

R.A.F. SMASH FIRST ITALIAN RAID HERE

Issue No. 1014..15..11..1940.
Title: Crime of the Century.
Track: Sylvania March.
Discs: 355.406.586.
Lines: Stagg.
Voice: Mellor.

A crowded London terminus 'welcomed' to Britain the Italian pilots shot down in the Duce's first massed assault on England. 13 of the planes came to grief but some of the men were rescued. Britain has always respected a strong foe, but in this respect the Italians don't quite fill the bill - hence the catcalls and ridicule that greeted the prisoners.

Here's one of the 8 bombers which were shot down, in addition to 5 fighters. 4 planes crashed in Suffolk, and to the surprise of R.A.F. experts, proved to be slow aircraft - by modern standards. The rear cockpit was spattered with blood, the result of a bull's-eye shot. The interior lay-out will no doubt come in for examination.

The Italians are not encouraged by their first day raid on England. They expected a smooth passage, and ran into a Hurricane - or rather a whole squadron of them. Meet the pilots who shot down 10 Italians.

Squadron-Leader Tuck, D.F.C., already had 23 Nazis to his credit.

This Flight-Lieutenant, having run out of ammunition, dipped his plane till the propellor ripped an Italian's wings - a feat of skill and sheer daring meriting highest praise.

One airman sported an Italian tin-hat, coat of arms and a bottle of Chianti. He had to be content with that. You can't shoot a man down and expect him to stand the round.

Let's hope the Italians come again.
