

## **SATURDAY, 16 DECEMBER 1944**

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

**CHINA THEATER (Fourteenth Air Force):** In China, the 16th Fighter Squadron, 51st Fighter Group, based at Chengkung with P-51s, sends a detachment to operate from Liangshan.

**INDIA-BURMA THEATER (Tenth Air Force):** In Burma, 4 P-47s support US ground forces near Tonkwa; locomotives, storage areas, buildings, personnel, and areas of Japanese activity are attacked at Se-eng, Nanponpon, Kangon, Winghsa, Inywa, Molo, and Mabein. Large-scale air supply to forward areas continues. The 127th, 155th and 156th Liaison Squadrons (Commando), 2d Air Commando Group, arrive at Kalaikunda, India from the US with UC-64s and L-5s.

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

**STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (Eighth Air Force):** Mission 752: 236 B-17s are dispatched to attack rail targets at Stuttgart, Germany but extremely poor weather conditions result in many aborts; primary targets are the marshalling yard at Stuttgart (81) and Bietingheim (33); 1 other B-17 hits a target of opportunity; 1 B-17s is lost, 1 damaged beyond repair and 9 damaged; 3 airmen are KIA and 9 MIA. Escorting are 106 of 114 P-51s without loss. 10 P-51s fly a scouting mission.

**TACTICAL OPERATIONS (Ninth Air Force):** Bad weather cancels 9th Bombardment Division combat operations. In Germany, fighters escort RAF aircraft, fly night patrol and intercept missions, and support US First Army elements in the Ardennes in Belgium as Field Marshall Gerd von Rundstedt begins an allout counteroffensive, and the XII and XX Corps at Saarlautern the bridgehead and in Saint-Avold-Saarbrucken area where news of the Ardennes counteroffensive cancels the XII Corps plans for an assault on the Westwall. HQ IX Air Defense Command moves from Versailles to Paris, France.

### **MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO)**

**STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (Fifteenth Air Force):** Almost 600 B-24s and B-17s bomb a synthetic oil plant at Brux and armament works at Plzen, Czechoslovakia; a benzol plant at Linz and marshalling yards at Innsbruck and Villach, Austria; plus several scattered targets of opportunity; P-38s and P-51s escort operations to Czechoslovakia; other P-38s fly reconnaissance missions while P-51s fly reconnaissance escort.

**TACTICAL OPERATIONS (Twelfth Air Force):** In Italy, bad weather grounds medium bombers; XXII Tactical Air Command fighter-bombers hit occupied buildings and guns in the battle zone S of Bologna, continue attacks on the

Brenner rail line effecting 16 rail cuts, hit and set aflame 3 vessels in La Spezia drydock, and blast several railroad bridges N of the battle area.

#### PACIFIC OCEAN AREA (POA)

AAFPOA (Seventh Air Force): Daytime activities are limited to reconnaissance flights by B-24s over the Bonin and Kazan Islands and by P-47s over Pagan Island. During the night of 16/17 Dec, 3 B-24s from Guam and Saipan Islands fly individual snooper strikes against Iwo Jima Island.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA [SWPA, Far East Air Force (FEAF)]: In the Philippine Islands, major operations of FEAF include B-24 strikes on Padada Airfield on Mindanao Island and Puerto Princesa Airfield on Palawan Island. B-25s, A-20s, and fighter-bombers attack airfields and targets of opportunity including shipping in the Ceram Island area and in the C Philippine Islands. Targets of opportunity are also attacked in N Borneo and in the Vogelkop Peninsula area. The 342d Fighter Squadron, 348th Fighter Group, moves from Tacloban to Tanauan, Leyte Island with P-47s.