

THURSDAY, 9 NOVEMBER 1944

AMERICAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS

ALASKA (Eleventh Air Force):

Eleventh AF: An 8-plane armed reconnaissance sweep and a 4-plane bombing mission are cancelled due to weather.

CHINA-BURMA-INDIA THEATER

CHINA THEATER (Fourteenth Air Force): In China, 8 B-25s bomb Mangshih while 10 P-38s hit targets of opportunity in the Mangshih-Chefang area; 6 B-25s bomb Kaifeng while 6 others hit sampans, storage areas, and other targets of opportunity in the Yiyang area; 160 P-40s, P-38s, and P-51s on armed reconnaissance over wide expanses of S China and N Indochina attack trucks, gun positions, river and coastal shipping, and other targets of opportunity at or near Pingnam, Kweihsien, Changsha, Yoyang, Siangtan, Lushan, Kioshan, Paoching, Hengyang, Liangshan, Liuchow, Suikai, and Weichow Island and Gia Lam and Kien An, French Indochina.

INDIA-BURMA THEATER (Tenth Air Force): In Burma, 70+ aircraft bomb concentrations and supply areas at Kutkai, Shwebo, Mawtawng, and Kunhailong, bomb the airfield at Kawlin, knock out a bridge at Ho-hko, and support ground forces and hit targets of opportunity near Chyauhkawng, Namakyaing, Sepein, Tonlon, and at other points in the same general area; 6 B-25s bomb rail yards at Kanbalu; transports continue large-scale operations, flying nearly 300 sorties to forward areas; the 20th Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron, 8th Photographic Reconnaissance Group, moves from Kisselbari, India to Myitkyina with P-40s.

EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (ETO)

AIRBORNE OPERATIONS (IX Troop Carrier Command): The 304th Troop Carrier Squadron, 442d Troop Carrier Group, moves from Peray to St-Andre-de-L'Eure, France with C-47s.

STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (Eighth Air Force): 2 missions are flown. Mission 707: 1,309 bombers and 738 fighters are dispatched to hit front line strongpoints and tactical targets in the Metz and Thionville, France areas; 4 bombers and 5 fighters are lost:

1. 460 B-17s are dispatched to hit transportation targets at Thionville (47); 276 hit the secondary, the marshalling yard at Saarbrucken; targets of opportunity are Saarlautern (34) and other (3); 4 B-17s are lost, 4 damaged beyond repair and 96 damaged; 8 airmen are KIA, 6 WIA and 27 MIA. Escort is provided by 187 of 192 P-51s without loss.
2. 437 B-17s are dispatched to hit transportation targets at Metz (345); 41

hit the secondary, the marshalling yard at Saarbrucken; 28 hit Koblenz; 3 B-17s are damaged beyond repair and 13 damaged; 19 airmen are KIA. Escort is provided by 176 of 184 P-51s without loss.

3. 402 B-24s are dispatched to hit transportation targets at Metz (385); 15 hit the secondary, the marshalling yard at Saarbrucken; 1 B-24 is damaged beyond repair and 5 damaged. Escort is provided by 113 of 119 P-51s; 3 P-51s are damaged beyond repair.

4. 10 of 10 B-17s fly a screening force mission.

5. 139 P-47s and P-51s fly fighter-bomber missions in the Frankfurt-Lannheim area of Germany; 1 P-47 and 4 P-51s are lost; 4 pilots are MIA.

6. 30 of 32 P-51s fly a scouting forces mission.

Mission 708: 5 B-17s and 12 B-24s drop leaflets in France, the Netherlands and Germany during the night.

The 27th Photographic Reconnaissance Squadron, 7th Photographic Group (Reconnaissance) (attached to VIII Air Force Service Command), moves from Mount Farm, England to Denain/Prouvy, France with F-5s.

TACTICAL OPERATIONS (Ninth Air Force): 74 planes of the 9th Bombardment Division attack road junctions, barracks, ordnance arsenals, artillery camps, military storage depot, and other targets in the Dieuze and Faulquemont, France and Landau and Sankt Wendel, Germany areas; the IX Tactical Air Command flies sweeps over W Germany and attacks marshalling yard at Duren, Germany, while the XXIX Tactical Air Command escort attacks Rahling, Germany and an airfield and supports US Third Army elements (2 infantry and 2 armored divisions) as an all-out assault on Metz, France is pushed. In France, HQ 358th Fighter Group moves from Mourmelon to Toul; the 379th Fighter Squadron, 362d Fighter Group, moves from Prosnes to Rouvres with P-47s; the 425th Night Fighter Squadron, XIX Tactical Air Command, moves from Prosnes to Etain with P-61s.

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO)

STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (Fifteenth Air Force): Bad weather limits operations to 4 weather reconnaissance missions.

TACTICAL OPERATIONS (Twelfth Air Force): In Italy, bad weather hampers medium bombers operations in the Po Valley as 7 of 9 missions abort; in the 2 others, bridges in the Valley are hit; fighters and fighter-bombers fly less than 100 sorties, but successfully strike road and railroad bridges in the Bologna-Modena areas.

PACIFIC OCEAN AREA (POA)

AAFPOA (Seventh Air Force): B-24s from Guam Island, fly shipping reconnaissance over the Bonin Islands attacking vessels and AA positions at Haha Jima Island, shipping and town at Okimura and returning, strafe Iwo Jima

Island. P-47s from Saipan Island strafe storage caves on Pagan Island. During the night of 9/10 Nov a lone B-24 from Guam Island, on a snoop mission, bombs Iwo Jima Island.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA [SWPA, Far East Air Force (FEAF)]: In the Philippine Islands, fighter-bombers attack a convoy off the W coast of Leyte Island and hit barges and shipping near Ormoc; B-24s bomb Carolina Airfield on Negros Island. B-25s attack several airfields and villages in the NE peninsula of Celebes and Halmahera Islands. A-20s strike Piroe on Ceram Island. HQ 309th Bombardment Wing (Heavy) moves from Noemfoor Island to Owi, Schouten Islands. The 70th Fighter Squadron, 18th Fighter Group, based at Sansapor, New Guinea, begins operating from Morotai Island with P-38s. The 408th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy), 22d Bombardment Group (Heavy), moves from Owi, Schouten Island to Leyte Island with B-24s; the 431st Fighter Squadron, 475th Fighter Group, moves from Biak Island to Dulag, Leyte Island with P-38s.