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MIDDLE EAST AIR COMMUNIQUE

Headquarters, Royal Air Force,
Middle East, 25.5.43

Both bomber and long-range fighter aircraft of the Royal Air Force attacked enemy shipping in the Aegean Sea and off the West Coast of Greece on May 23. A schooner was set on fire and abandoned by the crew while another smaller sailing vessel was also attacked and damaged with the crew taking to the boat.

During the night of May 23/24 Royal Air Force medium bombers bombed Messina. Hits were scored on railway marshalling yards near the ferry terminus and on buildings beside the oil storage tanks. At least seven fires were started in this attack.

Yesterday, heavy bombers of the U.S.A.A.F. attacked both San Giovanni and Reggio di Calabria in daylight. At San Giovanni hits were scored on the ferry terminus and railway yards while at Reggio di Calabria a tanker in the harbour was hit and set on fire and the ferry terminus received several direct hits. A large fire and explosion were caused in the railway yards south of the terminus. At least one enemy fighter was destroyed during these attacks.

From these and other operations all our aircraft returned safely.
