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FIGHTER COMMAND'S MLY RECORD

86 ENEMY AIRCRAFT DESTROYED LAST MONTH

Keeping up a day and night offensive against the enemy, pilots of Fighter Command last month destroyed 52 enemy aircraft over the other side of the Channel, 42 by daylight and 10 by night intruders. Thirteen more were shot down in daylight round our coasts, ten by fighters and three by ack-ack gunners. Night fighters, guns and balloon defences accounted for another 21 over this country, making a total of 86 enemy aircraft destroyed during the month by Fighter Command and its ancillary services.

Fifty-seven separate daylight offensive operations, each involving one or more squadrons were carried out during the month, including 15 raids in which Bostons of Bomber Command or Hurricane-bombers were escorted to attack targets in the occupied territory.

In four of these attacks more than 200 British fighters were engaged at one time. On five occasions over 400 fighters were over Northern France, Belgium or Holland in a single day and in a period of twenty-four hours more than one thousand of our fighters have been engaged on day and night offensive operations, shipping and other defensive patrols.

Of the 13 enemy aircraft destroyed over and around our coasts in daylight by fighters and anti-aircraft gunners, 6 were Me's brought down during raids on the coast. A seventh Me. forced-landed on Beachy Head after being hit by machine-gun fire from motor launches.

The 31 enemy bombers which were destroyed at night during the month represent a very much higher rate of success than enemy night defences have achieved against the R.A.F. in their heavy raids on Germany. In addition, many night raids were carried out during the month by fighter-bombers of the Command in which enemy aerodromes, communications and industrial targets were successfully attacked.

At the end of last month, pilots of Fighter Command had brought their total of enemy aircraft destroyed by daylight since war began to 4,365.