FRIDAY, 22 DECEMBER 1944

CHINA-BURMA-INDIA THEATER

CHINA THEATER (Fourteenth Air Force): 4 B-25s damage a bridge at Song Hoa, French Indochina and 2 B-25s bomb Yungning, China. 80+ P-51s and P-40s on armed reconnaissance over wide reaches of S China, E Burma, and N French Indochina hit numerous targets of opportunity. Airfields at Heho, Burma and Tien Ho in Canton, China are strafed and several aircraft are destroyed in battles over Canton and Kai Tek Airfield in Hong Kong. Rail facilities, river and road traffic, and other targets of opportunity are hit at several locations including Wanling, Burma; Gia Lam, French Indochina; and Chinchengehiang and the Pingsiang-Yungning, China area.

INDIA-BURMA THEATER (Tenth Air Force): In Burma, 12 B-25s bomb a supply area at Magyidon; 8 P-47s knock out the Namhkai bypass bridge and damage 2 bridges at Kinu and 16 hit targets of opportunity along the Irrawaddy River from Tagaung to Thabeikkyin and along the road E and N to Mongmit; 12 P-47s bomb and strafe a personnel area at Onbauk and bridge at Na-lang. 300+ transport sorties are flown to forward areas.

EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (ETO)

TACTICAL OPERATIONS

First Tactical Air Force (Provisional): In France, the 404th Fighter Squadron, 371st Fighter Group, ceases operating from Dijon with P-47s and returns to base at Tantonville.

Ninth Air Force: 3 fighter groups of the IX Tactical Air Command are transferred to the XIX Tactical Air Command to concentrate air power for cooperation with the US Third Army to which the main effort against the Bulge has been assigned; the groups return to control of the IX Tactical Air Command on 25 Dec.
Fighters fly a few strafing, weather reconnaissance, intruder patrol, and alert missions; bad weather cancels all other missions. In Belgium, the 153d Liaison Squadron, IX Tactical Air Command (attached to Twelfth Army Group), moves from Olne to Tongres (air echelon operating from Liege with L-5s).

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO)

STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (Fifteenth Air Force): Bad weather restricts operations to reconnaissance, supply dropping, and escort missions over Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Yugoslavia.

TACTICAL OPERATIONS (Twelfth Air Force): In Italy during the night of 21/22

Dec, A-20s hit scattered targets in the Po Valley; clearing weather during the day enables medium bombers to hit bridges at Torre Beretti, Pontetidone, and at Chiari; fighter-bombers concentrate on railway targets, destroying 5 bridges in N Italy and making numerous cuts in rail lines, several on the important Brenner Pass line; motor transport and guns N of the battle area are also successfully attacked.

PACIFIC OCEAN AREA (POA)

AAFPOA (Seventh Air Force): During the night of 22/23 Dec, 2 Guam and Saipan Islands-based B-24s make harassing strikes on Iwo Jima Island.

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): Mission 14: 78 B-29s from the Mariana Islands are dispatched to hit the Mitsubishi aircraft industrial complex in Nagoya, Japan; 48 hit the primary target and 14 hit alternate targets; total cloud cover prevents accuracy, and damage is light; they claim 9-17-15 Japanese aircraft; 3 B-29s are lost.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA [SWPA, Far East Air Force (FEAF)]: On Luzon Island, Philippine Islands, B-24s, with P-47 support, bomb Clark Field while P-40s bomb and strafe Lipa Airfield. On Negros Island, B-24s bomb Carolina Airfield while B-25s, with P-47 cover, hit Fabrica Airfield. On Mindanao Island, B-24s bomb storage and personnel areas while B-25s hit the waterfront at Zamboanga. FEAF aircraft fly numerous shipping searches, armed reconnaissance, and sweeps over Mindanao Island and throughout the Netherland East Indies. In the Moluccas Islands, numerous fighter-bombers pound the Wasile River and Goeroea areas and Hate Tabako Airfield on Halmahera Island. US and RAAF B-24s, B-25s, and fighter-bombers bomb Lolobata and Hate Tabako Airfields on Halmahera Island and the Goeroea area. Units moving from Letye Island to San Jose, Mindoro Island: HQ 417th Bombardment Group (Light) and the 672d, 673d, 674th and 675th Bombardment Squadrons (Light) from Tacloban with A-20s; the 69th and 310th Fighter Squadrons, 58th Fighter Group, from San Roque with P-47s.