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ALLIED BOMBERS BUSY ON "THE MILK RUN"

R.A.F. medium bombers alone carried out no less than two hundred and eighty nine sorties upon Axis forces in the battle zone since the attack upon our advanced position on the evening of August 31.

In a period of six nights well over one million lbs. of bombs were dropped upon the Afrika Corps and Italian advanced elements. The effectiveness of these attacks was confirmed by our land forces who found large numbers of shattered enemy tanks, motorised transport, and supplies as they drove the enemy back.

Outstanding in these raids was the night of 2/3rd September when, operating under excellent conditions, our bombers created havoc destroying ammunition dumps, petrol supplies and vehicles in large numbers. Since the El Alamein line was formed on June 23rd Allied heavy and medium bombers have operated on a scale far in excess of any previous effort.

From that date until 31st August a total of over four thousand sorties was achieved and about five and a half thousand tons of bombs were dropped.

Wellingtons bore the brunt of this effort, but Halifaxes, Liberators and various types of American aircraft also played their part.

Tobruk has succeeded Benghazi as the most-bombed port in Africa. Two thousand five hundred and fifty five sorties were made upon it. In day and night raids over three thousand tons of bombs were dropped upon its supply ships, docks and harbour installations. Just as the Benghazi flight became known as "the bus route" so the Tobruk flight has achieved notoriety as "the milk run".

Benghazi was still attacked periodically, however, as were Mersa Matruh and other important targets in Greece and Crete. Many attacks were also made upon Axis convoys in the Mediterranean, which were carrying essential weapons and supplies to Rommel's forces.

Personnel of the United States Army Air Force, quickly adapting themselves to the strange operational conditions, have cooperated with the R.A.F. unstintingly and in fine style. The ever increasing weight of their attacks has been a telling factor in this period.