

GREAT BRITAIN - Military Situation: February-March 1942

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

2nd February, 1942.

~~SECRET~~
Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein copies of the latest reports received from London on the military situation. They were dated the 30th and 31st January.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

(For the Ambassador)

R. J. Campbell

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D.C.

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of British

Govt., Telegram 112/72

By RHP Date FEB 9 1972

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Copy No. 11

~~BRITISH WEST-SECRET~~

~~(U.S. SECRET)~~

By RHP

Date FEB 9 1972

OPTEL No. 36

Information received up to 7 A.M., 30th January, 1942.

An important convoy arrived at SINGAPORE at 5 A.M., on the 29th.

2. MILITARY

LIBYA. Strong enemy columns converging on BENGAZI from the South and East have taken REGIMA. Axis claims to have captured BENGAZI on the morning of the 29th have not been confirmed but our troops have probably withdrawn to avoid being cut off. On the 28th there were two engagements in the area North of MSUS but results are unknown and our forces have taken up new dispositions. There are several small enemy columns of all arms in the area Northeast of MSUS.

MALAYA. By 4:30 P.M. on the 28th the enemy were approximately 40 miles from JOHORE BAHRU on all three points. In the central sector, on this day, a Company of the 27th Australian Brigade, in a bayonet counter attack, caused enemy casualties estimated at 200 without loss. On 29th afternoon an enemy attack, strongly supported by aircraft, was beaten off by this same brigade. Mild tear gas was used by the retreating enemy on both of these occasions.

NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES.

BORNEO. Enemy forces have landed in DUTCH WEST BORNEO near the SARAWAK frontier and our troops have been forced to withdraw.

CELEBES. Dutch forces are still resisting at KENDARI in the South East.

NEW GUINEA AREA. Japanese from a destroyer have landed on ROSSEL ISLAND off south East NEW GUINEA.

RUSSIA. The Russian advance north west of RZHEV has turned in the general direction of VITEBSK. In the DONETS area Russian pressure is maintained and some progress has been made.

3. AIR OPERATIONS

WESTERN FRONT. 29th. 4 Spitfires attacked an alcohol distillery in NORTHERN FRANCE starting fires and destroying one of the cisterns.

29th/30th. 16 heavy bombers were sent to attack the TIRPITZ at TRONDHEIM but failed to locate her.

LIBYA. 27th/28th. Wellingtons dropped 25 tons of bombs on traffic between AGHEILA and ANTELAT and damaged a number of vehicles.

28th. Blenheims bombed M.T. west of MSUS and fighters destroyed more than 50 vehicles, including an ammunition lorry and 5 petrol lorries. About 40 more were damaged and several troops killed.

BURMA. 29th. 40 enemy fighters were intercepted in the RANGOON area by Tomahawks of the American Volunteer Group who are reported to have destroyed 12, probably destroyed 8 and damaged 9 without loss to themselves.

MALAYA. 27th/28th. Our aircraft bombed KUANTAN aerodrome.

27th. Our troops in the forward areas were bombed and machine gunned by enemy aircraft. One enemy fighter was destroyed and another damaged by our fighters. SINGAPORE ISLAND was attacked on the 28th and 29th/29th. Damage was slight.

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Govt. Telegrams

Copy No 11

By RHP

Date FEB 9 1972

OPTTEL NO. 37

Information received up to 7 A.M., 31st January, 1942.

1. NAVAL

One of H.M. Trawlers ~~was~~ sunk in the Humber yesterday by a Junkers 88 which was later shot down. Another is overdue at Gibraltar and must be considered lost and a third was torpedoed off Bardia on 29th. A small Dutch ship was sunk by bombs at Belawan (Sumatra) on 22nd.

2. MILITARY

LIBYA. During the 29th enemy mobile columns were operating towards Toera and an enemy mobile force was in contact with our troops between Maus and Charruba, but withdrew. Our patrols were active west and southwest of Mekili and Tengeder but there was no major engagement during the day.

MALAYA. 4.30 P.M., 30th. Little to report. In the western sector ambushes laid by one of the Indian infantry brigades inflicted satisfactory enemy casualties.

BURMA. 30th. Fighting has again broken out two miles east of Moulmein on the Atarah River. The enemy in the Moulmein area has been reinforced both on the east and north.

CELEBES. Enemy has landed at Buton.

RUSSIA. The Russians have made further progress north of Smolensk towards Vitebsk and also in the Donetz sector towards Dniepropetrovsk.

3. AIR OPERATIONS

Western front. 29th/30th. No aircraft attacked the TIRPITZ owing to thick cloud and severe icing. One Halifax came down in the sea, crew rescued.

30th/31st. A Hudson hit a 900 ton enemy ship off Cuxhaven.

LIBYA. 29th. Sandstorms restricted operations.

29th/30th. Eight Malta Wellingtons attacked mechanical transport and other military objectives between Tripoli (L) and Buerat el Hsun.

Mediterranean. 29th/30th. Naval aircraft torpedoed a 5,000 ton ship probably a tanker going towards Tripoli (L) and set her on fire.

MALAYA. 29th. Two enemy attacks on Seletar aerodrome, Singapore Island, rendered it unserviceable. The first attack was intercepted and twenty-seven bombers jettisoned their bombs. Two of them were destroyed and a third probably destroyed. Considerable damage was caused by incendiaries at Kulai seventeen miles northwest of Johore Bahru.

Netherlands East Indies. 28th.

BORNEO. Enemy aircraft destroyed two Dutch fighters on the ground at Samarunda and also attacked the aerodrome at Pontianak. Other air attacks were reported on Amboina and Sumbawa aerodromes.

NEW BRITAIN. 28th/29th. Five Australian Catalinas attacked Rabaul. At least twelve vessels were seen in the Harbour and two of them were probably hit.

4. Aircraft casualties in operations over and from the British Isles.

German - one destroyed, one damaged.

British - one bomber.

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

2nd February, 1942.

~~SECRET~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein copies of the latest
report received from London on the Military
situation. It was dated 1st February, 1942.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

(For the Ambassador)

R. I. Campbell

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

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

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By Authority of British

Govt, Telegram 16262

By RHP Date FEB 9 1977

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By Authority of British
Govt., Telegram 1412
By RHP Date FEB 9 1972

Copy No. 11

~~BRITISH MOUNT BREST~~

~~(010. 000000)~~

OPTEL No. 38

Information received up to 7 A.M., 1st February, 1942.

1. NAVAL

Photographic reconnaissance on the 31st located the battleship TIRPITZ and a tanker at TRONDHJEM, and another photographic reconnaissance of BREST located the SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU at the torpedo-boat station and PRINZ EUGEN at the coaling wharf. A German ship, probably the SPREENWALD (5,000 tons), reported on 31st in English and German that she had been torpedoed 400 miles North of AZORES and was on fire and sinking and had British prisoners on board. Corvettes have been sent. An ex-United States coastguard cutter has been torpedoed and sunk in the Atlantic while escorting a homeward-bound convoy. An 8,000 ton tanker was torpedoed and abandoned on the 15th East of NEWFOUNDLAND, and survivors from a small Greek ship have been landed at ST. JOHN'S. A medium sized British merchant vessel was sunk by submarine gunfire on the 30th 50 miles East of MADRAS. An 8,000 ton British ship, independently routed from BUENOS AIRES to the UNITED KINGDOM, was torpedoed this morning 300 miles South-East of NEW YORK.

2. MILITARY

LIBYA. On the 31st, there was no forward movement of enemy main bodies, which were in the area BENINA-MSUS. Their patrols were, however, active as far as MARATA. Our forces were approximately on a line EL GARIB-CHARRUBA-TENGEDER with patrols pushed well forward. Part of the 7th Indian Infantry Brigade, which had been cut off in the BENHAZI area, has broken through and is reorganizing.

MALAYA. During the night 30th/31st. Our forces effected their withdrawal to SINGAPORE ISLAND in spite of continued enemy pressure. The causeway has been breached. Part of an Indian Brigade which was cut off two days previously has not yet rejoined during five nights beginning 26th/27th, the Royal Navy evacuated nearly 2,000 all ranks, British and Indian, who had been cut off on the West Coast of JOHORE.

BURMA. On the 30th, MOULMEIN was heavily attacked, and fighting continued throughout the night. During the 31st, our troops were withdrawn to the West bank of the SALWEEN RIVER.

RUSSIA. South-East of VYAZMA, the Russians have made further progress towards the town. In the DONETS Sector Russian attacks are continuing.

3. AIR OPERATIONS

WESTERN FRONT. 31st. A Hudson bombed a 3,500 ton freighter in convoy off HOLLAND. Two hits were followed by smoke from amidships. 31st January/1st February. 131 aircraft were sent out - BREST 72, ST. NAZAIRE 31, HAVRE 14, leaflets 13. Five bombers are missing. Results were mainly unobserved owing to heavy cloud. 12 R.C.A.F. aircraft participated without casualties.

LIBYA. 29th/30th. Wellingtons and Liberators bombed enemy supply columns in the AGHUILA-JEDABYA Area. Aircraft attacked military objectives at MISURATA and mechanical transport parks south of TRIPOLI (L). They also hit an 8,000 ton merchant vessel north of TRIPOLI and a 4,000 ton ship off CAPE BON. Both vessels were left stationary and listing.

MALTA. On the 30th and 31st. Enemy aircraft caused slight damage at HAL FAR aerodrome which, with TAKALI water-logged, remains unserviceable. Dockyard property was also damaged.

MALAYA. 30th. Enemy aircraft bombed the docks area at SINGAPORE, and on 31st SELETAR aerodrome was attacked by 27 heavy bombers. Some buildings were destroyed and the aerodrome is still unserviceable. Our fighters destroyed four enemy aircraft, probably destroyed one and damaged one. Two of our fighters are missing.

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.
February 3rd, 1942.

~~Secret~~

Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

(For the Ambassador)

R. I. Campbell

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

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

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of British

Govt. Telegram 11/3/72

By RHP FEB 9 1972

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Copy No. 11

Sub, Telegram 11/2/72

~~BRITISH WEST SECRET~~

By RHP Date FEB 9 1972

~~(U.S. SECRET)~~

OPTEL No. 39

Information received up to 7 A.M., 2nd February, 1942.

1. NAVAL

1st. One of H. M. destroyers shot down a JU 88 off CORNWALL and one of our corvettes shot down a Focke Wulf off the west coast of IRELAND.

Two British naval auxiliary vessels were sunk by bombs off the east coast of SUMATRA on the 22nd. A 5,000 ton British merchant vessel was torpedoed 300 miles off CAPE RACE on the 26th. Survivors have been landed at HALIFAX.

2. MILITARY

LIBYA. 31st. An Indian Division was engaged by the enemy in the evening withdrew to approximately north-south line through SIONTA. Our columns were active in the GHARGUBA area and to the south, and a South African armoured car regiment drove back small columns in the locality 15 miles south of CHAR-RUBA and in the MSUS area. On the morning of the 1st, 3 columns of enemy M.T. were reported to be moving east in the MARAWA-CHARRUBA areas.

SINGAPORE. 31st/1st. Our artillery carried out harrassing fire on concentration of small craft and on 1st engaged enemy troops on the mainland.

NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES. The Japanese attack in north-west BORNEO is progressing.

RUSSIA. FINLAND and LENINGRAD sectors. Nothing new. LAKE ILMEN - LAKE SELOGER sector. Further Russian advance southwest of Kholm and southwest of TOROPETS. Central Sector. Southwest of ZAPADNAYA DVINA Russians have made considerable progress and now hold VELIZH (50 miles northeast of VITEBSK). Russian attack on HELY has been held but weak Russian forces including paratroopers are astride the SMOLENSK - VYASMA Road and Russian cavalry has reached BORKOVA area from the north. Northwest of YUKHENOV Russians have reached a point 20 miles E.S.E. of VYASMA. General Mason MacFarlane reported on 29th that west of MOSCOW the line ran north and south through GJATSK and that Russian advance here was meeting with considerable opposition. Northeast of KURSK German counter attacks successful. DONETS Front. Further considerable Russian progress. Area of penetration widened and deepened. Main axis of advance towards PAVLODAR. Indications that large scale German concentric counter attack about to develop.

CRIMEA. German capture of FEODOSIA confirmed. Line now runs north and south across narrowest part of KERCH ISTHUS.

CONCLUSIONS. MOST IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS.

- (i) Extensions of Russian drive towards LENINGRAD-CRSHA railway.
- (ii) Further German withdrawal from salient west of MOSCOW coupled with Russian pincer movement to envelop remaining German forces in this area.
- (iii) Continued progress by Russian counter offensive in DONETS area which is assuming considerable proportions. Unless German counter attack can restore situation, withdrawal to DNIEPER line may prove inevitable which might even result in Germans having to abandon CRUEA.

3. AIR OPERATIONS

LIBYA. 30th/31st. Wellingtons dropped 45 tons of bombs on M.T. between AGHEILA and JEDABYA. Wellingtons attacked an M.T. depot south of TRIPOLI.

31st. Hurricanes destroyed transport and inflicted casualties on troops on the GHEMINES Road.

BURMA. 1st. Blenheims bombed KADO near MARTABAN and inflicted considerable damage on river craft.

PACIFIC. 30th/31st. 5 R.A.A.F. Catalinas bombed RABAU aerodrome and enemy aircraft attacked SALAMAUA (northeast NEW GUINEA).

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

German - 2 destroyed.

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

February 4th, 1942

~~SECRET~~

Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Halifax

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

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

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of British

Govt, Telegram 12122

By RHP Date FEB 9 1972

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By Authority of British

Copy No. 11

~~BRITISH HONOR SECRET~~

Gen. Telegram 112122
FEB 9 1972

~~(U.S. SECRET)~~

OPTEL No. 40

By RHP Date _____

Information received up to 7 A.M., 3 February, 1942.

1. NAVAL

Two of H.M. trawlers were sunk by bombs yesterday off the East Coast. One of H.M. submarines scored a hit on a merchant ship off SICILY on 25/1. A Dutch tanker was torpedoed east of HALIFAX on the 1st/2nd.

2. MILITARY

LIBYA. Situation to morning of 2nd showed the 4th Indian Division, less the 7th Brigade, had successfully withdrawn east of the line CYRENE - EL FAIDIA. The remainder of our forward troops are disposed south of this line. Enemy mobile forces closely followed up the 4th Indian Division, but further south have not repeat not attempted to advance beyond the MSUS and CHARRUBA areas, where our mobile patrols have been in contact. Most of the 7th Indian Brigade and attached artillery have rejoined although much of this brigade's equipment had to be destroyed. It is thought that not more than 1,000 of our troops have been captured in the operations around BENHAZI.

SINGAPORE. No enemy ground activity. Air raid casualties 30th sixty-five killed.

BURMA. The Japanese are building rafts near MOULMEIN for crossing the river SALWEEN.

RUSSIA. The spearhead of the Russian drive in the DONETS sector has now advanced to within less than fifty miles of DNEIPROPETROVSK.

3. AIR OPERATIONS

WESTERN FRONT. 2nd. Two Spitfires sent to northwest FRANCE met six Me. 109's. One enemy aircraft was destroyed and two damaged. One Spitfire was lost. Four Beauforts attacked a 5,000 ton tanker off BREST and estimated at least one hit. Two of them crashed into the sea.

LIBYA. 31st/1st. Wellingtons dropped twenty tons of bombs on enemy mechanical transport in the AGHEILA and JEDABYA areas. Two Fortresses dropped two tons on MISURATA. Nine enemy aircraft bombed EL ADEM aerodrome destroying one of our aircraft severely damaging four and slightly damaging twelve.

SINGAPORE. 31st/1st. 1st and 2nd. Enemy aircraft attacked our aerodromes and the Naval base. Slight damage was caused at KALPANG aerodrome and SELETAR remains unserviceable. Our troops and anti-aircraft guns were dive-bombed without damage or casualties.

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Copy No. 11By Authority of BritishGovt. TelegramsBy RHP Date FEB 9 1972OPTTEL No. 41

Following is supplementary resumé of operational events covering the period 22nd-29th January, 1942.

1. NAVAL

Casualties reported in the loss of H.M.S. BARHAM were 56 officers and 808 ratings. 717 ratings are missing from H.M.S. NEPTUNE. All ships were successfully evacuated from BENGHAZI. Over forty U-boats were operating in the North Atlantic, a large number of them being concentrated off the North American Coast. Others have been reported off BERMUDA, AZORES, West of IRELAND, and near GIBRALTAR. The estimated strength of the German submarine fleet on 3rd January was 230, of which about sixty had been commissioned in the last three months. Shipping casualties were heavier than in recent weeks largely due to submarine attacks off the East coast of North America where 17 ships were torpedoed. In Eastern waters two ships were sunk by submarine, two by aircraft and one by mine. Late notification of losses sustained in the previous week also contributed to the increased total. Imports in convoy into the United Kingdom during the week ending 24th were 1,014,000 tons including 367,000 tons of oil. Estimated Japanese losses which at present can only be approximate are as follows: (First figure - sunk, second figure damaged.)

Battleships	one	two
Cruisers	Three	eight
Destroyers	seven	four
Aircraft Carriers	nil	one
Submarines	four	nil
Merchant Vessels	Thirty-two	no estimate

2. MILITARY

GERMANY. While the fighting on the Russian front continues at its present intensity, no large transfers of German divisions are possible but some minor tendencies are observable. The number of German divisions in the Balkans has probably been reduced and it is even possible that none remain in ROMANIA and BULGARIA. Every available division has been sent to the Russian front including probably at least one from YUGOSLAVIA, its place being taken there by Bulgarian troops. About seven low category divisions in FRANCE appear to have changed places with an equal number of tired divisions from the Russian front. There has been some slight movement of troops from Western France to the stretch of coast between DUNKIRK and HAVRE which serves to confirm the absence of any intention in the near future against SPAIN. Lastly but possibly of considerable importance, one German division together with G.H.Q. troops, anti-aircraft regiments, etc., may perhaps have arrived in ITALY from GERMANY. Reports of one or two new German armoured divisions being created in FRANCE probably refer merely to tank training schools. The German army remains stretched to the utmost in coping with its tasks.

LIBYA. Rommel's force, advancing rapidly through JEDABYA, scored a tactical victory over the armoured troops which we had available in the forward area. His tank units showed as markedly as ever their high training in mechanised open warfare, and on this occasion particularly the accuracy of their shooting. He inflicted on us heavy tank casualties, so that he has not only seized the initiative but has placed himself at a considerable advantage and can hope for the moment to retain it. This does not necessarily imply a further continued eastwards advance by the enemy but that with our temporarily reduced tank strength we cannot now hope to resume the offensive as early as we had intended. The enemy also will have his transport and supply problems to solve as he thus extends his line of communication, he is likely to renew his efforts to transport supplies from ITALY, and an unconfirmed report indicates the possible future despatch to TRIPOLI of another Italian armoured division.

FAR EAST. In the PHILIPPINES, the enemy seems to be preparing to attempt a final assault on the positions of the UNITED STATES troops in the BATAAN PENINSULA. In MALAYA though he has reached the JOHORE STRAIT, it is not certain that he will proceed to storm SINGAPORE. Both here and at MANILA there is a possibility of his resorting to siege tactics, rather than aiming at the immediate capture of these two points which would be costly for him, towards BURMA, the enemy seems likely to intensify his attack (already another Japanese division is probably on the way towards MOUWEIN from SOUTH INDO CHINA) in the hope of capturing RANGOON and blocking the BURMA ROAD.

RUSSIA. The Russian advance on a wide front from the DONETS BASIN is progressing well and may prove at least as important as the twin thrusts in the north (west of RZHEV and west of KALUGA) between the MOZHAISK salient is diminishing as the Germans withdraw towards VYASMA, for on the KHARKOV - STALINO front, the enemy was entrenched on a strong line, which he had evidently intended to hold throughout the winter. His dislodgement from this line, which is now taking place, threatens his whole position in the triangle DNIROPETROVSK-TAGANROG-MELITOPOL'. The Russian advance in this sector is the more creditable inasmuch as it has to be made for the most part through industrial country. As the enemy retires towards the DNIEPER, his lateral supply difficulties in the centre, between SMOLENSK and DNIROPETROVSK, must increase with the cutting of the relatively few north-south railways. In general the Russian offensive continues, and there are as yet no indications as to where and when the Germans will be able to stabilise the line.

BALKANS. Reports of severe weather conditions arrive from all parts of south-east EUROPE. The DANUBE is closed to all shipping, and ice-floes have formed on the BLACK SEA for the first time since 1929. Serious dislocation of railway traffic in RUMANIA.

SINGAPORE. Japanese combined operations tactics. The landing at KOTA BHARU on 8th December was made from three transports between midnight and 2 A.M. at high tide. The sea was very rough and Japanese losses from drowning were heavy. Prior to the operations, two boats landed small parties of engineers to fix two guiding lights. These craft were not heard owing to the noise of the surf. There was no supporting fire during the initial landing. Japanese aircraft arrived about 5 A.M. The first main landings were made up-creek. Supporting fire from ships was directed against pill boxes which were situated near the top of the beach. The M.G. fire from these pill boxes, combined with the barbed wire defences caused heavy casualties among the Japanese. Before the KOTA BHARU landing, practice landings had been carried out off HAINAN. The landing party carried rice for five days and emergency rations for one day.

3. AIR OPERATIONS

WESTERN FRONT. Our night bombers met with better weather and some attacks took place in excellent visibility, a total of 530 tons of high explosive bombs were released, in the principal operations, 228 tons were dropped on occupied territory and 192 tons on GERMANY. Enemy activity insignificant.

MEDITERRANEAN.

LIBYA. Our bombers and fighters carried out a series of continuous and highly successful operations, inflicting heavy casualties on troops and vehicles. Shipping in TRIPOLI HARBOUR was heavily attacked by Wellingtons. Much activity by enemy fighters in form of sweeps over the battle area and dive bomber escorts, the majority of German long range bombers operated from GREECE against our coastal sea and land communications.

MALTA. Heavy raids continued, in three days, 165 aircraft attacked the island particularly the aerodromes. Our fighters were hampered by weather and water-logged aerodromes but made some interceptions.

BURMA. Japanese aircraft attempting to bomb the RANGOON aerodromes were severely dealt with by our fighters and those of the American Volunteer Group.

MALAYA. Our air operations were directed chiefly against Japanese troops, their communications, concentration areas and bases. A landing force escorted by naval units was attacked off ENDAU. The Japanese heavily bombed our aerodromes on SINGAPORE ISLAND, putting two of them temporarily out of action, destroying 13 aircraft on the ground and damaging 38. Our fighters intercepted and on some occasions forced the enemy to jettison their bombs. But on the whole, Japanese air losses in these raids were not heavy.

4. Extracts from photographic and intelligence reports on results of air attacks on enemy territory in EUROPE.

COLOGNE. 11th/12th December. Bombs fell on the BERLIN-COLOGNE express as it was entering the main station and also on one of the big (* 8 groups missing).

* Called for.

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

February 5th, 1942

~~SECRET~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
the latest report received from London
on the military situation. It was
dated February 4th, 1942.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Halifax

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of *British Hist.*

Telegram 11/2/72

By *RHP* FEB 9 1972

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By Authority of British

Copy No. 11

Govt. Telegram 11/2/72

~~BRITISH MOST SECRET~~

By RHP Date FEB 9 1972

~~(U.S. SECRET)~~

OPTEL No. 42

Information received up to 7 A.M., 4th February, 1942.

1. NAVAL

One of H.M. submarines attacked a convoy of three merchant vessels escorted by three destroyers south of MESSINA. A ship of 3,500 tons was hit and probably sunk. A Swedish 15,000 ton vessel was torpedoed on the 3rd off CAPE HATTERAS, and a small British merchant ship was torpedoed off HALIFAX on the 4th. No further details.

2. MILITARY

LIBYA. The withdrawal of our forces pivoting on MEKILI continued during the night 2/3rd, and our line now runs north east to south west from TMIMI in direction of TENGEDER. There is no sign that this withdrawal has been followed up, and it would appear that the enemy are still in the MSUS area and east of CYRENE. Our mobile columns and fighting patrols are acting west and southwest of MEKILI. Air reported 2nd. Area MSUS - EL ABIAR and all western CYRENAICA water-logged. A South African detachment has returned from a raid near BUERAT EL HSUN. 21 enemy mechanical transport, including two largest type tank lorries with trailer, were destroyed, communications were cut and some casualties inflicted. No publicity given.

3. AIR OPERATIONS

LIBYA. 1st. 4 Beaufighters attacked mechanical transport and petrol lorries in the SIRTE area. Blenheims also bombed mechanical transport west of BUERAT EL HSUN, no large convoys were seen. Fighters patrolled over our troops but no enemy aircraft were seen.

1st/2nd. Four Wellingtons attacked mechanical transport in the area south west of JEDABYA.

MEDITERRANEAN. 2nd/3rd. Four Naval aircraft registered one and possibly two hits on a merchant vessel. Five Wellingtons attacked NAPLES and hits were seen on the docks, railway marshalling yards and the repair base. Another Wellington hit the quay at PALERMO with a four thousand pound bomb. Hurricanes patrolled over Sicilian aerodromes and destroyed one bomber on the ground.

MALTA. 2nd/3rd. 3rd. A total of 30 aircraft attacked. Serious damage to the slipway and to a Sunderland was caused at KALAFRANA. One Junkers 88 was probably destroyed by anti-aircraft fire.

BURMA. 3rd. 20 bombers and 9 Fighters carried out a raid on TOUNGOO. No damage is reported.

MALAYA. 2nd/3rd. 47 heavy bombers attacked SINGAPORE, warehouses at the docks and an oil cistern were set on fire. Considerable material damage was caused and there were some military casualties. Civilian labour has disappeared. One bomber was shot down by anti-aircraft guns. Attacks were also made on shipping south of SINGAPORE ISLAND.

4. Reference my OPTEL No. 34, paragraph 4.

The abnormal movements of oil from GERMANY to ITALY through BASLE have evidently been less than was stated. It is now reliably estimated that the total transported by this route between December 12th and January 18th was 50-80,000 tons.

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

~~SECRET~~
6th February, 1942.

Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Halifax

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

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of *British*

Govt. Telegram 112672
BY *RHP* FEB 9 1972

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of British

Copy No. 11

Sub., Telegram Unit

By RHP Date FEB 9 1972

~~(U.S. Source)~~

OPTEL No. 43

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

1. NAVAL

3rd/4th. H.M. Destroyer ATHERSTONE in company with a Polish destroyer engaged two laden eastbound ships off the CHANNEL ISLANDS and left them sinking. A photographic reconnaissance of BREST on the 4th showed the PRINZ EUGEN entering the roadstead, the pilot of the aircraft reported seeing two other large ships with the PRINZ EUGEN, but these were not covered by the photograph. H.M. submarine P. 36 torpedoed a merchant vessel of about 5,000 tons off TRIPOLI (L) on the 24th. A small Panamanian merchant ship was torpedoed on the 4th south of DELAWARE BAY and is reported sinking.

2. MILITARY

LIBYA. Enemy infantry attacked our troops in the THIMI area on the afternoon of the 3rd and were repulsed. We are now holding positions between GAZALA and the TRIGH EL ABD with armoured patrols covering the front.

SINGAPORE. On the 4th the enemy shelled the naval base and SEMBawang aerodrome but caused no damage. Our artillery engaged targets in JOHORE BAHRU.

BURMA. Japanese forces on the BURMA front are now estimated at one division in the MOULMEIN-YESOD area, one division further north with headquarters at CHIENG-MAI, and one division with tank units, in reserve centred on BANGKOK, with probably detachments on the TAVOY COAST.

NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES. There are indications that the Japanese are planning to occupy aerodromes in the PALEMBANG area in SUMATRA.

3. AIR OPERATIONS

LIBYA. 3rd. Hurricanes attacked considerable eastbound traffic on roads west of DERNA and east of MARTUBA causing many casualties.

SICILY. 4th. Blenheims attacked railway communications near PALERMO. 3 are missing and another crashed on return.

MALTA. During enemy raids on aerodromes between the 2nd and 4th, one Hurricane was destroyed on the ground and serious damage was caused to buildings at TAKALI aerodrome where big craters were caused.

A second attack on KALAFRANA caused negligible damage. Our fighters, three of which are missing, damaged 4 enemy raiders and A.A. fire damaged a fifth.

MALAYA. SINGAPORE was raided several times on the 4th but most of the bombs fell in the sea. Two enemy aircraft were probably destroyed and two others damaged by A.A. fire.

File
BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

February 7th, 1942

~~SECRET~~

Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Kaufman

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

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

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of *British Int.*

Telegram 11/21/72

By *RHP* Date *FEB 9 1972*

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of BritishCopy No. 11Short, Telegram 142/2By RHP Date FEB 9 1972~~BRITISH WOOD GROUPS~~
~~(U.S. GROUPS)~~OPTEL No. 44

Information received up to 7 A.M., 6th February, 1942.

1. NAVAL

One of H.M. Corvettes, escorting an outward convoy, was torpedoed on night 5th/6th North West of IRELAND, 39 survivors have been picked up. An enemy aircraft was destroyed by a small British merchant ship off the Humber yesterday. Aircraft attacks on shipping off SINGAPORE on the 2nd and 3rd results in four ships, totalling about 25,000 tons and including one tanker, being set on fire. One of them had to be abandoned and another beached. In addition, a small ship was sunk. A 5,000 ton British ship, on convoy to RUSSIA, is overdue and must be considered lost.

2. MILITARY

LIBYA. 5th. There was slight enemy movement eastwards along road from DERNA and CARMUSA and in the area midway between TMIMI and MEKILI.

SINGAPORE. Exchanges of artillery fire continue.

BURMA. 4th. Situation generally satisfactory. Enemy activity at PAAN is increasing. Our troops in this area are now west of the River SALWEEN. Several parties of our troops which were cut off at MOULMEIN have now rejoined.

3. AIR OPERATIONS

LIBYA. On the 3rd/4th and 4th enemy mechanical transport was bombed and machine gunned on the BENHAZI-BARCE Road and in the MARTUPT area. On the 4th/5th, seven Wellingtons attacked a mechanical transport park south of TRIPOLI starting many fires which developed into a large blaze.

MALTA. 5th. 88 enemy fighters and bombers operated, their chief objective being delivery aircraft.

BURMA. 4th. 12 bombers, escorted by 15 fighters, attacked TOUNGOO aerodrome and damaged one Blenheim and three Lysanders. Two Hurricanes were also slightly damaged. Two of our Blenheims bombed PAAN.

SINGAPORE. 3rd. Civilian casualties 22 killed. 4th. Our troops and patrol craft in the northern part of the island were dive bombed and shipping south east of SINGAPORE was attacked. On the 5th, enemy bombing caused considerable damage to civilian property in various districts.

PACIFIC AREA. 3rd/4th. Five R.A.A.F. Catalinas attacked shipping at RABUL. One large vessel was probably hit. 4th. Enemy flying boats attacked PORT MORESBY and damaged the power station and telephone systems.

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

February 9th, 1942

~~SECRET~~

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
the latest report received from London
on the military situation. It was
dated February 7th, 1942.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Halifax

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

DECLASSIFIED
By Authority of *British Govt.*
Telegram 1/2/72
By *RHP* Date *FEB 9 1972*

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of BritishCopy No. 11Naval Telegram Sub~~BRITISH NAVAL SECRET~~~~(U.S. SECRET)~~OPTEL No. 45By RHPDate FEB 9 1972

Information received up to 7 A.M., 7th February, 1942.

1. NAVAL

On the afternoon of the 6th during an attack on an East Coast convoy two enemy aircraft were damaged by the escorting Naval units. The convoy was undamaged. A small British merchant vessel bombed on the 5th off the HUMBER is now presumed sunk. All crew safe. A British tanker torpedoed on the 3rd 30 miles West of COLOMBO has returned to port safely. The EMPRESS OF ASIA is practically burnt out but it is possible that contents of holds may be salvaged.

2. MILITARY

LIBYA. 6th morning. There was little enemy movement either North-West of GAZALA or in the MSUS area. Patrols were however reported at MEKILI and on the Coast road ten miles West of GAZALA. Our line runs Southward from GAZALA with fighting patrols and mobile columns operating to the West and North-West.

SINGAPORE. There has been increased enemy shelling of SELATAR Naval base and aerodrome. Enemy dive bombing and machine gun attacks on our forward areas on the North shore of the Island caused only slight casualties.

BURMA. There has been increased enemy patrolling activity at PAAN. Enemy (7cavalry) and our carriers in action. Small enemy forces have crossed the River SALWEEN 120 miles North of MARTABAN and have engaged in the PAPUN area.

3. AIR OPERATIONS

WESTERN FRONT. 6th. One of our aircraft is missing from a mine-laying mission. 6th/7th. Sixty bombers were sent to attack the German ships at BREST. One is missing and two crashed on return. Three members of crews killed.

MALTA. 6th. 63 enemy aircraft attacked and caused much damage to property. Two were shot down by A.A. fire.

LIBYA. 5th. Our fighters attacked enemy motor transport near THERM. They also intercepted and dispersed three enemy formations which attacked EL ADEM aerodrome during the day destroying one, M.E. 110, probably destroying one JJ 63 and damaging two others. One Tomahawk was destroyed on the ground. 5th/6th. Wellingtons again bombed the motor transport park south of TRIPOLI (L).

BURMA. 4th. Eleven Lysanders bombed and machine-gunned an enemy aerodrome damaging hangars and destroying one aircraft on the ground. 5th. PAAN was attacked by Hlenheims and a building, thought to be Japanese Headquarters was hit. 6th. RANGOON was attacked by thirty enemy fighters, ten were destroyed and ten others probably destroyed without loss to ourselves.

SINGAPORE. 4th. Civilian casualties. 42 killed. Final total killed December, 178. January, 1494. 6th. The town was attacked by 20 heavy bombers escorted by fighters but little damage was caused. Our fighters destroyed one aircraft and damaged four others. Our losses, two Hurricanes, one pilot safe.

4. NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES

There are indications of imminent enemy action against MACASSAR, SUMBAWA and South-East SUMATRA.

Corrigendum to OPTEL No. 44. Paragraph 2, LIBYA. for "road" read "roads".

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

SECRET
9th February, 1942.

Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Harfax

The Honourable
Franklin D. Roosevelt,

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

DECLASSIFIED
By Authority of *British Govt.*
Telegram 112172
By *RHP* Date *FEB 9 1972*

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of British

Copy No. 11

Gen. Telegram Index
By RHP Date FEB 9 1972

~~BRITISH MOST SECRET~~

~~(S.E. SECRET)~~

OPTEL No. 46

Information received up to 7 A.M., 8th February, 1942.

1. NAVAL ATTACKS ON SHIPPING

By raider 5th/6th. Small Panamanian ship attacked 800 miles North East of BERMUDA. 25 survivors.

By submarine 7th. British vessel, 6,500 tons, reported being shelled off HALIFAX. Survivors have been landed at LISBON from a 9,000 ton Norwegian tanker outward bound in convoy for ARUBA.

By air. EMPRESS OF JAPAN 26,000 tons, DUCHESS OF BEDFORD, 20,000 tons and U.S. WAKEFIELD, 42,000 tons, damaged at SINGAPORE on 30th. At PADANG, NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES, on 29th January, 13,900 tons of Dutch shipping were sunk.

2. MILITARY

LIBYA. On the 6th, our armoured car patrols were operating on the general line TENGEDER to 40 miles due South while Infantry patrols to MEKILI and the area midway between MEKILI and MSUS reported no enemy movement. On the GAZALA front the enemy are digging in.

BURMA. The situation has been mainly quiet but there have been enemy concentrations of barges and considerable activity in the KADO area South of PAAN.

SINGAPORE. On the 7th, the enemy shelled our positions frequently but ineffectively. An A.I.F. boat patrol suffered slight casualties. One enemy craft with 30 men was sunk by our machine gun fire.

RUSSIA. The Russians are meeting with increased resistance in the KURSK area and in their advance towards DNEPROPETROVSK.

3. AIR OPERATIONS

7th. 3 of our aircraft are missing from a mine laying operation. One German fighter was destroyed during the day.

LIBYA. 5th. Two squadrons of Blenheims scored many direct hits on M.T. in the MARTUBA area. It is estimated that about 100 vehicles were destroyed or damaged during the day.

5th/6th. 24 Wellingtons bombed BENGHAZI and covered a successful mine-laying operation by other aircraft. Two Liberators from EGYPT dropped 7 tons of bombs on TRIPOLI docks.

6th. Our fighters continued their attack on enemy motor transport. 3 Blenheims sent to attack two ships unloading at BUERAT EL HSUN were shot down during their return.

6th/7th. One 600 ton merchant vessel was hit off CAPE BON and another 6,000 ton ship southbound was torpedoed off SFAX. One Swordfish is missing. 7 Wellingtons bombed SIRTE.

MAJTA. 6th and 7th. A total of 99 enemy bombers and fighters attacked HAL FAR and damaged some buildings. One enemy fighter was destroyed by A.A. fire.

BURMA. 6th. 6 Lysanders, with fighter escort, bombed and machine gunned jetties and the railway station at MOULMEIN. On the 5th/6th, 13 enemy bombers attacked HINGALADOO without causing serious damage and on the 6th-7th RANGOON was raided. Our fighters destroyed 4 bombers and probably destroyed two more.

SINGAPORE. 7th. Heavy air raids reported on following areas: CHANGI R.E. Stores Depots. KALLANG - aerodrome and GEYLANG - Eastern suburbs. An R.E. explosives dump was hit and the railway station damaged. One enemy bomber was destroyed and one probably destroyed.

JAVA. 6th. SOURABAYA was again attacked and some damage caused.

4. There are indications of increased Japanese activity on the SALWEEN River about 100 miles north of MOULMEIN and on the SIAM-BURMA frontier north of CHIENG MAI. Also of Japanese troop convoys near the ANAMBAS ISLANDS, at BALIK-PAPAN and off the south west promontory of the CELEBES.

5. On the 3rd and 4th, three French ships arrived at TUNIS and another was discharged there. All four have previously been reported as carrying lorries and supplies from MARSEILLE to TUNIS destined for LIBYA.

6. Passenger train services have recently been still further reduced throughout German occupied and controlled territory, the immediate reasons varying between operating difficulties due to severe weather, essential military movements and transportation of fuel and food and coal shortage. While these reasons are plausible and correct as short term explanations, the scale and extent of these reductions reflect the increasing strain upon the European railway system.

7. The recent arrival of two more enemy cargo ships at ISTANBUL and the accumulation there of cargo for both GERMANY and ITALY suggests a resumption of regular sea traffic between TRIESTE and ISTANBUL.

8. A German ship recently arrived at FERROL with a cargo of 6,900 tons believed to be rubber. It now seems clear that the Spanish have given permission to the Germans to tranship this cargo for transportation in German motor barges to BAYONNE.

CORRECTION TO OPTEL No. 41.

Page 4, para 4, line 4. Read "One of the biggest Cinemas".

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

~~SECRET~~

February 10, 1942.

Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Hanfex

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

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

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of *British*

Govt., Telegram 112/72

By *RHP* Date *FEB 9 1972*

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of British

Copy No. 11

Short Telegrams ~~BRITISH WEST SECRET~~
By RHP Date FEB 9 1972 ~~(S.C. SECRET)~~

OPTEL No. 47

Information received up to 7 A.M., 9th February, 1942.

1. NAVAL

One of H.M. submarines was damaged in collision with an enemy destroyer which she had unsuccessfully attacked off ARGOSTOLI on the 8th and is returning to port. A Free French corvette was torpedoed and sunk on the 8th off NEWFOUNDLAND.

2. MILITARY

LIBYA. Nothing to report.

SINGAPORE. 8th. The enemy after heavy artillery fire landed in unknown strength on the northwest coast on a front of about 5,000 (5,000) yards. On the same day a small force landed on UBIN ISLAND, JOHORE STRAIT, and our patrols withdrew after inflicting casualties.

BURMA. Reference OPTEL No. 45, BURMA paragraph. Small force in PAPUN area turned out to be thirty Siamese irregulars who have been dispersed by the police forces.

NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES. AMBOINA is reported almost entirely in enemy hands although guerilla fighting continues.

3. AIR OPERATIONS

WESTERN FRONT. 8th. Coastal command sent twenty-three aircraft which included some R.C.A.F., on anti-shipping operations off the Dutch coast. A 4,000 ton merchant vessel was hit. Three aircraft are missing including one R.C.A.F. and one crashed. A Hudson bombed a 3,500 ton ship off the Norwegian coast leaving her low in the water and listing. One of our fighters shot down an enemy bomber near OSTEND.

LIBYA. 7th/8th. Wellingtons claimed at least three hits on shipping at TRIPOLI (L) and naval sources report that aircraft set on fire a merchant vessel near LAMPEDUSA ISLAND.

MALTA. 7th. In addition to the raids reported yesterday sixty-one enemy aircraft attacked HAL FAR and LUQA aerodromes. At the former serious damage was done to stores and administrative buildings and many craters were made on the aerodrome. 7th/8th. Further craters were made at HAL FAR and some aircraft on the ground were hit. Buildings at KALAFRANA were severely damaged.

BURMA. 7th. Hurricanes made a low altitude sweep over MOULMEIN and attacked suitable objectives. 8th. Bombers, in support of our ground

forces attacked a concentration of boats and barges near PAAN. Enemy fighters were intercepted by Hurricanes and American Tomahawks over MINGALADON on the 7th. Two Japanese fighters were destroyed, two probably destroyed and four damaged. 7th/8th. MINGALADON and its satellite were bombed with little damage.

4. ICE CONDITIONS

BALTIC. The belts are closed. Navigation in the Sound is just possible with icebreakers.

NORTH SEA. The inner end of OSLO FJORD is probably closed. Southern Norwegian ports east of and including KRISTIANSAND (S) are difficult of access. There is ice up to the ten-fathom line off the west coast of DENMARK. HAMBURG is probably closed. Traffic in and out of the Dutch ports north of ROTTERDAM must be very restricted.

DENMARK STRAIT. There is a channel about sixty miles wide between the edge of the pack ice and the northwest point of ICELAND (C).

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

~~SECRET~~
11th February, 1942.

Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

(For the Ambassador)

R. I. Campbell

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

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

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of *British*

Govt. Telegram 11/2/72

By *RHP* FEB 9 1972

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of British

Copy No. 11

Short, Telegram data
By RHP FEB 9 1972

~~BRITISH WASTE SECRET~~

~~(U.S. SECRET)~~

OPTEL No. 48

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

1. NAVAL

Photographic reconnaissances on the ninth showed the three German ships still at BREST with four destroyers and TIRPITZ at TRONDHEIM.

The Free French corvette yesterday reported sunk is still afloat and in tow.

A 9,000 ton Norwegian tanker was torpedoed on the morning of the 9th off North West SCOTLAND but is still afloat.

2. MILITARY

LIBYA. A column which moved out to attack the enemy on the 7th reached a point 13 miles south of TIMMI on the 8th. Progress was slow owing to the nature of the ground and well-concealed enemy artillery. A South African Patrol encountered the enemy nine miles west of GAZALA and another patrol reached a point 18 miles south-east of MEXILI without making contact.

SINGAPORE. During the night 8th/9th, enemy landed at several points on the north-west coast of SINGAPORE ISLAND under cover of very heavy artillery fire. Considerable infiltration was made before dawn and strong enemy parties had reached the neighborhood TENGAH-BULIM (four miles inland from north-west shore) by mid-day 9th. A counter-attack at TENGAH by A.I.F. is thought to have been unsuccessful. Our troops are withdrawing under pressure to a general north-south line SUNGEI KRANJI-SUNGEI JURONG, about three miles west of BUKIT TIMAH on the SINGAPORE-JOHORE BAHRU road. The enemy attack is supported by constant dive-bombing and machine-gunning. Both coast defence guns at PASIR LABA on the west coast were put out of action by enemy dive-bombing and were later demolished by our own troops. Northern area has been comparatively quiet with intermittent enemy artillery fire, particularly directed on PAYA LEBAR and the west end of the naval base. Damage and casualties slight.

3. AIR OPERATIONS

LIBYA. 7th/8th. 11 Wellingtons bombed BENGHAZI and BERCA aerodromes and covered successful mine laying by other Wellingtons.

8th. Blenheims destroyed one aircraft on the ground at DERNA aerodrome and Kittyhawks acting as escort destroyed three German fighters in the air. Four Kittyhawks lost, one pilot safe.

MALTA. During the 8th and 9th a total of seven Junkers 88 and 32 Messerschmidts 109 bombed TAKALI. Anti-aircraft damaged one Junkers 88.

SINGAPORE. 8th. Enemy aircraft made three heavy attacks in the CHANGI and TENGAH area but caused no serious damage. Hurricanes probably destroyed one bomber and damaged two more.

9th. Our fighters were in the air almost continually throughout the day against greatly superior numbers. They destroyed two enemy bombers and probably destroyed three fighters and damaged nine others. Two Hurricanes were lost. Enemy landings necessitated evacuation of TENGAH aerodrome and the destruction of some Swordfish aircraft.

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

February 12th, 1942

~~SECRET~~

Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Halifax

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

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

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of *British Govt.*

Telegram 1/12/72
FEB 9 1972
By *RHP*

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of *British Govt.*Copy No. 11*Telegram 11/1/72*~~SECRET~~By *RHP* FEB 9 1972~~(U.S. Source)~~OPTEL No. 49

Following is supplementary resume of operational events covering the period 29th January - 5th February, 1942.

1. NAVAL

Axis shipping casualties in the MEDITERRANEAN during January inflicted by our naval forces totalled 50,490 tons sunk, 7,216 probably sunk and 38,728 damaged. In demolitions carried out in SINGAPORE dockyard, the large floating dock has been sunk and the power station, graving dock, pumping machinery and caissons put out of action.

The battle cruisers SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU and the cruisers PRINCE EUGEN appear to be ready for sea. Seven mine-sweepers and five torpedo boats arrived at BREST between 26th and 29th January. In the BALTIC, the pocket battleship ADMIRAL SCHEER and cruisers are also ready for sea. TIRPITZ was still at TRONDHEIM on 4th. Little change in number and disposition of U-boats operating in the North Atlantic. A Japanese submarine flotilla is probably now based at PENANG. Submarines have been operating off MADRAS and west of CEYLON. Shipping losses were again considerable mainly owing to U-boat attacks off the east coast of NORTH AMERICA where 11 ships were reported torpedoed, four were attacked by submarines in the INDIAN OCEAN. Shipping and transports were heavily attacked by aircraft in the approaches to SINGAPORE.

Imports in convoy into the UNITED KINGDOM during week ending 31st January were 570,000 tons and included 153,000 tons of oil. An Italian 2,000 ton tanker arrived at ISTANBUL on 31st January and sailed for ITALY the following day fully laden.

2. MILITARY

LIBYA. The enemy managed to place himself astride the line of retirement of the 7th Indian Infantry Brigade covering BENGHAZI which was thus cut off from the remainder of its division in the BARCE area. A quantity of equipment and much transport had to be abandoned and destroyed but isolated columns amounting to the greater part of the Brigade and of its attached artillery succeeded in fighting their way out to the East. The personnel and moveable equipment at BENGHAZI which had been assembled in connection with the development of the port as a base were evacuated over a period of several days before the enemy entered. The enemy is probably now suffering from the same maintenance difficulties as affected us when we were operating in Western CYRENAICA. We have been compelled to withdraw about 200 miles.

SINGAPORE. The following reinforcements arrived during the week, 18th Division (less one Brigade already arrived). Reinforcements for 9th and 11th Indian Divisions. One light tank squadron of 17 light tanks and one light anti-aircraft battery, Indian Army.

FAR EAST. Events during the week have shown,

(A) the gradual extension of enemy bases south and south-west in BORNEO and the CELEBES, making a definite threat against the MALAY barrier.

(B) continued enemy air operations south and south-east from the BISMARCK Archipelago.

(C) definite indications that the Japanese plan to occupy an aerodrome in THERPALEMBANG district of SUMATRA. The main intentions of the Japanese appear to be the reduction of SINGAPORE, the ending of resistance in the PHILIPPINES, an attack on BURMA to capture RANGOON, and the occupation of bases in the NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES to close the SUNDA STRAITS. There are indications of imminent enemy action to secure further bases in the NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES.

RUSSIA. Russian progress continues but German resistance is stiffening particularly on the central front before MOSCOW where German defensive positions are believed to be strong and disposed in great depth. From the German point of view the Russian threat to DNIROPETROVSK is probably the most serious aspect at present but there are no indications as to how the situation here is likely to develop in the near future.

3. AIR OPERATIONS

WESTERN FRONT. All operations were severely curtailed by bad weather. Bomber command could operate on only two nights. Coastal command continued their attacks on enemy vessels. About 10,500 tons of shipping is thought to have been hit.

LIBYA. Heavy attacks on enemy motor transport were made throughout the period, by our fighters and bombers by daylight and by bombers at night. 81 tons of bombs were dropped in three nights and on one of them every available aircraft was used.

Enemy activity by day was negligible.

It is estimated that 24,000 tons of enemy shipping in the MEDITERRANEAN was sunk or seriously damaged during the week, chiefly by naval torpedo aircraft.

MALTA. Enemy attacks by day and night were constant, the former being the more severe and destructive. Enemy bombers on daylight raids were strongly escorted by fighters and directed their attacks on our aerodromes, two of which remained water-logged and unserviceable.

FAR EAST. MALAYA. Our fighters covered the withdrawal of our troops to SINGAPORE ISLAND. Our offensive operations were slight. The Japanese made about twenty attacks on SINGAPORE, damaging the aerodromes and docks and causing numerous casualties among the civilian Asiatic population. Six enemy aircraft were brought down by our fighters and eight by A.A.

RUSSIA. The Russian Air Force is maintaining a considerable effort in co-operation with their ground forces to the west of MOSCOW. It is directed chiefly upon the congested roads by which the Germans are retreating upon which troops and vehicles offer excellent targets. There is evidence of the effectiveness of the Russian air attack. Liaison between the Infantry and the Air Force is maintained by an Air Staff Officer with each Infantry Divisional Headquarters and air support is generally forthcoming in about an hour. High-level attacks on German supply bases and aerodromes have increased both by day and night. There is evidence that parachute troops have been used in considerable numbers on the central front. In this sector, Russian activity by night increased with a corresponding decline in German night operations. In the daytime, particularly in the MOJAIEST sector, German air activity has been negligible, enabling the Russians to use the roads freely and thus maintain maximum pressure along the front.

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of British Sect,

Copy No. 11

Telegram 112172
By RHP Date FEB 9 1972

~~BRITISH WASTE REPORT~~

~~(S, S, S, S, S)~~

OPTEL No. 50

Information received up to 7 A.M., 11th February, 1942.

1. NAVAL

9th. H.M.S. LACMEDON (Boom Carrier) was torpedoed by U-boat 45 miles south-east of CEYLON and has been taken in tow.

10th. A small British merchant ship was damaged by aircraft off north coast of CORNWALL. 10th. A large British tanker reported torpedoed 270 miles north-west of BERMUDA.

2. MILITARY

SINGAPORE. Northern Front: Several barges carrying enemy troops were sunk in JOHORE STRAIT. 9th/10th. Further Japanese landings took place just west of the JOHORE Causeway. Our artillery, supported by mortars and machine-gun fire, maintained harassing fire on the Causeway (16 out of 18 in enemy working party killed).

Western Front: Strong enemy pressure, supported by artillery fire, dive-bombing and machinegun fire, has caused a general withdrawal to a line running just West of the JOHORE BAHRU-SINGAPORE road as far south as BUKIT TIMAH village, thence south-west to SUNGEI PANDAN, with some infiltration reported towards BUONA VISTA. A counter-attack to regain the line SUNGEI KRANJI-SUNGEI JURONG reported in progress and first piece successfully completed.

BURMA. An enemy patrol reported to have reached the MARTABAN-THATON road.

NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES. 10th. Japanese troops landed at MACASSAR. Prepared demolitions carried out and resistance continues.

NEW BRITAIN. 8th. Japanese troops landed at GASMATA.

RUSSIA. Fighting continues in the RZHEV and DONE TS Sectors. No information regarding progress. Situation CRIMEA unchanged.

3. AIR OPERATIONS

WESTERN FRONT. 10th. Two R.C.A.F. Squadrons took part in fighter sweeps. No casualties. 10th/11th. Aircraft was despatched as follows: BREMEN 55, BREST 20, EMDEN 3. No reports available. Three enemy aircraft flew over CORNWALL, where no incidents reported, and one over TWEEDMOUTH, where a few people were injured and some houses damaged.

LIBYA. 9th. Our fighters carried out sweeps in the GAZALA Area and shot down two enemy bombers. Enemy aircraft bombed MERSA MATRUH and landing grounds at EL ADEM and GAMBUT where one of our aircraft was destroyed on the ground and three damaged.

MALTA. 9th/10th. On 10th 34 enemy aircraft raided the Island, causing damage to civilian property.

GREECE. Four Wellingtons bombed the Piraeus, causing an explosion and fire at a chemical works.

SINGAPORE. All operational aircraft previously based on SINGAPORE have been withdrawn to SUMATRA. On 10th, enemy aircraft were very active against our troops and gun positions, and also attacked KEPPEL HARBOUR, where warehouses were damaged.

JAVA. 9th. Aerodrome at BATAVIA was attacked by 17 fighters, which destroyed an aircraft on the ground. One enemy aircraft was destroyed by fighters.

BURMA. 10th. Blenheims and Lysanders bombed enemy troop concentrations near PAAN and barrack area at CHIENGRAI (250 miles north-east of RANGOON).

4. JAPANESE AIR FORCE

The presence of twin-engined bombers is reliably reported at LESOD (50 miles east of MOULMEIN) aerodrome. This type has not hitherto been reported operating in THAILAND but only in MALAYA.

5. First reports indicated that BENGHAZI was being used by enemy ships about three days after their troops occupied the town. Information has since been received, however, that considerable difficulty is being experienced by the enemy in clearing the harbour and approaches of mines. Moreover, reliable reports now indicate that no arrivals at or departures from BENGHAZI have so far taken place since enemy reoccupation.

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

February 13th, 1942

~~SECRET~~

Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Halifax

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

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

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of *British Govt.*

Telegram 142172

By *RHP* FEB 9 1972

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of *British Govt,*

Telegram 112172

By *RHP* Date *FEB 9 1972*

Copy No. 11

~~BRITISH GOVT SECRET~~

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

OPTEL No. 51

Information received up to 7 A.M., 12th February, 1942.

1. NAVAL

A Norwegian steamship (4,000 tons) homeward bound in convoy was torpedoed and sunk on the 11th 380 miles W.N.W. of IRELAND (R).

2. MILITARY

SINGAPORE. Our counter attacks although partially successful failed to restore the position. Continued enemy pressure assisted by tanks, caused further withdrawals and by evening of 11th our position had been stabilized along the general line Naval Base-NEELSOON Village-Pierce Reservoir-Race Course-PASIR PANMANI Village.

BURMA. Road MARTABAN-THATON has been cut by the enemy. Our positions in MARTABAN were shelled for one and half hours. A Chinese Division has been in contact with Siamese forces near the BURMA-SIAM frontier.

NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES. GARONPOLA (NORTH CELEBES) reported occupied by the enemy who also continue penetrations north of SAMARINDA and BANJERMASIN in BORNEO.

RUSSIA. Russian penetrations south of TOROPETS have been extended to within 50 miles of VITEBSK and SMOLENSK. In the DONETS sector the Germans are continuing to offer resistance and to deliver local counter attacks.

3. AIR OPERATIONS

WESTERN FRONT. 10th/11th. Forty five tons of H.E. on BREMEN but identification difficult and results generally unobserved.

11th. Spitfires hit a probable escort vessel near DUNKIRK with cannon fire.

11th/12th. Aircraft were despatched as follows: MANNHEIM 49, HAVRE 31, BREST 18. Leaflets - PARIS-CHERBOURG 5. Sea mining off PRISIAN ISLAND 1. Aerodromes Northern France 2. 2 Wellingtons missing. 5 enemy aircraft operated against shipping off the Cornish coast.

MALTA. On 10th/11th and 11th a total of 76 enemy aircraft attacked aerodromes at LUQA, TAKALI and HAL FAR and incoming naval forces. 2 Wellingtons on the ground slightly damaged, one crater on runway at LUQA, otherwise no damage to aerodromes. One enemy bomber probably destroyed and a further five aircraft damaged.

LIBYA. Night 9th/10th. Wellingtons attacked MARTUBA landing ground. Bombs fell amongst dispersed aircraft and large fires were started.

DODECANESE. 9th/10th. Small scale attacks were made on the submarine base at LEROS ISLAND, naval buildings in LEPIDA COVE (PORTOLAGO BAY) and aerodrome on SCARPANTO ISLAND.

SINGAPORE. 11th. Several high level raids were made on SINGAPORE town. An Indian hospital was burnt out with severe casualties and two large petrol dumps were destroyed.

BURMA. 11th. Blenheims escorted by fighters attacked enemy troops at PAAN where five probable ammunition fires were started and the water front at MOUMMEIN.

NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES. 9th. Enemy aircraft caused considerable damage to an army camp near MALANG. One enemy bomber shot down.

9th/10th. An enemy vessel possibly an aircraft carrier was claimed to be hit east of MACASSAR.

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of *British Govt,*

Telegram 112172

By *RHP* Date *FEB 9 1972*

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

~~SECRET~~

14th February, 1942.

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,

Haufoe

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D.C.

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

OPEL NO. 52.

Yesterday at 1042 A.M. Spitfires on patrol reported enemy warships off Le Touquet steering a Northerly course at high speed. These subsequently proved to be the battle cruisers SCHARNHORST and GNEISENAU, and the cruiser PRINZ EUGEN from Brest, accompanied by destroyers and E-boats with heavy fighter protection. At 1230 P.M. five M.T.B's attacked and claim one torpedo hit on PRINZ EUGEN. At one P.M. six naval Swordfish attacked and possibly obtained one hit on a battle cruiser. At 1545 P.M. when about 20 miles west of the Hook of Holland, three of H.M. Destroyers attacked the battle cruisers at 3500 yards range and claim one probable and two possible hits with torpedoes. Simultaneously 2 further destroyers attacked a single ship probably the PRINZ EUGEN. After the attack one of H.M. destroyers was badly on fire, but subsequently was proceeding to base at eight knots and reached harbour with several casualties. At 1615 P.M. torpedo-carrying Beauforts carried out an attack. A total of between 200 and 300 bombers, including Coastal Command aircraft and Naval Swordfish, with more than 300 fighters as cover were despatched at intervals during the day, but owing to poor visibility and low cloud only between 50 and 60 aircraft found the ships and no definite hits are claimed, but in air fighting 17 enemy aircraft were destroyed, 5 probably destroyed and 17 damaged. Our losses were 15 bombers, six coastal command aircraft, six Naval Swordfish and 17 fighters, total of 44. One fighter pilot is safe. The enemy ships were last reported at nine P.M. in two groups 20 miles apart off the Texel proceeding North at about 17 knots. ENDS.

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of British Govt.Telegram, 1/2/72
FEB 9 1972By RHP Date

~~DISPATCH NO. 53~~~~(U.S. SECRET)~~

OPTTEL NO. 53.

Information received up to 7 A.M. 13th February 1942.

1. NAVAL.

A British 7,000 ton tanker from Texas to Halifax was torpedoed and sunk on the 31st January 400 miles south of Halifax.

2. MILITARY.

SINGAPORE. During the 12th enemy pressure with infantry and tanks was heavy and there was some infiltration in the race course area north of the main Singapore-Johore Bharu road. Enemy also attacked astride the Maidai Road towards Nee soon but situation is in hand. By the evening the situation was reported to be stabilised, our forward areas and communications were repeatedly dive-bombed and machine-gunned. Enemy air raids were mainly confined to troop and transport in the forward area. During the night 12/13 further Japanese landings of unknown strength were reported at Loyang just west of Changi.

BURMA. During the evening of the 11th Japanese troops west of Martaban, from which our troops have withdrawn, were reinforced by landings from the sea. Japanese force estimated at 2,000 is advancing North and has suffered heavy casualties from a unit of the Gurkha Rifles.

3. AIR OPERATIONS.

Western Front. 11th/12th. Brest, over 20 tons. Havre, 31 tons. At the former results were unobserved but at the latter bursts were seen in the docks area. Mannheim, nearly 70 tons were dropped. Two R.C.A.F. and three R.A.A.F. aircraft took part without casualties. 12/13th. 20 aircraft were sent to lay mines off the Frisian Islands. One crashed on return.

LIBYA. 10/11th. Our aircraft bombed Martuba and Derna. 11th. Air reconnaissance disclosed a considerable movement of enemy M.T. southwards from Giovanni Berta towards Nekili. The enemy dive-bombed our troops in the El Gazala area causing some casualties.

MALTA. 11/12th and 12th. A total of 86 enemy aircraft attacked the island and damaged runways at Luqa and buildings at Hal Far.

MEDITERRANEAN. Wellingtons attacked a submarine base at Leros Island and Heraklion Aerodrome in Crete.

BURMA. 11th. Lysanders bombed Chieng Rai and on the 12th Blenheims attacked Ynan and Moulmain.

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of British Govt.Telegram 11/12/22By RHP Date FEB 9 1972

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of *British Govt,*

Telegram 11/21/72

By *RHP*

FEB 9 1972

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

~~SECRET~~

16th February, 1942.

Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Halifax

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt.

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

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of British Govt.

COPY NO. 11

Telegram 112122

By RHP Date FEB 9 1972

~~BRITISH GOVT. SECRET~~

~~(U.S. SECRET)~~

OPTEL NO. 54.

Information received up to 7 A.M. 14th February 1942.

1. NAVAL.

The German Battle Cruisers and Cruiser have not been located since they were last reported off the Texel on 12th evening. Reference Optel No. 48. The Free French Corvette has now sunk East of Newfoundland. A convoy for Malta, which left Alexandria on 12th escorted by an Anti-aircraft Cruiser and seven destroyers, was repeatedly bombed on 13th, one merchant vessel being damaged and escorted into Tobruk.

2. MILITARY.

LIBYA. Except for normal patrolling, there was no ground activity in the forward area.

SINGAPORE. No further information has been received.

BURMA. Enemy took Mataban mainly by sea landing well behind the town, combined with land attack from the South. A company of the K.O.Y.L.I. got to close quarters with enemy on East side of Mataban and charged. Enemy fled and suffered considerable losses. 12th. Heavy fighting has again broken out in the area Yinnye-in-Paan, where the situation is obscure. A Baluch Regiment is engaged in heavy fighting at Paan.

PERSIA. Fighting has started between Persian troops and Kurdish rebels in Kurdistan. The Kurds have captured the Persian garrison of Sakiz.

3. AIR OPERATIONS.

Western Front. 12th. Aircraft from two R.C.A.F., one R.A.A.F. and one R.N.Z.A.F. Squadrons took part in the operations over the straits. One R.A.A.F. aircraft was lost. 13th. Our fighters carried out six offensive sweeps, involving 199 aircraft, over the straits of Dover area. One 200-ton vessel off Ostend was damaged by machine gun fire and one Heinkel was shot down. Two Spitfires were lost. 13/14th. 85 bombers were sent out: Cologne 30, Havre 28, Aachen 18. All returned safely.

LIBYA. 12th. Hurricanes intercepted 30 German dive bombers with fighter escort which were approaching Tobruk, forcing the majority to jettison their bombs. Three dive bombers and one fighter were destroyed and a further two aircraft were probably destroyed. Two Hurricanes were lost but one pilot is safe. A Heinkel was destroyed over Mersa Matruh. 12/13th. Six Malta Wellingtons attacked Tripoli (L), causing an extensive fire in the Harbour area.

MALTA. 13th. A total of 68 fighters and bombers attacked the island. Two hits on the Submarine base caused casualties amongst service personnel and there were further casualties at Takali Aerodrome.

MEDITERRANEAN. 12th. A Maryland on reconnaissance, attacked by two Messerschmidts, shot down one of them.

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

February 16th, 1942.

~~Secret~~

Dear Mr. President,

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

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of *British Govt.*

Telegram 1/12/72
By *RHP* Date *FEB 9 1972*

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

Copy No. 11

~~EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING AND DECLASSIFICATION~~

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

OPTEL No. 55

Information received up to 7 A.M., 15th February, 1942.

1. NAVAL

One of H.M. corvettes was torpedoed off HALIFAX on the 14th.

MEDITERRANEAN. One of H.M. submarines reports sinking a 5,000 ton ship in a southeast bound convoy north of CEPHALONIA on the 1st and damaging a trawler by gunfire south of CORFU on the 3rd. Another submarine has reported that she sank a merchant vessel of about 4,000 tons and a third submarine hit and considers she sank a 2,500 ton ship in ballast on the 8th. The convoy to MALTA was again attacked by aircraft yesterday. One 7,000 ton merchant vessel was sunk and another of similar tonnage was damaged and had to be sunk by our forces, the crew being rescued.

On the 14th, an 8,000 ton British merchant vessel was torpedoed southwest of NEWFOUNDLAND and a small British ship was shelled by submarine and set on fire off TRINCOMALEE. A 5,000 ton British ship and an 8,000 ton Dutch tanker and four other ships were hit by bombs in an attack on a convoy from PALEMBANG to BATAVIA. The first two ships are probably total losses.

2. MILITARY

LIBYA. During the past week the enemy has concentrated his forces in the forward area in two main groups, a northern group in the MARTUBA-TIMIMI area and a southern group about MEKILI.

SINGAPORE. No further information has been received.

BURMA. Severe fighting has been taking place in the PAAN area where a Baluch regiment was attacked by superior forces and surrounded after three days' hard fighting. Three British officers and 100 Indian other ranks have so far returned. The position is now quieter. No further enemy advance on THATON from the south.

RUSSIA. Russian attacks are continuing against stiff enemy resistance in the DONETS sector.

3. AIR OPERATIONS

WESTERN FRONT. 13th/14th. Sixty three tons of bombs were dropped on COLOGNE and eighteen on HAVRE. Ten aircraft bombed AACHEN. Few results were seen owing to cloud.

14th/15th. 114 aircraft were sent out, MAINHEIN 98, HAVRE 16. Two are missing.

LIBYA. 13th. Our fighters carried out a number of patrols in the GAZALA and TOBRUK areas. One enemy aircraft was destroyed, three probably destroyed and three damaged. We lost six Fighters, two pilots safe. There was a considerable increase in enemy bombing and machine gun attacks on our troops in the GAZALA and MADEIRA areas but our casualties were few.

MEDITERRANEAN Area. On the 12th/13th a Liberator bombed SALAMIS submarine base where bursts were seen in the dockyard, and fifteen Wellingtons bombed the harbour and aerodrome at HERAKLION.

13th/14th. Naval aircraft attacked a 3,000 ton merchant vessel on a westerly course off TRIPOLI (L). The ship was left stationary and listing. Wellingtons bombed CATANIA aerodrome (SICILY) and caused a number of explosions among aircraft. On the 14th, thirty-three enemy aircraft attacked TAKALI aerodrome (MALTA) where buildings were seriously damaged.

BURMA. 14th. Blenheims and fighters attacked dumps near PAAN and jetties at MARTABAN with good results.

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of *British Govt,*

Telegram, 1/12/72

By *RHP* Date *FEB 9 1972*

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

~~SECRET~~

17th February, 1942.

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
the latest report received from London on
the military situation. It was dated Feb-
ruary 16th, 1942.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Halifax

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of *British Govt.*

Copy No. 11

Telegram, 11/21/72

~~BRITISH MOST SECRET~~

By *RHP* Date *FEB 9 1972*

~~(U.S. SECRET)~~

OPTTEL No. 56

Information received up to 7 A.M., 16th February, 1942.

1. NAVAL

There were no casualties in the ship sunk by aircraft on 14th when proceeding to MALTA in convoy.

2. MILITARY

BURMA. While no fresh attacks have developed in the SALWEEN Front there are indications that the enemy are preparing an attack in the DUYINZECK THATON area.

3. AIR OPERATIONS

WESTERN FRONT. 14th/15th. Fifty-one tons of bombs were dropped on MANNHEIM and eleven tons on HAVRE, results were generally unobserved owing to cloud. No bombers are missing. Ten R.C.A.F. aircraft took part.

15th. A Hudson scored two hits on a 1,200 ton vessel off NORWAY. One Spitfire is missing from an offensive patrol.

15th/16th. Twenty-six bombers were sent to ST. NAZAIRE, results unobserved owing to cloud. Three crashed on return. Forty-three enemy aircraft were operating against this country, the majority of them being engaged against shipping and in sea-mining off NORTHUMBERLAND. One was destroyed by a Beaufighter.

LIBYA. 14th. Eighteen Kittyhawks engaged more than thirty dive bombers and fighters in the ACROMA area, twenty enemy aircraft were shot down, two were probably destroyed and ten more were damaged. Our fighters suffered no losses. One Hurricane is missing from reconnaissance.

SICILY. 14th. Thirteen Wellingtons dropped a total of twelve tons of bombs on three enemy aerodromes. Four others attacked the docks at AUGUSTA and SYRACUSE causing fires and explosions.

MALTA. 15th. A total of 123 enemy bombers and fighters made three attacks on LUQA aerodrome. Nine aircraft on the ground were destroyed or damaged. A total of four enemy aircraft were shot down by fighters and A.A. fire.

4. RUSSIA. Although fighting has continued on all main sectors, general impression is that there has been very little change in alignment of front. No further information is available regarding the Russian pincer movement west of MOSCOW. Press reports of considerable Russian progress in this sector are much exaggerated. In the DONETS area German counter-attacks have been held up partly owing to thaw. Indications that Russians are reinforcing both SEVASTOPOL and KERCH. On 12th General MacFarlane reported that fighting around LENINGRAD had been very severe but Russians were confident that the city would soon be relieved.

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.
February 18th, 1942.

~~Secret~~ *file*

Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Halifax

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

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

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of *British Govt,*

Telegram, 1/12/72

By *RHP* Date *FEB 9 1972*

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of British

Copy No. 11

Sub, Telegram, 14/12
By RHP Date FEB 9 1972

~~DEFINITION SECRET~~

~~(U.S. SECRET)~~

OPTEL No. 57

Information received up to 7 A.M., 17th February, 1942.

1. NAVAL

An enemy force of 4 cruisers with destroyers was attacked by 5 Naval aircraft 85 miles east of CAPE PASSARO, SICILY, on the morning of the 16th. Hits were claimed on two cruisers and a destroyer and one of the cruisers hit was on fire aft and losing speed. Subsequently one of H.M. submarines attacked two 8" cruisers entering the STRAITS OF MESSINA and obtained two torpedo hits on one of them.

2. MILITARY

LIBYA. During 15th February there was no very great ground activity. The three enemy columns continued their advance towards our forward positions between GAZALA and BIR HAKEIM, our armoured car patrols remained in contact with them. During the night 15th/16th there was little enemy activity and reports up to 11 A.M. 16th showed that the three enemy columns appeared to have withdrawn.

BURMA. 15th/16th. Our troops were withdrawn from the THATON area to new positions behind the BILIN RIVER.

RUSSIA. Russian attacks continue in the RZHEV area but the town remains in German hands. In the DONETS sector the Germans continue to hold up the Russian advance and have succeeded in making slight progress in counter attacks.

3. AIR OPERATIONS

WESTERN FRONT. 16th. 3 Beauforts attacked 4 small ships off the West coast of FRANCE, two were sunk and a third was damaged. A German bomber was destroyed by fighters off WALES. 16th/17th. 96 aircraft were sent out roving commission over north-west GERMANY - 20 to Dutch aerodromes, 5 leaflets, Belgium and Northern France 22, Sea-mining 49. Two aircraft are missing.

LIBYA. 14th/15th. Wellingtons dropped 25 tons of bombs on BENGHAZI. Two squadrons of Blenheims successfully bombed enemy tanks and M.T. south-west of GAZALA. Enemy bombers hit a reservoir at TOBRUK causing the loss of 500 tons of water.

MALTA. 15th/16th and 16th. A total of 45 aircraft bombed LUQA and TAKALI aerodromes, at the former two aircraft and the runway were damaged.

BURMA. On the 15th and 16th our aircraft made good attacks on troop concentrations, the railway station and shipping at MOULMEIN and the railway station at THATON.

NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES. On the 14th and 15th our medium and U.S. bombers attacked a convoy off BANKA opposite PALEMBANG. 5 transports and two cruisers were hit.

4. There were 125 Stalkan railway wagons on the quay at MARSEILLE on or about 11th February containing about 1,300 tons of war material of which 40% is reported to be ammunition, cases containing Italian cartridges were identified. 5 sailing vessels probably Italian but flying the Tunisian flag were reported ready to sail from TUNIS for LIEYA on the 11th with wine and wheat.

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of *British*COPY NO. 11*Short Telegram, 14/2/42*~~SECTION NOT SECRET~~By *RHP* Date _____~~(U.S. SECRET)~~

OFTCL NO. 58.

Following is supplementary resume of operational events covering the period 5th-12th February 1942.

1. NAVAL.

Slightly fewer U-Boats were operating in the North Atlantic, most of them are concentrated off the American Seaboard from Cape Race to Charleston. Others have been reported North-East of Bermuda and in the North-Eastern Approaches. Two or three are operating between the Cape Verde Islands and Freetown. Shipping losses, primarily due to U-boats, were moderate. During January, shipping losses, so far reported, amounted to 70 ships totalling 340,055 tons. Most of them occurred off the Eastern Seaboard of North America, where 31 ships of approximately 195,000 tons were sunk. The majority of losses due to air attack took place in the Far East. Casualties due to marine risk were heavy. During the week ending 11th February, 1066 ships were convoyed, of which only one was lost. Imports into the United Kingdom by ships in convoy during the week ending 7th February amounted to 729,000 tons, including 201,000 tons of oil imports.

During the past six weeks, supplies have been reaching Libya fairly steadily and without appreciable casualties. Benghazi is not yet in use as a supply base.

2. MILITARY.Libya.

The enemy is apparently trying to establish a series of strong points extending for some 17 miles Southwards from the Coastal road between Gazala and Tmimi. His object appears to be to prevent observation of his movements West of that line. No doubt Rommel is concentrating upon the redistribution of his forces and the development of his lines of communication.

Far East.

Recent identifications suggest that two divisions have been withdrawn from Manchukuo, and two divisions from North China to reinforce the Japanese Forces in the Southern theatre of operations. It is estimated that the Japanese have now available four divisions in transports, one of these being at present employed in the operation in Southern Sumatra. A further four divisions are also immediately available in the South China Seas Area if required. In addition, ten

divisions recently mobilized in JAPAN could be made available at short notice.

RUSSIA. Information has been mainly negative. No change in FINLAND or on LENINGRAD front. In the Central Sector, the Russians have not extended their advance towards the LENINGRAD-ORSHA railway and are still about 50 miles north-east of VITEBSK. RZHEV still remains in German hands. Due west of MOSCOW, there is no change, and in the YUKHNOV area German resistance is preventing Russian progress. From this area southwards, apart from German counter-attacks in the DONETS area, which have not lessened the extent of the Russian break-through, there has been no substantial change. Weather conditions render movement off the roads difficult for tanks and impossible for other forms of mechanical transport. To sum up, there has been a general slowing down of the Russian advance, due, no doubt, to winter conditions as much as to German resistance. Russian morale remains high, and the Russians are confident of being able further to exploit their advance.

3. AIR OPERATIONS

WESTERN FRONT. Weather conditions again restricted operations. Bomber Command operated on three nights, the main objectives being BREST, BREMEN, EMDEN, HAVRE and MANNHEIM. 274 tons of bombs were dropped. It is estimated that aircraft of Coastal Command damaged about 7,500 tons of enemy shipping. Only 13 enemy aircraft crossed our coasts by day and seven by night.

LIBYA. Successful attacks on Axis mechanical transport were made by fighters and Blenheims, more than 150 vehicles were reported destroyed or damaged over a period of two days. The enemy has been using decoy mechanical transport convoys heavily defended by anti-aircraft guns as a counter to our low-flying fighter attacks.

BENGHAZI and TRIPOLI (L) were bombed, the latter from MALTA and also by Liberators operating from south of PORT SAID, one of which completed the flight of 2,390 miles without refuelling. Enemy activity was not great, due probably to water-logged aerodromes in Eastern CYRENAICA at the beginning of the week, although fighter activity increased considerably as soon as aerodromes in the DERGA-MARTUBA area were brought into use.

MALTA. Attacks on aerodromes and the Grand Harbour continued.

MEDITERRANEAN. Our aircraft hit and damaged two ships totaling about 6,600 tons.

BURMA. Our bombers attacked objectives near PAAN and an aerodrome about 200 miles further North. The enemy raided RANGOON twice, on one occasion using 30 fighters which suffered heavy losses.

SINGAPORE. Enemy pressure in the air was very heavy especially against aerodromes and shipping at the beginning of the week, when our troops were still on the mainland. After Japanese troops landed on the Island, the attacks were mainly made against our forward troops with bombs and machine-gun fire. Several raids were made on the town of SINGAPORE and on shipping in the harbour.

JAPANESE AIRCRAFT LOSSES. Full information is not available upon which to base a reliable, up-to-date estimate of Japanese aircraft losses. It is, however, considered probable that on a conservative basis some 850 aircraft had been lost in combat and from wastage up to 10th February.

4. Extracts from Photographic and Intelligence Reports on results of Air attacks on enemy territory in EUROPE.

DUSSELDORF. 27th/28th November. Metal works, employing 1,800 operatives, and two textile factories, employing 700 and 500 respectively, all hit and damaged. Much textile stock destroyed heavy damage goods yard, repairs to track and removal of debris took several days. (68 tons high explosive, including ten 4,000-pounders, were dropped. Bursts seen in town and near railway centre. Large fires started.)

HAMBURG. 30th November/1st December. Severe damage to shipyard and harbour installations, four ships in port hit, considerable damage to railway tracks, sidings and wagons, which was increased by fire among petrol wagons. About 300 wagons destroyed. Nearly 400 persons killed. (160 tons high explosive and 9,000 incendiaries. Good weather but ground haze and searchlights prevented accurate aiming. Many fires seen.)

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

February 19th, 1942.

~~Secret~~

Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Helifax

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

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

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of *British Hist.*

Telegram 11/2/42

By *RHP* Date FEB 9 1972

Copy No. 11

~~DEFENSE SECRET~~

~~(U.S. SECRET)~~

OPTEL No. 59

Information received up to 7 A.M., 18th February, 1942.

1. NAVAL

One of H.M. submarines torpedoed, on the third off TUNISIA, an anchored 6,600 ton merchant ship was later seen beached.

2. MILITARY

LIBYA. It is now confirmed that the three enemy columns which moved eastwards towards our positions have withdrawn.

SUMATRA. 17th. Our troops are evacuating southern SUMATRA. The enemy occupied JAMBI on the 16th. The demolition scheme was completed.

BURMA. Our position behind the BILIN River remains unchanged.

BORNEO. The enemy occupied BANJERMASIN on the 16th.

3. AIR OPERATIONS

WESTERN FRONT. 17th. Enemy activity was on a slightly increased scale chiefly against shipping off the east coast. A Hurricane bomber destroyed an ME 109 and another ME 199 was probably destroyed by a Blenheim off the Norwegian coast. A Hudson scored two hits on a merchant vessel off NORWAY but no explosions were seen. Two vessels were attacked with unobserved results off the Dutch coast.

17th/18th. Seventeen aircraft sent out, roving commission over northwest GERMANY - thirteen, leaflets, OSLO, CHERBOURG, PARIS - four. All returned safely.

LIBYA. 16th. Two ME 109's dive bombed EL ADEM landing ground damaging four Hurricanes on the ground. An attack by dive bombers with fighter escort on TORRUK caused little damage. No interception.

16th/17th. One Wellington bombed TRIPOLI (L) as a diversion to mine-laying operation.

4. The garrison of SICILY is believed to have been increased from three divisions to four by the move of one Italian Division from the mainland.

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

~~SECRET~~

20th February, 1942.

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
the latest report received from London on
the military situation. It was dated
February 19th, 1942.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Halpin

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of *British Int.*

Telegram 11/2/72

By *RHP* Date *FEB 9 1972*

DECLASSIFIED

Copy No. 11

By Authority of British Int. Liaison Unit

Telegram, 11/2/72

(U.S. Source)

By RHP Date FEB 9 1972

CPTEL No. 60

Information received up to 7 A.M., 19th February, 1942.

1. NAVAL

On the afternoon of the 18th two of H.M. trawlers were bombed and sunk off the HULBER. A Brazilian 5,000 ton merchant vessel from RIO DE JANEIRO to NEW YORK was torpedoed off HAMFEN ROADS on the 15th.

2. MILITARY

LIBYA. During the morning of the 17th our infantry and armoured car patrols were pushed forward towards the positions lately occupied by the enemy opposite the GAZALA position and towards MEKILI. Apart from a number of motor transport vehicles in the MEKILI area no enemy were encountered but mines were found in the area about 15 miles south-west of GAZALA. Patrols of South African Armoured Cars and Royal Dragoons were in the area 10 miles south-east of MEKILI and 4 miles west of TENGEDER respectively.

BURMA. Heavy and close fighting has taken place on the BILIN front. A few enemy patrols crossed the river but the situation is in hand.

3. AIR OPERATIONS

WESTERN FRONT. 17th/18th. 23 tons of H.E. were dropped on various objectives in North-West GERMANY. Heavy cloud prevented observation. 18th. During seven small offensive operations our fighters successfully attacked minor military objectives in Northern FRANCE. Enemy activity over this country was slight. One bomber was destroyed by our fighters and two more were damaged. 18th/19th. 32 aircraft were sent out. Sea mining 25; Leaflets 7. One bomber is missing. Enemy activity was confined anti-shipping operations in the South-Western Approaches.

LIBYA. 16th. Kittyhawks damaged a ME 109 over EL ADEM. One of them is missing. 16th/17th. Wellingtons bombed BENGHAZI causing fires, while others laid mines in the Harbour approaches. 17th. There was no enemy air activity over our forward area and offensive sweeps were carried out by our fighters without incident.

MALTA. No air raids 17th/18th or 18th. TAKALI and HAL FAR are flooded as the result of gales and the heaviest continuous rain of the winter.

BURMA. 17th. Our bombers attacked CHIENG MAI aerodrome, SIAM. The main hangar and buildings were hit and bursts were seen among twelve dispersed bombers. Lysanders set fire to a warehouse at MARTABAN and hit the railway track and jetties.

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of *British Govt,*

Telegram, 16/2/72

By *RHP* Date *FEB 9 1972*

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

February 21st, 1942.

~~SECRET~~
Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,
(for the Ambassador)

R. I. Campbell

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

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

BRITISH MOST SECRET

(U.S. SECRET)

OPTEL No. 61

Information received up to 7 A.M., 20th February, 1942.

1. NAVAL

E-boats were active off the East Coast last night and one of H.M. destroyers and the escorts of a South bound convoy report sinking two off YARMOUTH. Other E-boats were suspected of minelaying off SUFFOLK. TIRPITZ was sighted under weigh in TRONDHEIM FJORD yesterday. The French Battle Cruiser DUNKERQUE accompanied by destroyers was reported to have left ORAN for an unknown destination on 19th.

Reference OPTEL No. 55, this 8,000 ton vessel reported torpedoed has reached port safely.

2. MILITARY

LIBYA. On the evening of the 18th our patrols engaged small parties of enemy infantry and artillery on the coast road between GAZALA and THIMI, otherwise nothing to report.

BURMA. Heavy fighting continues on the BILIN Line with the enemy continually attempting to envelop our left flank while increasing his pressure on the right. Constant counter attacks have been put in and our troops though tired have succeeded in keeping their main positions intact. Fighting has been of an extremely fierce character and casualties are heavy on both sides.

NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES. BALI: The Japanese began landing on the South side of the Island on the 19th.

3. AIR OPERATIONS

WESTERN FRONT. 19th/20th. Eight aircraft were sent on a roving commission over North-West GERMANY and seven others to drop leaflets in the PARIS-LILLE area. All returned safely. At dusk 19th five Defiants intercepted enemy aircraft attacking a convoy off CROMER. One enemy bomber was destroyed and four others damaged. The convoy was unharmed.

BURMA. 18th. Blenheims and Lysanders with fighter escort made three attacks on enemy troop positions in the BILIN area.

4. It is reported that the French Vichy Government has agreed to German demands that 120,000 tons of Allied shipping lying in French ports should be requisitioned and used under the French Flag for transporting supplies to the Axis forces in LIBYA.

5. There are now clear indications that arrangements are being made to send blockade runners from European waters to the Far East. Cargoes in which JAPAN is showing particular interest include machinery for steel works plant for coke ovens, precision instruments, etc.

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of *British Hist.*

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Telegram, 1/21/42

By *RHP* Date *FEB 9 1972* 23rd February, 1942.

~~SECRET~~

Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Halifax

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

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

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of *British Govt.*

Copy No. 11

Telegram, 11/2/72

~~BRITISH GOVT. SECRET~~

By *RHP* Date FEB 9 1972

~~(U.S. SECRET)~~

OPTEL No. 62

Information received up to 7 A.M. 21st February, 1942.

1. NAVAL

The Free French submarine SURCUP is overdue in the Panama Canal Zone. A U.S. Transport reported that on the night of the 18th she accidentally rammed and sank a craft believed to be a submarine in the Canal Zone. A report has been received giving incomplete information regarding a Naval action in the LOMBOK Strait. It is probable that we lost two destroyers and sank or damaged one enemy cruiser and a destroyer. During the air attack on DARTIN on the 19th a U.S. destroyer and six Merchant ships were sunk. An Australian minesweeper and two Merchant ships were seriously damaged. A U.S. 8,000 ton tanker and a medium sized U.S. Merchant vessel have been torpedoed off the East Coast of Florida and West of MARTINIQUE respectively. A British merchant vessel of medium tonnage is reported torpedoed and sunk off MADRAS on the 15th.

2. MILITARY

Libya. 18th. Enemy columns with tanks were again active between our GAZALA-BIR HAKEIY position and their forward TWIMI - MEKILI Area. Three of these columns advanced but were later forced to withdraw by our light forces. Our armoured cars have been active in this area. 1,500 dispersed M.T. were reported in MEKILI Area.

Burma. 19th. Severe close fighting has continued on the River BILIN during the last two days. There has been little change in positions. Two of our Gurkha Battalions have made successful counter-attacks.

Russia. Heavy fighting continues in the DONETS Area where the Russians are effectively holding German attacks.

3. AIR OPERATIONS

Western Front. 20th. Six small offensive fighter operations were successfully carried out against minor military objectives in Northern France. One enemy fighter was destroyed and one Spitfire is missing.

Malta. 20th. Nineteen enemy aircraft attacked TAKALI Aerodrome and KALAFRANA dockyard without causing serious damage. Two bombers were damaged by Hurricanes.

Burma. 19th. Seventeen Blenheims escorted by Hurricanes successfully attacked enemy concentrations in the battle area and two Hurricanes attacked enemy transport on the Road North of THATON. Enemy aircraft bombed YYINMAND (forty miles North of TOUNGOO) and MANDALAY.

Australia. North DARWIN. Two attacks were made by a total of ninety three bombers and twelve fighters. The wharves and also R.A.F. buildings were severely damaged. Six Hudsons, two Tomahawks and one Liberator were destroyed on the ground. Five enemy aircraft were shot down and five others probably destroyed. Ten Tomahawks were lost in air fighting.

5. It is reported that in exchange for the use of the LIBYA supply route of requisitioned Allied ships, the Germans are allowing the French to retain for their own use until 11/42, the total production of Military aircraft in the Unoccupied Zone. This is unlikely to exceed 400 aircraft.

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

~~SECRET~~
February 23rd, 1942.

Dear Mr. President,

I enclose herein a copy of
_____ the latest report received from London
on the military situation. It was dated
February 22nd, 1942.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Halifax

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D. C.

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of *British Govt,*

Telegram, 11/2/72

By *RHP* Date *FEB 9 1972*

Copy No. *11*

~~SECRET - MOST SECRET~~

~~(U.S. SECRET)~~

OPTEL No. 63

Information received up to 7 A.M., 22nd February, 1942.

1. NAVAL

An enemy force reported as two battleships, 3 cruisers and destroyers steering north was sighted on 21st by a Hudson aircraft on reconnaissance at 11.15 A.M. off the west coast of DENMARK. At 7.28 this morning Beaufighter reported 2 battleships and 3 destroyers about 15 miles north-west of STAVANGER steering north-east. 2 striking forces of Beauforts were despatched yesterday afternoon but neither force reached its objective owing to extremely bad visibility. A 5,000 ton Greek vessel was sunk yesterday by mine off HARTWICH. A British 8,000 ton tanker was shelled and torpedoed on 21st off TRINIDAD and has been abandoned. A 4,000 ton British motor ship has been bombed and beached off WYNDHAM (AUSTRALIA).

2. MILITARY

LIBYA. Our patrols have been active in the THINI-MEKILI area and as far as MSUS. Air reconnaissance revealed about 2,000 enemy motor vehicles in the DERNA-CAMUSA area.

BURMA. Severe fighting behind the river BILIN continues, casualties have been heavy on both sides. Our main positions are intact.

3. AIR OPERATIONS

WESTERN FRONT. 21st. Our fighters on shipping reconnaissance attacked a 3,000 ton vessel at BOULOGNE, a 1,000 ton vessel of FECAMP and an A.A. ship off CALAIS. Spitfires damaged a German bomber over LIVERPOOL BAY.

21st/22nd. Forty-two aircraft were sent on roving commissions over north-west GERMANY and 6 others were mine laying. Weather was good over the RUHR. 3 aircraft are missing.

LIBYA. 20th. Bad weather restricted operations. A German bomber was probably destroyed near MERSA MATRUH.

MALTA. 20th/21st, and 21st. A total of 55 enemy aircraft attacked our aerodromes. Damage was caused to a hangar at KALAFRANA and 2 barracks at HAL FAR and LUQA. 1 aircraft on the ground was destroyed and 7 more were damaged. 1 German bomber was probably destroyed by our fighters.

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

February 24th, 1942.

~~Quarantine~~

Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Halifax

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

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

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of *British Govt.*

Telegram, 11/2/22
By *RHP* Date **FEB 9 1972**

FEB 9 1972

~~(S.S. SECRET)~~

OPEL No. 64

By RHP Date

Information received up to 7 A.M., 23rd February, 1942.

1. NAVAL

Air reconnaissance yesterday showed GNEISENAU (in floating dock) and NURNBURG (6-inch Cruiser) at KIEL, SCHARNHORST at WILHELMSHAVEN, one Pocket Battleship and one Hipper Class Cruiser at BERGEN, and the TIRPITZ in her usual berth at TRONDHEIM. An enemy force of one VITTORIO class battleship, two cruisers, and four destroyers, with three merchant ships, was sighted at noon yesterday on a Southerly course about 180 miles north-north-west of BENGAZI. Nothing further has been reported of this force, but a convoy was reported at 5.30 a.m. today about 170 miles east of TRIPOLI. A small Norwegian ship was sunk by submarine East of CAPE HATTERAS on the 11th. A British and Norwegian ship, both dispersed from outward United Kingdom convoy, have been sunk 500 miles east of NEWFOUNDLAND. A small United States cargo vessel is reported a total loss after having been bombed north of DARWIN on the 19th.

2. MILITARY

LIBYA. 20th. Some activity by patrols.

BURMA. 21st. Our forces withdrew to the SITTANG RIVER, the withdrawal was not heavily pressed.

3. AIR OPERATIONS

WESTERN FRONT. 21st/22nd. 32 tons of high explosive were dropped on objectives in the RUHR and 22 tons on aerodromes in NORWAY. Eighty R.A.A.F. bombers took part in the night's operations and lost one aircraft. 22nd. Reconnaissances were carried out of KIEL, WILHELMSHAVEN and Norwegian Harbours. 22nd/23rd. 66 bombers were sent out. WILHELMSHAVEN 50, EMDEN 7, OSTEND 5, Sea-mining 2, Leaflets PARIS 2. All returned safely. Cloud prevented observation.

LIBYA. 21st. Enemy aircraft showed increased activity with better weather. They attacked TOBRUK, GAZALA, GAMBUT and ACROMA, but caused only slight damage. One was destroyed.

MALTA. 21st/22nd and 22nd. A total of 109 aircraft attacked HAL FAR, where buildings were seriously damaged and numerous craters were made on the aerodrome, and also TAKALI and LUQA. Three of our aircraft were destroyed on the ground and others were damaged. Hurricanes destroyed one enemy aircraft, probably destroyed a second and nine others were hit. One of our aircraft is missing.

BURMA. During the 21st and 22nd our aircraft supporting our land forces, bombed and machine-gunned enemy troops in the BILIN, KAYAIKTO and SITTANG areas. One of these attacks involved every available aircraft, which kept up a continuous attack for several hours on a column of over 500 vehicles. Two Blenheims were shot down during attack on enemy positions. Five of our fighters intercepted a force of 63 enemy aircraft, destroying three and probably destroying two more without loss.

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

~~SECRET~~
25th February, 1942.

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,

Halifax

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

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

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of *British Govt,*

Telegram, 11/2/72
By *RHP* Date FEB 9 1972

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of British Govt.~~BRITISH MOST SECRET~~Telegram 11/12/72~~(U.S. SECRET)~~OPEL No. 65 RHP Date FEB 9 1972

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

1. NAVAL

C. in C. Home Fleet with main units including aircraft carrier has arrived at SCAPA from operations off NORWAY. Early on 23rd torpedo carrying aircraft made a sweep down the Norwegian Coast to locate and attack enemy warships on passage to TRONDHEIM. Search hampered by severe snow storm and nothing seen. Three aircraft missing.

At six A.M. 23rd one of H.M. submarines on patrol off the Norwegian Coast sighted a pocket battleship with a cruiser and three destroyers steaming on an Easterly course and attacked from a range of 1,500 yards. She claims one possible hit each on the pocket battleship and on one of the destroyers. When she surfaced later in poor visibility she saw nothing.

On the 23rd one of H.M. submarines attacked three merchant vessels of about 9,000 tons escorted by destroyers, off TRIPOLI (L). She estimates three possible hits. Two of H.M. gunboats were lost in the SINGAPORE area on the 14th. Two hundred survivors have been picked up.

A Russian ship was unsuccessfully attacked by a Japanese submarine on the 21st between KARACHI and COLOMBO. A British 9,000 ton tanker has been torpedoed and set on fire by U-boat South of HALIFAX and a British 6,000 ton cargo vessel was shelled by U-boat on 23rd in same locality. Two U.S. merchant ships have been torpedoed in the vicinity of TRINIDAD and a U.S. tanker was torpedoed on the 21st/22nd but is still afloat. Four more ships, names not given, were sunk by submarines in the same area on the same and following nights.

2. MILITARY

LIBYA. During the 22nd enemy resistance to our patrols increased and tactical reconnaissance reported considerable enemy movement of M.T. accompanied by tanks towards TMIMI from the area South East of DERNÄ.

BURMA. The withdrawal of the 17th Indian Division across the River SITTANG began at dawn on the 22nd, valuable support being rendered by the R.A.F. The withdrawal was strongly opposed and there has been heavy fighting on the East of the River. The bridge at MOKPALIN was blown early on the 22nd to prevent it falling into enemy hands and it is feared that two Brigades of the Division have been overwhelmed and will be unable to make good their retirement over the River. Fighting throughout has been heavy and continuous with considerable casualties on both sides. The enemy has been reinforced and is now estimated at two Divisions. One Squadron of our armoured Brigade reached PEGU on 22nd.

NORTHERN FRONT. All quiet.

RUSSIA. In KHARKOV area Russian attacks have made some progress.

3. AIR OPERATIONS

WESTERN FRONT. 22nd/23rd. Three R.C.A.F. and eight R.A.A.F. bombers took part without casualties.

23rd/24th. Twenty-three aircraft were sent sea mining.

LIBYA. 21st/22nd. An Albacore scored direct hit on a 4,000 ton tanker East of TRIPOLI.

22nd. Our fighters shot down one JU 88. Twenty dive bombers with fighter escort attacked TOBRUK. No damage, no interception. Four Messerschmidts machine-gunned ACROMA landing ground and damaged six Hurricanes. Aircraft made several attacks on one of our convoys off SIDI BARRANI sinking two ships. Enemy air activity has increased.

22nd/23rd. Wellingtons dropped eighteen tons of bombs on MARTUBA landing ground starting fires among aircraft and transport vehicles.

MALTA. A total of fifty-nine aircraft attacked our aerodromes. At LUQA one aircraft was destroyed. Hurricanes destroyed one enemy aircraft probably destroyed a second and damaged others.

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of *British Govt,*

Copy No. 11

Telegram, 112622

~~BRITISH GOVT SECRET~~

By *RHP* Date *Feb 9, 1972*

~~(U.S. SECRET)~~

OPTEL No. 66

Following is supplementary resume of operational events covering the period 12th - 19th February, 1942.

1. NAVAL

Two convoys, one each way, between ALEXANDRIA and MALTA were repeatedly attacked by enemy aircraft. The westbound convoy was twice attacked off LIBYA on 13th and one ship was damaged but has since reached port. On 14th during the change-over of escorts when the convoys met 250 miles east of MALTA, all ships were in action against aircraft mainly directed against the westbound convoy whose remaining two ships were severely damaged and later had to be sunk. There was no damage to ships of the eastbound convoy. Five enemy aircraft were certainly and four more probably destroyed, the majority by the air escort. An enemy Naval Force which had apparently attempted to intercept these convoys was attacked successfully by Naval Albacores. (See Optel No. 57). Shipping was heavily bombed in the SINGAPORE area prior to the fall of the city on the 15th. Submarine activity has been more widely dispersed than of late. There was a heavy attack, thought to have been made by at least three U-boats upon tankers in the DUTCH WEST INDIES. Shipping casualties elsewhere have not been heavy. Our submarines caused loss of over 14,000 tons of enemy shipping in MEDITERRANEAN and damage to others during the week. During the week ending 18th 902 ships were conveyed. Imports into the U.K. from ships in convoy during the week ending 14th were 1,015,000 tons including 506,000 tons of oil. Imports for December, 1941, exclusive of tanker imports amounted to 2,761,000 tons.

DUNKERQUE has arrived at TOULON. The main Japanese Fleet appears to be in the Western Mandated Islands Area. A new 16" battleship The "KII" has joined the Fleet. The aircraft carriers have been replenishing with aircraft in JAPAN. Two 8" cruisers have been transferred to the Southern Fleet to replace casualties. The Southern Fleet is widely dispersed and operating south of MALAYA in the MACASSAR STRAITS, the FLORES SEA and in the PHILIPPINES. The first Canadian built merchant ship, 7,000 tons ordered by the British Government, arrived with cargo in the U.K. on 6th having been completed six months ahead of schedule.

2. MILITARY

LIBYA. The object of General Rommel's operation with his three Armoured Columns between 14th and 16th can only be guessed. It has been suggested

that he may have intended either (A) to make a reconnaissance in Force, (B) to launch a sudden attack aimed at breaking through to TOBRUK, or (C) to entice our armoured forces out of supporting range of the GAZALA position and attack them under conditions favourable to himself. His unexpected withdrawal before his columns had become heavily engaged is, however, difficult to explain. In any event there seems little doubt that whatever his object may have been he failed to achieve it. Owing to the demolitions carried out prior to our withdrawal the enemy is still unable to use the Port of DERNA, while the R.A.F. are concentrating on interfering with his traffic through BENGHAZI. His administrative difficulties are, therefore, likely to be considerable. The Western Desert Railway has now been extended as far as CAPUZZO. Numerous reports have been received of Italian reinforcements in LIBYA and it is likely that part at least of the 133rd Armoured Division has arrived at TRI POLI.

BURMA. A second Chinese Division is believed to have entered BURMA and others are moving Westwards towards the Frontier. It is stated that Japanese reinforcements are moving north in SIAM towards the SHAN border.

FAR EAST. It is believed that there are now 29 Jap Divisions in the General Area of the SOUTH CHINA SEAS and PACIFIC ISLANDS. Of these, it is thought that seven Divisions are available for fresh operations and that a further two could probably be spared from MALAYA at a later date if required.

RUSSIA. No change in the general situation. Fighting has continued on most of the front but in no area does either side seem to have made any substantial gains. This is no doubt still due to the severe weather, deep snow and thaw both producing extremely difficult conditions on different parts of the front.

3. AIR OPERATIONS

WESTERN FRONT. Bomber Command operated on five nights but met heavy cloud on every occasion, 287 tons of bombs were dropped. Harassing raids by single aircraft roving over wide areas were carried out. It is estimated that upwards of 4,400 tons of enemy shipping was sunk or seriously damaged by our aircraft.

MEDITERRANEAN. LIBYA. Our fighters had a most successful encounter with about thirty enemy aircraft which were supporting the advance of their armoured columns on 14th.

MALTA. Total of about 430 enemy aircraft took part in attacks mainly directed against aerodromes. Our fighters were again much handicapped by the unserviceability of the aerodromes.

RUSSIA. There have been no important changes in the air situation.

4. EXTRACTS FROM PHOTOGRAPHIC AND INTELLIGENCE REPORTS ON RESULTS OF AIR ATTACKS ON ENEMY TERRITORY IN EUROPE

BREMEN. 21st/22nd January - Two large grain depots were destroyed.

FRANCE. - Photographs taken on 10th February show the alcohol distillery at PERIERS attacked by fighters two months previously, totally inactive.

4. OPERATIONAL AIRCRAFT BATTLE CASUALTIES

METROPOLITAN AREA. British in the Air - Bombers 19, Fighters 20, Coastal 11 - total 50. One Fighter Command Pilot is safe. Enemy - 7 bombers destroyed, 5 damaged; 17 fighters destroyed, seven probably destroyed, 18 damaged, miscellaneous - one destroyed - total 25 destroyed, 7 probably destroyed and 23 damaged.

MIDDLE EAST. (Including MALTA) - British - 1 Bomber in the air and 3 on the ground, 20 Fighters in the air, Coastal (Recco) 3 in the air. Total 24 in the air and 3 on the ground. 4 pilots and 1 crew are safe. Enemy - 14 bombers destroyed, 8 probably destroyed, 13 damaged, 26 Fighters destroyed, 6 probably destroyed, 15 damaged, 1 miscellaneous damaged. Total 40 destroyed, 14 probably destroyed and 29 damaged.

FAR EAST (ARDA AREA) British and Allied - 6 bombers in the air, 1 Fighter do and one miscellaneous do. Total 8 in the air. One pilot is safe. Enemy - 2 bombers destroyed, 2 probable, 6 Fighters destroyed, one probable, 3 miscellaneous destroyed. Total eleven destroyed and 3 probably destroyed. Note: no account is taken of enemy aircraft destroyed on the ground in any theater or of British naval aircraft casualties.

6. HOME SECURITY.

Estimated civilain casualties for week ending 0600/18th. 8 killed and 12 seriously wounded.

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

~~SECRET~~
February 26th, 1942.

Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

(For the Ambassador)

R. I. Campbell

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D.C.

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of *British Govt.*

Telegram, 11/2/72

By *RHP*

FEB 9 1972

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of *British Lib.*

Copy No. 11

Telegram, 11/12/72

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

~~SECRET~~

~~(U.S. - SECRET)~~

OPTEL No. 67

Information received up to 7 A.M., 25th February, 1942.

1. NAVAL

Photographic reconnaissance of AAS FJORD (TRONDHEIM) on 24th showed TIRPITZ in her usual berth, also a pocket battleship and 8 inch cruiser at the head of the Fjord. On 19th a small American steamer was sunk by aircraft north of PORT DARWIN.

2. MILITARY

LIBYA. Enemy mechanical transport and tanks perviously reported moving towards TMIMI (OPTEL No. 65) did not continue their advance on 23rd. Small parties of enemy with a few tanks were encountered by our patrols between TMIMI and EL EZZEIAT (25 miles to the south-west). They withdrew when engaged by our artillery and armoured cars. A Free French column has been operating with our armoured cars south and south-east of MEKILI.

3. AIR OPERATIONS

WESTERN FRONT. 23rd to 24th. One Hampden was lost during successful sea-mining operations.

24th. Our fighters carried out some small offensive operations, two coastal command Hudson missing. At dusk Fighters destroyed a Dornier attacking a convoy off CROMER.

24th/25th. Aircraft were despatched on sea-mining (51) and on leaflet dropping Northern FRANCE (5). Two aircraft are missing.

LIBYA. Kittyhawks destroyed one and damaged two Messerschmidts 109 for the loss of two Kittyhawks, one pilot safe. 4 long-range Messerschmidts 109 attacked MAKTILA aerodrome (16 miles south of SIDI BARRANI) and destroyed or damaged five of our aircraft, and also shot down a Blenheim near SOLLUM.

MALTA. 23rd. In addition to attack reported yesterday, 37 enemy aircraft bombed our aerodromes and destroyed two Wellingtons and one Hurricane, also seriously damaging buildings.

23/24 and 24th. 29 enemy aircraft operated and destroyed one Hurricane on the ground. One Messerschmidt was shot down.

NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES. 24th. 3 Blenheims attacked two enemy submarines north of JAVA without definite result.

25th, Six Fortresses attacked enemy shipping at mouth of MACASSAR River, two transports sunk. During 24th, 40-50 enemy bombers and 30-40 fighters attacked SOURABAYA, enemy lost two by anti-aircraft and one by Fighter, we lost nil. Details of damage not available but believed not serious. KALPDJATI was attacked by 15 bombers and 6 fighters, 2 Blenheims and two Martins were destroyed on the ground. BATAVIA was also attacked but no details available.

4. JAPANESE AIR FORCE

Evidence following the DARWIN raid indicates that the probable distribution of Japanese heavy bombers is as follows:

BALI	One Squadron (12 aircraft)
KENOARI	Four "
RABAU	One " /AMBON - Three Squadrons
PALEMBANG	Number uncertain

There are also indications that the reinforcements in south-east BORNEO, CELEBES, and MOLUCCAS area have been withdrawn mainly from South INDO-CHINA.

5. FINLAND

GERMANY has promised FINLAND a monthly allowance of 20,000 tons of bread grain and 1,000 tons of butter for the next 6 months. While this will not lead to any substantial increase in the Finnish scale of rations, which are exceedingly small compared with those in GERMANY, it should prevent such a deterioration in the food position as might seriously affect FINLAND's will and power to remain a combatant.

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

February 27th, 1942.

Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Halifax

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

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

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of State

Dept. Letter 162072-British
RHP Date FEB 9 1972 Telegram
11/2/72

DECLASSIFIED

Copy No. 11By Authority of State Dept.~~DEFENSE INFORMATION~~Letter 1120172-British Naval (H.C. 200000)OPTEL No. 68By RHP

Date

FEB9 1972Telegram 112152

Information received up to 7 A.M., 26th February, 1942.

1. NAVAL

During air attacks on TANJONG PRICK HARBOUR (JAVA) on 24th and 25th one of H.M. Ships was slightly damaged by near misses and another suffered some casualties. 22nd. A Dutch steamer (6,500 tons) and a small British steamer were sunk off TOBRUK. 24th. A Panamanian steamer (4,500 tons) struck a mine off NEW CALEDONIA and has been beached.

2. MILITARY

LIBYA. During night 23rd/24th a South African patrol inflicted 25 casualties on the enemy about 6 miles southeast of TMIMI without suffering any casualties. 25th. Sand storms hampered all operations.

BURMA. Further reports indicate that on 22nd February 48 Brigade reached the Bridgehead at MOKPALIN on the SITTANG RIVER whilst the remainder of 17 Division were 12 miles further east. Heavy attacks were made on the Bridgehead by one Japanese Division and some penetration was made. Another division attacked our troops further east. We, however, remained in control of the Bridgehead and throughout the night a number of troops from the forward area were passed through. At first light on 23rd the Bridgehead was abandoned and the bridge blown to avoid it falling into enemy hands. Some of the units left east of the river were known to be intact on 24th and it is hoped that parties will be able to fight their way out and cross the SITTANG by ferry further north.

3. AIR OPERATIONS

WESTERN FRONT. 25th. Our fighters damaged a dredger and a 1,000 ton merchant vessel at ZEEBRUGGE. 25th/26th. 104 aircraft were sent out. KIEL floating dock, 61; Chemical factories ODDE area (NORWAY) 21; Sea-mining 19; Leaflets PARIS/LILLE, 3; 3 of our aircraft are missing.

LIBYA. 23rd/24th. Wellingtons dropped 23 tons of bombs at MARTUBA and DERNA landing grounds which were illuminated by flares from naval Albacores. 2 Wellingtons are missing. 24th/25th. Wellingtons attacked shipping in TRIPOLI (L) HARBOUR, bursts being observed on Spanish Quay and at the base of the mole.

MALTA. 24th and night 24th/25th. Enemy aircraft bombed the island but caused no damage.

BURMA. 22nd and 23rd. Bombers attacked enemy positions in the MIAIKTO and SITTANG areas whilst fighters destroyed an enemy fighter and a reconnaissance aircraft. 25th. Blenheims bombed and sank two river steamers loaded with Japanese troops in the SALWEEN ESTUARY.

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

March 2nd, 1942

~~SECRET~~

Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Halifax

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

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

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of State

Dept. Letter 11/20/72 - British Govt,
By RHP Date FEB 9 1972 Telegram,
11/2/72

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of State Dept.

Copy No. 11

Letter 1120172-British Govt.

By RHP

Date

FEB

9 1972

Telegram U.S. Govt.

112172

OPTEL No. 70

Information received up to 7 A.M., 28th February, 1942.

1. NAVAL

(Several) Japanese warships and transports approaching BATAVIA and SOURABAYA on 27th were engaged by Allied warships. No details have yet been received except that one H.M. Cruiser was damaged and 2 Dutch Cruisers were disabled. An 8,000 ton British tanker in outward convoy was torpedoed 400 miles S.S.E. of NEWFOUNDLAND on the 24th and broke in two. Salvage is thought possible.

2. MILITARY

LIBYA. 26th. Sand storms continued and prevented observation by our patrols.

BURMA. On 25th, it was reported that owing to heavy casualties inflicted during our withdrawal across the SITTANG the enemy had been unable to make any attempt to cross. On 27th, however, some enemy were reported to have crossed and to be astride the road and railway at PYNBON sixteen miles north of PEGU. RANGOON is now practically deserted.

3. AIR OPERATIONS

WESTERN FRONTIER. 26th/27th. Sixteen R.C.A.F. bombers took part in the raid on KIEL, one of them did not return. Three R.A.A.F. aircraft carried out sea-mining without casualties.

27th/28th. 116 aircraft sent out. KIEL - 68, WILHELMSHAVEN - 33, Sea-mining - 15. Three are missing.

LIBYA. 25th/26th. Our aircraft bombed BERCA and MARTUBA aerodromes and laid mines in BENGAZI Harbour.

26th/27th. TRIPOLI Harbour was bombed and a ship set on fire.

BURMA. 26th. During a Japanese raid on RANGOON our fighters shot down 22 enemy aircraft and possibly destroyed others.

SUMATRA. 26th. Eleven enemy fighters were destroyed by our aircraft which were attacking shipping off BANKA ISLAND. One of our aircraft is missing.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 3, 1942.

MEMORANDUM FOR

LORD HALIFAX

I agree with you that the Secretariat of the Combined Chiefs of Staff should hereafter undertake, through the American section, the distribution of the war reports heretofore handled by the Embassy.

I am sending copy of your memorandum to me to Admiral Stark to take up with the Combined Chiefs of Staff.

F. D. R.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

March 4, 1942.

MEMORANDUM FOR

ADMIRAL STARK:

Will you be good enough to
take this up with the combined Chiefs
of Staff?

F.D.R.

Letter from Halifax to the Pres. 28 Feb.
re: that the American section of the
Combined Secretariat should handle the
distribution of the war reports hereto-
fore handled by the Embassy.

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

28th February, 1942.

Dear Mr. President,

With the completion of the secretarial arrangements for the Combined Chiefs of Staff Committee, the Secretariat of the Combined Chiefs of Staff have agreed that it would simplify matters considerably if the distribution of all British documents concerning the military situation to the United States authorities were undertaken in its entirety by the American section of the Combined Secretariat, and if accordingly the direct distribution of any such papers by this Embassy were to cease.

Such an arrangement will obviate possible misunderstandings and overlapping, and should also accelerate the distribution of individual papers. In view of the adoption of this procedure I would
therefore/

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

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

**BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

- 2 -

therefore propose, unless you wish otherwise, to
cease, as from March 1st, sending you direct from
this Embassy copies of the daily British "Operational"
telegrams.

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Hulifax

BRITISH EMBASSY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

28th February, 1942.

Dear Mr. President,

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

Believe me,

Dear Mr. President,

Very sincerely yours,

Hanford

The Honourable

Franklin D. Roosevelt,

President of the United States of America,

Washington, D.C.

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of *State Dept.*

Letter 1/20/72 - British Govt.
FEB 5 1972
By *RHP* Date *1/12/72*

DECLASSIFIED

By Authority of State

Copy No. 11

Sept Letter 1/20/72 - British

By RHP Date FEB 9 1972

Govt, Telegram
11/21/72

OPTEL No. 69

Information received up to 7 A.M., 27th February, 1942.

1. NAVAL

It is now thought that the ship torpedoed by H.M. submarine TRIDENT on the 23rd was an eight inch cruiser of the PRINZ EUGEN class. One of H.M. paddle minesweepers shot down an enemy aircraft off the HULBER and possibly damaged another yesterday. A 5,800 ton British tanker was torpedoed southwest of PUERTO RICO on the 25th and two small British ships were torpedoed off BRITISH GUIANA on the 23rd and 24th respectively.

2. MILITARY

LIBYA. 25th. Little enemy ground activity. One enemy column including eighteen tanks operating in the area southeast of MEKILI eventually withdrew.

BORNEO. The Japanese have occupied SINTANG.

RUSSIA. There is no further information beyond that contained in the official communiques concerning operations in the STARAYA RUSSA area. The Russians continue to attack in the DONETS sector.

3. AIR OPERATIONS

WESTERN FRONT. 25th/26th. KIEL. Fifty-five tons dropped. Bursts, including one from a 4,000 pound bomb were seen on what was thought to be the south floating dock. A large fire was reported in the Deutsche Werke shipyards. Four R.C.A.F. and six R.A.A.F. bombers took part without loss.

26th. Hits or very near misses were made on two enemy ships of 4,000 and 2,000 tons off the Danish and Dutch coasts respectively.

26th/27th. Seventy-eight aircraft were sent out - KIEL floating dock forty-nine, sea mining twenty-seven, leaflets two. Three bombers are missing and two crashed, the crews of both of them being killed. Thirty-eight enemy aircraft were operating against this country most of them laying mines off the East Coast.

LIBYA. 24th/25th. Wellingtons laid mines off BENGHAZI, two missing. Wellingtons attacked TRIPOLI HARBOUR.

25th. Fighters carried out covering patrols and an offensive sweep without incident.

BURMA. MINGALADON. 25th. Ten of our bombers on the ground were destroyed or rendered unserviceable.