

## **SATURDAY, 25 NOVEMBER 1944**

### **AMERICAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS**

ALASKA (Eleventh Air Force): A B-24 aborts an armed photo mission over Matsuwa Island due to weather and instead radarbombs Kurabu Airfield on Paramushiru Island; B-25s cancel a shipping sweep due to weather.

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

CHINA THEATER (Fourteenth Air Force): 12 B-25s hit warehouses, village and town areas at Lashio and Wanling, Burma. 6 attack rail targets, trucks, and buildings at Phu Lang Thuong, French Indochina. 75 P-40s, P-51s, and P-38s on armed reconnaissance attack river, road, and rail traffic, troops, buildings, and other targets of opportunity at several Thailand, Burma, S China, and N French Indochina locations, including areas around Bhre and Lampang, Thailand; Paoching, Ankang, Ishan, and Hochih, China; Namsang, and Mongyu, Burma; and Phu Lang Thuong, French Indochina.

INDIA-BURMA THEATER (Tenth Air Force): In Burma, 24 fighter-bombers support ground forces in the Bhamo area; 24 bomb an airfield at Kawlin while 8 more strafe Tabingaung Airfield and town area; 12 attack the Meza railroad station and boxcars in nearby bridge area, storage and personnel areas in the Lashio area and at Nawngyang, Ashang, and Man Mao; 8 P-47s strafe targets of opportunity along the Wuntho-Shwebo rail line. Transports fly 325 sorties to forward bases and frontline areas.

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

STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (Eighth Air Force): 2 missions are flown.

Mission 723: 1,043 bombers and 965 fighters are dispatched to hit the synthetic oil plant at Merseburg, Germany using H2X and a marshalling yard; 8 bombers and 6 fighters are lost:

1. 671 of 766 hit the Leuna oil plant at Merseburg and 9 hit targets of opportunity; 8 B-17s are lost, 4 damaged beyond repair and 197 damaged; 7 airmen are KIA, 5 WIA and 64 MIA. Escort is 716 of 800 P-51s; they claim 9-0-8 aircraft on the ground; 6 P-51s are lost (pilots MIA) and 1 damaged beyond repair.

2. 254 of 271 B-24s hit the Bingen marshalling yard; 43 B-24s are damaged; 1 airman is WIA. Escort is 129 of 130 P-47s.

Mission 724: 7 B-17s and 6 B-24s drop leaflets in France, the Netherlands and Germany during the night.

The 36th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy), VIII Fighter Command starts daily operations as a screening force for the bombardment divisions; it is assigned the task of protecting the Eighth's primary VHF and fighter-to-bomber communications from interception during assembly; the increase of flak

batteries around German military and industrial installations soon compels the 36th to increase radar countermeasures on each mission; the 36th remains on this assignment until the end of war in Europe

**TACTICAL OPERATIONS (Ninth Air Force):** In Germany, the 9th Bombardment Division hits an ordnance arsenal at Landau, road junctions, and an ammunition dump at Neustadt and Kaiserslautern; fighters escort the 9th Bombardment Division and Eighth AF, fly armed reconnaissance and support ground forces E of Aachen and between Merzig and Sarreguemines, France. The 356th Fighter Squadron 354th Fighter Group, moves from Orconte to Rosieres-en-Haye, France with P-47s.

#### MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO)

**STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (Fifteenth Air Force):** During the night of 24/25 Nov, 40+ B-17s and B-24s bomb the Linz benzol plant, Klagenfurt, and Innsbruck, Austria, and Munich W W marshalling yards in Germany, and 2 unidentified targets of opportunity; during the day P-38s fly photo and weather reconnaissance missions.

**TACTICAL OPERATIONS (Twelfth Air Force):** In Italy, bad weather again hampers operations; 3 fighter groups fly only 53 sorties against railway targets and targets of opportunity N of the US Fifth Army battle area, cutting lines at 14 places and destroying several vehicles. The 414th Night Fighter Squadron, 62d Fighter Wing, moves from Pisa to Pontedera, Italy with Beaufighters.

#### PACIFIC OCEAN AREA (POA)

**AAFPOA (Seventh Air Force):** 7 Guam Island-based B-24s, escorting a photo aircraft over the Bonin and Kazan Islands, bomb Chichi Jima, Muko Jima, and Haha Jima Islands.

**SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA [SWPA, Far East Air Force (FEAF)]:** In the Philippine Islands, fighter-bombers range over wide areas of Masbate, Cebu, and Leyte Islands, and surrounding waters, attacking shipping, airfields, bivouacs, and a variety of targets. B-25s and fighter-bombers hit airfields on Ceram and Boeroe Islands and B-24s on armed reconnaissance over N Borneo hit shipping and other targets of opportunity. During the night of 25/26 Nov, B-25s hit airfields in NE Celebes and Halmahera Islands.