

TOLL OF AXIS AIRCRAFT R.A.F.

THE Air Ministry has issued the following statement on the number of enemy aircraft destroyed by the R.A.F., and R.A.F. losses from the beginning of the war up to April 28th this year:—

HOME-BASED COMMANDS	
Axis aircraft destroyed by R.A.F.:—	
By Bomber Command	759
By Fighter Command in defensive and offensive operations	6,977
By Coastal Command	175
Total	7,911
R.A.F. Losses:—	
Bomber Command	7,997
Fighter Command (in offensive and defensive operations) ..	2,998
Coastal Command	454
Total	11,449

WAR IN THE AIR

East. There the air, as well as both other Services, is fully employed. Future historians will surely say that the outstanding military fact about the campaign in Burma was the unprecedented use of air transport, sometimes to move whole divisions about, but even more as a means of supplying armies which were rapidly advancing far from any land base, and in country where communications by rail and road were of the most meagre. As the date for the breaking of the monsoon drew near, the campaign assumed the form of a race for Rangoon. Would the 14th Army beat the monsoon?

Then, at last, Admiral Mountbatten found himself in the position for which he had hoped when he first took over the supreme command. He was able to use his experience of combined operations to land a force to the south of Rangoon. It was preceded by dropping parachute troops, and then

FRENCH AIR MISSION VISITS BRITAIN

WITH the object of re-establishing the French aircraft industry and manufacturing British types of aircraft and aircraft engines and equipment in France, an air mission headed by General Henri Ziegler arrived in Britain last week at the invitation of the Government. Gen. Ziegler and his eight colleagues (French air officers and aeronautical experts) are to spend about three weeks visiting aircraft and engine factories as the guests of the British Government, and will then go to America on a similar mission at the invitation of the U.S. Government.

The French air mission flew to this country and were welcomed on arrival at a London airport by Air Marshal Sir Ralph Sorley and Sir Eric Bowater, of M.A.P. Later they attended a reception given by Sir Stafford Cripps in London, where they met Mr. Lennox Boyd and other Government officials and senior R.A.F. officers. Among the guests, also, was Capt. Jullerot, Chief of Staff to Admiral Robert, who commands the



OFF THE RAILS: The new-type rockets used by the American Naval and Army Air Forces are very similar to those used by the R.A.F. They are launched from rails instead of from tubes, as previously.

ground forces landed from H.M. ships on both sides of the river estuary.

Some of Gen. Slim's troops made a terrific dash forward and linked up with the parachutists, and Rangoon was occupied. The monsoon was beaten, and with the occupation of this great port the main part of the conquest of Burma was completed. The operation was a copy-book example of the proper use of parachutists in combination with other forces.

"Well Done"

THE surrender to Field Marshal Alexander in Italy was speedily

followed by the surrender of all the Germans in Holland and Denmark to Field Marshal Montgomery. This was another very big event. It has evoked messages to the work of the Tactical Air Force from two high authorities. Air Marshal Sir Arthur Coningham has said to 2nd T.A.F.:—

"We have had the main air front during recent weeks and operations have reached a quite exceptional level of brilliance. 83 Group has dealt with the main opportunities, and all R.A.F. shares in the glory of this great finish to 12 months of the biggest air effort. Peace on our front, May 5th, is a direct and fitting tribute to your work, shared with our R.A.F. Commands and those great airmen, the U.S.A.A.F. A thousand times well done."

Air Vice-Marshal E. C. Hudleston, A.O.C., 84 Group, R.A.F., 2nd T.A.F., has received the following message from General Crerar, Commander-in-Chief, First Canadian Army: "On behalf of all ranks I desire to express our admiration and appreciation of the magnificent support to the First Canadian Army by 84 Group of the Royal Air Force throughout the operations in north-west Europe, now concluding in outstanding victory. This Army-Air combination has had to face, and solve, some tough operational problems, but with the fine team work of our respective headquarters and the skill, gallantry and determination which all ranks of 84 Group, R.A.F., have consistently demonstrated in action, we have always accomplished what we set out to do."

French Naval Forces in Britain. Capt. Jullerot, who wears the Mons Star among his many decorations, trained some of the original pilots of the R.F.C.

"France is behind-hand in modern technical air development, and we are working on a long-term policy," Gen. Ziegler told *Flight*. "The mission is mainly interested in military types and particularly in engines, but, like everyone else, we are also interested in the development of commercial aircraft and equipment, especially the larger types. During the next three weeks we hope to learn much and to lay the foundations for future close co-operation between our two industries."

The other eight members of the mission are Col. C. Rozenoff, Comdt. C. Teyssier and Comdt. A. Esperet (aircraft design, production, and fuel); Comdt. R. Marchal, M. R. Beauvais and M. J. de Lacharriere (engine design and production); and Capt. de Fregate E. Giboin and C. Penin (radio and signal design and production).