

Air Ministry News Service

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LARGE SHIP BOMBED 200 YARDS FROM NORWEGIAN COAST

A Hudson of the Coastal Command attacked a German convoy within 200 yards of the Norwegian coast early this morning, and left a large ship on fire and at a standstill.

The ship, which was estimated at 10,000 tons, was steaming slowly in convoy with two medium-sized vessels. Three flakships were escorting, and the convoy was well within the protection of land batteries.

The Hudson dived to the level of the ship's deck.

"When we were almost on top of it, I let the bombs go, and pushed the throttles wide open," said the pilot. "My rear-gunner opened fire as we went over.

"The ships and shore batteries let loose a terrific barrage as soon as the bombs had gone. We took evasive action, and climbed to make another attack.

"As we dived again, I saw that the ship had stopped. There was a fire on its deck, in front of the bridge. This time we opened up with all our machine-guns as we went in again at deck level. I pulled up over the mast and dropped another stick of bombs.

"A big shower of sparks leapt out of the funnel and the fire on the deck blazed up. Our machine-guns seemed to have silenced a lot of the flak fire on the ship."

The pilot of this Hudson is a 27 year-old pilot officer F.W. Walker, who was commissioned from Warrant Officer six weeks ago. This was his seventh successful attack on an enemy ship. He comes from West Hartlepool, is married and has two children.

Shortly before midnight, another Hudson on patrol over the North Sea was attacked by a Ju88. The combat lasted for five or six minutes before the enemy aircraft fled for home pursued by the Hudson. When last seen it was near the water with the port wing down. The Hudson was undamaged.