

MIDDLE EAST JOINT WAR COMMUNIQUE

British G.H.Q., Cairo,  
October 20, 1942

Yesterday, apart from patrol activity, there was nothing to report from our land forces.

On the night of 18th/19th October our night fighters successfully attacked an enemy train near El Daba, and landing grounds at Fuka.

In addition heavy and medium bombers raided Tobruk, and claim hits on enemy ships.

On the same night our torpedo carrying aircraft scored a hit on the stern of an enemy merchant vessel northeast of Pantellaria Island. The vessel was left sinking.

There was an increase in air operations over the battle area yesterday. Our bombers, fighter bombers, and fighters were all active, and fires were started on enemy landing grounds. In subsequent air combats a number of enemy aircraft were damaged.

Long range fighters operating on the coastal road destroyed vehicles, blew up the engine of a stationary train, and set fire to covered trucks and petrol bowzers.

A two masted schooner was attacked by our long range fighters, set on fire, and left sinking south west of Crete. The same aircraft also attacked a large formation of escorted Ju.52s, one of which was shot down.

Enemy air activity continued over Malta during the night of October 18/19 and yesterday. The daylight attacks were carried out principally by enemy fighters and fighter bombers, but a large formation of bombers, which approached at dusk, was successfully intercepted, and most of the bombs were jettisoned.

Two enemy aircraft were destroyed and many damaged.

The enemy carried out no fewer than nine raids during the day, but in nearly every instance avoided combat. Damage was slight.

From these and other operations only two of our aircraft were lost, one pilot being safe.

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