

● PSF Great Britain: Lord Halifax

1941-45

PSF Halifax Folder

February 19, 1941

My dear Mr. Ambassador:

I was deeply interested in the information contained in your letter of February 11 and have passed it on to the Secretary of State.

It is my understanding that you have already had several conversations with Mr. Hull or Mr. Welles with regard to the problems raised, and that both your Mission and the Department of State are closely observing developments.

The whole matter is being carefully studied at the present time by the appropriate officials of this Government and I am confident that the end which we both have in view can be achieved.

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) Franklin D. Roosevelt

His Excellency
The Right Honorable
The Viscount Halifax, K.G.,
British Ambassador,
Washington.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

(W.T.36/25/41)

11th February, 1941.

Handwritten:
ackd
2/19/41

My dear Mr. President,

You will remember that on Saturday afternoon I mentioned to you the gravity which my Government attach to the leaks which are at present occurring in the blockade, and said that we were feeling obliged to stop a few of the offending ships which in the main are Russian and Japanese.

I am writing to the Under-Secretary of State about this matter in some detail, but in view of my promise to let you have a few facts relating to this traffic, more particularly via the Far East, I should like briefly to draw your attention to one or two items which I am quoting in a memorandum to Mr. Sumner Welles.

On Saturday we mentioned cotton in particular, and I think you felt that the case had not been made out that Russia has been supplying Germany. On this I do not suggest that the cotton which Russia has been buying here in recent months was necessarily itself going to Germany. The position is that Russia herself grows American-type cotton and that she has not for some years imported any cotton from the United States. In the last quarter of 1940 she imported some 28,000 tons from your country although her own cotton

harvest/

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

harvest was an extra large one and although there was no reason to believe that her normal imports of cotton from adjacent Asiatic countries had been reduced. My Government have definite evidence of actual shipments from Russia to Germany of over 60,000 tons of cotton in the first 10 months of 1940. Russia has committed herself to supply Germany with 90,000 tons of cotton per annum and recent reports have indicated that this figure has been increased to 120,000 tons. The Soviet Government are also exporting cotton to other various European destinations, such as 8,000 tons to Slovakia and at least 6,000 tons to Hungary. It seems evident therefore that the Soviet Government imports have been made in order to enable them to replace the domestic cotton which they are supplying to Central Europe.

Perhaps of more immediate relevance in connection with the question of the interception of ships in the Caribbean are exports of important commodities from South America to Germany by way of Russia and Japan. I am giving Mr. Sumner Welles detailed information on this point and would just quote one or two particular items here. Germany, for instance, has bought three million dollars worth of rubber in Brazil and one million dollars worth of this
rubber/

rubber has already reached Japan on its way to Germany, it having been carried in Japanese ships via the Panama Canal.

My Government continue to receive convincing evidence of the ultimate German destination of Japanese imports of lard, glycerine, castor and cotton oils, tallow, etc., and it is interesting to note that the Berlin branch of Mitsubishi were recently explicitly instructed to stop sending notices of remittances to New York in case it should leak out that grease, lard and beef tallow were being sent from Japan to Germany. In the latter connection it is known that the Japanese firm of Mitsubishi in September opened a three million Yen credit for purchases in Uruguay and Argentine. These include tallow and casein, which Japan does not normally import from South America, and 30,000 cases of corned beef, and all were to reach Germany via Siberia.

I will not give in detail particular items of the cargoes of Japanese ships which in the last month or so have sailed from South America to Japan via the Panama Canal. They include such items as cocoa butter, wool, tallow, wolfram, vanadium and other commodities urgently required by Germany. I just wish to give you this rather general picture so that you may be aware of the problem which is

confronting/

confronting us, and which we believe to be seriously prejudicing our war effort at a time when it is vital to us to display our strength and our resolution.

Believe me, dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Halifax,

—

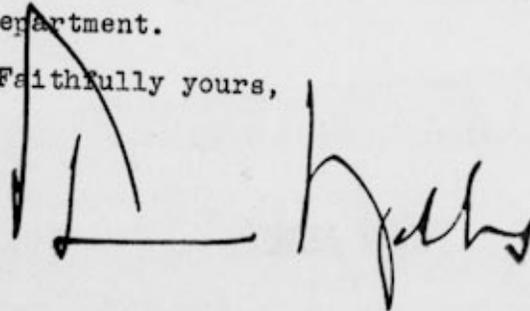
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

February 18, 1941

My dear Mr. President:

I am attaching hereto a proposed reply to the letter addressed to you by Lord Halifax under date of February 11. The British Ambassador's letter is being returned herewith. A copy of it is being retained in the Department.

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "H. Halifax", written over the typed name "Halifax". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Enclosure:

From British Ambassador,
February 11, 1941.

The President,
The White House.

file
personal

PSF Halifax ^{folded}
1-41
British Embassy

Saturday night.

[3-15-41]

My dear Mr. President

Before I go to bed I must
write you one word of heartfelt thanks
for your magnificent speech tonight.

Every word you spoke - and
not least your reference to the morale
of the 'Plain people' - tells us of
courage and unconcernment on the other
side and tells us in the most
kindly - I shall sleep
better for having heard it.

Yr. sincerely
Halifax

PSF Halifax 7/Dec
1-11



Confidential
file ↑

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.
28th May, 1941.

My dear Mr. President,

As I told you in my letter of the 19th May, I asked President Conant whether he would be prepared to act as Public Orator of Oxford pro hac vice and present you for your degree on the 19th June. He now replies that though he would have liked to have accepted, he will have just concluded his own speeches about the honorands at the Harvard ceremony. He thinks that it might cause some confusion in the minds of those present if he also presented you, and has suggested Dr. Frank Aydelotte of the Princeton Institute for Advanced Study, who is the Secretary in this country of the Rhodes Foundation.

/I

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D.C.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

I have accordingly approached Dr. Aydelotte who tells me that he will be delighted to act. I hope this will meet with your approval. I enclose a provisional draft of what I propose to say when conferring the degree. I shall be seeing Dr. Aydelotte at the Oxford dinner in New York next week and will send you as soon as possible a draft of the short speech which he will make.

H. M. S. M. S.
Halifax



As Chancellor of the University of Oxford I count it a high distinction to be charged with the duty that falls to me today.

Even were this an ordinary occasion, I should feel just pride in being empowered to act on behalf of my University in such a ceremony. The exceptional character of this Convocation makes me the more conscious of my privilege.

I am about to confer on the Head of the State to which, as representative of my own Sovereign, I am accredited, the highest distinction which my University has to offer - an act which, while honouring him, honours still more my own Society. And, through the gracious courtesy of the authorities of Harvard University, I do this in circumstances which almost permit me to feel that I am upon my native soil of Oxford.

That which would be always a significant act, draws deeper meaning from the times. As my Vice-Chancellor has well said, a University exists to promote that unfettered search for truth which is only possible for those whose bodies and souls are free. And it is because my University, Mr. President, has seen in you the undaunted champion of this freedom, that it has wished to pay to you this tribute.

By word and deed you have never ceased to show the quality of your faith in those moral and spiritual forces which alone can give dignity to human life, and which are now being so savagely assailed. That faith, so nobly expressed has constantly brought new inspiration to my countrymen, who stand in this hour

/of

of destiny valiant and unbending, the spear head of
resistance to the forces of destruction.

I have great pleasure, Mr. President, in
admitting you

PSF: Halifax

Longhand
letters

Answered
from Newfoundland

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

May 30th, 1941.

Dear Mr. President,

I have just received a telegram from the Foreign Office instructing me to convey the enclosed personal message to you from The King.

In their telegram the Foreign Office ask me to make it clear that The King's message is of course purely personal and that there is no intention of publishing it.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Halifax

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

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

14th June, 1941

My dear General,

I shall be much obliged if you
will deliver the enclosed letter from
The King to the President.

Yours ever,

Horik Butler

Brigadier General Edwin M. Watson,
Secretary to the President,
White House,
Washington, D.C.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Message to the President from His Majesty The King

The Queen and I are deeply grateful for your magnificent speech. It has given us immense encouragement and will, I know, stimulate us all to still greater efforts till victory for freedom is finally won.

George R.I.

RSE Halifax Folder

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

File

|| CONFIDENTIAL ||

6-30-41

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL WATSON:

We are making the necessary arrangements to take care of medical attendance, hospital and burial facilities for the Royal Air Force personnel.

This is being done somewhat informally and confidentially.

The Surgeon General is computing a flat rate per day and will render the charges to the Embassy.

Have shown
Malcomb
W.B.S.
to Ambassador

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 26, 1941.

MEMORANDUM FOR COLONEL W. B. SMITH:

Dear Smith:

The President has asked me to take care of this request of the British Ambassador as indicated herein.

The President is desirous of complying with the request of Halifax.

Please be good enough to give me something on this after you have talked confidentially with the Chief of Staff, as the President wished it handled very confidentially. The basic letter is not to be passed around to anybody, only to be taken up with the Chief of Staff or of course to the Secretary of War in case the Chief of Staff wants to take it up with him.

I will be back Monday.

E.M.W.
E.M.W.

PS: Halifax

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

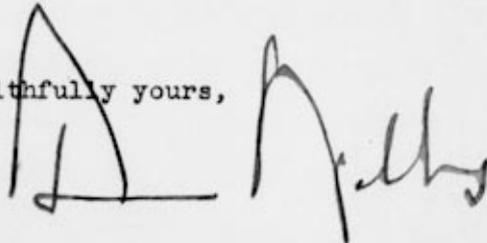
June 25, 1941

My dear Mr. President:

The British Ambassador has asked me
to deliver to you the letter which I am
enclosing herewith.

Believe me

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'A. V. Alexander'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A' and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Enclosure:
From the British Ambassador,
June 19, 1941.

The President,
The White House.

P.S.F. Halifax

c/o Air Attache,
British Embassy,
WASHINGTON, D.C.
19th June, 1941.

Dear Mr. President,

We are considering the question of the provision of medical attendance, hospital and burial facilities for Royal Air Force personnel in the United States undergoing flying training.

It is understood from the Air Corps Medical authorities that Federal hospitals are available in the vicinity of many of the Schools, but that your authority is necessary before they can be made available to our students. I should, therefore, be most grateful if you would consider the possibility of granting us access to the Federal facilities for hospital treatment, both in-patient and out-patient, and burial on the terms applicable to the United States Government Departments.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely Yours,

The Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt,
President of the United States
of America,
White House,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

file
confidential

PSF Halifax

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

July 5, 1941

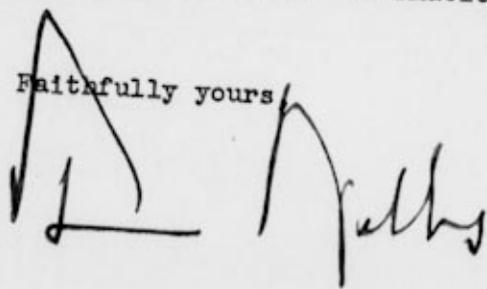
My dear Mr. President:

Lord Halifax came to see me on July 2 and, in the course of our conversation, said that he had been informed that you had "noted" the fact that the United Kingdom Government had not approved the United States-British staff conversations signed in Washington on March 27 last. The Ambassador asked that I let you know that the United Kingdom Government had in fact approved this agreement.

The Ambassador has now sent me, under date of July 4, a personal letter covering this matter of which I am enclosing a copy herewith for your information.

Believe me

Faithfully yours,



Enc.
From Lord Halifax,
July 4, 1941.

The President,
The White House.

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

July 4, 1941

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

My dear Welles,

I send you this letter to confirm that, as I told you yesterday, I have been instructed to inform you that the United Kingdom Government are in general agreement with the Report on the "United States - British Staff Conversations" signed in Washington on March 27th last by Major General Embeck, Rear Admiral Ghormley and Rear Admiral Bellairs. There are however certain subsidiary points - such as some of the proposals made in paragraph 6 of the "Joint letter of transmittal" - in regard to which the authorities in London have not yet made up their minds. I hope shortly to be able to let you know their views on these points.

Yours very sincerely,

HALIFAX

The Honourable
Summer Welles,
Acting Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

Published in
Pearl Harbor
Hearings

PART 20 PAGES 4545-
4546

7/26/41

PSF Halifax

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON.

~~SECRET~~

28th July, 1941.

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein two copies of
the latest reports received from London
on the military situation. They are dated
July 25th and July 27th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Halifax

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

DSF Italy

TELEGRAM FROM LONDON
DATED JULY 25TH

Strongly escorted convoy of six merchant ships carrying stores and reinforcements arrived safely at Malta after continuous high-level and dive-bombing and torpedo bombing but only one ship (already reported) of over 12,000 tons hit by E boat torpedo in early morning. Her speed reduced to 10 knots but her cargo suffered little damage.

2. A.M. July 23rd explosion in number 1 bay of Alexandra Dock, Hull, damage to merchant ship, sank three lighters and was attributed to mine reported on night May 3rd, May 4th.

3. Royal Air Force. Daylight June 24th. Heavy air attack on Brest, medium attack on Cherbourg, light attack on La Pallice: except for latter fighters provided escort. Claims made that Gneisenau, Prince Eugen and Scharnhorst were straddled by sticks of bombs. Smoke screen made observation difficult therefore no hit could be ascertained. Merchant ship 10,000 tons may also have been hit. Heavy air fighting resulted in destruction by our bombers of 22 enemy fighters certain, four probably, eight damaged. Our fighters destroyed 12 enemy fighters certain, 5 probably, six damaged. We lost 16 bombers, 7 fighters. Off Norwegian coast A.M. July 24th small merchant ship hit by coastal command aircraft left beached and burning. Another small ship was attacked; crew abandoned the ship though bombs not seen to explode.

Night/

Night of July 24th-25th bombers attacked Kiel and Emden with satisfactory results. A.M. July 25th small force despatched five hours to attack Scharnhorst at La Pallice, results (word omitted). Four missing.

4. Military. Japanese making military preparations Manchoukuo where Northern movements of troops is reported.

5. Russia. Germans apparently trying to consolidate position along railway running south from Porkhov area. No further advance towards Leningrad reported. German pressure continues north east of Smolensk also south of Kiev where thrust is south eastwards. German advance east of Mogilev Podolsk apparently on fairly wide front.

TELEGRAM FROM LONDON

DATED JULY 27TH

1. Achates mined July 25th 40 miles south east Iceland (c) arrived in harbour.
2. British cruiser on July 25th intercepted German Erlangen 6000 tons 480 miles south east Montevideo. She was set on fire and flooded while endeavour was being made to save her.
3. Grinez batteries unsuccessfully attempted to shell channel convoy night of July 25th/July 26th.
4. Attempt to locate Scharnhorst on July 25th failed. Fifty reconnaissance Brest and La Pallice also unsuccessful.
5. 0500/26 Grand harbour Malta heavily attacked by E-boats and one-man T/Bs. St. Elmo mobile viaduct damaged by torpedo. About 10 E-boats and one-man T/Bs sunk by shore batteries and Royal Air Force fighters. Twenty prisoners captured and various bodies recovered.
6. ROYAL AIR FORCE Night of July 24th/July 25th attacks on Kiel and Emden satisfactory especially in Deutsch and Krupp's shipyards. Night of July 25th/26th medium attack Hanover and Hamburg and light attack on Berlin. Nine bombers missing.
7. MEDITERRANEAN July 23rd.
An E-boat east of Pantelleria left sinking by Beau fighters which also destroyed two dive-bombers. One Beau fighter missing. Four Blenheims attacked shipping at Trapani Sicily. One merchant vessel about 7000 tons last seen heavily on fire; another merchant vessel about 3000 tons received two direct hits, set on fire, believed sunk. On July 25th at Malta Hurricanes shot down 5 enemy aircraft;

one/

one enemy fighter fell into cellar of demolished shop at Valetta.

8. RUSSIA German efforts directed mainly north east of Smolensk and clearing up Mogilev area. Russian formations west of armoured spearheads apparently still offering considerable resistance to enveloping forces.

Respectfully forwarded to the President:

Emm
E.M.W.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
DIVISION OF PROTOCOL

PSF Great Britain folder
file Personal Halifax

September 17, 1941.

September 17, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL WATSON

I am enclosing a copy of a letter addressed to the Secretary of State by the British Chargé d'Affaires, dated September 15. In this letter you will note that Lord Halifax has requested that the President be informed concerning his failure to return to Washington in time for the Duke of Windsor's visit.

G. Summerlin
George T. Summerlin

Enclosure:

From British Embassy,
September 15, 1941.

The Honorable
Cordell Hull,
Secretary of State of the
United States,
Washington, D.C.

COPY

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

September 15th, 1941.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As I imagine Lord Halifax must have told you himself, when he left for England he hoped to be able to return to Washington by about September 22nd in order to be here for the visit of the Duke of Windsor. I have, however, now had a telegram from the Ambassador explaining that the Prime Minister wishes him to stay on in London rather longer, and that he will therefore, to his regret, not be back in Washington in time for the Duke's visit.

Lord Halifax has asked me to explain matters to you. He would also like the President informed of the position, and I should therefore be much obliged if you would be good enough to inform the White House.

Believe, me,

Dear Mr. Secretary,

Very sincerely yours,

The Honourable
Cordell Hull,
Secretary of State of the
United States,
Washington, D.C.

Published in
Pearl Harbor
Hearings

PART 20 PAGES 4546 -
4547

10/12/41

PSF Halifax

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

October 14th, 1941.

~~SECRET.~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
the latest report received from
London on the military situation.
It was dated October 12th, 1941.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Halifax

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

PSI Halcyon



TELEGRAM FROM LONDON DATED OCTOBER 12th, 1941.

A supply convoy from the United Kingdom has arrived at Archangel.

2. Enemy aircraft again attacked Faroe Islands p.m. October 11th; a Norwegian trawler was sunk and houses were machine gunned.

3. Small Greek merchant vessel in convoy was sunk by mine off Humber October 10th.

4. Small British merchant vessel was bombed and sunk off the East coast early this morning.

5. Canadian Government tanker has now arrived at Iceland.

6. Tobruk. As a counter to enemy night operations with tanks against our forward observation posts on October 9th 15 of our Infantry tanks successfully intercepted an enemy tank formation and forced it to withdraw. 20 German tanks took part of which many were certainly damaged. Ours sustained only minor repairable damage and we had two casualties.

7. Royal Air Force. October 9th/10th. Revised casualties. 10 bombers missing, 4 crashed, 1 crew killed.

8. October 10th/11th. Objectives were attacked as follows. Krupps Works Essen 56 aircraft, 59 tons of high explosives, 6640 incendiary bombs.

Cologne. 53 aircraft, 76 tons of high explosives, 4960 incendiary bombs.

Dunkirk. 19 aircraft, 16 tons of high explosives, nil.

Bordeaux. 9 aircraft, 6 tons of high explosives, 1080 incendiary bombs.

Ostend. 16 aircraft, 27 tons of high explosives, 840 incendiary bombs.

/ Rotterdam.

Rotterdam. 7 aircraft, 10 tons of high explosives, 900 incendiary bombs.

Total - 160 aircraft, 194 tons of high explosives, 14,420 incendiary bombs.

Bad weather prevented accurate bombing but many fires were started and one 4,000 pound bomb was seen to burst in the centre of Cologne.

9. October 11th. Some small offensive operations were carried out by our fighters over Northern France.

10. October 11th/12th. 39 aircraft were sent out 27 to Emden and 12 sea mining - all returned safely.

11. Libya. October 9th/10th. Successful attacks were made on Benghazi harbour Derna and two aerodromes. October 10th 9 Marylands attacked about 50 tanks and 200 mechanical transports east of Tobruk, 3 of which received direct hits.

12. Mediterranean October 10th/11th. Naval aircraft from Malta attacked an enemy convoy two merchant vessels of about 6,000 tons were seriously damaged and stopped.

13. German Air Force. October 11th/12th. One J.U. 88 collided with aircraft, both being destroyed and another enemy bomber landed near Dungeness and was severely damaged - the crew of 4 being captured. Bombing was somewhat heavier than recently but was scattered.

No damage of national importance and casualties small. An air-raid precaution headquarters damaged at Tenby and some damage to utility services at Great Yarmouth and Whitstable.

14. Bulgaria. It is reported that 50,000 men are now / engaged

engaged on railway construction work and 32,000 on roads. Railway between Svilengrad and Edirne (Adrianople) will not now be repaired until early December.

15. Japan. Since July 1941 daily average Japanese merchant ships outside Japanese waters has fallen from 172 to 40 on October 6th.

16. Aircraft casualties over and from British areas. German 2 destroyed and British nil.

Published in
Pearl Harbor
Hearings

Halifax folder

PART 20 PAGES 4547-
4548

12/3/41

PSF
Halifax

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

December 3rd, 1941

~~SECRET~~

Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Halifax

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

BRITISH MOST SECRET

(U.S. SECRET)

OPTEL No. 14

Information received up to 7 a.m., 2nd December, 1941.

(I) A British destroyer and a Drifter, name unknown, shot down two German bombers off the HUMEER yesterday. Two British cruisers with 2 destroyers on the evening of the 1st intercepted and sank one destroyer, one 8,000 ton tanker and one 6,000 ton merchant ship, all South-bound, about 80 miles N.N.W. of TRIPOLI (L). On the evening of the 1st a British cruiser intercepted in the South Atlantic, a vessel of about 11,000 tons which scuttled herself on a warning shot being fired.

(II) MILITARY

LIBYA. 30th/1st. The enemy attacked in strength from South-west with tanks and infantry and captured SIDI REZEGH. A counter-attack by our troops was unsuccessful and early on 1st the 15th German armoured Division renewed the attack from the South-west and captured BIR EL HAMED. Our armoured forces counter-attacked at first light from the South-east and by mid-day appeared to be in the BIR EL HAMED area where the position was very confused.

In the frontier area on the morning of the 1st an attack by our troops on enemy positions North-West of Libyan OMAR met with stout resistance. Some progress has been made but the situation is obscure.

RUSSIA. MOSCOW Sector - Heavy fighting is continuing but no appreciable change has been reported.

ROSTOV Sector - Information received establishing that the Russians hold ROSTOV but does not indicate how far to the West of the town the Germans have retreated.

(III) AIR OPERATIONS

30th/1st. HAMBURG - 122 aircraft attacked in good weather and dropped 160 tons of H.E. and 9,000 incendiaries. 64 tons of H.E. and 3,500 incendiaries were dropped on EMDEN. Ground haze and searchlight glare prevented definite pin-pointing but many fires were seen at both places.

1st and 1st/2nd. Bomber operations cancelled. At dusk Hudson made several hits on two merchant vessels at KRISTIANSAND.

LIBYA. Tomahawk fight reported in yesterday's summary was carried out by one British and one Australian Squadron. 15 enemy aircraft were destroyed and 15 damaged. Three Tomahawks were lost but all pilots are safe.

30th - 5 Squadrons of light bombers attacked M.T. in the SIDI REZEGH - EL DUDA area. Beaufighters destroyed two and damaged 9 enemy aircraft on the ground at MARTUBA.

1st December - Offensive patrol of Naval Hurricanes and Tomahawks engaged 20 Ju. 88's escorted by 12 Me. 109's and some Italian G. 50's. They destroyed one Ju 88 and 3 Italian fighters and probably destroyed two German and two Italian and damaged 3 German fighters. Two Tomahawks are missing. A reconnaissance Ju. 88 was also shot down South-East of MADDELENA.

(IV) G.A.F.

1st/2nd. About 60 German aircraft operated principally off the East Coast.

(V) AIRCRAFT CASUALTIES

In operations over and from the British Isles - German - 3 destroyed.

(VI) The activities of the Russian Air Force over the last fortnight have been such as to indicate that they have at least 1,000 aircraft operating to the South of KURSK, of which about 50% are serviceable. Recent activities in the Southern Sector moreover have not been accompanied by any noticeable falling off in the scale of operations in other sectors.

(VII) The number of Japanese aircraft now estimated in French INDO-CHINA is about 250 of which about 160 are in the South, 88 Fighters (of which at least one Squadron and probably two are of latest type), 70 Light Bombers, 83 heavy Bombers and 9 Reconnaissance.

Published in
Pearl Harbor
Hearings

Halifax folder

PART 20 PAGES 4548 -
4550

12/4/41

17517 (Halifax) cv

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

December 4th, 1941.

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.

BRITISH MOST SECRET

~~(U.S. SECRET)~~OPTEL No. 15

Supplement to Resume of Operational Events covering period of 20th - 27th November, 1941.

(I) NAVAL

The 15th Canadian troop convoy arrived (?home waters) on 23rd. MEDITERRANEAN. Light forces were operating off Libyan Coast in support of our military operations and cruisers and destroyers have been disposed to intercept reinforcements by sea.

Our shipping losses were exceptionally light. No casualties from submarines or mines were reported.

Enemy minelaying by aircraft in British waters continued on most nights but situation is kept well in hand especially as regards rapid re-opening of temporarily closed ports.

(II) MILITARY

LIBYA. By November 22nd the armoured corps had succeeded in bringing the greater part of the German 15th and 21st armoured divisions to battle and during the next 2 days in a series of heavy engagements ranging over the desert heavy casualties were inflicted and received. The burden of fighting then passed temporarily to infantry while the armoured (?formations) were withdrawn for organization. New Zealand troops supported by British infantry tanks completed pressure on enemy and on the 26th succeeded in finally closing the routes to west. The (?Germans) have been making desperate attempts to break out to West with their surviving tanks and with those remnants of HALFAYA and SIDI OMAR garrisons which succeeded in withdrawing from frontier. In General Auchinleck's opinion it is "all satisfactory and shows that our pressure is telling more and more".

RUSSIA. After a period lasting several weeks when threat to MOSCOW seemed to be decreasing the new and expected German drive at KLIN at North and East of TULA aimed at RIAZHEK and RAZAN from South have once more increased considerably the danger to capital.

Every available man and vehicle is being thrown into this attack which however would be brought to a standstill (?if) another thaw (which is possible) were once more to turn roads into mud.

Northwest of ROSTOV. Germans have yet to cross the River and then to consolidate their left flank before they can advance further South Eastwards. In CRIMEA, SEVASTAPOL is still holding out and Germans have not yet attempted to cross at KERCH.

JAPAN. Land forces are believed to be disposed as follows: JAPAN 7 Divisions, 1 Tank Regiment; KOREA 1 Division; SAKHALIN 2 Divisions; MAN-CHUKUO 26 Divisions, 7 Tank Regiments; NORTH CHINA 9 Divisions, 12 Mixed Brigades, 2 Tank Regiments. CENTRAL CHINA 6 Divisions, 7 Mixed Brigades, 1 Tank Regiment; CANTON 3 Divisions, 1 Tank Regiment; SWATOW 1 Mixed Brigade; FORMOSA 3 Divisions; HAINAN 1 Division; NORTH INDO-CHINA 1 Division; SOUTH INDO-CHINA 3 Divisions, 1 Tank Regiment. Total: 62 Divisions, 20 Mixed Brigades, 13 Tank Regiments.

JAPAN is in a position to invade THAILAND whenever she wishes to do so.

EAST AFRICA. After a lull of 2 months while rainy season prevented movements a final British advance of 30 miles ending with capture of GONDAR has brought East African campaign to an end.

YUGO-SLAVIA. Bulgarian troops have been moving into district round and South of NISH. The Germans are thus (using) Bulgarian Army (to assist) their repression of Serbians having probably failed to induce Bulgarians to go and fight for them in RUSSIA.

GREECE. The German garrison in CRETE has been increased from 14,000 to 30,000 roughly from 1 to 2 divisions. The total of German divisions in BALKANS remains however the same, namely 14.

TURKEY. A system of field defence is being constructed east of Sea of MARMORA along a line of SAKARIA River. Ten thousand labourers are said to be at work.

(III) AIR OPERATIONS.

U.K. AREA. Bad weather persists; all night bombing operations were cancelled on 4 nights; on remaining 3 a total of 193 tons of high explosive and more than 13,000 incendiaries were dropped. Principal objectives - BREST, LORIENT and EMDEN.

Attacks on enemy shipping continued with success; several vessels some of medium tonnage were claimed as hit or narrowly missed but owing to difficulty of accurate observation in many cases a near estimate of total tonnage destroyed or damaged cannot be given.

There were several enemy attacks on our shipping but otherwise German air activity was on a very low scale. 3 enemy A/C were destroyed by night and 1 JU, 88 lost its bearings and landed intact.

CENTRAL MEDITERRANEAN. Axis Convoys on Libyan Sea route have been reconnoitred and were attacked on several occasions: 1 Italian cruiser was hit by aircraft - torpedo. Shipping in Tripolitanian Sicilian and Italian Harbour was raided, and it is estimated 14,000 tons of it, at Sea or in harbour were sunk or damaged by our aircraft.

LIBYA. R.A.F., R.A.A.F., S.A.A.F. and a squadron of Free French Blenheims all gave intensive and effective support to our attack in Western desert. Every form of military objective was attacked by night bomber and/or by fighters and light bombers by day. Armoured units mechanical transport tanks lorries and aircraft in air and on ground were especially selected for destruction. Our fighters constantly patrolled battle area by day and also by night, and on at least one occasion caused a German night bombing formation (heavily) escorted to jettison its bombs. The enemy armoured raiding column provided a good opportunity for air and ground co-operation: this force was shadowed and harassed by our aircraft before being brought to battle by our armoured troops. Aircraft from MALTA shared in many of these operations.

For (?Axis) air activities and situation see my OPTEL No. 6.

(IV) EXTRACTS - from photographic and intelligence reports on results R.A.F. air attacks - on enemy territory in Europe.

NURNBERG. The Aluminium Works received several direct hits causing a stoppage of work.

DONGES. About 600 tons diesel oil were lost in our raid of 28-29 September.

LILLE Area. A further report tells of recurring spread of disorganization of industry caused by our attacks on the electric power supply.

BRITISH MOST SECRET

~~(U.S. SECRET)~~OPTEL No. 17

Information received up to 0700, 3 December.

(I) NAVAL

MEDITERRANEAN. A British destroyer was torpedoed on 1st December by enemy aircraft to eastward of TOBRUK and has returned to ALEXANDRIA under her own steam.

SOUTH ATLANTIC. Reference OPTEL No. 1, 72 survivors, 5 of whom have since died, have been picked up from British cruiser which was torpedoed and sunk on November 24th. Attacks on shipping. 2nd. A ship of medium tonnage outwardbound to FREETOWN was shelled by a U-boat 200 miles South of the AZORES.

* British tanker of medium tonnage was mined and sunk off the Norfolk Coast.

(II) MILITARY

LIBYA. Nothing additional to OPTEL No. 16.

RUSSIA. Nothing additional to official communique.

(III) AIR OPERATIONS

2nd and night 2nd/3rd. No offensive operations carried out by Fighter or Bomber Command. Coastal Command report promising attacks on enemy shipping off STAVANGER and on Naval Barracks NANTES. Four aircraft are missing.

LIBYA. Night November 30/1st December. 20 tons of bombs were dropped on BENHAZI harbour; large fires were started among railway sidings and at base of Cathedral Mole. 4 engined aircraft was destroyed on BARCE aerodrome. One of our bombers is missing.

1st December. (Addition to OPTEL No. 16). A Beaufighter damaged 12 lorries Eastbound near SIRTE and set on fire 2 road tankers. Our fighters carried out over 220 Sorties on offensive sweep and bomber escort and, in combat, destroyed 9 enemy aircraft probably destroyed 4 and damaged 4. Our losses 6 fighters (2 pilots safe).

2nd. In MISURATA-HOMS LIBYA area a Beaufighter damaged 14 Eastbound lorries and set 5 road tankers on fire.

(IV) G.A.F.

2nd/3rd. 11 hostile aircraft operating between LANDS END - BRISTOL CHANNEL - ANGLESEY of which 6 flew over-land. Our night fighters destroyed 2 enemy Bombers.

(V) Aircraft casualties in operations over and from British Isles: German, 2 destroyed; British, 4 aircraft missing.

OPTTEL No. 18

LIBYA. Up to three o'clock p.m. 3rd December bad weather has hampered air and ground operations only noticeable enemy movement has been South from EL ADEM onwards towards EL GOBI. Our mobile columns and patrols continue to harass enemy on SOLLUM, EL ADEM and BARDIA - TOBRUK roads. A small enemy vessel entered SOLLUM Harbour morning 2nd December, but was driven out by machine gun fire from SOLLUM Barracks.

PSF Halifax

June 14, 1945

Dear Dorothy:

It was so nice of you to write me a note. I thought so much of you and Edward and must say I felt sorry for you being stuck in San Francisco, and now find you are in your palatial quarters with your lovely garden in Washington. I am willing to withdraw the word "palatial".

There is so much that Louie and I will have to tell you. She was quite perfect on the whole trip. Everybody adored her.

I have gone into seclusion for a few days to try to get over the effects of the trip.

I do hope Edward can help wind that show up because it has already gone on too long.

We must not delay seeing each other too long because, unless you have changed your habits, you will be flying off across the ocean soon.

Cordially yours,

HARRY L. HOPKINS

The Countess of Halifax,
The British Embassy,
3100 Massachusetts Ave., NW
Washington, D.C.

June 13:

1945

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Dear Harry.

I can't say how
much we both
welcome you back
or how we feel
about your journey
and your courage
and your wonderfully
successful mission.

I long to know
how you are - is your

picture you look
much better! she
shows what the
spirit can do for
the body.

Edward has just
spoken to me from
California where he is
feeling completely exiled.

He told me to tell
you that his admiration
for you is unbounded

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

I think you - suit
as well as
for Eisenhower -
should be having
a triumphant
entry & release

of Washington - I should
be cheering in the front row.
I am going to
New York City

but hope to see
you before long.

Yours ever

Dr. D. D.

Miss Lorraine
went with her -

PSF Holifey ✓

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON 8, D. C.

1st July, 1945.

My Dear Harry,

I have sent a telegram to
Oxford on your behalf as follows:-

"Following for Private Secretary.

Please transmit following from Harry
Hopkins to Registrar, University
Registry, Oxford.

Begins:

Greatly appreciate the honour of the
Council's action and will be happy
to accept the Degree if tendered by
the University on October 25th.

Harry Hopkins.

Ends.

I left out your bit about the
possibility of your health precluding your going
there/

The Honourable,

Harry L. Hopkins,

The White House,

Washington, D.C.

1st July, 1945.

there, as I thought this would only start them feeling they had to begin now to make explanations that may prove, and I hope will prove, unnecessary. If by chance you cannot go, you will have to let them know, and I imagine that inasmuch as they will by that time have voted you the Degree, it would be there for you to go and pick up the next time you were in England! I hope you won't think I have done wrong.

I have been looking into my plans to see whether I could possibly make my visit to England fit with this business of yours, but I am afraid it looks a bit difficult, and if so we shall have to have that week in Yorkshire another time.

It was good seeing you both the other night, and we shall look forward to doing it again before too long.

Yours ever,

Loans

175F
HALIFAX

Sunday ✓

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Dear Harry

We had such
a delightful hour with

Louise yesterday evening

and I am just

writing you a line

to say how much

we missed you &

wished you were

with us -

Political
Work

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Louise was looking
her prettiest - Her
nurses' Aid uniform
is more than becoming
to her!

As to the puppies, they
are the cutest little
creatures and I feel
in love with them all

The little wounded
one with his leg in
a splint was a mess

Her

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D. C.

pathetic right but he did
not seem to mind much
and Suzy was being
my motherly and
sympathetic to him -

Please get well
quickly as we all
want you back here
sooner as both

Yours

Dorothy Wip