

GREAT BRITAIN - Military Situation: January 1942

PSF
G.B

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

January 1, 1942

~~SECRET~~
Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein copy of the latest
report received from London on the military
situation.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Halifax

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D.C.

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of *State Dept.*

Letter 1/20/72 - British Hist. Telegram 1/21/72

By *RHP* Date **FEB 9 1972**

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By Authority of State Dept

Copy No. 11

Letter 1/20/72 - British Fleet, ~~BRITISH HOSE CORDS~~
By RHP Date FEB 9 1972 ^{11/21/72} Telegraph ~~(U.S. CORDS)~~

OPTEL No. 57

Information received up to 7 a.m., 31st December, 1941.

(I) NAVAL

Home waters 30th. A photographic reconnaissance of BREST during afternoon subsequent to attack mentioned in paragraph 3 below showed the SCHARNHORST and PRINZ EUGEN in dry dock and GNEISENAU alongside the torpedo boat station with no apparent damage.

MEDITERRANEAN. 29th. A convoy escorted by cruisers and destroyers arrived at ALEXANDRIA from MALTA. The force had been several times attacked unsuccessfully by enemy aircraft.

12th. One of H.M. destroyers escorting a convoy to TOBRUK successfully drove off by gunfire two enemy torpedo bombers which attacked her Northeast of BARDIA.

One of H.M. gun-boats successfully engaged two enemy coastal defence guns in the vicinity of BARDIA. One of H.M. submarines has shelled and sunk 5 enemy schooners at SUDA BAY and at METHONI (Southwest GREECE). She also torpedoed an Italian destroyer inside NAVARINO HARBOUR on the 23rd.

(II) MILITARY

LIBYA. It is now known that in the tank battle south of JEDABYA on 28th we destroyed 22 enemy tanks and severely damaged a further 20. Our losses were 6 tanks knocked out and 8 more left on the battle field and probably lost. No further battle had developed by 8.30 a.m. 30th. At that time 40 enemy tanks were reported advancing Northwest from EL HASEIAT (30 miles Southeast of JEDABYA).

MALAYA. The bridge at KUALA DIPANG (7 miles north of KAMPAR) has been successfully destroyed.

BURMA. BOKPYIN which was unsuccessfully attacked by our forces on 27th was evacuated by the Japanese during night 28th/29th and was occupied by our forces on the morning of 30th.

RUSSIA. Main Front. The Russian advance is continuing.

CRIMEA. The Russians have landed on the KERCH Peninsula and have recaptured KERCH and FEODOSIA.

(III) AIR OPERATIONS

WESTERN FRONT. 30th. 9 Squadrons of fighters (from which 3 Spitfires are missing) escorted 16 Halifax in an attack on the warships at

BREST, the results of which were not observed. A.A. fire was intense and accurate. 3 of our bombers are missing, the crew of one being rescued from a dinghy 50 miles north of BREST. Four fighters destroyed 6 ME 109's and our bombers destroyed another, 7 more were probably destroyed. 30th/31st. 6 aircraft of coastal command attacked the docks at LA PALLICE. Hits are claimed on the mole and a tanker was possibly damaged.

MEDITERRANEAN. LIBYA. 29th. 4 squadrons of Blenheims attacked enemy positions and the landing ground at JEDABYA, many vehicles and two aircraft were destroyed. Other Blenheims dropped bombs among dispersed motor transports 20 miles south of JEDABYA. 3 squadrons of Blenheims registered many hits on enemy positions at BARDIA. Blenheims attacked enemy vehicles in the areas of MISURATA and ZOUARA. 3 small ships and 3 lighters were sighted at RAS ELALI (26 miles west of EL AGHEILA). Supplies were apparently being landed at a temporary jetty there and also at RAS LANUF (43 miles Northwest of EL AGHEILA). At RAS EL ALI 500 M.T. were seen dispersed around the jetty.

MALTA. 29th. 5 enemy fighters machine gunned naval units. One ME 109 was probably destroyed by Hurricanes, two of which are missing. 12 bombers attacked LUQA causing some damage to aircraft on the aerodrome.

Night 29th/30th. 3 enemy aircraft dropped bombs on the island causing a few army casualties. 30th. 3 raids were made during the second (by 6 bombers escorted by 40 fighters) the aerodromes at TAKALI and LUQA and a dockyard were attacked, two bombers were destroyed and one probably destroyed by our Hurricanes.

FAR EAST. MALAYA. 29th. KUANTAN aerodrome again attacked but no damage caused. P.M. Enemy aircraft made 3 attacks on SINGAPORE Island, details of damage not yet known.

JOHORE. 29th. From army sources it is reported that LUANG was bombed and machine gunned.

(V) HOME SECURITY

29th/30th. Casualties at NEWCASTLE and in the NORTHUMBERLAND area are reported to be 11 killed and 32 seriously injured.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON.

~~SECRET~~

January 2, 1942.

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy
of the latest report received
from London on the military
situation. It is dated
January 1, 1942.

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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By Authority of British

Govt., Telegram 112/72

By RHP Date FEB 0 1972

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By Authority of British

Copy No. 12

Sect. Telegram 11212

~~BRITISH-MSG-SECRET~~

By RHP Date FEB 9 1972

~~(U.C. SECRET)~~

OPTEL No. 1

Information received up to 7 a.m., 1st January, 1942.

(I) NAVAL

Attacks on shipping. 28th Dec. A British ship of small tonnage was sunk by enemy action in the Eastern MEDITERRANEAN.

31st Dec. A British tanker was torpedoed about 200 miles north west of the BUTT OF LEWIS.

(II) MILITARY

LIBYA. Enemy is now believed to have the remnants of five Italian infantry divisions and one Italian and two German armoured divisions in the JEDABYA area, round which several strong points have been constructed. There is also a line of defended posts stretching thirty miles south eastwards towards EL HASELIAT. From which place the enemy had been forced to withdraw by one of our mobile columns.

30th Dec. During the morning there was another tank battle between forty enemy tanks and fifty-eight of our own some fifteen miles south east of JEDABYA. Tank casualties are not yet known but are likely to be considerable on both sides. In the afternoon, our armoured forces withdrew northwards to protect the left flank of the troops engaging the strong enemy post north east of JEDABYA.

Frontier Area. 31st Dec. The assault on BARDIA with tanks and infantry commenced early in the morning after heavy air and artillery preparations. It is believed that good progress has been made.

MALAYA. In PERAK our position is unchanged. During 30th Dec. the Japanese, supported by artillery and mortar fire, appeared to be feeling our defences. There has been minor enemy air activity against our communications. On the East Coast, a small party of Japanese have penetrated southwards from TRENGGANU towards KUANTAN where they are being engaged.

RUSSIA. Heavy fighting is continuing south west of KALININ. The Germans have made a further withdrawal west of KALUGA.

(III) AIR OPERATIONS

WESTERN FRONT. 31st Dec. and 31st Dec./1st Jan. No offensive operations undertaken by our aircraft and enemy activity was negligible.

MEDITERRANEAN. LIBYA. 30th Dec. Three squadrons Blenheims bombed thirty tanks and 200 mechanical transport which were attacking our troops twenty-three miles south east of JEDABYA. All bombs burst among the mechanical transport. Four other squadrons heavily attacked enemy positions at BARDIA. B lenheims attacked mechanical transport on the HOMS-TRIPOLI and TRIPOLI-ZOUARA roads.

30th/31st. Seven Wellingtons attacked barracks and mechanical transport sheds at MISURATA. Repeated hits were scored on the targets.

MALTA. 30th/31st. Twenty-three enemy aircraft dropped bombs on the island demolishing a number of houses.

31st. Three enemy raids, one of which consisted of forty-six bombers and fighters, attacked TAKAU aerodrome. One ME 109 was destroyed. No damage to aerodrome reported.

FAR EAST. MALAYA. 30th. Enemy aircraft attacked KUALA LUMPUR and PORT SWETTENHAM. No reports of damage.

(IV) INTELLIGENCE

OIL. In their efforts to reduce the consumption of petrol still further, the Germans are reported to be ordering large quantities of producer gas apparatus for use on mechanical transport on the Russian Front. They have not delivered any oil under their agreement with SWEDEN since October and have intimated they will not recommence deliveries in the near future.

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

January 3rd., 1942.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Halifax

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

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of *British*

Govt., Telegram 11/2/72

By *RHP* Date FEB 9 1972

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By Authority of British

COPY NO 11

Scott, Telegram 112172
By RHP Date FEB 9 1972

~~(U.S. EYES)~~

OPTEL No. 2.

Information received up to 7 A.M. 2nd January 1942.

(1) NAVAL.

One of H.M. Submarines claims three hits with torpedoes on laden 6,000 ton tanker off Cephalonia on 30th December. The British Tanker reported yesterday torpedoed is still afloat. A small British Merchant Vessel, in South bound East Coast convoy was sunk by mine yesterday.

(2) MILITARY.

Libya.

The first objectives in our attack on Bardia were taken by noon on 31st December, in spite of a partially successful counter attack, they were all regained and consolidated. About 1,000 enemy prisoners, including some Germans, were captured. Operations continue. In the forward area, El Haseiat was reported clear of enemy on the 31st.

Malaya.

In Perak, slight contact has been made with the enemy to the North West of Kampar. At Kuantan, our troops hold the River line immediately South and South West of the town.

Russia.

In the Kaluga sector, the Russian advance is continuing, and at least 16 German divisions have suffered serious losses.

(3) AIR OPERATIONS.

Western Front.

1st and 1st/2nd. No operations by ourselves or the enemy worth reporting.

MEDITERRANEAN.

Greece.

30/31st. 10 Wellingtons bombed Salamis. The submarine base and a munition factory were hit. Other Wellingtons bombed the Piraeus, starting a fire among oil cisterns and causing explosions at a chemical factory. A large fire was also started at Megara seaplane base, and attacks were also made on two aerodromes in Crete. 2 Wellingtons dropped supplies for British troops still at liberty in Southern Greece.

Libya.

31st. Blenheims, escorted by fighters, bombed mechanical transport Southeast of Jedabya and some tanks and other mechanical transport North East of the town. Two tanks were hit and several vehicles probably damaged. Other Blenheims supporting our attack on Bardia scored many hits on gun emplacements, mechanical transport and buildings in this area.

Malta.

31st December/1st January and 1st. Bombs were dropped on the Island by a total of about 40 aircraft, but no damage has been reported.

FAR EAST.

Malaya.

30th. Two enemy aircraft bombed and machine gunned one of the Singapore aerodromes, rendering the runway temporarily unserviceable. Enemy attacks were also made on Kuala Lipis with damage to the railway, Jerantut, where damage was caused to civil property, and Betong, where a train was hit. In the evening, raid was made on the Naval base at Singapore and anti-aircraft positions in South Johore.

30th/31st. Two Catalinas bombed Sungei Patani aerodrome with unobserved results.

4. INDO CHINA.

Japanese troops, strength not stated, and large numbers of horses and horse transport are reported to be moving from Saigon into Siam through Phnom Pen.

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

5th January, 1942.

~~SECRET~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein copies of the latest reports received from London on the military situation.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Halifax

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D.C.

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By Authority of *British*

Govt., Telegram 112172

By *RHP* FEB 9 1972

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Inst. Telegram 112172
By RHP Date FEB 9 1972

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~~(U.S. SECRET)~~

OPTEL NO. 3.

Information received up to 7 A.M. 3rd January 1942.

(1) MILITARY.

Libya.

After a bayonet attack by moonlight on the night 1st-2nd, South African troops, supported by tanks, captured Bardia. The enemy surrendered unconditionally and are believed to number over 3,000, including General Schmidt. 1,000 of our own troops have been rescued. Our casualties only 75 during night attack and believed total very slight. R.N. and R.A.F. support successful. In the forward area, our troops are maintaining their pressure on the enemy's position and are continuing to harass his left flank. South of Cyrene, our mopping up troops found ten enemy tanks in good condition.

Malaya.

Encounters with the enemy are taking place at Kuantan. In West Malaya, our forces were engaged with the enemy throughout the 1st in the area 20 miles South of Ipoh. Considerable numbers of small enemy troop carrying craft have entered the Perak and Bernam Rivers from the sea, steps are being taken to meet this new threat.

Borneo.

A detachment of an Indian Army Punjabi Regiment from Kuching has now reached Sanggau, 70 miles to the Southwest, where they have been placed temporarily under Dutch command. The Japanese have occupied the undefended island of Labuan off North Borneo.

Indo China.

Reference yesterday's summary, Paragraph 4, this force is estimated at one division.

Russia.

In the Moscow sector, the Russians are maintaining their pressure and are forcing back the Germans towards Mojaisk. In the Crimea, the Russians are continuing their attacks against strong German opposition.

(2) AIR OPERATIONS.

Eastern Front.

2nd. Fighters, sent to attack barges and to reconnoitre the French coast, destroyed two enemy floatplanes and a fighter. A Spitfire and a Hurricane are missing.

2nd/3rd. 102 aircraft were sent out: Brest - 30, St. Nazaire - 27, Sea mining - 36, and leaflets (Northern France) - 9. One Hampden crashed on return. Preliminary reports indicate that little could be seen owing to thick cloud.

MEDITERRANEAN.

Libya.

31st December. Beaufighters attacked motor transport West of El Aghella, destroying a petrol lorry and two other lorries, damaging about 60 others and inflicting heavy casualties on personnel.

31st December/1st January. Six Wellingtons bombed Ras El Ali.

1st. Blenheims attacked Bardia for over four hours in support of our ground operations. Three other Blenheim squadrons bombed widely dispersed motor transport South East of Jedabya, blowing up an ammunition truck and starting fires. Kittyhawk fighters intercepted 16 German dive bombers escorted by six German fighters over Jedabya and forced them to jettison their bombs. Four dive bombers and one fighter were destroyed and six of the remainder were either probably destroyed or damaged. One Kittyhawk is missing.

1st/2nd. Four Albatrosses, one of which is missing, were sent to lay mines in Zouara Harbour. Blenheims hit a small steamer at Buerat El Hsun and started fires in barracks and a mechanical transport Park.

Malta.

1st/2nd. 13 aircraft dropped rocket bombs (device (?to) increase velocity), causing some damage and a number of casualties.

MALAYA.

31st December/1st January. Singapore was attacked by over 30 aircraft, which caused slight civilian damage.

1st and 2nd. Three Dutch Glenn Martins sighted four launches, each towing from two to five small craft, in the Bernam Estuary. Two of the aircraft were lost, and two Blenheims sent later to attack the launches are missing. Two Catalinas attacked an enemy aerodrome, hitting the runway and setting fire to two aircraft. Enemy aircraft attacked and rendered temporarily unserviceable Tengah aerodrome Singapore. Two of our aircraft were destroyed and two others damaged. Port Swettenham was attacked several times and a rubber warehouse set on fire.

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By Authority of British

Govt. Telegram 11212

By RHP Date FEB 9 1972

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~~(U.S. SECRET)~~

OPTEL NO. 4.

Information received up to 11 A.M. 4th January 1942.

1. NAVAL.

Two small British merchant vessels in coastal convoy were sunk by mine yesterday off Harwich. The British tanker reported on 1st as torpedoed has now sunk.

2. MILITARY.

Libya.

The fall of Bardia resulted in the capture of about 5,000 prisoners and the liberation of some 1,150 of our own men including 650 New Zealanders. Only two officers were found the remainder having been previously evacuated by the enemy by sea. Our casualties for the whole operation were about 60 killed and 300 wounded. In the forward area there have been three minor engagements resulting in the destruction of five more enemy tanks and some mechanical transport. Ground patrols operating to the west have destroyed a total of 29 enemy aircraft on the ground at two landing grounds in the Nofilia area between El Aghella and Sirte.

Malaya.

Patrol activity is reported in the area north and east of Kuantan aerodrome. The enemy are being harassed by our artillery. Three attacks on our forces in the Kampar area were repulsed. Enemy casualties are estimated at 4 - 500 killed. The enemy are developing their threat from the Perak and Bernam Rivers. An attempted landing at Kuala Selangor was repulsed, one small steamer was set on fire and four barges sunk. The remainder of the force withdrew to the north.

Russia.

The Russians are continuing to advance south-west of Moscow. They are also now exerting pressure in the Kurska Kharkov area.

3. AIR OPERATIONS. Western Front.

2nd/3rd. 40 tons of high explosive were dropped at Brest and 16 tons at St. Nazaire. 8 R.C.A.F., 14 R.A.A.F. and 5 R.N.Z.A.F. aircraft took part operations were spoilt by heavy cloud and were not very satisfactory. The mine laying aircraft carried out their task successfully.

3rd. Spitfires damaged a guardship off Dieppe and reported hitting alcohol storage cisterns in Northern France.

3rd/4th. 18 aircraft were sent to Brest where cloud prevented observation, and 10 were sea-mining. 2 are missing.

MEDITERRANEAN.

Libya.

1st/2nd. Wellingtons destroyed some mechanical transport west of El Agheila.

2nd. During fighter sweeps south of Jedabya, Hurricanes engaged 6 enemy fighters damaging 4 of them. 2 Hurricanes are missing.

2nd/3rd. Wellingtons started a large fire at Tripoli.

Italy.

2nd/3rd. 3 Wellingtons dropped bombs on Naples railway station and near the Air Frame Works causing fires.

Malta.

2nd/3rd. For nine hours a total of 26 single aircraft dropped many bombs around Luqa aerodrome, demolishing buildings and causing a number of casualties. 3 Wellingtons were destroyed on the ground. On 3rd, 8 bombers and fighters attacked Luqa and two other aerodromes all of which were badly cratered, and 3 more Wellingtons were destroyed. 3 enemy aircraft were shot down, a third was probably destroyed by fighters and a fourth damaged by anti-aircraft fire.

FAR EAST. Malaya.

2nd. Our fighters provided maximum cover over the reinforcement convoy. Two aircraft were lost but one pilot was rescued.

2nd/3rd. Enemy aircraft attacked Tengah aerodrome, Singapore, where several buildings were damaged and a direct hit was obtained on a bombproof operations room. No service damage was caused at Singapore itself. One enemy aircraft crashed out of seven which attacked Tanjong Malin. Throughout the 3rd, the enemy maintained fighter patrols over Kuala Selangor and machine gunned movements of our troops.

4. Although the French aircraft industry working for Germany is still mainly producing French types, orders were placed on first July with factories in the occupied zone for 2,060 German type aircraft for delivery between October 1941 and July 1944. About 3/5ths are reconnaissance types including one type for aircraft carriers. The remainder are troop carrying, transport and some trainers. There is no evidence that any aircraft under these orders have yet been delivered.

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

~~SECRET~~

January 6, 1942.

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of the latest report received from London on the military situation. It is dated January 5, 1942.

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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By Authority of *British*

Act, Telegram, 1/2/72

By *RHP* date *Feb. 9, 1972*

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By Authority of British

COPY NO. 12

Govt. Telegram, 1/13/72
By RHP Date Feb 9, 1972

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~(TOP SECRET)~~

OPTEL NO. 5.

Information received up to 7 A.M. 5th January, 1942.

1. NAVAL.

During an air raid on Malta on the evening of the 4th, two of H.M. destroyers suffered damage from bomb splinters, which will keep them out of action for a few days. There were also a few casualties.

2. MILITARY.

Libya.

Bardia prisoners now estimated at 7,000, including 1,000 Germans.

Malaya.

The threat from Japanese landings in the Perak and Bernam Rivers against our left rear continues. More boats have appeared off Kuala Selangor, where enemy fighter patrols machine gunned all (? movement). Other boats have been seen heading further south. Our troops in the Kampar area disengaged during the night 2nd/3rd without great difficulty. Our withdrawal was closely followed up by armoured vehicles which were engaged successfully.

Russia.

Finland and Leningrad Sectors. No change. Central Sector. The Russian advances in the direction of Rzhev and North West of Kaluga are now taking the form of a wide converging movement on the Vyazma area. South West of Moscow, the Germans have made considerable withdrawals and are now on a line West of Malo Yaroslavets - North of Yuhnov-Suchinitchi-Belev. Strong Russian attacks towards Kursk continue.

Ukraine. The Russians have broken through between Oboyan and Bielgorod. An attack on Kharkov appears probable in the near future. No change in Donets Basin, or along River Mius.

Crimea. Sevastopol has withstood heavy attacks. Successful combined operations have resulted in the capture of Kerch Peninsula.

3. GENERAL.

On 3rd January, the Russian General Staff stated that

- (A) German rearguards in Staritsa area were in disorganised flight and that the Russians expected to reach Rzhev shortly.
- (B) The encirclement of the Germans in Mozhaisk area was planned.

.....

- (C) The Russians had reached the Yukhnov-Suchinitchi area.
- (D) A further advance in the Donets Basin and across the river Mius was confidently expected in spite of stout resistance by mixed Axis forces.
- (E) Powerful Axis attacks on Sevastopol had been repulsed with heavy losses and Russian counter attacks had gained ground.
- (F) The area east of Feodosia was now clear of the enemy.

4. AIR OPERATIONS.

Western Front. 4th. Eight Hampdens on roving commissions successfully bombed and machine-gunned factories, trains, built up areas and railway stations in North West Germany. 4th/5th. Nothing of importance by either side.

MEDITERRANEAN.

Libya. 2nd. Between El Aghaila and Sirte, Beaufighters destroyed 12 vehicles and damaged 30 others. 2nd/3rd. Two Wellingtons attacked Ras El Ali. 3rd. Four Blenheims bombed Buerat El Hsun.

Sicily. 4th. Ten Blenheims attacked enemy aircraft on an aerodrome south east of Trapani. Details not yet reported but the operation is stated to have been very successful.

Malta. Enemy bombers attacked Luqa aerodrome on the 3rd, 20 on the 3rd/4th and two formations, each of 30, on the 4th. One Whitley was destroyed and four Wellingtons, two Marylands and one Whitley damaged. One Junkers 88 was shot down. Wellingtons could not operate during the night owing to damaged runways, but operations were possible on the 4th owing to continuous efforts by ground personnel.

FAR EAST.

Burma. 4th. Rangoon. 30 enemy fighters were engaged by American volunteer pilots. One enemy aircraft reported destroyed and another damaged. Three American aircraft were shot down but the pilots are safe.

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

8th January, 1942.

~~SECRET~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein copies of the latest reports received from London on the military situation.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

(For the Ambassador)

R. I. Campbell

The Honourable

Franklin D Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D.C.

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Govt. Telegram 11212

By *RHP* Date FEB 9 1972

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By RHP Date FEB 9 1972

~~(U.S. SECRET)~~

CPTL NO. 6.

Information received up to 7 A.M. 6th January 1942.

1. NAVAL.

Yesterday morning an Italian force consisting of one battleship, three cruisers and four destroyers was sighted off Homs (L) on an easterly course, and a convoy of nine large merchant ships (about 10,000 tons), accompanied by destroyers, was seen entering Tripoli Harbour. H.M. Submarine "PROTEUS" reports attacking two 8,000 ton transports yesterday morning off the west coast of Greece and sinking one of them containing troops. Previously on the 30th December she hit a 4,000 ton transport West of Cephalonia.

2. MILITARY.

LIBYA.

Our mobile troops are maintaining pressure on the enemy in the Jedabya area and are harassing his lines of communication. Total Bardia prisoners now 7,468.

MALAYA.

East. Our Forces withdrew with some difficulty from Kuantan to an area approximately 50 miles to the West. A rearguard action was fought resulting in considerable casualties on both sides.

West. The enemy have landed in some force at Kuala Selangor and have been engaged by our patrols. They are infiltrating up country, and the threat to our communications continues, but no major developments have so far been reported.

RUSSIA.

The Russians are attacking in the Leningrad sector and in the area north-east of Kharkov. Fighting continues in the Eastern Crimea.

3. AIR OPERATIONS.

Western Front, 5th.

An R.C.A.F. Hudson scored two hits and two near misses on a 5,000 ton merchant ship off the Dutch Coast. 5th/6th. About 40 enemy aircraft were operating principally off the east coast. P.M. 6th. 195 aircraft were sent out. Brest 154, Cherbourg 7. No landing reports yet received.

Mediterranean. Greece.

3rd/4th. Three Wellingtons bombed the submarine base at Salamis and three others dropped supplies for British troops.

Libya. 3rd/4th.

Ten Wellingtons bombed enemy base at Buerat El Haun. 4th. Blenheims attacked Halfaya for seven hours and other Blenheims were sent to attack the Italian Naval Force reported off Homs (L) but failed to locate it.

Sicily.

During the aerodrome attack reported yesterday at least 30 transports aircraft were destroyed. Nine Wellingtons renewed the attack on the 4th/5th setting fire to 14 aircraft and exploding a petrol dump. One Wellington is missing.

Malta.

4th. 56 aircraft attacked Takali aerodrome causing slight damage. On the following night this and two other aerodromes were attacked by 15 single aircraft which caused some damage to buildings and slight damage to aircraft. On the 5th, five attacks were made but no damage reported. During these two days bad weather prevented Hurricanes from operating, but anti-aircraft artillery destroyed one and damaged at least two German bombers.

Far East. Malaya.

3rd. A Blenheim bombed two merchant ships off Kuala Selangor, leaving one of them sinking. Small craft were machine-gunned.

Singapore.

3rd/4th and 4th/5th. A few aircraft came over and dropped bombs and incendiaries. During an attack by 18 enemy aircraft on Iluang aerodrome four of our aircraft were destroyed on the ground and three others damaged.

Burma.

4th. Our fighters shot down three enemy aircraft and destroyed a further four on the ground at enemy aerodrome. 5th. Mingaladaw aerodrome, Rangoon, was bombed and two of our aircraft were destroyed.

Rabaul.

4th. 22 aircraft dropped bombs near one aerodrome and 11 dropped bombs near another. No damage to either aerodrome. A few native casualties.

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By Authority of British

COPY NO. 11

Govt. Telegram 1/2/72

~~TOP SECRET~~

By RHP Date FEB 9 1972

~~(TOP SECRET)~~

OPTEL NO. 8.

Information received up to 7 A.M. 7th January.

1. MILITARY.

LIBYA.

In the forward area our patrols are closing in on Jedabya. 33 tanks and 190 mechanical transport and armoured cars have been reported South East of the town. Bardia prisoners now total 7,982 excluding 900 not yet reached Cage. A very large store of ammunition has been found in a tunnel under Bardia.

MALAYA.

It is reported that enemy forces have reached the Pahang River 20 miles South of Kuantan. Morale of our troops in Perak area reported very good. In Maran area (Pahang) considerable number of men previously reported missing have rejoined.

2. AIR OPERATIONS.

WESTERN FRONT. 5th/6th.

Brest.

203 tons of high explosive and over 7,000 incendiaries were dropped. Bursts were seen in the docks and dry docks area, along the torpedoed boat quay and West of the town. Large fires and explosions were seen. Direct hits scored on two ships believed anti-aircraft ships, which subsequently caught fire.

Cherbourg.

24 tons were dropped but cloud prevented observation of results. All aircraft returned safely but four crashed on landing, ten persons killed.

6th/7th.

100 aircraft were sent out. Brest - 31, roving commission over North West Germany - 19, Stavanger aerodrome - 11, leaflets (Northern France) - 16, and shipping at Bergen - 14. Landing reports not yet complete.

MEDITERRANEAN.

Greece.

4th/5th. Submarine base at Salamis again attacked by three Wellingtons.

Libya.

5th. Kittyhawks and Hurricanes on standing patrol over Benghazi harbour destroyed one enemy aircraft and damaged two others.

Malta.

5th and 6th. Bombs were dropped but no damage reported.

FAR EAST.

Burma.

5th and 6th. Mangaladon aerodrome was attacked. A runway was rendered temporarily unserviceable, the officers' mess was destroyed and also one aircraft on the ground.

Malaya.

5th. A military report states that our communications were heavily bombed with little damage and that dummy aircraft were attacked on Kluang aerodrome. The aerodrome remained serviceable and one enemy aircraft was shot down by anti-aircraft.

Singapore.

Casualties to 4th - 126 killed, nearly all in the first raid on 8th December.

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

~~SECRET~~
January 9, 1942.

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of the latest report received from London on the military situation. It is dated 8th January, 1942.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

(For the Ambassador)

R. J. Campbell

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D.C.

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of *British*

Govt., Telegram 11672

By *KHP* Date *FEB 9 1972*

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By Authority of British

Sect. Telegram 11212?

By RHP Date FEB 9 1972

COPY NO. 12

~~SECRET~~

~~(SECRET)~~

OPTEL NO. 9.

Information received up to 7.10 A.M. 8th January 1942.

1. COMBINED OPERATIONS.

Light forces raided Helle Fjord between Bergen and Trondheim on the night of the 6th/7th and sank a medium sized Merchant Ship and two trawlers off Floro and shelled a German canning factory. Fighter protection and reconnaissance were provided by Coastal Command. During raid Whitley aircraft successfully attacked Sola aerodrome Stavanger. Little opposition was encountered and our ships suffered neither damage nor casualties. All our aircraft returned safely.

2. NAVAL.

Nothing to report.

3. MILITARY.

Libya.

Bad weather had hindered operations. On the morning of the 7th our patrols reported that Jedabya was clear of the enemy. Our troops are following up but visibility is very poor. In the frontier area on the 5th/6th the Transvaal Scottish occupied a ridge of the escarpment two miles south of Sollum Barracks.

Malaya.

Our forces in the Eastern Sector have withdrawn West of the Pahang River to the area Raub-Bentong. In the West, owing to heavy pressure throughout the 7th by enemy infantry supported by about thirty tanks, our troops have withdrawn South of the Slim River. In the Kuala Selangor area, situation is unchanged.

4. AIR OPERATIONS.

Western Front.

6th/7th. 36 tons of high explosive were dropped at Brest where bursts were seen near the dry docks. One of our aircraft failed to return and another crashed but five of crew safe. A Hudson scored two hits on a 2,500 ton Merchant vessel off the Dutch Coast. Six other aircraft of coastal command made individual attacks on single Merchant vessels in the Bergen area but in most instances results were unobserved owing to intense anti-aircraft and searchlight activity. Two Hudsons are missing and one enemy aircraft was probably destroyed.

Page 2.

7th/8th. 68 aircraft were sent to Brest and 27 to St. Nazaire. The latter attack was made under good weather conditions and is believed to have been successful. All these aircraft have returned but reports are not yet complete concerning those sent to Brest.

MEDITERRANEAN.

Libya.

4th/5th. 7 enemy aircraft bombed Benghazi and destroyed a small oil dump. 5th/6th. Tobruk was ineffectively bombed by 17 aircraft, while at one of our landing grounds one Blenheim was destroyed and another damaged. 6th. Blenheims operating singly or in pairs attacked AAC hit gun positions and mechanical transports in the Halfaya area. 6th/7th. Three Wellingtons bombed Tripoli (L) harbour.

Malta.

6th and 7th. The aerodromes at Takali and Halfar were unserviceable. On 6th/7th Naval aircraft hit two merchant vessels steering North off West Tunisia.

5. The Italian battleship CAVALRY, sunk by Fleet Air Arm at Taranto on 11th November 1940, was raised early in July and placed in dry dock at Taranto. She has now left probably for Genoa or Trieste as being the only ports likely to be sufficiently equipped to undertake the extensive repairs necessary.

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

10th January, 1942.

~~SECRET~~

Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,
(For the Ambassador)

R. J. Campbell

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

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

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of *British*

Govt., Telegram 11272

By *RHP* Date *FEB 9 1972*

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By Authority of British

COPY NO. 11

Sect, Telegrams

By RHP Date FEB 9 1972

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~(U.S. EYES)~~

OPTEL NO. 10.

Information received up to 7 A.M. 9th January 1942.

1. NAVAL.

Nothing of importance.

2. MILITARY.

Libya.

7th. The enemy withdrawal from Jedabya continued being closely followed by units of the guards and other forces. The pace is slow on account of minefields and booby-traps but by evening our troops had reached the area 20 to 30 miles S.S.W. of Jedabya, a clash between one of our columns and the enemy having taken place on the road 4 miles South.

8th. Our advance continued slowly on account of minefields. Columns to the South are threatening the enemy right flank. Enemy armour not yet definitely located.

Malaya.

No further information.

3. AIR OPERATIONS.

Western Front.

7th/8th. 76 tons of H.E. and over 8,000 incendiaries were dropped at Brest but apart from some fires results were unobserved. 46 tons and 2,000 incendiaries were dropped at St. Nazaire in clear weather. Bursts were seen across the docks, submarine pens and railway centre, followed by large fires. 5 R.C.A.F. and 4 R.A.A.F. aircraft took part without casualties. 8th/9th. 151 aircraft were sent to Brest and 29 to Cherbourg. A few others were minelaying and dropping leaflets. No reports yet.

Mediterranean. Libya.

Blenheims attacked Talfaya. Hurricanes on reconnaissance reported considerable M.T. movement between Jedabya and El Agheila. Their fighter escort probably destroyed 4 enemy aircraft but 7 of them are missing, two pilots safe.

Malta.

8th. 27 enemy attacked Luqa.

Burma.

An attack took place on aerodromes in the Bangkok area by aircraft of the American Volunteer group. 7 enemy aircraft were destroyed on the ground, one of ours is missing.

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

~~SECRET~~
January 12th, 1942

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
the latest report received from London on
the military situation. It was dated
January 10th, 1942.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

(For the Ambassador)

R. I. Campbell

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D.C.

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of *British*

Govt. Telegrams Unit

By *RHP* Date **FEB** 9 1972

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By Authority of British

Govt. Telegram 1262

By RHP Date FEB 9 1972

COPY NO 11

~~TOP SECRET~~
~~(NO DISSEM)~~

OPTEL NO. 11

Information received up to 7 A.M. 10th January, 1942.

1. Naval

One of H.M. Destroyers was mined and sunk off Sheerness on the afternoon of the ninth. There are about 55 survivors and 80 missing. Same afternoon a naval minesweeper was damaged by an acoustic mine. She is able to steam and no casualties were reported. H.M. Ships bombarded HALFAYA Pass on the eighth.

4th. One of H.M. Submarines torpedoed an Italian 5,200 ton vessel East of PALERMO off which she was later seen in tow.

5th. 2.30 P.M. One of H.M. Submarines attacked an enemy battleship escorted by a cruiser and five destroyers approaching TARANTO. Four torpedoes were fired at long range and a very heavy explosion indicated a possible hit on the battleship.

2. Military

Libya

8th. Our advance from JEDABYA continues. On the road to EL AGHEILA the Coldstream Guards were held up in the evening fifteen miles from JEDABYA and twenty miles further south our columns were in contact with enemy armoured cars and artillery. Other columns are following the general line of the WADI EL FAREGH forty miles South of JEDABYA but they have been delayed by bad going and have been attacked by dive bombers.

Malaya

8th. Our forces were heavily engaged during the day. No detailed reports yet available. British North BORNEO - QESSELTON must now be considered under enemy control.

3. Air Operations

Western Front

8th/9th. BREST 176 tons, CHERBOURG 16 tons. Visibility was poor but bursts were seen in the target areas followed by fires. Two bombers missing.

9th. Two Spitfires attacked a factory near ETAPLES and shot down two out of four enemy fighters which attacked them.

/9th/10th. 83 bombers...

9th/10th. 83 bombers were sent to BREST. A few other aircraft were sea-mining. Reports not yet received.

Mediterranean Libya

Water-logged aerodromes in the forward area have restricted our operations.

8th. A squadron of Marylands bombed a coastal vessel and stores dumps near RAS EL ALI. Blenheims bombed HALFAYA defences intermittently during the day scoring hits on gun emplacements M.T. and dumps. In the JEDABYA area ten R.A.A.F. Kittyhawk fighters attacked 24 bombers escorted by 28 fighters which were dive-bombing our troops. Seven enemy aircraft were destroyed, four probably destroyed and four damaged. One Kittyhawk is missing. Beaufighters set fire to a 300 ton ship off BUERAT EL HSUN.

Far East - Malaya

7th. Four Hudsons scored four hits and several near misses on a 600 ton Japanese ship 260 miles East of KOTA BHARU and on 7th and 8th a Catalina bombed GONG KEDAH Aerodrome (South-East of KOTA BHARU)

4. Aircraft casualties in operations over and from the British Isles. German 2 destroyed British 8th/9th, 2 missing 9th/10th, 1 missing equals 3.

Late News.

BREST. 9th/10th, one bomber missing, one crashed on return, crew safe. Six R.C.A.F. bombers took part without casualties.

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

~~SECRET~~

January 13, 1942.

file

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of the latest report received from London on the military situation. It is dated January 11, 1942.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

(For the Ambassador)

R. J. Campbell

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D.C.

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of *British*

Govt. Telegram 1/12/72

By *RHP* Date FEB 9 1972

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By Authority of British

COPY NO 11

Sect., Telegram 112/72

~~SECRET~~

By RHP Date FEB 9 1972

~~(SECRET)~~

OPTTEL NO. 72.

Information received up to 7 A.M. 11th January 1942.

1. NAVAL.

10th. One of H.M. Canadian destroyers escorting a homeward Convoy was severely damaged by weather south of Greenland. Reconnaissance of Brest showed that the PRINZ EUGEN had moved from the dry dock. A 2,600 ton Merchant Vessel bound for Colombo was sunk by gun fire from a Submarine 60 miles south of Java on the 4th.

2. MILITARY.

Libya. By the afternoon of the 9th, our patrols had reached a point some twenty miles south-west of Agheila. The enemy were still holding positions between Agheila and Jedabya which were being engaged by our mobile columns.

Malaya. 9th. Our forces north of Kuala Lumpur were heavily engaged and suffered severe casualties.

Netherlands East Indies. General Wavell arrived with a nucleus staff at Batavia on the 10th.

Russia. The Russian claims to have made further progress in the area West of Kaluga are probably correct. The Germans are counter-attacking South of Kursk.

3. AIR OPERATIONS.

Western Front.

Brest. 85 tons. Results were mainly unobserved owing to cloud and a smoke screen. 10th/11th. 124 aircraft were sent to Wilhelmshaven and 30 to Emden. A few others were sea-mining, operating against shipping and patrolling over enemy aerodromes. Six aircraft are missing, and two crashed. At dusk 10th, R.C.A.F. Hudsons, operating off the Dutch coast, hit amidships a 7,000 ton merchant vessel in convoy and a 2,000 ton tanker which was left in flames. Enemy activity was on a somewhat larger scale than of late and was chiefly over the Liverpool area. Of 24 aircraft plotted overland, one was shot down by a Beaufighter of R.A.A.F.

Mediterranean.

Libya. 8th/9th and 9th. Successful bombing attacks were made on M.T. near Agheila and several direct hits and near misses were obtained on 75 M.T. moving westwards near Marsa Brega. Halfaya defences were also bombed. Enemy aircraft attacked Tobruk and Gambut by night without causing damage.

Malta. 9th/10th. 18 enemy aircraft dropped bombs on the Island.

Far East.

Burma. 9th. Seven fighters of the American Volunteer Group and six Buffaloes attacked two enemy aerodromes in Siam. Three Japanese aircraft were destroyed on the ground and four others damaged. 10th. Two more enemy aircraft were destroyed at Mesod Aerodrome.

Malaya. 9th. We demolished Kuala Lumpur aerodrome. Our bombers attacked the railway, warehouses and shipping at Singora and successfully bombed the aerodromes at Ipoh and Sungei Patani. Large fires were started at all these objectives. Two of our aircraft are missing. On the 10th our fighters destroyed an enemy bomber. Enemy aircraft attacked the mail train to Singapore on the 10th and caused a few casualties.

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

~~SECRET~~

January 13th, 1942

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy
of the latest report received from London
on the military situation. It was dated
January 12th, 1942.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

(For the Ambassador)

R. I. Campbell

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D.C.

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of *British*

Govt., Telegram 14262

By *RHP*

FEB 9 1972

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By Authority of *British*

COPY NO. 11

Sect. Telegrams/12/2
By *RHP* Date FEB 9 1972

~~SECRET~~

~~(U.S. EYES ONLY)~~

CPTL NO. 13.

Information received up to 7 A.M. 12th January 1942.

1. NAVAL.

A 9,000 ton British Merchant vessel, independently routed from Canada to the United Kingdom, was torpedoed 170 miles south of Halifax on 11th. One Norwegian and three British ships, totalling nearly 30,000 tons, in an outward convoy to Canada, have been damaged in heavy weather.

2. MILITARY.

Libya.

10th. The enemy withdrew from his positions 12 miles southwest of Jedabya and continued his retreat towards Aghella. A small second line transport unit, moving up to a forward area, ran into a minefield and was then surrounded by enemy armoured cars. Seven vehicles lost. By morning 11th, further areas southwest of Jedabya were reported clear of the enemy and our mobile columns were keeping contact.

Malaya.

Our forces were engaged in fierce fighting with the enemy in Western Malaya on the 10th and have withdrawn further south.

Netherlands East Indies.

A Batavia communique announces that the Japanese have attacked Tarakan Island (Dutch Borneo) and the Minahassa District in North Celebes. No details received.

Russia.

(1) Russian air staff who were extremely confident stated on 9th January that

(a) Russians hoped to close pincers behind Moscow in next few days and that Germans withdrawing from this sector are being heavily bombed.

(b) It was believed Germans would NOT stand on Suolensk line but would continue withdrawal to pre-War Polish-Russian Frontier.

(c) It was regretted that German withdrawal prevented Russian offensive from achieving full effect.

(2) Picture as seen by British M.A. is

(a) Finland and Leningrad sector. No fresh information.

(b) Central sector. Virtually no change except for minor Russian advance in area west of Kaluga.

(c) Ukraine. In Oboyan area Russian attacks have been followed by German counter-attacks. Russian offensive in Kharkov sector still appears probable.

(d) Crimea. Germans are making great efforts against Russian forces in Feodosia area. Additional Russian landings have been made west of Feodosia and north of Sevastopol. Little is known of their progress except that landing at Eupatoria has been repulsed. No change in situation at Sevastopol.

(e) Conclusion. In central sector Russian advance has been on nothing approaching same scale as in previous weeks. Although Russian Staff are very confident (vide para. 1) too early to estimate whether slowing down is due to

(i) Increased German resistance.

(ii) Inability of Russians to maintain effective pressure.

(iii) Voluntary pause by Russians to permit regrouping necessary to mount further offensive. Any withdrawal to Polish frontier seems highly unlikely.

3. AIR OPERATIONS.

Western Front.

10th/11th. Wilhelmshaven. 105 tons, including 4,000 pounders and over 5,000 incendiaries dropped. Variable could hindered observation but the railway station is believed to have been hit, and many large and small fires were seen in the town and docks area. Emden. 31 tons and over 2,000 incendiaries, some large fires reported. Eleven R.C.A.F. and 12 R.A.A.F. aircraft took part. One Australian among those missing.

11th. One German bomber was destroyed and another damaged off our coast. One Spitfire is missing. A Liberator attacked a ship with depth charges and damaged two Heinkel seaplanes.

11th/12th. 26 bombers were sent to Brest. All returned. No reports yet. 39 enemy aircraft were plotted, 35 of them in the Thames Estuary.

Mediterranean. Libya.

9th/10th. Three Wellingtons started large fires among dumps at Buerat El Hsun. Single Wellingtons bombed dumps at Sirte and attacked Tripoli Harbour.

10th. Severe sandstorms considerably restricted operations.

Malays.

No operations other than reconnaissance owing to weather.

4. Dover.

11th/12th. Dover was shelled in the evening. 19 out of 20 fell in the sea.

5. The Germans continue to purchase Spanish trawlers and small coasting steamers for service on the African supply routes. They are first sent to Piraeus via Genoa and Naples, reliable crews being unobtainable in Naples, efforts are being made to recruit Spanish crews to work the ships beyond that port.

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

~~SECRET~~

January 14th, 1942

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein copies of
the latest reports received from London
on the military situation. They were
dated January 8th, 12th and 13th, 1942.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Halifax

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D.C.

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of *British*

Gov., Telegram 12/72

By *RHP* FEB 9 1972

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of British~~BRITISH-HEAVY SECRET~~Govt. Telegram 11/1/72~~(U.S. SECRET)~~By RHP Date FEB 9 1972OPTTEL No. 16

Following is supplementary resume of operational events covering period first to eighth January.

1. NAVAL

The enemy succeeded in pushing through a convoy of nine ships into TRIPOLI largely under cover of bad weather and heavy escort. Two Dutch submarines are overdue at SINGAPORE and SOURABAYA respectively. There was little activity by enemy submarines though it appears that several are moving westward in the Atlantic and others are patrolling in the AZORES area. Shipping losses were light but enemy minelaying persists off the East Coast. Merchant shipping losses during December reported to date were 262,847 tons which include 143,160 tons sunk in the Pacific Trade. During the week ending 7/1 886 ships were convoyed. Imports into the U.K. by ships in convoy during the week ending 3/1 were 648,000 tons which included 271,000 tons oil imports. Some mines are reported to have been swept off SOURABAYA.

2. MILITARY

LIBYA. BARDIA was captured by a force consisting mainly of South Africans. The higher direction of the operation being in the hands of Major General Willoughby-Norris. In western CYRENAICA pressure was kept up against the enemy by the comparatively small force which could be maintained in the forward area. The enemy however succeeded in countering our attempt to envelop his southern flank. Strenuous efforts are being made to build up a supply organisation capable of maintaining a strong force. As soon as the port of BENGHAZI can be fully used our administrative situation in the foremost areas should be greatly relieved.

MALAYA. The Japanese are pushing their offensive strenuously on all fronts though not without considerable losses. Reinforcements of one Indian Infantry Brigade have so far arrived at SINGAPORE. The Trans-Pacific Air reinforcement route via HAWAII-CANTON ISLAND-FIJI-NEW CALEDONIA-AUSTRALIA was opened on 28/12.

3. AIR OPERATIONS

WESTERN FRONT. BRIST was bombed on five nights without any known definite results being obtained against the German warships. A total of 514 tons of H.E. and 24,000 incendiaries were dropped by bomber command. Three bombers were lost during the week. It is estimated that 15,000 tons of enemy shipping were damaged by our aircraft.

MEDITERRANEAN. Our American Kittyhawk fighters made a successful debut. Blenheims co-operated in the capture of BARDIA and were employed later in bombarding the HALFAYA defences. Enemy aircraft showed increased activity against our sea bases in CYRENAICA.

MALTA. Heavy day and night attacks on our aerodromes continued. Our fighters were often unable to operate owing to bad weather.

SICILY. The attack on CASTEL VETRANO aerodrome where 75 closely packed transport aircraft had been photographed was most successful.

RUSSIA. Heavy snowfalls in South RUSSIA have probably added to the operational difficulties of the German Air Force which has been unable to exert its maximum effort. It is reported that Russian aeroplanes are extensively fitted with skis but there is no evidence to show that German aircraft are so equipped.

MALAYA. The Japanese have already brought five north Malayan aerodromes into use.

Copy No. 11

~~EXCLUDED FROM RELEASE~~

~~(U.S. SECURITY)~~

OPTEL No. 14

LIBYA-SOLLUM surrendered 0900 12th January.

No details yet received.

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of British

Govt., Telegram 12/72

By RHP Date FEB 9 1972

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of *British*

Copy No. 11

Post, Telegram 14272

By RHP Date FEB 9 1972

~~BRITISH-ROSE CODES~~
~~(U.S. EYES)~~

OPTEL No. 15

Information received up to 7 a.m., 13 January, 1942.

1. NAVAL

A small British merchant vessel was sunk by mine off HARWICH yesterday while in convoy. A Dutch 7,000 ton vessel was torpedoed and sunk near JAVA on 2nd. Two British ships one of small and the other of medium tonnage were sunk by bombs off MALAYA on 11th and at MANILA on 29th December respectively.

2. MILITARY

LIBYA. Our forward troops in the Frontier area are in contact with an enemy position about 35 miles East of AGHEILA.

MALAYA. 11th. The withdrawal of our forces to an area 30 miles South-South East of KUALA LUMPUR continued. Those on the right were unmolested and those on the left were followed up on the ground and subjected to continuous air attacks in the NEGRI SEMBILAN Area. Enemy air raids have continued and include leaflet raids aimed at causing disaffection amongst Indian troops.

BURMA. 11th. Our forces encountered a mixed Japanese-Siamese patrol about 100 strong on the frontier east of TAVOY.

RUSSIA. South West of MOSCOW the Russians have made further progress and may even have reached the VYASMA-BRYANSK railway. German counter attacks in the area South of KURSK have made slight progress.

3. AIR OPERATIONS

WESTERN FRONT. 11th/12th. BREST 42 tons. The smoke screen made observation difficult. Some bombs fell in the target area and in the town, otherwise results unobserved. 12th and 12th/13th. Nothing to report.

MEDITERRANEAN.

LIBYA. 11th. Bad weather restricted operations. Blenheims successfully attacked about 250 mechanical transports West of AGHEILA and started a large oil fire. HALFAYA defences were bombed at intervals 10th and 11th. 11th/12th. Wellingtons bombed shipping in TRIPOLI (L) Harbour and probably hit a merchant vessel. On the 11th enemy dive bombers escorted by fighters attacked our troops near MARSA BREGA.

FAR EAST.

BURMA. Three enemy aircraft attacked MOULMEIN but caused no service damage. TAVOY and MINGALADON aerodromes were also bombed. Slight damage was caused.

MALAYA. 11th. Enemy aircraft bombed SEREMBAN but the main communications are still open.

4. SIAM. There are indications of Japanese preparations for operations in MESOD area.

5. NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES. Japanese landings at TARAKAN and MINAHASSA are confirmed.

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

~~SECRET~~

January 15th, 1942.

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of the latest report received from London on the military situation. It was dated January 14th, 1942.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

(For the Ambassador)

R. J. Campbell

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D.C.

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of *British*

Govt. Telegram 112172

By *RHP* Date FEB 9 1972

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of *British*

Copy No. 11

Sect. Telegram 11212

By *RHP* Date FEB 9 1972

~~BRITISH WEST GROUND~~

~~(U.S. GROUND)~~

OPTEL No. 17

Information received up to 7 a.m., 14th January, 1942.

1. NAVAL

One of H.M. submarines set on fire and sank a 2,000 ton merchant vessel in ballast in the Eastern Mediterranean on January 2nd. Australian Hudson aircraft attacked a Japanese cruiser and transport off the CELEBES Islands and claimed two probable and two possible hits. One medium sized ship of an outward bound convoy was sunk in the Western Approaches. In East Coast convoys, one medium sized ship was sunk and one medium sized ship damaged by enemy aircraft.

2. MILITARY

LIBYA. By the evening of the 12th, contact had been made with the enemy in the neighbourhood of EL BREGA. Further South our forces have come against prepared enemy infantry and gun positions roughly along the track from BUES SUERA - BELCLEIBAT - MAATEN GIOFER. There is much movement of enemy M.T. West of BURRUEA with which our armoured cars are already in touch. The number of prisoners captured at SOLLUM is given as 7 Officers, 315 Other Ranks of whom approximately half are German.

MALAYA. It now appears that the Japanese have not followed up our withdrawal beyond KUALA LUMPUR. 9 Japanese dressed as Malays were captured in South East JOHORE. The Commander A.I.F. has assumed command of a force to be known as West Force comprising one Australian Infantry Brigade Group and one Indian Infantry Brigade Group. An important convoy reached SINGAPORE on the 13th.

BORNEO. There has been an engagement between Indian troops and Japanese forces near the SARAWAK-DUTCH BORNEO border. No details yet available. At TARAKAN the Dutch forces have surrendered after heavy fighting, the oil denial scheme having been completed.

RUSSIA. There is now some confirmation that the Russians have taken LYUDINOVO on the VYASMA-BRYANSK railway. German counter attacks in the area South of KURSK is continuing.

3. AIR OPERATIONS

MEDITERRANEAN. LIBYA. Night 11/12. TRIPOLI, HOMS and military targets near SIRTE were attacked by 8 Wellingtons and a Liberator. Enemy aircraft damaged an Ordnance Depot at TOBRUK.

12th. HALFAYA was bombed at intervals throughout the day.

Night 12/13th. TRIPOLI was bombed by 5 Wellingtons.

During night 12/13th and the following day 6 enemy aircraft bombed BENGHAZI and laid mines in the harbour.

MALTA. 13th. 38 bombers and fighters attacked HALFAR area destroying 1 Hurricane and causing some civilian casualties. Two ME 109's were destroyed.

FAR EAST. 12th. 120 enemy aircraft made 3 attacks on SINGAPORE. 6 enemy fighters were destroyed and 4 more probably destroyed. Our losses were 6 aircraft and 2 pilots.

4. HOME SECURITY

During daylight a single aircraft bombed Dorman Long's Iron Works, Redcar. Casualties reported 10 killed and a single aircraft bombed LOWESTOFT with some damage to private property and 35 people killed.

5. Japanese transports have been located in CAMRANH BAY and in MARSHALL ISLANDS.

6. Reported that the daily movement of about 1,800 tons of motor spirit and diesel oil from GERMANY to ITALY which started on 12th December was still continuing on January 3rd.

7. 32 hours is in future to be the normal working week throughout the large textile industry in ITALY. This reduction is the result of increasing shortage of raw materials.

8. MALAYA. It is understood that owing to damage at TAMPIN considerable amount of rolling stock has been immobilized to the North of this place, but at GEMAS which is now railhead there is sufficient stock to work the line from SINGAPORE to GEMAS to full capacity. The programme for the destruction of dredger and rubber stocks at SELANGOR was successfully completed in the main.

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

January 16th, 1942.

~~Secret~~

Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

(For the Ambassador)

R. J. Campbell

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D.C.

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of *British*

Govt., Telegram 1/2/72

By *RHP* Date *FEB 9 1972*

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of British

Copy No. 11

Govt. Telegram 12/22
By RHP (Date) FEB 9 1972

~~BRITISH WEST-INDIES~~

~~(U.S. SECRET)~~

OPTEL No. 18

Information received up to 7 a.m., 15th January, 1941.

1. NAVAL

A medium sized British merchant ship, independently routed, was torpedoed near CAPE RACE.

2. MILITARY

LIBYA. In forward area bulk of the enemy are reported on the defensive on the general line MERSA EL BREGA-MAATEN BEICLEIBAT (20 miles South South West of MERSA EL BREGA) - MAATEN GIOFER thence 13 miles alongside track leading South to MARADA. Our forward troops are maintaining their pressure. (corrupt group) HALFAYA from North West and South East.

MALAYA. On 13th our withdrawal continued according to plan. Railway TAMPIN-GEMAS was out in 3 places by bombing on 12th. Japanese claims to capture of Major General Gordon-Bennett are unfounded.

RUSSIA. The Russians have widened area of their advance South West towards BRYANSK. In CRIMEA the Russians are continuing to disembark troops at FEODOSIA.

3. AIR OPERATIONS

WESTERN FRONT. 14th. 4 large barges near DUNKIRK were hit and casualties caused to personnel of gun emplacements.

14th/15th. Aircraft were engaged in attacks on: HAMBOURG (727), EMDEN 18, Aerodromes in HOLLAND 17, ROTTERDAM 11 and sea mining 15. 5 of our bombers missing.

Enemy activity mainly confined to sea mining in Western approaches and Thames Estuary.

MEDITERRANEAN. LIBYA. 12th/13th. Wellingtons successfully bombed mechanical transport near EL AGHEIHA.

13th/14th. TRIPOLI was bombed.

14th. Blenheims reported possible hits on 5,000 ton merchant vessel (749) miles East KERKENAH ISLANDS. From foregoing operations 5 of our aircraft are missing.

MALTA. 13th/14th. 22 enemy aircraft carried out 7 attacks over a period of 12 hours causing slight damage to civilian property.

14th. 51 aircraft made 6 attacks with result that TAKALI and HALPAR aerodromes were rendered temporarily unserviceable.

FAR EAST.

BURMA. 13th. Our aircraft damaged 2 enemy aircraft on PRACHUAB KIRKIHUN aerodrome (SIAM 150 miles South of BANGKOK) and destroyed a locomotive.

MALAYA. 12th/13th. 3 Catalinas (one of which is missing) bombed SINGORA.

13th. 50 bombers escorted by 20 fighters attacked SINGAPORE causing slight damage to R.A.F. and civilian property. 20 Buffaloes (of which 3 aircraft and 2 pilots are missing) intercepted them with result 1 enemy bomber probably destroyed and another damaged.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

January 19th, 1942

~~SECRET~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein copies of
the latest reports received from London
on the military situation. They were
dated January 16th and 17th, 1942.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,
(For the Ambassador)

R. J. Campbell

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of *British*

Govt. Telegram 112172

By *RHP* Date **FEB 9 1972**

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of British

Copy No. 11

Govt. Telegram 12127
By RHP Date FEB 9 1972

~~BRITISH FRONT REPORT~~

~~(S. S. SECRET)~~

CPTEL No. 19

Information received up to 7 a.m., 16th January, 1942.

1. NAVAL

A British destroyer was in collision with U.S. destroyer on 15th south-west of ICELAND and is returning to harbour. Another British destroyer and corvette have been reported damaged in gale in Western Atlantic.

The Soviet icebreaker STALIN has been damaged by aircraft attack at entrance to WHITE SEA.

A small British merchant ship was bombed in TEES yesterday and is reported a total loss.

2. MILITARY

LIBYA. 14th. Our mobile columns were in contact with enemy on AGHEILA position. In HALPAYA area enemy artillery and patrols were active: our counter battery fire were effective and ammunition dump was set on fire.

MALAYA. The third Corps (9th and 11th Indian Division) has completed its withdrawal to KIUANG area. A patrol of about 30 Japanese has been sighted in ROMPIN River district about 40 miles north of MERSING.

BORNEO. It is reported destruction of entire oil fields, stock and plant at TARAKAN was completed successfully before any landing took place.

RUSSIA. At several points south of LENINGRAD - MOSCOW railway the Russians have crossed the river VOLKHOV. West of RZHEF the Russians are advancing extensively. Between MOZHAISK and KALUGA the Russians have made a further advance westward.

3. AIR OPERATIONS

WESTERN FRONT 14th/15th.

HAMBURG. 73 tons of H.E. and 2,500 incendiaries. Bursts were seen in shipyard and air frame factory. Large fires were started.

EMDEN. 22 tons. Results were less clearly seen. 6 R.A.A.F. bombers took part without casualties.

15th/16th. HAMBURG 96. EMDEN 50. Total despatched 158. 7 missing, 7 crashed, 8 members crews killed, 1 aircraft in sea.

15 enemy aircraft were operating in north-east coastal area. One Dornier bomber was destroyed by balloon cable at BILLINGHAM.

MEDITERRANEAN. LIBYA.

13th/14th. Three Wellingtons bombed M.T. west of AGHEILA with good results.

14th. Blenheims continued their attack on HALFAYA. Fighters destroyed two enemy aircraft and damaged one losing 6 Hurricanes; 4 pilots probably safe.

MALTA. 14th and 15th. Total of 24 enemy aircraft came over but no serious damage is reported.

FAR EAST.

MALAYA. 14th. 9 enemy aircraft attacked BATU PAHAT and aerodrome which remained serviceable despite slight damage.

One enemy aircraft was destroyed and two damaged by A.A. 12 enemy bombers escorted by fighters flew over SINGAPORE without dropping bombs. Our fighters damaged one of them. Enemy aircraft attacked SEGAMAT, damaged buildings and causing some service casualties.

SINGAPORE. Civilian air raid casualties 13th reported 31 killed, ~~6~~ seriously wounded. Bombing occurred through thick low clouds.

65

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By Authority of British
Short Telegram 112172
By RHP Date FEB 9 1972

Copy No. 11

~~BRITISH ROYAL SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

OPTTEL No. 20.

Information received up to 7 a.m., 17th January, 1942.

1. NAVAL

16th. A 12,000 ton liner in outward-bound troop convoy was torpedoed about 600 miles west of BORDEAUX and subsequently bombed by Focke Wulf aircraft. Her steering gear was disabled but she is proceeding at reduced speed. A naval trawler was bombed and sunk off YARMOUTH, and a small naval auxiliary vessel sank off south-west SCOTLAND after colliding with one of H.M. submarines, which was undamaged.

Icebreaker STALIN reported not seriously damaged.

16th. A British 8,600 ton tanker, bound for HALIFAX, was torpedoed off ST. JOHN'S, NEWFOUNDLAND, but is still afloat.

2. MILITARY

LIBYA. A Free French Force has joined our troops in the HALFAYA area.

MALAYA. EAST. An enemy patrol was encountered on the 15th north of the river ENDAU.

WEST. Early on the 15th, an advanced Australian battalion ambushed an enemy column, including some tanks, west of GEMAS, destroying six tanks and inflicting heavy casualties with small losses. Later, the enemy attacked in force and heavy fighting took place, our troops being subjected to constant dive-bombing throughout the day.

Enemy strength reported one brigade with medium and light tanks. Our forward elements have now been withdrawn east of GEMAS.

BORNEO. The Japanese have attacked some of our Indian troops at SILOES in DUTCH BORNEO near the SARANAK frontier.

RUSSIA. In the central sector, the Russians are maintaining their pressure. In the CRIMEA, the Germans (rare) attacking FEODOSIA.

3. AIR OPERATIONS

WESTERN FRONT. 15th/16th. HAMBURG. Thirty tons high explosive and nearly 23,000 incendiaries.

EMDEN. 51 tons high explosive and 4,400 incendiaries. Large fires were left burning at both ports. Fourteen R.C.A.F., six R.A.A.F. and two R.N.Z.A.F. aircraft took part. One Canadian Hampden crashed.

16th and 16th/17th. No offensive operations by us and no activity by enemy reported.

MEDITERRANEAN.

LIBYA. 15th. Elenheims bombed HALFAYA at intervals. Gun emplacements and mechanical transport were hit.

15th/16th. A naval aircraft obtained two probable hits on a vessel off the KERKENNAH ISLANDS.

MALTA. 16th. Nine enemy aircraft bombed the Island, slightly damaging a wharf in the Grand Harbour.

FAR EAST

BURMA. 15th. Our fighters attacked an aerodrome south of BANGKOK and severely damaged seven enemy aircraft. They also attacked an armoured train.

MALAYA. 15th. Our bombers attacked PORT SWETTENHAM, causing considerable damage to oil cisterns, and sank two barges containing troops off the river mouth thirty miles north-west of MALACCA.

SINGAPORE. Fifty enemy bombers escorted by fighters, caused slight damage to the naval base. One enemy aircraft was shot down and another probably destroyed by our fighters, one of which is missing. ENDAU and MUAR were also heavily bombed.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

January 19th, 1942

~~SECRET~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
the latest report received from London
on the military situation. It was
dated January 18th, 1942.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

(For the Ambassador)

R. I. Campbell

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of *British Govt.*

Telegram 112172

By *RHP* Date FEB 9 1972

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of British

Sect. Telegram 11212

By RHP Date FEB 9 1972

Copy No. 11

~~BRITISH MOST SECRET~~

~~(U.S. SECRET)~~

OPTEL No. 21

Information received up to 7 a.m., 18th January, 1942.

1. NAVAL

H.M. anti-aircraft cruiser CARLISLE shot down one Junkers 88 off CYRENAICA. A small Dutch vessel was sunk by mine off SINGAPORE on the 16th.

2. MILITARY

LIBYA. The garrison of HALFAYA surrendered unconditionally at 9 a.m. on the 17th. About 5,500 prisoners very weak from lack of food and water were taken together with guns and stores which had not been destroyed. 76 of our troops were rescued. In the forward area sandstorms and rain interfered with operations but extensive clearing of enemy land mines continues.

MALAYA. East. A Japanese landing supported by naval aircraft and dive bombers took place at ENDAU early on 16th. West. In the MUAR area the Japanese crossed the KUAR River and during the 16th reached a point ten miles to the South. A small enemy landing also took place on the 16th near BATU PAHAT.

BURMA. 15th/16th. Contact was made with a Japanese force of about 100 at MYITTA ten miles into BURMA near TAVOY.

BANGOON. A reinforcement arrived safely on the 16th much native labour has left the city.

RUSSIA. The Germans are continuing their attack in the area south-south-east of KURSK and have made some progress in their attack on FEO-DOSIA in the CRIMEA.

3. AIR OPERATIONS

Western Front. 17th. Three Beauforts attacked ST. PETER PORT GUERNSEY and hit sheds on the jetty, silenced an anti-aircraft gun and machine-gunned troops.

17th/18th. Total bombers sent out 119. BREMEN 83, EMDEN 24, a few others sea-mining. Two are missing and two came down in the sea. About 22 enemy aircraft were operating against shipping off the East coast and were sea-mining in the Western Approaches. One Dornier was damaged by a Havoc.

MEDITERRANEAN. 15th/16th. Six Wellingtons bombed mechanical transport in the AGHESILA-SIRTE area.

MALTA. Small attacks between 16th and 17th inclusive caused only slight damage, two aerodromes are still unserviceable.

FAR EAST

MALAYA. 16th. Three successful attacks were made against enemy mechanical transport tanks and rolling stock in the GEMAS area. Hits were scored on tanks and mechanical transport and fires were caused at the station and assembly yard. Off MUAR barges were bombed and heavy casualties caused among enemy troops.

SINGAPORE. Two attacks by a total of 21 enemy bombers took place but no damage has been reported. One bomber was shot down and one Buffalo was lost.

NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES. SUMATRA. A United States Military report states that the Japanese attacked LAHAT aerodrome early on the 15th with 26 bombers escorted by about 12 naval fighters. Aerodrome temporarily unserviceable. Two Catalina, two Buffalo and one Hudson aircraft and petrol dumps destroyed.

4. There are indications that the Japanese are preparing to use air-borne troops in or from MALAYA.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

January 20th, 1942.

~~Secret~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
the latest report received from Lon-
don on the military situation. It
is dated January 19th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

(For the Ambassador)

R. J. Campbell

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of *British*

Govt. Telegram, 1/2/72

By *RHP* Date **FEB 9 1972**

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of British

Copy No. 11

Secty, Telegrams/13/72
By RHP Date FEB 9 1972

~~EXEMPT FROM DECLASSIFICATION~~

~~(S, C, SECRET)~~

OPTTEL No. 22

Information received up to 7 a.m., 19th January, 1942.

1. NAVAL

One of H.M. destroyers escorting a convoy was torpedoed and sunk during the night 17th/18th off the North MURMANSK Coast. Six motor torpedo boats and motor gunboats engaged two enemy trawlers off CALAIS on 17th/18th. One motor torpedo boat is presumed lost and another suffered damage and casualties. A H.M. destroyer escorting a coastal convoy shot down a Dornier Bomber at dusk on the 18th. One naval trawler sank at GIBRALTAR yesterday and two others were damaged following an explosion. A naval Corvette intercepted an 8,000 ton Italian vessel yesterday 230 miles southwest of LAGOS and is escorting her into port. A medium sized British vessel in convoy from the U.K. was torpedoed late on the 17th off the MURMANSK Coast and taken in tow.

2. MILITARY

LIBYA. There is little further news from the AGHEILA Area but our forward columns are in touch with enemy defensive positions between MARSA BREGA and MARADA.

MALAYA. 18th. Now reported that no enemy landing took place in the ENDAU Area where there is still an Australian infantry detachment. There has been much patrol activity North of the river ENDAU accompanied by heavy Japanese dive bombing attacks. In the GEMAS area our patrols were active throughout the 17th and in the afternoon, after artillery preparation an enemy attack developed in some strength. This is still in progress. In the river MUAR area our situation improved during the 17th.

BORNEO. A strong Japanese attack has been made on the British detachment in Dutch BORNEO southwest of KUCHING. Our forces are withdrawing. The Japanese are suspected to be approaching (ZSANDAKAN).

BURMA. A Japanese force, in contact with our troops, is reported to have penetrated beyond MYITTA towards TAVOY.

3. AIR OPERATIONS

Western Front. 17th/18th. BREIEN, 63 tons and 2,500 incendiaries. HMDEN, 27 tons and nearly 2,000 incendiaries. Visibility was poor but bursts were seen in both ports and fires were started. 13 R.C.A.F. and two R.A.A.F. bombers took part. 18th and 18th/19th. Nothing of interest.

MEDITERRANEAN.

MALTA. During 17th/18th and 18th a total of 25 aircraft attacked causing only slight damage. 17th/18th. Four naval Swordfish attacked an 8,000 ton tanker and two destroyers off LAMPEDUSA. The tanker and one destroyer were hit by torpedo.

FAR EAST.

MALAYA. On the 17th and 18th our bombers successfully attacked launches, sampans and barges in the MUAR-MALACCA area, also bombed the railway centre at GEMAS. One enemy aircraft was shot down and one Blenheim lost.

SINGAPORE. During same period the Island was attacked three times by a total of 249 aircraft. Four oil cisterns at the Naval Base were set on fire and the dockyard was slightly damaged. At one aerodrome a hangar was demolished and at another buildings were burnt. Five of our aircraft were destroyed, eight probably destroyed and five damaged. We lost four Buffalo Fighters but two pilots are safe.

4. There are indications that a third Squadron of Japanese heavy bombers has moved to the CAROLINE, MARSHALL and adjacent Islands in which there are many bases.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

21st January, 1942.

~~SECRET~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein copies of
the latest reports received from
London on the military situation.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,
(For the Ambassador)

R. J. Campbell

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

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

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of *British*

Govt., Telegram Helix

By *RHP* Date **FEB 9 1972**

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of British

Copy No. 11

Sect, Telegram, 14/27

~~SECRET~~

By RHP Date FEB 9 1972

~~(U.S. SECRET)~~

OPTEL No. 23

Information received up to 7 a.m., 20th January, 1942.

1. NAVAL

The troopship torpedoed in BAY OF BISCAY referred to in my OPTEL No. 20 has now arrived at the AZORES. Two of H.M. destroyers were in collision while leaving ALEXANDRIA during a gale on the 16/17th. One of them will be out of action for about four weeks. A Norwegian 6,600 ton vessel, after breaking off, with engine and steering defects, from a MALTA convoy, was bombed and sunk off TOBRUK while returning to ALEXANDRIA escorted by an anti-aircraft cruiser and 2 destroyers which took off about 350 survivors. A small Belgian ship in an outward convoy has been torpedoed 400 miles East of CAPE RACE. A small British ship in a coastal convoy has been sunk in collision off the East coast. More than 25,000 tons of shipping are reported aground off the West coast of SCOTLAND as the result of the recent gale.

2. MILITARY

LIBYA. The enemy are continuing work on their defences East of AGHEILA. On the 18th, a total of 257 Italians were captured by an Indian Brigade and the Polish Brigade in the BARCE and CYRENE areas respectively.

MALAYA. 18th. Right. Our detachments withdrew from ENDAU to a locality halfway between this town and MERSING.

Centre. No change in GEMAS area.

Left. Fighting continued throughout the day in the MUAR area. One Australian Battalion destroyed 8 enemy light tanks. We hold BAKRI, 6 miles south east of MUAR, where situation reported in hand. No change at BATU PAHAT and no enemy located south of this point.

BURMA. Owing to a Japanese advance in superior numbers our forces have withdrawn from TAVOY to more favourable positions.

RUSSIA. The Russian attacks west and north west of MOSCOW have made some progress. They are also attacking south of KURSK and south east of KHARKOV. In the CRIMEA, the German counter attack in the FEODOSIA area has gained some ground.

3. AIR OPERATIONS

WESTERN FRONT. 19th. Our fighters destroyed a German bomber off the YORKSHIRE Coast.

MEDITERRANEAN.

LIBYA. Bad weather again curtailed operations. One Beaufighter is missing.

MALTA. 19th. 72 aircraft attacked a convoy and aerodromes. No ships were hit but some damage and casualties were caused at one aerodrome. One enemy aircraft was probably destroyed and three were seriously damaged.

SICILY. 18th/19th. Wellingtons dropped 10 tons of bombs on CATANIA aerodrome and started at least 7 large fires.

19th. COMISO aerodrome was attacked by 4 Hurricane bombers which set on fire some enemy aircraft.

FAR EAST.

SINGAPORE. Governor reports one hundred and twenty three killed in raid of 17th. Passive defence working busily, no sign of panic in the streets and business as usual in vicinity of bombed areas.

BURMA. 18th. Our Blenheims reported TAVOY aerodrome evacuated and on fire. It is thought that the R.A.F. personnel may have withdrawn in their own transport. The Blenheims were engaged by several enemy aircraft but returned safely. Enemy fighters are believed now to be operating from TAVMY aerodrome.

PACIFIC ISLANDS. On the 16th, and 17th, the R.A.A.F. bombed various Japanese bases in the CAROLINE ISLANDS.

16th. Enemy aircraft attacked two aerodromes near RABAUL.

4. AIRCRAFT CASUALTIES IN OPERATIONS OVER AND FROM THE BRITISH ISLES

German - One destroyed.

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of British

Copy No. 11

Gen. Telegrams

~~BRITISH WOODS GROUP~~

By RHP Date FEB 9 1972

~~(U.S. GROUP)~~

OPTEL No. 24

Following is supplementary resume of operational events covering the period 8th to 15th January, 1942.

1. NAVAL

Exceptionally heavy gales were experienced in the North Atlantic. Both the SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU may have been damaged in recent raids on BREST. The first convoy to BENGHAZI began unloading on 9th. Other western desert convoys are proceeding normally. DERNA is in use as a supply port. A destroyer torpedoed on 12th was successfully towed into ALEXANDRIA.

SUBMARINES. The westward movement of U-boats across the Atlantic has continued. There are now concentrations south of NEWFOUNDLAND and off NEW ENGLAND coast. A few also are operating in the western approaches to the STRAITS OF GIBRALTAR. There is no indication of any in the South Atlantic. Shipping losses were moderate. 8 ships are known to have been sunk during the period, five of them by submarines, two by aircraft and one by mine.

TRADE. Ships convoyed - 825. Imports during week ending 10th, 682,000 tons, including 318,000 oil imports. Of 32 enemy Merchant Vessels (17 Italian and 15 German) which tried to run the British blockade during 1941, 14 totalling 83,700 tons were intercepted, 10 of them being scuttled or sunk and four captured. Of four German ships which crossed the Atlantic from east to west to South American ports, only one succeeded in returning.

2. MILITARY

LIBYA. The Axis forces withdrew from JEDABYA in good time before becoming committed with our main body, and are now established in a strong position immediately south and east of AGHEILA with their armour protecting their right flank, they have been joined by the Italian Division formerly in reserve in the TRIPOLI area. They probably have now a fair reserve of supplies, especially oil, brought by lorry or landed from small ships at points along the coast, and may have been reinforced with some tanks from ITALY, their air close support is much stronger than a fortnight ago and their dive-bombers have already caused us casualties. The enemy must realise that there is no other position so strong forward of the TRIPOLI area and, consequently, to surround or dislodge him, we must have a high scale of attack which will take some time to build up. TOBRUK, DERNA and BENGHAZI are in use but unloading is being hindered by bad weather and a shortage of tugs and lighters, weather has been bad and some of our aerodromes are waterlogged. Our supply position is steadily improving, though slowly.

RUSSIA. Issues of the first magnitude now hang on the questions if when and where the Germans can stop the Russian pressure. The Russian advance has slowed down during the past week, but the pressure on the Germans is still such that they have not been able to withdraw more than a very few divisions for rest and refit in GERMANY. It is essential for the Russians to keep the enemy on the move, and their advances south-westwards to the west of RZHEV and westwards to the west of KALUGA, with the cutting of the important VYASHA-BRYANSK railway are significant items in this process. In the CRIMEA, honours are easy the Russian landings having evoked powerful German reactions. For the Germans, it is equally essential to establish a line on which they could stabilise the front and behind which they would withdraw some of their tired troops. For example, early all the German armoured divisions on the Russian front have been constantly in action without a proper rest for six months. Unless and until they can withdraw substantial numbers of troops from the Russian Front - more exactly, until at least two months after they begin to do this - they cannot start any major operation elsewhere.

In MALAYA the inevitable retreat in the face of superior numbers has continued, more rapidly than had been hoped, but in accordance with well-ordered and well-executed plans. British and Indian units which bore the brunt of the first month have been withdrawn well behind the front line which is now held by fresh troops, including Australians. The Japanese advance has brought SINGAPORE within range of fighter cover for enemy bombers.

SIAM. The Japanese forces have been increased by one division.

SPAIN. There are no signs of any military preparations against SPAIN.

ITALY. The strengthening of the German air force in SICILY and South ITALY continues.

BALKANS. There is no evidence of any military threat to TURKEY in the near future.

CHINA. The Japanese operation against CHANGSHA was probably intended as a diversion during their attack on HONG KONG. It succeeded in its object. Owing to the weakness of the force employed, the Chinese were easily able to drive it back but their victorious claims have not, at present, been fully substantiated and press reports are exaggerated.

3. AIR OPERATIONS

WESTERN FRONT. Weather conditions, including some snow and sleet, were generally unfavourable. The main objectives of bomber command were BREAST

(303 tons) and WILHELMSHAVEN (105 tons). Operations were cancelled on two nights. Extensive photographic reconnaissances were flown and the warships at BREST were kept under constant observation. It is estimated that our aircraft sank or seriously damaged 8,000 tons of enemy shipping. A German single-engined fighter on photographic reconnaissance crashed in DEVONSHIRE, the pilot being captured.

MEDITERRANEAN.

LIBYA. Bad weather persisted in the forward area and somewhat restricted work by our fighters and bombers. In the frontier area, HALFAYA was continuously bombed by day and also at night. Enemy dive-bombers, escorted by fighters, made several attacks on our troops near AGHEILA.

MALTA. Enemy attacks continued frequent although on a somewhat lighter scale than the previous week.

FAR EAST.

MALAYA. Dutch and British aircraft co-operated in protecting our convoys. Our light bombers, assisted by a few Catalinas, bombed enemy aerodromes and communications. The scale of Japanese attacks upon SINGAPORE increased and fighters escorted their day bombers, in countering these attacks, our Buffalo fighters were often confronted with odds of two and three to one and sustained fairly heavy losses in aircraft although most of the pilots were saved.

RUSSIA. On the NCSCCN Front, the German air force does not appear to have been able to interfere seriously with the Russian supply system or to protect effectively their own retreating columns. There are indications that the German airforce has been obliged to send reinforcements of long-range bombers to the Southern Front.

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of *British*

Short Telegram 1/21/42

By *RHP* Date *FEB 9 1972*

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

22nd January, 1942.

~~SECRET~~

Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

(For the Ambassador).

R. I. Campbell

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

DECLASSIFIED

Copy No. 11

By Authority of British

~~SECRET~~

Int. Telegram 11/2/42

~~(U.S. SECRET)~~

By RHP Date FEB 9 1972

OPTEL No. 25

Information received up to 7 a.m., 21st January, 1942.

1. NAVAL

Nothing to report.

2. MILITARY

LIBYA. Our troops remain in contact with the enemy in the AGHEITA position.

MALAYA. 20th. MERSING Area, no change. GEMAS area, no increase in enemy pressure. Strong enemy pressure during the 19th along road MUAR-YONG FENG, where situation is confused. Small parties also reported working up the River five miles south of BATU PAHAT.

BURMA. Our reinforcements have reached YE, 80 miles south of MOULMEIN, and in the North Chinese Forces have been ordered to take up positions. Enemy strength in MESOD area reported 5,000.

BORNEO. Governor of Straits Settlements reported 20th that all telegraphic communication with SANDAKAN has ceased.

RUSSIA. The Russians have announced the capture of MOZHAISK and are attacking North of TAGANROG. In the CRIMEA, the Germans have made further progress towards the KERCH Peninsula.

3. AIR OPERATIONS

WESTERN FRONT. 20th/21st. 25 aircraft were sent to attack EMDEN. Four are missing.

SICILY. 19th/20th. Eleven Wellingtons dropped 14 tons of bombs on CATANIA aerodrome. 20 fires from burning aircraft were seen, and one Junker 88 and possibly others were destroyed whilst landing.

MALTA. Between 19th and 20th inclusive, a total of 93 enemy aircraft attacked. No aerodromes were hit. Other details not yet available.

LIBYA. Bad weather and water logged landing grounds again restricted our operations.

MALAYA. 18th. SINGAPORE. Civilian air raid casualties 41 killed all Asiatics. 19th. Our aircraft bombed shipping, mechanical transport and troops in the MUAR area and the aerodrome at KUALA LUMPUR. Enemy aircraft attacked our troops near MERSING and bombed roads south of SEGAMAT without serious effect. We lost seven aircraft, including three Dutch. Two enemy aircraft were destroyed, one probably destroyed and one damaged.

1
file
~~SECRET~~
BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

January 23rd, 1942.

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a
copy of the latest report received
from London on the military situation,
It was dated January 21st, 1942.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

(For the Ambassador)

R. I. Campbell

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D.C.

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of *British*

Govt., Telegram, 1/27/72

By *RHP* Date FEB 9 1972

DECLASSIFIED

Copy No. 11

By Authority of British ~~BRITISH WOOD SECRET~~

Spec. Telegram 142/22 ~~(U.S. SECRET)~~

OPTEL No. 26 By RHP Date FEB 9 1972

Information received up to 7 a.m., 22nd January, 1942.

1. NAVAL

Early 21st a corvette and four merchant ships went ashore off East Coast of IRELAND.

17th. A Russian minesweeper was torpedoed and sunk off MURMANSK.

19th. One of H.M. submarines probably sank a 7,000 ton tanker off the East Coast of SICILY, on 20th when approaching MALTA and she was attacked by aircraft and sustained minor damage. It is now known that a small British ship was sunk off the PHILIPPINES on the 24th December and an unknown Norwegian ship was torpedoed off CHRISTMAS ISLAND on the 20th January.

2. MILITARY

LIBYA. 20th. Activity restricted by severe sandstorms.

MALAYA. 20th. The Japanese have occupied ENDAU, CENTRE: Our forces have withdrawn South of the SEGAMAT River to conform with movements further West. No contact with enemy reported. WEST: Enemy has maintained strong pressure in area between MUAR and YONG PENG supported by incessant dive-bombing and low altitude attacks. Heavy fighting since 19th near BAKRI but details lacking. Estimated our Field Artillery in one action inflicted 400 casualties at close range. We have launched counter-attacks to join up forces cut off by the enemy's advance.

BURMA. 21st. The Japanese have attacked in the KA'KAREIK Area, where our forces, fighting throughout the day have been resisting strongly. Heavy fighting is in progress. MOULMEIN has been reinforced.

BORNEO. The Japanese have made further progress North-East of SINKAWANG and forces are withdrawing.

NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES. AMBOYNA has been evacuated by N.E.I. Military Air Force personnel.

RUSSIA. Heavy Russian attacks are in progress in the DONETS Sector South-East of KHARKOV.

3. AIR OPERATIONS

WESTERN FRONT. 20th/21st. 23 tons of high explosives were dropped on EMDEN in good visibility and some fires were started.

21st. Spitfires made low flying attacks on minor objectives in Northern France. A Catalina, on anti-submarine patrol crashed in SPAIN.

21st/22nd. 121 aircraft sent out - BREMEN 55, EMDEN 38, leaflets (PARIS area) 12. Seven medium bombers are missing. Sixty enemy aircraft were operating most of them sea-mining and against shipping off the East Coast.

LIBYA. 20th. Bad weather restricted operations. Four Blenheims obtained hits on barracks West of HOMS (L) and damaged a bomber on ZOUARA aerodrome.

20th/21st. Three Wellingtons bombed TRIPOLI (L).

MALTA. 21st. The Island was attacked by a total of 70 Junkers 88 and Messerschmidts 109. Three Hurricanes on the ground were damaged at HAL FAR aerodrome. Our fighter operations were severely hampered since two aerodromes were under water.

MALAYA. 19th. Three additional Buffaloes reported missing and three enemy aircraft probably destroyed.

20th. Our bombers attacked KUALA LUMPUR aerodrome and fighters intercepted six enemy bombers in the BAKRI area forcing them to jettison their bombs and destroyed one of them. About 100 enemy aircraft attacked SINGAPORE ISLAND causing damage and casualties at two aerodromes, one Hudson was destroyed and two Buffaloes damaged on the ground, slight damage was also caused at the naval base. Our fighters including 14 Hurricanes, intercepted and destroyed three enemy bombers and one fighter and damaged three other aircraft. Three Hurricanes are missing, one pilot safe. Anti-aircraft shot down three enemy aircraft in Central JOHORE.

BURMA. 20th. Six Blenheims, escorted by American fighters, attacked HESOD aerodrome, all bombs fell in the target area starting fires and two enemy aircraft were destroyed. Two Buffaloes were shot down over MOULMEIN.

21st. RAHENG aerodrome, 100 miles east of MOULMEIN was successfully attacked.

4. AIRCRAFT CASUALTIES IN OPERATIONS OVER AND FROM THE BRITISH ISLES

British - 7 bombers and 1 Catalina - 8.

5. It is estimated that aircraft production in Germany the Protectorate and Poland has now risen to about 2,500 per month, including about 1,700 operational types. These include some 570 long range bombers, 190 short-range bombers, 440 single-engined fighters and 215 twin-engined fighters. Although skilled labour is probably a limiting factor a further increase must be reckoned with during 1942.

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of British

Govt. Telegram 12/22

By RHP Date FEB 9 1972

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

24th January, 1942.

~~SECRET~~

Dear Mr. President,

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

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of British

Copy No. 11

Govt. Telegram 11212

By RHP Date FEB 9 1972

OPTEL No. 27

Information received up to 7 a.m., 23rd January, 1942.

1. NAVAL

A twelve thousand ton outward bound tanker was torpedoed on the 22nd six hundred miles east of CAPE RACE.

2. MILITARY

LIBYA. 22nd. Three enemy columns, including tanks, made a reconnaissance in force about fifteen miles deep from their positions around AGHEILA. Our forces are withdrawing but maintaining touch and harassing the enemy while our reserves are moving forward towards the fighting area.

MALAYA. East. Our forces, after successfully ambushing the enemy, have withdrawn south of the river NERSING. Our artillery are harassing enemy movements. Centre. No further change. West. Heavy fighting continues and the position is confused. On the 21st eight hundred Australian and four hundred Indian troops who had been cut off, rejoined from the BAKRI area. A British infantry brigade counter attacked BUKIT PAYONG to help this movement. By the 22nd the BUKIT PAYONG area was strongly held by the enemy and remainder of our troops in this area who were unable to force their way through, are making their way in by tracks leaving their wheel transport.

BURMA. Heavy fighting continues at KANKAREIK in the MOULMEIN area against the enemy in force. The evacuation of our forces from the MERQUI area is proceeding. A number of military personnel from TAVOY have arrived in the YE area and all the R.A.F. ground party have reached MOULMEIN safely.

RUSSIA. The Russian advance southwards west of RZEHV has made further progress. Russian attacks south-east of KHARKOV have gained ground. Little change in the CRIMEA but a resumption of the German attack towards KERCH is probable.

3. AIR OPERATIONS

WESTERN FRONT. 21st/22nd. BREMEN. Thirty-one tons and one thousand five hundred incendiaries.

EMDEN. Forty-seven tons and two thousand two hundred incendiaries. At BREMEN a four thousand pound bomb burst near the railway junction and another near the Atlas Shipyards. Eleven R.C.A.F. and two R.A.A.F. aircraft took part. One Canadian Hampden was among those missing.

22nd. A Hudson obtained two hits on a one thousand ton merchant vessel off the FRISIAN ISLANDS.

22nd/23rd. Seventy-two aircraft sent out, 47 of them to MUNSTER. Two are missing and one crashed on return.

LIBYA. 21st. Water logged landing grounds prevented operations over the forward area.

MALTA. 22nd. Two air attacks took place, at HAL FAR aerodroms buildings and a Hurricane on the ground were damaged. Our fighters probably destroyed three aircraft and damaged two more. We lost one Hurricane.

MALAYA. SINGAPORE ISLAND was attacked by about hundred aircraft on the 21st and by 54 bombers escorted by fighters on 22nd. The aerodromes were heavily bombed, five of our aircraft being destroyed on the ground and several others damaged. In air fighting our fighters destroyed nine aircraft, probably destroyed one and damaged four. We lost ten fighters but four pilots are safe. In addition A/A artillery claim nine aircraft destroyed.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

January 26th, 1942.

Secret

Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Halifax

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of *British*

Post, Telegram & Cable

By *RHP* Date **FEB 9 1972**

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of *British*
Short, Telegam 1/12/72

By *RHP* Date *FEB 9 1972*

OPTEL No. 29.

Information received up to 7 A.M. 24th January, 1942.

1. NAVAL.

Aircraft reconnaissance on 23rd showed the TIRPITZ at Trondheim. A small Norwegian vessel was torpedoed off Christmas Island on the 20th and has been abandoned. On 21st a medium sized Greek vessel was sunk by mine off Singapore.

2. MILITARY.

Libya.

By the evening of the 22nd enemy columns, estimated total strength about 8,000 men and 90 tanks, were advancing North and North East from Jedabya. Our troops have taken up positions South East, East and North of the town.

Malaya.

Situation 4.30 P.M. 23rd. Right. No change. Mersing area still held. Centre. Our forces were withdrawn South of Labis, where they were in contact with enemy including tanks. Left. Our forces who were cut off have not yet been able to extricate themselves. Pressure in the Batu Pahat Area has increased. The Japanese Guards Division has been identified on the Muar Front. About 400 Australians and many Indian troops returned from Muar Force after very bitter fighting.

Burma.

Demolition of Mergui Aerodrome has been completed and our withdrawal continues. More army personnel from Tavoy have arrived at Ye. East of Moulmein our forces are withdrawing but are not being pressed.

Russia.

The Russian converging movement towards Vyasma is making progress both from the North and from the South East.

3. AIR OPERATIONS.

Western Front.

22nd. 1,000 ton enemy ship was hit by R.C.A.F. Hudson. 22nd/23rd. Munster. 65 tons. Good weather conditions. Large fires were started in the town and bombs straddled the railway station. 4 R.A.A.F. aircraft participated.

Libya.

22nd. A Squadron of Blenheims inflicted heavy damage on 400 closely parked M.T. South East of Agheila. Kittyhawks engaged 30 dive bombers, escorted by fighters, destroying 3 enemy aircraft and damaging 7. Two Kittyhawks are missing.

22nd/23rd. Wellington dropped over 10 tons bombs on Tripoli (L) harbour. A naval vessel and a probable A.A. ship were hit.

Malta.

22nd/23rd and 23rd. A total of 83 enemy aircraft attacked, causing slight damage to ships in the harbour and to Halfar aerodrome. Two enemy aircraft were damaged by our fighters.

Burma.

23rd. Our bombers attacked a concentration of lorries near Mesed. Enemy aircraft attempting to attack an aerodrome near Rangoon were intercepted by Tomahawks of the American Volunteer Group and Buffaloes, 9 enemy fighters and 3 bombers were destroyed and a further 12 enemy aircraft were probably destroyed. Several more were damaged. The other bombers jettisoned their bombs. We lost 3 fighters.

Malaya.

Singapore. 21st. Civilian air raid casualties reported 304 killed and 625 hospital cases. 22nd. Kluang aerodrome was raided but no damage caused.

Pacific Zone.

20th. More than 100 Japanese bombers and fighters attacked Rabaul (New Britain), 21st. 60 aircraft attacked Kawieng (New Ireland) and 50 attacked Salamoa (New Guinea) and other objectives in that area.

4. The arrival at Ferrol on 12th of an Axis ship with a valuable cargo from Japan probably represents a first attempt to bring urgently needed raw materials from the Far East to Germany.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

January 26th, 1942

~~SECRET~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
the latest report received from London
on the military situation. It was
dated January 25th, 1942.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Halifax

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

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

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of British

Govt., Telegram 112122

By RHP FEB 9 1972

Franklin

1400
Baranville

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of British

Copy No. 11

Gen. T. J. Gamble ~~SECRET~~

By RHP Date FEB 9 1972 ~~(S.O. SECRET)~~

OPTEL No. 30

Information received up to 7 a.m., 25th January, 1942.

1. NAVAL

One of H.M. submarines torpedoed and sank an Italian salvage vessel off TUNISIA.

22nd. Two naval auxiliaries which were attacked by enemy aircraft off NORTH SUMATRA shot down a four-engined aircraft.

Between 19th and 24th following ships reported sunk or damaged by enemy submarines:

A. Off U.S. Atlantic Coast and in NEWFOUNDLAND area, five ships totalling about 28,000 tons.

B. Off BURMA. A small Panamanian ship and another unknown vessel.

C. 340 miles S.S.E. of HALIFAX, one medium sized British ship

D. 300 miles West of CAPE ST. VINCENT, one medium sized Spanish ship.

2. MILITARY

LIBYA. 22nd and 23rd. The enemy seized the opportunity to push along the AGHEILA to JEDABYA Road, which was lightly held and reached JEDABYA on the afternoon of the 22nd, and then moved a column of about 30 tanks and 400 M.T. through ANTELAT towards SAUNNU. A second column of about 150 M.T. including armoured vehicles and guns followed up as far as ANTELAT where it seems to have remained. Air reported several hundred M.T. moving North-East on track JEDABYA to ANTELAT on morning 23rd. Our armoured and other forces were in touch with the enemy throughout the 23rd and at least three engagements took place in the ANTELAT-SAUNNU Area where enemy tanks and artillery were brought to battle by our columns. The situation is still confused and no decisive results have been reported. Large number of fires seen amongst enemy M.T. on track JEDABYA - ANTELAT.

FAR EAST. No further news of operations in BURMA or MALAYA, NEW BRITAIN and NEW IRELAND.

24th. No communication with Australian military forces at RABAUL and KAVIENG. Three enemy aircraft claimed brought down at each place between 21st and 22nd.

RUSSIA. North-West of RZHEV the Russians are making further progress westwards.

3. AIR OPERATIONS

WESTERN FRONT. Nothing of interest.

MEDITERRANEAN. 23rd and 23/24. Our bombers including Naval aircraft attacked at intervals a southbound Italian convoy consisting of four large merchant vessels escorted by one battleship, three cruisers and sixteen destroyers which was first sighted 170 miles North-East of MISURATA. Reports are not yet definite but a merchant vessel of about 20,000 tons was torpedoed and stopped, a destroyer was torpedoed, a cruiser was hit with bombs and near misses with bombs were scored on the battleship and two merchant vessels. Two of our aircraft are missing.

25th. Six Swordfish again attacked this large vessel at 1.30 a.m. and claimed hits with two torpedoes, this confirmed by screening Blenheim. Later each sighted convoy approaching TRIPOLI (L) but no trace of the large ship.

MALTA. 23rd/24th and 24th. A total of 82 aircraft attacked. Two of our aircraft were destroyed on the ground and seven damaged. HAL FAR aerodrome was cratered. Our fighters probably destroyed one enemy aircraft and damaged four.

BURMA. 24th. Seven enemy bombers, escorted by 55 fighters attacked two aerodromes near RANGOON; 17 of our fighters including two Hurricanes shot down all the bombers and six fighters, probably destroyed two fighters and damaged nine. All our aircraft returned safely.

MALAYA. 23rd. 30 enemy aircraft attacked SINGAPORE ISLAND. Three of our aircraft were destroyed on the ground. Hurricanes shot down one enemy bomber and probably destroyed another.

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

27th January, 1942.

~~SECRET~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
the latest report received from London
on the military situation. It was
dated January 26th, 1942.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Stalifer

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of *British*

Govt., Telegram 112122

By *RHP* Date *FEB 9 1972*

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of British

Copy No. 11

Sout. Telegram 1272

~~SECRET~~

By RHP Date FEB 9 1972

~~(U.S. SECRET)~~

OPTEL No. 31

Information received up to 7 a.m., 26th January, 1942.

1. NAVAL

Reconnaissance BREST on 25th showed both SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU out of dock and alongside torpedo boat station.

Evening 25th. One of our aircraft sighted five enemy torpedo-boats 30 miles South-West of BREST steering North-North-West and attacked with depth charges result unknown.

25th. A small Greek merchant vessel in outward convoy was torpedoed off NEWFOUNDLAND, and a small British ship in coastal convoy was sunk by mine off HARWICH. Another troop convoy arrived safely in SINGAPORE between 23rd and 25th.

2. MILITARY

LIBYA. On the evening of the 24th, enemy mechanical transport was reported to be withdrawing from SAUNNU in a South-Westerly direction with our armoured car patrols in contact, while another large enemy body, about 20 miles South of SAUNNU, was sending patrols North-Eastwards up the TRIGH EL ABD. At 9.30 a.m. on 25th a battle was developing 18 miles South-West of MSUS between our armoured forces and two enemy columns of 35 tanks with some mechanical transport. Another column of about 200 mechanical transport was reported to be advancing from JEDABYA to ANTELAT.

MALAYA. P.M. 24th. East: The enemy had apparently not yet crossed the MERSING River. Our field artillery was successfully engaging enemy movements.

Centre: Our night withdrawal South of YONG PENG was successfully carried out on 23/24th though with some loss. Enemy followed up our right flank rapidly and fighting is taking place near KLUANG aerodrome. In a successful counter-attack by an Indian Battalion late in the day, the Japanese are estimated to have lost 125 killed and 3-400 wounded. Our casualties were 25.

West: Enemy pressure and infiltrations have increased, and the situation remains confused. 200 more of Kee force which was cut off have come in. All reports indicate extremely bitter fighting in this area.

BURMA. 24th. Our withdrawal in the MOULMEIN area continues, our troops are tired and somewhat scattered, and much equipment and mechanical transport has been lost.

25th. Our new positions were taken up on the MOULMEIN front without interference. In the initial stages of the enemy attack, in which it is estimated that 5-10,000 Japanese took part, enemy casualties are known to have been very heavy, they advanced by sheer weight of numbers regardless of losses but received such punishment that our night withdrawal was unmolested. Chinese reinforcements have been and still are arriving in BURMA in large numbers.

RUSSIA. A strong Russian attack in the DONETS Sector is making progress.

3. AIR OPERATIONS

WESTERN FRONT. 25th. Four uneventful sweeps were made over the Channel, one R.N.Z.A.F. Spitfire is missing.

25/26th. 71 bombers were sent to BREST. All returned safely. Eight R.C.A.F. aircraft took part, one crashed shortly after taking off crew killed.

LIBYA. 23rd. Our fighters machine gunned and damaged tanks and mechanical transport on the JEDABYA-ANTELAT Track.

24th. In the ANTELAT-SAUNNU-ISIS Area, our fighters destroyed four enemy aircraft, probably destroyed another and damaged three more. They also attacked about 200 mechanical transport and 20 tanks South-East of SAUNNU on the TRIGH EL ABD.

24/25th. Wellingtons attacked the harbour and mechanical transport concentrations at TRIPOLI (L) and started a fire in a large mechanical transport park. During all these operations, we lost one aircraft.

MALTA. 24/25th. During air raids, five of our fighters were shot down but four pilots are safe. Two enemy aircraft were damaged.

SICILY. 24/25th. Five Hurricanes destroyed one enemy aircraft and damaged another while patrolling over aerodromes.

MALAYA. On 23rd/24th and 24th/25th, our bombers attacked troops and mechanical transport concentrations near LABIS, where heavy damage was caused. The YONG PENG - LABIS Road Bridge is believed to have been demolished.

24th. During heavy dive-bombing attacks on our troops in the forward area, Siamese aircraft were identified for the first time. An enemy bomber was destroyed by anti-aircraft near MERSING.

SIAM. 24/25th. Nine Burma Blenheims attacked BANGKOK Docks. All bombs burst in the target area, starting fires. It is believed that the power station was hit. One Blenheim is missing.

NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES. Three air attacks were made on a large enemy convoy reported in the South West CELEBES SEA, during two of them, one transport was sunk and one set on fire and five enemy fighters were shot down. A subsequent attack was made by night by UNITED STATES destroyers. Observed results - one large ship blown up, one sunk and one severely damaged. The enemy convoy is now reported in TARAKAN.

22nd. Air attacks were made on GORONTALO (CELEBES), SABANG (NORTH SUMATRA) and MEDAN where damage was caused to the docks. On the 23rd, 27 Japanese bombers slightly damaged the aerodrome at PALEMBANG (SUMATRA).

4. AIRCRAFT CASUALTIES IN OPERATIONS OVER AND FROM THE BRITISH ISLES

British - One fighter.

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

January 28th, 1942.

~~Secret~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein copies
of the two latest reports received
from London on the military situation.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Halifax

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

DECLASSIFIED
By Authority of *British Govt.*
Telegram 11/2/72
By *RHP* Date **FEB 9 1972**

Govt. Telegram
By RHP 11/2/42

~~BRITISH WEST GERMANY~~

~~(U.S. SOURCE)~~

OPTEL No. 32

Information received up to 7 a.m., 27th January, 1942.

1. NAVAL

One of H.M. submarines claims two hits on a convoy of three merchant ships of about 5,000 tons each entering SUDA BAY on the 12th, one ship was seen to sink.

On the 22nd an 8,000 ton Norwegian tanker was torpedoed and set on fire South-East of HALIFAX and on the 25th another Norwegian tanker from CURACCA was hit by three torpedoes 200 miles North-East of CHESAPEAKE BAY.

2. MILITARY

LIBYA. 26th. Reports from the forward area indicate that on the afternoon of the 25th two enemy columns consisting of a total of 200 M.T. and 20 tanks were advancing North-East from MSUS and were being engaged by our forces. Our armoured forces were in the GHARRUBA Area some 50 miles North of MSUS, while our main infantry forces were still south of BENGHAZI threatening the left flank of the advancing enemy columns.

MALAYA. East: Enemy estimated at two battalions supported by Naval forces landed at ENDAU on the morning of the 26th. Our aircraft against strong air opposition, engaged these forces and hit warships and transports. Heavy air losses on both sides.

Centre: Throughout 26th our troops were in contact with the enemy North of RENGAM and OIMPANG RENGAM. Our forward troops and road communications were continually dive-bombed and machine gunned.

West: The 15th Indian Infantry Brigade are trying to move South from SENGGARANG. The 53rd Infantry Brigade were trying to make touch with them from the South but were unable to advance beyond RENGAM.

BURMA. Everything of value in MERGUI was destroyed before evacuation. There has been no further contact with the enemy.

3. AIR OPERATIONS

WESTERN FRONT. 26th/27th. 136 aircraft sent out - HANOVER 70 - EMDEN 33 - BREST 25. 3 are missing.

LIBYA. 25th. All available aircraft were used to cover the withdrawal of our ground forces. Many enemy vehicles were either destroyed or damaged. 4 enemy aircraft were shot down and 3 damaged. We lost 2.

25th/26th. Wellingtons bombed mechanised columns in the JEDABYA Area.

MALAYA. 25th. Our troops in the AYER HITAM Area were again heavily attacked by Japanese and Siamese aircraft. Buffaloes intercepted 27 enemy bombers attempting to attack SINGAPORE, bombs were either jettisoned or caused no damage. 3 enemy aircraft were damaged.

25th/26th. Our bombers attacked BATU PAHAT and MUAR.

BURMA. 26th. About 20 enemy fighters approaching RANGOON were intercepted by the American Volunteer Group. 3 enemy aircraft were destroyed and one probably destroyed for the loss of one American fighter.

NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES. 24th. Enemy aircraft attacked SAMARINDA (EAST BORNEO) and 3 were destroyed. One Dutch fighter was lost.

PACIFIC. 24th/25th. R.A.A.F. Catalinas bombed RABAUL registering two probable hits on a warship. At MANUS (ADMIRALTY ISLAND) on the 24th 5 enemy floatplanes caused considerable damage.

4. ITALY

Movements of oil from GERMANY to ITALY via the ST. GOTTHARD which started on 12th December were still continuing on 18th January when three or four trains of tankers, representing about 1,800 tons of oil, were passing daily. Some of the tank wagons contained petrol.

5. GERMANY

GERMANY. The continuance of Russian pressure is making it increasingly difficult for GERMANY to regain the initiative on land. So long as this pressure is maintained, the Germans cannot withdraw and refill enough aircraft for such broad operations as might restore to them the strategic initiative.

ITALY. It was not to be expected that a Commander of General's quality would vacillate indefinitely on the defensive at MONTEA while we made preparations to renew the offensive against it. We have had our attacks and light forces losses with about 20 tanks. (The report also states it can have sufficient to make essentially the enemy's removal of aircraft, and General may have either

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of BritishGovt. TelegramOPTEL No. 33 By RHP Date FEB 9 1972

Following is supplementary resume of operational events covering the period 15th - 22nd January, 1942.

1. NAVAL

Three of the thirteen ships driven ashore in the British Isles have become a total loss. An important convoy was passed through to MALTA and one from MALTA reached ALEXANDRIA. A Tribal class destroyer and one merchant vessel were lost during these operations. Dutch coastal batteries sank two Japanese destroyers during the attack on TARAKAN.

Submarines. There has been a concentration of U-boats off the North American Coast from NEWFOUNDLAND to VIRGINIA. Smaller groups were working in the North Western Approaches, near the AZORES and off MURMANSK. Activity in the MEDITERRANEAN continued. Shipping losses were moderate. U-Boats sank two ships off the U.S. Atlantic Coast. Our Ocean Homeward Convoys sustained no losses through enemy action. Owing to delays caused by bad weather imports in convoy into United Kingdom for week ending 17th were only 180,000 tons of which 41,000 tons were oil. During the period 883 ships were convoyed. The German WINDHUK (16,600 tons) and the Italian CONTE GRANDE (23,860 tons) have been taken over by the Brazilians at SANTOS.

TOBRUK. During 8 months from 12th April, 1941, the Royal Navy, in maintaining sea communications with TOBRUK, lost 27 H.M. ships including small auxiliary craft and two destroyers and had seven destroyers damaged. Naval casualties were 469 killed or missing and Mercantile Marine 70 killed and missing. On the other hand, 32,667 personnel were landed and 34,113 embarked in addition to some thousands of prisoners of war and wounded. About 34,000 tons of stores and ammunition besides numbers of tanks and guns were transported.

2. MILITARY

GERMANY. The continuance of Russian pressure is making it increasingly difficult for GERMANY to regain the initiative on land. So long as this pressure is maintained, the Germans cannot withdraw and refit enough divisions for such fresh operations as might restore to them the strategic initiative.

LIBYA. It was not to be expected that a Commander of Rommel's quality would remain indefinitely on the defensive at AGHEILA while we made preparations to renew the offensive against him. And he has now attacked our light forward forces with about 90 tanks. (Throughout this battle it has been difficult to assess accurately the enemy's armoured strength, and Rommel may have either

managed to repair more tanks than we considered possible, or received fresh tanks via TRIPOLI, or both). His object was probably to anticipate a resumption of our offensive believing this to be more imminent than in fact it was. At all events, for the present, he has regained the tactical initiative.

RUSSIA. After slowing down last week, the Russian offensive has gained fresh impetus, on almost the whole front the Russian Army is renewing its pressure and finding the weak spots. The new attack South of LAKE ILMEN may lead to the disengagement of LENINGRAD. The converging movement West of RZHEV and West of KALUGA is resulting if not in an encirclement at least in a withdrawal of the German forces in the whole of the MOJAISK SALIENT, and the offensive recently launched on a wide front from the DONETS BASIN should play an important part in the process of preventing the enemy from stabilising his line and withdrawing divisions for rest and refit. The battle is in fact going well for the Russian Army everywhere, except in the CRIMEA - a front which retains a special importance from its position near the German route to the CAUCASUS.

FAR EAST. On a series of fronts which widen in extent every week the Japanese are taking advantage of their opportunities "while the going is good". During this early phase of the war they have not only ample forces to attack in nearly all directions simultaneously but also the shipping and freedom of the seas to transport these forces to the various fronts. (Their comparatively small air strength is one of their few limitations at present). In the PHILIPPINES the UNITED STATES troops though in danger of shortages of food and ammunition are giving them such a tough nut to crack that they are making but little progress. Similarly in MALAYA, where the Japanese possess air superiority and have thrown in a crack Guards Division, the British - Indian and Australian Units already in action have been joined by fresh British troops and, though continually outnumbered and outflanked, are offering a barrier of increasing strength. Nevertheless, if the front line is forced any further back, it may prove impracticable to maintain resistance on the mainland and a withdrawal to SINGAPORE ISLAND may become necessary. In BURMA the centre of attack has shifted to MOULMEIN, against which the Japanese can bring two divisions with a further two against MANDALAY, threatening the BURMA ROAD, China's last supply route. Moreover, on this front the enemy can reinforce more easily than we can. They have been able to move against NEW BRITAIN and NEW IRELAND without meeting enough opposition to stop them. Indeed on a short view the Japanese General Staff must be having a less anxious time than their partners in BERLIN.

EUROPE. German divisions in FRANCE now estimated at 23 and in BALKANS 11 or 12. There is evidence that the DANUBE is frozen as far east as RUSTCHUCK and that navigation above this town is no longer possible.

3. AIR OPERATIONS

WESTERN FRONT. Bomber command could operate on four nights only, 360 tons of H.E. and 44,000 incendiaries were dropped. The main objectives were EIDEN, BREMEN and HAMBURG. Enemy aircraft were employed mainly against our shipping.

MEDITERRANEAN. HALFAYA was consistently bombed until its surrender on 17th. Sandstorms rain and water-logged landing grounds curtailed our activities in the forward area, enemy activity was slight.

MALTA. The Island was frequently raided by several aircraft in daylight particular attention being paid to aerodromes. Our fighters were hampered by unserviceable aerodromes owing to damage and rain. Our Naval aircraft made some promising attacks on enemy merchant ships and their destroyer escorts.

MALAYA. SINGAPORE ISLAND was raided on six days of the week by a total of 520 aircraft, the aerodromes were attacked heavily. Our fighters which now include Hurricanes destroyed 16 enemy aircraft and our A.A. artillery claimed another 9. We lost 11 fighters and 6 pilots.

RUSSIA. Enemy activity was principally in the Southern Sectors of the front from KHARKOV to the CRIMEA but whenever weather permitted operations by the German Air Force were interrupted by frequent attacks on most of the aerodromes used by their fighters and dive bombers. In the MOSCOW Sector German action against Russian troops and forward communications has been very limited. It is estimated that the Germans are now using about 1,500 aircraft on the Russian Front compared with over 2,500 during the first weeks of their Russian campaign.

file
~~SECRET~~
BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

January 29th, 1942

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of the latest report received from London on the military situation. It was dated January 28th, 1942.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Stafford

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

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

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of British

Gen. Telegram 1/26/72

By RHP Date FEB 9 1972

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of British

Copy No. 11

Spot, Telegram 112/72

~~BRITISH POST OFFICE~~

By RHP Date FEB 9 1972

~~(U.S. OFFICE)~~

OPTEL No. 34

Information received up to 7 a.m., 28th January, 1942.

1. NAVAL

Night 22nd/23rd. In the MACASSAR STRAITS the U.S. S/M STURGEON obtained one hit on a Cruiser or Aircraft Carrier and the Dutch S/M K.18 sank a Destroyer and hit a Cruiser. During 24th and 25th Dutch aircraft hit three Cruisers, a Destroyer and four Transports, two of which sank. Night 26th/27th. H.M. Destroyers engaged an enemy Cruiser and three Destroyers off ENDAU. One enemy Destroyer was sunk and one damaged, one British Destroyer sank. U.S. and Australian A/S units have sunk one large and probably one small U-boat off DARWIN. On 17th a medium sized Norwegian tanker outward bound in convoy was torpedoed and sunk off CAPE RACE. On 22nd a small Greek Steamer was torpedoed 260 miles from CAPE RACE. On 24th a medium sized British Tanker was torpedoed off CAPE HATTERAS, the after part being sunk.

2. MILITARY

LIBYA. The latest reports received only cover the period up to the afternoon of the 26th when our troops were disposed to cover BENGHAZI and to block the enemy's further advance north and northeast of MSUS. Mobile column and patrols are carrying out offensive operations against the enemy's lines of communication.

MALAYA. East: Our forces are in contact with the enemy north of JEMALUANG. Centre: Our forces have made a slight withdrawal and heavy fighting continues. West: Heavy fighting on the coast road south of BATU PAHAT continues but the position is confused. Some parties of 15th Indian Infantry Brigade reached vicinity of BENUT but it is reported that 2,000 were on beach four miles south east of SEGGARANG.

3. AIR OPERATIONS

WESTERN FRONT. 26th/27th. HANOVER - 38 tons; EMEN - 43 tons; BREST - 39 tons. During these operations five R.C.A.F. and eight R.A.A.F. aircraft took part without casualties. 27th/28th. 51 aircraft sent out, BREST - 35; BOULOGNE - 10; shipping off GRAVELINES - 6. No casualties.

LIBYA. Throughout 26th our fighters attacked M.T. and tanks moving between ANTELAT, SAUNNU and MSUS. Heavy damage was inflicted estimated at a minimum of 120 vehicles destroyed or damaged and 200 troops killed and

wounded. Traffic on ANTELAT-ISUS Track, heavy in the morning had practically ceased in the afternoon and many vehicles had been abandoned. Only two enemy aircraft, one of which was destroyed, were seen. We had no casualties.

SICILY. Night 26th/27th. Wellington bombers dropped seven tons of bombs on CATANIA and four tons on CENISO. Hangars and runways straddled at both aerodromes.

MALTA. 26th/27th. Enemy aircraft approached the island on several occasions but few aircraft crossed the coast. 27th. Twenty aircraft dropped bombs damaging buildings and dockyard machinery in the grand harbour. There were no casualties.

MALAYA. 25th/26th. 19 bombers with 23 fighters as escort attacked an enemy naval force north east of ENDAU. Hits are reported on a Cruiser and two Merchant Vessels of 8,000 and 9,000 tons respectively. Two further forces of bombers and fighters were despatched to continue the attack but no details have yet been received. Enemy troops on ENDAU-MERSING road were bombed and a large stores dump was hit. Fierce opposition was encountered from a large number of enemy fighters, thirteen of our aircraft are missing and two more crashed. Enemy casualties were eleven destroyed, two probably destroyed and three damaged by our aircraft, also another destroyed by A.A. fire. 26th. 27 enemy aircraft bombed TENGAH aerodrome rendering it unserviceable and continually attacked our forward troops and communications. 27th. 65 enemy aircraft attacked KALLANG and SELETAR, seven of our aircraft were destroyed on the ground and thirteen damaged. Hangars and other buildings were hit.

NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES. Many enemy attacks on shipping off west coast of SUMATRA and raids in varying force at scattered points in the Eastern Archipelago are reported.

4. There is further corroboration of the recent reports that throughout the last fortnight of December forty trains of 35 oil tank cars each, passed daily through BASLE from GERMANY to ITALY, this representing the movement of no less than 300,000 tons of oil from GERMANY to ITALY in two weeks.

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

31st January, 1942.

Wyle
~~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.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

(For the Ambassador)

R. I. Campbell

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D.C.

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of British

Gen. Telegram 1/12/72

By RHP Date FEB 0 1972

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By Authority of British

Copy No. 11

Govt. Telegram dists

By RHP Date FEB 9 1972

OPTEL No. 35

Information received up to 7 A.M., 29th January, 1942.

1. NAVAL

28th/29th. Enemy coastal batteries ineffectively shelled a Channel convoy off DOVER.

22nd. A small merchant ship was sunk by gunfire from a U-boat 120 miles southwest of RANGOON.

24th. A medium sized Allied ship in supply convoy was mined and sunk 27 miles southwest of SINGAPORE, and a medium sized Portuguese steamer is reported to have sunk by mine off NEWFOUNDLAND.

2. MILITARY

LIBYA. Enemy columns from the MSUS area are pushing east, north and northwest. South of BENDHAZI, our forces covering the town have been forced to withdraw by strong enemy attacks from the south. Northeast of MSUS, our armoured forces are advancing to attack the enemy.

MALAYA. East. On 27th, Australian forces were in contact near JEMALUANG, inflicting about 250 casualties on the enemy and suffering 32. Our troops have now retired to ULUSEDILI, some 30 miles south of JEMALUANG.

Centre. There has been some infiltration by enemy south of SIMPANG RENGAN.

West. 15th Indian Infantry Brigade is still southeast of SENG-GARANG, but about 1,000 of the troops isolated there managed to rejoin our forces on 28th.

BURMA. Japanese forces, including cavalry, are reported to be approaching the MOULMEIN area from the east and south.

RUSSIA. The Russians are continuing their pressure to the west of RZHEV and in the KHARKOV sector, but German resistance has increased north of the line OREL - BRYANSK and in the KURSK area.

3. AIR OPERATIONS

WESTERN FRONT. Six R.C.A.F. aircraft took part in operations 27th/28th without casualty. 28th/29th. 183 aircraft sent out - MUNSTER, 84; BOULOGNE, 48; ROTTERDAM, 29; aerodromes in HOLLAND and NORTHERN FRANCE, 20; and leaflets over PARIS, 2. Seven aircraft missing. There was thick cloud over MUNSTER, but conditions at BOULOGNE and ROTTERDAM were good.

LIBYA. On night 26th/27th Wellingtons attacked mechanical transport on the EL AGHEILA - JEDABYA road, and, on the 27th, until bad weather prevented further operations, our fighters attacked mechanical transport in the MSUS area and on the road west of SIRTE. 13 vehicles were destroyed and at least 35 damaged. 27th/28th. Wellingtons attacked shipping in TRIPOLI (L) harbour, scoring hits on the Spanish Mole and Main Quay.

SICILY. Night 27th/28th. and 28th. 53 enemy aircraft attacked the island at HAL FAR, aircraft on ground being slightly damaged.

BURMA. 27th/28th. Blenheims attacked BANGKOK area. 26th/27th. Eight enemy aircraft attacked HINGALADON aerodrome, destroying an ammunition store and one Hurricane. The attack was repeated by 30 aircraft on 27th/28th. These were intercepted by Tomahawks of the American Volunteer Group, which destroyed seven aircraft and probably destroyed a further six for the loss of one aircraft.

NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES. 26th. Attacks were made by enemy fighters on aerodromes at PARE PARE, YYKASSOR, BIMA, KOEPANG, DILLI (PORTUGUESE TIMOR), AMBON and NAMLEA.

The results of the action against the enemy convoy in MACASSAR STRAITS, believed to have consisted of three cruisers, 12 destroyers and 30 transports, now appear to have been, at a conservative estimate, one large cruiser sunk by American submarine, one cruiser hit by Dutch submarine, all three cruisers hit by bomb, one destroyer sunk, one or two destroyers hit by bombs, ten transports sunk and several transports damaged.

4. AIRCRAFT CASUALTIES IN OPERATIONS OVER AND FROM THE BRITISH ISLES

Enemy - none reported British - eight (one R.C.A.F. Spitfire)

5. IRON ORE

Total shipments of Swedish iron ore to GERMANY during 1941 were 9,554,734 tons (of which 738,255 tons via NARVIK) compared with a total of 9,172,807 tons (473,312 tons via NARVIK) during 1940. Exports in December totalled 569,000 tons, of which 24,000 were shipped via NARVIK. This is 409,000 tons less than shipments in December, 1940. The Germans are said to be pressing for increased deliveries to NARVIK.