WAR CABINET

WEEKLY RÉSUMÉ

(No. 92)

of the
NAVAL, MILITARY AND AIR SITUATION
from 12 noon May 29th, to
12 noon June 5th,
1941

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

General Review.

Cruisers and destroyers of the Mediterranean Fleet have been engaged in the evacuation of our military forces from Crete.

The German cruiser Prinz Eugen has been located at Brest.

Shipping losses have been about the average.

Home and Atlantic.

2. The German cruiser Prinz Eugen, which was last seen in company with the battleship Bismarck during the evening of the 24th May, was not again located until noon on the 4th June, when an air reconnaissance showed her in dry dock at Brest. During the intervening period H.M. Ships Repulse and Suffork, after searching an area to south-west of Greenland for possible supply ships, proceeded to reinforce ocean escorts for convoys sailing from Halifax, while H.M. Cruisers Aurora and Kenya continued on patrol to southward of Greenland. Patrons by cruisers and armed merchant cruisers have been maintained in the Denmark Strait, to south-eastward of Iceland and in mid-Atlantic between the West Indies and Freetown.

3. During the night of the 4th/5th a trawler on patrol intercepted the Finnish s.s. Modesta (3,530 tons) and sent her into Kirkwall under armed guard.

Single enemy aircraft were shot down by H.M. Destroyer Tartar to the westward of Ireland, by H.M. Trawler Chiltern off Plymouth and by H.M. Trawler Northern Sky to the north-west of the Hebrides.

During the period two escorted French merchant ships (6,625 tons) have passed Gibraltar westbound and five (upwards of 8,531 tons) eastbound.

Casualties to H.M. Auxiliary vessels are given in Appendix V.

Mediterranean.

4. NOTE.—Operations in the vicinity of Crete have been dealt with under “Military Situation.”

H.M. Australian destroyers Vendetta and Waterhen have continued to transport personnel, supplies and ammunition into Tobruk during hours of darkness. Enemy shelling of Tobruk and the harbour has been intensified since the 2nd June.

Two M.T.B.’s and a squadron of Swordfish aircraft are operating from Famagusta (Cyprus).

West Indies.

5. During the night of the 1st/2nd June the Dutch cruiser Van Kinsbergen intercepted to the eastward of Antigua the French s.s. Arica (5,380 tons) bound eastwards from Martinique and escorted her to Trinidad.

Enemy Shipping Losses.

6. Approximately 21,200 tons of enemy shipping have been sunk or damaged by aircraft of the Coastal and Bomber Command. Of this total, 13,000 tons were in the Mediterranean and 8,200 tons in the Home Waters. Details of attacks are given in the Air Section.

Anti-Submarine Operations.

7. There have been eight attacks on U-Boats during the week. Four of these were by surface vessels and four by aircraft. Of these, three were to the southward of Iceland (c), two were to the westward of Gibraltar, two were in the North-Western Approaches, and one was off the Gironde. No definite results were obtained. Aircraft also carried out six hunts for U-Boats, but these were unsuccessful.
Enemy Intelligence.

German.

8. Reconnaissance of Kiel showed that the battleship *Tirpitz* had left the floating dock and was alongside on the 30th May, but had sailed by the 3rd June. The pocket battleship *Admiral Scheer* was also seen alongside and the 8-inch cruiser *Hipper* in dry dock. The Pocket Battleship *Lutzow* is reported to have been at Swinemunde and the cruisers *Köln* and *Emden* at Gdynia on the 14th May. It is believed that except for the ships at Brest the remaining enemy main units are in the Baltic. Reconnaissance of Brest at 1250 on the 4th June showed that the new 8-inch cruiser *Prinz Eugen* was in the eastern dry dock. *Scharnhorst* and *Gneisenau* were in their usual positions.

Italian.

9. No change has been reported in the position of main units. A larger number of cruisers has been employed in escorting convoys between Sicily and North Africa.

U-Boats.

10. The Germans have maintained some fifteen U-Boats in the North-Western Approaches throughout the period under review. The majority have been well out to the westward in the area to the south-east of Greenland west of 35° W., but two or three have torpedoed ships in a more easterly area to the southward of 50° N., about 700-1,000 miles west of Ushant. Though there have been one or two Italians in the North-Western Approaches, their main concentration has been to the westward of Gibraltar. In the southern area the Germans have maintained four or more submarines between Cape Verde and the Equator, of which three have been working within 200 miles of Freetown. A German U-Boat has also operated off St. Vincent, Cape Verde Islands, and one has also visited Accra.

Enemy Attack on Seaborne Trade.

11. During the period the greater part of shipping losses from torpedo attack has occurred in the Cape Verde Islands to Freetown area and a ship was sunk while at anchor off Accra (Gold Coast). Other losses were sustained to the westward of Gibraltar. In the North-Western Approaches casualties have been exceptionally light, as also have been losses from mine. Only slight losses were sustained by coastal convoys although they were attacked on six occasions by aircraft off the East Coast between Dover and Cape Wrath.

Protection of Seaborne Trade.

12. During the week ending 4th June, 903 ships, of which 150 were allied and 14 neutral, were convoyed. Three battleships, one battle cruiser, two cruisers, ten armed merchant cruisers, two submarines, 55 destroyers and 58 sloops and corvettes have been employed on escort duties.

Imports into Great Britain by ships in convoy during the week ending 31st May again exceeded 1,000,000. The figure was 1,068,485 tons compared with 604,736 tons during the previous seven days and an average of 742,130 tons during the past ten weeks. Oil imports, in 31 tankers, totalled 381,217 tons compared with 153,759 tons in 14 tankers during the seven days ending 24th May. Mineral imports were 157,997 tons, of which 104,337 tons were steel, pig iron, scrap iron and iron ore. Timber imports were 38,759 tons, and flour and cereal imports were 244,269 tons. Twenty-seven ships were fully laden with grain. Other food imports were also most satisfactory, the total being 165,511 tons, compared with only 22,434 tons during the previous week. The principal imports were: sugar and molasses 63,833 tons, refrigerated and tinned meat, bacon and hams 28,491 tons, butter 13,887 tons, tinned and dried fruit 11,140 tons, cheese 6,889 tons, cocoa 1,692 tons. Tobacco imports totalled 1,903 tons. There were large quantities of ammunition and war stores, and among manufactured goods were 2,541 tons of machine-tools.
British Minelaying.

13. The only minelaying operations for the period under review have been in the East Coast Barrier, where H.M.S. Teviot Bank laid 270 mines on the 1st June and H.M.S. Plover 100 on the same day. There has been some slight minelaying activity by aircraft in the Central Mediterranean.

Enemy Minelaying, British Minesweeping.

Home Waters.

14. Enemy aircraft have not laid mines on an extensive scale in any area. Liverpool Bay has been visited on four nights during the week, the Bristol Channel and the Thames Estuary have each had one raid and the Humber three raids.

There has been only one casualty due to enemy mines in Home Waters during the period under review.

Two contact mines have been cut in the Falmouth minefield. Only eight magnetic mines and six acoustic mines have been detonated during the week, and the mine totals are magnetic 1,174, acoustic 633, contact 874.

Foreign Waters.

Minelaying aircraft raided Alexandria during the nights of the 30th and 31st May. The port was closed for a time, but was reopened at 0100/1st June.

Malta was reopened on the 1st June, having been closed since the 7th May. A searched channel about eighty miles long has been established for Massawa, Eritrea.

At least six ex-Norwegian whale catchers now in South American ports will be sent to India and Colombo for conversion to LL Sweep for service in the Mediterranean.

Enemy Merchant Shipping.

German.

15. The Hans Arp, 2,645 tons, arrived at Trieste on 24th May with a cargo of bauxite from Yugoslavia. A report has been received stating that Bulgarian and Greek ships in Turkish ports will be chartered by the German Government and will operate under their own flags. The Carissa, 1,819 tons, Ithaka, 1,773 tons, and Norburg, 2,392 tons, are all reported to have been sunk. None of them have been reported since they reached the Aegean in the middle of May. The Windhuk, 16,662 tons, has received her clearance papers and was said to be sailing from Santos on 4th June, but may be detained by the Brazilian authorities.

Italian.

16. There is now evidence to show that the Conte Rossa, 17,879 tons, was the large liner sunk by H.M.S. Upholder on 24th May. The Florida II, 3,313 tons, with a cargo of phosphates, was hit by three bombs and set on fire when attacked by Blenheims on 31st May about 4 miles east of Sfax. The French tanker Massis, 5,022 tons, is said to have been sold on 10th May at Sete and transferred to the Italian flag. Another French tanker, the Roussillon, 9,967 tons, is also believed to have been transferred to Italy.

There is considerable activity among Italian ships in Brazil.

Economic Warfare.

17. During the month of May 3,548 tons of cargo destined for the enemy were seized in prize, the main items being 2,800 tons of foodstuffs and beverages and 631 tons of textiles which were almost entirely from French ships. Two packets of diamonds valued at over £20,000 were also seized last month as contraband.

The total seizures since the beginning of the war to the end of May amount to 784,759 tons.
MILITARY SITUATION.

Crete.

18. On the night of the 26th/27th May our position in the Maleme-Suda area was broken, and on the next day the Commander-in-Chief, Middle East, ordered evacuation.

19. The Headquarters were moved to Sphakia on the night of the 27th/28th, and subsequently evacuation was carried out from there and Heraklion.

20. The main body embarked in cruisers and destroyers from Sphakia during the nights of the 29th, 30th and 31st and about 17,000 troops, of whom 500 were casualties and 250 prisoners of war, were landed at Alexandria, about 5,500 being left at Sphakia and about 2,000 at Retimo. In the withdrawal from Suda Bay the Royal Marines of the base defence organisation were formed into a rearguard.

21. During the evacuation air operations over Crete were mainly directed towards the reduction of the scale of German air attack on our naval forces. Attacks were carried out against aerodromes in Rhodes and Sarpanto in the Dodecanese, and at Heraklion and Maleme in Crete. Fighters provided cover during the passage of the ships to Alexandria. At least thirteen, probably twenty, enemy aircraft were destroyed by fighters, while a considerable number were shot down and damaged by anti-aircraft fire from H.M. Ships. Supplies were also dropped on our troops at Sphakia.

22. In addition to the casualties to H.M. Ships reported last week, H.M.S. Calcutta and H.M. Destroyers Imperial and Hereward were sunk, and H.M.S. Orion and H.M. Destroyer Napier were damaged. Casualties to naval personnel are reported to total 100 officers and 1,700 ratings.

23. The total number of German forces employed against Crete is difficult to estimate. It is thought that about 6,000 parachute troops were landed, of which about 2,000 were in the Maleme-Canea area, 1,500 at Retimo and 2,500 near Heraklion—followed by about 11,000 airborne troops, of which all but a small number at Heraklion were landed at Maleme or on adjacent beaches. Further details may alter this figure, but a total of 17,000 parachute and airborne troops is regarded as a minimum estimate. (See map at end.)

Egypt and Libya.

24. After the enemy counter-attack reported in last week’s Résumé had regained the ground they lost on the 15th May the situation has crystallised and remains comparatively static in the Tobruk and Western Desert forward areas. On the night of the 26th May our troops in Tobruk made a further small advance against the enemy salient and consolidated their new positions.

25. During the past few weeks reinforcement of Libya on a considerable scale has been undertaken by the Italians. During the past two months two army corps and at least one division have been reconstituted and the Conte Rosso, recently torpedoed, was reported to have a large Italian force on board. In Libya itself there has lately been an eastward movement of Italian divisions formerly stationed between Zuara and Misurata, and there is now no complete division between these two places, a distance of 235 miles. During the past month no important German reinforcements appear to have been sent to Libya.

Abyssinia.

26. The roads from Dessye to Gondar and to Assab have both been found blocked and work is proceeding to clear them.

Patriots have been active in the Lechemti area and have cut the Bacolechemti road to the north of Gimma; on the 30th May they captured an enemy advance post at Billo, 40 miles south-east of Lechemti.
27. On the 28th May in the Gondar area a further advance was made and our troops are now south of Debarech. During this operation, the patriot casualties were 150: the enemy lost 400 dead. The Gondar–Debra Tabor road has been cut.

28. On the 27th May General Cafarati surrendered to our forces in the Soddu area. In spite of heavy rains, mine-fields and demolitions, our troops have reached the bridge across the River Omo on the Soddu–Grimma road: the enemy have retired across the river, and are holding a strong position on the west bank, from which they cover the bridge. A small bridgehead was established on the 2nd June. The river, 100 yards wide, is running fast, and crossing is difficult.

Remnants of an Italian division located 10 miles south-west of Soddu have refused to surrender, and steps are being taken to cut off their retreat.

Iraq.

29. On the 28th May the infantry brigade operating from Basra reached Ur, and on the 2nd June Al Khidhir (50 miles further N.W.). The roads in this area are flooded and unfit for Motor Transport. On the 3rd June Iraqi troops at Qurha retired on orders from Baghdad.

30. Two columns from ITaborce reached the outskirts of Baghdad on the 30th May. In the meantime, Rashid Ali and his Cabinet having fled to Iran, a Committee of four under the Lord Mayor asked for an immediate armistice, which was granted. There was some rioting which was quelled by Iraqi troops from Kirkuk. Our troops moved into Baghdad on the 2nd June.

Small British mobile columns and air-borne troops reached Mosul on the 3rd June.

Intelligence.

31. Syria.—The report that German troops have landed in Syria has not been confirmed. It is reliably reported that aviation fuel and munitions are being sent there by Germany. Two reports state that instructions have been issued by the French authorities to villagers in Syria to expect and help parachutists.

32. German Air Force personnel are established at Aleppo, Damascus and Palmyra (in the central Syrian desert). There is little doubt that the Germans are making their main base at Aleppo, with others at Hassiche (nearly 200 miles further to the east) and at Tel Kotchek (on the Syria–Iraq border, 70 miles N.W. of Mosul). Thus, a line of bases across N. Syria to Iraq and parallel to the Turkish frontier is designed to link up with those in the Eastern Mediterranean, thereby furthering the encirclement of Turkey.

33. Iran.—The Iranian Army is being increased from sixteen to eighteen divisions and the garrisons in the neighbourhood of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company’s Concession in S.E. Iran are being reinforced. There is no sign of any reinforcement of the garrisons in Northern Iran near the Soviet border, which may indicate that there is at present less fear than usual of a Russian attack from Trans-Caucasia.

34. Turkey.—There are indications that the activities of the German Intelligence Service have recently been on the increase in Turkey. A new whispering campaign that she is the next country on the list of those to be let down by Great Britain has been started.

35. Russia.—It would seem that German preparations for an attack on Russia (concentrations of forces, establishment of dumps, improvement of railway facilities and intensification of Fifth Column activities) must be practically complete, but these preparations may still be used merely to ensure compliance with German demands in the negotiations which are believed to be taking place. If Russia declines to co-operate fully, military action by Germany appears likely.
AIR SITUATION.

General Review.

36. Operations by Bomber Command have again been restricted by unfavourable weather. Enemy night operations against this country have been on a heavier scale.

Aircraft from Egypt have provided cover for the withdrawal of our forces from Crete.

Operational aircraft battle casualties and extracts from recent Raid Assessment Reports are given in Appendices VI and VII.

Germany and Occupied Territory.

General.

37. Bomber Command flew 131 sorties by day and 186 by night. This was a reduction in the scale of effort by day compared with the previous week, but an increase by night.

Day.

38. On the 2nd June, when Blenheims of Bomber Command were engaged on attacks on shipping in the Kiel area (see Coastal Operations), Naval Barracks are believed to have been hit by H.E. bombs, while a building near Rendsburg and a small factory near Brunsbuttel were set on fire. On the same day a Blenheim of Coastal Command scored direct hits on an aircraft factory at Havre, which was also set on fire. The port of Zeebrugge was attacked on the 4th June by Blenheim bombers and numerous bursts were observed on the Mole, where two emplacements were machine-gunned.

39. During the period under review offensive fighter operations were carried out over North-East France and along the Belgian and French Coasts. Military transport and columns of troops were attacked and two Hurricanes, one armed with cannon, sank a 300-ton trawler off Dunkirk.

40. Strong fighter escorts were provided on the 4th June for two attacks by Blenheim bombers on shipping at Boulogne; Supporting sweeps for these operations resulted in the destruction of three enemy fighters, with four damaged, against a loss of two Spitfires.

41. The results of attacks on shipping carried out by the day bombers during these operations are reported under Coastal Operations.

Night.

42. Owing to very unfavourable weather conditions during the week our night bombers were unable to operate except on one occasion, when Dusseldorf was the main objective, with lighter attacks on Duisburg and Berlin.

43. At Dusseldorf 127 tons of high explosive bombs, including a number of the heavier types, and 13,000 incendiaries, were dropped in the target areas. Industrial and ground haze hampered the observation of results, but many large fires were started, followed in some cases by heavy explosions. Fires were also started in the Duisburg area. Better weather conditions were experienced over Berlin, and many large fires and explosions were caused in the Western area of the City. During these operations one enemy night fighter was probably destroyed and four of our aircraft failed to return.

United Kingdom.

44. Fighter Command flew 977 patrols, involving 2,188 sorties by day and 205 patrols, involving 433 sorties by night. Compared with last week these figures show a reduction by day but an increase by night. By day there was a further reduction in German Air Force operations, but at night the total effort was more than double that of the previous week, and, except on the 20th/30th May, when weather conditions were particularly bad, an average of 120 aircraft operated round and over our coasts.
45. Of the 250 long-range bombers and bomber reconnaissance aircraft plotted by day, the majority were engaged in coastal and shipping reconnaissance, and only 36 penetrated inland. Weather conditions were generally unfavourable for interception, but two Ju. 88s were destroyed and several others damaged by our fighters.

46. Enemy aircraft dropped bombs on Dublin on the night of the 30th/31st May. On the night of the 1st/2nd June a concentrated attack was made on Manchester by about 75 aircraft, and on two other nights over 100 bombers operated overland against Merseyside, the Midlands, and dispersed targets on the South side of the Thames Estuary. A considerable proportion of the enemy effort was devoted to shipping reconnaissance and to minelaying; in the latter about 150 aircraft were engaged. During the week fifteen enemy aircraft were destroyed, eight by night fighters.

Coastal Operations.

47. Coastal Command flew 243 patrols and provided escorts for 92 convoys involving a total of 682 sorties. Shipping protection patrols carried out by Fighter Command totalled 546 and involved 1,114 sorties.

48. Vigorous operations against enemy shipping by aircraft of Bomber and Coastal Commands were continued. Bomber Command claimed direct hits on five merchant vessels totalling 10,200 tons. Of these one vessel of 1,200 tons ran into the bank of the Kiel Canal at a point South-West of Rendsburg, and another of 500 tons was sunk alongside the Mole at Zeebrugge. An attack by two aircraft on a ship of 5,000 tons located at Egersund was particularly successful, four direct hits being scored. Four Blenheims were lost in the course of these operations.

49. In addition to numerous routine and special patrols, aircraft of Coastal Command carried out attacks on 21 enemy merchant vessels, some of which were escorted by Flak ships or naval units. No ships are claimed as sunk, but many were machine-gunned after bombs had narrowly missed their targets. Activities against U-boats are reported under "Naval Situation."

50. German bomber reconnaissance units from Norway and France operated over the Western and North-Western Approaches and in the English and St. George's Channels. Enemy reconnaissances of shipping were also made off the East Coast of England and Scotland.

51. Shipping was attacked about 200 miles West of the Faroes in daylight on the 1st June. On the nights of the 1st/2nd and 2nd/3rd further attacks on shipping were made 15 miles North-East of Cape Wrath and off the East and North-East Coasts respectively. The long-range bomber force in Norway is believed to have been engaged on these operations.

Malta.

52. Blenheims have again made successful attacks on shipping between Sicily and the Libyan Coast. On the 31st May three direct hits were made on a damaged merchant ship at anchor off Sfax, and on 3rd June five Blenheims were despatched to attack a convoy of six merchant ships escorted by six destroyers, which had previously been located by air reconnaissance forty miles S.S.E. of Pantellaria. Attacks were carried out with great determination, and as a result one ship of 8,000 tons blew up with a violent explosion, and another of about 5,000 tons was left ablaze after being hit by four bombs from an aircraft which crashed after being struck by the flying debris.

53. Our reconnaissance aircraft have constantly patrolled the coasts of Tunis and Tripoli and the Ionian Sea. During one of these flights a Maryland destroyed an Italian seaplane on the water at Argostoli (Cephalonia). A few minelaying sorties have also been flown.

54. No serious attacks were made on Malta during the week. There was, however, considerable enemy reconnaissance activity.
Libya and Egypt.

55. On six nights Wellingtons attacked Benghazi and many fires were seen to break out in the vicinity of the harbour. Violent explosions were also seen near a new landing ground south of Berka aerodrome.

56. Hurricanes of the South African Air Force carried out reconnaissance flights and attacked thirteen enemy aircraft on Gambut landing ground, destroying at least three of them. Standing patrols were maintained over shipping in the Tobruk area.

57. Several daylight attacks were made on Tobruk by German bombers escorted by German and Italian fighters, on one occasion a total of fifty being employed. No serious damage has been reported, and our A.A. fire destroyed at least fourteen enemy aircraft. On two nights about five enemy aircraft, one of which was destroyed by A.A. fire, were engaged in minelaying off Alexandria, and a number of small bombs were dropped on the air port.

Iraq and Syria.

58. During the week aircraft operating from Palestine continued to reconnoitre Syrian aerodromes, roads and harbours, and were on one occasion attacked by two French fighters, which damaged one of them. Blenheims bombed the aerodromes at Homs and Aleppo, destroying one twin-engined aircraft by a direct hit and damaging several others. A petrol dump at Beirut was attacked on two occasions, and two cisterns were set on fire. An Italian bomber attacked a road construction party in Transjordan, near the Syrian frontier.

59. In Iraq our bombing and machine-gun attacks continued until the cessation of hostilities. Screaming bombs were dropped on Rashid (Bagdad), where a large fire was started in an M.T. depot. Air reconnaissance was used to ensure that the Iraqis were withdrawing in accordance with the terms of the armistice. The Mosul area was reconnoitred and troops were subsequently flown there by transport aircraft escorted by Blenheims.

Abyssinia.

60. Our land operations in the West and South of Abyssinia have been supported by the Royal Air Force in the Sudan, the South African Air Force in Kenya, and the Free French Air Force. Enemy troops, positions and transport have been subjected to repeated bombing and machine-gun attacks, and many direct hits were made by Wellesleys and Blenheims on buildings and troop columns. Our aircraft from Aden have reconnoitred the Assab and Jibuti areas. The only enemy aircraft encountered was attacked and damaged near Soddu by one of our fighters.

General Air Intelligence.

Iraq and Syria.

61. The German Air Force detachment in Iraq has been withdrawn and is probably in Syria. There have recently been certain changes in the organisation and dispositions of the French Air Force in Syria. The changes have been made, firstly, to conform with the requirements of the Armistice Commission, and, secondly, in adaptation to German intervention.

Russia.

62. It is reported that work on roads and aerodromes in Poland and Roumania has been in progress for some time, and there are other indications that Germany is preparing to enforce her demands on the Soviet Union, if necessary by military force.

Japan.

63. There are reports that the number of aircraft in Formosa has recently been increased. The object of this move is not at present clear, but it may be a defensive measure against American activity in the Philippines.
HOME SECURITY SITUATION.

General.

By Day.

64. Enemy bombing has again been on a small scale. Bombs were dropped by single aircraft at Peterhead, Portland, Fraserburgh, Wick, Cowes and in open country near Middlesbrough.

By Night.

65. Enemy bombing has not been on a heavy scale, although it shows a considerable increase on the previous week. Raids were made on Merseyside on the nights of the 30th/31st May and the 31st May/1st June. A sharp raid was made on Manchester and Salford on the night of the 1st/2nd June. A few bombs were dropped at Hull and Tweedmouth on the night of the 2nd/3rd June. On the night of the 4th/5th June an attack was made over a wide area in the Midlands, but most of the bombs fell ineffectively outside Birmingham; a few bombs also fell in the Medway area. On other nights of the week only a few minor incidents were reported.

Damage.

Merseyside, 31st May/1st June.

66. Hydraulic pressure and electric power were cut off at the East Gladstone Dock and fires, which were soon under control, were started at West Gladstone Dock. Serious damage was done to the North Section of the Hornby Dock, and the Port of Liverpool was closed for forty-eight hours.

Manchester and Salford, 1st/2nd June.

67. Damage in the centre of Manchester was mainly to business premises, but production at three important factories was affected. Some damage was also done to commercial premises in the Dock area.

68. Transport was restricted by the closing of the main railway line to Bolton and the north, and the blocking of many roads by debris and craters.

Casualties.

69. Casualties for the week ending 0600 hours, 4th June, are estimated at 178 killed and 185 seriously injured. 70 people were killed and 86 seriously injured at Manchester and Salford during the night of the 1st/2nd June.

Situation in Plymouth.

70. Although a few bombs have dropped in Plymouth during May, these have not interfered with the work of repair necessitated by the heavy raids which took place in the latter part of April.

71. Restoration of Utility Services has been facilitated by the reduced number of buildings to be served; this particularly applies to electricity, which is now supplied to the whole area.

With the exception of two 8-inch mains, water supplies have now been restored in all areas.

All gas consumers in Saltash are now receiving a full supply by means of a connection from Exeter; the Plymouth Gas Company is producing 40-50 per cent. of its pre-war output and should be able to supply all habitable property in its area by the end of June. Temporary arrangements have been made at Devonport gas works, and it is hoped that this area will be supplied in a few days.

Millbay Railway Station is still closed to passenger traffic, but all lines are cleared. Goods traffic is restricted by damage to warehouses, sheds and commercial premises.

All telephone junction and trunk circuits have been repaired, and all subscribers in undemolished buildings in Saltash, Torpoint and Crown Hill are now connected. Repairs have been completed to approximately half the lines to undemolished buildings served by the Plymouth and Devonport exchanges.
APPENDICES I, II and III
will be published monthly.

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APPENDIX IV.

Enemy Merchant Ship Losses up to Wednesday, 3rd June, 1941.

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<th>Italian</th>
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<tr>
<td>No.</td>
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<td>No.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Captured or seized</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>101</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scuttled or sunk</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unidentified ships reported by S/M, A/C, &amp;c., as sunk or destroyed (tonnage estimated)</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>809</td>
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<td>829</td>
<td>243</td>
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<tr>
<td>61</td>
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<td>243</td>
<td>1,219,000</td>
<td>862</td>
<td>3,054,000</td>
</tr>
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In addition, 42 ships of 72,000 gross tons under enemy control or useful to the enemy have been sunk.
Also some 53 ships, totalling 320,000 gross tons, have been placed under protective custody in United States and South American ports to prevent sabotage by their crews.

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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:

May 31.—H.M.S. Folk (Auxiliary A/S Vessel) was bombed and damaged in an air raid on Tobruk.

June 1.—H.M. Trawler Storm was destroyed by an explosion in her magazine at Aberdeen. One rating believed killed.

June 3.—Fleet tender "C" was destroyed as the result of running into a wreck and being afterwards torpedoed by an E-Boat to North-East of Skegness. Two casualties.

June 4.—Ex-Dutch Minelayer Van Meerlant sunk by mine in the Thames Estuary. 3 Officers and 39 Ratings missing.

The following casualties to naval personnel have been reported:

Officers: Killed and missing, 90; wounded, 18.

Ratings: Killed and missing, 429; wounded, 71.
**APPENDIX VI.**

Operational Aircraft Battle Casualties.

0600 hours, Thursday, 29th May, 1941, to 0600 hours, Thursday, 5th June, 1941.

### Metropolitan Area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>British</th>
<th>In the Air</th>
<th>On the Ground</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bombers</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fighters</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coastal</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of fighter pilots known to be safe, 1.

### German.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bombers</th>
<th>Destroyed</th>
<th>Probably Destroyed</th>
<th>Damaged</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fighters</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

No account is taken of aircraft destroyed on the ground. Of the above totals, 1 bomber and 2 miscellaneous aircraft were destroyed, and 1 bomber and 1 miscellaneous aircraft were probably destroyed by A.A. fire.

### Middle East.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>British</th>
<th>In the Air</th>
<th>On the Ground</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bombers</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fighters</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coastal</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### German.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bombers</th>
<th>Destroyed</th>
<th>Probably Destroyed</th>
<th>Damaged</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fighters</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Of the above totals, 2 bombers and 12 miscellaneous aircraft were destroyed, and 1 bomber was probably destroyed by A.A. fire; and 2 bombers and 17 miscellaneous aircraft were destroyed, 11 miscellaneous aircraft were probably destroyed, and 12 miscellaneous aircraft were damaged by Naval A.A. fire.

### Italian.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bombers</th>
<th>Destroyed</th>
<th>Probably Destroyed</th>
<th>Damaged</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fighters</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

Mannheim.—In the raid on the 9th/10th May, 1,200 tons of corn and 1,500 tons of peas were destroyed in warehouses which had been taken over by the Government. At the Mercedes Benz Works a large stock of spare parts for engines and some of their rubber stocks were destroyed by fire. 200 persons were killed.

There have been several reports of the closing of rail traffic between Mannheim and Ludwigshafen for three days or longer consequent upon recent attacks. The photographs of the 17th May have been examined by a railway expert and disclose a notable absence of railway activity North of Mannheim station and on the bridge over the Rhine to Ludwigshafen. Only a few vehicles were to be seen near the station; no engine power was visible and the bridge and the approaches on both sides of the river were completely devoid of traffic.

Cologne.—Two reports have been received from which it appears that the harbour area has suffered severely, and ten Rhine vessels have been sunk. The Deutz motor works were put out of action. Damage was caused to the railway tracks leading to Bonn, Aachen and Dusseldorf, and over 400 goods trucks were destroyed. The factory of “Schutte” (engineers and machine tool makers) received three hits and a warehouse was completely destroyed. Photographs taken on the 24th May disclose possible damage to the roof of the north transept and to the eastern end of the cathedral. Information received from other sources has stated that a chapel and one spire of the cathedral have been hit.

Hamburg.—Two reports tell of bombs having fallen in the town hall square and the Alsterdamm (heart of the city). The Reichsbank and the Exchange are among the important buildings that have been hit. Over 5,000 houses are said to have been destroyed or damaged. Food supplies were interrupted and the population have become depressed and rather tired, for they have been disturbed by alarms on nights when our bombers have, in fact, gone to other targets.

Emden.—About 15,000 people (nearly half the population) have been evacuated.

Frankfurt.—In the raid on the 5th/6th May the residential district in the West of the town and to the North of the main station suffered the greater part of the damage.

France.

Brest.—According to workers in the arsenal employed in repairing both the Battle Cruisers they will not be ready for sea before the end of June at the earliest.

Havre.—In the raid on the 26th/27th May a ship was hit and sank in the roads.

Cherbourg.—The daylight attack on the 17th April resulted in the machine room at the arsenal being put out of action and the laboratory and a high press room being damaged.

Norway.

Norway.—In the raid on Kristiansand South on the 9th/10th May 35 Germans were killed and 97 wounded.
THE GERMAN INVASION OF CRETE

G.S.O.R. 5438
CRETE

SCALE
10½ Miles to 1 Inch

10 20 30 MILES

Main Roads
Other Roads

HEIGHTS IN METRES
-1472

Sea-borne landing about ZOO strong 24/5.

Parachute tps. landed
Note: Arrow indicates direction in which parachute tps. attacked after landing.

Sea-borne landings.

Position occupied by German parachute and airborne tps. in operations subsequent to landing.

Aerodrome

Progress of enemy ground operations.

German
Italian

Developmental landings on
Maltese aerodromes and on
neighbouring islands by
troops carrying aircraft and gliders.

Sea-borne landing about 200 strong 24/5.

German tps. landed by seaplane 24/5.

Prop-carrying aircraft reported landed on beach 24/5.

Posns. occupied by German parachute and airborne tps. in operations subsequent to landing.

Legend

Main Roads
Other Roads

HEIGHTS IN METRES
-1472

Sea-borne landing about ZOO strong 24/5.

Parachute tps. landed
Note: Arrow indicates direction in which parachute tps. attacked after landing.

Sea-borne landings.

Position occupied by German parachute and airborne tps. in operations subsequent to landing.

Aerodrome

Progress of enemy ground operations.

German
Italian

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