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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1942
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Air Ministry News Service

Air Ministry Bulletin No.8573

U-BOATS ATTACKED

A number of attacks have been made on U-boats by aircraft patrolling in the Gibraltar area.

Eleven of the attacks were made by Lockheed Hudsons whose crews have specialised for many months in anti-submarine warfare. Two of the squadrons taking part in this night and day sea-air battle, the most intensive U-boat hunt of the war, are English Auxiliary squadrons which first built up a reputation against the enemy's coastal shipping.

One of the U-boats was attacked twice within 10 minutes, and after the second attack it was left cruising slowly in small circles with its bows sticking high out of the water.

Next day a submarine was sighted on the surface by a patrolling Hudson. As the submarine dived, the Hudson released its stick of bombs across the track and the airmen waited to see the result.

First they saw a large patch of debris come to the surface, and, as the Hudson flew low over the spot, the pilot saw bodies among the debris. Then came the tell-tale oil and air bubbles.

These numerous attacks, reported by pilots of Coastal Command aircraft, are indicative of the activity in the Gibraltar area. Scores of U-boats are being thrown into the battle of the Western Mediterranean by the Axis to try to prevent the landing of reinforcements and supplies for the Allied troops in N. Africa.

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