

January February 1941

Reinforcements

Germany	Vienna	NAV3	F300C "Condor"
	Munich	MTN	XLIX (6-4)
	Nurnberg	ARM	DAK (10-6)
	Dresden	MOT	4 Div (1-5)
	Cologne	FTR3	Bf 110E
	Berlin	Flak	105mm (18-1)
		Pilotx2	
Italy	Rome	NAV2	Z.501 "Gabbiano"
	Genoa	BB	"Andrea Doria"
		CLx2	"Magno", "Silla"
Japan	Tokyo	CP	
		CL	"Kashi"
	Osaka	CV	"Shokaku" (to const)
	Nagoya	INF	18 (4-3)
	Hiroshima	MTN	1 (5-4)
	ENG	2 Div (1-3)	
Vichy		Terr	Algeria (2-4)
USSR	Leningrad	GARR	3 rd Guard (6-1)
		FTR2	I-15bis
	Odessa	INF	33 (5-3)
	Dneprop.	LND4	PE-8/TB-7
	Moscow	MECH(h)	4 (8-6)
	Pilot		
C/Wealth	London	CA	"London"
	Plymouth	CL	"Curacao"
	Belfast	CV	"Victorious"
	Halifax	ASW	
USA	Washington	INF	XXXIII (6-3)
	New York	MOT	XXIII (6-5)
	Los Angeles	CV	"Langley"
	San Francisco	BB	"New Jersey" (to const)
	Pilot		



A newly arrived Me Bf 110E



Polikarpov I-15bis with factory markings – the "Chaika" ("Seagull") is likely to have a hard time in the coming conflict

In a stunning demonstration of administrative incompetence, during the annual review of production models (*for scrapping*), the Italian High Command discovers that the Army Reserve was not called out when war was declared. The "Roma" militia (5-3), IV Infantry Corps (4-3) and XIII Garrison Corps (3-1) are immediately added to the regular army. Il Duce ponders whether these units could have turned the tide in North Africa – he decides it would have made little difference.

Lending Resources

Kunming still receives Burmese oil – with the most productive areas of the country under Japanese control, this now represents 20% of the Chinese economy.

Germany has a surfeit of raw materials and is able to send vast amounts to Italy. Italian production should peak as all factories reach maximum production.

Initiative

Allies dr = 3 Axis dr = 1(+1) Axis does not challenge and Allies make the Axis go first

Impulse 1 (Axis) The Battle of the Atlantic spreads

Weather dr = 5 Snow, Snow, Rain, Fair, Rain, Fair (2)*

Declarations of War

With France firmly under German control (and Morocco “gifted” to Spain), Hitler’s influence on General Franco has never been higher. As Spanish factories continue to boost Germany’s war production, von Ribbentrop meets with his counterparts in Madrid. The results of the negotiations hit world headlines – Spain will grant access to its secure naval base at Cadiz to German U-boats! The British Admiralty is forced to re-evaluate convoy protection in light of the additional range this grants Doenitz’s Unterseebooten Kapitans, and the US is alarmed at this expansion of the threat to world trade (*US Entry dr= 3, needs 5 so chit to German pool*).

Most of the world is already under threat from German commerce raiders. With the “Kormoran” in the Tasman Sea, “Hansa” in the Arabian Sea and the “Widder” and “Orion” in the North and Central Atlantic, the Royal Navy has its hands full.



As if that were not enough, a powerful sortie by the Kriegsmarine into the North Sea and around the Faeroes Islands puts further pressure on British naval resources. The venerable battleship “Barham” which was on sentry patrol in the North Sea is forced to run for port after a brief encounter with the “Scharnhorst” and “Gneisenau”, although it does make the “Nurnberg” and “Blucher” also leave for home.

HMS Barham pulls into port: the veteran of WW1 has a lucky escape from the German sortie

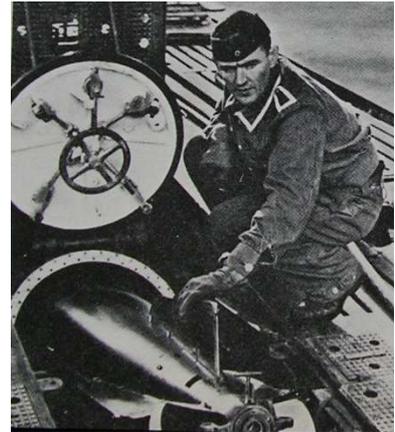
Squadrons of “Condors” head into the Bay of Biscay, and others head south to rebase at airfields near Palermo. The presence of powerful air units in the Mediterranean threatens Commonwealth reinforcements to Wavell’s Army of Egypt. Up to now, fast transports have been able to make the dash from Gibraltar to Suez while the Italians are otherwise occupied, but this may have to stop.

The first casualties of 1941 are (perhaps predictably) from the British Merchant Marine. In the icy waters off the Faeroes several vital oil tankers are sunk by U-boats. Some of the submarines are chased off by escorts, but not before the convoys are severely disrupted.

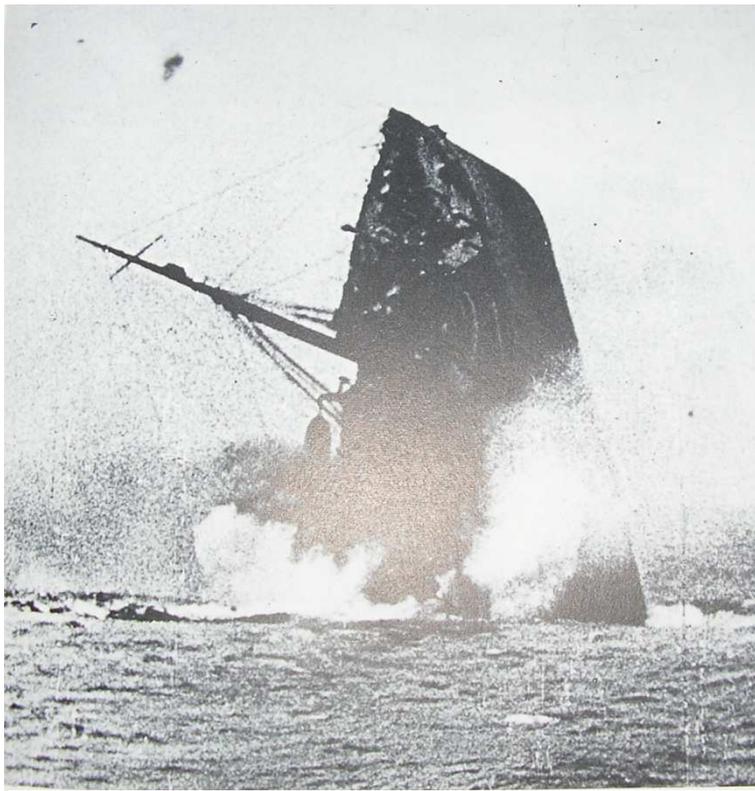
U-boats have further success in the North Atlantic where dozens of tankers are sunk by a wolf-pack before escorts report they have inflicted enough damage to force the submarines to return home. German reports contradict this – they say the subs simply ran out of torpedoes and returned to port to rearm.

The effectiveness of carriers as escorts is shown emphatically off Cape St Vincent where Swordfish from the carrier “Ark Royal” damage Italian submarines before they can reach the streams of cargo ships heading for Portsmouth or Cape Town.

But most of the News reaching Admiralty House is not so good. Italian submarines have their revenge off Cape Verde when the light cruiser “Neptune” is damaged and the Australian cruiser “Perth” runs for Freetown harbour. The now unprotected convoys lose several ships and the rest scatter.



A U-boat petty officer helps load a torpedo



The death of another British cargo ship – the decision to hold back escorts is now seen as a tactical disaster

The raiders also have success, with the “Hansa” sweeping the Arabian Sea clear of shipping, sinking tankers and general cargo ships, while the “Kormoran” sinks ships making the passage between Australia and New Zealand. The Indian and Pacific Oceans have been virtually stripped of warships for the Atlantic and the Med – where can the Royal Navy find additional vessels?

In the North Atlantic, the “Widder” is fortunate as Swordfish from the “Courageous” cannot locate it – the presence of the carrier does restrict the effectiveness of the raider and it only manages to drive a few tankers away from the convoy lanes. Given the damage already inflicted by the subs, supplies of oil across the Atlantic are under severe threat.

Anticipating a threat that perhaps does not exist, the ancient battleships “Schlesien” and “Schleswig-Holstein” head into the Baltic to provide protection to the ships bearing Swedish iron ore to the Ruhr.

The only land movement detected by Allied intelligence is the southward progress of Japanese infantry in Indo-China, heading for the undefended capital, Saigon.

Impulse 3 (Allies) Too little, too late

Reeling from the convoy losses in early January, the Allied High Command realises too late that allowing the Axis the initiative in the war at sea was a bad mistake. It had been hoped that the limited number of convoys at sea would minimise any damage, but this obviously was a miscalculation. Trying to at least avenge the losses, the Royal Navy wearily heads out to sea again.

The Home Fleet, as usual, cannot locate the German Battle Fleet in the North Sea. Even worse, in the Faeroes the carrier "Eagle" not only fails to locate any submarines, but receives news that more tankers and merchantmen have been lost.

The bad news just piles up, as distress calls from the Bay of Biscay reveal that the "Condors" have struck, sinking scores of cargo ships and forcing the escorts "Penelope" and "Curacoa" to Gibraltar.

Only the British submarines are successful (albeit not in the intended manner) in carrying out their mission to sink ships off the Italian Coast. Although the coastal steamers are unharmed, the light cruiser "Taranto" is sunk while attempting to protect them.

This is the sole bright spot for January, as the only other naval action sees the "Widder" evade detection in the North Atlantic and sink a few more tankers. There seems to be a secret plan to target ships carrying oil to the United Kingdom. *(Although we are using random selection for naval actions, there have a disproportionate number of tankers lost this turn).*



Admiral of the Fleet Sir Dudley Pound contemplates the mounting shipping losses – how can he manage his limited resources to protect the convoys?



A stream of T-26A tanks (1931 model) heads east

Stavka is showing signs of utter confusion. After months of slowly moving units to the border with Germany, presumably to increase the border garrison and deter any breach of the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact, there is now a complete reversal. While small and weak infantry units remain in place, the more powerful (and expensive) headquarters, armour and motorised units head east. Aircraft are seen leaving forward airbases and relocating far in the rear. Rumours are that top secret calculations have been made that reveal that no amount of Russian build up would be enough to guarantee that Germany

could not attack later in the year. It is feared that key units could be lost in a sudden blitzkrieg and therefore they are being moved to “safer” positions.

The cruiser “Chester” sails for Hawaii, as the US suddenly realises that war may be looming. There has been a rapid increase in US concern about Germany and particularly Japan, though tension with the Axis powers is still low.

Impulse 5 (Axis) Lull in China

Weather dr = 7 (+1) Blizzard, Snow, Storm, Fair, Storm, Fair (3)*

In a strong signal that offensive operations in China have been put on hold for the foreseeable future, Japanese air squadrons leave their front line airfields and rebase in the rear, where they can be used in anti-partisan work. There seems to be a drift of combat units to the coast.

The Italian High Command is disgusted at the weather conditions and decides that any movement either at sea or on land would be a waste of precious oil reserves.



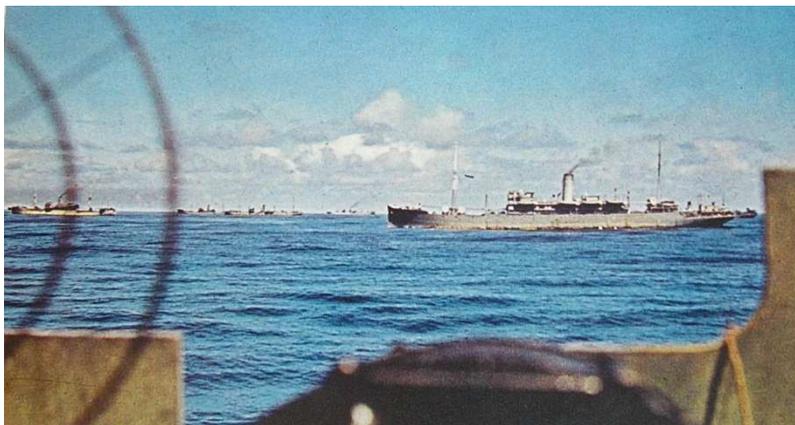
Yugoslavia does not react when von Rundstedt’s headquarters is railed to southern Hungary. Surely the Yugoslav Army must realise that the presence of one of Hitler’s most respected generals proves an attack is likely as soon as the weather clears?

Generalfeldmarschall Gerd von Rundstedt waiting to board the train to Hungary – his transfer is a clear warning to Yugoslavia that Germany’s expansion is not over

The only offensive action takes place in the English Channel, where several hundred He 111H bombers leave France and attempt an attack on shipping in Plymouth harbour. The snow apparently interferes with navigation and the planes return without dropping a single bomb.

Perhaps influenced by the success of the “Condors” in the Bay of Biscay (and the complete lack of action in the Mediterranean) Goering orders the FW-200C squadrons that have just landed in Palermo to pack up and move to northern France.

Impulse 8 (Allies) Chinese reaction



A few merchantmen brave the weather and set out to rebuild the convoy lanes. There are pitifully few as the colossal losses of the past few weeks become apparent, but through heroic efforts nearly every vital area is covered.

During a break in the weather cargo ships leave port

Reacting to the Japanese moves, Chinese units move forward, confident that no counter-attack is likely.

Squadrons of long range Beaufighter fighters rebase to Plymouth, ready to head to sea to take on the "Condors".

Turn ends on 2, 1 rolled. Initiative remains at +1 Axis

Partisans

Partisan dr = 3	Belgium	Garrison = 2	Partisan no. = 3	dr = 10
	France	Garrison = 12	Partisan no. = 15	dr = 2 1 Partisan
	Indo-China	Garrison = 0	Partisan no. = 6	dr = 10



A Maquis loots the wreckage of a He 111H bomber at an airfield near Cherbourg – these are the first significant German aircraft losses

Goering is furious with the Wehrmacht as he is informed that the Maquis in France have seized an undefended Cherbourg. The reason for his anger is obvious – hundreds of He 111H bombers recently returned from their unsuccessful mission to hit Plymouth have been caught unprepared on the ground. While some squadrons of Me Bf 109F1 fighters manage to get into the air and rebase elsewhere in France, the bombers are unable to take off and are destroyed. To make matters worse the resistance fighters trap the pilots in their barracks and all are killed. The Reichsmarschall demands to know why his planes were left undefended – there is an embarrassing admission that the increased threat of uprisings in France (*now that we are in 1941 the partisan number is not halved*) has been overlooked.

In Belgium, a strong uprising is nearly successful, but the German garrison is just sufficient to keep the population under control.

Indo-China is in a state of chaos as the Japanese march south to Saigon. Despite this, and the complete absence of any French troops, an attempt at insurrection is so disorganised it is doomed to failure.

US Entry

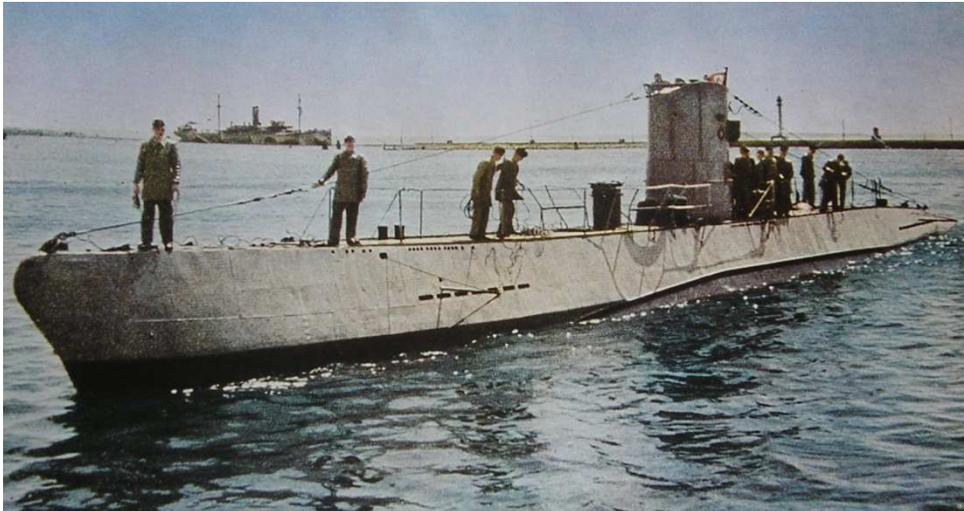
Chit to Japanese pool

Facing mounting concern in the US regarding Japan's aggression in the Pacific, President Roosevelt further restricts US trade. No raw materials are now sent to Japan, and the supply of oil is looking tenuous. The Japanese react badly to the news. (*dr = 7, 7 needed*)

As the newspapers list the names of vessels lost to German raiders and aircraft, as well as Axis submarines, US Congress passes a Bill authorising the Air Force to commence patrols off the US Coast. Germany obviously sees this as merely symbolic, as it brings no reaction. (*dr = 8, 6 needed*)

Return to Base

Crowds line the wharfs of Cadiz harbour as the first German U-boats enter the port. The submarines immediately move to their reinforced concrete pens and start to rearm and refuel, relaxed after months at sea to know that they are safe from attack.



From the protected port of Cadiz on the Bay of Biscay, coastal submarines with limited range have an opportunity to strike at British convoys

German commerce raiders enjoy Portuguese hospitality as the “Widder” slips into Lisbon harbour, while the “Kormoran” and “Hansa” take up temporary residence at Dili, capital of Portuguese East Timor. The Kapitans of the latter two are frustrated as there are no neutral ports available in the middle of the Pacific, drastically reducing their raiding options. The “Orion” meanwhile enters Panama, much to the annoyance of the USA.

As an indication of trouble to come, what the British come to call “Force K” sets up in its new base of Brest. The light cruisers “Koln”, “Königsberg” and “Karlsruhe” are well placed to bring more grief to the Royal Navy and the merchantmen it protects. There is also a flotilla of U-boats in the harbour, still exposed as they wait for engineers to carry out repairs to the port facilities, damaged by the French before surrendering the town.



(Brest is now a boom town, with nearly 500 “Condors” and their crews also based there, as well as their escorting BF 110C fighters. In addition, the men of the LXXXV Garrison crowd the streets and several hundred Ju88A4 bombers are based just outside the city.)

Production

With war now either a fact of life or a real possibility, it has become essential that economic resources are spent wisely. Once again the razor gangs of the various War Ministries are looking for out-dated production models. Except, of course, in the USA, where apart from the work of Senator Truman's hard working committee, inefficiency and feather bedding are still rife.

Scrapped

USA		Still not allowed
USSR	FTR2	I-16 (3-*-*)/4
		3 rd ARM (6-6) withdrawn and replaced by 3 rd Heavy ARM (9-6) Sverdlovsk MIL (4-3) withdrawn and replaced by Sverdlovsk Heavy MIL (5-3) 4 th MOT (5-4) withdrawn and replaced by 4 th Heavy MOT (7-4)
		3 rd Heavy MECH (9-6) placed in reserve: to replace in service 3 rd MECH (6-6)
China		Nil (every unit may be needed)
Free French	INF	VIII (4-3)
C/Wealth	FTR2	2xP.82 "Defiant" (3-*-*)/3
	FTR2	Hurricane 1 (4-*-*)/3
	NAV2	Albacore (1-3-1-*)/4
	NAV2	Skua II (1-1-1-*)/6
	NAV2	Swordfish (0-3-1-*)/4
Italy	CVP1	2xRe 2001 (2-1-*-*)/3
	FTR2	CR 42 "Falco" (4-*-*)/3
	LND2	BA 65 (2-1-3-1)/2
Germany	INF	3 rd Div (1-4)
	FTR2	He 112 (3-*-*)/5
	AT	50mm (2-3)



A veteran of the Polish and French campaigns, one of the last 5cm Panzerabwehrkanone 38 (L/60) awaits decommissioning. Although the anti-tank weapon is still potent, it is believed that the new 7.5cm PAK 40 model is a better use of production facilities

Japan LND2 Ki-15 "Babs" (2-*-1-1)/8
 LND2 Ki-32 "Mary" (1-*-2-1)/6
 LND2 Ki-32 "Mary" (1-*-1-1)/6
 FTR2 Ki-22 "Nate" (4-*-*-*)/6
 NAV2 B5N1 "Kate" (0-3-3-*)/5
 CVP1 B5N1 (1-4-2-*)/2
 CVP 2xA6M2 (4-*-*-*)/6



Army type light bomber Ki-32 "Mary" – no more will be built as their bomb load is seen to be too small

	Base (Resource/Oil)	Imports	Less Oil	PPs	Multiple	BPs	Trade	Losses/Enemy*	Total BPs
Germany	24/6	+1	-2	29	1	29	-2		27
Italy	7/4		-1	10	1	10			10
Japan	9/4	+1	-2	12	1	12	-1		11
Vichy	1			1	1	1			1
UK	9/4	+3		16	1	16			16
Canada	2			2	1	2			2
Australia	1			1	1	1			1
India	2			2	1	2			2
France									
China	4/1			5	.5	3		-/+1	4
USA	22/18		-1	39	.5	20	+1		21
USSR	19/8			27	.5	14	+2		16

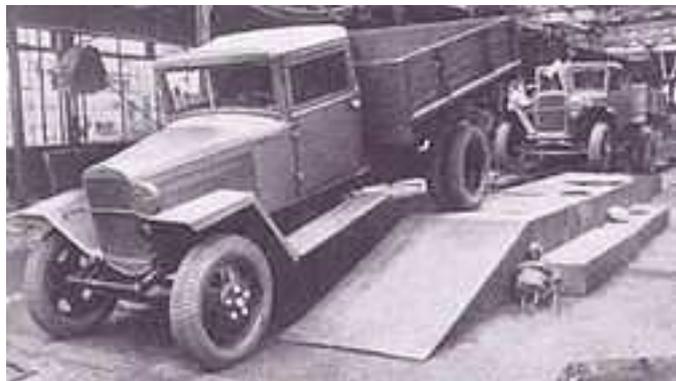
*Losses: in Home Country, receive ½ of all BPS lost defending, ¼ of all BPS lost attacking
 *Enemy: receive 1BP if an enemy unit in Home Country at Production phase

Germany (27) On map Kiel SUB Speciality (1)
 Berlin INF Speciality (1) (2)
 On chart Berlin HQ(A) Rommel (1)
 Cologne GARR LXXXIII (1)
 Hanover MECH VII (1)
 Breslau MECH 1SS (1)
 Liepzig ARM XIL (1)
 Dresden MECH XLVI (1)
 ART PzJag1 (1)
 Munich GARR LXXXVII (1) (9)
 Pilot (1)
 Start Breslau HQ(A) Manstein (4)
 Kiel 2xSUB from const pool (1)
 SUB from start (1)
 Vienna LND2 Ju-87D Stuka (1)
 Cologne FTR2 Bf 109E3 (1)
 Essen GARR LXXXIX (1)
 Breslau MECH 10SS Div (1)
 Liepzig ARM 1SS Div (1)
 Dresden ARM 1 Div (1)
 2xPilots(2)
 2xOPs (2) (16)

Italy (10)	On chart	Trieste	MTN	Alpini (1)	
	Start	La Spezia	Pilot	(1)	(2)
		Naples	2xCA	"Bolzano", "Garibaldi" (repair) (1)	
			2xCL	"Attendolo", "Montecuccoli" (repair) (1)	
		Rome	NAV2	SM 79 "Sparviero" (1)	
Genoa	CP	(1)			
		Rome	LND2	Z 1007 "Alcione" (1)	
		Genoa	2xSUB	(one from start, one from const) (2)	
			Pilot	(1)	(8)
Japan (11)	On map	Fukuoka	Synthetic	Oil (2)	(2)
	On chart	Fukuoka	2xCV	"Zuikaku", "Shoho" (1)	
		Nagoya	MAR	Imperial Guard (1)	
		Osaka	NAV3	G3M2 "Nell" (1)	
	Start		2xPilot	(2)	
		Fukuoka	2xCV	"Shokaku", "Zuiho" both from const (1)	
		Fukuoka	SUB	from const (1)	
Fukuoka		TRS	from const (1)		
		Pilot	(1)	(4)	
C/Wealth (16)	On map	Edinburgh	Synthetic	Oil (1)	(1)
	On chart	London	FTR3	"Whirlwind" (1)	
		S/Hampton	FTR3	"Beaufighter" (1)	
		Newcastle	BB	"Queen Elizabeth" (1)	
	Start	Glasgow	BBx2	"Prince of Wales", "Anson" (1)	
		Belfast	NAV4	Sunderland (1)	
		Belfast	CAX2	"Mauritius", "Java" from repair (1)	
		Glasgow	ASW	from start (1)	
		Glasgow	CVP1	Gladiator (1)	
		Plymouth	CPx2	(2)	
		Plymouth	Tanker	(1)	
		Belfast	CP	(1)	
		Belfast	Tanker	(1)	
		London	CP	(1)	
London	Tanker	(1)			
				(11)	
Australia	Start	Melbourne	Tanker	(1)	
Canada	On chart	Halifax	ASW	(1)	
	Start		Pilot	(1)	
India	Start	Bombay	CV	"Glorious" from repair (1)	
		Bombay	Tanker	(1)	
China	On chart	ChungKing	HQ(I)	Chiang Kai Shek (1)	
		Lanchow	GARR	5 (1)	
		Cheng Tu	FTR2	P-36A "Mohawk" (1)	
	Start	Kunming	GARR	13(Res) (1)	

USSR (16)	On map	Dnepetrop.	Fortifications (1)	(2)			
		3 rd MECH (6-6)	upgraded to 3 rd MECH(h) (9-6) (1)				
	On chart	Dnepetrop.	LND4	TB-3 (1)	(8)		
		Odessa	INF	25 (1)			
		Odessa	LND2	SB-2 (1)			
		Moscow	MOT	3 (1)			
		Moscow	LND4	TB-3 (1)			
		Krasnodar	MTN	1 (1)			
			Terr	Manchuria (1)			
			Pilot	(1)			
		Start	Moscow	INF		Specialisation (1)	(6)
			Moscow	HQ(I)		Koniev (3)	
	Kiev		INF	59 (1)			
	Vitebsk		CAV	2 nd Guard (1)			

GAZ AA trucks roll out of a Moscow factory, bound for the newly formed 3rd Motorised Army. Production of trucks under license from Ford is increasing as Stavka becomes convinced that war with Germany is inevitable and mobility will be a key determinant of victory.



USA (21)	On map	New York	SCS Shipyard (1)	(2)			
		Los Angeles	CV Shipyard (1)				
	On Chart	Washington	FTR2	P-36A (1)	(10.5)		
		Boston	LND3	B-25B (1)			
		Charleston	BB	"Washington" (1)			
		New York	FTR2	P-35 (1)			
		New York	ASW	(1)			
		New York	NAV3	"Catalina" (1)			
		New York	MAR	V (1)			
		Los Angeles	CV	"Hornet" (1)			
		Los Angeles	SUB	(1)			
		San Francisco	BB	"Iowa" (.5)			
			Pilot	(1)			
		Start	San Francisco	CL		"San Juan" (.5)	(8.5)
			New York	Tanker		(1)	
			New York	LND3		A-20B "Boston III" (1)	
			Los Angeles	CVPO		F4F-3 (0)	
			Los Angeles	CVP1		SBD-4 (1)	
			Boston	ASW		(1)	
			Boston	TRS		from const (1)	
	Chicago		FTR2	P40B "Tomahawk" (1)			
	Seattle		SUB	(1)			
			Pilot	(1)			

Losses January/February 1941

C/wealth	CL (damaged) "Neptune"	(1)
	7xCP	(7)
	5xTankers	(5)

Total Commonwealth losses = 13BP

Total Allied losses = 13BP

Italy	CL (sunk) "Taranto" (1-8-0-0)5/3	(2)
	SUB (damaged)	(1)

Total Italian losses = 3BP

Germany	LND3 He 111H (1-1-3-4)5E (<i>scrapped</i>)	(3)
	Pilot	(2)

Total German losses = 5BP

Total Axis losses = 8BP