

Rocket-Firing Typhoons Ease Canadians' Burden

An Airfield in France, July 7 (CP).—The Typhoon, as versatile an aircraft as the Hurricane and Spitfire of Battle of Britain fame, is a veritable warship of the air that as a rocket-carrying plane is giving front-line troops closer support than they have ever enjoyed.

Not only is the support extremely effective but it cheers the ground troops tremendously to see the rocket-carrying "Tiffies" scream down over their heads to obliterate an obstinate strongpoint in the path of their advance.

Eight rockets are carried by the Typhoon, together with its four cannon, and the targets these aircraft tackle vary. In Normandy the objectives usually are enemy armor and transport buildings used as strongpoints.

Earlier this week Typhoons in a sector commanded by Group Capt. Paul Y. Davoud, D.S.O., D.F.C., Kingston, Ont., were called in to help the Canadians fighting on Carpiquet airfield where the Germans had dug in 17 tanks which were giving the Dominion troops trouble.

Two Canadians who took part in the attack, FO's Lorin Metcalfe, 25, of St. Thomas, and Bert Thrilwell, 25, of Victoria, B.C., told today about the attack.

Two other Canadians, FO's Fred Botting, Vancouver, and Ross Clarke, Montreal, also are members of the same R.A.F. squadron.

The Canadian ground troops held hangars at one side of the airfield and the Germans held the other. The opposing forces were not more than 150 or 200 yards apart. The tanks were dug in in V shape with the apex pointing toward the Canadians.

Germans had just dug big holes and backed the tanks in and covered them with earth up to the top of the tracks.

Diving at a speed of more than 400 m.p.h. through very heavy flak, Metcalfe said, the Typhoons launched their rockets at the tanks. Neither Metcalfe nor Thrilwell knew how many tanks the squadron had knocked out because as soon as they fire their rockets, they pull out of their dive to avoid hitting debris blown into the air.

But they were pleased to learn that the troops who watched the rockets streak home have been high in their praise ever since because the attack resulted in the pressure on the Canadians being eased considerably.

Thrilwell said: "You feel you are helping the boys out and I get a big kick out of being able to do that."

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