

SATURDAY, 18 NOVEMBER 1944

AMERICAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS

ALASKA (Eleventh Air Force): On Paramushiru Island, 4 B-24s strike Suribachi shore batteries, including one on Takikawa Cape. A shipping sweep by 6 B-25s is cancelled due to weather.

CHINA-BURMA-INDIA THEATER

CHINA THEATER (Fourteenth Air Force): In China, 10 B-25s blast stores at Hengshan and hit populated areas from Ishan to Liuchow; 130+ P-51s, P-40s, and P-38s pound targets of opportunity scattered over vast areas of S China; troops, shipping, supplies, trucks, and railroad targets are hit particularly hard N of Lingling, from Liuchow to Ishan, from Hengshan to Hengyang, from Kweilin to Liuchow, from Siangtan to Paoching, and at Chuanhsien, Hwaiyuanchen, Chingmen, Chuchiang, and Shihkiachwang.

INDIA-BURMA THEATER (Tenth Air Force): In Burma, 27 fighter-bombers support ground forces S of Pinwe and in the Bhamo area; 16 attack troops and supply area at Panglong and Nga-pwegyi while 7 hit the ferry area at Meza; 20 hit targets of opportunity along the Kanbalu-Wuntho railroad and at Maymyo and Wetwin; 9 B-25s pound Man Pwe rail yards, destroying warehouses and other buildings and causing much general damage. Transports continue large-scale operations to forward areas. In India, the detachment of the 317th Troop Carrier Squadron (Commando), 2d Air Commando Group, operating from Tulihal with C-47s returns to base at Sylhet.

EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (ETO)

STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (Eighth Air Force): 2 missions are flown. Mission 716: 402 fighters (47 P-47s and 355 P-51s) are dispatched to strafe oil storage depots in the Hanau and Ulm areas, airfields at Leipheim and Lechfeld, and miscellaneous ground targets in Germany; 374 actually attack; about 70 Luftwaffe fighters are encountered and the AAF claims 26-2-6 in the air and 69-0-41 on the ground; 2 P-47s and 5 P-51s are lost (pilots MIA) and 2 P-51s are damaged beyond repair.

Mission 717: 4 B-24s and 6 B-17s drop leaflets in Belgium, the Netherlands and France during the night.

HQ 92d Combat Bombardment Wing (Heavy) moves from Sudbury to Bury St Edmunds, England.

TACTICAL OPERATIONS (Ninth Air Force): 340+ bombers of the 9th Bombardment Division strike barracks areas, rail bridges, rail facilities, strongpoints, and defended positions at 13 locations in Germany; fighters escort the bombers, fly sweeps and armed reconnaissance over W Germany, and support

ground forces E of Aachen, Germany and in the Sarreguemines, France area. In France, the 355th Fighter Squadron, 354th Fighter Group, based at Orconte with P-47s, begins operating from St Dizier.

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO)

STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (Fifteenth Air Force): 680+ B-17s and B-24s bomb the Floridsdorf oil refinery at Vienna, Austria and the Korneuburg, Austria oil refinery; airfields at Aviano, Villafranca di Verona, Udine, and Vicenza, Italy; and troop concentrations at Visegrad, Yugoslavia; 126 P-38s escort the Austrian missions while 12 others bomb the troop concentrations at Visegrad, Yugoslavia; 186 P-51s provide cover for raids on the Italian airfields and sweep target areas; 50+ other fighters fly reconnaissance and reconnaissance escort. The 37th Photographic Reconnaissance Squadron, 5th Photographic Reconnaissance Group, arrives at Naples, Italy from the US with F-5s (first mission is 3 Feb 45).

TACTICAL OPERATIONS (Twelfth Air Force): Medium bombers bomb bridges at Pizzighettone, Romano di Lombardia, Castelnuovo di Garfagnana, Migazzone, Casarsa della Delizia, and Casale Monferrato, Italy; and at Zidani Most, Yugoslavia and also pound the Brod-Ljubljana, Yugoslavia railway, the principal German escape route in the Balkans; fighter-bombers continue successful attacks on rail lines, dumps, guns, and pipelines in the N Apennines and the Po Valley, XXII Tactical Air Command claiming 100+ train cars, 8 locomotives, and nearly 75 vehicles destroyed.

PACIFIC OCEAN AREA (POA)

AAFPOA (Seventh Air Force): B-24s from Saipan Island and Guam Island hit shipping at Chichi Jima and Haha Jima Islands. P-38s and B-24s from Saipan Island escort photo planes over Iwo Jima Island.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA [SWPA, Far East Air Force (FEAF)]: In the Mindanao-

NE Celebes Islands areas B-24s, B-25s and A-20s again hit airfields and targets of opportunity. Fighter-bombers, A-20s, and B-25s over several locations in the Philippine Islands pound shipping, supply and personnel areas, harbors, barges, airstrips, and communications targets. In Borneo, B-24s, with P-38s and P-47s supporting, launch a major strike against oil installations at Tarakan; other B-24s and B-25s hit shipping off Tarakan and in Brunei Bay. On Celebes Island in the Makassar and Kendari area B-24s bomb Polewali shipyards; B-24s pound airfields in the Ceram Island-Ambon Island area while P-38s strafe shipping. B-25s continue to support ground forces on Mapia Island off the NW coast of New Guinea. In the Philippine Islands, HQ 58th Fighter Group and the 310th and 311th Fighter Squadrons move from Noemfoor Island to San Roque, Leyte Island with P-47s. In New Guinea, the

66th Troop Carrier Squadron, 433d Troop Carrier Group, moves from Nadzab to Biak Island with C-47s.