COMBAT REPORT

W/C J.H.PL.VER D.F.C. (Pilot) F/L A.LAMER D.F.C. (Radio Navigator) Blackhair 16. Beaufighter VIF No. V3580. 4 Carmons 6 Machine Guns. Mark IV A.I.

Took off 01.20 from La Sebala II landed 05.20 La Sebala II.

Under Mixture control of approximately 03.15 sent after a Borey which was 50 miles N.S. of Mixture. Plying at 9,000' indication obtained at maximum range 5,000' below. The borey was followed in violent diving turns. Bange was closed to 3,000' with target still below. The Beaufighter had to level out to retain a reasonable working space on the A.I., but then begay want right down to see level and contact was lost. Later informed that Bogey was definitely friendly and that only friendlies were in the vicinity.

The pilot suspected from the behaviour of the previous so called "Friendly" that there might be bandits about and repeatedly asked the Controller if he (the pilot) could have a look at them.

Mixture (Controller S/L Roebuck) gave Blackhair 16 an interception on an aircraft which was plotted as definitely friendly. Flying at 10,000' indication obtained at maximum range well above crossing from port to starboard. Range closed to 6,000' at 230 mph I.A.S. It was found by Navigator Radio that during the subsecuent climb range increased to 7,500' and he asked pilot to level out to gain speed. Height was then gained gradually in small steps. Flying at 12,000' a visual was obtained at 1,500' range above and to port. The aircraft was immediately identifie as hostile by bright twin exhausts from three engines. Pilot closed to 50 yards, dead undermeath and identified the aircraft as a Cant 2 1007 bis

at 04.15 fire was opened at 100 yards range fromastern. A two seconds burst was given with all guns. The starboard engine immediately blow up, and after another similar burst the port engine caught fire. A large piece was seen to break off the energy aircraft which then spun down to port as a manage flaming mass, which burnt for some time on the sea about 50 miles N.N.E. of Biserte.

N.N.B. It was chased until outside the range of Mixture. Beaufighter was at 15,000 at 260 mph I.A.S. There was no contact. Beaufighter

returned to base owing to shortage of petrol.

40 rounds from each of 3 Cannons POURDS FIRED :-

30 rounds from 1 Cannon (sluggish ejection)

30 rounds from each of 5 Machine Cuns 60 rounds from one Machine Cun (link stoppage)

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N.B. Entire Crew Killed.