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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1943  
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Air Ministry News Service

Air Ministry Bulletin No. 11462

R.A.F. DRIVERS SACRIFICE THEIR LEAVE

R.A.F. transport drivers at a certain airfield have recently been officially congratulated for their devotion to duty.

After an explosion in the bomb dump which resulted in casualties, the dump had to be closed. The incident occurred in the afternoon, in the midst of preparation for the night's raid, and it looked as if the bombers would not be able to take off for Germany.

The transport officer, however, organised a convoy of lorries, and they set out for another airfield, thirty miles away, to bring back the necessary bombs. Hardly anyone believed that the borrowed bombs could be loaded, conveyed back to the station, and hoisted into the racks of the aircraft in time for the take-off.

But the drivers did their job expertly and quickly. As soon as they arrived back at the airfield, they began to help the armourers to bomb up the aircraft. As a result, the bombers took off on schedule.

The next day the transport drivers, including members of the W.A.A.F. lined up in front of the transport officer. Their spokesman stepped forward, and said:

"Sir, we have a request to make. We should all like to forfeit our days off and any leave that may be due to us until the bomb dump is open again".

Then for more than a week, from early morning until late at night, the drivers not only carried out their normal duties, but brought bombs, bomb trains and other necessary appliances borrowed from surrounding airfields, replacing in this way the materials in the sealed-off bomb dump. Thus, and thus only, were the bombers able to continue, during the danger period, their activities against the enemy.

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