

OFFICIAL WAR SUMMARY NO. 881

In Tunisia the Eighth Army has held all its gains in the face of more counter attacks in which the enemy has again suffered severe casualties. Takrouna Hill, an important height north west of Enfidaville, has been captured. In the Bou Arada sector the First Army has made attacks in which all initial objectives were taken. Throughout April 22 our aircraft carried out heavy and continuous attacks on enemy troops and positions, destroying seven enemy planes.

Allied aircraft on patrol in the Gulf of Tunis encountered a formation of German transport aircraft escorted by fighters. During the combat which followed all 20 transports and 10 of their escorting fighters were shot down. Our aircraft also attacked enemy airfields in Tunisia and shipping and harbour installations at Carloforte in Sardinia. During these raids one enemy aircraft was destroyed. Five of our aircraft are missing from all the above operations.

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On April 22 fighter-bombers based on Malta attacked the aeroplane base and industrial targets at Syracuse in Sicily. Later an attack was made on a military camp near Pozallo.

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In the south west Pacific area on April 23 an 8,000 ton Japanese cargo ship was bombed and left in a sinking condition near Kavieng, New Ireland. At Salamaua in New Guinea, Japanese held positions were strafed by our fighters. Our ground patrols surprised and annihilated a small Japanese outpost with 20 men near Koniatur. Our aircraft also bombed objectives at Pinschafen, Lae, New Britain and in the Aroe Islands.

American forces have occupied an island in the Ellice group in the south Pacific. U.S. bombers have attacked objectives in the Bougainville Strait area and at Choiseul Island in the south Pacific area.

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In Burma on April 22 our aircraft successfully attacked Japanese troops near Sittaung and at Maingyaung in the Upper Chindwin area. In the Mayu battle area our aircraft also dropped bombs on Akayab, while our fighters carried out offensive patrols over the battle area. On the night of April 21/22 our heavy bombers attacked the marshalling yards at Rangoon, and airfields at Meiktila. All our aircraft returned safely.

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On the night of April 22/23 aircraft of Bomber Command laid mines in enemy waters. Two of our aircraft are missing.

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Last night a few enemy aircraft crossed the south and south west coasts of England. Bombs which were dropped at scattered points caused a small number of casualties and slight damage.

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