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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

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MR 203(2), Sec. 36 — WAR DEPARTMENT OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

January, 1945

MR 203(2), Sec. 36 — WAR DEPARTMENT OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

January, 1945

CONTINUED

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 1132

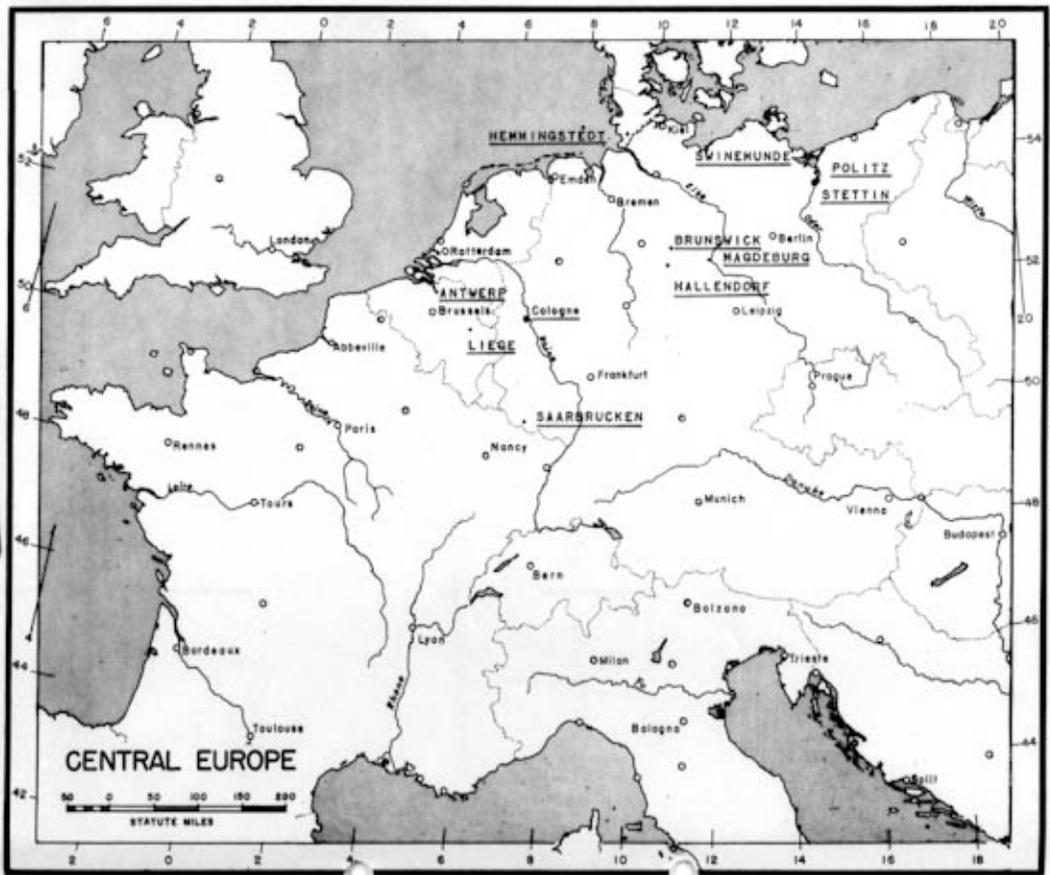
0700 January 14 to 0700 January 15, 1945

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THE WHITE HOUSE

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EUROPE AND THE MEDITERRANEAN - STRATEGIC AIR

13 January. In both daylight and night attacks, 398 RAF heavy bombers struck the Saarbrucken railway center. That same night, 812 tons were dropped on a synthetic oil plant at Politz (north of Stettin). Nine other bombers laid mines off Swinemunde. In all, four bombers were lost.

During the 24-hour period ending at 0600, two rockets and four flying bombs fell in Antwerp; one flying bomb fell in Liege; three rockets and 48 flying bombs landed in scattered areas behind the front.

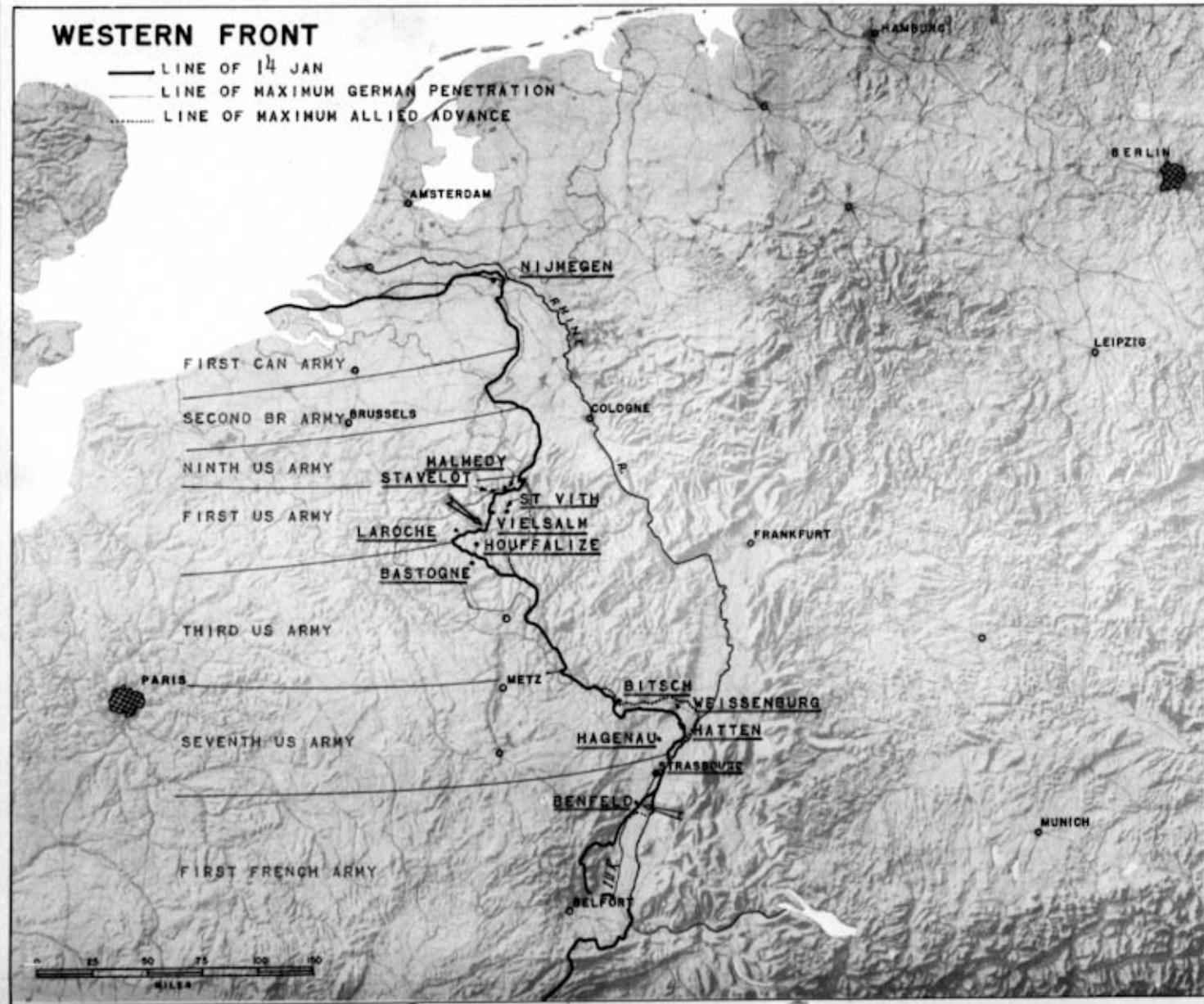
14 January. The 8th Air Force shot down 171 enemy planes in the course of attacks by 910 heavy bombers on bridges at Cologne, oil plants and underground oil storage facilities in the Magdeburg-Brunswick area and at Hemmingstedt, also the steel works at Hallendorf. Eighteen bombers and ten fighters are missing.

During the 24-hour period ending at 0600, 11 rockets fell in England. Thirteen flying bombs in addition to those previously reported were plotted against England, of which nine made landfall; six reached the London area. Four flying bombs were destroyed by gunfire.

Weather grounded the 15th Air Force for the sixth consecutive day.

WESTERN FRONT

- LINE OF 14 JAN
- - - LINE OF MAXIMUM GERMAN PENETRATION
- LINE OF MAXIMUM ALLIED ADVANCE



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EUROPEAN THEATER

13 January. Better weather over some airfields enabled the Tactical Air Forces to fly 1,822 sorties. Most were in support of our First, Third, Seventh and Ninth Armies and against enemy communications behind the battle area, particularly bridges on supply routes to the Ardennes salient and north of Weissenburg. Four enemy aircraft were destroyed; we lost 19.

14 January. In the 24-hours ending at noon, we continued to compress the Ardennes salient from the north, west and south and were an average distance of five miles from the pivot town of Houffalize. Our First Army drove ahead nearly two miles in several sectors of a ten-mile front southeast of Malmedy and Stavelot; southwest of Vielsalm, it cut the Houffalize-St. Vith road in a three-mile advance and continued to gain across a solid front to the tip of the salient.

British units had virtually cleared the area west of a general line Laroche-Bastogne. Our Third Army, in advances north of Bastogne gained nearly three miles.

Our Seventh Army again made small gains south of Bitsch against stiff resistance. Northeast of Hagenau, it was still heavily engaged but succeeded in establishing contact with units which had been isolated in Hatten; our attempt to flank Hatten from the northeast was repulsed.

Intense patrolling continued in the French Army sector south of Strasbourg. The enemy now holds a bridgehead on the Ill River east of Benfeld.

On the Canadian Army front east of Nijmegen, Allied artillery fire destroyed two midget submarines in the Rhine.

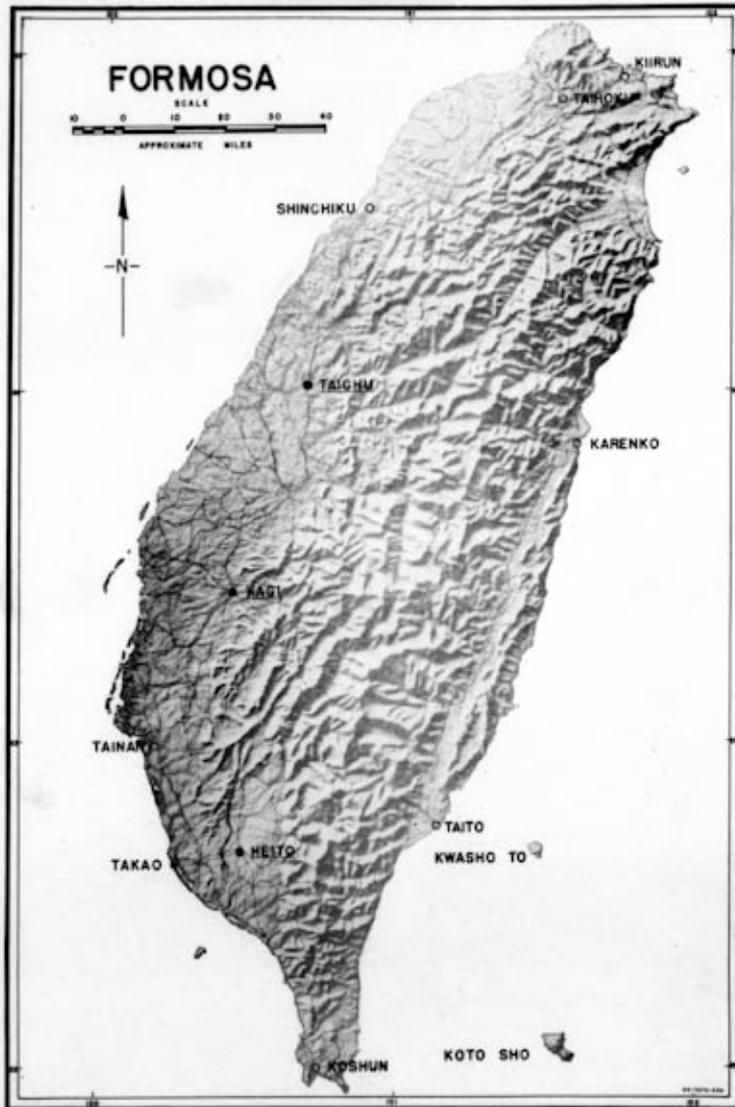
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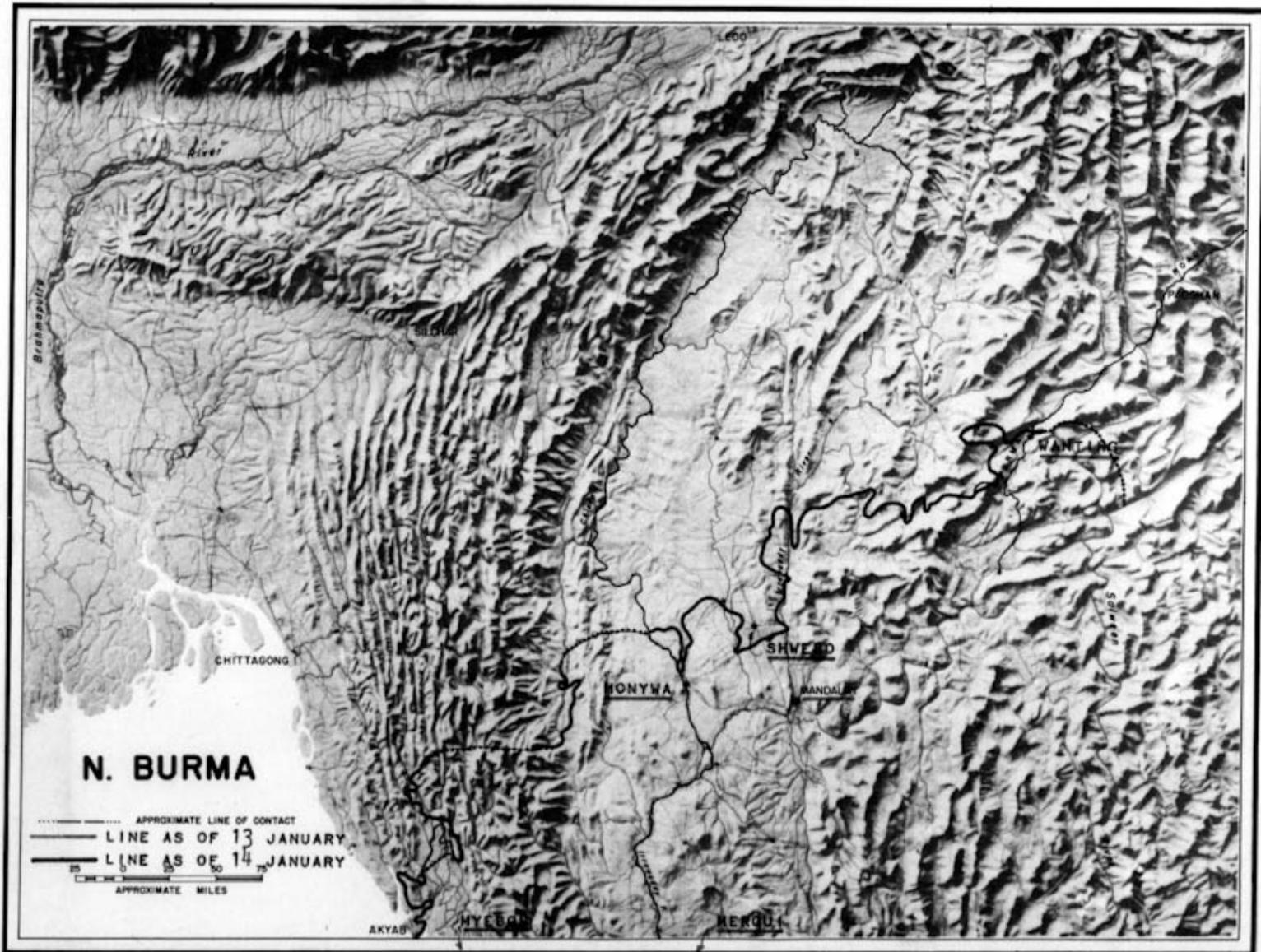
MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

13 January. Weather prevented virtually all operations of the Tactical, Coastal and Balkan Air Forces throughout the 24-hour period ending at sunset, only 30 sorties being flown.

14 January. Activity on the Fifth and Eighth Army fronts up to mid-afternoon continued to be confined to patrol engagements.

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ASIATIC THEATER

12 January. Eleven B-24's of the Eastern Air Command bombed waterfront targets and laid mines at Mergui.

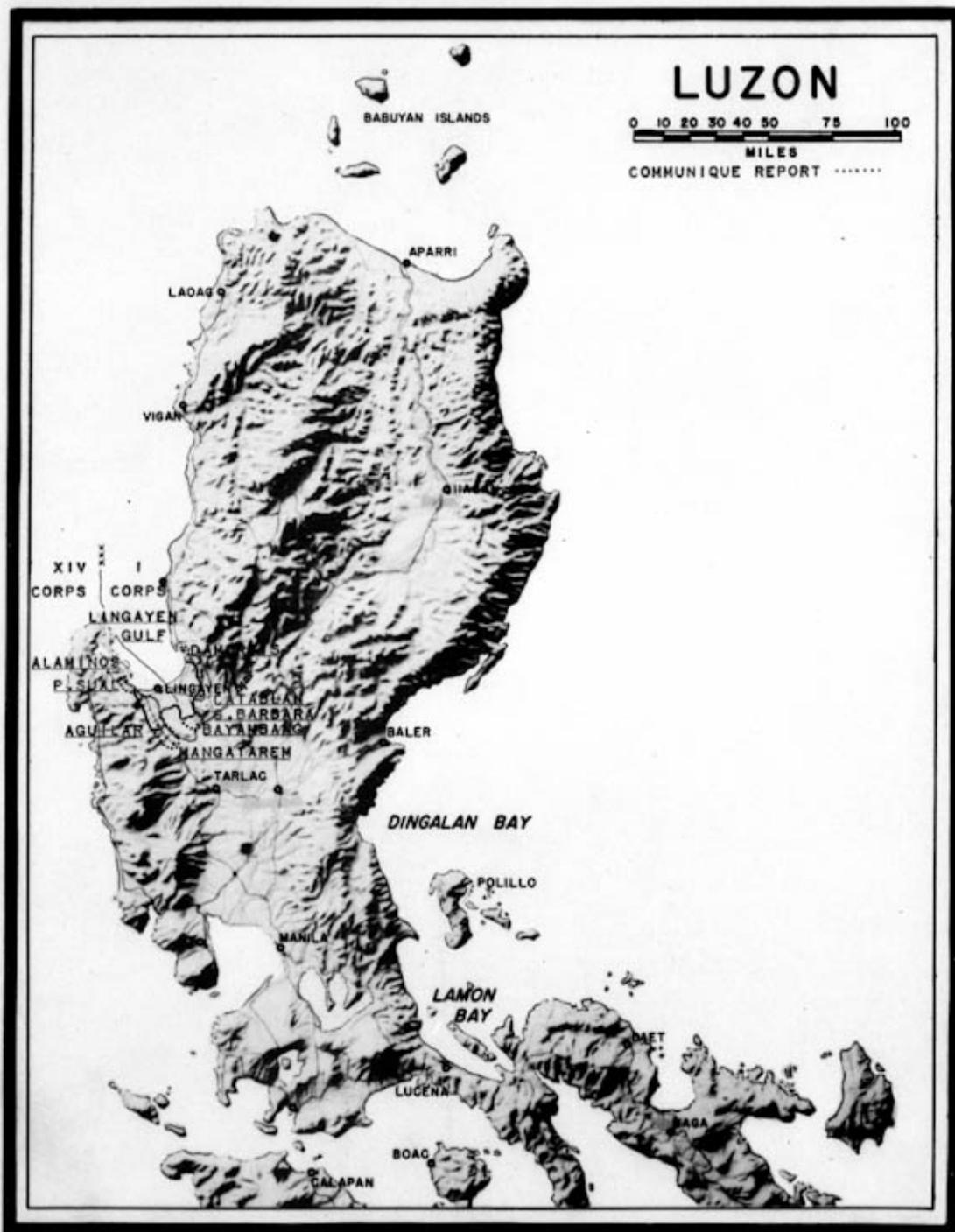
Thirty-five 14th Air Force fighters supported Chinese troops in the Wanting area.

13 January. The 14th Air Force reported 37 sorties, 28 of them by fighters over Wanting.

14 January. Fifty-five China-based B-29's dispatched to Formosa dropped 412 tons of bombs on Kagi and Heito. Twelve more attacked Taichu (Formosa) and ten struck the China coast. We suffered no losses. At Kagi, seven enemy planes were reported destroyed.

13 January. In the Arakan, Allied troops had overcome opposition on the Myebon Peninsula and occupied the town of Myebon. There were numerous small gains on the Burma fronts. Among these was one along the Chindwin River, placing British troops within four miles of Monywa, and another southeast of Shwebo, reaching a point 36 miles from Mandalay.

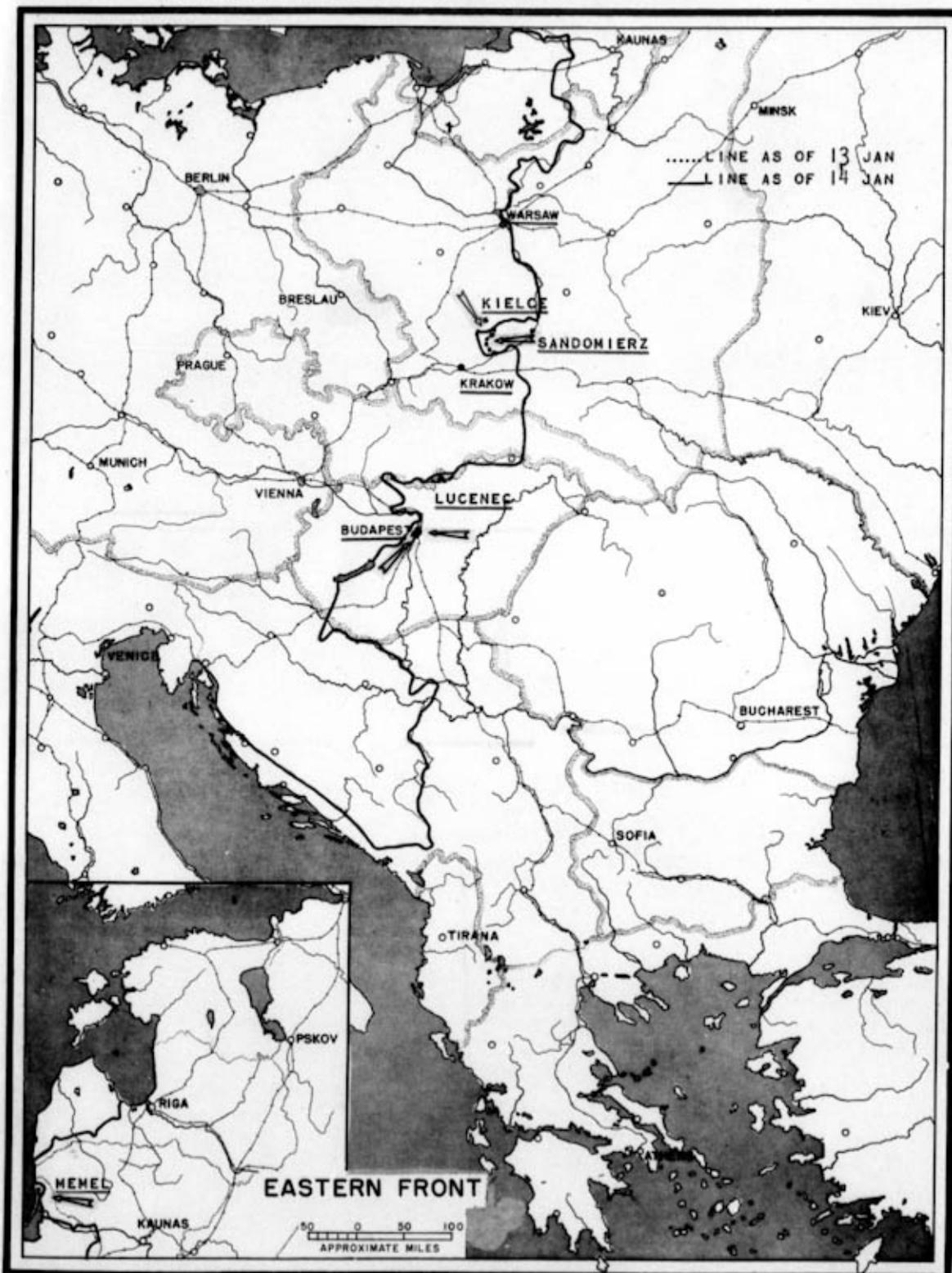
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SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA

15 January. A communique states that our Sixth Army has continued to gain ground rapidly in all directions from its Lingayen Gulf beachhead. On the east we pushed north along the coast ten miles to Damortis and penetrated southeast five miles beyond Santa Barbara where we are approaching Catablan. On the west, we have penetrated 22 miles inland crossing the Agno River near Bayambang and have taken Mangatarem, eight miles south of Aguilar. On the western flank of the beachhead, we advanced 20 miles to secure Port Sual; ten miles farther northwest we are approaching Alaminos.



EASTERN FRONT

14 January. Exploiting their breakthrough at the Sandomierz bridgehead, Soviet units advanced 20 miles northwest and cut the railroad between Krakow and Kielce. Northeast of Budapest, they captured Lucenec, a communications center in Slovakia. They also launched small-scale attacks north and south of Warsaw and near Memel.

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WAR DEPARTMENT
DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 1131

0700 January 13 to 0700 January 14, 1945

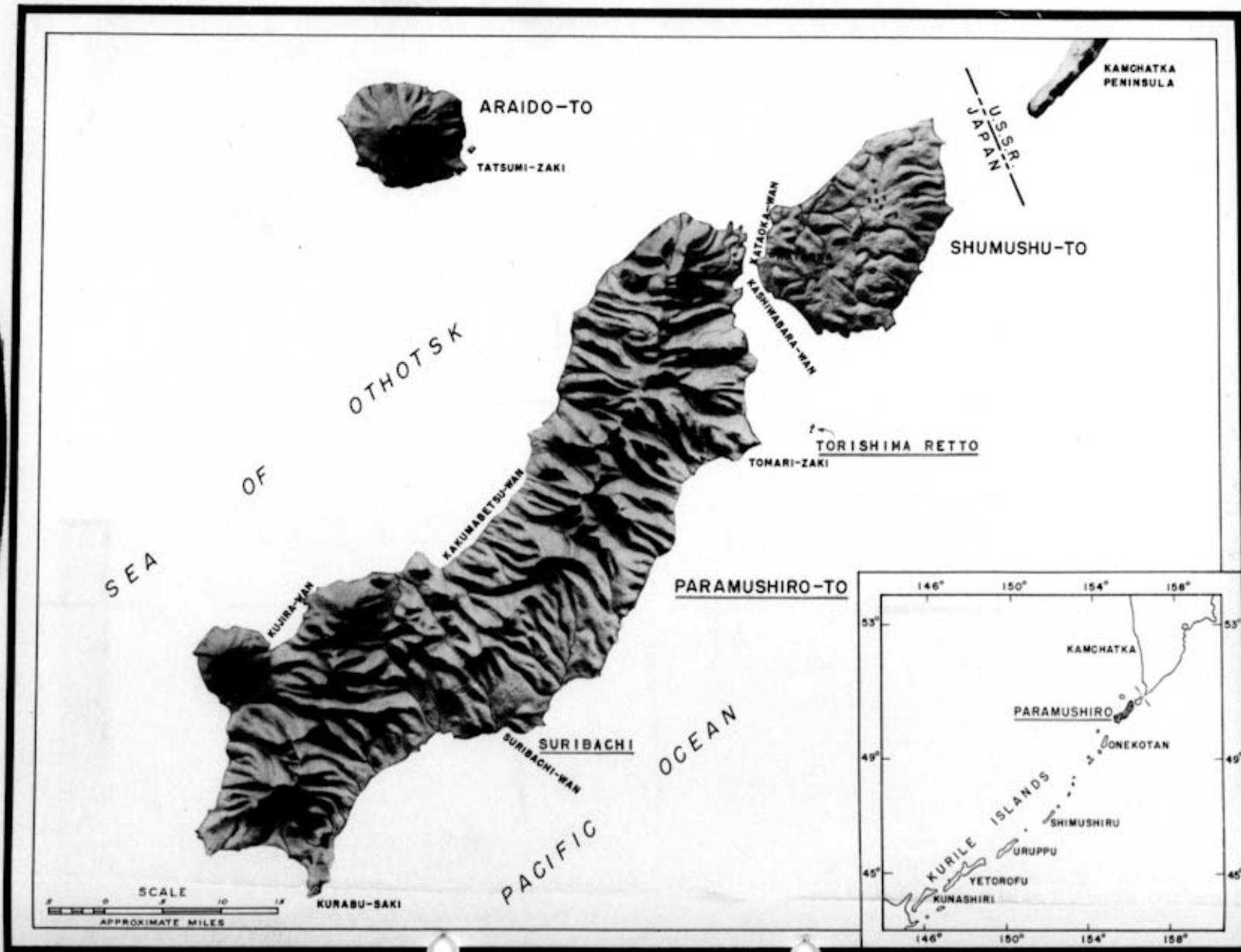
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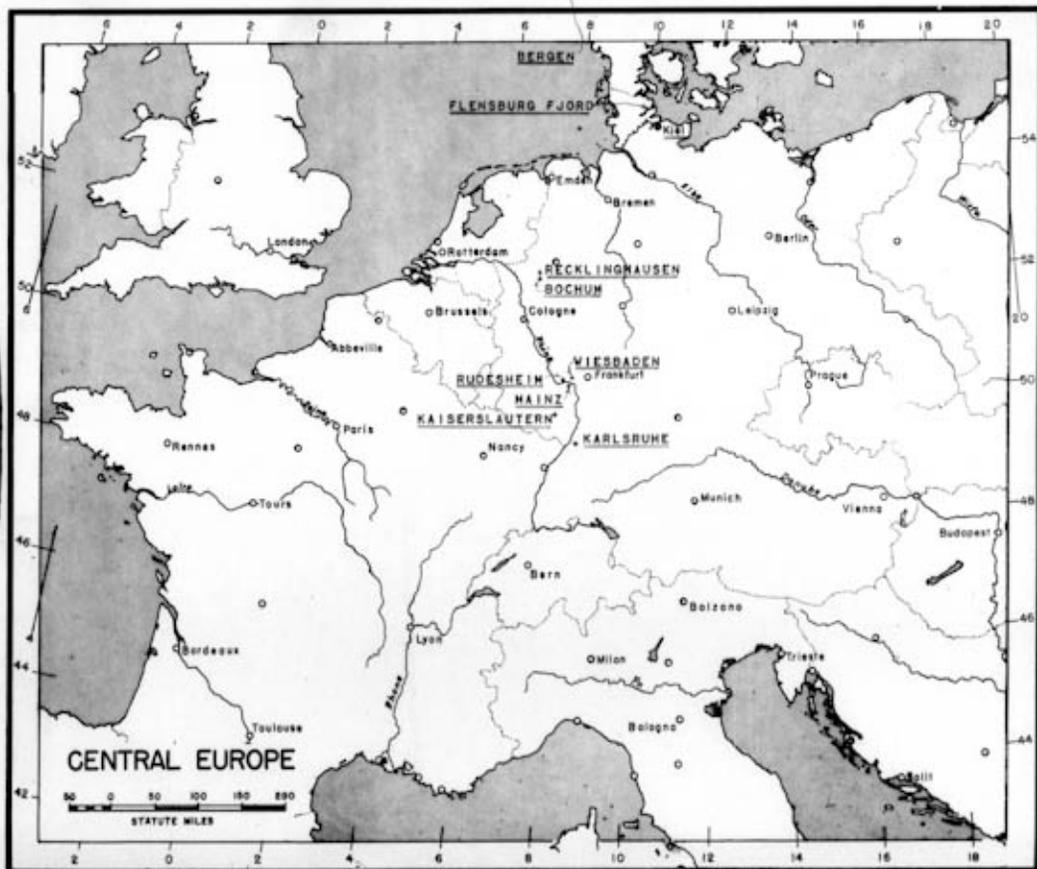


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WESTERN HEMISPHERE

12 January. A balloon, described by civilian witnesses as 30 feet high and 60 feet in diameter, landed six miles north of the US border near Estavan, Saskatchewan, released an 18-inch bomb, rose and drifted eastwards. No further sightings have been reported. The bomb (unexploded) is being guarded.

Seven medium bombers attacked Torishima Retto, and three B-24's attacked air installations at Suribachi, both in the Kuriles.



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EUROPE AND THE MEDITERRANEAN - STRATEGIC AIR

12 January. Although weather prevented heavy bomber attacks on Germany, 18 RAF heavy bombers attacked submarine pens at Bergen and six others, attacking shipping in the same area, sank one merchant vessel. Each bomber dropped a six-ton bomb. Three bombers were lost. That night, 17 Mosquitoes attacked benzol plants near Bochum and Recklinghausen. Twenty-four heavy bombers laid mines in Kiel Harbor and Flensburg Fjord; four bombers are missing.

During the 24-hour period ending at 0600, three rockets and one flying bomb fell in Antwerp; four flying bombs fell in Liege; five rockets and 26 flying bombs fell in scattered areas behind the front.

13 January. 947 escorted heavy bombers of the 8th Air Force attacked seven rail bridges across the Rhine from Rudesheim to the Karlsruhe area, rail yards at Kaiserslautern and near Mainz, and targets at Wiesbaden. Six enemy planes were destroyed; 33 bombers are missing, of which 23 are believed safe; 10 fighters are also missing.

The 15th Air Force was grounded for the fifth successive day.

During the 24-hour period ending at 0600, nine rockets fell in England; one other rocket fell in the sea off the British coast. Between 0559 and 0655, 13 flying bombs were plotted off the Norfolk coast; four of these made landfall of which one reached the London area.

WESTERN FRONT



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EUROPEAN THEATER

12 January. Weather limited the Tactical Air Forces to 24 sorties.

13 January. By noon the British Second Army had made a small gain north of Sittard, improving its positions east of the Meuse River. Our Ninth Army repulsed several enemy raids between Duren and Monschau.

On the northern flank of the Ardennes salient, our First Army advanced more than a mile against light resistance along a ten-mile front southeast of Stavelot. To the west, we made advances up to two miles across a 13-mile front between Vielsalm and Laroche. British troops continued to clear the area northeast of St. Hubert.

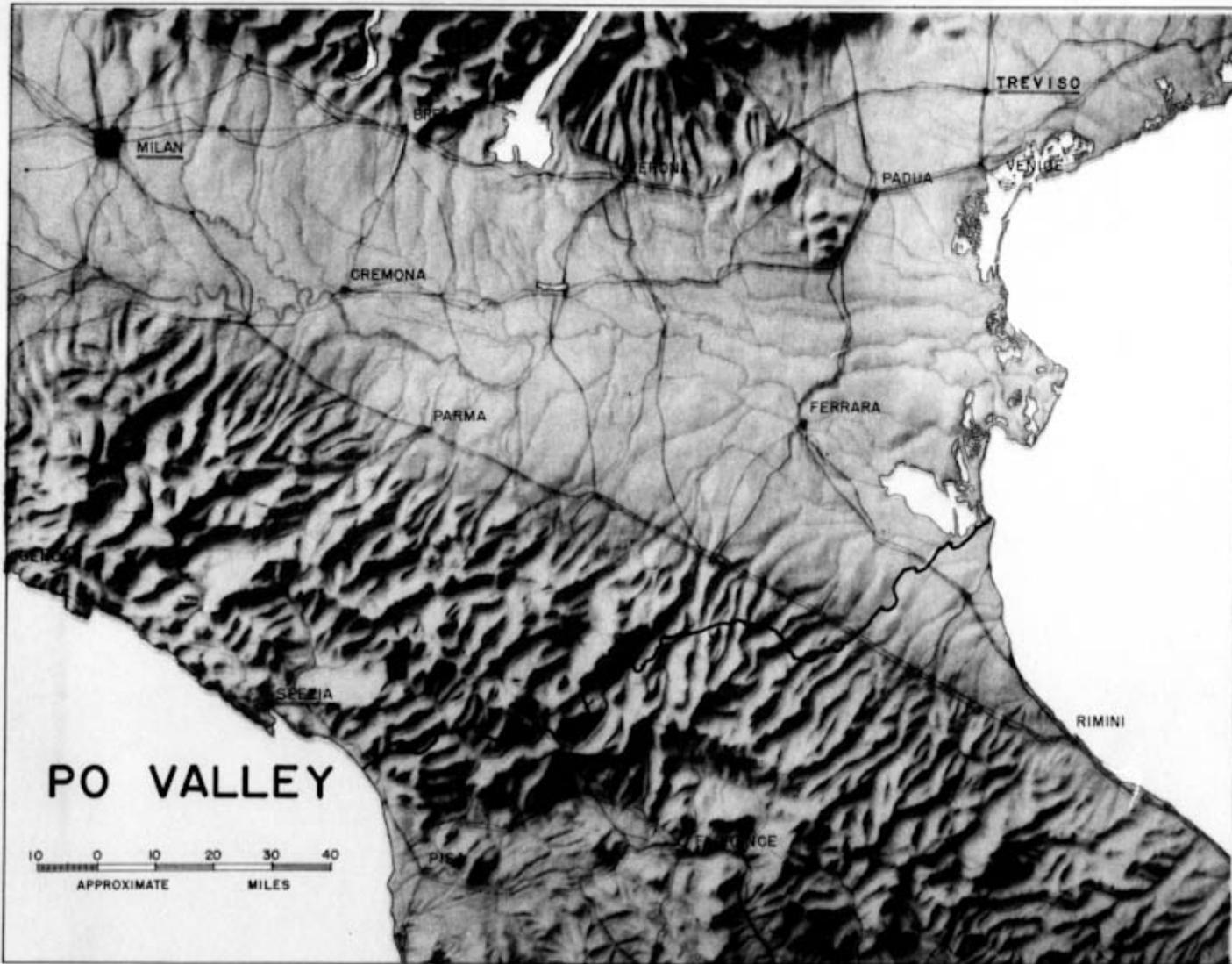
Our Third Army pushed north rapidly making another junction with British troops at a point midway on the road between St. Hubert and Laroche; opposition was light in this sector, and we made general advances up to five miles. We gained two and one-half miles in another advance which reduced a small enemy salient southeast of Bastogne.

Our Seventh Army withdrew slightly south of Forbach but continued to make minor gains south and southeast of Bitsch against moderate to heavy resistance. Continued heavy fighting northeast of Hagenau temporarily isolated one of our infantry battalions at Hatten.

In the French Army sector south of Strasbourg, we repulsed an attack at Benfeld.

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MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

12 January. Weather limited the Tactical Air Force to 387 sorties and prevented any effective support over the battle area. Attacks were made on communications between Milan and Treviso and on gun positions and dumps in the vicinity of Spezia. Greece-based planes of the Balkan Air Force, in some 40 sorties, escorted armored columns and attacked gun emplacements at Milos.

13 January. There was only patrolling on the Fifth and Eighth Army fronts up to mid-afternoon.

14 January. A truce between the ELAS and Government forces in Greece will become effective on 15 January. Hostilities will continue until that date when the ELAS forces will withdraw under British control to areas as yet unspecified.

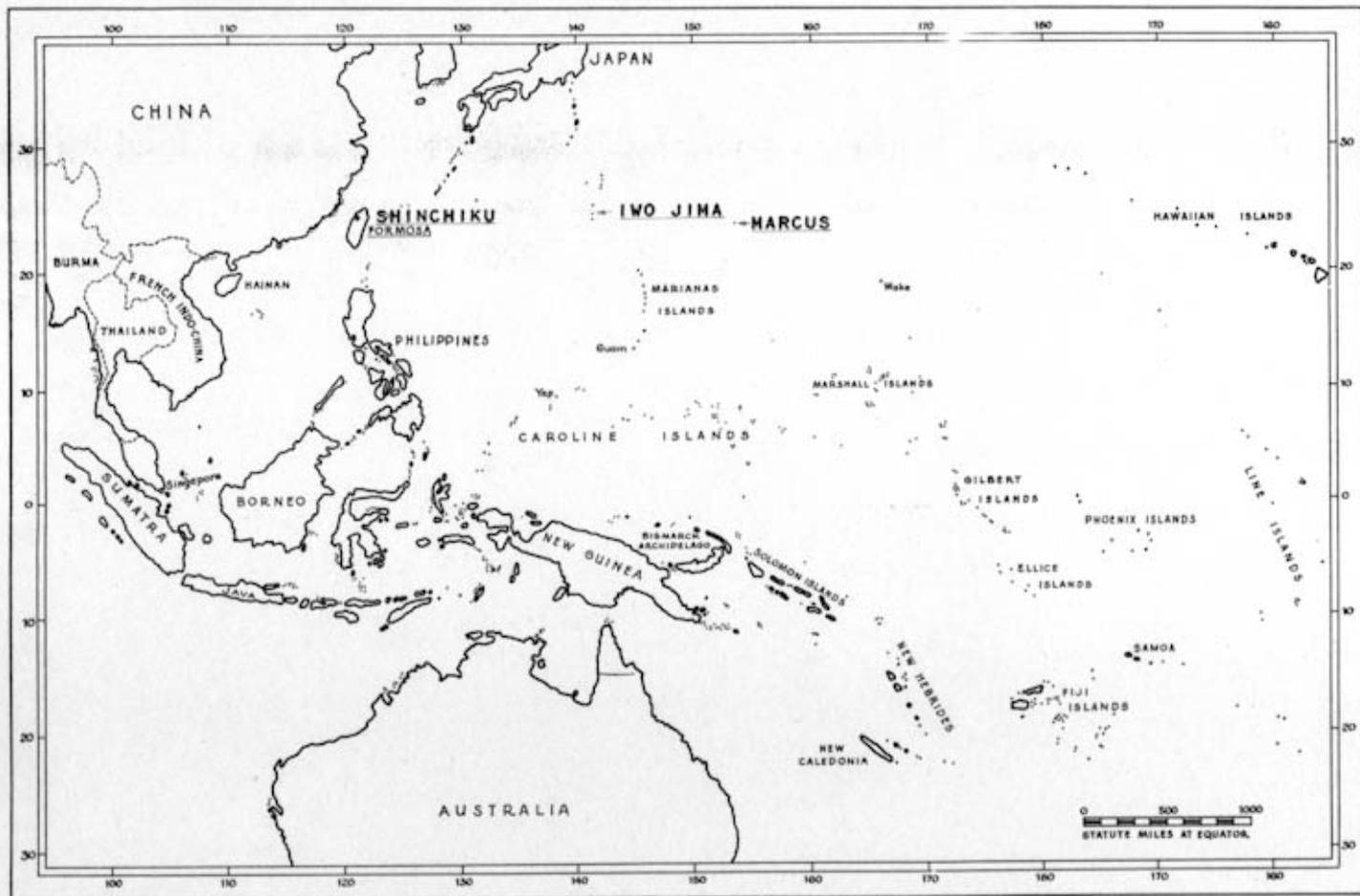
ASIATIC AREA

11 January. The Eastern Air Command flew 1,865 sorties of which 599 were tactical. In these operations heavy bombers attacked rail lines from Rangoon to Moulmein and from Bangkok to Chiangmai with a total of 150 tons of bombs destroying four bridges. Medium bombers damaged rail installations at Toungoo while lighter planes made numerous attacks north and south of Mandalay and supported ground operations.

11 and 12 January. Enemy raids against Allied installations in the Shwebo area destroyed four of our transport planes.

12 January. Commandos had landed on the Myebon Peninsula in Hunter's Bay, encountering some opposition. West of the Chindwin, Allied troops captured Gangaw. East of the Chindwin, they were mopping up in Budalin and leading elements were eight miles south of the town. West of the Irrawaddy, Allied troops advanced unopposed to a line extending from 12 miles southwest of Shwebo to a point on the railroad nine miles southeast of the town, placing them within 40 miles of Mandalay. Patrols crossed the Irrawaddy in the Thabeikkyin and Singu areas, encountering enemy positions.

South of Namhkam, Chinese troops advanced east more than two miles on a six-mile front.



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SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA

10-12 January. Among more than 475 previously unreported sorties 140 were flown against airdromes, communications and troops on Luzon, principally in the Manila area. Sixteen enemy planes were destroyed, ten of them being shot down by two US fighters.

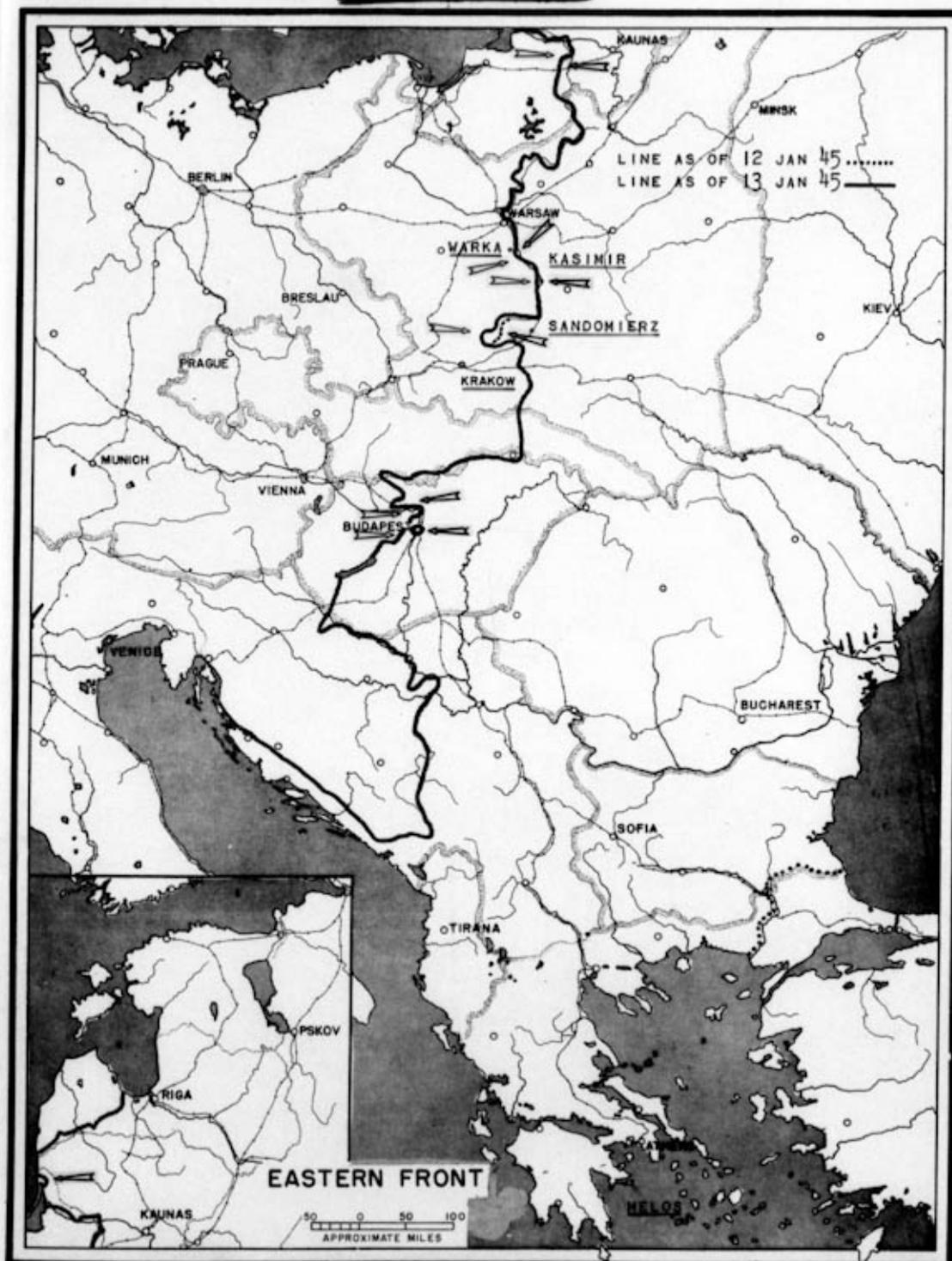
12 January. The first heavy resistance on Luzon was encountered in the hills northeast of San Fabian. By nightfall, our Sixth Army's I Corps was attacking north along the shore with troops who landed the previous day. To the west the Corps consolidated its advances between Manaoag and Malasiqui, reaching Mapandan and Santa Barbara. An additional division was landed and moved into the Corps' front northwest of Manaoag. The XIV Corps penetrated to Dumpay, four miles south of San Carlos, and on the west advanced five miles south of Bugallon to capture Aguilar.

Scattered contacts continued on Leyte.

PACIFIC OCEAN AREA

14 January. Early in the day, China-based B-29's of the 20th Air Force were dispatched to attack airfields at Shinchiku, Formosa.

10-13 January. Fifty-two Liberators struck Iwo Jima in three separate attacks.



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EASTERN FRONT

13 January. In the Sandomierz bridgehead, northeast, of Kracow, Soviets broke through heavily fortified German defenses and advanced 24 miles on a broad front. Increased activity was reported from several sectors, but this did not produce any other significant changes of the front.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 1130

0700 January 12 to 0700 January 13, 1945

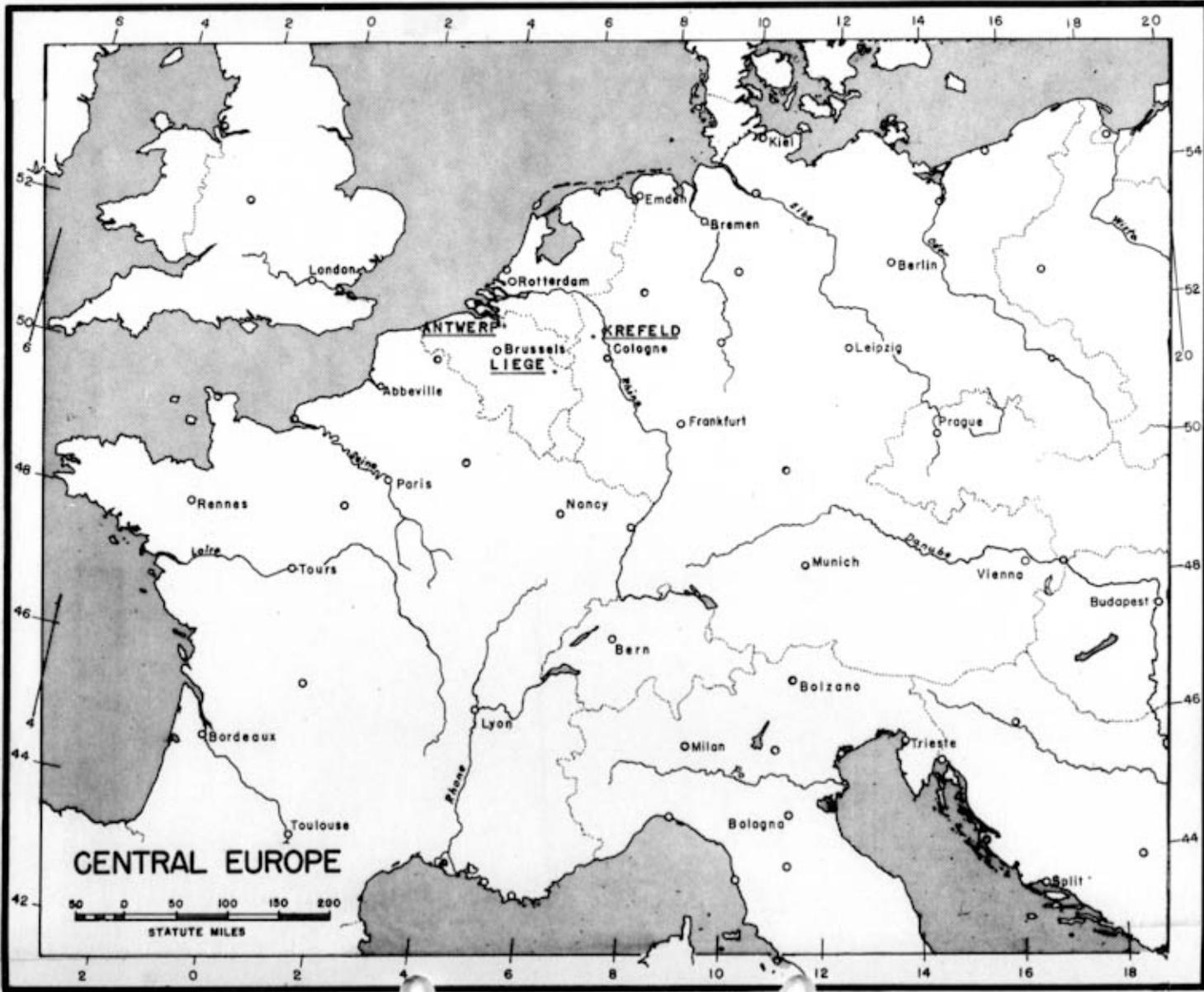
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EUROPE AND THE MEDITERRANEAN - STRATEGIC AIR

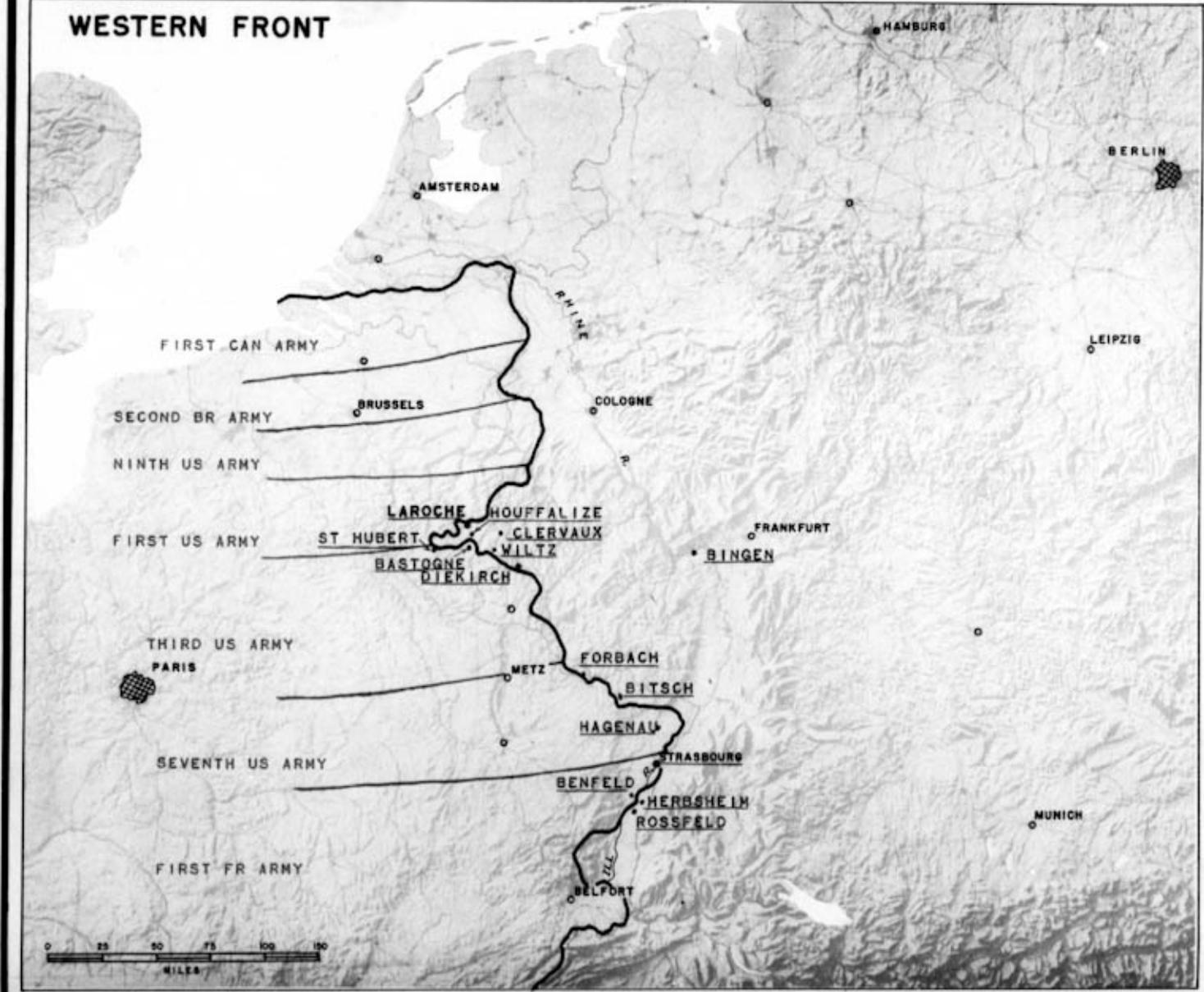
11 JANUARY. Weather limited operations to an attack by the RAF, in which 670 tons of bombs were dropped on railyards in the Krefeld area.

During the 24 hours ending at 0600, two rockets and two flying bombs fell in Antwerp; three flying bombs fell in Liege, and seven rockets and 17 flying bombs struck scattered areas behind the front.

12 JANUARY. Heavy bombers were grounded by the weather.

In the 24 hours ending at 0600, one rocket fell in England.

WESTERN FRONT



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EUROPE - THE WESTERN FRONT

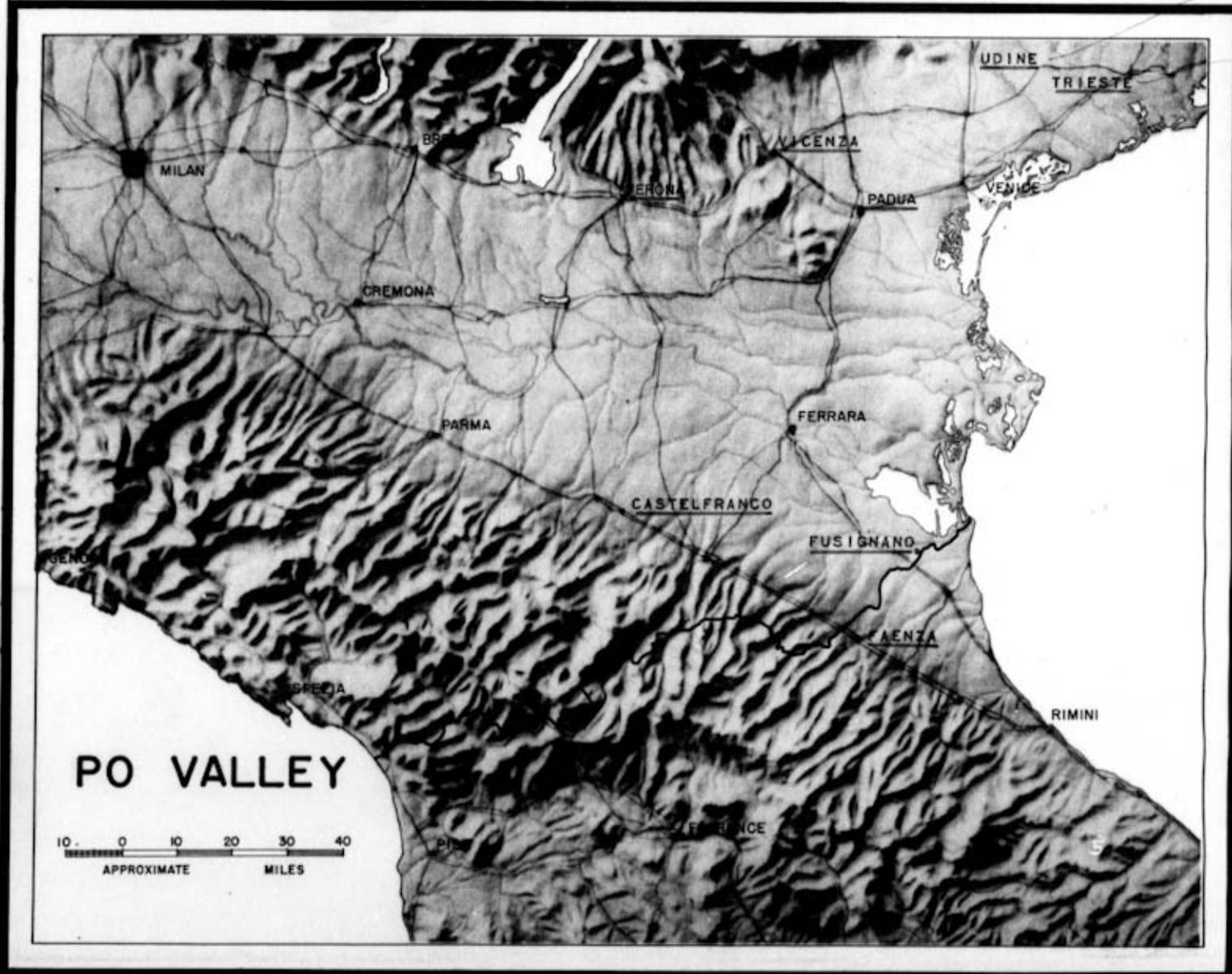
11 JANUARY. Weather limited the Tactical Air Forces to 410 sorties in the 24 hours ending at sunset. One hundred tons of bombs were dropped on communications at Houffalize and a road defile at Clerveaux in the Ardennes salient, and another hundred tons on rail targets southeast and west of Bingen.

12 JANUARY. By noon our First Army had gained some ground and straightened out its line on the northern flank of the Ardennes salient. East of Laroche, limited progress was made. South of Laroche, we advanced about four miles clearing the area between the highways running to Bastogne and St. Hubert; British units advancing from the northwest were within six miles of our line on the southern flank of the salient. Other British troops made contact with our Third Army near St. Hubert, which was clear of the enemy.

The Third Army maintained its defensive positions between St. Hubert and the Bastogne-Houffalize road and continued to clear the area between Bastogne and Wiltz, although impeded by heavy snow. West of Diekirch, a small, unopposed advance was made.

Our Seventh Army had heavy fighting south of Forbach. It made further small gains south and southeast of Bitsch, although heavy enemy pressure forced a slight withdrawal in one sector. There was also heavy fighting northeast of Hagenau.

South of Strasbourg, the enemy was exerting heavy pressure on Benfeld; our garrisons at Herbsheim and Rossfeld succeeded in withdrawing to the Ill River.

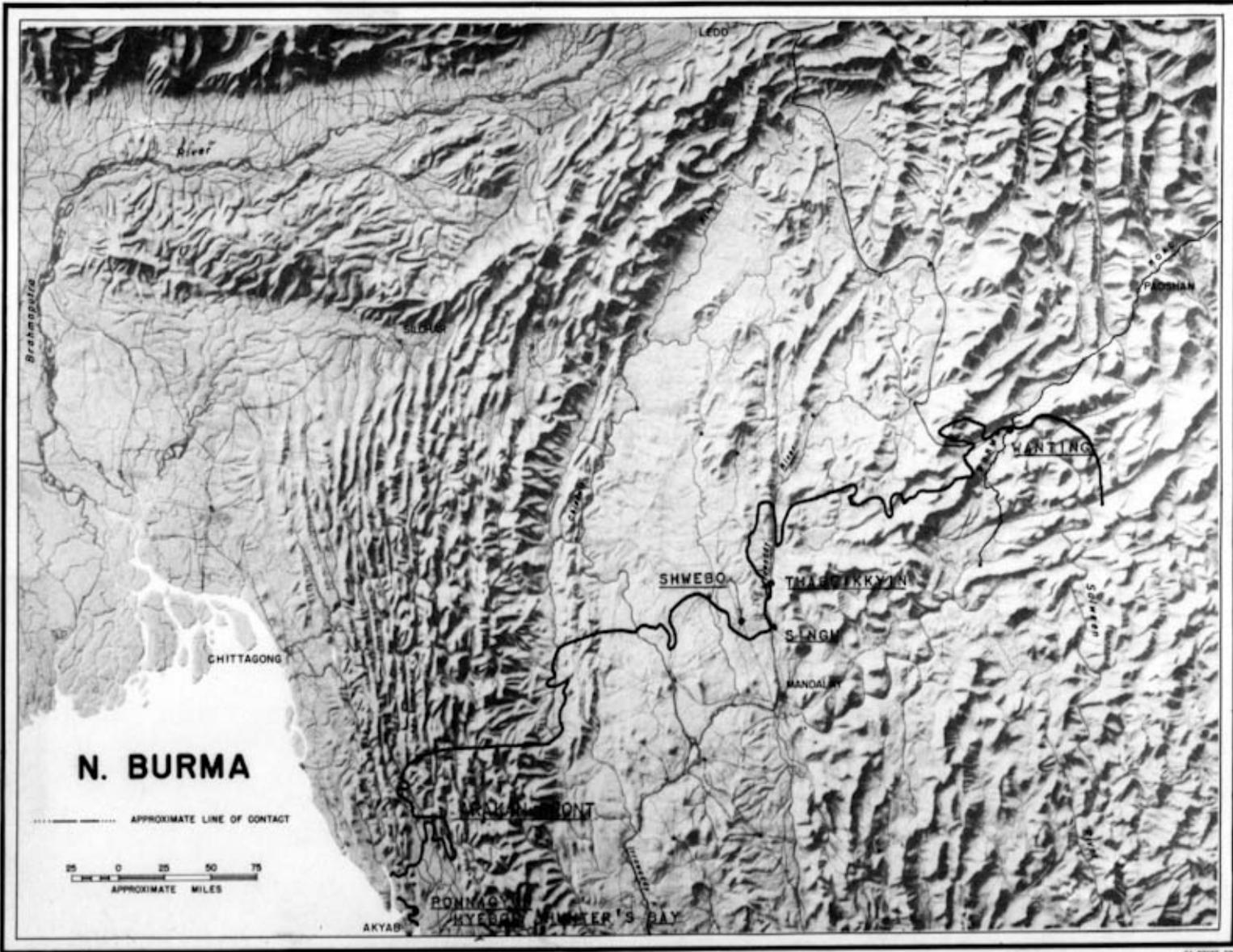


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MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

11 JANUARY. During 998 sorties flown by light planes of the Tactical Air Force up to sunset, extensive attacks were continued against communications, supplies and storage facilities throughout the Po Valley; among targets hit were the Castelfranco railyards, and rail lines north of Verona and in the Vicenza-Udine and Padua-Trieste areas. Support was given to our ground forces, mostly in the eastern sector. We lost nine planes.

12 JANUARY. In the 24 hours ending at 1500, the Eighth Army repulsed enemy raids near Fusignano and west of Faenza, and continued patrolling throughout its front. Patrolling also continued on the Fifth Army front.



ASIATIC THEATER

10 JANUARY. The Eastern Air Command flew 1,438 sorties of which 430 were tactical. Medium bombers attacked Japanese positions at Gangaw and supplies southeast of Lashio. Lighter aircraft struck widespread targets on the Burma fronts and attacked shipping on the Irrawaddy southwest of Mandalay and along the coast south of Akyab.

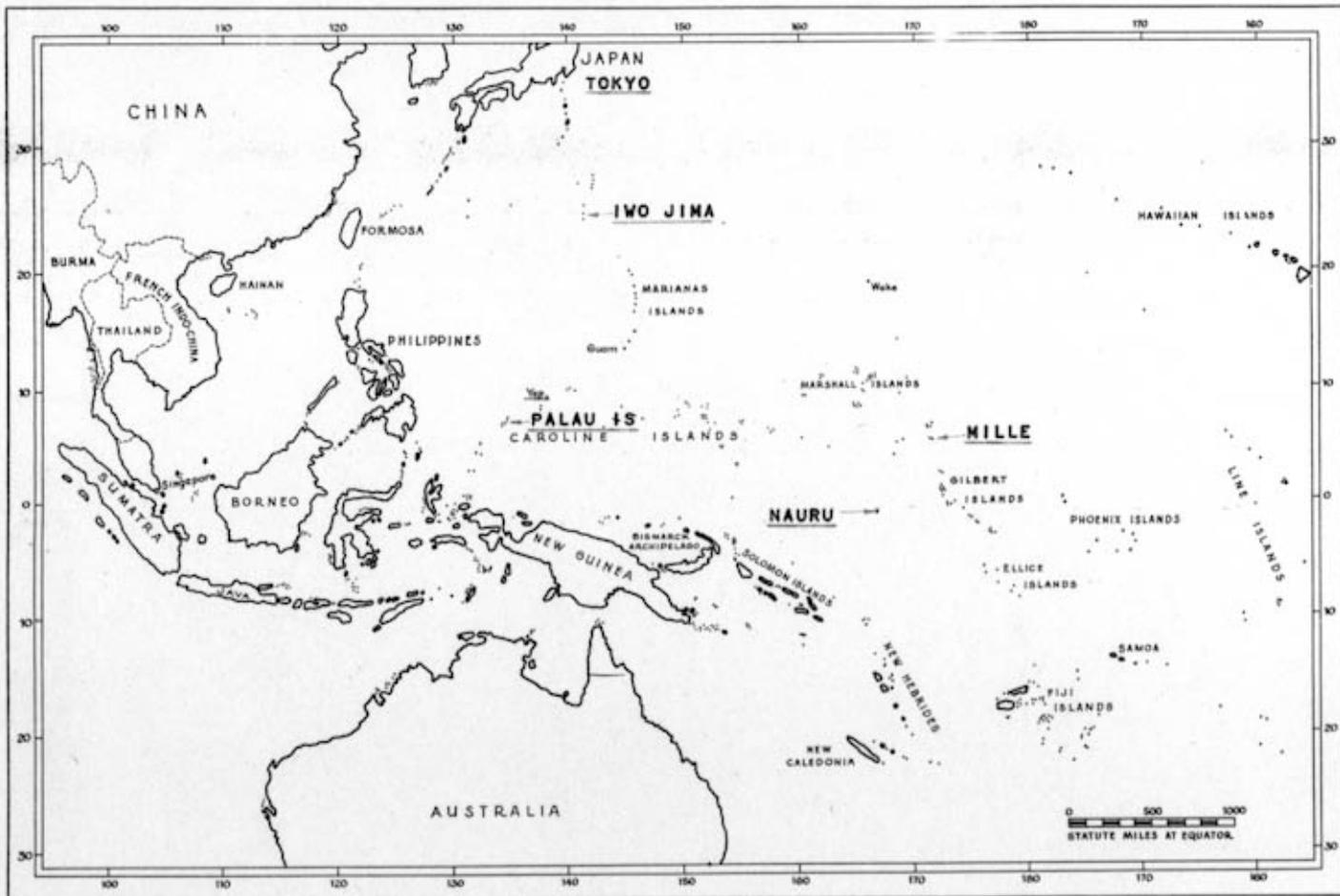
10 and 11 JANUARY. Ninety-one 14th Air Force planes supported Chinese troops in the Wanting area.

11 JANUARY. Allied troops on the Arakan front advanced nearly ten miles north from Ponnagyun, and patrols penetrated southeast to Myebon on Hunter's Bay. West of the Irrawaddy, the British had advanced approximately ten miles south from Shwebo and had advanced east from this area to the vicinity of Singu. Farther north, other British troops were in Thabeikkyin.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

10 and 11 JANUARY. 330 previously unreported sorties were flown in the Southwest Pacific area against targets including ground support missions on Luzon, principally in the Manila and Vigan areas, where 58 small enemy vessels also were damaged. Four additional enemy planes were destroyed.

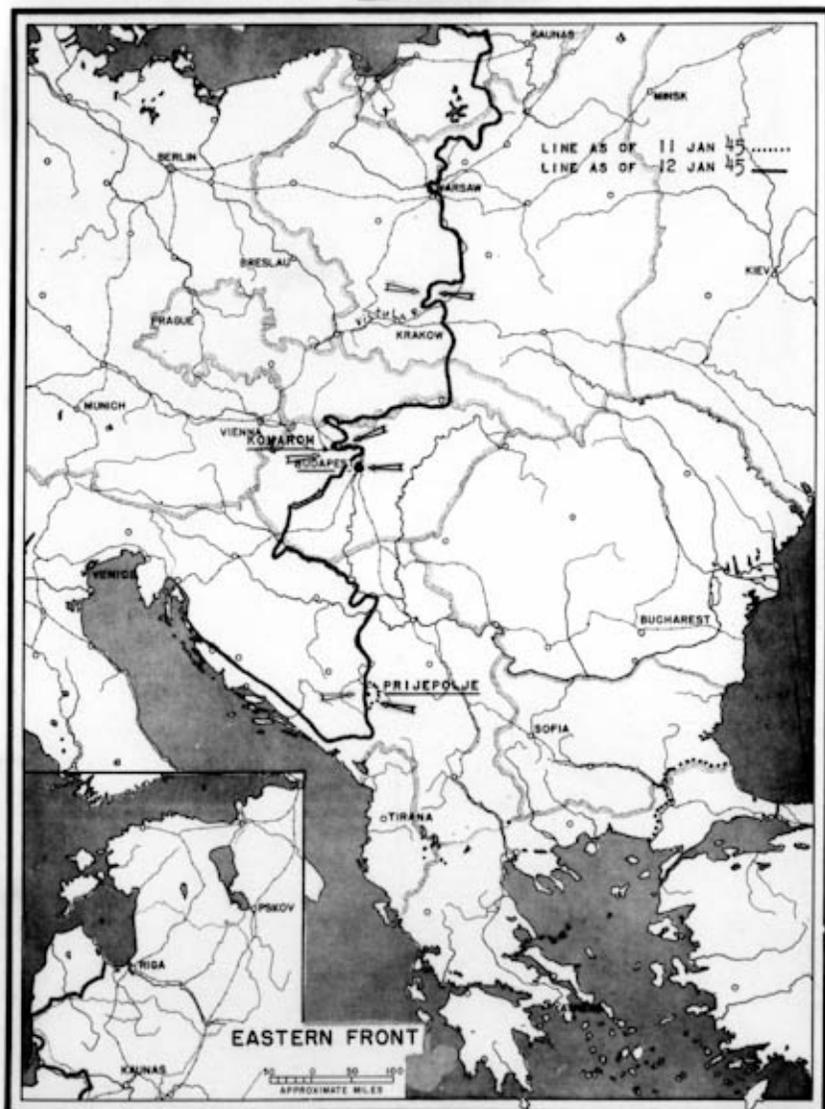
11 JANUARY. Our Sixth Army continued to advance inland from its Lingayen Gulf beachhead, meeting only occasional opposition. By



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nightfall, the I Corps had penetrated 12 miles southeast to the Malasiqui area, where slight contacts were reported. To the west, the XIV Corps overcame resistance at Bugallon and advanced farther south. Early in the day our beaches in the San Fabian area were heavily shelled for an hour by mortars and artillery. We continued to land troops during the day.

On Leyte, we mopped up scattered enemy near the west coast.

10 JANUARY. We captured Boac on northwestern Marinduque.

9 and 10 JANUARY. Pacific Ocean Area B-24's attacked Iwo Jima, and 73 fighters attacked shipping and land targets at Nauru, Mille, Yap, and in the Palaus.

10 and 11 JANUARY. Five additional B-29's of the 21st Bomber Command, in separate missions, attacked a steel plant and other targets in the Tokyo area.

EASTERN FRONT

12 JANUARY. In the Vistula bridgehead, Soviet troops made some penetrations of German positions. Partisan forces in Yugoslavia captured Prijepolje. In Budapest, and along the neighboring front, fighting continued without significant change in the lines.

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

The 13th Airborne Division (Major General Elbridge G. Chapman) has been ordered from Camp Mackall, N. C., for movement overseas from the New York Port of Embarkation.

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WAR DEPARTMENT
DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 1129

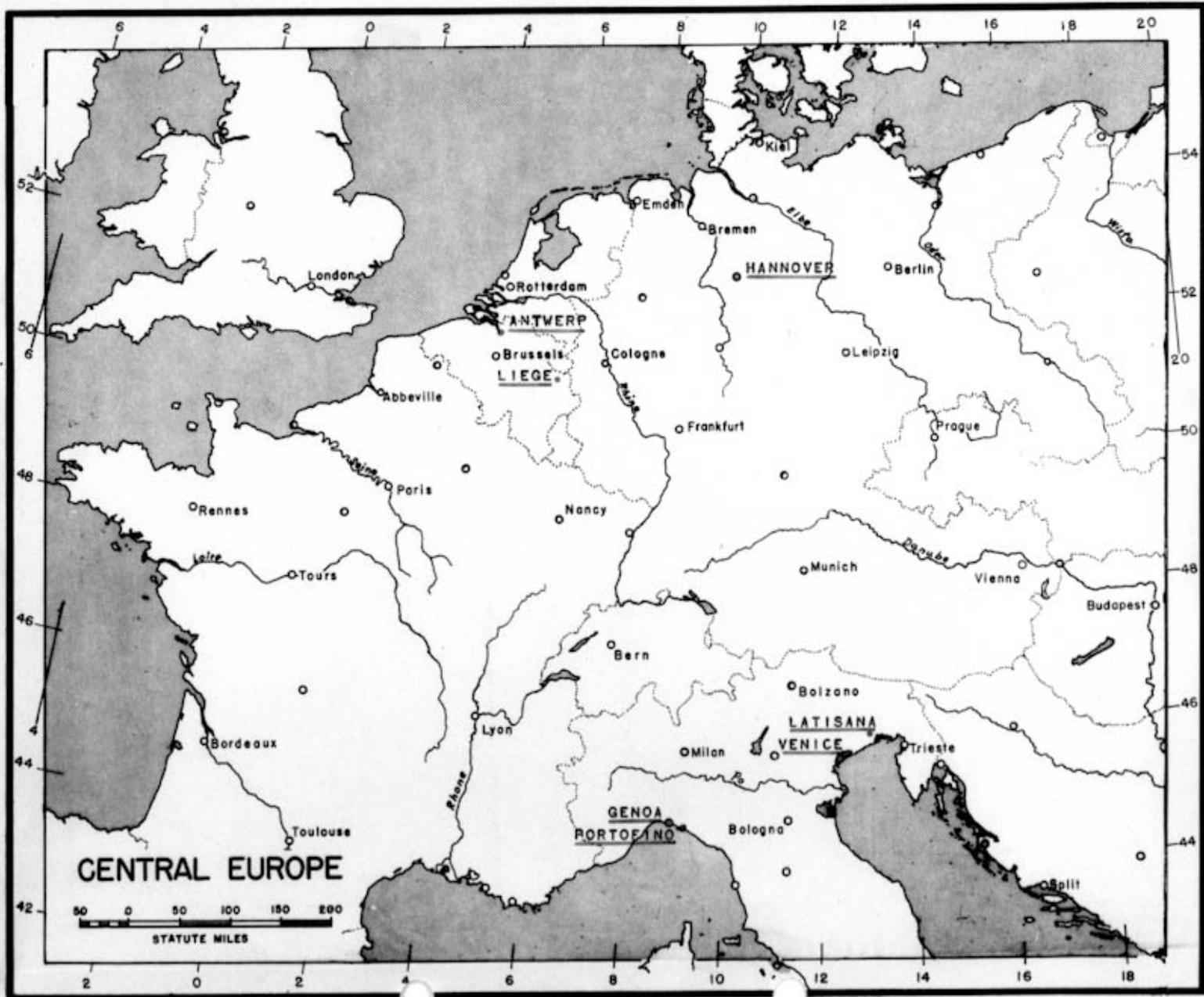
0700 January 11 to 0700 January 12, 1945

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WESTERN FRONT



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EUROPEAN THEATER

1. During the 24-hour period ending at sunset, 10 January, the Tactical Air Forces flew 1,199 sorties, of which more than 500 were in support of our Third and Seventh Armies. Two enemy planes were shot down; we lost six.

That night, 49 RAF Mosquito bombers attacked Hannover.

On 11 January, weather grounded the 8th Air Force.

During the 24-hour period ending at 0600, 10 January, two rockets fell in Antwerp and six flying bombs in Liege; five rockets and 30 flying bombs fell in scattered areas behind the front.

During the 24-hour period ending at 0600, 11 January, four rockets fell in England.

2. In the 24 hours ending at noon, 11 January, our First Army continued to push back the northern flank of the Ardennes salient. Southwest of Vielsalm we were within three miles of the enemy's main supply road, which runs northeast out of Houffalize. Heavy resistance continued. A communique states that Laroche has been taken.

A penetration to four miles southwest of Laroche placed Allied troops south of the Laroche-St. Hubert road. The northwest corner of the salient was pushed back about three miles along a ten-mile front.

On the southern flank, our Third Army gained a mile in one sector between St. Hubert and the Bastogne-Houffalize road and made smaller gains to the northeast. There were one-mile advances in several sectors between

Bastogne and Wiltz. A communique states that we have entered St. Hubert.

The Seventh Army gained about a mile against light resistance south of Saarbrucken, made slight gains east of Sarreguemines, and continued to gain ground south and southeast of Bitsch. Southeast of Hagenau we withdrew to positions west of Herlisheim.

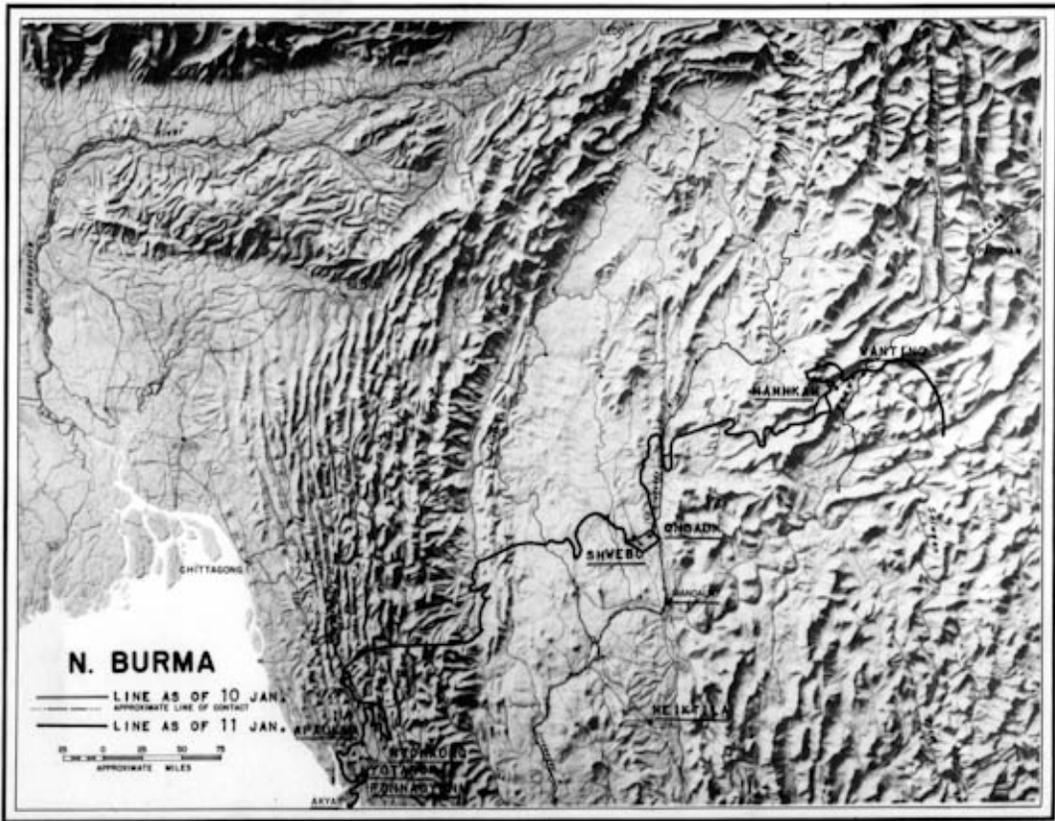
South of Strasbourg, enemy pressure from infantry and tanks forced us to evacuate Obenheim and left our units cut off at Herbsheim. Our line in this area has been withdrawn to the Ill River except for a small salient at Rossfeld, where parachute troops relieved other encircled units.

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

1. During the 24-hour period ending at 1800, 10 January, the Tactical Air Force flew 671 sorties. Most of these were by fighters and fighter bombers which did extensive damage to communications throughout northern Italy, including the destruction of two rail bridges and numerous rail cuts near Latisana, and on the Brenner Route. One vessel was destroyed off Venice and six damaged off Genoa. We lost three planes. Weather again caused cancellation of Balkan Air Force operations.

On 11 January, weather grounded the 15th Air Force operations for the third successive day.

2. In the 24 hours ending at 1500, 11 January, the Eighth Army made slight adjustments in its positions north and northwest of Ravenna. Patrolling was continued throughout the Eighth and Fifth Army fronts.



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ASIATIC THEATER

1. On 9 January, the Eastern Air Command flew 1,483 sorties of which 426 were tactical. In these operations heavy bombers destroyed two bridges on the Burma-Siam railway; lighter planes attacked enemy positions, troop concentrations and communications on the Arakan front and north of Mandalay. An airfield at Meiktila also was attacked. Early on 10 January enemy planes again attacked Akyab Harbor causing some casualties and damaging landing craft.

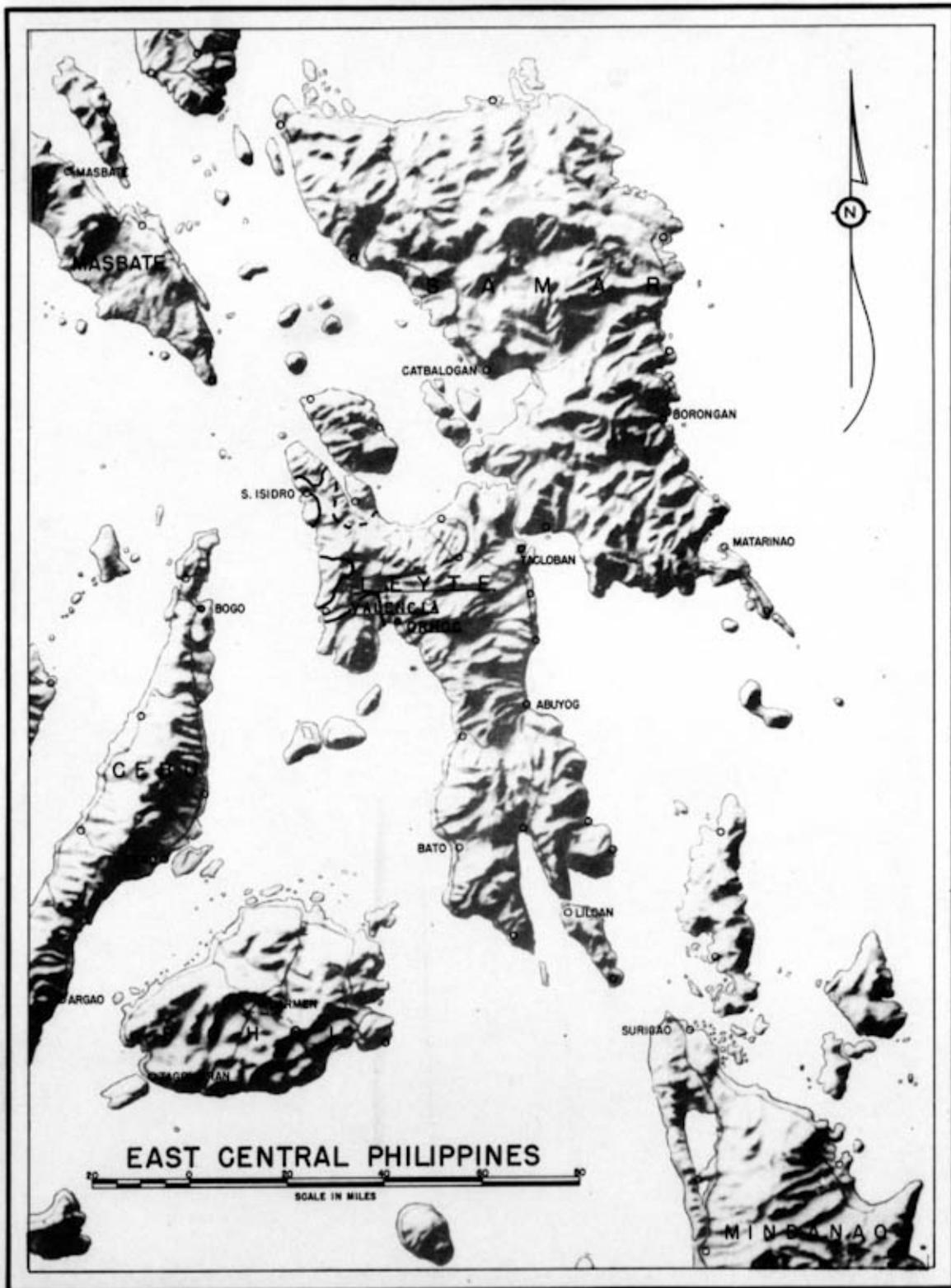
2. The 14th Air Force reported 39 offensive sorties for 9 January, principally in attacks on fortified positions in the Wanting area and targets on the Burma Road.

3. By 10 January Allied troops had occupied Ponnagyun without opposition and made contact with the enemy seven miles to the north. West African reconnaissance troops found Yotarok clear; to the north, others reached Apaukwa on the Kaladan River without contact. West of the Irrawaddy, British troops cleared Japanese resistance northwest and west of Shwebo and advanced seven miles southeast of the town. Southeast of Bhamo, Chinese troops have partially encircled Namhkam. Other Chinese troops were closing in on Wanting. Hill positions north of the town were captured.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

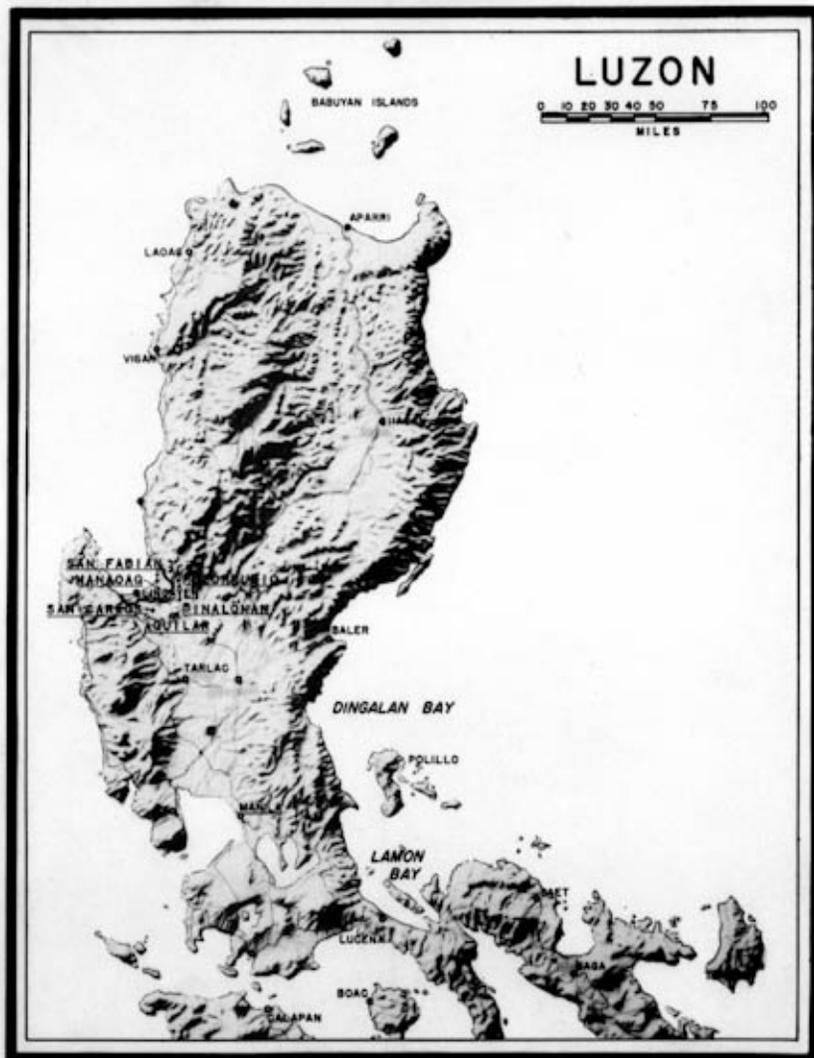
1. During 9 and 10 January, about 400 previously unreported sorties

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were flown in the Southwest Pacific Area, of which more than half, including some 50 by heavy bombers, were in the vicinity of Lingayen and Manila. Four additional enemy planes were destroyed.

2. By morning, 11 January, our Sixth Army had expanded its Lingayen Gulf beachhead to a width of 25 miles and continued to advance inland against extremely light resistance in all sectors. On the east, the I Corps reached a point on the coast six miles north of San Fabian and penetrated nearly ten miles southeast to positions beyond Manacag; in the latter area, the Corps was astride main roads leading to Pozorrubio and Binalonan. On the west, the XIV Corps penetrated six miles inland across a broad front and was advancing along highways leading to San Carlos and Aguilar; along the coast, the Corps reached the mouth of the Agno River.

By 10 January on Leyte, the disorganized enemy southeast of Ormoc was withdrawing toward the west coast. There was fighting northeast of Valencia.

3. During the night of 10 January, three B-29's of the 21st Bomber Command in separate missions, attacked an oil plant at Tokyo. Large fires were observed after the attack.

EASTERN FRONT

On 11 January, the Soviets held the northeastern part of Budapest. Operations along the main front were hampered by snowstorms. The Red Army failed to progress north of the Danube; the enemy made slight gains further south.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 1128

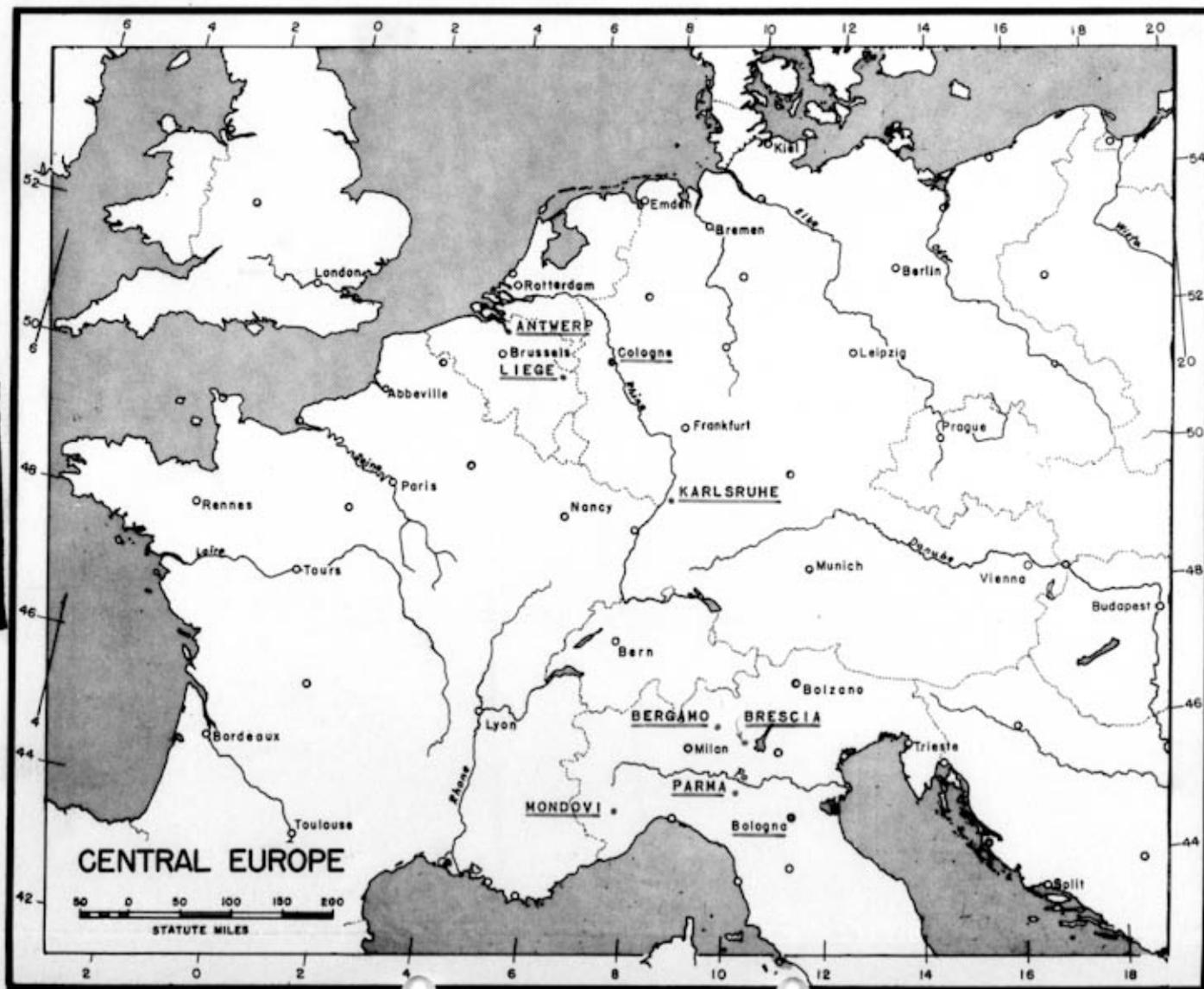
0700 January 10 to 0700 January 11, 1945

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OSD Letter, 5-3-73

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Reported on 8 January was the landing in Alaska of a balloon some 25 feet in diameter, believed to be of Japanese make; a second balloon was sighted.

EUROPEAN THEATER

1. During the 24-hour period ending at sunset, 9 January, the Tactical Air Forces, restricted by weather for the fourth successive day, flew 240 sorties. About 100 of these were in support of our Seventh Army. Five enemy planes were shot down; we lost two.

That night, weather again grounded RAF heavy bombers.

On 10 January, 1,100 escorted heavy bombers of the 8th Air Force attacked highway bridges in the Ardennes salient, railroad bridges and airfields near Cologne, and the Karlsruhe rail yards. Three enemy planes were destroyed. According to preliminary reports, 50 bombers and nine fighters are missing; some of these are believed safe.

During the 24-hour period ending at 0600, 9 January, five rockets and one flying bomb fell in Antwerp; one flying bomb fell in Liege; five rockets and 18 flying bombs fell in scattered areas behind the front.

During the 24-hour period ending at 0600, 10 January, seven rockets fell in the London and Essex areas.

2. On 10 January, according to a communique, our First Army gained additional ground northeast of Laroche. To the west, we continued to clear

WESTERN FRONT



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GSD Letter, 5-3-72

the enemy from north of the Laroche-Marche Road while southwest of Marche, we occupied Ambly. According to operations reports for the 24 hours ending at noon that same day, our Third Army continued to attack the southern flank of the salient in the St. Hubert-Bastogne-Wiltz area, but stiff opposition and deep snow and ice limited the advance to small gains in isolated sectors; north of Bastogne, our troops were within five miles of Houffalize.

Our Seventh Army gained ground again southwest of Bitsch and repulsed a heavy infantry and armor attack northeast of Hagenau. Southeast of the town, one of our armored battalions was cut off at Herlisheim; other elements were attacking in the same area to relieve the situation. There was intense enemy patrol activity south of Strasbourg where the Germans have been exerting strong pressure on French forces along the Rhine; the situation remains fluid southeast of the Ill River; we hold Rossfeld, Herbsheim and Obenheim, Allied troops being surrounded in the last-named town.

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

1. In the 24-hour period ending at 1800 on 9 January, the Tactical Air Force flew 895 sorties. In these operations medium and light bombers attacked enemy troop concentrations near Bologna and heavily damaged bridges in the Parma-Bergamo-Brescia area; fighters also attacked communications in northern Italy and gave strong support to Allied ground forces. Weather continued to ground the Balkan Air Force, but Greek-based planes supported British ground operations. We lost three planes.

Weather on 10 January again forced cancellation of 15th Air Force operations.

2. In the 24 hours ending at 1500, 10 January, activity on the Fifth and Eighth Army fronts continued to be confined to patrol skirmishes.

ASIATIC THEATER

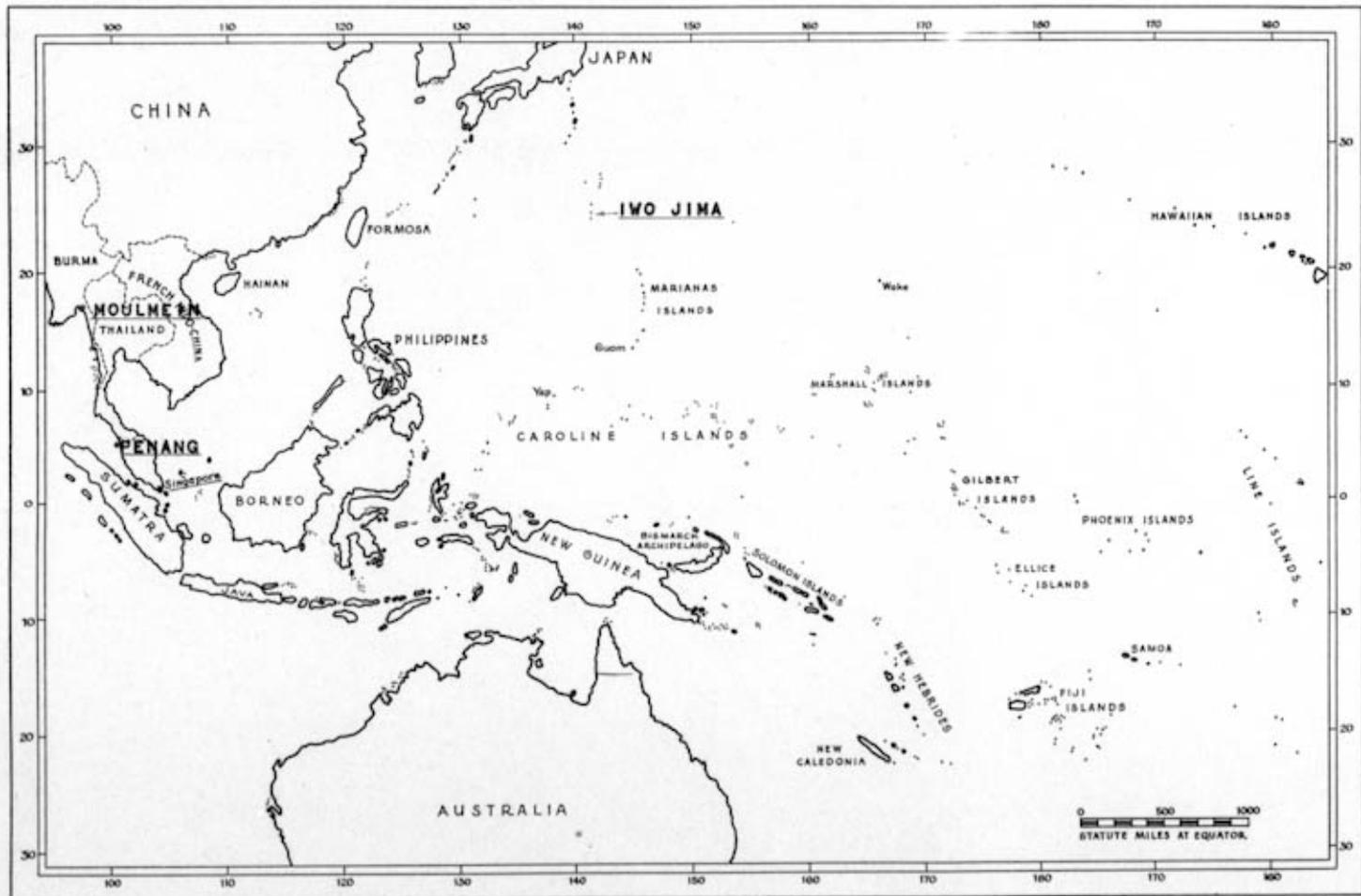
1. During 8 January, the Eastern Air Command flew 1,634 sorties, of which 540 were tactical. In these operations 68 heavy bombers destroyed two bridges, and damaged three, while attacking the Burma-Siam railway. Medium bombers and fighters attacked targets on the Arakan front and northeast of Mandalay. Next day, five of six enemy planes attacking Akyab Harbor were destroyed; we lost one patrol plane.

2. A preliminary report states that on 11 January, 25 B-29's of the 20th Bomber Command bombed Singapore harbor, six bombed Penang (Malaya), and four struck other targets.

3. By 9 January, Commandos had landed two miles south of Ponnagyun on the Kaladan; British boat-patrols, operating east of Akyab along the Kywegu River, found Pauktaw clear. Ten miles north of Myohaung, West African troops were again meeting stiff opposition. West of the Irrawaddy, Allied troops occupied Shwebo without opposition, although some resistance continued six miles west of the town.

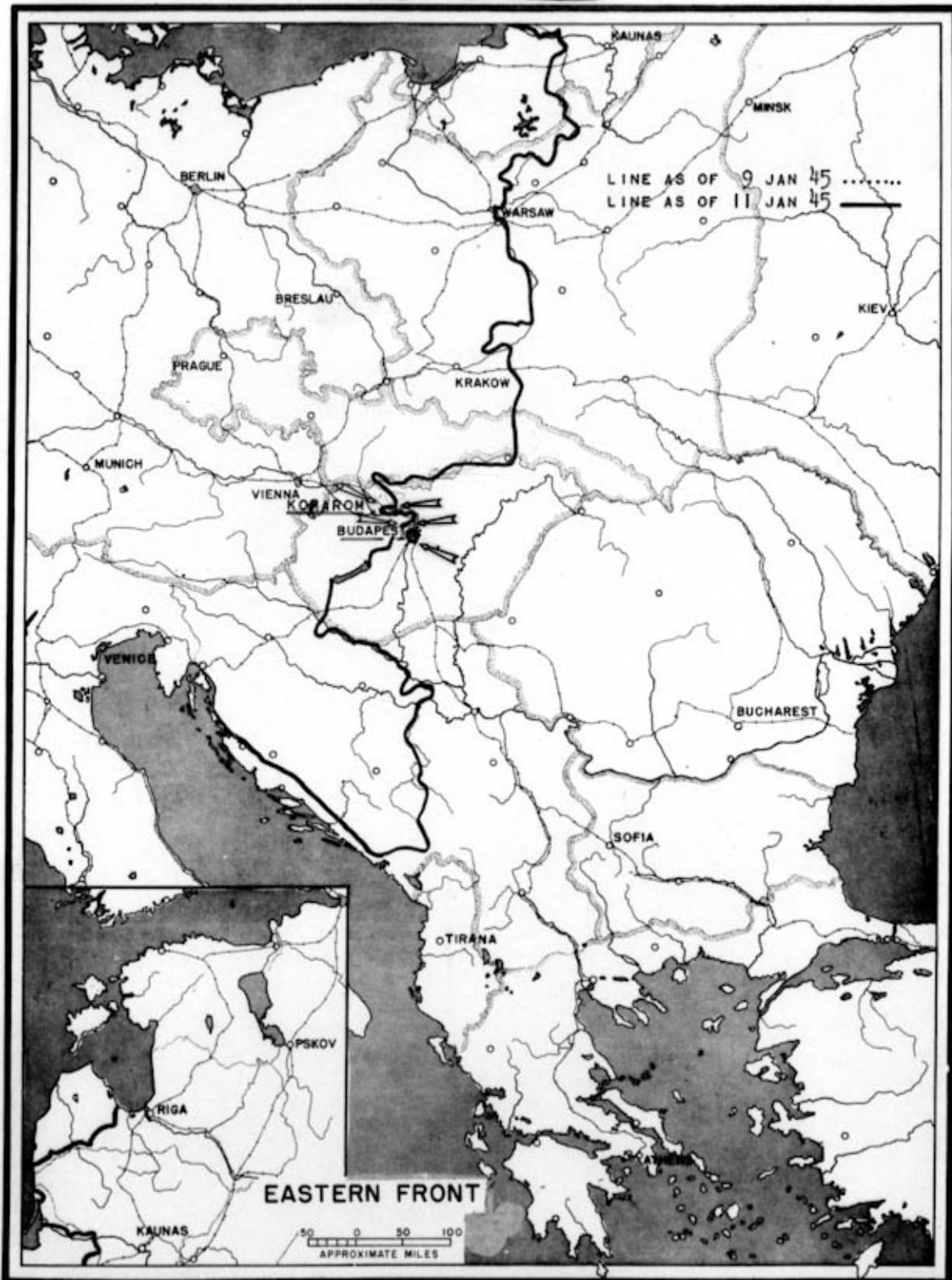
PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. During 8 and 9 January, 673 additional sorties (including 166 by



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 OSD Letter, 5-8-72

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TOP SECRET
DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 8-8-72

carrier-based planes) were flown in the Southwest Pacific Area. More than 250 of these were against enemy installations in the Lingayen area and 125 against other targets on Luzon. Five additional enemy planes were destroyed. Through 8 January, 64 enemy planes, not previously reported, were shot down during attacks on our Lingayen convoy.

2. By the evening of 9 January, our Sixth Army had advanced inland an average depth of nearly three and one-half miles in its Lingayen Gulf beachheads, which extended from Mabilao to Lingayen town. The I Corps landed in the Mabilao-Dagupan area, the XIV Corps in the Birmaley-Lingayen area. Enemy artillery and mortar fire, which was later silenced by our naval guns, forced temporary retraction of landing craft off San Fabian but generally the landings were unopposed, and we moved quickly inland against minor and sporadic opposition. Unloading progressed rapidly at all beaches, and by dusk 68,500 troops were ashore. Enemy air opposition to our ground and air forces during the day was comparatively light. According to communique all of our beachheads have been linked up and we have taken Mangaldan, San Fabian, Dagupan and Lingayen including its airfield.

3. On 8 January, 26 B-24's attacked the airfield area at Iwo Jima.

EASTERN FRONT

The Soviets extended their advances north of the Danube to within a mile and a half of Komaron on 10 January, and continued to squeeze the Budapest pocket, despite repeated counterattacks. German infantry and armor continued to attack south of the Danube.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 1127

0700 January 9 to 0700 January 10, 1945

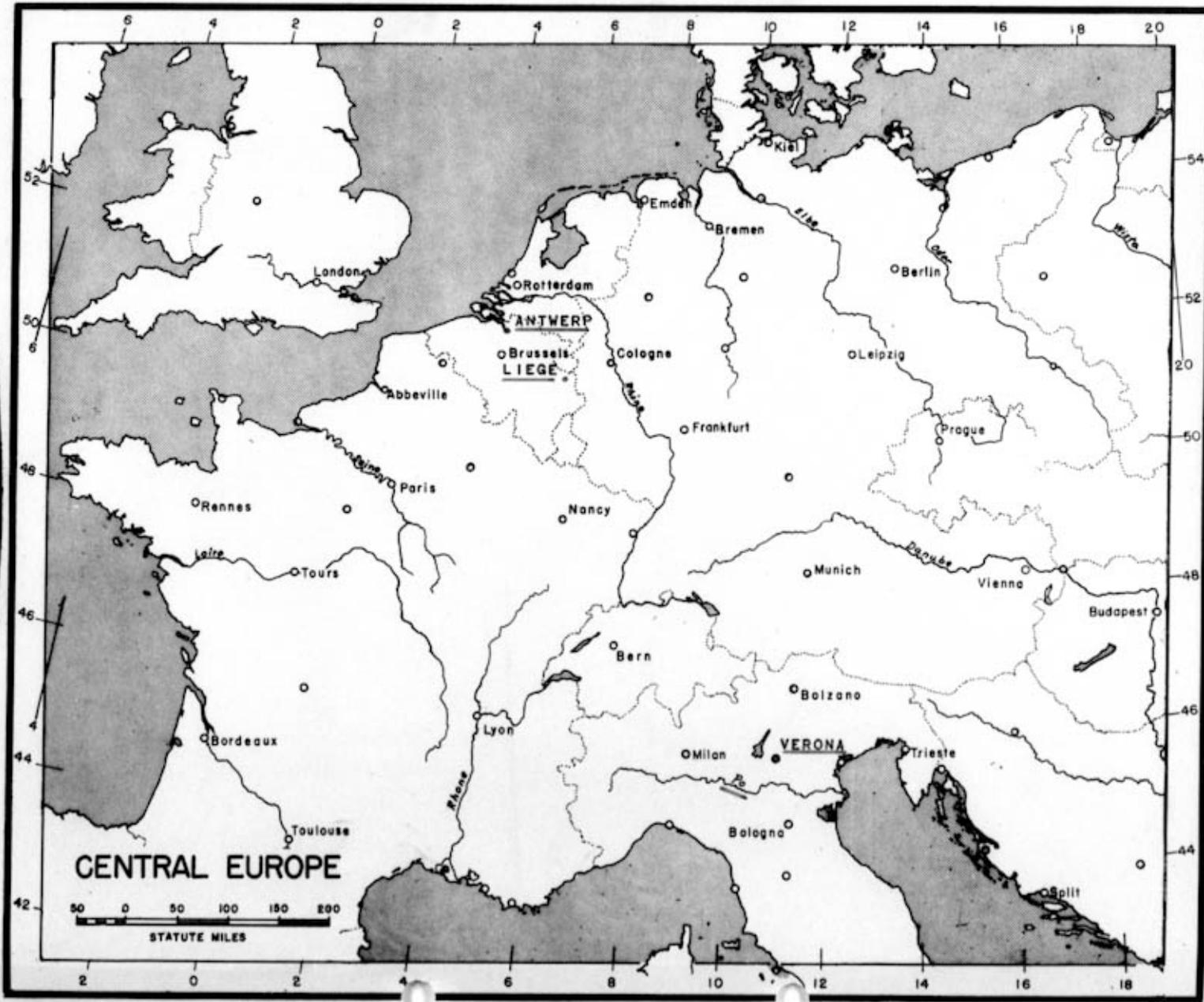
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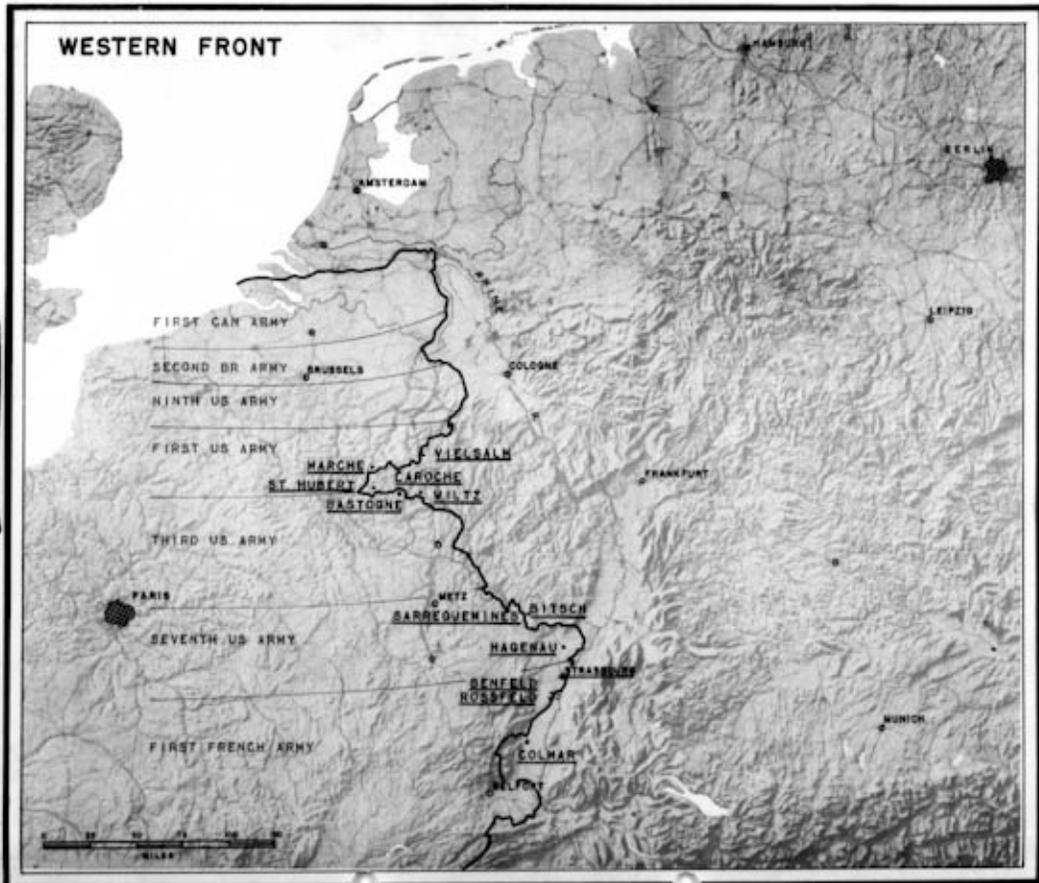
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OSD Letter, 5-8-72



WESTERN FRONT



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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

EUROPEAN THEATER

1. During the 24-hour period ending at sunset, 8 January, the Tactical Air Forces, limited by weather for the third successive day, flew 146 sorties, mainly in support of our Seventh Army.

That night and the day following, RAF and 8th Air Force heavy bombers were grounded by weather.

During the 24-hour period ending at 0600, 8 January, two rockets and one flying bomb fell in Antwerp; one flying bomb fell in Liege; two rockets and twenty flying bombs landed in scattered areas behind the front.

During the 24-hour period ending at 0600, 9 January, 12 rockets reached England.

2. In the 24 hours ending at noon, 9 January, our First Army made general advances along a 20-mile front between Vielsalm and Marche on the northern flank of the Ardennes salient. Deep snow, slippery roads, and considerable resistance in some sectors limited most gains to less than a mile; southwest of Vielsalm, however, the advance was nearly two miles; on the west, we were within two miles of Laroche. Some ground was also gained in the British sector southeast and southwest of Marche. On the southern flank of the salient, a coordinated attack between St. Hubert and Bastogne by our Third Army met heavy pressure which forced slight withdrawals in some sectors. We gained some ground between Bastogne and Wiltz, where resistance was weaker.

The Seventh Army made gains east of Sarreguemines and southwest of Bitsch, and repulsed repeated enemy attacks northeast of Hagenau.



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88D Letter, 8-3-78

South of Strasbourg, the Germans were exerting strong armor and infantry pressure against French forces east of Benfeld. The French repulsed an enemy attack at Rossfeld. American units, in a diversionary maneuver, gained more than a mile northeast of Colmar.

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

1. In the 24 hours ending at 1800, 8 January, the Tactical Air Force flew 320 sorties against close support targets in the eastern battle area, rail lines near Verona, and other communications in the Po Valley. Weather again restricted these operations and grounded the Balkan Air Force.

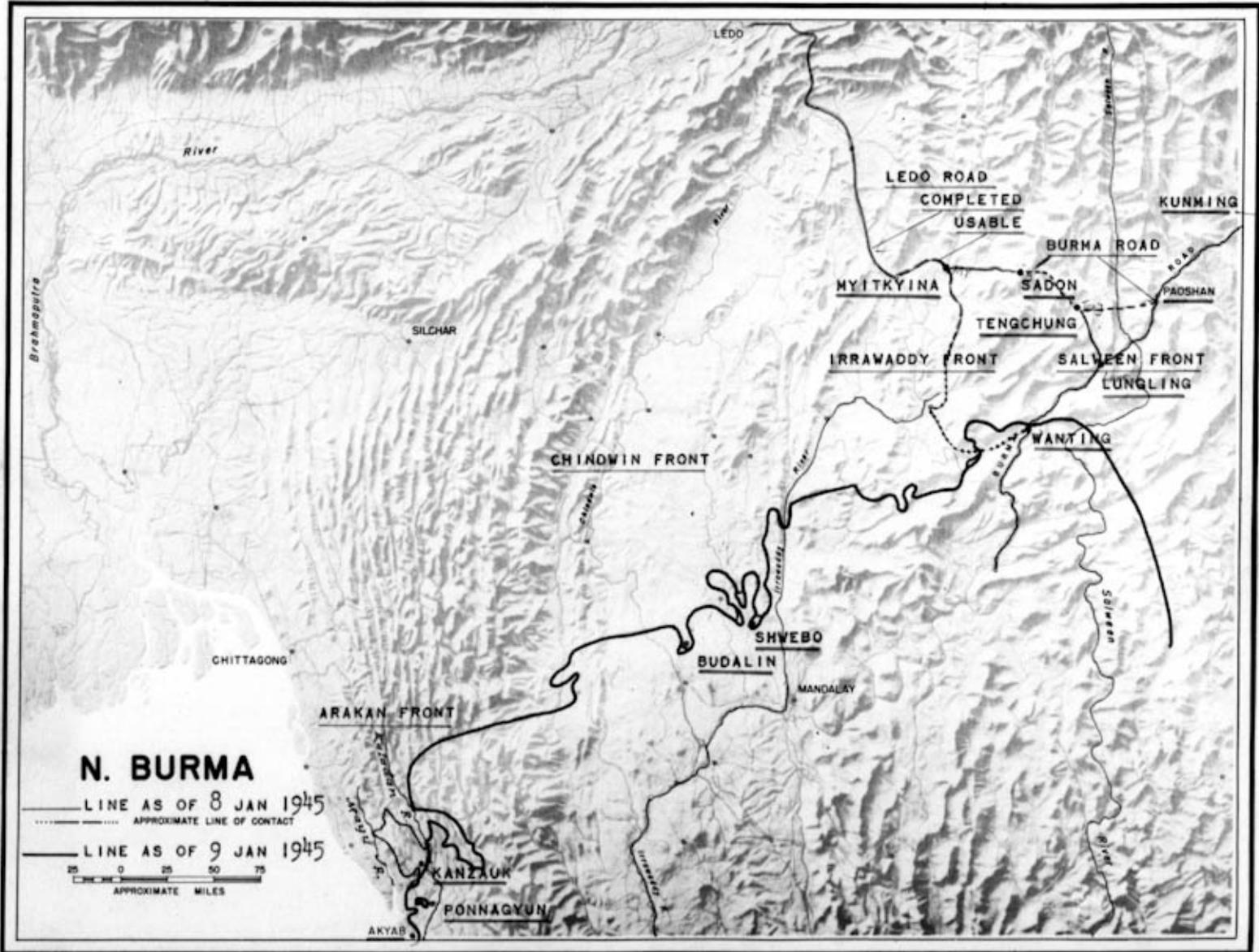
The next day, continuing bad weather grounded the 15th Air Force.

2. In the 24 hours ending at 1500, 9 January, activity on the Fifth and Eighth Army fronts was limited to patrol clashes.

ASIATIC THEATER

1. During 7 January, the Eastern Air Command flew 869 sorties, of which 156 were tactical. In these operations 48 escorted medium bombers attacked troop concentrations on the Arakan front. Weather again limited operations.

2. On 9 January, 38 B-29's of the 20th Bomber Command dropped 266 tons of bombs on Keelung Harbor, Formosa. Six other B-29's dropped additional tonnage on a Formosa air base and on Amoy, China. There were no losses.



3. By 8 January, British troops had landed four miles west of Ponnagyun (on the Kaladan River northeast of Akyab), and were engaged with the enemy. To the north, West African troops advancing east from the Mayu River made contact at Kanzauk with those moving west from the Kaladan. On the Chindwin front, the British were meeting opposition four miles southwest of Budalin. West of the Irrawaddy, Allied patrols entered Shwebo, finding only stragglers; resistance was still being encountered four miles to the northwest. In the Wanting area, Chinese crossings of the Shweli River met stiff opposition.

4. At the beginning of 1945, only a 25-mile gap at the Burma-China border prevented trucks from operating over a new route from Kunming to Myitkyina. The route utilizes the Burma Road from Kunming to Lungling, then proceeds northwest, via Tengchung and Sadon (Fort Harrison). Ten thousand Chinese were at work on sections between Tengchung and Sadon, where the gap occurs. Two thousand more were improving the Burma Road east of the Salween River. The Chinese have scheduled work to begin this month on a cut-off from Tengchung to Paoshan, which will by-pass the Salween gorge and shorten the route by 60 miles.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. During the period 6-8 January, more than 780 previously unreported sorties were flown in the Southwest Pacific Area. Heavy attacks were continued against airfields on Luzon. Ten additional enemy planes were destroyed, and at least 60 were damaged or destroyed at Clark Field; we lost 13.

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OBD Letter, 5-8-73



2. Early on 9 January, our Sixth Army landed in Lingayen Gulf. According to communique, we seized four beachheads and sustained only small losses in the landing.

3. On 7 January, our forces on Mindoro engaged an estimated 300 enemy troops at Pinamalayan on the east coast of the island. On Leyte the next day scattered contacts were again reported from the Villaba area and from northeast of Ormoc.

On 9 January, 39 Saipan-based B-29's dropped 95 tons of bombs on aircraft plants and other targets in the Tokyo area. Preliminary reports indicate that at least 100 enemy aircraft were encountered during the raid; four were probably destroyed; we lost six bombers.

EASTERN FRONT

On 9 January, the Soviets continued to advance north of the Danube, reaching within four miles of Komarom. Axis forces pressed their counter-attack south of the Danube gaining in two sectors, the northeastern one being only 15 miles from Budapest.

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OSD Letter, 5-8-78

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 1126

0700 January 8 to 0700 January 9, 1945

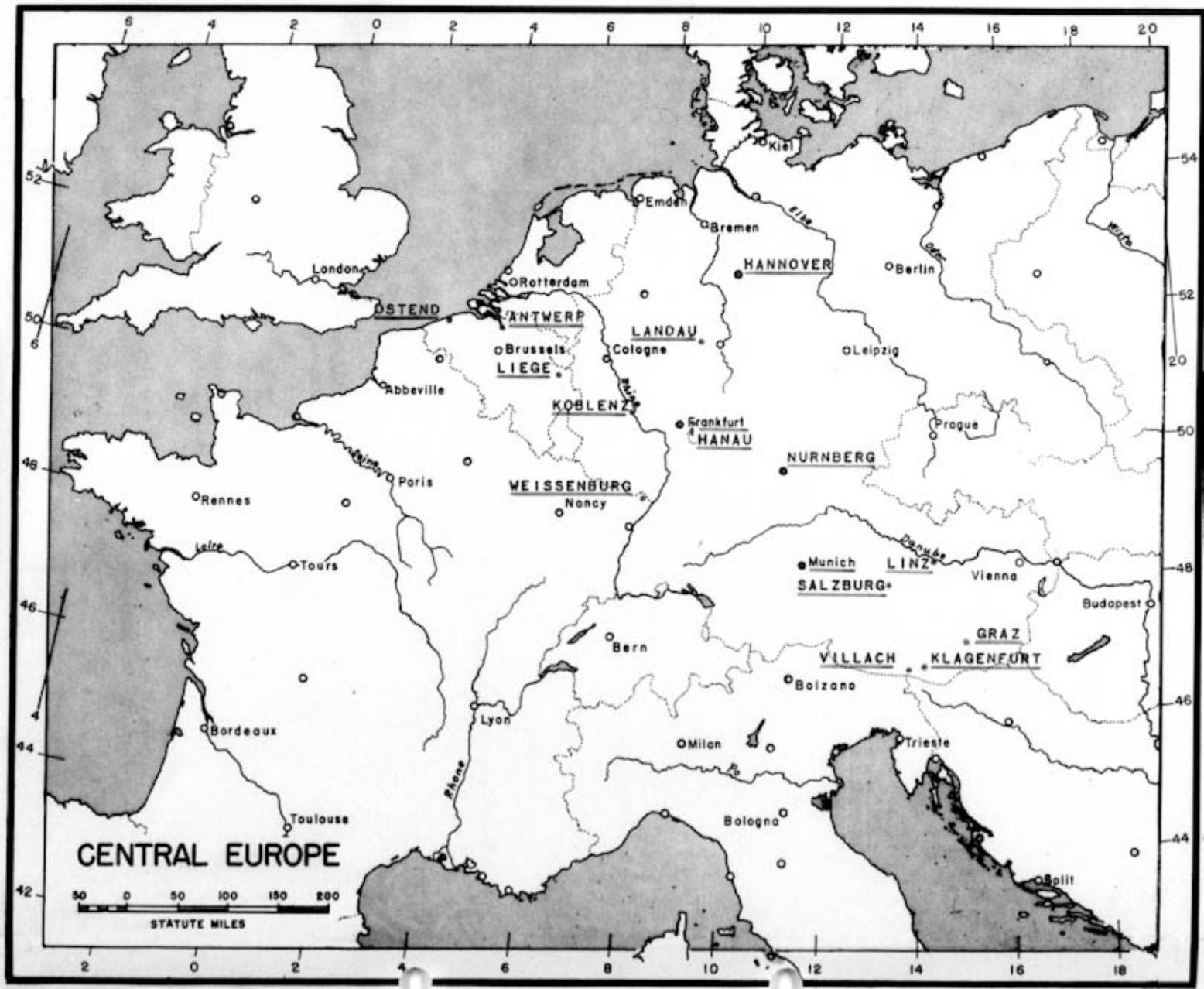
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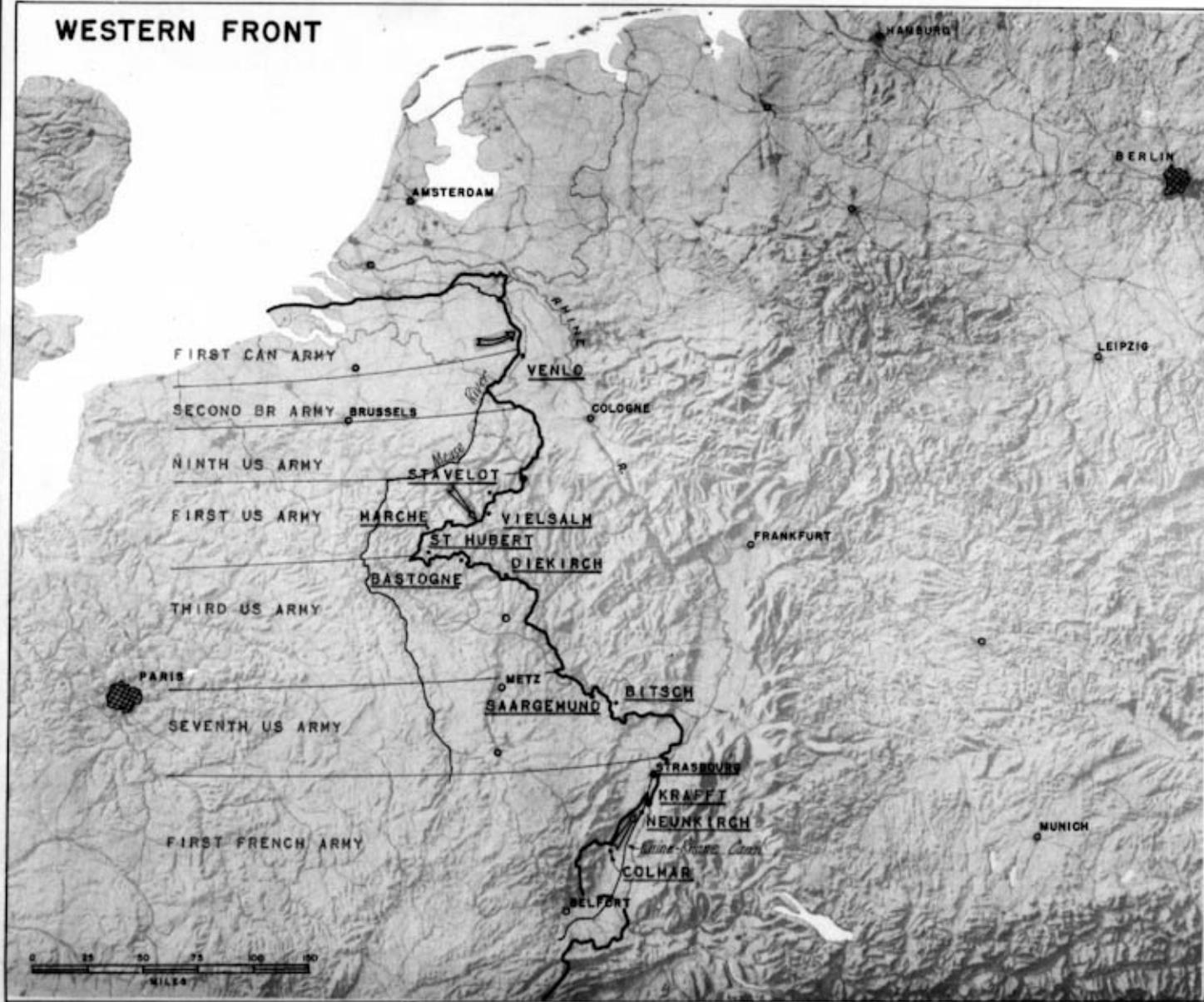
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WESTERN FRONT



DECLASSIFIED
ORD Letter, F-3-75

EUROPEAN THEATER

1. During the 24-hour period to sunset, 7 January, weather limited the Tactical Air Forces to 67 sorties, which included 20 against rocket-launching sites in Holland.

During the night of 7 January, RAF heavy bombers dropped 2,175 tons on Munich, while 30 Mosquitoes on diversionary missions raided Hanau and Nurnberg. Fifty-four other Mosquitoes attacked Hannover. Fourteen bombers and two Mosquitoes are missing.

On 8 January, 738 escorted heavy bombers of the 8th Air Force attacked communication targets behind the German lines, mainly those supplying the Ardennes salient. Weissenburg, on the Seventh Army front, was also attacked. Weather forced some formations to abandon operations, and others to attack secondary targets at Frankfurt, Landau and Koblenz. Twenty-eight bombers are missing, but 16 of these are believed safe.

During the 24-hour period ending at 0600, 7 January, three rockets and one flying bomb fell in Antwerp; 13 flying bombs fell in Liege; 13 rockets and 71 flying bombs landed in scattered areas behind the front.

During the 24-hour period ending at 0600, 8 January, seven rockets struck the Essex and London areas.

2. By 1200 hours on 8 January, Polish troops which had made a limited attack just east of the mouth of the Meuse withdrew after suffering heavy casualties from intense mortar and artillery fire. North of Venlo, the British cleared a small area west of the Meuse in which the enemy had established a foothold.

On the northern flank of the Ardennes salient, we advanced two miles in the area just south of Stavelot. Further south other advances were made bringing our forward elements to the outskirts of Vielsalm. Other gains up to a mile were made along the line between Vielsalm and Marche.

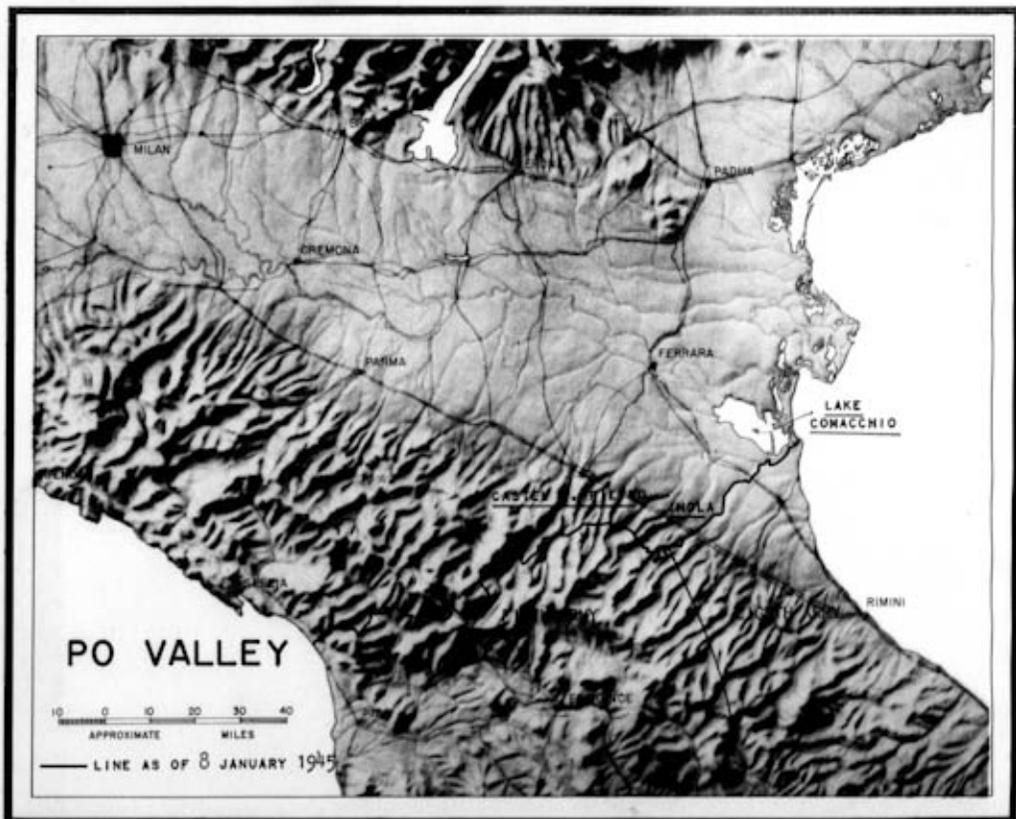
The Third Army made limited progress along an eight-mile front in the center of the sector between Bastogne and St. Hubert. Northwest of Diekirch we gained a mile on a narrow front and repulsed a counter-attack supported by tanks and heavy artillery fire.

Southeast of Saargemund the Seventh Army advanced locally, eliminating a small enemy salient in our line and repulsing a counter-attack. Other gains were made in the area just west of Bitsch.

In Alsace the enemy launched an attack from the Neunkirch area on both sides of the Rhine-Rhone Canal and succeeded in driving north to Krafft, ten miles south of Strasbourg. Near Colmar, American troops of the First French Army advanced two miles reaching a point three miles north of that city.

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

1. During the 24-hour period ending at 1800, 7 January, weather limited the Tactical Air Force to 157 sorties, flown chiefly against harbor shipping and installations on the northwest Italian coast. A few attacks were made on communications in northern Italy. Weather again grounded the Balkan Air Force.



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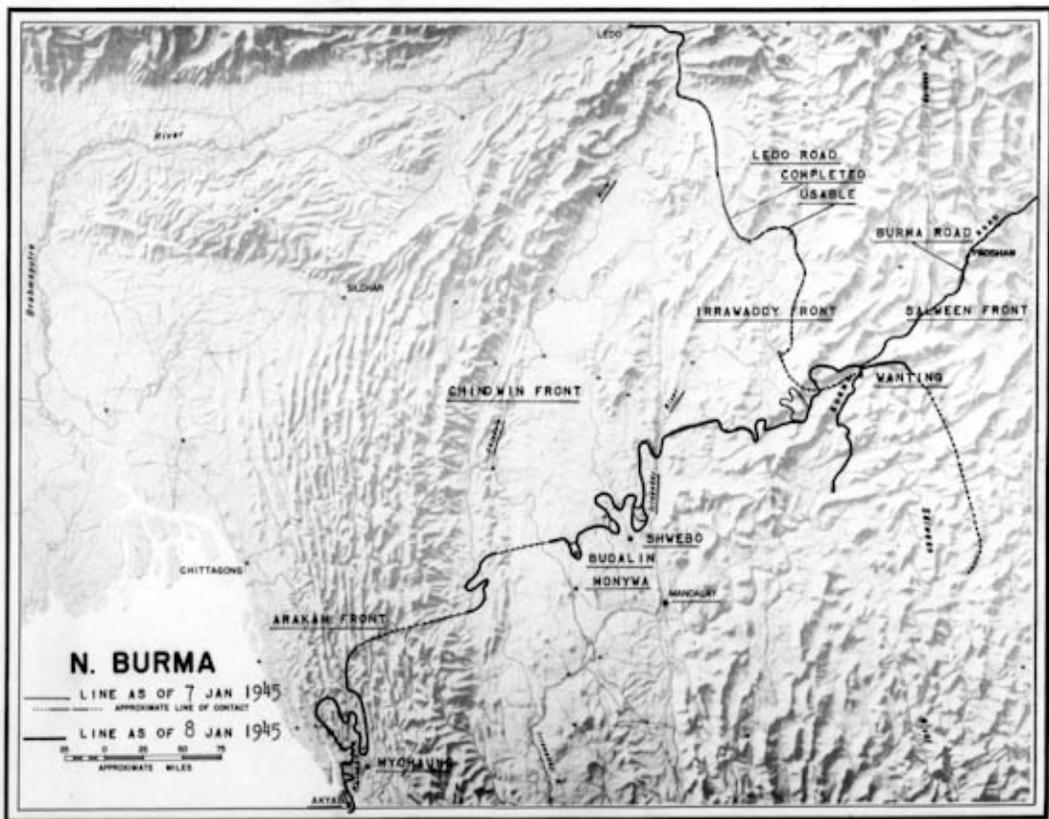
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 OSD Letter, 8-3-75

On 8 January, 520 escorted heavy bombers of the Strategic Air Force attacked rail yards at Linz, Klagenfurt, Villach, Salzburg, and Graz in Austria. Nine bombers and one fighter are missing.

2. By 1500 on 8 January there was no significant change in the Italian battle line. Eighth Army patrols were active near Lake Comacchio and in the areas southeast of Imola. On the Fifth Army front an enemy patrol was repulsed southwest of Castel S. Pietro.

ASIATIC THEATER

1. On 6 January, the Eastern Air Command flew 452 sorties, of which 54 were tactical. Weather prevented virtually all offensive operations.

Supplementary reports for 6 January record one additional bomber destroyed on the ground and seven others damaged in the Hankow area. On 7 January, one B-24 sank a 200-foot merchant vessel in the South China Sea and two others bombed Fort Bayard on Luichow Peninsula.

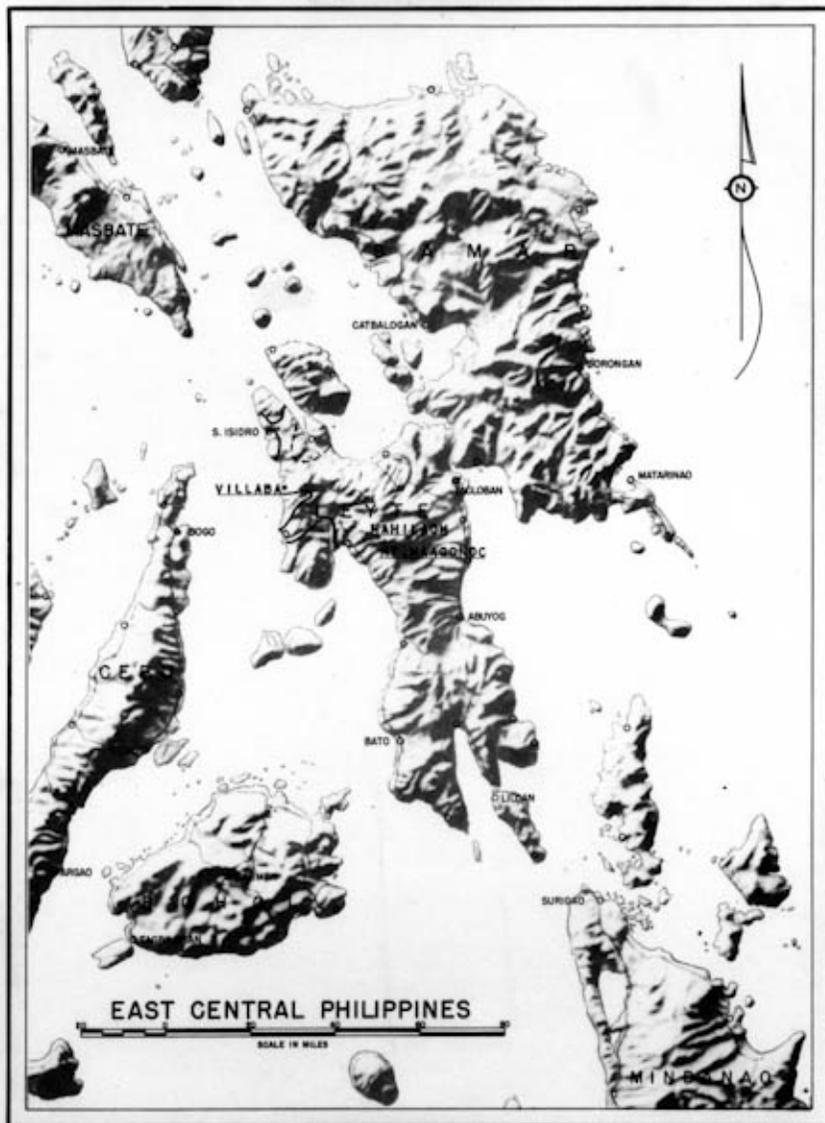
2. On 7 January, west of the Irrawaddy, Indian troops were closing in on Shwebo from the north, northeast, and northwest, their forward elements being some 4½ miles from the town. Farther to the west other British troops along the Chindwin had reached Budalin 20 miles north of Monywa. On the Arakan front, the British entered Akyab. East of the Kaladan River, West African troops were meeting opposition ten miles north of Myohaung.



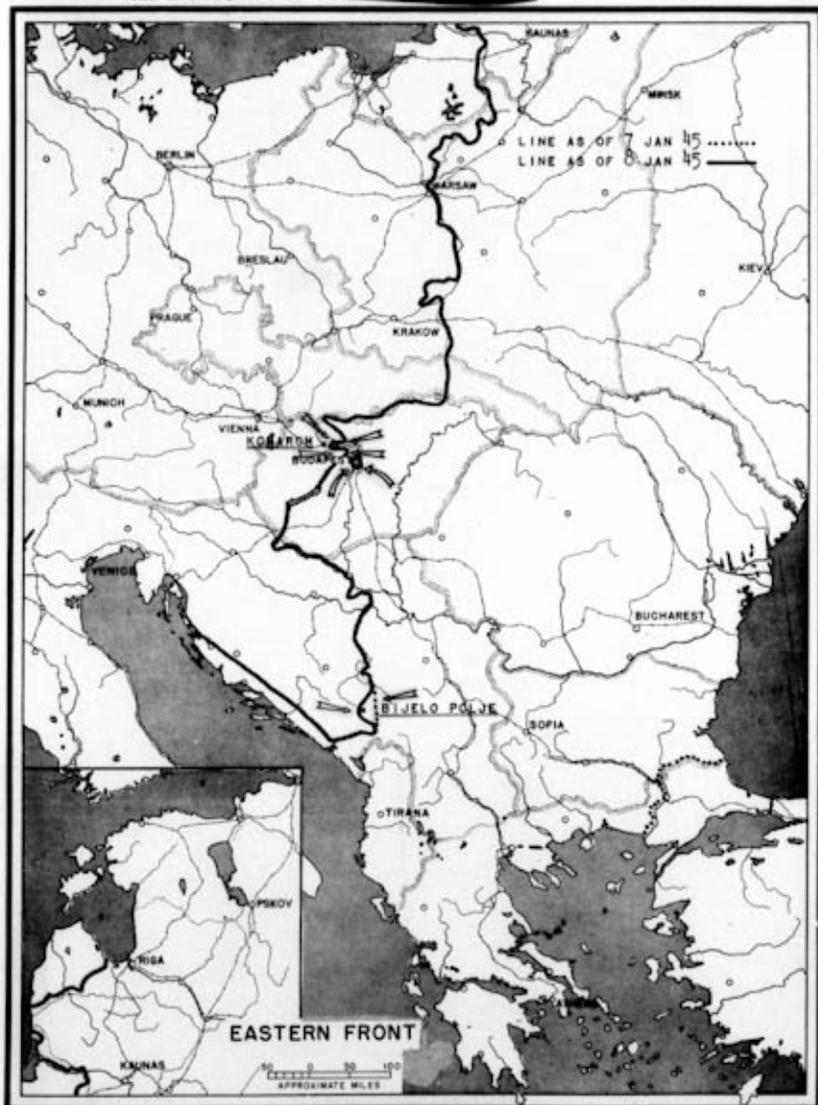
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OSD Letter, 6-8-72



PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. During 5-7 January, more than 450 previously unreported sorties were flown in the Southwest Pacific Area. Sixty-six B-24's from Morotai and Palau together with medium bombers and fighters from other bases attacked airfields, railroads and bridges in the Manila area. Twenty-six enemy planes were destroyed, 21 of them on the ground at Clark Field; we lost six.

2. By 7 January on Leyte, resistance in the Mahilaom-Mount Maagonoc sector was broken. Mopping up continued in adjacent areas. Scattered enemy groups were encountered near Villaba.

3. On 5 January, 46 escorted B-24's attacked Iwo Jima, which was also bombarded by our naval units. One enemy plane was shot down; one of our fighters was lost. Marine planes raided Yap and Babelthuap. On 6 January, 15 B-24's again attacked Iwo Jima and fighters struck Wotje and Babelthuap. On the night of 7 January, two B-29's attacked an arsenal at Nagoya.

EASTERN FRONT

On 8 January, on the northern bank of the Danube, the Red Army advance was within seven miles of Komarom. In Yugoslavia, Partisans captured Bijelo Polje.

GENERAL

1. On 1 December 1944, the Allied Air Forces inventory of combat

and transport airplanes passed the 150,000 level. The distribution was as follows:

	<u>Aircraft</u>	<u>Percentage of Total</u>
US Army	51,979	35%
US Navy	<u>27,230</u>	<u>18%</u>
	79,209	53%
RAF	31,505	21%
Royal Fleet Air Arm	<u>6,041</u>	<u>4%</u>
	37,546	25%
Red Air Forces	26,700	18%
Others (including British Dominions)	<u>6,896</u>	<u>4%</u>
	150,351	100%

2. The Secretary of War and the Secretary of Navy have agreed upon a joint Liquidation Commission as the agency responsible for disposal of overseas surplus property. Major General Donald H. Connolly, formerly commanding the Persian Gulf Command has arrived in Washington to assume the position of Deputy Commissioner.

3. The Chief of Staff has approved the establishment of an Officer's Honorary Retired List. The purpose is to enable officers to retain some connection with the Army after their return to civil life. ✓

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 1125

0700 January 7 to 0700 January 8, 1945

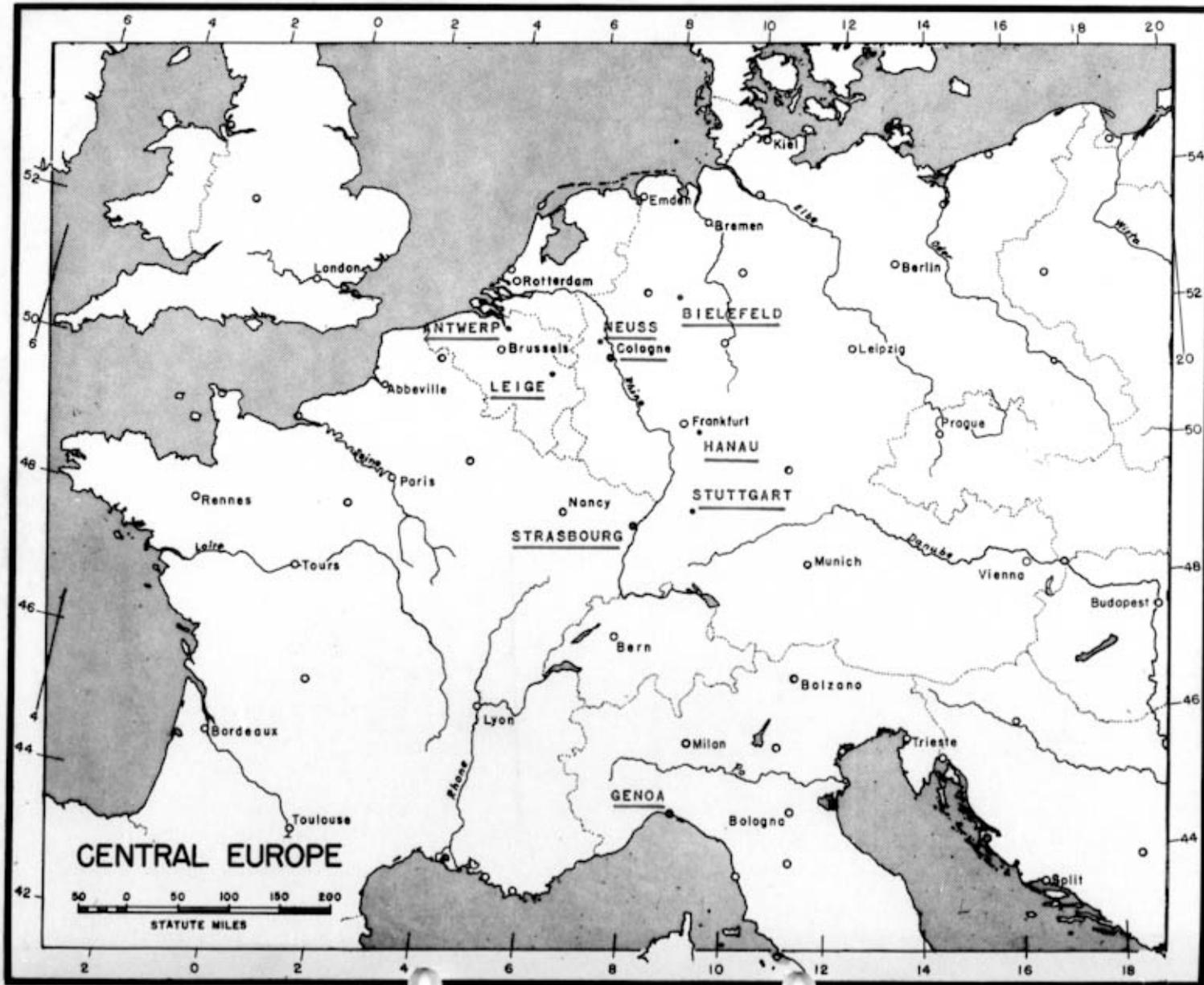
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WESTERN FRONT



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USD Letter, 5-8-72

EUROPEAN THEATER

1. During the 24-hour period to sunset, 6 January, weather limited the Tactical Air Forces to 538 sorties.

That night, 456 RAF heavy bombers attacked Hanau and its rail yards. The rail yards at Neuss were bombed by 139 others. Six bombers are missing.

Next day, 1,072 escorted 8th Air Force heavy bombers were airborne to attack communications east of the Ardennes salient, in the Strasbourg-Stuttgart area, and in the Cologne-Bielefeld area. Seven bombers and one fighter are missing.

During the 24-hour period ending at 0600, 6 January, two flying bombs fell in Antwerp and one in Liege. Nine rockets and 29 flying bombs landed in scattered areas behind the front.

During the 24-hour period ending at 0600, 7 January, thirteen rockets fell in England, of which four reached the London area.

2. By 1200 hours on 7 January, our First Army, continuing its attack on the northern flank of the Ardennes salient, had driven within one mile of Vielsalm and gained up to two miles along a 25-mile front extending west to Marche cutting the Vielsalm-LaRoche highway. On the southern flank, the Third Army made slight gains in the area west of Bastogne.

South of Bitsch, our Seventh Army isolated Wingen and advanced two miles north against stiff resistance repulsing a heavy counterattack. Other elements of the Seventh Army had prevented any substantial westward

expansion of the German bridgehead northeast of Strasbourg, but the enemy occupied seven more miles along the west bank of the Rhine to a maximum depth of two miles. South of Strasbourg, a tank-supported attack in the Neunkirch area forced defending French troops to withdraw slightly.

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

1. During the 24-hour period ending at 1800, 6 January, weather restricted the Tactical Air Force to 173 sorties. Communications, dumps, oil tanks, guns and shipping were attacked in the Genoa area. An aircraft carrier was set on fire and other craft, as well as shore installations, were damaged. Weather grounded the Balkan Air Force.

Next day, 15th Air Force operations were again cancelled because of weather.

2. During the 24-hour period ending at 1200 hours, 7 January, rain and heavy snow limited activity on the Italian front to patrolling.

ASIATIC THEATER

1. On 5 January, the Eastern Air Command flew 1,731 sorties, of which 567 were tactical. Heavy bombers continued to attack the Burma-Siam rail line.

2. During the week 29 December-4 January, the Eastern Air Command flew 13,447 tactical and supply sorties--the largest number ever flown in

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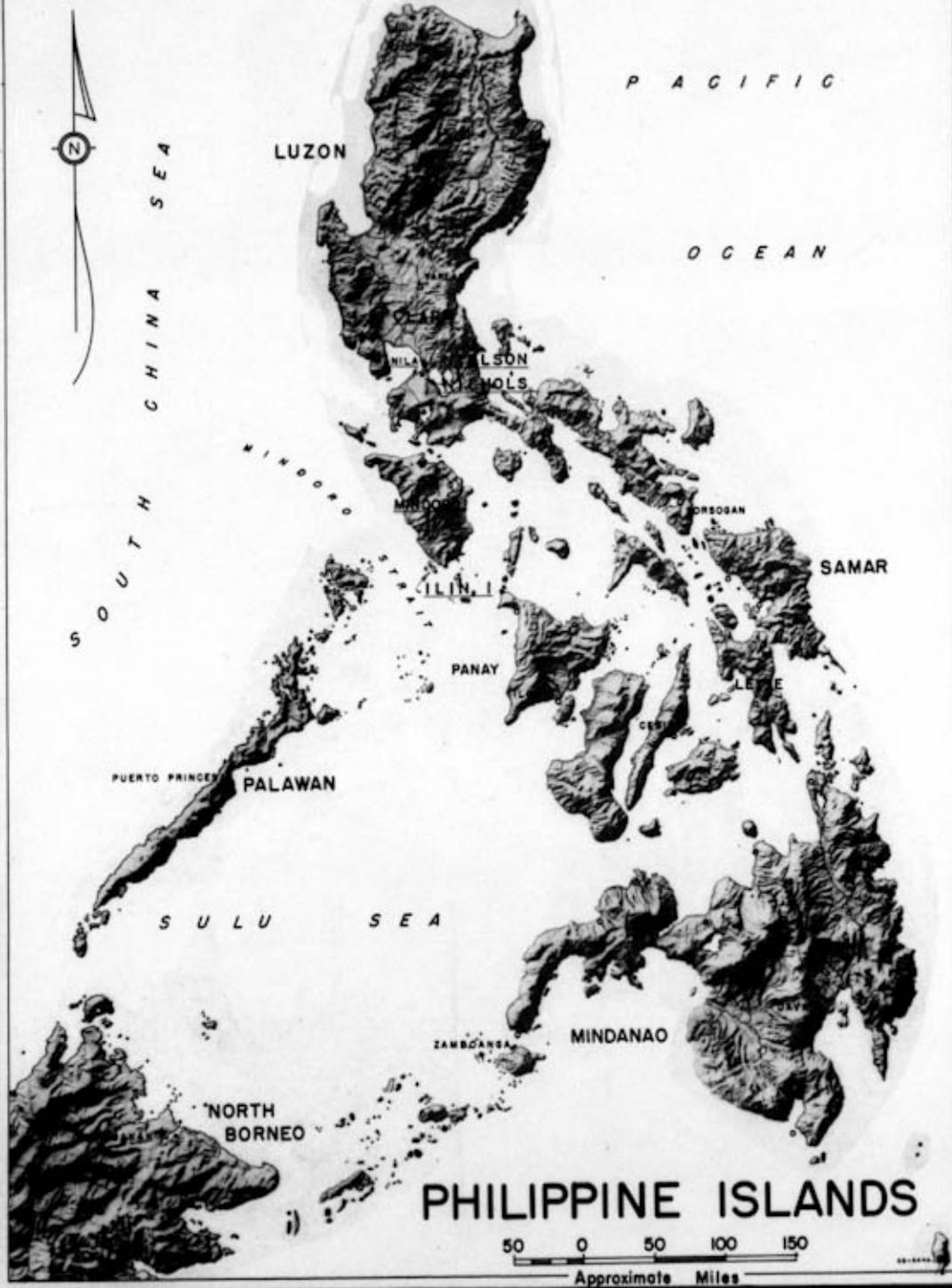
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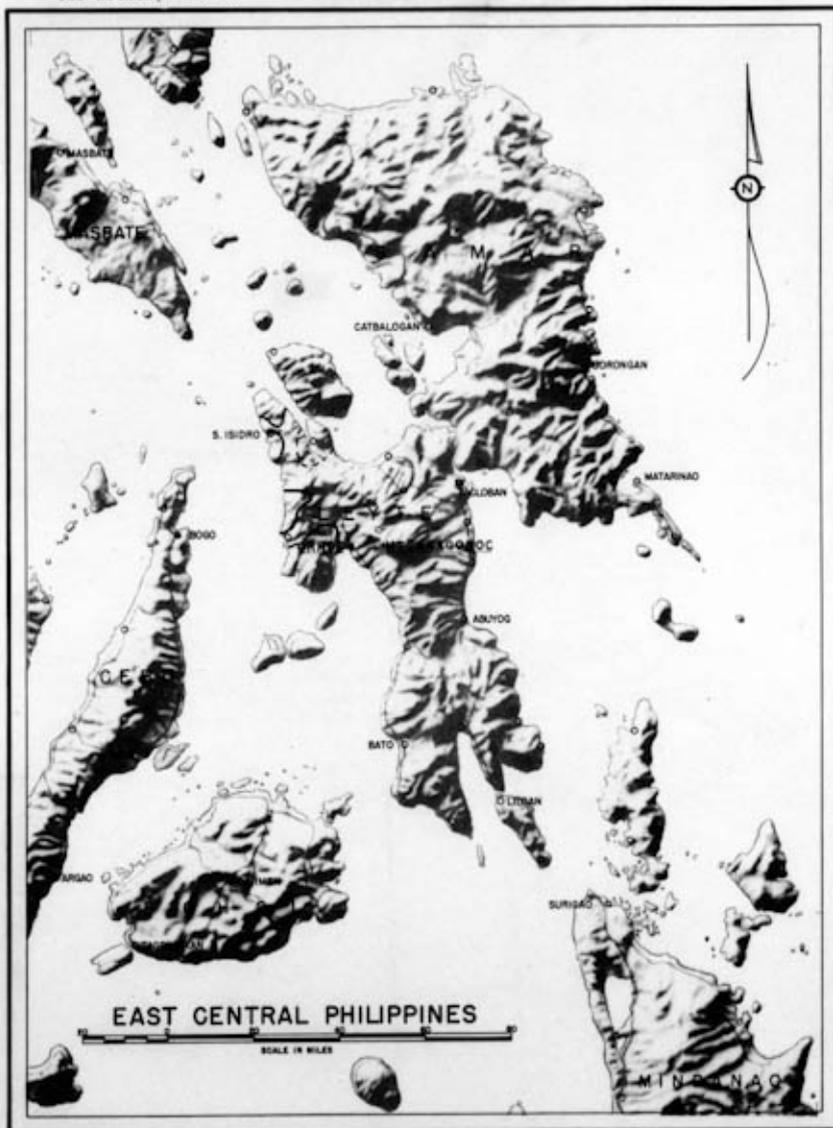
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OSD Letter, 5-3-72



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OSD Letter, 5-8-78

the Asiatic Theater in an equivalent period. Of these 9,923 were flown by US planes and 3,524 by the RAF. In that week an all-time high for a single day was also reached with more than 2,150 sorties.

3. On 5 and 6 January, the 14th Air Force flew 125 offensive sorties. Principal targets were airdromes at Samah Bay, Hankow, Wuchang, and Sinsiang, a bridge at Dara, and the Sinsiang locomotive repair shops. Seventy-four enemy aircraft were destroyed; we lost eight.

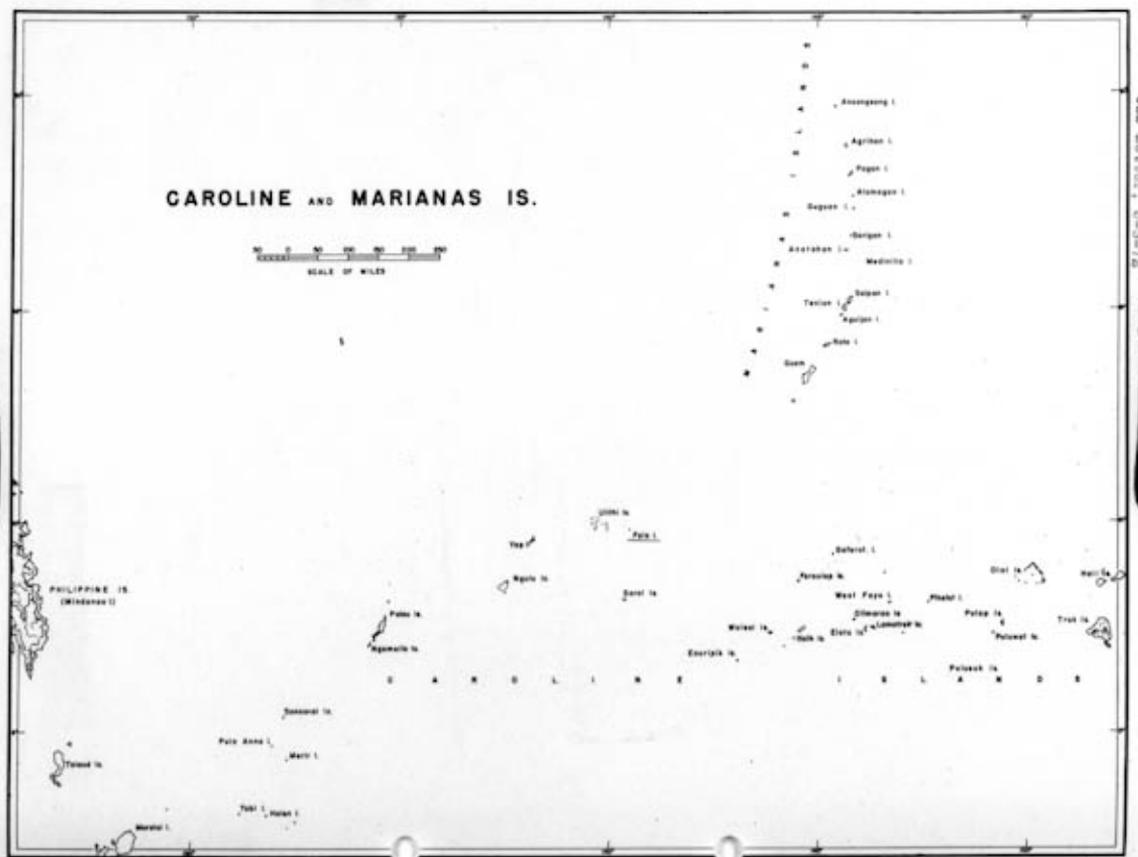
4. By 6 January, Chinese forces from the Hsamo-Namhkan roadhead turned south, passing Namhkan on the west, to reach the Shweli River seven miles north of Mong Wi. Other troops had reached Mong Wi from the west. West of the Irrawaddy, British patrols made contact with enemy forces eight miles northeast of Shwebo.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. During the period 4-6 January, some 370 additional sorties were flown. Over 200 of these were concentrated on airdromes in the Philippines, including 110 by heavy bombers which struck Clark, Nielson and Nichols airdromes near Manila; more than 100 were flown by Solomons-based planes. Twenty Japanese planes were destroyed, 18 of them on the ground; we lost two.

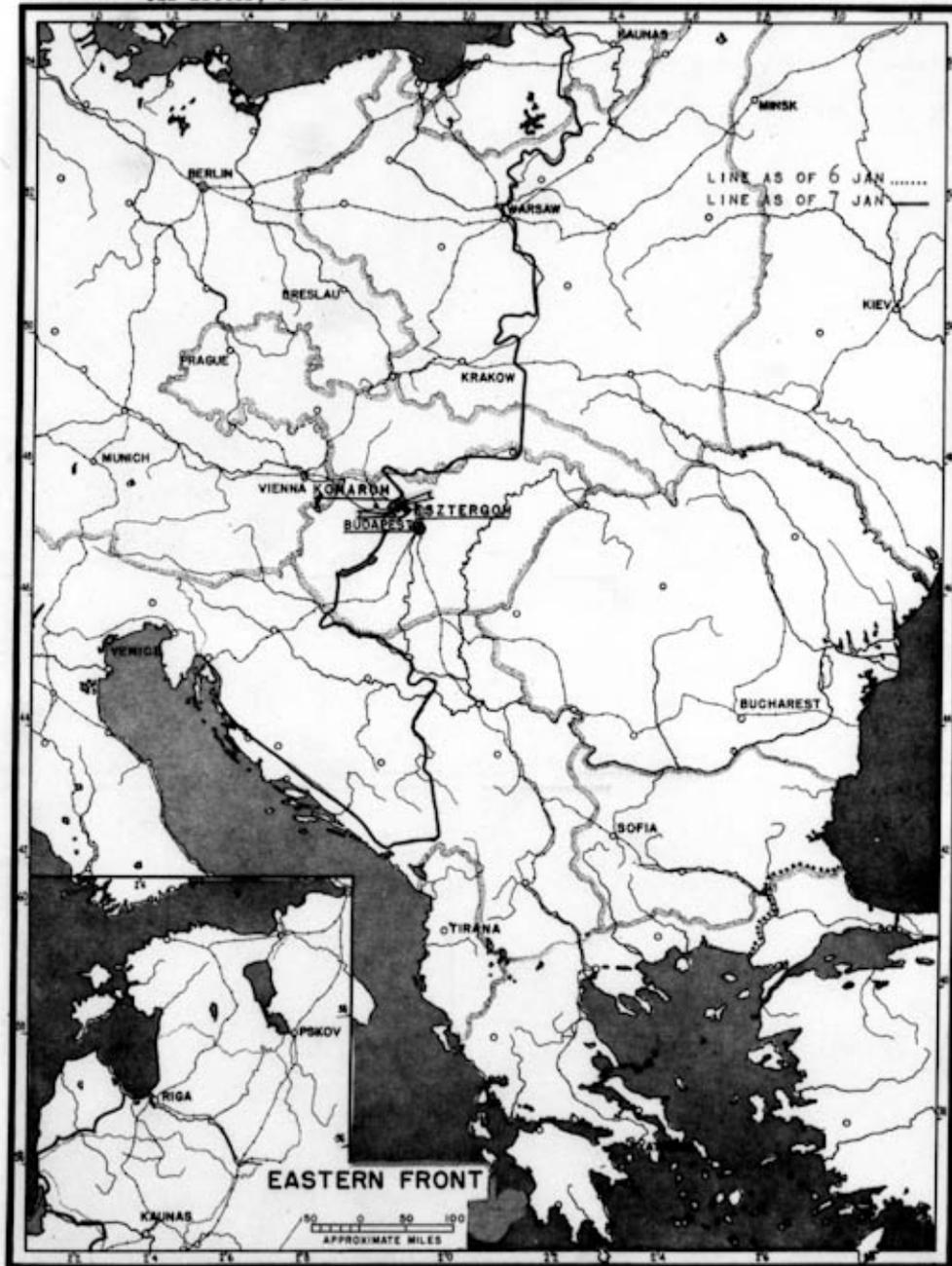
2. On 6 January, our troops on Leyte attacked well-entrenched positions on the northeast slopes of Mount Maagonoc, east of Ormoc. Ilin Island off the southwest coast of Mindoro was reconnoitered without finding the enemy.

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3. Postal service from the United States to liberated portions of the Philippines will be resumed on 12 January. Initially the service will be reopened to Leyte, Samar and Mindoro and be limited to first class surface mail.

4. An unopposed landing was made 1 January on Fais Island in the Carolines. Very slight resistance was met and overcome on 3 January.

EASTERN FRONT

On 7 January, Soviet forces advanced along the northern bank of the Danube to within ten miles of Komarom, but were forced to withdraw south of the river, abandoning Esztergom.

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OSD Letter, 5-8-72

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 1124

0700 January 6 to 0700 January 7, 1945

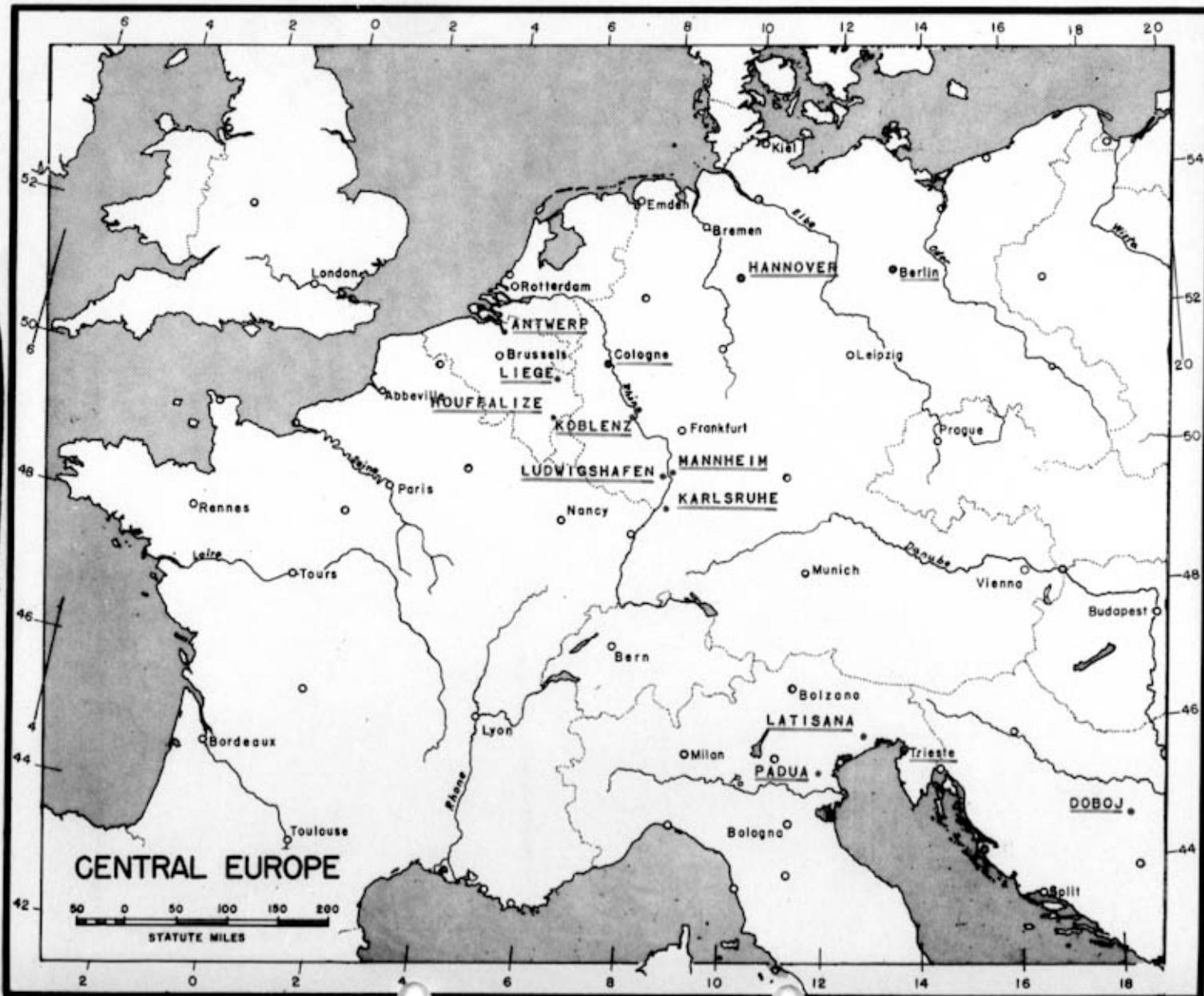
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OSD Letter, 5-8-78



EUROPEAN THEATER

1. During the 24-hour period to sunset, 5 January, the Tactical Air Forces flew 2,728 sorties. Communication centers and rail targets in and behind the Ardennes salient, airfields, enemy strong points, and billeting areas from Alsace to Holland were attacked, as were rocket-launching installations in Holland. Seven enemy aircraft were destroyed; we lost fifteen.

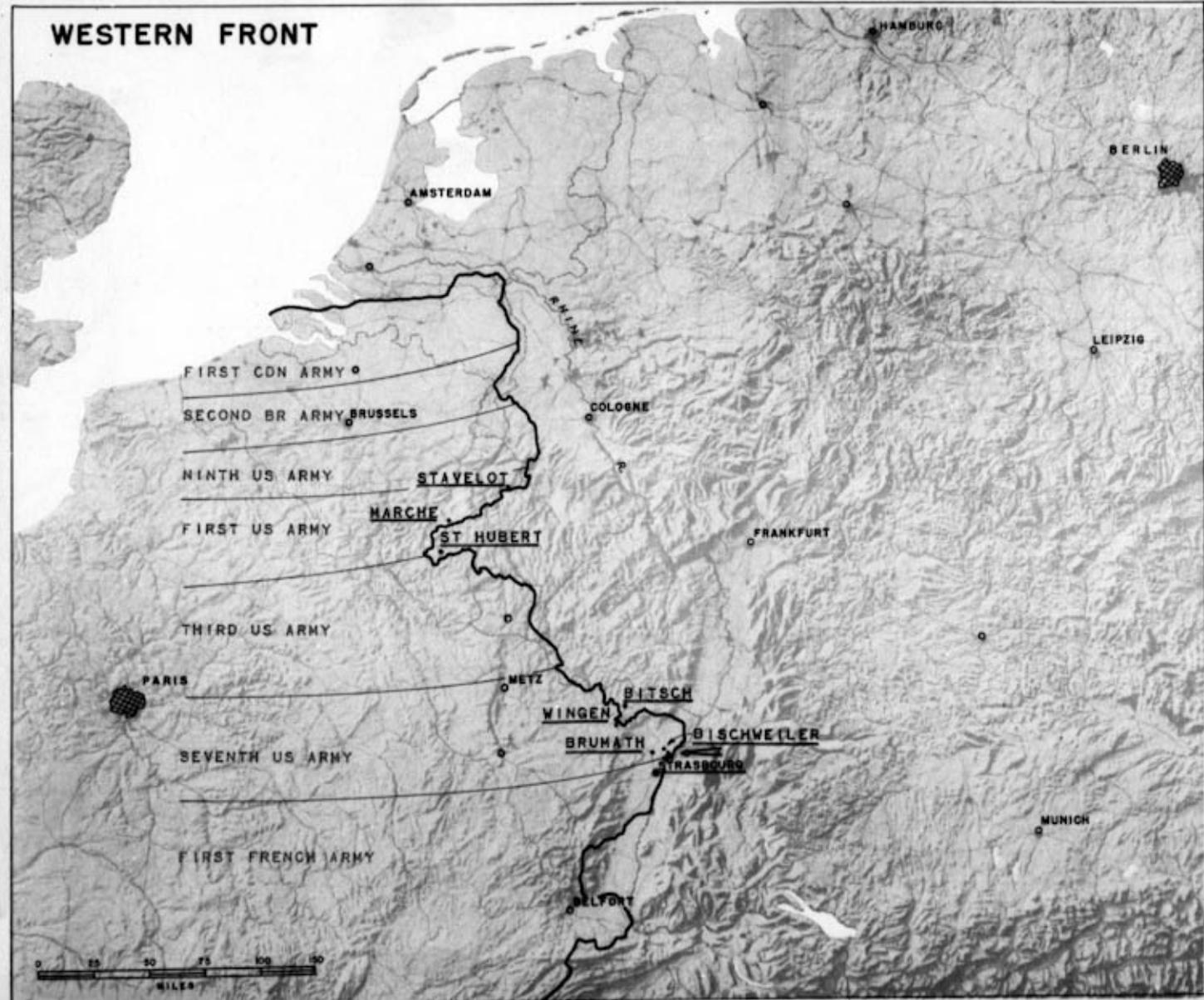
The same day, 151 RAF heavy bombers attacked rail installations at Ludwigshafen. That night 399 heavy bombers attacked Hannover, and 131 attacked troop concentrations at Houffalize in the Ardennes salient. Sixty-nine Mosquitoes hit Berlin. Four enemy planes were destroyed; 36 bombers are missing.

On 6 January, 816 escorted 8th Air Force heavy bombers attacked rail bridges and rail centers in areas near Karlsruhe, Mannheim, Koblenz and Cologne. Seven bombers are missing. During 5 January operations, an additional five bombers were lost.

During the 24-hour period ending at 0600, 5 January, two rockets and three flying bombs fell in Antwerp, and six flying bombs fell in Liege. Four rockets and 38 flying bombs landed in areas close to Antwerp and Liege.

During the 24-hour period ending at 0600, 6 January, five rockets fell in England. None reached London. Twelve flying bombs were launched against England, of which four made landfall. Three landed in the London area. One of the launching aircraft was destroyed.

WESTERN FRONT



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2. To 1200 hours on 6 January, our First Army continued its attack on the northern flank of the Ardennes salient and had advanced generally to a maximum of a mile and a half along a front extending southwest from Stavelot for some 18 miles. Our attack met heavy resistance and was hampered by mine fields, inclement weather, and poor visibility. To the west, the enemy was resisting strongly between Marche and St. Hubert. We repulsed a counterattack in this area.

Our Seventh Army checked further expansion of the enemy's drive south of Bitsch and counterattacked northeast of Wingen, gaining about two miles. Other counterattacks to the north were preventing expansion of the enemy's eastern flank.

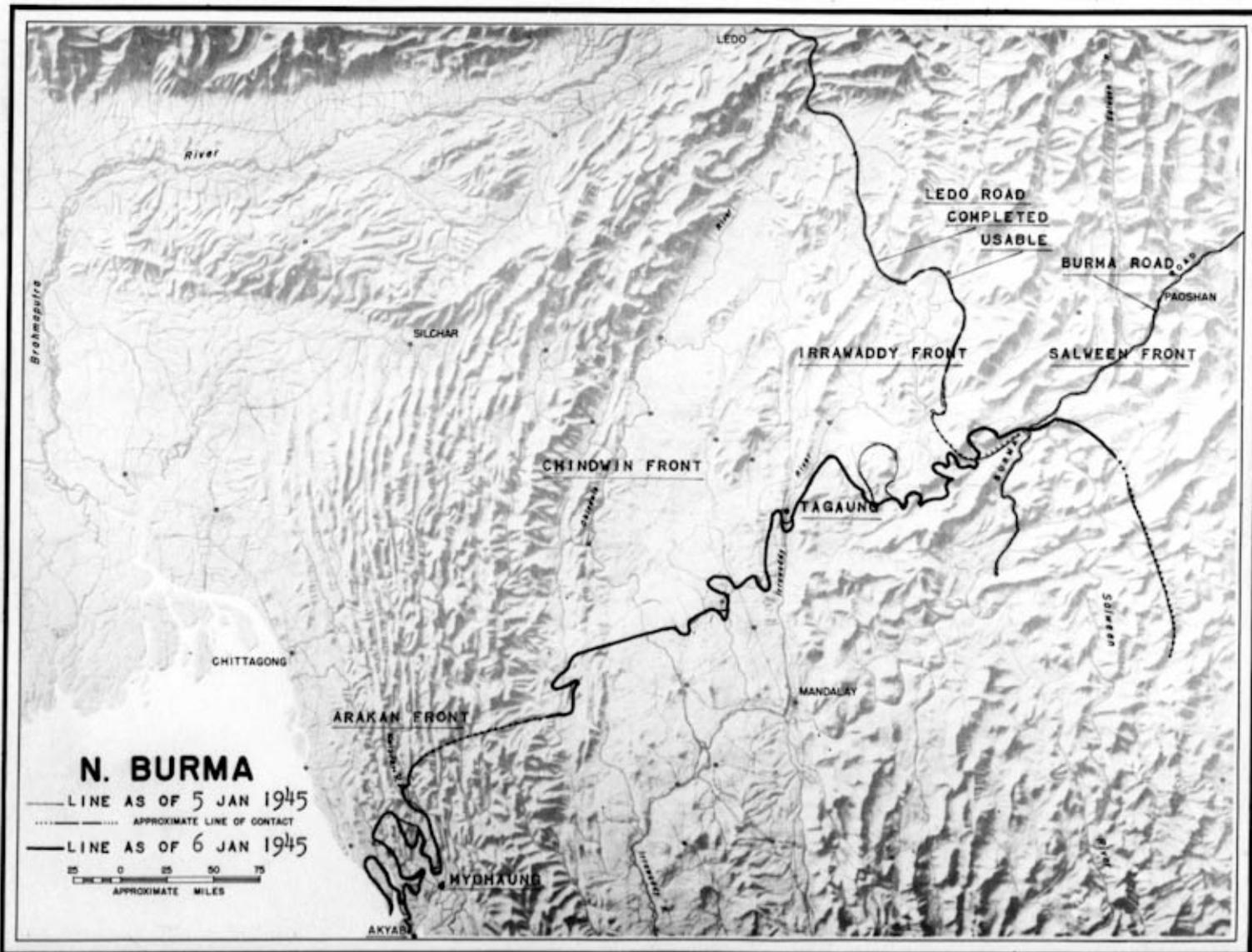
Attacking across a Rhine River bridgehead ten miles northeast of Strasbourg, the Germans advanced four miles west toward Brumath and three miles north toward Bischweiler.

The First French Army has taken over responsibility for an additional area in Alsace, including the city of Strasbourg.

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

1. During the 24-hour period ending at 1800, 5 January, the Tactical Air Force, restricted by weather, flew 213 sorties, mainly in support of our ground forces in the eastern sector of the Italian front. The Balkan Air Force flew 35 sorties against targets in Yugoslavia.

During the night of 4 January, Strategic bombers dropped 152 tons on the Latisana rail bridge, on the Padua-Trieste line. The next day 122 tons were dropped on a rail bridge at Doboij in Yugoslavia.





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 Old Letter, 6-3-72
 TOP SECRET

On 6 January, all 15th Air Force operations were cancelled because of weather.

2. By 1200 hours on 6 January, Canadian troops had reached the Adriatic coast at Foce-del-Reno some 13 miles northeast of Ravenna. Two small-scale raids on forward positions to the west and north of Bagnacavallo were repulsed. On the Fifth Army front there was no change.

ASIATIC THEATER

1. During 4 January the 14th Air Force flew some 45 offensive sorties destroying bridges, rolling stock and four enemy planes, and in support of Chinese troops along the Burma Road.

On the same day, the Eastern Air Command flew 1,781 sorties of which 469 were tactical. Heavy bombers continued to attack targets on the Burma-Siam rail line and hit supply dumps on the Arakan coast. Lighter planes struck in the Akyab area, supported the other fronts, and made numerous attacks along the Irrawaddy.

During the 6 January B-29 strike against industrial targets in Japan (previously reported), 28 aircraft bombed Omura, 11 bombed Nanking, China, and six struck unspecified targets of opportunity. One (probably six) enemy planes were shot down. One B-29 is missing.

That same day, two B-29's based in China bombed rail and power installations at Lacyao on the northeastern China coast.

2. On 5 January, British troops along the Irrawaddy River were



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 OSD Letter, 8-9-79

14 miles south of Tagaung. On the Arakan front, British forces advancing south along the Kaladan were 10 miles north of Myohaung.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. During the period 3-5 January, more than 600 additional sorties were flown. Airdromes on the Philippines were attacked, and shore installations in Borneo, Halmahera, New Britain, Timor, and New Guinea were also raided. Fourteen enemy planes were destroyed; we lost two. Antiaircraft fire shot down two enemy planes during a raid on our shipping at Mindoro.

2. On Leyte during 5 January, mopping-up continued east and north-east of Ormoc.

3. On both 3 and 4 January, Pacifica-area heavy bombers struck Iwo Jima.

EASTERN FRONT

On 6 January, Axis forces were counterattacking the Soviets on the front west of Budapest.

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

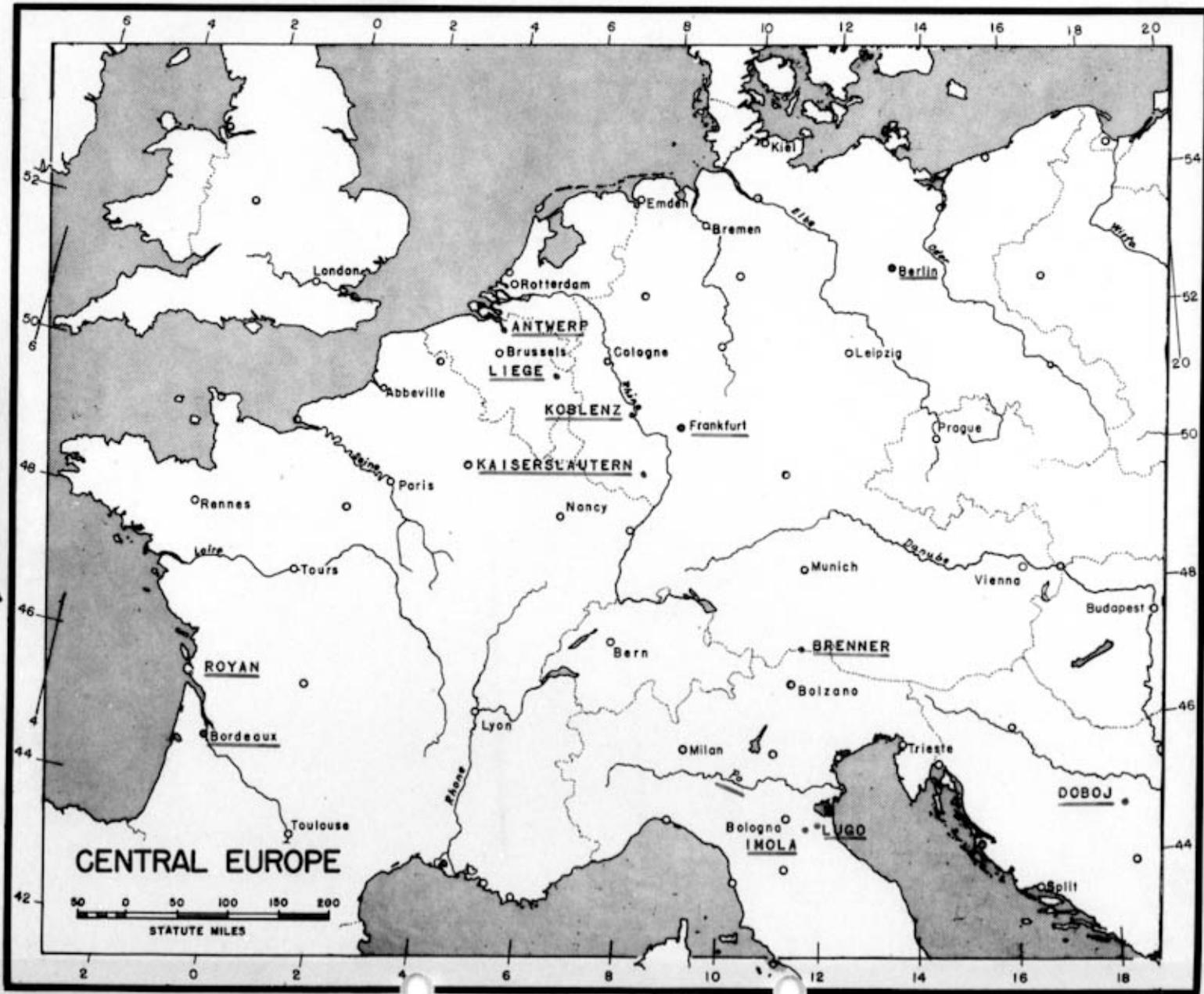
No. 1123

0700 January 5 to 0700 January 6, 1945

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THE WHITE HOUSE

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OSD Letter, 5-8-72

WESTERN FRONT



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DECLASSIFYING
AND LOCATOR, 5-8-78

EUROPEAN THEATER

1. During the 24-hour period to sunset, 4 January, the Tactical Air Forces flew 713 sorties, chiefly in support of the First Canadian, the US Seventh and the First French Armies. Fighter bombers struck at rocket sites in Holland. Ten enemy planes were shot down; we lost three.

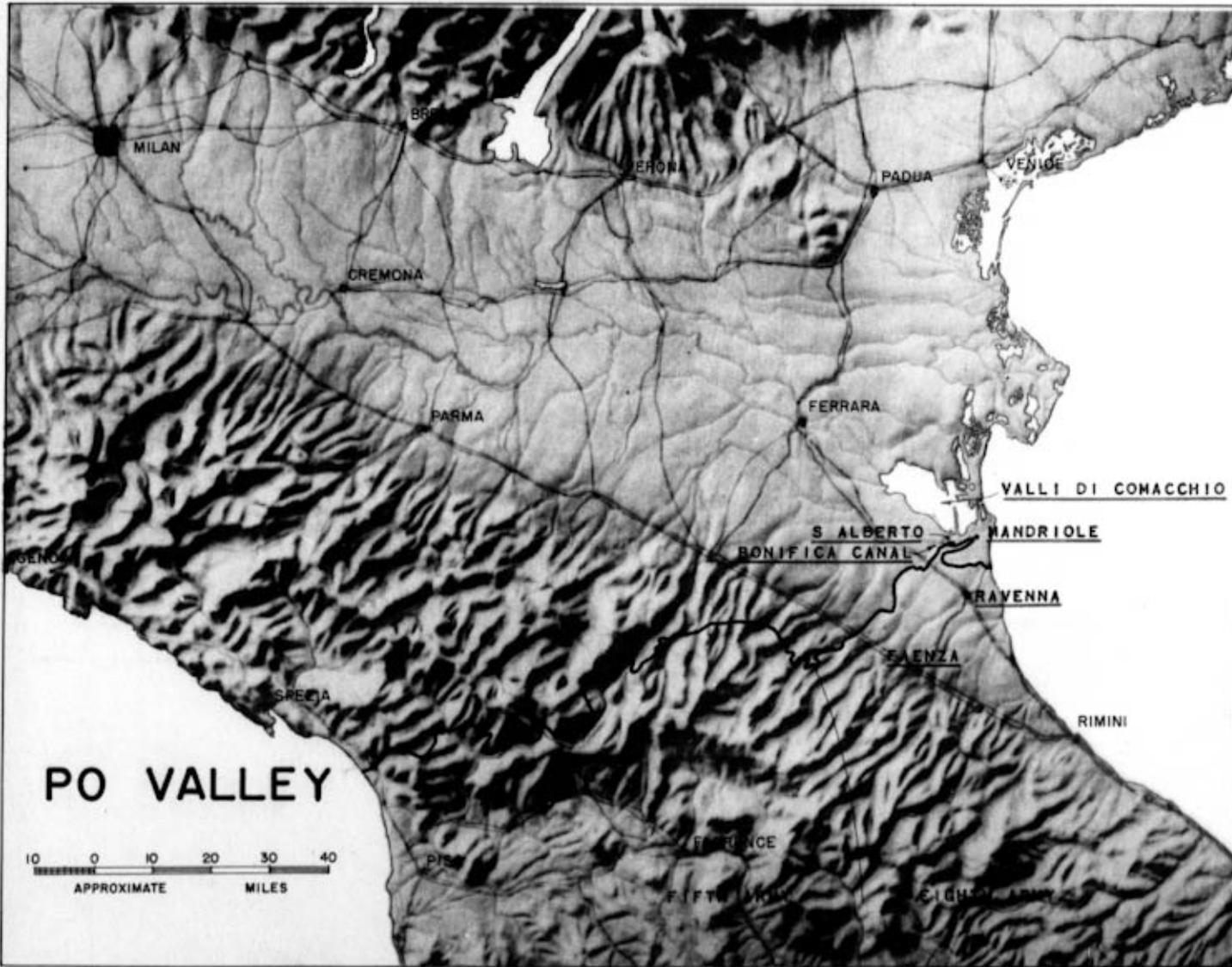
During the night of 4 January, 347 RAF heavy bombers and seven Mosquitoes attacked Royan northwest of Bordeaux, which was reported occupied only by German troops. Fifty-eight Mosquitoes bombed Berlin.

On 5 January, 1,027 escorted 8th Air Force heavy bombers attacked communication centers northeast and east of the Ardennes salient, and rail yards and airfields in the Kaiserslautern-Frankfurt-Koblenz area. Five enemy planes were destroyed. Our known losses are seven bombers and two fighters.

During the 24-hour period ending at 0600 on 4 January, one rocket fell in Antwerp, 12 flying bombs fell in Liege and seven rockets and 46 flying bombs fell in scattered areas behind the front.

During the 24-hour period ending at 0600 on 5 January, 14 rockets fell in England, five reaching London.

2. During the 24-hour period ending at 1200 hours on 5 January, our First Army continued its attack on the northern flank of the Ardennes salient. Heavy opposition, minefields, unfavorable terrain and bad weather slowed operations. Nevertheless, slight gains were made generally along the line from Stavelot to Rochefort. Three counterattacks north



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and west of Vielsalm were repulsed. On the southern flank of the salient there was no substantial change.

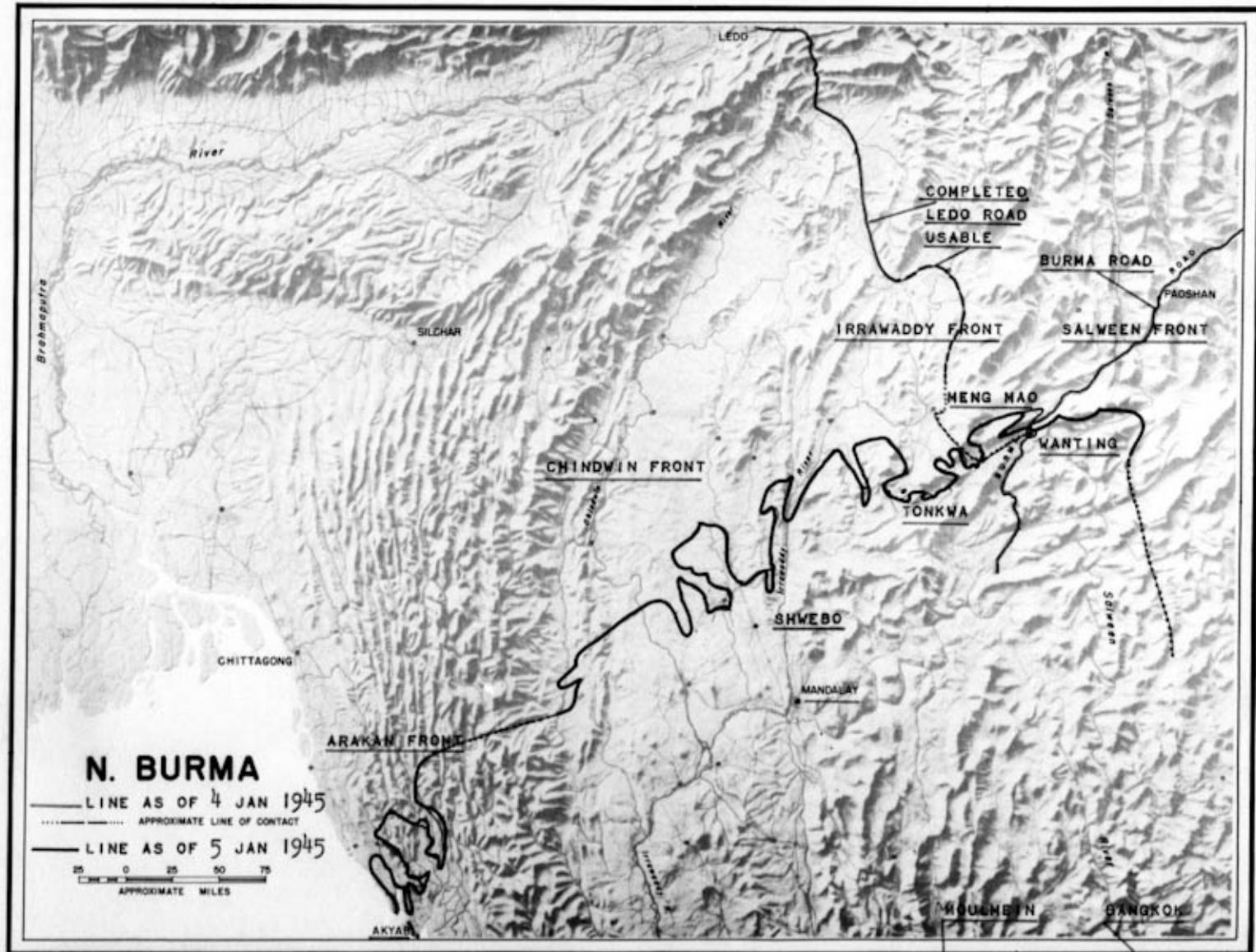
On the Seventh Army front the enemy's penetration was being checked about ten miles south of Bitsch. In Alsace, the Germans retook Neunkirch, northeast of Selestat.

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

1. During the 24-hour period ending at 1800 on 4 January, the Tactical Air Force flew 1,248 sorties. Among these, 140 medium bombers attacked targets on the Brenner line, destroying bridges and a viaduct. More than 780 fighters and fighter-bombers struck at lines of communication and bridges in the Po Valley, and supported ground operations in the area from Imola to Lugo. The Balkan Air Force, flying 155 sorties, attacked targets in northern Yugoslavia. We lost 17 planes.

The 15th Air Force was hampered by weather on 5 January. Thirty-six fighters bombed a rail bridge at Doboij in Yugoslavia.

2. At 1200 hours on 5 January, the Eighth Army had continued its northeastward advance in the area north of Ravenna, strengthening the bridgehead across the Bonifica Canal and reaching S. Alberto on the Valli di Comacchio. An enemy counterattack west of S. Alberto was beaten off. British armored elements thrust east to Mandriole. Heavy fighting northeast of Faenza yielded local gains. Activity on the Fifth Army front was confined to patrolling.





1. Detachment
 68D Motor, 80-48

ASIATIC THEATER

1. During 3 January, the Eastern Air Command flew 99½ sorties of which 468 were tactical. The weight of these attacks fell on rail targets through central and southern Burma, trackage and a bridge on the Bangkok-Moulmein line, and a rail bridge near Mandalay being severely damaged.

2. For 3 January, the 14th Air Force reported 31 offensive sorties. In the Hankow area a 150-foot steamer and six smaller ships were sunk, dock areas badly damaged and three enemy planes destroyed. Thirteen enemy planes were destroyed at Tsinan. A 200-foot vessel was sunk in the South China Sea. We lost two fighters.

3. By 4 January, Japanese troops had recaptured Wanting, on the Burma Road, but Chinese forces had cleared the enemy from Meng Mao, 16 miles southwest. On the Irrawaddy front, the Chinese extended their advance some nine miles south of Tonkwa, and British troops along the Burma railway were within twelve miles of Shwebo without opposition. The Allies made further unopposed landings on Akyab Island, half of which is now in their hands.

4. Preliminary report for 6 January states that 48 B-29's from China were airborne to attack machine works at Tachiarai and the Omura aircraft plant in Japan.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. During the period 3-4 January, some 300 sorties were flown in the Southwest Pacific Area, principally against airfields in the Philippines, where eight enemy planes were shot down and 30 destroyed on the ground near Manila.

2. On 3 January, we made unopposed landings at Buenavista on southwestern Marinduque, and at Mamburao on northwestern Mindoro. Next day, there were sharp engagements at Paluan on northwestern Mindoro, and minor contacts elsewhere on the island. On Leyte, mopping up continued; we attacked stubbornly resisting pockets northeast of Ormoc Bay.

3. On 4 January, four B-29's on individual weather missions bombed Nagoya and Osaka. Twenty-two fighters attacked a bivouac area on Babelthuap.

EASTERN FRONT

There was no significant change on the eastern front during 5 January.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 1122

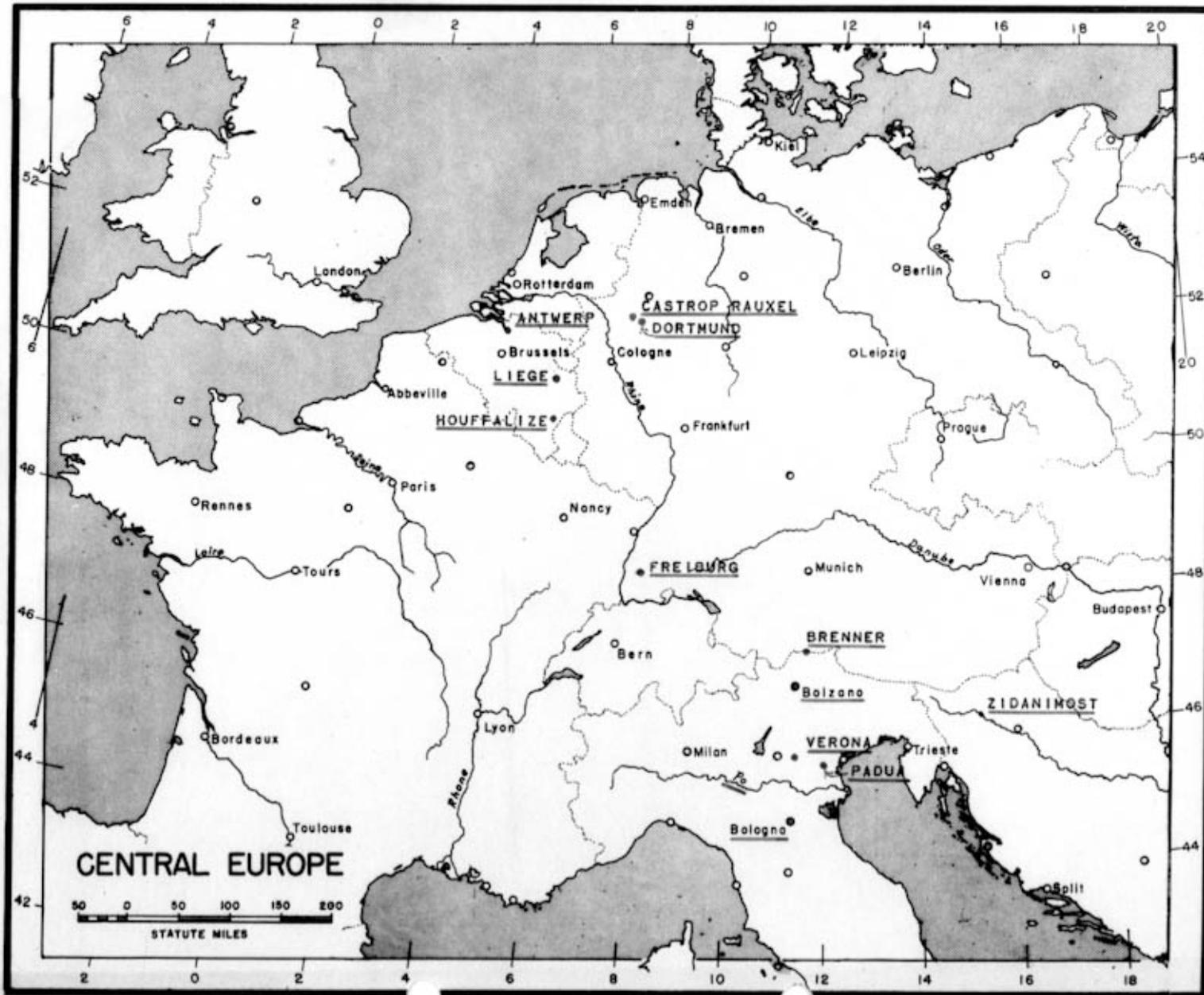
0700 January 4 to 0700 January 5, 1945

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DOWNSIDE
 OSD Letter, 5-3-78

WESTERN FRONT



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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

EUROPEAN THEATER

1. During the 24-hour period to sunset 3 January, weather limited the Tactical Air Forces to 344 sorties. Light and medium bombers attacked the Houffalize communication center in the Ardennes salient. Other planes struck at rail targets in the Freiburg area.

The same day, 91 heavy bombers of the RAF attacked benzol plants at Castrop-Rauxel and Dortmund.

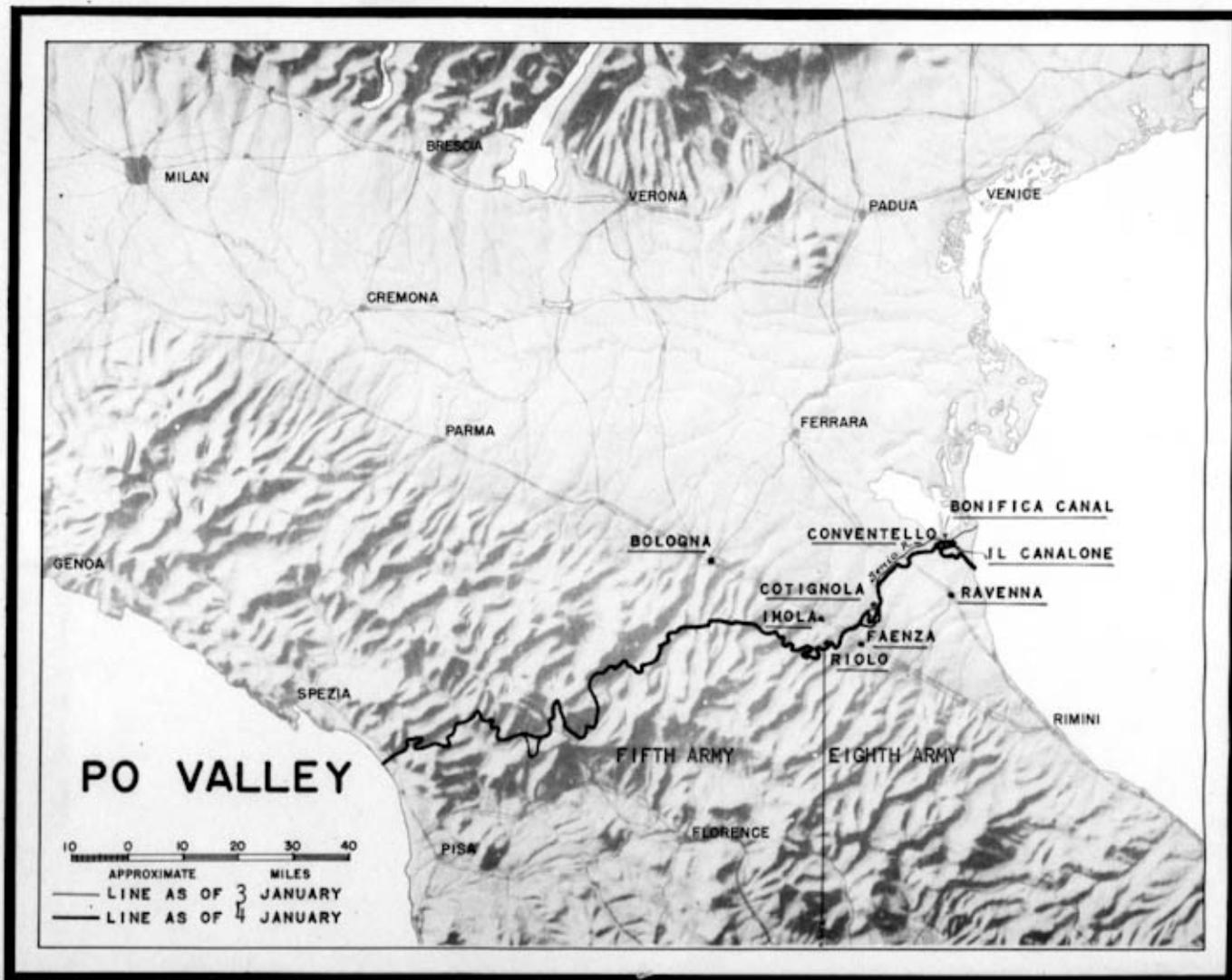
8th Air Force operations on 4 January were cancelled because of the weather.

During the 24-hour period ending at 0600, 3 January, three rockets and seven flying bombs fell in Antwerp. Five flying bombs fell in Liege. Twelve rockets and 66 flying bombs fell in areas near Antwerp and Liege.

During the 24-hour period ending at 0600, 4 January, seven rockets fell in southeast England, two landing in London. Of 52 flying bombs plotted, 18 landed in England, including one in London; 19 were destroyed.

2. To 1200 hours on 4 January, we continued the attack on the northern flank of the Ardennes salient, but progress was limited by snow, rough ground and moderate to strong resistance. The advance has reached a point three miles northwest of Vielsalm. Smaller gains straightened, and at some points advanced, our line extending westward to a point one and one-half miles southeast of Marche. Two counterattacks were repulsed north of LaRoche.

Through heavy, falling snow our forces advanced up to two miles on a five-mile front northwest of Bastogne, repulsing a counterattack.



In Lorraine: heavy fighting took place in the area southeast of Saargemund. An enemy raid at Kembs, on the Rhine southeast of Mulhouse, was repulsed.

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

1. During the 24-hour period ending at 1800 on 3 January, the Tactical Air Force flew 1,192 sorties. One hundred and thirty medium bombers attacked rail bridges near Padua and an ammunition dump at Bologna, and 41 others bombed the railyard at Zidanmost in northern Yugoslavia; one Padua bridge was completely destroyed. Some 900 lighter planes attacked communications in the Po Valley, along the Brenner route and in Yugoslavia, and gave support to our ground forces. The Balkan Air Force flew 66 sorties, bombing and strafing rail targets in Yugoslavia. One enemy plane was destroyed; we lost nine.

On 4 January, 494 escorted 15th Air Force heavy bombers attacked railyards and bridges in the Padua-Bolzano-Verona area. Four bombers and one fighter are missing.

2. By 1200 hours on 4 January, Canadian troops of the Eighth Army had made two crossings of the Bonifica Canal northwest of Ravenna and had widened their salient gaining two and one-half miles to the east. A strong counterattack west of Conventello was repulsed. South of Catignola they drove west one mile along a three-mile front, while British troops north of Faenza advanced three miles on a one-mile front east of the

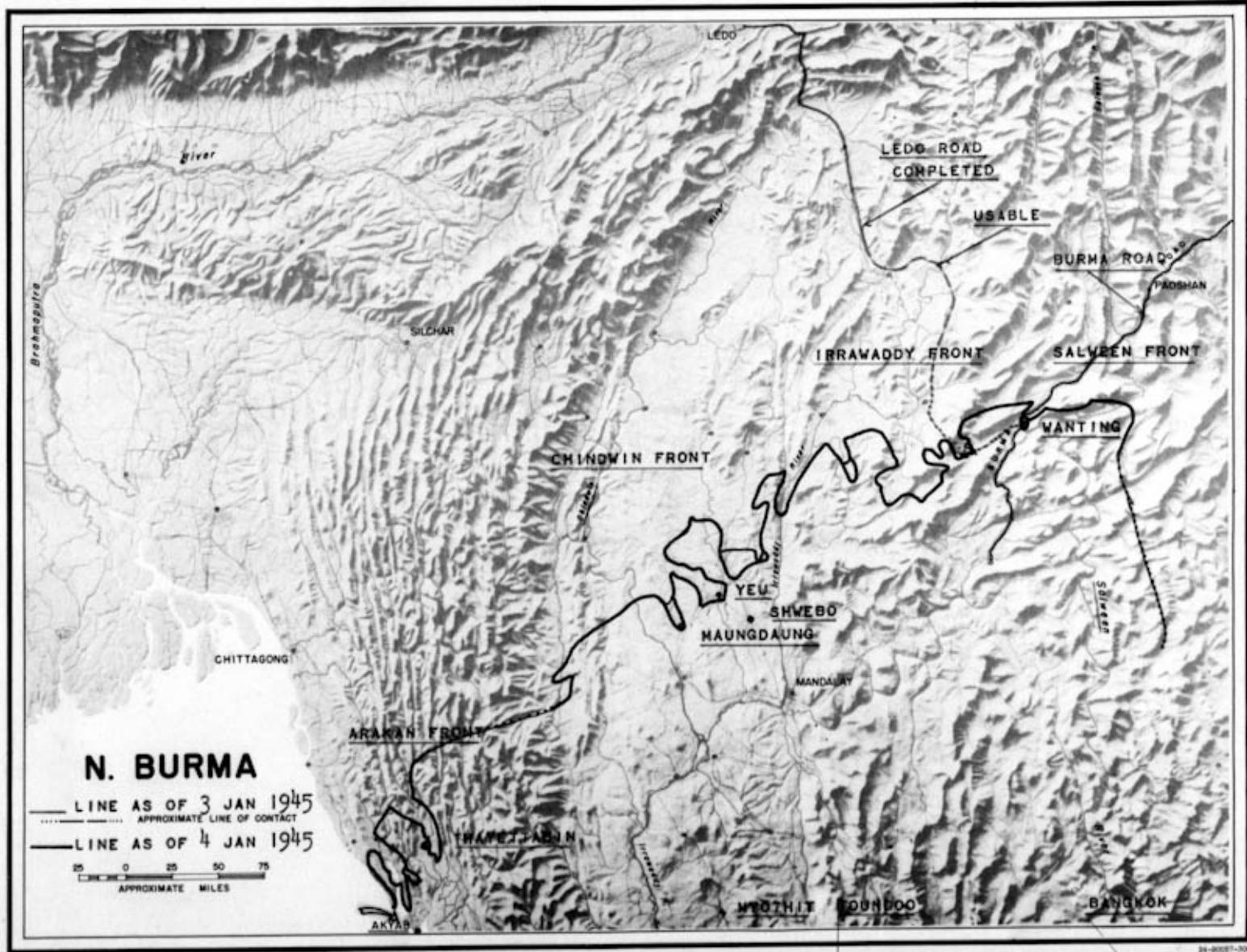
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OSD Letter, 5-8-78

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SCALE OF MILES



Senio River. South of Imola, four enemy raids were beaten off. The Fifth Army repulsed raids south and southwest of Bologna.

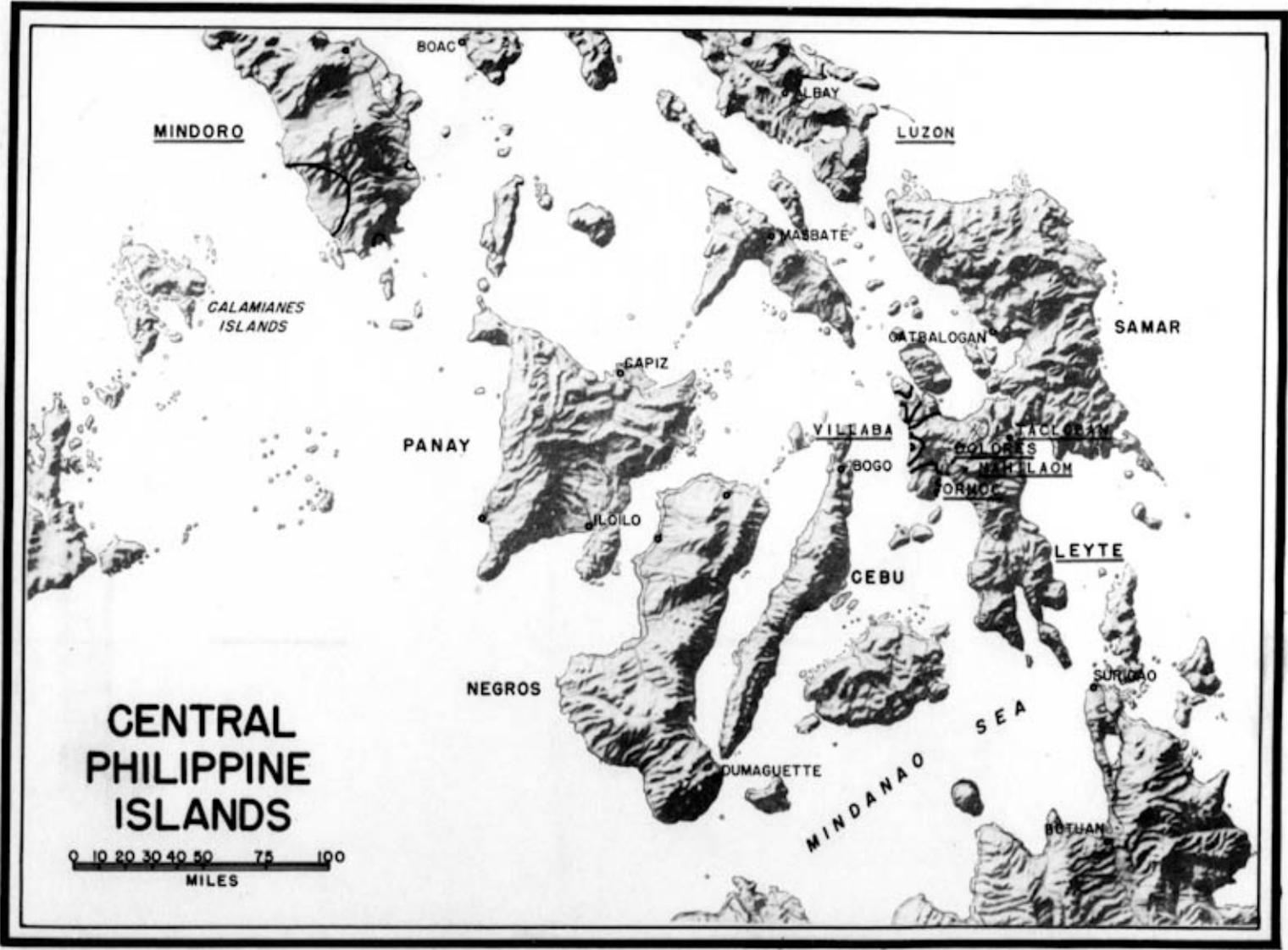
ASIATIC THEATER

1. During 2 January, the Eastern Air Command flew 1,549 sorties, of which 477 were tactical. Heavy, medium and fighter bombers severely damaged railroad tracks and bridges in Burma and supported the Allied ground forces.

In the 18 December attack on Hankow by B-24's and B-29's a waterfront area of more than 300 acres containing warehouses, factories and office buildings, 25 steam launches, three floating drydocks; and 21 (probably 44) enemy aircraft were destroyed.

During 1 and 2 January, the 14th Air Force flew more than 100 offensive sorties, attacking trains and warehouses in the Yangtze River area; 25 enemy aircraft were destroyed on the ground at Suchow airdrome.

2. On 3 January, Allied troops landed on Akyab Island, and occupied .Thayettabin unopposed. British patrols advancing southeast from the Chindwin River reached Maungdaung. Light opposition was encountered by forces advancing on Shwebo from Yeu, while patrols advancing down the Burma railway were within 16 miles of Shwebo. Chinese forces west of the Salween River had occupied Wanting, on the Burma Road, following Japanese evacuation. Wanting is the junction point of the Ledo Road and the Burma Road.



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PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. During the period 2-3 January more than 300 sorties were flown. Shipping, airdromes and enemy installations in the Philippines, Borneo, Halmahas and New Guinea were attacked. One large and four small freighters, one seaplane carrier and 11 small craft were sunk, and a number of others damaged, principally off western Luzon. Thirty-four enemy planes were destroyed; we lost three. We also lost 13 airplanes by enemy raids on our airdromes on Mindoro and Leyte.

2. On 2 January we landed a small force at Villaba on the western coast of Leyte. Troops mopping up north and east of Ormoc broke enemy resistance southwest of Dolores, but encountered sharp resistance at Mahilaom.

3. Details of the 3 January mission show that 59 B-29's attacked Nagoya and 19 others struck at alternate targets. Eleven (probably 20) enemy planes were destroyed. We lost five bombers: one was shot down over the target, two crashed at sea, and two are missing.

On 3 January, 40 fighters attacked enemy supply areas on Babelthuap.

EASTERN FRONT

The situation on this front remained substantially unchanged on 4 January.

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 1121

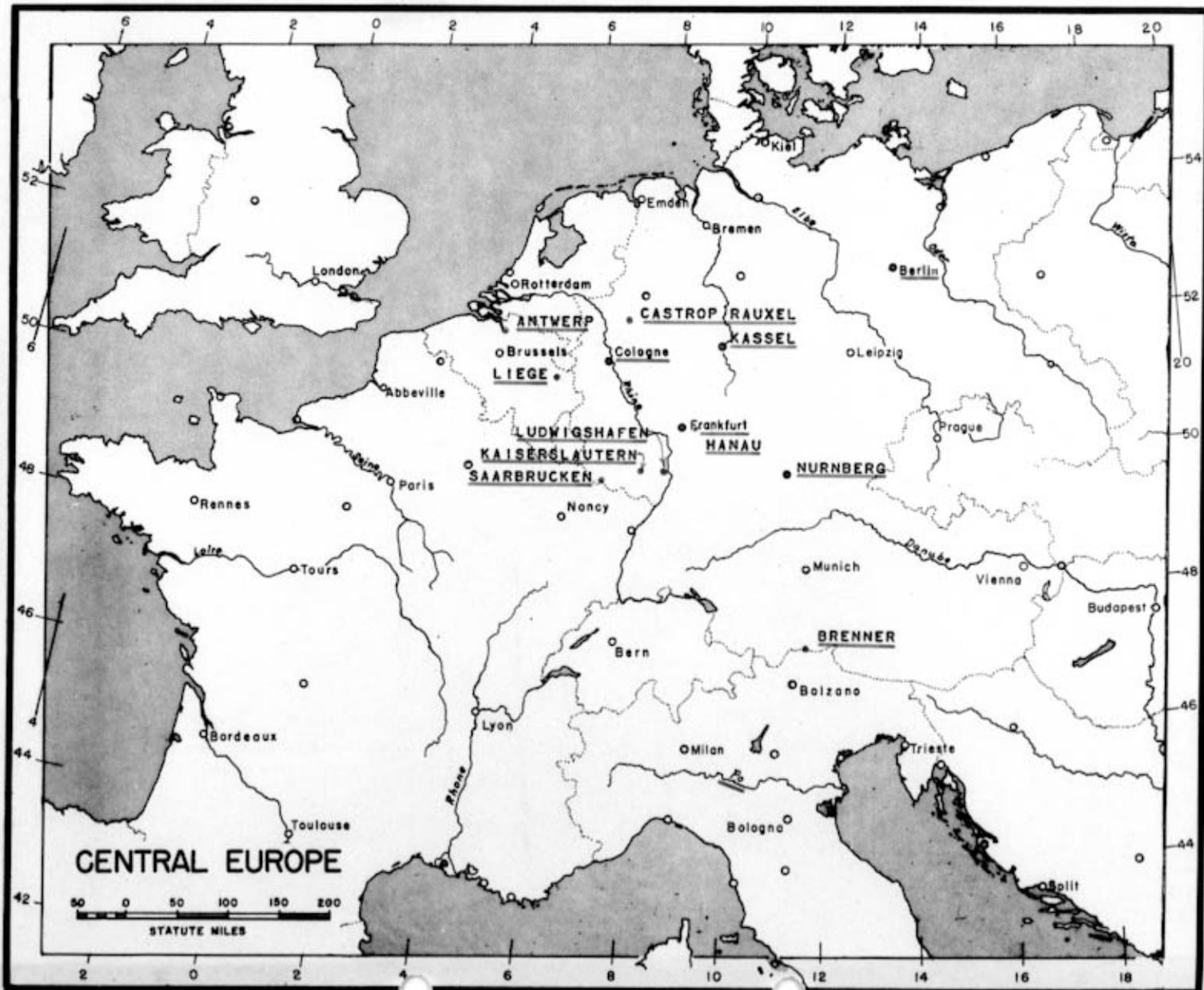
0700 January 3 to 0700 January 4, 1945

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GPD Letter, 5-8-78



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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

EUROPEAN THEATER

1. During the 24-hour period to sunset, 2 January, the Tactical Air Forces flew 2,149 sorties. Rail, communication and supply targets in the Kaiserslautern area and behind the Ardennes salient were bombed. Fourteen enemy aircraft were shot down. We lost 21.

During the night of 2 January, 514 RAF heavy bombers attacked Nurnberg, and 373 others attacked a chemical factory at Ludwigshafen. Bombing was visual, and excellent concentrations were reported in both attacks. Eighty-four Mosquitoes raided Berlin, Hanau and Castrop Rauxel, and accompanied the heavy bombers. Three enemy planes were destroyed; six bombers and two Mosquitoes were lost.

The next day, 1,163 escorted 8th Air Force heavy bombers were airborne to attack rail yards in the Frankfurt-Kassel-Cologne area, communication centers and rail targets in the German salient, and similar targets in the Saarbrucken-Kaiserslautern area. All results were unobserved. Two enemy planes were shot down. Three bombers and seven fighters are missing.

During the 24-hour period ending at 0600, 2 January, one rocket and two flying bombs fell in Antwerp. Seven flying bombs fell in Liege. One rocket and 60 flying bombs fell in areas outside Antwerp and Liege.

During the 24-hour period to 0600, 3 January, eight rockets fell in England.

2. During the 24-hour period ending at 1200 hours on 3 January, the enemy was exerting heavy pressure against our Seventh Army



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on the front between Saargemund and Neunhofen. One penetration had reached Achen, ten miles west of Bitsch, and the other had been pushed six miles south of Bitsch along a front extending six miles east. ~~Our salient northeast of Hagenau has been withdrawn to Maginot line positions, about five miles within France along a curving 30-mile front.~~

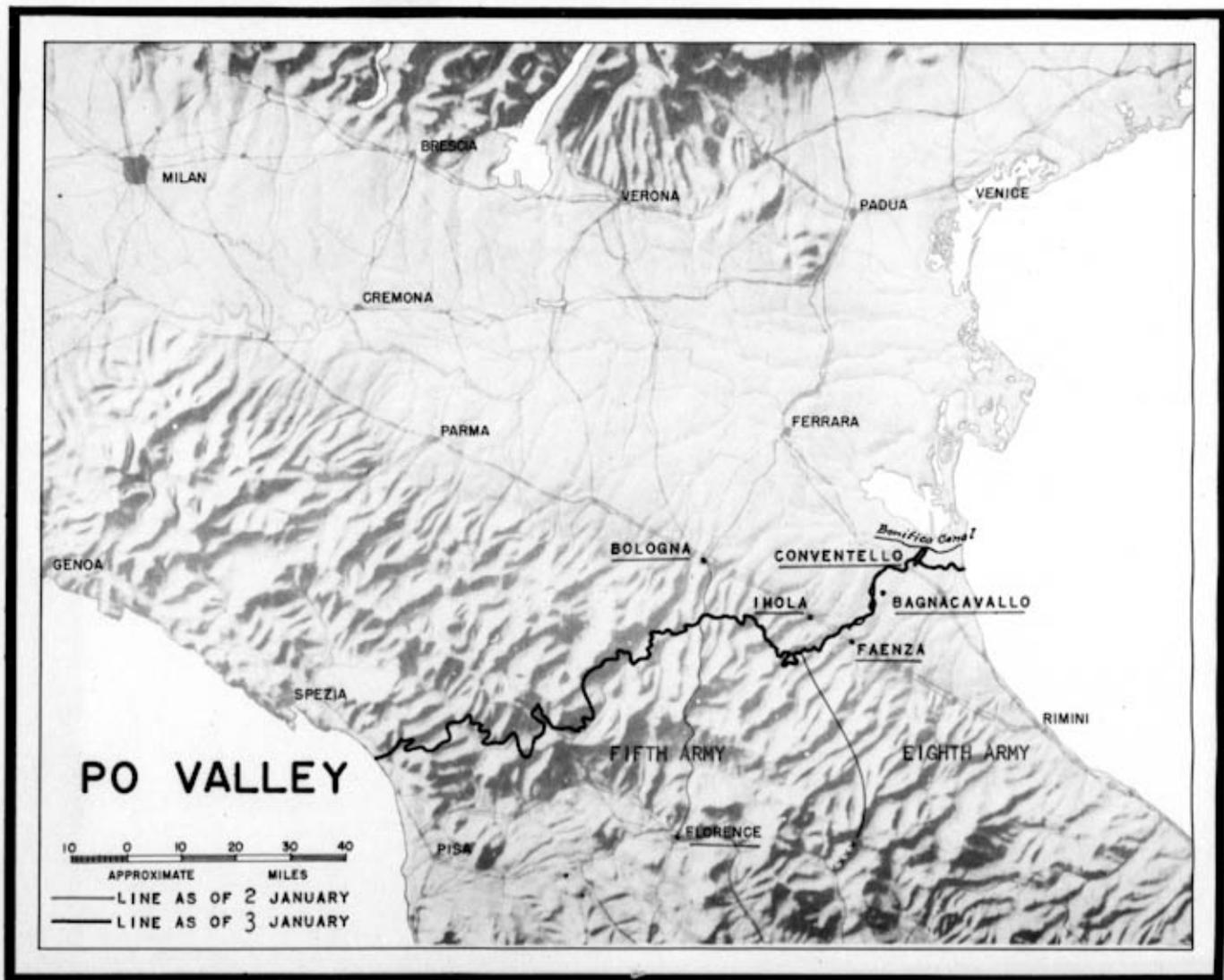
Our First and Third Armies continued their attacks against the Ardennes salient. The First Army, striking between Stavelot and Marche, made gains of from one to three miles along a 15-mile front, and, in the area southeast of Malmedy, repulsed a German attack. To the west, further progress was made south of Rochefort. Our Third Army continued to make local gains in the area between St. Hubert and Bastogne and had driven a wedge some four miles northeast of Bastogne.

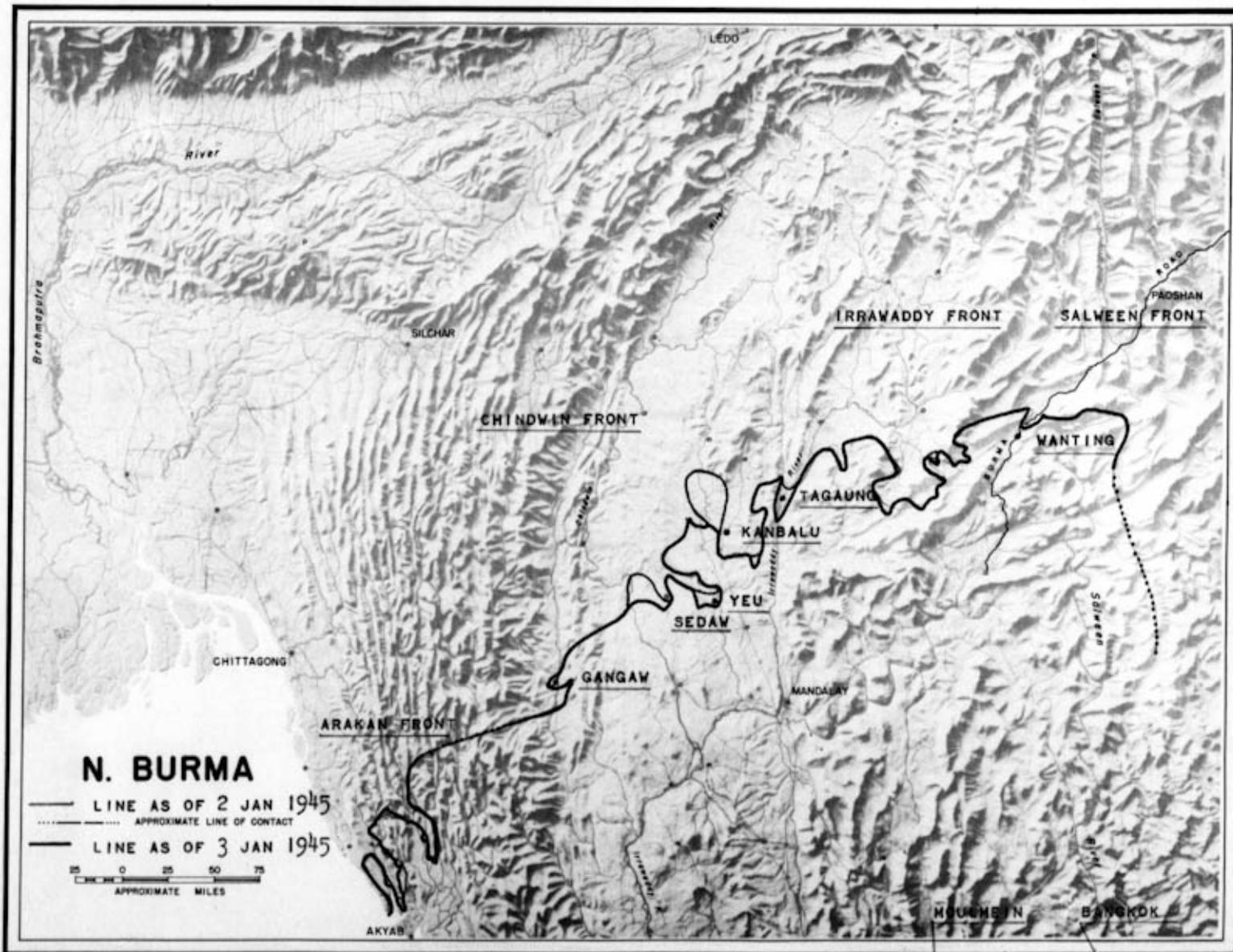
MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

1. During the 24-hour period ending at 1800, on 2 January, the Tactical Air Force flew 852 sorties, principally in attacks against communications in the northwestern Po Valley, and along the Brenner route. Weather grounded medium bombers, as well as the Balkan Air Force.

On 3 January, 15th Air Force operations were cancelled for the fifth consecutive day because of weather. Reconnaissance showed considerable damage to Regensburg and Kolin oil plants as a result of 28 December attacks.

2. By 1200 on 3 January, Eighth Army troops, pressing their attack





northeast of Conventello, had driven ahead three miles to the Bonifica Canal. Enemy raids north of Bagnacavallo were repulsed. Northeast of Faenza, British troops made local gains and repelled a counterattack.

On the Fifth Army front, minor attacks were repulsed southwest of Imola and west of the Bologna-Florence highway.

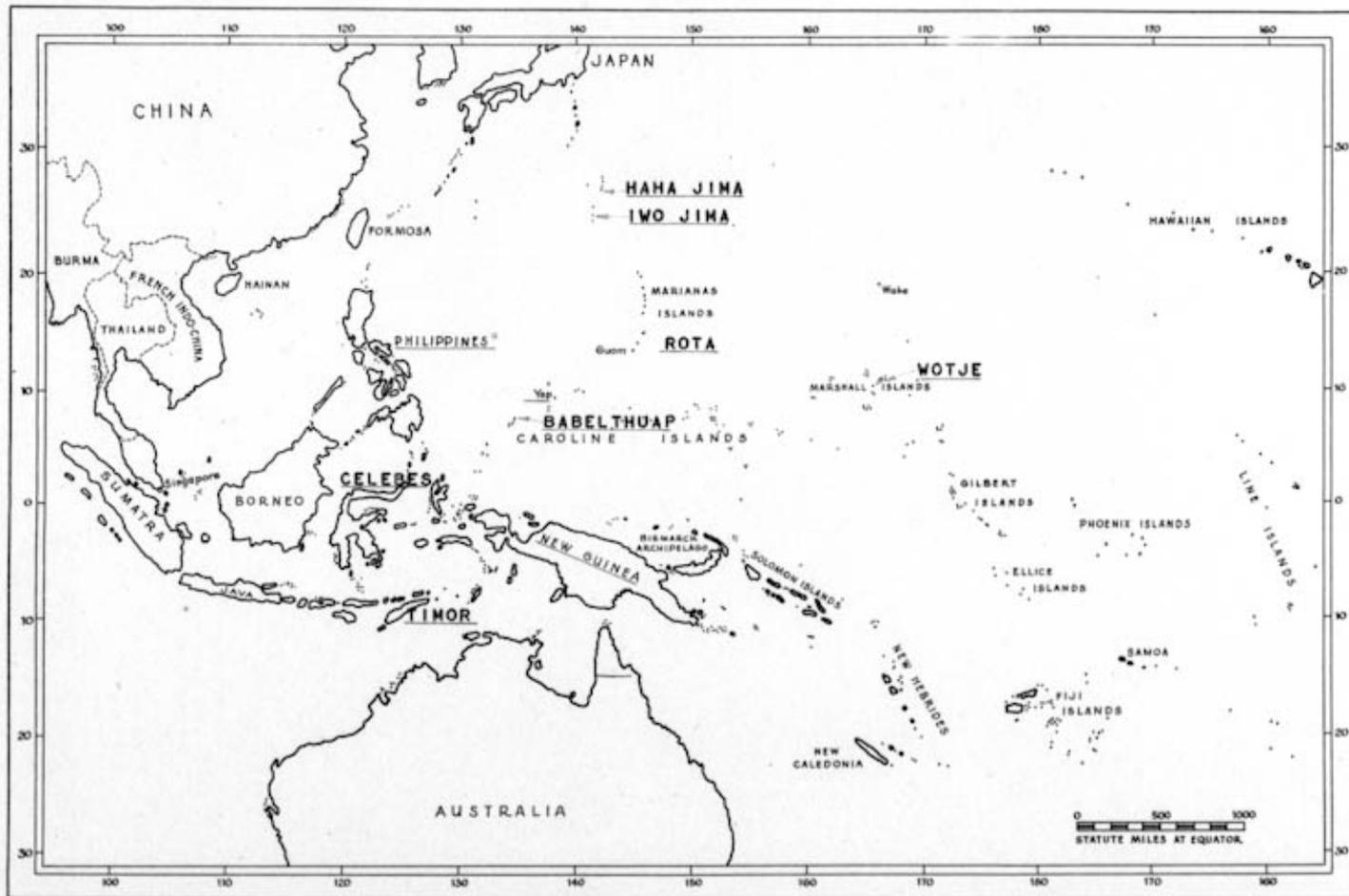
ASIATIC THEATER

1. During 1 January the Eastern Air Command reported 695 sorties, of which 272 were tactical. Heavy bombers severely damaged four bridges on the Moulmein-Bangkok railway and attacked shipping south of Moulmein, sinking two coastal vessels and damaging seven others. Medium bombers and fighters attacked targets on the Salween and Chindwin fronts and strafed road, rail and river traffic through central Burma.

2. By 2 January, four different British columns between the Chindwin and Irrawaddy Rivers had extended their southward advances. From west to east, advance elements of these columns were five miles southwest of Sedaw, a mile south of Yeu (which was occupied), 20 miles southeast of Kanbalu, and on the Irrawaddy River eight miles south of Tagaung. West of the Chindwin, Allied forces repulsed an attack in the area of Gangaw, which is on the Myittha River.

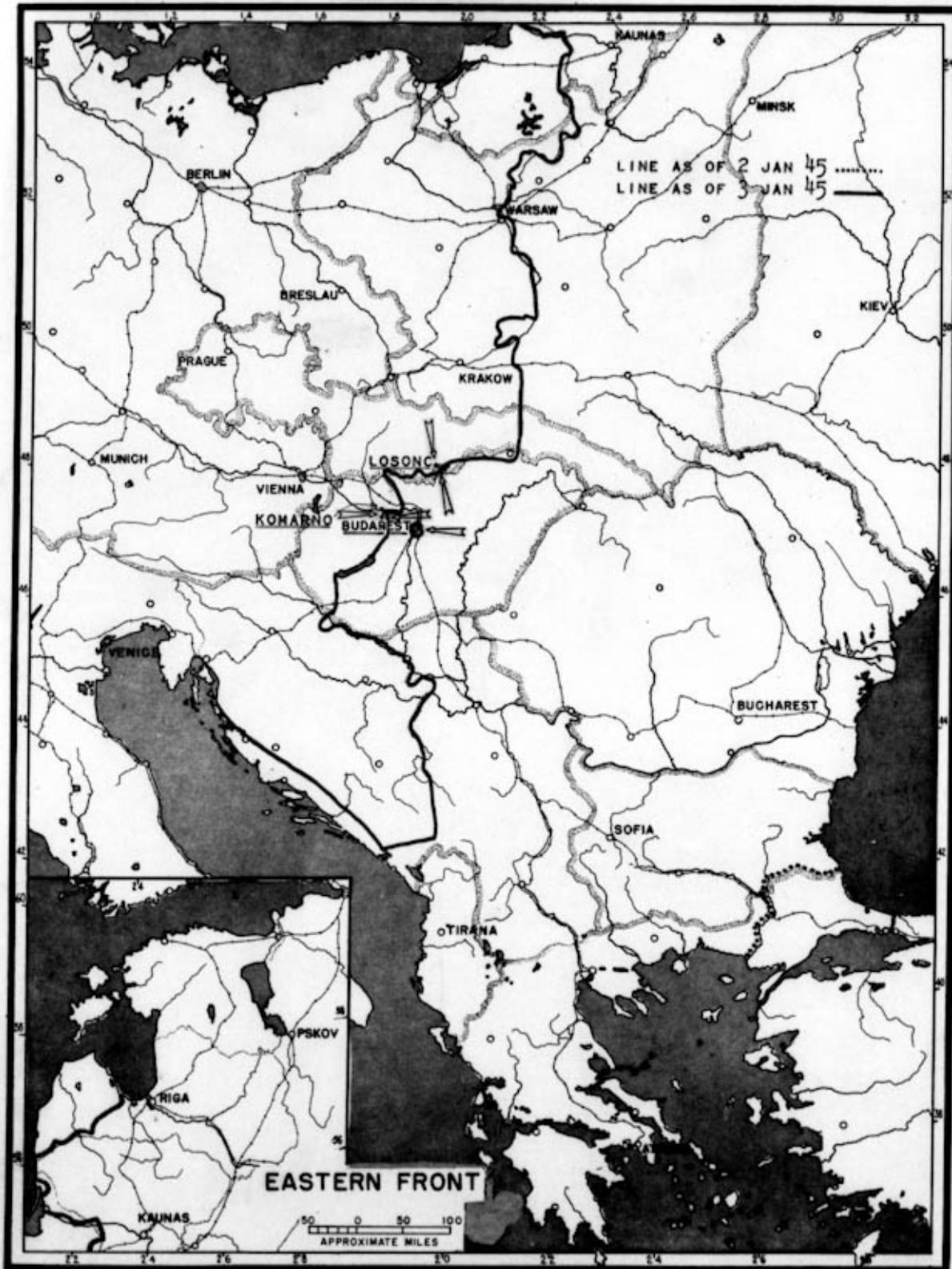
PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. A fragmentary report states that during the period 1-2 January some 220 additional sorties were flown in the Southwest Pacific attacking



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shipping, and airfields in the Philippines, Celebes, Timor and New Guinea areas. One small freighter and seven lighter craft were sunk, and other vessels set afire. One enemy plane was destroyed; we lost seven.

2. There was no report of any ground action in this area.

3. On 1 January, 28 heavy bombers attacked air installations on Iwo Jima. On 2 January, 12 heavy bombers struck Haha Jima, 14 again hit Iwo Jima, and 22 fighters attacked Rota, Yap and Babelthuap.

EASTERN FRONT

West of Budapest on 3 January, continued German attacks forced the Soviets to give ground southeast of Komarno. To the northeast, the Red Army made minor gains toward Losonc. In Budapest itself, heavy fighting continued.

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

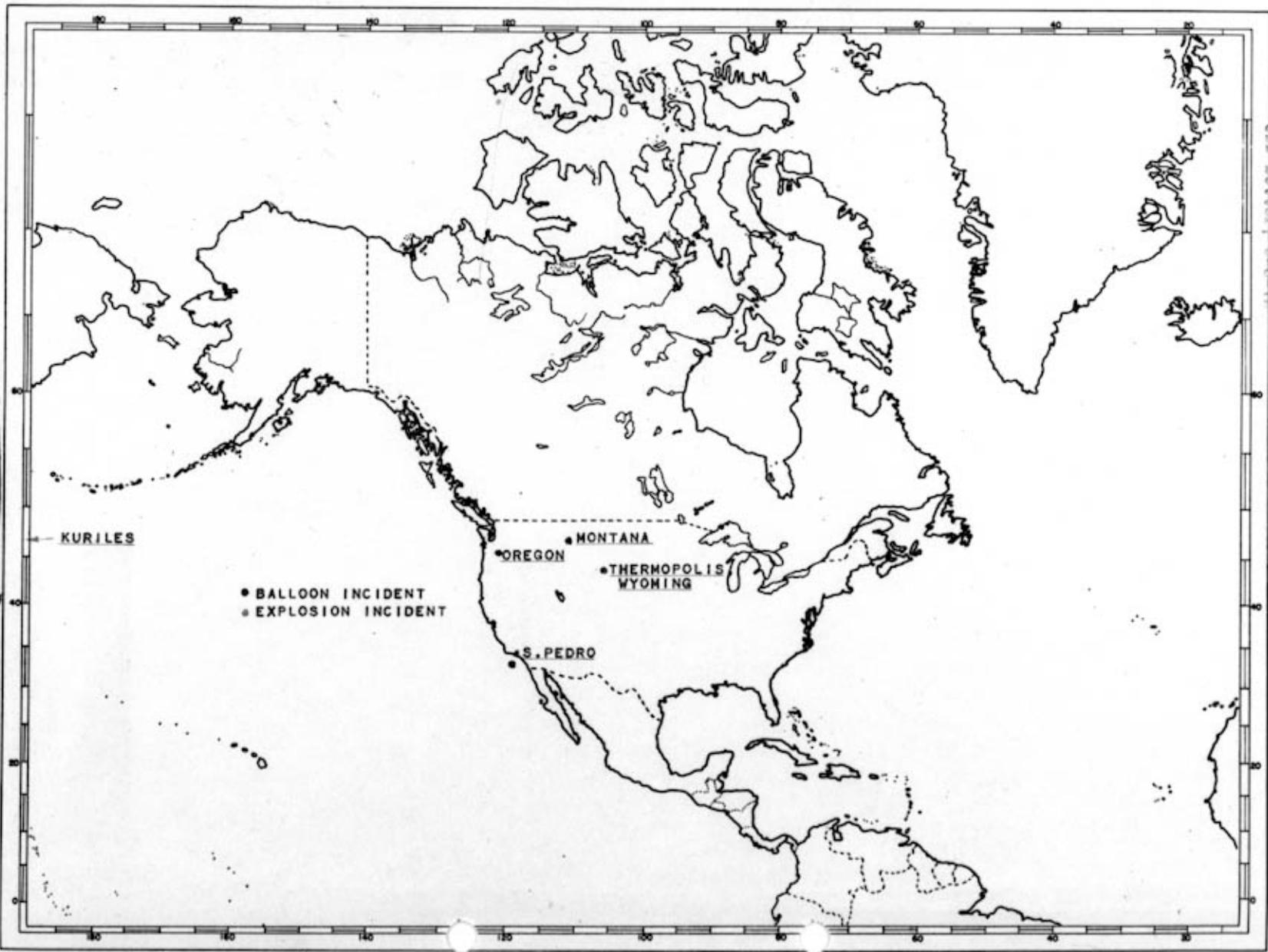
No. 1120

0700 January 2 to 0700 January 3, 1945

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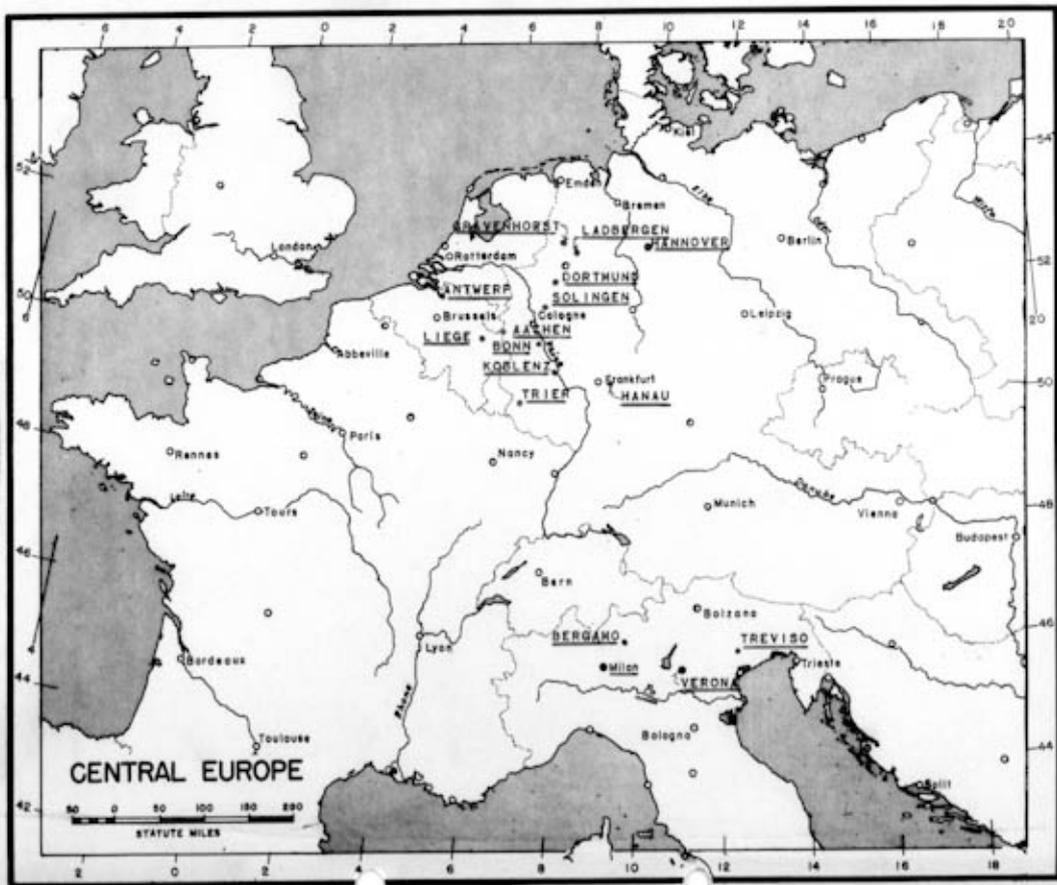
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WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Three large balloons apparently of Japanese origin have been recovered on the west coast; one at sea on 4 November, one on 11 December in Montana, and one on 31 December in Oregon. On four other occasions balloons have been sighted. In addition, following reports of explosions six miles northwest of Thermopolis, Wyoming, on 6 November 1944, fragments of a Japanese bomb were found in the area. It is possible that the enemy is using these balloons to collect data for the future systematic dispatch of others.

EUROPEAN THEATER

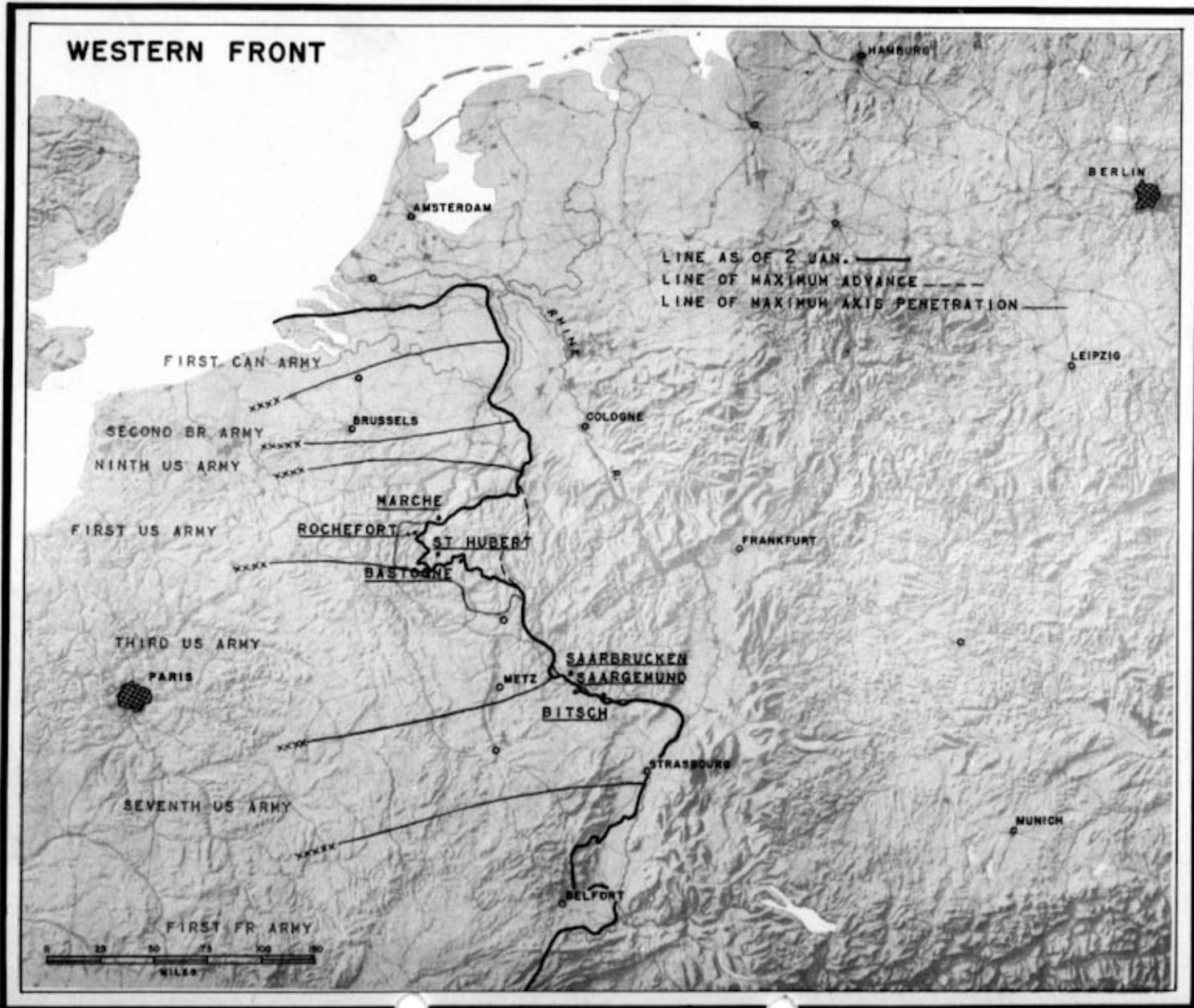
1. On 2 January, 1,012 escorted 8th Air Force bombers attacked communication centers and rail yards in the Trier-Koblenz-Bonn area, and installations along the Siegfried line. Two enemy planes were destroyed. We lost nine bombers and one fighter.

A revised report of 8th Air Force operations on 31 December raises the total of enemy planes destroyed to 87 (instead of 52). Our loss appears now to be 28 bombers.

During 1 January, the RAF distributed more than 1,500 tons of bombs on the Ems Canal at Ladbergen, the Mittelland Canal at Gravenhorst, a railway center near Solingen, and a coking plant at Dortmund. Mosquitoes executed low-level attacks on tunnels on railway lines supplying the German offensive, and raided Hanau and Hannover. Nine heavy bombers and three Mosquitoes were lost.

During the 24-hour period to sunset, 1 January, the Tactical Air

WESTERN FRONT



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OSD Letter, 5-8-72

Forces flew 3,744 sorties. More than 1,200 tons of bombs were dropped on rocket installations, rail yards, bridges, supply dumps and communication centers, the main weight of the attacks falling in the Aachen salient. Heavy strafing of our air installations in Belgium and Holland resulted in the destruction of 168 of our aircraft. Antiaircraft fire destroyed 41 of the raiding planes. During the day the Tactical Air Forces shot down 92 enemy aircraft; we lost 27.

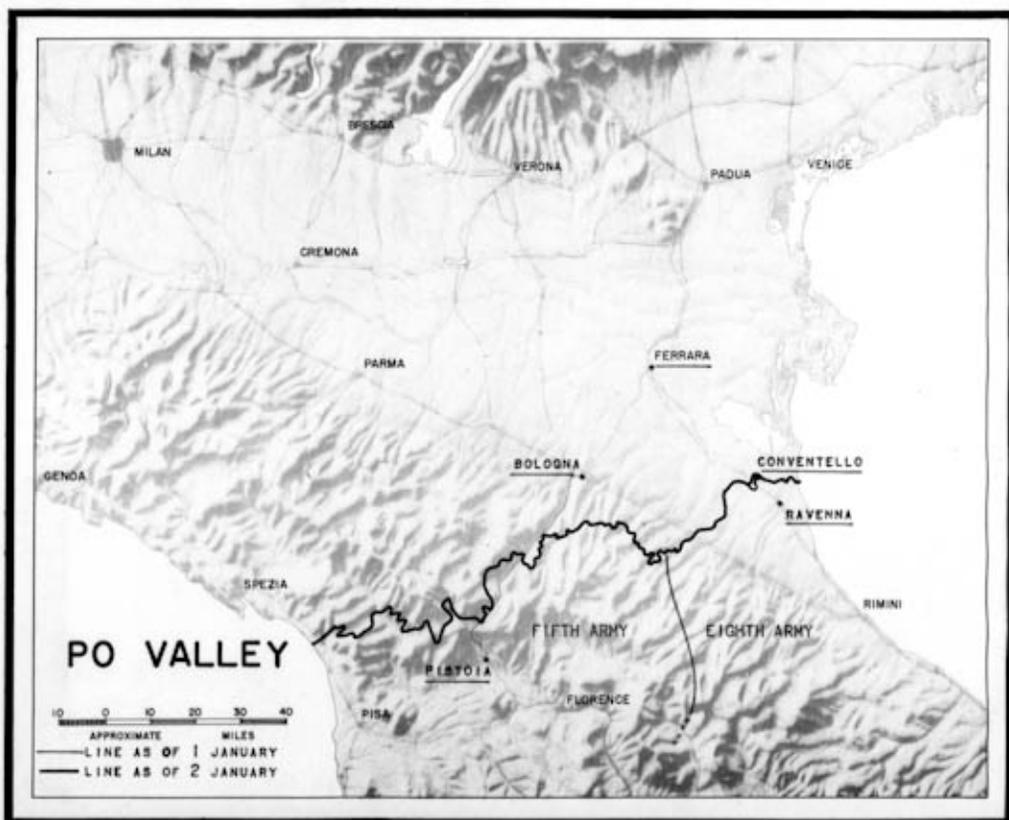
During the 24-hour period ending at 0600, 1 January, one rocket and three flying bombs fell in Antwerp. Four flying bombs fell in Liege. Twelve rockets and 58 bombs fell near these two cities.

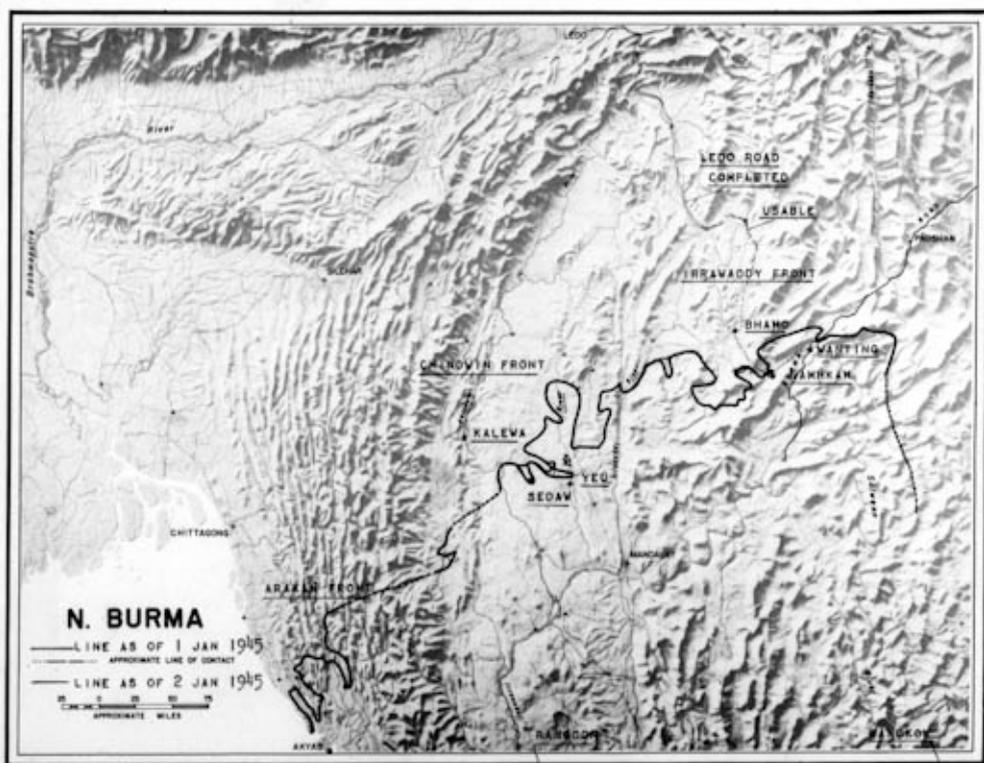
During the 24-hour period ending at 0600, 2 January, two rockets fell in England.

2. During the 24 hours ending at noon, 2 January, our First and Third Armies continued their pressure against the Ardennes salient. A local gain was made by the First Army south of Marche. Allied patrols are now operating in the area extending five miles south from Rochefort. The Third Army made local advances to the northeast of Bastogne and generally along the line between Bastogne and St. Hubert against heavy resistance.

The enemy was aggressive along our Seventh Army front in the Saar. The XV Corps repulsed five attacks to the west of Saarbrucken; we withdrew approximately one mile along a four-mile front and were resisting strong pressure. Northeast of Saargemund, a German effort to cross the Elies River was repulsed, but to the east the enemy held his gains south of the River. The VI Corps withdrew slightly from its positions in the area southeast of Bitsch.

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There was no significant change on the remainder of the western front.

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

1. During the 24-hour period ending at 1800, 1 January, the Tactical Air Force flew 838 sorties. Rail bridges between Verona and Bergamo were attacked by medium bombers, and light bombers struck at rail and road transportation in the Po Valley and northeast Italy, and rail yards near Milan and Treviso. Some 650 fighters and fighter bombers operated in close support of the Fifth and Eighth Armies. Balkan Air Force operations were cancelled. During this period we lost five planes.

On 2 January, 15th Air Force operations were cancelled for the fourth consecutive day because of weather.

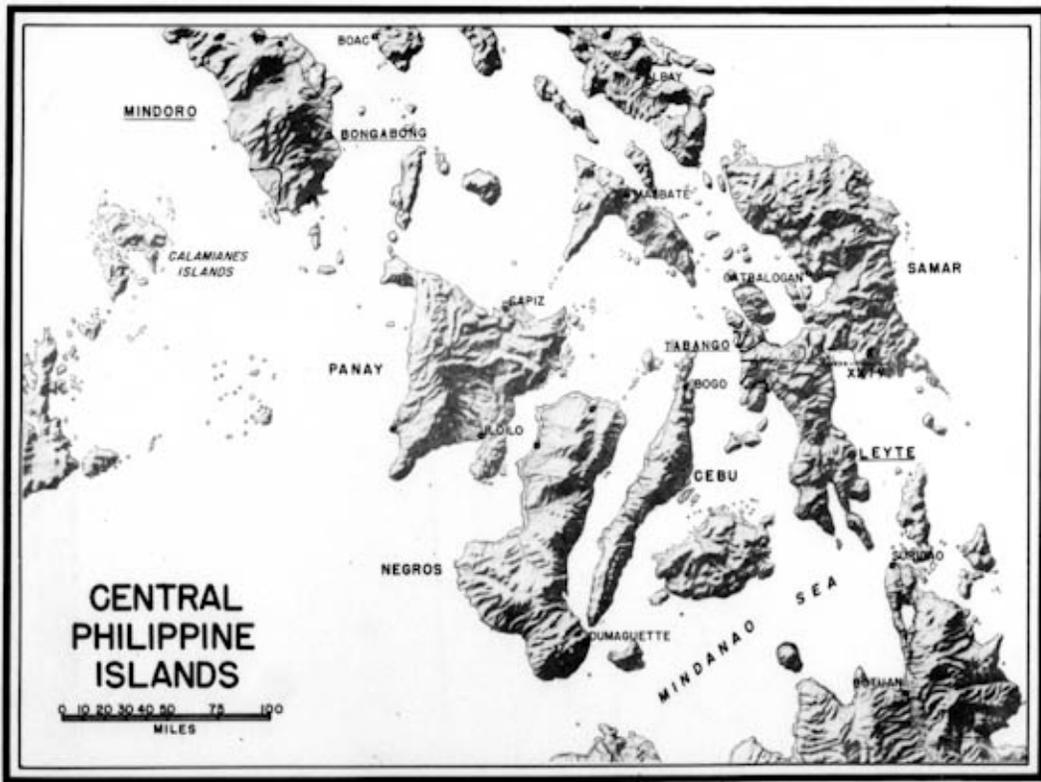
2. By 1200 hours, 2 January, Canadian troops of the Eighth Army had attacked northwest of Ravenna and advanced approximately one mile, capturing Conventello; the front extended three miles southwest, cutting across the highway to Ferrara. The Fifth Army repulsed two small raids, one near the highway running south from Bologna, the other near the highway running southwest from Bologna to Pistoia.

ASIATIC THEATER

1. Photos of the 2 January B-29 attack on a rail bridge near Bangkok showed one direct hit and several near misses; the northern approach was cut in several places.



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2. During 31 December, the Eastern Air Command flew 1,624 sorties, of which 600 were tactical. Heavy bombers attacked shipping south of Bangkok, probably sinking a large freighter. Medium bombers and fighters attacked enemy troop concentrations in the Akyab area, airfields throughout central and southern Burma, and coastal shipping south of Rangoon.

3. By 1 January, Allied troops on the Chindwin front had reached the Mu River about 11 miles north of Yeu, without opposition. To the west, patrols moved southeast to Sedaw, which they reported to be clear of enemy. West of the Chindwin, Allied troops reached a crossing on the Manipur River 28 miles southwest of Kalewa. On the Irrawaddy front, Chinese troops advancing southeast were within four miles of Namkham on the Bhamo-Namkham road.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. On 31 December, 115 bombers, with 80 fighter escorts, struck airdromes and other installations on Halmahera. Attacks on Japanese airdromes in the Philippines continued.

2. By 1 January, we had succeeded in landing a strong patrol at Bongabong, Mindoro. Our forces have occupied Tabango, on the northwest coast of Leyte and mopping up operations continued in other sectors of the island.

3. On 1 January, headquarters of the 21st Bomber Command was moved from Saipan to Guam.



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4. During the night of 29-30 December, during individual missions, three B-29's bombed the Tokyo area. On 31 December, two others bombed Nagoya.

On 3 January, 97 B-29's of the XXI Bomber Command were airborne to attack Nagoya, Japan. Most of the loads consisted of incendiary bombs.

EASTERN FRONT

Yugoslav Partisans had occupied Mokra Gora on 2 January; there were no other significant changes on the eastern front.

GENERAL

1. A casualty report for the period 7 December 1941 to 30 November 1944 shows a total of 493,248 for all theaters, of which 80,981 were killed in action, 283,505 wounded or injured, 56,685 captured or interned and 72,077 missing. Of the wounded 126,592 had been returned to duty and 11,154 had died.

273,446 of the casualties occurred in Europe and 134,840 in the Mediterranean Theater. The Infantry sustained some 318,000 casualties, the Air Corps 87,000 and the Field Artillery 23,000.

The 29th Division has sustained the largest number of casualties.

2. The following units have been ordered to embark from Atlantic ports: 10th Mountain Infantry Division (Brigadier General George P. Hays), for the Mediterranean Theater; 89th Infantry Division (Major General Thomas D. Finley) and 13th Armored Division (Major General John B. Wogan) for the European Theater.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

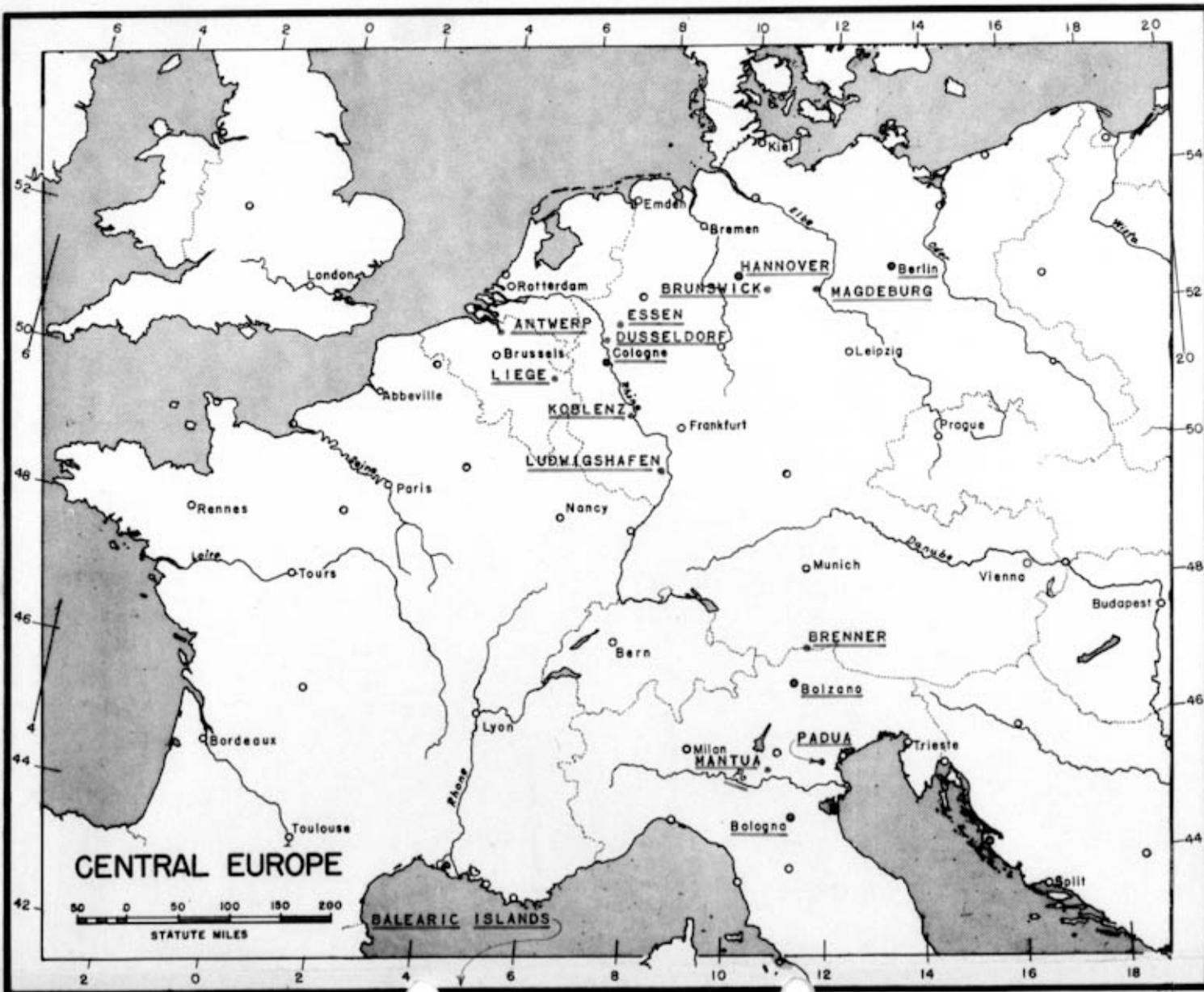
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0700 January 1 to 0700 January 2, 1945

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

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EUROPEAN THEATER

1. During the 24-hour period to sunset 31 December, the Tactical Air Forces flew 2,260 sorties, chiefly in support of our ground forces along the front from Alsace to Holland. Twenty-two enemy planes were shot down. We lost 25 planes.

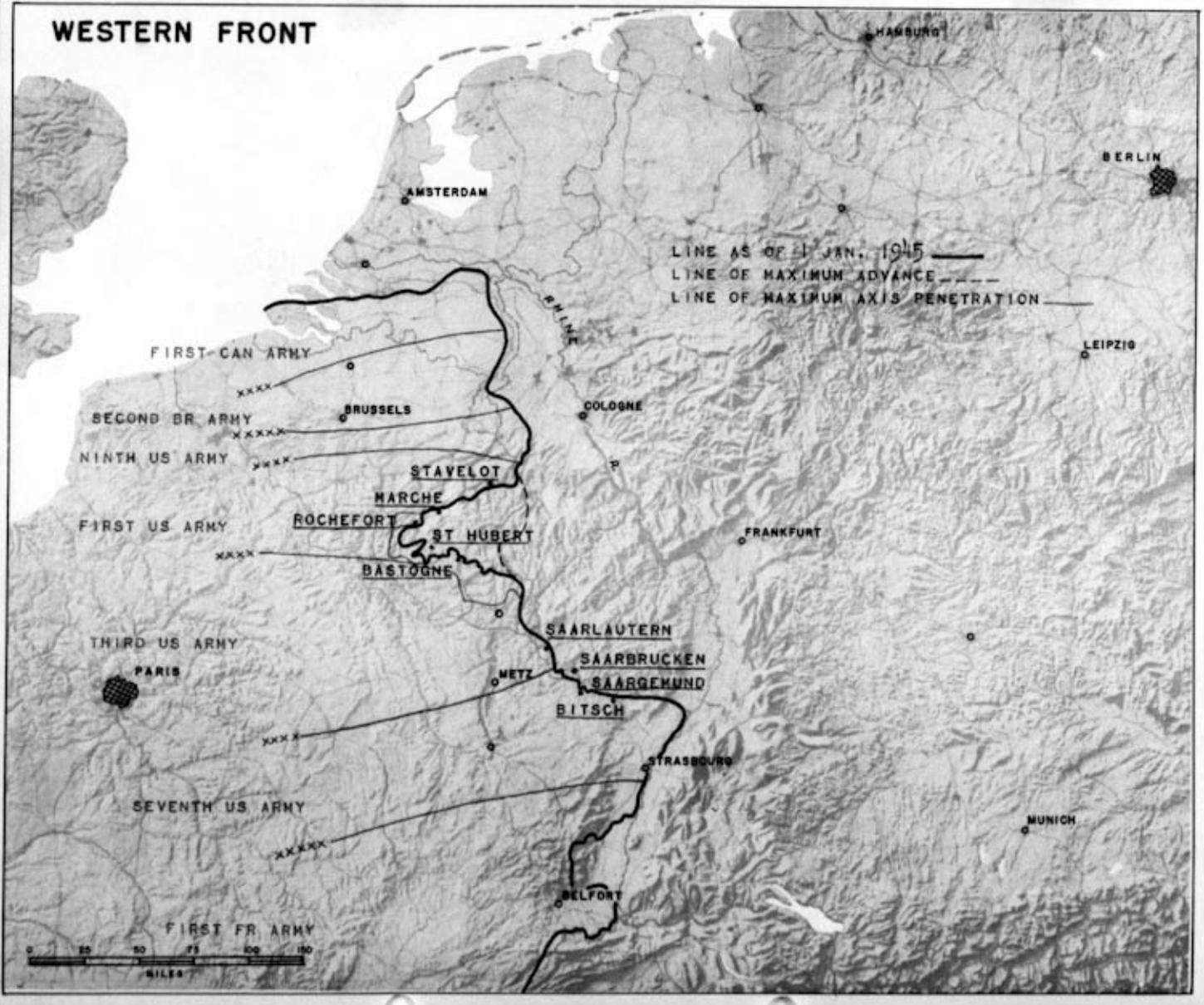
On 31 December, the RAF dropped 741 tons of bombs on rail facilities near Dusseldorf. A small force of Mosquito bombers raided Gestapo headquarters at Oslo. That night 149 heavy bombers and 17 Mosquitoes attacked a railyard north of Essen. Seventy-three Mosquitoes bombed Berlin, twelve others raided Ludwigshafen, and 28 heavy bombers attacked enemy shipping near Oslo. Six bombers are missing.

On 1 January, 839 escorted 8th Air Force heavy bombers attacked oil targets in the Magdeburg-Brunswick-Hannover area, and bombed rail bridges near Cologne and Koblenz. The bombers shot down six enemy planes, and escorting fighters destroyed 17. Preliminary reports indicate that 33 bombers and eight fighters are missing. Some of these are believed safe on friendly fields.

Communique reports that on 1 January between 250 and 300 enemy aircraft strafed a number of our airfields in Holland and Belgium. Our fighters and antiaircraft were reported to have destroyed 125 of the attacking planes.

During the 24-hour period ending at 0600, 31 December, two rockets and two flying bombs fell in Antwerp. Eight flying bombs fell in Liege. One rocket and 53 flying bombs landed in scattered areas behind the front.

WESTERN FRONT



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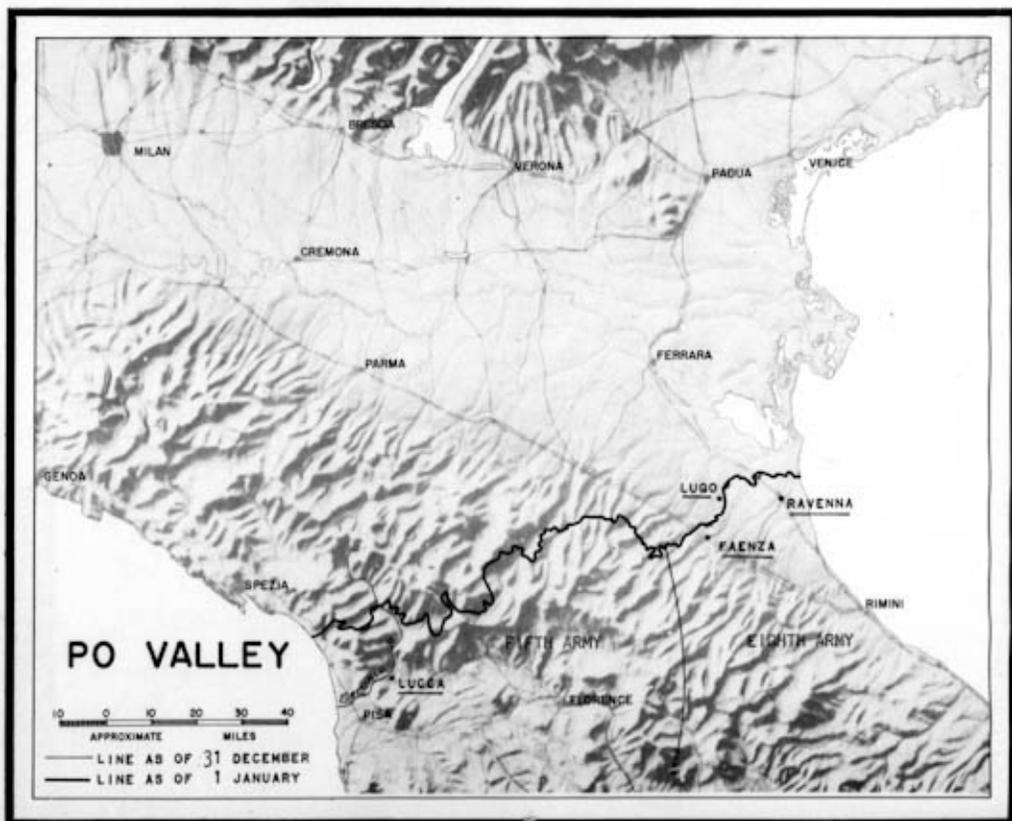
Seven rockets fell in England during the 24-hour period ending at 0600, 1 January.

2. In the period ending at noon 1 January, our First Army's XVIII Corps repulsed a strong raid on the northern flank of the German salient between Stavelot and Marche; our troops also attacked an enemy pocket in the same area. Patrols from the British XXX Corps found the area three miles east of Rochefort clear, although small enemy elements were encountered northeast and southeast of the town. On the southern flank of the Ardennes salient the VIII Corps of the Third Army registered gains up to a mile and a half in the sector between St. Hubert and Bastogne. Enemy resistance continued heavy in this area. The III Corps maintained its offensive effort and widened its penetration east of Bastogne by a half a mile.

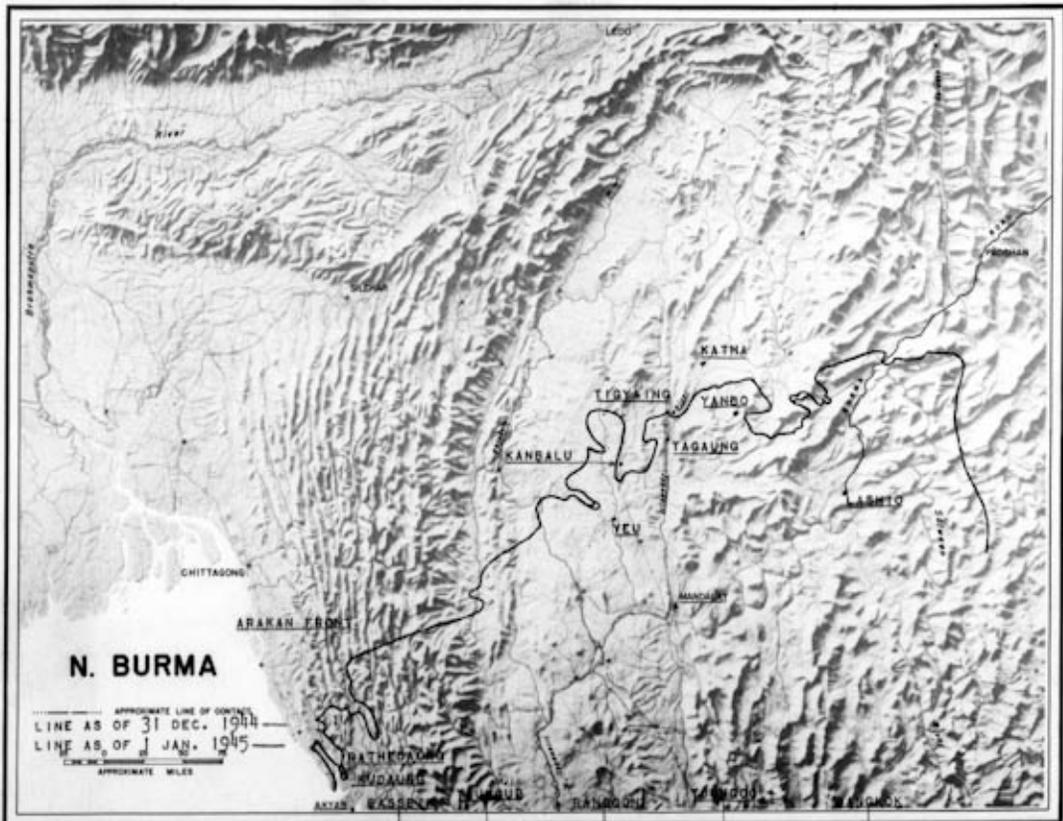
Our Saarlautern bridgehead was expanded slightly by the Third Army's XX Corps. On the Seventh Army front, strong enemy raids penetrated our lines west of Saarbrucken, east of Saargemund and southeast of Bitsch. Fighting was still in progress in some of these sectors; other enemy raids along the Seventh Army front were repulsed. There were no changes on other Army fronts.

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

1. During the 24-hour period ending at 1800, 31 December, the Tactical Air Force flew 1,337 sorties. In these operations a strong force of medium bombers attacked an ammunition dump at Bologna as well as railroad bridges in the Bolzano-Mantua-Padua area. Nearly 1,000



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lighter planes struck other communications on the Brenner route and in the Po Valley and close-support targets in the battle area. Weather prevented offensive operations by the Coastal and Balkan Air Forces. Eight of our planes are missing.

On 1 January, 15th Air Force operations were cancelled for the third successive day because of weather.

2. The Supreme Allied Commander, Mediterranean Theater, has approved resumption of Spanish civil air traffic between the Spanish mainland and the Balearic Islands, subject to such restrictions and procedures as the Mediterranean Allied Air Forces may impose.

3. In the 30-hour period ending at noon, 1 January, the I Canadian Corps of the Eighth Army again repulsed small enemy raids along its line northwest and west of Ravenna. Farther south, British troops made local gains to straighten out their line east of the Faenza-Lugo highway. The Fifth Army continued to improve its positions along the Serchio River north of Lucca.

ASIATIC THEATER

1. The Eastern Air Command flew 1,726 sorties on 30 December including 636 tactical. Medium bombers and fighter bombers continued to strike at communications, troop concentrations and other targets between Mandalay and Katha, on the Arakan front and in the Lashio-Yeu area. An airfield south of Mandalay also was attacked. On 31 December, 188 planes attacked Japanese forces north of Akyab for the third successive day; one plane was lost.

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ROAD STRONG

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2. The 14th Air Force flew 58 combat sorties on 30 December against enemy targets over a wide area in China, French Indo-China, and eastern Burma.

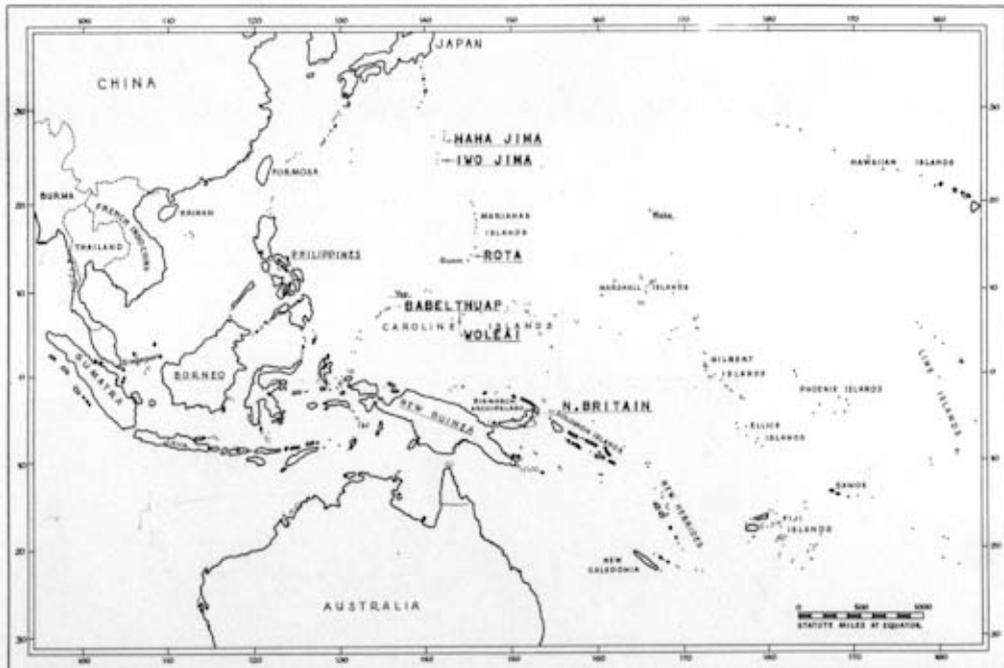
On 31 December, according to communique, 14th Air Force fighters sank two freighters, probably sank another and left a tanker burning in the Yangtze River near Hankow. That night heavy bombers sank a freighter off Hainan Island and left another burning.

3. On 2 January the 20th Bomber Command dispatched 48 B-29's to attack a rail bridge at Bangkok. Other rail installations at Rangoon and Bassein were designated secondary and last resort targets for the operation.

4. By 31 December, on the Arakan front the British force moving along the Mayu River had occupied Rathedaung and moved south unopposed into Kudaung Island. Between the Chindwin and the Irrawaddy, Allied troops had advanced 16 miles southeast of Kanbalu without contact; farther north they were mopping up encircled Japanese. On the Irrawaddy front Allied patrols operating south and east of Tigyaing reported Tagaung and Yanbo clear of the enemy.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. About 165 additional sorties were flown during the period 30-31 December. During these operations our Mindoro-based medium and light bombers raided enemy shipping in Lingayen Gulf, off western Luzon, sinking a destroyer, a destroyer escort, a freighter-transport and



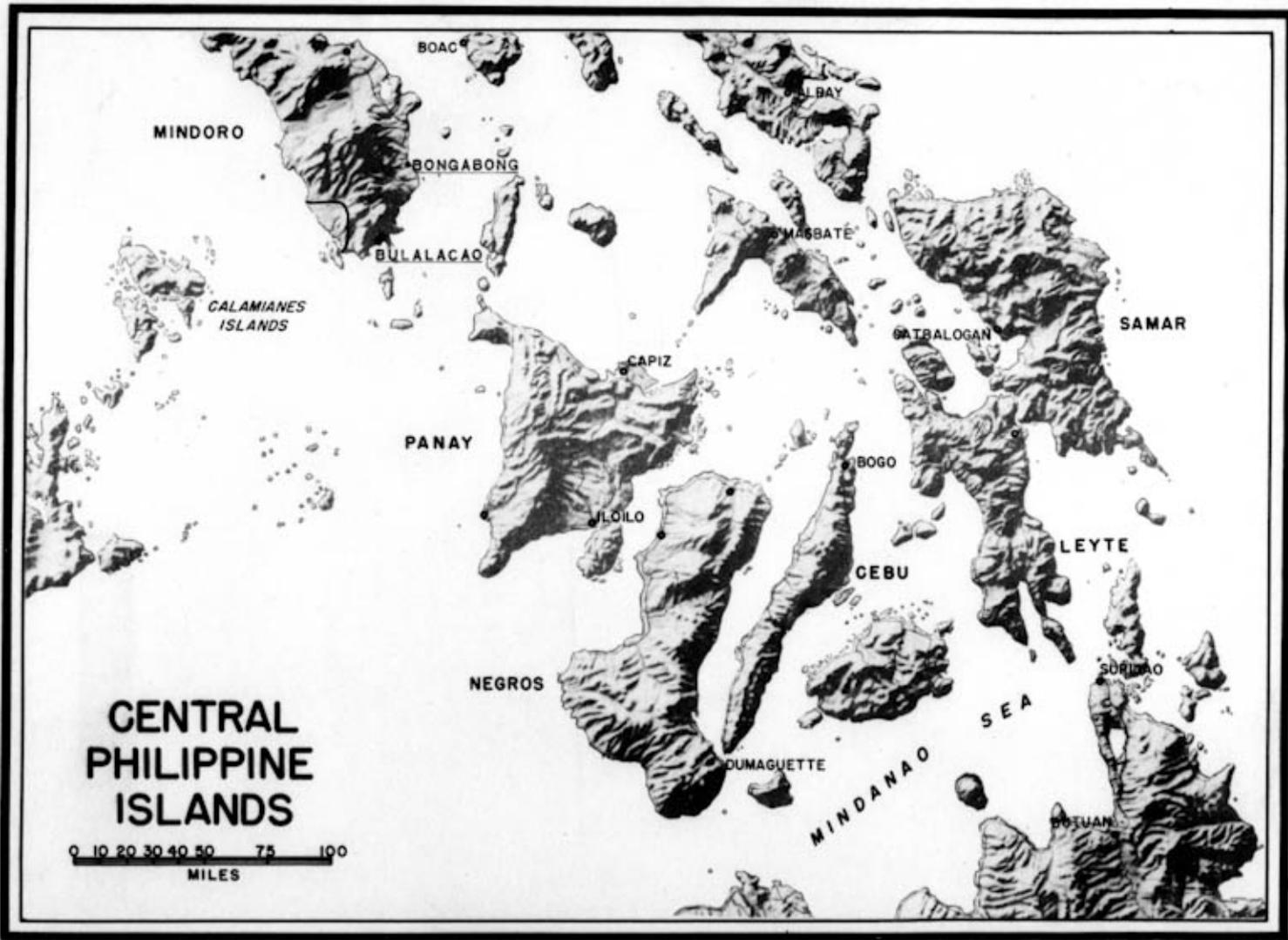
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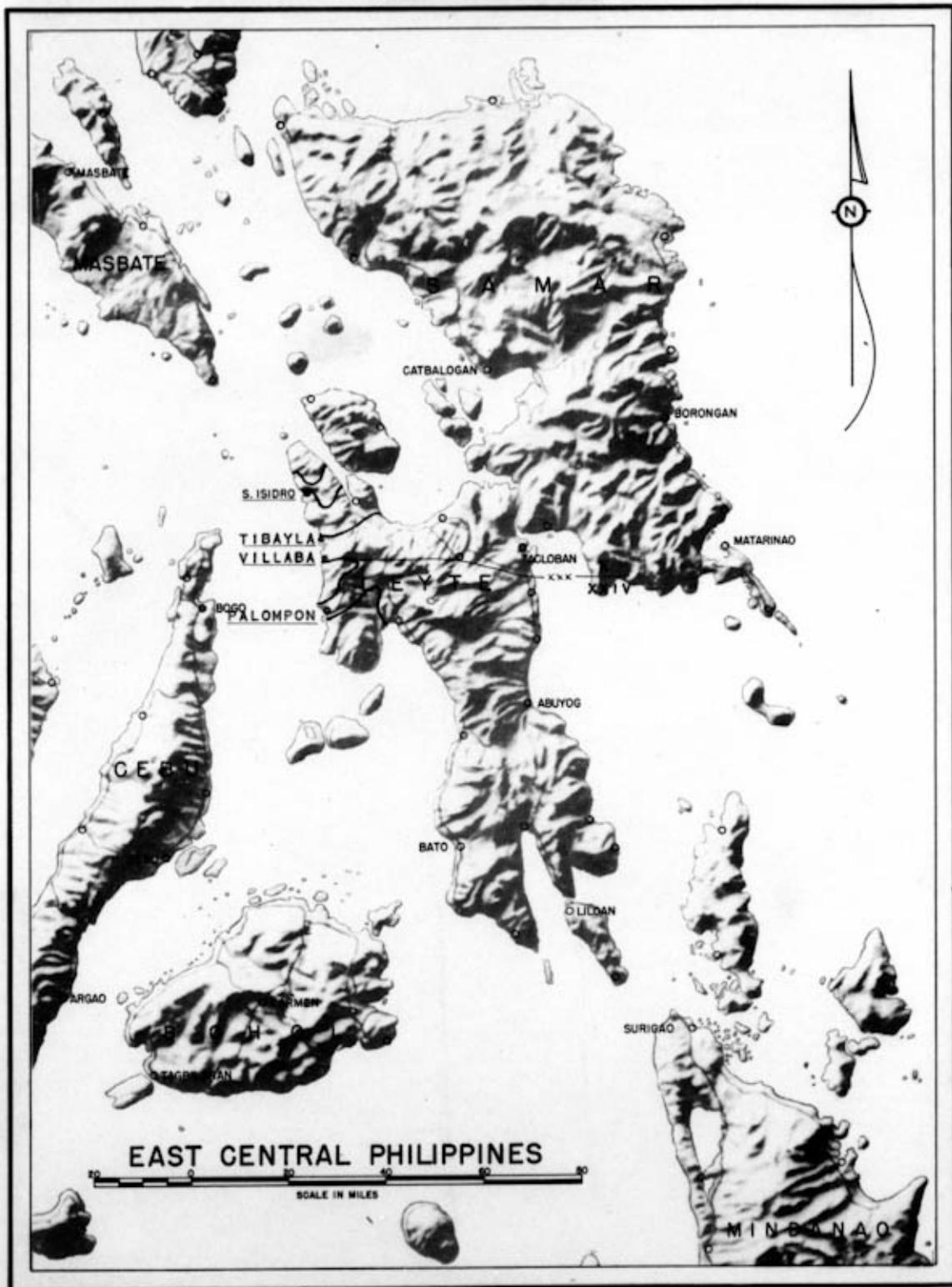
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CENTRAL PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

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damaging five other vessels. Other shipping, airfields, and supply installations in the New Guinea, New Britain, Borneo and Philippine areas were also attacked during the period. Seven additional enemy planes were destroyed; we lost two.

2. By 31 December, a strong patrol from our Mindoro forces had landed at Bulalacao, on the southeast coast of Mindoro. Another small force sailing to Bongabong, farther north, was forced back by enemy air attacks; no ground contact was reported, however. Along the west coast of Leyte we repulsed strong enemy attacks against our troops at Villaba and Tibayla. Farther south elements of the 77th Division advancing east and west, joined along the Palompon road and eliminated resistance in this area.

3. During the period 29-31 December, 50 Pacific Ocean Area B-24's attacked Iwo Jima airfields. Wake was raided by six medium bombers, and three others attacked shipping at Haha Jima; 31 planes struck Rota, Yap, Woleai and Babelthuap.

EASTERN FRONT

Fierce fighting continued in Budapest during 1 January. Other sectors remained unchanged.