

SERIES OF RIDGES

VERY STRONG AXIS POSITION

From Our Military Correspondent

It is now just over a week since the Eighth Army came up against the Enfidaville position. That appears to be the time required by General Montgomery in the present circumstances; he actually took rather less before assaulting the Wadi Zigzaou and again the Wadi Akarit.

North of Enfidaville a series of ridges from the main mountain mass runs towards the sea and brings the coast plain to an abrupt end. It is on these ridges that the Axis position is sited. It is doubtless very strong and can be covered by flanking as well as frontal artillery fire.

The Germans, in what purports to be a detailed account of the battle, claim that after fierce fighting all the attacks were repulsed and the Axis front was everywhere maintained. They assert that concealed artillery came into action with great effect. Doubtless the defence has been stubborn, but German reports have been extremely misleading in the recent past. We need not therefore pay too much attention to them, particularly in view of the message received early this morning stating that the first objective had been reached.

ENEMY TANKS ATTACKED

FIGHTER-BOMBERS' SWOOP

The following announcement was made early yesterday:—

In the central sector of the Tunisian front an enemy counter-attack, launched against French forces on Sunday night, was easily repulsed. In all other sectors active patrolling continued.

Fighters of the Tactical Air Force on Monday continued their offensive sweeps off the Tunisian coast, and destroyed 12 Ju52 transport and eight other aircraft. Further reports of the sweep carried out on Sunday show that an additional three enemy fighters were destroyed on that day.

Throughout Monday fighters maintained sweeps and patrols over the forward areas, during the course of which four enemy aircraft were destroyed. Medium and light bombers made several attacks on La Sebala airfield, and fighter-bombers attacked a concentration of enemy tanks. Both these targets were well covered with bombs.

The port and shipping at Tunis were attacked by Flying Fortresses of the Strategic Air Force. Bombs were seen to fall in the dock area.

On Sunday night light and medium bombers continued their attacks on enemy airfields in Tunisia, starting large fires at La Marsa.

From all these operations 12 of our aircraft are missing.

BRITISH TROOPS OCCUPY TUNISIAN ISLANDS

Men of a famous British regiment have occupied the Kerkennah Islands off the Tunisian coast, 16 miles east of Sfax, states an Associated Press dispatch from Sfax. The islands had been evacuated by the enemy, and were occupied by the British troops last Wednesday. —*Reuter.*

A message from our Correspondent with the First Army is on page 3.