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R.A.F. HITS THE JAPS IN BURMA

During the month of January, the R.A.F. carried out a large number of sorties over Burma directed against supply carrying river craft. One R.A.F. squadron alone probably destroyed or damaged ten steamers.

Typical of these attacks is the story of a 200 ft. paddle steamer. The enemy diverted it from the Irrawaddy to the Chindwin where they tried to conceal it under camouflage. It was quickly located by our fighters and attacked, and the engine room was riddled with high explosive shells. Steam and smoke poured out and the steamer was obviously stricken.

A second attack which quickly followed is described by a Canadian Flight Sergeant from Port Rowan, Ontario. "It was not very difficult to find the steamer despite its disguise," he said. "We raked the decks and put further bursts into the engine room and other vital parts. These steamers always seem vulnerable to cannon shells. Chunks seem to fly off them almost before they are hit. As I left, the steamer was very low in the water. The Japs certainly won't use her for some time.

"A New Zealand pilot and I spent the rest of our tour over the river," he continued. "We damaged a couple of steam launches and a 150 ft. tin roofed storage barge off Monywa. We carefully applied the remainder of our "ammo" to a long line of sampans and canoes moored to the bank, and a launch which was apparently under going repairs."