

FRIDAY, 8 DECEMBER 1944

AMERICAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS

CARIBBEAN (Sixth Air Force): The 3d Bombardment Squadron (Heavy), VI Bomber Command, moves from Rio Hato to David, Panama with B-24s; and the 29th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy), VI Bomber Command, moves from Rio Hato to Howard Field, Canal Zone with B-24s.

CHINA-BURMA-INDIA THEATER

CHINA THEATER (Fourteenth Air Force): In China, 4 B-25s hit the Nan Tan area, killing many horses; 14 P-51s hit the airfield and other targets at Nanking, claiming 24 airplanes, a freighter, and 2 locomotives destroyed; 15 P-40s blast railroad targets and buildings from Nan Tan area to Liuchow; 25 P-51s hit Hochih and troops, warehouses, trucks and ammunition dump in the area; 20+ other fighter-bombers on armed reconnaissance hit various targets of opportunity around the Lipo, Shihhweiyao, Tuhshan, Santon, Paoching, Hengyang, Taiyuan, and Linfen areas.

INDIA-BURMA THEATER (Tenth Air Force): In Burma, 30+ P-47s support ground forces in the Bhamo area; 28 hit supply areas at Kyingyi, Loi-lun, and Hke-hkun; 12 bomb troop concentrations at Namti and 4 hit village on the Nawngkhkem River; 16 fighter-bombers attack a Shwebo motor pool and radio station while 6 others hit the Namun ferry landing; 7 aircraft knock out a bypass bridge at Namhkai and 8 fighter-bombers hit railroad targets of opportunity between Sedaw and Nawngkhkio. Large-scale transport operations continue.

EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (ETO)

STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (Eighth Air Force): As part of a move to create self-sustaining, mobile air divisions, all sub-depots are relieved from assignment to the VIII Air Force Services Command and assigned to the 3 bomb divisions with VIII Air Force Services Command retaining technical supervision.

TACTICAL OPERATIONS (Ninth Air Force): In Germany, 29 A-26s hit the Sinzig rail bridge; fighters escort the RAF, bomb gun positions, bridges, and city areas, fly armed reconnaissance, and support the US V and VII Corps W of Schmidt and Duren, and XX Corps and XII Corps in the Sarreguemines, France and Dillingen areas. In Belgium, the 30th Photographic Reconnaissance Squadron, 67th Tactical Reconnaissance Group, based at Gosselies with F-5s, begins operating from Florennes Juzaine. The 72d Liaison Squadron, Ninth AF (attached to the Sixth Army Group), based at Buhl, France, sends a detachment to Steinbourg, France with L-5s.

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO)

STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (Fifteenth Air Force): In Austria, again hitting communications targets in a predawn attack, 24 B-17s and B-24s bomb the Moosbierbaum oil refinery and Graz, Klagenfurt, and Villach marshalling yards. Later in the day P-38s fly photo and weather reconnaissance missions; P-51s escort the photo reconnaissance flights over the Vienna area, W Hungary, and N Yugoslavia.

TACTICAL OPERATIONS (Twelfth Air Force): In Italy, weather again greatly curtails operations; 4 P-47s on weather reconnaissance of the W Po River Valley attack trains, claiming the destruction of 4 locomotives and damage of almost 100 train cars. During the night of 7/8 Dec 3 A-20s bomb targets of opportunity in Po River Valley.

PACIFIC OCEAN AREA (POA)

AAFPOA (Seventh Air Force): 89 B-24s from Guam and Saipan Islands join B-29s and naval vessels in bombarding Iwo Jima Island airfields; 28 P-38s escort the B-29s; the strikes are aimed at reducing the raids against US bases in the Mariana Islands.

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): Mission 11: 82 B-29s from the Mariana Islands join Seventh AF P-38s, B-24s and Navy cruisers in a strike against airfields on Iwo Jima Island from which Japanese strikes against US airfields in the Mariana Islands are being launched; 61 B-29s bomb the airfields and 4 bomb other targets without loss; [Japanese aircraft strike the Mariana Island airfields on 2, 7, and 27 Nov, 7 and 25 Dec (the largest attack-25 aircraft), and from 25 Dec 44 to 2 Jan 45 in very minor degrees; altogether about 80 Japanese aircraft attack, and nearly 40 are downed; 11 B-29s are destroyed and 43 damaged on the ground in these attacks].

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA [SWPA, Far East Air Force (FEAF)]: 60+ B-25s and fighter-bombers, along with Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) aircraft, hit airfield and various other targets on Halmahera Island. 60+ B-24s bomb Mandurriao, Lahug and La Carlota Airfields on Cebu and Negros Island while fighter-bombers hit the San Isidro area. FEAF aircraft fly armed reconnaissance and light raids over N Borneo, N Celebes, Flores Island in the Lesser Sunda Islands, and the Wewak, New Guinea area.