

17/11/43 - No. 3

MIDDLE EAST JOINT WAR COMMUNIQUE

17th November, 1943

Throughout yesterday the enemy continued his overwhelming aerial bombardment of Leros.

After very severe fighting and in spite of the most determined resistance in the face of fresh enemy reinforcements, organised resistance ceased in the evening.

Extensive sweeps in the Aegean area were made yesterday by fighter aircraft of Middle East Command. Spitfires and Hurricanes carried out offensive reconnaissance of Rhodes and Crete. Damage was inflicted on enemy installations in Crete by the Hurricanes.

Long-range fighters over Leros shot down an Arado 196.

A Siebel ferry west of Calinos was attacked by Beaufighters. After catching fire, it was seen to blow up. Last night the airfields of Calato and Maritza (Rhodes) were bombed. Preliminary reports point to both attacks being successful.

From these and other operations three of our aircraft are missing.

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