

THURSDAY, 2 NOVEMBER 1944

AMERICAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS

ALASKA (Eleventh Air Force): In the Kurile Islands, 4 B-24s bomb Suribachi on Paramushiru Island and Onnekotan Island; 4 B-25s on a photo and offensive sweep bomb targets at Torishima Island and Hayakegawa setting fire to 15 buildings, including a cannery.

CHINA-BURMA-INDIA THEATER

CHINA THEATER (Fourteenth Air Force): 100+ P-40s, P-51s, and P-38s on armed reconnaissance over SW and SE China and N French Indochina attack targets of opportunity in the Lungling and Mangshih, China area, knock out bridge at Dara, Thailand and hit Nantingshun and Pinglo, China; in China, the fighter-bombers also damage 4 factories at Kweilin, hit tanks and troop concentrations N of town, attack targets of opportunity near Pinglo, Tahsu and E of Yungfu, and the airfield, barracks, town area, and trains at Gia Lam, French Indochina. In China, the 11th Bombardment Squadron (Medium), 341st Bombardment Group (Medium), moves from Yang Tong to Yangkai with B-25s; the detachment of the 491st Bombardment Squadron (Medium), 341st Bombardment Group (Medium), operating from Liuchow with B-25s, returns to base at Yangkai.

INDIA-BURMA THEATER (Tenth Air Force): In Burma, 80+ P-47s hit a variety of targets; the fighter-bombers bomb a bridge at Ho-hko, support ground forces at Myothit, bomb supply dumps at Namdaungmawn, personnel and supply areas at Naungletgyi and Mawtaung, knock out a bridge at Meza, hit nearby railroad cars, attack airfields at Nawngkhio and Sinlanzu and strike boats and boxcars S of Katha; 8 B-25s knock out 2 bridges at Tangon and Tantabin; a single B-25 bombs Indaw; transports fly 268 sorties to forward areas; HQ Tenth AF moves from New Delhi, India to Myitkyina. In India, the 6th Fighter Squadron (Commando), 1st Air Commando Group, based at Asansol, India with P-47s, sends a detachment to operate from Cox's Bazar; the 317th Troop Carrier Squadron (Commando), 2d Air Commando Group, arrives at Sylhet from the US with C-47s.

EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (ETO)

AIRBORNE OPERATIONS (IX Troop Carrier Command): In France, HQ 440th Troop Carrier Group moves from Le Mans to Orleans; the 302d Troop Carrier Squadron, 441st Troop Carrier Group, moves from St Marceau to Dreux with C-47s.

STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (Eighth Air Force): HQ Eighth AF is ordered to increase the size of the 406th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy), VIII Fighter Command, the night leaflet squadron, as the liberation of Europe and the conquest of Germany accelerate.

2 missions are flown.

Mission 698: 1,174 bombers and 968 fighters in 5 forces are dispatched to hit synthetic oil installations in C Germany and rail targets at Bielefeld, Germany; an estimated 500 Luftwaffe fighters meet the bombers at Merseburg and the AAF claims 163-40-52 Luftwaffe aircraft; 40 bombers and 16 fighters are lost:

1. 460 B-17s are dispatched to the Leuna oil installation at Merseburg (383) using PFF; targets of opportunity are Halle (23), Wolfenbuttel (13) and other (17); they claim 6-2-2 aircraft; 12 B-17s are lost, 1 damaged beyond repair and 339 damaged; 3 airmen are KIA, 13 WIA and 101 MIA. The Ninth AF provides 31 of 34 P-38s and 433 of 483 P-51s as escort; they claim 46-3-10 aircraft in the air and 25-0-0 on the ground; 8 P-51s are lost (pilots MIA).
2. 223 B-17s are dispatched to the Leuna oil installation at Merseburg (210) using PFF; 5 others hit targets of opportunity; they claim 30-33-25 aircraft; 26 B-17s are lost, 1 damaged beyond repair and 152 damaged; 11 airmen are WIA and 260 MIA. Escort is provided by 209 of 245 P-51s; they claim 56-2-15 aircraft; 6 P-51s are lost (5 pilots MIA).
3. 208 B-24s are dispatched to hit Bielefeld; 172 hit the primary, a bridge, 10 hit the secondary, the marshalling yard, and 9 hit the town; all attacks are with GH and visual; 17 B-24s are damaged. Escort is provided by 143 of 146 P-47s; 2 P-47s are lost.
4. 131 of 146 B-24s hit the Rauxel oil installations at Castrop using GH; 1 B-24 is lost and 23 damaged; 1 airman is KIA, 2 WIA and 10 MIA. Escort is provided by 37 of 40 P-47s without loss.
5. 137 B-17s are dispatched to hit an oil installation at Sterkrade (107); 20 others hit the secondary, the Rheine marshalling yard; 1 B-17s is lost and 52 damaged; 9 airmen are MIA. Escort is provided by 20 of 20 P-47s without loss.

Mission 699: 3 B-17s and 5 B-24s drop leaflets during the night over the Netherlands and Germany.

TACTICAL OPERATIONS (Ninth Air Force): In Germany, 147 bombers of the 9th Bombardment Division, with fighter escort, attack rail bridges at Mayen, Euskirchen, Bullay, Konz-Karthaus, and Trier. Fighters attack bridges, fly armed reconnaissance and night patrol, and provide support for ground forces in frontline areas. In France, the 162d Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, 363d Tactical Reconnaissance Group, moves from Dijon to Azelot with F-6s and P-51s.

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO)

STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (Fifteenth Air Force): Bad weather curtails operations. In Austria, 5 B-17s bomb the Moosbierbaum oil refinery, while 2 others hit an airfield N of the city and bomb Klagenfurt. 6 P-38s fly weather reconnaissance missions. All other operations are cancelled.

TACTICAL OPERATIONS (Twelfth Air Force): In Italy, clouds over the Po Valley prevent medium bomber operations; XXII Tactical Air Command aircraft are also grounded due to unserviceable fields and bad weather over Italian battle areas.

PACIFIC OCEAN AREA (POA)

AAFPOA (Seventh Air Force): 11 Saipan Island, Mariana Islands-based B-24s bomb Chichi Jima Island; 3 from Guam Island, on armed reconnaissance, hit Marcus Island in the North Pacific Ocean.

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): 17 Mariana Islands-based B-29s bomb the submarine pens on Dublon Island, Truk Atoll, Caroline Islands.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA [SWPA, Far East Air Force (FEAF)]: In the Philippine Islands, B-24s over Ormoc Bay on Leyte Island attack a Japanese convoy, claiming 1 transport sunk and another damaged; P-38s hit smaller shipping in Ormoc Bay, strafe vehicles from Ormoc to Valencia, Mindanao Island, and bomb San Enrique; on Mindanao Island, B-25s pound Matina, Libby, Davao and Likanan Airfields; the 17th Reconnaissance Squadron (Bombardment), 71st Tactical Reconnaissance Group, arrives at Tacloban, Leyte Island from Biak Island with B-25s; the 432d Fighter Squadron, 475th Fighter Group, arrives at Dulag, Leyte Island from Biak Island with P-38s. During the night of 2/3 Nov B-24s bomb Makassar on Celebes Island, concentrating on the wharf area. The 17th Photographic Reconnaissance Squadron, 4th Photographic Group (Reconnaissance), arrives on Morotai Island from Guadalcanal Island, Solomon Islands with B-25s and F-5s (detachments are operating from Bougainville Island, Solomon Islands and Sansapor, New Guinea).