

## **THURSDAY, 21 DECEMBER 1944**

### **CHINA-BURMA-INDIA THEATER**

CHINA THEATER (Fourteenth Air Force): 145 P-40s and P-51s fly armed reconnaissance over wide expanses of S China, E Burma and N French Indochina; the fighters attack chiefly troops and river, road, and rail traffic and a variety of targets of opportunity at numerous locations; 9 B-25s bomb Kunlong and Minkiang, China. The 4th Combat Cargo Squadron, 1st Combat Cargo Group, moves from Tulihal, India to Chengkung, China with C-47s.

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): Mission 23: 49 B-29s from Chengtu, China are dispatched to attack Mukden, Manchuria; 19 hit the primary objective (the Manchuria Airplane Manufacturing Company) but it suffers little damage and a nearby arsenal and rail yards are slightly damaged; 8 other B-29s bomb alternate targets and targets of opportunity; they claim 21-6-19 Japanese aircraft; 2 B-29s are lost.

INDIA-BURMA THEATER (Tenth Air Force): In Burma, 12 B-25s bomb a supply and personnel area at Magyidon; 13 P-47s damage bridges at Hay-ti, Mong Long, and Pa-mao; rail targets of opportunity from Hsumhsai to Hsipaw are attacked by 12 P-47s; 20+ fighter-bombers hit troop concentrations at several points including Man Ka-lao and the general area E of the Shweli River; 12 P-47s bomb and strafe the Lashio area. 290+ transport sorties are flown to forward bases and frontline areas. The detachment of the 9th Photographic Reconnaissance Squadron, 8th Photographic Reconnaissance Group, operating from Chittagong, India with F-5s, returns to base at Myitkyina, Burma.

### **EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (ETO)**

#### **TACTICAL OPERATIONS**

First Tactical Air Force (Provisional): In France, the 405th Fighter Squadron, 371st Fighter Group, moves from Tavaux Airfield in Dole to Tantonville with P-47s (the air echelon is operating from Dijon).

Ninth Air Force: Operational control of the IX and XXIX Tactical Air Commands is transferred from the Ninth AF to the RAF Second Tactical AF to operate against the N line of the Bulge. The XIX Tactical Air Command flies armed weather and intruder reconnaissance in the Saarbrucken-Trier, Germany area. Weather grounds all operations.

### **MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO)**

STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (Fifteenth Air Force): 84 B-24s bomb the main marshalling yard and railroad sidings at Rosenheim, Germany; 40 P-51s provide

escort; 40+ P-38s fly photo reconnaissance and reconnaissance escort missions.

TACTICAL OPERATIONS (Twelfth Air Force): In Italy during the night of 20/21 Dec, A-20s attack highways, secondary roads, and targets of opportunity in the N and C Po Valley. During the day, bad weather grounds the medium bombers and reduces fighter and fighter-bomber operations of the XXII Tactical Air Command however, aircraft are effective against railroad targets in the Treviso area and damage Ghedi Airfield; trains, vehicles, guns, and buildings are attacked in or near Mantua, Milan, Turin, La Spezia, Padua, and Mestre.

#### PACIFIC OCEAN AREA (POA)

AAFPOA (Seventh Air Force): 23 Guam Island-based B-24s hit Iwo Jima Island. During the night of 21/22 Dec, 4 B-24s from the Mariana Islands fly 3 harassment strikes against Iwo Jima.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA [SWPA, Far East Air Force (FEAF)]: B-24s, B-25s, and fighter-bombers pound 10 airfields mostly on Negros Island and elsewhere in the C Philippine Islands; Leyte Island-based fighter-bombers fly 100+ attack sorties; Likanan Airfield on Mindanao Island is also hit by B-24s. In the Moluccas Islands, B-25s pound Goeroea, Anggai, and Lolobata on Halmahera Island. The 311th Fighter Squadron, 58th Fighter Group, moves from San Roque, Leyte Island to San Jose, Mindoro Island with P-47s.