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ALBACORES SINK TWO E-BOATS OUT OF THREE

Two out of three E-boats which were cruising off Dunkirk during the night were sunk by Albacores of the Fleet Air Arm, operating with Fighter Command, and at Cherbourg a Whirlwind of Fighter Command silenced an armed trawler off the mole after circling at 100 ft. inside the moonlit harbour to make the attack.

The E-boats were sighted in line astern. The first Albacore bombed the middle boat and hit its stern. Three minutes later another Albacore came in to the attack, found only two boats left, bombed the rear boat and saw a large explosion amidships. The remaining boat fired some rapid flak.

"The anti-aircraft fire was all over the place, with no direction at all," the observer of the first Albacore, Sub-Lieutenant said: "I don't think they could spot us though we had seen them from two miles away. They were doing 25 knots when we found them."

The attack at Cherbourg was made by a D.F.C. Squadron Leader, who saw the armed trawler after she had fired some flak. Coming in from the sea, he dived low over the harbour to attack. Searchlights came on and harbour batteries fired, and the trawler was also firing as the Whirlwind dropped short-delayed bombs on her from 50 feet. There was a large explosion, and he could see the trawler - which he suspects to be a flak ship, from the volume of her fire - well down by the stern and apparently sinking, with her guns silenced.

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