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**W.M. (42)****19th Conclusions.****TO BE KEPT UNDER LOCK AND KEY.**

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**WAR CABINET 19 (42).**

*CONCLUSIONS of a Meeting of the War Cabinet held at 10 Downing Street, S.W. 1; on Monday, February 9, 1942, at 6 P.M.*

**Present :**

The Right Hon. WINSTON S. CHURCHILL, M.P., Prime Minister ( <i>in the Chair</i> ).	
The Right Hon. C. R. ATTLEE, M.P., Lord Privy Seal.	The Right Hon. Sir JOHN ANDERSON, M.P., Lord President of the Council.
The Right Hon. ANTHONY EDEN, M.P., Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.	The Right Hon. A. GREENWOOD, M.P., Minister without Portfolio.
The Right Hon. LORD BEAVERBROOK, Minister of Production.	The Right Hon. Sir KINGSLEY WOOD, M.P., Chancellor of the Exchequer.
The Right Hon. ERNEST BEVIN, M.P., Minister of Labour and National Service.	

**The following were also present :**

The Right Hon. Sir EARLE PAGE, Special Envoy from the Government of the Commonwealth of Australia.	
The Right Hon. HERBERT MORRISON, M.P., Secretary of State for the Home Department and Minister of Home Security.	The Right Hon. L. S. AMERY, M.P., Secretary of State for India and Secretary of State for Burma.
The Right Hon. LORD MOYNE, Secretary of State for the Colonies.	The Right Hon. A. V. ALEXANDER, M.P., First Lord of the Admiralty.
Captain the Right Hon. H. D. MARGESSON, M.P., Secretary of State for War.	The Right Hon. Sir ARCHIBALD SINCLAIR, Bt., M.P., Secretary of State for Air.
The Right Hon. BRENDAN BRACKEN, M.P., Minister of Information.	The Hon. Sir ALEXANDER CADOGAN, Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.
Admiral of the Fleet Sir DUDLEY POUND, First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff.	Air Chief Marshal Sir CHARLES F. A. PORTAL, Chief of the Air Staff.
General Sir ALAN BROOKE, Chief of the Imperial General Staff.	

**Secretariat :**

Sir EDWARD BRIDGES.  
Major-General Sir HASTINGS ISMAY.  
Mr. W. D. WILKINSON.  
Mr. L. F. BURGIS.

**WAR CABINET 19 (42).**

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**Naval, Military  
and Air  
Operations.**

(Previous  
Reference:  
W.M. (42) 14th  
Conclusions,  
Minute 1.)  
Air Operations.

1. *The Chiefs of Staff* gave the following information in amplification of Cabinet War Room Records Nos. 884-890:—

In the Home Theatre the enemy had lost 5 aircraft with 6 damaged; we had lost 14.

In the Middle East the enemy had lost 5 aircraft, with 2 probably destroyed and 11 damaged; we had lost 18 with 23 damaged.

In Burma the enemy had lost 13 aircraft with 13 probably destroyed and 4 damaged; we had lost 2 with 4 damaged.

At Singapore the enemy had lost 13 aircraft with 7 probably destroyed and 11 damaged; we had lost 26 aircraft with 14 damaged. In spite of the arrival of reinforcements, we were much outnumbered in the air. The Japanese had carried out heavy raids against Sumatra.

Naval  
Operations.  
Shipping Losses.

During the previous week 115,000 tons of shipping had been lost by enemy action. Belated reports might account for another 53,000 tons. United States shipping losses accounted for a substantial proportion of these figures. Tanker losses had been heavy.

Military  
Operations.  
Singapore.

At first light on the 8th February a small enemy force had occupied Pulau Ubin Island, North-East of Singapore Island in the Johore Straits. During the night the 8th/9th February the Japanese had landed a considerable force on the North-West Coast of Singapore Island. These troops had penetrated about 5 miles inland. Tengah aerodrome was in enemy occupation. This was serious news, but we had large numbers of troops in the Island.

Burma.

The general position had been quiet, with slight patrol activity at Paan and Dagwin (both on River Salween).

Libya.

A week ago our line had run roughly north and south through Mechili. Increased enemy pressure had caused a further withdrawal. A new line had now been established from Gazala to the south, covering Tobruk. Particulars were given of the tank strength on both sides. Questions were asked as to whether our arrangements for securing the serviceability of our tanks were satisfactory.

Russia.

German resistance in Russia appeared to be stiffening somewhat, and heavy snowfalls had hampered the Russian movements.

The War Cabinet took note of the above statement.

**United States of  
America.**  
Public Opinion.

2. In the course of discussion on the previous item, *the Foreign Secretary* referred to telegrams which he had received from the United States suggesting that we were letting others, and particularly Australian troops, do all the fighting for us, and that the material assistance sent was largely of American origin.

*The Minister of Information* said that, at an earlier stage, special publicity had been given to the utilisation of American equipment. But these instructions had already been cancelled.

The War Cabinet took note of this statement.

**Tangier.**

3. *The Foreign Secretary* gave information in regard to the attacks made on British establishments at Tangier, following a bomb explosion. Publicity in regard to these events was to be deprecated, and any action which might exacerbate the position should be avoided.

The War Cabinet took note of this statement.



**Falkland  
Islands.**  
Despatch of  
Canadian  
Troops.

4. *The Foreign Secretary* reminded the War Cabinet that it had been decided to inform President Roosevelt of the intention to despatch Canadian troops to the Falkland Islands. Mr. Mackenzie King had now made an enquiry as to the President's attitude. It was proposed to inform him that, in view of the nature of the reply received, he could now proceed to send Canadian troops to the Falkland Islands.

The War Cabinet took note of this statement.

**Civil Defence  
Services and  
Home Guard.**  
Mutual  
Assistance  
arrangements.

5. The War Cabinet—

Approved the scheme contained in the Memorandum by the Home Secretary and the Secretary of State for War (W.P. (42) 68) whereby a portion of civil defence workers might join the Home Guard, and members of the Home Guard might perform civil defence duties; and invited the Home Secretary to make the necessary announcement in the House of Commons on Thursday, the 12th February.

*Great George Street, S.W. 1,  
February 9, 1942.*



