

10th January, 1941.

~~SECRET~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
the latest report received from London
on the military situation. It is dated
January 8th, 1941.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Naville Butler

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

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

Telegram received from London

dated January 8th, 1941

Naval

Night of 6th/7th, bombers attacked Tripoli and one large merchant vessel was hit amidships.

Explosion followed and smaller vessel probably hit.

2. Reported that Northern ports of Gulf of Bothnia closed thick ice but Southern ports being kept open by ice breakers.

3. Danish fjords are frozen up, no longer navigable ice breakers out of coal.

4. Assessment of damage done to enemy aircraft by ships' gunfire up to December 31st, 1940, from the beginning of the war 193 destroyed 91 probable 105 damaged, of these His Majesty's ships and auxiliaries accounted for 151 destroyed 79 probable and 72 damaged.

5. Military

The following Italian formations have been captured at Bardia:-

62nd Division, remainder of 63rd Division (this Division had already sustained heavy casualties previously) 1st (March 23rd) Blackshirt Division and 2nd (October 28th) Blackshirt Division less one Legion.

6. Royal Air Force

Night of 7th/8th. Bad weather - operations cancelled.

7. Albania

On January 6th 9 Blenheims successfully attacked Valona.

8. German Air Force

January 7th. Single enemy aircraft were active during the day over Eastern Countries and 8 Royal

Air/

Air Force stations were attacked but neither damage nor casualties were serious.

9. Night of 7th/8th. No enemy activity reported.

10. Aircraft casualties in operations over and from British Isles: 2 aircraft damaged.

PSF
SB

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

January 10th, 1941.

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
the latest report received from London
on the military situation. It was
dated January 9th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Harold Butler

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

PSF
LB

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

11th January, 1941.

file →

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
the latest report received from London
on the military situation. It was
dated the 10th January, 1941.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Henrik Buller

**REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED**

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.


Telegram from London dated
10th January, 1941.

Naval.

British destroyers on December 26th sank one, on December 29th captured another, and on December 31st, captured two more motor schooners being employed by Italians running through to Bardia from Tobruk by night.

2. Enemy formation of bombers made several unsuccessful attacks on British units at Sollum at dusk and dawn during operations. One torpedo-bomber believed shot down.

3. Position of our own troops precluded further bombardment of Bardia after 16.00 January 3rd.

4. Coastal Command attacked Hipper Class cruiser in Brest evening of January 9th made two hits on her, and two on adjacent docks and the Mole.

5. During the week ending January 4th, 636,081 tons of imports arrived in convoy in United Kingdom, including large quantities of aeroplanes, machine tools and munitions from Canada and United States and nearly 8,000 tons of eggs.

6. During the month of December 2,483 tons cargo destined for enemy were seized in prize.

7. Royal Air Force.

Night of January 8/9th. Attack on Naples was successful. A stick of bombs dropped across the stern of Littorio class battleship was followed by dull red glow. Hits were registered on quays, in dry dock area

/ and

and amongst merchant vessels. Many bombs fell near the railway station and a gasometer was set on fire.

8. Night of January 9th/10th. Two hundred bombers were sent out, of which 136 heavy and medium were to attack oil plants at Gelsenkirchen. Petroleum depot at Rotterdam also attacked.

9. Libya.

January 8th. 8 Blenheims and several Hurricanes attacked a transport convoy near Giarabub and caused considerable damage. Armoured car patrols are expected to have captured the remainder of the convoy. Hurricanes also machine-gunned landing grounds where two Italian bombers were destroyed and eleven others damaged. Tubruk was attacked by Blenheims. Details not yet available.

10. German Air Force.

January 9th. Our fighter command carried out exclusive offensive operations over the Straits, some squadrons penetrated the French Coast at Boulogne without encountering enemy aircraft.

Night of January 9th/10th. Enemy activity was on a large scale, about 310 aircraft being plotted all over the country and it is difficult to assess the main objectives - numerous fires were started but they were all quickly under control and no serious military damage was reported.

BF
LB

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~Secret~~

January 13th, 1941.

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
the latest report on the military
situation. It is dated January 12th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Harold Butler

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.



Telegram received from London
dated January 12th, 1941.

Naval

1. Reference to Royal Air Force attack on Naples night of January 8th - January 9th. NA: telegram January 10th at least one hit on stern of Littorio class, one hit on near stern of Littorio class.
2. Convoy from west successfully passed through Sicilian Channel escorted by cruisers and destroyers.
3. January 10th. South Pantellaria - two Italian destroyers sighted and engaged - one was sunk, the other escaped. Fifteen mines were cut off Pantellaria. During these operations eight enemy aircraft attacked our forces, two ships nearly missed no damage no casualty. Two enemy aircraft shot down by naval aircraft.
4. Reconnaissance Kiel on January 10th showed floating docks in the fore of the Gneisenau and the Scharnhorst to be now empty. Lutzow and two old battleships sighted. Emden in dry dock. Part of harbour not covered.
5. During the above Mediterranean operations the Illustrious hit by a bomb January 10th, has arrived in the harbour. Extent of damage unknown. Five aircraft flown off the Ark Royal have arrived safely at Malta. Gallant mined or torpedoed South of Pantellaria had her bow blown off and is proceeding to harbour in tow.
6. Night of January 10th-11th. Heavy air
attack/

attack on Portsmouth - preliminary reports considerable damage to dockyard, R.N. barracks Vernon, R.N. hospital and oil fuel depot. Minor damage to Dolphin. St. Vincent Royal Clarence Yard, photographic school.

7. Military. Rumania. It now seems clear that the total number of divisions in Rumania has increased to at least eight of which three have arrived during the past two weeks.

8. Royal Air Force. Night of January 10th-11th. Sixteen heavy and 10 medium bombers were sent to attack enemy cruiser at Brest. All returned safely and a preliminary report claims two direct hits on the cruiser. Some mine-laying was also carried out.

9. Libya. On night of January 8th-9th four Wellingtons attacked Benina aerodrome; large fires were started and at least 12 enemy aircraft were set alight. Eight more Wellingtons dropped more than 8 tons of bombs on Bengazi harbour and hit 5 large ships. On January 10th Blenheims attacked Tobruk three times hitting the barracks and some small ships in the harbour. On the night of January 9th-10th Wellingtons again attacked Benina aerodrome causing considerable damage to aircraft and also Berka aerodrome where large fires were started.

10. Sicily. On the same night $9\frac{1}{2}$ tons of bombs and incendiaries were dropped at Messina harbour. Cruisers and ships were straddled and bombs fell across the oil tanks.

11. German Air Force. January 10th. Some reconnaissances were carried out but enemy activity was negligible.

12. Night of January 10th - 11th. About 146 enemy aircraft were operating of which 25 were mine-laying. The attack was almost entirely confined to Portsmouth.

13. Malta. On January 9th about 12 Italian bombers approached the Island. Six attacked the aerodrome where three grounded Wellingtons were damaged. Six of our fighters intercepted and shot down four enemy aircraft an anti-aircraft fire destroyed a fifth. Same afternoon 9 German-type dive bombers unsuccessfully attacked a convoy. Two further formations were sighted later but did not attack.

14. Aircraft casualties in operations over and from British Isles. Enemy by night of January 9th - 10th: 3 destroyed - by anti-aircraft 2; January 10th - 11th: destroyed - by anti-aircraft 2 probable; destroyed by fighters 1; by day January 10th, destroyed by fighters 2, probable 2. British. Lost 2 fighters - pilots safe.

15. Home Security. Portsmouth. In addition to naval damage already reported, large fires took place at Central and Harbour stations, at Guildhall and in a timber yard. The power station was damaged and water, gas and electric services were interrupted. Two hospitals were hit and evacuated. Fires were still burning at 4.30 a.m. but were in hand in spite of lack of water. Casualties so far reported are 70 killed, 250 seriously injured.

PSF
JB

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

14th January, 1941

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein copies of
the latest reports received from London
on the military situation. They were
dated January 12th and January 13th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Harold Butler

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D.C.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED FROM LONDON

DATED JANUARY 12th, 1941

NAVAL. Am/10.

- Rescue tug "Seaman" attacked by Fokker-Wulf 250 miles from North-west Bland Bay. She shot it down and took three prisoners.
2. Sunderland aircraft sighted and hit with machine-gun fire Fokker-Wulf aircraft North of Rockall p.m./11th. This aircraft is reported down in the sea North of Bordeaux.
3. Night of the 10/11. Six Swordfish attacked shipping and docks at Palermo. Hits made on jetty and warehouses - large fires started.
4. On the 10th Illustrious was attacked four times by dive-bombers low-level bombers and torpedo planes some of which were German and sustained six direct hits by bombs and several more near misses. She was considerably damaged. Six dive bombers and two or three other bombers were shot down by Fulmars. Casualties 83 killed, 60 seriously wounded and about 40 slightly wounded including several officers.
5. Gallant has arrived in harbour. Sixty-three killed or missing - 15 wounded no officer casualties reported. Bow blown off up to forebulkhead No. 1 boiler room struck but not bridge.
6. ROYAL AIR FORCE. Night of 10/11. Dry-dock at Brest was heavily bombed by 23 aircraft. Two bombs were seen to fall on bow of German cruiser. Many fires were started. All our aircraft returned.

January/

7. January 11th. Nine medium bombers operating singly attacked shipping in Dutch harbours and off the coast. One is missing.
8. Night of 11/12. Forty-seven aircraft were sent out - 36 to attack docks and Tirpitz at Wilhelmshaven and 11 to Royal Arsenal at Turin; in addition five heavy bombers were sent mine laying.
9. LIBYA. Hurricanes maintained offensive patrols over Tobruk area throughout January 10th. They shot down one enemy fighter and destroyed six others on the ground with machine gun fire.
10. ERITREA. Night of 9/10. Our bombers attacked Italian workshop and aircraft repair depot - several fires were started.
11. ETHIOPIA. On January 9th six of our aircraft dive-bombed an Italian landing ground and destroyed two machines on the ground and probably destroyed a third.
12. GERMAN AIR FORCE. Night of 11/12. About 105 enemy aircraft made a short concentrated attack on London.
13. Aircraft casualties in operations over and from British Isles.
- Enemy: 1 probably by Anti-aircraft night 11/12.
- British: 1 bomber missing.
14. 11th. HOME SECURITY. Night of 11/12. Attack on London lasted about three hours and both high explosives and incendiary bombs were dropped in more than 50 districts; fires were started but were quickly under/



under control. Damage does not appear to
have been serious. Chief incident occurred
at an underground railway station in City
where a bomb penetrated a subway.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED FROM LONDON
DATED JANUARY 13th, 1941

NAVAL

On 12th coastal aircraft made the following attacks. One 4,000 tons merchant vessel at entrance to Songe Fiord - attacked by fighters, prevented observation results but smoke came from stern of the ship. Another ship of 4,600 tons in the same area a torpedo missed ahead but one bomb hit the after end of the ship. On 2,000 tons merchant vessel off Borkum a torpedo missed but bombs were dropped which may have hit.

2. Convoy of 31 ships has just arrived without loss from Sierra Leone.

3. "Emerald" was attacked by aircraft off Lizard on the night of the 12th/13th, superficial damage from near misses.

4. The "Adventure" was machine gunned the previous night off the west coast no serious damage or casualties.

5. ROYAL AIR FORCE. Night of 12th/13th. 79 aircraft were sent out; 30 to Brest (German cruiser) 24 to aerodromes and shipping in occupied France, 7 to Venice (oil target) 2 to arsenal at Turin and 4 to an oil target in Germany, 3 more were sent to drop leaflets in occupied France. One bomber missing.

6. LIBYA. On 9th/10th 4 Hurricanes in the course of offensive patrols shot down 7 enemy aircraft and destroyed one on the ground without loss. On

January/

January 10th 1½ tons of bombs were dropped on Tobruk, one ton on Benghazi harbour and seven tons on two Italian aerodromes.

7. GERMAN AIR FORCE. January 12th.

Only a few coastal patrols were reported; 1 enemy aircraft was damaged by our fighters off Libya and another was probably destroyed over Shetlands.

8. Night of 12th/13th. A short and concentrated attack was made on London docks area and Thames Estuary by about 120 aircraft.

9. HOME SECURITY. Attack on London was principally incendiary. Fires were caused in 2 docks and at 3 war industrial factories but all were quickly brought under control and no serious damage has been reported.

PSF
LB

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.
January 16th, 1941.

~~SECRET~~

Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Harold Butler

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

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

Telegram from London dated January 14th.

1. Naval. "Asturias" intercepted French "Mendoza" 8,199 tons, who sailed from Montevideo January 12th p.m. near Lobos Island. "Mendoza" evaded boarding by anchoring in territorial waters "Asturias" lay off outside but in sight.
2. On January 10th dive-bombing attacks on "Illustrious" and other units were carried out with great determination and skill suggesting German crews. During the first attack 2 enemy aircraft shot down by gunfire while one Fulmar one Swordfish were shot down, crews saved. During the second attack Fulmars claimed destroyed 6 or 7 enemy aircraft.
"Warspite" slightly damaged by near miss. A shadowing aircraft was also shot down by Fulmars.
3. The convoy which was passed through the Mediterranean arrived at destination on January 12th.
4. Submarine "Pandora" sank 2 Italian supply ships off Sardinia on January 9th a.m.
5. Royal Air Force. Night of January 13th/14th. 31 bombers were sent out, 14 against shipping in the channel ports, and 12 mine-laying. Preliminary reports record a very successful attack at Lorient.
6. Sicily. On January 12th 10 Wellingtons attacked Catania aerodrome. Several fires were started amongst buildings and aircraft and some 9 of which were seen to have been destroyed. One aircraft is missing and one landed in the sea but the crew saved.
7. German Air Force. Night of January 13th/14th. Estimated that 50 enemy aircraft operating of which 30 were mine-laying. Remainder attacked Plymouth.

8. Aircraft casualties in operations over and from the British Isles. Enemy Nil. British one aircraft missing.
9. Home Security. Night of January 10th/11th. Portsmouth. Electric supply was partially restored early January 13th.
10. Night of January 13th/14th. Plymouth. Attack was short; although some serious fires were started all were quickly under control. Gas supplies are temporarily interrupted in Plymouth but not at Devonport. Power station was hit and the supply cut off but it will be possible to switch across to grid very shortly.
11. Albania. Identification of the eleventh division brings the total of Italian divisions in Albania to twenty.
12. U.S.S.R. Since November 1st there has been continued increase of the forces in Kiev and Odessa military districts and 4 cavalry divisions 35 infantry divisions and 7 tank brigades are now located in this part of the country. It is thought that such concentration at this season is not solely for defensive reasons and that an agreed occupation of Eastern Moldavia is a possibility. The absence of defensive measures by Germany tends to suggest this theory.

PSF
LB

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~
January 16th, 1941.

Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Herle Butler

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

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

Telegram from London dated January 15th, 1941.

- Naval. As announced in the press "Southampton" was hit by bombs from dive-bombers on January 11th. This was 180 miles East South East of Malta. Fire caused near after turrets spread to engine room and magazines. Owing to flooding of the latter she was later abandoned and sunk by our forces.
2. "Eumaeus" British 7472 tons with 100 service personnel on board torpedoed by U-boat 120 miles west Freetown a.m. January 14th. Reported ship abandoned 305 survivors picked up. No damage was done to dockyard or naval establishments during air raid at Plymouth night of January 13th/14th.
3. Royal Air Force. Night of January 14th/15th. Six Hudsons were despatched to attack air bases at Stavanger. All aircraft have returned but detailed reports not yet received. All operations of bomber command were cancelled owing to weather conditions.
4. Night of January 13th/14th. Three Blenheims attacked Hamburg and registered hits on military buildings.
5. Greece. Albania. January 13th. Six Blenheims attacked Berat. Road bridges believed to have been hit.
6. German Air Force. Night of January 14th/15th. No enemy activity reported.
7. Rumania. Total German aircraft in Rumania are now estimated at about 250 of all types. Types include Messerschmidt 109 Heinkels 126 Junkers 52.
8. Italy Strength of German aircraft in Italy is estimated approximately 120 established types. Types include long range bombers and bomber reconnaissance (Junker 88 Dornier 17 Heinkel 111) dive bombers (Junker 87) and transport (Junker 52).

PSF
BB

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

17th January, 1941

~~_____~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
the latest report received from London
on the military situation. It was dated
January 16th, 1941.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Wente Butler

**REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED**

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D.C.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED FROM LONDON

DATED JANUARY 16th, 1941

NAVAL

An aircraft from the Newcastle landed at Punta Del Este (Uruguay) 0200/15 owing to lack of fuel. The crew of 3 detained pending result of representations.

At 0230/15 Hudson aircraft returning from night operation dropped two small bombs on the after part of 5000 ton merchant vessel in Stavanger Roads.

The convoys of 38 ships from Sierra Leone and Gibraltar have arrived safely in the United Kingdom.

During the last 6 months of 1940 aircraft armament of merchant vessels has caused the following casualties to enemy aircraft : 15 destroyed, 9 probable and 51 damaged.

From the beginning of the war to December 1st, 1940, naval aircraft have caused the following casualties to enemy aircraft. 52 destroyed certain 10 probable, 49 damaged.

ROYAL AIR FORCE. Night of January 15/16th. Following targets attacked: Wilhelmshaven Naval Base and dockyard at Emden, petroleum sheds at Rotterdam, petrol harbour at Brest, Hipper class cruiser. A total of 110 aircraft despatched on these operations.

SICILY. January 15th. Photographic reconnaissance of Catania aerodrome disclosed 30-40

aircraft burnt out or severely damaged. There were many bomb craters on the areodrome, one hangar was totally wrecked, another severely damaged and hits have been obtained on administrative buildings.

GERMAN AIR FORCE. Night of January 15th/16th. Preliminary report gives total of 110 enemy aircraft operating over the United Kingdom. Interceptions by our fighters resulted in the destruction of at least two enemy aircraft and a further two damaged without loss.

Aircraft casualties in operations over and from the British Isles. Enemy destroyed 2, damaged 3.

ASF
JB
BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

January 20th, 1941.

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein copies of
the latest reports on the military
situation. They are dated January 17th
and 18th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Neville Butler

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

Telegram received from London
dated January 17th, 1941.

1. Naval. His Majesty's destroyer Woolston, escorting a convoy sighted 3 enemy E boats off Harwich at 2045 hours yesterday and drove them off before they could attack the convoy.

2. Mediterranean. Heavy air attack made on Malta p.m., January 16th, "Illustrious" apparently the main objective, hit aft but not seriously damaged, "Perth" near miss and received bad shaking, M.T. ship "Essex" badly damaged. Total of 70 aircraft made 2 attacks first by JU 84's, second by JU 87's, escorted by Italian fighters. Dive bombing attacks driven well home. Our fighters shot down or damaged several machines. A/A guns ditto, and some by indirect guns not known but total claim is nine certain, three probable and two possible.

3. Convoys. Two convoys totalling 58 ships have arrived in home waters from Canada without loss. There were 17 tankers and 15 cargoes of steel.

4. Royal Air Force. Night of January 16th/17th. 86 aircraft were sent out, of which 81 went to Wilhelmshaven docks. The remainder carried out light attacks on oil plants and on shipping. Five heavy bombers are missing.

5. German Air Force. Night of January 16th/17th. 183 enemy aircraft operated over the country, of which 130 were over Bristol area.

6. Home Security. Night of January 16th/17th. Bristol, Avonmouth were attacked early and a number

of/

of fires were started which were quickly under control. A later attack on Avonmouth at 2 a.m. started several small fires including one at an oil cistern which has already been put out. At Bristol a direct hit on a generating station has cut off electricity in a large area, but it is hoped to restore supply by tonight. Continued bombing elsewhere caused little damage.

7. Italian East Africa. Morale of the Italian prisoners of war in the Sudan is high compared with the morale in Libya which could hardly be lower. Sudan prisoners often refer to importance of Mogadiscio, where supplies from Japan have been arriving.

Telegram received from London
dated January 18th, 1941.

Naval. Corvette Rhododendron mined and one mine sweeper damaged by mines off Liverpool on January 17th both reached harbour. 13 mines were exploded off Liverpool on January 17th. In addition damage to ships by air raids on Malta 16 dockyard had many hits, damage caused to buildings electric power and telephone service. Enemy losses now reported ten certain one probable five damaged.

2. Almeda Star with 187 F.A.A. personnel on board torpedoed 270 miles northwest of Bloody Foreland on January 17th further report awaited.

3. Royal Air Force. Night of 16th/17th January. Wilhelmshaven Docks were located by 46 aircraft and attack is described as excellent. Large fires persisted especially at the railway station and oil tanks. Some explosions and fires were started in the docks at Emden and Rotterdam and "pitiless results" reported from three channel ports. Three heavy bombers successfully laid down mines.

4. January 17th Hudson sighted an escorted convoy of 6 merchant vessels off the Dutch coast. Subsequently our aircraft obtained direct hits on 3 merchant vessels and also on a mine layer which was left in a sinking condition; these ships formed part of a total of 40 merchant vessels and seven escort vessels moving along the Dutch Coast.

5. Night of January 17th/18th. 15 bombers sent to Brest but bad weather hampered localisation of targets. All returned safely. One heavy bomber

dropped/

dropped leaflets over Northern France. Owing to bad weather over our aerodromes all other operations cancelled.

6. German Air Force. January 17th over the Straits and Thames Estuary. About 60 enemy aircraft patrolling off and behind Cap Gris Nez when our fighters destroyed one aircraft and damaged another. In addition Hurricanes destroyed one bomber and damaged another off the British coast.

7. Aircraft casualties in operations over and from British Isles; Enemy two destroyed by our fighters, two damaged. British. One fighter destroyed.

8. Home Security. Night of January 16th/17th. Avonmouth. Large part of the town may be without gas for four or five days. Many fires were prevented by house and street distribution of sand.

9. Bristol. Some key points will be without electric power until January 20th.

10. Night of January 17th/January 18th. Main attack Swansea and lasted for 6 hours. All fires extinguished by 2:30 a.m. Most damage was done to non-military property but some which may prove serious occurred in the Docks.

PSF
EB

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

January 21st, 1941.

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of the
latest report on the military situation.
It is dated January 19th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Wavle Butler

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

Telegram received from London
dated January 19th, 1941.

Naval. Parthian reports sinking with torpedo (words undecypherable) 7000 tons supply ship off Cape Spartivento, Southern Italy.

2. On the 18th January enemy air attack on convoy in Thames Estuary caused no damage.

3. The night of the 18th/19th west-bound channel convoy off Dover was shelled, no damage reported.

A convoy of 27 ships has arrived in home ports from Canada.

4. Asturias boarded French Mendoza a.m. 16 miles from the Brazilian coast in latitude 27 degrees south.

5. Tanker British Union reported 2120 hours January 18th being shelled by enemy raider 650 miles West by South of Canary Isles. A.M.C. Arawa in the vicinity observed shelling, closed position but shelling ceased before her arrival and she sighted nothing but later picked up some survivors. No further report received of Almeda Star. Search being made.

6. German Air Force. Malta. On January 18th 80 German bombers escorted by fighters made high level attacks on 2 aerodromes dropping 40 1,000 lb. bombs on each. Preliminary reports as follows.

7. Halfar. Direct hits on one hangar, 5 aircraft damaged, many craters but aerodrome remains

serviceable/

serviceable. Officers' mess seriously damaged telephone communications cut and water mains hit.

8. Luga. 2 hangars destroyed and 2 damaged. 1 aircraft burnt and another badly damaged and (words undecypherable) slightly damaged by bomb splinters. Electric power telephone and water services cut. Aerodrome temporarily unserviceable. Only casualties reported are 2 airmen killed and 5 injured.

9. Five Hurricanes and 3 Fulmars on patrol destroyed 6 enemy aircraft. Anti-aircraft claim 3 direct hits. 2 Fulmars lost, but 1 pilot saved.

10. Home Security. 17th/18th. Swansea. In docks hydraulic and electric power systems were damaged and day work is at present stopped. National Oil Refineries temporarily shut down owing to lack of electricity and water. In one dry dock main shops and stores were gutted and considerable damage caused to plant and machinery.

11. At Weymouth some damage was caused to locomotives and rolling stock.

PSF
EB

X Perfi

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

21st January, 1941.

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of the latest report received from London on the military situation. It was dated the 20th January, 1941.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Harold Butler

**REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED**

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

Telegram from London of the
20th January, 1941.

Naval.

On January 17th and 18th, six escorted French merchant ships totalling 33,000 tons passed through the Straits of Gibraltar.

2. Attacks on shipping. Armed merchant cruiser "Arawa" reported on the 19th having picked up one boat-load of survivors from "British Union." Search continuing.

3. An enemy raider is reported to have sunk two Norwegian "whaling" ships 12,200 tons each in the Antarctic waters south of South Georgia.

4. British ship (5,000 tons) has been bombed and sunk of Harwich. No further news received concerning "Almeda Star", "Zealandic" or the Greek ship mentioned in third sub-paragraph, paragraph one of the summary of the 17th.

5. Royal Air Force.

Libya. On the night of the 17th/18th, our aircraft dropped 13 tons of bombs on "Tobruk" and started a very large fire near petrol dumps.

6. All home operations on the 18th and the night of the 19th/20th were cancelled owing to weather.

7. German Air Force.

January 19th considerable enemy activity over shipping off the south and east coasts. A bomber was shot down into the sea by our fighters. Only three enemy aircraft penetrated a short distance inland over the South-East Coast.

8. The night of the 19th/20th. About 150 enemy aircraft were operating of which 35 were mine-laying. Activity was chiefly over London, home counties and Hampshire. Two enemy bombers were certainly destroyed during the night, and two more probably.

9. Malta.

January 19th. Eighty German bombers escorted by several Italian fighters dive-bombed the Grand harbour and dockyards. Eight of our aircraft intercepted and destroyed eleven enemy including ten bombers, probably destroyed three others and damaged four more. In addition anti-aircraft claim to have shot down six bombers. One Hurricane is missing. Damage was caused to Government property in the dockyard and to civilian property elsewhere, no casualties reported.

10. Aircraft casualties in operations over and from the British Isles:

<u>Enemy</u>	<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Probable</u>
By A.A. fire night of 16th/17th	1	nil.
By A.A. fire night of 17th/18th	1	"
By A.A. fire night of 19th/20th	2	2

British: Nil.

11. Home Security.

The night of the 19th/20th. Bombing was spasmodic and distributed although London and Southampton areas received chief attention.

Apart from one case of industrial damage in East
/ London

London and some damage to railway work shops, and public utility services in Southampton area, only dwelling house property was affected to any appreciable extent. All fires were quickly put out.

12. Road communications are blocked by snow in the North-West of Scotland and to a less extent in North-East and North-West England. All important roads in East Kent are clear.



F. Perfi.

*PSF
LB*

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

22nd January, 1941.

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of the latest report received from London on the military situation. It was dated the 21st January, 1941.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Herle Butler

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

Telegram from London of
January 21, 1941.

1. Naval.

During second air attack on Malta on January 19th the "Illustrious" sustained serious damage from near-misses. Port engine and one boiler-room out of action - second boiler room damaged and ship holed on both sides. No further casualties.

2. A British ship (7,200 tons) bound for Alexandria was torpedoed in the Gulf of Athens on January 19th. It is hoped that she has reached Piraeus.

3. Search for "Zealandic" and "Almeda Star" has been abandoned.

4. Royal Air Force.

January 20th and night of January 20th/21st. All operations cancelled owing to weather.

5. Ethiopia.

On January 18th five bombers attacked grounded aircraft on Italian landing ground and on the night of January 18th/19th the submarine base at Massawa and a concentration of mechanised transport in Cassala sector were bombed.

6. Albania.

On January 19th six Blenheims attacked mechanised transport and military targets at Berat and started fires.

7. German Air Force.

January 20th. Enemy activity consisting mainly of reconnaissance off our coast. Only 10 aircraft came inland. Night of January 20th/21st. No enemy activity reported.

8. Aircraft casualties in operations over and from British Isles:

Enemy: by A.A. night of January 19th/20th.

5 destroyed. 1 probable. 2 damaged.

British: Nil.

9. Home Security.

Swansea. Night of January 17th/18th. Casualties now reported as 53 killed and 34 seriously injured.

JP

BF
JB

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~
24th January, 1941.

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of the latest report received from London on the military situation. It was dated 23rd January, 1941.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Herbert Butterfield

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

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


Telegram from London
of the 23rd January, 1941

Naval.

An His Majesty's trawler and rescue tug Saint Cyrus were mined and sunk in Humber area January 22nd.

2. An East Coast convoy unsuccessfully attacked by enemy aircraft in Thames Estuary.

3. Damaged Italian submarine at Las Palmas is reported to have refueled and to be preparing to leave.

4. Tonnage of damaged merchant vessels under repair or awaiting repair amounts to over 1 million tons.

5. Military

By January 21st, our southern column had reached a point 26 miles east of Tessenei without meeting enemy.

6. Kenya.

Italian Somaliland front. Our troops have occupied an Italian post 57 miles North-east of Garissa.

7. Royal Air Force.

Night of January 22nd/23rd. 40 aircraft were sent to industrial targets at Dusseldorf - all returned safely. Results not yet available. Owing to heavy cloud they had very great difficulty in finding their primary/

primary targets but fires were started in the area of attack which assisted later aircraft. Several alternate targets were also attacked.

8. On January 22nd, aircraft from Aden dropped over a ton of bombs on a stores depot on Jibuti - Adis Ababa railway.

9. German Air Force.

January 22nd. Enemy activity was confined to reconnaissances by single aircraft off the East coast and Thames estuary. Night of January 22nd/23rd, there was very little enemy activity.

10. Aircraft casualties in operations over and from the British Isles.

<u>ENEMY</u>	<u>DESTROYED</u>	<u>DAMAGED</u>
By our fighters		
Bombers	2	3
British: 1 Bomber missing.		

FP confi

*PSF
LB*

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

23rd January, 1941.

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of the latest report received from London on the Military situation. It was dated the 23rd January, 1941.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Herle Butler

**REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED**

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

Telegram from London of
January 23rd 1941.

Naval.

1. During air raids on Malta on January 19th M/T ship Essex received extensive damage to super structure and engine room. Casualties 15 killed 23 wounded.
2. A damaged Italian U boat reported arrived Las Palmas, Canary Islands.
3. "Vichy" French merchant vessel with cargo of petrol seized being sent to Cape Town under armed guard.
4. Convoy of 24 ships arrived in home waters from Canada including five tankers and eight cargoes of steel and pig iron.

Military.

5. Sudan. Our leading troops are now 20 miles across the frontier of Erythrea.

Royal Air Force.

6. 21st and 21st/22nd. All operations cancelled owing to weather.
7. Libya. On the night of the 19th/20th our aircraft dropped over 6 tons of bombs on military targets in Tobruk.
8. Sicily. On the same night over 10 tons of H.E. and 2,000 incendiaries were dropped on aerodrome of Catania where 7 grounded aircraft were seen to catch fire. One heavy bomber also attacked Brindisi railway station.

9. German Air Force.

January 21st. Slight enemy activity took place. Bad weather prevented interceptions by our fighters.

The night of the 21st/22nd. No enemy activity reported.

10. Malta. January 21st. Several single enemy aircraft dropped bombs which caused damage to private property but none of military importance.

11. On January 20th 9 enemy aircraft attacked the Pireaus damaging cargo vessel. One aircraft was shot down by our fighters.

PSF
LB

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Handwritten initials and scribbles

~~SECRET~~

27th January, 1941.

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
the latest report received from London
on the military situation. It was
dated the 25th January, 1941.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Halifax

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

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

Telegram from London of the
25th January, 1941.

1. Nineteen ships out of convoy of 22 have arrived in the United Kingdom from Sierre Leone remaining three were sunk or damaged by air attack. Cargoes mostly foodstuffs.
2. Westbound convoy of 36 ships has cleared western approaches.
3. Italian submarine previously reported at Las Palmas left there early a.m. January 23rd.
4. British merchant ship on passage to Durban reported being bombed a.m. January 24th 300 miles east of the Seyschelles.
5. Reference paragraph 6 of telegram of January 24th. Two ships of 1,900 and 3,800 tons are reported salvagable, but there is no trace of the others.
6. Military.
Libya. Forward detachments of our armoured troops are 35 miles south of Bomba and surrounding Mekili. Enemy rearguard is being engaged astride Bomba-Derna road ten miles south east of Derna.
7. Royal Air Force.
Eretrea.
Fighters of the South African Air Force shot down one Italian bomber and damaged 2 others over Keru on January 23rd.
8. Home Front.
Night of January 24th/25th. Six Beauforts dropped 3 land mines and several bombs at submarine base of Lorient. Accurate observation is not possible.

9. German Air Force.

January 24th. Coastal reconnaissance by
single aircraft only. Night of January 24th/25th.
No enemy activity.

PSF
LB

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

January 27th, 1941.

~~SECRET~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein copies of
the two latest reports received from
London on the military situation. They
are dated January 25th and 26th respectively.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Stanhope

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.


Telegram received from London
dated January 25th, 1941

1. Nineteen ships out of convoy of 22 have arrived in the United Kingdom from Sierra Leone remaining three were sunk or damaged by air attack. Cargoes mostly foodstuffs.
2. Westbound convoy of 36 ships has cleared western approaches.
3. Italian submarine previously reported at Las Palmas left there early a.m. January 23rd.
4. British merchant ship on passage to Durban reported being bombed a.m. January 24th 300 miles east of the Seyschelles.
5. Reference paragraph 6 of operational No. 24. Two ships of 1900 and 3800 tons are reported salvageable, but there is no trace of the others.
6. Military. Libya. Forward detachments of our armoured troops are 35 miles south of Bomba and surrounding Mekili. Enemy rearguard is being engaged astride Bomba-Derna road ten miles south east of Derna.
7. Royal Air Force. Eritrea. Fighters of the South African Air Force shot down one Italian bomber and damaged two others over Keru on January 23rd.
8. Home front. Night of January 24 - 25th. Six Beauforts dropped 3 land mines and several bombs at submarine base of Lorient. Accurate observation is not possible.
9. German Air Force. January 24th. Coastal reconnaissance by single aircraft only. Night of January 24 - 25th. No enemy activity.


Telegram from London dated
January 26th, 1941.

1. Naval. His Majesty's Ship "Illustrious" at Alexandria p.m. of January 25th. Two British cruisers - part of a covering force - were attacked by German aircraft 80 bombers W.S.W. of Stavanger January 24th without damage.
2. A British ship (1100 tons) was sunk by mine in Thames Estuary January 24th. Nineteen survivors out of 22.
3. Military The garrison of Girabub is estimated at 1000 Italian and 700 Libyans. They are suffering from bad water and food shortage.
4. Kenya. In several areas our patrols are now well into enemy territory.
5. Royal Air Force. January 25th and night of January 25th/26th. No operations of importance.
6. Mediterranean On night of January 23rd/24th our aircraft dropped 2½ tons of bombs on Maritza aerodrome.
7. Libya. On January 24th three enemy landing grounds in Bengazi area were attacked at one of which two grounded aircraft were damaged.
8. Eritrea. On January 24th our bombers attacked Bishia railhead hitting station, railway tracks and motor transport. Our fighters attacked a train on the railway and army co-operation aircraft bombed Umm hangar and machine gunned trenches. One enemy aircraft was probably damaged, another destroyed on the ground and a third damaged on the ground.
9. German Air Force. January 25th. Activity negligible and confined to single aircraft.

10. Night of January 25th/26th. Only 13
enemy aircraft operating. Some minelaying suspected.

PSF
GIB

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~Secret~~

file

January 29th, 1941.

**REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED**

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
the latest report received from London,
on the military situation. It is dated
January 27th, 1941.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Halifax
→

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt.

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

22

Telegram received from London
dated January 27th, 1941.

- Naval. Photographic reconnaissance of Brest on the morning of January 26th showed dock being flooded and therefore German cruiser may be intending to put to sea.
2. 2 ex-American destroyers and 4 others of the Royal Canadian Navy have arrived in home waters.
3. Mediterranean. During the passage of the Illustrious to Alexandria, enemy aircraft (words undecypherable) failed to locate her but escorting cruiser forces were attacked by 12 high level and 18 dive-bombers on the evening of January 24th, when about 130 miles north of Benghazi. In spite of many near misses, no damage was sustained by our ships; 4 or 5 aircraft believed to have been damaged.
4. Attacks on shipping. The afternoon of January 26th East Coast convoys were bombed in the Thames Estuary. One British ship (1600 tons) was hit and beached and Swedish vessel (2000 tons) was set on fire. 2 enemy aircraft destroyed by escort vessels.
5. 1 enemy aircraft was shot down by a trawler, the crew of 4 taken prisoners.
6. Military Libya. Our troops are now in position 10 miles southeast of Derna with forward elements overlooking the town.
7. Bulgaria The thaw continues and the roads open in the plains. Mountain passes believed also open.
8. Royal Air Force. Night of January 26th/27th, 17 heavy bombers were sent to attack industrial targets at Hanover. Reports not yet received.

9. Erythrea. January 25th, 5 Gauntlets dive-bombed enemy motor transports near Barentu with considerable effect.
10. Albania. January 25th, medium bombers scored direct hits on military targets near El Basan.
11. Malta Night of January 25th/26th an Italian seaplane disabled cruising round alighted off the island; the crew of 4 taken prisoner.
12. German Air Force. January 26th. Enemy activity slight, although shipping attacked in the Thames Estuary and off Norfolk coast. Night of January 26th/27th. Only one enemy aircraft came over.
13. Aircraft Casualties. In operations over and from British Isles. Enemy: Destroyed, 3 aircraft. British: nil
14. Home Security, Night of January 25th/26th. Now reported 2 parachute mines also some high explosive and incendiary bombs dropped at a south Wales aerodrome. Damage slight and operations not affected but 20 military personnel killed.

BSF
GB

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

January 30th, 1941

~~SECRET~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
the latest report received from London
on the military situation. It was
dated January 28th, 1941.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours

Halifax

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

The Honourable,

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D.C.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED FROM LONDON
DATED JANUARY 28th, 1941

NAVAL

Greek submarine claims to have sunk 3 Italian ships on January 24th.

12 enemy mines were exploded, 2 exploded spontaneously in United Kingdom waters on January 27th. Enemy mine laying activities are being dealt with satisfactorily and our losses by mine are still very moderate.

MILITARY

In the Tobruk area, estimated 150,000 gallons of petrol captured. The water situation good.

ERYTHREA

By the evening of January 25th, our forces were astride the Barentu - Agordat road near Agordat, in the Cogni area action has developed successfully. Total prisoners now 1,200 including 30 officers. Umm Hagar occupied January 25th.

ROYAL AIR FORCE

Night of January 26th/27th. A very good attack upon Hanover post and telegraph office was carried out by 16 heavy bombers. Weather was clear, all bombs dropped in target area starting large fires. Leaflets were also dropped. All our aircraft returned safely.

JANUARY 27th. Weather conditions were

bad/

bad. At dusk a Beaufort dropped a land mine near the Port Militaire at Brest.

NIGHT OF JANUARY 27th/28th.

All operations cancelled.

LIBYA.

On January 26th Blenheims again bombed Italian landing grounds. Our fighters shot down 3 C.R. 42 (Fiat biplane) fighters near Mechili and 2 G.50 (Fiat monoplane) fighters near Derna. One Hurricane lost, pilot safe, one Gladiator missing and 2 damaged.

ERYTHREA

Same day our aircraft bombed communications and machine gunned a motor transport in the Agordat area.

GERMAN AIR FORCE

January 27th. Enemy activity slight. A few coastal and inland reconnaissances by single aircraft. One JU 80 bomber shot down by anti-aircraft in Lincolnshire.

NIGHT OF JANUARY 27th/28. No enemy operations.

AIRCRAFT CASUALTIES IN OPERATIONS OVER AND FROM THE BRITISH ISLES.

<u>ENEMY</u>	<u>DESTROYED</u>
By A. A.	1 Bomber
British	Nil

SPAIN

No new military evidence of preparations for German move into Spain.

ITALY

Reports of German troops in Italy are

are still conflicting no formation yet identified. There are probably some German troops in southern Italy and Sicily, perhaps for guarding aerodromes. No evidence of sufficient German forces for attack on Malta.

BULGARIA.

Preparations to facilitate German move through the country continue and communications are being steadily improved.