

WEDNESDAY, 8 NOVEMBER 1944

AMERICAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS

ALASKA (Eleventh Air Force): An 8-aircraft shipping sweep is cancelled due to weather.

CHINA-BURMA-INDIA THEATER

CHINA THEATER (Fourteenth Air Force): In S China and N French Indochina 2 B-25s hit railroad tracks at Lohochai, China and 2 others hit tracks at Duc Tho, French Indochina. 4 P-51s blast road machinery near Muse, Burma. 15 B-25s, 13 P-40s and P-51s pound storage buildings, villages, and other targets of opportunity throughout the Mangshih, China area.

INDIA-BURMA THEATER (Tenth Air Force): In Burma, 80+ P-47s support ground forces in the Mawlu area, bomb personnel, supplies, and communications facilities at Tunhong, Chaungdauk, and Kutkai, gun positions at Hsipaw, the Man Hpa town area, Kawlin Airfield and targets of opportunity along the Kawlin-Pinwe railroad; 8 B-25s knock out the Bawgyo railroad bridge. 270+ transports fly sorties to forward areas. In India, a detachment of the 5th Fighter Squadron (Commando), 1st Air Commando Group, begins operating from Fenny with P-47s; the detachment of the 6th Fighter Squadron (Commando), 1st Air Commando Group, operating from Cox's Bazar return to base at Asanol.

EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (ETO)

STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (Eighth Air Force): The transfer of training functions from VIII Air Force Composite Command to combat groups is completed; the VIII AF Composite Command ceases to function as personnel are attached to the Air Disarmament Command (Provisional) by the US Strategic Air Forces in Europe (USSTAF). The airfield at Denain/Prouvy, France is assigned to HQ Eighth AF; this is the first step in establishing an VIII Air Force Services Command Service Center on the European continent so that Eighth AF can service and administer its own aircraft and personnel in the area.

2 missions are flown.

Mission 705: 690 bombers and 890 fighters are dispatched to make a PFF attack on Merseburg oil plants and Rheine marshalling yard; bad weather causes the recall of 350+ bombers; 3 bombers and 11 fighters are lost:

1. 267 B-17s are dispatched to hit the Leuna oil plant at Merseburg (193); 2 others hit a target of opportunity; 9 of 12 B-17s fly as a screening force; 3 B-17s are lost and 85 damaged; 1 airman is WIA and 27 MIA. Escorting are 752 P-47s and P-51s; they claim 2-0-1 aircraft in the air and 0-0-1 on the ground; 2 P-47s and 9 P-51s are lost (pilots MIA) and 2 P-51s are damaged beyond repair.
2. 145 B-24s are dispatched to hit the Rheine marshalling yard (77);

targets of opportunity are Enschede (8), Nordhorn Canal (8) and other (1); 15 B-24s are damaged. Escorting are 36 of 37 P-47s without loss.

3. 266 B-17s dispatched to hit the Leuna oil plant at Merseburg are recalled due to weather.

11 of 14 P-51s fly a scouting missions without loss.

Mission 706: 5 B-17s and 12 B-24s (2 abort) drop leaflets in France, the Netherlands and Germany during the night without loss.

TACTICAL OPERATIONS (Ninth Air Force): Weather cancels operations against military depots and troop concentrations in Germany, and fortified positions in France; a mission against rail bridges in Germany is recalled due to weather; fighters fly escort, attack railroads, bridges, factories, supply dumps, and command posts; the IX and XIX Tactical Air Commands support the US 28th Infantry Division in the Schmidt, Germany area (V Corps begins withdrawing the Kall River bridgehead) and Third Army elements start an assault on enemy fortifications in the Metz, France area.

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS (MTO)

STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (Fifteenth Air Force): In Yugoslavia, 34 B-24s bomb troop concentrations at Mitrovica, Prijepolje, and Sjenica. Heavy cloud over the targets forces 70+ others to abort.

TACTICAL OPERATIONS (Twelfth Air Force): In Italy, medium bombers strike the rail line in the Brenner Pass and other lines running into Italy from the NE and bomb bridges in the C and W Po Valley, damaging several and destroying the bridge at Mantua; fighters and fighter-bombers hit communications in the Bologna area, but concentrate most of their operations against bridges and rail lines in the Parma area in an effort to disrupt battle area supply lines.

PACIFIC OCEAN AREA (POA)

AAFPOA (Seventh Air Force): B-24s from Saipan Island hit shipping at Chichi Jima and Haha Jima Islands. A single B-24 on a snooper mission bombs Iwo Jima Island during the night of 8/9 Nov. P-47s attempt a fighter sweep over Pagan Island but must abort because of bad weather.

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): 17 XXI Bomber Command B-29s are airborne against the airfield on Iwo Jima Island; 6 manage to bomb through a hole in the cloud cover; others fail to bomb the target; enemy aircraft drop phosphorus bombs on the formations, damaging 1 B-29; 1 B-29 ditches, the first aircraft lost by the XXI Bomber Command on a combat mission.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA [SWPA, Far East Air Force (FEAF)]: B-24s again hit Alicante Airfield on Negros Island. On Celebes Island, B-25s bomb Langoan Airfield while P-38s on sweeps over the Kendari area hit parked aircraft,

shipping, the nickel mine, and other targets of opportunity. On Halmahera Island, B-25s attack Kaeo and Hate Tabako Airfield while others hit targets of opportunity on Ceram Island. The 12th Fighter Squadron, 18th Fighter Group, based at Sansapor, New Guinea, begins operating from Morotai Island with P-38s. The 424th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy), 307th Bombardment Group (Heavy), that has been operating from Noemfoor Island with B-24s, returns to base on Wakde Island.