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## WAR CABINET

# WEEKLY RÉSUMÉ

(No. 87)

of the

NAVAL, MILITARY AND AIR SITUATION

from 12 noon April 24th, to

12 noon May 1st,

1941

[Circulated with the approval of  
the Chiefs of Staff.]

## NAVAL SITUATION.

### General.

1. A large proportion of the British and Imperial troops have been evacuated from Greece. Units of the Greek fleet have arrived at Alexandria. Enemy aircraft have shown increased activity in the Eastern Mediterranean.

There has been an increase in shipping losses during the week, partly due to our losses in Greek waters.

### Home Waters.

2. Patrols have been maintained throughout the week by an 8-inch cruiser in the Denmark Strait and by two cruisers in the Iceland-Faroes Channel. Heavy units of the Fleet have continued to act as cover to convoys in the North-Western Approaches.

During the night of the 28th/29th E-boats attacked a convoy off Cromer and sank one ship. Two, possibly four, E-boats were damaged after being engaged by the destroyer escort, motor launches and motor gun-boats.

On the 28th the Royal Netherlands naval minesweeper *Caroline* was mined and sunk with all hands off Milford Haven. In air attacks during the week H.M. Anti-Aircraft ship *Patia* was sunk off the Tyne, and H.M. Sloop *Erne* was damaged off Kinnaird Head. Single enemy aircraft were shot down by H.M. Minesweeper *Elgin* off Harwich, by British s.s. *Belgravian* (3,136 tons) off Rattray Head and by British s.s. *Dandara* (213 tons) to the westward of the Faroes.

In an air raid on Portsmouth during the night of the 27th/28th damage was caused to the R.M. and the R.N. Barracks, H.M.S. *Dolphin* (depot for submarines) and the R.N. Hospital, Haslar. At Plymouth on the night of the 28th/29th H.M.S. *Raleigh* (Manning depot) was damaged, 42 being killed and 13 wounded. Considerable damage was also caused to buildings in H.M. Dockyard and at Bull Point. In the attack on the night of the 29th/30th H.M. Cruiser *Trinidad* (6-inch cruisers completing) received a direct hit but was not seriously damaged, two Auxiliary Patrol vessels were sunk and the Floating Dock was damaged.

### Atlantic.

3. On the 28th H.M.S. *Diomedes* intercepted the Spanish s.s. *Marques de Comillas* and escorted her to Bermuda.

On the 1st May the Italian tanker *Sangro* (6,466 tons), with oil, and an Italian barquentine were intercepted to the northward of the Azores by H.M. Ocean Boarding Vessels *Cavina* and *Corinthian*.

During the week twelve French merchant vessels eastbound and eight westbound have passed Gibraltar, all under escort.

The Western Hemisphere Defence Plan for the United States Navy came into operation on the 25th April. Under this scheme naval forces working from the American sea-board north of the Equator and as far as 26° W. (about 900 miles west of Ireland) will warn Western Hemisphere Powers of the presence of all ships belonging to belligerent nations that own no territory in the Western Hemisphere. Such ships will be trailed by units of the United States Fleet and their movements broadcast in English and *en clair* every four hours. For this purpose the United States Naval forces, including aircraft, will cruise along the trade routes leading to North Europe.

### Mediterranean.

4. In the Eastern Mediterranean all light forces have been employed in the evacuation of British and Imperial troops from Greece. Approximately 45,000 troops have been embarked. The majority of troops have been landed in Crete, but one convoy consisting of s.s. *Glengyle* and four transports sailed for Alexandria. It was heavily attacked by E-boats on the night of the 29th/30th in the Kaso Strait, but the attack was driven off without loss. As no fighter



protection was available, the evacuation was carried out under constant bombing attack, and the following ships are reported lost or damaged :—

s.s. *Glengyle* and H.M. Destroyer *Nubian* damaged by near-misses.

s.s. *Ulster Prince* (3,791 tons), after grounding in Nauplia Harbour, was abandoned and subsequently bombed and burnt out.

s.s. *Pennland* (Dutch, 16,381 tons) bombed and sunk before embarkation without serious casualties.

s.s. *Slamat* (Dutch, 11,636 tons) bombed and set on fire. 1,000 troops believed lost.

s.s. *Glenearn* (9,784 tons) bombed before embarkation. In tow of H.M. Sloop *Grimsby* for Alexandria.

s.s. *Costa Rica* (8,672 tons) bombed and sunk without serious casualties.

H.M. Destroyers *Diamond* and *Wryneck* with troops on board bombed and sunk while returning to Suda Bay on the 28th. Survivors include one officer and 28 ratings from *Wryneck* and 10 ratings from *Diamond*.

5. Units of the Greek Navy which have now arrived at Alexandria include the cruiser *Giorgios Averoff*, 6 destroyers and 5 submarines. They are to act under the orders of C.-in-C., Mediterranean.

At Suda Bay H.M.S. *York* has been further damaged by near misses from three air attacks and H.M. Submarine *Rover* was disabled by a near miss and is being towed to Alexandria.

Off the Libyan coast a bombardment of Gazala was carried out by H.M. Gunboat *Ladybird*, and H.M. Gunboat *Aphis* bombarded an enemy column on the Sollum escarpment. The port of Tobruk has been kept open in spite of heavy air raids, and gunboats have supported the army along the coast. Submarine patrols have been maintained off Benghazi and on the line Tripoli-Pantellaria.

On the 23rd five destroyers from Malta, after failing to intercept a southbound convoy, which had been reported off Kerkenah (Eastern Tunisia), sank a southbound merchant vessel of 3,000 tons.

6. Two air raids were carried out on Malta during the 25th, when Valletta Harbour and approaches were bombed and mined. One aircraft was shot down and another damaged. During a further raid on the night of the 29th/30th, severe damage was caused to H.M. Destroyer *Encounter* and H.M. Minesweeper *Fermoy*, and also to yard craft and stores in the dockyard. H.M. Minesweeper *Abingdon* was damaged by an acoustic mine.

H.M. Cruiser *Dido* and H.M. Minelayer *Abdiel* have arrived at Alexandria from Home Waters via the Mediterranean. The Fifth Destroyer Flotilla, previously based at Plymouth, has arrived at Malta.

23 Hurricanes and 3 Fulmars were flown off from H.M.S. *Ark Royal* to Malta on the 27th.

### East Africa and Red Sea.

7. H.M.I.S. *Parvati* (A/S Vessel) has been sunk by mine in the Southern Red Sea with the loss of 1 officer and 12 ratings.

On the 28th an incomplete warship raider distress signal was received from a merchant vessel, possibly the British s.s. *Clan Buchanan* (7,266 tons), 800 miles N.E. of Seychelles. H.M. Ships in the vicinity have been ordered to investigate.

### Anti-Submarine Operations.

8. A belated report has been received of a promising attack on a U-boat carried out on the 21st in the North-West Approaches by H.M. Sloop *Sandwich* and A/S Trawler *St. Wistan*. On the 28th a successful attack was made by H.M. Destroyers *Inglefield* and *Maori* to the southward of Iceland as a result of which the U-boat is considered to have been sunk. Another promising attack in the North-West Approaches was made by H.M. Corvette *Gladiolus* in which the U-boat was possibly badly damaged or destroyed. Two other attacks, one of which was by aircraft, were carried out in the North-West Approaches without visible result. In an attack to the north-westward of Freetown, British s.s. *Carperby* (4,890 tons) claims to have hit a U-boat by gunfire.

## Enemy Intelligence.

### *German.*

9. Air reconnaissance at Kiel on the 25th April and again on the 30th April confirmed the presence of the two 8-inch cruisers, one of these in the south floating dock, and of the pocket battleship *Admiral Scheer* in the dry dock. The *Schlesien* Class battleship was also present on the 30th. No other Main Units were seen in German ports. At Brest, the continued presence of the two battlecruisers has been confirmed up to the 29th April. There is reason to believe that *Gneisenau* has been damaged by air attack on three occasions—on the night of the 4th/5th April, on the night of the 6th/7th April and again on the 10th April.

Air reconnaissance on the 27th April saw no sign of the naval force which had been reported at Narvik on the 22nd, and this force has not since been located.

### *Italian.*

10. In the absence of air reconnaissance of Italian ports there has been no evidence of the positions of Italian Main Units in the period under review. There has, however, been considerable evidence of escorted convoys off the Tunisian coast and of the use of Benghazi.

One of the destroyers sunk in the action on the 16th April has now been identified as being of the *Folgore* Class (1,220 tons, built 1931). The destroyer seen by aircraft reconnaissance on the 24th April lying stopped off Cape Bon is now said to have been sunk by a mine.

### *U-Boats.*

11. The chief feature of the enemy U-boat dispositions in the period under review has been the arrangement of the Germans in two groups in the North-Western Approaches. One group, consisting of about five U-Boats, has been working North of 60° N., and two or three of these were concentrated for the attack on a homeward-bound convoy from Halifax. The second group, which is rather smaller, has been active to the South of 55° N. In addition to these there have been five or six Italians in the North-Western Approaches. There have also been about three Germans at work in the Cape Verde Islands area, and to the south of it, and one off the coast of Brazil in the region of Bahia.

## Enemy Attack on Seaborne Trade.

12. According to the information at present available the merchant shipping losses during the week ended noon, Wednesday, the 30th April, amounted to 15 ships (95,806 tons), of which 11 ships (82,857 tons) were British. Seven ships were sunk by U-Boat in the North-Western Approaches, four of which were in a homebound convoy from Halifax. Two allied hospital ships and three transports were sunk by aircraft in the Eastern Mediterranean, and two British ships were bombed and sunk in home waters. One ship was sunk by E-boat off the East coast.

Convoys on the East coast have been attacked by aircraft on five days during the week with little success, and Focke-Wulf aircraft have twice attacked shipping in the North-Western Approaches.

Details are given in Appendix I of losses and damage to ships of which accurate information has now come to hand. These losses total 33 ships and one small craft sunk (188,660 tons), of which 12 ships (66,962 tons) form part of the casualties given in the paragraph above. Of the remaining losses 8 ships (46,995 tons) were sunk by U-boats, 2 ships (8,635 tons) by aircraft, one ship (8,621 tons) by mine, 9 ships (55,292 tons) by surface craft and 1 ship and 1 small craft (2,155 tons) by unknown cause. In addition details are given of 15 ships and 3 small craft damaged.

## Protection of Seaborne Trade.

13. During the week ended noon, the 30th April, 720 ships, including 136 Allied and 10 neutral, were convoyed. One battleship, 4 cruisers, 7 armed merchant cruisers, 3 submarines, 50 destroyers and 53 sloops and corvettes were employed on escort duties. Since the beginning of the war 61,887 ships have been convoyed, of which 309 have been lost by enemy action.



Imports into Great Britain by ships in convoy during the week ending the 26th April totalled 796,426 tons, compared with 756,472 tons during the previous week and an average of 700,462 tons during the past ten weeks. Oil imports, in 31 tankers, were 340,093 tons, compared with 247,061 tons in 23 tankers during the week ending the 19th April. Mineral imports were 178,893 tons, of which 124,346 tons were steel, scrap iron, pig iron and iron ore. The corresponding figures for the previous week were 131,196 tons and 86,467 tons. Timber imports were 27,186 tons and cereal imports 134,361 tons, 15 ships being fully laden with grain. Other food imports amounted to 48,058 tons, including : fruit 7,062 tons, tinned fish 4,485 tons, sugar 6,475 tons, tea 1,913 tons, meat 11,701 tons and butter 2,915 tons. The fruit imports included three shiploads of sweet oranges, totalling 4,807 tons, and 784 tons of fresh tomatoes. Imports of machinery (3,127 tons of machine tools), aircraft, aircraft engines and war material were above average.

#### British Minelaying.

14. The only sea-borne minelaying operation in the period under review was carried out by H.M. Ships *Southern Prince*, *Port Quebec* and *Menestheus*, which laid 1,220 mines to the North of Iceland on the 26th April.

Minelaying by aircraft has been carried out off Brest and Cherbourg.

#### Enemy Minelaying, British Minesweeping.

15. Minelaying operations of enemy aircraft have been widespread, and include the Tyne, Liverpool Bay to Anglesey, Portsmouth, Humber, Thames Estuary and Bristol Channel. All ports, however, were open on the 1st May, except Liverpool, which is closed by night only.

There have been only two casualties, a minesweeper belonging to the Royal Netherlands Navy, which was blown up by an acoustic mine while sweeping Milford Haven and a harbour launch, which was blown up in the upper part of Portsmouth Harbour.

Nine magnetic and sixty-four acoustic mines have been detonated during the week; thirty-two of the latter having been detonated in the Humber. The mine totals are now : Magnetic 1,088, Acoustic 578, Contact 261.

Malta reported that enemy aircraft laid mines on three successive nights. Dangerous areas due to mines have been declared about 105 miles S.W. of Malta and off Kerkenah Island on the Tunisian coast. Special mine-sweeping gear, which had been intended for vessels in home waters, has been shipped to Malta to deal with the situation.

A belated report has been received of the sinking of a fishing trawler on the 26th March by a mine about 35 miles N.E. of Sydney, New South Wales. It is thought that the mine was laid last November.

#### Enemy Merchant Shipping.

##### German.

16. Our aircraft attacks on enemy shipping are enumerated under the Air Situation, paragraph 45.

The *Lech* (3,290 tons), with a cargo of hides, and the *Babitonga* (4,422 tons), with diesel oil, have sailed from Rio de Janeiro and Santos respectively. The *Natal* (3,172 tons) has reached Santos from Hamburg.

##### Italian.

17. The tanker *Gianna. M.* (5,719 tons) sailed from Las Palmas on the 27th for an unknown destination.

Three 10,000-ton tankers building in Italy for the Mexican Government have been confiscated as a reprisal for the Italian tankers taken over by the Mexican Government.

#### CORRECTION.

Résumé No. 86, paragraph 4. Delete reference to H.M.S. *Malaya*. This ship is refitting in the United States.

## Greenland.

18. By the end of 1940 the Allies had removed all German parties stationed in Greenland and none were at work there during the winter months. In the last days of March, *i.e.*, on the 27th, 28th and 31st, reports were received of German aircraft seen over Scoresby Sound. Of these, the report of a large four-engined aircraft, possibly a Focke-Wulf, on the 27th and a two-engined aircraft on the 31st were considered the most important. It is thought possible that the first of these two had dropped parachute troops and that the second was on reconnaissance to observe how these troops were faring. It was in consequence of this enemy activity that the United States made an agreement with the Danish Ambassador in Washington in the matter of Greenland, an agreement which was subsequently repudiated by the Danish Government under duress. The United States have since established a patrol of coastguard cutters off south-eastern Greenland and are seeking sites for aerodromes at either Sandestron Fjord on the West coast, or Julianehaab on the East coast. The State Department has agreed to the establishment by the Canadians of a D/F Station at Julianehaab, where the United States will also erect a wireless station.

## MILITARY SITUATION.

### Europe.

#### Greece.

(An outline map showing the lines of the German invasion of Greece is included as an inset to this *Résumé*.)

19. After we were successfully established on the Thermopylæ position, the disintegration and ultimate capitulation of the Greek Armies again opened our left flank by way of the road down the West coast of Greece and along the North coast of the Gulf of Corinth. It was necessary, therefore, to put into operation the plans for the immediate evacuation of our forces and the withdrawal from the Thermopylæ position began on the 23rd April. Details of the evacuation and definite figures are not yet available. It is estimated from information so far received that between 24th and 30th April a large proportion of our force was successfully evacuated. Some 30,000 of these troops have now arrived in Crete.

#### Spain.

20. Reconnaissance of the Franco-Spanish frontier shows numerous dumps of material, and reports suggest that troop movements in that direction are intended or are possibly already in progress.

Reports have been received of military preparations in Southern Spain and of the presence there of German officers, and in Madrid the members of the German Fifth Column are reported to have had a mobilization rehearsal on the 20th April, Hitler's birthday.

#### Portugal.

21. Although the possibility of a German drive towards Gibraltar and the battle in the Western Desert are at present to the fore, a surprise attack on Portugal is a contingency to be reckoned with.

22. It is reported that two German residents in Portugal were invited by the German Legation to complain of ill-treatment at the hands of the Portuguese, and German propaganda still stresses British designs on Portugal and the necessity of affording her German "protection."

#### U.S.S.R.

23. There are no reliable indications of imminent hostilities between Germany and the U.S.S.R., but there seems little doubt that the relations between the two countries remain somewhat strained. The return to Moscow this week of the German Ambassador and delegation may reveal the position a little more clearly.



24. Several reports have been received of the arrival of German troops in Abo (south-west Finland) in the last few days. These troops ~~(one report puts the number at 12,000, but this is almost certainly an exaggeration)~~ are said to have proceeded northwards, but there is no indication of the purpose for which they are intended. The same may be said of the German forces in Moldavia, which, according to several reports, have been considerably reinforced recently. They may be reliefs, or Germany may be continuing her war of nerves. In any case, it is unlikely that she will take any open action against Russia until the Mediterranean situation has been clarified.

#### **Africa.**

##### *Libya and Egypt.*

25. On the evening of the 21st April there was a heavy combined German and Italian air attack on Tobruk harbour, resulting in the sinking of two merchant ships and damage to a third. Direct hits were also scored on the main quay, but our casualties were light and four enemy aircraft were destroyed.

In the Sollum area our troops, supported by Naval shelling, have been harassing the enemy M.T. concentrations, which were dispersed with numerous casualties. Enemy air activity against our forward troops is increasing.

Our covering force has withdrawn to the general line Buq Buq/Bir Sofafi and our patrols are in observation east of Sollum. Two small enemy columns are reported south of Halfaya. A small enemy patrol reconnoitred the coast road to a point 8 miles west of Buq Buq and then withdrew.

26. There are indications that the German scale of effort may shortly be increased. In addition to the 5th Light Armoured (Colonial) Division already in Cyrenaica, elements of the 15th Armoured Division have arrived and strenuous efforts are being made to bring up the remainder to the forward area. There are no indications to show when this move will have been completed, but the first week in May is regarded as a possibility. Reconnaissance shows that reinforcements of men and material are also being transported to Cyrenaica by air.

In short there is every indication that at the moment the Germans are regarding Libya as the theatre of war to which their maximum efforts should be devoted.

27. The actual extent of Italian participation in the Axis advance eastward is somewhat uncertain. It is thought probable that one armoured division disposing about 140 tanks of various types and one infantry division are operating in the Tobruk area under German control, and that a small number of infantry are employed in the Bardia-Sollum area.

##### *Morocco.*

28. German infiltration into French Morocco continues, and the Germans are showing interest in the communications of the country. The infiltration appears to be taking place in part through Spanish Morocco and Tangier. These tactics may be connected with, and in preparation for, German designs on the Spanish mainland. They are also no doubt intended eventually to weaken French influence in Africa and to deprive Marshal Pétain of what constitutes a most valuable bargaining counter.

##### *Abyssinia.*

29. Dessye has been occupied by our force advancing from Addis Ababa. Prisoners captured during and following the occupation so far number 5,500 Italians, together with a number of senior officers and 2,400 Colonial troops. We have also taken 93 guns. Our aircraft successfully carried out attacks on enemy M.T. which were in retreat and other of our forces encountered the enemy withdrawing northwards.

In the Metemma area the enemy are now retiring towards Chelga.

##### **Syria.**

30. There are reliable indications of the possible imminence of a German air-borne attack on Syria. General Dentz, the French (Vichy) High Commis-

sioner, and the units of the French Army in Syria, however much they may feel sympathy with Great Britain, have given little grounds for hope that they would co-operate with any British intervention, or even oppose the arrival of German troops, if ordered by Vichy not to do so.

#### **Iraq.**

31. It is clear now that Rashid Ali, when he agreed to the landing of the first British troops at Basra, was taken by surprise and even to some extent bluffed. He is now attempting to recover the ground he then lost. His first move was to express to His Majesty's Ambassador the hope that his Government would be given due notice before the arrival of any more troops and that, before such reinforcements arrived, those already disembarked should be passed through the country to Palestine without delay; to this intimation His Majesty's Government returned no reply. The Iraqi Army has now been concentrated in and to the south of Baghdad, and there is evidence that Raschid Ali, if he is confident of receiving Axis air support, may offer resistance to our troops.

32. Further troops were landed on the 29th April at Basra and, contrary to expectations, the landing was unopposed. The British airborne troops reported to have landed at Shaibah last week have been moved to the R.A.F. station at Habbaniyah.

### **AIR SITUATION.**

#### **General Review.**

33. The main weight of our attack was directed against coastal and shipping targets in occupied territory. Mannheim and Berlin were also bombed. Our day bombers have met with considerable success against enemy shipping.

The enemy's main attacks this week have been directed against Plymouth and Portsmouth. Two heavy attacks have been made on Malta.

#### **Germany and Occupied Territory.**

34. During the week Bomber Command flew 202 day and 478 night sorties. Day operations have continued at about the same intensity as last week, but night sorties show a substantial increase. Coastal Command have supported these operations by night attacks on Channel and Dutch ports.

#### *Day.*

35. The majority of daylight attacks have again been directed against enemy coastal shipping, details of which will be found under Coastal Operations. On the 24th, two Blenheims, unable to locate any shipping, attacked the wireless station at Utsire, demolishing a building and scoring hits near the mast, and on the following day equally successful attacks were made on two wireless stations and on railways in Western Denmark. On the 26th, the aerodrome at Bergen was bombed and a Messerschmitt 110 destroyed while taking off. Targets attacked in Holland include steel works and docks at IJmuiden and docks at Den Helder. Hampdens also took part in these operations, and scored several hits on buildings in a factory at Meppel, and on a marshalling yard in the same town, the latter with a 1,900 lb. bomb. Another bomb of similar size was dropped on De Kooy aerodrome. A large five-storeyed building on the German island of Baltrum, believed to be a factory, and a factory and a camp near Cologne were also bombed. On the 28th, a Stirling dropped eighteen 500 lb. bombs from 2,000 feet across the shipyards at Emden, but re-entered the clouds before the bursts could be observed.

36. Fighter patrols were despatched each day against ground targets in France and the Low Countries. Aerodromes, barges, goods trains and gun positions were attacked, but no notable results were observed.

#### *Night.*

37. Kiel, Mannheim and Hamburg have been the principal targets of the week. Kiel was heavily attacked on three nights and over 150 tons of H.E. and 20,000 incendiaries were dropped. On two of these occasions the weather was good, but exact observation was difficult, due to ground haze and to intense anti-aircraft and searchlight activity, but many fires were seen to break out, some of



them in the vicinity of Krupp's works. On the third occasion the weather was cloudy, but forty-eight aircraft reached their target and bombed the industrial districts of the town, without being able to observe results. Fifty tons of H.E. and about 10,000 incendiaries were dropped in the industrial area of Mannheim, where the burst of a 4,000-lb. bomb was followed by a large fire and an explosion ten minutes later. Hamburg was attacked by forty-four aircraft, whose bombs included one of 4,000 lbs. and three of 1,900 lbs. Berlin was twice attacked by Stirlings, on one occasion by a single aircraft and on the other by three, but the results of the 14 tons of H.E. dropped could not be observed.

38. The petroleum harbour at Rotterdam was bombed on two nights by a total of eighteen aircraft, and during an attack on Brest by twelve aircraft 23 tons of H.E. were dropped. Attacks of lesser intensity were made on docks and shipping at Wilhelmshaven, Cuxhaven, Bremerhaven, Emden, IJmuiden, Ostend and Havre.

39. On four nights fighter patrols totalling twelve aircraft operated over aerodromes in France and one enemy fighter was shot down. Bombs were dropped near aircraft on the ground and along flare paths, and at Rosières fires were started, followed by explosions.

#### United Kingdom.

40. Fighter Command flew 1,213 patrols involving 3,121 sorties by day, and 2,183 night sorties were also flown. Enemy activity showed a reduction by day and by night. By day it was on a slightly reduced scale and consisted of coastal and weather reconnaissances. Fighter patrols in the Straits off the Belgian and French Coasts were maintained. A few daylight fighter sweeps were made over East Kent and on five days bombs were dropped in the Eastern coastal areas by raiding aircraft.

41. After a night of scattered raids on the 26th/27th April, a small attack developed on Portsmouth on the 27th/28th. This was followed on the two successive nights by moderately heavy attacks on Plymouth, and a subsidiary attack on the Cardiff area on the night of the 29th/30th April. London was free of raids during the period.

42. Conditions were less favourable for night interception than in the previous period, but our fighters shot down five enemy bombers, probably destroyed another and damaged three more, while A.A. guns and other devices accounted for a further eight aircraft.

#### Coastal Operations.

43. Coastal Command flew 233 patrols and provided escort for 128 convoys, involving a total of 891 sorties. Aircraft of Fighter Command also flew 2,759 sorties on shipping protection patrols. Many successful photographic reconnaissances were flown.

44. On the 28th an aircraft on routine patrol reported an enemy convoy of ten Merchant ships escorted by two destroyers, south-west of Texel, and four Blenheim bombers and three fighters were despatched to attack it. One of the destroyers appeared to be hit as smoke was seen to be pouring from its stern, but the four bombers were shot down by A.A. fire.

45. Bomber Command aircraft have again been active in search of enemy shipping, and many successful attacks were made. Direct hits were made on the following:—

A 2,000-ton tanker S.W. of Stavanger.

A 1,600-ton ship at the Hook.

A cargo ship of 3/4,000 tons in convoy off the E. Frisian Islands.

A 7,000-ton ship off the E. Frisian Islands. A large explosion followed.

A 2,000-ton ship off Walcheren.

A 2,000-ton ship off Ostend.

A ship of 5,000 tons and one of 4,000 tons off Stavanger.

Two small fishing vessels off Brest.

At least six other ships, one of which was seen with a heavy list, suffered damage from near misses.

46. On the 30th three Blenheims attacked a tanker off the Hague, escorted by eight Flak ships and two E-boats. Owing to intense A.A. fire the results were not observed and one of our aircraft was lost.

47. Eighteen successful minelaying sorties were flown by Coastal Command and eleven by Bomber Command.

### **The Balkans.**

48. During the week our aircraft have continued to assist the withdrawal of our land forces by attacks on enemy communications and transport. Throughout the 29th April Blenheim fighters maintained patrols over convoys leaving Suda Bay for Egypt, and Hurricanes provided additional cover.

49. The chief rôle of the German Air Force has been attacks against harbours and shipping, mainly between Athens and Crete, and also in the waters of the Peloponnese. Heavy attacks have also been made on roads and on aerodromes. Thirteen Hurricanes were destroyed on the ground at Argos, South of Corinth.

50. A feature of the operations has been the use of Me. 109's against shipping in addition to Ju. 88's and Do. 17's. A detachment of air landing troops took part in the operations against the Corinth Isthmus.

### **Malta.**

51. The island was again subjected to raids at dusk on the 24th April when thirty aircraft attacked the dockyard, Luqa Aerodrome and the town of Valetta, where considerable damage to civilian property occurred.

52. During the night of 28th/29th April two heavy raids lasting three hours were carried out by about 50 aircraft. The main target was harbours and naval units. A.A. barrages turned away some of the raiders and probably destroyed one bomber.

53. On the evening of the 29th eight enemy bombers escorted by ten fighters made a high level bombing attack on the dockyard. Two of the raiders were brought down. Later the heaviest raid yet delivered against the island took place and lasted for over four hours. Seventy bombers took part and the dockyard and Takali Aerodrome were the main targets. Anti-aircraft fire again accounted for an enemy bomber. In these raids the dockyard suffered severe damage and a hospital was again hit. At the aerodromes at Luqa and Takali damage was not so serious.

54. Reconnaissances were carried out by Glenn Martin aircraft over the Tunisian Coast and Tripoli and by Hurricane over Sicily.

### **Egypt and Libya.**

55. On the night the 24th/25th April Wellingtons from Malta attacked Tripoli Harbour and scored hits on the Customs Wharf and a seaplane hangar.

56. On six nights Wellingtons bombed the port of Benghazi. An oil dump and the telephone exchange were hit and bursts were observed on quays and roads. Numerous fires were started and harbour buildings set alight. Blenheim aircraft continued to bomb enemy motor transport near Capuzzo and in the Bardia and Tobruk Areas, and attacked dispersed aircraft on the landing grounds at Derna on four occasions, and at Gazala. Hurricanes carried out many low-flying attacks on enemy ground forces and damaged M.T. petrol tankers near Barce, while a Glenn Martin on reconnaissance machine-gunned 100 enemy troop-carrying aircraft which were embarking troops at Benina Aerodrome. Wellingtons and Blenheims bombed Derna and Benghazi and fourteen Hurricanes machine-gunned about 300 motor vehicles moving eastward in small columns between Gazala and Bardia.



57. The enemy attacked Tobruk on the 23rd, 24th, 27th and 28th April with approximately twenty bombers each day. On the 23rd eight enemy aircraft were destroyed and one probably destroyed, while three Hurricanes were shot down, two of the pilots being safe.

58. On the 25th April enemy aircraft bombed Halfaya and Mersa Matruh and lost one aircraft by A.A. fire.

59. The long-range and short-range bomber force in Libya is being gradually reinforced, but difficulty is still being experienced by the German Air Force in supplying and servicing forward areas.

#### **Dodecanese.**

60. On the night the 23rd/24th April the harbour at Rhodes was again attacked and violent explosions took place.

#### **Italian East Africa and Abyssinia.**

61. Aircraft of the South African Air Force continued to support the movements of our ground forces radiating from Addis Ababa in the directions of Dessie and Jimma.

### **HOME SECURITY SITUATION.**

#### **General.**

##### *By Day.*

62. Daylight raiding took place on five days in the period, but it was not at any time extensive. Some damage was done to houses and property at the following places:—

On the 25th April at Lancing.

On the 26th April at Folkestone and in Dover by shellfire.

On the 28th April at Newburgh and Spittal (near Berwick), and with machine-gun fire at a number of points on the N.E. Coast of Scotland and at Great Yarmouth.

On the 29th April the Dover area was subjected to about six hours intermittent shelling.

The only serious casualties that occurred were at a chemical factory at Spittal.

##### *By Night.*

63. Bombing occurred on a scale of varying intensity on the first six nights of the week. There was no bombing on the last night. Plymouth and Devonport, after a lapse of only 4 days, were again raided on consecutive nights, making a total of 5 raids in 9 nights.

##### *On the 24th/25th April.*

64. There was an attack on the Isle of Wight. Four medium fires in Newport and one in Cowes were started. A military hospital was burnt out and a temporary military H.Q. received a direct hit. The only casualty reported was one person killed.

##### *On the 25th/26th April.*

65. The enemy activity was almost all north of the Humber, and the enemy's main bombing was concentrated on Tyneside. Considerable damage to house property and a number of casualties were reported. Some parachute mines were dropped in Hull, causing much damage and a number of casualties. The only serious railway incident was at Blyth, where a signal box was demolished and all lines and rolling-stock nearby destroyed.

*On the 26th/27th April.*

66. There was considerable bombing over a wide area. The chief attack was against Merseyside, but it was not one of the heavier Mersey raids. Formby, Southport and Wheelock, Cheshire, suffered a good deal of damage, but there were comparatively few casualties. Walton prison was damaged by fire and a considerable area of timber was set on fire near the Southport Golf Course. This fire was subsequently bombed and ten parachute mines were also dropped. Portsmouth was also the object of an attack.

*On the 27th/28th April.*

67. Portsmouth was again raided and more effectively than on the previous night. A large number of fires was started. Besides damage to Naval establishment some dislocation was effected to the Railway Service. A part of the Royal Portsmouth Hospital was destroyed and the hospital put out of commission. The Infectious Diseases Hospital was also damaged. Fifty people were reported to have been killed.

In Gosport there were six fires, which included one at a cinema and another at the railway station, and six people were killed.

*On the 28th/29th April.*

68. Plymouth and Devonport were attacked. Damage in the centre of the city does not appear to have been large; the enemy seems to have paid more attention to military targets. Among neighbouring areas which suffered in this raid was Saltash, where the main street was seriously damaged by fire and forty houses burned out.

The aerodromes at St. Eval, Cornwall, and at St. Athan, Glamorgan-shire, were also bombed and a parachute mine caused damage and casualties in Hove.

*On the 29th/30th April.*

69. Plymouth and Devonport were again attacked, and, although the raid was on a larger scale than any of its predecessors, it began with inaccurate bombing in open country North of the city, where wood-fires at Mount Edgcumbe were heavily bombed. It was comparatively late in the raid before the enemy found his targets, and the attack did not therefore seem so heavy as some of its predecessors. The raid lasted nearly four hours, and, though its effects cannot yet be fully assessed, it is clear that, after all that the city and its environs have lately been through, this raid struck a heavy blow. The main weight of attack was felt at Keyham and Milehouse, between Plymouth and Devonport.

70. High explosives seem to have predominated over incendiary attack, and only 20 fires were reported. Fires were started in Milehouse, at a Devonport gas-holder and once again at the Tor Point oil cisterns. In addition to areas of military importance, the city's civilian life seems again to have suffered severely, and a shopping centre at Mutley, rendered more important by the destruction done elsewhere in earlier raids, was damaged in this one. Residential districts suffered severely, the worst damage of this kind being reported from the Beacon Park and Hartley areas.

The fires were all brought under control during the morning. Casualties cannot yet be accurately estimated.

71. Plymouth has rallied with vigour from all attacks. It is natural that after five such raids the people should be somewhat shaken, but the movement of population from the city is regarded as reasonably well in hand, and the problem is being largely solved by the provision of rail tickets for would-be evacuees, and by the evacuation of children from specified areas.

72. Bombing was also widespread in Glamorgan, where at one time a heavy attack seemed likely to develop on Cardiff. Parachute mines and heavy H.E. were dropped in the city, and four small fires were started; but the attack was not pressed, and damage does not at present seem to have been extensive. About 93 casualties, some of them fatal, have so far been reported.

A number of bombs were dropped at other places in the West. Elsewhere, East Anglia was the only district affected. In Norwich a number of fires were



started. Some houses and 3 factories were damaged and there were a few casualties.

#### **Damage.**

*Plymouth 28th/29th and 29th/30th April.*

73. Damage in the Dockland area and to the naval establishments is recorded in the naval section.

There was further dislocation of the railway system. All rail traffic to Cornwall was stopped when the Paddington-Penzance express was hit at Keyham Station, wrecking the engine and a coach, and damaging the main line.

Buildings destroyed or badly damaged in this last raid include the Transport depot at Milehouse, the Swilly hospital, the Eye hospital (direct hit), the Johnstone School, the Swilly First Aid Party Depot and the Royal Western Yacht Club.

#### **Casualties.**

74. The estimated civilian casualties for the week ending 0600 hours the 30th April are 335 killed and 496 seriously injured. There were no casualties in London.

The civilian casualties for Plymouth so far recorded for the night of the 28th/29th and 29th/30th are 89 killed and 250 seriously injured, but these figures are known to be incomplete.

# APPENDIX I.

## Enemy Attack on Trade.

SECTION A.—Merchant Vessels (excluding Commissioned Merchant Vessels) of all tonnages reported lost by enemy action.

(Note.—Tonnages are gross unless otherwise stated.)

### By Submarine.

Name and Tonnage.	Nationality.	Cargo.	From—	To—	How sunk.	In Convoy or not.*	Position.	Fate of Crew and other Remarks.
S/S <i>Aurillac</i> ... (4,733)	British	Manganese ore	Takoradi	Workington	Torpedo	Not	470 miles W. of Cape St. Vincent	22 landed Madeira, 19 picked up by Portuguese ship, 1 died.
S/S <i>Empire Endurance</i> ... (8,570)	British	Govt. stores	Swansea	Alexandria	Torpedo	Not	470 miles W. of Slyne Head	24 landed Greenock, 1 boat missing.
M/V Tanker <i>Castor</i> ... (8,714)	Swedish	...	Port Arthur	Göteborg	Torpedo	Not	500 miles S.S.W. of Iceland	21 arrived Curaçao, 15 missing.
S/S Cargo and Pass. <i>Calchas</i> ... (10,305)	British	General and refrig.	Sydney	Liverpool via Durban	Torpedo	Not	530 miles W.S.W. of Canaries	None reported.
S/S <i>Eskdene</i> ... (3,829)	British	...	Hull	Buenos Aires	Torpedo	Not	350 miles W. by N. of Madeira	All arrived Pernambuco.
S/S <i>St. Helena</i> ... (4,313)	British	Grain and general	Montevideo	Hull	Torpedo	Yes	100 miles off Free-town	40 in H.M. ship.
S/S <i>Temple Moat</i> ... (4,427)	British	Coal	Clyde	Buenos Aires	Not known	Yes	240 miles S. of Iceland	Not yet known.
S/S <i>Agnete Maersk</i> ... (2,104)	British	...	Ardrossan	St. Johns, N.B.	Gunned	Yes	675 miles W. of Ushant	Not known.
S/S <i>Rimfakse</i> ... (1,354)	Norwegian	...	Loch Ewe	Reykjavik	Torpedo	...	130 miles N.W. of Butt of Lewis	7 landed Scrabster. 12 others probably prisoners in U-boat.
M/V Tanker <i>Capulet</i> ... (8,190)	British	Fuel oil	Curaçao	Scapa Flow	Torpedo	Yes	340 miles W.N.W. of Butt of Lewis	Not yet known.
M/V <i>Beacon Grange</i> ... (10,119)	British	...	Tyne	Buenos Aires	Torpedo	Not	340 miles W.N.W. of Butt of Lewis	41 picked up and search being made for 1 more boat.
M/V Tanker <i>Caledonia</i> ... (9,892)	Norwegian	Diesel oil	Aruba	Clyde	Torpedo	Yes	About 300 miles W.N.W. of Butt of Lewis	Not yet known.
S/S <i>Port Hardy</i> ... (8,897)	British	General	Wellington Dunedin	Avonmouth	Torpedo	Yes	About 300 miles W.N.W. of Butt of Lewis	Not yet known.

\* This information is provisional and may be modified subsequently on receipt of Commodore's report.



# By Submarine—(contd.).

Name and Tonnage.	Nationality.	Cargo.	From—	To—	Cause.	In Convoy or not.*	Position.	Fate of Crew and other Remarks.
[22468] M/V Tanker <i>Oilfield</i> ... (8,516)	British	Benzine	Aruba	Loch Ewe...	Torpedo	Yes	About 300 miles W.N.W. of Butt of Lewis	Not yet known.
S/S <i>City of Nagpur</i> ... (10,146)	British	...	Glasgow	Freetown	Not known	Not	Approx. 600 miles W. of Ireland	9 boat loads picked up by H.M. ship.

# By Mine.

S/S Tanker <i>Ahamo</i> ... (8,621)	British	Ballast	London	Curaçao	...	Yes	Off Skegness	31 saved, 14 missing.
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# By Aircraft.

S/S <i>Styliani</i> ... (3,256)	Greek	...	...	...	Bomb	...	Piræus	Previously shown as damaged, is now considered total loss.
Hospital Ship <i>Policos</i> ... (875)	Greek	...	...	...	Bomb	...	At Methana	No casualties.
Hospital Ship <i>Andros</i> ... (2,068)	Greek	...	...	...	Bomb	...	At Loutraki	Some casualties among crew.
S/S <i>Mouutpark</i> ... (4,648)	British	Grain	Bahia Blanca	Manchester	Bomb	Ex.	150 miles N.W. of Bloody Foreland	35 landed, 6 killed.
M/V <i>Swedru</i> ... (5,379)	British	W.A. produce	Duala	Liverpool	Bomb	Yes	158 miles W. of Bloody Foreland	1 killed, 33 landed Londonderry.
S/S <i>Kalua</i> ... (722)	British	General	Tyne	...	Bomb	Yes	Off T.2 Buoy Tyne	No casualties.

\* This information is provisional and may be modified subsequently on receipt of Commodore's report.

### By Surface Craft.

Date.	Name and Tonnage.	Nationality.	Cargo.	From—	To—	How sunk.	In Convoy or not.*	Position.	Fate of Crew and other Remarks.
1940.									
...	S/S <i>Daphne II</i> ... (1,970)	British ...	Ballast ...	London ...	Tyne ...	E-boat ...	Yes ...	15 miles N.N.W. of Cromer	30 landed, 2 wounded.
...	M/V Tanker <i>Pericles</i> (8,324)	Norwegian ...	Fuel oil ...	...	...	E-boat ...	...	At Suda Bay	No casualties. Previously damaged, now a C.T.L.
July 8 ...	S/S <i>Wendover</i> ... (5,487)	British ...	...	Liverpool ...	Buenos Aires	Raider ...	...	Atlantic ...	Some, if not all, reported prisoners of war.
July 10 ...	S/S <i>Bruges</i> ... (4,984)	Belgian ...	...	Montevideo	Hull ...	Raider ...	...	Atlantic ...	Some, if not all, now reported prisoners of war.
Oct. 12 ... (about)	M/V Tanker <i>Storstad</i> (8,998)	Norwegian ...	...	Miri ...	Melbourne	Raider ...	...	Indian Ocean	Some crew reported arrived Oslo, April 18, 1941.
Nov. 5 ...	S/S <i>Mopan</i> ... (5,389)	British ...	...	Port Antonio	Garston ...	Raider ...	...	Atlantic ...	Some, if not all, reported prisoners of war.
Nov. 30 ...	S/S <i>Port Wellington</i> (8,301)	British ...	...	Adelaide ...	Durban and U.K.	Raider ...	...	Indian Ocean	Crew, except Captain and W/T Officer, prisoners of war.
Dec. 4 ...	S/S <i>Tribesman</i> ... (6,242)	British ...	...	Liverpool ...	Durban and Calcutta	Raider ...	...	Atlantic ...	Some, if not all, reported prisoners of war.
1941.									
Jan. 19 ...	S/S <i>Barneveld</i> ... (5,597)	Dutch ...	...	London ...	Malta via Freetown	Raider ...	...	Atlantic ...	Some crew, prisoners of war, repatriated to Holland from France.
...	S/S <i>Ambrose Fleming</i> (1,555)	British ...	...	London ...	Burntisland	E-boat T. ...	Yes ...	Nr. 58 Buoy, Cromer	11 picked up, 11 missing.

### By Cause Unknown.

...	Steam Trawler <i>Flavia</i> (202)	British ...	...	Aberdeen ...	Fishing grounds	Not known	...	North Sea ...	Presumed all lost. Previously in Marine List now transferred to Enemy Action.
...	S/S <i>Urania</i> ... (1,953)	Panamanian ...	...	...	...	Not known	...	Tobruk ...	None reported.

\* This information is provisional and may be modified subsequently on receipt of Commodore's report.



# SECTION B.—Merchant Vessels (excluding Commissioned Merchant Vessels) of all tonnages REPORTED damaged by Enemy Action.

NOTE.—Following ships which were previously shown as damaged have now been transferred to Section A, as lost:—*Empire Endurance, Castor, Calchas, Eskdene, St. Helena, Ahamo, Daphne II, Perieles, Swedru.*

Date.	Name and Tonnage.	Nationality.	Cargo.	From—	To—	Cause.	In convoy or not.*	Position.	Extent of Damage.	Casualties to Crew. Other Remarks.
Apr. 3 ...	S/S <i>Cairnie</i> ... (250)	British ...	...	...	...	A/C ...	Yes ...	Off Aberdeen ...	Steering gear damaged. Vessel ashore on Aberdeen sands	Crew taken off.
Apr. 11 ...	<i>Kronprinsessan Margareta</i> ... (3,746)	Swedish ...	Paper, honey, &c.	Montreal ...	Portishead...	A/C. ...	...	Portishead ...	Set on fire. Fire extinguished, listing badly	None reported.
Apr. 12 ...	S/S <i>Dartford</i> ... (4,093)	British ...	Ballast ...	Avonmouth	Swansea ...	A/C. ...	Not ...	1½ miles S. of Mumbles Lt.	Struck by bomb amidships starboard. Engines disabled and towed Cardiff	No casualties.
Prev. to Apr. 16 ...	S/S <i>City of Norwich</i> ... (6,726)	British ...	Govt. Ser.	Alexandria	Port Said ...	A/C. ...	...	E. Mediterranean	Main engines damaged. Repairs Port Said, expected to complete April 30	None reported.
Ditto ...	S/S <i>Kohistan</i> ... (5,884)	British ...	Govt. Ser.	Alexandria	Port Said ...	A/C. ...	...	E. Mediterranean	Dry-docked as result of near miss	None reported.
Ditto ...	M/V <i>Cingalese Prince</i> ... (8,474)	British ...	Govt. Ser.	Alexandria	Port Said ...	A/C. ...	...	E. Mediterranean	At Port Said repairing damage caused by bomb. Expects to complete 5.5.41	None reported.
Apr. 17 ...	S/S <i>Petrakis Nomikos</i> ... (7,020)	Greek ...	...	...	...	A/C ...	...	Piræus ...	Leaking and beached ...	None reported.
Apr. 21 ...	Hospital ship <i>Ellenis</i> ... (876)	Greek ...	...	...	...	A/C. ...	...	Nr. Patras ...	Damaged and some fires.	
Apr. 21 ...	S/S <i>Bankura</i> ... (3,185)	British ...	...	...	...	A/C. ...	...	Tobruk ...	Severely damaged. Engine room and stokehold filling, also after hold from tunnel	None reported.
Apr. 22 ...	S/S <i>Croham</i> ... (391)	British ...	...	...	...	A/C. ...	...	Peterhead ...	Arrived Aberdeen for repairs	No casualties.

\* This information is provisional and may be modified subsequently on receipt of Commodore's report.

Date.	Name and Tonnage.	Nationality.	Cargo.	From—	To—	Cause.	In Convoy or not.*	Position.	Extent of Damage.	Casualties to Crew. Other Remarks.
Apr. 24 ...	M/V <i>Dolius</i> (5,507)	British ...	...	Hong Kong	London via Cape	A/C ...	...	Off Bell Rock, Firth of Tay	Anchored Inverkeithing Bay. Leaking badly	No casualties.
Apr. 24 ...	S/Trawler <i>Dandara</i> (213)	British ...	...	...	...	A/C ...	...	150 miles S.E. of Iceland	Slight... ..	1 wounded.
Apr. 25 ...	M/V Tanker <i>Polarsol</i> (10,022)	Norwegian...	...	Mersey ...	Curaçao ...	A/C ...	Not ...	S.E. of Myrdals Jokul Light, Iceland 180 miles	On fire but under control. Proceeding Reykjavik in tow	None reported.
Prior to Apr. 27 ...	S/S <i>Celte</i> (943)	British ...	...	Reykjavik ...	Hull ...	A/C ...	...	110 miles S.W. of Faroes	Still afloat at 0700/27 ...	24 taken off, 2 wounded.
Apr. 27 ...	<i>Meliskerk</i> (6,045)	Dutch ...	...	Mombasa ...	London ...	A/C ...	Yes ...	16 miles E. of Wick	Arrived Kirkwall. U.X.B. removed—otherwise slight damage to deck and bulwarks	None reported.
Apr. 27 ...	S/S <i>William H. Daniels</i> (1,764)	British ...	...	London ...	Tyne ...	A/C ...	Yes ...	Off Cork L/V nr. Felixstowe	Bomb hit hatch and went through starside above water-line without exploding	None reported.
Apr. 29 ...	S/S <i>Corglen</i> (2,822)	British ...	...	Tyne ...	...	A/C ...	Yes ...	Off T.2 Buoy, Tyne	Not stated ...	1 killed, 1 injured
Prior to Apr. 30 ...	M/V <i>Santa Clara Valley</i> (4,665)	British ...	Govt. Service	Piræus ...	Nauplia ...	Not known	...	E. Mediterranean	Not stated ...	Crew stated to have been rescued. 2 injured.

\* This information is provisional and may be modified subsequently on receipt of Commodore's report.

NOTE.—Ships shown as damaged and in Greek ports may now be in enemy hands—pending further details they are shown as last reported.



## APPENDIX II.

**Merchant Ships (all sizes) other than Merchant Ships Commissioned for Naval Service reported lost by Enemy Action up to Noon, Wednesday, 30th April, 1941.**

	British.		Allied.		Neutral.		Together.	
	No.	Gross Tons.	No.	Gross Tons.	No.	Gross Tons.	No.	Gross Tons.
Submarine ... ..	378	2,143,000	97	478,000	180	587,000	655	3,208,000
Mine ... ..	194	492,000	39	106,000	79	232,000	312	830,000
Surface Craft ... ..	117	586,000	36	229,000	6	18,000	159	833,000
Aircraft ... ..	189	560,000	80	326,000	33	88,000	302	974,000
Other causes, or cause unknown	39	83,000	8	38,000	10	32,000	57	153,000
	917	3,864,000	260	1,177,000	308	957,000	1,485	5,998,000

NOTE.—“Allied” figures include Polish; all French up to June 25, 1940; “Free” French from June 25, 1940; Norwegian from April 9, 1940; Dutch and Belgian from May 10, 1940; Greek from October 28, 1940; and Yugo-Slavian from April 6, 1941. “Neutral” figures include Italian up to June 10, 1940; “Vichy” French from June 25, 1940; and Yugo-Slavian to April 6, 1941.

## APPENDIX III.

**(1) Additions to and deductions from British Sea-going Merchant Tonnage (ships of 500 gross tons and over), including Merchant Ships Commissioned for Naval Service, from 2nd September, 1939, to 27th April, 1941.**

	Tankers.		Others.	
	No.	Gross Tons.	No.	Gross Tons.
British ships on September 2, 1939 ... ..	519	3,275,000	3,578	15,390,000
<b>Additions—</b>				
New ships ... ..	16	130,000	210	1,142,000
Enemy ships captured ... ..	1	6,000	53	275,000
Ships transferred from other flags—				
Danish ... ..	8	66,000	115	305,000
French ... ..	12	60,000	107	502,000
Roumanian ... ..	2	11,000	2	8,000
Estonian ... ..	...	...	22	37,000
Latvian ... ..	...	...	3	6,000
Others ... ..	13	85,000	143	756,000
Other additions ... ..	11	16,000	92	189,000
Total additions ... ..	63	374,000	747	3,220,000
<b>Deductions—</b>				
Ships sunk by the enemy—				
(i) Merchant ships commissioned for Naval Service ... ..	2	13,000	28	251,000
(ii) Others ... ..	86	661,000	673	3,087,000
Ships captured by the enemy ... ..	1	6,000	5	16,000
Ships detained in French ports ... ..	1	4,000	18	59,000
Other deductions (including Marine Risk)—				
(i) Commissioned for Naval Service ... ..	2	2,000	22	62,000
(ii) Others ... ..	9	44,000	159	533,000
Total deductions ... ..	101	730,000	905	4,008,000
Net additions (+) or deductions (−) ... ..	− 38	− 356,000	− 158	− 788,000
British ships on April 27, 1941 ... ..	481	2,919,000	3,420	14,602,000*

\* Of the total Non-Tanker tonnage, vessels representing about 4,100 thousand gross tons are engaged on Naval, Military or R.A.F. Services (including some commissioned for Naval Service), some of which bring cargoes to the United Kingdom on their homeward voyage. After allowing for vessels (1) trading permanently abroad and (2) undergoing or awaiting repair, including the fitting of defensive protection, the balance is a little under 7 million gross tons, some part of which is engaged in the coasting trade of the United Kingdom and Eire.

**(2) Total losses of, and other deductions from, British Sea-going Merchant Ships of 500 gross tons and over, including Merchant Ships Commissioned for Naval Service, expressed as approximate annual rates of loss.**

Period.	Total losses sunk or captured by the enemy, and other deductions in the period.	Approximate annual loss if column (2) losses continued for a year.
(1)	(2)	(3)
First 9 months of war : i.e., from September 3, 1939, to May 31, 1940	Gross Tons. 1,098,000	Gross Tons. 1,500,000
Following 3 months : i.e., from June 1, 1940, to August 31, 1940...	1,056,000	4,200,000
Month of September, 1940 ... ..	345,000	4,200,000
" October, 1940 ... ..	317,000	3,700,000
" November, 1940 ... ..	380,000	4,600,000
" December, 1940 ... ..	333,000	3,900,000
" January, 1941 ... ..	226,000	2,700,000
" February 1941 ... ..	371,000	4,800,000
" March, 1941 ... ..	359,000	4,200,000
April 1 to 27, 1941... ..	237,000*	3,200,000

\* These figures relate to losses so far notified, and may be increased by late notifications.

**(3) Merchant Ships (100 gross tons and over) under construction in British Yards in the United Kingdom and abroad in week ending 25th April, 1941.**

	Tankers.		Others.	
	No.	Gross Tons.	No.	Gross Tons.
Colliers and coasting ships ... ..	6	4,000	33	40,000
Other ships ... ..	40	332,000	131*	846,000
	46	336,000	164	886,000

\* Including 5 vessels (33,000 gross tons) building abroad, 2 merchant ships (18,000 gross tons) taken over by the Navy during construction and 11 ships (20,000 gross tons) of merchant type intended for Naval use.

In addition, there are 183 merchant ships totalling 1,224,000 gross tons on order or proposed to order in the United Kingdom and abroad (including 17 tankers of 107,000 gross tons).

## APPENDIX IV.

**Merchant Ships (all sizes) lost by the enemy up to 30th April, 1941.**

	German.		Italian.		Together.	
	No.	Gross Tons.	No.	Gross Tons.	No.	Gross Tons.
Captured or seized ...	61	274,000	39	184,000	100	458,000
Scuttled or sunk ...	102	587,000	70	384,000	172	971,000
Unidentified ships reported by S/M, A/C, &c., as sunk or destroyed (tonnage estimated) ...	171	855,000	95	475,000	266	1,330,000
	334	1,716,000	204	1,043,000	538	2,759,000

In addition, 37 ships of 66,000 gross tons under enemy control or useful to the enemy have been sunk.

Some 53 ships, totalling nearly 300,000 gross tons, have been placed under protective custody in United States and South American ports to prevent sabotage by their crews.



## APPENDIX V.

## Casualties to H.M. Auxiliary Vessels and to Naval Personnel.

The following casualties have occurred to H.M. Auxiliary Vessels during the period under review :—

*April 24.*—Salvage Vessel *Miss Blane* sunk at Plymouth.

*April 26.*—A/P Trawler *Donna Nook* damaged by bombs off the Tyne.

*April 28/29.*—A/P Trawler P2 sunk and P12 damaged by bombs at Plymouth.

*April 29/30.*—A/P Vessel *Pessac* sunk and s.s. *Prince Charles* damaged by bombs at Plymouth.

The following casualties to Naval personnel have been reported :—

Officers : killed 22, missing 7, wounded 22.

Ratings : killed 12, missing 145, wounded 1.

## APPENDIX VI.

## Operational Aircraft Battle Casualties.

0600 hours, Thursday, April 24, 1941, to 0600 hours, Thursday, May 1, 1941.

## Metropolitan Area.

British						In the Air.	On the Ground.
Bombers ...	...	...	...	...	...	14	...
Fighters ...	...	...	...	...	...	7	...
Coastal ...	...	...	...	...	...	15	...
Total ...						36	...

Number of fighter pilots "known to be safe," Nil.

German.						Destroyed.	Probably Destroyed.	Damaged.
Bombers ...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	11
Fighters ...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	2
Miscellaneous ...	...	...	...	...	...	12	3	2
Total ...						23	3	15

No account is taken of aircraft destroyed on the ground.

Of the above totals, 10 miscellaneous aircraft were destroyed, 1 probably destroyed and 1 damaged by A.A. fire.

## Middle East.

British						In the Air.	On the Ground.
Bombers...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...
Fighters ...	...	...	...	...	...	4	13
Coastal ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Total ...						10	15

Of the above totals, 1 bomber and 1 fighter were lost in action, and 1 bomber was lost on the ground in the Grecian campaign.

Italian.						Destroyed.	Probably Destroyed.	Damaged.
Bombers ...	...	...	...	...	...	8	...	1
Fighters ...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...
Miscellaneous ...	...	...	...	...	...	18	...	...
Total ...						29	...	1

This total includes 18 unidentified aircraft captured by troops at Combolcia (Dessie) on April 28th, 1941. One bomber was destroyed by A.A. fire.

German.						Destroyed.	Probably Destroyed.	Damaged.
Bombers ...	...	...	...	...	...	6	3	3
Fighters ...	...	...	...	...	...	6	3	1
Miscellaneous ...	...	...	...	...	...	5	...	7
Total ...						17	6	11

Of the above totals, 3 bombers, 1 fighter and 4 miscellaneous aircraft were destroyed, 2 bombers probably destroyed, and 1 fighter and 2 bombers damaged by A.A. fire.

## APPENDIX VII.

## Air Attacks on Enemy Territory in Europe.

## Extracts from Recent Raid Assessment Reports.

The following reports of damage have been received during the past week from air reconnaissance and Intelligence sources :—

**Germany.**

*Berlin.*—Recent raids have created a tremendous impression upon the population, who are said to be bewildered at the extent of the damage. Reports continue to be received of major damage to railway stations, factories, house property, &c. The German Minister of Health was wounded as a result of a hit on his house in the Kurfürstendamm.

The following report gives a picture of a recent raid on Emden :—

*Emden.*—“ The raid on Emden, when the new H.E. was tried out, was the first really effective one. The fault was that it was not repeated on the following nights, as, if this had been the case, the nerves of the Emden inhabitants would have been completely broken. The people on the streets, the police, the clearing squads, in fact everyone, was completely broken down the following morning, and with three raids in succession Emden would have been only a memory. A little exaggerated, but not far from the truth. Complete confusion obtained and the usual shutting off of sectors could not be done.

One was amazed at the great destruction caused by few bombs. The explosive used must have been fantastic, for a bomb which fell near the post office turned the whole of that quarter, with the exception of the post office, into a heap of ruins. One wing of the post office was smashed and the chief office badly damaged. Houses which were 300 and even 500 metres from where the bomb fell had window frames, doors and parts of their roofs blown out. Seventy houses were completely destroyed and twenty-five of these were just heaps of bricks. Altogether, 200 houses were damaged. (Broken windows not included.)

Of the five bombs estimated dropped on this night two caused fires 200 to 300 metres high. Some four to six bomb explosions were heard, but on the day after the results of four could only be found, and therefore the explosive must have been dreadful. More of these and bigger are required. The raid on Emden has caused great fear amongst the Germans there.”

*Kiel.*—Photographs taken on the 25th April, 1941, reveal the following interesting features :—

Major damage not previously reported at the Germania Yard. The Pattern shop is now seen to be completely wrecked. At Gaarden (S.E. Kiel) two areas in the Johannes Strasse and Augustenstrasse are now being demolished and cleared. The clearances reveal that larger areas have been completely wrecked than were at first reported. A large school at Germania Ring has been completely gutted by fire. One long shed in the slaughter house (S.W. Kiel) is now seen to be gutted by fire. Throughout the N.W., S., S.W. and W. districts of the town there is major damage to house property.

*Wilhelmshaven.*—Great damage was caused to the whole of the Navy Yard. The provision and equipment depot was badly damaged and large quantities of clothing material were destroyed. After the two January raids over 5,000 men were out of work.

*Cologne.*—At the end of February and the beginning of March considerable damage was caused on the right bank of the Rhine. Fires in the Rhenau and Hansa wharves burnt all night. Two foundries at Humboldts machine works were destroyed and the Deutsche Motorwerke were hit. The approaches to the Hohenzollern Bridge on the Deutz side were hit and Kluckner Steel Works and the Rhenische Steel Works at Mulheim were damaged. Casualties were said to



be 600 killed and 1,900 injured. A bomb which fell in I. G. Farben, at Leverkusen, hit a chemical retort and 25 people were badly gassed, some of whom died shortly after.

¶ *Hamburg*.—In the March raids one of the Power Stations was hit and in the middle of April was still 50 per cent. affected.

*Essen*.—Damage to the foundry at Krupps has been partially repaired. Two piers of a bridge over railway lines in the vicinity of the works were damaged, causing a serious interruption of communications to and from the works for 5 days. Spare furnaces in other parts of the works have been put into operation to off set the loss of several damaged furnaces in the foundry.

*Norderney*.—Photographs taken on the 20th April confirm the success of the attack on the 10th April. The greater part of the damage has occurred in the Kaiserstrasse and several buildings have been destroyed or damaged by high explosive and fire.

#### Occupied France.

*Brest*.—The *Gneisenau* is reported to have received a direct hit and to be damaged. The *Scharnhorst* is reported to be down at the stern as a result of either a direct hit or a near miss.

#### Occupied Norway.

*Hoyanger*.—The oxide works was destroyed. It is not certain whether this will cause production to cease as other supplies of aluminium oxide are probably available.

#### Bulgaria.

In the first raid on Sofia the old Custom House received a direct hit and was completely wrecked.

#### Mining.

The largest dredger in the port of Nantes was destroyed by a mine on the 8th February in the Channel leading to the mouth of the river. The German steamer *Taurus* of 1,158 tons was mined and sank in the South Sound early in March. Twenty-seven wounded members of the crew were taken to Copenhagen hospital.

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