

COASTAL COMMAND --- R.A.F. BEAUFIGHTERS SWOOP DOWN UPON A NAZI CONVOY.

For security reasons, it is not very often possible to screen the magnificent work done by Royal Air Force Coastal Command; but the following attack upon eight strongly-escorted enemy merchant ships is a fine and typical example.

~~Coastal Command's main job is to keep the sea lanes open and we know the results of that. The work of the air crews is hazardous, and that of the ground crew hard and monotonous, carried out from isolated stations from the Arctic to the Equator.~~

At present the main task of Coastal Command is the protection of invasion shipping across to Normandy: ~~the small losses in that~~ ~~the loss of~~ are a direct testimony to their efficiency. But in addition they attack the enemy convoys which try to relieve the hard-pressed railroads of Europe; this is that kind of attack. The convoy has been sighted off the Frisian Islands --- the belt that runs along the North coast of Holland, north west Germany and South west Denmark. After many hours of patrol, the Beaufighters flash in with rockets, torpedoes and cannon; flak comes up like a rising tide in the action which may last only two minutes. This action was not completed without loss; the film gives real meaning to that phrase, "one of our aircraft is missing". The enemy suffered severe damage: two merchant ships hit with torpedoes --- three others set on fire; one escort ship left blazing --- smoke pouring from four others.

Coastal Command doesn't get much publicity; but it's doing one of the finest jobs of the war.

12.25 P.M. M. S. Sumner
18/7/44