

Great Britain: Military Situation: Feb 1941

PSF
HB
BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

January 31st, 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 29th, 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 29th, 1941.

Naval.

1. Three Vichy French submarines escorted by a sloop passed Gibraltar westbound P.M. the 28th.
2. French merchant vessel "Mendoza" intercepted off South American coast on the 13th has arrived at Ascension Island.
3. "Westcott" on escort duty was damaged in collision with "Bluebell" P.M. 28th, 140 miles West by North of Bloody Foreland and is proceeding to harbour under her own steam.
4. Coastal Command on the 28th carried out nearly all normal patrols and also patrols as far as Denmark Strait and Iceland waters.
5. On the 27th Naval A/C attacked enemy convoy off East Coast of Tunisia. One merchant vessel 4,000 tons was sunk and one of 6,000 tons damaged by torpedoes, several near-misses also made with bombs.
6. Royal Air Force. A/C attacked Naples aerodrome and railways and Catania aerodrome on the night of the 27th/28th. Attacks appeared successful.
7. Swedish merchant vessel reported sighting enemy raider 1260 N.N.E. of New Guinea A.M. 27th.
8. Rumania. Identification of further German division brings total minimum number to 10 including three or four armoured and two motorized, of which four including one armoured and one motorized are probably in Dobrudja. The total divisions may be considerably higher.

9. Royal Air Force. On the night of 27th/28th seven heavy bombers attacked two aerodromes in Sicily and one at Naples scoring direct hits on buildings and starting several fires. Two other heavy bombers attacked central station with good results.

10. German Air Force. January 28th visibility was very poor on account of low cloud and mist. Enemy operations slight and carried out by single aircraft which dropped a few bombs through the clouds on London boroughs and also at Portsmouth.

11. Night of 28th/29th. Some mine-laying suspected by a few enemy aircraft.

PSF
JB

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

January 31st, 1941.

~~Secret~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
the latest report on the military
situation. It is dated January 30th.

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 30th, 1941.

1. Naval. As a result of U-boat attack on a homeward bound convoy 230 miles west of Ireland a.m. January 29th, three ships totalling 14,500 tons were sunk and a 10,000 ton tanker was damaged. This U-boat was being well hunted. Two other ships of this convoy were attacked by aircraft west of Bloody Foreland; further reports awaited. A British merchant vessel reports being shelled by an enemy raider 800 miles west of Freetown p.m. January 29th. Another vessel, the "Afric Star", believed also attacked in about the same position.
2. "British Union" attacked on January 18th by a raider was finally torpedoed and sunk at midnight on January 18th/19th.
3. A Sunderland aircraft escorting a convoy in the northwestern approaches fought and seriously damaged F.W. Condor a.m. January 29th. The air gunner in the former was wounded.
4. On January 29th reconnaissance aircraft observed one of several enemy merchant vessels outside Tripoli harbour strike a mine which exploded under the forepart. She was photographed well down by the bows.
5. It is reported that at Tobruk the port is open to sea traffic. Cap Giorgio completely gutted. Considerable damage to the quays and cranes. There are a number of sunken vessels in the harbour and a good number of lighters and small craft. Plenty of coal and water, the boom defences 80 per cent efficient and internal communications efficient.

6. Military.

Kenya. At 7:15 p.m. on January 28th South African troops reached the landing ground capturing Moyale. Indication of enemy withdrawal from the Moyale area; forward troops in contact with the enemy on forward slopes of escarpment.

7. Royal Air Force. Night of January 29th/30th. Thirty-two heavy bombers were sent to attack Wilhelmshaven docks. Reports not yet received.

8. German Air Force. January 29th. Reconnaissance flights including bombing by 17 aircraft only.

9. Night of January 29th/30th. Thirty-eight raiders were plotted from the Dutch coast who visited East Anglia and the east London area.

PSF
GB

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

~~SECRET~~
February 3rd, 1941.

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein copies of the
latest reports on the military situation.
They are dated January 31st and February
1st.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Hanford

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

Telegram received from London
dated January 31st, 1941.

1. Royal Air Force. 30th/31st. Weather prevented all operations.
2. Albania. On January 28th 1 enemy aircraft was destroyed by Gladiators.
3. German Air Force. January 30th. 47 enemy aircraft were operating and by taking advantage of low (some words undecypherable) they dropped a few bombs in various localities in southeast England and also in London area. One J.88 crashed on the East Coast.
4. 30th/31st. No enemy activity.
5. Greece. 24 enemy aircraft reconnoitred Crete and bombed Heraklion 29th.



Telegram received from London
dated February 1st, 1941.

1. Naval. Devonshire intercepted the French merchant vessel Desirade, who had 1500 troops on board, 650 miles southwest of Freetown a.m. January 31st. This ship was released later.

2. Suez Canal dredger bombed and sunk Lake Timsah a.m. January 30th. Parachute mines have been dropped in canal which is closed temporarily.

3. Bad weather impeded coastal aircraft patrols on January 31st but some were flown and convoys in Northwestern approaches were escorted.

4. Norwegian vessel 1436 tons attacked by aircraft 7.40 January 31st 5 miles south of Lends End, shot it down in flames 40 yards ahead of the ship.

5. Other attacks by aircraft on January 31st included one on a ship in East Coast convoy, an attack on another East Coast convoy, and attacks on one unknown and one Belgian ship in Northwest approaches. The last was also attacked on January 30th.

6. Reports by survivors of the British ship attacked by raider 800 miles west of Freetown, indicated ship may have been sunk by Admiral Scheer supported by armed merchant raider.

7. German Air Force. January 31st. Eighty enemy aircraft were operating of which 23 entered central London area. Working individually, they

dropped/

dropped their bombs through low clouds and also attacked shipping in the Thames estuary with low-level machine gun fire. One crashed in Sussex, and another was probably destroyed by fighters near Yarmouth.

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

<u>German</u>	<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Probable</u>
By Norwegian ship	1	nil
Crashed	1	nil
By fighters	nil	1
Totals	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>British</u>	nil	nil

9. Home Security. Daylight 30th January casualties in the London area 13 killed and 59 seriously injured.

10. Daylight 31st January. Bombing occurred in 25 London boroughs and caused one serious fire. A radio factory was hit, but no serious effect on production is expected. Three hospitals were damaged. Nine barrage balloons were shot down including six in London area.

PSF
JB

F. B. Copi

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

February 4th, 1941

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose heréin a copy of
the latest report received from London
on the military situation. It was
dated February 2nd, 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 dated February 2nd.

Naval.

British ship "Troilus" reported suspicious vessel one hundred and eighty miles west of Seychelles a.m. the first. She has not answered signals since then. Coastal aircraft patrols continue to be hampered by weather.

2. P.M. January 31st. Two aircraft probably German bombed and hit vessel conveying Italian prisoners near Sidi Barrani. She drifted ashore but the Italians panicked and about fifty were drowned.

3. Royal Air Force. On the night of February 1st/February 2nd three Beauforts sent to attack enemy cruiser at Brest.

4. Thirteen heavy bombers attacked docks and shipping at Boulogne.

5. Libya. On January 31st medium bombers dropped four tons of bombs on Barce aerodrome scoring hits on the barracks and on one grounded aircraft. Fighters also machine-gunned aerodrome and concentrations of motor transport. One C.R. 42 was shot down by Hurricanes at Benina.

6. The night of the 31st/1st Wellingtons from Malta dropped ten and a half tons of bombs on shipping in Tripoli harbour. Damage was caused in docks, one ship was set on fire and another damaged. All aircraft returned safely.

7. Greece. On January 31st six medium bombers surprised Italian troops and dropped four tons of bombs inflicting considerable damage.

8. German Air Force. February 1st and night of February 1st/2nd enemy activity was almost negligible.

9. Suez Canal. Early on January 30th enemy aircraft dropped bombs and mines between Suez and Ismalia. Traffic in the Canal is temporarily suspended.

10. Malta. On morning of February 1st one Italian bomber escorted by 12 Italian fighters flew over the island. Hurricanes shot down two of the escort, one on land and one into the sea.

11. Aircraft casualties in operations in and over the British Isles: British two bombers missing.

12. Home Security. Daylight January 31st, Casualties in London area were 26 killed and 186 injured.

PSF
JB

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

February 4th 1941.

J.P. Confi

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
the latest report received from London
on the military situation dated February
3rd.

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 DATED FEBRUARY 3rd 1941.

1. Naval. M.S. trawler struck moored mine off Falmouth and sank p.m. February 2nd, three survivors.
2. French vessel Mendoza has arrived at Freetown.
3. Wellington aircraft exploded three magnetic mines in the Suez Canal between Ismailia and Bitter Lakes which had been laid the night of January 29th/30th.
4. Suspicious vessel reported by Troilus turned out to be Dutch merchant vessel Alphard.
5. A.M. February 2nd a force of 8 Naval aircraft attacked dam of reservoir in Sardinia, which largely supplies the electric power of the island. Intense anti-aircraft fire encountered, one Swordfish failed to return. Weather bad over the land. Three torpedoes probably hit the dam, but results unobserved.
6. One enemy aircraft dropped ten bombs on Dover p.m. February 2nd. Some damage to military and civilian property.
7. Royal Air Force. Night of February 2nd/3rd twelve heavy bombers were sent to attack Docks and Shipping at Brest.
8. German Air Force. February 2nd. Enemy activity over England very slight. Two enemy bombers were damaged by own fighters. Night of February 2nd/3rd. No enemy activity.
9. Aircraft casualties in operations over and from the British Isles.

<u>Enemy.</u>	<u>Destroyed.</u>	<u>Damaged.</u>
	5 Bombers	1 Fighter
		2 Bombers
<u>British.</u>	1 Spitfire missing.	

RSF
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BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

February 5th, 1941.

~~SECRET.~~
Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of the latest report received from London on the military situation. It was dated February 4th.

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 dated February 4th.

1. Naval
Mediterranean. A British mine sweeper was bombed and sunk by two Heinkel 3 aircraft near Mersa Matruh on the evening of January 31st. Casualties were 14 killed, 25 wounded and 4 missing.
2. Aircraft from H.M.S. "Formidable" bombed Mogadishu and laid mines in the harbour on February 2nd. Little enemy opposition. All aircraft returned.
3. Attacks on shipping. British ship (3600 tons) reported in paragraph 1 of the summary of January 29th damaged by air attack was boarded on February 3rd and taken in tow. Damage is slight but there is an unexploded bomb on board.
4. Roumania. It now seems probable that there are at least 13 German divisions in Roumania including 3 or 4 armoured and 2 or 3 motorised.
5. Prospects of attempted invasion. There has been a marked increase in the number of reports regarding the likelihood of early invasion. Although many of them give the impression of being spread deliberately there does appear to be fresh evidence that preparations for invasion are steadily progressing. There is no reliable indication of the dates.
6. Royal Air Force. Night of February 3rd/4th. 24 bombers were despatched as follows. German cruiser at Brest - 7 heavy, 6 coastal. Minelaying - 11 heavy. Reports not yet received.
7. Libya. On February 1st and February 2nd heavy casualties were inflicted on troop transport withdrawing from Derna by Blenheims and Hurricanes. The latter shot down one enemy fighter and destroyed 4 aircraft on the
ground/

ground at Apollonia.

8. On the night of February 2nd/3rd 7 Wellingtons attacked an aerodrome at Castel Benito. Hangars and buildings were hit and at least 7 enemy aircraft destroyed.
9. Eritrea. On February 1st/2nd our aircraft dropped 2½ tons of bombs on motor transport at Barentu and between Keren and Asmara inflicting considerable damage.
10. German Air Force. February 3rd. Thirteen single enemy aircraft penetrated inland during the day. Two of these visited London and the home counties. Six Royal Air Force stations were attacked, 3 aircraft being slightly damaged. There were few service casualties and material damage was negligible.
11. Night of February 3rd/4th. Only about 18 enemy aircraft were operating.
12. Aircraft casualties in operations over and from the British Isles. One German bomber destroyed.

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BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~
February 6th, 1941.

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
the latest report on the military situation.
It is dated February 5th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Halifax

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

Telegram received from London
dated February 5th, 1941.

1. Naval. On the 4th several attacks were made by enemy aircraft on two East-Coast convoys. No damage to ships reported.

2. Night of the 4th-5th. Twenty-one tons of bombs were dropped on naval dockyard at Brest. Photographs taken on the 4th and night of the 4th-5th showed Hipper class cruiser to be no longer there. Shipping at Cherbourg and Fokke-Wulf establishment at Bordeaux also attacked.

3. Royal Air Force. By day of the 4th. Two sweeps by formations of fighters were carried out over Boulogne Area. No opposition was met.

4. Night of the 4th-5th. 157 bombers despatched against various targets.

5. In Libya and Eritrea our aircraft harassed the enemy ground forces and destroyed 36 motor transport vehicles in Varce area.

6. German Air Force. Daylight. Activity over land negligible but four enemy aircraft destroyed and one damaged in interceptions over our Coasts.

7. Night of 4th-5th. Enemy activity was fairly considerable and occurred chiefly over Eastern England. Our night fighter patrols destroyed one enemy bomber over Sussex.

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

German: By our fighters

4 destroyed - 1 damaged by night fighters
1 destroyed

Total 5 destroyed - 1 damaged.

British/

British: Nil.

9. Home Security. Night of the 4th-5th. Bombing on a small scale was widely distributed over the Midlands, North Midlands, East Anglia and Kent; damage was caused to a gun and ammunition factory at Grantham and to Administration buildings of one Royal Air Force station.

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BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

February 7th, 1941

DECLASSIFIED
UNCLASSIFIED

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
the latest report received from London
on the military situation. It was dated
February 6th, 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.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED FROM LONDON

DATED FEBRUARY 6th, 1941

NAVAL

1. A channel convoy was unsuccessfully attacked by dive bombers two of which were shot down.

2. R.A.F. ERITREA.

On February 3rd, Gladiators of the S.A.A.F. shot down one enemy aircraft and destroyed six on the ground. On February 4th Macalle aerodrome attacked. Three enemy bombers set on fire and two damaged.

3. G.A.F. Daylight February 5th.

Three raids over land and about 50 sea reconnaissances. Three enemy bombers shot down (including two mentioned in the first paragraph)

4. Night of February 5th/6th. About 100 enemy aircraft active over the area of Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex, Kent and outer districts of London.

5. MALTA. Night of February 4th/5th.

Three large formations of Junker 88's attacked aerodromes and dockyards. Three of our aircraft destroyed on the ground, and four damaged; damage done to hangars and buildings. Three enemy aircraft destroyed for certain, one probable.

6. AIRCRAFT CASUALTIES in operations over and from the British Isles.

Destroyed (German: 5
" (British: 9

PSF
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DECLASSIFIED
UNCLASSIFIED

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

February 8th 1941.

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
the latest report received from London on
the military situation. It is dated
February 7th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Halifax

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D.C.

Telegram received from London
dated February 7th, 1941.

Naval. King George V has returned from
America.

2. Royal Air Force. 6th: No operations
took place night of the 6th/7th. Docks and shipping
at Boulogne and Dunkirk were attacked.

All aircraft returned safely.

3. Maritza aerodrome Rhodes was bombed
and machine gunned on February 5th.

4. German Air Force. Enemy activity on
6th was practically nil. During the night of 6th/
7th mine laying was suspected in the Bristol Channel.
No bombing was reported during this period.

PSF
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BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

February 10th, 1941.

~~at.~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
the latest report received from London
on the military situation. It was
dated February 8th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Halifax

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

REGRADED
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Telegram from London dated February 8th.

1. Naval. A.M.C. Letitia ran aground Halifax, Nova Scotia, a.m. February 7th. Although holed it is hoped to tow her off.
2. Enemy aircraft bombed and sank a fleet auxiliary with government stores off Firth of Tay a.m. February 7th.
3. Bulgaria. Considerable quantities of war material for German air force are being sent to Bulgaria. Reported that about 40 trains are being sent during first fortnight in February carrying fuel if necessary and bombs. In addition to Sofia and Plovdiv areas some are destined for extreme south west close to Greek frontier.
4. Strong force of bombers attacked Boulogne and Dunkirk night of February 7th/8th. Both ports were well plastered.
5. On February 6th reconnaissance of Tunis and sea routes from Italy to Tripoli showed no movements of enemy shipping.
6. An examination of Mogadishu on February 7th revealed the complete absence of shipping. No opposition, one fighter aircraft seen.
7. Lowestoft bombed by one aircraft p.m. February 7th ten workmen killed only one naval rating wounded. Aircraft was hit and probably fell in the sea.
8. Royal Air Force. February 7th. Only routine patrols and reconnaissances carried out owing to bad weather.
9. Night of February 7th/8th, successful attack made on Boulogne by 37 Wellingtons; 27 other aircraft were sent to bomb Dunkirk, all returned safely.
10. Libya. February 5th Hurricanes damaged eight
bombers/

bombers on the ground at Benina and during the night of February 5th/6th over six tons of bombs were dropped on 3 aerodromes in Benghazi area.

11. Sudan. On February 5th and 6th our bombers attacked retreating enemy forces near Keren. South African Air Force fighters destroyed three enemy bombers on ground at aerodrome south of Lake Tana and shot down two Italian fighters over Asmara.

12. German Air Force. February 7th. Very little day activity over British Isles and none at night. A Heinkel bomber reported shot down into the sea by anti-aircraft fire off East Coast and a Dornier bomber shot down by H.M.S. "Vanity".

13. Aircraft casualties in operations over and from the British Isles. Germans, two bombers destroyed. British, nil.

PSF
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BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

February 11th 1941

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein copies of
the two latest reports received from London
on the military situation. They were dated
February 9th and 10th respectively.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

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REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

Telegram from London dated February 9th 1941.

Naval.

At noon February 8th, H.M.S. "Ramillies" escorting an eastbound convoy sighted the mast and top of a warship possibly of Hipper class steering N.N. East about 90 miles west of Ireland.

2. A very heavy bombardment of Genoa was carried out by both heavy and light units of our naval forces at dawn this morning. Preliminary reports indicate that the operation was highly successful.

3. It is thought that ships up to 8,000 tons can now pass through the Suez Canal. By February 18th ships of 15,000 tons ought to be able to pass and the Canal may be clear for maximum tonnage by March 5th.

4. A Belgian ship (5,750 tons) has been mined off Cardiff and beached.

5. Japanese "Asaka Maru" under Naval Ensign and with naval crew bound for Lisbon with Japanese naval mission for Berlin was due to pass through the Panama Canal on the 7th.

6. Royal Air Force.

Two out of 9 Blenheims sent yesterday to targets in the Low Countries bombed oil depots at Flushing and Rotterdam. A low-flying sweep over Northern France was made by Hurricanes which returned safely after attacking an aerodrome and other ground targets.

7. Night of 8th/9th 15 Hampdens were sent to attack industrial targets at Mannheim.

8. Attack on Dunkirk on night of February 7th/8th was successful and visibility was good.

9. Eritrea and Ethiopia. On February 7th seven tons of bombs were dropped on enemy position at Keren. At an aerodrome 140 miles East of Lake Tana two Blenheims set on fire eight enemy bombers and damaged a ninth.

10. German Air Force. There was little enemy air activity over the British Isles during daylight, one enemy aircraft was destroyed by anti-aircraft and two by our fighters.

11. Night of 8th/9th. A few enemy aircraft were probably mine-laying in the Bristol Channel area.

12. Aircraft casualties. In operations over and from the British Isles:-

German:

Destroyed by our fighters	2
By anti-aircraft	<u>1</u>
	3

British: 2 fighters missing.

Telegram from London dated February 10th, 1941.

1. In the bombardment of Genoa nearly 300 rounds of 15 inch, 800 of 6 inch and 400 of 4.5 inch high explosives were fired. Large fires were caused round the inner harbour, dry docks, power station and Ansaldo works. Hits were obtained on merchant ships, the oil tanks and marshalling yards. No battleship was seen in harbour.

2. Aircraft from H.M.S. "Ark Royal" bombed an oil refinery at Leghorn and Pisa aerodrome and railway junction. Two enemy aircraft were shot down and one Swordfish is missing. There was no damage to our ships.

3. H.M.S. "Letitia" has been towed into Halifax. She is reported severely damaged.

4. A Hipper class cruiser squadron and three Destroyers, also two forces of four and six Destroyers were sighted by coastal command aircraft off Southern Norway. The latter force was later attacked by torpedo bombers and a hit obtained on one of the Destroyers.

5. H.M.S. "Neptune" was slightly damaged by near miss in the Western approaches. She probably destroyed the air-craft.

6. Military ALBANIA. The Greeks have brought down eight Italian aircraft over the front without loss.

7. ICELAND. A German aircraft has attacked British troops near Reykjavik.

8. Royal Air Force

Twenty-two heavy bombers were sent out last night to attack an industrial centre in Wilhelmshaven.

9. German Air Force

February 9th. Enemy activity slight. One enemy aircraft destroyed.

10. About 50 operated against this country last night, mostly mine-laying. Only 18 came inland

11. Malta. Night of 8th/9th - 45 German bombers made an attack lasting nine hours; some damage was caused to two aerodromes. Our Hurricanes shot down two bombers and damaged a third.

Aircraft Casualties in operation over and from the British Isles: German - by Ships; one destroyed; one probable; by our fighters, 1 destroyed; British - nil.

PSF
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BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

February 12th, 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
February 11th, 1941.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Archibald

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.


Telegram received from London
dated February 11th, 1941.

1. Naval. From 0100 to 0140/11 Erebus escorted by destroyers bombarded Ostend dock area. Aircraft bombed the area beforehand and spotted for (words undecypherable). Preliminary report states that shells well in target area, several fires started.
2. Coastal aircraft on the 10th carried out all patrols and escorted north west approach convoys.
3. East Coast convoy off Yarmouth twice attacked night of 9th/10th by enemy bombers, one ship damaged.
4. Italy Total strength of Italian Army in Albania is now thought to be about 325,000.
5. R.A.F. Successful daylight attacks were made yesterday on Dunkirk, Calais and Boulogne in each case by 6 Blenheims with strong fighter escort. Two enemy fighters were destroyed and one probably. We lost six fighters one pilot safe.
6. Night of 10th/11th 283 bombers were sent out of which 221 had industrial targets at Hanover as objectives. Here the weather was poor to start with but improved later.

Preliminary reports state many fires but no big light up. Raid considered successful. Other targets included docks at Rotterdam, Boulogne, Cherbourg, and some sea-mine laying was done.
7. Five bombers are missing; five crashed on return but the crews of 4 are safe. Pilot of the other machine was killed and the crew injured.
8. Albania In Kelcyre area our Gladiators destroyed 4 enemy fighters and three probably. One
Gladiator/

Gladiator was shot down but the pilot is safe.

9. German Air Force. Night of 10th/11th. 88 aircraft were operating mainly over East Anglia. Aerodromes and sea-mining appeared the principal objectives. One enemy aircraft probably destroyed by night fighter.

10. Eritrea. At dawn on the 9th five enemy fighters attacked our aerodromes in Agordat area and destroyed 8 aircraft. A later attack by 20 enemy fighters damaged 2 more aircraft.

11. Aircraft Casualties in operations over and from the British Isles.

German: destroyed by our fighters, 2 and probable 2.

British: Six fighters lost, 5 bombers missing.

PSF
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BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.
February 14th, 1941.

~~Secret.~~

Dear Mr. President,

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

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 dated February 12th.

1. Naval. Reference to Genoa bombardment. Although visibility which had been good before moonset decreased with slight haze, excellent navigation and fixing brought the bombarding force into exact position at dawn. Firing took place from 0714 till 0744. Sole opposition ineffective fire from two six-inch guns and slight anti-aircraft fire against spotting aircraft. During withdrawal fighters from Ark Royal shot down two enemy shadowing aircraft.
2. Throughout forenoon and afternoon of February 9th enemy air formations failed to locate the British, visibility being poor.
3. "Sea Lion" on February 1st in the vicinity of Stadlandet scored one possible hit with torpedo on one merchant vessel. On February 5th she hit Norwegian merchant vessel, and after evacuating the crew and passengers set the ship on fire with H.E.
4. 27 mines were exploded in Humber waters on February 11th.
5. Suez Canal now open for a few vessels.
6. Hawkins on February 11th captured three Italian merchant vessels totalling 15,000 tons off the south coast of Italian Somaliland.
7. Slight damage caused by enemy aircraft which attacked Chatham dockyard night of February 10th/February 11th. No casualties reported.
8. British "Jamaica Producer" reported being chased by U-Boat (100 miles northwest.....Lewis) night of February 10th/February 11th was attacked by it later in the night but arrived in harbour undamaged p.m. February 11th.
9. Royal Air Force. Night of February 11th/12th. 107 bombers were sent to attack industrial targets at Bremen (79 aircraft) and Hanover. Reports not yet available.

10. Rhodes. Night of February 9th/10th Calato aerodrome at Patras again heavily bombed. Ten Italian aircraft were burnt.
11. German Air Force. During daylight yesterday there were some isolated reconnaissance flights over coastal localities. Strong enemy offensive patrols were maintained in Calais/Boulogne area.
12. Night of February 11th/12th. Enemy activity very slight. Only 6 aircraft plotted.
13. Greece. Jannina aerodrome was twice bombed on February 10th and rendered temporarily unserviceable; four aircraft were slightly damaged. Our Gladiators destroyed two raiders and damaged six.
14. Aircraft casualties in operations over and from the British Isles.
Germans: Nil.
British: Two fighters missing.

BF
JB

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

February 14th, 1941.

~~SECRET.~~

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

Dear Mr. President,

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


Telegram received from London
dated February 13th, 1941.

1. Naval. Convoy 200 miles East of the Azores was shelled by raider a.m. of February 12th. Several ships reported sunk or sinking, further reports awaited.
2. Enemy aircraft suspected laying mines in Liverpool Bay night of February 12th-13th - and on February 12th sixteen enemy mines were exploded in the Humber.
3. A-P. drifter "Eager" shot down one J.U.88 p.m. of February 12th in the Thames Estuary. Enemy aircraft also attacked unsuccessfully motor-ship "Bangor" and A-P trawler off the East coast of Scotland.
4. Four Italian ships now known to have been captured on February 11th.
5. On February 12th off the South East Coast of Italian Somaliland - Italian "Leonardo da Vinci" 7515 tons was captured and German "Uckermark" when intercepted attempted to scuttle herself and is likely to sink.
6. On (words undecypherable) British "Baron Minto" was wrecked and abandoned on Ratray Head at 18.45 February 12th enemy aircraft bombed and machine-gunned the wreck.
7. Royal Air Force. February 12th. No operations other than routine and reconnaissance undertaking owing to adverse weather. One Beaufort is missing. Night operations were cancelled.
8. Night of February 10th. Rhodes. Six and a half
tons/

tons of bombs were dropped on aerodrome at Maritza Colato and Kattania; buildings were hit and three enemy aircraft burned.

9. Libya 86 unserviceable aircraft were found abandoned at Venina aerodrome.
10. Sicily February 11-12th. Four Wellingtons from Malta bombed Comiso and Catania aerodromes and destroyed at least four enemy aircraft.
11. German Air Force. Daylight February 12th and night of February 12th-13th. Enemy activity on a very small scale. One J.U. 88 crashed in Scotland during the morning of February 12th.
12. Malta. Yesterday three German bombers with fighter escort ineffectively attacked Malta. One fighter intercepted. Two Hurricanes are missing, pilot of one is safe.
13. Greece. Enemy attacked Janina and Heraklio (Crete) aerodromes with fighters and destroyed one Bombay, and damaged two Gladiators.
14. Aircraft casualties over and from the British Isles.

Germans 2 British 5

PSF
JB

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

February 15th, 1941.

Secret

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
the latest report received from London
on the military situation. It is dated
February 14th, 1941.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Halifax

REGRADED
UNCL. CONFID

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

Telegram received from London
dated February 14th, 1941.

1. Reference to convoy attacked east of Azores, now known that at least three ships totalling 14,590 tons two being British and one Greek are sunk. Survivors state that at least four ships were undamaged. Reported that raider was "Admiral Scheer" or Hipper class cruiser.
 2. German "Uckermark" still afloat, attempt being made to tow her into harbour. One other Italian ship about 5000 tons was also captured on the 11th.
 3. On the thirteenth two east coast convoys bombed but no damage reported.
 4. One British ship (1900 tons) bombed and damaged off the east coast.
 5. British tanker (10,516 tons) torpedoed and reported on fire and sinking in the north-west approaches.
 6. Italian Somaliland. A cruiser bombed without damage off Brava. There was no reply to her fire from the shore batteries at Kismayu, the town being apparently evacuated. Scuttled merchant ship was lying in harbour.
 7. R. A. F. No day operations other than curtailed routine reconnaissances were undertaken yesterday owing to adverse weather conditions. Night of 13th/14th. No bomber command operations took place.
- Albania. Four tons of bombs dropped on enemy camp at Elbasan.
8. German Air Force. Daylight 13th. Little activity.

Two/

Two bombers and one fighter intercepted and damaged during attack on Dover balloon barrage.

9. Night 13th/14th. Thirty enemy aircraft crossed the coast, aerodromes in east Anglia apparently being their objective.

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

German 3 damaged.

British nil.

PSF
JB

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~Secret~~

February 17th, 1941.

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
the latest report on the military
situation. It is dated February 15th.

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 February 15th, 1941.

Naval. H.M. Submarine "Rover" has successfully attacked a tanker off the South Italian coast.

2. Three naval aircraft attacked a convoy off Tripoli on night of February 13th/14th. One probable and one possible hit obtained although heavy A.A. fire encountered from destroyer escorting the convoy.

3. 14 aircraft from H.M.S. "Formidable" attacked Massawa February 13th, one ship probably hit at jetty and two were sunk. Enemy destroyer probably hit by a bomb. One British aircraft missing.

4. Six ships of the Sierra Leone convoy attacked on February 12th have reached Funchal. 13 ships still unaccounted for.

5. M.T.B. 41 mined off Harwich p.m. February 13th only three survivors.

6. Enemy mines dropped off Valletta (Malta) February 14th, and the Grand Harbour temporarily closed.

7. Kismayu occupied by our troops 14.15 G.M.T. February 14th.

8. Royal Air Force scored direct hits on a 1500 ton tanker off Bergen and 3,000 ton merchant vessel off Den Helder.

9. Military. Erythrea. Operations against Keren are proceeding but units of Northern column have had to withdraw from heights west of Keren captured on February 11th.

10. Southern column progressing towards Arresa in difficult country where some mechanical transport and armoured fighting vehicles have been abandoned by the enemy.

11. Lybia. Italian forces remaining are estimated at about 70,000. Eritrea, Ethiopia, Italian Somaliland. The present location of Italian forces is obscure owing to withdrawal from the western and southwestern frontier. The total forces estimated at 105,000 white and 190,000 native troops.

12. Royal Air Force. Night of February 14th/15th. 88 heavy and medium bombers attacked oil plants at Hamburg and Gelsenkirchen; in addition 6 mediums attacked the docks at Ostend and 11 heavies laid mines. One aircraft is missing.

13. German Air Force. Night of February 14th/15th. About 140 enemy aircraft were operating of which 38 were mine-laying. Bombing was widely spread over the Eastern half of England and London area. No important damage and few casualties.

14. On February 12th and 13th, German aircraft dropped mines on Benghazi and bombed Benina and Berka.

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

German: one destroyed, one damaged.

British: one fighter lost, one bomber missing.

PSF
LB

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

February 18th 1941.

~~Secret.~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
the latest report received from London
on the military situation, dated February
17th 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 DATED FEBRUARY 17th 1941.

1. NAVAL.

Attacks on shipping by aircraft. One naval mine sweeping trawler was sunk off the Scottish coast. A Coastal Convoy was attacked in the Thames approaches but was not damaged.

2. ROYAL AIR FORCE.

Nights of February 16th./17th. All operations cancelled.

3. SICILY.

Night of 15th/16th. Aerodromes were attacked; administrative buildings at Cataria were hit and some aircraft were left burning. At Comiso fires were caused.

4. ALBANIA.

On February 15th our medium bombers attacked gun positions and buildings at Buzi.

5. EAST AFRICA.

Our air offensive has been maintained on all fronts, successful attacks were made against railway targets in Keren Sector and fires were caused at the Caproni workshops at Mai Adaga.

6. GERMAN AIR FORCE.

Night of February 16th/17th.

No enemy activity.

7. MALTA: was attacked on night of February 15th/16th and again on February 16th. One Hurricane was shot down (pilot safe), no reports of damage received.

8. Air casualties in operations over and from the British Isles. Germans: 1 Bomber destroyed

British: Nil.

PSF
JB
BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON.

20th February, 1941

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy
of the latest report received from
London on the military situation.
It was dated February 19th, 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 FEBRUARY 19th, 1941

NAVAL

Benghazi expected to be clear of mines by a.m. February 18th.

2. Malta raided by enemy aircraft 11 nights in succession no bombs dropped but mine laying was carried out. On February 17th one mine was exploded in Valletta harbour.

3. Convoy of 16 ships totalling 147,000 tons G.R.T. with troops and supplies arrived at Suez February 16th.

4. Attack on convoy S.L. 64 off the Azores. The situation now, 7 ships totalling twenty-one thousand eight hundred and six G.R.T. believed lost, 8 have arrived in harbour, 4 unknown but thought that these may yet turn up. Survivors state that the raider camouflaged and reports indicate that she was Hipper class cruiser.

5. A.M. February 17th coastal aircraft sighted off Jaederens Point 17 small vessels believed torpedo boats and E-boats apparently exercising at high speed close in shore. Later 12 similar craft sighted off Haugesund. Fighters drove our aircraft off. P.M. February 17th one coastal aircraft sighted convoy of about 9 merchant vessels off Obrestad, attacked largest unsuccessfully. Two M.E.'s attacked, pilot wounded and wireless put out of action.

6. NAVAL

Two homeward bound British ships totalling 14,000/

14,000, tons one carrying war material are reported torpedoed in the North Western approaches. Tugs and destroyers have been sent.

7. A British tanker (4700 tons) mined in the Bristol Channel on February 16th has now sunk.

8. The Naval oil depot at Invergordon and the training depot at Skegness were attacked by enemy aircraft yesterday. One oil cistern at Invergordon was demolished, there were no casualties. At Skegness damage was fairly extensive and there were a few casualties.

9. MILITARY. ITALIAN SOMALILAND

Jetties at Kismayu are intact and a number of coast defence guns appear to be serviceable.

10. ROYAL AIR FORCE

February 17th and February 18th.
No operations of importance; night operations cancelled.

11. EAST AFRICA

Operations in support of our troops were conducted in Keren and Kismayu areas.

One Italian fighter was destroyed and another damaged.

12. During a further attack on Caproni workshops on the 16th all hangars were hit and other buildings were demolished.

13. Brindisi aerodrome was bombed by four Wellingtons on the night of February 15/16th, hangars and a seaplane were set on fire. One aircraft is missing.

14. GERMAN AIR FORCE. Feb. 17th.

Enemy activity slight only 9 aircraft penetrated a short distance. One bomber was destroyed by our fighters another probably destroyed and a third damaged.

15. Night of Feb.17/18th. Enemy operations on a moderate scale consisting of two main attacks the first on South East England including London the second on East Anglian aerodromes. Much mine-laying is reported. One bomber was shot down by a night fighter.

16. LIBYA

On February 14th aircraft attacked our forces in Benghazi area and before dawn on February 15th heavy bombing of Benghazi took place during which 93 civilians were killed. Two enemy aircraft were destroyed and one probably destroyed by ground defences and one German bomber was shot down by our fighters.

17. MALTA

Twelve enemy aircraft were mine-laying on the night of Feb. 16th/17th.

18. Aircraft casualties over and from the British Isles. Germans 2 destroyed, one probable, one damaged. British, nil.

19. HOME SECURITY. Night of Feb. 17th/18th.

In the London area several fires were started including two in the Docks. All were quickly under control and little damage of military importance reported. Casualties were small except in one case where a bomb struck a railway arch shelter under London Bridge Station and caused estimated casualties of over 70 killed and 46 seriously injured.

PSF
GB

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

February 20th, 1941.

Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Halifax

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

Telegram received from London
dated February 19th, 1941.

Naval. Four or five enemy aircraft dropped mines and bombs in Suez Canal area early morning of February 18th. No report of damage but some mines fell in the canal which will probably be closed one week.

2. Two mines were exploded on February 18th, off Saint Elmo light Malta.

3. P.M. on February 18th. Stella Rigel, mine sweeping trawler, shot down enemy aircraft off Harwich and Saronta a/s trawler off Lowestoft damaged by two near miss bombs. This aircraft believed hit by Lowestoft anti-aircraft guns.

4. Night of February 15th/16th. Four Swordfish bagged escorted merchant vessel 30 miles East of Sfax. Ship believed Juventus Italian 4930 Gr. T.

5. P.M. February 11th. Truant attacked with gunfire two escorted ships off Tripoli. She scored hits then forced to dive. Later convoy sighted returning to Tripoli and she torpedoed and sank biggest ship 3500 Gr. T.

6. On February 12th Utmost attacked Westbound escorted convoy of 3 merchant vessels and scored one hit on ship of 8000 Gr. T. Heavy counter-attack made with bombs depth charges. Four hours later ship sighted with after part awash and escort had left her.

7. Reported that at Benghazi extensive salvage operations required before harbour can be fully utilised and breach in breakwater lets in the swell and requires repair.

8. One ship of four from convoy SL 64 whose fate was unknown has now arrived in harbour.

9. Royal Air Force. February 18th/19th.
No operations home front.

10. German Air Force. About 15 enemy aircraft reported over Great Britain on February 18th. Ineffective attacks were made on a number of aerodromes in East Anglia, and elsewhere two aircraft and five hangars were damaged at Royal Air Force station. The night of February 18th/19th, no enemy aircraft reported.

Night of February 17th/18th. In addition to the bomber reported destroyed in yesterday's summary, three more enemy bombers were shot down by anti-aircraft and ground defences.

11. Aircraft casualties in operations over and from British Isles. Germans 4, destroyed. British nil.

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON.

February 22nd, 1941.


Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Henri Butler

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D.C.



TELEGRAM RECEIVED FROM LONDON DATED FEBRUARY 20th, 1941.

1. Naval. Pelbunn, mined and damaged in the Thames approaches on the 19th has arrived safely in harbour.
2. Total of 31 enemy mines have been destroyed in Australian waters.
3. Shipping off the east coast of Scotland and England repeatedly reported enemy aircraft p.m. 19th but only two ships were attacked. Both safe but one was damaged by two very heavy near misses.
4. A Greek ship of 5,000 G.R.T. has arrived in harbour with only slight damage from convoy S L. 64 S which raider attacked February 12th off the Azores. Situation now is, safe - ten ships certain, two probably, sunk - five ships certain, two probably.
5. Military. Germany. Total identified German divisions is increased by three to two hundred and twenty one.
6. Ethiopia. On the 16th patriots supported by British elements captured Njabara (15 miles south of Dangila) taking many prisoners and have surrounded retreating enemy ten miles north of Burye. They have also occupied Italian posts on Piccolo Abbai River 20 miles north-east of Dangila, which enemy has evacuated.
7. R.A.F. 19th February. No operations took place.
8. Night 19th/20th. Six medium bombers of the coastal command attacked an enemy cruiser at Brest and returned safely. Reports not yet available.
9. Eritrea. South African Air Force fighters attacked Gura aerodrome near Asmara on 18th and destroyed two enemy bombers on the ground.

10. G.A.F. 19th. Enemy activity consisted of patrols in Straits of Dover and a few penetrations inland over Eastern England and Scotland.

11. Night of 19th/20th. 70 enemy aircraft operated over Swansea area, a few over Plymouth, 32 over London area.

12. Lybia. Benghasi. Enemy aircraft made two attempts to lay mines in the harbour on the 18th. One was shot down, two others probably destroyed and a further four damaged by our fighters. Another was destroyed by anti-aircraft.

13. Home Security. Night of 19th/20th. Swansea. About 100 H.E's and several hundreds of incendiary bombs were dropped. Several fires were started but were soon under control. Damage appeared to have been mainly confined to business and private property.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON.

February 24th 1941.

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein copies of the latest reports received from London on the military situation dated February 21st and February 22nd respectively.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

Halifax

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D.C.

TELEGRAM FROM LONDON DATED FEBRUARY 21st 1941.

Naval.

One minesweeping trawler was mined off Tyne a.m. February 20th. No report of sinking received.

2. Very heavy fall of snow Tyne area on February 19th - 20th by seriously interfering with all transport will delay repairs to ships in hand.

3. Wolf Rock Light reported put out of action by machine gun fire.

4. Bramble off Harwich p.m. February 20th was attacked by 2 enemy aircraft. One bomb hit but did not explode and she is holed on water line. Bramble shot down one aircraft.

5. Two ships were bombed off Falmouth - one reported on fire and sinking the other a 7000 ton tanker was undamaged.

6. Military. Ethiopia: South of Lake Tana enemy retreating from Njabara suffered many casualties from patriots.

7. Italian Somaliland. On the night of February 17th small parties of our troops crossed the Juba river at Yonte and established a bridgehead. An enemy counter attack with lorry borne troops was repulsed. Later reports state that a number of South African troops have now reached East bank in the same locality. Our troops also attacked North of Jelib.

8. Royal Air Force. On February 20th one Blenheim attacked docks at IJmuiden causing a large fire and two offensive operations were flown over France by small formation of fighters.

9. Night of February 20th - 21st. All operations cancelled.

10. On February 18th - 19th military objectives in Asmara and Keren areas were bombed and machine gunned; seven enemy aircraft were destroyed on the ground.

11. German Air Force. Six M.E. 109's attacked by five Spitfires (some words undecypherable) Canterbury (some words undecypherable) two of our aircraft and pilots were lost.

12. Night of February 20th - 21st. About 145 enemy aircraft were operating, 90 over South Wales and the majority of the remainder in the Chatham area.

13. Libya. On February 19th five enemy bombers escorted by seven M.E. 110's were intercepted by six Hurricanes over Bengasi: one enemy bomber was damaged.

14. Same day Bengasi was attacked by two Heinkel bombers, one of which was destroyed by anti-aircraft. Three Hurricanes engaged seven M.E. 110's near Agheila: two of our aircraft were shot down, one pilot is safe.

15. Aircraft casualties in operation over and from British Isles - German one probable, British two fighters lost.

16. Home Security. Swansea was attacked for the second night in succession. Fires were started in locomotive sheds, timber yards, warehouses and residential areas. From preliminary reports damage appears confined mainly to residential property.

17. Later in the night Chatham was attacked, damage was caused to gas and electric mains and serious damage to one gas works.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED FROM LONDON

DATED FEBRUARY 22nd, 1941.

NAVAL

Units of the Mediterranean Fleet on February 21st landed military reinforcements at Malta from Alexandria.

2. German long distance aircraft damaged a tanker in an outward convoy west of Hebrides on the 20th and on the 21st severely damaged 7000 ton tanker in the same convoy 320 miles west of Cape Wrath; former returning to harbour, latter maybe towed in. Fokker Wulf raids on western approaches made most days but not always successful and of the ships hit a good proportion only damaged.

3. FAROEES.

Two enemy aircraft attacked an oiler and an oil cistern without success. One aircraft was brought down by a Naval trawler and ground defences, one naval trawler was sunk.

4. MILITARY. LIBYA.

One hundred and seven Italian medium tanks were captured or destroyed in recent operations south of Benghazi.

5. ERITREA.

Total prisoners taken on Eritrean front between 20th January and 20th February were 47 Italian officers, 698 other ranks and 5576 Colonial troops. In addition many prisoners have been taken in Blue Nile, Upper Nile and Gofjam areas.

R.A.F/

6. R.A.F. Night of 21st/22nd.

51 aircraft were sent to attack industrial targets at Wilhelmshaven and Dusseldorf, aerodromes in Northern France and docks at Boulogne. 42 more were engaged in mine laying; and 11 coastal command aircraft attacked a cruiser at Brest where preliminary reports indicate that some bombs hit the dock. From all operations three aircraft are missing.

7. GERMAN AIR FORCE.

On 21st about 75 enemy aircraft carried out patrols and reconnaissances and further 10 crossed our coast.

8. Night of 21st/22nd. Swansea was attacked for the third night in succession, by approximately 90 aircraft.

9. LIEYA.

On 20th February Benghazi was attacked by a number of unidentified aircraft one of which was destroyed by anti-aircraft fire.

10. Aircraft casualties in operations over and from British Isles. Enemy: Nil, British: 3 bombers missing.

11. HOME SECURITY. Swansea. Night of 21st/22nd. Most bombs fell in centre of the city and no reports of damage to docks or industrial areas have been received. There were many fires.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

~~SECRET~~

February 25th, 1941.

Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Halifax

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D.C.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED FROM LONDON FEBRUARY 23rd, 1941.

Naval. At 0818/22. Glasgow reported pocket battleship between Madagascar and Seychelles being herself about 50 miles to N.N. Westward. Enemy steering 120 degrees 18 knots. Glasgow in pursuit, later her aircraft lost touch. Available forces proceeding to support.

2. British Trelawney 4689 tons reported being fired on by warship raider 500 miles east of St. Johns, Newfoundland at 11-22/22. p.m. Feb. 22nd unknown ship reported being machine gunned within a few miles of the above position.

3. Two enemy aircraft laid mines Humber between 1930 and 2200/22. Early morning of February 22. Four mines were dropped in the Suez Canal and three bombs fell in the Canal Zone.

4. On February 22nd Fokke-Wulf aircraft damaged two ships of outward convoy 210 miles N.W. of Hebrides.

5. At dawn February 21st. Seven naval aircraft dive-bombed Massawa. Searchlights and anti-aircraft fire made observation difficult but believed that three Destroyers and one U Boat were hit. More than thirty-five merchant vessels reported in anchorage.

6. Convoy in the North Minch and another off the East Coast attacked by aircraft on February 22nd but sustained no damage. Two ships in convoy damaged by aircraft on February 20th in the N. Western approaches have arrived in harbour and another also damaged is proceeding on voyage.

7. Military. Ethiopia. Kenya front. To eight p.m. February 21st Mega capitulated on February 18th. We captured 650 prisoners including 450 Europeans also

/some

some guns and machine-guns.

8. In southern sector one company of the Sudan Defence Force together with patriots were attacked all day on February 19th by an enemy Colonial battalion. The attack was repulsed and 150 of the enemy were killed. Our casualties were 5 killed and 9 wounded.

9. R.A.F. Night of February 21st/22nd. Weather conditions were unfavourable but 17 tons of high explosive and many incendiaries were dropped on Wilhelmshaven causing fires which spread rapidly in the North East part of the town.

10. Night of February 22nd/23rd. Twenty-nine Wellingtons were sent to bomb docks at Brest.

11. German Air Force. During the day about 40 bomber aircraft operated over the British Isles. An R.A.F. aerodrome was attacked by M.E. 109's; damage was not serious. During this attack large enemy formations made over the Thames Estuary and East Kent one M.E. 110 was destroyed by fighters and one Heinkel bomber by ground defences.

12. Night of February 22nd/23rd. About 39 enemy aircraft were operating in the Humber area possibly laying mines. An enemy float plane was damaged by fighters at dusk.

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

German: By fighters, 1 destroyed, 1 damaged.

By ground defences, one destroyed.

British: nil.

14. Home Security - Swansea. Latest total casualty figures for the three successive raids are 128 killed and 294 seriously wounded.

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~
28th February, 1941

SENT TO
THE PRESIDENT

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein copies of the two
latest reports received from London on the
military situation. They are dated February
24th and 25th respectively.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Halifax

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

NAVAL

- MANISTEE, having been torpedoed February 24th for the second time presumed sunk. No trace of her or survivors found yet.
2. Terror sank off Derna a.m. Feb. 24th, having been near missed in two bombing attacks February 22nd and February 23rd. No casualties. Enemy does not know of this loss.
 3. Situation Bengazi being made difficult for ships owing to enemy air activity being little hampered by anti-aircraft and fighters, however 5 or 6 enemy aircraft have been shot down including one torpedo aircraft by Peony's anti-aircraft gun.
 4. Three ships reported torpedoed in outward convoy a.m. February 24th in N.W. approaches. Salvage of all three is possible.
 5. Eastbound convoy in Straits of Dover was shelled before dawn February 24th by enemy shore batteries. No damage reported.
 6. A.M. Feb. 19th. 9 aircraft attacked anti-aircraft cruiser Voyager and some Corvettes off Bengazi. No damage caused though there were near misses.
 7. R.A.F. Night of Feb. 24th/25th. 63 heavy and 7 medium bombers attacked Hipper class cruiser at Brest. All returned safely, except one heavy bomber.
 8. Preliminary report of reconnaissance a.m. February 25th, shows ship still there but photo

photographs not good enough to show if damage caused.

9. ETHIOPIA.

On February 23rd, 7 South African Air Force Hurricanes machine-gunned Makale aerodrome and destroyed 8 enemy aircraft on the ground and one in the air. One Hurricane is missing.

10. Our medium bombers also considerably damaged aerodrome buildings at Addis Ababa.

11. GERMAN AIR FORCE.

Yesterday limited also entirely to patrols in Straits and night of February 24/25, scattered raids by 28 aircraft in East Anglia and mining by 19 aircraft off Liverpool.

12. Aircraft casualties in operations over and from British Isles. Germans, nil. British, 1 bomber missing.

REPORT RECEIVED FROM LONDON,
DATED FEBRUARY 24TH, 1941

NAVAL

MANISTEE ocean boarding vessel torpedoed 500 miles west of Butt of Lewis a.m./23rd.

Three M/S trawlers whilst sweeping off Cardiff have been damaged by mine explosions - one of these only slightly damaged.

2. OUSE while sweeping at Mersa Tobruk was sunk by coast
3. No further news received of pocket battleship sighted by GLASGOW search continues.
4. One of the ships bombed on the 22nd by Fokke-Wulf a/a has been found and taken in tow.
5. Suez Canal still closed and one mine reported detonated.
6. Mine destroying home waters continues satisfactorily. Mines being detonated regularly off numerous ports.
7. Four enemy A/C bombed Benghazi a.m./23rd. Six bombs on the water front and some near; little damage - no casualties.
8. SHROPSHIRE bombarded Modun hear Brava a.m. 22nd considerable damage caused.
9. HIPPER class cruiser still at Brest 23rd AA/C attacked this ship night of the 23rd/24th, frustrated by weather.
10. Military. Italian Somaliland

To 8 p.m. 22nd. Our forces have taken Jumbo and captured 22 Italian officers 85 other ranks and much material including arms and ammunition. A pontoon bridge has been completed at Yonte.

11. Royal Air Force Night of 23rd/24th.

Seventy-one aircraft were sent to docks at Calais, Boulogne and Den Helder. Numerous fires were started at Boulogne but elsewhere results were unobserved.

Two aircraft are missing.

12. Eritrea. On 21st South African Hurricanes destroyed six aircraft and six hangars at Massawa aerodrome. One Hurricane was lost.

13. Greece On 22nd Blenheims shot down three enemy aircraft.

14. German Air Force During daylight 23rd enemy aircraft carried out continuous patrols of the Straits and made one sweep over East Kent Coast.

15. Night of 23rd/24th. A small scale bombing attack was made on the Humber area and there was slight activity over Eastern and South Eastern England and the London area.

16. Aircraft casualties in operations over and from the British Isles. German: Nil British - two bombers missing.

RECORDED
UNCLASSIFIED

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

February 28th, 1941.

~~Secret~~

SENT TO
THE PRESIDENT

Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Halifax

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.


Telegram received from London

dated February 26th.

- Naval. At 21/25 "Exmoor" escorting eastern coast convoy off Norfolk coast was torpedoed and sunk by E-boat and British Minor (CA) 1100 tons in the same convoy was also torpedoed and at 2.30/26.
2. "Dainty" sunk by aircraft off Tobruk p.m. 24th 20 casualties.
 3. In Mediterranean, Kasteloritzo Island occupied dawn 25th. Enemy air activity caused withdrawal of Ladybird from harbour and reported permanent garrison might have to be landed by night.
 4. At (words undecypherable) on February 25th coastal aircraft unsuccessfully attacked four merchant vessels and escort vessels off Sogne Fiord also without seeing results (words omitted) bombed two E-boats off Stadlandet and attacked convoy of merchant vessels off Ostend but scored no hits.
 5. Night of 25/26th small force of aircraft bombed docks at Boulogne.
 6. Three merchant vessels bombed or torpedoed western approach last few days have arrived safely in harbour.
 7. R.A.F. night of 24th/25th
Attack on Brest. On account of searchlights and flares detailed results could not be observed but over 50 bombers dropped bombs in target area. The aircraft reported missing has returned safely.

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8. Daylight 25th One Blenheim attacked submarine assembly and repair station at Flushing bursts being observed on target. In afternoon six medium bombers escorted by three squadrons of fighters with a further five squadrons in support unsuccessfully bombed enemy shipping off Dunkirk. In course of this operation our fighters destroyed 3 ME 109's and a fourth probable. One of our fighters is missing.
9. Night of 25th/26th
114 bombers despatched. Main targets: Dusseldorf industrial area 80 aerodromes 17 and Boulogne 8. One aircraft is missing.
10. Lybia. Night of 24th/25th
Nine Wellingtons attacked Tripoli, hits being made on Customs wharf and shipping. Numerous fires and a violent explosion were caused. One aircraft is missing.
11. German Air Force. Daylight 25th Enemy activity mainly confined to sea reconnaissances and patrols.
12. Night of 25th/26th
About 100 aircraft operated, activity being widespread over east Anglia and Lincolnshire. One enemy aircraft was shot down by a night fighter.
13. Aircraft casualties in operations over and from British Isles. German: Fighters - three destroyed, one probable, Bombers - one destroyed, totals four destroyed, one probable. British One fighter (bomber reported missing yesterday has returned safely).
14. Home Security Night of 25th/26th. Damage done/



done negligible except at Hull area where many
fires were started and at Harwich where gas
and water mains were damaged. Very few casualties.
All fires have been extinguished.