

MIDDLE EAST AIR COMMUNIQUE

R.A.F. Headquarters,
Middle East,
Jan. 16, 1944.

During the past few days Middle East aircraft have added to previous successes against shipping attempting to supply the enemy-occupied islands in the Aegean Area. On January 13 an escort vessel and two luggers were attacked north-east of Hydra, West Aegean, and left on fire and out of control. Two launches off Mykonos, south-west Aegean, were attacked, one catching fire.

On the same day shipping in Rhodes harbour and gun-posts and enemy troops in the vicinity were attacked.

On Jan. 14 four sailing ships in harbour at Paros Island were bombed. When our aircraft left a large fire was burning, the pall of smoke obscuring the ships.

Yesterday a series of low-flying attacks was made on sailing vessels in harbour at Paros and Amorgos islands, and at sea near Seriphos and Anaphi islands. Seven large vessels were damaged; one was left sinking and another in flames. A formation of Me.109s made several attacks on our aircraft without result.

From these and other operations one of our aircraft is missing. The crew is safe.
