

SATURDAY, 4 NOVEMBER 1944

AMERICAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS

ALASKA (Eleventh Air Force): 6 B-24s strike the airfield, buildings, and offshore shipping at Suribachi and Kurabu on Paramushiru Island.

ZONE OF INTERIOR: The first report is received of a Japanese balloon SW of San Pedro, California; the US Navy recovers some apparatus, envelope, and rigging.

CHINA-BURMA-INDIA THEATER

CHINA THEATER (Fourteenth Air Force): In China, 34 P-40s, P-51s, and P-38s attack road traffic and other targets of opportunity in the Mangshih and Lungling areas; 4 P-38s bomb the pass near Menghsu, blocking the highway.

INDIA-BURMA THEATER (Tenth Air Force): In Burma, 17 P-47s pound Shwebo Airfield while 6 others bomb stores of guns and ammunition at Mong Yaw.

EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (ETO)

AIRBORNE OPERATIONS (IX Troop Carrier Command): In France, HQ 439th Troop Carrier Group and the 93d Troop Carrier Squadron move from Lonray to Chateaudun with C-47s; the 95th, 96th and 97th Troop Carrier Squadrons, 440th Troop Carrier Group, move from Le Mans to Orleans with C-47s; the 99th Troop Carrier Squadron, 441st Troop Carrier Group, moves from St Marceau to Dreux with C-47s.

STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (Eighth Air Force): 2 missions are flown. Mission 700: 1,160 bombers and 890 fighters are dispatched in 6 forces to make PFF attacks on the oil industry in W Germany; 5 bombers and 2 fighters are lost:

1. 228 B-17s are dispatched to hit the oil plant at Neunkirchen (151); secondary targets hit are the marshalling yards at Saarbrucken (35) and Neunkirchen (13); 5 B-17s are damaged. Escort is provided by 76 of 77 P-47s and 50 Ninth AF P-51s without loss.
2. 210 of 222 B-24s hit the Misburg oil plant at Hannover; 3 B-24s are lost and 93 damaged; 28 airmen are MIA. Escort is provided by 371 P-47s and P-51s; they claim 0-0-1 aircraft on the ground; 1 P-51 is lost (pilot MIA).
3. 257 B-17s are dispatched to hit the Harburg oil plant at Hamburg (238); targets of opportunity are the aviation industry at Nordholz (9) and other (2); 9 B-17s are damaged. Escort is provided by 124 of 139 P-51s; they claim 0-0-1 aircraft on the ground; 1 P-51 is lost (pilot MIA) and 1 damaged beyond repair.
4. 186 of 193 B-17s hit the Rhenania oil plant at Hamburg; 2 others hit

targets of opportunity; 2 B-17s are lost and 61 damaged; 1 airman is WIA and 18 MIA. Escort is provided by 110 P-51s without loss.

5. 91 of 119 B-17s hit the Welhun oil plant at Bottrop; 26 others hit the secondary, the marshalling yard at Hamm; 24 B-17s are damaged. Escort is provided by 37 of 40 P-51s; they claim 0-0-1 aircraft; 1 P-51 is lost.

6. 133 of 141 B-24s hit Gelsenkirchen/Nordstern without loss. Escort is provided by 50 of 54 P-47s.

Mission 701: 3 B-17s and 6 B-24s drop leaflets in France, the Netherlands and Germany during the night.

TACTICAL OPERATIONS (Ninth Air Force): In Germany, 218 B-26s and A-20s hit the Trier ordnance depot, Baumholder, and Eschweiler gun positions; fighters escort the 9th Bombardment Division, attack railroads, bridges, and other targets, and support the US XIX Corps in the Aachen area. In France, the 556th, 557th, 558th and 559th Bombardment Squadrons (Medium), 387th Bombardment Group (Medium), move from Chateaudun to Clastres with B-26s.

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO)

STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (Fifteenth Air Force): 715 B-17s and B-24s with fighter escorts pound oil storage at Regensburg and marshalling yards at Munich and Augsburg, Germany, the main marshalling yard and a benzol plant at Linz, Austria, a troop concentration at Podgorica, Yugoslavia, as well as attacking several alternate targets and scattered targets of opportunity including marshalling yards at Wels and Kufstein, Austria, Erding Airfield, Germany, railroad targets in and near Rosenheim, Germany, and the towns of Strass and Muhldorf, Austria.

TACTICAL OPERATIONS (Twelfth Air Force): In Italy, 2000+ B-25s and B-26s of the 42d Bombardment Wing (Medium) hit railway and road bridges in the Brenner Pass; 130+ B-25s of the 57th Bombardment Wing strike communications in the W Po Valley, cutting at least 4 bridges; fighters and fighter-bombers of XXII Tactical Air Command concentrate on communications targets and trains in the Po Valley and defenses in the battle area S of Bologna; some XXII Tactical Air Command aircraft hit guns on the N Italian coast, some hit a rocket launching site and communications N of battle area, and 4 P-47s bomb a Milan hotel where Adolf Hitler is rumored to be staying.

PACIFIC OCEAN AREA (POA)

AAFPOA (Seventh Air Force): 18 Saipan Island-based B-24s bomb Iwo Jima Island airfields; 2 others, on shipping reconnaissance, bomb Naha Jima. 2 B-24s on armed reconnaissance from Guam Island bomb Marcus Island. 16 P-47s bomb landing strip on Pagan Island. The 316th Troop Carrier Squadron, VI Air Service Area Command, arrives at Kahuku AAB, Hawaii from the US with C-47s.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA [SWPA, Far East Air Force (FEAF)]: In the Philippine Islands, B-24s again pound Alicante Airfield on Negros Island; the 8th Photographic Reconnaissance Squadron, 6th Photographic Reconnaissance Group, arrives at Dulag, Leyte Island from Biak Island with F-5s. The detachment of the 17th Photographic Reconnaissance Squadron, 4th Photographic Group (Reconnaissance), ceases operating from Sansapor, New Guinea with F-5s and returns to base on Morotai Island.