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Air Ministry No. 5504

MIDDLE EAST COMMUNIQUE

H.Q., R.A.F.,
Middle East,
Sunday, November 2

Military objectives at Benghazi and Derna were attacked by bombers of the South African Air Force yesterday, November 1.

At Benghazi, the Cathedral Mole was the principal objective. At Derna the harbour and aerodrome were raided, bombs fell in the dock area and near the power house, and fires broke out. At the aerodrome four aircraft were set ablaze, and there were also other large fires, accompanied by violent explosions. A building near the hangar was set alight.

Heavy bombers of the Royal Air Force bombed hangars and barracks at Berca aerodrome during the night of October 31 - November 1. Fires broke out in the hangar blocks and spread owing to a series of explosions which followed the attack. Fires and explosions were also seen during a raid on the aerodrome at Gazala North.

On October 31, bombers of the Royal Air Force attacked a factory at Licata in Sicily and direct hits on it were observed.

In Abyssinia the enemy positions east of Gondar were effectively bombed and machine-gunned on October 31.

From all operations all our aircraft returned safely.
