

USSR

Reference: 3/PPDT/T72

Issued: 28-2-40

1. A.A. GUNS BEING SITED ON RAILWAY LINES
2. JOURNEY TO LIVERPOOL
3. VISIT TO NORTHOLT, HENDON, HESTON AND FERRY AERODROMES
4. ACCURACY OF GERMAN BOMBING
5. POULTRY-DEALER

(1940)

From: LONDON

To: MOSCOW

No: 1141

9th Oct. 40

To DIRECTOR.

1. The report that railway lines and the Underground where it runs in the open are being used by the British for [siting][a] A.A. guns has been confirmed. The use of mobile A.A. guns in the region of WESTBOURNE PARK, LADBROKE GROVE and ST. QUINTIN PARK stations is a known fact.

2. In LIVERPOOL [i] I saw a number of bombed-out warehouses on the waterfront. While passing through the Midlands from LIVERPOOL to LONDON I saw only slight damage here and there. On the rail journey from LONDON to LIVERPOOL I established [the following][a]: the train runs two or three hours late. Passenger trains are held up to let goods trains through and are without lighting during air-raids.

3. [B% We] have looked round NORTHOLT, HENDON, HESTON and FERRY Aerodromes: HESTON is the only one where hangars have been demolished. The SAUSAGE-DEALERS [KOLBASNIKI][ii] have tried to bomb NORTHOLT Aerodrome but have missed - the road and nearby houses have been demolished. Near this aerodrome the British have erected about [B% 10 buildings] - hangars made of tubing and painted bright red. I assume that this is for camouflage. They are all empty. [i group unidentified] that a bomb fell close to these hangars.

4. In the PARK ROYAL area several blitzed factories can be seen. In the northern part of the HENDON area an electric tool factory has been blitzed. The SAUSAGE-DEALERS have bombed the railway junctions of the

CRICKLEWOOD area and also the HANDLEY-PAGE Aircraft Factory, but the latter is working normally - the nearby houses have suffered. Warehouses in HARROW ROAD near PADDINGTON Station have been damaged. On the night of 5th-6th October there was heavy bombing in the BRENTFORD and CHISWICK industrial area. Many dwellings were demolished. The area is closed to through traffic. The goods depot in the MARYLEBONE area has been damaged.

5. It is confirmed that despite great height, thick cloud, darkness and heavy gunfire the SAUSAGE-DEALERS can pick out with exceptional accuracy the important areas to be bombed, but in the majority of cases the bombs fall 20-200 metres away from the target.

6. In reply to your telegram No. 6302 [b] I repeat [a]

"POULTRY-DEALER [KURNIK][111] reports that because of the continuous bombing the Headquarters of Eastern Command [SHTAB VOSTOCHNOGO VERNOGO OKRUGA], which was in HOUNSLOW, has moved to ASHFORD and part to EALING".

No. 2051

BARCH [iv]

Notes: [a] Inserted by translator.

[b] Not available.

[c] The passage that follows is a repetition of the first sentence of paragraph 2 of LONDON's No. 1112 of 4th October 1940.

Comments: [i] LIVERPOOL: This visit to LIVERPOOL was presumably to meet Col. I.A. SKLYAROV, the new Soviet Military and Air Attaché, who arrived in LIVERPOOL from the United States on 8th October 1940.

[ii] SAUSAGE-DEALERS: the Germans.

[iii] POULTRY-DEALER: Unidentified covername. See also LONDON's Nos. 876 of 13th August 1940, 882 of 14th August 1940 and 1112 of 4th October 1940.

[iv] BARCH: Possibly Simon Davidovich KHEMER, whose official post was Secretary to the Soviet Military Attaché in LONDON. He was appointed in 1937 and is thought to have left sometime in 1946. The covername BARCH occurs as a LONDON addressee and signatory between 3rd March 1940 and 10th October 1940, after which it is superseded by the covername BEIGN.