

43-67

BOSTONS OVER FRANCE.

The Bostons of Bomber Command are off on a tea party over Northern France. They throw their shadows on the green fields of England and, with their distinctive tails held high, keep their rendezvous with the escorting spitfires flying high above them, as they wing their way across the Channel. The target is Abbeville aerodrome. An interesting point of the actual attack is the fact that when the bombs explode you'll see a clearly defined ground wave. It's this wave that is so enormously destructive when bombs fall in built up areas. Now watch, centre right.

That's worth seeing again, as it's believed to be the first time that a ground wave has been recorded on film. Instructive to us, but not so interesting for the Jerries in the dispersal areas, gun positions and on the runways of Abbeville aerodrome.

R.A.F. Crews sum it up as "a piece of cake". Further down the coast and about 40 miles inland is the town of Reims. Another Boston formation goes in low, clipping the tree tops on their way to bomb a Naval stores depot. These amazing pictures take you right inside the aircraft as they head for the central distributing store for U-Boats.

These buildings rushing towards us are what the briefing officer told them to look out for. In a second or two you'll see a puff of dust and smoke blow out as a delayed-action bomb digs its way in.

A second wave of Bostons is attacking with instantaneous bombs from several hundred feet.

Flak holes in a Boston wing. While there was no fighter opposition, ground defences put up an intense barrage. Some of our pilots look on raids like these as cushy jobs - well - they ought to know.