

GREAT BRITAIN - Military Situation: October 1941

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

October 1st, 1941.

~~SECRET~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
the latest report received from
London on the military situation.
It is dated September 29th, 1941.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

R. J. Campbell

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States
of America,

Washington, D.C.

RECEIVED
UNCLASSIFIED

TELEGRAM FROM LONDON DATED SEPTEMBER 29th, 1941.

Force of 2 Italian battleships, cruisers and destroyers was at sea on September 27th east of Sardinia and approached our forces to within 95 miles when they turned north and raced towards Naples.

2. On September 27th Nelson was hit by one torpedo from aircraft her speed reduced to 15 knots.

3. On September 26th, Russian submarine torpedoed in Petsamo two merchant ships estimated 8,000 tons, 5000 tons. They were alongside discharging cargo. After firing, submarine broke surface when heavy firing from rifles, machine guns experienced. Before getting to sea 5 hours later she was heavily depth charged.

4. One 3000 ton British ship in Gibraltar unaccompanied was sunk night of September 27th, September 28th.

5. September 28th. Fighters attacked objectives in Northern France setting on fire 2 petrol trucks near Caen and damaging enemy aircraft and enemy hangars at Morlaix.

6. Night of September 28th, September 29th. 103 aircraft despatched to deliver medium weight attacks on Genoa and Frankfurt; light attacks on St. Nazaire Emden. Near St. Nazaire good fires started amongst oil tanks, 5 aircraft missing.

7. On September 27th amongst other operations ten Beaufighters attacked aerodromes, seaplane bases Sicily and Sardinia. 36 seaplanes on water seriously damaged, 3 aircraft probably destroyed in the air.

8. Libya September 28th Marylands, some escorted by fighters, attacked Bardia area. Dumps M.T. concentrations

/ and

and warehouses hit. 4 enemy fighters probably destroyed, one Maryland and one Tomahawk missing.

9. North Russia. September 27th. Hurricanes destroyed two more German fighters.

10. Russians resisting strongly in Poltava and Melitopol areas.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

October 2nd, 1941.

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy
of the latest report received
from London on the military
situation. It is dated the
30th September, 1941.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

R. I. Campbell

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States
of America,

Washington, D.C.



TELEGRAM FROM LONDON DATED SEPTEMBER 30th, 1941.

- Naval. During operations in the Mediterranean, 13 enemy aircraft brought down by anti-aircraft fire and fighters. Three of our aircraft lost one ran out of petrol and two shot down flying low during enemy attack with torpedo aircraft; only one of crew was lost.
2. British submarine on patrol in Adriatic damaged enemy tanker on 18th, another on the 24th and sank one ship off Dalmatian coast on 23rd.
3. During the past week majority of effective German main naval units including "Tirpitz" and "Scheer" have carried out a war cruise in the Baltic. Following units are still in the Baltic; one battleship, one pocket battleship, one eight inch cruiser, three six inch cruisers and two old battleships. Photographic air reconnaissance reported "Scheer" in Hamburg shipyard on September 28th, presumably for repairs.
4. Russians inflicting heavy casualties on German forces attempting advance in Novomoskovsk Dniepropetrovsk area.
5. September 29th. Fighter command carried out small offensive patrols over French and Belgian coasts. A barge left sinking and patrol boat set on fire. A bomber destroyed on the ground. Three of our aircraft missing. Two pilots safe.
6. September 29th-30th. Nearly 250 aircraft sent to targets including Stettin, Hamburg and Havre. 10 missing. Most aircraft identified primary targets.

7. Libya. September 27th-28th. Attack was renewed on an enemy ship in Bardia harbour. Bombs fell near ship and three large fires started in docks.

8. September 29th. 6 Blenheims attacked Buerat, Gulf of Sirte, causing extensive damage to wireless station, motor transport and stores dumps.

9. Sicily. September 28th. 18 Hurricanes made three separate attacks on Comiso aerodrome dropping two tons of bombs. Hits scored on hangars and buildings, two seriously damaged.

10. Rhodes, September 27th-28th. 11 Wellingtons successfully attacked the harbour.

11. German Air Force. September 29th-30th. 24 aircraft operating, 7 came inland.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

October 3rd, 1941

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a
copy of the latest report received
from London on the military situa-
tion. It was dated October 1st.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Halifax

UNCLASIFIED
RECORDED

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

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

TELEGRAM RECEIVED FROM LONDON
DATED OCTOBER 1st, 1941

NAVAL

Three motor torpedo boats supported by motor gun boats attacked enemy convoy steaming westward through Straits of Dover night of September 30th-October 1st, and escorting trawler was probably sunk. We suffered no casualties.

RUSSIA.

Russians stubbornly resisting German thrust from Poltava towards Kharkov and in Melitopol area appear to have held up German advance.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

September 30th-October 1st, over 160 aircraft sent against Hamburg Stettin Cherbourg and Nantes. One aircraft missing.

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BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

October 6th, 1941

~~SECRET~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a
copy of the latest report received
from London on the military situation.
It was dated October 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 RECEIVED FROM LONDON DATED
OCTOBER 2nd, 1941.

H.M.S. Hermoine bombarded Italian Naval base Pantelleria during operations passing convoy to Malta. Night of 1st/2nd, Tanker 12,842 tons in convoy torpedoed 770 miles east north east off St. Johns (N.F.).

Night of Sep.30th/Oct. 1st, enemy convoy off Dutch coast attacked by aircraft of coastal command; direct hits scored on vessels, estimated 3000 tons and 10,000 tons. Both attacking aircraft were on patrol. P.M. October 1st eight Hurricanes attacked eight E boats off Dieppe. All E. boats hit and damaged. Night of October 1st/2nd aircraft hit two small merchant ships off North Friesian Islands. Tanker estimated 2,500 tons also attacked and straddled. Night of Sept.29th/30th, when Benghazi attacked by thirteen Wellingtons, several direct hits made on merchant ships alongside Mole.

RUSSIA. German advance from Poltava towards Kharkov meeting stiff resistance and German progress in Perekop isthmus has been halted.

ROYAL AIR FORCE. Sept. 30/Oct. 1st. 61 tons H.E. dropped Hamburg, 39 Cherbourg and 29 Stettin. Hits seen on Blohm and Voss air frame factory and railway junction at Hamburg. At Cherbourg bombs fell in docks area and at Stettin bursts seen in centre of town. October 1st. Our fighters destroyed two enemy fighters, two Spitfires on sea reserve operations and one on photographic reconnaissance missing.

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Night of October 1st/2nd. Enemy air activity United Kingdom very slight. Night fighters shot down two, 88 of our aircraft delivered medium weight attacks on Karlsruhe and Stuttgart. One missing.

Libya 30th/1st. Wellingtons attacked M.T. depot Tripoli (L) many direct hits seen and large spreading fire.

Africa. 29th. Sunderland on convoy escort duty reconnoitred Dakar owing to error in "briefing" pilot, it was attacked by four French Mohawk fighters and joined by second Sunderland. One French fighter destroyed and others damaged.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

October 7th, 1941.

~~SECRET~~

Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

R. I. Campbell

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

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

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED



TELEGRAM FROM LONDON DATED OCTOBER 3rd, 1941.

September 10th His Majesty's submarine torpedoed 3,000 ton ship in Candia Harbour. September 19th. She scored one possible hit on transport off Gidoro Island.

2. Royal Air Force. October 1st/2nd. Off Dutch Coast Hudsons hit 2,000 ton merchant vessel and dropped bombs close to 2,500 ton tanker.

3. On October 2nd reconnaissance aircraft off Norway made direct hits on two merchant ships of 1,000 and 2,000 tons. Same aircraft bombed the docks Mjovk (sic) where factory building hit. Another aircraft off Aalesund attacked merchant ship estimated at 10,000 tons claimed three direct hits but bombs did not explode. Two Hurricanes attacked and left sinking large armoured barge off Knocke. During offensive operations our fighters shot down six enemy aircraft certain, three probably and damaged four. We lost four but one pilot safe.

4. Night of 2nd/3rd. Enemy warships Brest attacked by five aircraft. Smoke screen prevented observation of results.

5. Southshields and Dover attacked night 2nd/3rd. 60 aircraft crossed the coast; night fighters shot down three. Considerable damage to Tyneside but not serious.

6. Russia. German drive towards Kharkov is meeting strong Russian resistance.

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TELEGRAM FROM LONDON DATED OCTOBER 4th, 1941.

October 3rd. 690 miles west of Finister
His Majesty's Ship KENYA sighted enemy supply ship and
U-boat. The supply ship attempted to escape but was
..... and blew up. Shortly afterwards submerged
submarine and four life-boats full of Germans seen in
vicinity.

2. Now learnt that unnamed Italian liner sunk
night of September 18th-19th north of Khoms was probably
the Duilio 23,636 tons.

3. H.M. Submarine sunk 1,000 ton ship in
Rolvsoy Sound near North Cape on September 27th.

4. Submarine attacked two ships 3,000 tons,
5,000 tons, in Petsamo Harbour on October 2nd. She
entered the harbour contrary to orders, fired torpedos
at ships alongside, claimed two hits. Though heavily
attacked with depth-charges and having been entangled
in a net, she got clear after two hours.

5. A.M. October 3rd, enemy coastal guns
fired 16 rounds at trawler(s) about five miles off
Dover; no casualties, slight damage from splinters.

6. Survivors of American tanker 7,000 tons
under Panamanian colours report torpedoed 450 miles
east of Pernambuco, September 27th.

7. October 3rd. Focke Wulf aircraft were
driven off two convoys and damaged by Catalina and a
Hudson.

8. Royal Air Force. October 3rd. Hurri-
cans attacked off Gravelines 700 tons camouflaged
/merchant

merchant vessel escorted by 7 anti-aircraft ships. One anti-aircraft ship sunk 3 set on fire and 3 damaged; merchant vessel left in flames. Blenheim escorted by 8 squadrons of fighters bombed warehouses at Ostend, started 3 large fires. One enemy fighter destroyed; 3 Spitfires missing.

9. October 3rd-4th. Nearly 110 aircraft sent out as follows: all returned safely. Dunkirk, Rotterdam, Antwerp, Brest, and Lorient. One shot down by enemy bomber over Northumberland. Preliminary reports state that most of the aircraft successfully bombed their objectives; large warehouse and munitions dump hit at Rotterdam, substantial fires started at Dunkirk and Antwerp.

10. Southern Italy. October 3rd. Blenheim from Malta attacked power station, munitions factory and engine-sheds of important railway junction near Catanzaro. Hits obtained on all objectives with considerable damage. Stationary Train machine-gunned.

11. Libya. October 1st-2nd. Benghazi harbour again attacked by Wellingtons, hits scored on heavy anti-aircraft battery. Six naval aircraft dive-bombed stores dumps Bardia starting two large fires. October 2nd. Nine Marylands continuously attacked these dumps.

12. German Air Force. October 3rd,4th. Some aircraft engaged in anti-shipping operations and few reported over Eastern Counties.

13. Russia. Germans have improved their position in Krasatgrad area and advanced Eastwards and Southwards from Dniepropetrovsk bridgehead.

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TELEGRAM FROM LONDON DATED OCTOBER 5th, 1941.

Reference telegram October 2nd.

British tanker twelve thousand tons again torpedoed October 2nd. American destroyer found her still afloat and sunk her by gun fire. Preliminary report a.m. October 5th Swordfish attacked convoy in the Mediterranean about 50 miles N.E. of Tripoli, 3 merchant ships probably sunk or damaged.

2. Imports in convoy during week ending September 27 totalled 939,290 tons with 775,903 tons during previous week and average of 945,203 tons for the past ten weeks.

3. Royal Air Force. 3rd/4th October. Only 2 Stirlings attacked Brest owing to cloud through which bombs seen to burst. 9 coastal aircraft attacked aerodromes in Northern Denmark. October 4th Beaufort obtained 2 near misses on merchant ship off Norwegian Coast. October 4th/5th. No bomber operations owing to bad weather.

4. Libya. October 2nd/3rd. Wellingtons attacked Benghazi Harbour, Bardia, and Barea.

5. German Air Force. October 4th/5th. A few aircraft operated off East Coast.

Libya. Tobruk bombed October 2nd-3rd and October 3rd no serious damage reported.

Cyprus. October 2nd/3rd five enemy aircraft bombed Limassol aerodrome, slightly damaging run way.

6. Russia. Germans advancing Southeast of Roslavl East of Bryansk, Eastwards from Glukhov area, and Southwards from East of Dniepropetrovsk.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~ October 8th, 1941.

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein copies of
the latest reports received from
London on the military situation.
They are dated October 6th and
7th, 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.

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TELEGRAM FROM LONDON DATED OCTOBER 6th, 1941.

Reference telegram of October 5th.

Seven Swordfish attacked convoy of six ships northeast of Tripoli (L); one ship estimated 9,000 tons, one ship estimated 6,000 tons left in sinking condition, one estimated 8,000 tons possibly damaged. Believed one of the former sunk, reconnaissance next day showing one ship missing convoy.

2. H.M. Submarine sank torpedo boat *GENERALI* class northwest of Messina on September 27th. Another of H.M. Submarines hit with torpedo medium size merchant ship in convoy escorted by destroyers north bound 4 miles west of .. (words omitted) .. Ttime night 1st/2nd October, result unobserved.

3. Reference telegram of September 30th; Submarine torpedoed tanker *LIRI* which got into *CROTONE*; sank 3050 ton ship off *ORTONA*; also sank by gunfire pilot cutter, shore batteries compelled her withdrawal.

4. H.M. Submarine on September 26th torpedoed 5,000 ton transport in the Aegean. On September 28th, torpedoed large escorted merchant ship; result unobserved. On September 27th she also sank by gunfire *CAIQUE* full of Italian soldiers.

5. At Tobruk on October 3rd H.M. Trawler sunk by bombs during air raid. British tanker *TINEFIELD* 5856 tons mined and sunk Suez Canal am. October 5th. Canal probably reopened October 5th.

6. *RATNAGIRI* (R.I.N.) captured fully laden dhow off Berbera on October 5th on passage Madagascar to Djibuti.

/ 7. Royal Air Force



7. Royal Air Force. October 5th. Few fighter sweeps over northern France.
8. Libya 3rd/4th. Bombers again attacked harbours of Benghazi and Bardia and petrol dump near latter.
9. German Air Force. 5th/6th. Few enemy aircraft operating.
10. Cyprus. 3rd/4th. Enemy aircraft attacked again; no damage or casualties reported.
11. Russia. Finno-German forces have taken Petrozavodsk. German thrust developing north of Smolensk, -Moscow railway and southeast from Dniepropetrovsk bridge-head.


TELEGRAM FROM LONDON DATED OCTOBER 7th, 1941.

Near Kirkenes Russian submarine sank merchant vessel 5000 tons on October 3rd and torpedoed motor torpedo boat and merchant vessel on October 6th.

2. On September 26th British submarine torpedoed 5000 ton transport in Gulf of Athens, on September 28th, large escorted merchant vessel in the same vicinity. One hit obtained in each case results unobserved owing to counter attacks. She also sank by gunfire off Milo on September 27th CAIQUE carrying Italian troops.

3. Night of October 4th/5th small British merchant vessel with Bauxite from Georgetown to Trinidad sank owing to internal explosions when east of Trinidad. Sabotage suspected all crew saved.

4. During air attack over Suez Canal on October 5th/6th British medium merchant vessel was sunk at anchor southern end Gulf of Suez.

5. Royal Air Force. October 6th. Hurricanes of which one missing damaged two armed trawlers off Ostend and probably sank third.

6. Libya. October 4th/5th. Wellingtons attacked Benghazi harbour; fire and explosion seen on one ship. Officers quarters at Benina aerodrome hit and fires started near power station at Barce and stores dump near Bardia.

7. October 5th/6th. Fifteen tons of bombs dropped on Tripoli (L) setting fire to large oil tanker and scoring hits or near misses on two merchant vessels.

8. German Air Force. October 6th/7th.
Few enemy aircraft operated.
9. Libya. October 4th/5th. Tobruk bombed
for eight hours by about 50 aircraft.
10. Malta. October 4th/5th. Two aircraft
dropped bombs causing few civilian casualties and slight
damage to property.
11. Smolensk Sector: No definite news.
Fighting continues southwest of Kharkov. Germans
progressing towards the Sea of Azor.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

October 9th, 1941

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a
copy of the latest report received
from London on the military situa-
tion. It was dated October 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.

F E O
UNCLASSIFIED

TELEGRAM RECEIVED FROM LONDON
DATED OCTOBER 8th, 1941

MEDITERRANEAN, October 7th.

British submarine attacked two merchant ships escorted by two destroyers north of Crete and obtained one hit.

October 7th, large British tanker which had left homeward bound Atlantic convoy was torpedoed 200 miles from Reykjavik. Reported still afloat.

ROYAL AIR FORCE, October 7th/8th.

No operations owing to unfavourable weather.

SICILY, October 6th/7th.

Hurricanes carrying bombs attacked aerodrome at Comiso. Bombs fell in dispersal area.

LIBYA, October 5th/6th.

Wellingtons bombed Benghazi harbour and Blenheims mechanical transport workshops at Bardia. October 6th/7th, Wellingtons dropped 12 tons of bombs on Tripoli (L) harbour. Quays and merchant vessel of ten thousand tons hit. October 6th, twelve Tomahawks engaged 14 M.E. 109 in Sidi Omar area. One M.E. 109 destroyed and another probably destroyed. We lost two Tomahawks.

NORTH RUSSIA, October 6th.

14 enemy bombers and six fighters bombed our aerodromes at Ori....otta (Murmansk). No damage and only one minor service casualty. Our Hurricanes destroyed three Junkers 88's

probably/

probably destroyed two Junker 88's and one
ME 109 and damaged another six Junkers 88's
without loss to themselves.

German forces have reached Vyasma
and Berdyansk and are attacking Orel.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

October 10th, 1941

Dear Mr. President,

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

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
UNCLASSIFIED

TELEGRAM FROM LONDON - OCTOBER 9TH, 1941

- British ship 4000 tons was bombed and sunk night of October 7th/October 8th while anchored at Suez. The canal is open.
2. Dutch submarine on October 3rd. torpedoed and sank French merchant ship 3500 tons 20 miles east of Terranova (Sardinia).
3. Night of October 6th/October 7th. 23 Wellingtons bombed Piraeus harbour; damage extensive, violent explosions in warehouses. Same night ten Elenheims bombed Bardia.
4. Libya. October 7th. Marylands escorted by Tomahawks attacked two dumps near Gambut; enemy fighter probably destroyed second damaged.
5. October 6th and October 7th. Enemy aircraft (one probably destroyed) bombed Tobruk town and harbour. Positions in El Adem Sector machine gunned. Troops west of Bu.... Bu.... machine gunned and attacks made on landing grounds in Sidi Hanish. No damage or casualties.
6. Palestine. October 7th, October 8th. Nine hostile aircraft attacked Haifa, negligible damage.
7. Malta. October 7th, October 8th. Six aircraft approached the island but dropped bombs in the sea. October 8th. Six aircraft approached the coast but did not cross.
- 8./

8. Russia. German thrust Vyasma area continues to make progress. Germans claim of encirclement Russian forces not confirmed. Russians evacuated Orel. Germans advance beyond town cutting Moscow-Kharkov railway. Russian forces encircled west of Berdyansk subjected to intense pressure from east north east and west. German force thrusting north east of Berdyansk towards Mariupol.

*file
personal*

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

October 11, 1941

~~SECRET~~

Dear Mr. President,

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

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 - OCTOBER 10TH, 1941

63 ships totalling 207,000 tons out of 90 allied and neutral ships detained by Vichy reported taken over by the French. Twenty one of these totalling 96,000 tons already placed under direct Axis control. Majority will work for Axis under cover of French flag. Some reported sent to Italian ports manned by Germans. Forty-two of these ships at present in Mediterranean.

2. On October 9th. Ostend Cherbourg areas fighter aircraft set on fire ships estimated at 1500 and 500 tons, damaged another 800 tons.
3. Night of October 9th/10th ten coastal aircraft attacked two enemy ships off AAlessund; full details not known but one direct hit estimated.
4. Night of October 7th/October 8th. Royal Airforce aircraft set on fire merchant ship in Tripoli (L) Harbour and destroyed lighter. Merchant ship estimated at 2000 tons west of Tripoli (L) was bombed probably sunk by Blenheim. Following night naval aircraft attacked convoy Sicilian Channel and sunk Merchant estimated at 6000 tons off Marittimo island Wellington scored direct hit merchant ship estimated at 6000 tons.
5. Large Russian forces near Vyasma and certain Russian forces near Bryansk probably surrounded. Germans advancing towards Kharkov and reported reached Mariupol.
6. On October 8th fifty enemy aircraft in two waves attacked Tobruk; four were badly damaged. Our casualties two killed few wounded.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

~~SECRET~~
October 13th, 1941.

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
the latest report received from
London on the military situation.
It was dated October 11th, 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 OCTOBER 11, 1941.

Albacores from Victorious bombed and set on fire 1,000 ton merchant ship in VEST Fjord. Two South bound merchant ships of 2,000 tons escorted by A/A ships also hit and small Norwegian merchant ship abandoned after being hit.

2. During last week shipping losses light. Winter gales started in the Atlantic interfering with movement of convoys. Successful attacks against enemy shipping in the Mediterranean have continued by British submarines and aircraft.

3. Fog over the United Kingdom and continent has restricted air operations but night of 10th/11th of October 139 aircraft raided Krupps, Essen, Cologne, Dunkirk, Bordeaux, Ostend, Rotterdam and searchlight belt in Ruhr; 13 aircraft not yet reported back.

4. G.A.F. Night of 10th/11th October, 25 enemy aircraft operated against this country nearham and in East Suffolk. No material damage, one enemy bomber destroyed by night fighters.

5. Naval. During week ending October 8, 821 ships were convoyed. One cruiser 4 A/A ships, six AMC's 93 destroyers, including 20 United States destroyers, and 95 other H.M. ships employed on escort duty.

6. Imports into the United Kingdom totalled 784,584 tons plus 8,000 tons of special Government cargo making average of 962,114 tons for last ten weeks.

7. During September 10,720 tons of cargo destined for the enemy seized in prize. Total seizures 810,239 tons since the beginning of the war.

8. Photographic reconnaissance recently showed Admiral Scheer in floating dock Hamburg. She may be damaged or suffering mechanical defects.

9. R.A.F. 9th/10th October. In Hudson attack off Norway reported October 10th, one hit made on 2000 ton merchant vessel, and another by 25 pound incendiary on 3000 ton ship. Believed two hits made on an 8-10,000 ton vessel. 10th, off the Hague a supply ship of 2,000 tons was twice hit and probably sunk.

10. Libya. 8th/9th October, 18 Wellingtons bombed aerodrome near Benghazi, damaging Hangers, buildings and oil stores.

11. Aircraft casualties. In last seven days Over and from British Isles: Ours, one fighter twelve bombers: Germans, two certain one probable. Middle East: Ours, two bombers. Germans, one certain two probable, one damaged. North Russia: Germans, four certain, six damaged, ours nil.

12. Russia. Germans continuing drives on Moscow from directions of Vyasma and Urel.

13. Acute shortage of textiles in German Europe has resulted in at least 25% reduction in German clothes rations and embargo in Italy of sale of clothes pending inventory of stocks and even wardrobes. Germany is making intensive efforts to get cotton from Turkey, wool and manufactured goods from Spain.

14. German anxiety over food supplies for the winter is shown in rationing of potatoes in some provinces.

15. French collaboration increases; joint German French aircraft production scheme on which factories in both zones expect to produce 300 planes monthly August 1942. Port Carente given up to Axis cargoes carried in French ships from North Africa and Spain.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

October 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 October
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.

REG-17-DED
UNCLASSIFIED


TELEGRAM FROM LONDON DATED OCTOBER 13th, 1941.

Summary.

Naval. His Majesty's Destroyer Norman (words omitted) T.U.C. officials on board arrived at Archangel on October 12th.

2. East coast convoy was attacked by E. boats off Cromer night of 12th/13th; two small merchant vessels were sunk. An attack on another convoy later was driven off without loss and two E boats were possibly damaged.

3. Reference our telegram October 7th, third paragraph. After investigation there appears no evidence of sabotage or of internal explosion in this ship, which probably struck Darien rock.

4. Military. Tobruk. During nights 9th/10th and 10th/11th an Australian Battalion carried out 3 highly successful fighting patrols. On 9th/10th an Italian working party about 150 strong was ambushed by a patrol of 20 which opened fire at point blank range with Brens and MGs inflicting 30 to 40 casualties before withdrawing without loss. On 10th/11th another patrol successfully engaged at 250 yards range a party of 50 enemy bunched on the skyline; patrol destroyed, no loss. A third patrol of 24 strong allowed an Italian party of about thirty, preceded by scouts to approach within ten yards when fire was opened with every available weapon; about 15 enemy were killed and a wounded officer was captured; our casualties were 2 slightly wounded.

5. In Southern sector of perimeter German tanks and Italian infantry succeeded in clearing one of our observation posts, our casualties 2 killed and 7 wounded; enemy consolidated this area with help of 10 tanks following
/morning.

morning. He is also consolidating his position about 12 miles south of perimeter under cover of several tanks.

6. Royal Air Force. 11th/12th. Emden. Twenty aircraft attacked, dropping 29 tons of bombs fires started. Coastal aircraft off Norway hit a merchant vessel of 4,500 tons, another 1,000 tons which was left sinking and a fish oil factory, which was set on fire. Two Beauforts mined an enemy occupied French harbour and a third is missing.

7. 12th. 24 Blenheims escorted by 19 fighter squadrons attacked Boulogne docks and 12 Blenheims escorted by 2 fighter squadrons bombed convoy off Dutch Coast hitting a tanker of 5,000 tons and a timber ship. Fighters destroyed 7 enemy fighters. Our losses were 2 Blenheims and 2 Spitfires.

8. 12th/13th. 376 aircraft were sent out. Nurnberg and Siemens Works 142 including 16 heavy: Bremen 99: Huls Chemical Works 93, including 11 heavy: Boulogne Docks 24: Ruhr searchlights 5: mine laying 3. 11 aircraft, including 2 heavy, ^{one} missing and 3 crashed, including a Halifax in Sea; 1 crew safe. Preliminary reports state: weather at Nuremburg was good and visit successful. 55 aircraft reported huge fires also at Bremen.

9. A Hudson obtained 1 hit on a 1,000 ton ship off Dutch Coast.

10. Libya. 10th/11th. 17 Wellingtons bombed Derna and 10 Blenheims Bardia. At former power station and at latter M.T. workshops were set on fire.

11. Reference yesterday's summary paragraph Mediterranean. Considered 2 ships of this convoy were sunk and 1 or 2 damaged.

12. 11th. 6 Blenheims of which 2 were destroyed by anti-aircraft fire probably sank merchant vessel of 3-5,000 tons and left ship of 1,000-1,500 tons on fire off Libyan Coast.

13. German Air Force. Sixty-eight aircraft were plotted, of which 54 came inland over Lancashire, the Midlands and East Anglia. 1 was destroyed by night fighters.

14. Libya. 10th/11th. Tobruk and Mersa Matruh were bombed and some service casualties and damage resulted. 4 Blenheims were damaged in attack upon Fuka landing ground.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON.

October 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 October 14th.

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 October 14, 1941

Naval

October 13th His Majesty's ship Lochoskaig (Armed Boarding vessel) was damaged by FOCKE WULF Aircraft 50 miles south west of Lisbon, 7 crew wounded. Mediterranean. His Majesty's Submarine reports she torpedoed 4,000 ton merchant vessel already aground on Sangeorgia Island (East Milo) on October 3rd. and a merchant vessel probably French THEOPHILE GAUTHIER on October 4th. On October 7th off Suda Bay she sank a 3,000 ton merchant vessel in convoy.

2. Military

Tobruk, October 11/12 Patrol Activity with tanks continued by both sides. At times opposing tanks were within fifty yards of each other but poor visibility made observation of enemy casualties and damage impossible. We had one light tank damaged. Enemy withdrew from our observation post captured previous night. October 12th considerable enemy activity in ELADEM SECTOR consolidating outpost positions gained during last three nights. Frontier area October 12th British Patrol attacked four enemy armoured cars and some mechanical transport in area Sheferzen. One enemy Armoured Car destroyed, three ammunition dumps blown up and four German prisoners taken.

Russia: Position in Moscow and Mariupol sectors remains serious.

3. Royal Air Force.

October 12/13, attack on Nuremberg very successfully: 95 tons high explosive dropped. Other targets received: Bremen 78 tons, Huls Chemical Works 33 tons, Boulogne docks 36 tons and alternative targets 82 tons. Two hits were made on a ship in Denhelder Harbour. October 13th. 24 Blenheims despatched to attack targets at Arques and Mazingarbe (Bethune area). Direct hits observed at Mazingarbe. 25 fighter squadrons participated in these operations. 20 enemy aircraft destroyed, 4 probably destroyed and 16 damaged; our losses thirteen fighters (two pilots safe) and one Blenheim. October 13/14, 118 Aircraft despatched to Dusseldorf 60 (8 heavys), Cologne 39 (9 heavys), Boulogne 6 (1 heavy) and sea mining 13. Five aircraft (including 2 heavys) are missing. Libya October 11/12: four Wellingtons attacked Benghazi Harbour. Ten Blenheims attacked mechanical transport work shops at Bardia. October 12th fighters fought approximately 30 M.E. 109's and 10 Italian fighters; four enemy fighters destroyed, two more probably destroyed and four damaged. Our losses four fighters. October 11/12 and October 12/13 Wellingtons attacked Tripoli Harbour 22 tons of bombs dropped. October 13th, Blenheims attacked Mechanical Transport Column 15 miles east of Gulf Sidra, three lorries and trailers being destroyed and others damaged.

4. German Air Force - Egypt

October 11/12 seven Junkers 88's attacked Fuka main landing ground, a petrol dump; fuel train and service ammunition train being destroyed and aerodrome rendered unserviceable.

5. Intelligence. Gliders.

There are indications of increase in German Glider production. Decco in Belgium (one of the largest furniture manufacturers in Europe) is reported to have switched from making hutments to building wings for gliders and dummy aeroplanes. Production seems to be mainly concentrated on wooden wing type used in Crete, but recently a larger all metal type, capable of carrying 50 men, or field guns or light tanks, has been made as well.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

October 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 October
15th.

Believe me,
Dear Mr. President,
Very sincerely yours,

DEGRADED
FILED

Halifax

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

Telegram from London dated
October 15th, 1941.

Operational summary (information received
up to 7 a.m. October 15th, 1941).

Naval. A naval corvette was torpedoed and
sunk by U-boat yesterday morning just west of the
Straits of Gibraltar. Only 3 survivors reported.

Accident occurred in an oil ship during fire
fighting exercises on 13th. One officer and four
ratings were killed.

Naval drifter was sunk in collision in the
Thames yesterday.

Military. Tobruk 12/13. Party of Polish
Cavalry Regiment successfully attacked enemy strong
post. Enemy minimum losses 20 killed. Polish
casualties 4. In El Adem sector enemy tanks patrolled
actively during the night but ours could not make
contact.

Russia. German advance towards Moscow is
continuing but the Russians have counter-attacked and
driven out Germans from Mojaisk (65 miles west south
west of Moscow) and Russian pockets are still
resisting behind the German lines in Vyazma and
Bryansk areas.

Ukraine. Germans are widening northward
wedge from Berdyansk through Mariupol towards Rostov.

Royal Air Force. 13/14. 29 aircraft bombed
Cologne (34 tons) and 35 Dusseldorf (55 tons). A Hudson
hit a merchant ship 4,000 tons off Northern Brittany.

14th. Off south west Norway Beauforts twice
hit with bombs 2 merchant ships 8,000 and 2,000 tons
respectively, torpedoed a third and probably a fourth
both of 2,000 tons. 1 Beaufort is missing.

During/

During cross Channel operations our fighters set fire to a small ship and an escort vessel and destroyed a float plane.

14th/15th. 95 aircraft sent: Nurnberg 80, leaflets (Paris Orleans area) 12, mining 3. 3 missing.

Libya. 12th. 9 Marylands bombed Berna landing ground destroying a large aircraft and damaging others. 12th/13th 6 Blenheims attacked 2 landing grounds where ammunition dumps were exploded and fires started and four others bombed Bardia harbour.

Mediterranean. 13th/14th. Naval aircraft set fire to a 6,000 ton merchant ship in convoy south of Lampedusa.

12th/13th. 5 Wellingtons attacked oil cisterns at Piraeus starting small fire.

German Air Force. 14th/15th. 30 enemy aircraft were operating of which about 20 are suspected of sea mining in the Thames Estuary.

Malta. 13th/14th. 9 fighters machine-gunned Luqa aerodrome slightly damaging one Wellington. Our fighters destroyed 1 and anti-aircraft fire probably destroyed 1 and damaged 4.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

October 18th, 1941

~~SECRET~~

Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,
Dear Mr. President,
Very sincerely yours,

Halifax

REGRADED
UNCLASIFIED

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

Telegram received from London
Dated October 16, 1941

Naval. An enemy aircraft attacked two Air Rescue Service launches south of Newhaven yesterday causing three casualties. Two ships in a homeward bound Canadian Convoy were torpedoed yesterday 750 miles west of Ireland (R) and another (9,500 tons) independently routed 600 miles West of Ireland (R).

2. Military. Russia.

Although no further German progress reported South towards Rostov nor in centre North Eastwards from Orel and only slight progress South West of Moscow. New thrust has developed Eastwards of Rzhev (still believed in Russian hands) towards Kalinin with apparent intention of turning City defences from North.

3. Royal Air Force. 14th October/15th. Owing to bad weather only 35 bombers reached Nurnberg on which 40 tons high explosive and 3,000 incendiaries were dropped. Remainder bombed alternate targets in Western Germany. Six aircraft did not return. 15th October. 12 Blenheims attacked shipping off Frisian Islands and hit a cargo vessel of about 4,000 tons. 12 others escorted by fighters bombed Havre docks hitting amidships 10,000 tons vessel which blew up. We lost 7 Blenheims and 1 Spitfire and destroyed 5 enemy fighters. 3 Hudson bombed docks at Esbjerg in Denmark.

15th/16th October. 45 bombers were despatched. Cologne 34 (7 heavy) Bolougne 8 and Amsterdam Aeordome 3. 3 Wellingtons missing.

Libya. Benghazi Harbour was bombed by 11

Wellingtons/

Wellingtons 13th/14th October and 6 Marylands.

14th. Hits on quays railway sidings work shops.

4. German Air Force. 15th/16th October.

29 aircraft were operating, 13 came inland. Few bombs fell in Yorkshire and at Great Yarmouth. No casualties reported.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~
October 19th, 1941.

Dear Mr. President,

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

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

TELEGRAM FROM LONDON DATED OCTOBER 17th, 1941

Summary (information received up to 7.00 a.m. October 17th, 1941).

Naval. On the 11th British submarine attacked 3 merchant vessels of 2,000-3,000 tons eastbound off Cape and obtained possible hits. On the 14th same position she attacked one of three merchant ships 3,000-5,000 tons westbound escorted by trawlers and aircraft and made one certain and two possible hits. Results unobserved.

2. Ex-German merchant vessel (7,862 tons) beached on August 25th has been salvaged.

3. Reference summary first paragraph (sub-paragraph 2). This convoy was again attacked early 16th about 650 miles west of Ireland (R) another ship being torpedoed.

4. Military. Russia. German advance eastwards of Rzhev (sic) is reported to have reached Kalinin. Due West of Moscow Russian defences probably in Mojaisk area have been penetrated but strong Russian resistance continues. Limited advance eastwards between Orel and Kursk is reported but further south bad weather appears to have restricted offensive operations.

5. Royal Air Force. 15th/16th. Visibility was poor. Cologne area attacked by 31 aircraft which dropped 55 tons of high explosives.

6. 16th. During small offensive patrols fighters damaged shipping at Flushing set fire to a petrol store and inflicted casualties at a searchlight post. An enemy army co-operation aircraft was destroyed. One Hurricane is missing.

/ 7. 16th/17th

7. 16th/17th. 128 aircraft despatched:
Duisburg 86 Dunkirk 22 Ostend 15 Ruhr searchlights 5.
2 missing and 1 crashed on return 5 of crew safe.

8. German Air Force. 16th/17th. 20
aircraft were operating of which 3 night fighters
crossed the coast. 1 junkers 88 destroyed by fighters
and 1 damaged.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON.

October 20th, 1941

~~SECRET~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein

copies of the latest reports received
from London on the military situa-
tion. They are dated October 18th
and 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.

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

Telegram from London dated October 18th, 1941

Operational Summary. (Information received up to 7 a.m. October 18th, 1941.)

Naval. Russian submarine has torpedoed and sunk 3,000 ton ship off North East Norway.

Small tanker and small Greek ship carrying petrol and stores for Tobruk were sunk by submarine 50 miles west of Alexandria early October 17th.

Homeward Canadian convoy was again attacked on October 16th/17th and 8 ships, totalling about 45,000 tons were sunk; 3 British, 3 Norwegian, 1 Greek and 1 Panamanian. Two were tankers the others carried raw materials and general cargoes. Early October 18th 1 escorting British destroyer was torpedoed; she is still afloat.

Military. Russian statement that they evacuated the greater part of the Odessa garrison by sea is probably correct.

Tobruk. October 15th/16th. British patrol of 2 officers and 24 other ranks engaged large enemy working party S.E. of Tobruk and inflicted about 20 casualties without loss. 13 enemy tanks seen in this area withdrew to dead ground.

Royal Air Force. October 16th/17th. Duisburg. 66 aircraft dropped 72 tons of H.E. and 7400 incendiaries. Total of 25 tons dropped on Dunkirk and Ostend; bursts seen in docks and fires were started. A Hudson possibly hit 6,000 ton merchant vessel off Dutch coast.

October 17th. Hurricanes and a Spitfire attacked small enemy craft off Zebrugga and Ostend .

Two trawlers were set on fire.

Libya. October 15th/16th. 18 Wellingtons bombed Benghazi.

German Air Force. October 17th/18th. 20 enemy aircraft were operating. One came inland.

Enemy casualties in operations over British Isles. British October 16th/17th two coastal (additional).

Of about 1400 motor vehicles destined for the Axis, in French North Africa after the Armistice on August 31st 581 were reported delivered to Libya frontier and 343 ready for delivery. Of 400 trucks in France agreed to be delivered to Libya, 72 have arrived in North Africa but have not yet reached Libya.

323

TELEGRAM RECEIVED FROM LONDON
DATED OCTOBER 19th, 1941

Operational Communication (information received up to 7 a.m. October 19th, 1941).

NAVAL .

Reference summary 18th, torpedoed British destroyer has sunk, 96 survivors so far reported. Operation to reinforce Malta with aircraft has been successfully completed with loss of one Swordfish. Two shadowing enemy aircraft were destroyed by our fighters. One large and one small merchant vessel in southbound coastal convoy were mined and sunk in Western Thames (sic) approaches, p.m. 18th.

MILITARY. RUSSIA. CENTRE.

Although Germans have taken Kalinin and Mojaisk and made progress east of line of Mojaisk Kaluga, execution of counter attacks and bad weather have slowed down their advance. Situation north east of Orel unchanged. South. Small German advances are reported north-west of Kharkov and north of Mariupol but eastward thrust towards Rostov has been slowed down.

ROYAL AIR FORCE. 18th and 18th/19th.

Bad weather; no important operations.

NAPLES. 16th/17th. 16 Wellingtons from Malta dropped 16 tons of bombs including three 4000 pounders. It is thought that torpedo factory was completely destroyed; Royal arsenal and Alfa Romeo works were also hit.

SICILY. 17th.

Blenheims escorted by Hurricanes attacked Syracuse seaplane base; bursts seen on

on objective; an enemy fighter was probably shot down.

17th/18th. Wellingtons bombed Trapani aerodrome; buildings were hit and 1 aircraft destroyed on ground.

SARDINIA. 17th/18th.

Wellingtons cooperating with naval force (paragraph 1) attacked Elmas aerodrome hitting runways and buildings.

MEDITERRANEAN. Night 17th/18th.

7 naval aircraft attacked a convoy south of Pantellaria; 2 merchant vessels were damaged by torpedoes and third possibly hit.

GERMAN AIR FORCE. 18th/19th.

Only 5 aircraft plotted.

MALTA. Between 16th and 18th.

Several day and night attacks were made; no damage or casualties reported.

ITALY.

As a result of shortage of basic food, enquiries have been made in most countries of German controlled Europe for potatoes, not normally part of staple diet of Italians. There is no indication that they have been able to secure any considerable quantity.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.
October 21st, 1941.

~~SECRET~~

Dear Mr. President,

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

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 OCTOBER 20th, 1941.

1. Naval. A Russian submarine on return from patrol eastwards of North Cape claims four enemy merchant ships hit between September 26th and October 11th.

One of His Majesty's submarines sank two ships in convoy 50 miles west of Lampedusa on the 18th.

A 9,000 ton tanker was torpedoed off Straits of Gibraltar on 19th but is still afloat in two halves.

2. Military. Russia. Germans hampered by hard weather have made little progress towards Moscow. They are advancing slightly towards Kharkov in Donetz basin and towards Rostov.

Ethiopia. Enemy troops, combatant strength about 15,000 remain in Gondar.

3. Royal Air Force. 19th. Fighters carried out 10 small offensive operations over Northern France.

19th and 19th/20th. No operations by Bomber Command.

Middle East. 18th. 15 Marylands attacked two Cyrenaican landing grounds.

18th/19th. Mediterranean. Naval aircraft attacked convoy 85 miles north west of Tripoli (L) and made 3 torpedo hits on a 6,000 ton ship which was left stationary and on fire. A second ship was probably damaged.

19th. A Hurricane destroyed an Italian bomber south of Lampedusa.

Sicily. 19th. 6 Blenheims attacked ammunition factory and power station at Licata and 5 Hurricanes carrying bombs aerodrome at Comiso. No enemy opposition: bombs fell in the target area.

Ethiopia. 17th. Bombers and fighters attacked objectives and trenches near Azazo.

4. German Air Force. 19th/20th. 35 enemy aircraft were operating principally in Thames Estuary: flew inland. Night fighters destroyed one bomber.

.....

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

October 24th, 1941

~~SECRET~~

Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,
Dear Mr. President,
Very sincerely yours,

Malifax

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

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

Telegram from London dated October 23rd, 1941.

H.M.S. "Aurania" has arrived in Clyde.

In convoy reported attacked 21st, one British ship 4,099 tons was torpedoed and sunk and one British ship 5,281 tons, is missing. Several aircraft of Coastal Command took action against four U-boats sighted in vicinity of this convoy.

Day of 21st sweeps were carried out over St. Omer area in the course of which 13 enemy fighters were destroyed and 4 damaged. 21 Blenheims attacked one motor vessel of 1500 tons and one schooner of 600 tons off the East Tunisian coast using $2\frac{1}{2}$ tons of bombs; schooner blew up and sank, motor-vessel was set on fire.

Night of 21st/22nd twenty-four Wellingtons made successful attacks on Naples. About 120 aircraft bombed Bremen, targets including Deutsche Schiff Werke and eight Hudsons started good fires at Aarhus petrol harbour. Night of 22nd/23rd 161 aircraft despatched to deliver a heavy attack on Mannheim light attack on Havre and Brest. Enemy employed about 40 aircraft in widespread attacks over United Kingdom. Night fighters shot down 3 certain and one probable; no serious damage was caused.

Russia.

On 22nd October Molotov who had arrived from Moscow with other members of Soviet Government outlined situation to His Majesty's Ambassador as follows:

(1)/

(1) Leningrad. Soviet Government were very concerned and were trying to improve their position. Germans had crossed Volkhov and were trying to advance Northeast but were being held.

(11) Moscow. Germans' break-through near Mozhaisk October 14 was responsible for decision to evacuate Government authorities and diplomatic corps on October 15th. This break-through had now been held; Germans had only advanced a few kilometres and that only at expense of great losses. Although Germans had taken Kallinin a week ago, fighting was still going on there with Soviet infantry and tanks in occupation of Southern outskirts. Germans held the centre. West of Moscow bitter fighting was proceeding in the approaches to City but there had been no noticeable German advance since October 15th.

(111) Southern Front. Position difficult, Germans advancing slowly towards Rostov.

(IV) Crimea. Germans were held on Isthmus but pressure was great.

(V) Kharkov. Position steady.

(VI) Molotov stressed that fighting spirit of people was quite unbroken.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

October 27th, 1941

~~SECRET~~

Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,
Dear Mr. President,
Very sincerely yours,

Atchfin

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

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

TELEGRAM FROM LONDON DATED OCTOBER 24th, 1941.

H.M.S. GNAT has arrived in harbour in tow.

H.M.S. MAORI was torpedoed night 22nd/23rd 10 miles South Southwest Cape St. Vincent while escorting homeward bound convoy. Forward part completely wrecked and, though possibility of towing was expected, later report states H.M.S. MAORI was sinking.

H.M.S. URGE reports hits on two ships off KURIAT Island Tunisian Coast.

H.M.S. UNIQUE torpedoed Italian A.M.C. CITTA DI GENOVA Class 54 13 tons P.M./14 off Naples. Later ship appeared to have sunk.

R.F.A. DARKDALE tanker 8,145 tons sank after explosion in St. Helena Harbour night of 21st/22nd. Believed she was torpedoed by U-Boat.

Night of 21st/22nd 111 tons of H.E. including 6 of 4000 lbs. and 6000 incendiaries were dropped on Bremen. 38 tons of H.E. including 4 of 4000 lbs. were dropped on Naples; reports claim large fire, many buildings destroyed and railway station well alight.

Day of 22nd Blenheims attacked barracks at Homs, Libya, many bursts being seen among buildings.

Night of 22nd/23rd approximately 130 aircraft attacked Mannheim, 20 attacked Havre and Brest where bombs were seen to burst in vicinity of battle cruisers.

Day of 23rd 4 Blenheims attacked small merchant-vessel 50 miles W.N.W. of Marittimo Island scoring hits near funnel and two near misses.

Night of 23rd/24th 140 aircraft were despatched from the United Kingdom. Over 100 attacked Kiel, 9 Sterlings attacked Brest, light attack also made on Cherbourg.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

October 27th, 1941.

~~Secret~~

Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,
Very sincerely yours,

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED R. I. Campbell

(in the absence of
Lord Halifax)

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

Telegram from London dated October 25th.

Correction to telegram dated October 24th: in second paragraph for H.M.S. "Maori" read H.M.S. "Cossack" and for "10 miles" read "110 miles". (Latest reports state that H.M.S. Cossack is proceeding to harbour in tow).

Night 20th/21st a cruiser force bombarded enemy battery east of Tobruk and destroyers bombarded Bardia Harbour.

On October 24th a medium size German merchant vessel off the south coast of Norway was set on fire by a Beaufort.

Two minesweeping trawlers were mined and sunk in the Thames estuary on October 24th.

Partly due to 8 ships sunk in homeward-bound Canadian convoy shipping losses were heavier during last week, U-boats being mainly responsible.

Heavy weather in the Atlantic caused damage to several destroyers.

Casualties during last week in air operations over and from this country: Royal Air Force 24 bombers 14 fighters, German Air Force 4 bombers destroyed, 1 probable, 3 damaged, 21 fighters destroyed, 8 probable, 6 damaged; Middle East: Royal Air Force 4 bombers destroyed, 5 damaged, 2 fighters destroyed, German Air Force 3 fighters, 1 probable, 1 damaged, Italian Air Force 1 bomber destroyed.

On the night of 20th/21st and the following day a total of over 25 aircraft dropped 26 tons of H.E. on Benghazi harbour, hits being scored on moles and railway sidings.

On the night of 22nd/23rd 61 tons of H.E. and 3600 incendiaries were dropped on Mannheim, 27 tons of H.E. on the docks at Havre, 20 tons on Brest.

On/

On the night of 23rd/24th the main target was Kiel and small forces also raided Havre, Cherbourg and Brest.

On the night of the 24th/25th, 101 aircraft raided Frankfurt and attacks were also made on Cherbourg, Emden and Brest. One aircraft is missing.

966 ships were escorted in convoy during the week ending October 22nd; 789,286 tons were imported in convoys during the week ending October 18th.

Malta has been reinforced with aircraft.

During the past week night bombing operations have been hampered by weather. Enemy air activity has again been slight.

Russia.

Heavy fighting continues on the Moscow front; there is bad weather and more evidence of German supply difficulty. Kharkov appears in immediate danger. German armoured troops are within 20 miles of Rostov but are meeting vigorous resistance. German attack on Crimea is continuing. German difficulties in advancing across the River Don thence into the Caucasus must not be underrated.

Information received so far confirms success of Russian policy of evacuation of key armament factories from Western areas. There is considerable evidence of destruction of buildings and installations of factories by retreating Russian troops.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON.

October 28th, 1941

Dear Mr. President,

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

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

TELEGRAM FROM LONDON DATED OCTOBER 26th

H.M.S. Ariguani (catapult ship) while escorting convoy night of 25th/26th was torpedoed 330 miles west of Cape St. Vincent. One of His Majesty's ships is standing by. Three ships, small or medium tonnage, have been torpedoed and sunk in convoy as result of several attacks. A submarine has been sighted by aircraft, based on Canada, 120 miles east of Strait of Belle Isle.

Night of 24th/25th, bad visibility made observation difficult in all R.A.F. attacks on German targets. Naples was bombed, again results being unobserved and eight tons of H.E. were dropped on Tripoli,

Day of 25th, Blenheims attacked Misurata, Zuara and Gazala area. Night of 25th/26th, no operations from United Kingdom owing to bad weather.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

October 29th, 1941.

~~SECRET~~

Dear Mr. President,

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

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 OCTOBER 28TH, 1941

A homeward bound Gibraltar convoy was attacked for the third time since the night of 23rd. by U-Boats, 1 small ship being torpedoed, making a total of 4 ships lost.

North-bound East coast convoy was twice bombed during daylight 27th by enemy aircraft. 1 small Dutch ship and 1 medium sized British ship were sunk.

5000 to 7000 tons of rubber recently arrived at Casablanca from Indo China en route for Marseilles. If this arrives in France it will make good 1/3 of the present estimated German deficiency for 1942. A further 6000 tons is probably being carried in a French convoy which sailed from Madagascar for France on October 24th.

Night of 23rd/24th 94 tons of H.E. and 8000 incendiaries were dropped on Kiel, 31 tons of H.E. on Brest.

Day of 24th, during offensive operations over Northern France and Dutch coast 7 enemy fighters were destroyed for the loss of 1 of ours. A 7000-ton merchant ship was damaged off the south coast of Norway. Benghazi and Derna were bombed.

During daylight 27th our fighters shot down 2 Do. 17's. 2 Blenheims missing from daylight low altitude attack on shipping off Dutch coast. 2 enemy fighters destroyed 5 probably and 3 damaged. In addition 2 He. 59's destroyed on sea at Ostend. 11 of our fighters missing 1 pilot saved.

During /

During attack on Hamburg night 26th/27th large fires were started in dock area of BLOHM-AND-VOSS Shipyard.

RUSSIA: Leningrad sector - Russian counter attack and a lessening of German pressure are reported.

KALININ Sector - The Germans are still making little progress.

MOSCOW Sector - Further slight German progress is reported.

OREL Sector - The German advance has been held up and German armoured formations are said to be short of petrol.

ROSTOV Sector - There is no change in the situation; strong Russian resistance is continuing.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

October 30, 1941

~~SECRET~~
Dear Mr. President,

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

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
UNCLASSIFIED

TELEGRAM FROM LONDON DATED OCTOBER 29th, 1941.

A mixed cruiser and destroyer force bombarded the Bardia area on the night of 25th/26th. 2 P.A.A. Albacores dropped flares illuminating the harbour for this bombardment and also bombed the entrance to the harbour.

The M/V Georgic 27,759 tons bombed and sunk off Suez on the 11th July has been salvaged.

On the night of 26th/27th and on the following day, 4 Wellingtons and 9 Marylands attacked the docks at Dunkirk.

During operations over Northern France in daylight on the 28th our fighters attacked barges and factories near Dunkirk. 2 M.E. 109's were destroyed and 1 was destroyed on the ground.

A Hudson Aircraft hit a medium sized merchant ship off Terschelling on the 28th.

On the night of the 28th/29th the Royal Air Force raided Cherbourg and the Skoda works. All aircraft returned. 35 enemy aircraft operated against the United Kingdom during the night of the 28th/29th dropping some bombs in Somerset, Devon and Cornwall. No important damage was done. One enemy bomber was destroyed by night fighters.

RUSSIA: Kalinin Sector: Russian counter attacks are preventing Germans from consolidating their positions.

Moscow Sector: The Germans have made slight progress North of Kubinsk on the Mozhaisk-Moscow Road and East of Narofominsk. The Russians are counter-attacking in the direction of Mozhaisk.

Donetz Basin: The Russians are resisting strongly and the Germans have made little progress.

Rostov Sector: No change is reported.

file

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

~~SECRET~~

October 31st, 1941

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy
of the latest report received from London
on the military situation. It was dated
October 30th, 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 FROM LONDON DATED
OCTOBER 30th, 1941

EMPIRE GUILLEMOT, British, 5720 tons, sailing independently Malta to Gibraltar is overdue, probably sunk by torpedo from aircraft off Galita Island.

Russian Ghuka (Destroyer) torpedoed and sunk 4,000 ton Merchant Ship on 17th 80 miles South-West of North Cape.

At 1900 29th Hudson aircraft off Aalesund attacked Merchant Vessel estimated 2,500 tons and another about 1500 tons. Heavy explosion in one vessel both left on fire and believed destroyed.

Another Hudson claimed one hit on enemy M.T.B. in same area at 1920/1st. Hudson aircraft attacked from low level two ships alongside at Aalesund claiming two hits.

At 2318 29th a Beaufort attacked Merchant Ship estimated 4,000 tons Bergen. Intense flak and strong searchlights prevented observation of result.

On 29th 6 Wellingtons carried out nuisance raid on Tripoli; raid lasted 8 hours; 74-250 pounds bombs dropped.

Last night 61 aircraft despatched from United Kingdom majority to attack Schipol remainder to Brest.

RUSSIA.

In reply to an inquiry concerning the fate of the Soviet Ships at Nicolayev Molotov recently informed His Majesty's Ambassador that all unfinished ships/

ships which had been launched were removed together with all equipment in them and material required for completing construction; there remained on stocks a number of ships in early stages of construction but material for completing them had been removed and their hulls destroyed.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

November 1st, 1941.

~~Secret.~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy
of the latest report received from
London on the military situation.
It is dated October 31st.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Habitax

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

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

Telegram from London dated October 31st.

1. Naval. United States fleet oiler Salinas in convoy attacked by U-boat a.m. 30th 600 miles east of Newfoundland. Hit twice, she is proceeding to harbour at 7 knots.
2. Military. Russia. Moscow sector. Russian wireless admits serious situations in areas of Wolok-clamsk (between Rzhev and Moscow) and Tula (120 miles due south of Moscow).
Donets Basin. Axis forces are advancing towards River Don in area Northwest of town of Stalin.
Rostov sector, no change.
Crimea: German advance into Crimea is continuing.
3. Royal Air Force. United Kingdom night of 29th/30th Brest received 21 tons H.E., Schipol aerodrome 11 tons. Day of 30th during offensive operations over Northern France bombs dropped on railway enclosure and factory near Harellet. Night of 30th/31st operations cancelled owing to bad weather.
4. Libya. 29th/30th five hours sustained attack on Tripoli (L), 23 tons H.E. on railway buildings, engine sheds and sidings.