

27/7/42 - No.26

R.A.F. Middle East News Service

Air Ministry Bulletin No.7635

MORE ATTACKS ON TOBRUK

Heavy and medium bombers of the Royal Air Force and heavy bombers of the United States Army Air Force raided shipping and harbour installations at Tobruk during the night of 25/26 July. Large fires broke out to the north-west of the bay and buildings in the dock area were seen to be in flames.

During the same night, medium bombers of the R.A.F. and naval aircraft attacked enemy camps and concentrations of motor transport in the coastal area west of Daba.

Enemy landing grounds were also bombed, including the aerodrome at Heraklion in Crete, where bombs were seen to burst on runways and in dispersed areas.

One enemy aircraft about to take off burst into flames and crashed, and at least six other aircraft were set on fire.

Operations in the battle area on July 26 were hampered by low cloud and bad visibility.

In the afternoon, however, our fighters intercepted a German reconnaissance bomber off the Egyptian coast and shot it down into the sea.

Fighter aircraft, operating off the coast behind the enemy lines, successfully attacked a number of barges and flak ships. One of the barges is believed to have been sunk.

Last night, July 26/27, a large force of bombers attacked Tobruk. Fires and explosions were caused in the dock area and a direct hit scored on a ship in the middle of the harbour was followed by a very big explosion.

Attacks in force were also carried out over the battle area.

Over Malta on July 25 our fighters shot down a Macchi C.202 and damaged other Axis aircraft. Enemy air activity over the Island during July 25 and 26 was not on a large scale.

From these and other operations two of our aircraft are missing.

-----