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Air Ministry News Service

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TRAINING - FOUND TARGET

The pilot of a Beaufighter and his observer went up for a practice flight from a North-East fighter station during the night and found a live target in one of Germany's latest bombers, the Dornier 217.

The raider, which was coming in towards the English coast, dived away when the Beaufighter got on its tail. Although the Dornier was trying to get away at maximum speed, the Beaufighter overshot and lost it.

Determined to prevent the raider from reaching the coast and dropping its bombs, the pilot searched about for it and at last found it again.

"The Dornier began jinking and diving" he said, "but I held on to it, and closing the range, gave it a five-seconds burst with cannons and machine-guns. I saw strikes on the starboard engine followed by bright red flashes and white vapour."

The enemy continued its evasive action and was lost in the haze. During the combat fairly accurate return fire failed to shake the Beaufighter off.

The Dornier is claimed only as damaged, but at least one more of the enemy's deadliest night raiders either took its bombs home or dropped them in the sea.

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