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BIGGEST FIGHTER-BOMBER BLITZ ON ROMMEL'S RETREATING ARMIES

Rommel's forces were bombed and machine-gunned without a pause from the first light until dusk yesterday (Sunday). The first formation of fighter-bombers to go into the attack was an R.A.F. squadron which took off just after dawn. Late into the night of Saturday, operation controllers and squadron commanders had worked out the details of the order which was to result in this day of intensive strafing. Hundreds of fighter-bombers took off - briefed with what amounted to a roving commission - to bomb from low level, the thin-skinned enemy vehicles which were hastening along the salt marsh road towards Nofilia. Before breakfast time, columns of smoke were rising from burning lorries, but there was no dense concentration of enemy transport.

Rommel had remembered the slaughter at Daba and had dispersed his columns under cover of darkness the previous night. Unceasingly, Kittyhawks of the R.A.F., the U.S.A.A.F. and the R.A.A.F. sought out their targets and dropped bombs from as low as 100 feet. Then the Spitfires dived in to complete the attacks with cannon-fire. In a half-hearted manner, the Axis fighters made some attempt to prevent these offensive operations, but their efforts were dismal, and in two engagements alone at last six Me.109s were shot down by our fighters.