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R.A.F.'S 300TH VICTIM IN SECOND LIBYAN CAMPAIGN

British fighter squadrons in the western desert put up their third century on Friday. The fighters have now destroyed three hundred enemy aircraft confirmed, since November 18th, 1941, the opening date of the second Libyan campaign.

During the same period they have probably destroyed more than one hundred and damaged many more than two hundred others. These figures have been reckoned on the rigorous standards which the R.A.F. have always imposed.

To claim that an aircraft is destroyed, it must have been seen to hit the ground, plunge into the sea, blow up in mid air, have been abandoned by the pilot baling out, or seen to be falling in flames.

It was while escorting our bombers on Friday morning that a Kittyhawk shot down the three hundredth victim, a Me.109. The bombers, Bostons of the South African Air Force, raided Derna aerodrome, dropping their bombs among aircraft on the ground and returning without loss.

The Kittyhawk pilot, a flight sergeant from Lancashire, together with others of his squadron, attacked a group of Me.109s which attempted to interfere. "I got on the tail of one of them", he said "but missed him with my first burst, so I dived after him and tried again. His wheels flopped down, his hood flew off, and flames and smoke poured from his aircraft. As I pulled away I saw a white speck which was the pilot baling out."

Soon afterwards the flight sergeant was attacked by Macchi 202s. He drove off one, but others stayed and fought for nearly ten minutes. Later the sergeant came across a third Macchi 202 which he attacked and hit. Smoke poured from it and it dropped almost vertically. As he did not see it hit the ground the sergeant claimed it as a probable.

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