

## **TUESDAY, 12 DECEMBER 1944**

### **AMERICAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS**

ALASKA (Eleventh Air Force): The weather aircraft aborts the mission due to the weather.

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

CHINA THEATER (Fourteenth Air Force): 6 B-25s bomb Kutkai, Burma, damaging 3 warehouses and 2 other buildings. 50+ P-40s, P-51s, and P-38s on armed reconnaissance attack many targets of opportunity including town areas, road and rail traffic, and supplies at or near Wan Pa-Hsa, Burma, Chiengmai, Thailand, and Sinantien, Paoching, Hengyang, Changsha, Kweilin, Nan Tan, Hochih, and Szeensien, China. Several fighter-bombers drop napalm on Yangtong Airfield, China. The 2d Combat Cargo Squadron, 1st Combat Cargo Group, moves from Imphal, India to Tsuyung, China.

INDIA-BURMA THEATER (Tenth Air Force): In Burma, 11 B-25s bomb several storage areas N of Lashio; 20+ P-47s knock out bridges at Namyao and Inailong, Burma, and Kunlong, China, and damage others at Ho-hko, Burma and Hinlong, and Kunlong, China; 40+ fighter-bombers hit Japanese HQ, trucks, town areas, troop concentrations, and supplies at Sedo, Pale, Chaunggyi, Tada-u, Hsenwi, Shwebo, and Thabyetha. 263 transport sorties are flown to forward areas. The 166th Liaison Squadron (Commando), 1st Air Commando Group, moves from Yazogyo to Inbaung, Burma with UC-64s and L-5s.

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

STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (Eighth Air Force): 2 missions are flown.

Mission 748: 895 bombers and 928 fighters are dispatched to make a H2X attack on Merseburg, Germany and visual attacks on rail targets in Germany; 4 bombers and 7 fighters are lost:

1. 337 of 380 B-17s hit the Leuna synthetic oil plant at Merseburg, 10 hit the secondary, Nordhausen and 12 hit targets of opportunity; 1 B-17 is lost and 25 damaged; 1 airman is KIA and 10 MIA. Escorting are 392 of 447 P-51s; they claim 0-0-1 aircraft on the ground; 7 P-51s are lost (6 pilots MIA) and 2 damaged beyond repair.
2. 378 B-24s are sent to hit the Hanau (270) and Aschaffenburg (69) marshalling yards; 17 hit the secondary, Gelnhausen and 8 hit a last resort target, the marshalling yard at Friedburg; 3 B-24s are lost and 45 damaged; 11 airmen are KIA and 20 MIA. Escorting are 193 P-47s and P-51s; 1 P-47 is damaged beyond repair.
3. 461 of 497 B-17s hit the marshalling yard at Darmstadt, 9 hit a last resort target, Dieburg and 4 hit a target of opportunity; 2 B-17s are damaged beyond repair and 7 damaged. Escort is provided by 214 P-47s and P-51s

without loss.

4. 15 of 20 B-17s and B-24s fly a screening mission.

5. 32 of 32 P-51s fly a scouting mission.

Mission 749: 7 B-24s and 4 B-17s drop leaflets in France, the Netherlands and Germany during the night.

TACTICAL OPERATIONS (Ninth Air Force): In Germany, 90 B-26s and A-20s strike the defended villages of Gemund, Harperscheid, Hellenthal, Schleiden, Schonesseiffen, and Wollseifen, and the towns of Dorsel, Mayen, and Wiesbaden; fighters fly armed reconnaissance and strafing and bombing missions in W Germany and support the US 83d Infantry Division in the Strass-Gey area, cover the VII Corps in the Duren area and support the XII and XX Corps in the Habkirchen and Bliesbruck areas (the 35th Infantry Division assault across the Blies River) and Saarlautern-Dillengen.

#### MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO)

STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (Fifteenth Air Force): 75 B-17s and B-24s bomb Blechhammer S oil refinery, Germany; Moravska-Ostrava, Czechoslovakia; and several targets of opportunity; around 40 P-51s and P-38s fly reconnaissance and reconnaissance escort.

TACTICAL OPERATIONS (Twelfth Air Force): In Italy, bad weather cancels all except 11 weather reconnaissance sorties.

#### PACIFIC OCEAN AREA (POA)

AAFPOA (Seventh Air Force): 24 Saipan Island-based B-24s pound Iwo Jima Island. Individual B-24s from Saipan and Guam Islands fly 5 snoopie strikes against Iwo Jima during the night of 12/13 Dec.

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): The service groups of the 313th Bombardment Wing (Very Heavy) arrive on Tinian Island, Mariana Islands.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA [SWPA, Far East Air Force (FEAF)]: B-24s, with fighter cover, bomb Bacolod Airfield on Negros Island while B-25s hit San Roque Airfield on Mindanao Island. B-24s pound Kendari Airfield on Celebes Island. In the Ambon-Ceram-Boeroe Islands area B-25s hit 3 airfields and attack barges. A-20s hit the airfield on Efman Island, New Guinea. HQ 4th Photographic Group (Reconnaissance) moves from Guadalcanal Island, Solomon Islands to Morotai Island. The 460th Fighter Squadron, 348th Fighter Group, moves from Tacloban to Tanauan, Leyte Island with P-47s.