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TAIL SHOT OFF BY R.A.F. NIGHT FIGHTER

A Dornier 17 bomber which was recently destroyed off the East Coast by a British night fighter had its tail shot away by the first short burst of fire.

The Dornier immediately went into a vertical dive and disappeared into cloud through which the British night fighter followed. It crashed into the sea. Only a few seconds elapsed from the time the pilot of the night fighter first saw the Dornier skimming along the top of a layer of cloud to its destruction. As well as the tail breaking away, parts of the fuselage and wings flew off the German aircraft when it was attacked.

In another recent successful night combat, the pilot and observer of a night fighter reported on landing that a Ju. 88 which they attacked seemed to explode amidships immediately they opened fire. "There was a terrific white flash," they said, "after which we could see the wings blazing as they floated separately down to the sea."

Two prisoners who, on another occasion, were captured some miles apart by the police of two different counties, had baled out of the same blazing aircraft when it was set on fire by a British night fighter with a single short burst from its guns. Again pieces of the German aircraft were scattered in the air as it was cut to pieces by the night fighter's stream of bullets.

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