

Credit Typhoon Pilots With Death of Rommel

Brussels, Oct. 20. (Reuter).—Weeks of research by military authorities and the intelligence service has established that the men who fatally wounded Field Marshal Rommel were Canadian and British Typhoon fighter-bomber pilots of the RAF Tactical Air Force.

None of them knew at the time that anything unusual would result from their routine bombing and strafing mission near the Village of Dozule, east of Caen, July 17.

The squadron's logbook for that day merely records:

"Dive-bombed enemy strongpoints south of Caen. Wing Cmdr. Baldwin, leading eight aircraft, attacked enemy strongpoints with good results. A staff car and an armored car also were strafed and left burning."

Easy to Find

Flying with Wing Cmdr. Baldwin, DSO, DFC and Bar, of the RAF, were FO. Pete Langille of Saint John, N.B.; Flt. Lt. R. W. Davidge and Flt. Lt. W. A. Switzer, both of Edson, Alta., WO. A. E. Sugden of Outremon, Montreal, and three Englishmen.

"There was no difficulty in finding the target, although the operation was over country crisscrossed by many minor roads and very much divided by thick hedgerows and copses," Wing Cmdr. Baldwin said today.

"The pinpoint on our map looked like a farmhouse. We scored 10 hits on it with 500-pounders, then, as we seemed to have a lot of petrol left, I decided we would carry out an armed reconnaissance of the area with cannon.

"East of Caen and south of Co-burg, near a village called Dozule, I spotted two despatch riders, one

biggish armored car, another motor transport, a staff car and a smaller armored car.

"This indicated somebody of importance, and I gave the usual order for the section to peel off, one by one, and strafe the vehicles."

At Treetop Level

Trying jointly today to recall the details of the attack, Langille and Sugden said:

"The staff car and its escort were moving toward the west when the wing commander spotted them. There were a few German fighters around and we did not see the vehicles until we got the order to peel off.

"It was a very clear day except for heat haze and we went down one by one from 6,000 feet to nought feet (just above ground level). We skimmed along the road at treetop height and let the vehicles have about 800 cannon shells.

"One of the despatch riders got away, as there was plenty of cover beneath the hedges and trees. The other was killed on the spot and as we cut off back home we saw the cars either smoking or in flames."

The wing to which the pilots belong has worked in close support of the 1st Canadian Army, making a specialty of low-level dive-bombing attacks on German headquarters.

In four months the wing has destroyed at least a dozen such headquarters, most of which were exceptionally well defended by flak.

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