

## **WEDNESDAY, 20 DECEMBER 1944**

### **AMERICAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS**

**ALASKA (Eleventh Air Force):** A B-24 flies armed reconnaissance over the Kurile Islands; another B-24 strikes Onnekotan Island installations, while 2 more flying armed photo mission over Kashiwabara, Paramushiru Island, and Katoaka, Shimushu Island also strafe buildings on Onnekotan Island and bomb Nemo Bay. 4 B-25s abort a fighter-decoy mission due to weather.

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

**CHINA THEATER (Fourteenth Air Force):** 118 P-51s and P-40s on armed reconnaissance over S China and E Burma attack road, rail, and river traffic and other targets of opportunity, mainly in or near Wanling, Mongyu, Monhkong, and Lashio, Burma; and Hochih, Chinchengchiang, Hong Kong, Sinyang, Lohochai, Leiyang, Kweilin, Sintsiang, Siangtan, Paoching, Liuchenghsien, Hengshan, and Hengyang, China. HQ 1st Combat Cargo Group moves from Tuliha, India to Tsuyung, China.

**INDIA-BURMA THEATER (Tenth Air Force):** In Burma, 9 B-25s destroy 3 road bridges at Mongmit, bypass bridges at Tangon and Tantabin, and 3 bridges in N Burma; 3 other B-25s blast the ferry area at Thabeikkyin; 12 P-47s knock out the Hay-ti road bridge and damage the Pa-mao bridge; 12 other fighter-bombers sweep the Irrawaddy River from Sheinmaga to Twinng, strafing several targets of opportunity; 13 P-47s support ground forces in the Namhkam sector; troops, supply areas, and buildings are pounded at Hseing-kai, Tigyaing, Na-kawnkongnyaung, and Man Hkunhawng. Transport operations to front areas total 284 sorties. The 492d Bombardment Squadron (Heavy), 7th Bombardment Group (Heavy), based at Madhaiganij, India with B-24s, sends a detachment to Luliang, China to ferry gasoline to Suichwan, China.

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

**STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (Eighth Air Force):** The 859th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy), 492d Bombardment Group (Heavy), arrives at Brindisi, Italy from Harrington, England with B-24s and C-47s; the squadron is detached to the 15th Special Group (Provisional) and will fly CARPETBAGGER missions in the MTO beginning 31 Dec.

### **TACTICAL OPERATIONS**

**First Tactical Air Force (Provisional):** In France, HQ 371st Fighter Group and the 404th and 406th Fighter Squadrons move from Tavaux Airfield, Dole to Tantonville with P-47s.

Ninth Air Force: Bad weather prevents all combat operations, except a night intruder mission by 2 fighters.

#### MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO)

STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (Fifteenth Air Force): For the fifth consecutive day, bombers hit Axis oil production; 454 B-17s and B-24s hit the Regensburg, Germany oil refinery, marshalling yards at Linz, Salzburg, and Villach, Austria, and armament works at Plzen, Czechoslovakia; 300+ P-38s and P-51s provide escort; 40+ others fly reconnaissance and reconnaissance-escort missions.

TACTICAL OPERATIONS (Twelfth Air Force): In Italy, continued bad weather limits operations; medium bombers are grounded and overcast prevents fighters and fighter-bombers to reach many targets in the C and E Po Valley however, the Brenner rail line is cut S of Trento and trains are successfully attacked near Padua and Treviso; armed reconnaissance in the W Po Valley accounts for several locomotives, vehicles, and other targets of opportunity, and railroads, bridges, and targets of opportunity are hit in the La Spezia and Genoa areas; during the night of 19/20 Dec, A-20s attack lights at 5 locations in the E Po Valley.

#### PACIFIC OCEAN AREA (POA)

AAFPOA (Seventh Air Force): 23 B-24s, based on Saipan Island, pound Iwo Jima Island. During the night of 20/21 Dec, 6 B-24s from Guam and Saipan Islands hit Iwo Jima with 5 snoop strikes.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA [SWPA, Far East Air Force (FEAF)]: 150+ B-24s, B-25s, and fighter-bombers pound 10 airfields throughout the C Philippine Islands and 3 on Mindanao Island. In the Netherland East Indies B-24s hit Malang Airfield on Java and B-25s hit Haroekoe Island. Numerous other single FEAF flights and small forces attack a large variety of targets of opportunity throughout the Netherland East Indies and the Philippine Islands. HQ 8th Fighter Group and the 35th, 36th and 80th Fighter Squadrons move from Morotai Island to San Jose, Mindoro Island, Philippine Islands with P-38s.