

GREAT BRITAIN - Military Situation: November 1941

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

2nd November, 1941.

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of the latest
report received from London on the military
situation. It was dated 1st November, 1941.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

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

Telegram from London dated 1st November, 1941.

NAVAL

1. United States destroyer Reuben James escorting convoy HXP 56 torpedoed and sunk by U boat 51° 59' N 27° 05' W at 0640/31.
2. Two enemy air attacks on Northbound coastal convoy caused beaching of Greek merchantman and one medium sized British tanker.
3. Outward bound Atlantic convoy attacked by U boats. One ship sunk.
4. Slight damage to Mygenaes lighthouse (Faroes) in aircraft attack midday 30th.
5. On 10th H.M. submarine Thunderbolt sank a Caique east of Crete.

MILITARY

6. Russia Between Leningrad and Lake Ilmen Germans have made slight progress east of River Volkhov. Moscow sector, no change. German threat to Tula has increased. Rostov, no change. Crimea, German mechanized forces overcoming strong Russian resistance have advanced approximately half way from Perekof to Sebastapol. Situation is serious.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

7. Day 31st. Hurricanes claim hits on Holsaue transformer station, a small vessel off west coast of Denmark and 900 ton merchant vessel off Frisian Islands and have destroyed three barges, also Flak ship off Barfleur crippled.

8. Night 31st/1st. Approximately 195 aircraft sent as follows - Hamburg 120, Bremen 50, Dunkirk 25. Beauforts attacked shipping off Norway 7 merchant vessels (3 of 3,000 each) tanker and Flak ship being hit. Hit also obtained on 4,000 ton merchant off Frisian Islands.
9. Night 29th/30th. Shipping attacked off Crete. 31st Licata (Sicily) 4 tons H.E.

7C
BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

November 3rd, 1941.

Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

R. I. Campbell

The Honourable (For H.M. Ambassador)

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

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

TELEGRAM FROM LONDON DATED NOVEMBER 2nd, 1941.

Summary.

Military. Russia.

Finland. Finns have made progress northwest of Lake Onega. Leningrad and Moscow sectors: No change. Germans are now immediately threatening Tula. Kursk sector: Germans have advanced energetically. Donets basin: German pressure is continuing. Rostov: No change. Crimea: German advance is continuing.

2. Royal Air Force. Reference hits claimed on shipping night of October 31 - November 1 total now ten merchant ships including Reichenfels 7800 tons which ship hit by complete salvo of bombs, plus one 7,000 ton tanker and one Flak ship already mentioned. Five other merchant ships of various tonnage attacked, results unobserved; several ships machinegunned.
3. Night of October 31 - November 1, Hamburg received 83 tons of high explosive, Bremen 27 tons, Dunkirk 27 tons and Boulogne 10 tons.
4. Daylight November 1: Beaufort aircraft claims torpedoing tanker Altmark class 18,000 tons in LaPallice. Fighters attacked targets in northern France including factories, goods trains, two guardian ships and wireless station. Blenheims bombed Lannion aerodrome.
5. Night of November 1/2; approximately 175, mainly to Keil 130, Brest 17.
6. German Air Force. Forty enemy aircraft crossed the coast of the United Kingdom, scattered bombarding Cheshire, North Wales, considerable damage to part of the premises of Shell - Mex, Ellesmere port.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

November 4, 1941.

Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,
(For the Ambassador)

R. I. Campbell

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

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

TELEGRAM FROM LONDON DATED NOVEMBER 3, 1941.

Summary.

Naval.

1. Ariquani has arrived at Gibraltar.
2. 450 miles south of Durban our cruisers intercepted French convoy of 5 ships believed total of 39,000 tons which left Tamatave October 24th for France.
3. Dutch tanker 6,000 tons in convoy damaged by bombs off Spurn Point is proceeding to harbour. Small British ship damaged by near miss bomb night of November 2nd/3rd in Yarmouth Roads has been beached.
4. H.M.S. Urge torpedoed and sank merchant vessel of 3,000 tons wearing Italian flag at anchor in shallow water north of Kuriat. This ship believed to have been previously damaged by Elenheim.

Military.

5. Russia. Leningrad sector. Germans have made some progress east of the River Volkhov towards Leningrad - Vologda Railway. Kalinin sector. The Germans have not succeeded in consolidating their position. Donets Basin. Germans have reached the River Don east of Kharkov. Rostov. Germans are still 10 miles west of the town. Crimea. Germans claim to have taken Simferopol. German claim is probably correct and threat to Sebastopol is serious.

Royal Air Force.

6. Night November 1st/2nd. Kiel 77 tons high explosives 7,000 incendiaries. Havre 17 tons high explosives many hits claimed on docks. Series of attacks made on merchant vessels direct hits being made on one large ship and on two others each 6,000 tons.

7. Night November 2/3rd. Operations cancelled.

Day of November 2nd fighters attacked shipping hit 3,000 ton merchant vessel off Ameland. Rolling stock, wireless station and goods trains also attacked.

8. Middle East. Night October 31st/November 1st.

Following targets attacked: Hangars and barracks at Berca aerodrome officers quarters at Bardia stores dump and repair shops El Gazala, torpedo factory at Naples where hit claimed with 4,000 pound bomb, main power station at Palermo. Wellington claimed 6 hits on 6,000 ton merchant vessel west of Derna and on November 2nd Blenheim claimed hit on 3,000 ton merchant vessel E.N.E. of

BRITISH EMBASSY,

WASHINGTON, D.C.

NOVEMBER 4, 1941.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

November 5th, 1941.

~~Secret.~~

Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

(For the Ambassador)

R. I. Campbell

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

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



Telegram from London dated November 4th, 1941.

1. Naval. French convoy intercepted south of Durban proceeding to East London. A.M. November 3rd ships were boarded, scuttling having been attempted. Two ships have engines damaged. French sloop escorting convoy refused to order convoy Port Elizabeth as requested.
2. On November 2nd during air attack east coast convoy one ship severely damaged fate unknown but crew saved. Another small British ship subsequently sank off Spurn Point crew saved.
3. Convoys C52 about 400 miles east of Newfoundland attacked by U-boat night of November 2nd/3rd. Two ships known torpedoed no further details.
4. Three MTB's and two MGB's attacked enemy convoy north of Calais night of November 2nd/3rd. One large merchant vessel hit by two torpedoes either sank or was beached. MTB's undamaged one MTB hit in engine room returned to harbour. Other MTB had several wounded has not yet reached harbour.
5. On November 3rd patrol vessel "Ouzel" blown up with loss of all hands half a mile east of Mablethorpe.
6. Royal Air Force. United Kingdom. Night of November 2nd/3rd coastal aircraft scored one or two hits on tanker estimated 7,000 tons off Texel.
7. Day November 3rd fighters damaged 400 ton motor-vessel off Cherbourg and probably sank an E-boat.
8. Night of November 3rd/4th, small forces of bombers operated against Brest, Boulogne and off Dutch coast where merchant ship of 7-10,000 tons was hit.
9. Middle East. November 1st Derna attacked four aircraft destroyed on the ground. November 1st-2nd attacks on Benghazi, Berca, Derna. On November 2nd merchant vessel
estimated/

estimated 3,000 tons was hit in Mediterranean.

November 2nd-3rd Castel-Benito aerodrome at Tripoli
(L) attacked, at least 12 aircraft left burning on
the ground.

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

November 6th, 1941

~~SECRET~~

Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

(For the Ambassador)

R. I. Campbell

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

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

Telegram from London dated November 5th, 1941.

Naval. M.G.B. missing from operation off Calais night of 2nd/3rd has been towed into harbour.

British tanker 6470 tons, reported attacked by surface raider 0530/4th 620 miles west south west of Freetown; various forces ordered to area.

Suez Canal temporarily closed after unexploded object dropped south of middle lakes.

In three of the ships of French convoy ordered into South African port there were 481 service personnel.

Five ships totalling 22,266 tons have been sunk out of convoys C52 east of Newfoundland; from four of these all crews but four men known saved.

British ship 4,953 tons believed torpedoed 300 miles west of Walfish Bay a.m. 3rd but messages intercepted were incomplete.

October 22nd, His Majesty's submarine "Urge" sank in Gulf of Hammamet 1500 ton southbound escorted merchant ship and 4000 ton merchant ship at anchor. His Majesty's submarine "Ursula" scored two hits medium sized merchant ship southbound in convoy a.m. 18 (sic) 50 miles southwest of Susa. This vessel probably sank.

Military.

Finland. Despite Finnish claims, Russians categorically deny any German or Finnish advance on Murmansk front.

Crimea.

Germans have captured Bakhchisarai (between Simferopol and Sebastopol) and their claim to have captured/

captured Feodosia is probably correct.

Day of 4th. Fighters attacked locomotives railway waggons and factories Cherbourg area and Hurricanes bombed Le Touquet and Berck aerodromes.

Royal Air Force.

Night of 4th/5th approximately ninety aircraft operated against Essen (28) Ostend (10) Kiel area (3) Dunkirk (10), shipping off Frisian Islands (12). One or more hits claimed on 5500 merchant vessel off Terschelling.

RC
BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

November 7th, 1941.

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of the
latest report received from London
on the military situation. It is
dated November 6th, 1941.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

RECEIVED
UNCLASSIFIED
J. I. Campbell

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

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

TELEGRAM FROM LONDON DATED NOVEMBER 6, 1941.

Summary.

1. NAVAL. H. M. Ship "Neptune" and His Majesty's A.S. "Hobart" took part in bombardment of Bardia area night of October 25th/26th.

2. British tanker W.S.W. of Freetown was probably shot at by U-boat not attacked by raider. Only one shot fired at dawn. She is proceeding apparently undamaged.

3. Now understood that only four ships were torpedoed out of convoys C 52.

4. MILITARY.

Russia. Central Front. German attacks from Kalinin to Tula are reported to have made no progress.

Crimea. On November 3rd Germans had reached point 14 miles from Sebastopol. Germans claim to have reached Black Sea south of Yaila Mountains is as yet unconfirmed.

5. Royal Air Force.

United Kingdom. Night of November 4th/5th docks at Ostend and Dunkirk received 13 tons H.E.

6. Day of November 5th. Over Northern France fighters attacked MT railway trains barges and gun positions.

7. November 5th/6th. Main targets Cherbourg (25) anti shipping off Frisian Islands (Siemens).

8. Middle East. Third and fourth dumps near Benghazi and on Tobruk-Bardia Road and workshops near Berca aerodrome bombed.

9. A.M. November 5th. Eight Blenheims attacked convoy two merchant ships; four direct hits on one merchant ship left sinking fast 92 degrees W. Benghazi. Second merchant ship Straddled destroyer machine gunned. Two Blenheims were lost.

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

November 8th, 1941.

~~Secret~~

Dear Mr. President,

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

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 November 7th.

1. Naval. Northern patrol trawler Kingston Agate intercepted Swedish merchant ships "Vassaholm" and "Tuna-holm" p.m. November 6th 200 miles west Faroes which are being escorted into harbour for examination.
2. His Majesty's submarine Trusty sank 5000 tons laden merchant ship in southbound convoy off Cephalonia October 25th.
3. His Majesty's submarine Tetrarch now overdue is presumed lost.
4. Royal Air Force. United Kingdom. Night November 5th/November 6th Cherbourg 20 tons H.E. Off Frisian Islands tanker set alight also 6500 ton merchant vessel and escort vessel damaged.
5. Day of November 6th. Hurricanes with fighter escort bombed barges and gun posts in northern France and gasometer in Holland left burning.
6. Night of November 6th/November 7th.
Small forces sent to Havre, St. Nazaire and on offensive patrols.
7. Middle East. Night of November 4th/November 5th and next day fires started among petrol and stores dumps at Benghazi, Berca, Benina and Derna.
8. Night of November 5th/November 6th. Castel Benito 22 tons H.E. (including three 4,000 pounds) on Administrative buildings, hangars and ammunition dumps.

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

~~SECRET~~

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

November 9th, 1941

Dear Mr. President,

_____ I enclose herein a copy of the
latest report received from London on
the military situation. It was dated
November 8th, 1941.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Halifax

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

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

TELEGRAM RECEIVED FROM LONDON
DATED NOVEMBER 8th, 1941

NAVAL

On the 7th British ship of 6,448 tons damaged by bomb off Farne Isle proceeding to harbour. British ship of 8,532 tons outward bound torpedoed 800 miles west of Ireland.

On October 28th Polish submarine scored one hit Italian ship of 5,413 tons (Citta Di Palermo class) off Naples. November 2nd, 25 miles East by North of Trapani she attacked 3,000 ton laden merchant ship; torpedoes missed but crew abandoned ship and submarine sank ship by gunfire.

October 23rd in Petali Gulf British submarine sank 2 small caiques, one flying Nazi flag. On 15th she hit with 3 torpedoes 6,000 ton merchant ship by 2 destroyers in Gulf of Athens. Results unobserved.

Night of 31st/1st. Another British submarine shelled Merchant ship scoring 50 hits probably same ship torpedoed on October 22nd as salvage activities were observed.

Of French convoy intercepted on 2nd South of Durban 3 ships have arrived at East London and 2 Port Elizabeth.

MILITARY. RUSSIA. KALININ.

Germans have not yet consolidated their position. Moscow, Russian continues, thus preventing German progress. Tula, heavy fighting continues/

continues. Eyelgorod-Donetz basin German forces are advancing in some sectors. Rostov, no German progress. Crimea, no further information.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

United Kingdom, day November 7th, 173 offensive sorties by fighters over North East France and Belgium. Targets attacked by cannon and machine gun fire included oil refinery at Verton, wireless station at Scheeningen Berck aerodrome and military camps and transport. Bombers escorted by fighters set fire to oil refinery near Beauchamps. Four ME 109's destroyed, one Spitfire missing. Coastal aircraft claim 3 hits on small merchant vessel off Kristiansand and hits are claimed on small ship off Terschelling.

Night of 7th/8th. Just on 400 aircraft despatched mainly as follows:-

Berlin 170, Cologne 52, Mannheim 55, Ostend 25, Boulogne 20, Essen area 25.

MIDDLE EAST.

Night of 5th/6th, day November 6th and Night of 6th/7th, attacks made on Benghazi Tripoli (L) and Naples.

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

November 10th, 1941.

~~Secret~~

Dear Mr. President,

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

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 November 9th.

1. Naval. Reported fighter aircraft from "Audacity" (auxiliary aircraft carrier) escorting convoy, shot down Focke Wulf on 8th, 260 miles west of Oporto.
2. Night of 8th/9th ships Aurora Penelope [words undecypherable] intercepted convoy previously reported at 1360 miles East of Messina Strait. Estimated two destroyers several merchant ships, number uncertain sunk. Two destroyers escaped. No damage to our ships so far reported. Morning of November 9th aircraft reported two enemy cruisers two destroyers two or [word omitted] merchant ships thirty miles from position of engagement. One merchant ship was on fire.
3. November 8th two small British merchant ships damaged by aircraft off East Coast. One in convoy slightly damaged but proceeding, one disabled while off Sunderland, tugs were sent to assist her.
4. Royal Air Force. Night of 7th/8th further reports. Of the 400 despatched, 339 aircraft claim to have attacked primary or other targets; 37 missing and one crashed on landing (crew safe). Aircraft on Berlin encountered very bad weather, thick cloud and no ground detail visible; 72 attacked including 11 heavies and 92 tons of high explosive and 10,100 incendiaries dropped. Bursts believed in [word undecypherable] and Tempelhof areas also in West End where fires observed. About 60 tons of high explosive and 2,000 incendiaries dropped on Cologne where numerous fires reported and in Mannheim. At Ostend and Boulogne bombs fell across the docks and started fires..
5. Day of the 8th: 21 squadrons of fighters
escort/

escorting Hurricane Bombers, anti Flak Hurricanes and Blenheims operated against St. Pol where considerable damage caused to alcohol distillery and Gosnay where chemical works were hit.

6. Night of 8th/9th: 86 aircraft despatched mainly as follows. Essen (54) Dunkirk (18) Ostend (8).

7. Middle East. Night of 6th/7th 30 tons of H.E. dropped on Derna.

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

November 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 November 10th, 1941.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

Halifax

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

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

TELEGRAM FROM LONDON DATED NOVEMBER 10th, 1941.

Naval. On 9th fleet tug Buccaneer with battle practice target in tow bombed and damaged off Montrose.

2. Result of attack on Italian convoy east of Messina Straits during night of 8th/9th two destroyers sunk, one damaged, nine merchant vessels set on fire and sunk. One large tanker left heavily on fire considered total loss; sighted still burning on 9th. No survivors picked up. Our ships were undamaged. A.M. 9 enemy aircraft made torpedo attack on British force without success.

3. On 9th His Majesty's Submarine "Upholder" attacked enemy force east of Messina sank one destroyer, damaged another.

4. H.M. Submarine "Thrasher" fired torpedo at 800 ton schooner off Benghazi on October 28th: though no hits scored crew abandoned ship which was sunk by gunfire.

5. On 8th, aircraft from "Audacity" shot down two Focke Wulf 200 aircraft; one Martlet lost.

6. Military.
Russia. Russian counter-attacks in Murmansk sector have driven Germans back to River Litsa. Lenin-grad: morale of garrison and population is reported to be very good. Kalinin sector: German attempts to cross river Nara have been unsuccessful. Tula, Germans have made heavy attacks with mechanised forces but the situation is in hand. Donetz Basin: German attempts to cross river Donetz have failed. Rostoff sector: Germans are attacking north west of the town. Crimea: Germans have reached Yalta and made some progress towards Kerch.

7. Royal Air Force.
United Kingdom. Night 8th/9th, Essen 45 tons of H.E., Dunkirk 20 tons, Ostend 12 tons. Night of 9th/

/ 10th

2.

10th main operations Hamburg (100) and small forces against Ostend and Dunkirk.

8. Middle East. Night of 7th/8th. Brindisi attacked (30 tons H.E.) hits claimed on aircraft factory, torpedo boat base and railway centres: Naples (20 tons H.E.) fires started railway centres and near torpedo factory: targets in Sicily including Bitumen Factory at Ragusa and gun powder factory near Comiso.

9. On 7th, night of 7th/8th and following day Harbour and Work shops at Derna and Benghazi were attacked.

10. On 7th and 8th: Blenheims attacked two medium merchant ships escorted by one destroyer first 150 miles W.S.W. Cape Matapan, later about 180 miles north of Benghazi. During first attack one ship was hit by four 250 lb. bombs. After second attack one merchant ship seen on fire, the other stationary with crew abandoning ship.

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

November 12th, 1941.

~~Secret.~~

Dear Mr. President,

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

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 November 11th.

1. Naval. His Majesty's Submarine Trident reports the following attacks vicinity North Cape a.m. November 3rd scored hit on eastbound convoy escorted by trawlers; shortly afterwards scored probable hit on 2,000 ton vessel proceeding westward from the same convoy. Night of November 6th/7th scored hit on escorted vessel which turned away but was not seen to sink.

2. His Majesty's Ship Quantock shot down Dornier 215 off Whitby p.m. November 10th.

3. On October 23rd His Majesty's Submarine Truant in the Adriatic south of Italy attacked southwest bound convoy 3 merchant ships 1 AMC; 1 ship of 3500 tons torpedoed and sunk AMC 8000 tons also hit proceeded at 10 knots. On October 24th Truant failed to torpedo 3500 tons ship so set vessel on fire by gunfire; still burning 9 hours later. On October 31st, south east of Ortona she scored hit on convoy of 3 tankers and 1 destroyer.

Military.

4. Russia. Leningrad sector Germans claim that their forces operating between Lake Ladoga and Lake Ilmen have captured Tikhvin on Leningrad Vologda Railway may well be true. The Crimea, German drive towards Kerch is continuing.

5. Italy. To relieve shortage of supplies of their troops fighting in Russia Italians have ordered them to live as much as possible on the resources of the country and are sending supplementary provisions by air.

Royal Air Force.

6. United Kingdom. Night of November 9th/10th Hamburg 96 tons of H.E. bursts seen on Blohm and Voss shipyards. Other targets identified and successfully attacked/

attacked several large fires started. Total of 22 tons of H.E. on Ostend and Dunkirk. Day of November 10th. Hudson claimed two hits on 10,000 tons merchant vessel southeast of Egersund. Night of November 10th/11th. No bombing operations owing to weather.

7. Middle East. Night of November 9th/10th. Attacks on submarine base at Augusta and power station at Messina; also 6 hours nuisance raid on Naples.

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

November 13th, 1941

~~SECRET~~

Dear Mr. President,

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

Naval. Night of 8th 9th. Norwegian ship 3655 tons in convoy was sunk by enemy aircraft off Flamborough Head.

Royal Air Force.

United Kingdom. Day of 11th. Power station and railway targets attacked in Northern France. Coastal aircraft sank 900 tons merchant vessel off Den Helder.

Middle East. Night of 9th 10th. Attacks on Bengazi, Berca, Bardia, and dumps and M.T. at Bir Hacheim south-south-west of Tobruk. Night of 10th 11th Naples, Brindisi, Bianco bombed.

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

November 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 November 13th, 1941.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Hanfex

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

Telegram from London dated November 13th, 1941.

Naval.

Morning of 12th. Two of His Majesty's trawlers attacked by aircraft off Haisborough Lighthouse.

One received direct hit and sank but the aircraft was shot down by combined fire of both ships.

2. Another strong reinforcement of bombers and fighter aircraft has arrived at Malta.

3. Royal Air Force.

United Kingdom. Night of 12th/13th and day of 12th. No offensive operations owing to adverse weather.

4. Libya. Night of 10th/11th. Eight Wellingtons bombed Benghazi and Blenheims bombed El Gazala, whilst the enemy made attacks on Tobruk and Mersa Matruh.

The following day Berca attacked and number of M.T. vehicles on Jedabaya el Aghaila road destroyed.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

November 15, 1941.

Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,
Very sincerely yours,

Hanfax

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

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

23

TELEGRAM FROM LONDON DATED NOVEMBER 14,
1941

Naval. At 1543/13 heavy explosion thought caused by torpedo, occurred in Ark Royal 37 miles east of Gibraltar. Ship stopped and quickly listed 20 degrees to starboard although majority of ships company were taken off. By 21 hours ship was in tow of 2 tugs with destroyer alongside providing electric power. Though steam has been raised in one boiler and was being raised in another and hoped ship would soon be able to steam, at 4-45/14th fire broke out in remaining boiler room and list increased to 37 degrees. At six/14th it was reported that Ark Royal had sunk.

2. Small Dutch ship mined and sunk in Falmouth harbour p.m. 13th.

3. P.M. 12th. Small British ship was attacked inside Irish territorial waters off County Waterford.

4. Indications are that Corinth Canal is now open for all ships of size normally able to use it.

5. Ocean shipments of ore by sea for Germany from Spain to France both in Mediterranean and Bay of Biscay reached 100,000 tons. This is twice as much as was during previous three months.

Military.

6. Russia. Moscow sector. Russians are counter-attacking. Tula Germans have made some progress eastward from Tula-Orel railway. Crimea, Germans are nearing Sebastopol from the south-east and Otash from West and South.

7. Royal Air Force.

Middle East. Night of 11th and 12th. 42
bombing/

bombing sorties flown against stores dumps at Derna, Gazala, Berca, Bardia. Fires and explosions at all targets. 11th/12th Naples attacked for five hours. 12th Gela aerodrome attacked two aircraft on ground destroyed. Mellaha aerodrome (Tripoli (L)) attacked.

file

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

November 15th, 1941.

~~SECRET~~

Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

R. I. Campbell

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

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

TELEGRAM FROM LONDON DATED NOVEMBER 15,
1941.

Naval.

1. British ship 6,961 tons presumed
torpedoed p.m./12 400 miles south of Freetown.
She was independently routed.

Royal Air Force.

2. United Kingdom night of 14th/15th and
day of 15th. No offensive operations of
importance owing to weather.
3. Libya. Night of 12th/13th. Wellingtons
attacked stores, dumps and railway sidings at
Benghazi, hit claimed on sidings with 4,000
pound bombs. Following day aerodromes Berca
and Benina were attacked.

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

~~SECRET~~
November 17th, 1941

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
the latest report received from London on
the military situation. It was dated Nov-
ember 16th, 1941.

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

R. I. Campbell

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D.C.

TELEGRAM RECEIVED FROM LONDON
DATED NOVEMBER 16th, 1941

NAVAL

10 Swordfish and 4 Fulmers landed at Gibraltar from the Ark Royal. This indicated the probable loss of 20 Swordfish and 20 Fulmers in the ship.

MILITARY. RUSSIA.

Leningrad Sector. There has been heavy fighting without an appreciable change.

Crimea. The Germans have reached Kerch but near Sebastopol are being hampered by weather and supply conditions.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

Day November 15th. Fighters flew 123 offensive sorties against oil targets in Northern France. Hits claimed by bombs and cannon fire on five refineries. Night of November 15th, November 16th. A total of 110 aircraft despatched mainly to Emden 50, Kiel 45.

MIDDLE EAST.

Night of November 13th, November 14th. Benghazi Harbour, Enona and Bardia attacked. November 14th landing grounds at Barce and Martuba. Night of November 14th/15th Catania railway centre 30 tons of H.E.

BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

November 18th, 1941.

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of the
latest report received from London
on the military situation. It is
dated November 17th, 1941.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

R. I. Campbell

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

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

TELEGRAM FROM LONDON DATED NOVEMBER 17th, 1941.

Summary.

Naval. British ship (2,495 tons) bombed off Spurn Point p.m./15th sank later in tow.

2. Small British ship in convoy damaged by near miss p.m./16th, was towed into Humber.

3. At 20.45/15th four M.G.B's. had short sharp engagement force about six enemy E or R boats and one trawler off Blanc Nez. Casualties and damage inflicted by both sides. Enemy shore defences in action. One M.G.B. considerably damaged. Casualties: one rating killed, one officer and three ratings wounded.

4. Plain language wireless message intercepted night of 16th/17th stated that German ship "Schwaneck" (2,194 tons) had struck a mine north east of Swinemunde.

Military.

5. Russia. In sectors west of Moscow and north of Tula there have been comparatively heavy Russian counter-attacks but south of Tula Germans are making further progress eastwards.

Royal Air Force,

6. United Kingdom. Night of 15th/16th. Emden, 24 tons H.E. including five 4,000 pounds; Kiel 11 tons HE. Night of 16th/17th, and day of 17th, no offensive operations owing to weather.

7. Libya. Daylight 14th and 15th Marylands attacked aerodromes Derna and El Timimi. Two enemy aircraft destroyed and five damaged on ground. Other attacks made on stores dumps at Gazala and by machine gun fire on M.T. vehicles on Barce Giovanni Berta road.

/Night

Night of 14th/15th Benghazi bombed. Two
4,000 pound bombs burst on central mole.
8. Targets in Mediterranean on 15th included
Noto railway station, factory at Pachino and signal
boxes at Calbernado.

7C
BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

~~SECRET~~

November 19th, 1941.

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
the latest report received from
London on the military situation.
It is dated November 18th, 1941.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,
Very sincerely yours,

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED *R. I. Campbell*

The Honourable

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

✓

TELEGRAM FROM LONDON DATED NOVEMBER 18th, 1941.

SUMMARY.

NAVAL.

1. British ship 1,212 tons in convoy bombed and sunk p.m. November 16th off Great Yarmouth.
2. Norwegian ship 5,757 tons about 35 miles from East London (South Africa) was sunk by explosion early November 17th. Officer survivor believes ship torpedoed.

MILITARY.

3. West of Moscow Germans are again attacking but are meeting vigorous resistance. At other points they have been forced on to defensive. Their operations are being much hampered by supply difficulties and cold.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

4. November 17th off Southern Norway Hudson aircraft scored two direct hits and one near miss on ship estimated 8,000 tons near Lister Light. Ship was left with 20 degrees list to port and much smoke amidships. Fighters attacked with cannon three alcohol distilleries plants in northwest France.
5. Libya. Night of November 15th/16th. Derna and Bardia attacked. November 16th Derna and Gazala attacked.
6. November 17th aircraft attacked enemy convoy of three merchant ships, one destroyer, 60 miles southwest of Zante in Greece. One ship left on fire.

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

November 21st, 1941.

~~Secret.~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of the
latest report received from London on the
military situation. It is dated November
19th.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

R. I. Campbell

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

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

Telegram from London dated November 19th.

1. Naval. Morning 3rd His Majesty's submarine Proteus hit with one torpedo Italian tanker Tampico 4958 tons in Aegean off Mardila Island. Tanker still afloat at dusk, escorts prevented second attack. Afternoon of 10th Proteus scored 4 hits on German ship Ithaka class 1773 tons heavily laden southbound near San Giorgio Island which she had shadowed since previous evening. One possible hit scored on escort.
2. Military. Russia. Heavy fighting continues at Kalinin; immediately south of this Germans are attacking. North of Tula German advance has been held but German thrust is developing between Tula and Kursk.
Royal Air Force.
3. United Kingdom. Day of 18th Hurricanes bombed factory near Montreuil, fighters attacked goods train, large warehouse, sank vessel of 500 tons and damaged another 600 tons. Night of 18th/19th small force bombed Brest.
4. Mediterranean. Night of 16th/17th landing grounds at El Timimi and El Gazala attacked. 17th landing grounds at El Gazala and Bir El Baheira attacked. Night of 17th/18th Naples and Brindisi attacked.

file
BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

~~SECRET~~

November 21st, 1941

Dear Mr. President,

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

223

TELEGRAM RECEIVED FROM LONDON
DATED NOVEMBER 20th, 1941

NAVAL. A.M./18th. H.M.S. Castleton holed by internal explosion was able to proceed at 15 knots and arrived in harbour during the night; the cause of the explosion uncertain.

Norwegian M/S Trawler considerably damaged by a near miss from aircraft off the Faroes p.m. 19th.

E-boats attacked Convoy off Cromer 2330/19th. One British ship of 2,426 tons, one British ship 1,159 tons, and British tanker of 5,502 tons were sunk. Escorts engaged E-boats and our M.G.B.'s intercepted by (sic) 0545/20th off the Hook. Two E-boats probably destroyed by escort and one possibly by Spitfires, off Holland.

Russian submarine of the Chuka class in the vicinity of Fuglo Sound sank on the 2nd unescorted Westbound Vessel 5,000 tons, on the 9th escorted eastbound vessel of 4,000 tons, on the 10th, 4,000 tons eastbound vessel.

On the 15th in Varanger Fjord Molodki class submarine torpedoed southbound Tanker, later seen on fire.

On the 17th British ship of 969 tons shot down a D.O. 17 off Yarmouth. Ship was in convoy and scored direct hit with twelve pounder.

ROYAL AIR FORCE. LIBYA.

Night of 17th/18th. Wellingtons dropped 50 tons of H.E. on Timmi, Martuba, Gazala, Derna
landing/

landing ground with unobserved results. Day of the 18th bombers escorted by fighters attacked 2 300 A.F.V.'s and M.T. boats at Bir Elgo Bi and landing grounds at Gazala and Timmi, again with unobserved results. Enemy casualties as follows: Seven J.U. 52 and one H.E. 126 over Martuba and Barce and four S79's and another aircraft destroyed on the ground. Near Jalo three C.R. 42 shot down and two aircraft destroyed on the ground. Five British offensive sweeps flown over forward area giving a total of 11 fighter squadrons. No enemy aircraft encountered. Several of our aircraft forced to land through sand storms but all are safe. 19th, five J.U. 87's and two M.E. 109 destroyed on Timmi aerodrome.

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

November 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 November 21st, 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 November 21st, 1941

NAVAL.

During and after attack on convoy off Leamer night of 19th/20th enemy losses estimated two E-boats sunk, two probably sunk and others damaged. In engagement by M.G.B.'s off Holland M.G.B. 64 and 67 engaged at least four E-boats at 04.45/20th; lasted thirty minutes, range came down 200 yards; enemy fire was wild. After action E-boat S41 found stopped other E-boats made off; S41 sank. Believed four groups of E-boats operating against convoy during night. His Majesty's ship "Wolsey" possibly sank one, His Majesty's ship "Campbell" and M.G.B. 87 another.

A.M./18th His Majesty's submarine "Sea Lion" 25 miles east off North Cape set on fire with gun fire Norwegian tanker 331 tons carrying 304 tons of benzine and oil to Kirkenes from Narvik. Two hours later tanker was still heavily on fire.

In cooperation with military advance in Libya His Majesty's ships "Naiad" and "Euryalus" night of 18th/19th fired 415 CS into Halfaya area, good fires started; weather prevented aircraft being used.

MILITARY.

Russia. German attack on Rostov area has been resumed.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

United Kingdom. Night of 20th/21st. Weather prevented operations.

Libya. 19th. 32 bomber sorties carried out in Gambut/Bardia/Capuzzo area and enemy AFVS and MT
attacked/

attacked with satisfactory results. MT stores and tents were also bombed near El Adim and three Italian fighters destroyed and 13 damaged on landing ground Sedi Rezegh.

Mediterranean. On 19th five Blenheims attacked convoy of three ships escorted by destroyer in the Gulf of Sirte; one ship estimated at 5,000 tons hit and left with a list, another merchant vessel near missed and a schooner appeared damaged.

Night of 19th/20th. Attacks on railway centre and gas works Naples; oil tankers, barracks and factories, Brindisi, Tripoli, Benghazi and Messina.

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

November 24th, 1941.

~~Secret.~~

Dear Mr. President,

_____ I enclose herein copies of the
_____ two latest reports received from London
on the military situation. They are
dated November 22nd and November 23rd.

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 November 22nd.

NAVAL.

His Majesty's Submarine Utmost reports having attacked on 21st in Straits of Messina force of three destroyers and three cruisers hitting one cruiser which probably sank.

2. Polish submarine Sokul claims two hits on convoy of three merchant ships escorted by destroyer on 21st in Navarino Bay.

3. His Majesty's Ship Devonshire in South Atlantic intercepted enemy armed merchant ship which she engaged; magazine having blown up enemy sank 13 minutes after engagement commenced.

4. P.M. November 21st. Photographic reconnaissance Brest showed Scharnhorst and Gneisenau and Prince Eugene in the usual position.

MILITARY.

5. Russia. Leningrad Sector. Russians are attacking strongly in Tikhvin area. Moscow Sector between Kalinin and Moscow strong German attack has made some progress south eastwards. Centre, east of line Tula-Orel German advance towards Upper Don has reached Moscow-Yelets railway at certain points. Kursk Sector. Germans have made some progress eastwards. Rostov. Germans have reached outskirts of town.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

6. United Kingdom day 21st and night 21st/22nd no offensive operations.

7. Libya. Night of 19th/20th. Derna town and landing ground 43 tons H.E. Bardia 10 tons H.E. Following day hits scored on a FVS and MT in EL Adem area and on armoured force south of Capuzzo; two J.U.52's destroyed on the ground at Gasr El Aryid. Eleven squadrons of fighters carried out sweeps and escort patrols 14 J.U.87's and one M.E.109 destroyed on the ground at El Timini.

Mediterranean. Night of 20th/21st. Naples, Brindisi and Messina bombed.

Telegram from London dated November 23rd, 1941

NAVAL

Please regard paragraph 3 of summary of November 22nd as most secret.

Night of November 21st-22nd naval aircraft and Wellingtons off Cape Spartivento attacked convoy of 5 merchant ships, 1 cruiser, five destroyers (probably the force attacked by U-boat on November 21st when one cruiser was probably sunk). Cruiser and one merchant vessel estimated 6000 tons believed each hit by one torpedo. On November 22nd shadowing aircraft considered the speed of the convoy was reduced probably by bombs damage several ships having been straddled during the night attack. An explosion observed in one merchant ship by shadower may have been caused by submarine attack.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

United Kingdom. Day November 22nd, four squadrons of fighters carried out offensive patrols over Northern France. Six enemy fighters destroyed, one probably destroyed, seven damaged. Night of November 22nd, 23rd, no operations owing to adverse weather.

Libya. Now claimed enemy losses numerically were 30 destroyed not 24 as previously reported.

Night of November 20th-21st, 32 Wellingtons attacked El Gazala landing grounds which were again attacked following day by 9 Marylands and Fortresses.

Day November 21st: 16 Blenheims attacked about 200 tanks and motor transport at Bir Hachem. Frequent fighter sweeps over battle area. Beaufort fighters and Hurricanes successfully attacked aircraft on the ground. Enemy losses during day 5 shot down, one probably destroyed, one damaged, further 16 destroyed or damaged on the ground.

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

November 25th, 1941

~~SECRET~~

Dear Mr. President,

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

NAVAL

Glenroy at 1520/23 on passage to Tobruk with troops hit by torpedo from aircraft. Glenroy was towed by Carlisle; endeavours are being made to beach her at Mersa Matruh. Troops transferred have been landed at Tobruk.

Night of 23rd/24th during E-boat attack on East coast convoy 18 miles off Yarmouth, British tanker 5723 tons was sunk and another ship torpedoed. Escorting destroyer probably sank one E-boat and damaged two others.

November 12th. Russian submarine K 21 near Hammerfest torpedoed two ships estimated 4000 and 5000 tons. One sunk.

MILITARY

Russia. West of Moscow Germans are maintaining their attack against strong Russian resistance.

ROYAL AIR FORCE

23 bombers escorted by fighters attacked factory in North of France. Hudson claimed one hit on large merchant ship off South Norway.

Night of 23rd/24th approximately 100 aircraft despatched as follows: Lorient (54); Dunkirk (37); Brest (11).

LIBYA

22 light bombers and Hurricanes attacked enemy MT concentration at Bir Hakeim and large column on El Adem Acroma Road. 100 vehicles including 10 fuel tanks destroyed and road blocked. 4 lorries and 3 tanks destroyed on Barce-Derna Road. Night of 22nd/23rd Wellingtons from Malta attacked Berca aerodromes hits on buildings MT and bomb dumps.

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

November 26th, 1941.

~~Secret~~

Dear Mr. President,

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

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 November 25th.

Naval. During attack on Glenroy on the 23rd one or possibly both attacking aircraft were shot down.

Second attack was made by E-boats on East Coast convoy night of 23rd/24th off Yarmouth and Dutch ship 1984 tons was sunk. Ship reported torpedoed first attack was British 4155 tons and was towed into Yarmouth. During first attack one E-boat sunk certainly, one probably sunk and one damaged certainly.

H.M. Ship Aurora, Penelope and two destroyers attacked convoy two merchant vessels 5,000 tons each 2 destroyers southwest of Crete at 1534/24th. Both merchant ships sunk. Enemy destroyers escaped.

British ship 1200 tons at 1855/22 within Irish territorial waters attacked by three Junker 88's with bombs and machine guns. Attack unsuccessful except for slight damage from near miss. Aircraft driven off by gunfire; one probably destroyed.

On 10th Greek submarine Glaucos torpedoed 3,000 ton ship off Candia. Although ship probably sank result uncertain.

Military.

Russia. Moscow Sector. Germans are believed to have reached Solnechnaya-Gora (11 miles southeast of Klin on Kalinin-Moscow Railway). Centre, Germans have made slight advance east of Tula towards Riazhsk against strong Russian resistance.

Royal Air Force. United Kingdom night of 23rd/24th. Lorient, 45 tons H.E.; Brest 28 tons. Fires started in dock areas at both ports. Day of 24th hits claimed by aircraft of Coastal Command on 5,000 ton merchant/



-2-

merchant vessel off Egesund, one of 2500 tons off Borkum and small ship off Egero. Night of 24th/25th no offensives.

Libya. Between dawn of 22nd and dusk on 24th successful attacks MT and an F.V.S. in El Gobi- el Adem area. Dispersed aircraft, petrol stores and barrack buildings set on fire at Benina aerodrome and attacks made on aerodromes at Berca Sirte and in Barce area. During combats over beach area our fighters shot down 13 enemy aircraft and damaged 14. Our losses 10 fighters one bomber.

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

November 27th, 1941.

~~SECRET~~

Dear Mr. President,

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

TELEGRAM RECEIVED FROM LONDON NOVEMBER 26TH, 1941.

NAVAL.

H.M.A.S. "Sydney" six days overdue at Freemantle she was returning from escort duty. Believed she sank an enemy raider but definite news of "Sydney's" fate uncertain. British tanker has picked up German seamen from a raft, others have been sighted in lifeboats two of which reported came ashore in Western Australia. Indications are that Sydney was on fire when last seen by Germans.

2. H.M.S. Dunedin in Central Atlantic has not answered signals for 36 hours, may have been torpedoed as Germans claim torpedoing H.M.S. "Dragon" in that area.

3. H.M. drifter Fishergirl has been sunk in Falmouth harbour by near miss bomb.

4. H.M.S. Cornwall intercepted French merchant ship of 1129 tons northbound southeast of Cape Guardafui carrying food and rum. Prize crews taking her to Aden.

5. H.M.S. Kenya with 2 British and 2 Russian destroyers bombarded fort and batteries at Vardo Varanger Fjord at 07.31/25. Results not observed.

6. H.M. Submarine "Sea Wolf" during the night of 21st./22nd. northwest of Vardo sank with one and possibly two hits 3000 ton tanker in unescorted convoy. During night of 23rd./24th "Sea Wolf" attacked 4 ships in convoy in same area and scored one hit on a merchant ship which probably sank.

MILITARY./

MILITARY

7. German advance east of Tula and Orel continues to make progress.

ROYAL AIR FORCE.

8. United Kingdom. Day 25th. 6 Blenheims bombed Marlaix aerodrome and spitfires machine-gunned aircraft on the ground on Calais Marck aerodrome.

Night of 25th/26th. Attacks made on Cherbourg (17) where results reported most successful and Brest (18) where bombs included 45 of 2000 lbs.

9. Libya. Between night of 23rd./24th and night of 24th/25th inclusive. Attacks made on dispersed aircraft on Benina and Berca aerodromes and near Benghazi Concentrations of enemy tanks and M.T. and A.F.V.'s attacked in El Adem area near Sirte and Misurata. Near El Adem hits claimed on at least 12 tanks and on many M.T. vehicles and near Misurata hits with bombs claimed on 22 petrol lorries. 20 tons of H.E. dropped on Benghazi where railway workshops customs house and military H.Q. claimed hit.

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

November 29th, 1941.

~~Secret.~~

Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

Halifax

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

~~BRITISH ARMY SECRET~~~~(U.S. EYES ONLY)~~REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIEDOPTEL 2

November, 1941.

LIBYA

24 November. Jalo captured; 200 prisoners taken.

24th/25th November. The enemy raiding column consisting of armoured cars, about 30 tanks and some M.T., moving towards Sheferzen, being engaged during the night by part of our armoured forces. During the 25th of November the enemy column was again attacked near Sheferzen by our tanks and artillery, 9 enemy tanks being knocked out.

25th November. By mid-day New Zealand troops, supported by infantry and tanks, had reached a point 8 miles west of Gambut on the Bardia-Tobruk road, and also a point about 5 miles East of Sidi Rezegh.

Armoured cars were patrolling track from Sheferzen to Bir El Gobi the latter had been evacuated by the enemy. A considerable portion of our armoured forces and a South African Brigade had also been concentrated in this area.

By night 25th/26th November Tobruk Garrison had made further progress, capturing two more enemy posts. Enemy artillery fire reported light.

Our tank situation is reported much improved. The report of capture of the Commander of one of our armoured Brigades is incorrect.

During the night of 25th/26th November New Zealand troops captured Sidi Rezegh.

26th November. Stiff fighting continued North of Sidi Rezegh and by 0900 Tobruk forces could see New Zealanders signalling.

At 1300 Tobruk Garrison were attacking El Duda (3 miles to North North West of Sidi Rezegh).

~~BRITISH MOST SECRET~~~~(U.S. SECRET)~~RECORDED
UNCLASSIFIED

27 November, 1941.

OPTEL 3

(1) NAVAL

A Free French Corvette has broken down South West of Iceland in bad weather and her condition is thought to be serious. Assistance has been sent.

A Dutch submarine which has been on patrol off North West Italy reports having sunk two schooners.

A British sloop was torpedoed this morning North East of Tobruk; a destroyer is returning to Alexandria with survivors. No further details available.

(2) MILITARY

LIBYA. Nothing further to Optel No. 2

RUSSIA. The German advance East of Tula and Orel continues to progress.

(3) AIR OPERATIONS

25th/26th. 62 tons high explosives were dropped at Brest in excellent visibility; operation was hampered by a smoke screen but bombs fell close to the Battle Cruisers. 23 tons were dropped successfully on the docks at Cherbourg.

26th/27th. 118 aircraft were sent out, 100 to Emden and 18 to Ostend. 1 bomber is missing and two came down in the sea; 1 crew being rescued.

LIBYA. 24th/25th. 24 Wellingtons attacked aerodrome Benina and Berca and harbour at Benghazi. 25th/26th. 21 Wellingtons again attacked Benghazi harbour. Satisfactory results were reported. On 25th and 26th, Klenheims and Marylands heavily attacked enemy forces of tanks and mechanical transports in SIDI OMAR and BIR SHEFERZEN area; several hits were obtained on vehicles many of which were set on fire. 25th/26th. 11 Albacores attacked a heavy concentration of mechanical transports in SIDI OMAR area. 2 Squadrons of fighters attacked enemy tanks and M.T. between EL ADEM and EL DUDA hitting and damaging many vehicles. Fighter. 24th: our fighters shot down 5 M.E. 110 near SIDI OMAR; 3 are missing. A petrol lorry and several other lorries were destroyed on the road South of BARGE.

25th. 20 Tomchawks intercepted about 60 enemy bombers and fighters after they had attacked our ground forces near SIDI REZEK. 10 were destroyed, 3 probably destroyed and 8 damaged. 2 of our fighters are missing. 2 other enemy aircraft were shot down during the day and 4 damaged on the ground.

5 Hlenheims from MALTA successfully attacked a convoy of petrol lorries and mechanical transports near HOMS Libya.

(4) G.A.E.

26th and 26th/27th. Only slight enemy activity. 1 J.U. 88 was brought down by A/A fire and another probably destroyed by fighters. 1 Spitfire night fighter is missing.

(5) Aircraft casualties in operations over and from British Isles:

German:	1 destroyed 1 probable
British:	1 fighter and 3 bombers
	Total 4.

Copy No. 11

~~BRITISH SECRET~~

~~(U.S. SECRET)~~

November, 1941.

OPTEL No. 4.

LIBYA 1330 27th.

Tobruk Forces reached El Duda at 1530 26th where contact was established with some of our New Zealand Troops. In frontier area no material change. Enemy raiding column still being chased by a portion of our Armoured Forces.

REGRADED
UNCLASSIFIED

OPTEL No. 5.

On 27th two of our armoured brigades heavily engaged the enemy moving from area BARDIA - SOLLUM towards EL ADEN in the area 12 miles South of GAMBUT. Heavy battle still continued at 3.15 P.M. Enemy believed to be his raiding column together with garrison of HALFAYA trying to escape.