WAR CABINET

WEEKLY RÉSUMÉ

(No. 286)

of the

NAVAL, MILITARY AND AIR SITUATION

from 0700 15th February to

0700 22nd February,

1945

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

1. U.S. ships have supported further landings in Luzon. Southern Japan has been attacked by U.S. carrier-borne aircraft. Two U-boats have been sunk, three probably sunk and two possibly sunk. Two of H.M. corvettes have been sunk by U-boats and a sloop torpedoed.

Northern Waters.

2. On the 17th H.M. ships Lark (sloop) and Bluebell (corvette) were torpedoed off Kola Inlet while escorting a convoy homeward-bound from North Russia. Lark was taken in tow by a Russian tug. Bluebell sank: 12 of the ship’s company were rescued. On the 20th the convoy was attacked by 25 torpedo-carrying Ju 88 but no damage was caused either to the convoy or to four stragglers. One of the enemy was shot down by ship’s gunfire and two others by carrier-borne fighters.

3. On the 15th four of H.M. destroyers evacuated 500 civilians from the population on Soroy Island which had been harassed by a number of small German ships.

Home Waters.

4. On the 15th three L.C.A.’s, covered by four support landing craft, landed commando troops near the Zeriksee Canal on the island of Schouwen. Another landing, which met heavy opposition, was made at Dussen, north of the Maas. On the 18th a second raiding party landed from two L.C.A.’s.

5. On the 20th H.M.S. Vervain (corvette), while escorting a homeward-bound convoy, was sunk by a U-boat south of Waterford: three officers and 30 ratings were rescued.

6. There has been considerable E-boat activity during the week. On the night of the 17th/18th H.M.S. Sheldrake (corvette) intercepted and drove off a group of boats east of Southwold. On the night of the 21st/22nd a large force operated against the Thames–Scheldt convoy route. Aircraft, including naval Swordfish, made repeated attacks on the enemy and subsequently our patrols fought a series of inconclusive actions. On the following night ten E-boats were attacked by coastal forces after being reported and shadowed by aircraft.

7. During the week ending the 18th, the combined British and U.S. discharges through the liberated ports were 37,000 men, 10,200 vehicles, 420,000 tons of stores, 72,000 tons of petrol and 72,500 tons of ammunition.

Mediterranean.

8. On the night of the 17th/18th M.T.B.’s shelled Karlobagi (northern Yugoslavia) and fired torpedoes into the harbour: shore batteries inflicted slight damage and caused one casualty.

9. Allied warships have continued to shell enemy positions on the French-Italian frontier.

10. During the week ending the 10th, daily discharges through the ports of Ancona and Leghorn averaged 3,760 tons and 6,140 tons respectively.

East Indies.

11. Coastal forces and landing craft, supported by H.M. Indian sloops Narbada and Jumna, have operated during the week in the inland waterways between Akyab and Ramree Island. H.M. destroyers Pathfinder and Paladin in company with light forces and landing craft east of Ramree have supported the Army and have prevented the escape of Japanese from the Island. Twelve laden enemy craft have been sunk and 65 Japanese killed. On the 11th, eight aircraft attacked the force and caused damage to H.M.S. Pathfinder by a near miss.

12. H.M. S/M Tantivy sank a tug and two coasters in tow off the coast of Sumatra on the 3rd.
Pacific.

13. The two battleship-carriers *Ise* and *Hyuga* from Singapore were sighted on several occasions during the week, proceeding northward. Weather conditions prevented aircraft making an attack on them.

Philippines.

14. On the 13th U.S. forces occupied Cavite naval base in Manila Bay. On the same day U.S. cruisers and destroyers bombarded shore defences at Corregidor and covered minesweeping operations at the entrance to the Bay without opposition. The bombardment continued on the following day when enemy return fire resulted in damage to two destroyers and a minesweeper. A landing was made on the 16th (see "Military Situation").

On the 15th a heavy bombardment preceded a landing on the tip of the Bataan Peninsula where the landing craft met little resistance.

At Manila and Cavite some 8" and 6" naval guns, a 3" battery and ten seaplanes were captured in serviceable condition.

On the night of the 15th/16th, Japanese coastal forces sank three U.S. landing craft near Manila and caused damage to a fourth.

Japan.

15. On the 16th and 17th a very large U.S. carrier force operating off the south coast of Honshu flew off a series of aircraft to attack airfields and other targets in southern Japan and shipping off the coast. Details have not yet been received of the damage inflicted.

Anti-Submarine Operations.

16. Thirty-one attacks were reported during the week, of which 24 were by warships and 7 by shore-based aircraft.

One U-boat was sunk by the 10th escort group on the 14th north of the Shetlands. Another was sunk by H.M. ships *Lark* (sloop) and *Alnwick Castle* (corvette) on the 17th N.E. of Kola Inlet previous to the torpedoing of H.M.S. *Lark* (see paragraph 2). One was probably sunk by H.M. S/M *Venturer* off the Norwegian coast, another by the 9th escort group off the Moray Firth and a third which had previously sunk H.M.S. *Vervain*, by H.M. sloops *Amethyst* and *Peacock*, south of Waterford. Two U-boats were possibly sunk by an aircraft west of the Hebrides and by the 10th escort group north of the Shetlands.

Enemy Intelligence.

17. Reconnaissances on the 21st showed an incomplete *Elbing* destroyer at Hamburg, which had arrived since the 10th, and a small floating dock at Ijmuiden, which had arrived since the 16th.

*U*-boats.

18. The number of *U*-boats on patrol in coastal waters of the United Kingdom is estimated to be about 50 per cent. above the average figure for January.

At Hamburg 37 *U*-boats were sighted on the 21st including four or five of the large prefabricated boats.

It is estimated that three pens of the old shelter at Ijmuiden are still usable: these could shelter more than 50 midgets or three E-boats. Five pens of the new shelter are reported to be ready: these could give unprotected accommodation to 60 midgets and torpedoes.

Fresh details of the *Seehund* midget indicate that, if properly handled, it could be an effective weapon. Unlike the *Biber* it is well designed and equipped. It would seem to be a miniature of the new pre-fabricated 200/250-ton *U*-boat.

Enemy Attack on Shipping.

19. Four ships are reported to have been attacked by *U*-boat during the week, of which three are known to have sunk.

A U.S. ship in convoy to the United Kingdom was sunk off Kola Inlet, and an Icelandic ship in convoy to Iceland (C) was sunk in the Irish Sea. A tanker was sunk and a U.S. ship torpedoed in eastbound convoy off Gibraltar.

A ship in coastal convoy was damaged, probably by mine, off the Humber. A Turkish ship was mined in the Black Sea.

Two ships in coastal convoy were sunk by E-boats north of Cromer.
Allied Minelaying.

20. Surface craft have laid mines in Home Waters. Aircraft have laid mines in the Baltic, the Kattegat and off the Norwegian and German North Sea coasts. British and U.S. aircraft have laid mines off the coast of Burma and in the Strait of Malacca. A large number of mines has also been laid by U.S. aircraft in Singapore Strait and off the coast of Cochin China.

Enemy Minelaying, Allied Minesweeping.

21. E-boats may have laid mines off the S.E. coast on one night and two large groups operated on the convoy route to Antwerp on another night. Forty-seven of the mines laid by aircraft in the Scheldt approaches on the 23rd January have been destroyed. The Boulogne–Dieppe channel closed since the 9th January was re-opened on the 18th February. Minesweepers hindered by weather, obstructions and enemy shell fire, have swept a four-mile bombardment channel north of Leghorn.

Thirteen mines have been destroyed off the north Dalmatian coast. Up to the present 50 mines have been destroyed in the Piraeus area and 178 in the Doro Channel. U.S. minesweepers have destroyed 170 mines in Manila Bay. The mine totals are 6,363 ground and 8,888 moored.

Enemy Merchant Shipping.

22. The tonnage of transports which have reached Denmark from Southern Norway during the two weeks ending the 17th is estimated to total 100,000.

Russian Merchant Shipping.

23. Thirty-four Finnish ships, totalling 74,117 tons, are to be handed over to the Russians. These include the Kronborg (8,287 tons), the Bore X (5,058 tons), the Atlanta (4,936 tons) and the Nagu (3,393 tons). In addition two icebreakers, two small tankers, 26 tugs, 15 motor-lighters and 20 small passenger craft are to be taken over.

British Contraband Control.

24. In December, British patrols in the Strait of Gibraltar boarded 117 ships. Of the 67 ships which were examined at the contraband control base, 40 were Spanish. The control passed 3,263 tons of food-stuffs, 121 tons of tobacco and 7,881 tons of raw products destined for Switzerland.

MILITARY SITUATION.

Western Europe. (An outline map is included as an inset.)

General.

25. While U.S. Forces have maintained pressure in the areas of Echternach and Prum which has resulted in small but steady gains, British and Canadian troops of the First Canadian Army have continued to attack against mounting resistance between the Maas and the Rhine.

Except for an attack by Seventh Army in the area of Sarreguemines, there has been little to report from the front of the Southern Group of Armies, where local regrouping is taking place as a result of the successful action to clear the west bank of the Rhine.

Southern Sector.

26. On the 17th, the Seventh U.S. Army attacked on a 10-mile front between Sarreguemines and Forbach. They have since advanced nearly 4 miles, outflanking Forbach on the east, and forward troops have entered the south and eastern outskirts of the town where heavy fighting has taken place.

Central Sector.

27. Throughout the week, Third U.S. Army have continued to make steady progress north and south from the areas west of Echternach and Prum. This steady compression of the enemy’s salient must be causing him some
uneasiness as he has lost the protection of the Siegfried line which has been breached in both these sectors. Further south, an attack to the S.E. of Remmich, which was launched on the 19th, has resulted in gains of up to 4 miles on an 8-mile front.

**Northern Sector.**

28. Severe flooding has continued to hamper operations by the First Canadian Army in the area S.E. of Nijmegen, and enemy resistance has greatly increased. Nevertheless, Afferden was reached on the 17th, and by the 19th, the important communication centre of Goch had been captured, with forward troops a mile to the south of Calcar. The southern bank of the Rhine has been cleared to a point opposite Emmerich.

**Russian Front.** (An outline map is included as an inset.)

29. The ring round the Germans in East Prussia continues slowly to tighten in spite of very stiff resistance by the German forces.

**Central Sector.**

30. The area between Chojnice and Graudenz has been a focal point of fierce fighting this week. On the 15th, Chojnice, on the main Danzig–Stettin railway was captured. The Russians strengthened their break-through attempts towards Danzig and Gdynia, and were stubbornly counter-attacked by the Germans, but in spite of this Graudenz was encircled on the 18th.

In Pomerania the encircled town of Schneidermühle fell on the 14th. There has been heavy fighting in the Arnswalde areas but no substantial Russian progress. East and N.E. of Berlin, the Germans report the narrowing down of Russian bridgeheads, the existence of which has not yet been confirmed by the Russians.

Russian advances continue west of the Middle Oder, from east of Guben to S.W. of Breslau. Sagan was captured on the 17th, and the River Bober has been crossed on a wide front. The ground has been fiercely contested by the Germans who have claimed several successful counter-thrusts. The Germans are however still holding out in two fortress towns on the R. Oder, Glogau and Breslau; the escape from the latter town was ultimately closed on the 17th.

**Southern Sector.**

31. It is believed that about 4–5 divisions were destroyed in the Budapest fighting; an attempt by the garrison to break out to the N.W. was largely frustrated, although the Germans claim that several "battle groups" succeeded in reaching their lines.

East of Komarno the Germans have attacked the Russian bridgehead over the River Hron, south of Zvolen with some success, and on the 19th, claimed to have penetrated deep into the Russian positions on the north bank of the Danube. On the other hand, they report that the fighting between Lake Balaton and the Danube ceased on the 17th, with very heavy losses inflicted on the Russians in six weeks fighting.

**Burma.** (An outline map is included as an inset.)

32. Opposition on Ramree Island ceased on the 16th.

On the 15th, a column of our troops advancing from the Minbya area linked up with our troops fighting around Kangaw, whilst another column outflanked Kangaw and reached the coast 13 miles to the S.E. On the 16th, our forces effected a landing on the Arakan coast due west of An, achieving complete surprise and encountering little opposition.

Pakokku was entered on the 15th, and reported clear of enemy on the 21st. Opposition is being encountered in the vicinity of the village of Seikpyu.

Thirty miles west of Mandalay our bridgehead across the Irrawaddy has been enlarged and several Japanese counter-attacks have been repulsed. A column from our bridgehead at Thabelkkyin is advancing down the East bank of the Irrawaddy towards our bridgehead at Kyaukmyaung, which has been reinforced with tanks.

[29279]
In northern Burma, our bridgehead across the Shweli River, 13 miles N.W. of Mong Mit, was heavily attacked on the 17th. The Japanese were supported by heavy artillery and using many flame-throwers, they were able to penetrate our perimeter. Later the enemy were thrown back during a spirited battalion counter-attack involving hand-to-hand fighting. Over 350 Japanese were killed.

Approaching from both sides of the town, Chinese troops captured Hsenwi during the night 18th/19th, against light opposition.

**Pacific.**

**Philippines.**

33. *Luzon.*—In Manila, the Japanese still hold the area immediately south of the mouth of the river which flows through the centre of the city, where fierce street fighting continues; resistance is also being encountered from isolated positions on the outskirts of Manila. The Americans, however, have now gained complete control of the neck of land between Manila Bay and Laguna De Bay, the large Lake S.E. of Manila.

On the 15th, U.S. troops from Subic Bay landed at Mariveles, on the southern coast of the Bataan Peninsula, against negligible opposition. These troops have now joined hands with further U.S. forces advancing down the east coast of Bataan, and the Bataan campaign therefore is virtually completed.

34. On the 19th, the 4th and 5th U.S. Marine Divisions landed on Iwo Jima (670 miles south of Tokyo and 625 miles north of Saipan). The landings were preceded by a very heavy bombardment by warships of the Pacific Fleet, and by carrier and land-based aircraft. The U.S. Forces have now captured the first of the three airfields and hold an area extending from a beachhead 24 miles long on the eastern coast to a strip one mile long on the Western coast, thus cutting off the Suribachi Volcano, in the southern tip of the island. The Japanese are putting up most stubborn and desperate resistance, and have launched counterattacks supported by tanks.

**Kazan Islands.**

35. On the 18th, the 4th and 5th U.S. Marine Divisions landed on Two Jima (670 miles south of Tokyo and 625 miles north of Saipan). The landings were preceded by a very heavy bombardment by warships of the Pacific Fleet, and by carrier and land-based aircraft. The U.S. Forces have now captured the first of the three airfields and hold an area extending from a beachhead 24 miles long on the eastern coast to a strip one mile long on the Western coast, thus cutting off the Suribachi Volcano, in the southern tip of the island. The Japanese are putting up most stubborn and desperate resistance, and have launched counterattacks supported by tanks.

**AIR SITUATION.**

**Europe.**

35. Fighter Command flew 49 defensive sorties. Attacks against long-range rocket sites are referred to in para. 37, while details of enemy rocket activity against this country are reported under "Enemy Activity and Home Security."

**Home Waters.**

36. Home-based aircraft of Coastal Command flew 736 sorties; one aircraft is missing.

In attacks on shipping off South Norway by Halifaxes two ships of 3,000 and 5,000 tons were left in flames. Off the east coast of Norway, Mosquitoes left a 500-ton ship on fire and damaged a 2,000-ton ship.

Aircraft of Bomber Command laid 402 sea-mines.

**Western Europe.**

37. During the week ended dawn on the 21st, aircraft of S.H.A.E.F. (Air) flew 11,755 sorties and dropped 5,959 tons of bombs. In the week ended dawn on the 22nd, aircraft of Bomber Command and U.S. VIII Bomber Command flew 9,951 sorties and dropped 22,379 tons. U.S. VIII Fighter Command and Fighter Command flew 2,726 and 715 sorties respectively. Sixty-seven enemy aircraft were destroyed. Of 175 Allied aircraft which are missing, only 22 are heavy bombers.

The tonnage of bombs dropped during the week completed a total of over 1,000,000 tons dropped on Germany (including Austria and Czechoslovakia) since the beginning of the war.
Adverse weather restricted operations over the battle area, particularly in the northern sector; on five days no sorties were flown in this sector. Night operations by heavy bombers were curtailed; Bomber Command operated in strength on two nights and attacked one target four times by day. U.S. VIII Bomber Command operated in strength on six days; attacks were made against targets on the Eastern Front in support of the Russian offensive, oil plants and railways in Germany, and a communication centre in the northern sector of the Western Front. The majority of the attacks were made by pathfinder technique with unobserved results.

On the 15th, 685 Fortresses (part of a force of 1,137 heavy bombers despatched) attacked Dresden and Cottbus, following the heavy attack on the former city on the previous day and night. Over 1,300 tons were dropped; no opposition was experienced over Dresden.

A total of nearly 3,000 tons was dropped in 12 attacks on 7 railway centres east of the Rhine, between Rheine and Frankfurt, including one attack on Hamm, when 534 tons were dropped. Reconnaissance photographs of Hamm show a concentration of at least 500 bursts across the yards and direct hits on many main installations.

Of a large force despatched to attack targets at Nuremberg, 831 aircraft dropped 1,879 tons through cloud on the main station and railway yards; 300 aircraft abandoned the task owing to unfavourable weather over France. This city was attacked on the following day, when 2,558 tons (including 1,091 tons of incendiaries) were dropped mainly by pathfinder technique. About 2,300 tons were dropped on 9 oil or benzol plants in the Ruhr, and in north-west and central Germany. Results of two attacks which were observed, namely those at Nordestern (275 tons) and Dortmund (462 tons), were good. Reconnaissance photographs of Dortmund show direct hits on two coking plants and power stations. Aircraft providing escort for these attacks destroyed 282 locomotives, also 19 enemy aircraft in combat and 47 on the ground.

Strong night attacks were made by Bomber Command aircraft against oil plants at Bohlen (965 tons), Boisbolz and Monheim (near Dusseldorf—673 tons). The attack on Bohlen was scattered due to cloud and a smoke screen; reports of the other attacks were of cloud conditions, but fires and explosions were seen. The towns of Dortmund (2,239 tons), Duisburg (1,640 tons) and Worms (937 tons) were also attacked. On Dortmund the bomb load included over 1,400 tons of incendiaries. Good fires were seen through 8/10ths cloud at 6,000 feet. In the attacks on the two latter targets it is reported that the bombing was concentrated and fires were seen. The Mittelland Canal at Gravenhorst was attacked; 811 tons of delayed action bombs being dropped on accurate marking; results are not yet available.

Six attacks were made by Allied heavy bombers against the communication centre of Wesel on the Rhine south of Cleve (2,200 tons). One was made in clear weather when 418 tons were dropped by Lancasters and one attack was abandoned due to bad weather. Reconnaissance reports show very severe damage. Mosquitoes made several attacks on Berlin and other targets.

Medium bombers of S.H.A.E.F. (Air) operated mostly against communications and airfields in the central sector, and rail centres and barracks in the southern sector. Fighters and fighter-bombers continued to provide support and to harass enemy movements. Operations were possible on two days only on the northern sector, when communications over a wide area were attacked. On the southern and central sectors operations were restricted on some days. On all sectors approximately 1,000 M.T. 200 locomotives and 2,500 rolling-stock were destroyed.

In small attacks hits were obtained on long-range rocket sites and their communications in Holland.

Aircraft of Fighter Command on sweeps and patrol over Norway and South Germany destroyed a small number of enemy aircraft in combat and some locomotives.

The G.A.F. fighter opposition to day attacks was slight and on some days nil; against night attacks it was approximately 30/100 aircraft. When weather permitted tactical fighter sorties amounted to 50/75.

Southern Europe.

38. In the week ended dawn on the 20th aircraft of M.A.A.F. flew 12,342 sorties (including 5,242 by heavy bombers) and dropped 9,694 tons of bombs. Six enemy aircraft were destroyed; 82 Allied aircraft are missing (including 43 heavy bombers). Aircraft of the Strategic Air Force operated
in strength on six days against railways, oil plants and ordnance depots in Austria and Yugoslavia and harbours in Italy and Yugoslavia. In Austria, strong attacks were made on a number of railway centres and oil plants in the Vienna area. Over 2,500 tons were dropped on these targets and the results reported were fair to good. Strong attacks were made on other railway targets including Linz, Graz, Klagenfurt and 5 railway centres on the Brenner route from Bolzano to Rosenheim. Over 1,100 sorties were flown against these targets and 2,500 tons dropped.

Excellent results were reported after an attack on an airfield at Regensburg when about 500 tons were dropped. The harbour and shipyards at Fiume were attacked four times (651 tons) and those at Trieste thrice (627 tons). The results on the former were good and a large explosion and fires were caused at the naval docks at Trieste.

The Tactical Air Force continued attacks (when weather permitted) on enemy communications in Northern Italy and on the Brenner route, several bridges and a power station were destroyed and many other bridges damaged; fires were started in a sugar factory. A small number of locomotives, rolling-stock and M.T. were destroyed.

In Yugoslavia, the railway centres at Maribor and Zagreb were attacked by heavy bombers.

Small attacks were also made by aircraft of the Balkan Air Force against communications in the Maribor and Celje areas, oil installations south-east of Zagreb, and gun positions on Lussin and Rab Islands. Attacks were also made on gun positions on Milo (Adriatic).

[Note: Appendices VII and VIII give Raid Assessments and Operational Statistics.]

Russia.

39. With improved weather conditions the Russian Air Force was fairly active on the East Prussian sector of the Front and supported the advances of the troops under Marshal Koniev. Operations were carried out against enemy attempts to supply by air the German formations encircled in the Breslau area. Long-range bombers operated against Stettin, Stargard and Breslau.

The G.A.F. effort was not on a large scale nor commensurate with the forces available, the main effort was against the Oder bridgeheads.

Burma and Siam.

40. During the week ended dawn on the 20th, Allied aircraft flew 2,914 sorties, of which 2,231 were by bombers and fighter-bombers. In addition, Dakota transport aircraft flew 5,817 sorties, carrying 4,489 men and 8,941 tons, and light transport aircraft flew 2,142 sorties, carrying 882 men and evacuating 107 casualties and 431 men. Five Allied aircraft are missing.

In the Arakan, Central Burma and North Shan States close support for land forces continued to be given by fighters and fighter-bombers. Enemy positions, airfields, stores and communications were attacked and many buildings, a number of bridges and river-craft were destroyed or damaged.

Liberators, in well concentrated bombing, dropped 223 tons on villages W. of Kyaukse (25 miles S. of Mandalay), and others started many fires when attacking Yenangyaung (130 miles S.W. of Mandalay—195 tons). Numerous hits were obtained by heavy bombers on the runways of Aungban, Kunlon, Lewe and Pyinmana airfields.

In Lower Burma, Liberators destroyed and damaged several bridges on the Moulmein/Ye and the Burma/Siam railways. Shipping was successfully attacked in the Gulf of Martaban, where a number of small vessels was damaged by Beaufighters. Liberators laid sea-mines in Moulmein and Mergui harbours.

In Siam a direct hit was obtained by bombers on the centre of the main bridge at Kanchanaburi, the by-pass bridge being destroyed at the same time.

Small-scale attacks by Liberators were twice made on shipping off the Andamans, several vessels being sunk or damaged.

Japan.

41. A force of 98 Super Fortresses dropped 262 tons on the industrial area at Nagoya, one target being the Mitsubishi aircraft engine factory. Bombing
was mainly through thick cloud, but where results could be seen they were reported as excellent. One bomber was missing from this operation. Later in the week over 300 tons were dropped by 135 Super Fortresses which bombed an aircraft factory at Musashino and the dock and urban areas of Tokyo. Pathfinder technique was used, but several fires were seen near the Tokyo docks.

There was some air opposition on this occasion and 21 enemy aircraft were destroyed and 20 probably destroyed in combat, for the loss of 4 bombers.

**Pacific.**

42. In the Philippines gun positions, enemy concentrations and other targets on Corregidor and the Bataan Peninsula were attacked on a number of occasions, over 300 sorties being flown by Liberators. Extensive damage and many fires resulted. Medium bombers sank several troop-laden barges leaving Manila.

In the Kazan Group, airfields, radar and radio stations and other targets on Iwo Jima were several times bombed by Liberators. Other Liberators attacked targets in the Ogasawara Group.

In the Celebes, among targets attacked were the mica mines at Banggai, bombed by Liberators, a radar station on Manoei Island and shipping off the coast. Heavy and medium bombers operated against enemy positions and villages near Wewak in New Guinea, while in Borneo airfields at Balikpapan and Miri were bombed by heavies.

The scale of activity in New Britain, New Ireland and Bougainville continued on a high level, 350 sorties being flown. Airfields, supply areas and other targets near Rabaul were effectively attacked. In the Carolines Allied aircraft operated against a number of targets, including Babelthuap.

In Formosa, road and rail communications and an airfield were successfully attacked by fighters and medium bombers, while Liberators bombed an aluminium factory, a railway centre and other targets in the Takao area.

**ENEMY ACTIVITY AND HOME SECURITY.**

**General.**

43. During the period 66 long-range rockets fell on land. There were 30 incidents in London, 26 in Essex, 7 in Kent and one each in Suffolk, Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire.

There were four incidents where considerable damage was done to residential property and where fatal casualties were 10 or more. Ten key points were affected but the damage was only serious at two factories where production was stopped.

**Casualties.**

44. The estimated civilian casualties for the week ending 0600 hours on the 21st were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Killed</th>
<th>Serious</th>
<th>Missing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>London</td>
<td>168</td>
<td>580</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elsewhere</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>44</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>180</td>
<td>624</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
APPENDICES I, II and III will be published periodically.

APPENDIX IV.

Enemy Merchant Shipping Casualties assessed to 31st January, 1945.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nationality</th>
<th>Sunk, Captured or Constructive Loss</th>
<th>Seriously Damaged</th>
<th>Damaged</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>German</td>
<td>814</td>
<td>3,075,779</td>
<td>255</td>
<td>668,634</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italian</td>
<td>1,145</td>
<td>3,622,044</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>711,391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other enemy ships and ships useful to the enemy</td>
<td>884</td>
<td>1,970,865</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>242,809</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2,843</td>
<td>8,668,688</td>
<td>524</td>
<td>1,617,894</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The table does not include casualties inflicted on the enemy by our Russian Allies, which are estimated at about 2,848,000 gross tons sunk, nor does it include casualties inflicted on Japanese shipping in the Far East and Pacific, which up to 31st January are estimated to number 1,467 ships sunk or about 6,549,774 gross tons.

In addition, there is about 146,000 gross tons of Axis shipping which has been taken over by South American countries not at war with the Axis and some 36,000 gross tons of German shipping sold to Spain and Portugal.

APPENDIX V.

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

14th February.—M.T.Bs. 255, 438, 444, 450, 461, 465, 486, 487, 776, 788, 791 and 798 destroyed by fire at Ostend.

17th February.—M.T.B. 605 lost off Ostend; no casualties.

The following casualties to naval personnel have been reported:

  Officers: 11 killed; 9 wounded.
  Ratings: 66 killed; 37 wounded.
### APPENDIX VI.

**Imports under Departmental Programmes.**

(Thousand tons.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Non-Tanker Imports (1)</th>
<th>Tanker Imports (2)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Ministry of Food.</td>
<td>Ministry of Supply.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1944</td>
<td>February</td>
<td>758</td>
<td>1,155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>March</td>
<td>900</td>
<td>1,088</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>April</td>
<td>1,050</td>
<td>955</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>May</td>
<td>1,128</td>
<td>945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>June</td>
<td>1,035</td>
<td>810</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>July</td>
<td>1,010</td>
<td>882</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>August</td>
<td>995</td>
<td>817</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>September</td>
<td>914</td>
<td>1,104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>October</td>
<td>1,044</td>
<td>1,155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>November</td>
<td>776</td>
<td>985</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1944 Total (4)</td>
<td>10,996</td>
<td>11,753</td>
<td>25,147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1945</td>
<td>January</td>
<td>801</td>
<td>900</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>February 1-9 (estimated)</td>
<td>249</td>
<td>274</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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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 and excluding 36,000 tons of food and 23,000 tons of munitions destined for Europe and 104,000 tons of timber as a replacement of supplies handed over to the United States Army.

### APPENDIX VII.

**Allied Air Attacks on Germany.**

Extracts from Recent Raid Assessment Reports.

**Chemnitz.**—Photographs taken on the 17th February after the 8th Air Force attacks on the 6th and 14th February and the Bomber Command attack on the 14th-15th February show scattered damage in all parts of the town. A large multi-bay building in the railway workshop area has been partially destroyed and, to the south of the town centre, many industrial premises have been hit and at least six severely damaged.

**Dortmund.**—Photographs, to some extent obscured by smoke and haze, taken on the 16th February after the 8th Air Force attack earlier in the day, show considerable damage concentrated round the power station and coking plant of Hoesch A.G.

The chemical installations of the Minster Stein coke oven plant were also hit during this attack and were still on fire some two hours afterwards. Both batteries of coke-ovens have suffered heavily and will probably be incapable of operation for at least a month. There is considerable residential damage in the vicinity of this plant.

[29279]
Additional photographs taken on the 19th February show that Eighth U.S. Air Force attack on the 18th February has caused considerable damage in the main sorting sidings (adjacent to the phosphate plant) of the Eving railway centre. All tracks have been cut and more than 30 wagons have been derailed (12 of them being wrecked). Some tracks toward the northern converging points of the main sorting sidings have also been cut and a small goods yard in the vicinity has suffered damage.

Photographs also show damage in the Harpenerweg oil refinery, in the Langendreer district of Dortmund, which was attacked by the Eighth Air Force on the same day. A long high building has been severely damaged and the boiler house to a lesser degree, while three of the six "dug in" storage tanks have been destroyed. Some rail tracks in the sidings have been cut and about seven tank wagons have been derailed. The refinery appears to be inactive.

Dresden.—Photographs taken on the 14th February, following the heavy attack by aircraft of Bomber Command on the 13th-14th and the smaller daylight attack by the U.S.A.A.F. on the 14th, are largely obscured by smoke from the large number of fires still burning. In the parts of the city visible, however, great material damage can be seen, notably in the main railway yard and neighbouring industrial premises. Elsewhere, many blocks of buildings are seen to be gutted and one small gap in the haze shows an area of devastation in the southern part of the city.

The railway yard was attacked on two previous occasions by the U.S.A.A.F., on the 7th October, 1944, and on the 16th January, 1945. Photographic cover, obtained immediately after the second attack, was marred by smoke and snow, and though considerable damage was seen to have been caused in the railway yard and many incidents in the town area, no exact statement on damage was possible.

Further photographs, this time of poor quality, taken on the 15th February, after the attacks by Bomber Command and the 8th Air Force, cover a strip of the city from east to west across the centre east of the railway yards, and also part of the north-eastern suburbs. Interpretation is rendered difficult by the haze from fires still burning more than 36 hours after the last attack. Within the limits visible, however, large areas of devastation can be seen and these include the heart of the city, Alstadt on the south bank of the Elbe, Neustadt on the north bank and a further large area east of Alstadt, and north of the Grosser Garten. Scattered and in places severe incidents of residential damage can be seen east of this area as far as the suburb of Loschwitz.

Within these areas damage to public and administrative buildings is very heavy and includes: The Law Courts, Land Gericht, Carola Ministerien (containing the Ministries of Justice, Finance and Culture), Rathaus, Landesfinanzamt, Central Market Hall, Slaughterhouse, Schloss, Palace and Albertinum. A number of unidentified industrial buildings, some of which were still on fire, have been affected.

One of the main railway stations has been damaged and two of the bridges across the river, the Carola bridge and the Augustus bridge, have both been hit.

Hamm.—Photographs taken shortly after the 8th Air Force attack on the 16th February show severe fresh damage to the railway yard and facilities. The heaviest damage has been caused in the eastbound sorting sidings, where almost every track has been cut, at least once, and a quantity of rolling-stock damaged and derailed. A second concentration of craters, immediately south of the passenger station, has inflicted damage on railway facilities and cut most of the tracks. The station itself, which is partially obscured by smoke, has received at least three hits, and the north end of the carriage shed, which had been repaired after previous damage, has been destroyed. Some wagons in this area have been damaged and derailed.

The westbound sorting sidings and the eastbound reception sidings have both been affected and most of the tracks cut: many wagons have also been damaged and derailed here. The western wagon repair shop, previously damaged and almost repaired, has suffered severe fresh damage. In addition a large shop of the Westfälische Draht-Industrie, also previously damaged and partially repaired, has received further damage. There is fresh business and residential damage south-east of the passenger station and north of the Westfälische Draht-Industrie, in which areas fires were still burning about two and a half hours after the attack.

Merseburg/Leuna.—Photographs taken on the 14th February, covering the southern half of the synthetic oil (Bergius) plant, show that further severe damage
was caused to this part of the plant by the Bomber Command attack on the 14th-15th January. Numerous important installations were heavily hit, including a paste preparation building, an injector house, a compressor house, and the ammonia sulphae house.

It is estimated that this attack will have stopped production for at least two months.

Recklinghausen/Erkenschwick.—The Ewald Fortsetzung coke oven plant was attacked by Bomber Command on the 16th January. Photographs taken on the 14th February show severe damage, and no activity in the plant.

Rositz.—Photographs taken on the 17th February show that considerable damage has been caused to the Deutsche petroleum refinery, as a result of the Bomber Command attack on the 14th-15th February. While damage is heaviest in the eastern part of the refinery, the west end has also been affected. The coke and/or asphalt section has been severely damaged and pipe lines in the south­east and north-east distillation plants have been seriously disrupted. A cooling tower and 21 storage tanks have been severely damaged or destroyed, and 14 sheds and stores buildings have suffered in like degree. The refinery is out of action. This target was also attacked by a small force of 8th Air Force bombers on the 7th October, since when no photographic cover has been obtained.

Wesel.—Photographs taken during and immediately after the Bomber Command and 8th Air Force attacks on the 16th February are largely smoke obscured, but a number of fires are burning throughout the town—mainly from the fully built-up centre towards the southern outskirts. Considerable damage can be seen, but interpretation is rendered impossible by the smoke.

Photographs taken on the 14th February after the 8th Air Force attack earlier in the day, show that one span at the west of the road bridge over the Rhine has been destroyed and has collapsed into the river. A single track railway had been laid across this bridge to supplement the cross-river railway facilities and to provide a reserve railway crossing in the event of the destruction of the neighbouring railway bridge.

APPENDIX VIII.

Bomb Tonnage on Germany.
(Including Austria, Czechoslovakia and Poland.)

(a) From beginning of War to night 20-21st February, 1945.
(b) For year ended 31st January, 1945.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tons, British</th>
<th>(a)</th>
<th>(b)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>R.A.F. Bomber Command</td>
<td>541,500</td>
<td>289,400</td>
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<tr>
<td>U.S. VIII Air Force, Bomber Command</td>
<td>347,400</td>
<td>292,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. XV Air Force, Bomber Command</td>
<td>71,300</td>
<td>61,700</td>
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<tr>
<td>U.S. IX Air Force (including 1st Tactical Air Force)</td>
<td>40,000</td>
<td>32,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R.A.F. 2nd Tactical Air Force (including Fighter Command)</td>
<td>8,000</td>
<td>4,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,008,200</strong></td>
<td><strong>679,900</strong></td>
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