

## **THURSDAY, 16 NOVEMBER 1944**

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

**CHINA THEATER (Fourteenth Air Force):** In China, 23 B-24s bomb Changsha; 8 B-25s hit Lohochai and bomb the Wanling, Burma area. In French Indochina, 16 B-25s hit Nghia Trang, Duc Tho, Nha Trang, and Do Len. 70+ P-40s and P-51s over SE and SW China on armed reconnaissance attack road, river, and rail traffic, town areas, and other targets of opportunity at several scattered locations.

**INDIA-BURMA THEATER (Tenth Air Force):** In Burma, 30 P-47s hit troop concentrations and supply areas at Naungmo, Nawngmloi, and Lashio; 11 support ground forces in the Pinwe area, 4 attack bridges at Meza and over the Sindaw River; 4 bomb the Meza railroad station, 16 sweep the railroad from Sagaing to Kanbalu, and 16 strafe Nawngkhio and Hsumhsai Airfields. Transports fly 270+ sorties to forward bases and frontline areas.

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

**STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (Eighth Air Force):** Mission 715: 1,243 bombers and 282 fighters, along with Ninth AF and Royal Air Force (RAF) aircraft, are dispatched to attack tactical targets E of Aachen, Germany in support of the US First and Ninth Armies' offensive; 1 fighter is lost:

1. 486 of 495 B-17s hit transportation targets in the Duren area; 1 B-17 is damaged beyond repair and 8 damaged; 1 airman is WIA. Escort is 151 of 159 P-51s; 1 is damaged beyond repair.

2. 490 of 501 B-17s and 228 of 243 B-24s hit transportation targets in the Eschweiler area; 2 B-17s are damaged beyond repair and 8 damaged; 2 airmen are KIA, 2 WIA and 6 MIA. Escort is 98 of 107 P-51s; 1 is lost (pilot MIA) and 3 damaged beyond repair.

4 of 4 B-17s fly a screening force mission.

16 of 16 P-51s fly a scouting force mission.

**TACTICAL OPERATIONS (Ninth Air Force):** In Germany, 80 9th Bombardment Division bombers hit defended areas and strongpoints at Echtz, Luchem, and Eschweiler; IX Tactical Air Command fighter-bombers dive-bomb gun positions and other targets in the Stolberg and Hurtgen areas and XIX Tactical Air Command supports the US XX Corps in the Merzig, Trier, and Saarbrucken area; the XXIX Tactical Air Command attacks targets in 12 W German towns; the US First and Ninth Armies begin an eastward thrust (Operation QUEEN) into hit by the IX and XXIX Tactical Air Commands.

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

**STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (Fifteenth Air Force):** 550+ B-17s and B-24s attack

Munich, Germany W marshalling yard and troop concentrations at Visegrad, Yugoslavia as well as an alternate target of Innsbruck, Austria marshalling yard and scattered targets of opportunity; 250+ P-51s and P-38s support the attack on Munich; 26 other P-38s strafe transport targets on roads between Sarajevo and Novi Pazar, Yugoslavia.

TACTICAL OPERATIONS (Twelfth Air Force): In Italy, medium bombers fly 250+ sorties against rail lines in the Brenner Pass and other parts of NE Italy destroying the railroad bridge at Sacile; fighter-bombers in support of the British Eighth Army advance to the NW of Forli, hit guns, ammunition supplies, and other military targets, attack pipeline crossings of the Po River at Ostiglia and Ferrara, and pontoon stores near Ficarola, as well as hitting communications targets N of the battle area; the 346th Fighter Squadron, 350th Fighter Group, moves from Tarquinia to Pisa with P-47s.

#### PACIFIC OCEAN AREA (POA)

AAFPOA (Seventh Air Force): 12 Saipan Island-based B-24s bomb shipping at Chichi Jima Island while 2 others attack barges at Haha Jima. 12 P-47s and 3 P-38s hit the airfield on Pagan Island in the first combat strike by P-38s in the Mariana Islands. During the night of 16/17 Nov a snooper mission in the Bonin Islands, a B-24 attacks shipping.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA [SWPA, Far East Air Force (FEAF)]: Colonel Willard R Wolfenbarger becomes Commanding Officer of the XIII Fighter Command. In the C Philippine Islands and in the Mindanao Island area B-25s, B-24s, and fighter-bombers hit airfields, harbors, shipping, and targets of opportunity. In the Kendari area and on the NE peninsula of Celebes Island, and on Halmahera Island, B-24s, B-25s, and fighter-bombers pound airfields, villages and shipping. B-25s also support ground forces in the Mapia Island and bomb Namlea Airfield on Buru Island. Units moving to Leyte Island, Philippine Islands: HQ 3d Bombardment Group (Light) and 90th Bombardment Squadron (Light) from Hollandia, New Guinea with A-20s; HQ 348th Fighter Group from Noemfoor Island.