

MORE RAIDS ON AIRFIELDS AND TRANSPORT

When R.A.F. Bostons and U.S.A.A.F. Marauders today bombed targets in Holland and Belgium, escorting fighters destroyed at least three F.W.190s and damaged others. This follows yesterday's success of 19 enemy aircraft.

Woensdrecht airfield was the target for the Bostons and the fighter pilots reported bursts right across the field. One stick of bombs exploded in front of four twin-engined aircraft on the ground. A large oil fire was seen about a quarter of a mile from the airfield. There was 'moderate to intense' flak over the target area and from the coastal defences but no enemy fighter was seen.

The Marauders attacked a railway target at Ghent, and it was on this operation that three F.W.'s were destroyed by Spitfires.

"It was just a 'bounce'", said a South African Flight Lieutenant who ^{shot} down one. "We were close to the bombers when twelve F.W.190s appeared. We engaged them and prevented them from damaging the bombers. It was over in a few seconds". The South African is a veteran of Malta, where he destroyed six enemy aircraft.

Another of the F.W.'s was destroyed by a New Zealand Wing Commander whose score is now 14 and a half. The third F.W.190 was shared by a Squadron Leader and a Flying Officer.

Typhoon bombers of Fighter Command, with an escort of Typhoon fighters, attacked shipping near the Dutch islands this morning. Although they were operating in the estuary areas of the Schelde no enemy aircraft appeared to protect the shipping.

As a result two small motor ships, a large barge, a tug and a motor barge were sunk: A coaster and another tug severely damaged, and a third tug and nine barges attacked and hit.

Nearly all the pilots also fired at a locomotive, and as their C.O. said "left it absolutely shattered".

Other Typhoon bombers, with a Typhoon fighter escort, raided the airfield at Mardyck near Dunkirk. No enemy aircraft came up to oppose the bombers - which scored hits on dispersal areas and a runway - but there was considerable flak from German batteries on the coast.

Two German naval motor boats of the "E" or "R" types which were earlier reported damaged are now known to have been sunk by Fleet Air Arm Albacores operating with Fighter Command earlier in the day. One was destroyed by a Royal Marine lieutenant, who is the only Marine operating with Fighter Command.

+++++