

NAVY 'SWEEPS' KEPT HELP FROM BARDIA

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Title: Surprise Attack.
Track: Thunder Machine.
Discs: 529..314.540.232.404.352.
Lines: Stagg.
Voice: do.

Not only by direct bombardment did the navy help General Wavell - by operations off Sardinia it pinned the Italian fleet in harbour. Ark Royal was bombed once again.

Thirty bombs gave Ark Royal a close shave. She's the aircraft carrier which has a way of getting in the news. The attack beaten off her planes were brought up for a raid on the enemy. They carried torpedoes as well as bombs. These missiles cost £2000 each, but they can sink a battleship costing millions. To launch torpedoes effectively the pilots have to fly almost suicidally low, practically into the guns' mouth.

The last man was only just in time; it was getting too rough for a safe take-off, but he just made it. By the way, this is one of the new Fulmars.

Our men-o-war had the good luck to spot enemy ships which were detailed to harass our fleet off Bardia. The Italians turned tail and were shelled at extreme range. We set a cruiser on fire, and holed two of their destroyers.

Back came the Fleet Air Arm - landing skilfully on the heaving deck.

(GV Pan Fleet) One plane reported that it had torpedoed a battleship. The main body of the enemy escaped behind a smoke-screen....There's heavy weather in the Mediterranean this time of the year, and the Navy's thoroughly at home in it. The army's beating the Italians all ends up on land; the Navy has practically swept them from the sea.

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