

FRIDAY, 15 DECEMBER 1944

AMERICAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS

ZONE OF INTERIOR (ZI): HQ Continental AF is activated at Bolling Field, Washington, DC, to coordinate the work of the domestic AFs (First, Second, Third and Fourth) and the I Troop Carrier Command but will not assume jurisdiction until 8 May 45. General Henry H "Hap" Arnold, Commanding General USAAF and Commanding General Twentieth AF, is promoted to General of the Army.

CHINA-BURMA-INDIA THEATER

CHINA THEATER (Fourteenth Air Force): 6 B-25s blast a storage building at Kunlong, China. 5 P-51s hit and damage a bridge and a building S of Huizan, Thailand. 4 P-38s knock out a bridge at Hawng Luk, Burma.

INDIA-BURMA THEATER (Tenth Air Force): In Burma, 10 B-25s destroy the Hsipaw railroad bridge and a bypass bridge at Namhkai and damage other bridges at Namhkai; 4 P-47s severely damage 2 bridges at Ho-hko; 7 P-47s fly close support strikes along the Namh-Kam-Bhamo road; the Japanese garrison at Bhamo escapes through Chinese lines early in the morning and later Chinese troops occupy the town; 13 P-47s hit Lashio Airfield; town areas, troop concentrations, and supply areas are attacked at Panglong, Nanponpon, Panghkam, Kinu, Man Hpai, and Namhkam; a steady air movement of men and supplies to forward bases and frontline areas continues. The 2d Fighter Squadron (Commando), 2d Air Commando Group, arrives at Kalaikunda, India from the US with P-51s (first mission is 14 Feb 45).

EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (ETO)

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

Mission 750: 674 B-17s and 434 fighters are dispatched to attack rail targets and an armored car factory in Germany using H2X; 1 bomber and 2 fighters are lost:

1. 318 of 334 B-17s hit the marshalling yard and tank factories at Kassel; 5 others hit targets of opportunity; 6 B-17s are damaged beyond repair and 11 damaged; 25 airmen are KIA and 1 WIA. Escorting are 268 of 296 P-51s; 2 P-51s are lost (pilots MIA) and 1 damaged beyond repair.
2. 327 of 340 B-17s bomb the marshalling yard at Hannover and 6 hit targets of opportunity; 1 B-17 is lost and 7 damaged. Escorting are 241 P-47s and P-51s without loss.
3. 19 of 24 P-51s fly a scouting mission.

Mission 751: 2 of 3 B-17s drop leaflets in France and Germany during the night.

SUPREME HEADQUARTERS, ALLIED EXPEDITIONARY FORCES (SHAEF):

Major Alton

Glenn Miller, s/n 0505273, Director of the USAAF band, boards a UC-64A for a flight to Paris. Miller's big band was one of the most popular prior to WWII; he enlisted in the AAF in 1942 and formed a band to entertain the troops in the ETO. Miller is on his way to Paris to make arrangements for a Christmas Show; he and the Flight Officer pilot takeoff, disappear in low cloud and are never seen again.

TACTICAL OPERATIONS (Ninth Air Force): In Germany, 300+ A-20s, A-26s, and B-26s hit defended positions, camp area, and oil storage at Heimbach, Wollseifen, Harperscheid, Schonau, Ruthen, and Dorsel; fighters escort the 9th Bombardment Division, hit supply and ammunition dumps and other targets during bombing attacks and armed reconnaissance, and support the US 2d and 99th Infantry Divisions in the area of Westwall fortifications, the 78th Infantry Division at Kesternich, and the 8th Infantry and 5th Armored Divisions N of Kesternich; fighters support the XX and XII Corps in the Dillingen-Saarlautern area and at Habkirchen and heights along the Blies River.

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO)

STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (Fifteenth Air Force): 330+ B-17s and B-24s attack main marshalling yards, main station, and freight yard at Linz, marshalling yards at Amstetten, Salzburg, and Innsbruck, Austria, and Rosenheim, Germany (all primary targets) and targets of opportunity including the Klagenfurt and Waldhausen marshalling yard and the town of Sankt Johann in Tirol, Austria; the Schwaz, Austria marshalling yard is also hit (due to malfunction of instruments). 250+ P-38s and P-51s provide escort

TACTICAL OPERATIONS (Twelfth Air Force): In Italy, B-25s, attack ammunition dumps at Cremona, Bologna, and Pavia, a fuel dump at Castellar Guidobono, and severely damage railway bridges S of Asti and at Voghera; fighters and fighter-bombers again hit targets in the US Fifth Army battle area S of Bologna and communications in the C Po River Valley and make numerous rail cuts throughout the area (especially on the vital Brenner Line) destroying many vehicles and train cars; several bridges are hit, 3 being left impassable.

PACIFIC OCEAN AREA (POA)

AAFPOA (Seventh Air Force): 13 B-24s from Guam Island bomb Iwo Jima Island. During the night of 15/16 Dec, a B-24 on a snooper raid from Guam hits Iwo Jima.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA [SWPA, Far East Air Force (FEAF)]: In major strikes of

the day in the Philippine Islands, fighter-bombers hit a fuel dump at San Fernando on Negros Island; B-24s and B-25s bomb Sasa and San Roque Airfields on Mindanao Island; and B-24s bomb Puerto Princesa on Palawan Island. B-25s hit airfields on Ceram and Ambon Islands. Miscellaneous armed reconnaissance and light raids by fighters and bombers are flown against airfields on Boeroe and Halmahera Islands; shipping and other targets of opportunity are attacked at several points throughout the Netherland East Indies. HQ 310th Bombardment Wing (Medium) moves from Leyte Island to San Jose, Mindoro Island, Philippine Islands; the 36th Photographic Reconnaissance Squadron, Fifth AF, arrives at Hollandia, New Guinea from the US with F-5s (first mission is 25 Mar 45); the 341st Fighter Squadron, 348th Fighter Group, moves from Tacloban to Tanauan, Leyte Island with P-47s; the ground echelon of the 418th Night Fighter Squadron, Thirteenth AF, arrives at San Jose, Mindoro Island from Dulag, Leyte Island (air echelon is on Morotai Island with P-61s).