WARP. (44) 5
(Also C.O.S. (44) 3)
6th January, 1944

WAR CABINET

WEEKLY RÉSUMÉ
(No. 227)
of the
NAVAL, MILITARY AND AIR SITUATION
from 0700 30th December, 1943, to
0700 6th January,
1944

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

General Review.

1. Two, possibly three, homeward-bound blockade-runners have been sunk. U.S. carrier-borne aircraft have successfully attacked Japanese warships at Kavieng in New Ireland. Shipping losses have been light.

Home Waters.

2. A convoy of 21 ships from North Russia, escorted by destroyers, has arrived in Home Waters.

H.M.S. Duke of York and the cruisers which were in action against the Scharnhorst have returned to their home base.

Early on the 6th one of H.M. trawlers was sunk during an attack by E-boats on a coastal convoy off the Lizard.

On the 31st H.M. destroyers Vivacious and Keppel were damaged in collision off the Humber.

Norwegian Waters.

3. H.M. S/M Seadog attacked a large ship in convoy, north of Stadlandet, on the 28th December, and another convoy of three laden ships in the same area on the 2nd January. After the latter attack only two ships were seen.

North Atlantic.

4. It is now known that one Narvik and two Elbing class destroyers were sunk by H.M. cruisers Glasgow and Enterprise on the 28th December.

On the 31st December, H.M.S. Seaham (minesweeper) picked up five German officers and 57 ratings who were survivors of the recent action in the Bay of Biscay. On the same day the Eireann s.s. Kerlogue (335 tons), on passage from Lisbon to Fishguard, picked up a further 164 survivors, who were landed at Cork on the following day. On the 2nd, two Spanish destroyers returned to Ferrol with four more survivors.

Mediterranean.

5. On the night of the 29th/30th December, U.S. M.T.Bs. damaged a trawler and torpedoe a ship in the Gulf of Genoa. On the 31st, H.M.S. Clacton (fleete minesweeper) was mined and sunk between Maddalena and Bastia. There were 47 survivors, including the captain.

6. On the night of the 30th/31st December, H.M. destroyers Teazer and Penn damaged a schooner by gunfire and drove it ashore between Benedetto and Ancona. H.M. destroyers bombarded Pesaro (north-west of Ancona) on the night of the 3rd/4th.

7. At the west coast ports of Italy, during the week ending the 16th December, 103,341 tons of stores were discharged, and at the east coast ports 63,060 tons.

By the 28th December, port discharges at Bari had been stepped up to the level attained before serious damage was done by the enemy air raid early in December.

8. The Jugo-Slav Partisan Headquarters report that 2,000 partisans and 5,000 civilians were successfully evacuated from Korcula Island by the 27th December. In addition 600 refugees and 250 wounded reached South Italy on the same day.

Levant.


The Swedish Relief ship Camelia (1,888 tons) was damaged by an explosion and beached at Salonika on the 29th December.

Twenty-three Allied personnel have recently been evacuated from Greece by canes.
South Atlantic.

10. On the 3rd, the German s.s. Weserland (6,528 tons), a blockade runner homeward bound from the Far East, was intercepted and sunk by the U.S.S. Somers (destroyer) 600 miles south-west of Ascension Island. One hundred and thirty-four survivors, including ten officers, were taken prisoner. On the following day another homeward-bound blockade runner, the s.s. Burgeland (7,320 tons), was sunk by the U.S.S. Omaha (crusier) and the U.S.S. Jouett (destroyer) 670 miles west of Ascension Island. On the 5th, it was reported that a third blockade-runner, the s.s. Rio Grande (6,062 tons), also homeward bound, was sunk by U.S. forces in the same locality. Six enemy ships are known to have been in the Far East and might be attempting to run the blockade on their way home.

Indian Ocean.

11. On the 17th December an explosion occurred in a bomb dump at the R.N. Air Station, Katukurunnda (Ceylon). There were no casualties to personnel but extensive damage was done to the buildings in the area.

Pacific.

Solomons.

12. On the 29th December, Allied M.T.Bs. sank two barges and drove three ashore off the south-east coast of Bougainville. On the 31st, Allied gunboats and patrol craft bombarded enemy coastal positions near Torokina (Bougainville) and destroyed a bridge on the main Buin road.

New Guinea.

13. On the night of the 2nd, Allied light craft sank four laden barges, one of which was full of troops, near Sio.

New Ireland.

14. On the 1st, U.S. carrier-borne aircraft attacked a force of two heavy cruisers and two destroyers about to enter Kavieng harbour. Both cruisers were seriously damaged and are believed to have sunk or run ashore. One destroyer was probably sunk and the other seriously damaged. Thirteen enemy aircraft were destroyed for the loss of two fighters and one bomber.

Anti-Submarine Operations.

15. Twenty-six attacks on U-boats have been reported, ten of which were by shore-based aircraft, one by carrier-borne aircraft and 15 by surface craft. The U.S. destroyers Parrott and Bulmer probably sank a U-boat north-east of the Azores, and aircraft from the U.S.S. Core with two U.S. destroyers probably damaged another west of Cape Finisterre. Aircraft possibly damaged two U-boats in the Bay of Biscay and another in the S.W. Approaches.

16. During December 64 attacks on U-boats were made, of which 27 were by shore-based aircraft, three by carrier-borne aircraft and the remainder by surface craft. Six German U-boats were sunk, two possibly sunk and one damaged.

Enemy Intelligence.

17. The morale of survivors from the Scharnhorst has been found on examination to be excellent. It is reported that some naval establishments have been transferred from Kiel to Jutland as a result of air raids.

U-boats.

18. A large group of U-boats is operating in mid-Atlantic north-west of Ireland (R), and a smaller concentration is reported west of Cape Finisterre. In the Indian Ocean Japanese U-boats are operating in the entrance of the Gulf of Oman, in the Gulf of Aden, off Bombay and between the coast of S.W. India and the Maldives.

[26683]
Enemy Attack on Shipping.

19. During the week U-boats are reported to have attacked three ships, one of which is known to have sunk. A straggler from an outward-bound convoy was sunk south of Iceland (C) after having been torpedoed twice. This is the first time since the end of October that a ship has been torpedoed in the N.W. Approaches. A tanker on passage to Abadan was torpedoed in the Gulf of Oman but reached port, and a U.S. ship was torpedoed and abandoned north-west of Bermuda. The s.s. Largs Bay (14,182 tons) was mined in the Bay of Naples and subsequently beached. Three ships in an eastbound coastal convoy were sunk by E-boats off the Lizard.

20. A provisional figure for shipping losses from enemy action during December is 154,000 tons.

Protection of Seaborne Trade.

21. During the week ending the 2nd, 807 ships in convoy arrived at their destinations. Of these, 280 ships were in ocean convoys and 527 in British coastal convoys. Three escort carriers, one anti-aircraft ship, 45 destroyers and 113 sloops, cutters, frigates and corvettes (including 18 U.S. destroyer escorts), were employed on escort duties. Four home-bound ocean convoys, consisting of 124 ships, and five outward-bound convoys, of 156 ships, arrived at their destinations without loss.

Allied Minelaying.

22. Aircraft laid mines off the Dutch coast, off the north coast of France and the Biscay ports.

Enemy Minelaying, Allied Minesweeping.

23. There have been no reports of minelaying by either aircraft or surface craft during the week.

The clearance of ground mines in the Portsmouth Eastern Approaches was completed on the 31st.

The mine totals are: 4,615 ground and 3,934 moored.

Enemy Merchant Shipping.

24. Photographs recently taken of the blockade-runner Osorno (8,951 tons), which has arrived from the Far East and which is aground at Le Verdon, show the importance which the enemy attaches to her cargo. Three escort vessels, four minesweepers and a sperrbrecher have been stationed to seaward of her, and for her further protection three heavy railway anti-aircraft guns and some light guns have arrived on the railway sidings.

A number of Finnish ships recently employed by the Germans along the Norwegian coast have been recalled by the Finns on the expiration of their charters.

Two German motor lighters, laden with coal, were expected to leave the Dardanelles en route for Salonika on the 5th. Two similar barges were expected to follow. A convoy of cargo ships from the Piraeus reached Leros on the 1st.

Spanish Intelligence.

25. On the 29th December two bombs exploded on the hull of the Italian s.s. Lavoro (7,886 tons) at Cartagena, and on the 31st, two bombs exploded in the British s.s. Harlesden (7,273 tons) at Valencia. On the 1st and 2nd January similar, though ineffective, explosions occurred in the cargo of two British ships which had joined a homebound convoy from Gibraltar.

MILITARY SITUATION.

Russo-German Campaign.

(An outline map is included as an inset.)

Novel–Vitebsk Sector.

26. The Russians have made some progress west of Velikiy Lukii and north of Nevel. South of Vitebsk they have cut the road Vitebsk–Orsha, which runs
just east of the railway. They are therefore closing in on Vitebsk from three sides. The Germans claim to have repulsed strong local attacks by the Russians on the 2nd January in this area.

Kiev Sector.

27. The Russian offensive in this sector has continued to make excellent progress both westwards and south-westwards. In their thrust westwards they captured Korosten on the 29th December and Zhitomir two days later, and their advance has now continued beyond Novograd Volynsk. The south-westerly thrust, which resulted in the capture of Kazatin on the 30th December, appears to be directed towards Zhmerinka. The capture of this place would cut the main rail communications from Germany to the Southern Dnieper and would be a grave threat to all the German forces in the Dnieper Bend. The Germans are therefore likely to make every effort to prevent the Russians from reaching Zhmerinka. Further east the Russians on the 4th January captured Byelaya Tserkov, 20 miles S.S.E. of Fastov.

Dnieper Bend.

28. The Russians have made some progress west of Zaporozhe and have continued their attacks against the Nikopol bridgehead, but with no positional change.

Italy.

29. Weather conditions over the battle front have become even more severe during the past week. On the Adriatic coast gales and storms have been raging. Farther inland heavy falls of snow and intense cold have slowed up operations and made the maintenance of forward troops a matter of considerable difficulty.

Eighth Army.

30. On the Adriatic coast sector Canadian troops are holding positions some 2 miles N.W. of Ortona, having fought off one or two heavy counter-attacks. To their immediate south an Indian division has made a little progress towards Tollo.

In the Orsona area the Germans still hold a strong defensive position; here and over the whole coastal sector they are fighting stubborn defensive actions and only falling back under the strongest pressure.

Fifth Army.

31. French and U.S. forces have made slow progress in the mountains towards Mt. Mare, Acquafondata and S. Vittore. Strong U.S. fighting patrols have been probing the enemy defences outside S. Vittore. By the 5th January one company was fighting in the town with another attacking from the south. Progress is slow, with the enemy putting up strong defensive fire from many houses that they have converted into pillboxes.

There has been renewed activity along the R. Garigliano. On the night of the 29th/30th December a Commando made an assault landing beyond the mouth of the river and destroyed a bridge on the coastal road. They were supported by one of our infantry brigades, which attacked across the river towards the same bridge and effectively engaged enemy positions.

Further local attacks have taken place along the river in the areas to the S.E. of Castelforte and San Ambrogio.

Yugoslavia.

32. Macedonian Partisans have clashed with Bulgarian frontier troops; some of those captured joined the Partisans.

The fighting round Livno has died down, and the Germans appear to have abandoned the effort to penetrate further north into Partisan-held territory.

The Germans have captured Mljet Island and further operations against the islands off the Dalmatian coast are probable.

In the area east of Fiume the Partisans have captured points on the main Fiume-Zagreb railway, thus linking the Partisan areas of Slovenia with those of Croatia.

In the Slovenian towns of Kocevje and Novo Mesto the German garrisons are cut off by the Partisan forces. Further east, in Central Bosnia, a Partisan raiding force has penetrated into the important town of Banjaluka.

The Partisans have continued sabotage against Axis-controlled railway lines.
Greece.

33. E.L.A.S. forces have been engaged in heavy fighting against the Germans in Macedonia and in the Olympus area, and sabotage to German L. of C. has been resumed in this region.

New Guinea.

34. The Australians, in their advance along the coast north of Finschhafen, have reached a point about 55 miles N.W. of the town.
   On the 2nd January, U.S. troops landed without opposition at Saidor, on the north coast of New Guinea, thus cutting off from their main base at Madang a Japanese force estimated at about 4,000.
   In the Ramu Valley Australian troops have captured a commanding hill feature some 40 miles south of Madang.

New Britain.

35. The U.S. forces which landed at Cape Gloucester had by the 30th December captured the airfields and enlarged their beach-heads.
   At Arawe there has been patrol activity only.

AIR SITUATION.

General Review.

36. U.S. heavy bombers attacked Ludwigshafen, Kiel and Munster and targets in France.
   Bomber Command operated in strength against Berlin (twice) and Stettin.
   A heavy scale of attack was maintained against military objectives in Northern France.
   In Italy, railway centres were bombed; fighter-bombers provided support for the Army in the battle area.
   In operations over New Britain, 83 enemy aircraft were destroyed.

United Kingdom.

37. In daylight no enemy aircraft were reported over this country. On three nights a total of 43 enemy aircraft operated over the Home and South-Eastern Counties, and 10 of these penetrated to the London area. Six enemy aircraft were shot down, including one by A.A. fire.

Home Waters.

38. The only attack on enemy shipping was made by escorted R.P. Typhoons which damaged a ship off Boulogne.
   Aircraft of Bomber Command, of which 100 were despatched, laid 308 sea-mines in enemy waters.

Germany and Occupied Territory.

Day.

39. U.S. heavy bombers operated on four days of the week, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Target</th>
<th>Aircraft Despatched</th>
<th>Attacked Primary Target</th>
<th>Tonnage</th>
<th>Results</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30th</td>
<td>Ludwigshafen Chemical Works</td>
<td>514 Fortresses, 169 Liberators</td>
<td>662</td>
<td>1,244</td>
<td>Not observed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31st</td>
<td>Cognac/Chateaubernard airfield</td>
<td></td>
<td>292</td>
<td>692</td>
<td>Fair/good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>St. Jean d'Angely airfield</td>
<td>430 Fortresses, 164 Liberators</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>Fair/good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Paris (Bois Colombic) ball-bearing works</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>171</td>
<td>Fair/good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Paris (Ivry) ball-bearing works</td>
<td>515 Fortresses, 130 Liberators</td>
<td>446</td>
<td>629</td>
<td>Generally unobserved, but believed good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>Kiel</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>215</td>
<td>438</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5th</td>
<td>Munster</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tours airfield</td>
<td>405 Fortresses, 117 Liberators</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>188</td>
<td>No report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Targets in Ruhr, including Neuss, Dusseldorf and Wesenstg</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In the attacks on the 5th, which were made in clear weather, photographs of Kiel show a concentrated area of fire west of Die Horn commercial port and other bursts in the north-west and north-east sections of the city. At Mérignac airfield, hangars were seen to be on fire and, at Tours, a concentration of bursts was observed in the hangar area to the south of the airfield.

Two hundred and nine squadrons of fighters operated in conjunction with the above attacks and these, together with the bombers, destroyed 158 enemy aircraft, probably destroyed 53 and damaged 50; 63 Fortresses, 26 Liberators and 31 fighters are missing.

Offensive operations of the Allied Expeditionary Air Force, which were on a heavy scale and maintained throughout the week, were almost exclusively directed against military objectives in the coastal areas of Northern France. The 1,479 aircraft, which attacked these targets, dropped 1,177 tons of bombs and fired 817 rocket projectiles for the loss of seven aircraft. Escort and support were supplied by 121 squadrons of fighters which encountered negligible opposition; two enemy aircraft were destroyed and two Spitfires are missing.

Two squadrons of Typhoons, on a sweep over Holland, destroyed five Do. 217 for the loss of one Typhoon. A further four enemy aircraft were destroyed by fighters in the Paris area.

Night.

40. Aircraft of Bomber Command operated in strength on three nights of the week, the main targets being Berlin (on the nights of the 1st/2nd and 2nd/3rd) and Stettin (on the night of the 5th/6th).

The two attacks on Berlin, which were made by 355 and 254 aircraft respectively, were both carried out through thick cloud. The total tonnage of bombs dropped was 2,288 but no definite assessment of results is possible although, in the second attack which is believed to have extended from east to west, two areas of conflagration are reported.

At Stettin, a fortunate break in the weather, about 30 miles short of the city, resulted in the target being clearly visible and a concentrated attack developed which merged into a very large area of fire. In this raid, the enemy fighters would appear to have been well deceived by an aerial flarepath laid towards Berlin.

From the three operations, which involved the despatch of 1,162 aircraft, 70 bombers are missing and a further three crashed in this country.

Subsidiary attacks by a total of 95 Mosquitoes, of which one is missing, were made upon a number of targets in Germany and a further 100 aircraft bombed military objectives in Northern France.

Italy.

41. Attacks on enemy railway centres and communications were continued throughout the week. The targets bombed by Fortresses were Turin, Padua, Rimini, Ferrara and Ravenna. In these attacks, which were reported to be very successful, a total of 639 tons of bombs was dropped. Enemy opposition was on a small scale except during the raid on Turin when 20 enemy fighters were encountered, two of which were destroyed for the loss of seven Lightnings and one Fortress. Fifty-three Fortresses attacked Villaperosa Ball Bearing Works, causing extensive damage.

Mitchells and Marauders bombed railway centres at Falconara (seven miles W. of Ancona), Terri, Viareggio (13 miles W.N.W. of Lucca), and Borgo San Lorenzo (14 miles N.E. of Florence) and the quays and railway yards at Civitavecchia. Near San Remo, a number of hits were obtained on a bridge at Taggia, and at Ventimiglia two spans of the west bridge and one end of the east bridge were destroyed. Good results were also reported after attacks on railway bridges at Certaldo, Foligno and Orvieto (N.N.W. of Rome). Another successful raid by 24 Marauders was made on the Var river bridge in the south of France.

Fighter-bombers and light-bombers were active in the rear of the enemy's positions; bridges, railway targets, roads, buildings and transport vehicles were freely attacked. After two attacks on consecutive days on M.T. in the Popoli/Arezzo road and snow-bound M.T. in the mountain area, 57 vehicles were destroyed and nearly 200 damaged. Fighter-bombers also destroyed or damaged 17 locomotives and a number of wagons. In the battle area, enemy defended positions and concentrations of heavy artillery were heavily attacked particularly in the areas of Tollo (S. of Pescara) and Cassino.
In the course of all these operations 29 enemy aircraft were destroyed and 39 Allied aircraft are missing. The enemy casualties include two shot down by A.A. guns in an abortive attack by 12 Ju. 88 in the Catania/Augusta area.

Yugoslavia.

42. Split was attacked by 36 bombers and hits were observed in the dock area, railway centre and on a medium-sized ship. Twenty-four Mitchells bombed Zara and hit warehouses and detonated 75/100 mines. Attacks on a similar scale were made also on Prijedor (105 miles N. of Split), on Sibenik (30 miles N.W. of Split), on the railway centre at Brodac (55 miles W. of Belgrade) and on the barracks at Travnik (45 miles N.W. of Sarajevo). Four schooners were damaged off Korcula Island and a ship of 6,000 tons was attacked by Warhawks off the Dalmatian Coast resulting in a large explosion and was left on fire.

Bulgaria.

43. A large force of escorted Fortresses was despatched to attack Sofia but was unable to do so as the target was obscured by cloud. Twenty-nine of these bombed the town and railway centre of Dupnitsa (32 miles S.S.W. of Sofia).

Russia.

44. Early in the week the Russian communiqué spoke of strong close support by the G.A.F. in the Korosten area. There was no further mention of air activity in that area, but it is thought that so far as the weather and the state of the airfields permitted, operations in close support of the Russian advance in the Kiev sector were maintained.

In the Vitebsk-Nevel area, despite bad weather the Russian Air Force were engaged in effective attacks with strong forces of ground attack and fighter aircraft on German front-line troops.

Elsewhere on the front, operations continued to be hampered by bad weather and are at present on a very limited scale.

Burma.

45. An effective attack by escorted Mitchells on a bridge over the Mu river, 30 miles west by south of Mandalay, resulted in the destruction of two spans and, later, another attack inflicted considerable damage on reconstruction work in progress.

Oil installations and power stations at Yenangyaung and Thayetmyo were bombed by a total of 70 heavy and medium bombers.

Night attacks on the railway yards at Rangoon and Prome were carried out by Wellingtons and Liberators and, by day, similar targets at Monywa and Alon, in Central Burma, were bombed by Liberators and Mitchells.

A total of 218 fighters and fighter-bombers made numerous harassing attacks on enemy positions, storage dumps and camps in the Kalemyo and Akyab areas and three attacks on similar objectives in the Taru area in the north.

Raids on enemy transport resulted in damage to 140 small craft, 103 units of rolling stock and 11 locomotives.

Apart from a fighter sweep over Chittagong, the only enemy activity reported is an attack by 14 escorted bombers on small naval craft off St. Martin’s Island (50 miles N.W. of Akyab). Spitfires, which intercepted, destroyed eight of the enemy and damaged others; one Spitfire force-landed.

China.

46. Mitchells, of which one crashed, made three effective attacks on enemy shipping on the Yangtse east of Hankow and near Nanking; a troopship and seven other ships were sunk, and six other ships, including two gunboats, were damaged.

Siam.

47. A total of 53 Liberators made two raids on the railway centre at Lampang in North Siam.
Pacific Zone.

New Guinea.

48. The Allied effort was directed mainly against gun positions, troop concentrations and barge bases in the coastal areas around Alexishafen, Madang, Bogadym and Saidor, against which a total of about 650 sorties, by heavy and medium bombers, was flown. At Saidor, about 300 tons of bombs were dropped prior to and in support of landing operations which took place on the 1st. A similar tonnage was dropped on gun positions and the airfield at Alexishafen.

New Britain.

49. A total of 183 medium and light bombers made seven raids on enemy concentrations and gun positions in the Borgen Bay area, and Liberators and Mitchells made a heavy attack on similar targets near Cape Gloucester, dropping 182 tons of bombs.

The waterfront and town of Rabaul were bombed by 19 escorted Liberators, and the nearby airfield at Lakunai by 15 escorted Liberators and 35 Beauforts. In these operations and by fighters sweeping the same area, 72 enemy aircraft were destroyed and a further 32 were probably destroyed; one Liberator and eight fighters are missing and two Liberators crashed.

Enemy aircraft, of which 11 were destroyed, made six small-scale raids on our positions in the Arawa area.

A Catalina damaged a destroyer off Cape Hoskins.

New Ireland and the Admiralty Islands.

50. Catalinas, of which a total of 34 operated, maintained nightly attacks on the airfields at Kavieng and Panapei. Off Kavieng, Liberators bombed and hit a light cruiser and damaged a ship of corvette type.

A 9,000-ton ship, anchored in harbour at Los Negros Island, was sunk by a Catalina and another ship of 2,500 tons was damaged.

Bougainville and Shortland Island.

51. A total of 262 light bombers attacked enemy gun positions near Buka, on Shortland Island and in South Bougainville. Similar aircraft destroyed two bridges on the Buin/Empress Augusta Bay road and another two south of Cape Torokina.

Medium and heavy bombers attacked supply dumps and other targets in the Kahili area and on Buka Island.

The Celebes and Timor.

52. On the 2nd, Liberators dropped 10 tons of bombs on an industrial plant at Pomelaa and, on the 4th, Dutch Mitchells, of which one is missing, set on fire a small ship at Koepang.

Marshall Islands.

53. On the 26th December, 17 Liberators bombed installations at Wotje and, with Hellcats, attacked shipping at Jaluit; two Liberators are missing.

HOME SECURITY SITUATION.

General.

54. Bombing occurred on three nights of the week. On the 30th/31st two trivial incidents were reported from Sussex. On the 2nd/3rd bombs were dropped in the London area and in Kent and Sussex without serious damage. On the 4th/5th there were incidents in London, Kent, Sussex and Surrey; there was slight damage to an aircraft factory at Feltham, damage to a factory at Beckenham, houses were damaged at Brookland (Kent), St. Leonards, Bletchingley, Westcott near Dorking, and at Reigate.

Casualties.

55. The estimated civilian casualties for the week ending 0600 hours on the 6th were four killed and 24 seriously injured.
APPENDICES I, II, III and IV will be published periodically.

APPENDIX V.

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

31st December.—L.S.T. 411 damaged by mine between Maddalena (Sardinia) and Bastia (Corsica).

6th January.—Wallasea (M/S-A/S trawler) sunk by enemy action off the Lizard.

The following casualties to naval personnel have been reported:

Officers: 12 killed; 2 missing; 7 wounded.
Ratings: 98 killed; 9 missing; 39 wounded.

APPENDIX VI.

Imports under Departmental Programmes.

(Thousand tons.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Non-Tanker Imports ((^{(1)}))</th>
<th>Tanker Imports ((^{(2)}))</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Food</td>
<td>Ministry of Supply</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>January</th>
<th>February</th>
<th>March</th>
<th>April</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>June</th>
<th>July</th>
<th>August</th>
<th>September</th>
<th>October</th>
<th>November</th>
<th>Total January to November ((^{(4)}))</th>
<th>1st-18th December (estimated)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1943</td>
<td>531</td>
<td>633</td>
<td>874</td>
<td>1,173</td>
<td>1,020</td>
<td>1,022</td>
<td>1,173</td>
<td>1,173</td>
<td>1,029</td>
<td>1,058</td>
<td>1,170</td>
<td>10,557</td>
<td>578</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

\(^{(1)}\) Excluding imports from Eire. The monthly figures of imports given in this table represent the estimated weights of the commodities included in the Trade and Navigation Accounts for each month and are unadjusted for small revisions subsequently made in the cumulative totals given in the accounts for later months.

\(^{(2)}\) Including munitions and miscellaneous imports under the Ministry of Production programme and imports of munitions on Canadian Government account.

\(^{(3)}\) Petroleum products, molasses, unrefined whale oil, industrial alcohol, and acetone.

\(^{(4)}\) Adjusted for revisions.
APPENDIX VII.

Air Attacks on Enemy Territory in Europe.

Extracts from Recent Raid Assessment Reports.

Germany.

Berlin.—The following account was prepared by a first-hand observer who was resident in the German capital between the 22nd November, when the first and heaviest of the recent series of night attacks took place, and mid-December. It should be stressed that this observer is an informant of proved reliability with opportunities to become fully acquainted with the situation as it existed immediately following the November and December attacks:

Raids of 22nd/23rd November and 23rd/24th November.

Main areas of concentration.—The principal areas covered by the attacks of the 22nd/23rd and 23rd/24th November were west and south-west of Berlin. But on this occasion the bombed areas extended considerably further east and north, reaching the Alexander Platz in the east and the Wedding district in the north.

The effects of the first raid were tremendous, and it was difficult to believe that in such a short time so large an area could have been bombed in so effective a way. The raid of the 23rd/24th November covered more or less the same area, but on this occasion the main concentration of bombs fell in the so-called "old west" of Berlin and covered an area running from the Wittenberg Platz to the Potsdamer Platz in the east and the Hansa area in the north. Since it is impossible to differentiate between the buildings destroyed during the first and during the second raids, the aggregate results of the two attacks are given together in the following paragraphs.

Damage to railways.—The following damage was done to railway stations, lines, &c.:

(a) The main railway line running from west to east through the centre of the city was seriously damaged—first between the stations of Spandau and Westkreutz; then at the Tiergarten station where the railway line crosses the Charlottenburg Chaussee; then at the Borse station, where a long-distance train was blown to pieces and finally, at the Alexander Platz. At these points, bombs fell on the railway line itself. Elsewhere many houses in the immediate vicinity of the railway line were damaged. An H.E. bomb struck the premises of the Konditorei Telschow near the Zoo station, and all the houses to the left and right of the railway line between the Charlottenburg station and the Borse station were wrecked by H.E. bombs. Repairs to this line took five days, and the first Stadtbahn trains started running only at 0900 on the 29th November. The signal system and permanent way had been repaired by then, but owing to the state of the ruined houses on either side of the line, traffic could proceed at only a snail's pace and had to be constantly interrupted during the periods when the adjacent houses are being pulled down or blown up. Main line traffic on this line was still not functioning up to mid-December. During the first ten days after the raid of the 22nd/23rd November main line traffic to and from the east ran into the Schlesischer station, that to and from the west into the Potsdamer station and to and from the north-west to the Wustermark station.

(b) During the raid of the 23rd/24th November the South Ring Line was wrecked near the Wilmersdorf station at the point at which it crosses the Kaiserallee.

(c) The North Ring Line was wrecked between the Putlitzstrasse and Wedding stations, but damage here was less serious and traffic was maintained on a one-track line basis.

(d) The Lehrter station sustained considerable external damage, but the tracks were not damaged and traffic to and from Nauen could therefore be maintained.

(e) Two of the main stations in Berlin—the Schlesischer and Goerlitzer stations—were not damaged at all and were kept working during the
whole week of raids. A food catastrophe was only prevented by the fact that these two stations kept operating and took over the whole of the unloading of food trains which was formerly carried out at the Alexander Platz.

(N.B.—This area was damaged in later attacks.)

(j) The Borse station was completely burned out.

Damage to public buildings.—So many public buildings were destroyed or damaged during the two attacks that it is easier to list what survives than what has been destroyed. The following are known to have suffered:

(a) The Technical High School in Charlottenburg has been completely burned out.
(b) Walking westwards from the Technical High School along the Berliner Strasse and the Bismarckstrasse, there is not a single building left as far as the Charlottenburg Opera House, which has also been badly damaged.
(c) The Broadcasting Station at the Adolf Hitler Platz has escaped damage, but all the huts round it have been burned out.
(d) The Opera House and the University in the Unter Den Linden have been damaged.
(e) The Deutsche Bank buildings, including the vaults, have been completely burned out.
(f) The Propaganda Ministry (the former U.S. Embassy) has its upper storeys torn off.
(g) Hitler’s residence (the old Reichskanzlei) has a wedge like a slice of cake cut out of it.
(h) The Ministry for Foreign Affairs has been damaged by blast on the garden side and has been evacuated.
(i) The Gestapo Building in the Albrechtstrasse has been damaged; it was evidently hit by a H.E. bomb and then caught fire. The whole of the garden side of the building has been opened up, and the outer wall has crumbled away.
(k) The Hauptamt der S.S. (the former Hotel Prinz Albrecht), including the cellars, has been burned out.
(l) The Polizei-Präsidium (in the Alexander Platz) has been damaged by three H.E. bombs and its Adress-Bureau completely destroyed. Section Two of the Polizei-Präsidium (a separate building near the Borse station, which deals with foreigners) has been burned down to the cellars.

General Damage.—The following list includes items of general damage caused in the two raids:

(a) The military garages and wooden barracks on the Berliner Strasse opposite the Technical High School have been completely burned out and a large number of military cars, trucks and caterpillar lorries were destroyed.
(b) As one walks eastwards from the Technical High School the damage on both sides of the Charlottenburger Chaussee is very heavy.
(c) The whole of the Tiergarten between the Charlottenburger Chaussee, the Landwehr Canal and the Fasanerie Allee has been wiped out and trees and bushes torn up. The only buildings left standing here are the Italian and Japanese Embassies. The Tiergarten station has been completely destroyed.
(d) On either side of the Landwehr Canal as far as the Potsdamer Bridge only three or four buildings have escaped total destruction. The rest, including Tirpitzuer 80 (H.Q. of the Abwehr) and the Naval H.Q. (formerly the Reichswahrministerium Building), have been completely burned out.
(e) South of the Landwehr Canal the zone of complete destruction extends to the south over the Lützow Platz as far as the Kleiststrasse.
(f) Particularly heavy damage has been caused in the Wittenberg Platz and round the Gedenkniskirche. In the Augsburgerstrasse, for example, only two houses have been left standing.
Another centre of complete destruction in the Bayerischer area stretches from the Kaiserallee in the west up to the Golzstrasse in the east. Everything in this area has been destroyed.

In the north, the Hansa district is completely wiped out.

The Moabit area has also suffered badly.

The heaviest damage, however, has been caused in the Wedding district, where there is practically nothing left.

Destruction has also been very heavy along a direct line running from the Gesundbrunner to the Alexander Platz. Here only isolated houses have been left standing, and even these will probably have to be pulled down. One of the heaviest blows was the destruction of the food supply stores near Alexander Platz.

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Among hotels, the Kaiserhof has been destroyed by blast. The Bristol has been burned out. The Hotel Adlon, on the other hand, escaped damage.

The Unter Den Linden has also sustained considerable damage, the Military Museum and the so-called Old Palace being completely wrecked.

The British and French Embassies were completely burned out and the American Embassy was damaged by blast to such an extent that it will have to be pulled down. The Russian Embassy has not been damaged.

It is difficult, if not impossible, to ascertain the total number of buildings destroyed in western, south-western, northern and central Berlin, up to and including the Alexander Platz. Fifty-three per cent. of informant's personal acquaintances have had their houses completely burned out. Germans working in the A.R.P. services declare that about two million people were bombed out of house and home during these two raids.

Raid on 26th/27th November.

Main areas of concentration.—In the raid of the 26th/27th November the area bombed was the west of Siemenstadt, where two of the biggest factory shops were completely burned out, and the Tegel district.

Damage.—Points of damage include the following:

(a) The Rheinmetall-Borsig plant in Tegel has suffered very severe damage and up to mid-December civilian workmen have not been allowed into the factory and all workers have been placed under military control. It is rumoured that this factory has been completely put out of action.

(b) The Tegel Gasometer, the biggest in Berlin, has been completely burned out.

(c) The Altkett factory has sustained very considerable damage. Both assembly shops are completely destroyed and people living nearby relate that over 100 Tiger tanks (informant himself saw 12 lying about) were completely burned up. The plant has been ruined beyond repair, and the remnants of the shops have been blown up.

(d) The main weight of the attack on Tegel fell on the former General Motors plant, of which absolutely nothing is left. It is rumoured that this particularly concentrated attack was caused by the fact that about 100 big guns arriving at the factory for repairs were still on the railway trucks and were probably taken for A/A guns.

Raid of 3rd/4th December.

Main areas of concentration.—Damage was not concentrated in any special areas as a result of this raid, which was more of an "all over the place" attack than its predecessors.

Damage.—The damage caused includes the following:

(a) The Steglitz railway station has been burned out.

(b) A heavy H.E. bomb fell in the Alexander Platz.

(c) Some damage was caused in Siemenstadt.

(d) A large number of incendiary bombs fell on houses which had already been burned out, in Grunewald and along the Hohenzollern Damm, for instance, where they caused no damage.
Frankfurt.—In the attack on the 20th/21st December severe damage was caused in the districts of Bockenheim and Sachsenhausen, the suburb of Offenbach and in the centre of the city between the Opera House and the main Post Office in the North and the river in the South. In Bockenheim the railway station and tramway depot were among the buildings affected. Along the Bockenheim Land Strasse (the main exit from the centre of the city N.W.) for a considerable distance from the Opera House, over three-fourths of the buildings were destroyed or rendered uninhabitable. Most of the large warehouses in the west harbour were burnt out and it was said that as much as four-fifths of the Sachsenhausen district were destroyed.

Innsbruck.—Two attacks were made by aircraft based in the Mediterranean theatre on the 15th and 19th December. In the first, severe damage was caused to the goods yards, where some 15 trains loaded with war material waiting to leave for Italy were wrecked. On the 19th December direct hits on the main station killed the station-master and many railway officials. The most important feature was, however, the rendering useless of 20 of the main line electric locomotives used on the Brenner route, and the destruction of the railway administrative offices.

The recent bombing of Innsbruck and the Brenner railway has created such difficulties that the Germans have been compelled to send a large number of motor transport in the area to maintain the flow of traffic.

France.

Paris.—Photographs taken after the U.S.A.A.F. attack on the 31st December show damage to targets in the Bois Colombes area.

(a) The Hispano-Suiza Aero Engine Works has suffered severely, and many of the buildings which were damaged in the attack on the 15th September, and subsequently repaired, have again been hit. The two main workshops, the propeller shop, the machine shop and several buildings of the heat treatment shops have all been damaged more or less severely.

(b) The C.A.M. ball-bearing Works has received three direct hits which have damaged the main building.

(c) The Soc. Berliet Repair Works and the Delage M/T Shops have both received some damage.