

NOT TO BE RELEASED BEFORE 10.56 a.m

27.10.42 - No.8

MIDDLE EAST JOINT WAR COMMUNIQUE

Cairo,
27th October 1942

During the night of 25/26th October our forces extended the area which they had occupied in the enemy's defences.

Yesterday our gains were maintained.

Fighting continues.

Large scale air operations continued over the battle area and forward landing grounds during the night and day of 25/26th October. Bombers and Fighter Bombers attacked a variety of targets and our fighters operating by day and night on a large scale shot down 14 enemy aircraft. In addition an Me.109 was destroyed by the return fire from one of our light bombers and another by small arms fire.

Continual Fighter patrols were carried out as protection for our land forces against enemy activity which was on an increased scale. An enemy tanker off Tobruk burst into flames and a large enemy merchant vessel blew up, following hits with bombs and air torpedoes during attacks on a convoy yesterday.

After one of the attacks our long range Fighters shot down two He.111s.

Our Malta fighters shot down at least three Me.109s during the attacks on the island yesterday which were on a slightly reduced scale.

From the above operations ten of our aircraft are missing.

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WAR OFFICE