

FRIDAY, 29 DECEMBER 1944

AMERICAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS

ALASKA (Eleventh Air Force): 3 B-25s on a fighter decoy mission abort due to weather; 2 of them are missing on the return flight. A B-24 bombs Katoaka on Shimushu Island in the Kurile Islands.

CHINA-BURMA-INDIA THEATER

CHINA THEATER (Fourteenth Air Force): 4 B-25s attack targets of opportunity from Dong Hoa to Lang Son, French Indochina; 37 P-51s and P-40s on armed reconnaissance attack Gia Lam Airfield in French Indochina and hit various targets of opportunity E of Man Pong and N of Mongyu, Burma; and at Shanhsien and Hei-Shih Kuan and E of Tsingsingsien, China.

INDIA-BURMA THEATER (Tenth Air Force): In Burma, 9 B-25s bomb troops and supplies at Panma; 15 P-47s hit the supply area at Twinng and troop concentration at Wetwun; 4 B-25s continue armed night reconnaissance over communications facilities. Transports fly 289 sorties to forward bases and frontline areas. A detachment of the 166th Liaison Squadron (Commando), 1st Air Commando Group, begins operating from Arakan, Burma with UC-64s and L-5s (squadron is based at Asansol, India).

EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (ETO)

STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (Eighth Air Force): Mission 769: 827 bombers and 724 fighters hit communications targets in W Germany; 4 bombers and 3 fighters are lost:

1. 219 B-17s are dispatched to hit marshalling yards at Frankfurt (124), and Aschaffenburg (67); 10 hit the secondary, the Frankfurt S marshalling yard; and 9 hit a target of opportunity; 1 B-17s is lost, 2 damaged beyond repair and 101 damaged; 5 airmen are WIA and 12 MIA. Escorting are 267 of 282 P-51s; 2 are lost (pilots MIA) and 1 damaged beyond repair.

2. 304 B-17s are sent to hit the Bingen marshalling yard (144), Bullay rail bridge (74) and communication center at Wittlich (50); targets of opportunity are Grosslittgen (12) and one near Diekirch (13); 2 B-17s are lost and 132 damaged; 11 airmen are WIA and 15 MIA. Escorting are 61 of 64 P-51s; 1 is lost.

3. 262 B-24s are sent to hit communications centers at Schleiden (9), Zulpich (31), Stadtkyll (32) and Drum (10), the Irlich rail bridge (51), the Gerolstein marshalling yard (26) and the Remagen Bridge (30); targets of opportunity are Fensbach (19), Duppach (8) and 10 others; 1 B-24 is lost, 3 damaged beyond repair and 95 damaged; 17 airmen are KIA and 5 WIA. Escort is provided by 106 of 119 P-51s without loss.

4. 38 B-17s are sent to hit the Lunebach communications center (35); 1 hits

the Telm marshalling yard; 23 B-17s are damaged. Escorting are 101 of 104 P-51s without loss.

5. 4 of 4 B-17s fly a screening mission.

6. 81 P-47s and P-51s fly a fighter sweep against rail transportation without loss.

7. 26 of 27 P-51s fly a scouting mission.

TACTICAL OPERATIONS (Ninth Air Force): Weather causes the recall of 100+ bombers except for 7 which bomb Saint-Vith, Belgium communications center and Keuchingen, Germany road bridge; the XIX Tactical Air Command flies armed reconnaissance over Belgium and Germany and supports the US III, VIII, and XII Corps in the Neufchateau-Bastogne-Arlon areas of Belgium. In France, HQ 100th Fighter Wing moves from St-Dizier to Metz; the 386th Fighter Squadron, 365th Fighter Group, moves from Chievres, Belgium to Metz with P-47s.

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO)

STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (Fifteenth Air Force): Almost 450 B-17s and B-24s attack marshalling yards at Innsbruck and Salzburg, Austria; Passau, Rosenheim, and Landshut, Germany; and 2 at Verona, Italy; the Brenner rail line, and in Italy, the Castelfranco Veneto and Udine locomotive repair depots, and Bressanone railroad bridge. 14 P-38s bomb road a bridge S of Rosenheim, Germany. Around 300 other P-38s and P-51s fly escort and reconnaissance missions.

TACTICAL OPERATIONS (Twelfth Air Force): In Italy during the night of 28/29 Dec, A-20s pound motor transports, ferry crossings, road bridges, rail line, and targets of opportunity throughout NW and NC Po Valley; medium bombers during the day blast the Rovereto bridge and Lavis viaduct, attack several bridges in NE Italy destroying the center span of the bridge at Pordenone, and severely damage the bridge at Motta di Livenza; fighter-bombers concentrate on communications targets in the extreme W end of the battle area, with excellent results on bridges in the Massa Lombarda area and destroy numerous vehicles and several locomotives.

PACIFIC OCEAN AREA (POA)

AAFPOA (Seventh Air Force): 26 B-24s, based on Guam Island, pound Iwo Jima Island which is bombed again for a 6-hour period during the night of 29/30 Dec, by 9 B-24s, flying at varying intervals.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA [SWPA, Far East Air Force (FEAF)]: B-24s bomb Sasa Airfield on Mindanao Island while B-25s and fighter-bombers hit Namlea on Buru Island. Fighter-bombers hit NE Celebes airfields while B-24s bomb Limboeng on Celebes Island. FEAF aircraft fly small strikes against a wide

range of targets in N Borneo, the C Philippine Islands, S Luzon Island, and on Timor Island. The air echelon of the 82d Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, 71st Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, begins operating from San Jose, Mindoro Island with F-6s and P-40s (squadron is based on Morotai Island).