

Great Britain: Military Situation: Apr. 1941

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

April 1st, 1941

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
the latest report received from London
on the military situation. It was dated
March 31st, 1941.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Antipex

The Honourable,

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

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

Telegram received from London
dated March 31st, 1941

NAVAL.

Seawolf attacked by aircraft off
Berwick p.m. March 30th. Fighters shot it down.

2. At 3.07 a.m. March 31st Bonaventure
torpedoed and sunk by U-boat, escorting convoy 90
miles south of Crete. Hereward picked up survivors
and U-boat hunted by Stuart.

Cruiser Sheffield and four destroyers
a.m. March 30th intercepted east bound French convoy
of four ships escorted by destroyer Simoun. Convoy
refused to stop and entered Nemours, Algeria. Simoun
protested and claimed our ships were inside
territorial waters. Six-inch shore battery opened
fire. Sheffield replied, hit it repeatedly and
caused large fire. Whilst returning to Gibraltar
Sheffield was bombed three times, no hits, no damage.

3. During the Mediterranean action of
March 28th-29th, three Swordfish lost, crew of one
safe, one Fulmar forced landing. Two Junker 88's
destroyed. Kandahar intercepted Bertram Rickmers,
German, 4,188 tons, a.m. March 30th off Eritrean
coast, crew abandoned ship fired and scuttling simul-
taneously. Full details awaited.

4. A.M. March 31st, bomber command aircraft
scored two hits on one ship, three hits on another,
both perhaps tankers, between Le Havre and Dieppe,
both burst into flames.

5. Strong force of bombers attacked Brest
night of March 30th/31st Scharnhorst and Gneisenau

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sighted and straddled, results unobserved.

6. On March 30th enemy aircraft made an unsuccessful attempt to attack shipping off Harwich. Spitfires destroyed one bomber, damaged a fighter.

7. MILITARY.

Certain of our armoured forces are east of the road block 32 miles west of Asmara. 8 enemy pack guns and 3,075 prisoners captured in Keren area.

8. In Arresa area our operations to cut main Addis Ababa-Keren road delayed by enemy action South-west of Arresa.

9. ETHIOPIA.

To 7 a.m. March 28th, our troops secured road junction Carsa 10 miles South of Diredawa.

10. ROYAL AIR FORCE.

Night of March 30/31st. 108 bombers sent to attack German battle-cruisers at Brest. Ships located and reports indicate some bombs straddled locality. All returned safely.

11. On March 28th enemy positions in Asmara sector attacked and Free French Air Force destroyed tents and military buildings on the Gondar-Asmara road. On March 29th railway buildings, rolling stock and large stores and factory hit and set alight at Asmara.

12. Night of March 30/31st. Enemy activity chiefly mine-laying.

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

3rd April, 1941.

~~SECRET~~
Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of the
latest report received from London on the
military situation. It was dated April
1st.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Halifax

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

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

TELEGRAM FROM LONDON
DATED APRIL 1st, 1941.

- Naval. Lord Selborne A/P trawler mined sunk off Humber a.m. March 31st. Captain 9 officers 300 ratings Bonaventure saved.
2. At 20.10/March 31st. 3 H.E. bombs dropped Portsmouth on dockyard Canteen Unicorn Gate and torpedo store. 5 casualties.
3. Scharnhorst, Gneisenau still at Brest March 31st.
4. At Punta Arenas Costa Rica on March 31st one German and one Italian ship set on fire by crews when authorities tried to board.
5. ROYAL AIR FORCE. March 31st. 26 Medium bombers, some with fighter escort, sent to attack shipping and land targets. Two tankers set on fire off Havre and off Dutch coast a large destroyer hit twice heavily listing with clouds of smoke coming from stern; 2000 ton merchant vessel also hit, two bombers lost.
6. Night of March 31st/April 1st. 39 heavy bombers sent to Emden and Bremen one missing.
7. Night of March 29th/30th. 4 heavy bombers attacked Amsterdam docks; on March 30th 7 aircraft bombed wireless station at Asmara and 10 medium bombers dropped over 4 tons of H.E. on military targets at Elbasan in Albania.
8. German Air Force March 31st. Little enemy activity one enemy fighter destroyed by a Spitfire near Dunkirk. Night of March 31st, April 1st. 71 Aircraft operating of which 26 mine laying, chiefly in Humber area.
9. Ethiopia. 6 Italian fighters damaged 4 of our aircraft on the aerodrome of Jigjiga on March 30th, 2 of them shot down.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

April 4th, 1941.

Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Halifax

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

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operations probably in the Thames and off East Anglian Coast under cover of low clouds. Two aerodromes in Yorkshire and two in Southwest attacked. In these operations 5 enemy aircraft destroyed, 2 damaged. One of our fighters missing.

10. Last night enemy activity negligible.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

April 4th, 1941.

~~SECRET~~
Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

H. Halifax

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

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

TELEGRAM RECEIVED FROM LONDON DATED
APRIL 3rd, 1941.

1. Naval.

"Worcestershire" escorting convoy about 680 miles west of Bloody Foreland torpedoed O444 April 3rd. She proceeded to N.N.E. at slow speed. Three ships this convoy torpedoed earlier in the night.

On April 2nd we lost one armed trawler bombed off St. Abb's Head.

2. "Prince Henry" A.M.C. intercepted on April 1st west of Callao German Muncros and Hermonthis. Both set on fire by crews. Salvage unlikely.

British submarine has sunk 3,645 tons of Italian merchant ships and a U-boat in central Mediterranean.

3. "Scharnhorst", "Gneisenau" still at Brest April 3rd. Coastal aircraft on April 2nd sank 3,000 tons of escorted merchant ships off Hook of Holland and later dropped four bombs on either merchant ship or auxiliary off Norderney.

4. Two Italian destroyers sunk by naval aircraft off Port Sudan morning of April 3rd.

5. Military.

Libya.

Up to 1.30 p.m. April 2nd. Our advanced units attacked April 1st by a column of a German Armoured Division. Some of our forward posts were overrun and our troops are withdrawing to a position north of Agedabia.

6. Bulgaria.

Estimated twenty complete German Divisions in Bulgaria, including four armoured. Distribution of six S.W. six Centre 8 S.E. facing Turkey.

7. Yugoslavia.

German troops concentrating opposite Yugoslav frontier in Roumania, Austria also possibly Hungary.

8. Royal Air Force.

April 2nd. Fourteen Blenheims attacked shipping off the Dutch coast and Frisian Islands. A Flak ship was hit by 250 lb. bombs and seen to be listing to starboard after attack. Another vessel was hit on stern. Night bombing operations were cancelled.

9. Ethiopia.

On March 31st six bombers of South African Air Force attacked M. T. and two railway trains at Wal An Kit (forty miles south east of Addis Ababa). Two direct hits were scored on transport.

10. German Air Force.

April 2nd. Some activity over East coasts of England and Scotland. Only nine aircraft penetrated inland. Our fighters destroyed one enemy bomber, probably two others.

Night. Only twelve enemy aircraft reported mainly off south west coast of England.

11. Enemy Air Intelligence. During March Condor units showed an increase of thirty per cent over February in number of sorties carried out against shipping.

12. Home Security. Daylight April 2nd. Minor bombing caused few casualties at Bolton and Paul's Works (Norwich) also Cruden Bay Tile Works (Aberdeenshire) where engine room was completely wrecked. Three aerodromes attacked.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~
April 7th, 1941.

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
the latest report received from London
on the military situation. It was
dated April 4th, 1941.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Halifax

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

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

TELEGRAM FROM LONDON DATED APRIL 4TH, 1941.

NAVAL.

Total of nine ships were torpedoed in
convoy which WORCESTERSHIRE was escorting.

Naval forces on 3rd April delivered
reinforcement of aircraft to Malta.

2. British submarine in central Mediterranean
x attacked south-bound convoy on March 23rd. Two
torpedoes into 12,000 ton ship and one into 6,000
ton ship.

3. Naval aircraft sighted four Italian destroyers
dawn on 3rd 19 miles east of Fort Sudan. One bombed
and sunk at 06.15, a Swordfish scored two bomb hits
on another which caught fire and was abandoned at
14.00 KINGSTON found remaining two destroyers close
in short south of Jedda. These subsequently anchored
and were abandoned 15 miles south of Jedda. Only 3
of the original 9 Italian Red Sea destroyers remain
unaccounted for.

4. MILITARY. LIBYA.

On April 2nd enemy tanks threatened the flank
of our support group and drove it out of AGEDABIA
to area 35 miles to the northeast. Later our armoured
forces were ordered to withdraw by the coast route
and to impose the maximum delay on any attempted
advance on Bengazi. April 3rd, in face of determined
advance by strong Italian and German forces our
light covering detachments were withdrawn to selected
concentration areas, evacuating Bengazi. In their
withdrawal our troops inflicted considerable cas-
ualties on the enemy in personnel and in ranks.

5. ERITREA.

Entry into Asmara early April 1st was unopposed. A small column has already occupied Nefasit 10 miles from Asmara on the road to Massawa; we are operating towards Adi Ugri (25 miles east of Arresa) Adowa and Adigrat.

6. ITALY.

Italian garrison Yugoslav frontier reported reinforced by three regiments of infantry and elements of medium artillery regiment. Fiume reported being evacuated on considerable scale.

7. ALBANIA.

Considerable Italian activity has been observed behind their front. Northern sector Italians appeared to be moving troops into position opposite Yugo-Slavia at northern end of Lake Ochrida.

8. ROYAL AIR FORCE.

Night of April 3rd - April 4th 117 aircraft despatched to Brest (90) Rotterdam Ostend and mine-laying. Weather conditions at Brest bad. The ships were not seen but about 60 aircraft bombed target area. Five bombers missing.

9. GREECE April 2nd.

Six Blenheims bombed TEPELENE, two Hurricanes shot down three out of four Italian bombers attacking VOLOS and damaged fourth.

10. German Air Force.

April 3rd. Enemy activity principally against shipping, only eleven aircraft crossing coast. Night of April 3rd - April 4th; About 100 enemy aircraft operated/

operated of which 50 in Bristol area, most of remainder suspected to be mining off east coast. Our fighters destroyed two enemy bombers by day and one by night. Only important damage was at National Smelting Company where plant will be out of action for some time. Casualties so far reported light.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

April 7th, 1941

~~SECRET~~
Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
a message for you from the Prime
Minister which I have just received by
telegram.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Halifax

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

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

1. Most grateful for your spirited intervention about "Dunquerque". It is quite true that Toulon could not repair her for from three to six months but why do we want that hanging over our head anyway? Darlan's honour about her never falling into German hands is rooted in dishonour. A ship in dry dock or under heavy repair could not possibly get away before the Germans could lay hold of Toulon. Their officers and agents are on the spot all the time, and remember how easy we found it to cop the French ships at Portsmouth and Plymouth. We ought to stick to our settled policy of resisting all transfers of French ships from Africa to German controlled or potentially German controlled French ports and encourage all movement the other way. If Darlan gets the "Dunquerque" to Toulon why should he not ask for the "Jean Bart" from Casablanca or the "Richelieu" from Dakar. Therefore I urge strong and stern continuance of utmost pressure you can exert. Evidently this is most powerful as we have certain knowledge that they were to sail on the morning of the 4th, and all preparations made. Petain does not know half what this dirty Darlan does. It would be far better if your pressure deterred Darlan, as it has already, than that we should have to take rough action with all its dangers.

2. The question is whether timely publicity might not help to deter. Do you mind if I say something like this on Wednesday in the Commons? Begins.

"There was always the risk that Darlan might bring the

"Dunquerque"/

"Dunquerque" from Oran to Toulon in order to prepare her for war purposes. Such an act would affect the balance of naval power throughout the world and would affect American interests besides our own. The points have been made to Marshal Petain by the United States Government which should have shown the Vichy Government how undesirable this step would be from the point of view of French interests. His Majesty's Government would certainly be bound to regard it as a menacing act done at Hitler's instigation and as a step in Admiral Darlan's schemes for gaining personal control over France as the Germans' trusted agent. In these circumstances His Majesty's Government would hold themselves free to take any action which was suitable against this ship either in passage or while under repair in Toulon harbour. They would greatly regret if such a situation arose as they have no wish or policy towards France other than her liberation from the German yoke and the maintenance of the integrity of the French Empire." Ends. Please let me know what you think of this, or whether you can get the matter settled behind the scenes.

3. The last convoy which was attacked in the Atlantic was attacked about the 29th meridian before it met destroyer escort, and as the convoy would have been at the mercy of the U-boat for another 24 hours, the Commodore in charge of the convoy rightly ordered it to scatter. However before it was scattered three ships were torpedoed, and after it had scattered eight further ships were torpedoed.

When/

When the escort arrived as far west as the endurance of the vessels permitted, the U-boat was hunted and destroyed, but only after the damage had been done and valuable cargoes produced by American labour cast away. We have also had a D/F signal which indicates a U-boat as far west as the 36th meridian. I report these facts to you, Mr. President, so that you may judge their significance.

4. We have a hard struggle before us both in Greece and Libya but will do our best according to our resources. You will be glad to learn that we have received the appended message from the Duke of Aosta.

5. It was very pleasant to hear your voice and receive your encouragement last night.

Message from the Duke of Aosta.

"His Royal Highness the Duke d'Aosta wishes to express his appreciation of the initiative taken by General Wavell and General Cunningham regarding the protection of women and children in Addis Ababa demonstrating the strong bonds of humanity and race still existing between the nations."

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

April 8th, 1941

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
the latest report received from London
on the military situation. It was
dated April 5th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Ashfax

The Honoursble

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

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

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

TELEGRAM RECEIVED FROM LONDON
DATED APRIL 5th, 1941

NAVAL

Mediterranean, April 3rd. Four J.U.

88's escorted by a formation of M.E. 109's bombed minesweepers off Malta, one of which slightly damaged from seven near misses.

2. Two French merchant ships under escort passed Gibraltar west-bound.

3. RED SEA. No Naval casualties and all Naval Aircraft returned safely from attack on two Italian destroyers April 3rd, now known to be Nazario Sauro and Daniele Manin.

4. Two Italian destroyers Pantera and Tigre, abandoned 15 miles south of Jedda, have sunk.

5. MILITARY. LYBIA.

Demolitions completed at Benghazi before evacuation. April 4th our armoured force still in position at Ztmsus (65 miles south of Barce).

6. ERITREA.

Our advance on Massawa from the north continues. A detachment is following up the enemy's withdrawal on roads Asmara-Adowa and Asmara-Adigrat. Over 6,000 prisoners counted at Asmara and many more coming in.

7. BULGARIA.

General German troop movement westward reported. Total divisions believed 25, 9 area Sofia - Petrich, 3 extreme N.W.

8. HUNGARY.

No report of German concentrations but German

German detachments definitely passing through.

9. YUGO-SLAVIA AND GREECE.

All available evidence is that German attack on Yugo-Slavia is imminent, possibly combining with advance against Greece.

10. ROYAL AIR FORCE.

Night 4th/5th. 70 aircraft despatched; against Brest 54, Cologne 11, Rotterdam 4; Dunkirk 1. One bomber missing. Preliminary reports indicate 2 cruisers clearly seen at Brest, 1 direct hit claimed, 1 very near miss.

11. GERMAN AIR FORCE.

Night 4th/5th. Approximately 90 aircraft raided this country, majority operating in Bristol area. Fire at National Smelting Works, Avonmouth, reported under control, was the only serious incident, casualties appear light. Two enemy bombers destroyed, another damaged by fighters.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

April 8th, 1941.

~~SECRET~~
Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Halifax

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

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

TELEGRAM RECEIVED FROM LONDON
DATED APRIL 6th,
1941.

1. Naval. Three German destroyers rounded Cape Gris Nez p.m. 5th proceeding down the channel. Movement may be connected with possible sailing of "Gneisenau" from Brest M.T.B.'s departing from Dover failed to contact these destroyers.
2. Reconnaissance Massowa p.m. 5th show all but four merchant ships scuttled in the harbour. One destroyer seen submerged her side sixty-five miles N.N.E. of Massawa believed either Calsare Battisti or Vincenzo Orsini. According to prisoners Giovanni Acerbi only destroyer in Massawa with guns removed damaged in air raids. Three convoys air attacked off east coast April 5th, one small ship of 450 tons sunk. One has unexploded bomb on board.
3. 2,000 ton ship with two smaller vessels off La Rochelle attacked by Blenheim aircraft p.m. 5th, big ship very near missed by several bombs.
4. Military. Hungary. Evidence of partial mobilization of Hungarian army commencing. Reservists of third army corps, one motorized brigade called up. These armies stationed areas near Yugoslav frontier. Three frontier Jaeger brigades brought up to strength. Reported troops at Szeged and within five miles of the Yugoslav frontier placed war footing.
5. South-East Europe. Germans attacked Greek frontier posts this morning. Disposition of German forces various frontiers of Yugoslavia. South Austria ten to twelve divisions. South West Hungary possibly three divisions. Bulgaria. Total German divisions twenty-five probably six in position to attack Greece

/and

and maximum of twelve against Yugoslavia. Roumania Banat some nine divisions.

6. Libya. German troops now believed to amount to one light armoured (Colonial) division, one armoured division and advance elements two infantry divisions. Another armoured division thought on the way.

7. On April 4th, our troops holding position on escarpment about twenty-five miles east of Benghazi withstood German attack by two battalions supported by tanks. Enemy column of fifty armoured fighting vehicles reported at Benina moving east and small enemy column moving northeast from Benghazi on the coastal road.

8. Ethiopia. Our advanced troops have entered Addis Ababa.

9. Royal Air Force. Direct hit claimed at Brest on night of the 4th/5th was from low level with a 1,900 lb. bomb on "Gneisenau".

10. German Air Force. Night of the 5th/6th, slight enemy activity during the period. Some damage and casualties caused at one Royal Air Force Aerodrome.

Albania and Greece. German aircraft bombed Corfu three times on the 3rd and Italian fighters machine-gunned Heraklion aerodrome on the 4th.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

April 9th, 1941.

Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Hanfick

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

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

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

TELEGRAM FROM LONDON DATED APRIL 7TH, 1941.

NAVAL. Greek 7,000 ton ship in convoy

attacked by aircraft 170 miles northwest of Bloody Foreland A.M. April 6th. Believed hit by torpedoes still afloat and considered salvageable.

2. On April 6th air attacks on shipping east coast continued. One big ship damaged, one small sunk by bomb. Piraeus air raided night of April 6th/ April 7th. Three ships hit, several burnt out, one ship blowing up along side caused many fires ashore and on ships. Perth had sailed earlier. Calcutta and Ajax reported safe sailed magnificently through thick smoke and over mines.

3. Three escorted French merchant vessels all with troops and one other ship passed Gibraltar west-bound P.M. April 6th.

4. At 7.30 A.M. April 6th, three German destroyers attacked by coastal aircraft off Cherbourg. One hit foreward with bomb not seen to explode. At 12.30 Beaufort torpedoed one destroyer accompanying ships; heavy anti-aircraft fire prevented waiting to see results.

5. Brest at 2.00 p.m. April 6th. One battle cruiser Gneisenau was undocked and lying Rade d'Abri. At 6.30 P.M. ship believed to be tanker close alongside her.

6. MILITARY. At 6.00 P.M. April 6th enemy positions reliably reported as follows: XL Army Corps advancing on Skoplje; second armoured division from PETRIC advancing westward in the direction of STIP. Opposition in this sector reported slight. Sixth mountain division east of Lake Doiran and believed moving southward. This division being met by

determined/

determined counter attacks. Fifth mountain division with one infantry effectively blocked in Rupel Pass in spite of heavy German dive bombing attacks. Enemy thought to have suffered considerable casualties here. No reference to any enemy movements in N. Yugoslavia.

7. LIBYA. On April 6th enemy force of one lorry borne battalion with light artillery attacked MECHILI but was repulsed. Later six enemy tanks reported shelling MECHILI and enemy column of more than 150 lorries with its head ten miles east of ZT. MSUS reported. 5 p.m. Position obscure.

8. ERITREA. Same day British officer met Italian Admiral in Massawa who refused terms for surrender. Operations against town continued at 1 P.M. on April 6th.

9. ROYAL AIR FORCE. April 6th. Shipping off the Dutch Coast and Steel Works in Holland successfully attacked. During offensive patrols by fighters over northern France aerodrome and military objectives machine gunned; one ME 110 probably destroyed and one ME 109 damaged.

10. Night of April 6th/April 7th. 114 aircraft sent out of which 71 were for Brest, weather unfavourable. Other targets included aerodromes and Calais harbour. One aircraft missing.

11. LIBYA. On April 4th/April 5th six heavy bombers attacked Tripoli harbour and hit power station.

12. GERMAN AIR FORCE. Night of April 6th/April 7th. 51 enemy aircraft (40 mine laying) plotted.

13. Two enemy aircraft damaged by fighters during the day and one at night.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

April 10th, 1941

Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Halifax

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

The Honourable,

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

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

TELEGRAM FROM LONDON DATED
April 8th, 1941

NAVAL

Photographic reconnaissance on April 7th showed 2 German battle cruisers still at Brest and 2 pocket battleships and 2 Hipper class cruisers at Kiel.

2. As a result of fire His Majesty's Armed Merchant Cruiser "Comorin" abandoned and sunk. Ships company taken off.

3. During air raid Piraeus night of April 6th/7th, 3 ships hit by bombs and mines laid. British ship of 7,500 tons blew up whilst alongside starting many fires. Some ships burnt and severe damage caused to dock area. Port will be closed several days.

4. His Majesty's Cruiser "Cape Town" torpedoed by E.boat off Massawa night of April 7th reported still afloat.

5. Attacks on shipping. British Tanker (8,250 tons) mined off East Coast early the 8th and reported sinking and British ship (1,750 tons) reported 2.15 p.m. 7th rapidly sinking 125 miles off Freetown.

6. MILITARY. GREECE.

To 9:15 p.m. April 6th. German advance from Nevrokop towards Drama held up but enemy gained some ground west of Rupil. Position east of Struma reported intact. 200 German Parachutists landed South of Rupil; all killed or captured. Situation Komotin and X. Sectors obscure.

7. YUGO-SLAVIA.

Yugoslavs reported advancing into Bulgarian



Bulgarian territory east of Carevo Selo towards Gorna Djumaya. German thrust towards Kumanovo and Skopje continues.

8. ROYAL AIR FORCE. April 7th.

Six medium bombers again attacked IJmuiden steel works scored several direct hits.

9. NIGHT OF APRIL 7th/8th.

265 bombers sent out; 229 to attack dock-yards at Kiel and 36 to docks at Bremerhaven and Emden; 2 missing definite and 3 more probably.

10. GERMAN AIR FORCE. April 7th.

Only few enemy aircraft came inland. Two destroyed by fighters.

11. Night of the 7th/8th. 395 enemy aircraft operating; 5 destroyed and 2 others damaged by night fighters.

12. HOME SECURITY. NIGHT OF 7th/8th.

Enemy activity widespread. Main attack on Glasgow and Clydeside where fires started in ship yards but only 1 serious. Other attacks on dock area Belfast where some damage, also Shorts Aircraft Works at Rochester and oil Cisterns at Thameshaven where fires started. Damage though extensive does not seem to correspond with scale of attack and casualties appear slight.

13. STOP PRESS. BALKANS. TO 9:00 A.M. APRIL 7th.

Latest reports following positions of German forces; 1 armoured division and 1 infantry division Kumanovo moving southwest. Elements of German troops Veles and on road 10 miles south west moving toward Prilep. Infantry division 10

miles/

(23)

miles northeast of Stip. An armoured division
5 miles northwest of Lake Doiren going south.
One mountain division east of Lake Doiren and
another just over Greek defence lines in the
Struma Valley. Two divisions 10 miles east of
X. Six German divisions reported on Hungarian
frontier.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

April 11th, 1941.

~~SECRET~~
Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Hahja

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

Telegram from London dated April 9th.

1. Naval. Red Sea: morning of the 8th. About 11 ships left Massawa including a small warship. Swordfish aircraft were operating, a small destroyer was bombed in the harbour without definite result. Massawa occupied 1.00 p.m. harbour found blocked and extensive demolitions.
2. His Majesty's armed merchant cruiser Worcestershire torpedoed on the 3rd in port.
3. Military. Libya. Our forces concentrating in El Gazala - Tobruk area.
4. Yugoslavia. Germans occupied Skoplje, whence columns moving north towards Belgrade and west on Tetovo following the Yugoslav division advancing into Albania from Prizen. They have also occupied Veles and are advancing towards Prilep Bitolj. Armoured division advancing on Pirot. At noon April 7th Yugoslavs holding Koshirino Pass south of Strumica but later reported driven back.
5. Of seven Yugoslav armies only the 3rd advancing into Albania was fully mobilised and concentrated. The first army partly in Pirot area and the rest driven west of Skoplje. The second army reported in reserve Sarajevo area or distributed amongst other armies. The remaining four armies are in north.
6. Greece. Reports up to noon April 7th stated that the Greeks holding from the sea at the mouth of the Nestos River to Yugoslav-Bulgarian and Greek boundary (Metaxas Line); they were evacuating Alexandroupolis by sea. Their covering troops X area had withdrawn unmolested to the Metaxas Line but some forts near the frontier still holding out. The Germans attacked with tanks south of Nevrokop and suffered heavy casualties, Perithorion changing hands twice. The
Greek/

Greek forts east of Rupel Pass twice attacked without success but west of the Pass Greeks forced back to east bank of the Struma, although some mountain forts still holding out. The Greeks and Serbs in touch in Lake Doiran area.

7. Air Ministry signal received early April 9th states that German forces entered Salonika at 4 p.m. April 8th.
8. Royal Air Force. Night of April 8th/9th. 100 military aircraft sent to Kiel (160) Bremenhafen, Rotterdam. The primary targets attacked in clear weather and very large fires started in Kiel. 5 aircraft missing.
9. Balkans. Night of April 6th/7th, heavy bombers attacked Sofia railway machine gunned transport in the Struma Valley where Blenheims also bombed Petrich Railway at Simitli, Gorna, Djukaya.
10. German Air Force. Night of April 8th/9th. About 180 operated against Coventry and a large attack on Portsmouth. Night fighters shot down six enemy aircraft (five in Coventry area) probably damaged one and damaged two more.
11. Home Security. Night of April 7th/8th. Casualties estimated at 72 killed and 428 seriously wounded throughout the country.
12. Night of April 8th/9th. Coventry. Owing to interrupted communications accurate estimate not yet possible. The attack was heavy but not to be compared with the one on November 14th/15th. One serious fire Daimler factory other industrial premises and key point factories damaged.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

~~SECRET~~
April 12th, 1941

Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

Leo Campen

The Honourable,

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D.C.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED FROM LONDON
DATED APRIL 10th, 1941

NAVAL.

On April 9th unknown ship reported attacked by raider southwest of Freetown.

2. His Majesty's Destroyer Avon Vale and an armed trawler together brought down bomber off Falmouth taking two prisoners a.m. April 9th.

P.M. April 9th. His Majesty's ship Valorous shot down an ME 110 attacking a convoy off Harwich.

One minesweeper trawler attacked by enemy aircraft off Lowestoft a.m. April 9th. Was destroyed.

Minesweeper trawler damaged by near miss mine off Liverpool p.m. April 9th.

A 3,000 ton Merchant vessel escorted by naval units, attacked and possibly hit with torpedo by British aircraft 30 miles east of Ushant.

3. MILITARY. LIBYA. April 7th.

Some of our armoured forces withdrawing from forward positions by road west of Derna were cut off. A severe dust storm hampered the withdrawal of motorized forces from Mechili on April 8th. There are indications that the impetus of the enemy's thrust is diminishing and that his administrative situation is acute.

YUGOSLAVIA.

Germans have crossed the Danube at two points near the Iron Gates and Drava in direction of Virovitica, which they have occupied. Five German divisions/

divisions including armoured forces have captured Nish and have reached Prokuplje and Razanj. North of Skoplje German armoured forces have taken Urosevac and are advancing towards Pristina and Stim L.J.E. The advance from Prilep towards Bitolj has reached Mogila.

4. ROYAL AIR FORCE. KIEL

April 7th/8th and 8th/9th. Industrial centre and especially Krupp and Deutsche Werke Naval Yards were bombed. In these two successive attacks 348 aircraft were employed and very large fires were started at all primary targets. A total of about 320 tons of H.E. and more than 50,000 incendiaries were dropped which included 7 bombs (2,000 lbs) 11 (1,900 lbs) and 91 (1,000 lbs). Ten Manchesters carried 40 1,000 lb. bombs besides many incendiaries.

Night of April 9th/10th. 96 aircraft sent. 80 Berlin, other Emden and shipyards near Bremen. 8 aircraft missing.

5. GERMAN AIR FORCE.

Enemy activity chiefly over sea. Four aircraft destroyed, one of our fighters missing.

Night of April 9th/10th. About 250 enemy aircraft operating inland plus about 30 minelayers. Principal attacks on Birmingham and Tyneside. Ten enemy aircraft destroyed, we lost one fighter.

6. HOME SECURITY. COVENTRY. April 8th/9th.

Casualties, preliminary estimate 150 killed, 200 seriously wounded, six serious and 40 medium fires.

Night of April 9th/10th.

Preliminary reports indicate attack on Birmingham fairly heavy, and that both here and on Tyneside

Tyneside damage caused to industry and in ship-
yards. No estimate of casualties yet available
but on Tyneside thought not to be heavy.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

April 13th 1941.

Dear Mr. President,

In Lord Halifax's absence

I send you herein a copy of a message
for you from the Prime Minister received
at the Embassy this morning.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Unio Campbell

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

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

MESSAGE FOR PRESIDENT FROM MR. CHURCHILL DATED

APRIL 13th 1941.

"Deeply grateful for your momentous cable just handed to me by Ambassador Winant. Will cable tomorrow at greater length but have no doubt that the twenty-fifth meridian is a long step towards salvation. All your wishes about handling the matter, publicity etcetera will of course be respected.

2. Your message about Rochat's note. We are delighted that the Dunquerque is not to be moved without your agreement or at least notice being given to you. It is remarkable how they have conformed to your representations. This eases the position for the immediate future. You will not, I am sure, expect us to let the French extort our agreement to abandon our rights of contraband control even over foodstuffs just because they do not send the Dunquerque back to Toulon, observing we could probably sink this ship in transit, or failing that, bomb her nightly in Toulon harbour as we are bombing the SCHARNHORST and the GNEISENAU in Brest.

3. Your declaration about the Red Sea area also most helpful. We are of course going all out to fight for the Nile valley. No other conclusion is physically possible. We have half a million men there, or on the way, and mountains of stores. All questions of cutting the loss are ruled out. Tobruk must be held not as a defensive position but as an invaluable bridge-head on the flank of any serious bye-pass advance on Egypt.

Our/

Our air and navy must cut or impede the enemy supply across the central Mediterranean. The matter has to be fought out and must in any case take some time. The enemy's difficulties in land communications over 800 miles long must make attack in heavy force a matter of months. Even if Tobruk had to be evacuated from the sea, which we command, there are other strong fighting positions already organized. I personally feel that this situation is not only manageable but helpful.

4. I need scarcely say Mr. President that paragraphs 2 and 3 deal with minor issues compared to the tremendous decision announced in your number one, and once again I express on behalf of the British Commonwealth of Nations our profound gratitude."

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

April 14th, 1941

Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Leo Campin

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

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

Telegram received from London
dated April 12th, 1941

NAVAL

M.T.B.'s at 0210/11 off Dieppe attacked with torpedoes enemy tanker and two trawlers. One hit probable one M.T.B. considerably damaged in burst of machine gun fire.

2. Armed Merchant Cruiser Voltaire is overdue at Freetown.

3. MILITARY. LIBYA. To p.m. of 10th.

Advance enemy elements Astride the road to Derna-Tobruk have been in contact with our troops within Perimeter. Enemy have withdrawn. Air and ground reports show general movement of armoured fighting vehicles and motor transport from the west towards Gazala front, about 700 motor transport were moving eastward. On the morning of the 11th enemy column of A.F.V. and M.T. penetrated between Tobruk and El Adem and are reported to have reached the road Bardia-Tobruk. About 30 A.F.V's including some 8 wheeled armoured cars seen stationary on Bardia-Tobruk road 5 to 10 miles east of Tobruk.

4. ALBANIAN FRONT.

Germans have captured Ohrid and have joined forces with Italians at Struga. Yugo-Slavian advance on Puke and Elbasan continues and German column thrown back from Prizren to Suha Reka.

5. GREECE.

April 10th. British troops in contact with/

with the Germans at Bitolj where patrol of our armoured cars shot up Debussing enemy infantry. We had no casualties.

6. ROYAL AIR FORCE.

Night of 10th/11th.

50 tons of high explosive dropped at Brest where Gneisenau and Scharnhorst clearly seen and repeatedly straddled; fires started in docks. At Bari 25 tons of high explosive dropped and at Marignac. Direct hits scored on hangars and buildings.

7. Attack reported yesterday on Borkum was made on Norderney.

8. Yesterday Elenheim bombed merchant vessel of 1500 tons left sinking. Two hits scored on mine sweeper and another probably hit. In Calais area fighters attacked enemy troops and an E-boat and probably destroyed a seaplane in tow. One enemy aircraft destroyed 1 probably destroyed and 1 damaged. Two of our aircraft missing.

9. Night of 11th/12th. Bombing operations cancelled.

10. GREECE. 10th/11th.

Our bombers and fighters successfully attacked enemy motor transport convoys and troops in Prilep and Bitolj areas. Some A.P.V.'s two tanks and many lorries destroyed; heavy casualties and great confusion resulted. Train hit south of Bitolj and bridge destroyed at Polycastron.

11. LIBYA. April 10th.

Our bombers and fighters destroyed or damaged about 85 enemy motor transport vehicles and caused heavy casualties amongst enemy troops.

12. GERMAN AIR FORCE. April 11th.

Enemy activity restricted to patrols and reconnaissances over shipping off the French Coast and in Dover Straits.

13. Night of 11th/12th.

Enemy operations on smaller scale than the previous nights and directed chiefly against Bristol area with Southampton and Portsmouth as secondary objectives. Four enemy aircraft destroyed three probably destroyed and one damaged.

14. HOME SECURITY.

Coventry April 10th.11th.

A serious fire occurred at a telephone and radio works and three large fires at another important factory. The General Post Office was burnt. Casualties so far reported 48 killed, 65 seriously wounded.

15. AVONMOUTH. April 11th.12th.

Ship in docks set alight and some damage caused at two flour mills.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

15th April 1941

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein copies of
the latest reports received from London
on the military situation. They were
dated 11th April and 13th April.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Herle Butler

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

Telegram received from London
dated April 11th, 1941

NAVAL.

Scharnhorst, Gneisenau still at Brest
April 10th, one in dry dock.

2. On April 11th reported that only one small
port in United Kingdom closed temporarily by mines -
sweeping continues successfully.

3. MILITARY. LIBYA.

Our troops taking up positions about Tobruk
based on the old Italian defences. April 8th - seven
heavy aircraft seen unloading supplies for enemy forward
troops south of Mechili.

4. NORTHERN YUGO-SLAVIA.

Reported attack being carried out on Zara,
but yesterday the German radio announced that Zara occu-
pied and independent Croatian State proclaimed.

5. SOUTHERN YUGO-SLAVIA.

The rate of the German advance slackened.
Advance from Nis towards Belgrade reached Lapovo afternoon
of April 10th after severe fighting North of Jacobina.

Reported capture of Tetovo not confirmed nor
move towards Pristina. Small parties of parachutists
captured in Serbia.

6. ROYAL AIR FORCE. Night of April 9/10th.

BERLIN.

Forty-four tons of high explosive and 11,400
incendiaries dropped. Chief target inland port area where
large fires caused. Tempelhof aerodrome and Marshalling
yards Charlottenburg district also attacked.

7. April 10th.

During the daylight eight Blenheims bombed

Borhum/

Borkum town setting fire to buildings.

Quay-side at Heligoland was machine gunned. Early on night of April 10th a Blenheim scored direct hit on 8,000 ton merchant vessel off the French Coast.

8. Night of April 10th/11th.

Bomber Command sent out 122 aircraft to Brest (53), Dusseldorf 54, Merignac aerodrome Bordeaux 11, and Rotterdam upper harbour. Seven aircraft missing.

9. LIBYA.

Reported that during recent operations sixteen enemy aircraft shot down and nine destroyed on the ground and advancing enemy columns and M.T. heavily bombed and machine gunned. Our losses two Hurricanes missing, one Hurricane destroyed, pilot safe, and 6 aircraft damaged on the ground during attack on Derna aerodrome.

10. GERMAN AIR FORCE.

April 10th. Enemy activity chiefly off the Coasts. Two enemy aircraft destroyed.

11. Night of April 10th/11th.

Estimated about 224 enemy aircraft operating 12 of which mine-laying. Our night fighters destroyed 10, probably destroyed 4 more and damaged 2 others.

12. HOME SECURITY. Night of April 10th/11th.

Chief centres attacked were Birmingham and Coventry and several fires started at the latter town, all under control by 6:00 a.m. Casualties appear not heavy.

TELEGRAM FROM LONDON
DATED April 13th, 1941.

Naval. Dunottar Castle April 12th boarded French 9,000 ton ship Banfora bound Dakar to Casablanca. Captain and crew gave considerable opposition. Strong guard and navigating party taking her to Free Town escorted by Dunottar Castle. French cruiser with light cruisers and two destroyers reported 70 miles south southwest of Cape St. Vincent p.m. on April 12th course 300 degrees, speed slow.

2. Night of April 11th/April 12th. Enemy aircraft laid mines Phaleron Salamis Strait and Eleusis Bay, also shipping Piraeus was attacked. One tanker set on fire at dawn.

3. Swedish ship Kexholm, 3815 tons Buenos Aires Gothenburg bombed and sunk by enemy aircraft northwest of Hebrides April 12th. Crew saved.

4. MILITARY. GREECE. Northern Front. Morning of April 11th: our patrols in touch with the enemy just south of Veve. Unconfirmed reports state that 14th Greek Division evacuated from Thrace to Thasos.

5. YUGOSLAVIA. Northern Front. Budapest radio reports Hungarian Troops entered Subotica without resistance and have continued to penetrate southward. Definite information scant but 5 Croatian Divisions ceased fighting and two Divisions mainly Slovenes, west of Zagreb, withdrawing southward. Reported that 3 Yugoslav Divisions forming the front along Sava between Brod and Zagreb.

6. RUMANIA FRONT. Yugoslav troops resisting the German advance from Nis towards Belgrade, while other forces have counter-attacked from both sides of Morava and some German armoured forces cut off. The Yugoslavs now hold the Krusevac-Krugujevac area and have retaken Prokuplje.

7. SOUTHERN FRONT. Yugoslav troops advancing from Suha Reka area upon Kacanik gorge and according to Angora radio have destroyed eighty German tanks in this region.
8. ROYAL AIR FORCE. Night of April 12th/13th. Sixty-six bombers sent to attack battle cruisers at Brest and twenty-four to enemy occupied aerodromes Bordeaux. All have returned except one heavy bomber.
9. SOUTHERN ETHIOPIA. April 10th. South African Air Force Hurricanes machine-gunned two aerodromes, destroying ten enemy aircraft on the ground and two in the air.
10. GERMAN AIR FORCE. Night of April 11th/12th. 210 enemy aircraft operated against this country; five destroyed.
11. April 12th. No enemy activity over land.
12. Night of April 12th/13th. Only ten enemy aircraft reported, all over southwest England.
13. MALTA. Bombs dropped on April 11th which caused no service damage or casualties. Three enemy aircraft destroyed and two of ours.
14. GREECE. Night of April 11th/12th. Enemy bombers attacked shipping and laid mines in Piraeus; three brought down by anti-aircraft.

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

16th April, 1941

Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Henke Butler

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D.C.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED FROM LONDON DATED APRIL 14TH, 1941

Naval

RAJPUTANA torpedoed 150 miles independently N. W. Reykjavik 0625/13. One hour later again torpedoed. Abandoned 0750. Two hundred and seventy-seven survivors known safe.

Tigress sank 10,000 ton northbound tanker in the Bay of Biscay night of 2nd/3rd April.

At 19.48/13 British ship reported being chased by U boat 400 miles south of Newfoundland.

Military Libya

6.0 a.m. on 13th April Navy reported brisk fighting at Sollum and 2.0 p.m. enemy occupied Capuzzo. Water supply has been oiled.

Greece

Northern Front - April 11th enemy infantry and tanks of S. S. Hitler division attacked positions held by our forces. Our artillery accurately engaged the enemy who were ultimately driven back by our infantry with heavy losses.

Yugoslavia

To 5.0 p.m. April 13th German occupied Belgrade developing pressure towards the south west and also in Brod and Karlovac areas in the direction of Sarajevo and Mostar confused fighting between Belgrade and Nis and the Germans hold Kragujevac.

Royal Air Force

Two reports received GNEISENAU hit by bombs recently.

Night of April 13th/14th.

Twenty-nine aircraft sent to attack aerodromes and submarine bases at Bordeaux. All returned safely.

Libya - April 12th.

Having been warned of impending ground attack on Tobruk our aircraft bombed 60 enemy tanks and M. T. causing them to disperse in confusion. Transport in the area also attacked, two Hurricanes shot down by enemy A.A. (1 pilot safe but captured.) Enemy bomber destroyed north of Alexandria.

Enemy sea communications. Night of 12th/13th. Eight fleet air-arm aircraft unsuccessfully attacked an escorted enemy convoy of five large merchant vessels southward bound, N.W. of Tellaria. Two aircraft failed to return.

German Air Force. 13th April

Enemy activity slight - one destroyed and another damaged.

Night of 13th/14th only few isolated raids took place.

Malta

In enemy raids on two aerodromes during night of 12th/13th which caused no damage or casualties, one enemy fighter shot down and one hurricane lost, pilot safe.

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

17th April, 1941

Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Halifax

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D.C.

Telegram received from London, dated
April 15th, 1941

Naval Red Sea

North of Massawa Channel found heavily mined and sweeping operations in progress.

Norway

Herring oil factory near Hammerfest destroyed by Norwegians from Norwegian Destroyer "Mansfield" April 12th.

Military Libya

Early on April 14th enemy infantry supported by machine gun fire and later tanks penetrated our defences at Tobruk. Our armoured forces counter-attacked and drove back enemy tanks, six being destroyed. Between 200 and 300 German prisoners captured. Situations completely restored. Prisoners' morale appeared low and they stated that they were short of food and water and had been badly shaken by our artillery fire.

Yugoslavia Northern Front

Reported that owing to mutinies in Croatian units three Northern Yugoslav armies have practically ceased to exist. Italians reported to have taken Knin and advancing on Split south west of Belgrade. Yugoslavs withdrawing from Uzice and the Germans advancing on Valjevo.

Greece /

Greece Northern Front

Large German motorized column reached Ptolemais
6.45 p.m. April 13th.

General Wilson's forces have been swung back to
meet the German threat from Bitolj. During the with-
drawal our covering troops inflicted severe casualties on
the enemy. Some of our units also suffered casualties.

Royal Air Force. April 14th.

Successful daylight attacks made on two ships off
the Dutch coast and two electric power stations in Holland.

Night of April 14th/15th. Ninety-four aircraft sent
to Brest, majority attacked battle cruisers. All returned
safely.

Greece

During April 13th and 14th our bomber formations
attacked military concentrations on Bitolj - Prilep and
Veve-Ptolemais roads. In these operations four enemy
aircraft destroyed and 11 others probably destroyed by
our fighters two of which lost; six Blenheims also missing.

German Air Force

During April 14th and night of April 14th/15th
activity over the British Isles slight.

Libya

On April 14th, formations of enemy aircraft heavily
attacked Tobruk. Hurricanes destroyed nine and anti-
aircraft shot down four.

Malta attacked by about forty enemy aircraft during
the night of April 13th and 14th causing damage to military
and civilian property.

Greece - 20 enemy aircraft bombed Volos harbour on April 13th
and hit two ships.

~~SECRET~~

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

18th April 1941

Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Halifax

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

Telegram Received from London

dated April 16th, 1941.

1. Naval. Norwegian Destroyer Mansfield on the 12th at Oeka Fjord, South Hammersfest destroyed all machinery in fish oil factory; no prisoners taken or refugees embarked. No enemy shipping or troops seen.

2. Five merchant vessels escorted by Montcalm and Georges Leygues, four destroyers and four submarines left Dakkar p.m. /10.

3. 1 Wellington claims direct hit (from 3000 feet) on battle cruiser in dry dock at Brest on night of 14th/15th. Photographs 15th showed both battle cruisers still there.

4. Greek hospital ship Attiki bombed and sunk on Doro channel p.m. /11th was fully illuminated.

5. Military. Abyssinia. Envoy from Duke of Aosta arrived by air Khartoum April 15th. Was told we accept no further responsibility for the safety of civilians in Ethiopia unless Italians (some words undecypherable) arms. Reply demanded by 6.15 a.m. April 17th.

6. Yugo-Slavia. Yugo-Slav Government capitulated evening of 15th and left the country by air. Terms of capitulation unknown.

7. 12.0 noon April 10th, enemy broke through Kleisoura Pass. Greek forces withdrew to the heights immediately Southwest of Florina to west bank of Upper Aliakmon. Greek cavalry division was in action in this area. German armed forces have now penetrated beyond Lake Kastoria.

8. Our forces now disposed south of Aliakmon river. Greek forces are on left of position.

9. Royal Air Force. 15th: during daylight our aircraft sank two small coastal vessels and possibly third off Brest and hit 4,000 ton motor vessel Borkum harbour.

10. Night of 15th/16th. Bomber command sent 98 aircraft to Kiel, 23 to Boulogne and a few mine laying, 2 aircraft missing.

11. Libya. On 13th our medium bombers inflicted serious casualties on motorised infantry and supply columns returning for second attack on Tobruk.

12. Night of 13th/14th our heavy bombers attacked enemy aerodromes; on 14th our fighters destroyed three enemy aircraft and on the night of 14th/15th four Wellingtons bombed Tripoli harbour.

13. German Air Force. 15th. Enemy activity light. Our fighters destroyed bomber off Isle of Wight. Offensive patrols over France shot down 2 enemy fighters. We lost 4 fighters 2 pilots safe.

14. Night of 15th/16th. About 300 enemy aircraft were operating, bombing widely distributed, main concentrations on Liverpool and Belfast areas.

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

~~SECRET~~

April 19th, 1941.

Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Hailey

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

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

COPY OF TELEGRAM FROM LONDON DATED APRIL 17TH.

NAVAL.

1. During the night of April 16-17 South block of the Admiralty sustained a direct hit.

2. Night of April 15-16; four British destroyers off Kerkenah Island sank convoy of five Italian merchant vessels and three escorting destroyers LUCA TARIGA, and two Spica class. Merchant vessels were two of 5,000 ton each loaded mostly with transport, one 4,000 ton ammunition carrier and two of 3,000 ton each. We lost MOHAWK but Captain and seven officers and 160 ratings were saved. Owing to break of dawn and proximity of the enemy coast no survivors could be picked up.

3. Night of April 14 - April 15; six "Swordfish" attacked shipping in Valona. One 7,000 ton ammunition ship blew up and one 6,000 ton merchant vessel was hit.

4. On April 16th Blenheims attacked HELIGOLAND: in addition to hits on town and jetties, three small ships are believed hit.

5. Military. Libya. At Tobruk - April 14th ten German officers and 253 ranks were captured and 20 enemy tanks destroyed.

6. Air reconnaissance reports German advance southwards Lake Kastoria and Argos Crestikon but on April 15th they were not in touch with our armoured troops north of Grevena.

7. Enemy have probably at least two armoured divisions in Greece.

8. Royal Air Force. April 16th. Attack on Heligoland and shipping off the Dutch and Danish Coasts; Hits claimed on 3 small ships. Six Blenheims escorted by 38 fighters successfully attacked Berk Aerodrome near

Le Touquet/

Le Touquet. Three of our fighters shot down by enemy fighters. Focke-Wulf shot down by Beaufort fighter off North-West Ireland.

9. Night of April 16-17. 106 bombers sent to Bremen - 13 others sea-mining. One missing and two shot down by enemy fighters over this country.

10. Libya. Night of April 14-15. Heavy bombers attacked enemy aerodromes, destroying 2 aircraft destroying buildings and mechanical transport.

11. April 16th. Our medium bombers inflicted heavy casualties on enemy columns in Tobruk and Capuzzo areas; our fighters destroyed four transport aircraft.

12. Greece. Night of April 14-15. Our bombers destroyed the bridge over the Vardar at Veles and following night bombed enemy columns behind the line of operations.

13. German Air Force. April 16th. No activity of importance.

14. Night of April 16-17. About 450 enemy aircraft over London about 60 elsewhere. London attack long and heavy and chiefly on the centre and southern districts. Considerable damage to private property by blast and fire. Several streets obstructed by craters or debris. Damage to docks comparatively light and little damage to important factories reported. A 100 pump fire started in goods-yard and large fires caused in Oxford Street, an Royal Air Force supply depot and British Broadcasting Corporation. All under control by day break. Casualties thought heavy.

15. Greece. On April 14-15, heavy attacks on our aerodromes and on the Piraeus squadron of Blenheims

rendered/

-3-

rendered temporarily unserviceable. Our fighters destroyed 6 enemy aircraft and probably destroyed 6 others.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

21st April, 1941.

~~SECRET~~
Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein copies of the two latest reports received from London on the military situation. There were dated April 18th and April 19th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Halifax

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

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

233

TELEGRAM FROM LONDON DATED April 18th, 1941.

Naval.

During air attack on Portsmouth night of 17th/18th some bombs fell in dockyard and two parachute mines on Vernon.

2. E-boats attacked convoy off Southwold 0230/17. 2 merchant vessels sunk and one British 673 tons damaged and beached. Believed one E-boat hit.

3. On 15th our gun boats bombarded Gazala and Bardia areas. Gnat damaged by mobile battery. On 16th Gloucester successfully bombarded Fort Capuzzo.

4. No serious damage to the Port of London ship repairing facilities in air raid on night of 16th/17th.

5. At 8:50 a.m. on the 17th German battle cruisers still at Brest in the same positions, dry dock was flooded.

6. Military. Libya.
April 17th. 800 Italians captured after stiff fight by our patrols April 16th. Offensive spirit of our men remains excellent.

7. Greece.
German threat to Grevena had not developed as seriously as was expected but we suffered considerable losses of cruiser-tanks owing to mechanical defects.

8. Withdrawal of Greek troops from North Kelcyre continuing in face of heavy Italian attacks. From North Kelcyre to the sea Greeks appear to be maintaining positions against Italian pressure.

9. Yugoslavia. Armistice between Germany and Yugoslavia comes into force 12.00 noon German time 18th April.

10. Royal Air Force. Day 17th. 17 Blenheims made successful attack on docks at Cherbourg.

11. Night of 17th/18th.

/160 Bombers

2.

160 Bombers despatched; Berlin (118), remainder to Cologne, Mannheim and Rotterdam. Mine laying off Brest and Frisian Islands. 4 of our aircraft came down in the sea and 7 not yet reported to base.

12. Libya.
During the 15th and 16th heavy bombing attacks carried out on enemy aerodromes and communications. Considerable damage inflicted on armoured vehicles.

13. Greece.
Night of 15th/16th. Attacks carried out on enemy M.T. columns Kozai - Ptolemais Road, bombs falling amongst vehicles.

14. Number of Yugoslav military aircraft landed in Greece. Several subsequently damaged in enemy attacks.

15. German Air Force.
Day 17th. Enemy activity slight. 2 ME 110s destroyed.

16. Night of 17th-18th. 189 enemy aircraft operated including 145 against Portsmouth. 1 enemy aircraft known to have been destroyed.

17. Home Security. Night of 16th-17th London - over 2000 fires started. Amongst public buildings damaged, St. Pauls Cathedral, Houses of Parliament, Admiralty Law Courts and National Gallery. Damage to factories slight. Casualties so far reported 653 killed and 2000 injured.

228

Telegram from London dated April 19th, 1941

1. Naval.

British Hospital ship "Vita" deliberately bombed afternoon of 14th while evacuating casualties from Tobruk.

2. British submarine sank enemy barque carrying explosives off Morocco on April 14th.

3. Sixty thousand two hundred and twenty-nine ships have been convoyed since the beginning of the war of which 297 have been lost by enemy action.

4. H.M.S. "Aphis" destroyed 5 enemy aircraft during the bombardment of Gazala aerodrome.

5. Fire of H.M.S. "Stuart" "Griffin" and "Gnat" enabled our troops to hold Solum - April 15th.

6. New German battleship "Bismarck" with two Leipzig Cruisers and destroyers reported steering North-West into the Skagerrak early April 14th.

7. Piraeus reported clear of mines.

8. Admiralty House - Portsmouth received direct hit during the enemy air-raid on April 17-18. Three or four H.E.'s dropped in the dockyard. No other serious naval damage reported.

9. Military. Greece April 17th.

Our troops withdrew, as arranged, from positions near Miserini and Servia. On the right flank, they were engaged by superior forces and were withdrawing through Peneois Gorge. On the left, German troops reported across the river Venetikos, but their progress slow. On the Albanian front, the Greeks withdrawing on the 18th on a general line: Sea West of Argyrocastaon-Pernet-Metsovo

on/

(on Yanina-Kalabaka Road).

10. British Somaliland

Zella reported clear of Italian troops.

11. Royal Air Force. April 18th.

Blenheims attacked a dock in Holland and ships off Heligoland. Three ships totalling nearly 10,000 tons and an A.A. ship received direct hits. At Harve a Blenheim attacked 3 barges full of troops escorted by an A.A. ship. Blenheims also bombed a convoy of 8 merchant ships off Stavanger. A 7000 ton vessel set alight and another 3000 ton left sinking. From the above and other daylight operations, 9 aircraft are missing.

12. Libya

Night of April 16th-17th.

2½ tons of bombs were dropped on Eladem and Derna where a munitions store was exploded.

13. April 17th

Medium bombers attacked M.T. vehicles South of Tobruk. Aircraft on Derna aerodrome and suspected H.Q. East of Tobruk. Large fires were started among about 450 mechanised vehicles in Bardia area. On April 18th, photographic reconnaissance in Tripoli, showed 5 destroyers - 3 T.B.D's - 7 escort vessels - 31 merchant vessels varying from 2000 to 8000 tons and 11 seaplanes.

14. German Air Force.

Slight enemy activity chiefly off the coasts.

15. Air Raids on Malta during night of April 17 - 18 caused very slight damage.

DR

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

April 22nd, 1941

Dear Mr. President,

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

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Halifax

The Honourable,

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D.C.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED FROM LONDON
DATED APRIL 20th, 1941

NAVAL

Reference report concerning Bismarck etc. for "early 18th" "read early 14th". No further information received since.

2. ROYAL AIR FORCE

Claim hits on 5 enemy merchant ships on different occasions off the Dutch coast on April 19th.

3. MILITARY. LIBYA.

Strong patrols of our forces active at Sollum and Kappuza areas. Enemy mechanical transport harrassed by mobile columns and by our artillery. On the morning of April 18th, Navy successfully shelled Menastir.

4. GREECE.

Heavy enemy attacks along the whole front repulsed with severe casualties. In spite of the weight of the attacks, our front nowhere penetrated. Many prisoners.

5. Our troops are continuing withdrawal South of River Pineios. Enemy bombing caused traffic congestion.

6. Greek Epirus army has withdrawn to line Leskovik and Delvine to the sea. Western Macedonian army moving towards Mestovo.

7. ROYAL AIR FORCE. Night of April 19th/20th.

Small force of bombers attacked enemy ships at Brest and laid mines.

8. Night of April 19th/20th. More than 13 tons of bombs dropped on Tripoli harbour - hits scored on the mole and among shipping.

9. GREECE.

12 Blenheims bombed bridges and mechanical transport in Central Sector of the battle front.

10. ETHIOPIA.

Our aircraft bombed transport near Gandar and Dessie. At Dessie, three South African Air Force fighters machine gunned aerodrome and destroyed 6 fighters, one bomber and damaged one "Caproni" on the ground.

11. GERMAN AIR FORCE. Night of April 19th/20th.

Another heavy attack launched on London and the Eastern Home Counties. About 460 enemy aircraft over London area. Thought casualties will be much lighter than on the night of April 16/17th. Weather conditions hampered our night fighters. One enemy bomber crashed in Sussex and another damaged by fighter over London.

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

April 22nd, 1941.

~~SECRET~~
Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Halifax

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

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



Telegram received from London
dated April 21st, 1941.

Naval.

Greek Destroyer PSARA has been badly damaged with many casualties in air raid Piraeus.

2. Military.

10 a.m. April 17th, enemy attack on Tobruk with tanks and infantry repulsed. Twelve tanks penetrated perimeter of which four destroyed. Our forces carried out raid near Sollum inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy.

3. Greece.

Withdrawal of our forces southward towards new defensive line continues successfully but part of two battalions reported cut off in the Peninsula south east of Volos.

4. Royal Air Force.

Night of 20th/21st. Sixty-one bombers sent to Cologne, twenty-four Rotterdam, others visited Brest aerodromes in occupied France, some more mine-laying. Weather conditions over Cologne and Rotterdam unfavourable. Three heavy bombers missing.

5. Libya.

Night of 18th/19th. Heavy bombers successfully attacked Benghazi harbour, an enemy aerodrome and large concentration of mechanized transport. 19th, medium bombers and fighters repeatedly attacked mechanized transport concentrations causing much damage, inflicting heavy casualties and interfering with enemy movements. Two aerodromes attacked and number of aircraft destroyed or damaged. Three German aircraft attacking Tobruk were shot down. One Hurricane

/missing.

missing.

6. Greece.

19th. Seven Hurricanes met fifty German dive bombers and fighters attacking an M.T. Column; they destroyed three bombers and a fighter, probably destroyed another bomber and damaged another fighter. Nine other Hurricanes destroyed six enemy aircraft, and probably destroyed three more. We sustained no losses.

7. Malta.

Our fighters shot down three Italian fighters on the 20th and probably destroyed another.

8. German Air Force.

During 20th and night of 20th/21st. Enemy activity slight.

9. London.

Casualties night of 16th/17th now reported 1,056 killed, 2,267 injured and night of 19th/20th 240 killed, 880 injured.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

April 24th, 1941.

Secret.

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of the
latest report received from London on the
military situation. It was dated April
22nd.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Halifax

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

Telegram from London dated April 22nd.

1. Naval.

British submarine sank 10,000 tons tanker probably German, off Brest April 18th and Free French submarine torpedoed a large tanker Southwest of Norway April 21st.

2. Attacks on shipping by submarine British ship (10,300 tons) homeward bound with food, was torpedoed in Atlantic and a British tanker (7,100 tons) sunk off Crete April 18th.

3. By aircraft. On April 21st British 6000 ton tanker was damaged by a near miss off Crete and abandoned.

4. At 0500/21 strong force of Mediterranean Fleet including three Battleships bombarded Tripoli harbour for 42 minutes. Attack preceded by bombing by naval and Royal Air Force aircraft from Bari. Surprise achieved. One big fire and explosions seen by Fleet, one destroyer, six merchant ships seen hit, one of the latter seen later by reconnaissance aircraft to have capsized in naval basin. On the previous day Fulmars from Formidable met five J U 52 troop carriers, they shot down four and also one Cant. No damage to His Majesty's ships.

5. Military. Greece. Our troops have taken up defensive lines in the region of Thermopylae running roughly from Moles to Eratini. Enemy bombing of roads and ports continues very heavy.

6. Royal Air Force. April 21st. Thirty-six medium bombers sent out, 18 with fighter escort attacked enemy shipping. Near misses were obtained on a convoy of four 2000 ton merchant ships.

7. Night of April 21st/22nd. No operations by bomber command; six coastal Blenheims attacked Havre, hitting harbour station and warehouses, two fighters attacked enemy

aerodromes/

aerodrome and destroyed one 4 engined aircraft.

8. Libya. During the night of April 19th/20th and on April 20th heavy bombers attacked enemy aerodromes and medium bombers harrassed enemy M/T and tanks. Two bombers and one fighter lost. Eight Wellingtons successfully attacked Tripoli on the night of April 20th/21st.

9. German Air Force. April 21st. Enemy activity negligible. One fighter destroyed and one probably destroyed and a fighter and a bomber damaged. We lost two fighters, 1 pilot saved. Night of April 21st/22nd. About fifty enemy aircraft were mine-laying off the East coast; about 160 bombers visited Plymouth and Devonport.

10. Home Security. Night of April 21st/22nd. Plymouth and Devonport attack lasted about four hours chiefly on Dockyard area where several fires were caused. Two Barracks also set on fire. All fires except two under control by 6.00 a.m.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

~~SECRET~~
24th April, 1941

Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Harold Butler

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

The Honourable,

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D.C.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED FROM LONDON APRIL 23RD, 1941

Naval

Battle cruisers still at Brest, April 23rd.

2. Two coast convoys attacked by aircraft April 22nd, but no damage.

3. Military. Libya

During the night April 19th/20th, an unopposed landing was carried out in Bardia area by raiding party 450 special service troops. Dump of new Italian tyres burnt bridge destroyed and breach blocks of four old defence guns rendered useless. Five officers and sixty-two other ranks failed to reembark. Enemy has announced their capture. One landing craft with two officers and thirty-nine other ranks on board missed its parent ship but reached Tobruk.

4. No contact with the enemy on Thermopylae position reported up to 9.35 p.m. April 22nd.

5. Royal Air Force Daylight April 22nd.

Blenheim hit enemy merchant vessels northwest of Stavanger.

Night of April 22nd/23rd. Thirty-six aircraft sent to attack enemy battle cruisers at Brest. One aircraft missing.

Libya April 21st Our bombers heavily attacked two aerodromes and transport concentrations in Capuzzo and Bardia areas; considerable damage caused to vehicles and aircraft on the ground.

6. German Air Force April 22nd. Enemy activity slight; one bomber destroyed by Spitfires.

Night of April 22nd/23rd. About 165 enemy aircraft operating. Plymouth and Devonport again attacked.

Malta was bombed on April 21st and 22nd - some damage to naval property. One German fighter destroyed by anti-aircraft.

7. Home Security Night of April 22nd - 23rd.

Plymouth /

Plymouth and Devonport worse than on the previous night. Full particulars not yet available but at 5.25 a.m. reported that over a large area in commercial centre fires were not yet under control.

PERSONAL AND ~~SECRET~~.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

April 25th, 1941

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein the text of
a message addressed to you by the Prime
Minister which we have received by
telegram.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Yours sincerely,

Leo Campen

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,
President.

Following is text of message from the Prime Minister to the President.

PERSONAL AND ~~SECRET~~

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

Greatly cheered by news about "Navy of Western Hemisphere defence plan number two". It almost entirely covers points made in my cable to you which crossed the official communication. We are deeply impressed by rapidity with which it is being brought into play. We have just received a report which indicates that a surface raider is operating in a position about three hundred miles North-East of Bermuda. Everything will be done to tell Commander in Chief, United States Fleet, about our convoys and other matters. Admiral Ghormley is in closest touch with Admiralty and necessary staff arrangements will be perfected.

2. The route taken by British shipping to and from Cape is dependent on areas in which U-boats are suspected, but a route West of 26 degrees West is being used at present time and will be used whenever possible.

3. We welcome energetic steps the United States Navy are taking to prepare bases in North Western approaches.

4. The Anzacs have been fighting all day in pass of Thermopylae; but Mr. President you will long have foreseen conclusion of these particular Greek affairs. I wish we could have done more. I am sure we were bound to do our utmost.

I am, as I told you in my last, not at all discontented with Libya. The magnet of Tobruk is exercising/

exercising its powerful attractive influence and we are hoping both to reinforce our army from the South and to harry if not cut hostile communication across the Mediterranean. In this theatre we shall I think come through.

5. But how small is this compared to the Battle of the Atlantic which action you have just taken may well decide in a favourable sense.

6. We are of course observing strictest secrecy. You will, I am sure, however, realise that if it were possible for you to make any kind of disclosure or declaration on these lines it might powerfully influence the attitude both of Turkey and Spain at a cardinal moment.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

April 26th, 1941

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
the latest report received from London
on the military situation. It was
dated April 24th, 1941.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Wm. L. Campbell

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D.C.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED FROM LONDON
DATED APRIL 24th, 1941

NAVAL. PLYMOUTH, Devonport raided by 80 aircraft third successive night. Further damage in dockyard no naval casualties. H.M.S. Lewes out of action few weeks.

2. Two trawlers attacked by aircraft off East Coast on 22nd, one slightly damaged, Greyhound slightly damaged; two Merchant ships sunk at Mersa Tobruk during frequent air attacks between 18th and 22nd.

3. Result of bombardment of Tripoli 21st; two Merchant ships sunk four set on fire extensive damage to harbour facilities and military objectives. We suffered no casualties. On the 21st one J.1007 was shot down. One Dornier 24 forced to land on the water badly damaged. On 22nd Fulmars met 3 Junkers 88, 1 shot down, 1 probably crashed, 1 damaged.

4. Between 19th and 22nd enemy raided Malta three successive nights. Some damage to dockyards trawler and lighter. By day 4 enemy aircraft were shot down and 2 probably.

5. At Piraeus enemy aircraft sank Greek destroyer Hydra and damaged Psara and hospital ship. Off Lineoloughi hospital ship Resperos was sunk and off Megara another hospital ship was damaged.

6. Three enemy air attacks on East Coast convoys on the 23rd were unsuccessful.

7. ROYAL AIR FORCE

Daylight 23rd. An electric power station in enemy occupied territory hit and numerous attacks on enemy shipping off the Dutch Coast carried out by

by our medium bombers.

8. Night of 23rd/24th.

65 bombers sent to attack enemy battle cruisers at Brest. All returned safely.

9. LIBYA. 22nd.

13 Hurricanes intercepted 50 enemy bombers with 54 fighters over Tobruk and destroyed 1 bomber and 3 fighters.

10. GERMAN AIR FORCE.

Night of 23rd/24th.

Of about 110 enemy aircraft operating approximately 55 attacked Plymouth for 2 hours before midnight.

11. Dockyard Malta was again bombed by 40 enemy aircraft night of 22nd/23rd. Damage to naval property slight.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

April 28th, 1941.

~~SECRET~~

Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Halifax

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

203

Telegram from London dated April 25th.

1. Naval. Our destroyers seeking convoy reported off the Tunisian Coast, sank Northbound Italian 3,000 ton merchant vessel.
2. Legation Staff from Athens were due to arrive at Melos on 24th.
3. Enemy aircraft attacked two East Coast convoys night of 24th/25th. One ship only damaged.
4. Military. Greece. Front remains quiet apart from demonstrations by enemy armoured fighting vehicles. There may be indications that the Germans are preparing gun emplacements on the north shore of Maliskos Gulf. On April 23rd there was continuous bombarding of roads particularly from Eleusis to Corinth and to Thebes. Small enemy forces reported in Preveza.
5. Royal Air Force. 24th. Enemy tanker, about 2,000 tons, destroyed off Stavanger and small vessel off Brest. Our fighters shot down two enemy aircraft and damaged a third. One of our fighters missing.

Night of 24th/25th. 68 bombers sent to Kiel, 22 to Havre, and a few to Ostend, Ijmuiden and Wilhelmshaven. 121 aircraft in all went out. One missing.
6. Libya. 23rd. Our fighters engaged large force of enemy aircraft over Tobruk and destroyed eight. Three of ours damaged, two pilots safe.
7. German Air Force. Night of 24th/25th. About 70 enemy aircraft over land and 60 others mine laying, or against shipping.

Telegram from London dated April 26th.

1. Naval. Two attacks by 28 and 40 aircraft on Malta April 25th. Mines laid, harbour objectives bombed, damage not yet known. One aircraft shot down, one damaged.
2. Military. Libya. April 24th. Enemy infantry with artillery support attacked southwest of Perimeter. Attack was broken up 400 yards from our foremost defended localities, many enemy killed.
3. Occupied France. Air reconnaissance April 22nd showed no unusual movements on roads, railways, but large number of dumps. This with other information suggests that preparations for movement into Spain probably far advanced. Believed that 7 German divisions including one motorised area Bordeaux-Hendaye, these could be quickly reinforced.
4. Yugoslavia. Now reported Yugoslavs sank ships at 4 points near the Iron Gates causing successful blockage. Attempt to block less important place partially successful. Railway bridge over the river believed demolished causing obstruction.
5. Bulgaria. Sofia reported crowded with German wounded. Hospitals overflowing, private houses commandeered.
6. Royal Air Force. April 25th. Fighters shot down German bomber off Brighton. Night of April 25th/26th. 66 bombers sent to Kiel and small numbers to Bremerhaven, Rotterdam, Berlin, IJmuiden and Brest. One Wellington missing.
7. German Air Force. Very little day activity April 25th. Night of April 25th/26th. 35 aircraft operating chiefly over northeast England, 35 more probably mining, 5 others engaged against shipping.
8. Greece. One Hurricane shot down April 23rd during attacks on landing ground at Argos (Mores), 13 Hurricanes were/

were destroyed on the ground. April 24th, German dive bombers attacked Suda Bay damaging buildings.

9. Home Security. Night of April 25th/26th. Attack lasting 1 3/4 hours on Tyneside. Damage so far reported not serious, casualties light.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

April 29th, 1941.

~~Secret.~~

Dear Mr. President,

_____ I enclose herein a copy of
the latest report received from London
on the military situation. It was
dated April 27th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Halifax

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.



Telegram from London dated April 27th.

1. Naval. During week of April 24th there have been no losses in Atlantic convoys, shipping losses generally are lower.
2. Two East Coast convoys unsuccessfully attacked off Cromer and in the Thames Estuary 26th.
3. Norwegian merchant ship damaged Fokker Wolffe with assistance of Hudson aircraft and enemy dropped no bombs.
4. His Majesty's Ship York torpedoed March 26th has sustained further damage from near miss bombs in Suda Bay.
5. Tenth Canadian troop convoy arrived safely in the Clyde April 19th.
6. Reports so far received state Australians amounting to about one brigade have left Greece.
7. Military. Yugoslavia. Yugoslavs attempted to block the Danube. Four points near the Iron Gates successfully blocked by sinking ships. Attempt to block a fifth less important place was only partially successful. The large railway bridge over the Danube at Belgrade was demolished causing obstruction.
8. Bulgaria. It is reliably reported that Sofia is crowded with German wounded and private houses have been commandeered to supplement hospital accommodation.
9. Southwest France. Air reconnaissance Franco-Spanish frontier April 22nd showed no unusual movement roads or railways but revealed large number of dumps of material. Seven divisions including one motorised are believed to be in area Bordeaux-Hendaye.
10. Royal Air Force. Night of April 26th/27th. Fifty bombers sent to Hamburg and small numbers to Emden, Havre and Brest. Out of 65, two are missing.

11. Ethiopia. 24 South African aircraft fighters destroyed two fighters and four motor vehicles on enemy aerodromes. One aircraft lost.
12. German Air Force. 26th. During day small formation sweeps over Southeast England dropping few bombs. One enemy fighter and two of own shot down.
13. Night of 26th/27th. About 130 enemy aircraft came over. Night fighters probably destroyed one enemy aircraft.
14. Libya. 25th. Five M.E. 110's escorted by M.E.109 bombed Halfaya. One M.E. 110 shot down by anti-aircraft fire.
15. Home Security. Night of 26th/27th. Light attack on Merseyside and South Lancashire caused only minor damage and few casualties.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.
April 30th, 1941.

SECRET

Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Halifax

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

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

Telegram from London dated April 28th.

1. Naval. Patia anti-aircraft ship sunk by aircraft - torpedo off Tyne 2150/27.
2. Following Greek warships at Alexandria. Averoff with Flag Admiral Kavadias, 6 destroyers, 2 torpedo boat destroyers, 4 submarines 1 expected, 1 repair ship. 1 Yugoslav submarine, 2 motor torpedo boats also reported at Alexandria. Glenearn special service ship off South West Greece and Rover in Suda Bay both damaged by near miss bombs.
3. So far reported 26,000 British troops evacuated from Greece. About 16,000 to follow.
4. Sunderland on night flight to Narvik 27/28 reported no enemy units.
5. Lady-Bird has bombarded Gazala, Aphis. An enemy column at Halfaya Pass Solumne Escarpment.
6. Reference to attack by our destroyers on enemy convoy 16th; reconnaissance now reveals wreck of Folgore class. Also probably 1 Folgore 1 Spica and Luca Tarigo sunk,
7. During three air attacks on East Coast convoys 27th 1 Dutch ship damaged. On 26th in addition to 1000 ton merchant vessel sunk by bomber command 1 4000-ton ship and another damaged in the North Sea.
8. Royal Air Force. Night of 27th/28th. All operations cancelled.
9. German Air Force. Night of 27th/28th. 101 enemy aircraft plotted 32 were minelaying, 45 attacked Portsmouth. Considerable damage to property. Several fires caused, three in dockyard serious, all under control. Night fighters destroyed 1 enemy aircraft, damaged another.

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

30th April, 1941.

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
the latest report on the military
situation. It is dated April 29th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Halifax

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

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


Telegram received from London
dated April 29th, 1941.

Naval.

Mediterranean. 35,000 troops estimated evacuated from Greece during nights April 24th, 25th 26th in His Majesty's ships and transports. Two destroyers with troops on board feared lost and transport of 11,600 tons bombed and lost with about 1,000 troops. Second vessel of 8,700 tons probably sunk and Dutch ship Pennland of 16,400 tons sunk by bombs before evacuation. H.M. Cruiser York further damaged.

Homeward bound convoy attacked April 28th 200 miles south of Iceland (c) British tanker 8,150 tons torpedoed and sunk three other ships torpedoed. Norwegian vessel 1300 tons independent route to Iceland (c) torpedoed and sunk April 27th off Northern Scotland.

Survivors picked up from Belgian ship 7500 tons torpedoed on April 14th far out northwestern approaches.

During visual air reconnaissance of Narvik April 27th no ships seen in port and only two or three medium sized vessels in vicinity.

Royal Air Force. Night of April 28th/29th. 25 bombers sent to attack battle cruisers at Brest and 5 Hampdens mine-laying. Two Hampdens missing.

In operations by fighters over northern France, Low Countries and this country, one enemy bomber destroyed and 4 other aircraft damaged. One fighter missing.

German/

German Air Force. Night of April 28th/
29th. 87 enemy aircraft plotted over this country;
main objective Plymouth which was attacked for about
2 hours. Several fires started soon under control.
Preliminary reports indicate neither damage nor
casualties heavy.