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OSD Letter, 5-8-72

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MR 203(2), Sec. 38 -- WAR DEPARTMENT OPERATIONAL SUMMARY
MARCH, 1945

MR 203 (2), Sec. 38 -- WAR DEPARTMENT OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

March, 1945

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 1207

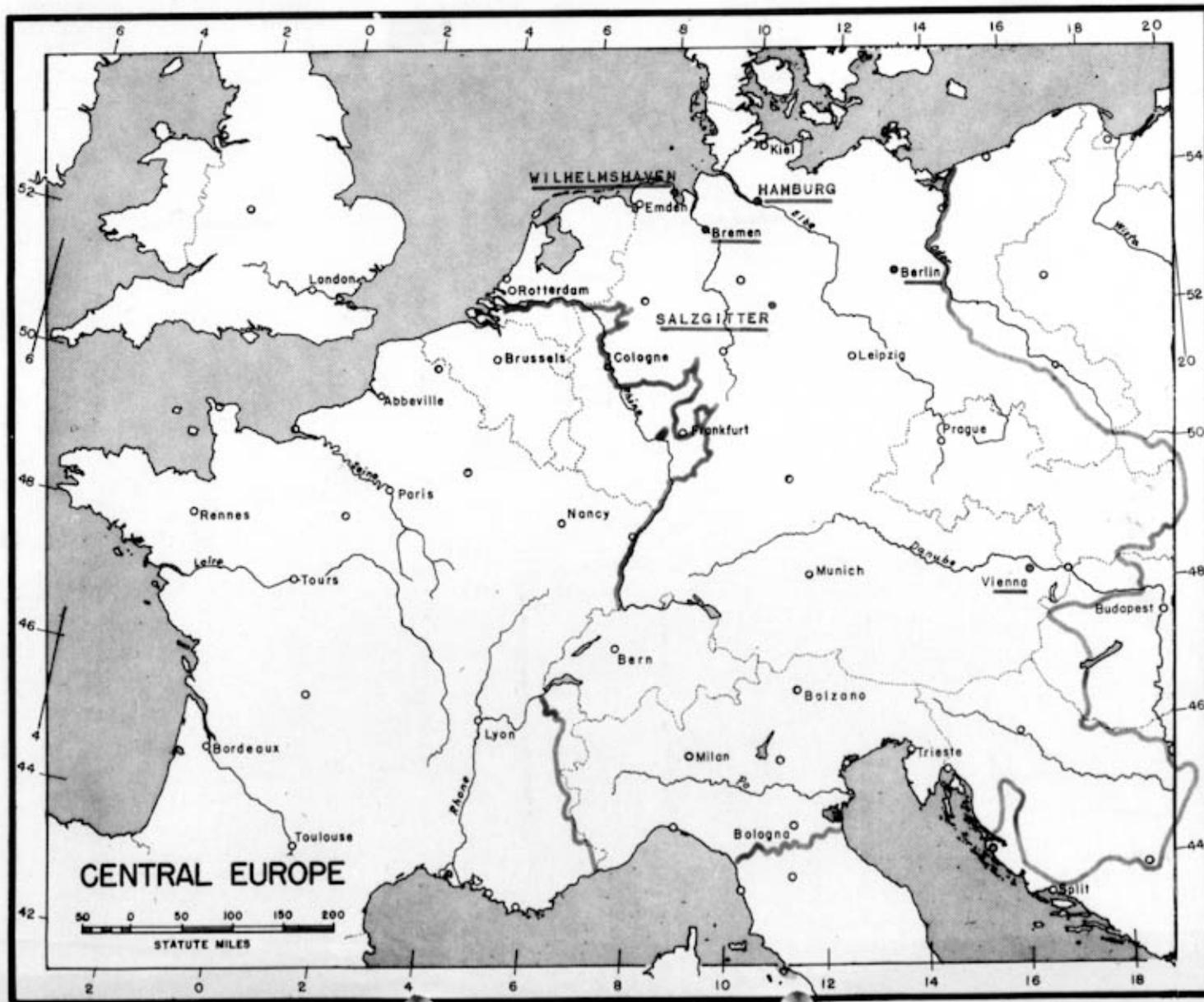
0700 March 30 to 0700 March 31, 1945

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WESTERN HEMISPHERE

31 March. Six heavy bombers hit the Kataoka naval base on Shumushu Island.

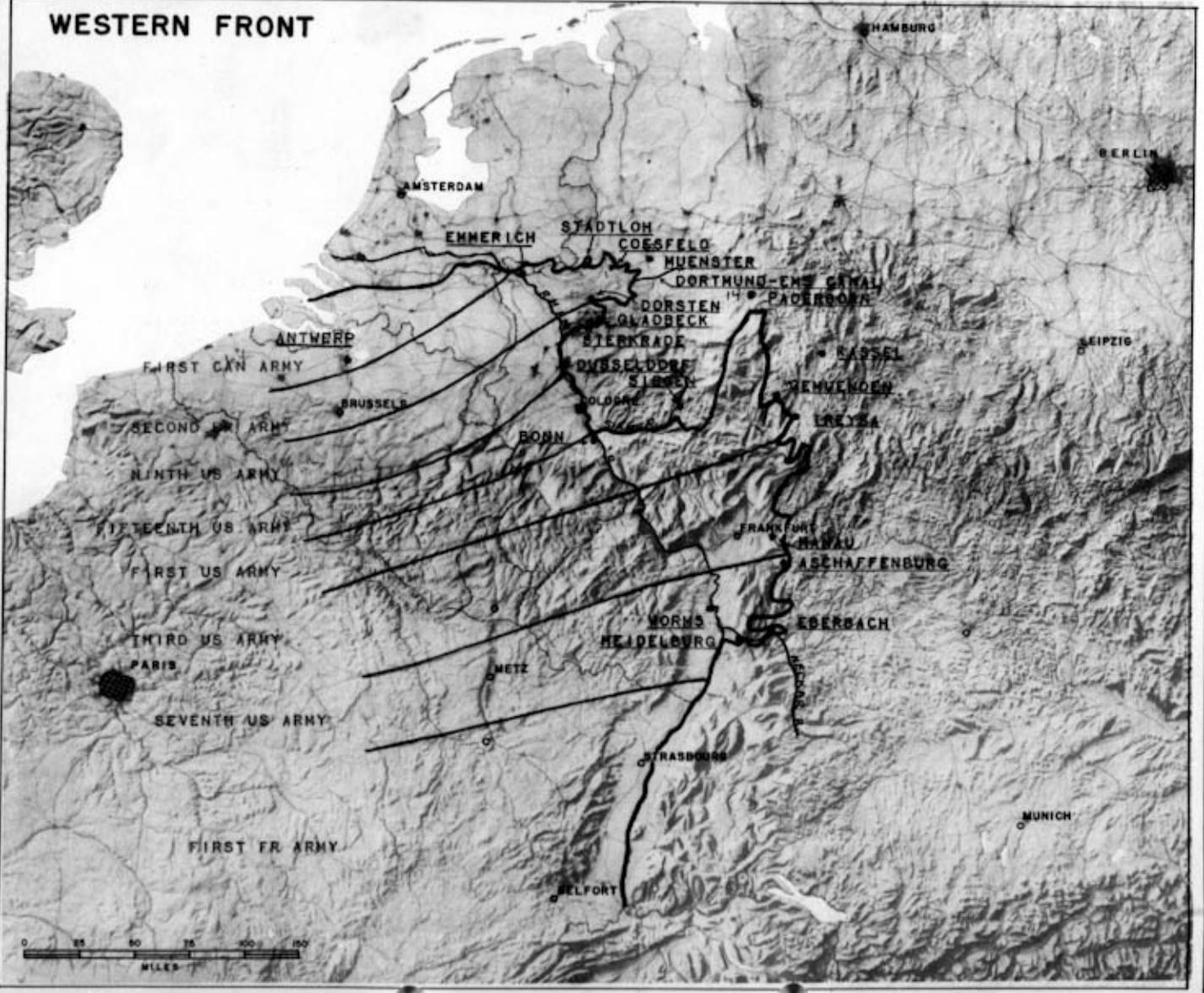
EUROPE AND THE MEDITERRANEAN - STRATEGIC AIR

29 March. The Salzgitter benzol plant was attacked by 121 RAF heavy bombers; that night 48 Mosquitoes attacked Berlin and seven bombed a factory in Hamburg.

30 March. Submarine and dock yards, oil refineries and port areas in the Hamburg-Bremen-Wilhelmshaven area were attacked by a force of over 1,400 escorted 8th Air Force heavy bombers. A preliminary report listed losses to be nine bombers and three fighters.

Widespread railyards in Austria including the Vienna traffic center were the targets for 84 escorted 15th Air Force heavy bombers.

WESTERN FRONT



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EUROPEAN THEATER

29 March. Adverse weather restricted the Tactical Air Forces to 184 sorties. Medium bombers dropped 66 tons on gun positions behind the battle line. We lost two planes.

Two rockets and 20 flying bombs fell in areas near Antwerp during the 24-hour period ending at 0600. Nineteen other flying bombs were shot down by antiaircraft fire.

30 March. During the 24-hour period ending at 0600, of 12 flying bombs plotted approaching England, five made landfall and four others were destroyed by antiaircraft fire. No rockets fell during the period.

On the front of the Second British Army armored elements of the British VIII Corps continuing the advance to the northeast made gains of from six to eight miles, reaching Coesfeld and a point five miles to the northwest. To the west, other units averaging five-mile gains northward along a front of more than 30 miles paralleling the Dutch frontier from Emmerich to Stadtloh. Northeast of Emmerich the Dutch border was crossed.

On the Ninth Army front, the XIX US Corps took over the sector and troops of the XVIII Airborne Corps. Armor of the XIX Corps, driving to the northeast towards Muenster, reached the Dortmund-Ems canal ten miles southwest of Muenster. Other forces of the Ninth Army, fighting their way into the Ruhr against spotty opposition, cleared Sterkrade and Gladbeck and the area south of Dorsten.

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The Fifteenth US Army has entered the line between the Ninth and First Armies with a sector extending from Dusseldorf to Bonn. //

Our First and Third Armies, having consolidated their various bridgeheads across the Rhine between Bonn and Worms, are executing a massive thrust in a general northeasterly direction into the heart of Germany. This drive has a width of approximately 50 miles.

On the First Army front, the VII Corps occupied the southern bank of the Sieg River to within five miles of Siegen with forward elements two miles south of the city. The 3rd Armored Division advanced 30 miles to the north against light and scattered resistance to within ten miles of Paderborn. According to communique, our units have entered the city. Farther to the east, armor of the III and V Corps was driving towards Kassel with advances up to 30 miles and had reached Gemuenden and Treysa.

The XX Corps of the Third Army, advancing to the northeast, made gains up to 20 miles. Armored units of the XII Corps drove eight miles northeast of Hanau; our infantry repulsed a counterattack southeast of Hanau.

On the Seventh Army front, units of the XV Corps registered gains up to 15 miles in the area between Aschaffenburg and Eberbach. Infantry of the XXI Corps advanced six miles to the south between Heidelberg and the Rhine, while an armored column pushing up the Neckar River took Heidelberg and netted four miles beyond Eberbach.

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MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

29 March. The Tactical Air Forces flew 927 sorties. Medium bombers were virtually grounded by weather, but fighters had good results against communications in the Po Valley, along the Brenner Route, and in northern Yugoslavia. Fifty-two rail cuts were effected, a road bridge was destroyed, and much rolling stock destroyed or damaged. The Coastal and Balkan Air Forces flew a total of 122 sorties, principally against communications in the Po Valley, enemy positions in Yugoslavia, and gun positions on Milos.

30 March. Activity on the Italian battlefront was confined to patrolling.



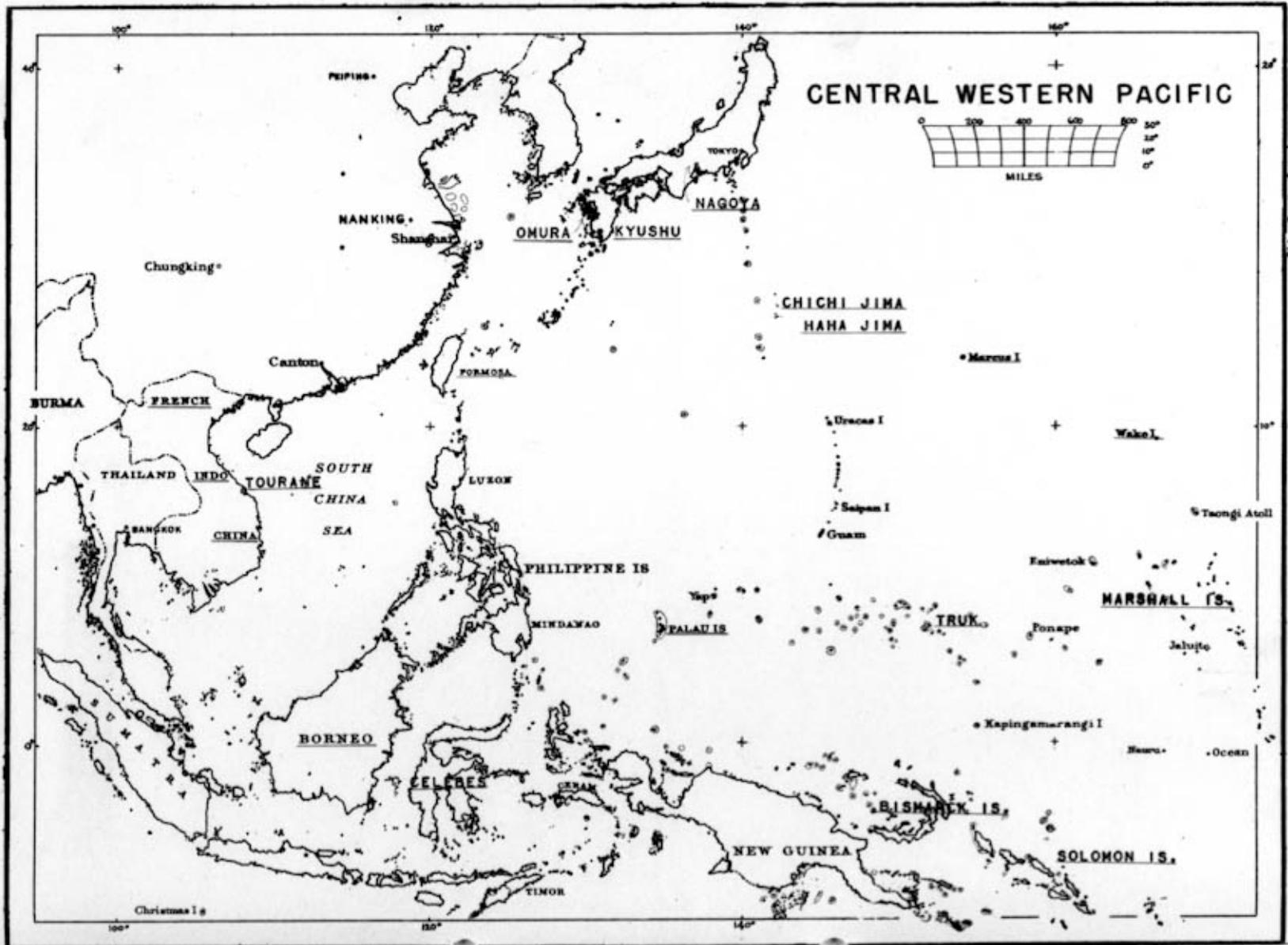
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OSD Letter, 8-8-72

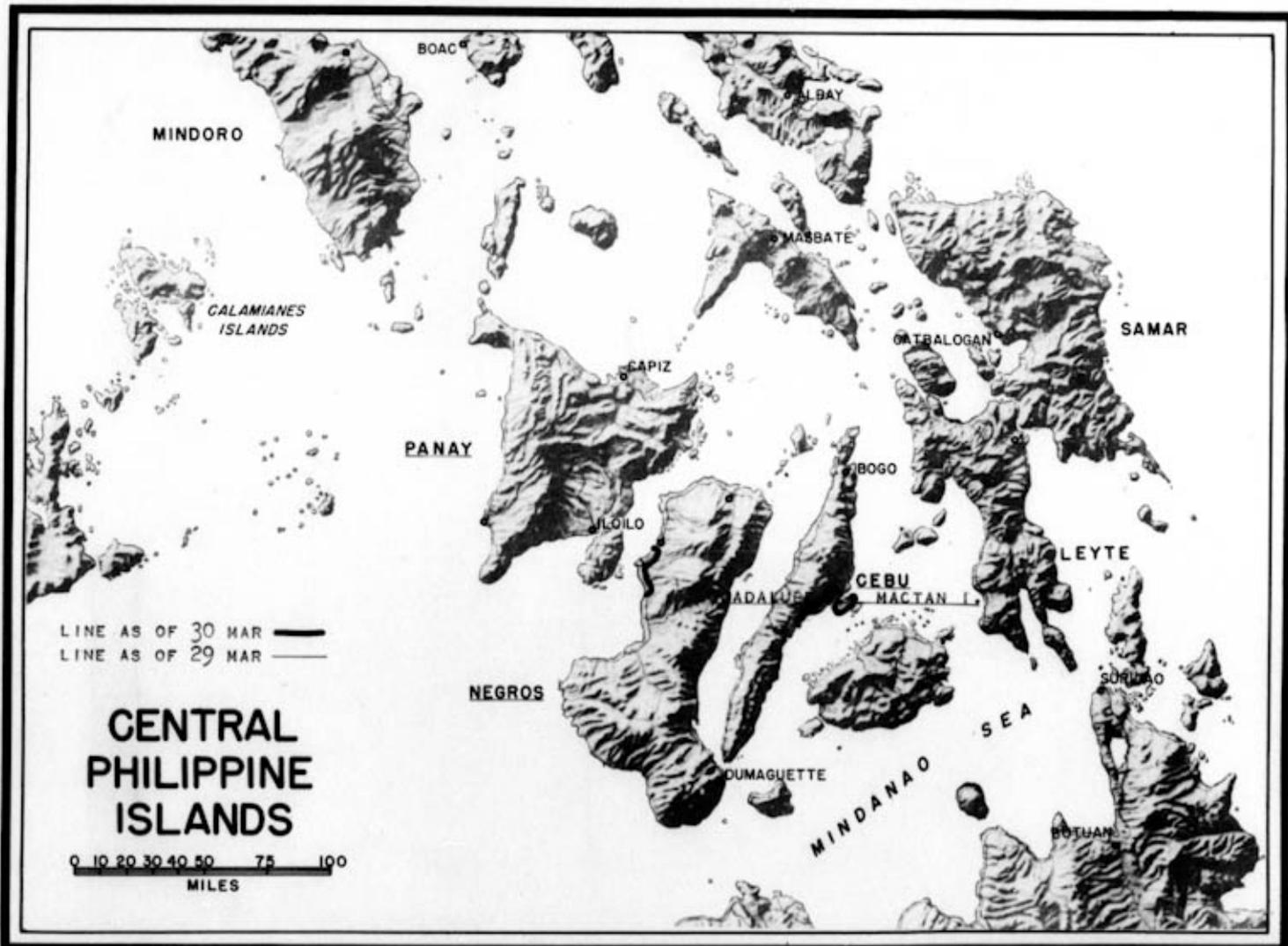
ASIATIC THEATER

28 March. One hundred seventy-three previously unreported sorties were flown by the 14th Air Force chiefly against rail targets and airfields. A mission of 12 fighters destroyed five enemy aircraft on the ground at an airdrome at Hongkong; three of our planes were lost. Other fighters attacked airfields in the Hankow-Wuchang area and swept the Yangtze.

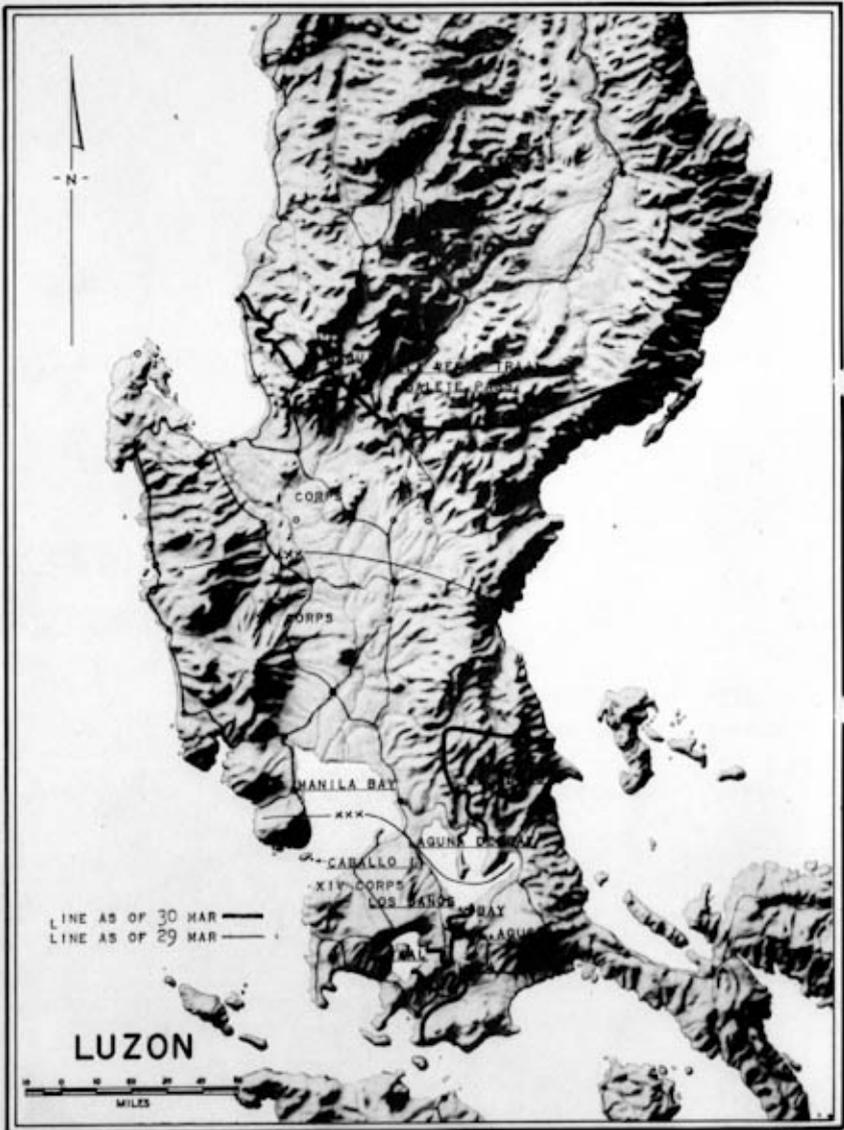
The Eastern Air Command flew 2,469 sorties, of which 626 were offensive. Medium bombers struck enemy positions near Meiktila; Mosquitoes attacked bridges near Thazi, Pyinmana and Toungoo. Fighters supported our forces all along the Burma fronts. We lost two planes.

29 March. Burmese troops advancing south to the railroad southwest of Hsipaw occupied Kyaukse. South of Mandalay, the enemy continued to offer stubborn resistance at Kyaukse and north of Meiktila. British troops repulsed two attacks northeast of Myingyan. On the Arakan front, limited gains were made northwest of Letpan and north of Taungup.





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OSD Letter, 6-8-72



SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA

28 March. More than 190 previously unreported sorties were flown, including 103 against targets in the Bismarcks and Solomons. Heavy bombers, attacking shipping near the Celebes, sank one destroyer and exploded and probably sank another. Others patrolling the Indo-China coast sank a large tanker and destroyed five planes. Fighters over the same area shot down nine enemy interceptors.

29 March. A total of 620 sorties were reported, including 530 against targets on Luzon. Medium bombers off the Indo-China coast sank two destroyers, one destroyer escort, two large freighters, and a 10,000-ton tanker. Several other vessels were heavily damaged. Medium and light bombers raided installations on Formosa.

Our I Corps made limited gains west of Baguio. Two enemy counter-attacks on the Villa Verde Trail were thrown back. Elements of the XI Corps secured all but the west tip of Caballo Island, in Manila Bay. South of Laguna de Bay and east of Lake Taal, XIV Corps cavalrymen secured Lipa and to the northeast contacted the enemy at San Agustin. Other units advancing from Los Banos captured Bay.

The Americal Division on Cebu captured the high ground north of Guadalupe. Mactan Island was reported secured. On Negros, the 40th Division extended its beachhead along the coast for some 20 miles.

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PACIFIC OCEAN AREA

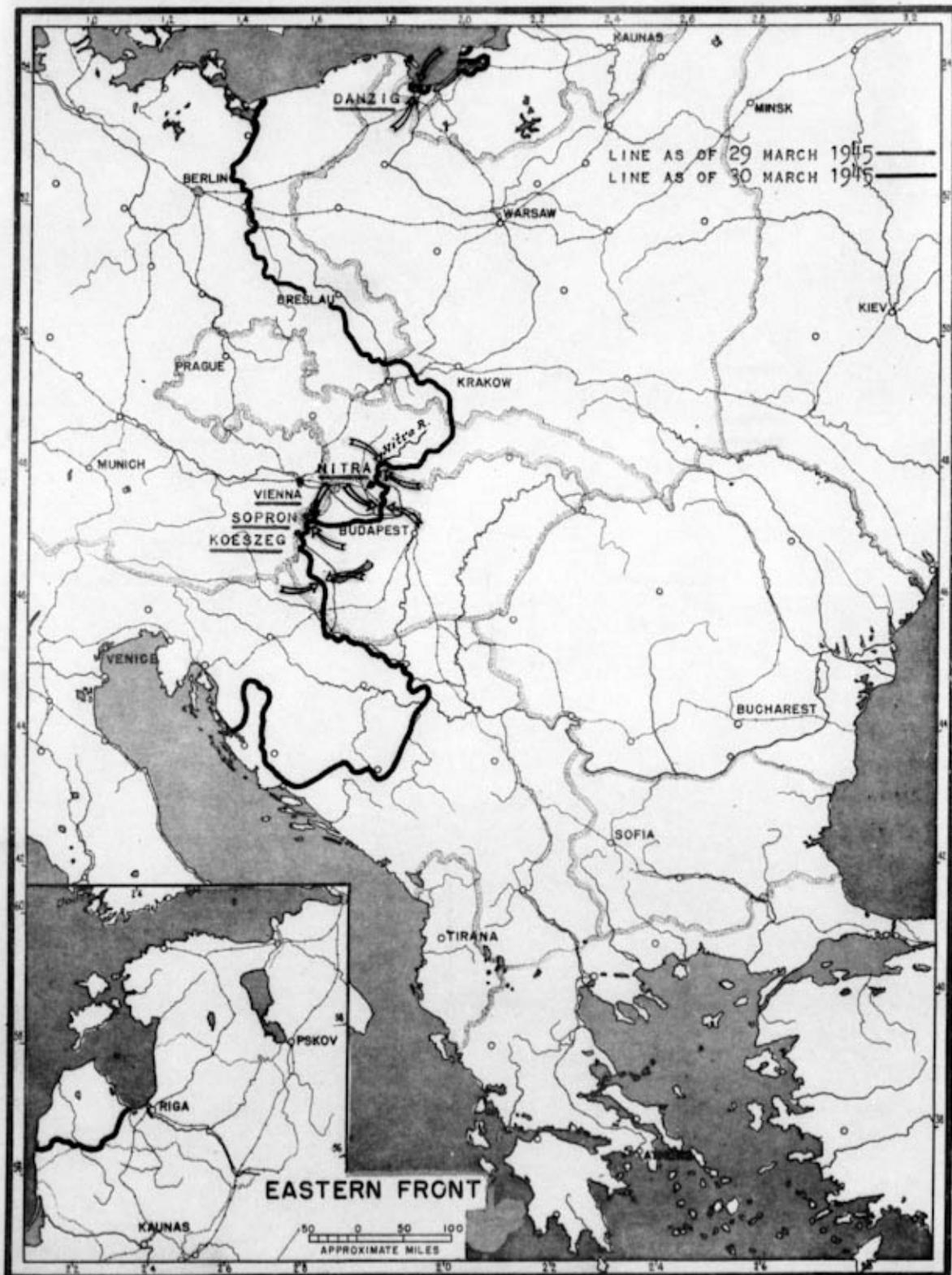
25 March. Army heavy bombers raided Marcus Island and Chichi Jima.

26 March. An airfield and radar stations on Chichi Jima were attacked by five heavy bombers. Attacks were continued against isolated enemy installations in the Marshalls, Palaus and Carolines.

29 March. Fighters hit military installations on Haha Jima.

31 March. According to a preliminary report, 14 B-29's bombed the Mitsubishi Engine Factory at Nagoya during the early morning. Later in the day, another force of 136 B-29's hit the Tachiarai machine works in central Kyushu and an airfield near Omura.

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EASTERN FRONT

30 March. The Red Army has crossed the Austrian border north of Koeszeg and is reported to be investing Sopron, 35 miles south of Vienna. South of Nitra, substantial gains were registered on a broad front. Red forces completed the occupation of Danzig.

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OSD Letter, 5-8-72

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 1206

0700 March 29 to 0700 March 30, 1945

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OSD Letter, 5-8-72

EUROPE AND THE MEDITERRANEAN - STRATEGIC AIR

28 March. Adverse weather over home bases forced cancellation of RAF heavy bomber operations.

29 March. Target weather forced cancellation of 8th and 15th Air Force operations.

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EUROPEAN THEATER

28 March. The Tactical Air Forces, restricted by adverse weather, flew 2,519 sorties. Medium bombers attacked oil storage depots in the Paderborn and Wuerzburg areas, and two railway centers east of Cologne. Fighters supported our ground forces and hit transportation in northwest Germany. Fourteen enemy planes were destroyed; we lost 11.

In the 24 hours to 0600, one rocket and one flying bomb fell in Antwerp, and one rocket and 18 flying bombs fell in adjacent areas. Antiaircraft fire destroyed 16 flying bombs.

29 March. During the 24 hours to 0600, four flying bombs fell in England and two reached the London area; 11 others were destroyed by antiaircraft fire.

On the British Second Army front, elements of the US XVIII Airborne Corps, driving northeast along the northern bank of the Seiten Canal, advanced 16 miles to Duermen capturing Haltern enroute. Armored units of the British VIII Corps advanced 10 miles on a seven-mile front. The British XII Corps, attacking north against moderate opposition, gained eight miles along a 25-mile front; they reached the southern section of Bocholt, and were four miles north of Borken.

The XVI Corps of our Ninth Army continued to press into the northwestern section of the Ruhr and was fighting in Duisburg, Gladbeck and Buer.

On the First Army front, infantry units, expanding the northern

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flank of the VII Corps, occupied the southern bank of the Sieg River to a point 30 miles east of Bonn. Still farther to the east, we approached the line of the Sieg in the area southwest of Siegen. The 3rd Armored Division, after reaching Marburg, changed direction and thrust a spearhead 23 miles northward toward Paderborn against light resistance. According to communique, forward elements were within 10 miles of Paderborn. The III Corps captured Giessen and, attacking to the northeast, reached the railroad northeast of Marburg. Other units of the corps, mopping up, crossed the Lahn River along a 20-mile stretch southwest of Giessen and advanced four miles south of the river.

On the Third Army front, the XX Corps captured Wiesbaden and advanced 14 miles to the east against light resistance. Three-quarters of the city of Frankfurt was cleared after heavy fighting. Armored spearheads of the XII Corps, continuing the drive between Frankfurt and Hanau, advanced an additional 40 miles to the north and northeast against little resistance, reaching Lauterbach on the east and approaching Giessen on the west.

On the Seventh Army front the XIV Corps occupied Mannheim and expanded the southern flank of the drive into Germany with gains up to eight miles along the front between Mannheim and Aschaffenburg. Reconnaissance elements of the XXI Corps were moving southeast towards Heidelberg.

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MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

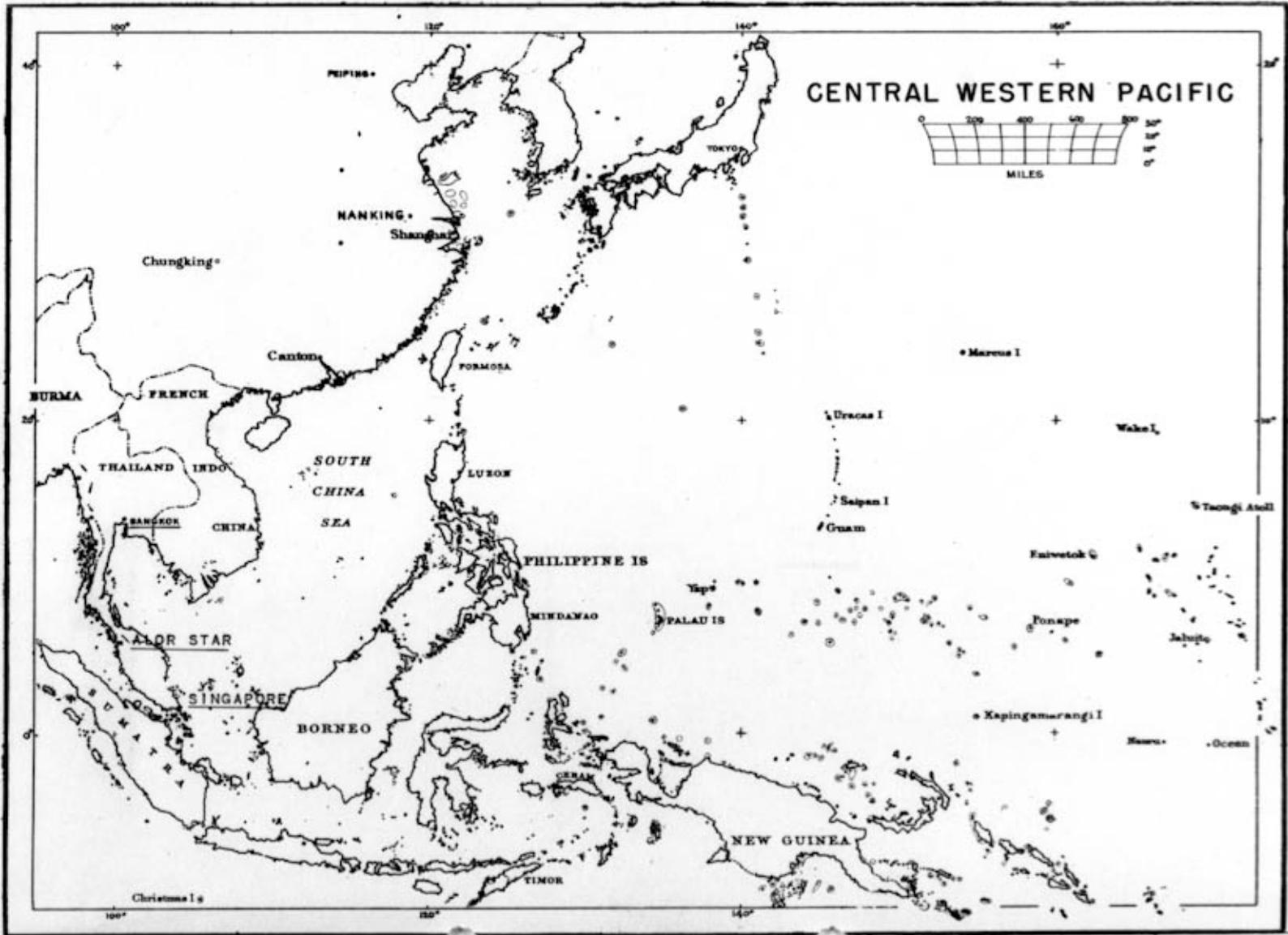
28 March. During the 24-hour period ending at 1800, weather limited the Tactical Air Force to 187 sorties. The medium bombers were grounded. Fighter attacks were concentrated on communications in the Milan area.

29 March. Activity on the Italian battle front was confined to patrolling.



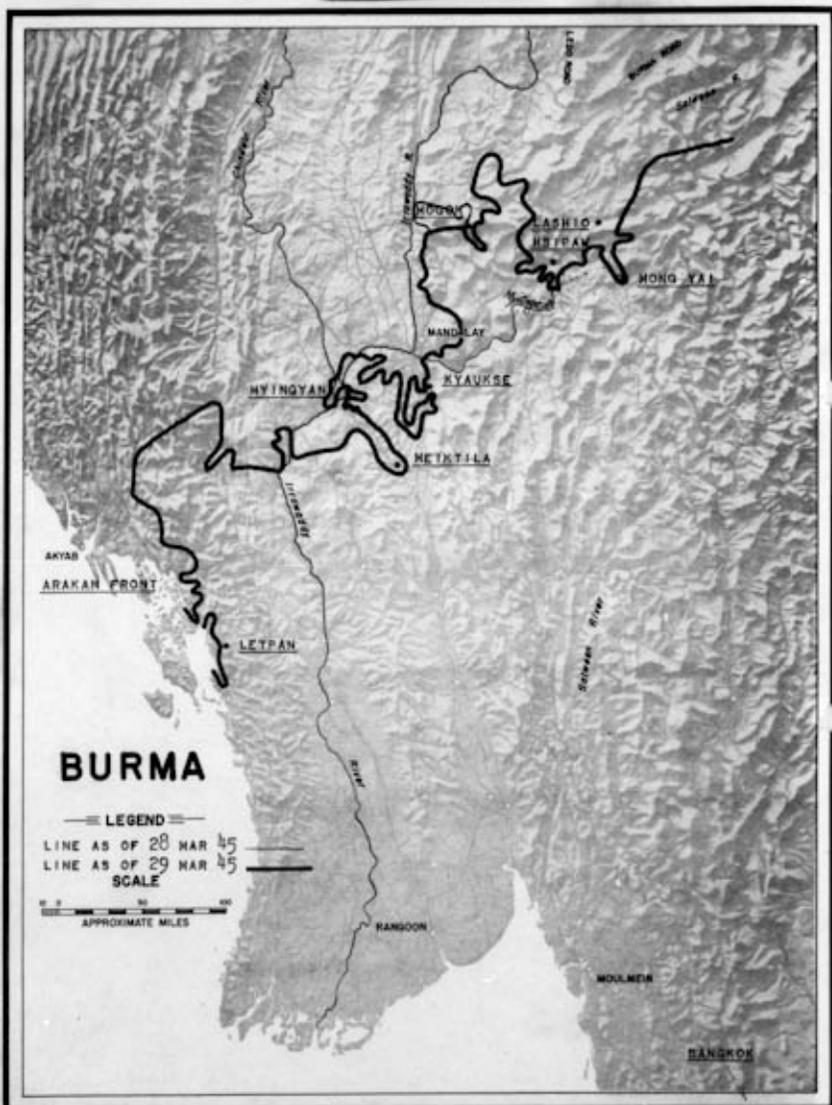
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 OSD Letter, 5-3-73

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ASIATIC THEATER

25 March. Eighty-six additional offensive sorties were reported by the 14th Air Force. Eighteen fighters attacked Nanking airfield, shot down two enemy fighters and destroyed two on the ground; three of our fighters were lost. One additional enemy aircraft was destroyed in another mission.

26 and 27 March. During 121 sorties, our planes hit enemy columns advancing on the abandoned airfield at Laohokow. Bridges and road and rail traffic in northeastern Indo-China were also attacked. We lost four planes.

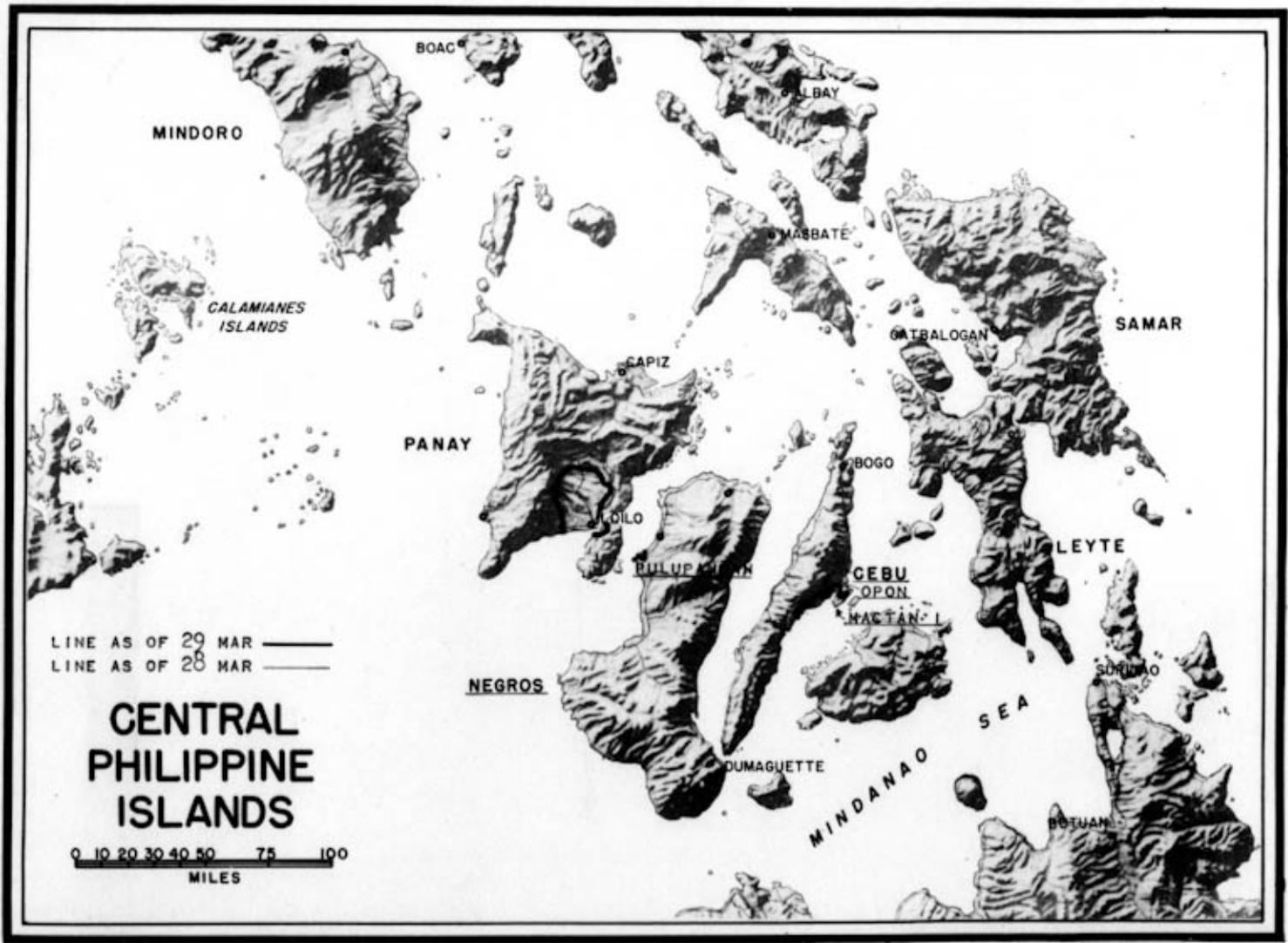
27 March. The Eastern Air Command flew a total of 2,330 sorties, of which 834 were offensive. Sixty-nine heavy bombers attacked dumps and the dock areas in Bangkok. Medium bombers hit enemy positions near Kyaukse. Fighters swept enemy positions in the active battle areas. Four planes were lost.

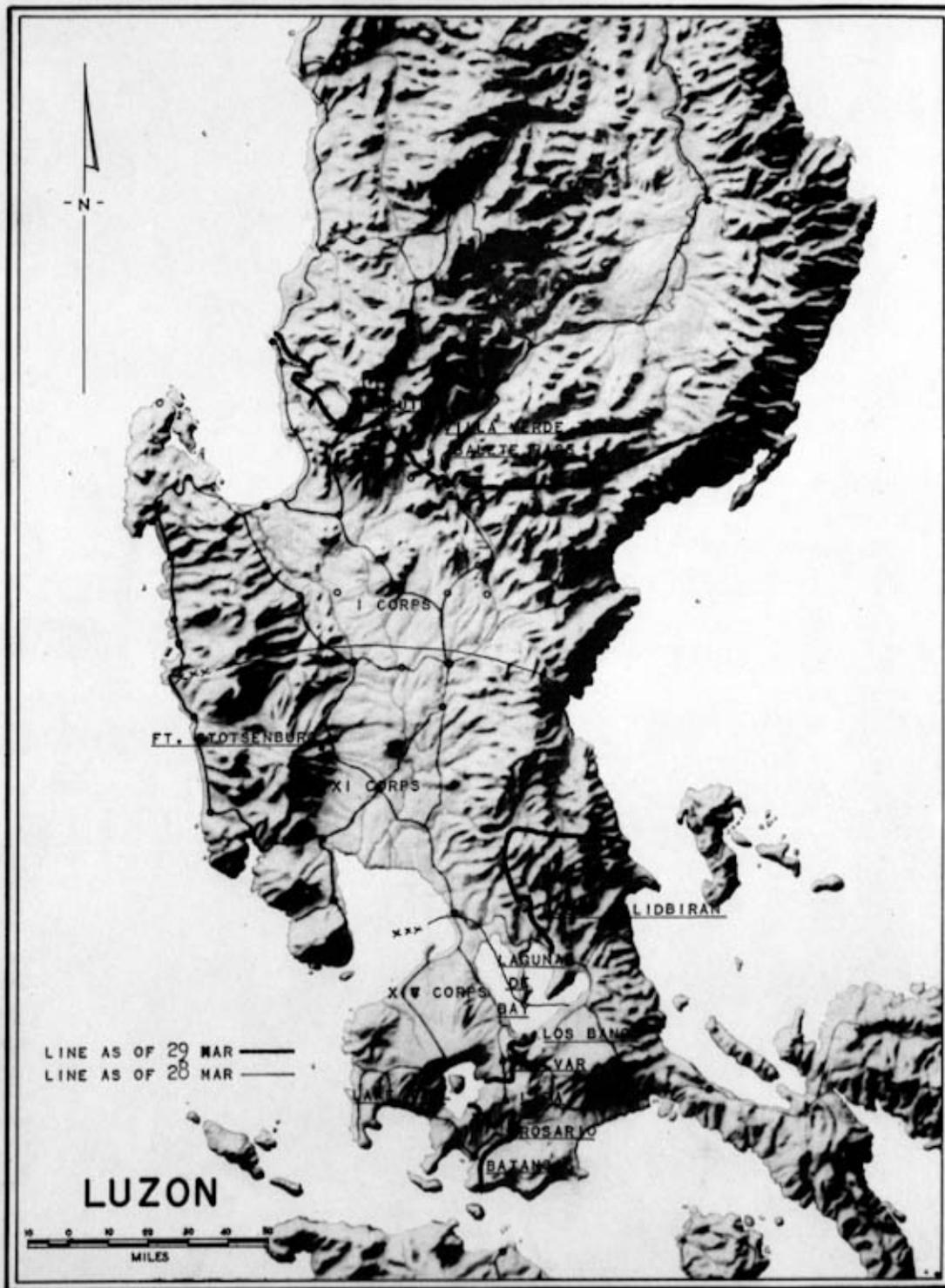
29 March. According to preliminary report, 24 B-29's bombed oil storage installations in the Singapore area, one hit Alor Star airfield, Malaya, and one an unnamed target. Average bombloads of 4.5 tons were carried by each Superfort.

27 March. Chinese troops, southeast of Lashio, occupied Mong Yai.

28 March. British troops, southeast of Mogok, are approaching the Lashio branch of the Burma Railways at a point 25 miles southwest of Hsipaw. The enemy continues to resist strongly in the Kyaukse and Myingyan areas, limited gains being made by British troops. Fighting continues on the airstrip at Meiktila. On the Arakan front, British units advancing towards Letpan gained some seven miles.

TOP SECRET





SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA

27 March. Among 732 previously unreported sorties, 306 were against Luzon targets. Eighteen B-24's attacked airdromes on Negros. One hundred seventy fighters supported ground forces on the Zamboanga Peninsula, and 123 aircraft attacked targets in the Bismarcks and Solomons. Patrol bombers sank five coastal vessels and a medium freighter transport off Formosa and the China coast. We lost two fighters.

28 March. Nearly 1,000 sorties were flown, of which 673 were against enemy troops, supplies and defenses on Luzon. Forty-eight heavy bombers attacked Formosa targets and 17 others attacked a Borneo airfield. Fighters supported our ground forces on Zamboanga and around Baguio; 28 medium bombers hit Cebu defenses. One enemy plane was destroyed; we lost one.

On Luzon, the I Corps seized hill positions southwest of Baguio; other elements made local advances after repulsing a Japanese night attack on the Villa Verde Trail. North of Laguna de Bay, advances up to two miles were made northeast of Mount Balidbiran. In Batangas, we seized Rosario. Patrols pushing south have reached the northern outskirts of Lipa.

On Cebu, we captured the airdrome and made progress on the coast. We landed on Mactan Island and occupied Opon.

29 March. US forces landed on the west coast of Negros near Pulupandan.

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OSD Letter, 5-8-72

PACIFIC OCEAN AREA

28 March. Sixteen fighters attacked in the Bonins, 24 others struck the Palaus, and 12 dive bombers attacked a magazine area on Jaluit.

Landings have been reported on the following five small islands west of Okinawa in the Kerama Retto: Zamami (26 March); Geruma (26 March, secured); Hokaji (26 March, secured); Tokashiki (27 March, secured); and Aka. Sporadic fighting continued on Zamami, while only snipers remained on Aka. According to incomplete reports our casualties are 24 killed, 65 wounded; enemy casualties are 292 killed, 49 captured.

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EASTERN FRONT

29 March. In East Prussia the peninsula southwest of Koenigsberg has been cleared of German troops. The greater part of Danzig is in Soviet hands. Local gains were made by the Soviets west and north of Kuestrin. In Slovakia, Soviet troops have advanced from the Gran to the Nitra Rivers. In Hungary, Szombathely has been taken and the Red Army reached the Austrian frontier, approximately 40 miles southwest of Vienna.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 1205

0700 March 28 to 0700 March 29, 1945

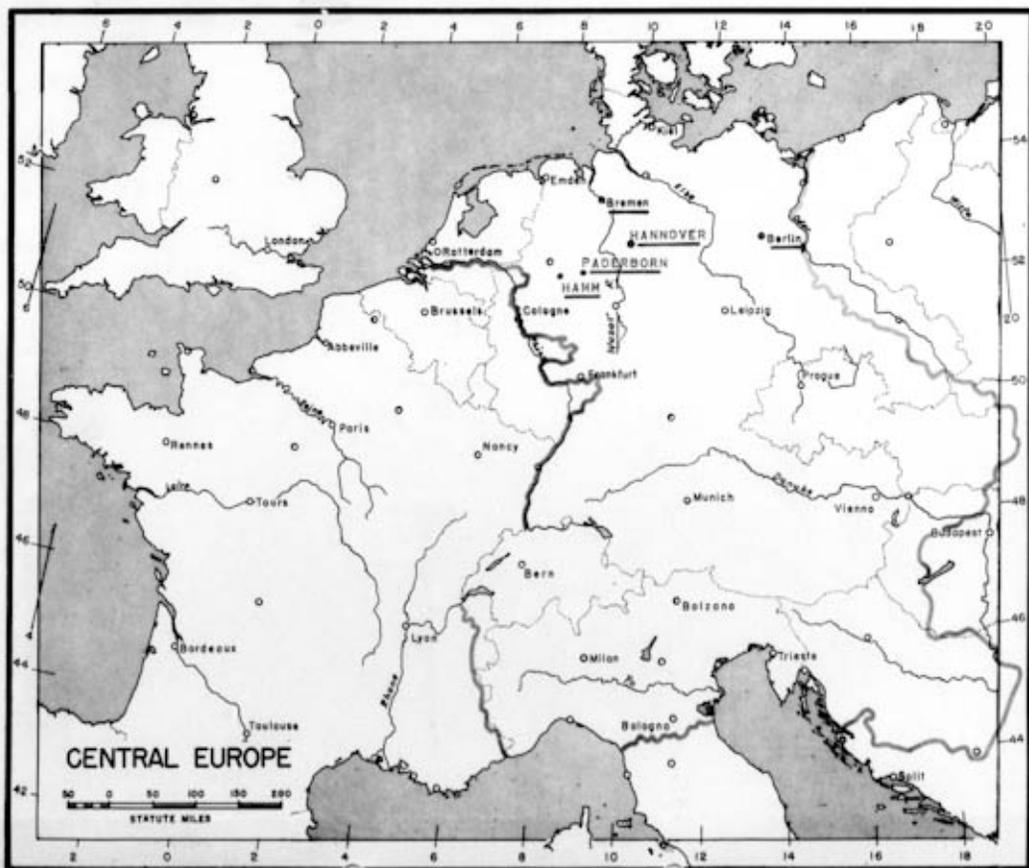
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ORD Letter, 5-8-72



EUROPE AND THE MEDITERRANEAN - STRATEGIC AIR

27 March. Formations totalling more than 500 escorted RAF heavy bombers attacked Paderborn, two benzol plants in the Hamm area and underground oil storage facilities and submarine shelters on the Weser River northwest of Bremen. That night, 79 Mosquitoes raided Berlin. Three Mosquitoes are missing.

28 March. Nine hundred seventy-three escorted 8th Air Force heavy bombers attacked German industrial targets in the Berlin and Hannover areas. Twenty-six bombers are missing. Adverse base weather forced cancellation of other bomber missions.

Weather grounded the 15th Air Force.

WESTERN FRONT



TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET
OSD Letter, D-20

EUROPEAN THEATER

27 March. During the 24 hours to sunset, the Tactical Air Forces, restricted by weather which grounded medium bombers, flew 1,253 sorties. Fighters supported our ground forces principally around Frankfurt. Eleven enemy planes were destroyed; we lost two fighters.

In the 24 hours to 0600, two flying bombs fell in Antwerp and 22 others in neighboring areas. Antiaircraft fire destroyed 21 others.

28 March. By 0600, two rockets fell in the London area. One flying bomb fell in England and 10 others were shot down by antiaircraft fire.

On the right flank of the British Second Army, resistance slackened appreciably and advances up to six miles were made. Elements of the US XVIII Airborne Corps entered Dorsten and British troops were four miles southeast of Bocholt. On the left flank, the Germans withdrew and forward elements of the XXX Corps captured Isselburg and were rapidly extending their advance along the north bank of the Rhine towards Emmerich.

Our Ninth Army, continuing to attack to the south against decreasing resistance, crossed the canal north of Duisburg and scored gains up to three miles in the area south of Dorsten.

On the First Army front, an armored spearhead of the VII Corps advancing 40 miles against light resistance, reached the Lahn River at Marburg and entered the city without opposition. To the south, armor of the III Corps seized bridges across the Dill River and drove ahead 17 miles, crossing the Lahn River south of Marburg; leading elements were six miles southeast of Giessen. Infantry followed closely behind these tank thrusts, mopping up remaining resistance. The V Corps occupied the line of the Lahn along a front of 10 miles east of Nassau. A late communique states that our forces have entered Wiesbaden.

The Third Army extended its Rhine bridgehead with gains of from five to ten miles against moderate to scattered resistance. The XX Corps drove across the Rhine at Mainz, and made gains up to two miles along an eight-mile front. Armor and infantry of the XII Corps were engaged in house-to-house fighting north of the Main River in Frankfurt. An armored thrust advancing to the north between Frankfurt and Hanau gained 15 miles. According to a SHAEF communique Hanau and Aschaffenburg have been cleared.

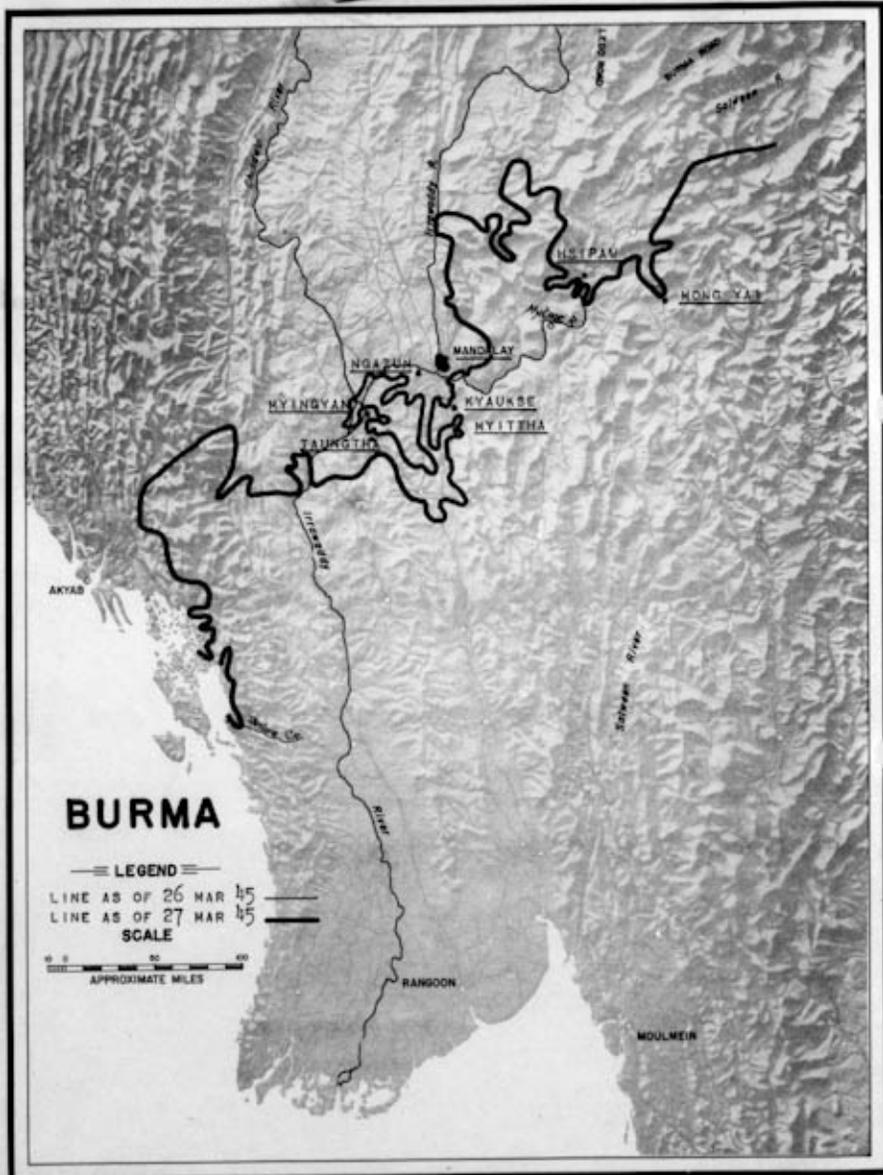
On the Seventh Army front, the XV Corps expanded its bridgehead to the south for some three miles and to the east about six miles. Another gain of five miles was made southeast of Darmstadt.

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

27 March. During the 24 hours ending at 1800, adverse weather in the Mediterranean Theater virtually grounded the Tactical, Coastal and Balkan Air Forces; only 71 sorties were reported.

28 March. Activity on the Italian battle front was confined to patrolling.

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OSD Letter, 6-3-72



ASIATIC THEATER

26 March. The Eastern Air Command flew 2,758 sorties, of which 667 were tactical. Twenty fighters swept airfields in the Rangoon, Moulmein and Tavoy area. Other formations attacked positions, bridges and installations in central and southern Burma. During all these operations four enemy planes were shot down; we lost three.

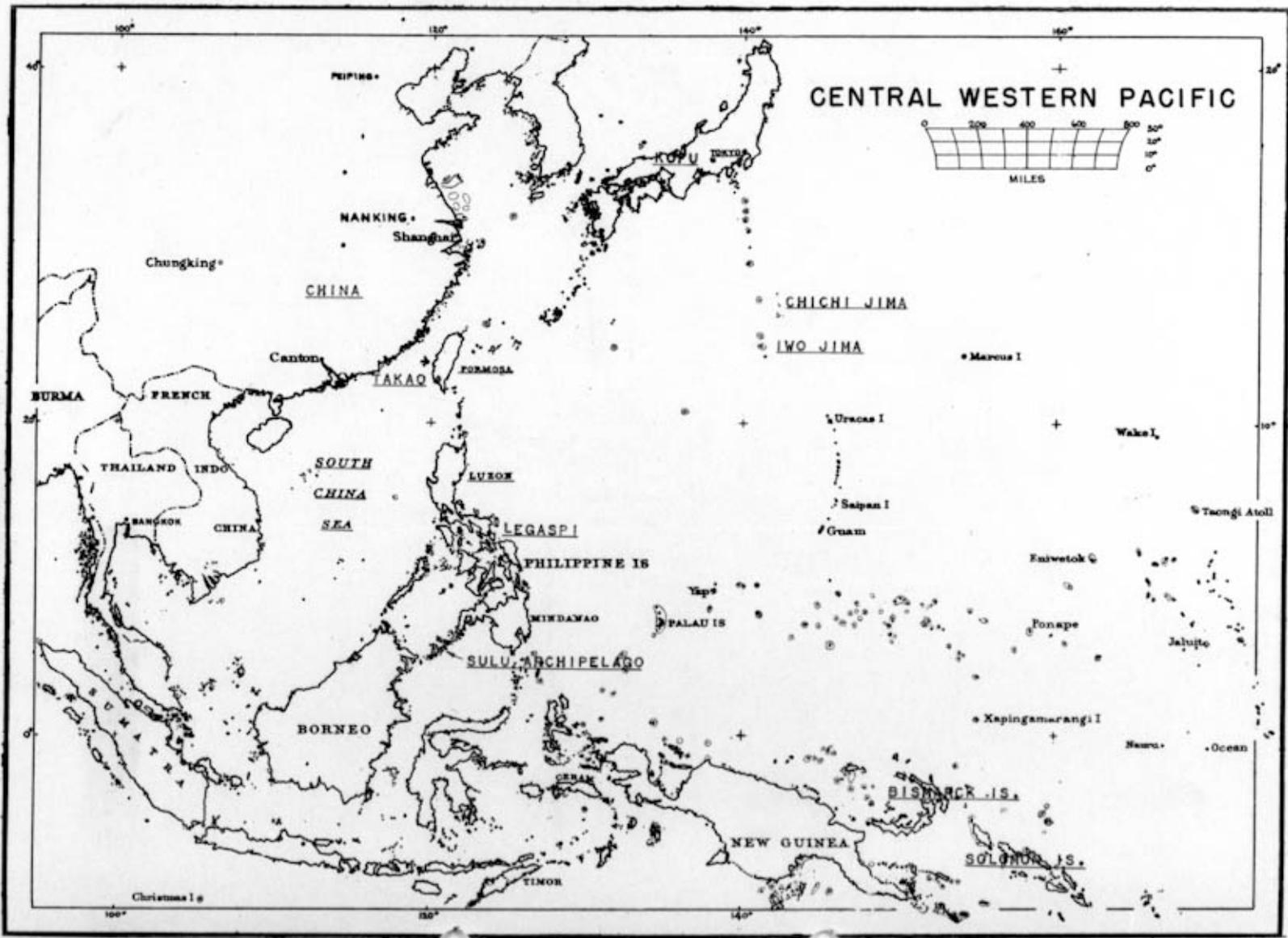
27 March. A British column pushing southwest from Kyaukse was five miles from Myitha. The Japanese continue to resist strongly at Kyaukse. There were no significant changes on the other active fronts in Burma.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA

26 March. Among 580 additional sorties flown, 299 were against targets on Luzon. Legaspi was bombed by 59 B-24's; 19 others hit warehouses and docks at Takao (Formosa). Cebu was attacked by 124 planes. Japanese installations in the Bismarcks and Solomons were hit by over 100 aircraft. Search planes sank a medium freighter transport and a coastal vessel off eastern China.

27 March. Four hundred sixty-three sorties were reported, of which 428 hit supplies, installations, and defenses in northern and central Luzon. Nine B-24's struck targets in the Sulu Archipelago. Fifteen medium bombers attacked a factory and airdrome on Formosa. Patrol bombers fired two coastal vessels in the South China Sea. We lost one fighter.

On northern Luzon, we scored small gains northwest and southeast of Baguio. Units of the XI Corps, supported by naval bombardment, seized the east half of Caballo Island at the entrance to Manila Bay. In Batangas, we captured Lipa Hill and patrolled to Rosario without contact. Other forces, in this area, driving south were four miles north of Lipa. US troops captured the city of Cebu; the town was virtually destroyed, but the port installations appeared to be undamaged. On Mindanao, we seized a hill northeast of Zamboanga in heavy fighting.



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PACIFIC OCEAN AREA

25 March. Army night fighters shot down several enemy bombers attempting to raid Iwo Jima. Other fighters attacked Chichi Jima. A single B-29 attacked Kofu, west of Tokyo.

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JED Letter, 5-3-73

EASTERN FRONT

28 March. Gdynia has been captured by the Soviets.
In Hungary, a general Red Army advance between the Danube
and Lake Balaton gained five miles, ✓ Gyor was captured
and the Red Army is now 50 miles from Vienna. In Yugoslavia,
Partisan troops took Bihac and pushed 25 miles beyond. ✓

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JED Letter, 5-3-72

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 1204

0700 March 27 to 0700 March 28, 1945

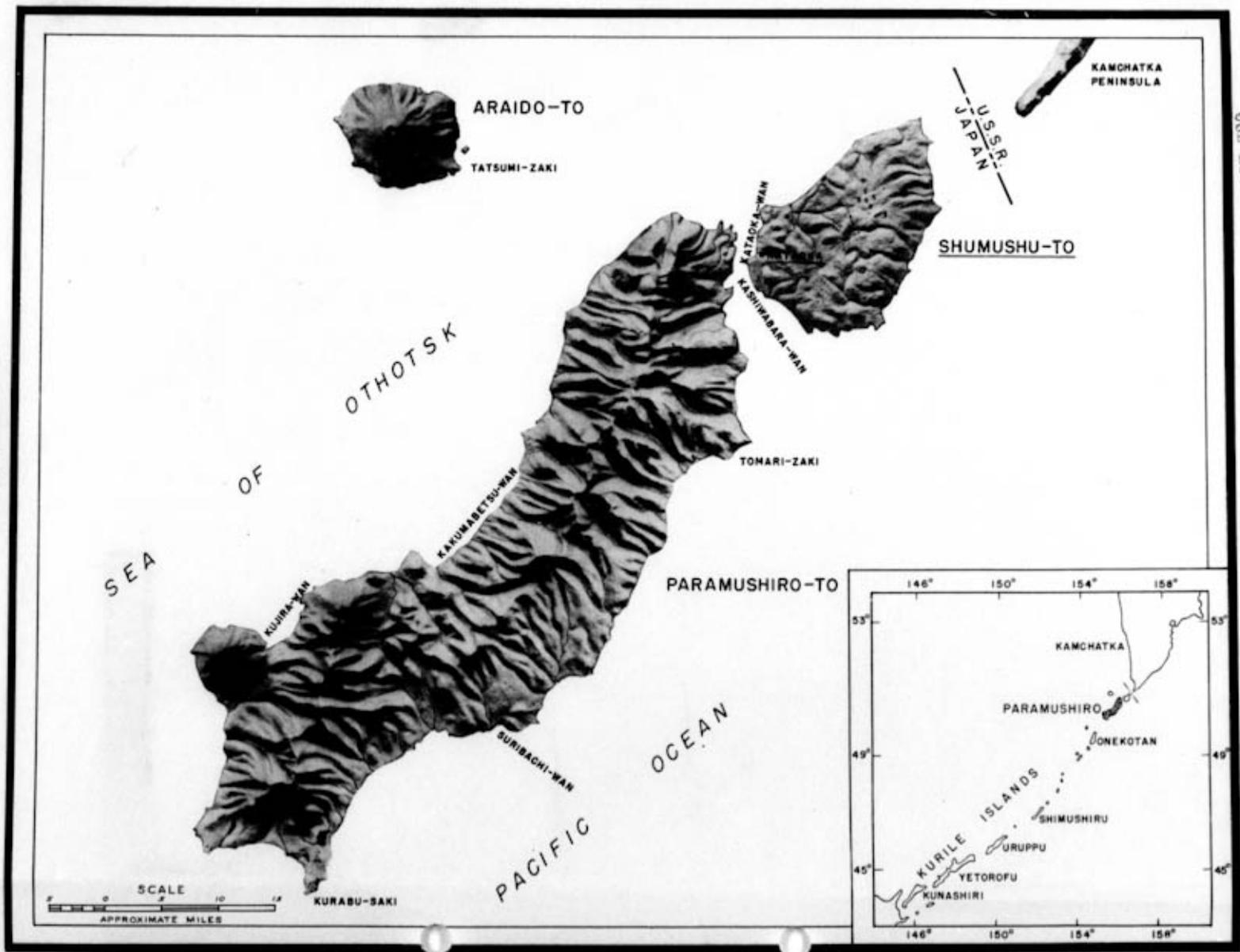
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GSD Letter, 5-3-72

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

27 March. Six B-24's attacked Kataoka on Shumushu Island in the Kuriles.

EUROPE AND THE MEDITERRANEAN - STRATEGIC AIR

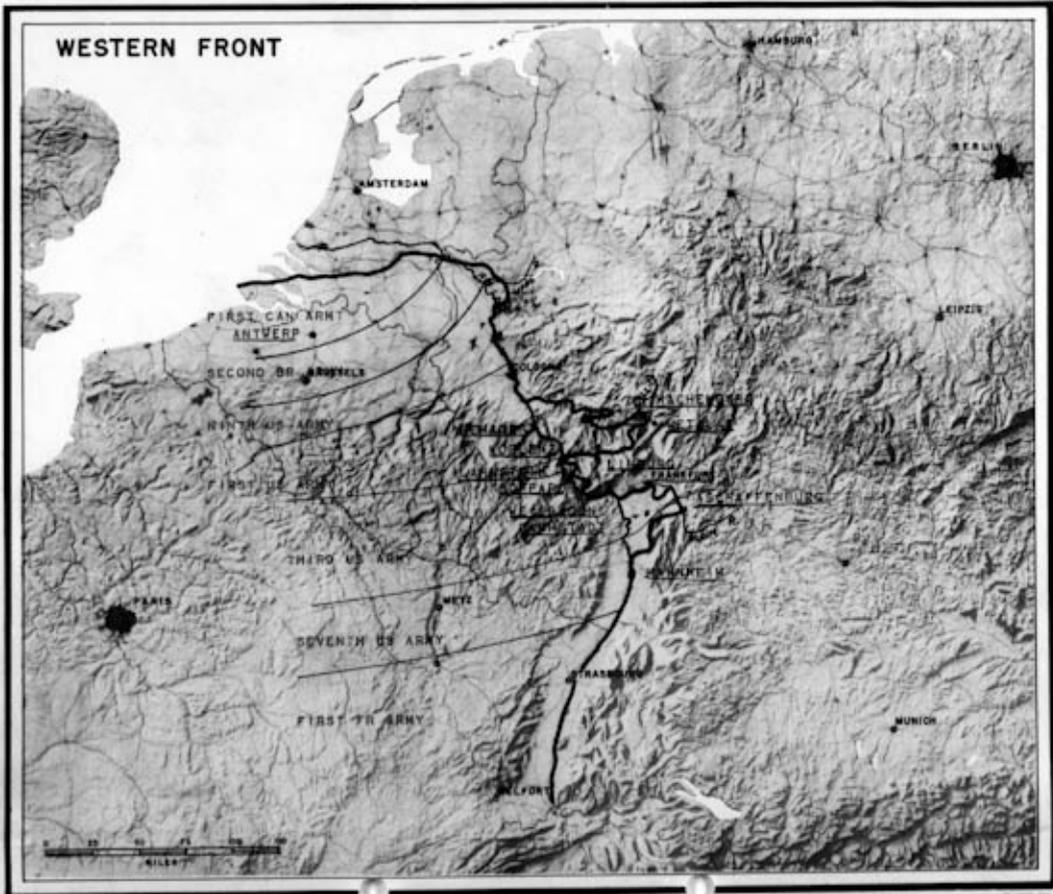
25 March. Post-raid photographs indicate that during previously reported 15th Air Force operations on this date against three airdromes in the Prague area and one in the Linz area, 108 parked enemy planes were destroyed.

26 March. Adverse weather grounded RAF heavy bombers. During the night 81 Mosquitoes struck Berlin and four attacked other targets.

27 March. The 8th and 15th Air Forces operations were cancelled by weather.

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WESTERN FRONT



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On Letter 5-9-72

EUROPEAN THEATER

26 March. By sunset, the Tactical Air Forces flew more than 5,000 sorties. Medium bombers, restricted by weather, attacked three railyards east of Frankfurt; fighters continued to support our widespread ground operations. Ten enemy planes were destroyed; we lost 20.

In the 24 hours to 0600, one rocket and 23 flying bombs fell near Antwerp. Antiaircraft fire destroyed 22 other flying bombs.

27 March. During the 24 hours to 0600, nine rockets fell in the Essex and London areas. One flying bomb reached London; four others were destroyed by antiaircraft fire and one by fighter aircraft.

North of the Ruhr, the British Second Army gained from three to five miles against opposition which, although lighter on the flanks, continued heavy in the center, just north of the Lippe River.

In the Remagen bridgehead following the breakthrough yesterday on the southern flank, resistance along the entire eastern and southern sectors collapsed. Three strong armored columns scored advances up to 30 miles. The northern column drove to a point ten miles north-east of Hachenburg. The central one pushed to the vicinity of Wetzlar. The southern prong of this thrust was five miles from Wiesbaden. South of Koblenz, troops from our Boppard bridgehead linked up at Lahnstein with those from the Remagen area.

The Third Army consolidated its positions between Darmstadt and

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Aschaffenburg and advanced to the line of the Main River in the Frankfurt area where a damaged railroad bridge was captured. Infantry passed over the bridge and are now fighting toward the heart of Frankfurt.

Our Seventh Army gained eight miles on a 15-mile front north of Mannheim.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

26 March. Adverse weather severely curtailed Tactical Air Force operations; only 201 sorties were flown. While medium bombers were grounded small formations of fighters and fighter bombers attacked communications in northern Italy and targets in the Valley of the Po. We lost one plane. The Balkan Air Force flew 129 sorties against rail targets and communications in Yugoslavia.

27 March. There was no significant change on the Italian battle front.

ASIATIC THEATER

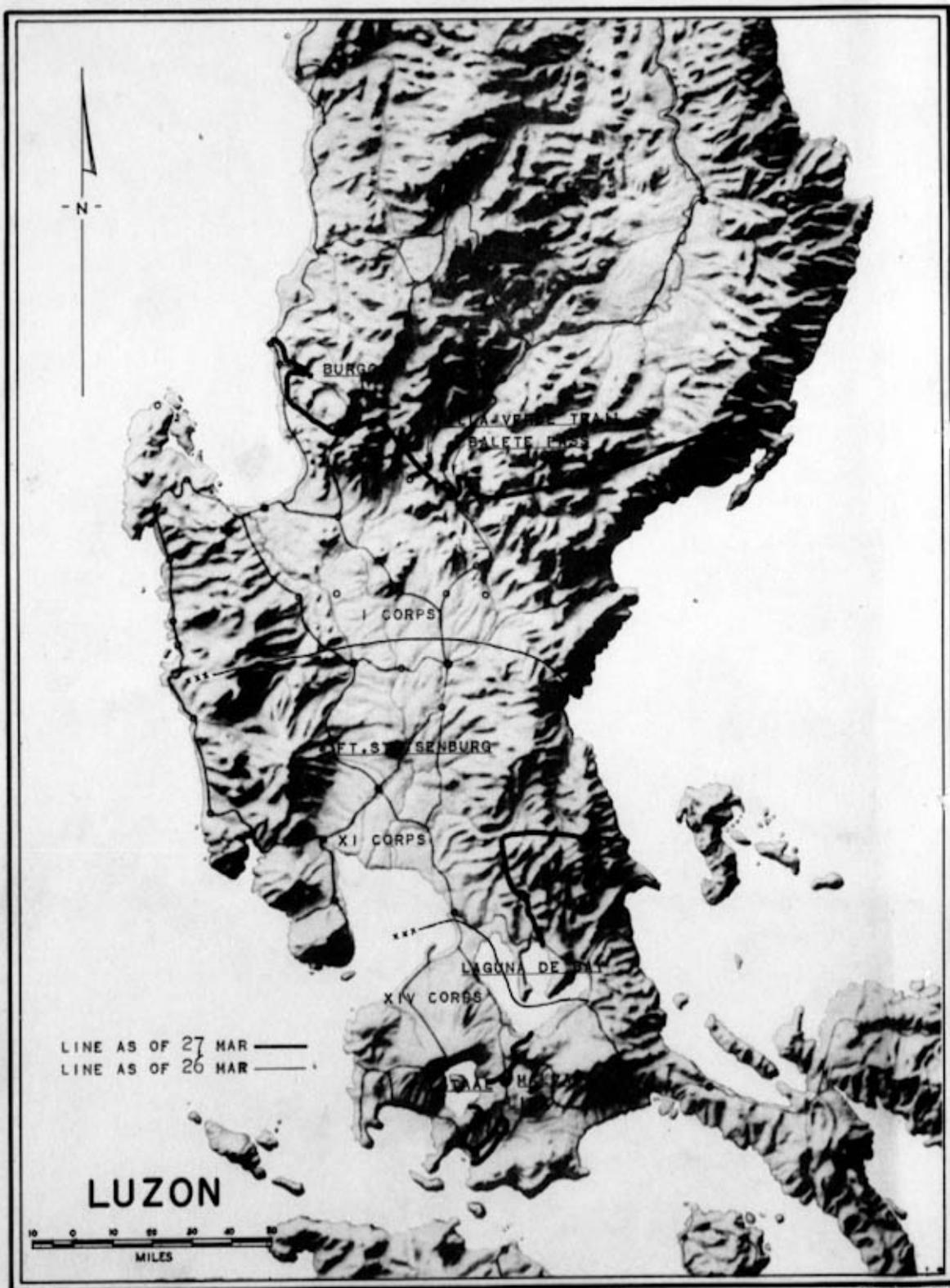
25 March. The Eastern Air Command flew 2,509 sorties of which 517 were offensive against bridges in southern Burma and enemy positions and supply dumps throughout the battle zones.

24 and 25 March. The 14th Air Force reported over 100 offensive sorties principally against communications in central China. Heavy bombers mined the Yangtze River, east of Hankow. We lost two planes.

26 March. The airfield at Laohokow was evacuated by Allied forces in China. ✓

Chinese troops continued to advance south of Hsipaw; to the east, they had reached the vicinity of Mong Yai. Allied units continued to mop up Japanese positions between Mandalay and the Myitnge River. British troops had driven to within a mile of Kyaukse and were moving south to effect a junction with other British elements moving north from Myittha, which has been occupied. Allied forces driving southwest from the Ngazun bridgehead were five miles from Myingyan. On the Arakan coast, local progress was made south of Tanlwe Creek.

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GSD Letter, 5-3-72



SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA

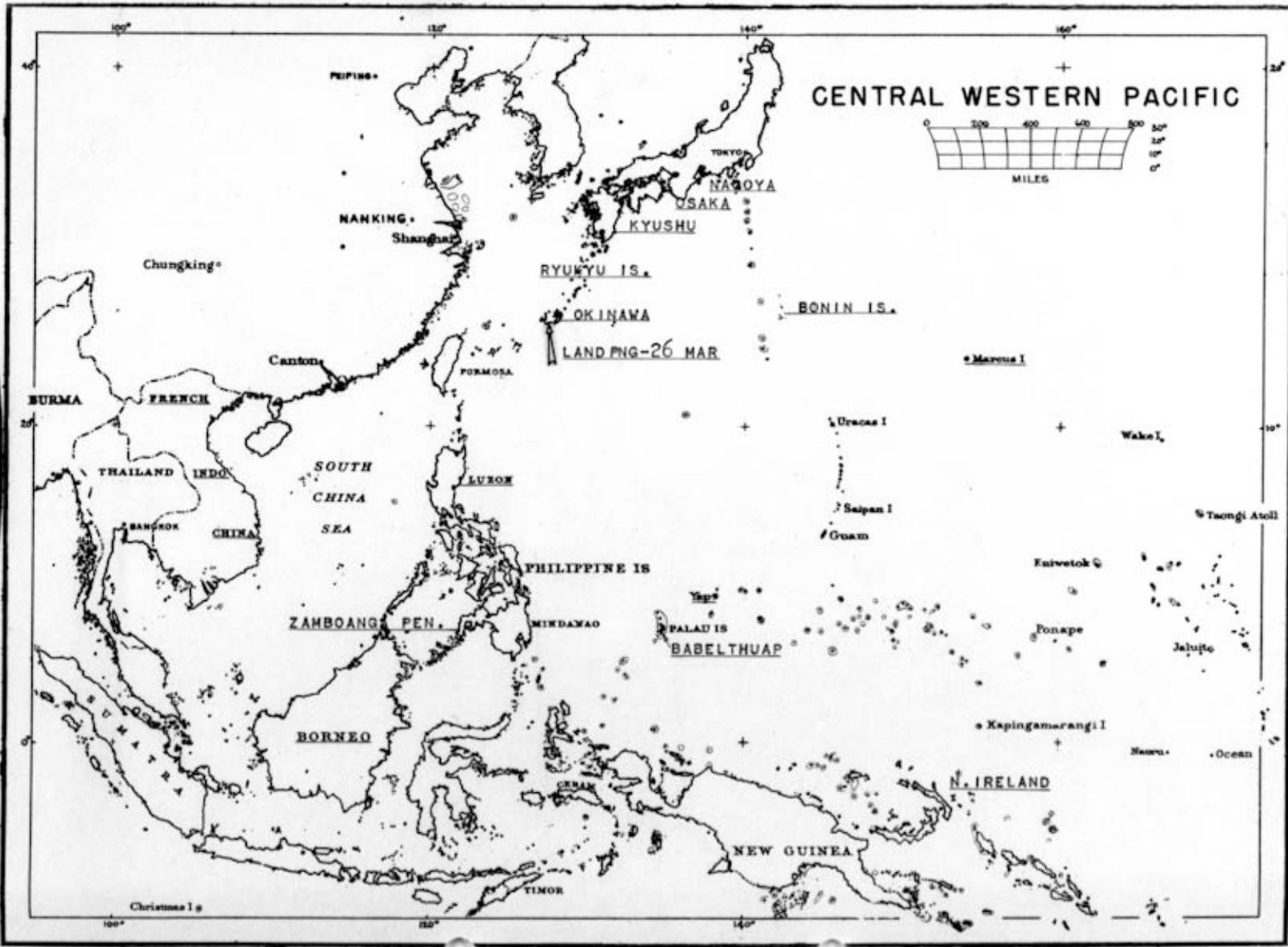
25 March. Among over 470 additional sorties reported, 206 were flown over Luzon and 40 against bivouacs and gun positions on northern New Ireland. Sixty-nine B-24's and 41 light bombers attacked the area around Cebu City. Heavy patrol bombers sank two freighter transports and two coastal vessels and destroyed one enemy plane in the southern French Indo-China area.

26 March. The majority of over 400 sorties reported were against troops, supplies and bridges on Luzon. Eighteen B-24's again bombed Cebu City.

On Luzon, units of the I Corps advancing eastward towards Burgos captured the high ground about a mile northwest and southwest of the town. Southeast of Balete Pass, we repulsed ten Japanese counterattacks against our positions in that area. West of Fort Stotsenburg, XI Corps troops continued to reduce strong isolated enemy pockets. East of Lake Taal, units of the XIV Corps driving south towards a junction with our forces moving north, established a road block just southwest of Lipa.

On Cebu, we reached Lagtan unopposed but encountered organized resistance east of Pardo.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72



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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

C PACIFIC OCEAN AREA

26 March. US forces, supported by Naval gunfire and aircraft cover, landed on three small islands, west of Okinawa, in the Ryukyus against light opposition. Two of the islands were reported secured by noon. Three enemy planes attacking our vessels were shot down.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

EASTERN FRONT

27 March. In West Prussia, the Soviets pushed into the outskirts of Gdynia and the center of Danzig. Units of the Red Army also captured Strehlen, south of Breslau, and Rybnik in western Poland. The Soviets maintained the tempo of their advance in southern Hungary between Lake Balaton and the Danube River.

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 1203

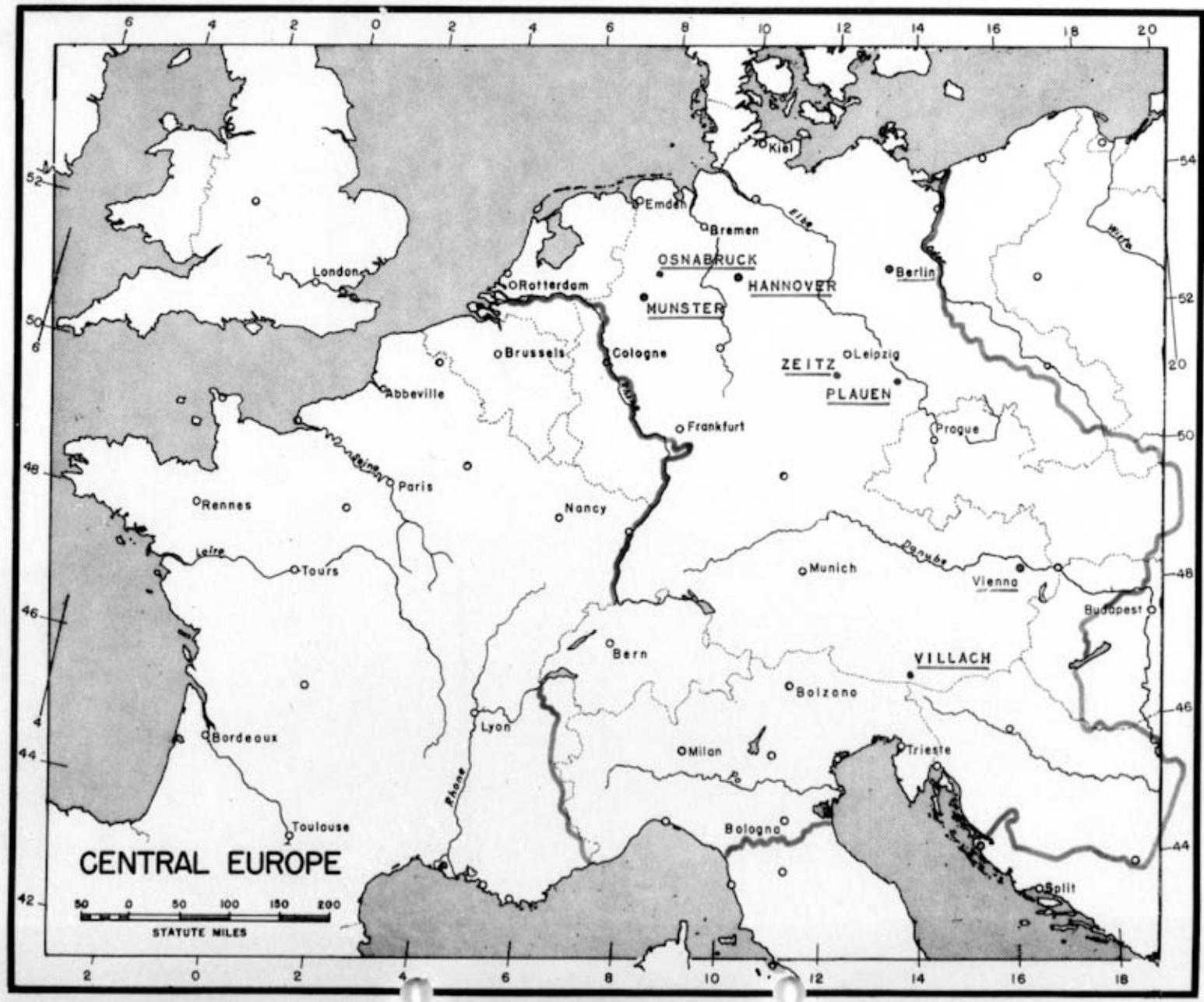
0700 March 26 to 0700 March 27, 1945

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

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EUROPE AND THE MEDITERRANEAN - STRATEGIC AIR

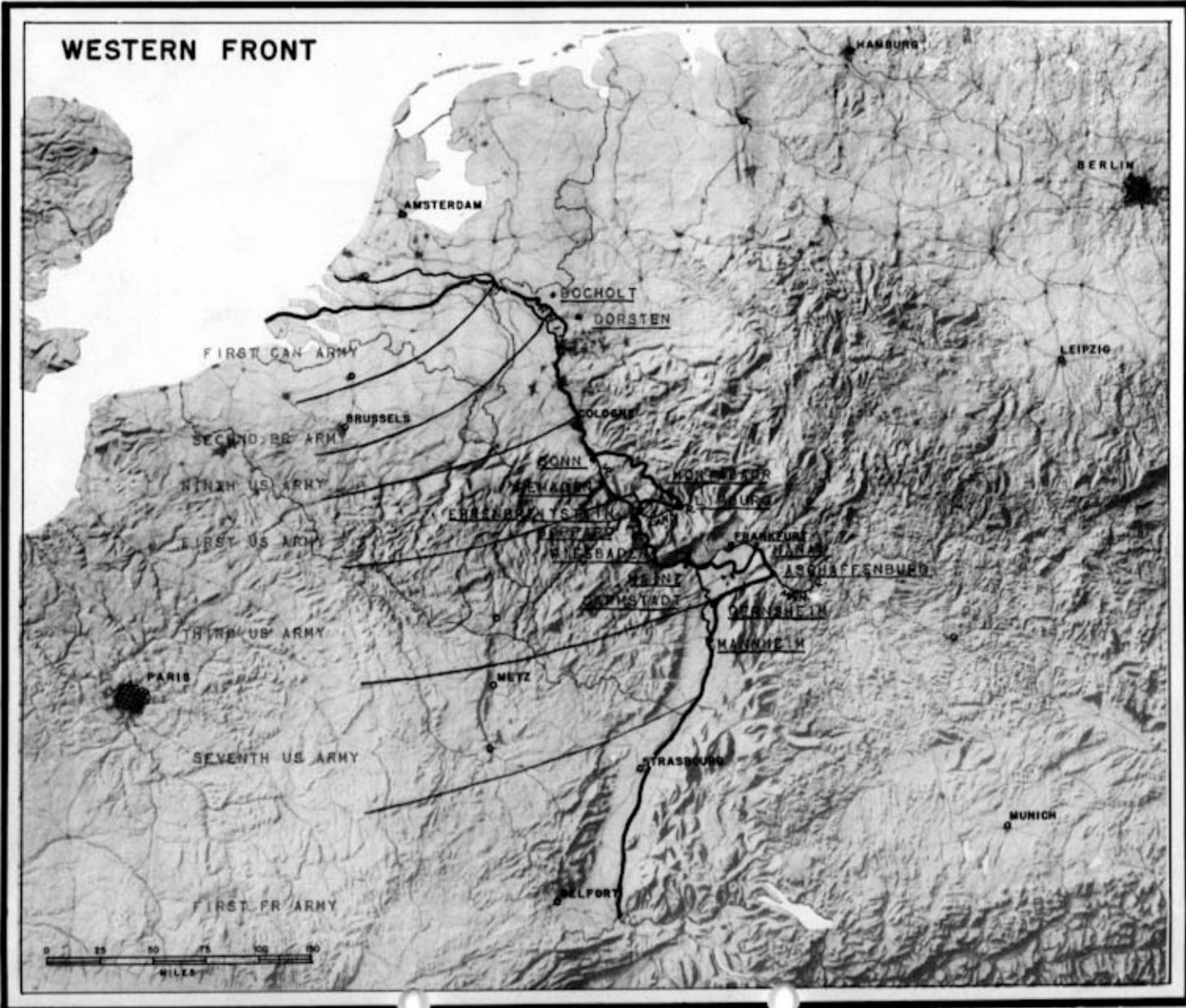
25 March. Two hundred fifty-seven RAF escorted heavy bombers struck Hannover; 300 others hit Muenster and Osnabruck. Mosquitoes raided Berlin. Four bombers are missing.

During the night, Liberators of the 15th Air Force dropped 126 tons on a railyard at Villach in Austria. One bomber is missing.

26 March. The 8th Air Force, restricted by adverse weather at its bases, dispatched 339 escorted heavy bombers to attack a synthetic oil plant at Zeitz and an armored vehicle factory at Plauen. Nineteen bombers are outstanding, a majority of which are believed safe. One fighter was lost and four others are unreported but believed safe.

Five hundred and twenty escorted heavy bombers, dispatched by the 15th Air Force, attacked railyards in eastern Austria, western Czechoslovakia and western Hungary. Fighters dropped 24 tons on a rail bridge west of Vienna, strafed rail transportation and shot down five enemy planes. Five bombers and four fighters are missing.

WESTERN FRONT



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OSD Letter, 6-8-78

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EUROPEAN THEATER

25 March. The Tactical Air Forces flew 6,217 sorties and dropped 2,364 tons of bombs. Medium bombers concentrated upon communication centers and gun positions in the northern bridgehead area and upon railyards at Limburg and others in the Frankfurt area. Fighters supporting our bridgeheads claimed great destruction and damage to rail and motor transport. Thirty-nine enemy planes were destroyed; we lost 35.

One rocket and two flying bombs fell in Antwerp, and five rockets and 11 flying bombs fell in adjacent areas. Antiaircraft fire destroyed seven other flying bombs.

26 March. Seven flying bombs fell in England, of which one reached the London area. Five others were destroyed by antiaircraft fire. Seven rockets landed in the Essex and London areas.

The Second British Army and the XVI Corps of our Ninth Army driving to the northeast extended the bridgehead north of the Ruhr for average gains of two miles against comparatively light opposition. Bridges across the Rhine have been completed and the build-up in the bridgehead is proceeding satisfactorily.

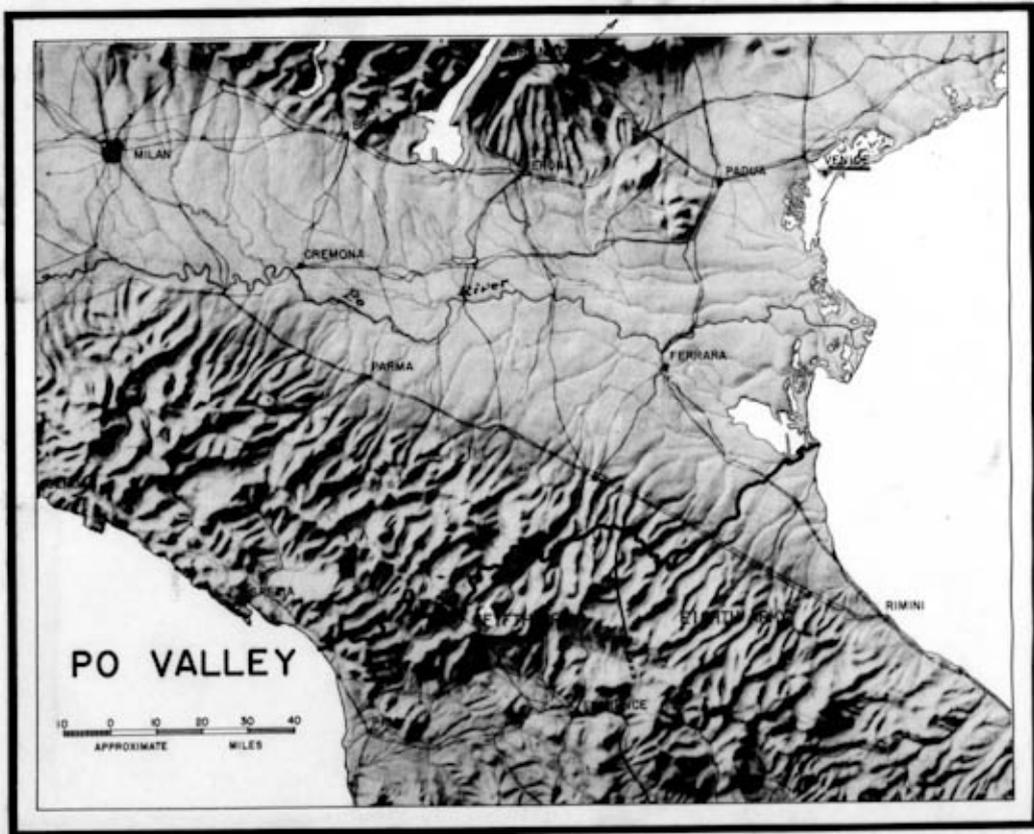
On our First Army front an armored division of the VII Corps advanced east from the center of our Remagen bridgehead for ten miles against opposition which was slight at first but subsequently stiffened as numerous mines, infantry, artillery and tanks were encountered. Lesser advances were made east of Bonn. The III Corps advanced for 12 miles to the southeast against light and scattered resistance and established contact with armor of the V Corps on the super-highway

in the vicinity of Montabaur. An armored division of the V Corps after reaching the Montabaur area veered to the southeast and captured Limburg and a bridge over the Lahn and is continuing to drive down the super-highway towards Wiesbaden.

On our Third Army front, two divisions of the VIII Corps attacking across the Rhine at two hours after midnight extended the corps bridge-head established the day before between Ehrenbreitstein and Boppard an additional 13 miles and advanced generally two miles east of the Rhine. An infantry division of the XII Corps advanced three miles to the north in the area east of Mainz. Armor of the corps thrusting towards Frankfurt gained 11 miles and according to communique had reached the outskirts of the city. Darmstadt has been taken. The 4th Armored Division of the XII Corps which had by-passed Darmstadt reached Aschaffenburg on the Main, capturing a railroad bridge across the river west of the city, and farther to the north gained the outskirts of Hanau east of Frankfurt where another bridge across the Main was captured.

On our Seventh Army front, the XV Corps crossed the Rhine at 0230 between Gernsheim and Mannheim. Strong initial resistance was overcome and advances up to four miles were made.

The overall situation of the enemy on the Rhine continued to deteriorate steadily. For the first 24 days of March an average daily total of 10,000 prisoners has been taken of which over 60 per cent are combat troops.



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NSD Letter, 8-8-72

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USD Letter, 5-3-72

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

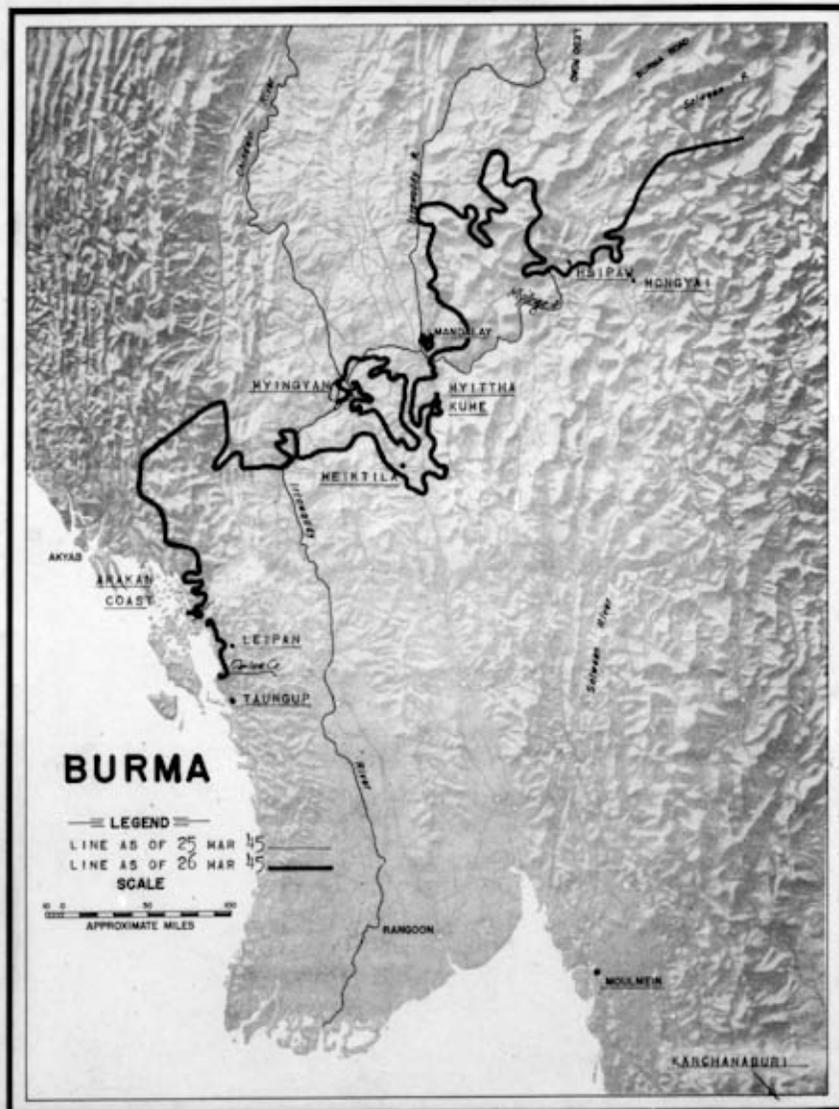
25 March. The Tactical Air Force flew 1,182 sorties. Medium bombers continued attacks on rail bridges on the southern end of the Brenner Route and on the northern outlet in Austria. Others attacked a bridge in the central Po Valley and hit an ammunition dump near Venice. Fighters struck ammunition and fuel dumps and oil targets in the Po Valley and communications in northern Italy, effecting 100 rail cuts and destroying two rail bridges. The Coastal and Balkan Air Forces flew 48 and 81 sorties respectively; the former attacked shipping off northeastern and northwestern Italy and rail movement in Yugoslavia, the latter struck railyards and transportation in Yugoslavia and German garrisons in northeastern Italy. Two enemy planes were destroyed; we lost three.

26 March. Activity on the Italian battlefield was confined to sporadic raiding and patrolling, with no change in positions.



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OSD Letter, 5-3-72



ASIATIC THEATER

24 March. The Eastern Air Command flew 2,817 sorties of which 829 were offensive. Heavy bombers dropped 146 tons on railyards in the Moulmein area and others seriously damaged a rail bridge near Kanchanaburi on the Burma-Siam line. Medium bombers and fighters continued attacks on enemy positions and supplies in the Burma battle areas and swept rail bridges and airfields through southern Burma.

The 14th Air Force reported 130 additional sorties. Thirty-four aircraft in numerous small missions attacked Japanese columns advancing upon our airbase at Laohokow from the northeast and south; other planes attacked rail lines and bridges from Tungting Lake southward along the Siang River Valley, and in the Yellow River area. Six fighters shot down two enemy planes of a formation of 23 over Nanking. We lost two aircraft from all missions.

25 March. Thirty-four offensive sorties were flown chiefly against rail bridges and rail and road traffic in central China.

23 March. A counterattack on the bridgehead established the night of 22 March south of Tanlwe Creek was repulsed and the bridgehead was firmly secured.

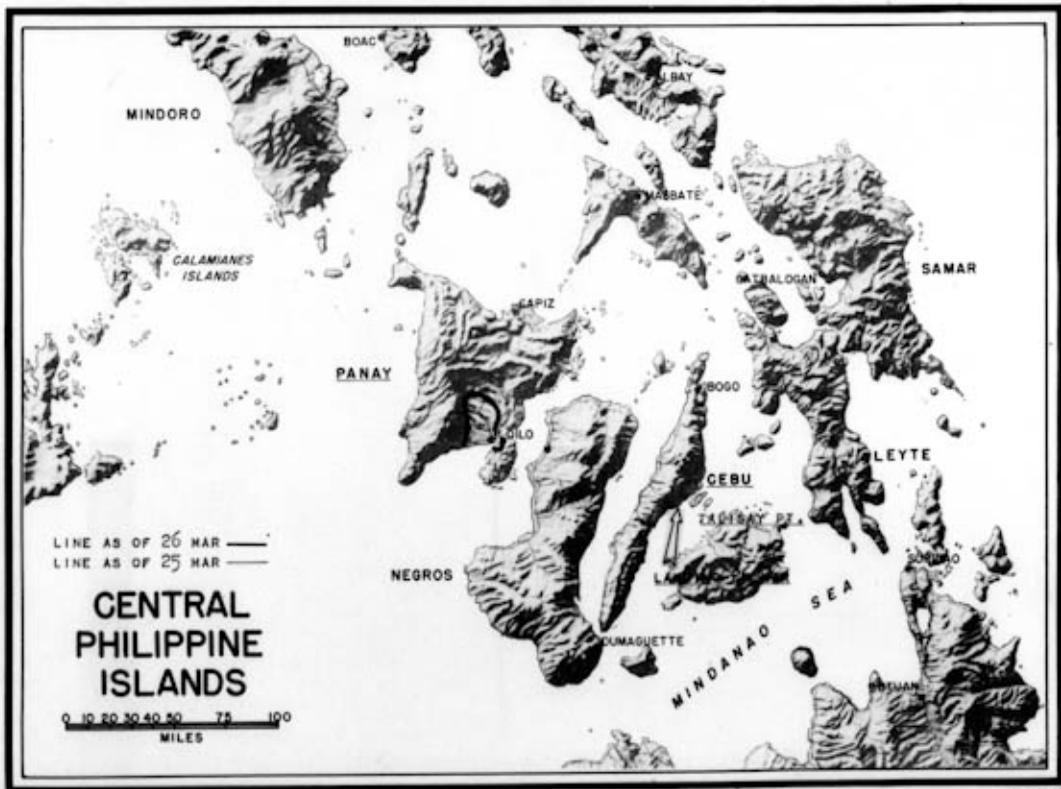
25 March. East of Hsipaw, Chinese troops moving to the southeast gained an additional seven miles towards Mongyai. British troops continued to mop up the remaining Japanese resistance in the Mandalay area.



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 OSD Letter, 5-3-72

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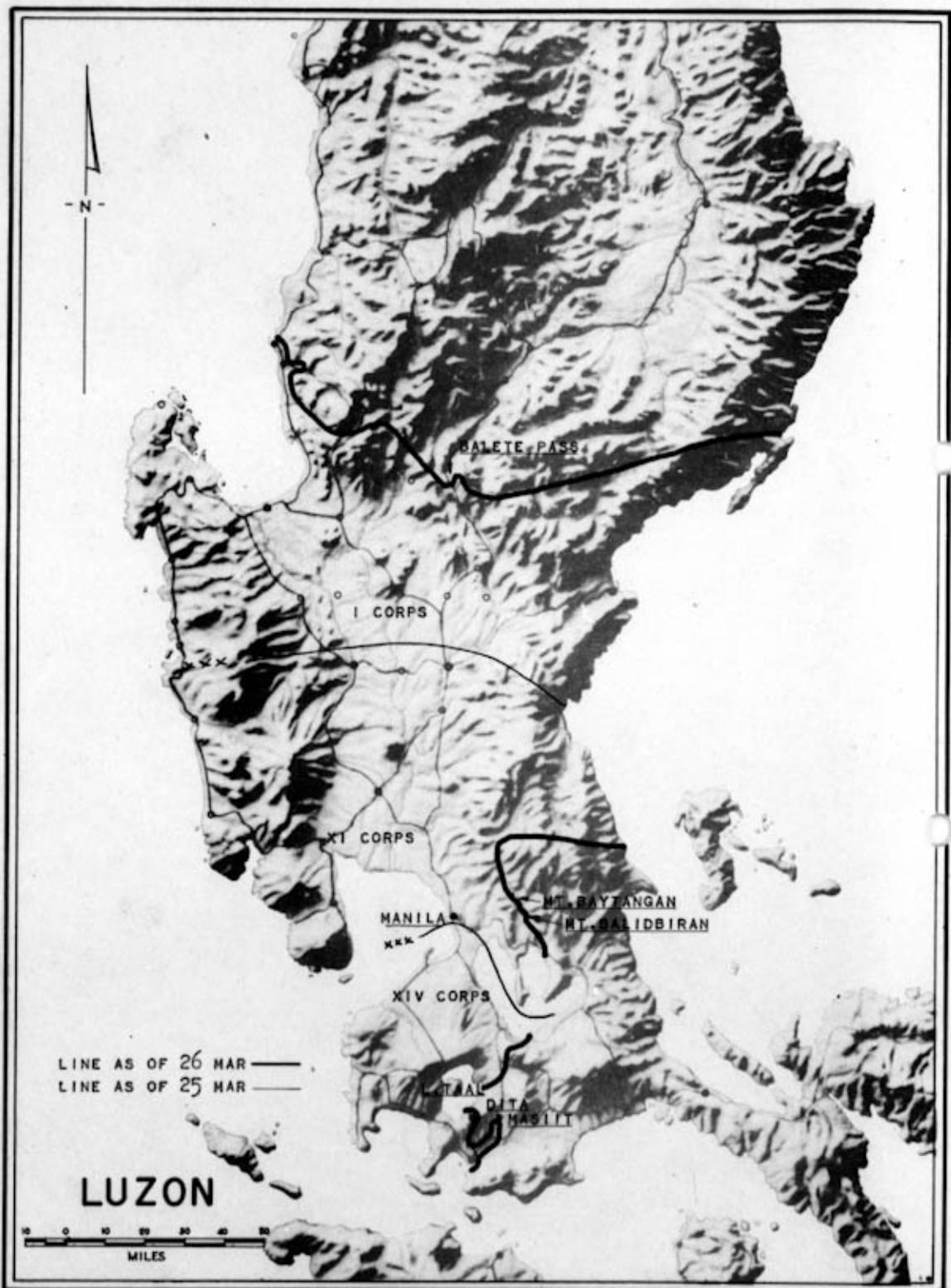
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OSD Letter, 5-8-72

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LINE AS OF 25 MAR - - - -

LUZON

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USC Letter, 6-8-78

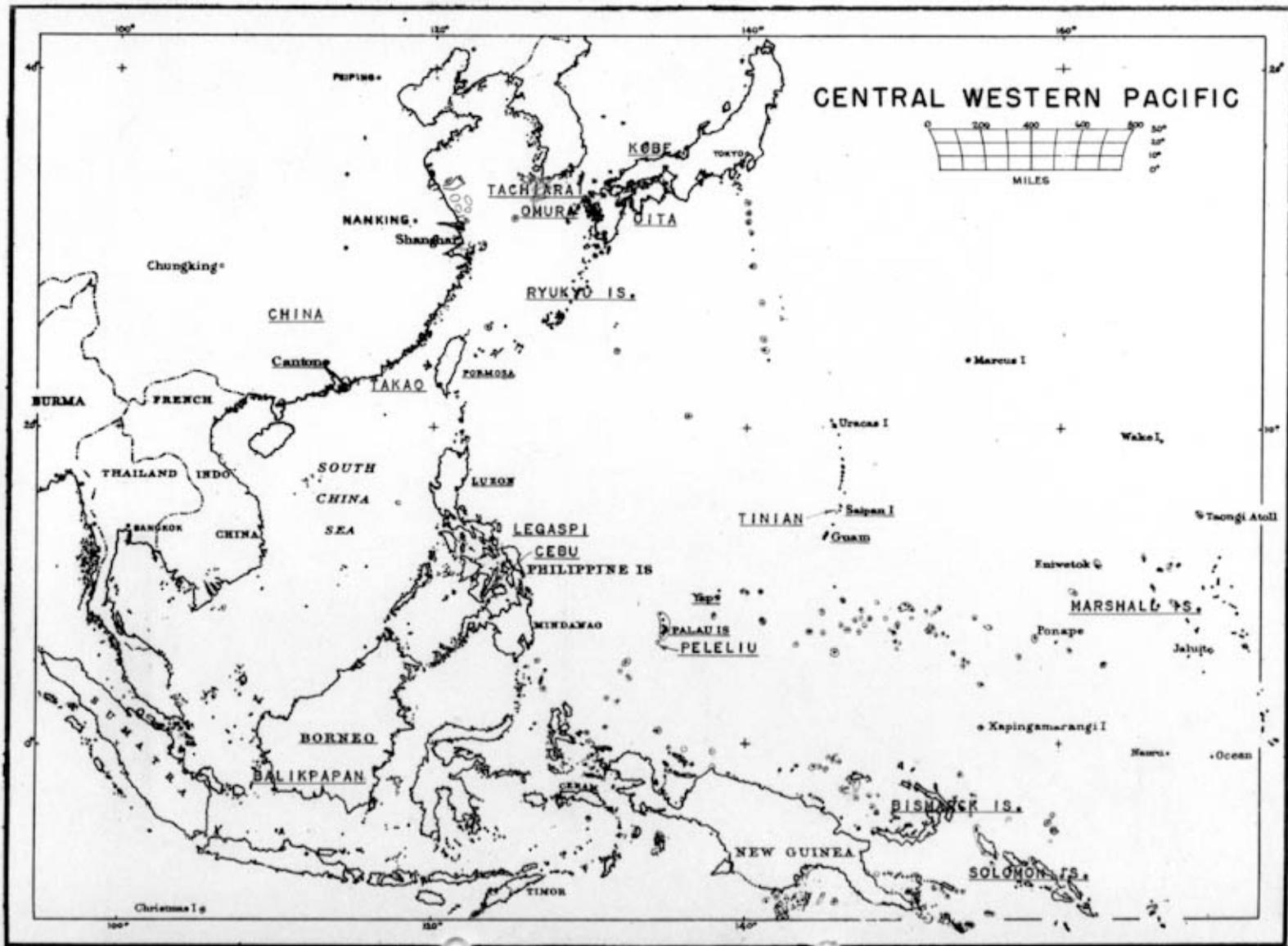
SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA

24 March. Additional sorties for the day totalled 493, among which 370 were flown against targets on Luzon and 43 against enemy installations in the Bismarcks and Solomons. B-24's dropped 188 tons of bombs on Legaspi (Luzon) and others dropped 67 tons on Takao (Formosa). Four heavy bombers attacked the Tien Ho airdrome at Canton in China. Forty-one light bombers raided Japanese defenses on Cebu.

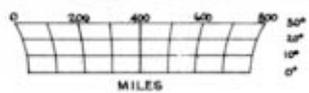
25 March. More than 450 sorties were reported. Targets in northern and southern Luzon were attacked by 368 planes. Eighteen heavy bombers again hit installations on Cebu. Light bombers attacked a power plant and industrial targets on Formosa and harassed shipping off the coast. Heavy bombers, attacking small shipping near Balikpapan, Borneo, set one coastal vessel on fire and damaged others. We lost one plane.

Following a heavy artillery preparation, an attack was launched against strong enemy positions east of Balete Pass, but I Corps units continued to meet heavy opposition to their advance northward. XI Corps units made limited advances in the area east of Manila. Airborne units of the XIV Corps fighting east of Lake Taal occupied Dita after a bitter fight and farther east were less than a mile southwest of Masilit. Only small contacts were reported from Panay. On Mindanao, 41st Division units continued to encounter heavy opposition north of Pasonanca.

26 March. The Americal Division, less one Regimental Combat Team, landed at Talisay Point on the eastern coast of Cebu.



CENTRAL WESTERN PACIFIC



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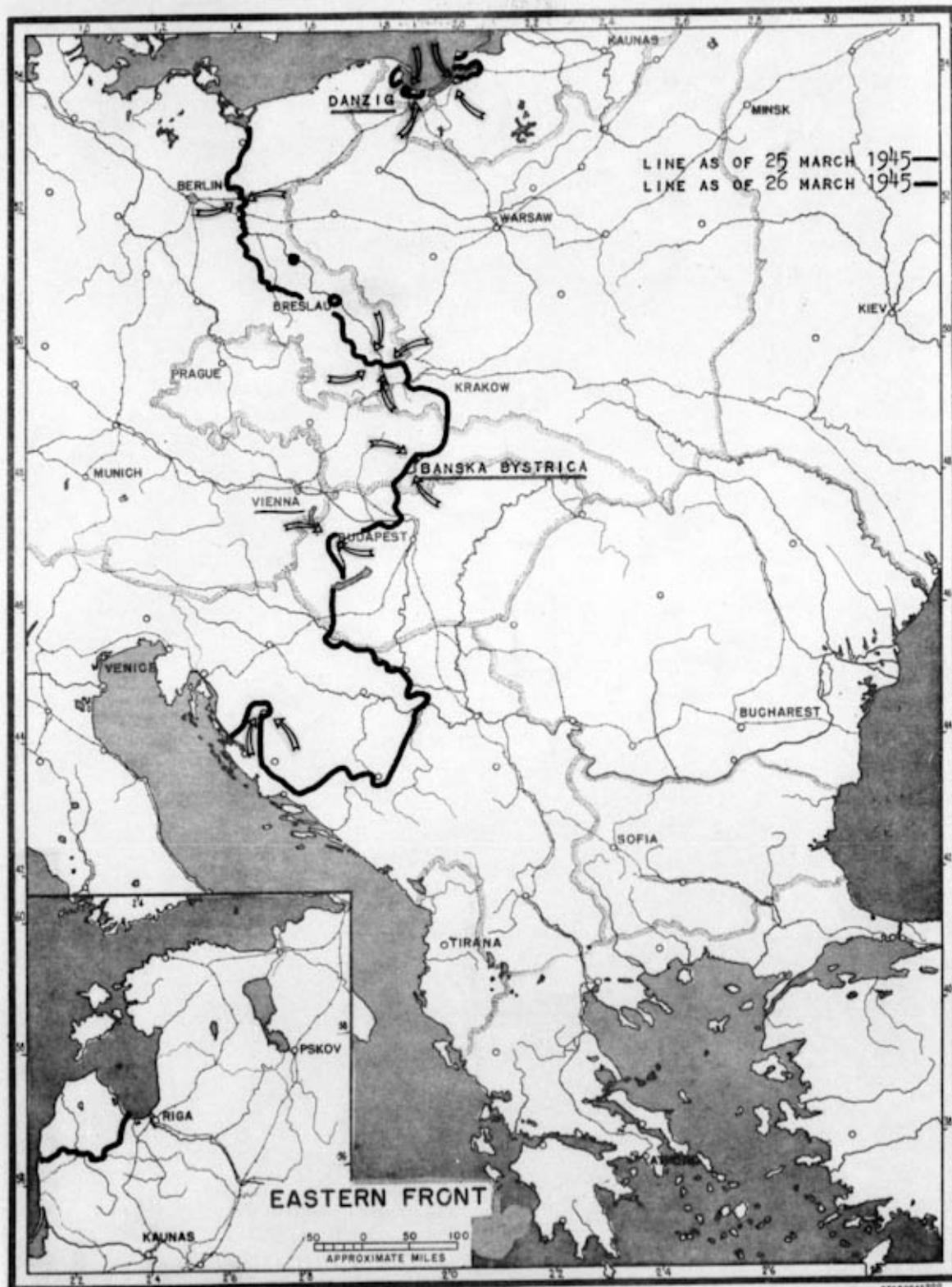
PACIFIC OCEAN AREA

11-17 March. Army garrison forces, continuing the mopping up on Saipan, Guam, Tinian, and Peleliu, killed 51 of the enemy and took 16 prisoners.

24 March. Targets in the Palaus were bombed by Marine planes. In the Ryukyus, carrier-based aircraft continued attacks on shipping and air installations; our battleships bombarded coastal objectives.

27 March. According to preliminary report, 40 B-29's of the XXI Bomber Command bombed an aircraft factory at Omura, 35 hit airfield installations at Oita and 68 attacked airfields at Tachiarai, all on Kyushu. One hundred one others were airborne to lay mines by radar in Japanese home waters.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72



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OSD Letter, 5-8-78

EASTERN FRONT

26 March. In East Prussia the Soviets continued their pressure on the German pocket southwest of Koenigsberg. There is fighting in the streets of Danzig. In Czechoslovakia, Soviet forces advanced three miles on a 20-mile front capturing Banska Bystrica. The offensive of the Red Army in ~~Yugoslavia~~ ^{Hungary} between Gyor and Lake Balaton continued to gain ground and Red troops are now within 60 miles of Vienna.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 1202

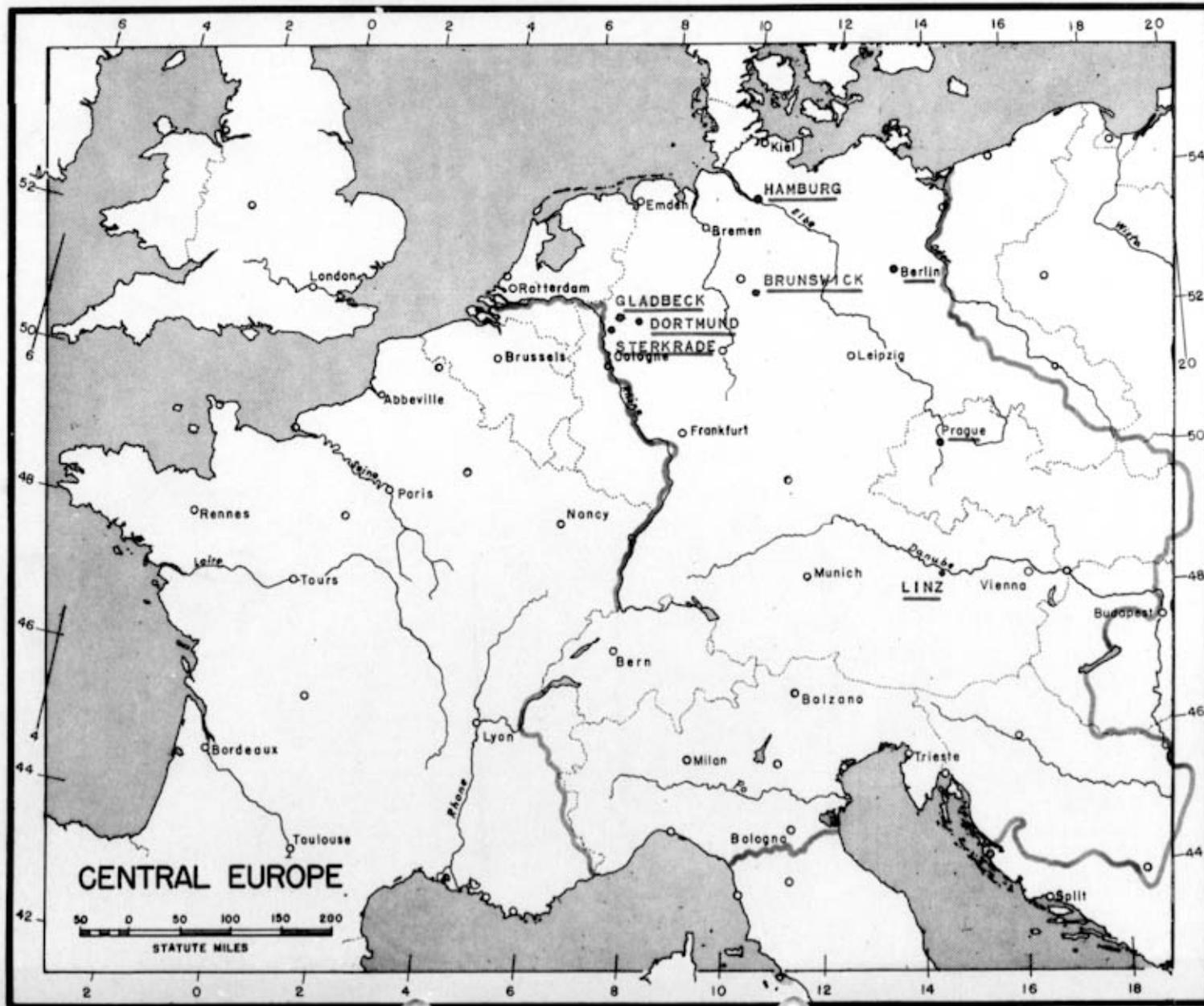
0700 March 25 to 0700 March 26, 1945

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THE WHITE HOUSE

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

EUROPE AND THE MEDITERRANEAN - STRATEGIC AIR

24 March. Four hundred twelve RAF heavy bombers struck troop concentrations at Gladbeck, a rallyard at Sterkrade and a Dortmund oil refinery. That night 64 Mosquitoes attacked Berlin.

214
64

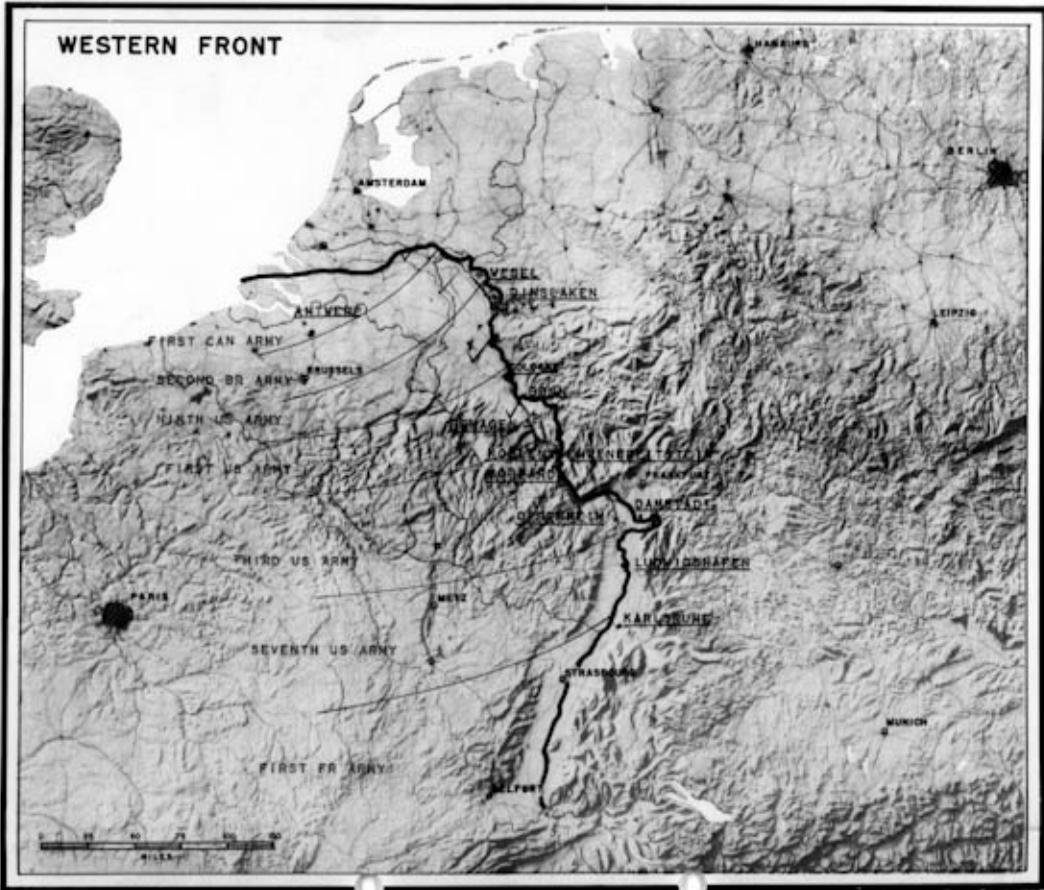
Statistical report of 8th Air Force operations for this date shows that 1,712 heavy bombers dropped more than 4,000 tons of bombs. Twenty-six of the bombers were lost and five are still unreported. Eight fighters were lost.

1714

25 March. Two hundred seventy-one escorted 8th Air Force heavy bombers attacked oil storage depots in the Brunswick-Hamburg area. Adverse weather prevented other operations. Six enemy planes were destroyed. Five bombers and one fighter are missing.

In one of the longest operations of the 15th Air Force, averaging 1,200 miles round-trip, 619 escorted heavy bombers attacked three airfields and an engineering works at Prague, Czechoslovakia. Thirty-six others bombed an airfield in the Linz area of Austria. Seven enemy planes were shot down and others were destroyed on the ground. Two bombers and two fighters are missing.

WESTERN FRONT



REF ID: A66513
Map Letter, G-9-78

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EUROPEAN THEATER

24 March. The Tactical Air Forces surpassed all previous records with a total of 6,655 sorties in the course of which 2,551 tons of bombs were dropped. Allied airborne and ground troops in the area north of the Ruhr were supported by more than 2,800 fighters and by medium bombers which dropped more than 1,300 tons on gun positions, bridges, and communication centers. Other aircraft supported our troops in the Oppenheim bridgehead and elsewhere along the front. Thirty-four enemy planes were destroyed; we lost 31.

In addition to 1,300 gliders reported previously 1,589 transport planes were used in airborne operations supporting the 21st Army Group offensive. Forty-five transports were shot down and seven are unreported.

In the 24 hours to 0600, 10 flying bombs fell near Antwerp; ten others were destroyed by antiaircraft fire.

25 March. During the 24-hour period ending 0600, three flying bombs fell in England, one reaching the London area.

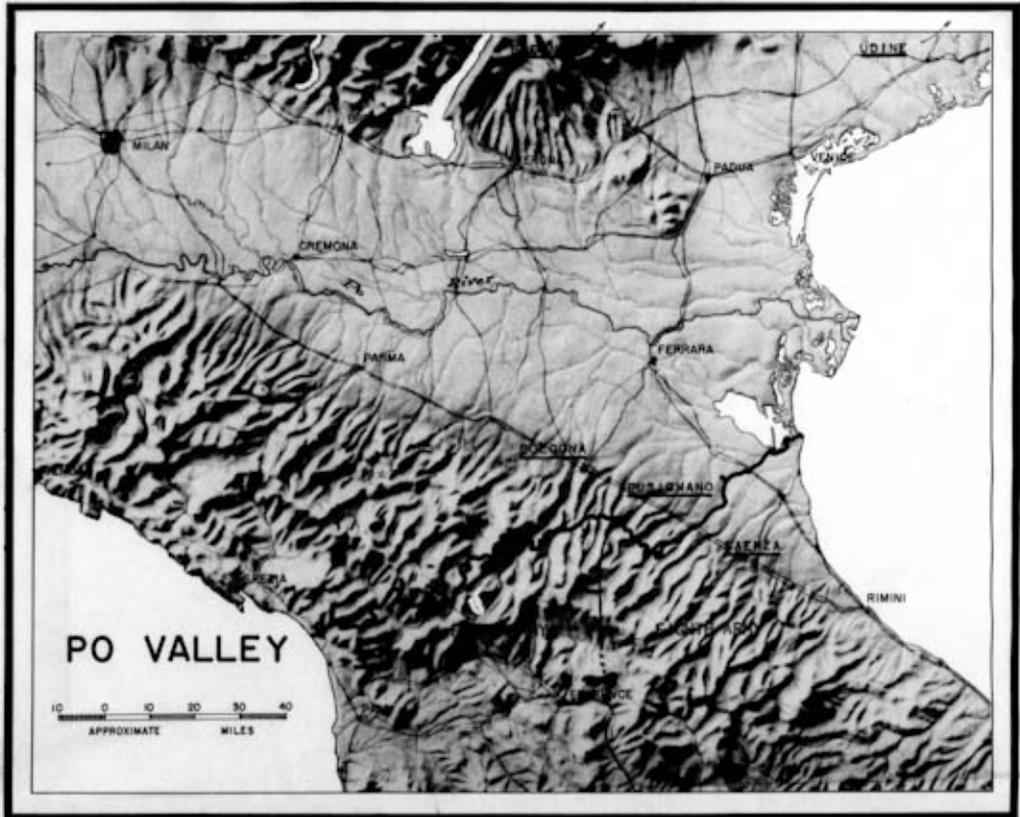
The advance of the Second British Army east of the Rhine continued successfully despite strong enemy opposition in the northern portion of the bridgehead. Wesel was cleared of the enemy. Firm contact was made with both divisions of the US XVIII Airborne Corps and the bridgehead now has a maximum depth of approximately six miles. Our Ninth Army made good progress against light to moderate resistance in the area east and north of Dinslaken and has advanced its bridgehead to a depth of six miles. The bridgeheads established by the Second British and Ninth Armies now stretch along the Rhine for more than

25 miles. Ferries are operating successfully.

Our First Army extended the Remagen bridgehead by an additional five miles to the southeast and our troops are now within two miles of Ehrenbreitstein, across the river from Koblenz. Two to four-mile advances to the east were made along a front of more than 30 miles running north from the Koblenz area. Strong resistance, difficult terrain and heavily mined areas were encountered. Numerous counter-attacks were repulsed at the northern end of the bridgehead east and northwest of Bonn.

On the Third Army front, the VIII Corps crossed the Rhine at midnight between Koblenz and Boppard and advanced up to a mile on the east bank along a front of more than ten miles. Resistance was moderate at first but became heavy. The 4th Armored Division broke out of the XII Corps bridgehead at Oppenheim and, passing south of Darmstadt, advanced 19 miles eastward. To the north, infantry divisions advanced up to three miles towards Darmstadt along a 10-mile front. Communique reports that our armor is now 27 miles east of the Rhine and that Darmstadt has fallen.

The Seventh Army occupied the west bank of the Rhine between Ludwigshafen and the area west of Karlsruhe, thus completing the liberation of all territory west of the Rhine from the Swiss to the Dutch frontiers, with the exception of the German garrisons cut off in some of the port areas on the French coast.



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DND letter, 8-8-72

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MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

24 March. The Tactical Air Force flew 1,232 sorties. Medium bombers attacked rail bridges north and south of the Brenner Pass and a railyard and bridges southwest of Udine. Fighters continued to sweep communications in northern Italy, Yugoslavia and southern Austria, and hit fuel and supply dumps in northern Italy and targets in the battle area. Coastal Air Force planes, among 84 sorties, attacked shipping in the Gulf of Genoa and transportation in northern Italy and Yugoslavia. Balkan Air Force planes, flying 125 sorties, attacked rail targets, coastal shipping and airdromes in Yugoslavia. Three enemy planes were destroyed; we lost five.

25 March. On the Fifth Army front, a small-scale attack southwest of Bologna was repulsed by the II Corps. In the Eighth Army sector, Indian troops drove off an enemy raid northwest of Fusignano and a Polish unit repulsed a raid on a platoon position north of Faenza.



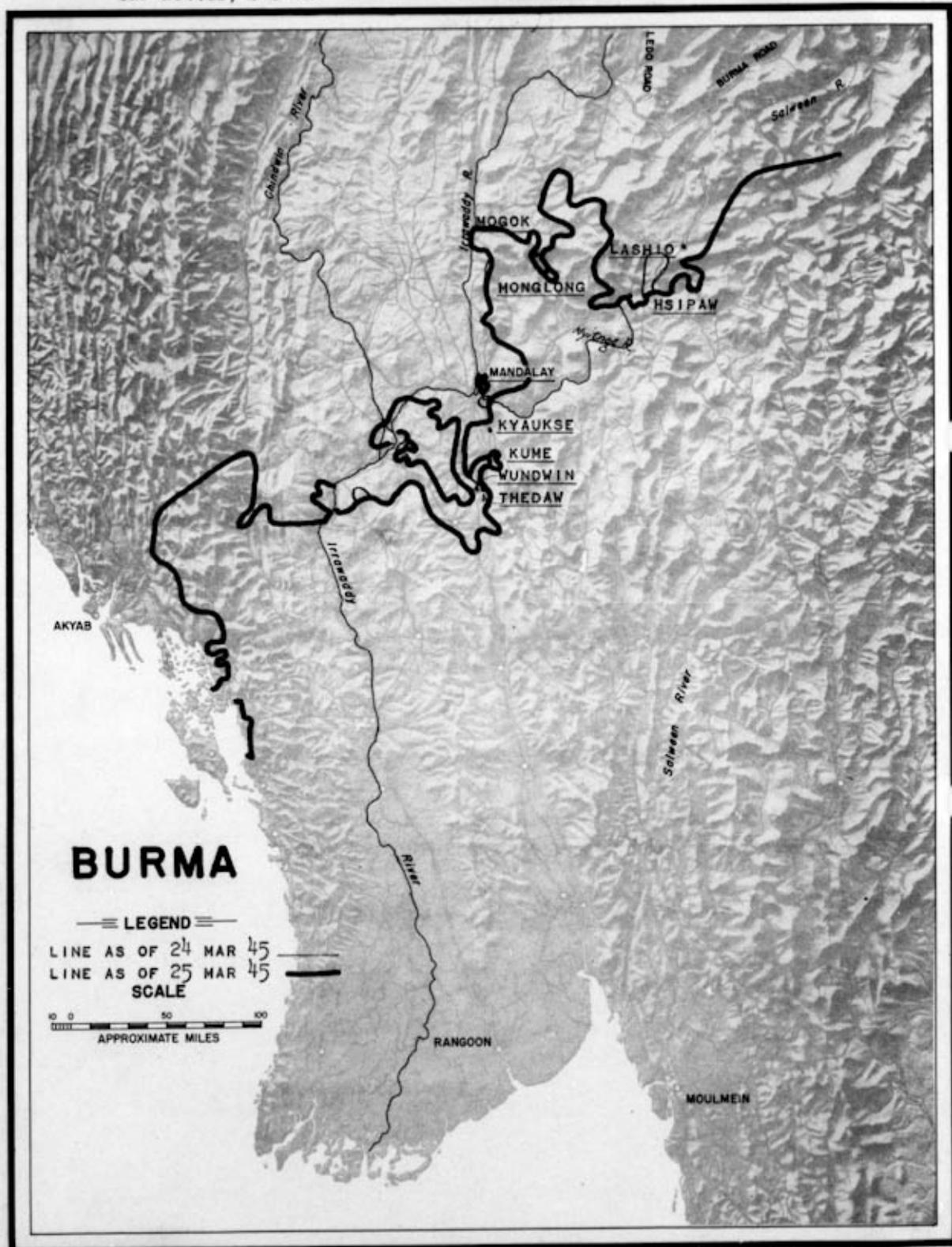
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OSD Letter, 5-9-72

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ASIATIC THEATER

23 March. The Eastern Air Command flew 2,453 sorties, of which 621 were offensive. Medium bombers and fighters attacked bridges in southern Burma and hit troop concentrations and supply areas on the battle fronts. One plane was lost.

Thirty-eight additional offensive sorties were reported by the 14th Air Force, raising the day's total to 76. We lost three planes.

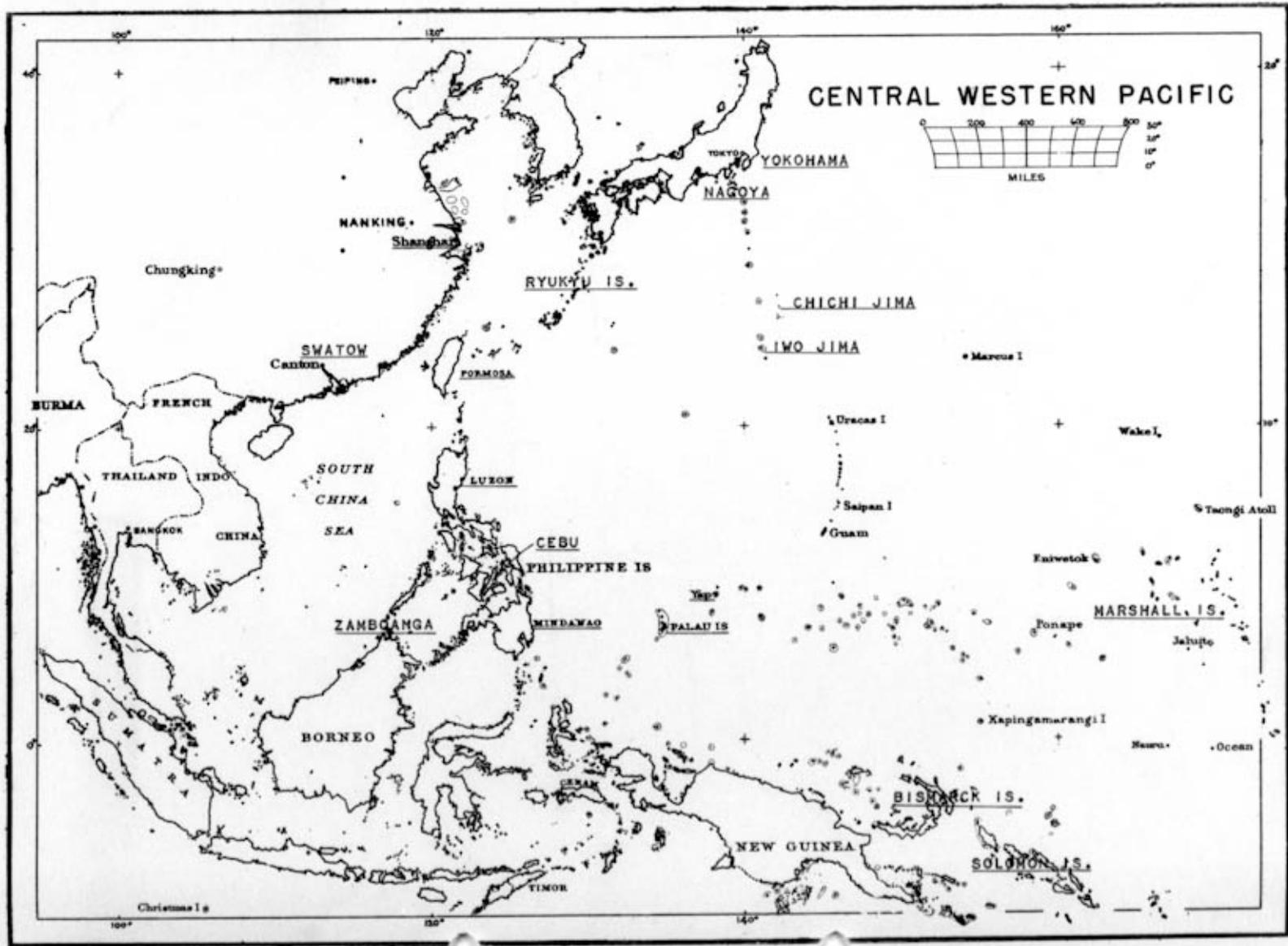
24 March. Heavy bombers of the 14th Air Force dropped 97 tons on the locomotive yard at Chenghsien, and a nearby bridge over the Yellow River.

Reports from Chinese sources, generally confirmed by our air reconnaissance, indicate that Japanese troops in a number of columns are pushing westward towards Nanyang and further to the south another column thrusting north from Kingmen has reached to within 20 miles of Siangyang. These drives constitute an obvious threat to our air base at Laohokow.

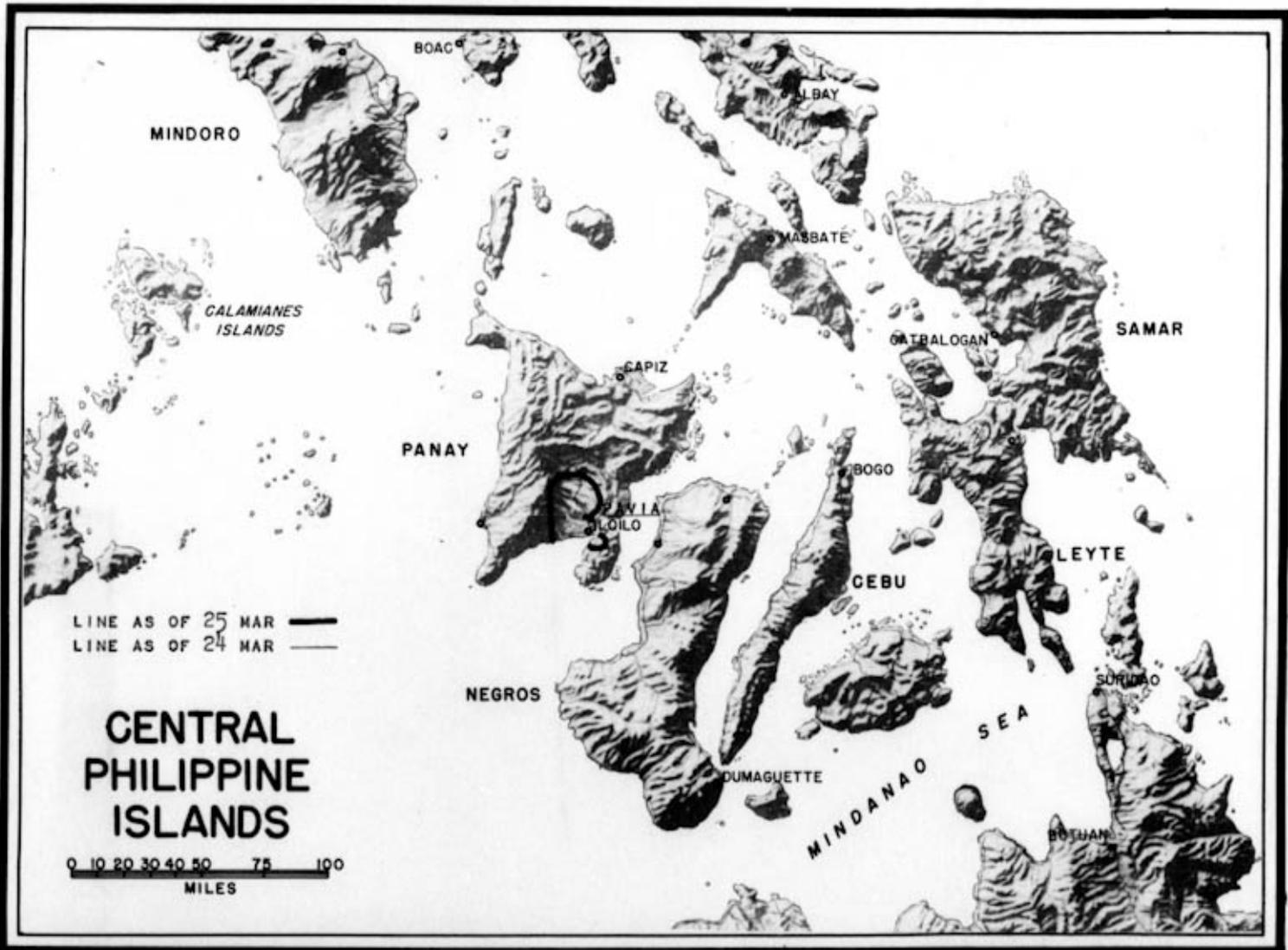
Chinese troops cleared the Lashio-Mandalay road to ten miles beyond Hsipaw. The Indian troops southeast of Mogok have advanced five miles beyond Monglong. The remnants of the Japanese forces trapped in the area between Mandalay and the Myitnge River were being liquidated; one pocket of resistance south of the river has been cleared although resistance still is strong northwest of Kyaukse. A column of British troops moving east from Wandwin occupied Thedaw and captured two trains loaded with ammunition and supplies. Another column supported by tanks moved to the north and took Kume.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

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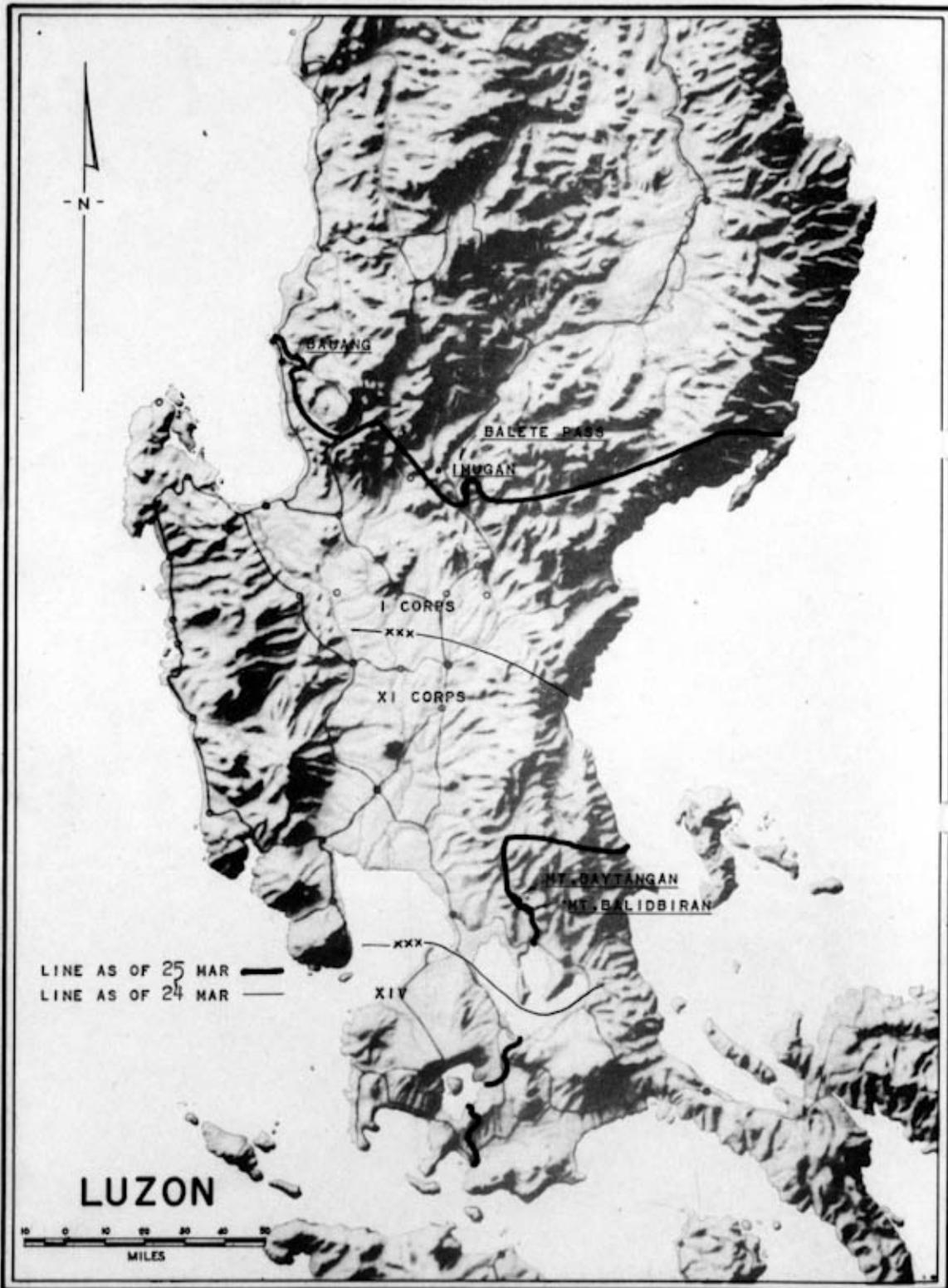




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 688 Letter, 5-3-78

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5-3-72



LUZON

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SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA

23 March. Additional offensive sorties reported for the day totalled 298, including 107 against targets in the Solomons and Bismarcks. Cebu was raided by 56 heavy bombers; fighters supported ground forces at Zamboanga.

24 March. More than 430 sorties were flown. Gun positions and buildings on Cebu were demolished by 95 heavy bombers. Various targets on Luzon were attacked by 283 planes which also supported our ground forces. Patrol planes sank a small transport southeast of Shanghai and two vessels near Swatow.

On Luzon, the I Corps attacked strong positions southwest of Imigan but made no gain; near Balete Pass four enemy night attacks were repulsed. Limited advances were reported by the XI Corps south of Mount Baytangan. Mount Balidbiran and several ridges to the north were occupied.

On Panay, enemy pockets in the Pavia area were reduced.

On Mindanao, the 41st Division continued to encounter heavy opposition to its advance northeast of Pasonanca. Limited gains were made north of San Roque.



EASTERN FRONT

25 March. In East Prussia, the German pocket was further reduced by the capture of Heiligenbeil. The Red Army registered substantial gains in Hungary at the Danube bend west of Esztergom and in the area north of Lake Balaton. In Yugoslavia, Partisan attacks regained original positions south of Sarajevo and cut the rail lines from Bihac.

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GSD Letter, 5-3-72

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 1201

0700 March 24 to 0700 March 25, 1945

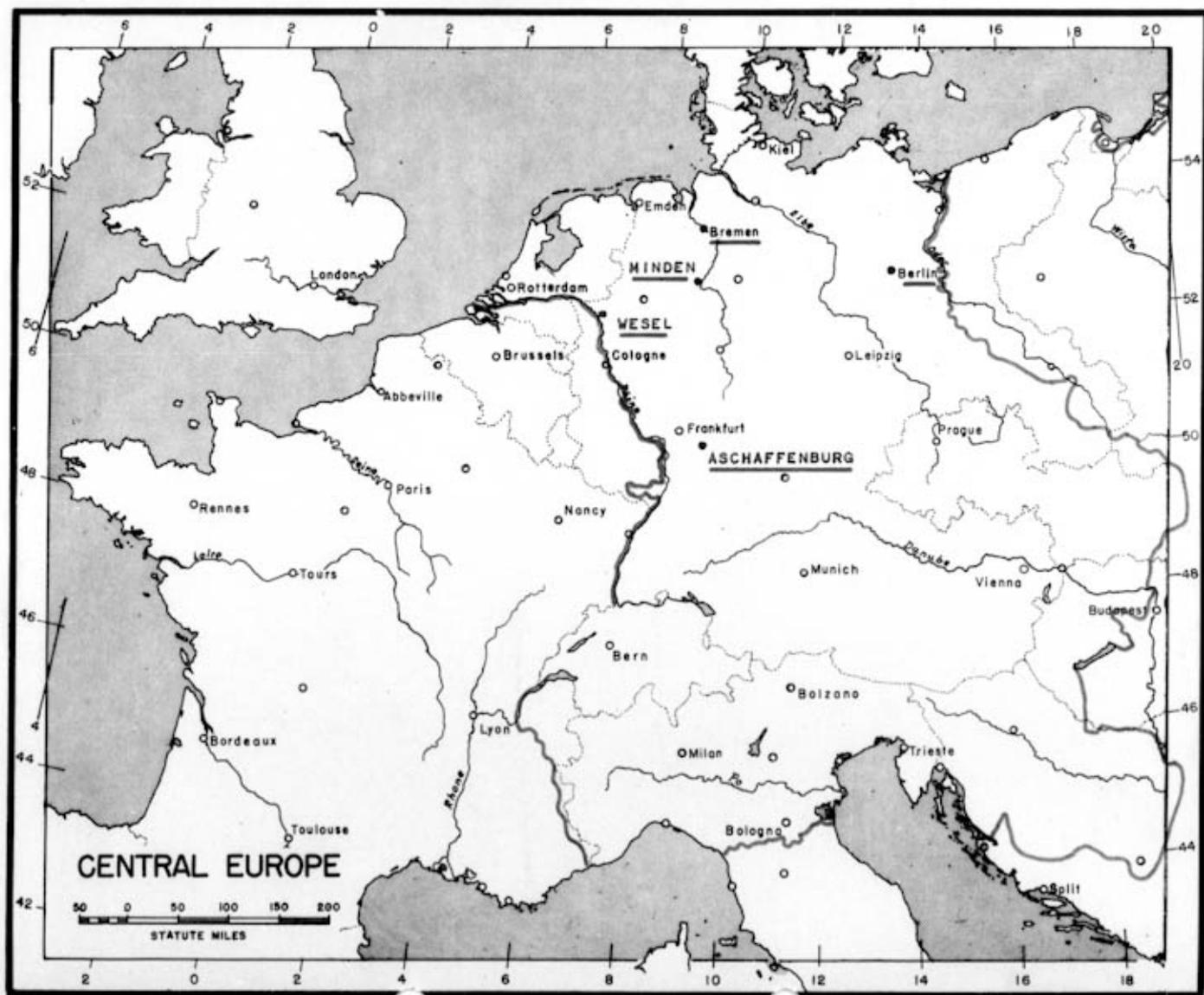
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OSD Letter, 5-3-72



24-87117-300

EUROPE AND THE MEDITERRANEAN - STRATEGIC AIR

23 March. RAF heavy bombers attacked a rail bridge at Bremen with 630 tons of bombs, which included five 11-ton and eleven six-ton deep penetration bombs. Seventy-seven other heavy bombers struck a rail bridge southwest of Minden. That night, 195 heavy bombers with 23 Mosquitoes continued attacks on Wesel. Sixty-three Mosquitoes struck Berlin, and 23 raided Aschaffenburg. One enemy plane was shot down; two heavy bombers and two Mosquitoes are missing.

During previously reported 8th Air Force operations against railyards in northwestern Germany, 1,244 bombers dropped 3,440 tons of bombs. Final reports reduce our loss to nine bombers.

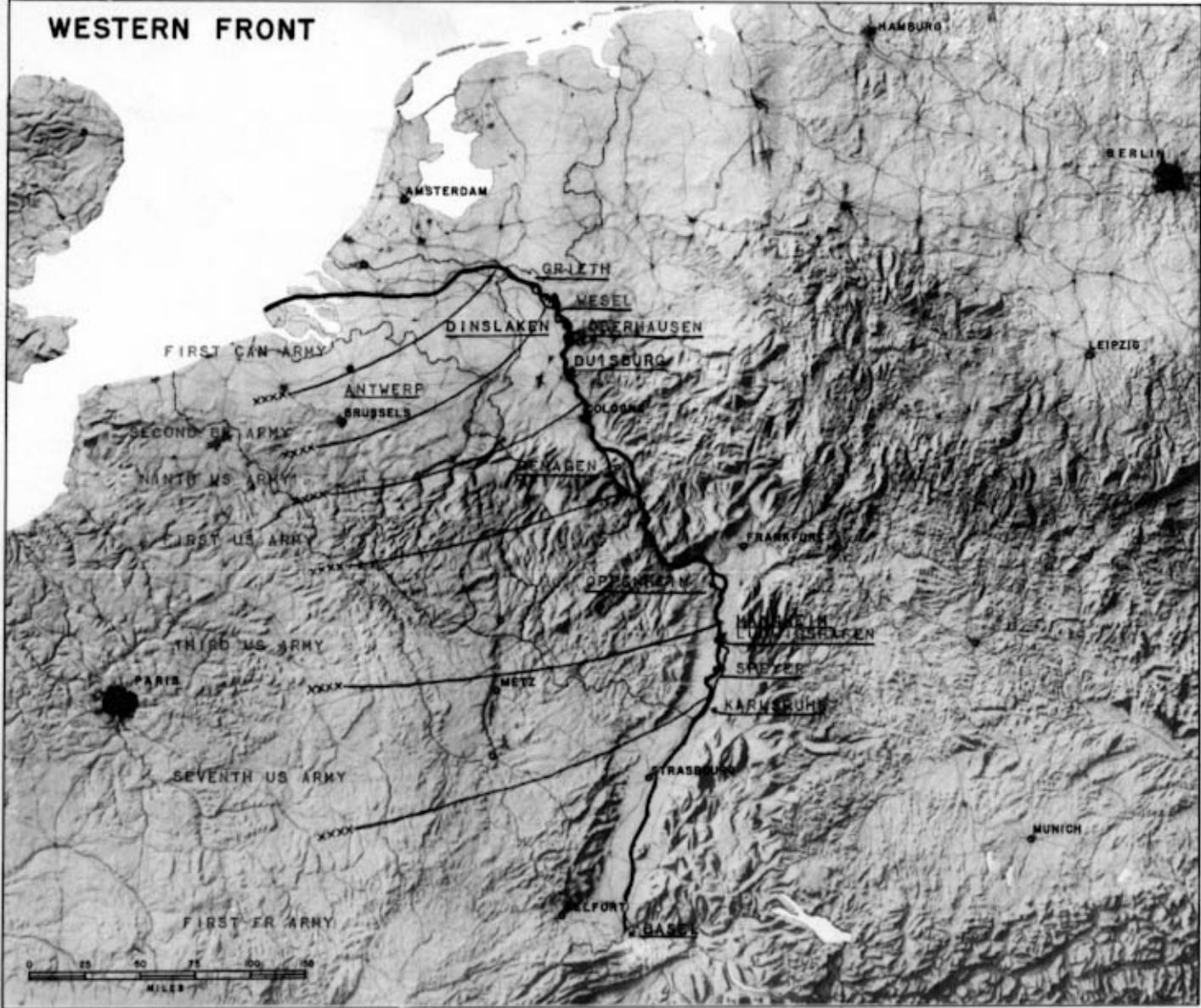
24 March. More than 1,200 heavy bombers of the 8th Air Force were airborne to attack 17 airdromes north of the Ruhr. Two hundred forty others dropped supplies to our airborne troops across the Rhine. Escorting fighters flew 1,286 sorties. Fifty-three enemy aircraft were shot down; 33 bombers and eight fighters are missing.

Six hundred sixty-one heavy bombers of the 15th Air Force accompanied by 369 fighters bombed a tank factory in Berlin, two airdromes and a railyard in southern Germany and railyards in western Czechoslovakia. Eleven bombers and five fighters are missing; 28 enemy planes were destroyed. This mission was the deepest penetration to date by the 15th Air Force.

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WESTERN FRONT



DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

EUROPEAN THEATER

23 March. The Tactical Air Forces flew a record total of 5,752 sorties and dropped 2,863 tons of bombs. More than 460 medium bombers struck the Dinslaken communication center and factory area north of Duisburg, preparatory to the assault across the Rhine. Other communication centers north of the Ruhr as well as rail targets southeast of Mannheim were also attacked by medium bombers. Fighters, sweeping the battle fronts, made large claims of destruction and damage to motor transport and rail cars. Forty-one enemy planes were destroyed; we lost 22.

In the 24 hours to 0600, 15 flying bombs fell near Antwerp and ten others were shot down by antiaircraft fire.

24 March. In the 24 hours to 0600, six rockets and three flying bombs fell in England; antiaircraft shot down one other flying bomb.

A recapitulation of the sorties flown by the Strategic and Tactical Air Forces for the week ending 22 March shows a total of 14,430 attacks by heavy bombers, 7,262 attacks by medium bombers, and 29,981 fighter sorties; 149 enemy aircraft were shot down and 226 destroyed on the ground.

After heavy aerial and artillery preparation, the Second British Army commenced an assault crossing of the Rhine between Grieth and Wesel, three hours before midnight on the 23rd. Steady progress was

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OSD Letter, 5-8-72

made along the entire army front with advances of from two to four miles. British troops were firmly established in the north and northwestern sections of Wesel where street fighting continues. A counterattack was repulsed to the northwest. The crossing of the Rhine was assisted by the successful dropping north of Wesel of the XVIII US Airborne Corps composed of two airborne divisions, one American and one British. The air troops were transported in more than 1,300 gliders towed by American and British planes. Contact was established between the airborne forces and the Second British Army.

Coordinating its crossing with the British attack, the XVI Corps of the Ninth Army commenced its assault across the Rhine from Wesel to Oberhausen at 0200 hours. Advances of from two to four miles were made against generally light resistance.

Our First Army in the Remagen bridgehead advanced generally toward the east averaging two miles along a 25-mile front.

The XII Corps of the Third Army cleared all organized resistance on its front west of the Rhine and has established a bridgehead across the river at Oppenheim stretching along the east bank for over 15 miles and with a depth of more than five.

The Seventh Army had cleared practically all of the west bank of the Rhine between Ludwigshafen and Karlsruhe. The XXI Corps reached the river after taking Speyer and elements of the VI Corps were on the Rhine seven miles north of Karlsruhe.

Communique reports that Allied forces in the west captured 20,963 prisoners on March 23.

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OBD Letter, 5-3-72

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

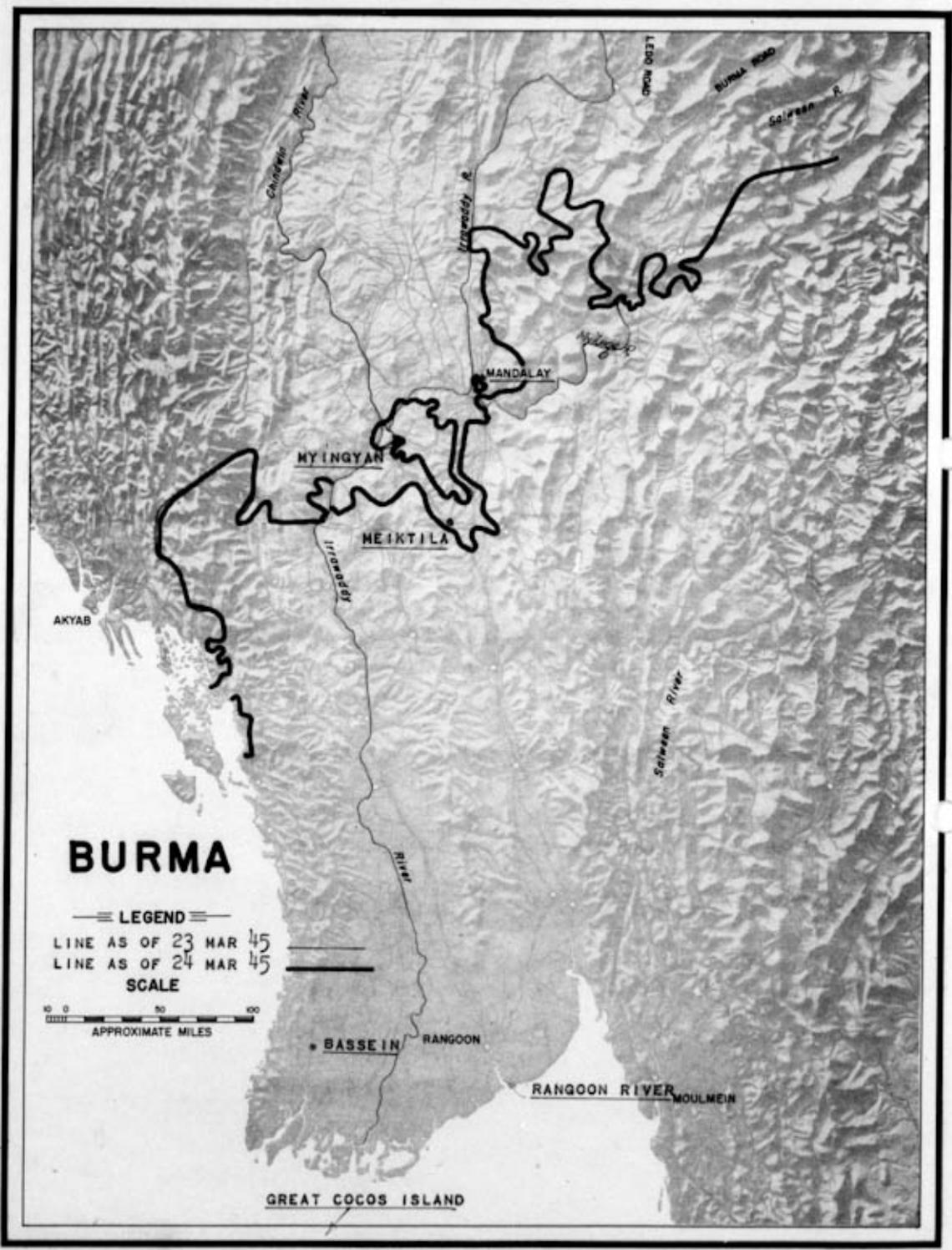
23 March. The Tactical Air Force flew 1,213 sorties. Medium bombers and lighter planes attacked rail targets, oil dumps and power plants in the Po Valley and northern Italy. The Coastal Air Force participated in some of these attacks, flying 76 sorties in all. The Balkan Air Force flew 137 sorties, directed chiefly against rail targets in Yugoslavia. Three enemy aircraft were shot down and one was destroyed on the ground. We lost five.

24 March. There was no significant change on the battlefield in Italy.

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ASIATIC THEATER

22 March. The Eastern Air Command flew 2,204 sorties, of which 663 were offensive. Heavy bombers attacked rolling stock on the rail lines into Thailand. Other missions of heavy and dive bombers destroyed radar installations north of Bassein, at the mouth of the Rangoon River and on Great Cocos Island. Medium and fighter planes continued to attack bridges and dumps and to support ground operations in the battle areas of Burma.

Twenty-eight additional offensive sorties were reported by the 14th Air Force principally against railroads in northern China.

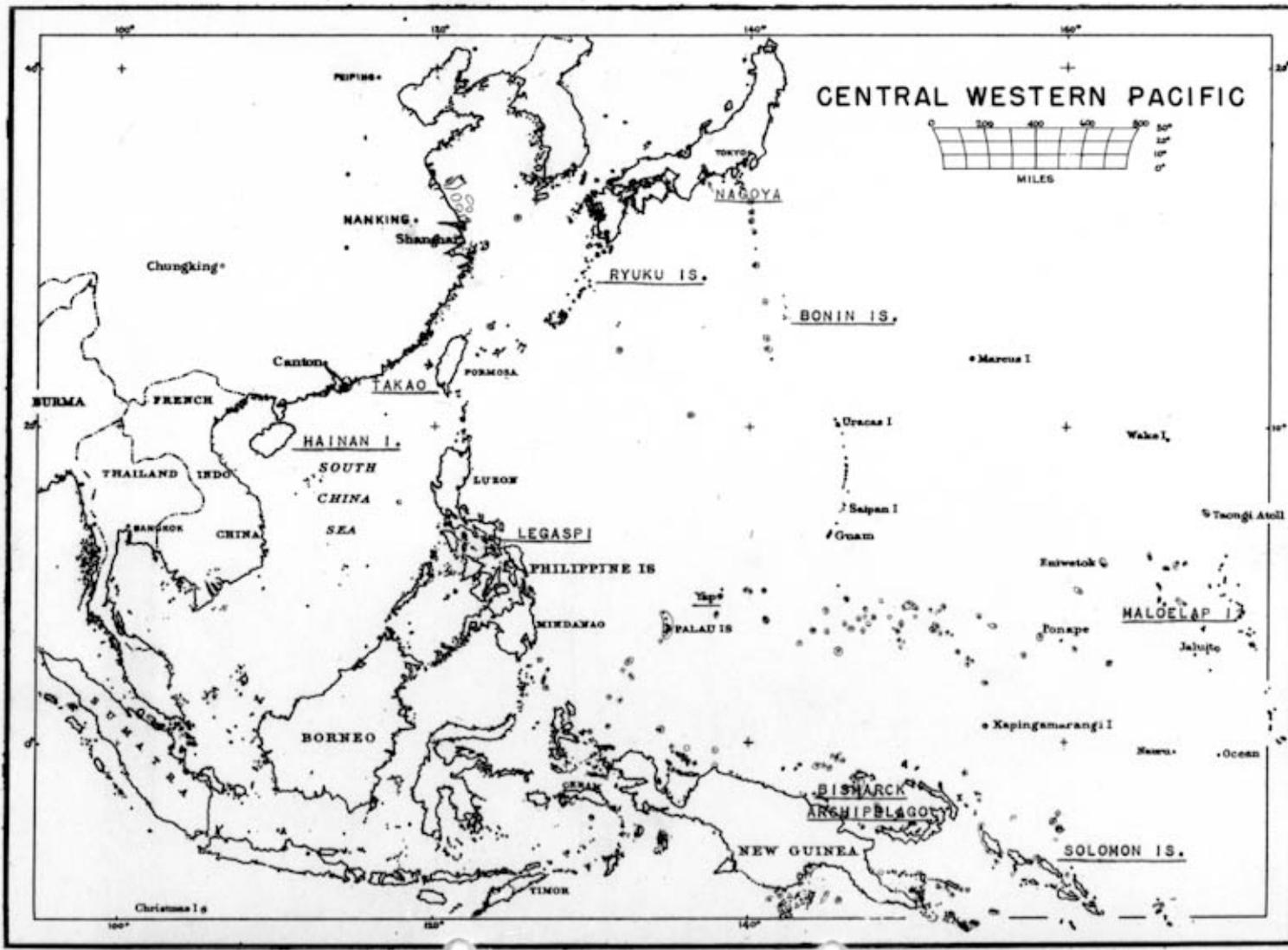
23 March. The 14th Air Force reported 38 offensive sorties. One mission of 27 heavy bombers destroyed a large span of a bridge over the Yellow River and seriously damaged locomotive repair shops at Tsinan.

21 March. Mandalay was reported clear of the enemy.

22 March. A strong enemy attack by night from the south towards Meiktila was repulsed.

23 March. The town of Myingyan and its airstrip have been captured and cleared.

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USD Letter, 5-8-78



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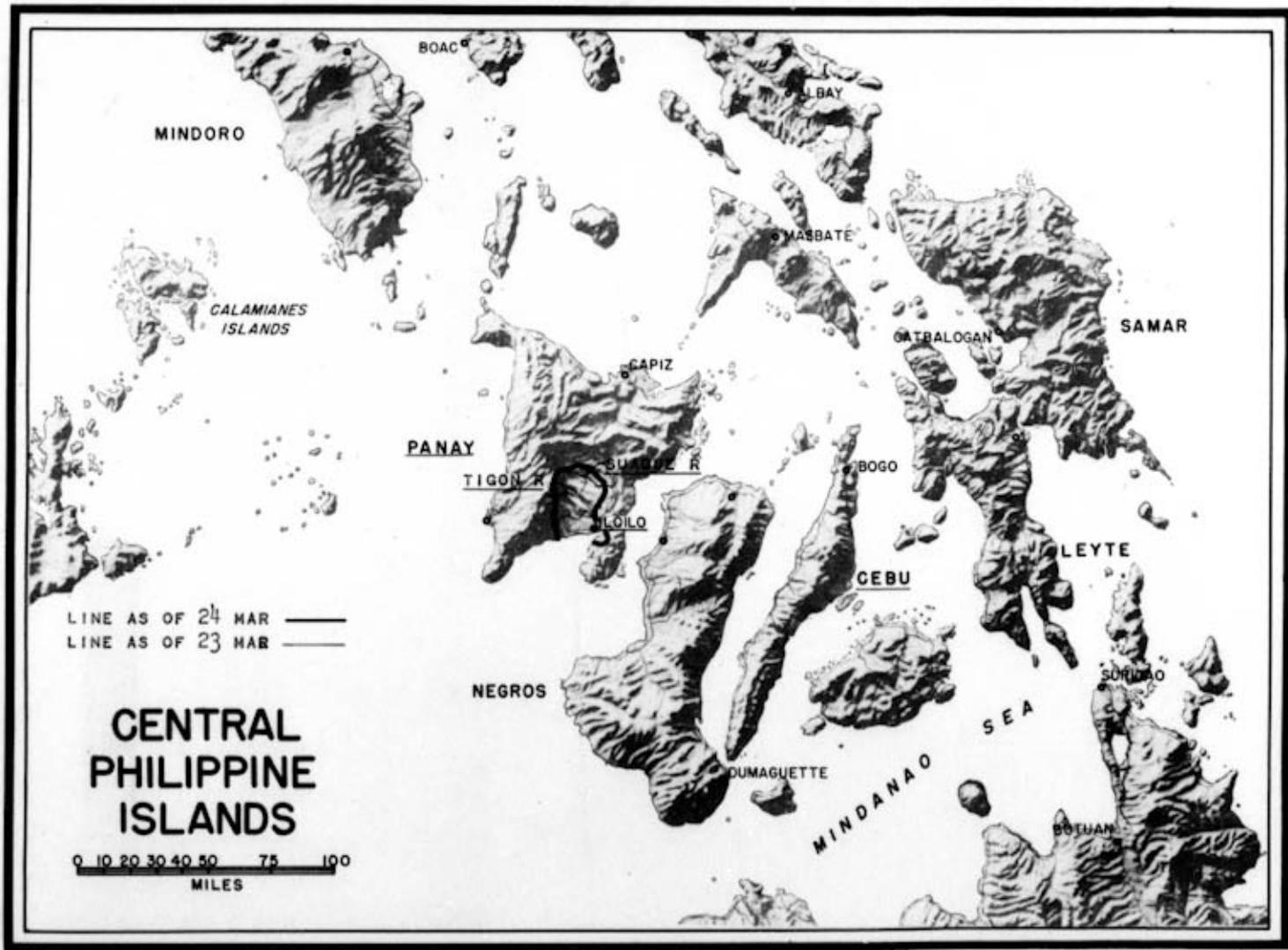


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OSD Letter, 5-3-73



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OSD Letter, 5-8-78



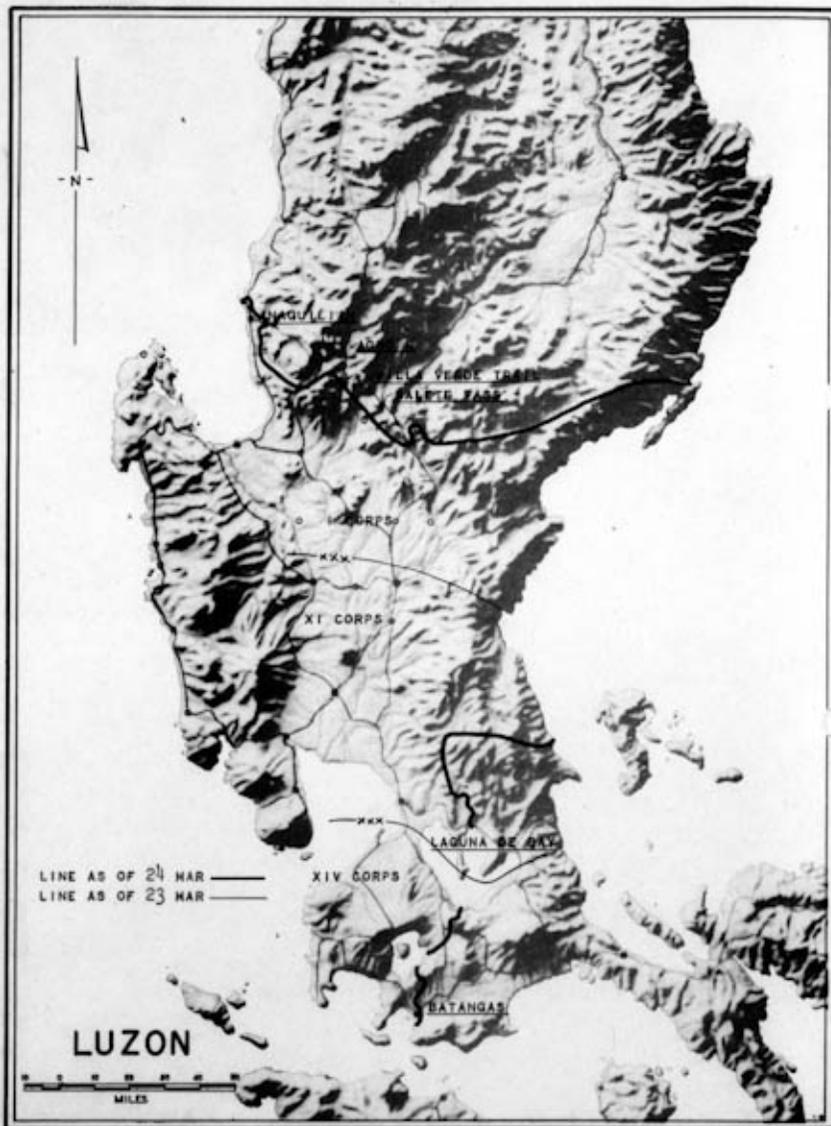
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CENTRAL PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

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GSD Letter, 5-9-78

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SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA

22 March. Among 256 additional sorties reported, 140 were flown over the Bismarcks and Solomons. Fifty-five heavy and 14 fighter bombers dropped 85 tons on Cebu.

23 March. Eight hundred fifteen sorties were reported. Of 599 aircraft over Luzon, 492 supported ground operations; the remainder, 67 B-24's and 40 fighters, dropped 187 tons on Legaspi installations. Thirty-seven escorted heavy bombers demolished two hydro-electric plants in central Formosa; other aircraft hit Takao (Formosa), Cebu, and Hainan Island. Aircraft patrolling the Ryukyus, Formosa and China coast areas, sank three coastal vessels and a small transport, and damaged others, including a destroyer escort and a large gunboat which was forced ashore. One enemy plane was destroyed; we lost one B-24.

The I Corps recaptured the positions near the Agno River lost on 21 March, and continued to attack along the Villa Verde Trail. Small advances were made east and south of Balete Pass. North of Laguna de Bay, the XI Corps seized additional hill positions. On Panay, we were mopping up northwest of the Suague and Tigon Rivers, while patrols reconnoitered virtually the entire northern coast of the island. On the Zamboanga Peninsula, we reached a point 3,000 yards north of San Roque against minor opposition and patrolled unopposed a like distance north of Pasananca. Reconnaissance parties landed on Jolo, Tawi Tawi and Banaran Islands, in the Sulu Archipelago. Balabac Island, off southwestern Palawan, is reported clear of the enemy.

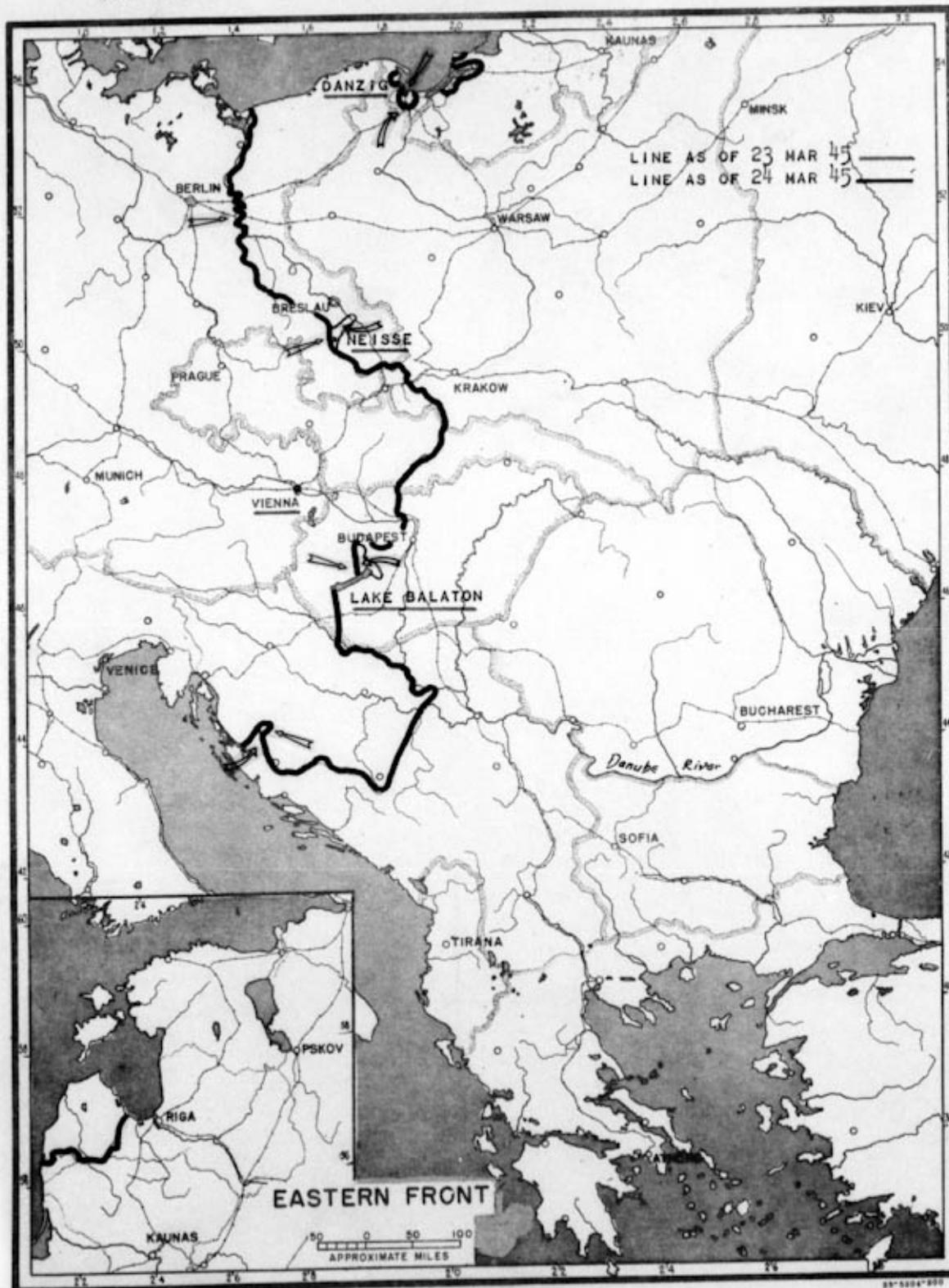
At Puerto Princesa on Palawan, a 5,200-foot airstrip is serviceable. On Panay, a 4,500-foot strip northwest of Iloilo has been rehabilitated and is in use by transport planes.

PACIFIC OCEAN AREA

21 March. Marine fighters, dive bombers and torpedo planes struck Yap.

23 March. Fifteen fighters attacked targets in the Bonins.

24 March. The Mitsubishi aircraft engine plant at Nagoya was the target for a night attack by 224 B-29's of the XXI Bomber Command.



EASTERN FRONT

50 100 150
APPROXIMATE MILES

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

EASTERN FRONT

24 March. In upper Silesia, the Soviets advanced over ten miles, capturing the town of Neisse. In Hungary a major drive has overrun German defenses between Lake Balaton and the Danube, and has approached to within 75 miles of Vienna. Other Red troops continue to close in on Danzig.

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 1200

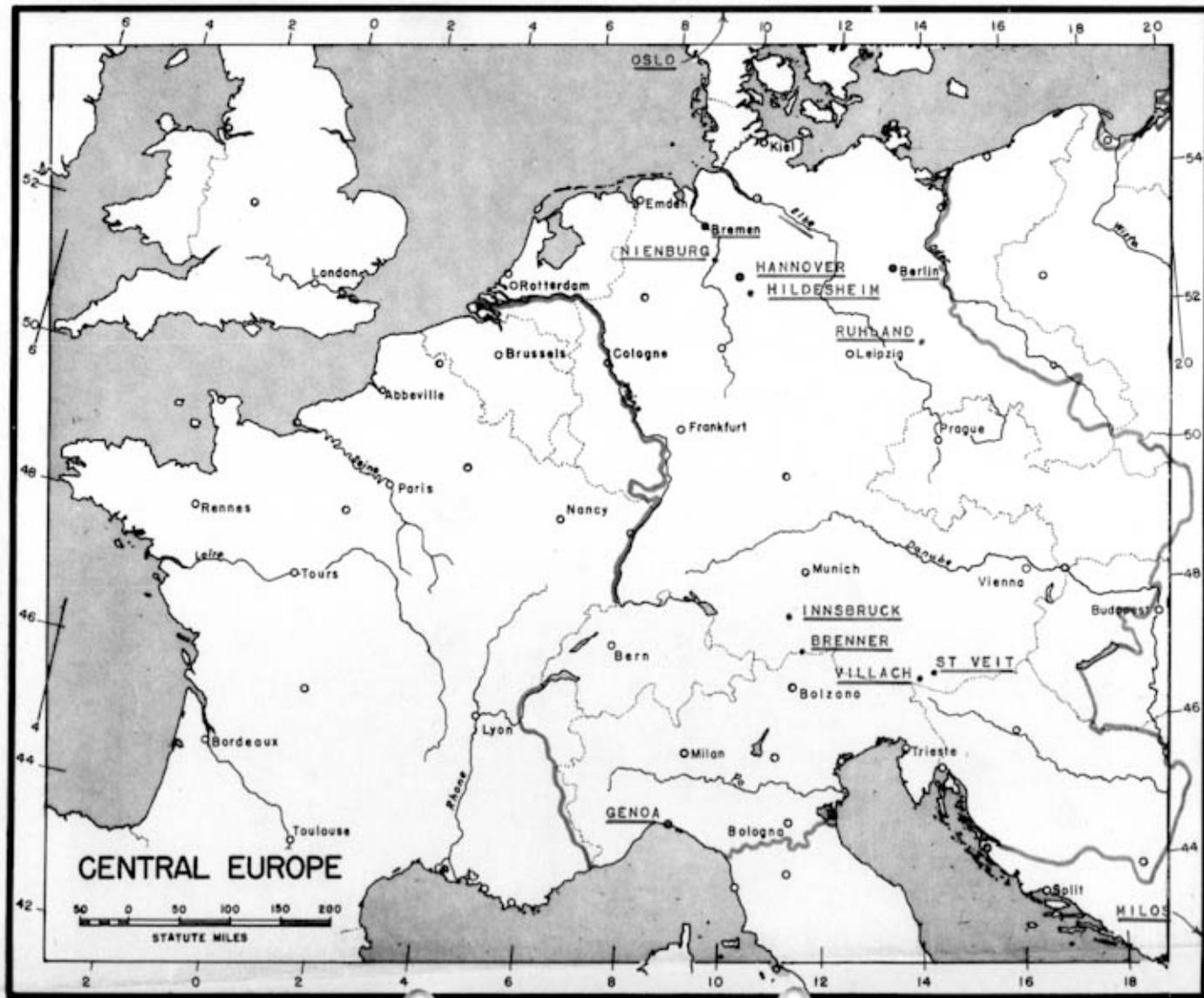
0700 March 23 to 0700 March 24, 1945

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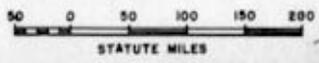
THE WHITE HOUSE

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CENTRAL EUROPE



DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 6-8-72

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

24 March. Two medium bombers attacked the east coast of Paramushiro.

EUROPE AND THE MEDITERRANEAN - STRATEGIC AIR

22 March. A total of 544 RAF heavy bombers struck Hildesheim, south of Hannover, and three rail and supply centers north of the Ruhr. Other heavies hit rail bridges at Bremen and Nienburg with deep penetration bombs. That night 54 Mosquitoes raided Berlin, while other bombers mined Oslo harbor and the Elbe River. Five bombers are missing.

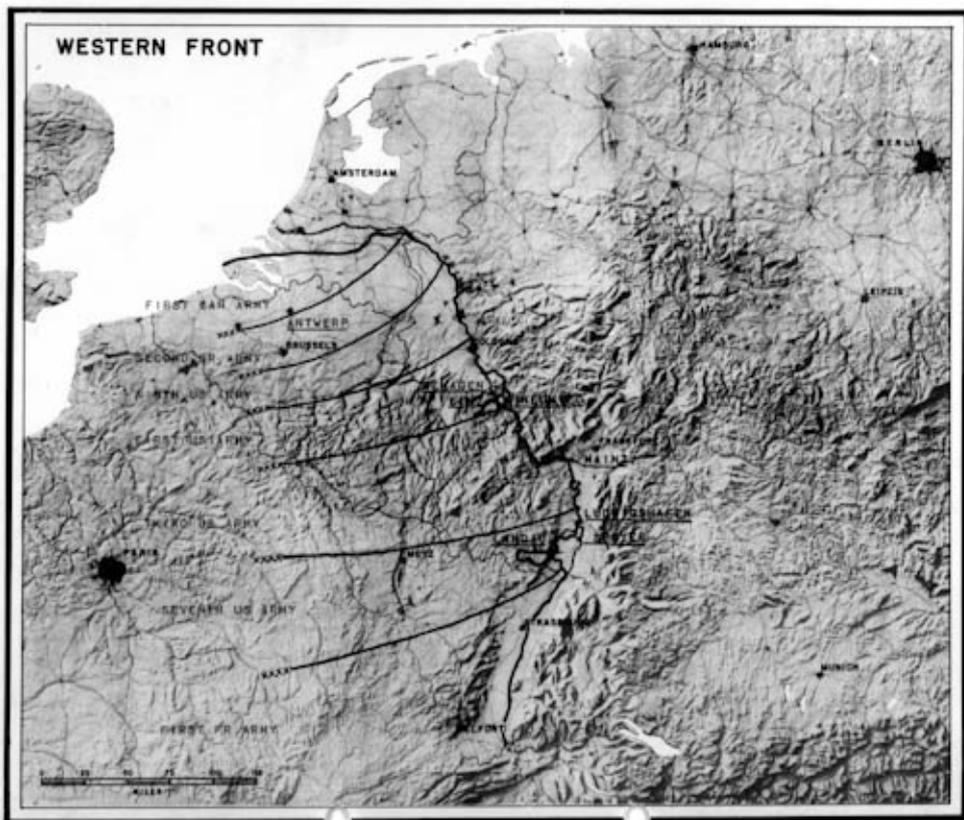
During previously reported 8th Air Force operations over northwestern and southern Germany, 1,293 bombers were employed; we lost four bombers and three fighters.

During the night, RAF heavy bombers of the Mediterranean Strategic Air Force dropped 200 tons on a railyard at Villach, Austria.

23 March. A preliminary report indicates that 1,287 escorted heavy bombers of the 8th Air Force attacked railway targets in the Ruhr and adjoining areas. One enemy plane was shot down. Twelve bombers are missing.

Six hundred eighty-one heavy bombers of the 15th Air Force, escorted by 383 fighters, attacked a synthetic oil plant at Ruhland near Dresden, and railyards and industrial targets in Austria. Fourteen bombers and one fighter are missing.

That night 49 B-24's dropped 134 tons on St. Veit railyards in southern Austria.



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 ASD Instruction, 6-8-78

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EUROPEAN THEATER

22 March. The Allied Tactical Air Forces had a most successful day. In addition to contributing 5,542 sorties to the 10,000 flown by Allied planes over Europe, tactical aircraft registered a record number of claims against ground targets. More than 3,300 rail cars and nearly 1,400 motor vehicles were destroyed or damaged. Medium and fighter bombers, unloading 2,800 tons of bombs, concentrated on communication centers north of the Ruhr. Fourteen enemy aircraft were destroyed in the air and 47 on the ground; our losses were 12.

In the 24 hours to 0600, 11 flying bombs fell near Antwerp; four others were destroyed by antiaircraft.

23 March. During the 24-hour period ending at 0600, ten flying bombs were plotted approaching England; the only bomb that reached the coast was destroyed by antiaircraft fire. Nine rockets fell in the Essex and London areas.

23 March. In the Remagen bridgehead the VII Corps consolidated its positions. East of Linz III Corps units advanced two miles on a five-mile front, reaching the superhighway. In the south the V Corps crossed the Wied River and occupied Neuwied. Our bridgehead is now approximately 30 miles long and seven to ten miles deep.

Mainz was captured and the complete reduction of the Saar Palatinate pocket continued. At last report, organized German resistance was

confined to a bridgehead east of Landau, which was 25 miles long and about ten miles deep. Communique reports that Speyer, on the Rhine south of Ludwigshafen, has been taken.

According to communique, our forces established another Rhine bridgehead south of Remagen by a crossing the night of 22-23 March, without the aid of air or artillery support. The same report claims that more than 14,00 prisoners were taken in the west on 22 March.

24 March. A late press communique reports that the 21st Army Group has crossed the Rhine on a broad front. The crossings were assisted by the First Allied Airborne Army and by Allied Naval forces.

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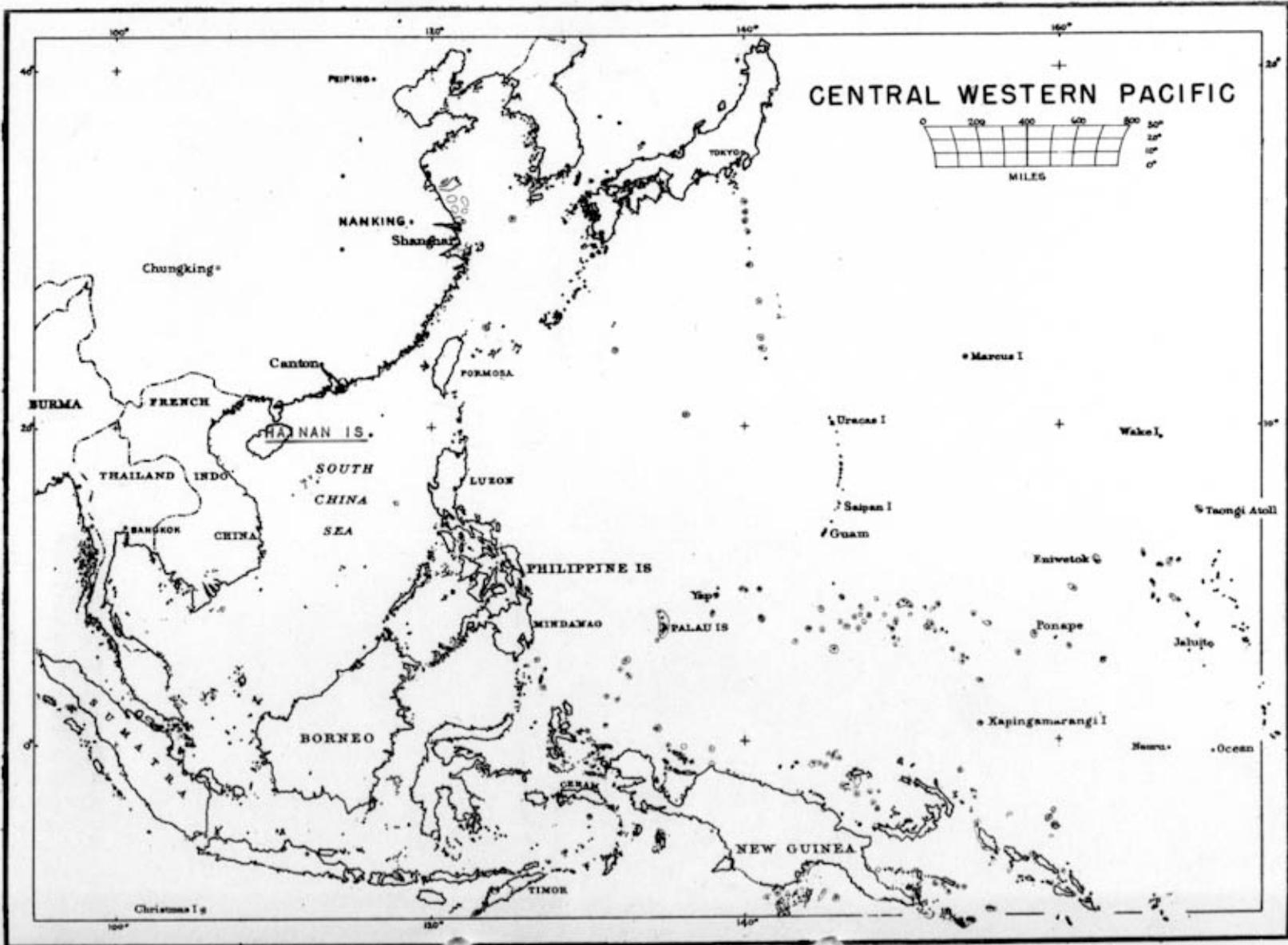
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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

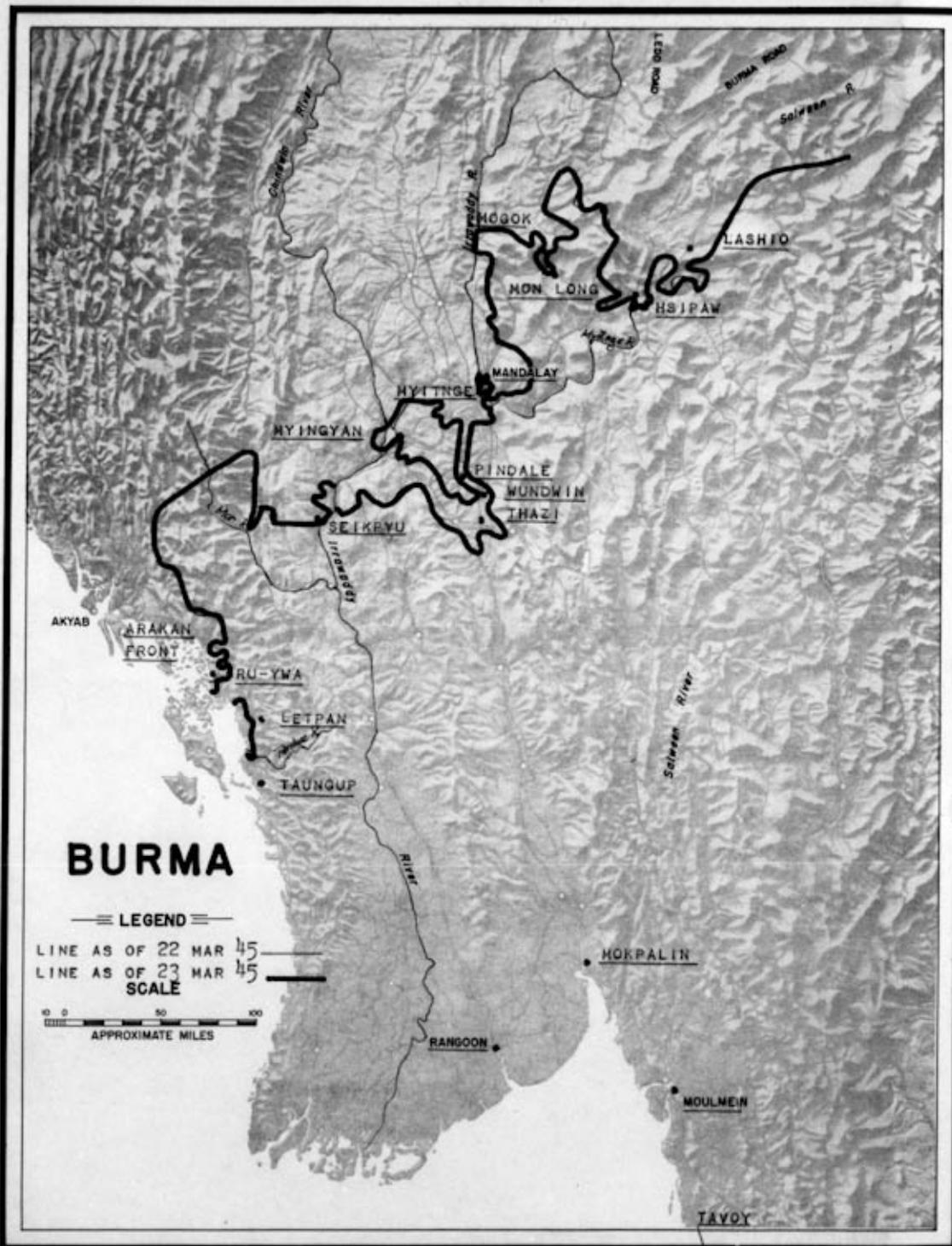
22 March. The Tactical Air Forces flew 1,115 sorties. Medium bombers, which have been concentrating on the Brenner Route in Italy, switched their attack to southern Austria and destroyed four spans of a rail bridge northeast of Innsbruck. Fighters, attacking supply areas and communications in northeastern Italy, effected 90 rail cuts and destroyed a rail bridge. The Coastal and Balkan Air Forces flew 189 sorties striking coastal shipping in the Gulf of Genoa, gun positions off the Yugoslavian coast, and transportation in northern Italy, Yugoslavia, and Austria.

23 March. There were no significant changes along the battle front in northern Italy.

~~TOP SECRET~~



DECLASSIFIED
NSD Letter, 5-3-72



ASIATIC THEATER

21 March. The Eastern Air Command reported 2,742 sorties, of which 728 were offensive. Twenty-nine fighters, sweeping airfields in the Tavoy-Moulmein area, destroyed three enemy planes on the ground. Seven B-24's destroyed the main and the by-pass rail bridges at Mokpalin, 65 miles northeast of Rangoon. Other planes continued attacks against enemy positions, dumps, and communications in central and southern Burma.

21 and 22 March. Eight B-24's of the 14th Air Force attacked shipping off southern China and three others bombed coastal installations on Hainan Island. A 2,500-ton vessel was probably sunk.

22 March. On the Arakan front, troops from the Ru-ywa area advanced six miles southward along the coastal road. Farther south, Allied units from the Letpan beachhead reached the Tanlwe River, only ten miles north of Taungup.

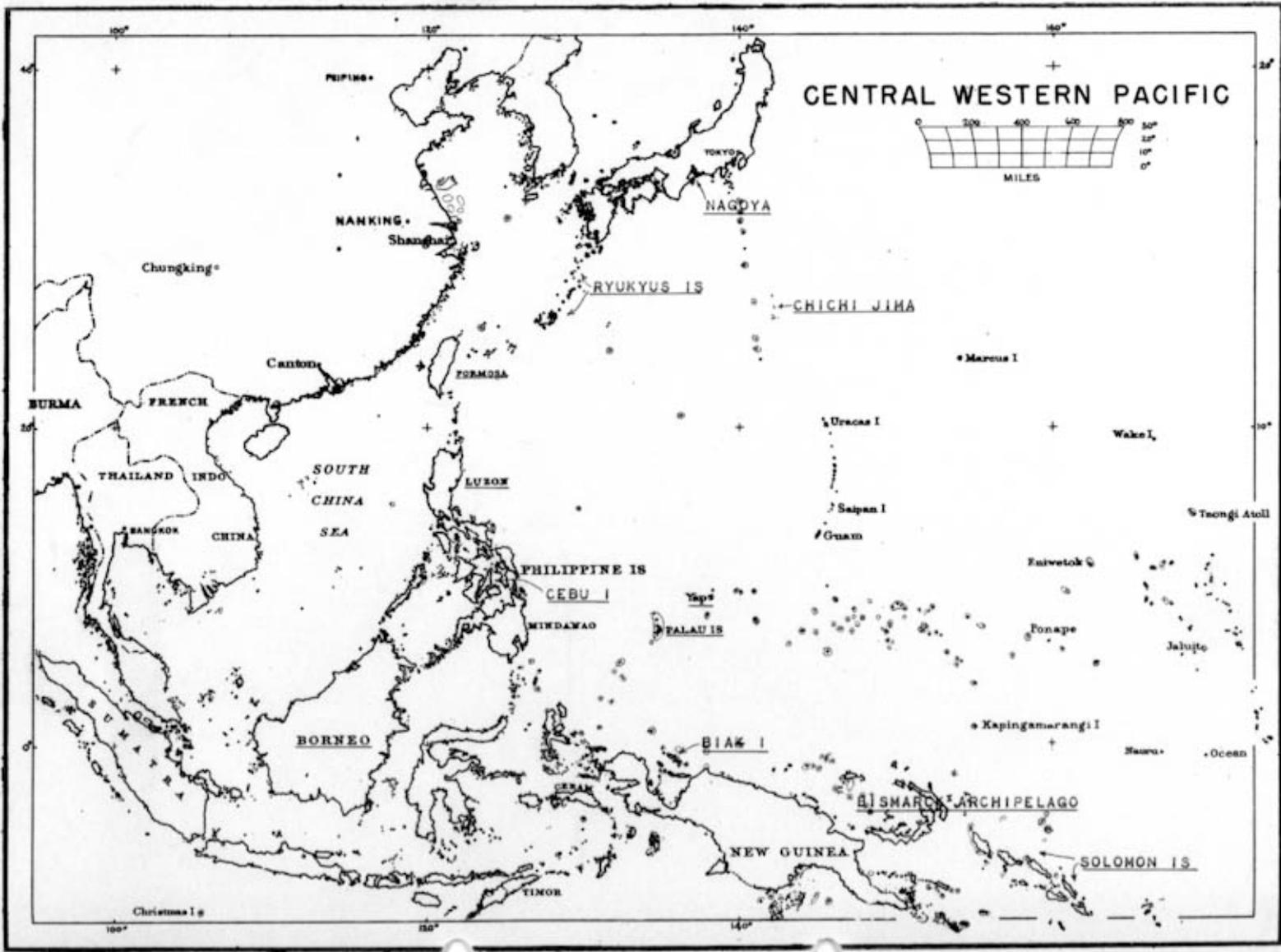
West of Seikpyu, Burmese patrols advanced to within a mile of the Mon Chaung River without contact. Fighting continued in Myingyan on the Irrawaddy. Armored columns drove southeast from Pindale and captured Wundwin. Myitnge was occupied and contact established between Allied troops from Mandalay and from the area south of the Myitnge River.

A five-mile gain was registered south of Mogok. The Chinese gained from three to four miles in the areas southeast and southwest of Hsipaw. Other Chinese units drove another four miles down the Lashio-Hsipaw Road, and are within eight miles of the Chinese column east of Hsipaw.

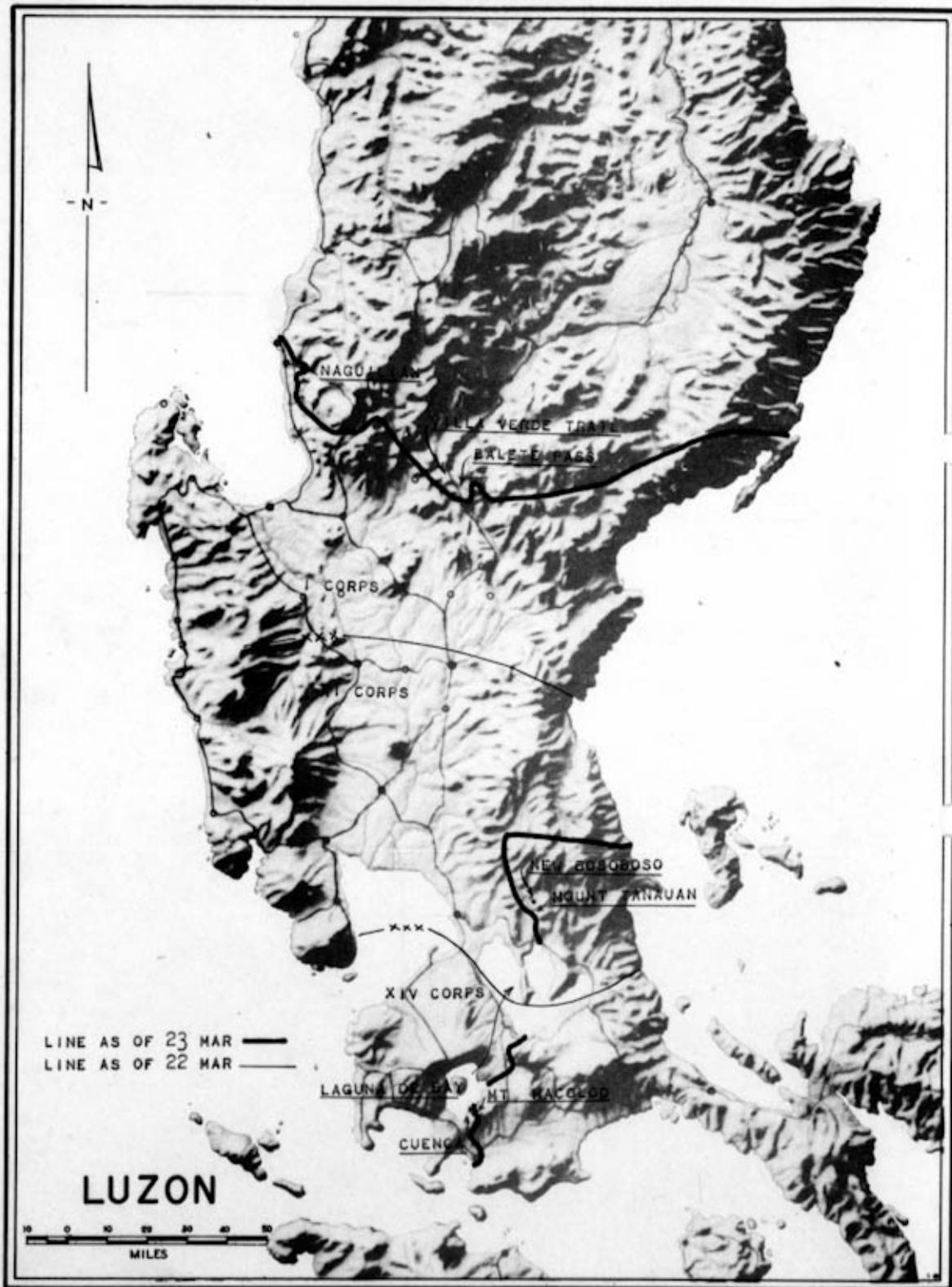


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 OSD Letter, 6-3-72



SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA

21 March. Of 440 additional sorties reported, 368 were over Luzon and the remainder over the Bismarcks and Solomons.

22 March. More than 700 sorties were flown. Four hundred forty-five aircraft, including 40 B-24's, supported ground operations and attacked enemy installations on Luzon. Forty-seven escorted heavy bombers struck airdromes and warehouses on Formosa, destroying or damaging a number of grounded enemy planes. Twenty-four heavy bombers hit Cebu. Patrol planes destroyed six coastal vessels in the Ryukyus and off Borneo. Two enemy planes were shot down. Enemy raiders destroyed three planes on one of our Biak airfields.

On Luzon, I Corps troops reached Naguilian and captured the air-strip south of the town. Increased resistance was met along the Villa Verde trail and south of Balete Pass. North of Laguna de Bay, we seized Mount Tanauan and reached a point 1,200 yards south of New Bosoboso. In Batangas, our forces secured Cuenca unopposed and occupied Mt. Macolod against light opposition.

Motorized patrols on Panay reached the west and north coasts without contact. We landed on Inampulugan Island, off southeastern Guimaras, and destroyed nine control stations. On Mindanao, a small advance was made in the San Roque area against light resistance; heavy fire limited gains northwest of Pasonanca.

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

PACIFIC OCEAN AREA

19 March. According to photographic interpretation, the B-29 raid on Nagoya resulted in visible damage to 420 acres.

22 March. Sixteen fighters attacked installations on Chichi Jima and 41 fighters and dive bombers raided targets on Yap and in the Palaus. We lost one plane.

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

EASTERN FRONT

24 March. The Russians drove to the Baltic coast between Gdynia and Danzig; west of Kuestrin they consolidated bridgehead positions across the Oder. In Slovakia, a five-mile gain was made east of Banska Bystrica. The last German bridgehead across the Drava River, in Hungary, was wiped out. A Partisan drive up the Yugoslavian coast reached to within five miles of Bihac.

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 1199

0700 March 22 to 0700 March 23, 1945

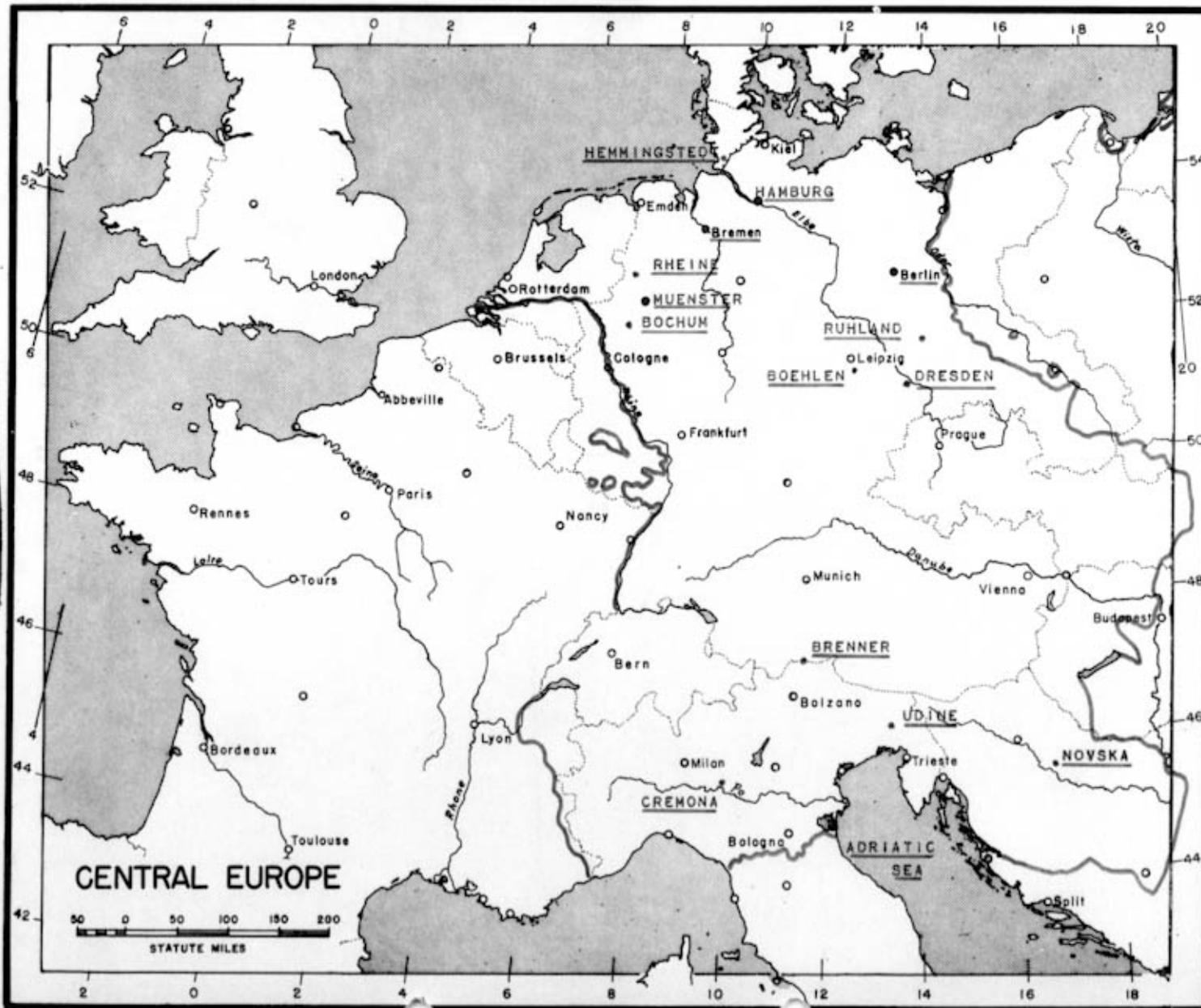
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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72



EUROPE AND THE MEDITERRANEAN - STRATEGIC AIR

21 March. Railyards at Rheine and Muenster, an oil refinery at Bremen and railway viaducts at Bremen and Muenster were attacked by 458 RAF heavy bombers. Five planes are missing. That night, 530 RAF heavy bombers struck an oil refinery at Hamburg; 131 others hit a benzol plant near Bochum. A total of 101 Mosquito bombers raided Berlin. Six bombers are missing.

Seventy-six Italian-based Strategic heavy bombers attacked a railyard at Novska, Yugoslavia.

22 March. The 15th Air Force dispatched 741 escorted heavy bombers to attack an oil refinery at Ruhland and other German targets in Austria and western Czechoslovakia. Fifteen enemy planes were destroyed; 25 heavy bombers are missing.

Preliminary report indicates that 1,332 escorted heavy bombers of the 8th Air Force attacked nine German camp and barracks areas in the Ruhr and five enemy airfields, including jet plane bases, in northwestern and southern Germany. Twenty-seven enemy planes were destroyed, of which 11 were shot down by 8th Air Force fighters furnishing cover for the 15th Air Force attack on Ruhland. Nine bombers and five fighters are missing.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

EUROPEAN THEATER

21 March. The Tactical Air Forces flew over 5,000 sorties, dropping 2,438 tons of bombs. Nearly 800 medium bombers and Mosquitoes continued to attack communication centers, principally north of the Ruhr; an ammunition plant and storage area near Darmstadt was also bombed. Fighters supported ground forces all along the front and flew rail interdiction missions east of the Rhine heavily damaging motor transport, rail cars, locomotives and armored vehicles. Twenty-six enemy planes were destroyed; we lost 29.

In the 24 hours to 0600, one rocket and one flying bomb fell in Antwerp; five rockets and eight flying bombs fell in neighboring areas. Antiaircraft fire shot down six other flying bombs.

22 March. During the 24 hours to 0600, 13 rockets and one flying bomb fell in England. Antiaircraft destroyed two other flying bombs.

There were no significant changes on the front of the Northern Army Group.

In the Remagen bridgehead, First Army units gained from one to two miles on an eight-mile front southwest of Siegburg. On the


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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

southern flank our troops are two miles from Neuwied.

The Saar Palatinate pocket has been reduced to a mere bridgehead. Third Army troops, driving southeast, have reached a general line Ludwigshafen-Neustadt-Landau where resistance was moderate to strong. North of Ludwigshafen, no opposition was encountered along the Rhine, except at Mainz where the Germans are fighting stubbornly. Units of the Seventh Army entered Pirmasens without opposition; southeast of the city, German units still fought stubbornly in their Siegfried Line defenses, and only small gains were reported.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

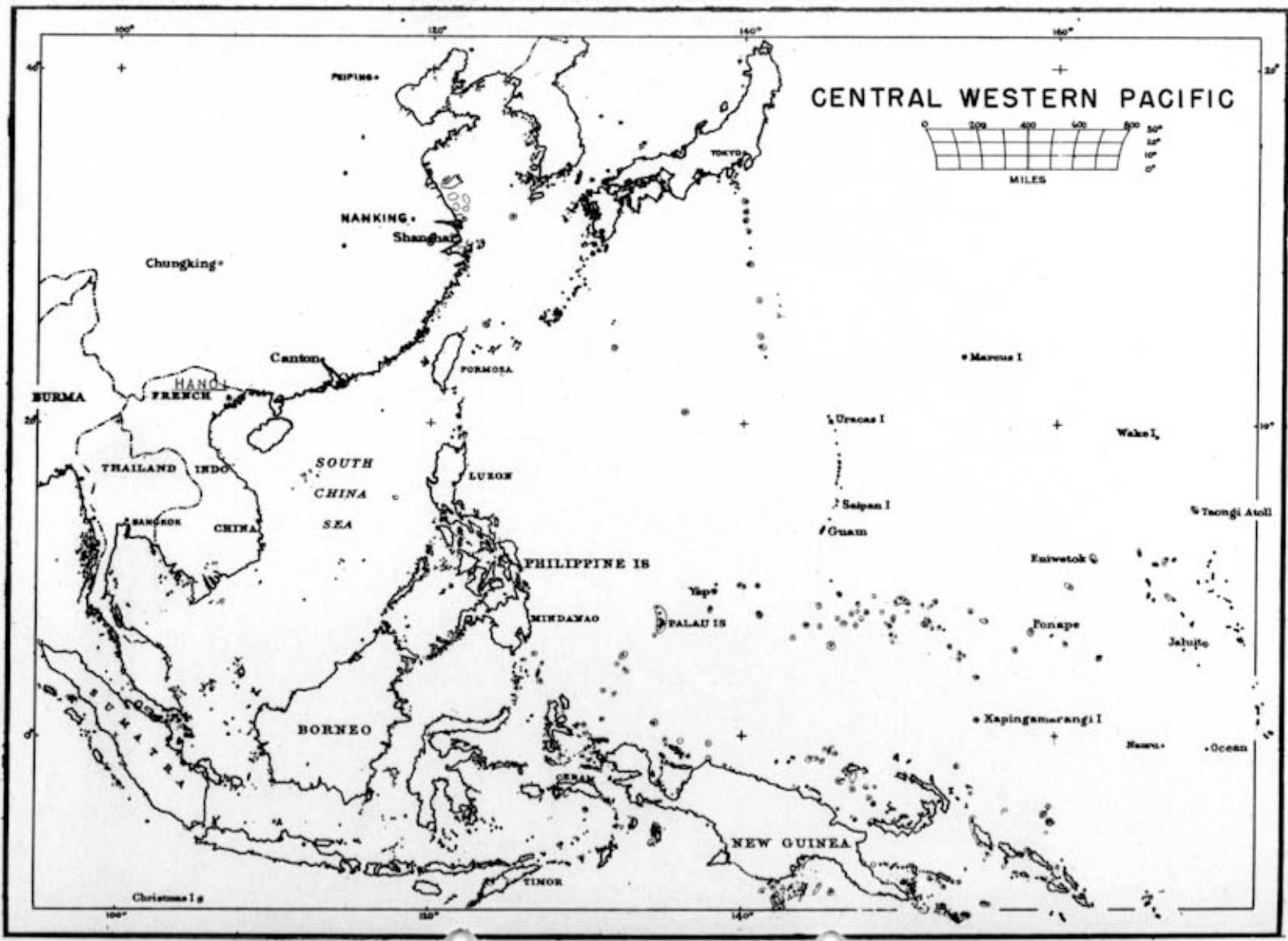
MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

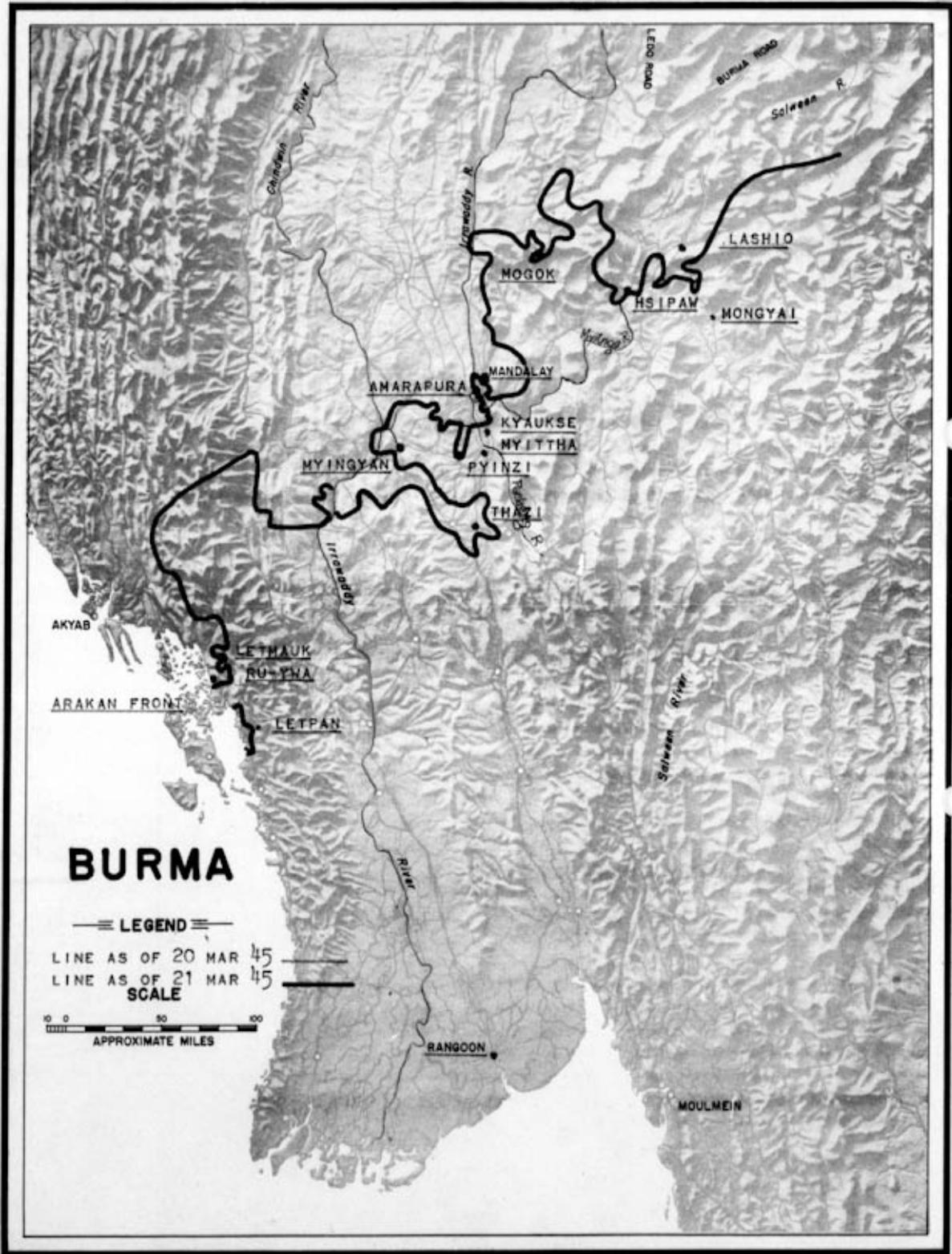
21 March. During the 24-hour period ending at 1800, the Tactical Air Force flew 1,075 sorties. More than 300 medium and light bombers attacked railyards and bridges on the Brenner Route, rail bridges in the Cremona and Udine areas, and railyards in southern Austria and northern Yugoslavia; fighters continued attacks upon communications, supply dumps, and targets in the battle area. Coastal and Balkan Air Force planes, during 212 sorties, attacked small shipping in the north Adriatic, communications in northern Italy, and oil installations and communications in northern Yugoslavia. One enemy plane was destroyed; we lost five.

22 March. Only patrol clashes and artillery exchanges were reported along the battlefront in northern Italy.

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ASIATIC THEATER

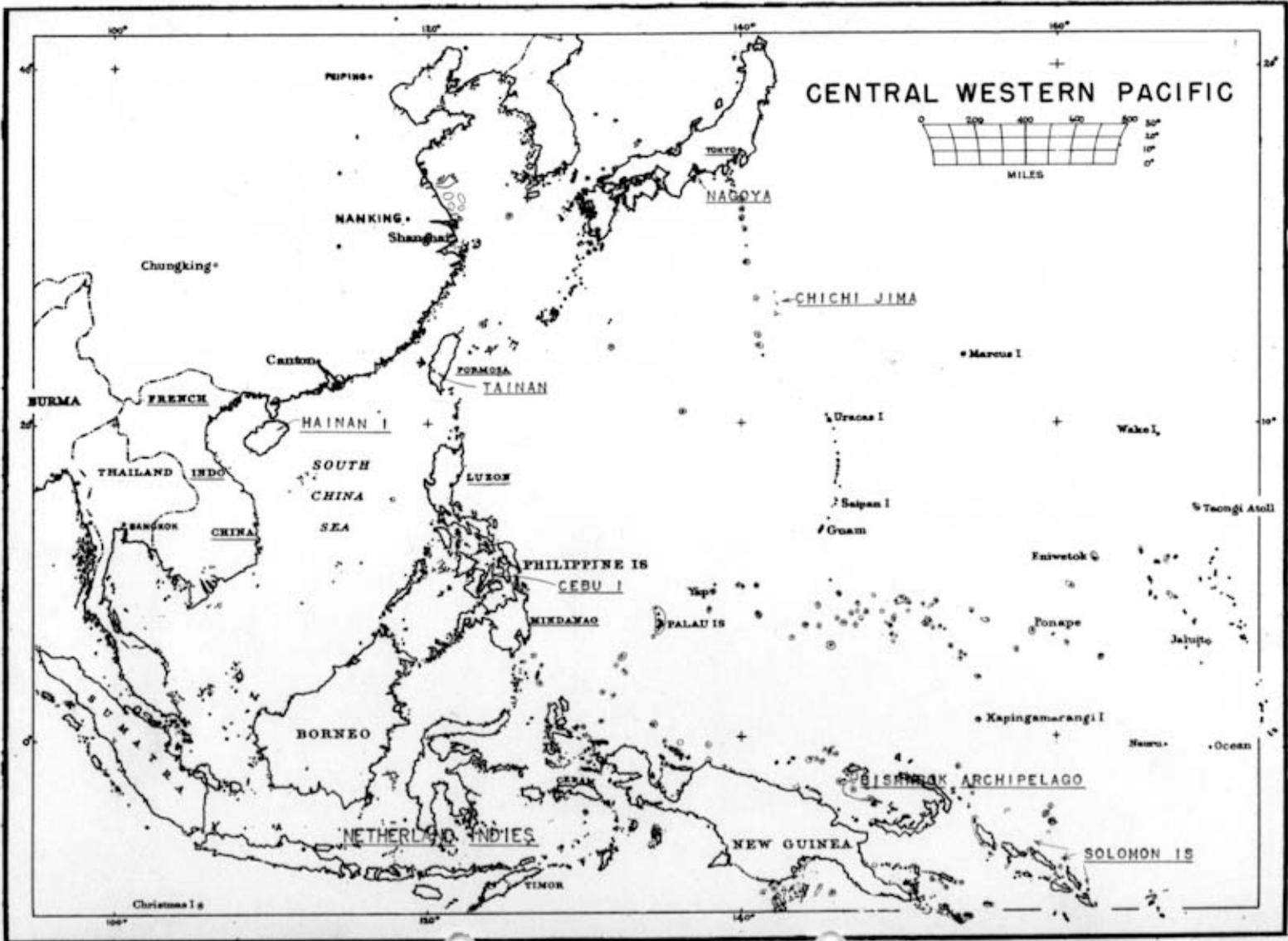
20 March. The Eastern Air Command flew 1,928 sorties, of which 603 were tactical. Thirty-five medium bombers attacked a Mandalay fort, 34 fighters swept an airfield at Chiengmai in Thailand, shooting down one enemy plane. Other aircraft continued to hit enemy positions, supply dumps and communications along the Burma fronts. We lost one plane.

21 March. Weather severely restricted operations of the 14th Air Force; four fighters strafed rail lines and an airfield south of Hanoi.

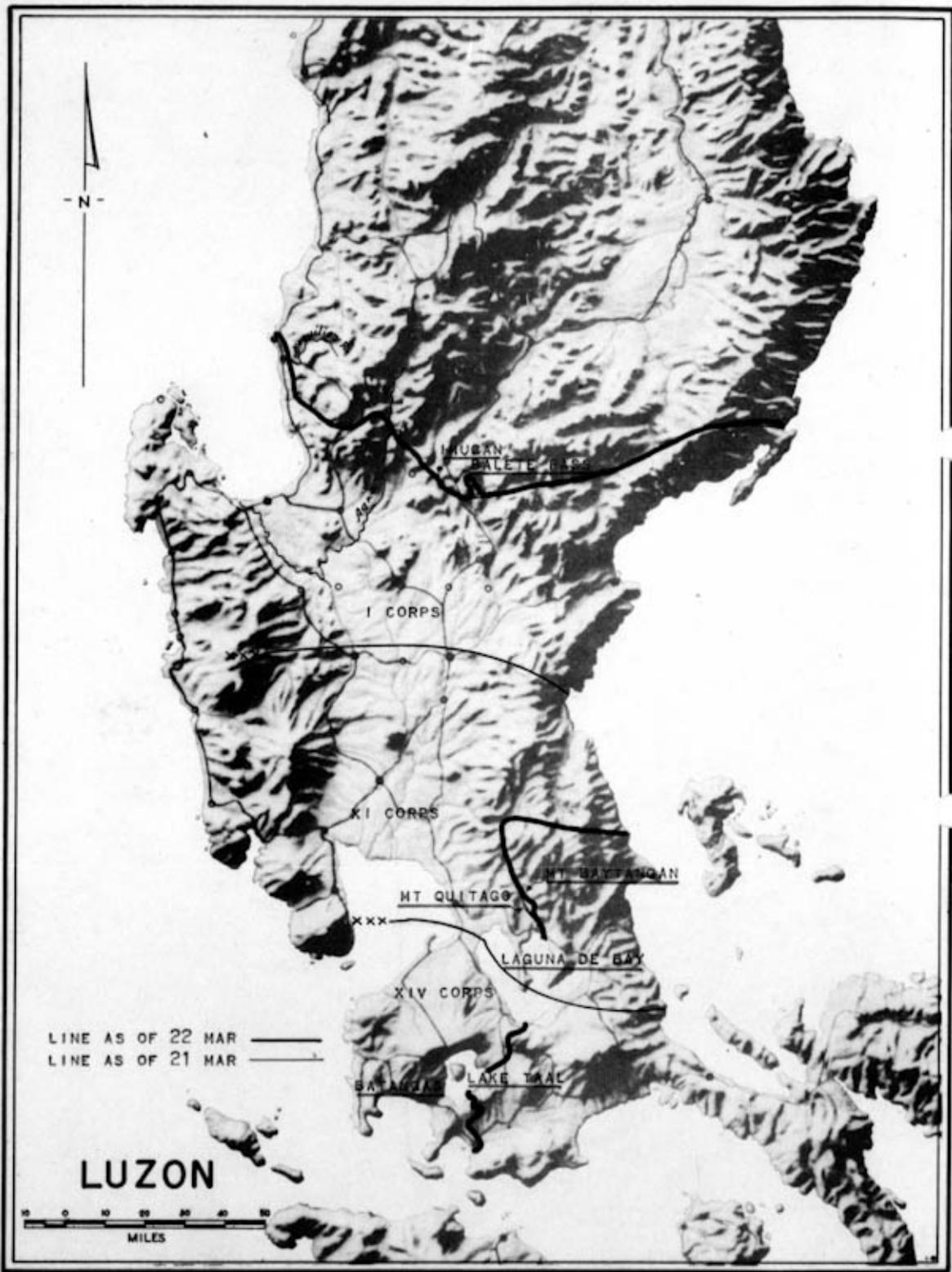
British armored columns, which yesterday cut the Myingyan-Myittha road, drove another 15 miles to the south, reaching Pindale. In Mandalay, Ft. Dufferin has been cleared and only small groups now remain in the city.

The Allies advanced three miles south of Mogok without opposition.

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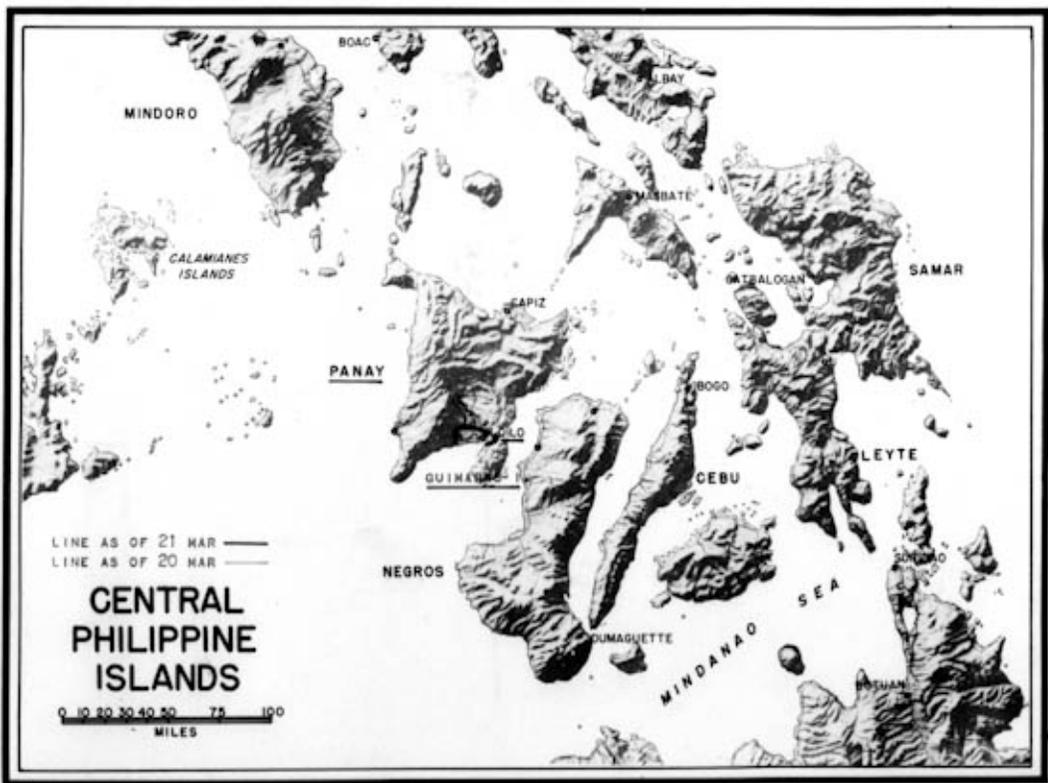
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LUZON

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GAD Letter, 6-9-72



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SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA

20 March. Among 510 additional sorties reported, 370 were against targets on Luzon. Thirty-five heavy bombers struck Tainan, Formosa; 72 aircraft raided Japanese installations in the Bismarcks and Solomons.

21 March. More than 620 sorties were flown. One hundred twenty aircraft, including 37 B-24's bombed Cebu; ground operations on Luzon were supported by 179 planes. Thirty-seven B-24's struck an airdrome on Hainan Island. Medium bombers, on shipping strikes off French Indo-China, sank two destroyer escorts, a minesweeper, and two small freighters and shot down four enemy planes. Other planes, operating over widespread areas from the East China Sea to the Netherland Indies, destroyed a grounded enemy plane, sank two coastal vessels, fired another, and left a fourth sinking.

On Luzon, I Corps patrols pushed to the Naguilian River. An attack on our outposts, east of the Agno River, forced a slight withdrawal, but we made some progress west and northwest of Imugan. Our forces, by-passing strong Japanese positions south of Balete Pass, were four miles east of the Pass. North of Laguna de Bay, we seized Mt. Quitago but were held up by heavy enemy fire near Mt. Baytangan. In Batangas our units scored limited progress despite stiff opposition south of Lake Taal.

On Panay, we patrolled to the Suague River, 17 miles north of Iloilo. Only limited advances were reported on Mindanao.

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-8-72

PACIFIC OCEAN AREA

17 March. Two B-29's, attacking individually at night, started fires in the Tokyo warehouse area and in the Nagoya aircraft plant.

21 March. Sixteen Iwo-based fighters attacked Chichi Jima.

~~TOP SECRET~~
DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

EASTERN FRONT

22 March. The Soviets made slight gains in the reduction of pockets in East Prussia and around Danzig. The Red Army offensive north of the Moravian Gap was confirmed as well as the capture of Neustadt and Ober Glogau. In Czechoslovakia, Soviet and Rumanian troops advanced an average of five miles on a 40-mile front towards Banska Bystrica.

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RECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-8-78

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 1198

0700 March 21 to 0700 March 22, 1945

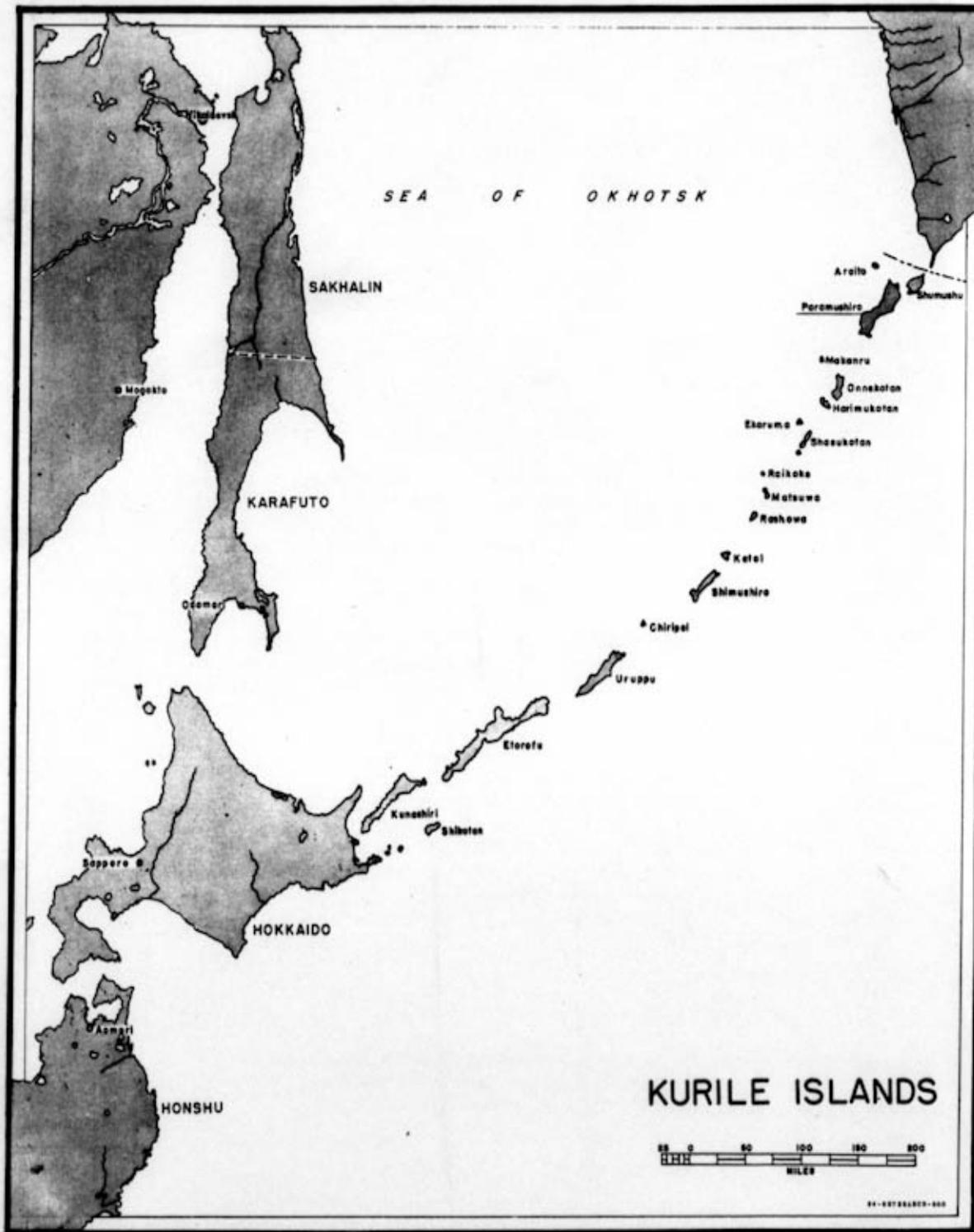
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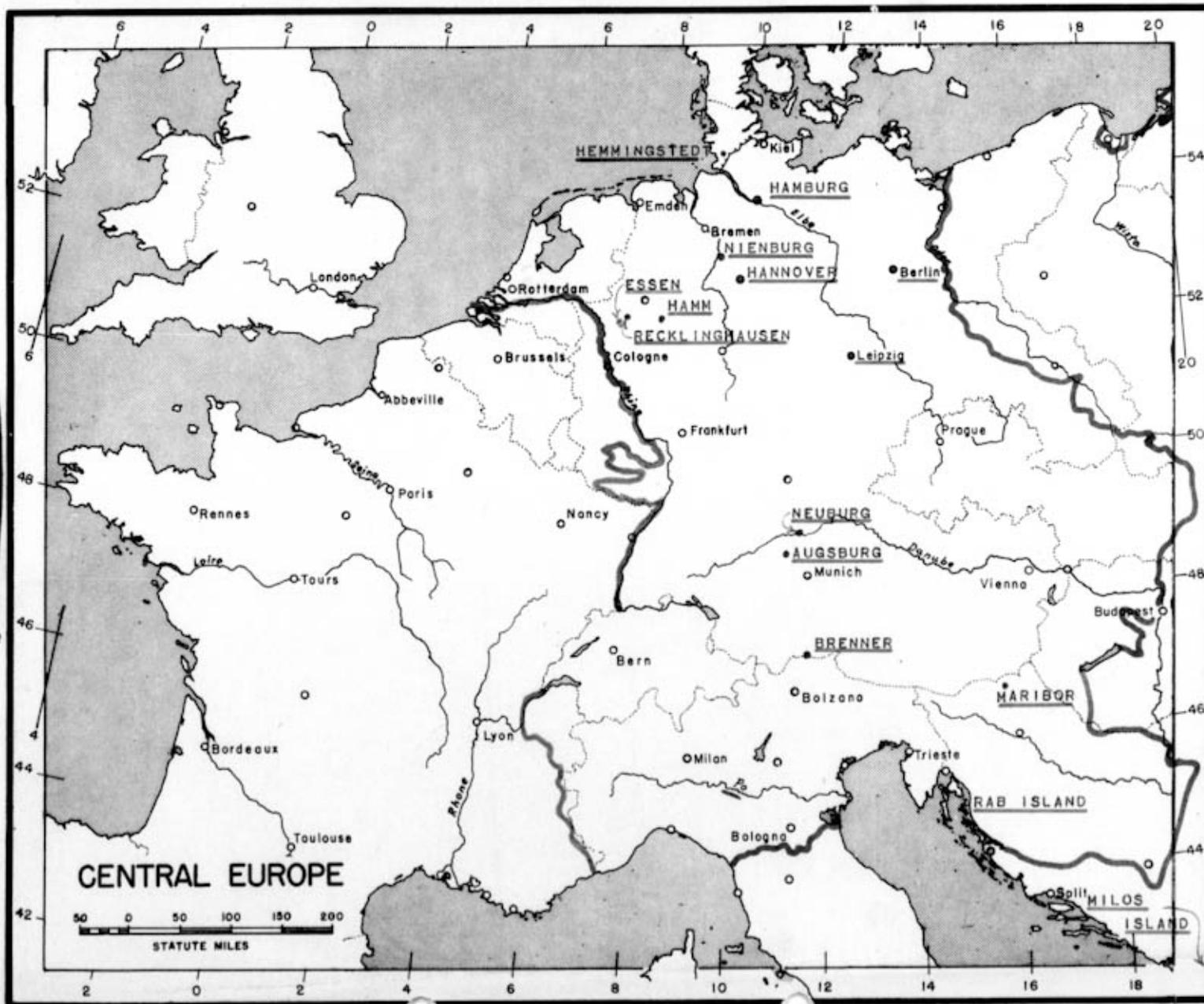
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WESTERN HEMISPHERE

20 March. Four Aleutian-based B-25's attacked targets on Paramushiro with rockets and machine guns.

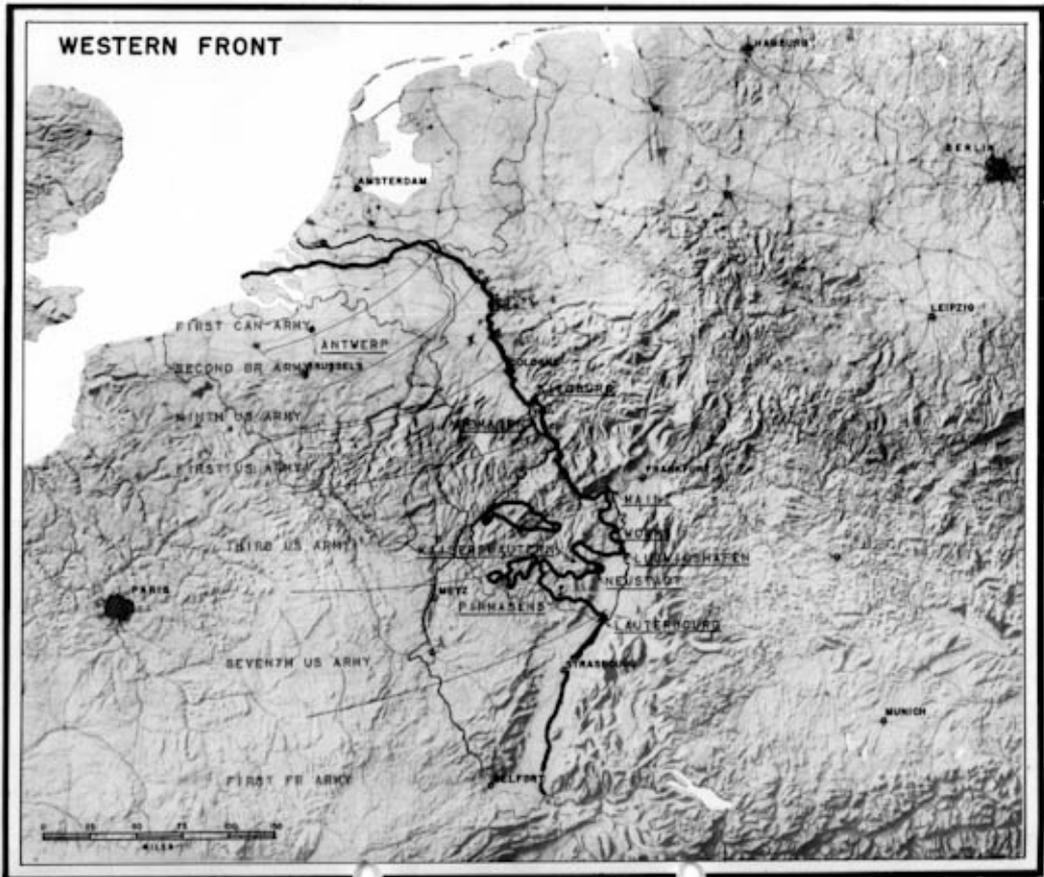
EUROPE AND THE MEDITERRANEAN - STRATEGIC AIR

20 March. Two hundred thirteen RAF heavy bombers attacked rail-yards at Recklinghausen and Hamm; 34 others hit a rail bridge at Nienburg and targets in the Ruhr. One heavy bomber was lost. That night oil plants near Leipzig and at Hemmingstedt were struck by 380 heavy bombers. Mosquitoes again raided Berlin and made feint attacks against other German cities.

During the night, 73 Strategic heavy bombers attacked railyards south of Maribor, in northern Yugoslavia.

21 March. Over 1,300 escorted heavy bombers of the 8th Air Force were airborne to attack nine airdromes in northwestern Germany and a cellulose factory at Plauen, 60 miles south of Leipzig. Preliminary reports indicate seven enemy aircraft were destroyed in the air and 50 on the ground. Our losses were 28 bombers and 20 fighters, but 17 of these fighters are believed safe on the Continent. Later in the day a second force of 92 escorted heavy bombers was dispatched to attack an airdrome at Essen.

Six hundred seventy-nine escorted heavy bombers of the 15th Air Force attacked an airdrome, in the Augsburg area, and oil refineries and railyards in Austria and western Czechoslovakia. Eleven enemy planes were destroyed. Three bombers are missing.



DECLASSIFIED
DSU Letter, 6-8-72

EUROPEAN THEATER

20 March. During the 24-hour period to sunset, the Tactical Air Forces flew 4,940 sorties and dropped more than 2,000 tons of bombs. Among targets for medium bombers were an ammunition plant and railyards, north and east of the Ruhr, and lines of communication in the Saar. Fighters sweeping the entire battle front destroyed or damaged more than 3,200 pieces of motor transport, 1,700 rail cars, and 130 locomotives. Of the 51 enemy planes claimed, all but one were destroyed on the ground. We lost 23.

In the 24 hours to 0600, one flying bomb fell in Antwerp, and four rockets and three flying bombs fell in adjacent areas. Four other flying bombs were shot down by antiaircraft.

21 March. By 0600, four rockets fell in the Essex and London areas.

There were no significant changes on the front of the Northern Army Group.

In the Remagen bridgehead, units of our First Army made a four-mile advance on the northern flank reaching the Sieg River between Siegburg and the Rhine. On the southern flank a one-mile gain was made.

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-8-72

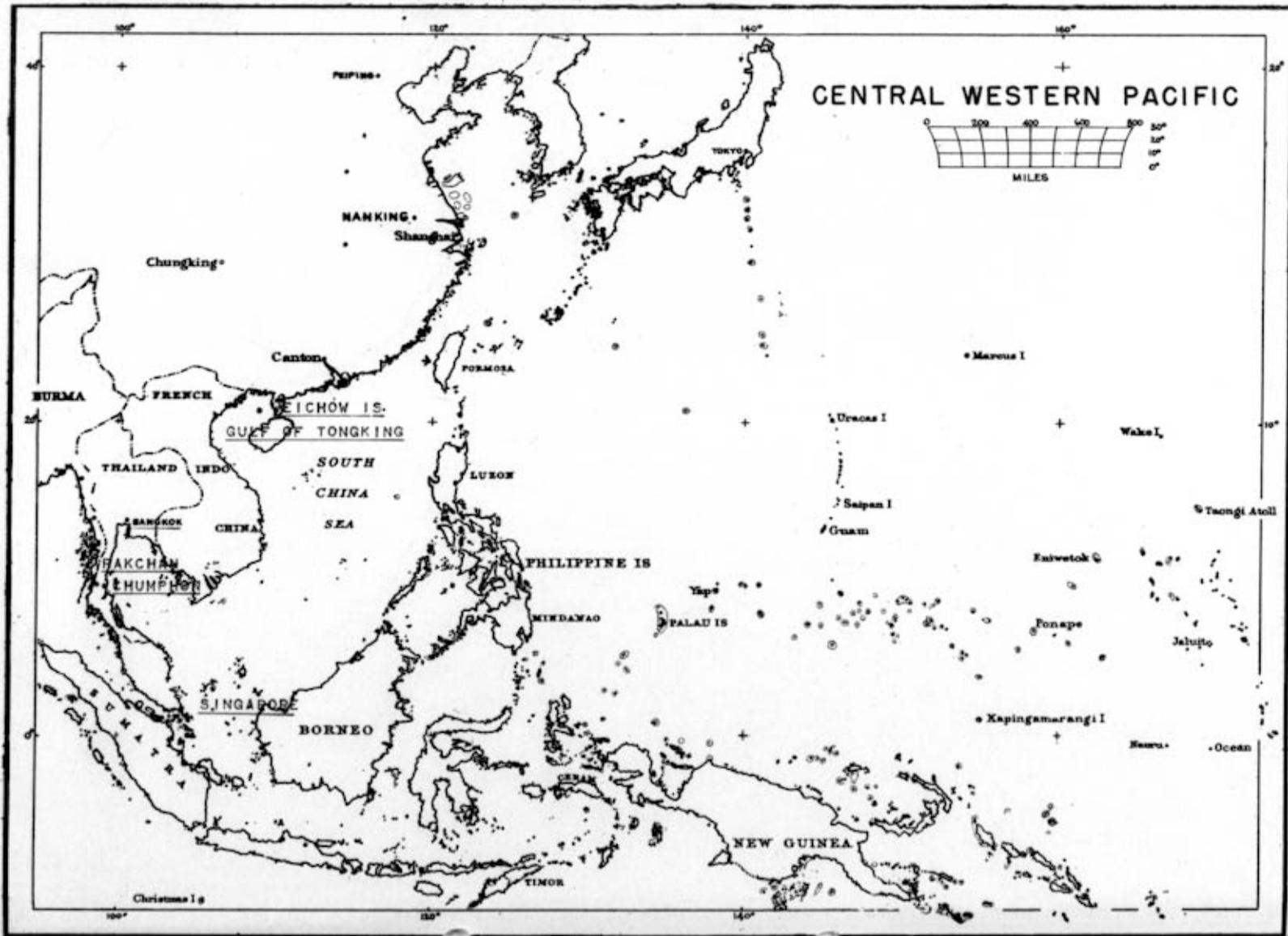
Resistance has rapidly deteriorated in the northern half of the Saar-Palatinate pocket. Mainz, Worms and Ludwigshafen, all on the Rhine River, have been entered. Armored columns of the Seventh and Third Armies, which made contact west of Kaiserslautern, were driving southeast toward the Rhine; at last report Neustadt, 18 miles southeast of Kaiserslautern, was captured. The Germans continued to offer stubborn resistance in the Siegfried fortifications between Pirmasens and the Rhine River covering the withdrawal of forces to the north.

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

20 March. During the 24 hours ending at 1800, the Tactical Air Force flew 1,375 sorties. One hundred twenty-two light bombers, attacking at night, struck railyards and bridges in northern Italy. Over 200 medium bombers continued to pound bridges on the Brenner line and in northern and northeastern Italy; they also hit a railyard in Yugoslavia. Fighters attacked communications, supply dumps, and factories in northern Italy and supported our ground forces. Coastal and Balkan Air Force planes, flying more than 250 sorties, bombed communications in northwestern Italy and the Po Valley, bridges, transportation and German installations in Yugoslavia; gun positions on Rab and Milos Island were also hit. Four enemy planes were destroyed; we lost 13.

21 March. There were no significant changes along the battle line in northern Italy.

TOP SECRET



ASIATIC THEATER

19 March. The Eastern Air Command reported 2,468 sorties, of which 742 were tactical. Forty B-24's bombed bridges along the railroad line near Chumphon (Kra Isthmus). Incomplete reports indicate that at least five bridges were left unserviceable. Forty-eight other heavy bombers hit a railyard on the Bangkok-Singapore railroad and seven B-24's laid mines near Pakchan and Rangoon. Medium bombers and Mosquitoes hit enemy positions in the Mandalay-Thazi area, while fighters attacked communications, supply dumps and installations throughout the battle zones. One heavy bomber was lost.

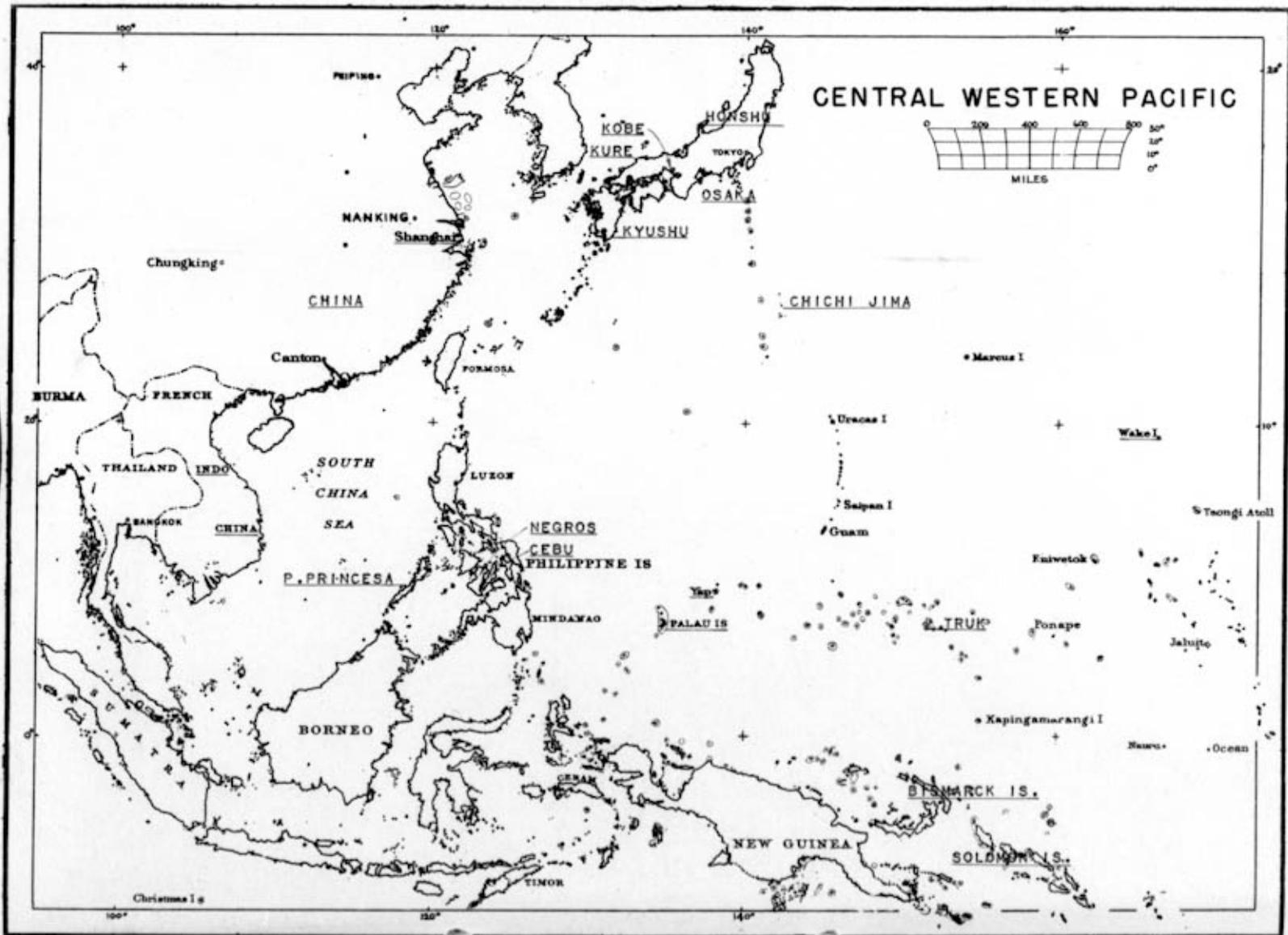
One B-24 of the 14th Air Force sank a 5,000-ton cargo vessel off southern China.

22 March. Seventy-six B-29's of the XX Bomber Command attacked Rangoon cantonments, supply dumps and storage facilities. All of our planes returned.

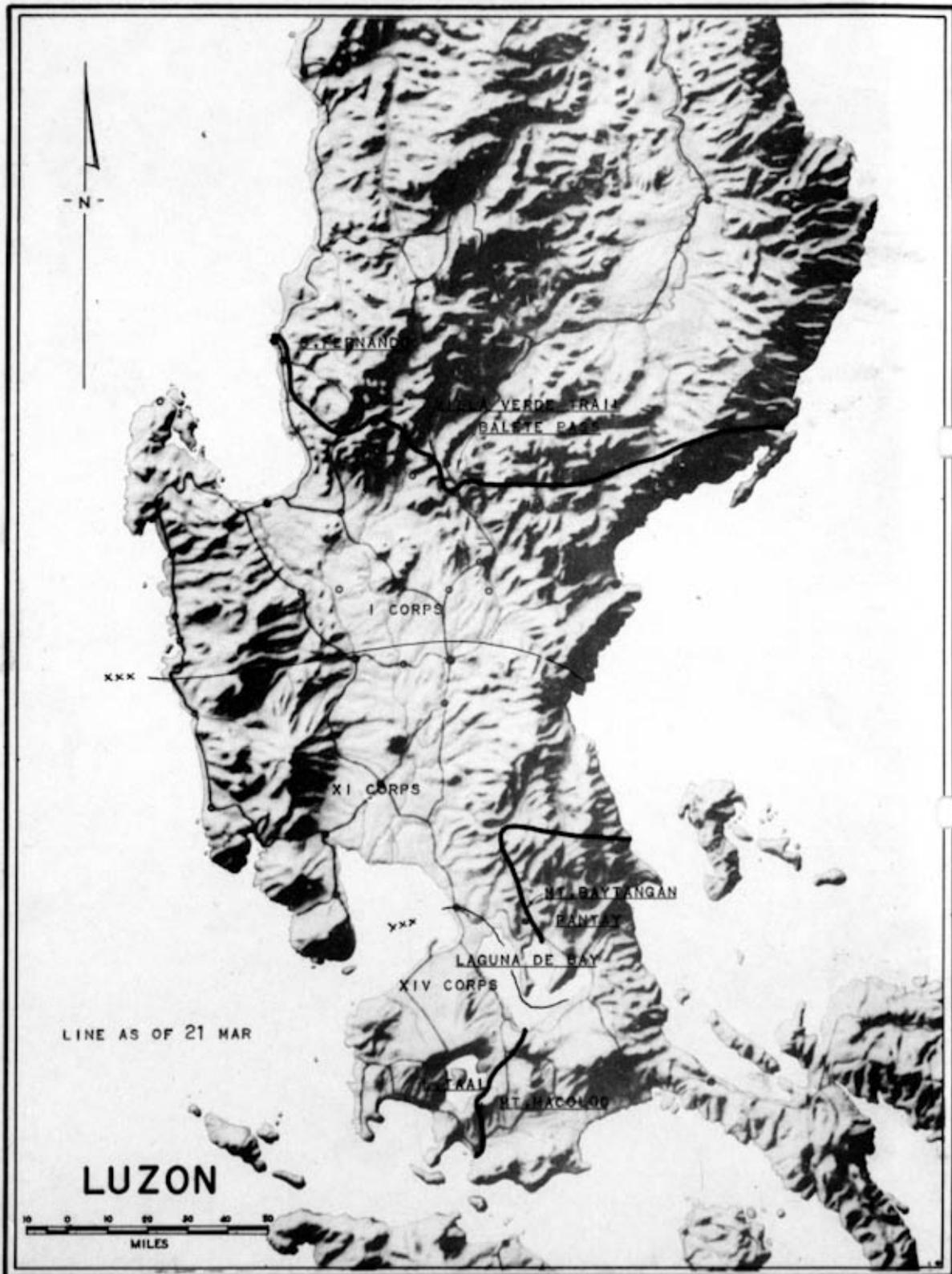
20 March. British units captured Letmauk on the Arakan coast and gained another mile down the coast south of Letpan. An armored column, driving 23 miles to the south, reached Pyinzi and cut the Myingyan-Myittha road. Allied troops crossed the Myitnge River, captured Amarapura and at last report were operating in the southern outskirts of Mandalay. Mogok was captured and advance elements are four miles southeast of the town. The Chinese gained an average of two miles southeast and southwest of Hsipaw. South of Lashio, other Chinese columns advanced six miles along the road to Hsipaw and gained three miles toward Mongyai.

DECLASSIFIED
GSD Letter, 5-3-72





DECLASSIFIED
 OSD Letter, 5-3-72



SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA

19 and 20 March. More than 580 previously unreported sorties were flown, including 46 against targets in the Bismarcks and Solomons. Supply dumps and personnel areas on Cebu were attacked by 87 heavy bombers. Fighters raiding airdromes on Negros destroyed two enemy aircraft. Escorted B-25's sank a medium size freighter and a destroyer escort, and fired two other freighters and a destroyer escort off the Indo-China coast. Patrol planes set a small freighter afire near Shanghai, and damaged numerous small ships along the China coast. We lost four planes.

20 March. On Luzon, the I Corps, advancing up the west coast, contacted guerrilla forces at San Fernando. Heavy resistance continued on the Villa Verde Trail and south of the Balete Pass. North of Laguna de Bay, limited gains were reported in the Pantay and Mt. Baytangan sectors. South of Lake Taal, elements of the XIV Corps were attacking Mount Macolod against heavy opposition.

On Panay, we captured Iloilo without opposition and pushed north to the Aganan River. Reconnaissance units landed on Guimaras Island, south of Panay, and widespread patrol activity failed to establish contact. On Mindanao, our units continued to encounter strong opposition north of San Roque. We have captured the high ground east of Pasonanca.

A dry weather airstrip is serviceable at Zamboango with undispersed parking for 200 planes. The Puerto Princesa airfield on Palawan now has 2,200 feet of concrete runway and an additional 1,800 feet which is coral surfaced.

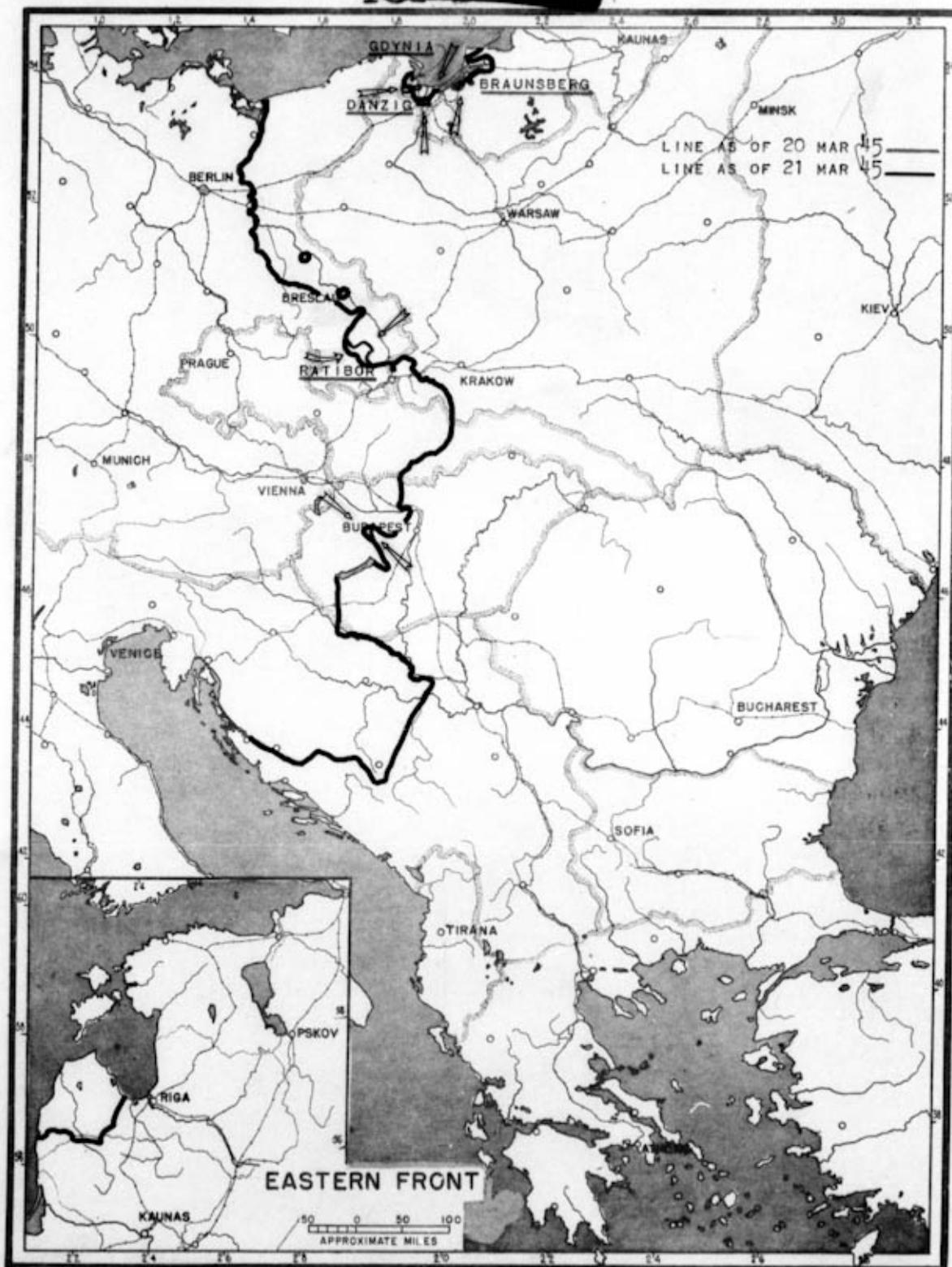
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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-78

PACIFIC OCEAN AREA

17 - 20 March. More than 80 Pacific Ocean Area planes continued attacks against the Palaus and Yap. We lost one fighter.

19 - 20 March. Seventeen B-24's bombed a Chichi Jima airfield.



EASTERN FRONT

21 March. In West Prussia, the Soviets advanced to within three miles of the Bay of Danzig between Gdynia and Danzig. The Germans report that Soviet tank spearheads have reached the foothills west of Ratibor, in upper Silesia.

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 1197

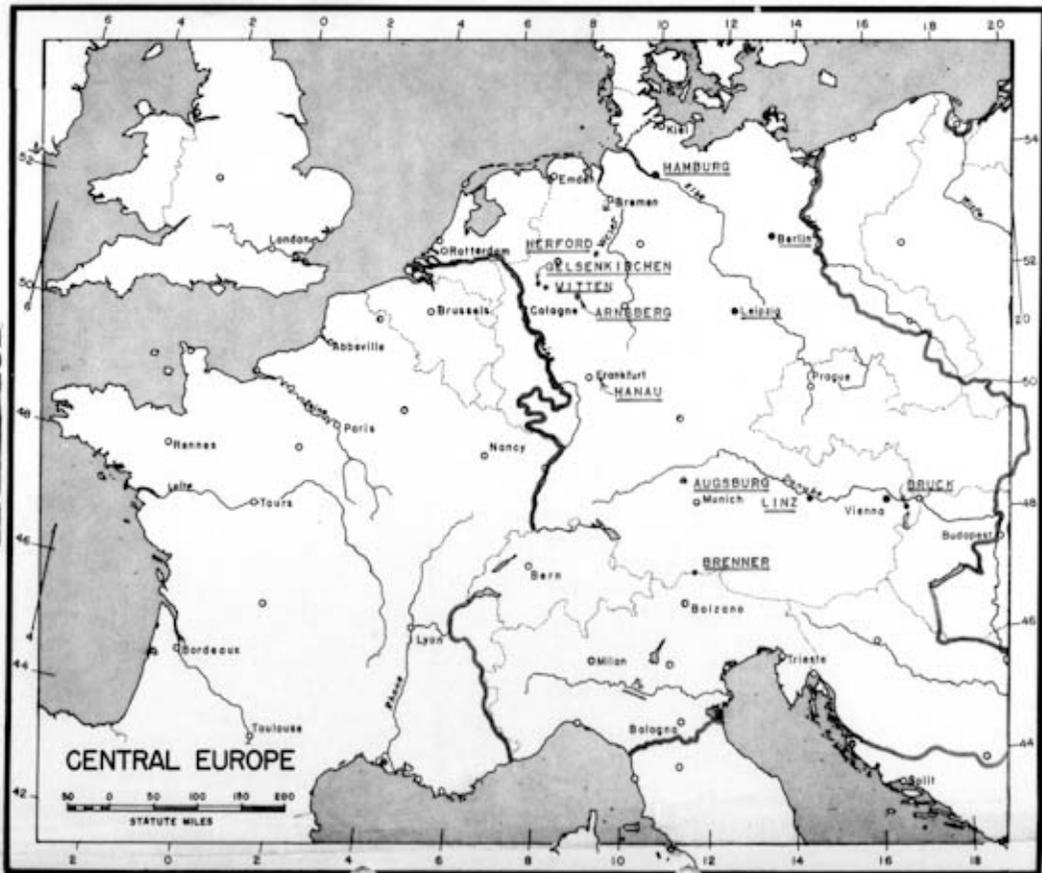
0700 March 20 to 0700 March 21, 1945

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THE WHITE HOUSE

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CENTRAL EUROPE

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STATUTE MILES

DECLASSIFIED
98D Letter, 5-3-78

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

20 March. Five heavy and eight medium bombers attacked targets in the northern Kuriles.

EUROPE AND THE MEDITERRANEAN - STRATEGIC AIR

19 March. Seventy-seven RAF heavy bombers attacked a benzol plant at Gelsenkirchen. Other heavy bombers, dropping 123 tons which included six 11-ton deep penetration bombs, destroyed two spans of a railway viaduct in the Ruhr; another formation dropped 15 six-ton bombs on a rail bridge across the Weser northeast of Herford. That night, 34 Mosquitoes attacked Berlin.

During the night, 75 strategic heavy bombers attacked a railyard at Bruck, Austria. One heavy bomber is missing.

20 March. Seven hundred eighty-three escorted heavy bombers of the 15th Air Force attacked railyards, oil refineries and a tank works in the Linz-Vienna area. Two enemy planes were shot down; four bombers and one fighter are missing.

In adverse weather, the 8th Air Force dispatched 438 escorted heavy bombers to attack oil refineries and U-boat yards around Hamburg. Fighters also strafed the adjacent areas. Eight enemy planes were destroyed. Four bombers and 12 fighters have not returned.

WESTERN FRONT



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OSD Letter, F-3-72

EUROPEAN THEATER

19 March. During the 24 hours to sunset, the Tactical Air Forces flew 5,507 sorties, dropped 2,431 tons of bombs, and fired 391 rockets. Medium bombers continued attacks upon communication centers, railyards, towns and bridges on the western front. Fighters, sweeping the entire battle area, destroyed or damaged more than 1,000 motor vehicles and 2,000 railroad cars. Thirty-nine enemy planes were destroyed; we lost 23.

By 0600, ten flying bombs fell near Antwerp. Five others were shot down by anti-aircraft fire.

20 March. In the 24 hours to 0600, eight rockets and four flying bombs fell in England.

Extensive regrouping was reported in the Northern Army Group. In our Remagen bridgehead resistance slackened, particularly on the northern flank where gains of nearly two miles were made on a 13-mile front. On the southern flank we advanced three miles.

Resistance west of the Rhine and south of the Moselle is reported to be completely disorganized. A communique reports that our forces have taken Worms and have reached Mainz and Bodenheim.

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-8-72

Contact between our Third and Seventh Armies was reported 12 miles west of Kaiserslautern; the latter city was initially by-passed by armor columns but has now been entered by our troops.

Saarbruecken has been cleared and to the east, after advances of from three to five miles, St. Ingbert and Homburg were reached. Communique reports the fall of Zweibruecken and substantial gains to the northeast. On the northern Alsace Plain, Wissembourg was cleared and an advance of two miles made beyond. The French advanced four miles along the Rhine northeast of Lauterburg.

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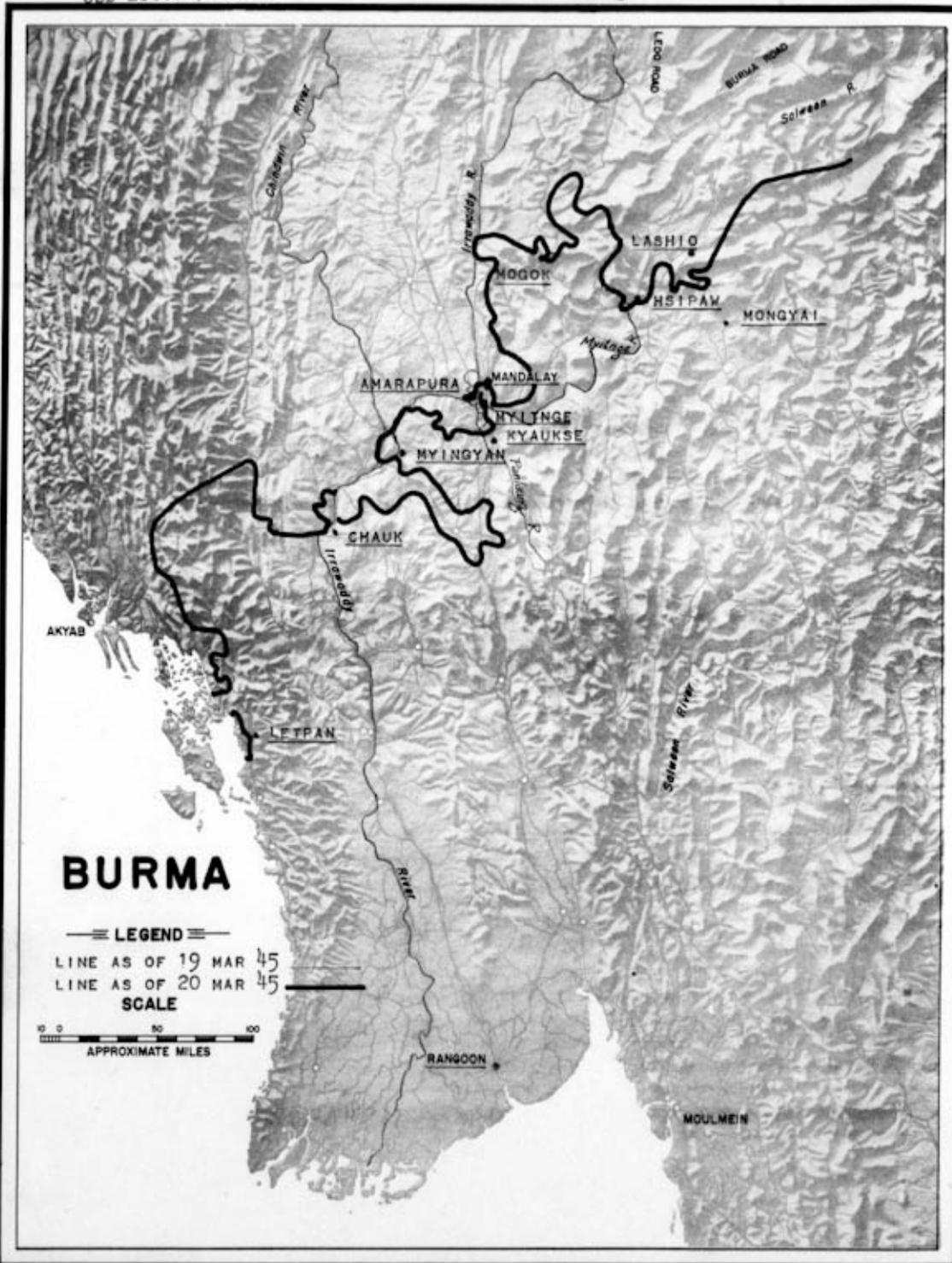
DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-8-72

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

19 March. Tactical Air Force flew 1,375 sorties. Over 250 medium bombers concentrated on rail bridges and installations in northeastern Italy, while fighters struck at communications over a wide area of northern Italy, Yugoslavia and Austria, and attacked supply dumps and tactical targets north of the battle area. Five planes are missing. The Balkan and Coastal Air Forces reported over 200 sorties. North of the Po River, two spans of a rail bridge were demolished and hits scored on two other bridges. Headquarters, strongpoints and rail targets in northern Yugoslavia were also attacked.

20 March. There were no significant changes on the battle front in northern Italy.

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ASIATIC THEATER

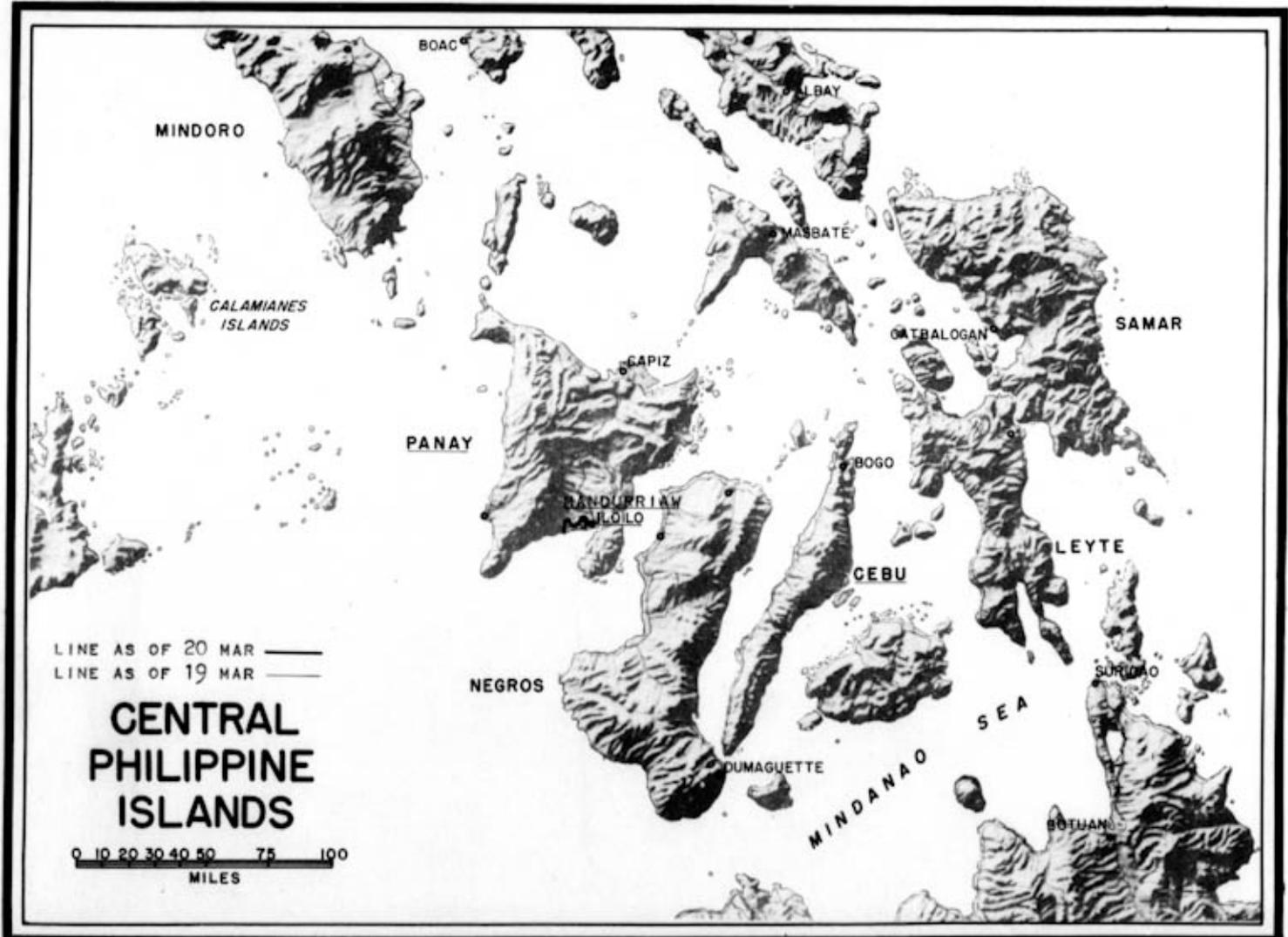
18 March. The Eastern Air Command flew over 2,250 sorties, of which 678 were offensive. Medium bombers and fighters, sweeping the battle fronts and areas to the south, continued to pound enemy positions, supply dumps and bridges. Three enemy planes were destroyed in attacks on Rangoon airfields. We lost one.

18 and 19 March. Two B-24's of the 14th Air Force attacked shipping off southern China and six fighters strafed transportation in French Indo-China and the Rangoon area.

19 March. Only small enemy parties were encountered during an eight-mile advance south from the Letpan beachhead. Heavy fighting took place on the outskirts of Myingyan and in the area six miles northeast of Chauk. British troops from the south forced two crossings of the Myitnge River. One column advanced on Amarapura and another was on the outskirts of Myitnge town. North of Kyaukse, Allied troops expanded and consolidated their positions.

The British have driven into the outskirts of Mogok. Chinese units are now five miles southwest of Hsipaw. Another Chinese column, driving southeast from the Lashio-Hsipaw Road, gained about five miles toward Mongyai without contact.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 6-3-72

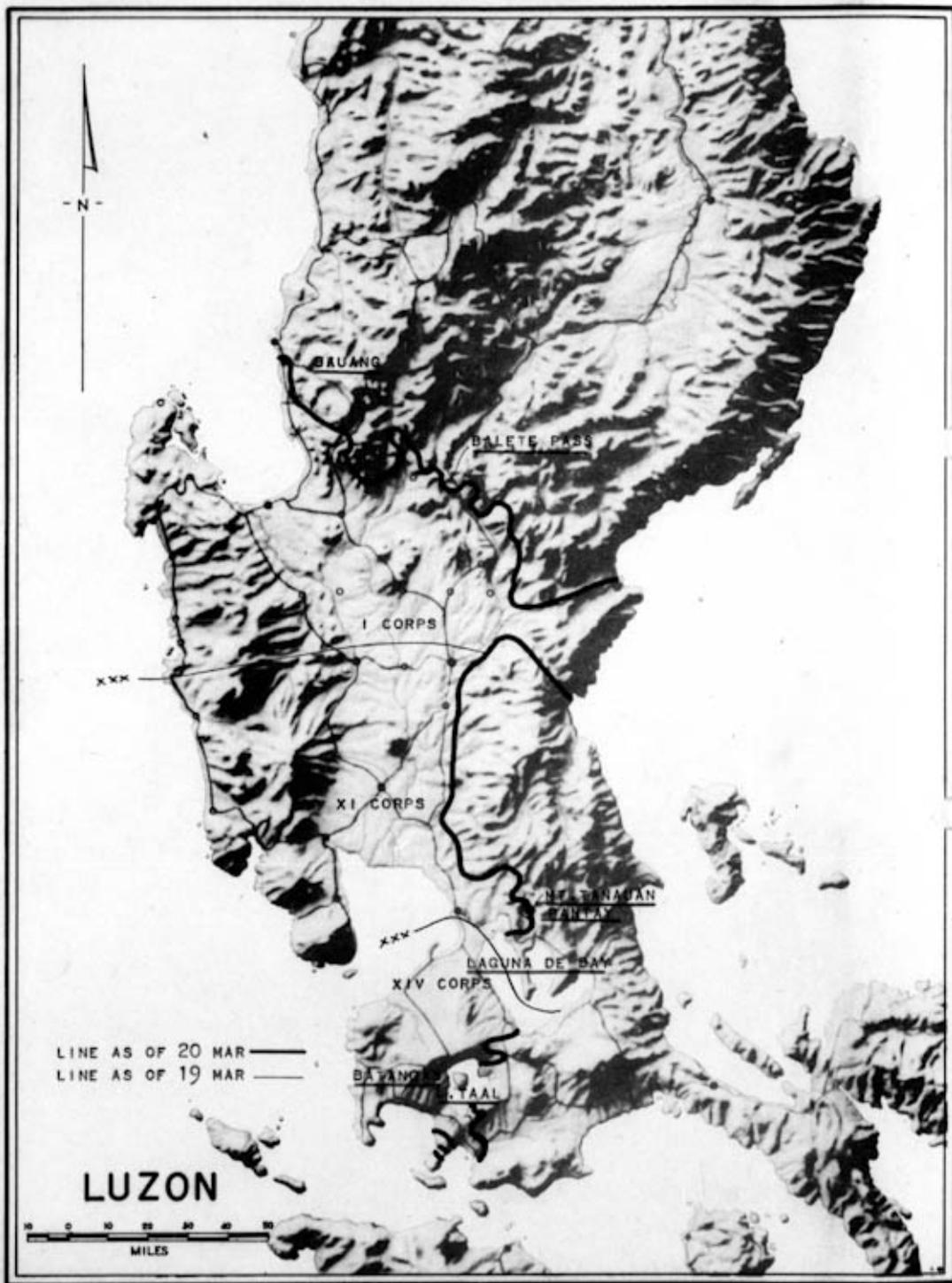




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SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA

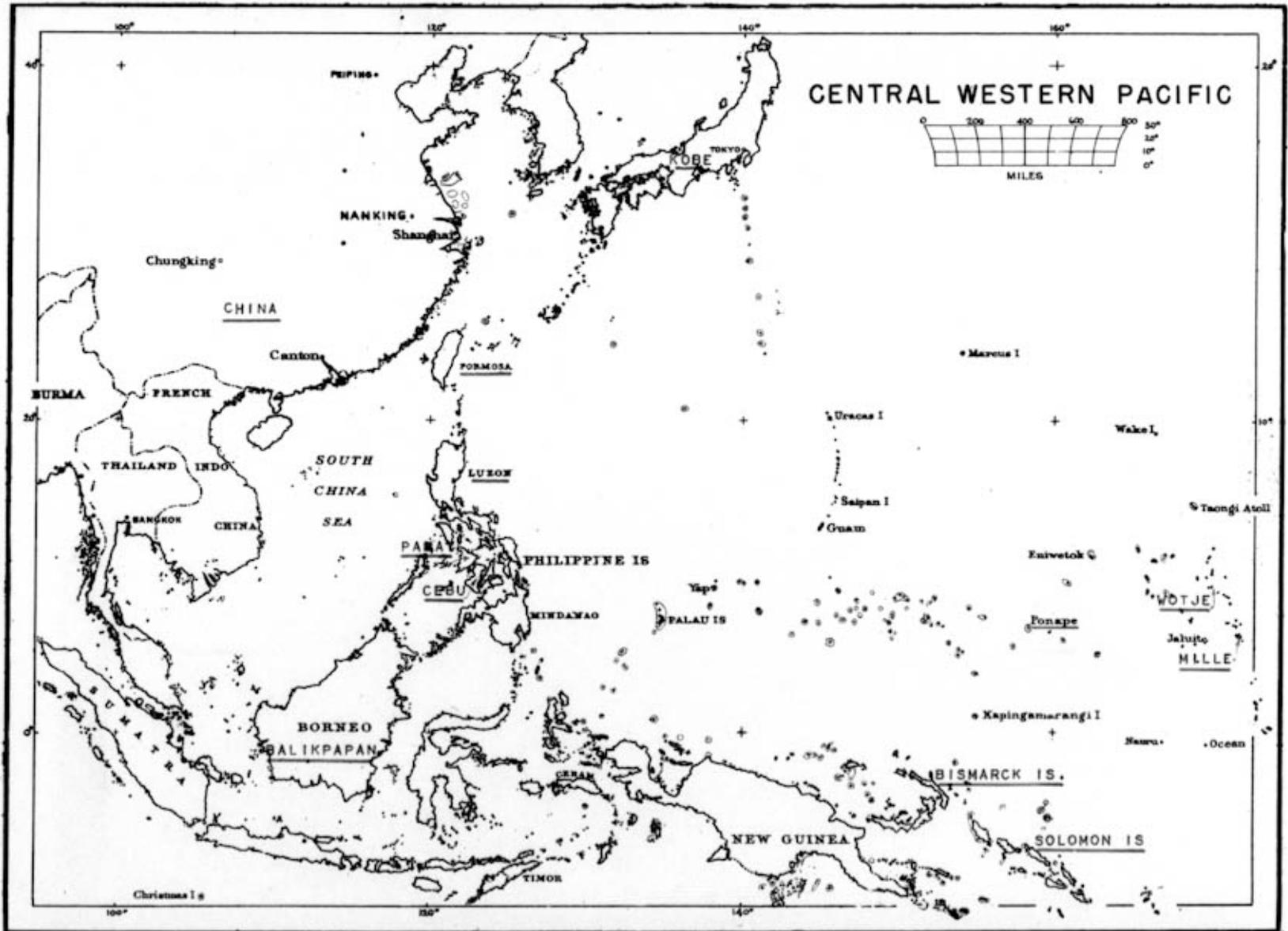
18 March. Southwest Pacific planes flew more than 100 previously unreported sorties, including 30 against targets in the Bismarcks and Solomons.

19 March. Among 380 sorties reported, 270 were against Luzon targets. Twenty-eight B-24's bombed Japanese installations on Cebu. Light bombers and fighters supported our forces on Panay. Patrol planes sank two coastal vessels near Balikpapan; others, while attacking small shipping near Formosa and off the China coast, shot down two enemy fighters.

The I Corps advanced ten miles up the west coast of Luzon and captured Bauang after stiff fighting. In the Balete Pass area, our forces made limited gains despite strong resistance. North of Laguna de Bay, the XI Corps captured Pantay, and occupied the northwest slopes of Mount Tanauan. In Batangas, we advanced about two miles east along the southern shores of Lake Taal.

On Panay, our forces captured the Mandurriaw airfield, three miles northwest of Iloilo. Motorized patrols pushed nearly 20 miles north and northeast of this city without contact.

On Mindanao, we made limited progress northwest and northeast of Pasonanca.



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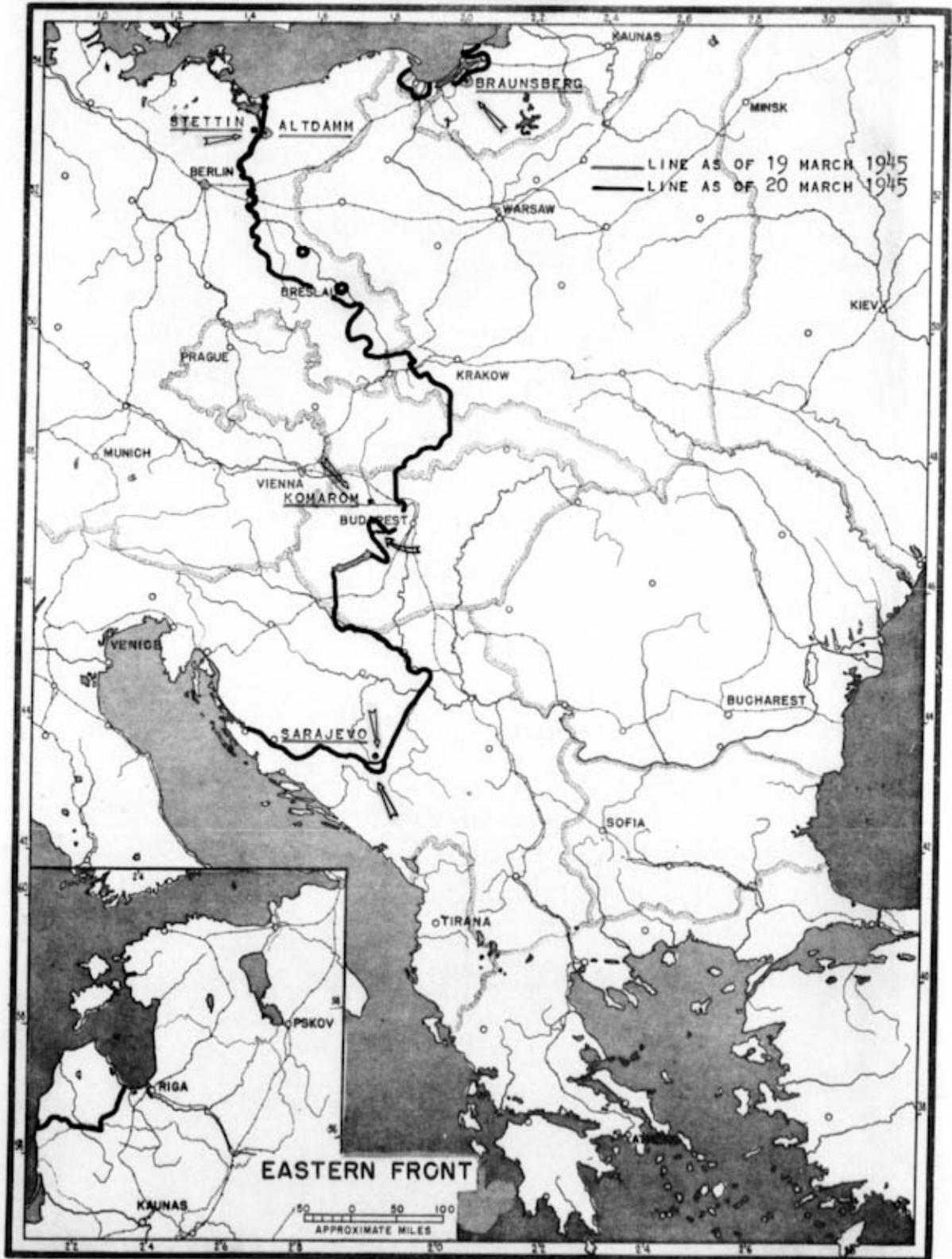
DECLASSIFIED
OBD Letter, 5-3-72

PACIFIC OCEAN AREA

17 March. Three hundred seven B-29's were employed in the previously reported attack on Kobe; three bombers are missing.

18 March. Targets on Wotje and Mille Islands in the Marshalls were bombed by 14 Marine planes; eight attacked industrial areas on Ponape.

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

EASTERN FRONT

20 March. The Soviets captured Braunsberg in East Prussia. East of Stettin the German bridgehead at Altdamm was eliminated. In Hungary the Red Army counteroffensive southeast of Komarom made substantial gains. A German counterattack advanced to within 15 miles of Sarajevo in Yugoslavia.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 1196

0700 March 19 to 0700 March 20, 1945

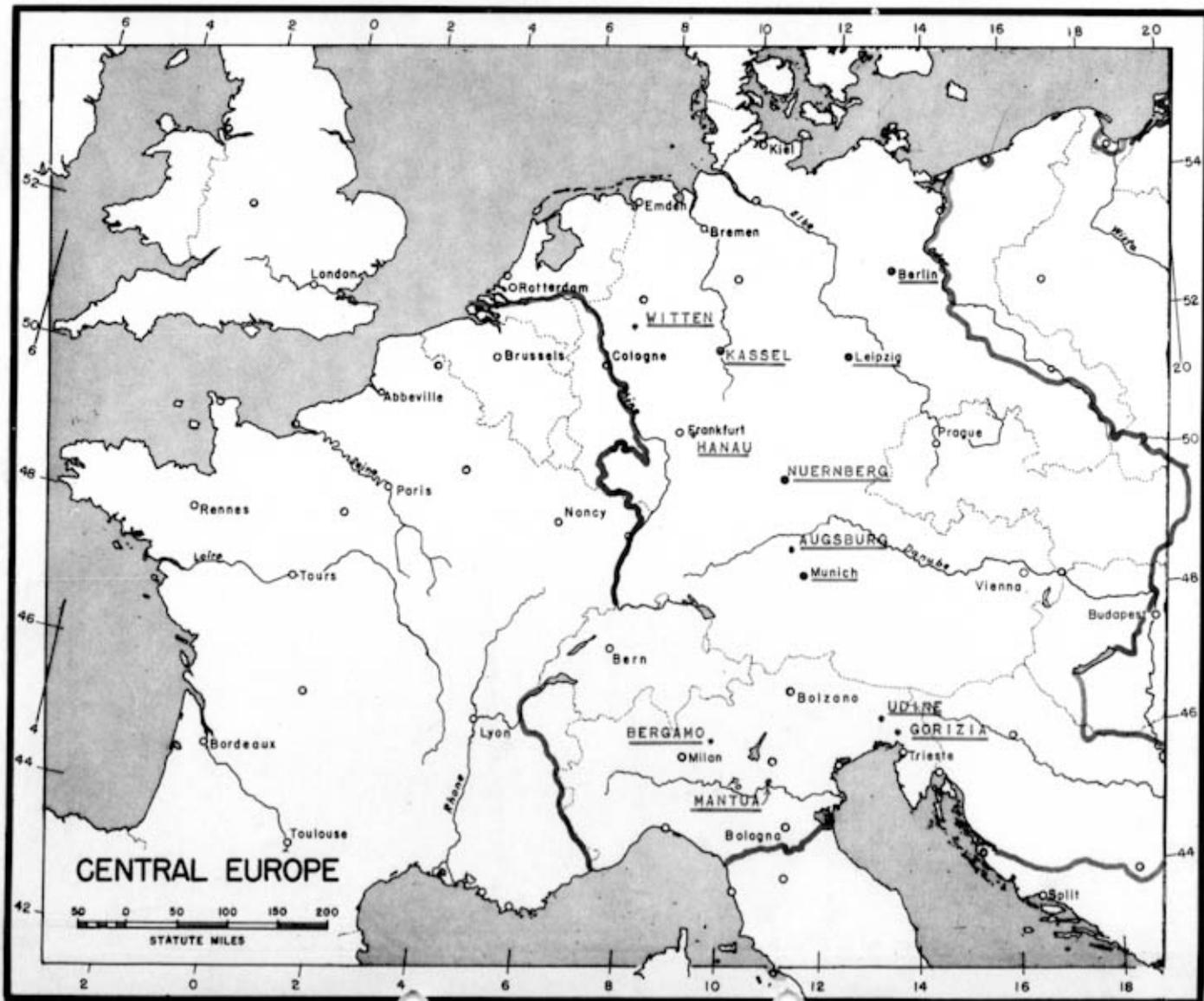
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Gap Letter, 6-8-78



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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

EUROPE AND THE MEDITERRANEAN - STRATEGIC AIR

18 March. One hundred RAF heavy bombers hit coking ovens and two benzol plants in the Ruhr. That night 580 heavy bombers with 29 Mosquitoes attacked Hanau and Witten. Thirty Mosquitoes raided Berlin and 42 others struck Kassel and Nuernberg.

19 March. The 8th Air Force dispatched 1,282 escorted heavy bombers to attack air installations and jet plane works in the Augsburg area and industrial targets south and southwest of Leipzig. Forty enemy planes were shot down. Eighty-three bombers and 15 fighters have not returned, but 22 bombers and 11 fighters of these are believed safe.

Two railyards northeast of Munich were the principal targets for 826 escorted heavy bombers of the 15th Air Force. Over 2,000 tons were dropped, a record bombload for the 15th Air Force in one day. Escorting fighters strafed ground targets. One enemy plane was shot down; our losses were one bomber and six fighters.

EUROPEAN THEATER

18 March. The Tactical Air Forces flew 4,794 sorties, dropping 2,331 tons on communication centers, bridges and railyards serving the western front. Fighters swept the entire battle area and destroyed more than 2,000 vehicles, including locomotives, rail cars, armor and motor transport. French aircraft supporting the French First Army flew 300 sorties, the largest number of sorties by the French yet reported. Attacks continued on rocket sites in Holland. Ten enemy planes were shot down; we lost 34.

During the 24-hour period ending at 0600, 11 rockets were launched against the Remagen bridgehead.

19 March. In the 24 hours to 0600, eight rockets fell in England. Antiaircraft shot down one flying bomb.

Up to noon there were no significant changes on the front of the Northern Army Group.

On the eastern flank of the Remagen bridgehead, the III Corps occupied another mile of the super-highway against strong opposition. On the northern flank, a gain of a mile was made along the east bank of the Rhine.

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-8-78

Good progress was made in the reduction of the Saar-Palatinate pocket. Bingen was captured and gains of six and three miles, respectively, were made east and south of Bad Kreuznach. Armored columns, which have driven east from the Trier-Merzig sector, gained another 13 miles reaching within five miles of other armor advancing from the north.

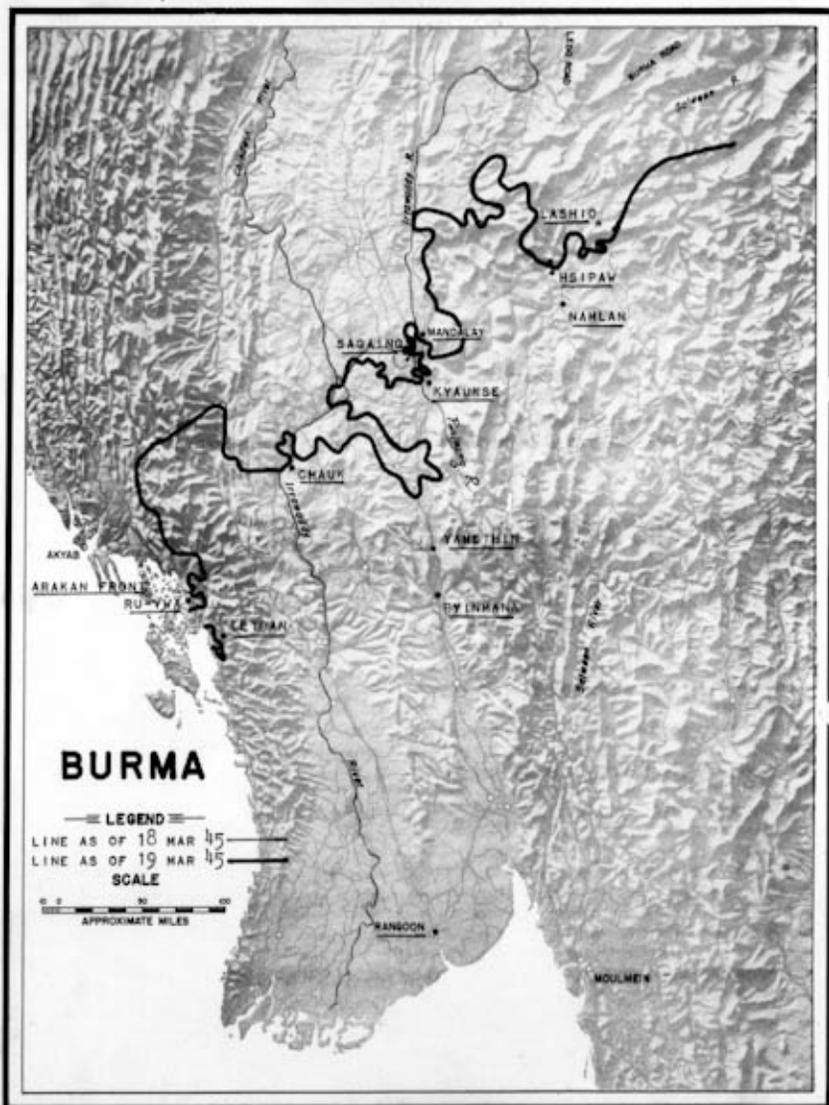
Limited gains were made through the Siegfried Line fortifications west and southeast of Zweibruecken. North of Haguenau an average gain of eight miles was made on a 25-mile front against scattered resistance. Except for stragglers, Germans have been driven from French soil in this area.

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

18 March. The Tactical Air Force flew 1,116 sorties. Medium bombers attacked railyards at Gorizia, rail bridges in the Mantua-Bergamo area and a cellulose factory south of Udine. Fighters and fighter bombers made large-scale attacks against communications throughout northern Italy, supply dumps in the Po Valley, and targets in the battle area. Seventy-eight rail cuts were effected and three bridges destroyed. Coastal and Balkan Air Force planes, in 150 sorties, attacked transportation in northwestern Italy, gun positions on islands in the northeast Adriatic, and rail lines in Yugoslavia. We lost five planes.

19 March. Only patrol clashes were reported on the battle front in northern Italy.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72



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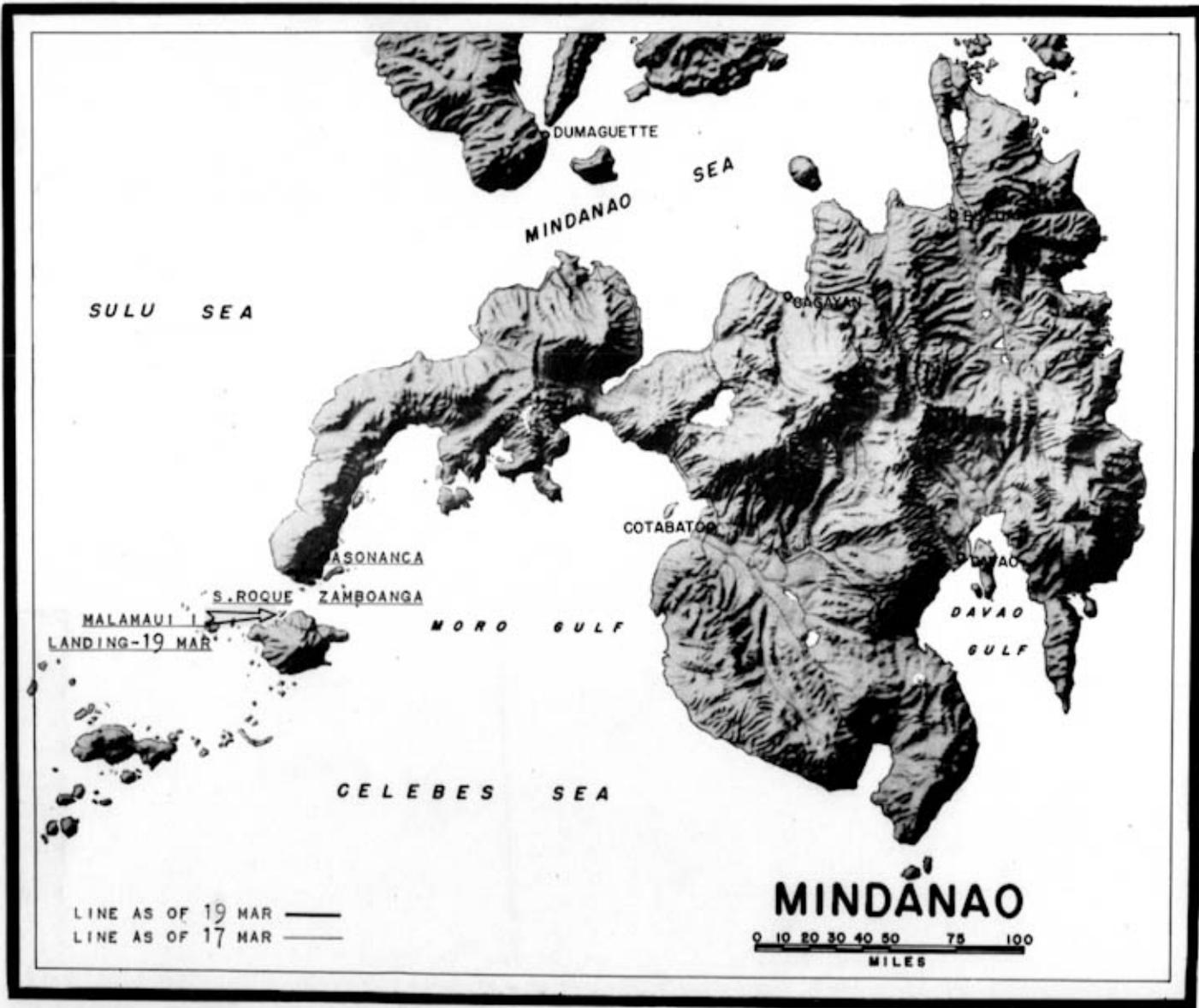
ASIATIC THEATER

17 March. The Eastern Air Command reported 2,452 sorties, of which 760 were offensive. In coordination with the superfortress attack, escorted B-24's dropped 180 tons on Rangoon supply dumps. Thirty-three mediums attacked installations on the Mandalay-Rangoon railway. Other aircraft supported ground operations and attacked targets throughout central Burma.

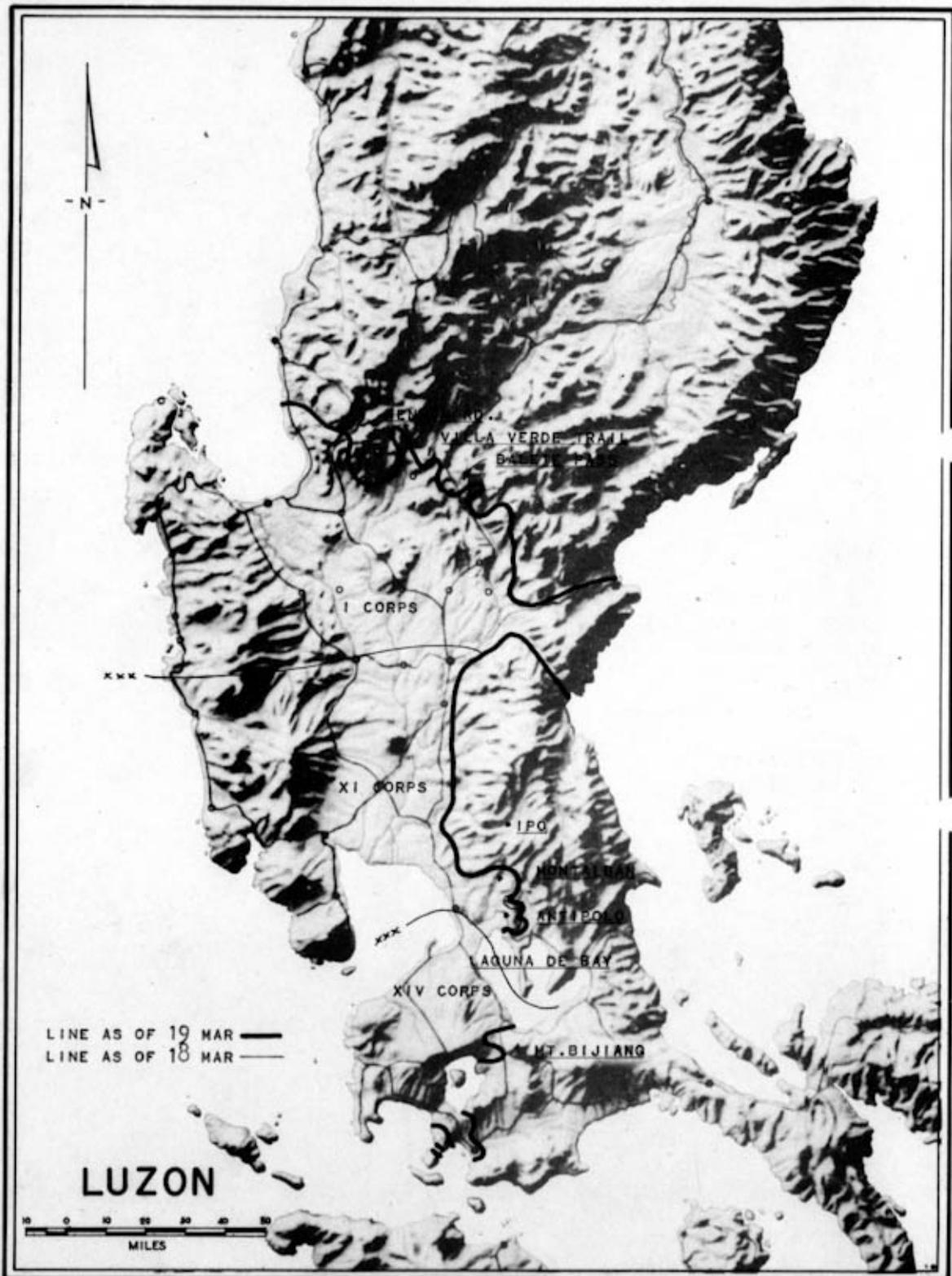
The 14th Air Force reported 15 offensive sorties. Fighters swept rail lines in east China north of the Yellow River; two B-24's mined the Yangtze.

18 March. On the Arakan, British forces expanded the Letpan beachhead five miles along the coast to the south. In the area north-east of Chauk two enemy attacks were repulsed. British troops, advancing eastward, cut the railway and main road four miles north of Kyaukse. Southeast of Sagaing, the railway and road bridge across the Irrawaddy River has collapsed. Mandalay has been completely encircled, but stubborn fighting continues within the city. The Chinese advanced another four miles down the Lashio-Hsipaw road. Limited progress was made west of Hsipaw after heavy fighting.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72



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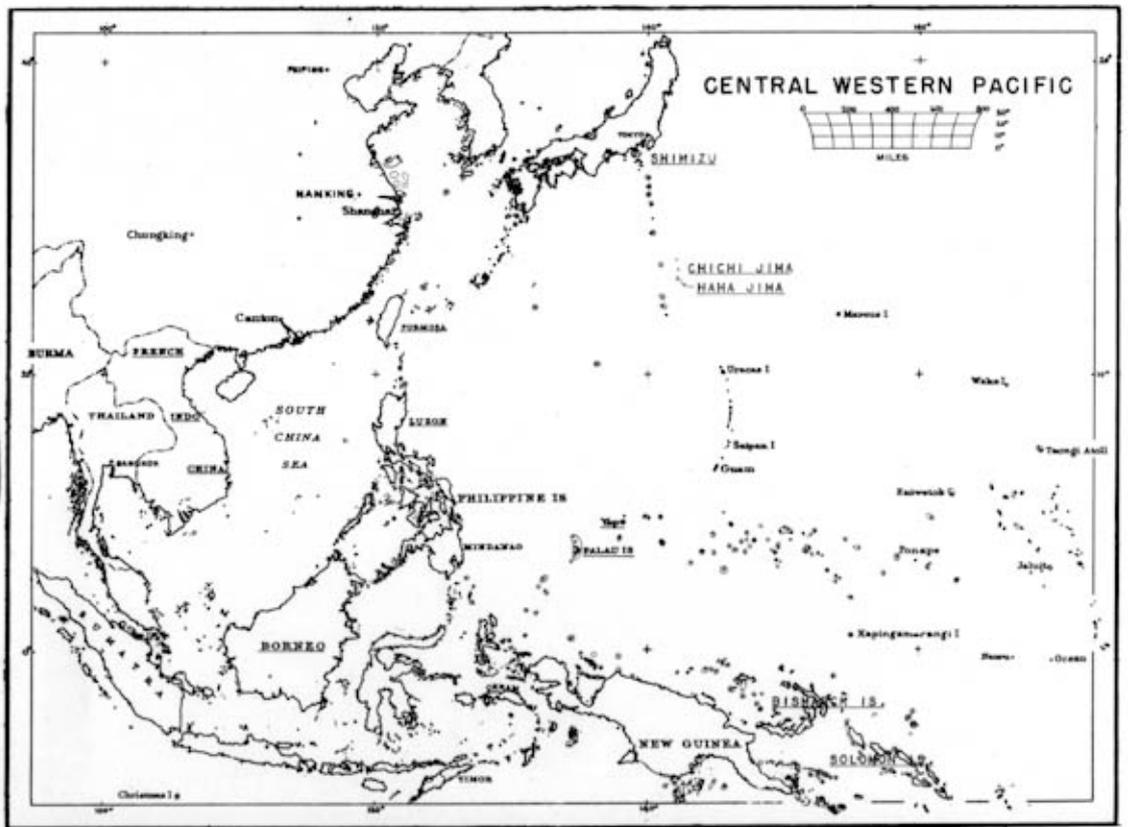
SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA

17 March. One hundred fifty-nine previously unreported sorties were flown, of which 87 were over the Bismarcks and Solomons. Thirteen heavy bombers struck targets near Zamboanga and on Panay.

18 March. Among more than 520 sorties reported, 360 swept northern Luzon and supported our ground forces to the south. Forty-eight B-24's bombed airfields and a seaplane base on Formosa. Forty-eight other heavy bombers exploded ammunition dumps on Luzon north of Montalban, and dropped 75 tons on Borneo airfields. Twenty-four light bombers supported landing operations on Panay. In the Formosa and French Indo-China areas two enemy planes were shot down and hits were scored on two coastal vessels.

On Luzon, our I Corps attacked strong positions on the Kennon Road and Villa Verde Trail. A five-mile gain was made in the mountains southeast of Balete Pass. Heavy fighting continued on the high ground east and northeast of Antipolo where we recaptured a hill position from which an enemy attack had forced our withdrawal the preceding day. South of Laguna de Bay, we met continued stubborn resistance in attacks on Mt. Bijiang. On Panay, we advanced east along the coast to Arevalo and made minor contacts north of Tigbauan and at Cordova.

On Mindanao, our forces met strong resistance north and northwest of Pasonanca and repulsed small counterattacks northwest of San Roque. A small landing force occupied Malamaui Island, off northern Basilan.



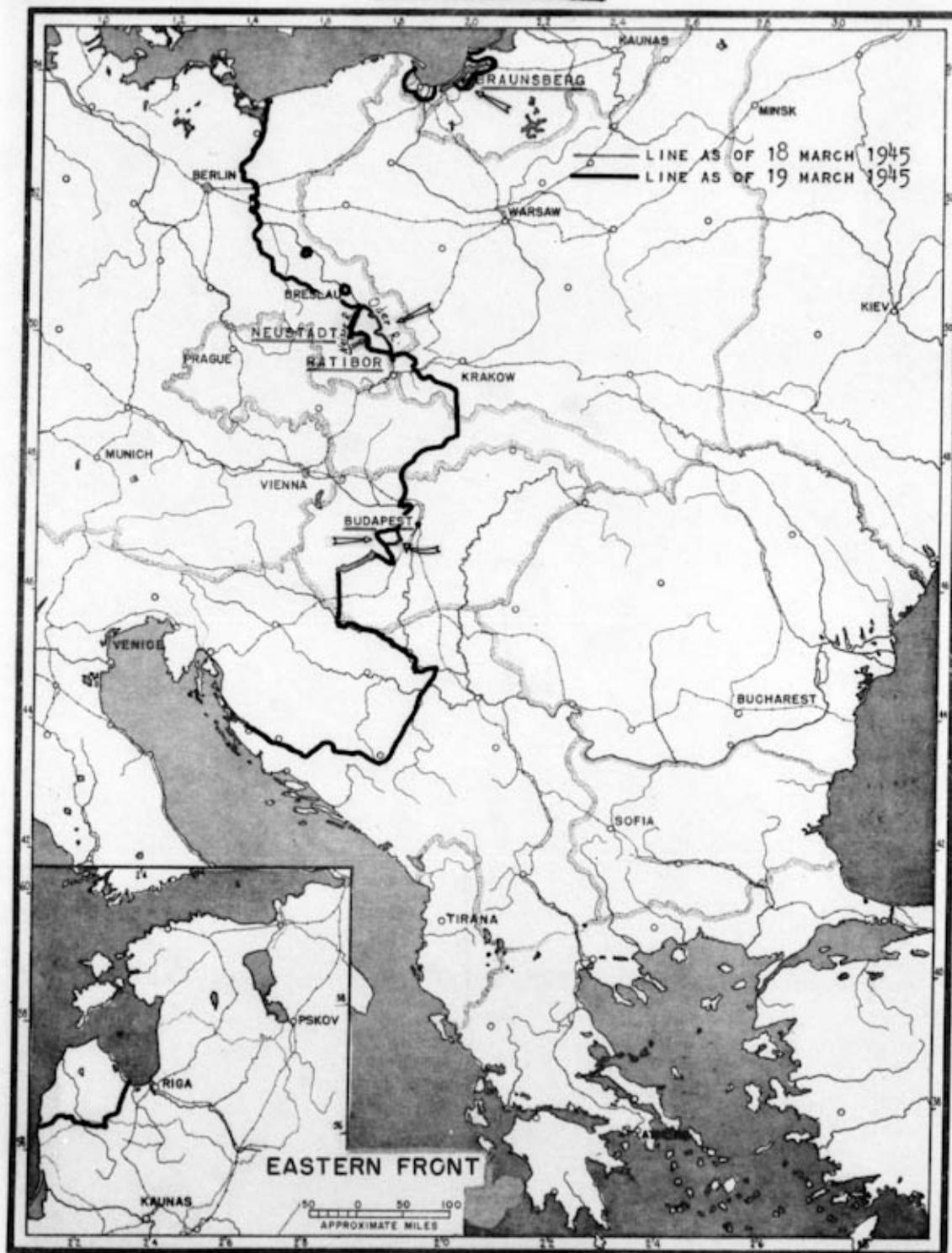
DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 0-9-78

PACIFIC OCEAN AREA

16 March. Five B-24's attacked air installations on Chichi Jima.

17 March. Sixteen B-24's continued attacks on Chichi Jima air installations.

18 March. Fourteen B-24's bombed Chichi Jima airfields and one other raided Haha Jima. Sixty-six Navy fighters and torpedo bombers attacked Yap and the Palaus; sixteen Iwo-based fighters raided Chichi Jima.



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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 6-3-72

EASTERN FRONT

19 March. In East Prussia, Soviet troops closed to within two miles of Braunsberg. In upper Silesia the Russians were reported to have launched an attack along the Neisse River and in the Oder bridgehead north of Ratibor. Gains up to 25 miles were made; one spearhead reaching Neustadt. In Hungary, the Red Army gained 15 miles southwest of Budapest.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-78

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 1195

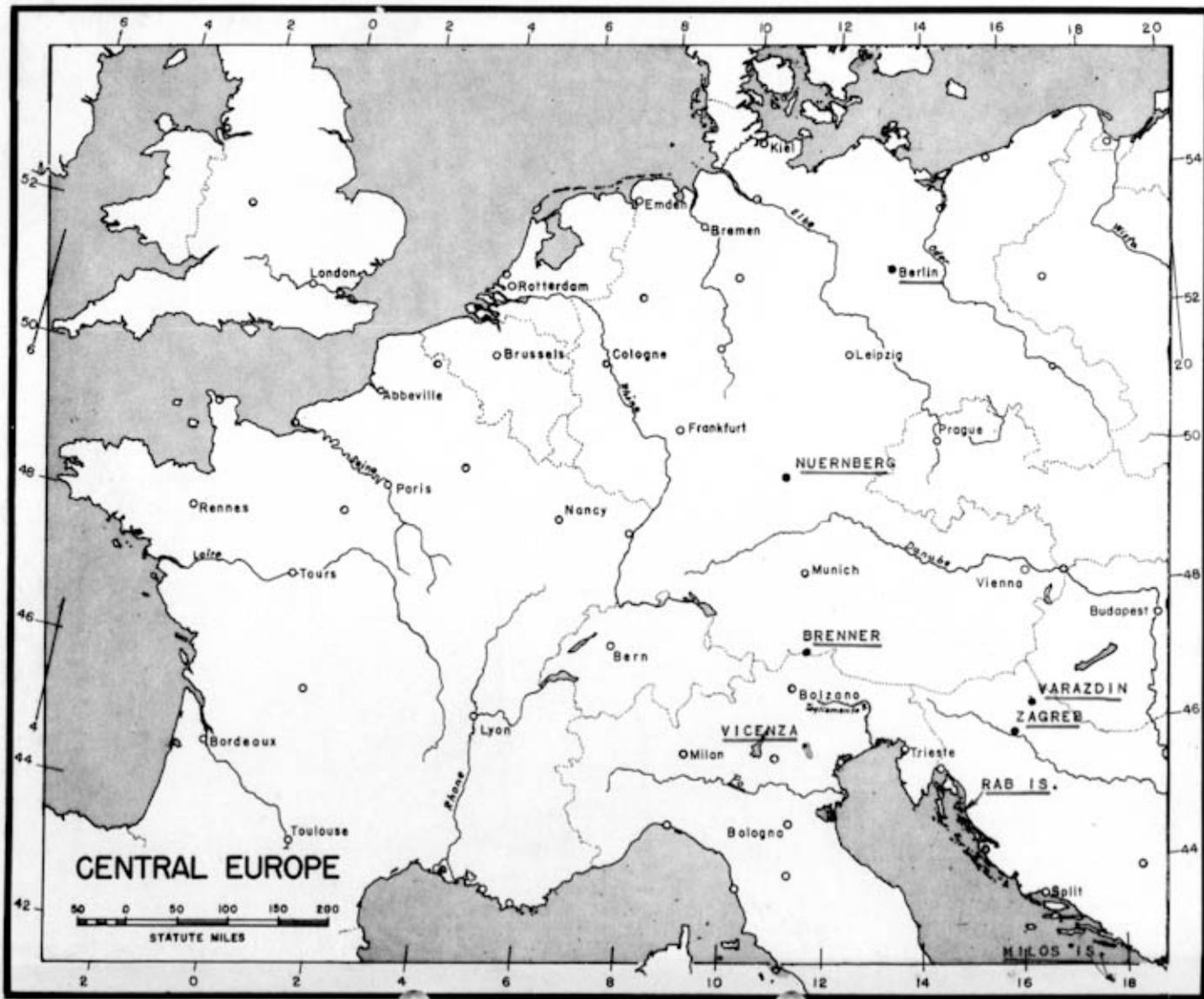
0700 March 18 to 0700 March 19, 1945

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THE WHITE HOUSE

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

TOP SECRET

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

19 March. One medium bomber attacked targets on the Torishima Islands, east of Paramashiro, and two B-24's bombed Matsuwa.

EUROPE AND THE MEDITERRANEAN - STRATEGIC AIR

17 March. A total of 161 RAF heavy bombers struck two benzol plants in the Ruhr. That night 39 Mosquito bombers raided Nuernberg while 38 others continued the nightly raids on Berlin.

18 March. Unfavorable route weather prevented 15th Air Force bomber operations, but 194 fighters bombed the Varazdin rail bridge, north of Zagreb, and strafed rail lines in northern Yugoslavia and Austria. Two enemy aircraft were shot down; we lost seven.

During the night 71 B-24's struck railyards at Vicenza.

The 8th Air Force dispatched 1,321 escorted heavy bombers to attack rail centers and industrial works in the Berlin area in the largest daylight attack of the war against the Reich capital. Fighters shot down 14 enemy planes. Twenty-nine bombers and nine fighters have not returned.

EUROPEAN THEATER

17 March. The Tactical Air Forces flew 2,794 sorties. Medium and light bombers dropped 1,800 tons on railway and communication centers east of the Remagen bridgehead, with lesser tonnages falling upon similar targets north of the Ruhr and east of the Saar. Fighters flew armed reconnaissance along the entire front and attacked rocket sites and traffic in Holland. Four enemy planes were shot down; we lost 13.

In the 24 hours to 0600, one rocket and one flying bomb fell in Antwerp, and four rockets and 17 flying bombs fell in adjacent areas. Antiaircraft destroyed 17 other flying bombs.

18 March. By 0600, ten rockets fell in England. The flying bomb attack against England was renewed and five of the missiles were plotted. However, all that made landfall were shot down by anti-aircraft fire.

Up to noon there were no significant changes on the front of the Northern Group of Armies.

In the Remagen bridgehead we advanced a mile southward against light opposition between the Rhine and Wied Rivers. On the northern and eastern flanks, determined resistance limited progress, but we gained a mile on each flank.

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-8-78

Three-fourths of Koblenz has been cleared. South of the city, our XII Corps extended its holdings on the west bank of the Rhine, capturing St Goar and Oberwesel. The base of our penetration was extended 13 miles southwest along the Moselle; the point of our spearhead was extended and broadened south of the Nahe River. Southeast of Trier, XX Corps armor drove 12 miles to the east and is within 15 miles of the troops to the north.

Advances of from five to eight miles were made on the entire front of our Seventh Army from a point ten miles due east of Saarbruecken to the Rhine River. Siegfried Line defenses have been pierced south of Zweibruecken and resistance has virtually collapsed between the Rhine River and the Hardt Mountains.

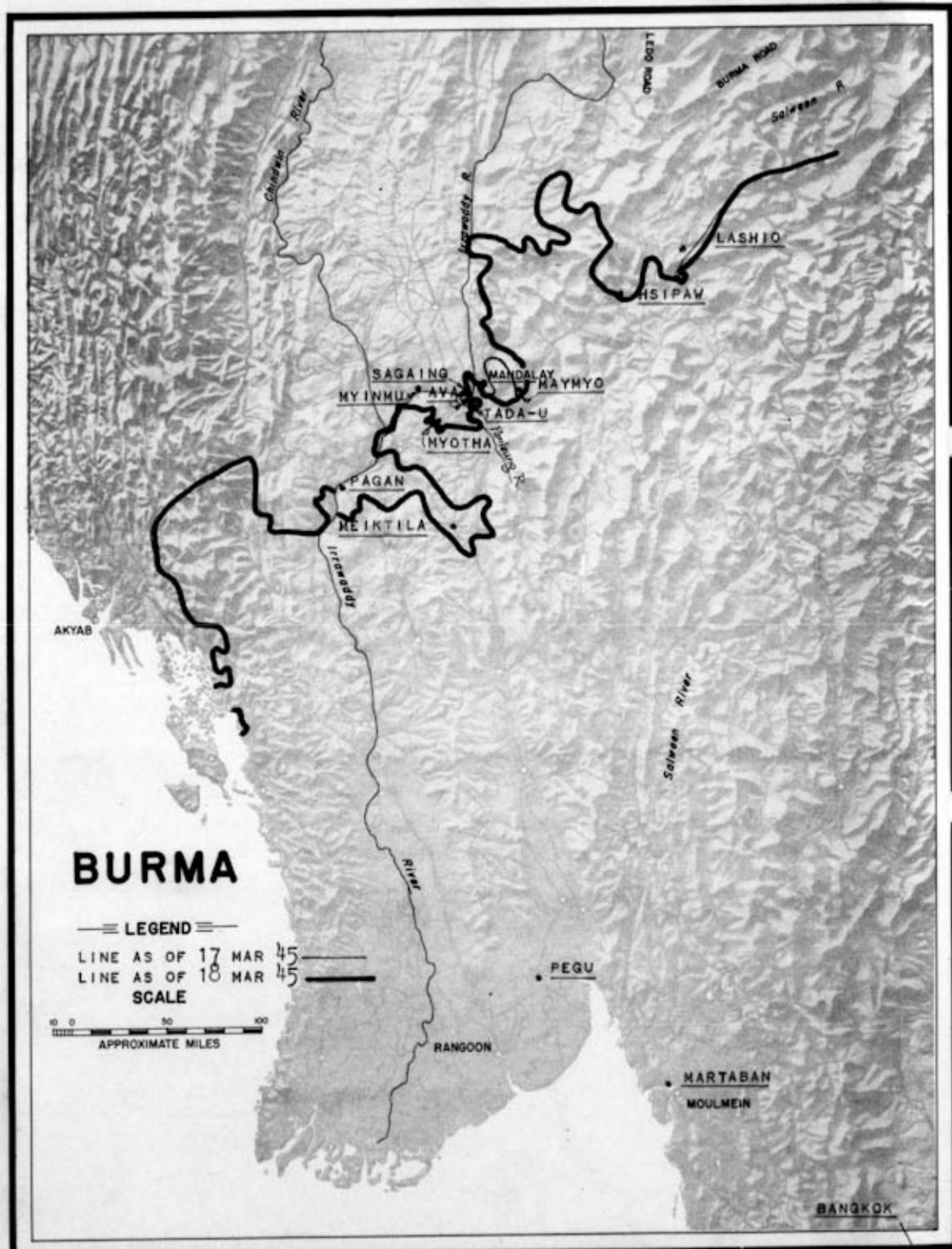
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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 6-8-78

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

17 March. Weather limited the Tactical Air Force to 453 sorties. Principal attacks were against bridges on the Brenner Route and in the Po Valley. Coastal Air Force planes, flying 68 sorties, effected 24 rocket hits on lock gates in the Tagliamento River estuary in the northern Adriatic. During 76 sorties, the Balkan Air Force attacked transportation in Yugoslavia and gun positions on Rab and Milos Islands.

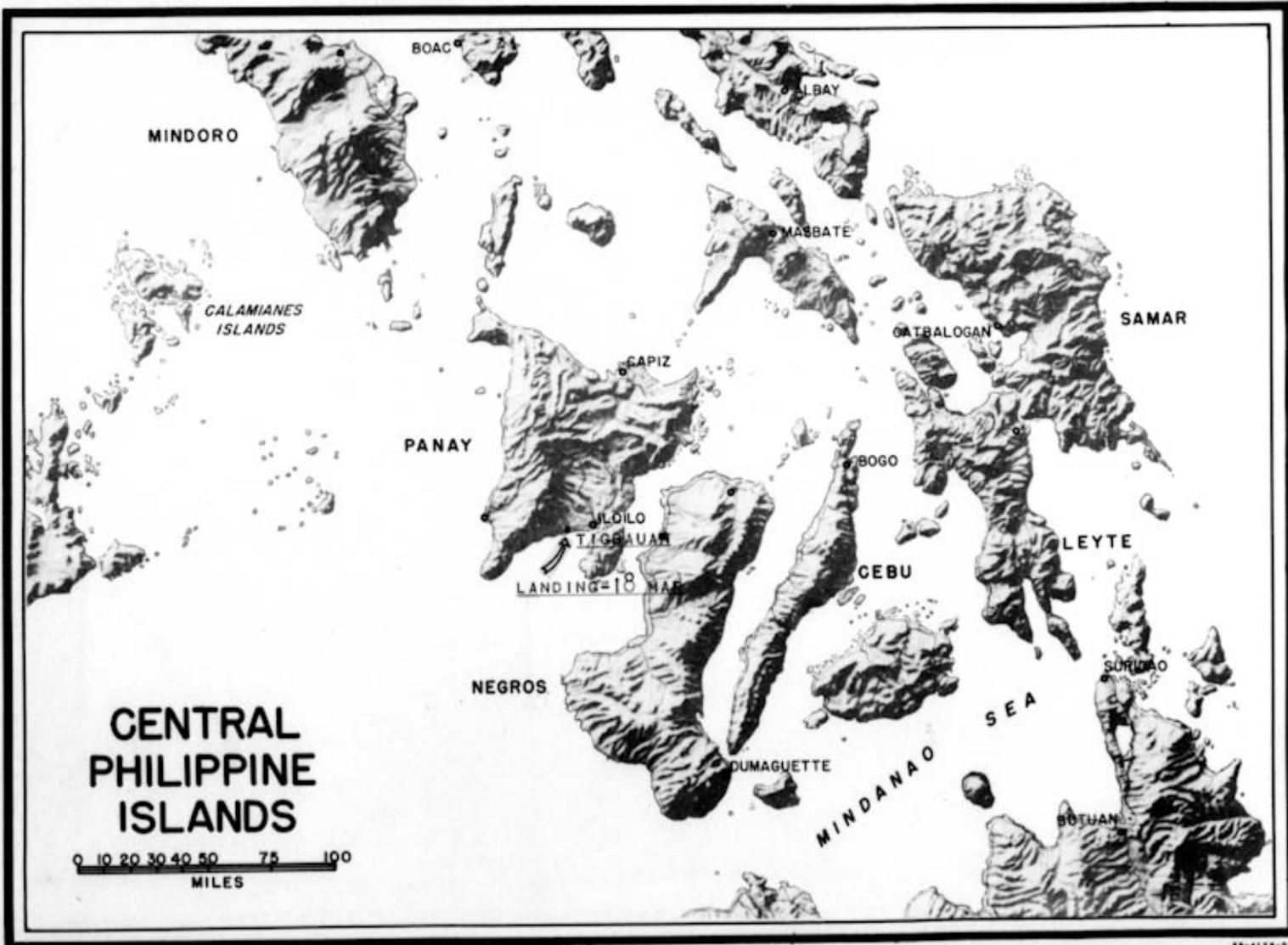
18 March. Only patrolling and artillery exchanges were reported along the battle front in northern Italy.



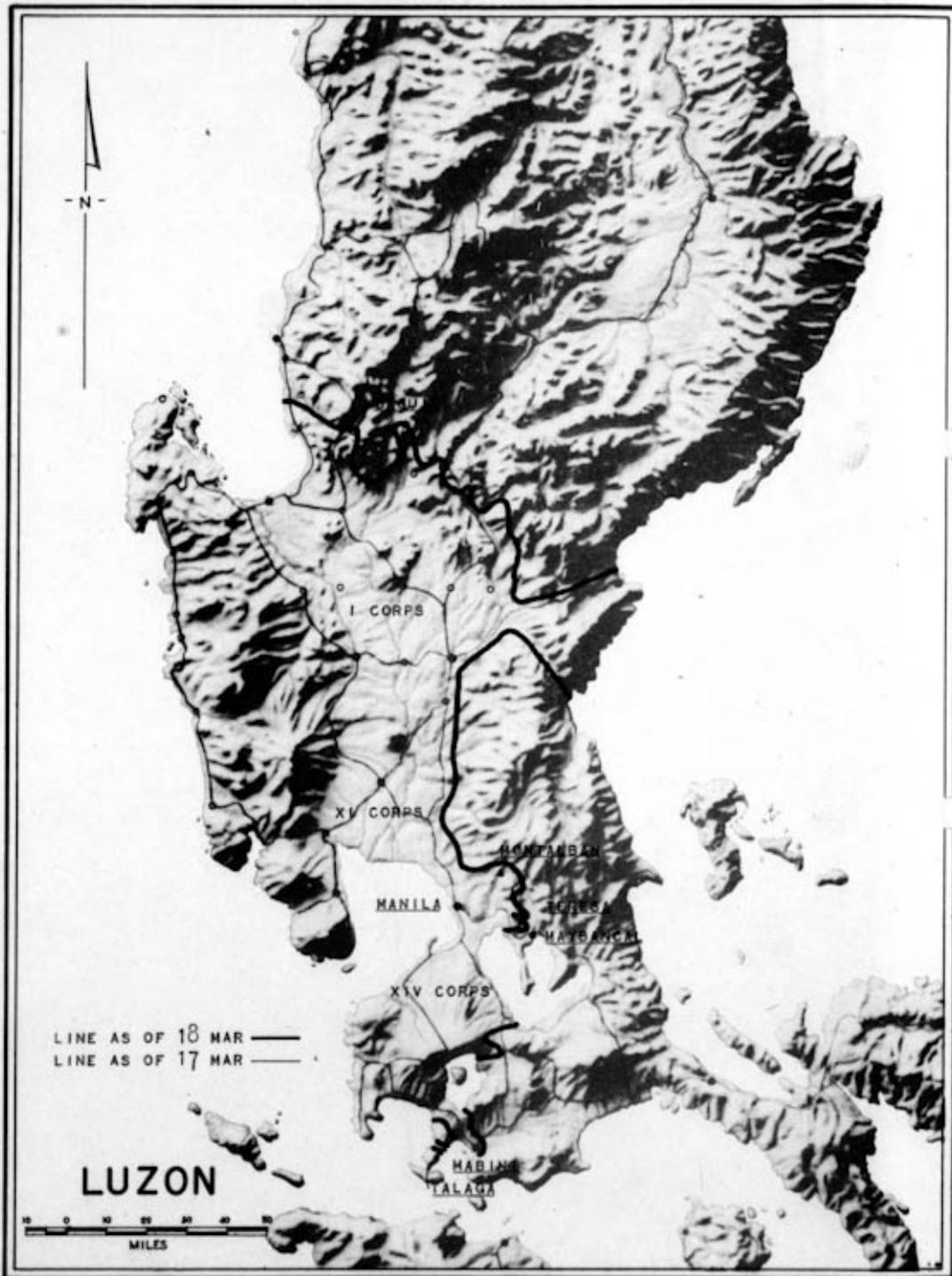
ASIATIC THEATER

15 and 16 March. The Eastern Air Command flew 5,605 sorties, of which 1,634 were offensive. Forty fighters participated in the previously reported attack on an airfield north of Bangkok, flying 1,500 miles round trip. One plane was lost over the target. Twelve B-24's attacked rail bridges in south Burma. Medium bombers and fighters continued attacks on enemy positions, supplies and bridges.

17 March. In the Myinma bridgehead, three-mile gains were registered west and south of Myotha. A two-mile advance was made east of the Panlaung River, and Allied troops entered Ava north of Tada-u. North of the Irrawaddy, a column pushed into the outskirts of Sagaing. Some progress was made in clearing Mandalay but opposition still remains stubborn. British patrols from the area south of Mandalay have made contact with other patrols from Maymyo. The Chinese gained over two miles south of Lashio and repulsed a counter-attack near Hsipaw.



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OSD Letter, 5-3-78



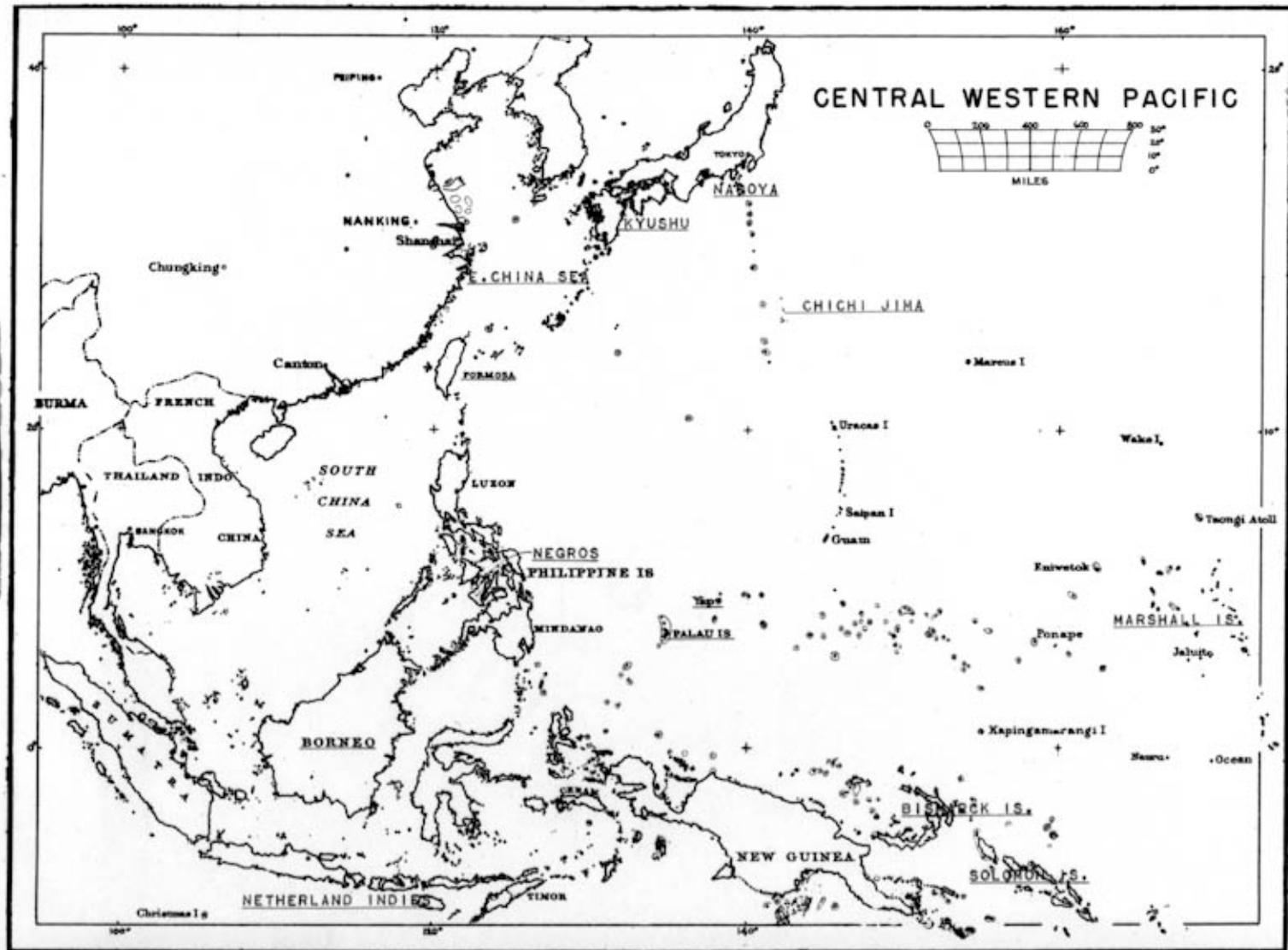
SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA

16 March. More than 580 previously unreported sorties were flown, including 71 over the Bismarcks and Solomons. Eighty B-24's struck two airdromes and a town on Formosa, and 12 others hit airfields on Negros. About 360 of the aircraft supported ground operations on Luzon. A coastal vessel was sunk in the Netherland Indies.

17 March. Among 820 sorties flown, 480 planes supported Luzon ground operations. Eighty-three heavy bombers hit airdromes and other targets on Formosa, setting fire to at least eight grounded planes. Twenty-six other B-24's attacked Borneo, destroying a grounded bomber and sinking a vessel off the coast. Search planes left a 4,000-ton vessel afire in the East China Sea. Two enemy planes were shot down.

The I Corps continued to meet strong resistance to its advance through the hills south of Baguio. East of Manila, we seized high ground five miles southeast of Montalban. Other units made limited progress east and northeast of Teresa. Communique reports that our troops landed at Talaga on the Calumpan Peninsula and pushed northward to Mabini, where a Japanese counterattack was repulsed.

18 March. US forces landed at 0905 on southern Panay, following preliminary Naval bombardment, and entered Tigbauan. No opposition was reported.



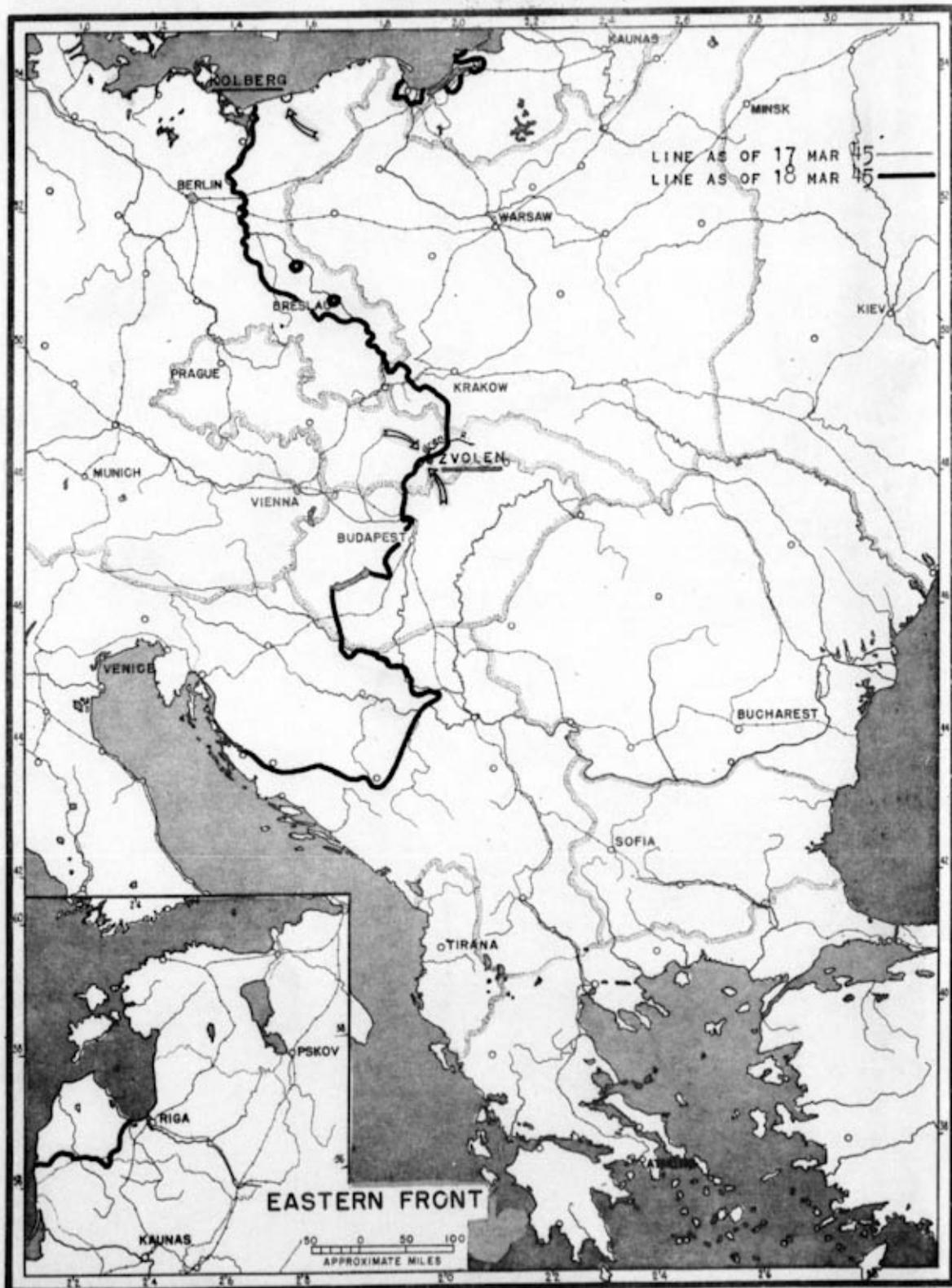
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PACIFIC OCEAN AREA

14 March. Eleven B-24's attacked air installations on Chichi Jima.

15 March. B-24's attacked Chichi Jima. Navy and Marine planes continued neutralizing raids on the Marshalls, and other Marine aircraft attacked Yap and the Palaus.

19 March. Preliminary reports indicate that formations totalling approximately 290 B-29's attacked Nagoya. Results were reported as good to excellent with huge fires in the center of the city.



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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

EASTERN FRONT

18 March. Soviet and Polish forces captured the port of Kolberg.
In Czechoslovakia the Red Army reached the Gran River west of Zvolen.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 1194

0700 March 17 to 0700 March 18, 1945

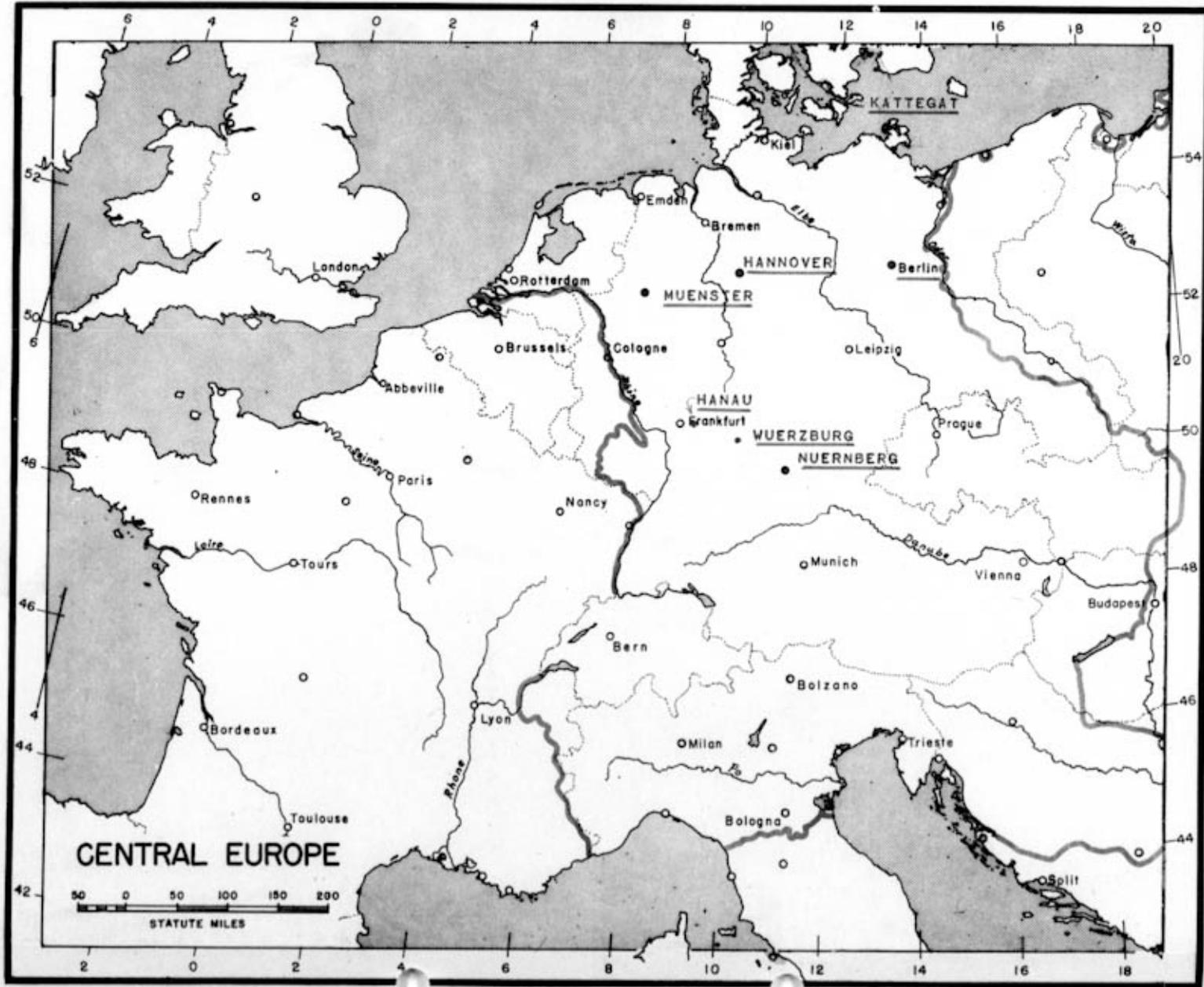
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OSD Letter, 5-8-78

EUROPE AND THE MEDITERRANEAN - STRATEGIC AIR

16 March. During the night, 294 RAF heavy and Mosquito bombers attacked Nuernberg; 223 others hit Wuerzburg. Fifty Mosquitoes raided Berlin and 24 additional ones made a feint attack on Hanau. Twenty-three heavy bombers mined the Kattegat. Two enemy planes were destroyed; 31 bombers are missing.

17 March. Synthetic oil refineries in central Germany and industrial works and rail targets in the Hannover and Muenster areas were the principal targets for 1,327 escorted 8th Air Force heavy bombers. Seventeen bombers and 11 fighters are outstanding of which 14 bombers and 10 fighters are believed safe on the Continent.

Heavy bomber operations by the 15th Air Force were cancelled due to weather, but 98 fighters attacked communication targets in Yugoslavia.

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

16 March. Two Aleutian-based B-24's bombed Shimushiru.

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-8-78

EUROPEAN THEATER

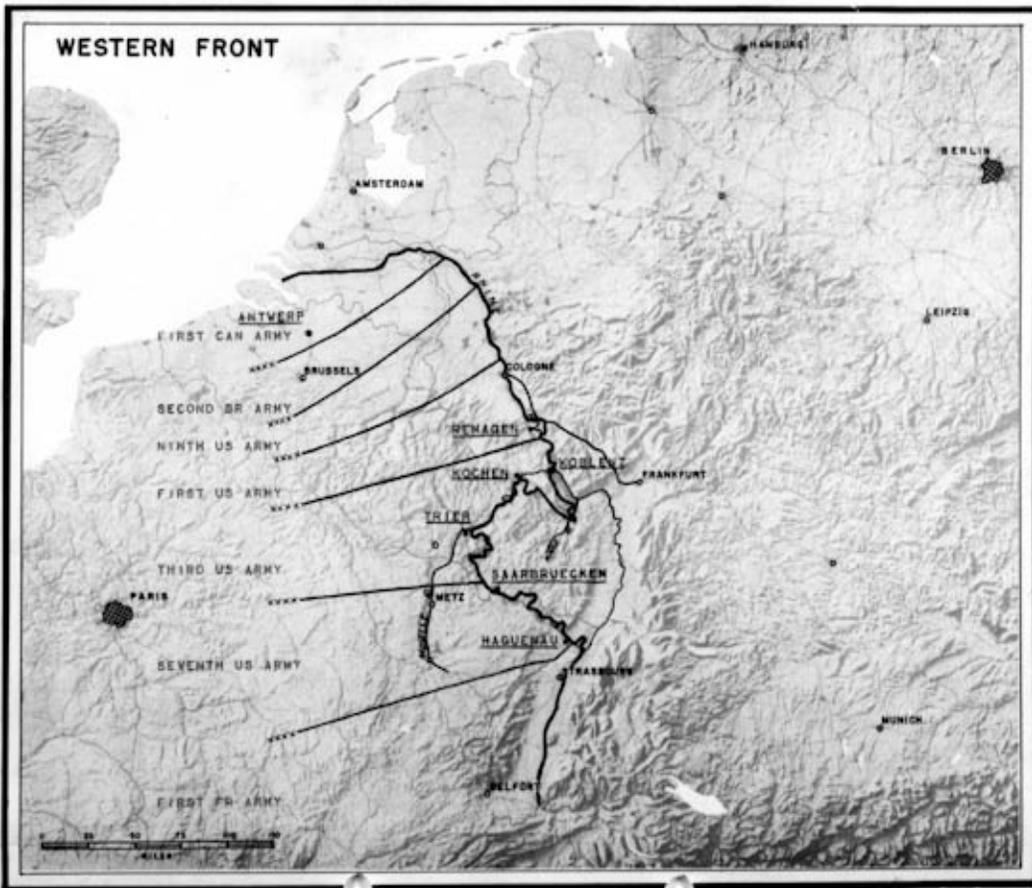
16 March. By sunset, the Tactical Air Forces, despite bad weather, flew over 3,100 sorties. Railyards, barracks, communications, bridges and defended areas were attacked with nearly 1,900 tons of bombs. The principal weight of these attacks fell south of the Moselle River in support of our Third and Seventh Armies offensives. During the day 121 locomotives, over 700 rail cars and 880 vehicles were reported destroyed. Twenty enemy aircraft were destroyed; we lost 25 planes.

In the 24-hour period ending at 0600, nine rockets and six flying bombs fell near Antwerp. Three other flying bombs were destroyed by antiaircraft fire.

17 March. During the 24-hour period ending at 0600, nine rockets fell in the London and Essex areas.

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WESTERN FRONT



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GSD Letter, 8-3-78

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RECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

17 March. In our Remagen bridgehead a one mile advance was made on the southern flank against light opposition. Despite heavy opposition on the eastern and northern flanks, we gained a mile to the north, and consolidated our hold across the super highway. The center span of the Remagen railroad bridge collapsed today; this section was damaged by original German attempts to destroy the bridge. The loss of this bridge will not interrupt our build-up because sufficient floating bridges are in operation.

According to a late communique, Third Army units have virtually cleared the city of Koblenz. South of the Moselle, US XII Corps, expanding the shoulders of its bridgehead, reached the Rhine on the northeast and advanced eight miles to the southwest. The point of our armored spearhead crossed the Nahe River and advanced four miles beyond. Another bridgehead across the Moselle, south of Kochen, was deepened by two miles. Southeast of Trier, a general advance of about three miles was made on a 20-mile front. East of Saarbruecken, we pushed forward a maximum of seven miles. The VI Corps gained about four miles northwest of Haguenau; southeast of the town French units advanced about five miles.

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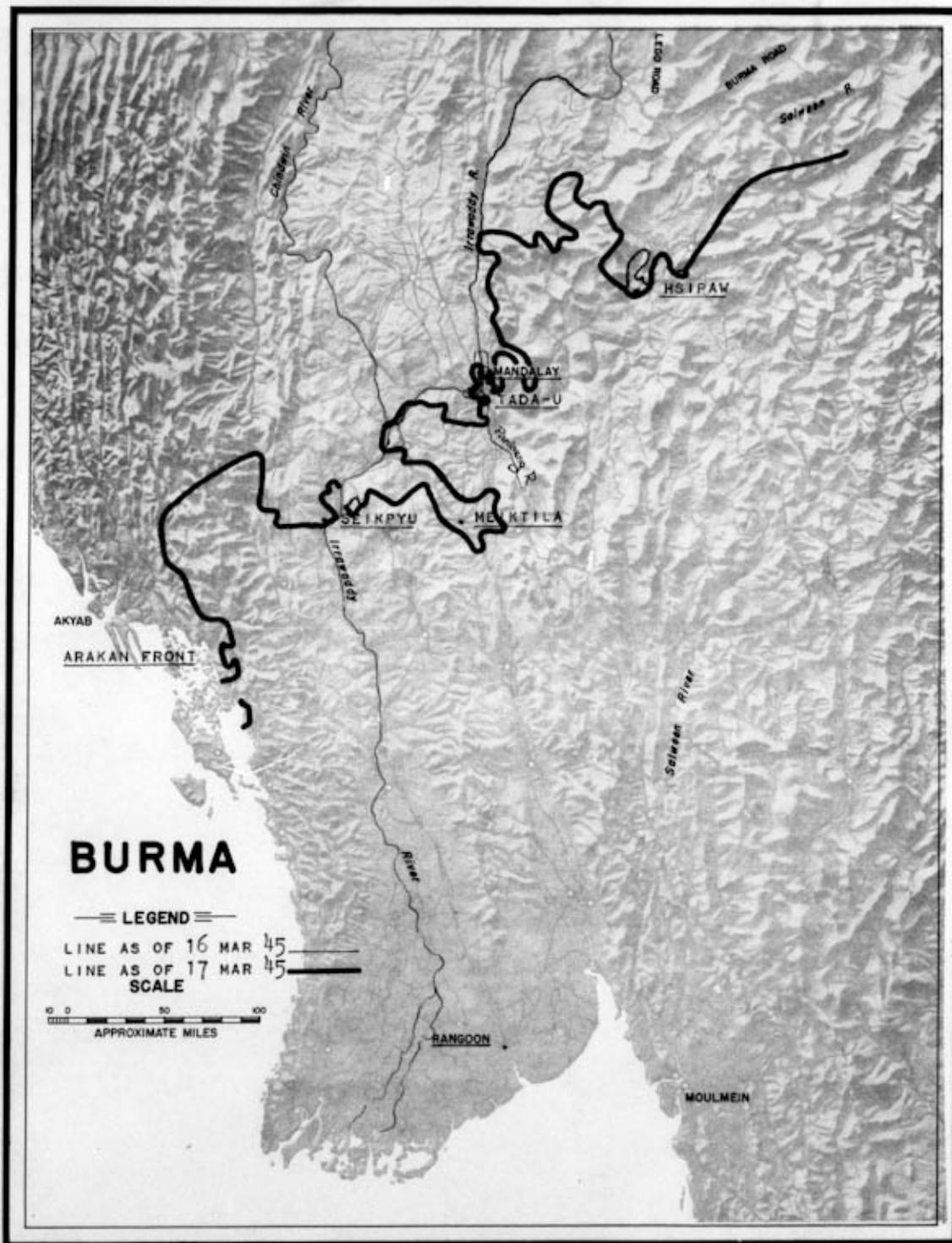
DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

16 March. During the 24-hour period ending at 1800, the Tactical Air Force reported 845 sorties. Medium bombers concentrated on rail targets in northern Italy and Austria, while fighters ranged throughout northern Italy, Austria, and northern Yugoslavia attacking communications, supply dumps, and bridges. We lost three aircraft.

17 March. There were no significant changes on the Italian battlefront.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

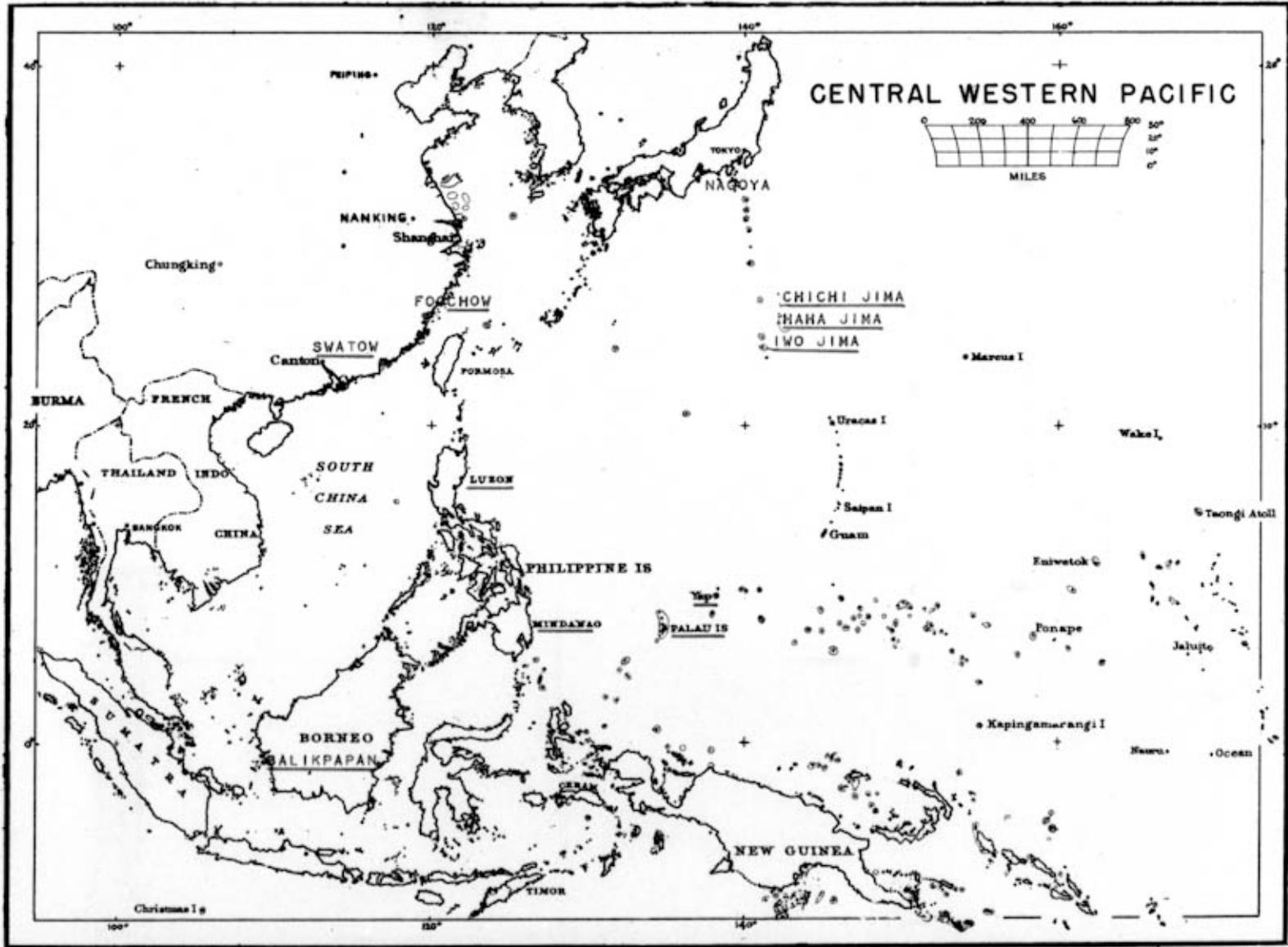
ASIATIC THEATER

15 March. Heavy bombers of the 14th Air Force attacked shipping in the Tongking Gulf and the South China Sea. Fighters flew sweeps over rail lines in eastern China. We lost one fighter.

16 March. Among forty-two offensive sorties reported, 32 escorted heavy bombers attacked a railyard near Chengting, on the Peking-Kaifeng railroad.

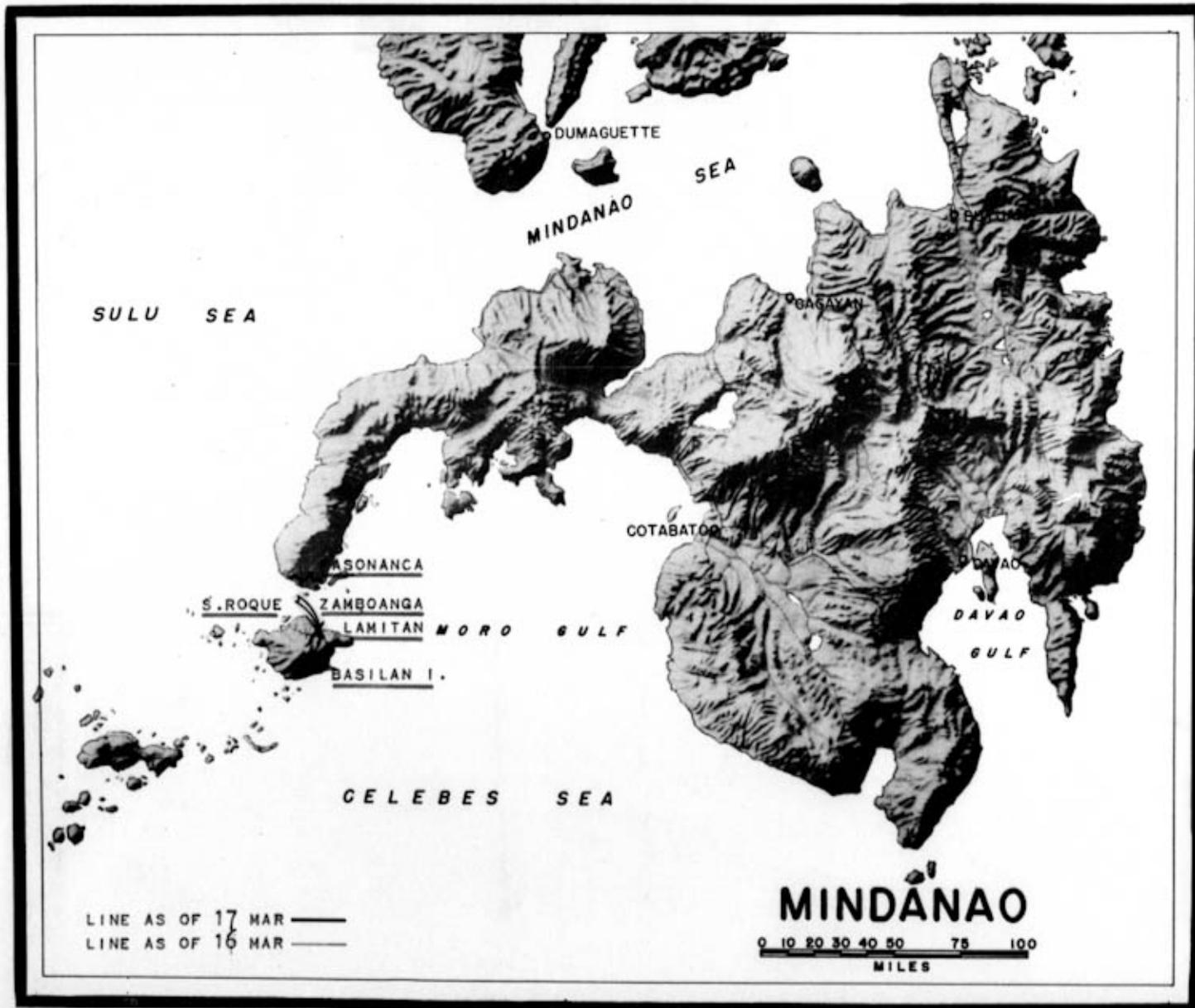
Chinese forces entered Hsipaw without opposition. British units continued to encounter stubborn resistance in Mandalay, but gains of five miles were reported south and southeast of the city. An artillery supported Japanese counterattack against the Meiktila airstrip was repulsed. Allied units advancing four miles, crossed the Panlaung River, south of Tada-u. Another British advance, in the Seikpyu area, gained ten miles.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

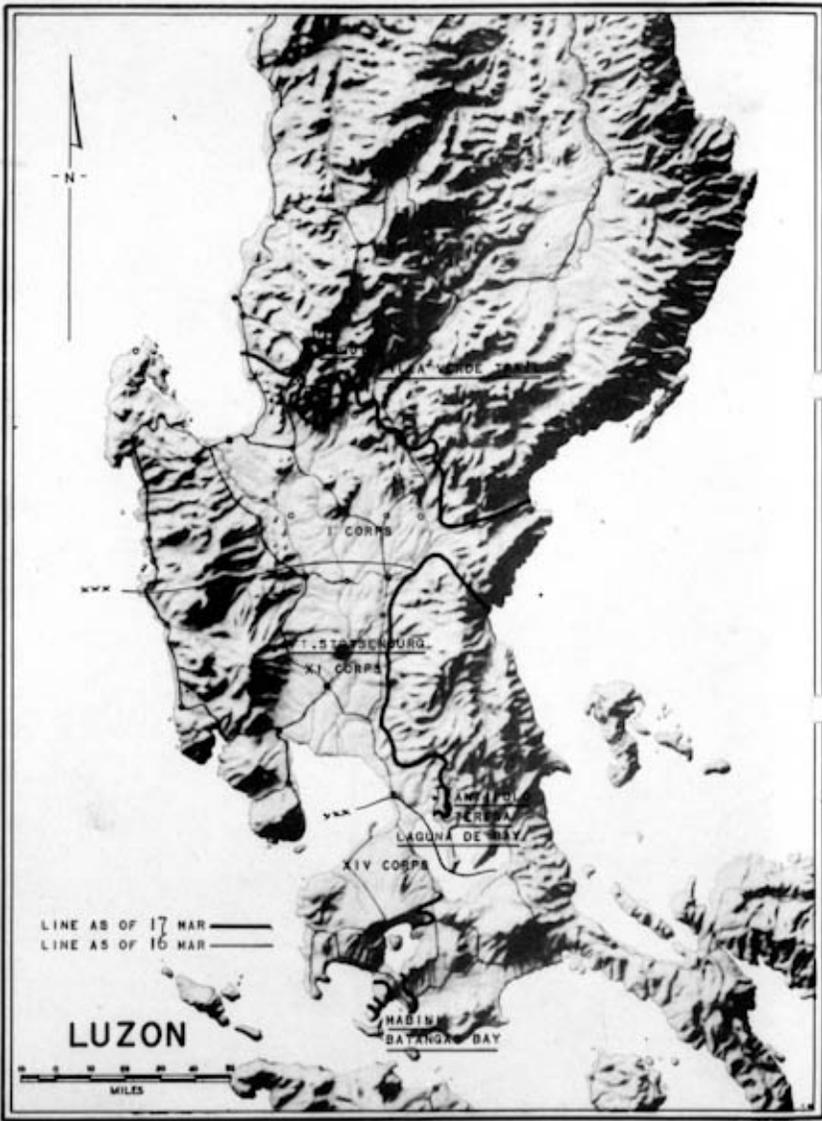
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DSR letter, 5-3-72



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O&D Letter, 6-3-72

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SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA

15 March. More than 470 additional sorties were flown in the Southwest Pacific Area. Patrol planes destroyed a coastal vessel east of Foochow and set fire to a destroyer and a destroyer escort near Swatow. Ground support was given our forces on Luzon by 320 planes. One enemy plane was shot down; we lost three.

16 March. More than 340 sorties were reported. Heavy and medium bombers attacked targets on Mindanao and supported our ground troops near Zamboanga. B-24's attacked airdromes and small shipping in Borneo and targets in the Balikpapan area; escorting fighters shot down four of five intercepting fighters.

The I Corps continued to encounter heavy opposition in their advance towards Baguio and along the Villa Verde Trail. East of Manila, we occupied Teresa and pushed three and a half miles northeast of Antipolo. Our forces on southern Luzon captured Mabini on Batangas Bay. On Mindanao, we attacked a strong enemy line north of Pasonanca; several counterattacks were repulsed in the San Roque area. Our forces made a small unopposed landing at Lamitan on Basilan Island, due south of Zamboanga.



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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

EASTERN FRONT

17 March. The Soviets continued their slow advance southwest of Koenigsberg despite unfavorable weather. On the Stettin front, the Soviets made minor gains. Red Army units have penetrated into the eastern part of Breslau. The Germans are now attempting to supply the city by air.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 1193

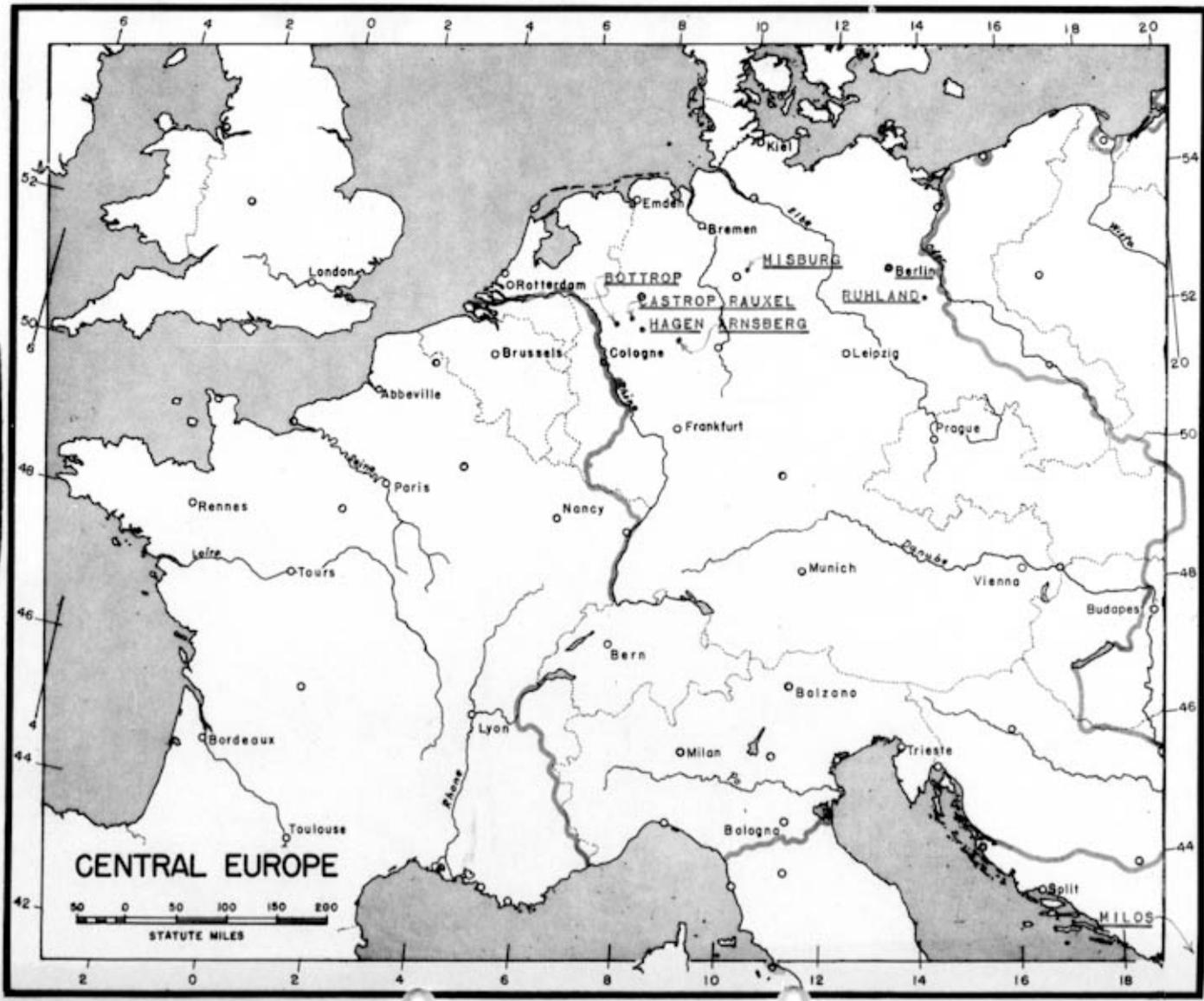
0700 March 16 to 0700 March 17, 1945

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 6-8-72

EUROPE AND THE MEDITERRANEAN - STRATEGIC AIR

15 March. One hundred sixty-two RAF heavy bombers attacked benzol plants at Bottrop and Castrop Rauxel and the rail viaduct at Arnsberg; one bomber was lost.

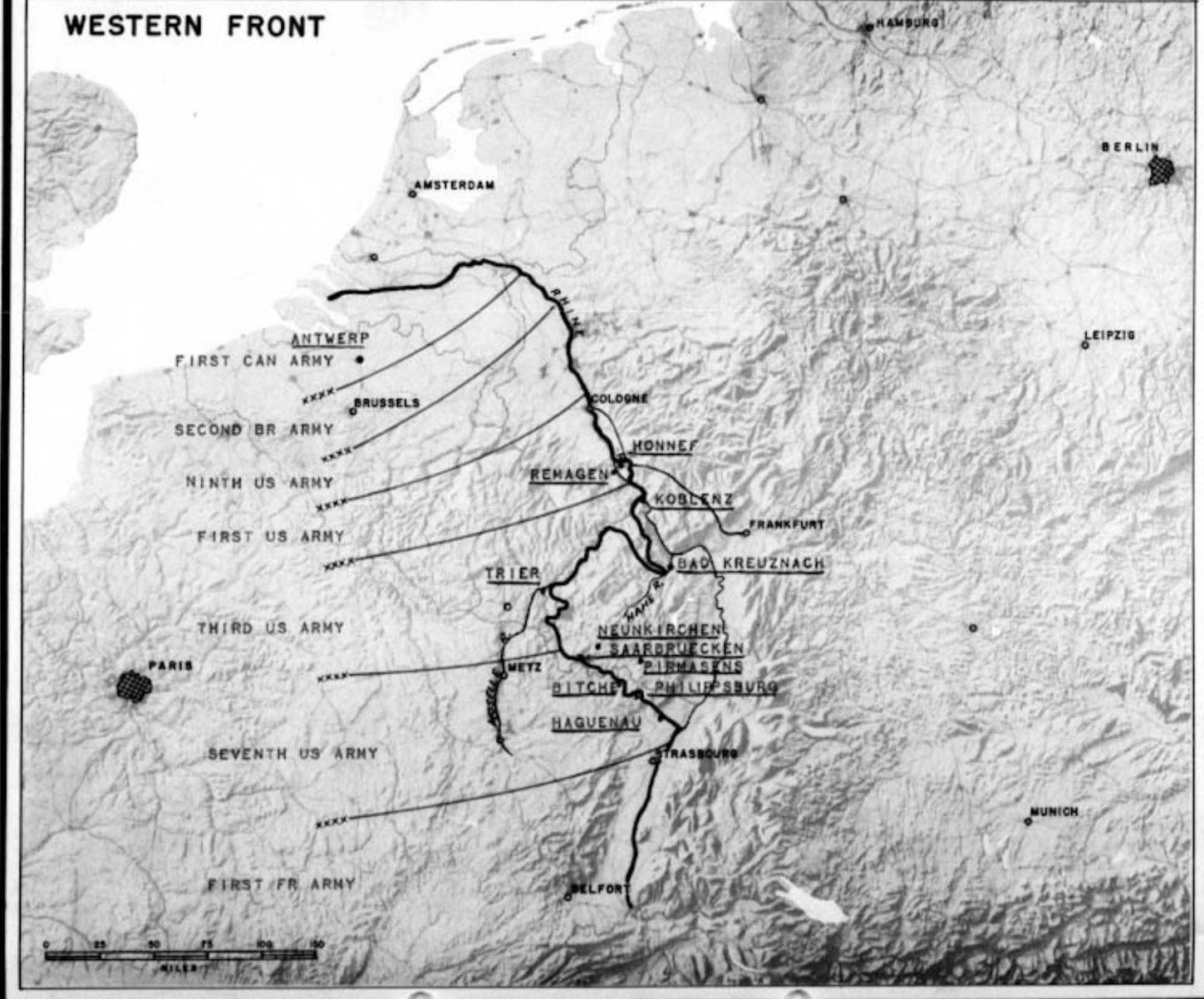
That night, the town of Hagen and the oil refinery at Misburg were attacked by 503 other RAF heavy bombers with 1,980 tons. One enemy aircraft was destroyed; 16 bombers were lost. Fifty-two Mosquitoes attacked Berlin.

16 March. Adverse weather conditions prevented all 8th Air Force operations.

Oil refineries and railyards in Austria were attacked by 789 escorted 15th Air Force heavy bombers. Fighter escort shot down four enemy planes; six bombers and four fighters are missing.

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WESTERN FRONT



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Ord Letter, 5-3-72

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

EUROPEAN THEATER

15 March. During the 24-hour period ending at sunset, over 5,000 sorties were flown by the Tactical Air Forces. Medium and light bombers dropped 2,094 tons of bombs on defended areas, troop concentrations, ammunition dumps, and the towns of Neunkirchen and Pirmasens. More than 3,000 fighters flew support missions; the majority was over our Seventh Army front. RAF planes attacked launching sites in Holland. Thirteen enemy aircraft were destroyed; we lost 11 planes.

In the 24-hour period ending 0600, five rockets and three flying bombs fell in Antwerp. Fourteen rockets and 13 flying bombs fell in scattered areas near the city. Antiaircraft fire shot down 14 of the bombs.

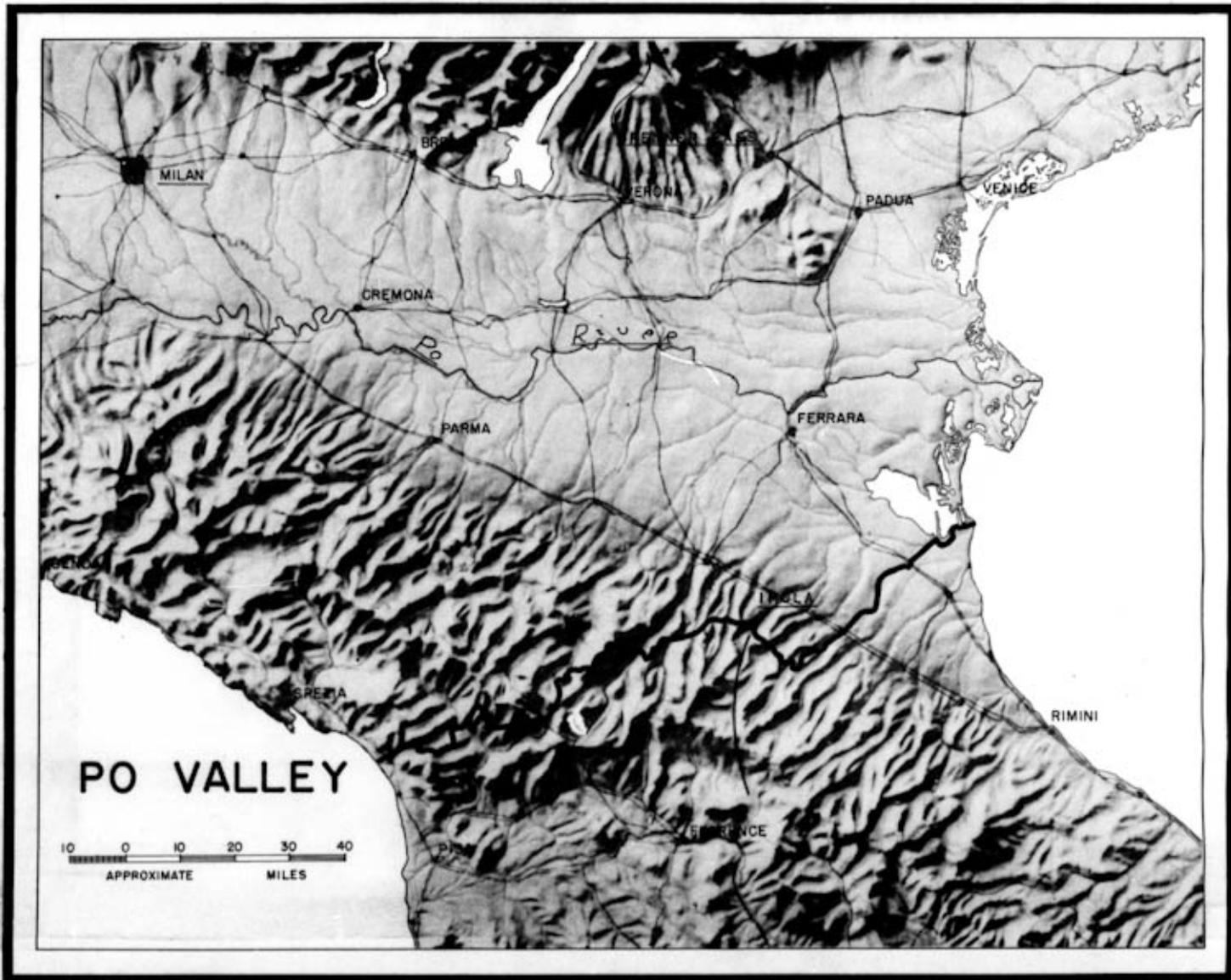
16 March. By 0600, four flying bombs were plotted approaching England. Three flying bombs were destroyed by antiaircraft. Seven rockets landed in the London and Essex areas.

Our First Army continued to expand the northern and southern flanks of the Remagen bridgehead with gains of a mile against resistance which varied from light to heavy. The super highway was cut northeast of Honnef; our front lines in this area are within a mile of the super highway along a four-mile front. Third Army troops expanded the base of the Moselle bridgehead, southwest of Koblenz, to a width of 15 miles while an armored spearhead drove out of the

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bridgehead and advanced 32 miles to the southeast reaching the Nahe River, south of Bad Kreuznach. Southeast of Trier, we made advances into the Saar of from two to five miles along a 20-mile front.

The drive of our Seventh Army northward between Saarbruecken and the Rhine continued to make steady progress against spotty resistance. Advances up to two miles were scored. East of Saarbruecken, our troops have reached the outer defenses of the Siegfried Line. Haguenau was reported as cleared and Bitche as being mopped up. Southeast of the latter town, our infantry pushed to the east about five miles capturing Philippsburg.



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By Letter, 5-3-72

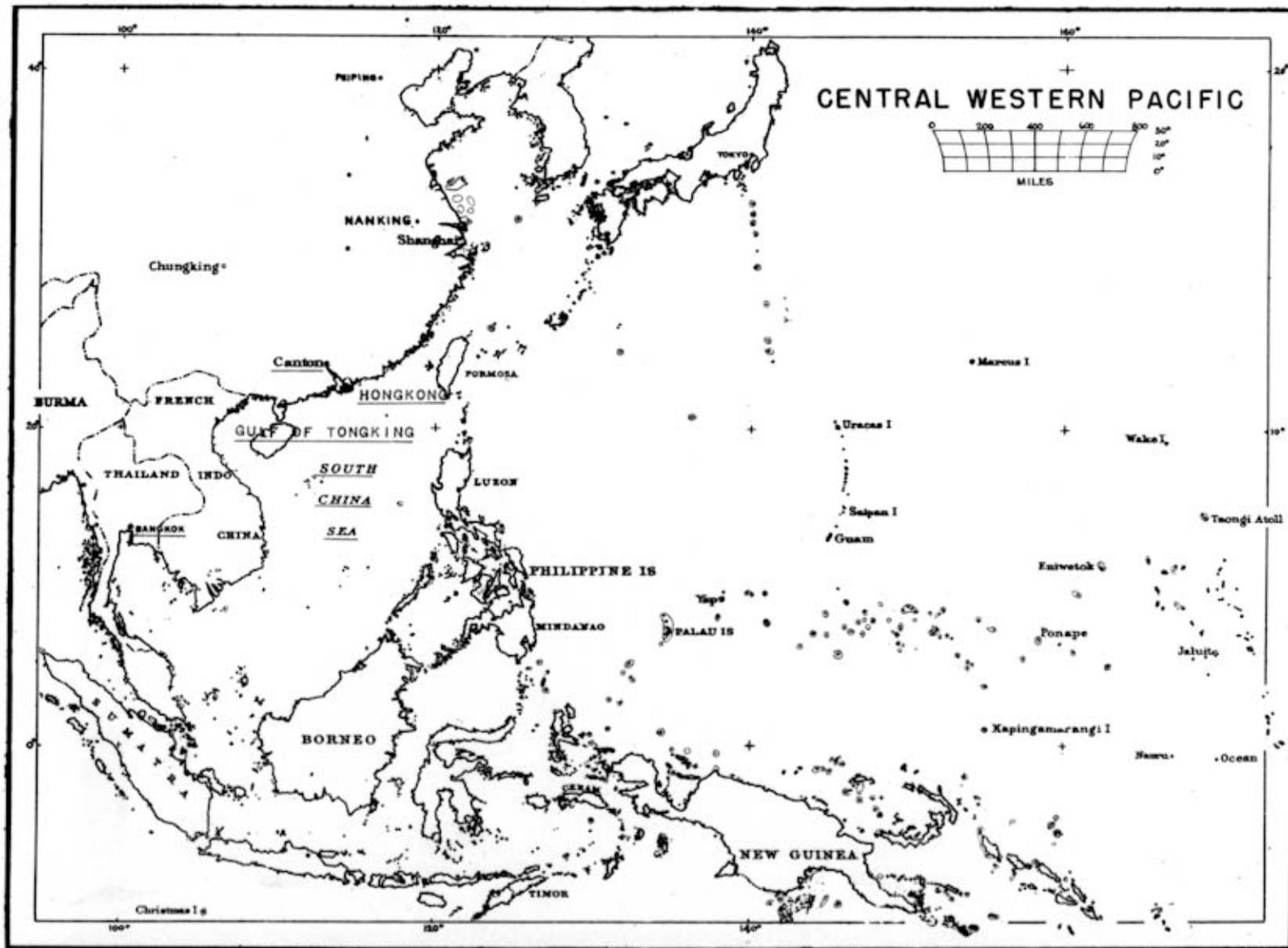
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OSD Letter, 5-8-72

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

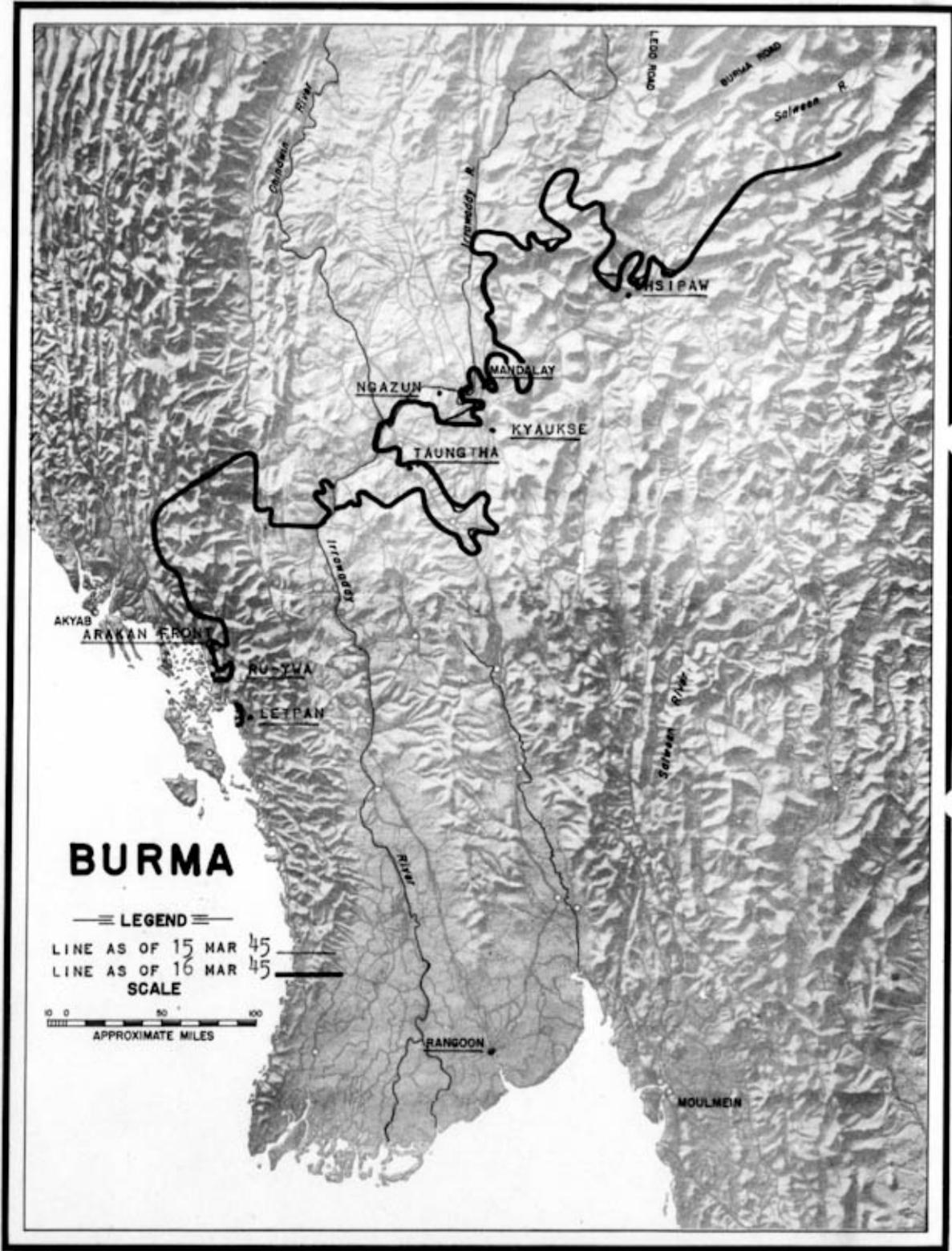
15 March. During the 24-hour period ending at 1800, the Tactical Air Force flew 493 sorties. One hundred twenty-nine medium bombers attacked bridges along the Brenner Route and in the Po Valley while fighters and fighter-bombers hit communications throughout the battle area and northern Italy. Coastal fighters strafed an airdrome northwest of Milan, destroying three enemy planes. Twelve Greece-based fighters bombed targets on Milos.

16 March. On the British Eighth Army front, the Germans made several raids south of Imola; all were repulsed. Activity on the front of our Fifth Army was confined to patrolling.

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 8-8-78

ASIATIC THEATER

14 March. The Eastern Air Command flew a total of 2,790 sorties, of which 672 were offensive against concentrations, supply dumps, and communications throughout the Burma battle areas.

Heavy bombers of the 14th Air Force in a sweep over the Gulf of Tongking and the South China Sea sank an enemy oil tanker.

15 March. Preliminary reports of the longest fighter sweep made in this theater state that in an attack on a Japanese airfield north of Bangkok, four enemy planes were shot down and 16 destroyed on the ground.

17 March. Seventy-six India-based B-29's were airborne during the early morning hours to bomb Japanese dump areas at Rangoon.

15 March. Chinese columns advancing on Hsipaw were five miles from the town both to the northwest and northeast; a strong counterattack was repulsed in this area. British troops continued the reduction of Mandalay despite stiff opposition. Part of the southern section of the city has been captured. Troops from the Ngazun bridgehead, driving towards Mandalay from the southwest, are five miles from the city and threatened to cut off the remainder of the Japanese garrison. Other elements from this bridgehead, moving southeast, were within seven miles of Kyaukse. A Japanese counterattack gained local success at Taungtha.

On the Arakan front progress was continued north of Ru-ywa. The landing force in the Letpan area was within a mile of the town and had extended its beachhead along the coast for some ten miles.

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OSD Letter, 2-3-72

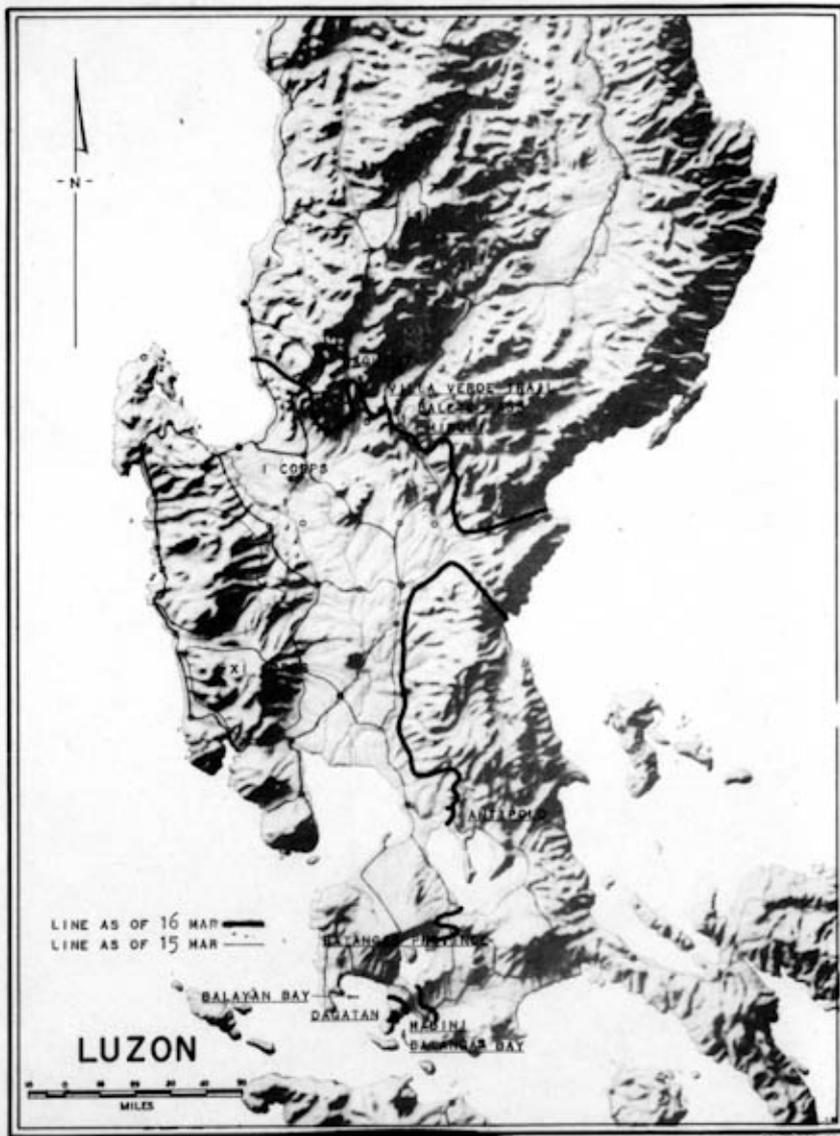


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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

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OSD Letter, 6-8-72

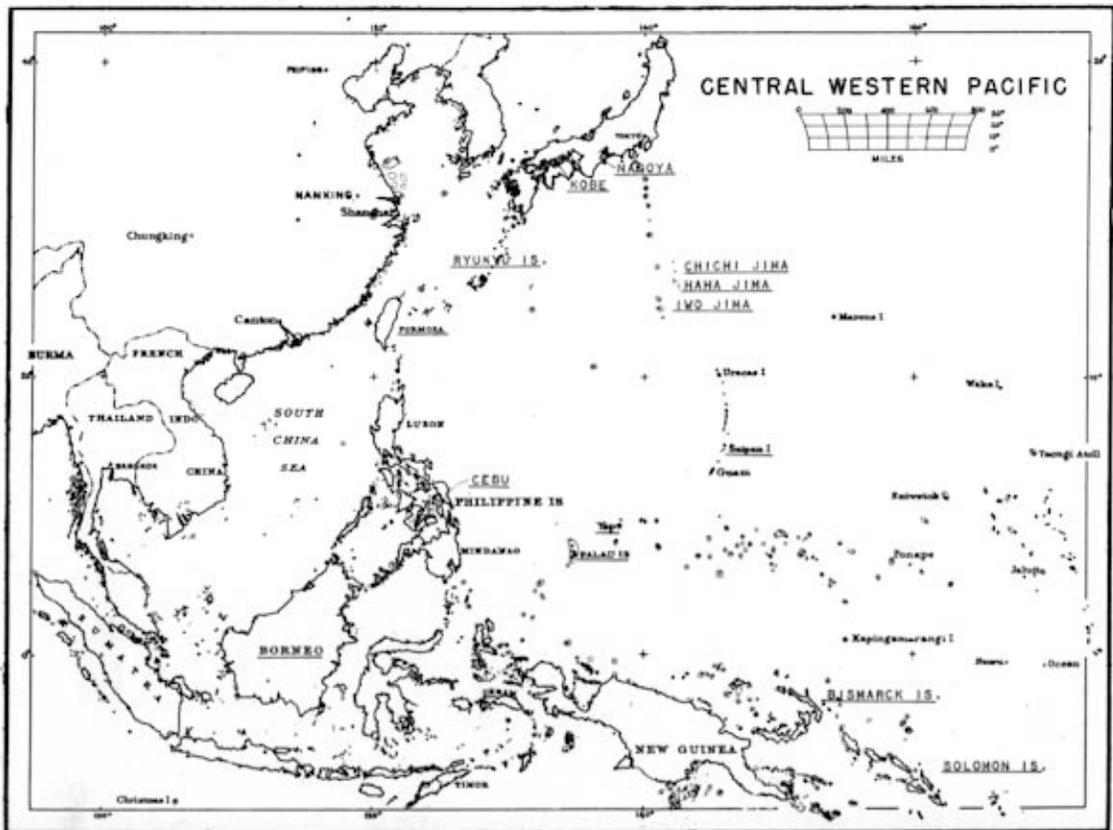
SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

14 March. Southwest Pacific aircraft flew 161 sorties, including 102 over the Bismarcks and Solomons in addition to those previously reported. Twelve heavy bombers attacked gun positions on Cebu. A patrol plane sank a coastal vessel and a smaller ship off Borneo and fired warehouses on the island. One fighter was lost.

15 March. Among over 300 sorties reported 243 were against targets near Baguio and in Batangas Province. Heavy bombers and fighters supported ground operations in the Zamboanga area. Patrol planes over the Ryukyus, Formosa, and the China coast harassed shipping sinking one vessel and destroying or damaging six others. Other enemy installations throughout the theater were hit by wide ranging aerial patrols.

The I Corps reported heavy fighting along the Villa Verde Trail. Other troops pushing towards Balete Pass captured high ground less than a mile southeast of Minuli and seized other ridges about a mile to the northwest. In the Antipolo area, slight advances were made against heavy fire. On southern Luzon, we landed at Dagatan on Balayan Bay and advanced eastwards toward Mabini on Batangas Bay. We scored local gains north of Zamboanga despite heavy opposition.

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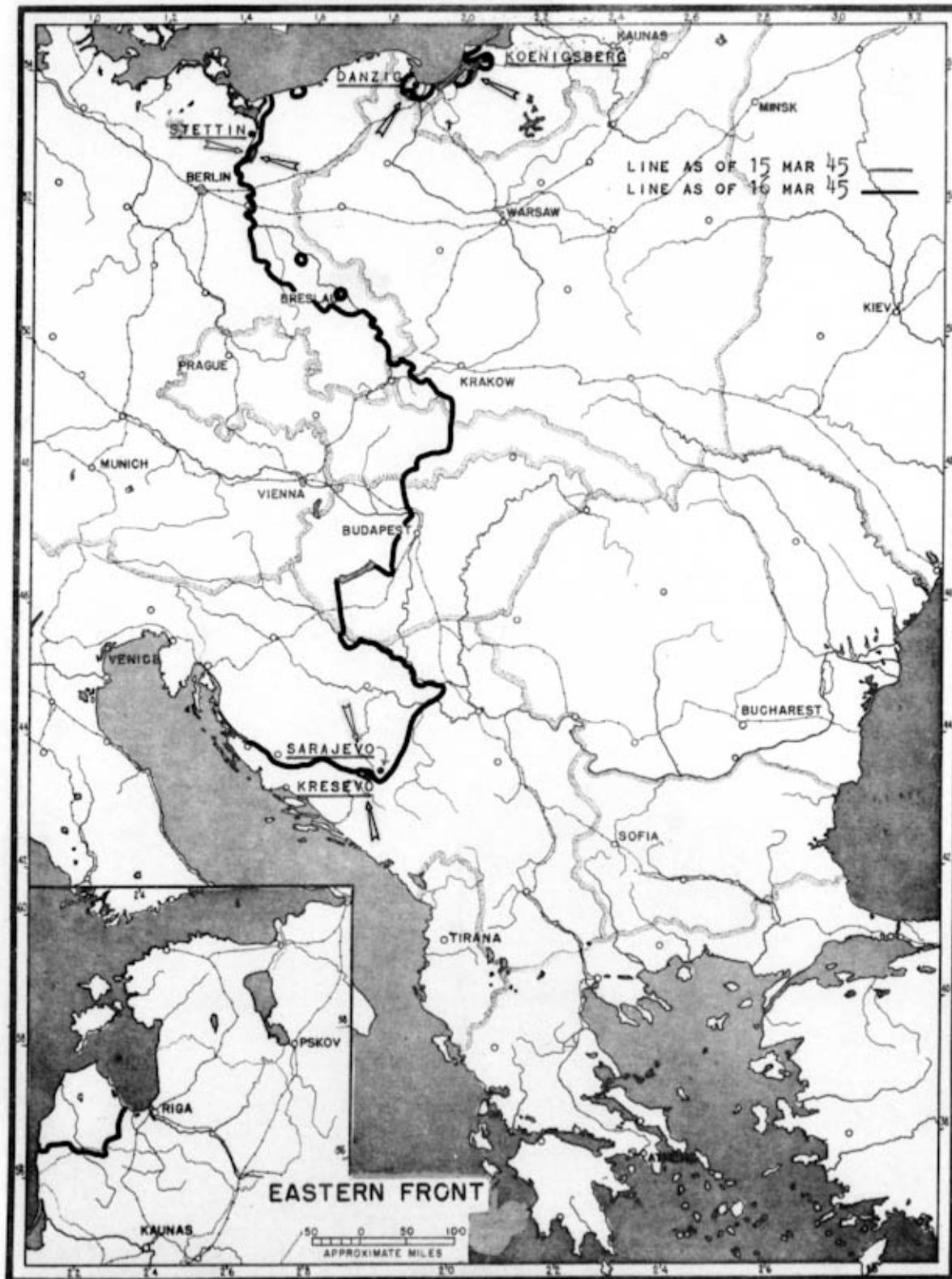
DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 6-8-78

PACIFIC OCEAN AREA

14 March. Forty-eight Navy fighters and fighter bombers destroyed a bridge and fired fuel dumps in the Palaus. Nine others attacked an airstrip on Yap. Sixteen Army fighters hit Chichi Jima.

15 March. Sixteen Iwo-based fighters attacked targets on Chichi and Haha Jima.

17 March. Preliminary reports state that formations of Marianas-based B-29's totalling about three hundred very heavy bombers attacked Kobe. This is the fourth large city in Japan to be attacked within the past eight days.



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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

EASTERN FRONT

16 March. Soviet advances further compressed the Koenigsberg and Danzig pockets. On a 15-mile front south of Stettin, the Red Army eliminated German positions east of the Oder. In Yugoslavia, Partisans captured Kresevo, west of Sarajevo.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 1192

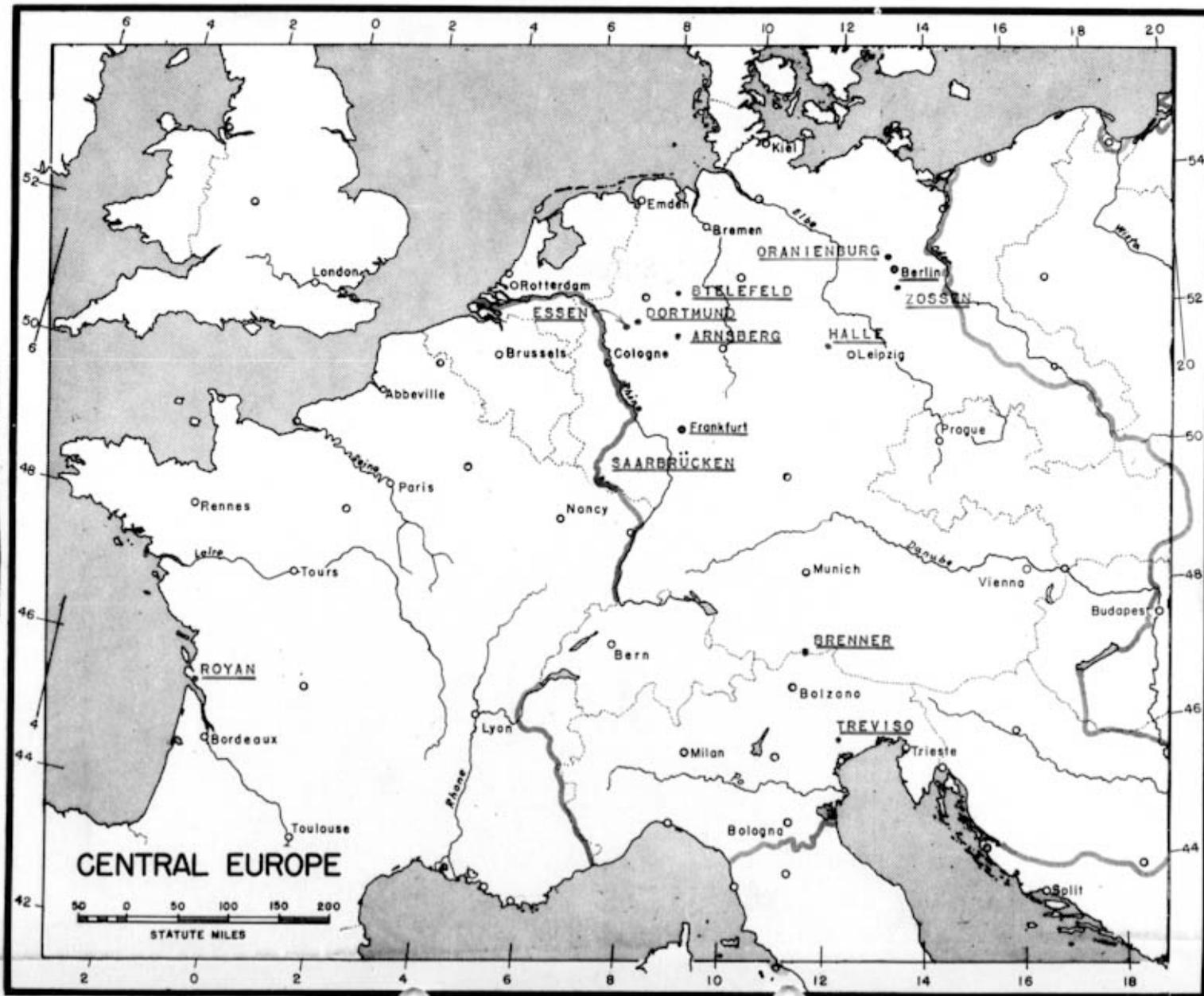
0700 March 15 to 0700 March 16, 1945

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

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EUROPE AND THE MEDITERRANEAN - STRATEGIC AIR

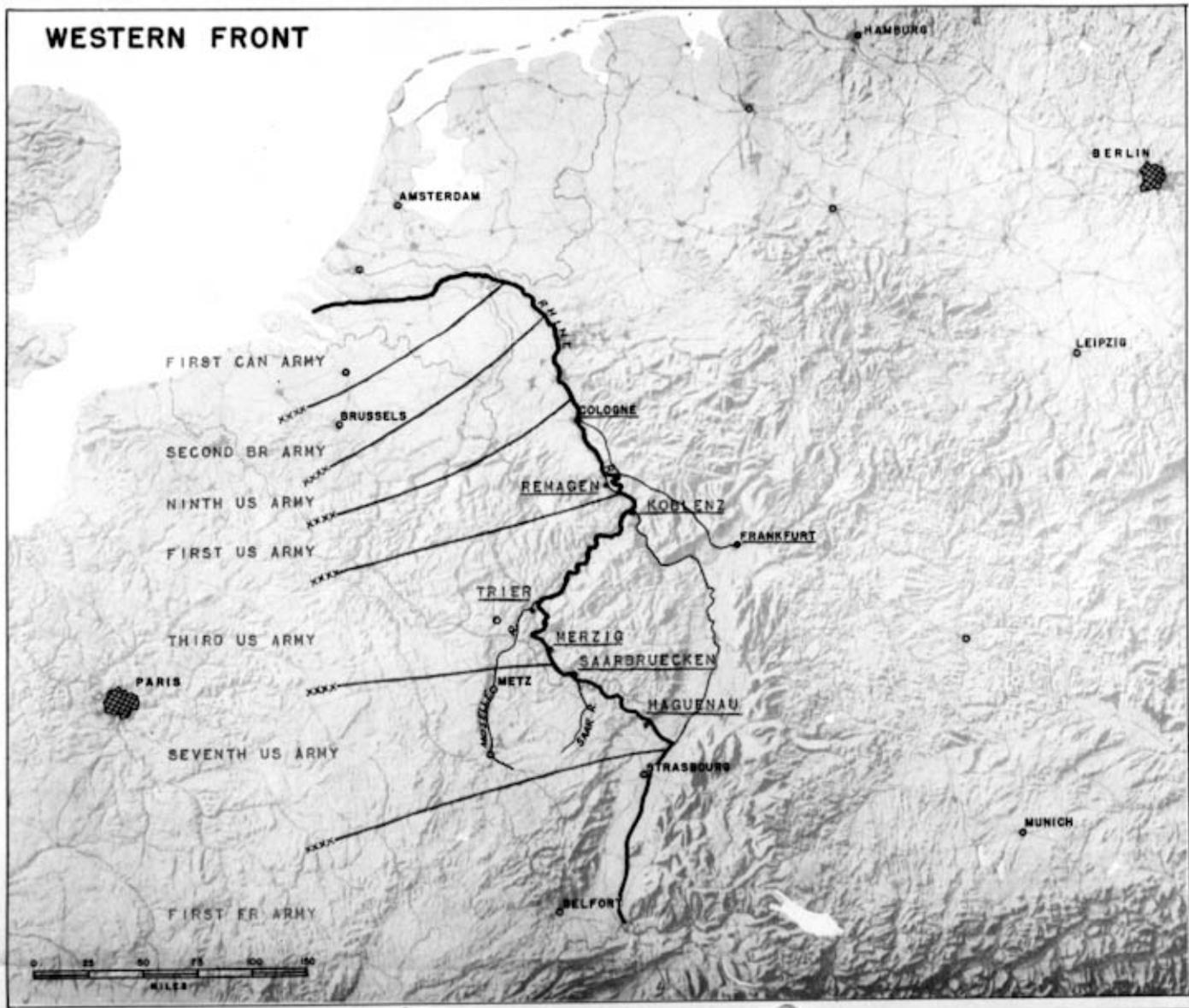
13 March. In a night attack, 63 Italian-based heavy and six medium RAF bombers dropped 220 tons on railyards at Treviso.

14 March. Benzol plants in the Dortmund-Essen area and rail viaducts at Bielefeld and Arnsberg were attacked by 192 RAF heavy bombers. In the attack on the Bielefeld rail viaduct, a deep penetration bomb of 11 tons was used. This is the first time a bomb of this weight has been used. That night, 244 heavy bombers and 11 Mosquitoes attacked an oil plant at Halle and 369 heavy bombers and 22 Mosquitoes raided towns in the Saarbruecken area. Sixty-six Mosquitoes continued to harass Berlin and six others made widespread attacks over northern Germany. Fourteen heavy bombers were lost.

15 March. According to a late communique, the 8th Air Force dispatched about 1,350 escorted heavy bombers to attack targets in the Berlin area, railyards at Oranienburg, and a German Army headquarters at Zossen. Sixteen bombers and three fighters are unreported.

Oil refineries and railyards in southeastern Germany, Czechoslovakia and Austria were bombed by 757 escorted 15th Air Force heavy bombers. Eight planes are missing.

WESTERN FRONT



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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

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EUROPEAN THEATER

14 March. During the 24 hours ending at sunset, the Tactical Air Forces flew over 3,700 sorties against German towns, airfields and rail targets throughout the battle area. The RAF attacked launching sites in Holland. The Western French Air Force bombed targets at Royan in southwest France. Thirteen enemy planes were shot down and 58 destroyed on the ground. We lost 18 planes.

In the 24-hour period ending at 0600, one rocket fell in Antwerp. Eight rockets and four flying bombs fell in neighboring areas and four other flying bombs were shot down by antiaircraft fire.

During the week, 62 rockets fell in England of which 33 reached the London area. Civilian casualties were 198 killed and 401 wounded.

15 March. By 0600, six rockets fell in the Essex and London areas. One flying bomb landed in the London area; five others were shot down by antiaircraft fire.

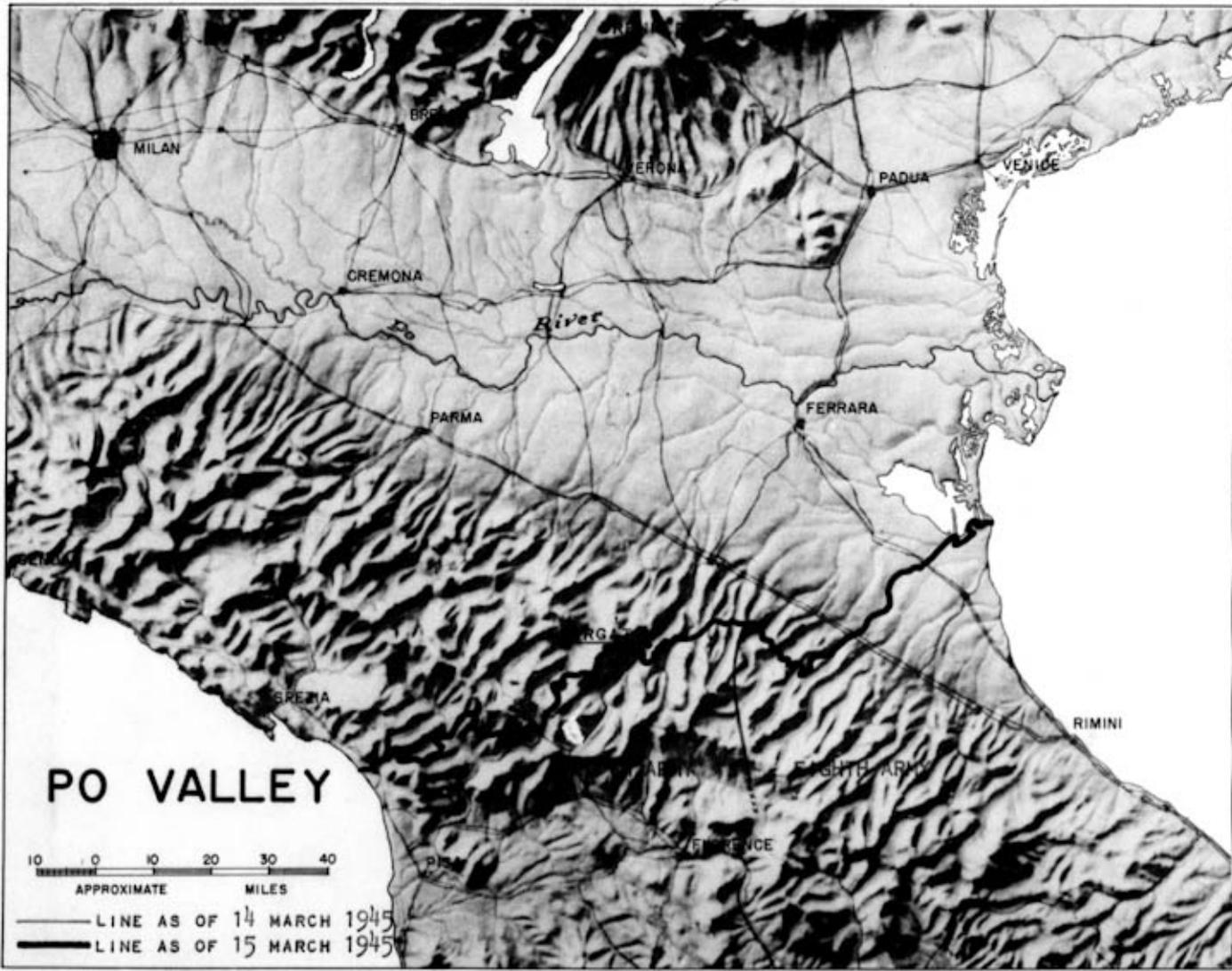
On the First Army front, US troops continued to expand the Remagen bridgehead to the northeast and southeast over difficult terrain against moderate to heavy resistance. Counterattacks were repulsed both on the northern and southern flanks of the bridgehead. We are less than a mile from the super highway from Cologne to Frankfurt. Third Army units increased the depth of their Moselle bridgehead, southwest of Koblenz, by two to three miles. Other troops driving

into the Saar, south of Trier, advanced up to two miles along a front of more than 15 miles against moderate resistance and heavily mined areas. A small counterattack northeast of Merzig was repulsed.

The US Seventh Army, launching a general offensive between Saarbruecken and Haguenau, scored gains of from two to three miles along its front. We pushed to the line of the Saar River and according to communique are patrolling within one-half mile of Saarbruecken. Resistance was generally light although minefields and booby traps were encountered in some areas.

There was no change on the front of the French First Army.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72



PO VALLEY

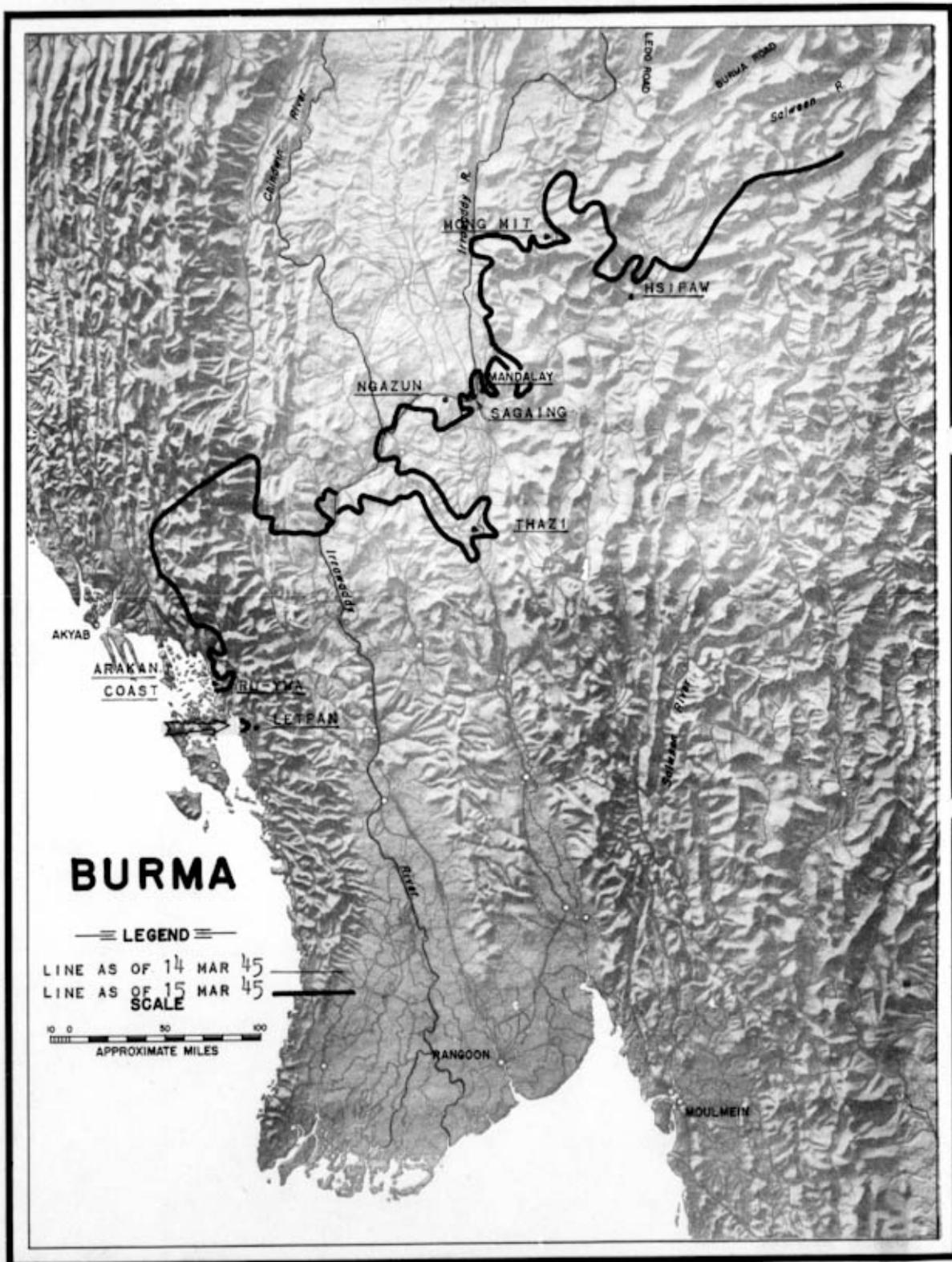
10 0 10 20 30 40
APPROXIMATE MILES

— LINE AS OF 14 MARCH 1945
— LINE AS OF 15 MARCH 1945

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

14 March. During the 24-hour period ending at 1800, the Tactical Air Force flew 885 offensive sorties. One hundred thirty-nine medium bombers attacked targets on the Brenner and other rail lines in northern Italy. Lighter planes concentrated on communications in northern Italy, Yugoslavia, and Austria. Two enemy planes were destroyed; ten of ours are missing. The Coastal Air Force attacked rail and road traffic in northern Italy and the Balkan Air Force hit rail targets in Yugoslavia.

15 March. On the Fifth Army front, units of our II Corps made a slight gain northeast of Vergato. There was no change on the British Eighth Army front.



ASIATIC THEATER

13 March. More than 2,400 sorties were flown by the Eastern Air Command; 563 were offensive. A small mission of heavy bombers continued to pound bridges on the Burma-Siam railway. Fighters swept roads and bombed enemy positions and dumps in the active battle areas.

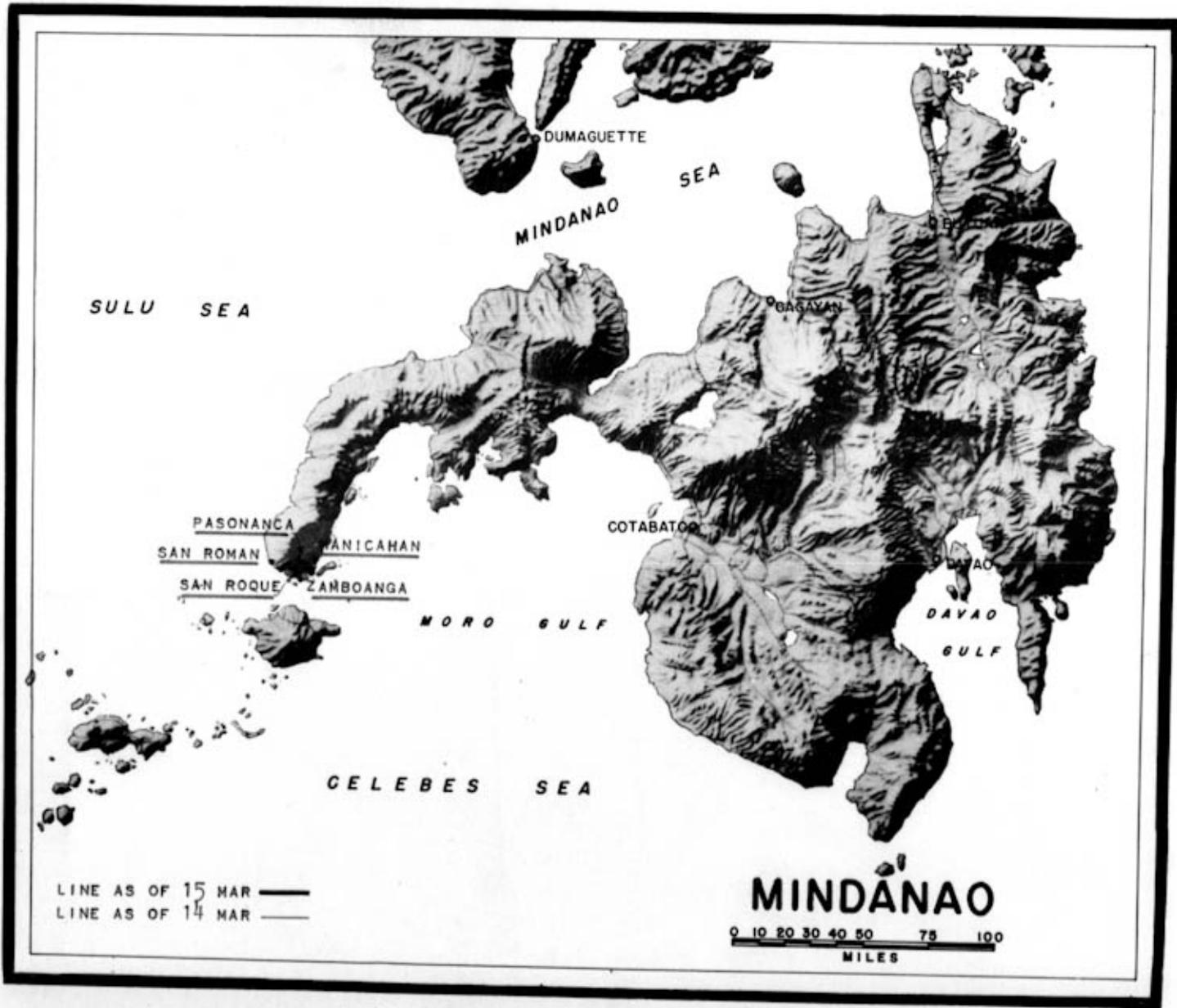
Four B-24's of the 14th Air Force sank a medium cargo ship during attacks on shipping in Tongking Gulf and the South China Sea.

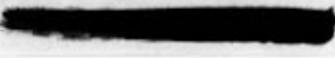
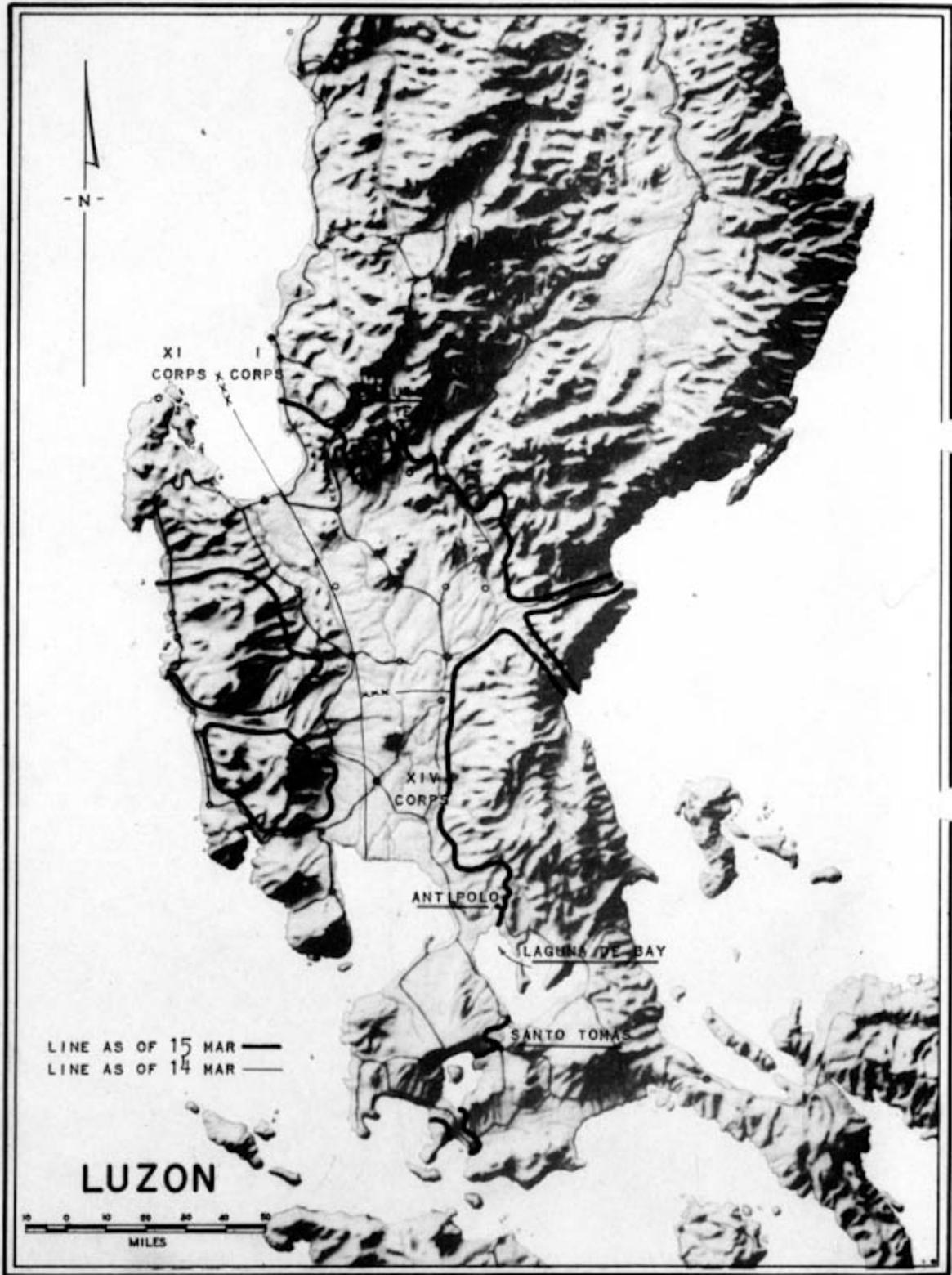
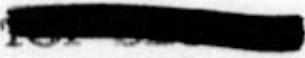
14 March. Twenty-three offensive sorties were reported. Fighters attacked barracks areas in Indo-China and carried out sweeps over rail lines in central China.

The northern sector of Mandalay is reported clear of the enemy but he is still resisting stubbornly in the remainder of the city. British forces southeast of the city gained an additional five miles. Other Allied troops advanced nine miles and captured an important road junction south of Sagaing. Substantial progress was made in clearing the area north and east of Thazi.

On the Arakan front, local gains were made north of Ru-ywa despite stiff resistance. British troops made an additional landing on the mainland of Burma, 30 miles southeast of Ru-ywa, against light opposition.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72





SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA

13 March. Southwest Pacific planes flew 106 previously un-reported sorties including 45 against targets in the Bismarcks and Solomons. Medium bombers attacked enemy positions in the Zamboanga area.

14 March. More than 700 sorties were flown throughout the theater. Fuel installations and warehouses in the Pescadores were fired by 69 heavy bombers. Other heavy and medium bombers attacked targets on Mindanao and hit Lakunai airdrome near Rabaul. Four hundred ninety-four planes operated over Luzon and searchplanes attacked shipping off the Ryukyus, and at Swatow and Amoy; 13 small ships were sunk and five left burning.

On northern Luzon, the I Corps made progress towards Baguio along the Kennon Road; a small counterattack was repulsed at Tebbo. On southern Luzon, we have reached the outskirts of Santo Tomas. East of Manila, our troops continued to encounter heavy resistance in the Antipolo area. On Mindanao, US troops forced an enemy withdrawal from San Roque and were approximately 200 yards southeast of Pasonanca. Motorized patrols contacted guerrilla forces at Manicahan, east of Zamboanga, and north of San Roman on the west coast.

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

PACIFIC OCEAN AREA

11 thru 14 March. During this four-day period formations totalling more than 40 heavy bombers and fighters repeatedly attacked enemy installations on Maha Jima and Chichi Jima.



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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-8-72

EASTERN FRONT

15 March. In East Prussia the German pocket southwest of Koenigsberg has been cut in two as the Soviets continue to clean up the area. In Hungary minor German gains were reported east of Lake Balaton.

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-8-78

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

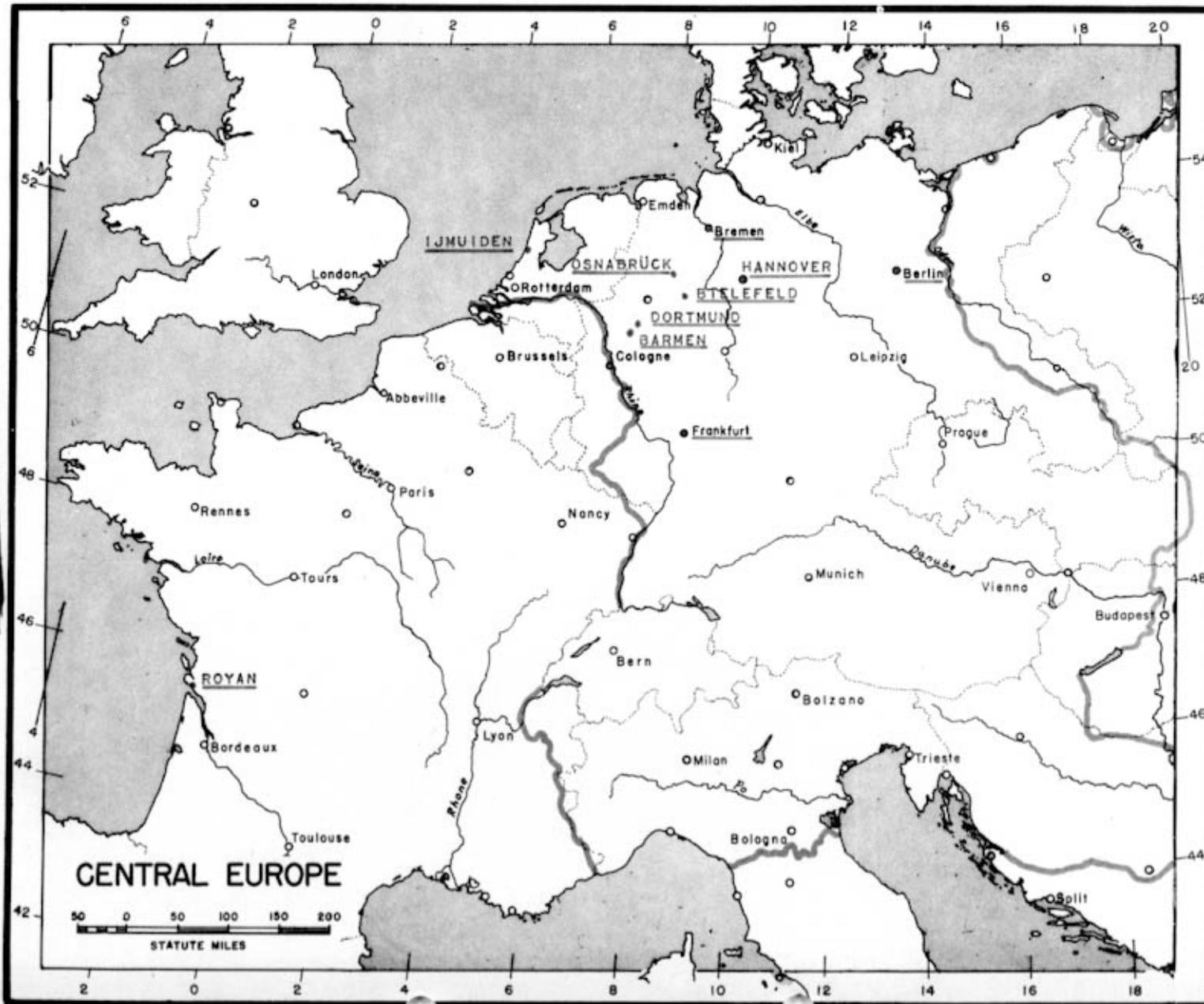
No. 1191

0700 March 14 to 0700 March 15, 1945

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

203(2)



EUROPE AND THE MEDITERRANEAN - STRATEGIC AIR

13 March. The town of Barmen was attacked by 326 RAF heavy bombers and eight Mosquitoes with 1,153 tons of bombs. Other planes were airborne to attack targets in northwestern Germany but most of them returned to bases because of bad weather. That night 191 bombers and 36 Mosquitoes attacked benzol plants in the Dortmund area. Fifty Mosquitoes bombed Berlin and 32 others made feint attacks against Bremen and Frankfurt. One bomber is missing.

14 March. Rail targets in the Bielefeld-Osnabrueck area were attacked by 449 escorted 8th Air Force heavy bombers. A second force of 277 heavy bombers attacked a railyard near Dortmund and a communication center southeast of Bielefeld. A third force of 532 US bombers attacked oil refineries, railyards and tank factories in the Hannover area. Six other heavy bombers of the 8th Air Force attacked boat pens at Ijmuiden with rocket bombs. Eleven enemy planes were shot down; 14 bombers and four fighters are missing. Six bombers are believed safe on the Continent.

Oil refineries and railyards in Hungary, Yugoslavia and Austria were attacked by 634 escorted 15th Air Force heavy bombers. Fighters encountered a group of 37 enemy aircraft some of which were attacking Russian planes and shot down 19. Other fighters strafing rail lines destroyed 29 locomotives and 13 rail cars. Eight bombers and two fighters are missing.

WESTERN FRONT



DECLASSIFIED
USD Letter, 6-5-72

EUROPEAN THEATER

13 March. During the 24-hour period ending at sunset, the Tactical Air Forces flew 3,572 sorties. More than 1,500 tons of bombs were dropped along the front from Alsace to Holland, with rail centers as the principal targets. Rocket-launching sites in Holland were attacked by fighters; the Western French Air Forces attacked a fort in the Royan area on the southwest coast of France. Armed reconnaissance was maintained over the Remagen bridgehead and elsewhere along the front. Twenty-four (probably 30) enemy planes were shot down; we lost 23 planes.

During the 24-hour period ending at 0600, one rocket and one flying bomb fell in Antwerp. Five rockets and six flying bombs fell in scattered areas outside the city. Three flying bombs were shot down by antiaircraft fire.

14 March. During the 24-hour period ending at 0600, three rockets fell in England.

During the 24-hour period ending at noon, there was no change on the front of the Northern Army Group.

III Corps units of our First Army, attacking east of Honnef in the northeastern corner of our Remagen bridgehead, advanced a mile over rugged terrain and against stubborn resistance towards the main highway from Cologne to Frankfurt. Other units in the southeastern

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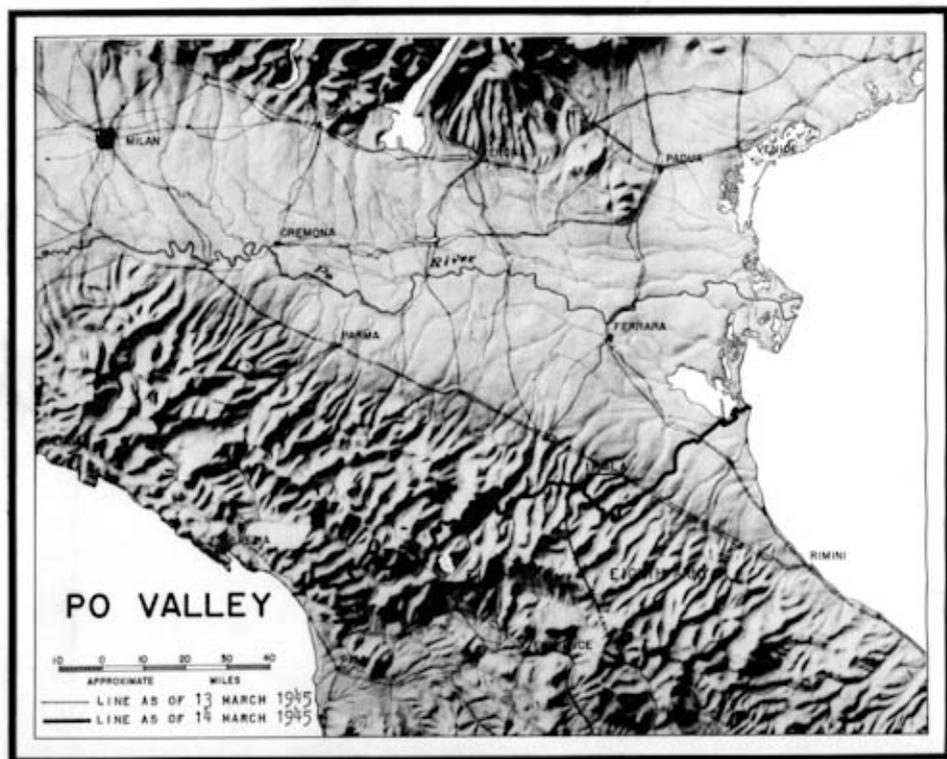
DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

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corner of the bridgehead contained a counterattack and made small gains.

Divisions of the XII Corps of our Third Army advanced a mile across a ten-mile reach of the Moselle between Kochen and Koblenz, establishing a bridgehead. Other troops of the XII Corps and units of the XX Corps advanced to the line of the Moselle northeast of Trier. Divisions of the XX Corps gained up to two miles along a 20-mile front southeast of Trier and repulsed two counterattacks.

On the Seventh Army front, elements of the XXI Corps gained up to three miles southwest of Saarbruecken. The VI Corps expanded its bridgehead across the Moder River in the Hagenau area in limited objective attacks and repulsed counterattacks against the bridgehead.



TOPOGRAPHIC
MAP, 1:50,000, G-5-73

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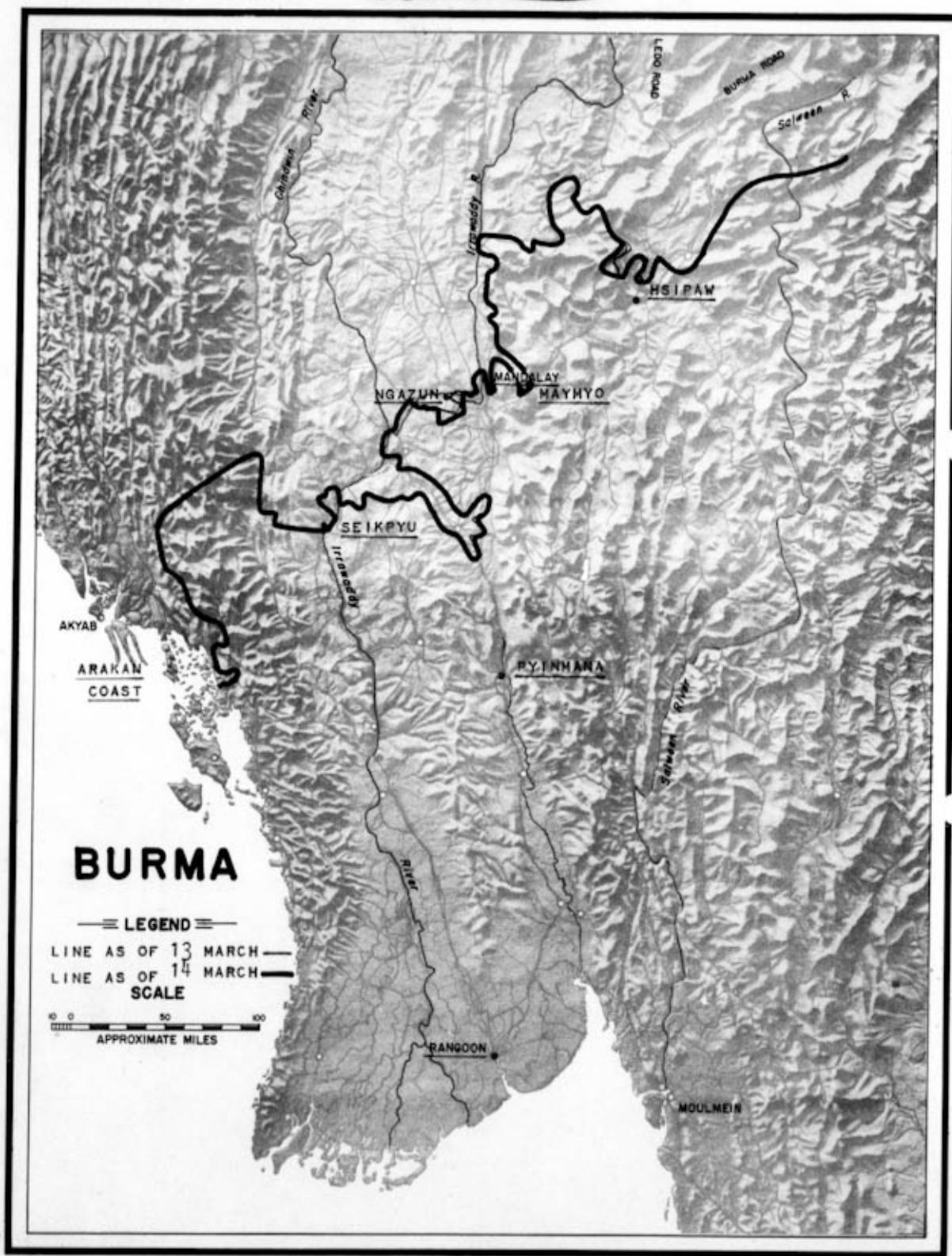
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By RT, NARA, Date MAR 21

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

14 March. On the Eighth Army front south of Imola an enemy attack of company strength made a slight gain which was held despite a British counterattack. There was no change on the Fifth Army front.

~~TOP SECRET~~



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ASIATIC THEATER

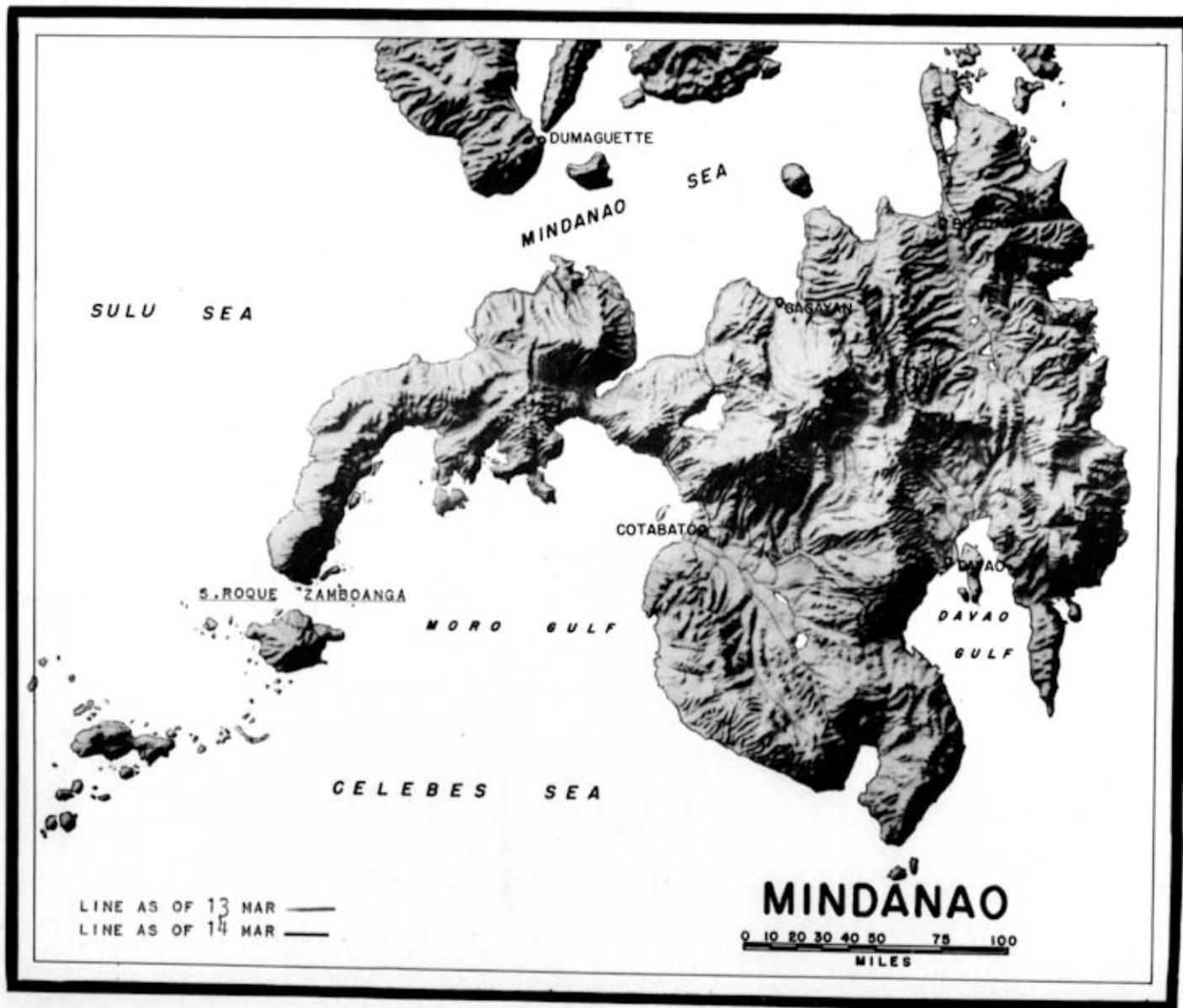
12 March. Eastern Air Command reported 1,400 sorties of which more than 550 were offensive. Principal missions were fighter bomber attacks on enemy positions and troop concentrations along the battle front from Hsipaw to the Arakan coast. Other aircraft struck river traffic and communications in central and south Burma.

Ten 14th Air Force planes bombed bridges and other targets in southern China and French Indo-China.

13 March. Twelve offensive sorties were reported by the 14th Air Force chiefly against targets at Lang Son in French Indo-China.

Chinese troops moving toward Hsipaw from the north made limited gains. In Mandalay stiffening resistance was being encountered and house-to-house fighting continued. British troops, by-passing the city to the east, advanced to the southeast some five miles. Other British units made some progress southwest of Maymyo. The perimeter of the Ngazun bridgehead was expanded to the south and east for a maximum of five miles. An attack was repulsed northwest of Seikpyu.

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OPD Letter, 6-8-72



SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA

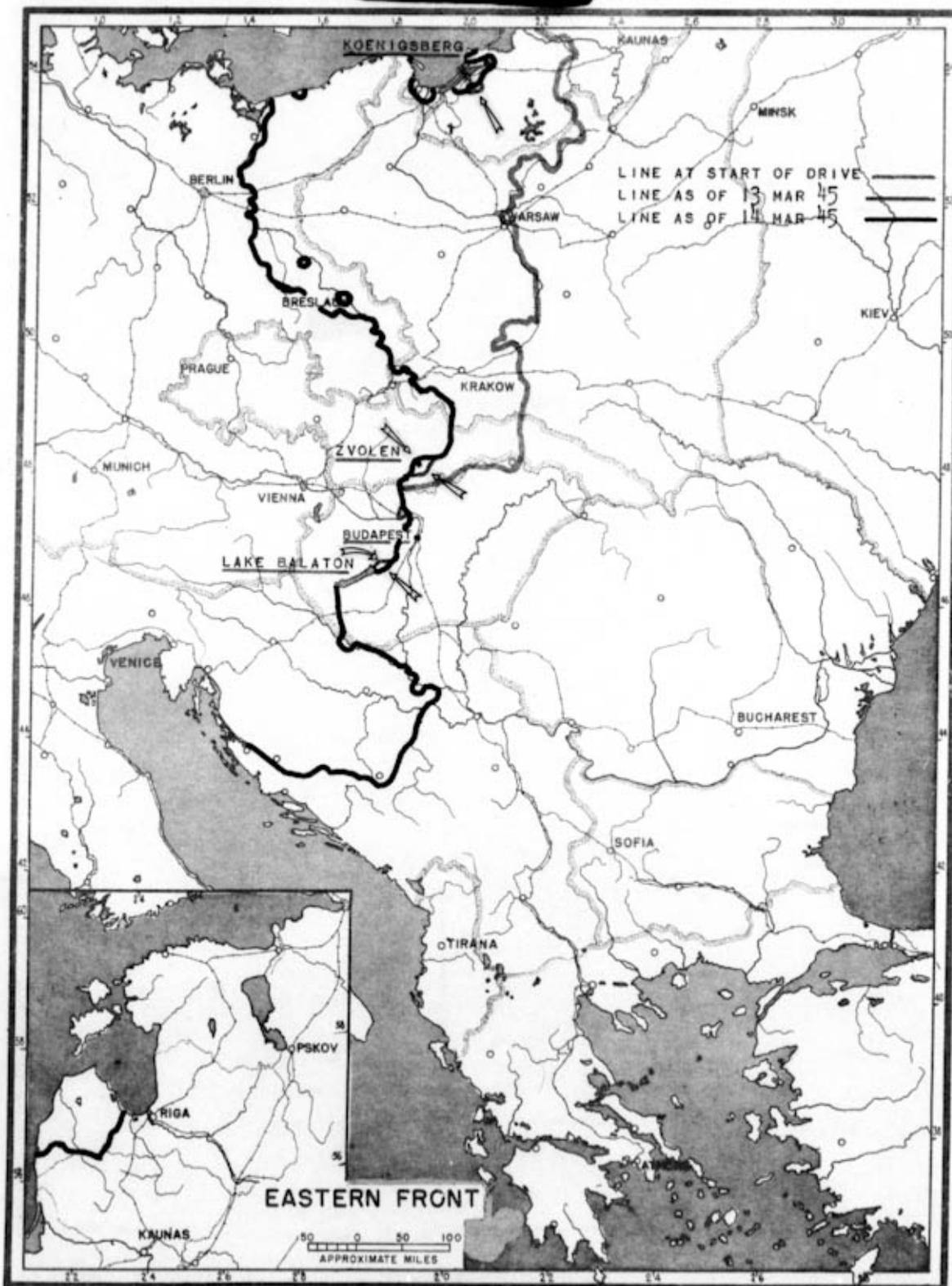
12 March. More than 480 additional sorties were flown by Southwest Pacific planes. Targets on Luzon were attacked by 284 planes. Heavy bombers and fighters attacked railyards and an airdrome on Formosa, destroying three bombers on the ground. Fifty planes struck targets in the Bismarcks and Solomons. One enemy fighter was destroyed on Luzon.

13 March. More than 580 sorties were flown, including 412 over Luzon. Heavy bombers attacked fuel dumps and enemy installations in the Pescadores and targets on Mindanao. Patrol planes on shipping strikes sank a coastal vessel near the Ryukyus, another northwest of Borneo, and two others near Hongkong. Medium bombers near Swatow sank a medium tanker and a destroyer. Four enemy planes were shot down; we lost one plane.

12 March. East of Manila, the XIV Corps completed the capture of Antipolo.

13 March. Elements of the I Corps, attacking along the Villa Verde trail, were encountering bitter resistance on northern Luzon. Other units driving towards Balete Pass occupied high ground northwest of Putlan. On southern Luzon, we attacked enemy positions around Mt. Bijiang. In area of Zamboanga, a Japanese counterattack forced a withdrawal of our units from San Roque.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72



EASTERN FRONT

14 March. The Red Army made further gains against the German pocket southwest of Koenigsberg. In Czechoslovakia, Soviets have taken the city of Zvolen. German forces continue to attack the Russian line between Budapest and Lake Balaton.

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 1190

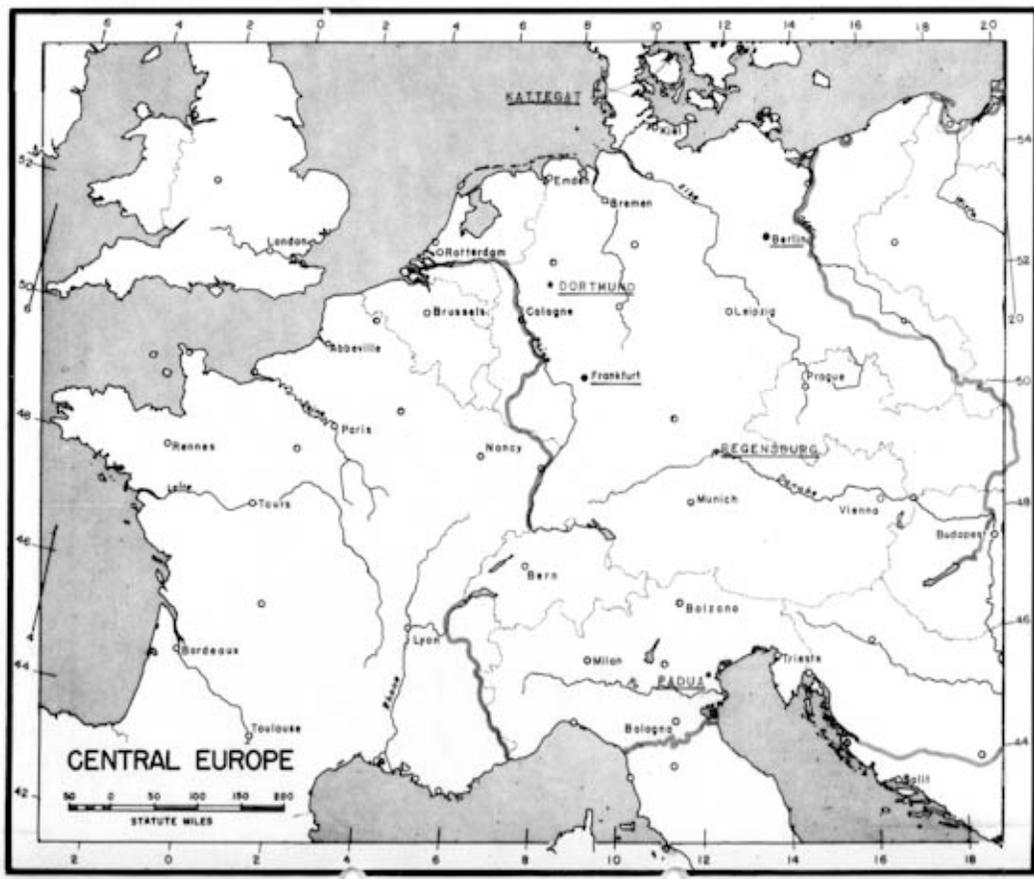
0700 March 13 to 0700 March 14, 1945

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THE WHITE HOUSE

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DECLASSIFIED
 OSD Letter, 8-8-72

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DECLASSIFIED
O&D Letter, 5-8-72

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

13 March. Five B-24's of the 11th Air Force attacked Paramushiro.

EUROPE AND THE MEDITERRANEAN - STRATEGIC AIR

12 March. The city of Dortmund was attacked by over 1,000 RAF heavy bombers with 4,888 tons of bombs. That night 80 Mosquitoes hit Berlin and three attacked other targets in northern Germany. Fourteen heavy bombers mined the Kattegat. Three heavy bombers were lost.

Sixty-nine Italian-based RAF heavy and medium bombers, attacking at night, hit the Padua railyards.

13 March. All 8th Air Force operations were cancelled due to weather.

More than 1200 tons of bombs were dropped by escorted heavy bombers of the 15th Air Force on the Regensburg railyards. Two heavy bombers and four fighters are missing.

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 8-8-72

EUROPEAN THEATER

12 March. By sunset, the Tactical Air Forces flew over 2,200 sorties. Despite bad weather, medium and light bombers attacked railyards in the Frankfurt-Kassel-Dortmund area and flew ground support along the Rhine and over the Remagen bridgehead. Fighters attacked targets from Alsace to Holland. Two enemy planes were shot down; we lost five planes.

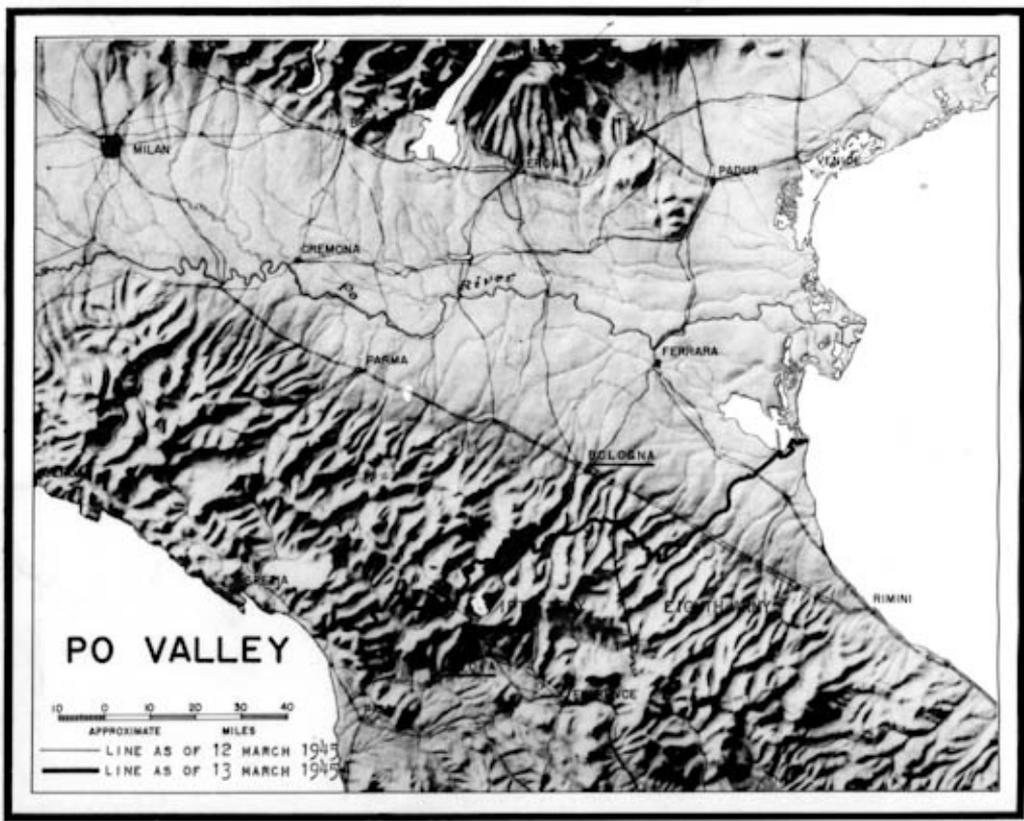
In the 24 hours to 0600, four flying bombs fell in Antwerp. Three rockets and 14 flying bombs fell in nearby areas. Twenty-seven other flying bombs were destroyed by antiaircraft fire.

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

12 March. The British Second Army, which was squeezed out during the clearing of the Wesel pocket, has resumed its place in the line.

In the Remagen bridgehead, our III Corps made slight gains over difficult terrain against moderate resistance. A counterattack was repulsed on the north flank of the bridgehead. On the Third Army front the XX Corps cleared the north bank of the Moselle from Kochen to Muelheim mopping up scattered resistance. East of Trier, other units crushed a counterattack and averaged gains of a mile along a 17-mile front. The US Seventh and French First Army fronts were quiet.

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OAS Letter, 6-3-72



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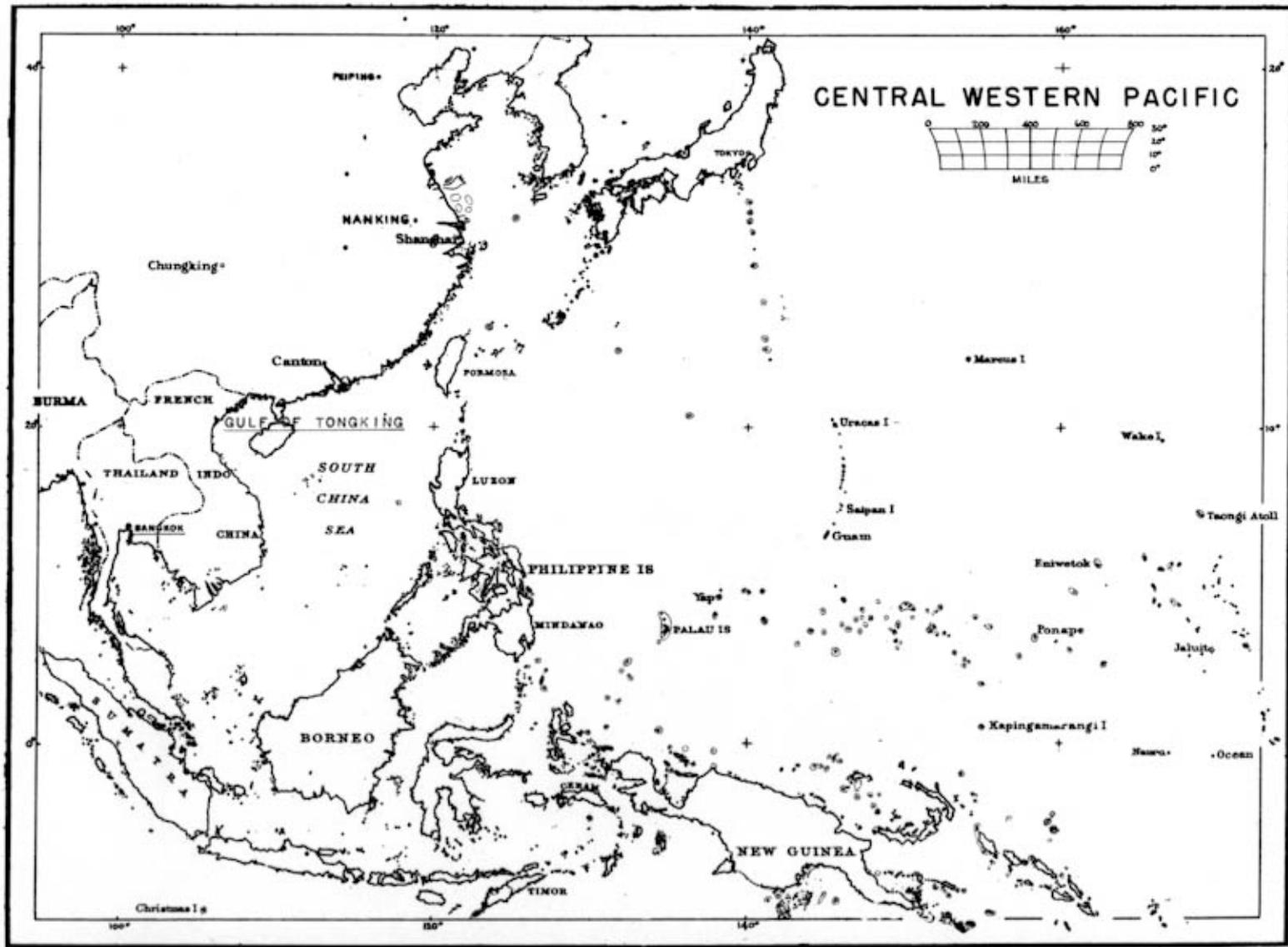
MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

12 March. During the 24-hour period ending at 1800, the Tactical Air Forces flew 55 previously unreported sorties. Coastal and Balkan Air Forces, in 134 sorties, attacked enemy installations in northwestern Italy and along the Dalmatian coast.

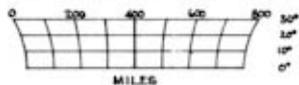
13 March. The Tactical Air Force reported more than 600 sorties against rail and motor transport behind the battle areas, in the central Po Valley and along the Brenner Line. Three rail bridges were destroyed and 58 rail cuts were made. One plane is missing.

There were no significant changes on the Italian battle front.

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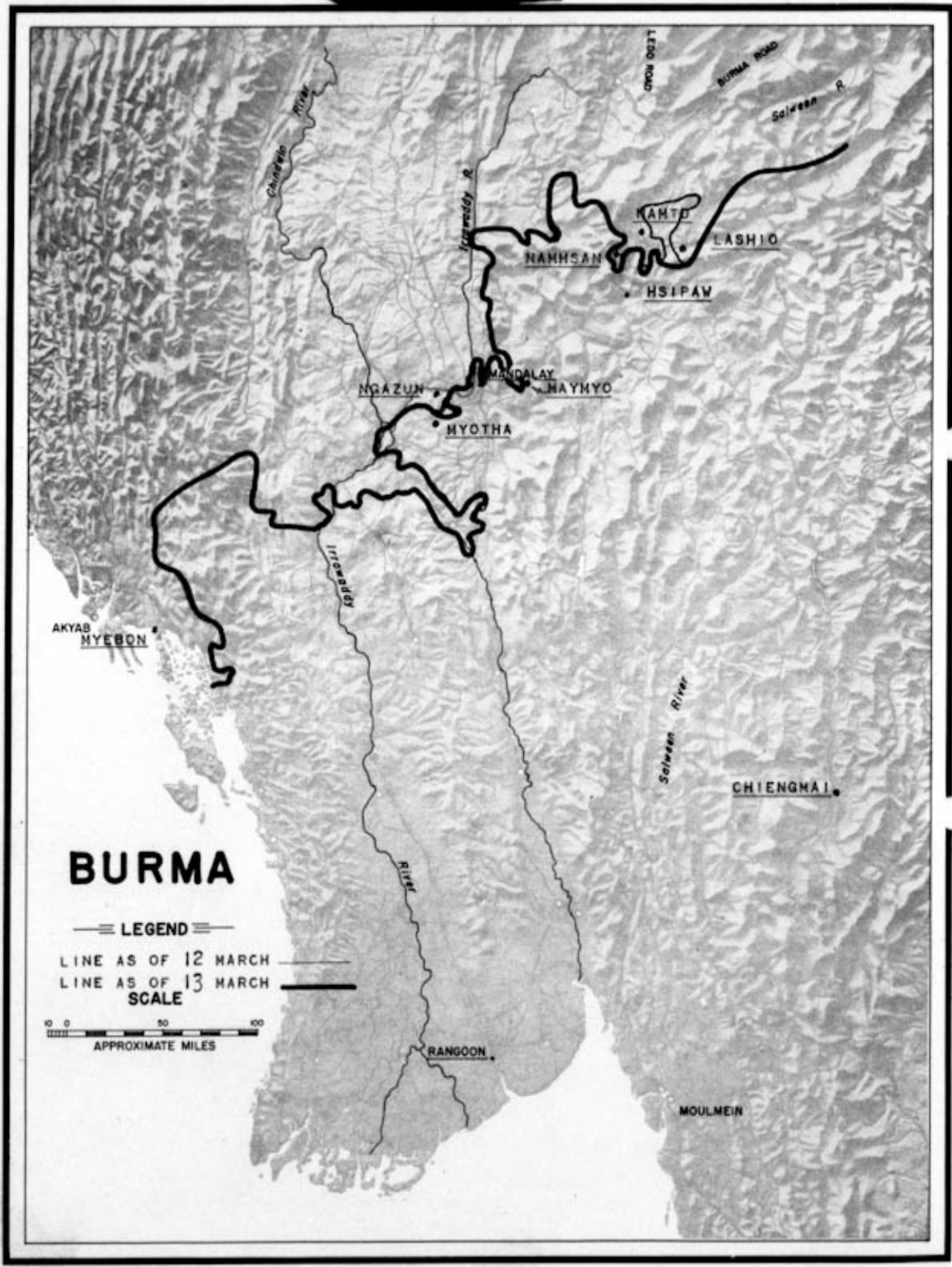
CENTRAL WESTERN PACIFIC



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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

SECRET

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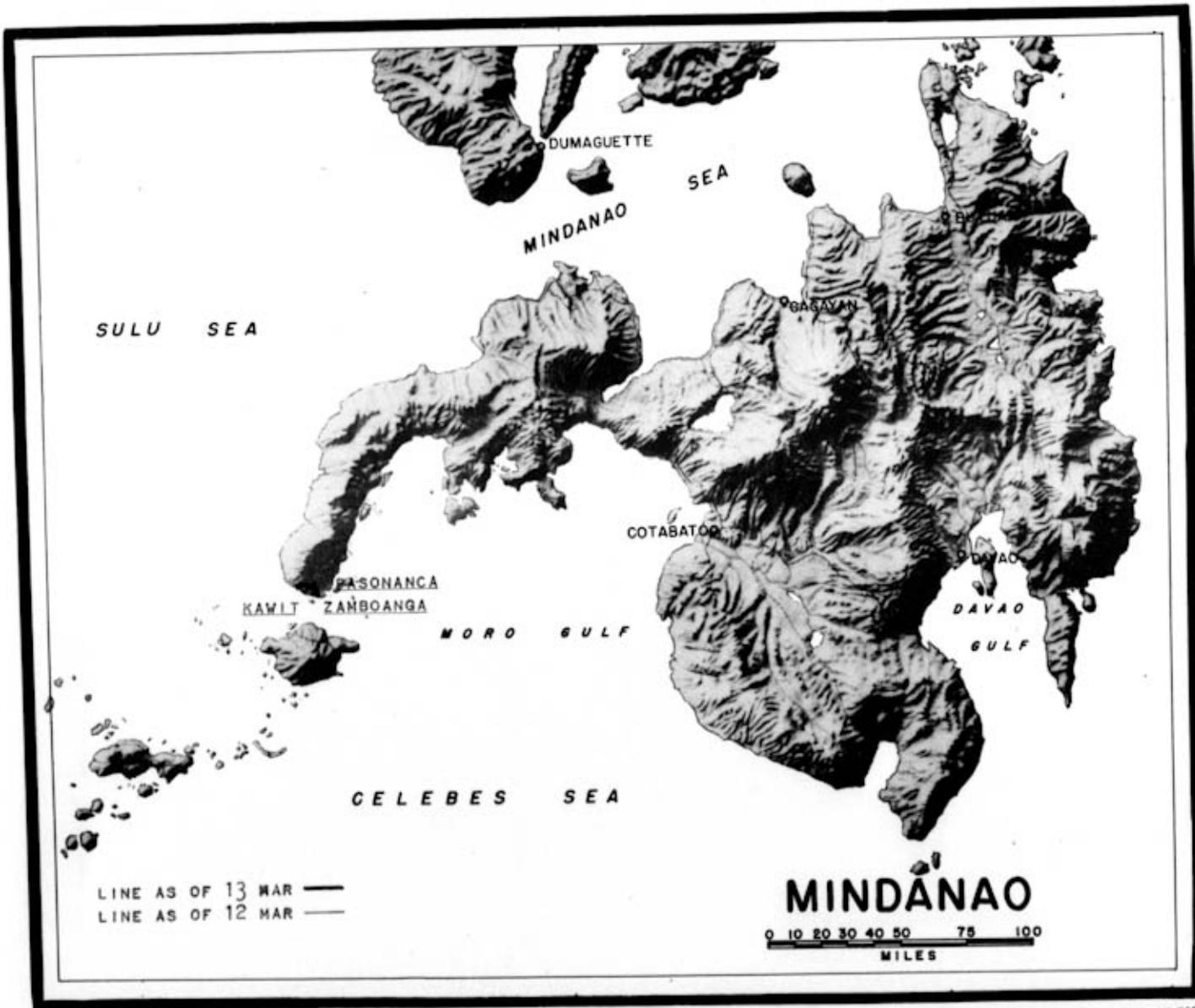
TOP SECRET

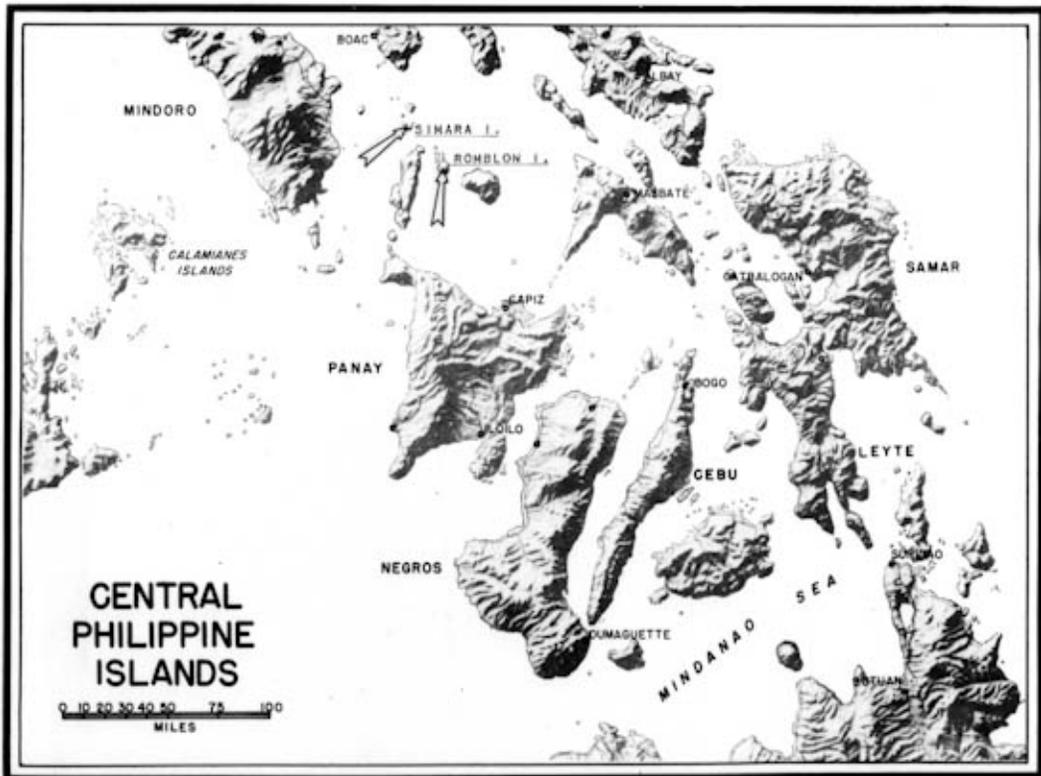
ASIATIC THEATER

11 March. The Eastern Air Command flew 2,326 sorties, of which about one-third were offensive. Twelve RAF heavy bombers attacked bridges on the Bangkok-Chiangmai railway; 24 other B-24's hit dumps in the Rangoon area. Forty-eight US medium bombers attacked enemy concentrations in the Hsipaw-Myotha area. Attack planes swept positions and dumps from Hsipaw to Myebon.

During 24 offensive sorties reported by the 14th Air Force, five B-24's hit shipping in the Gulf of Tongking.

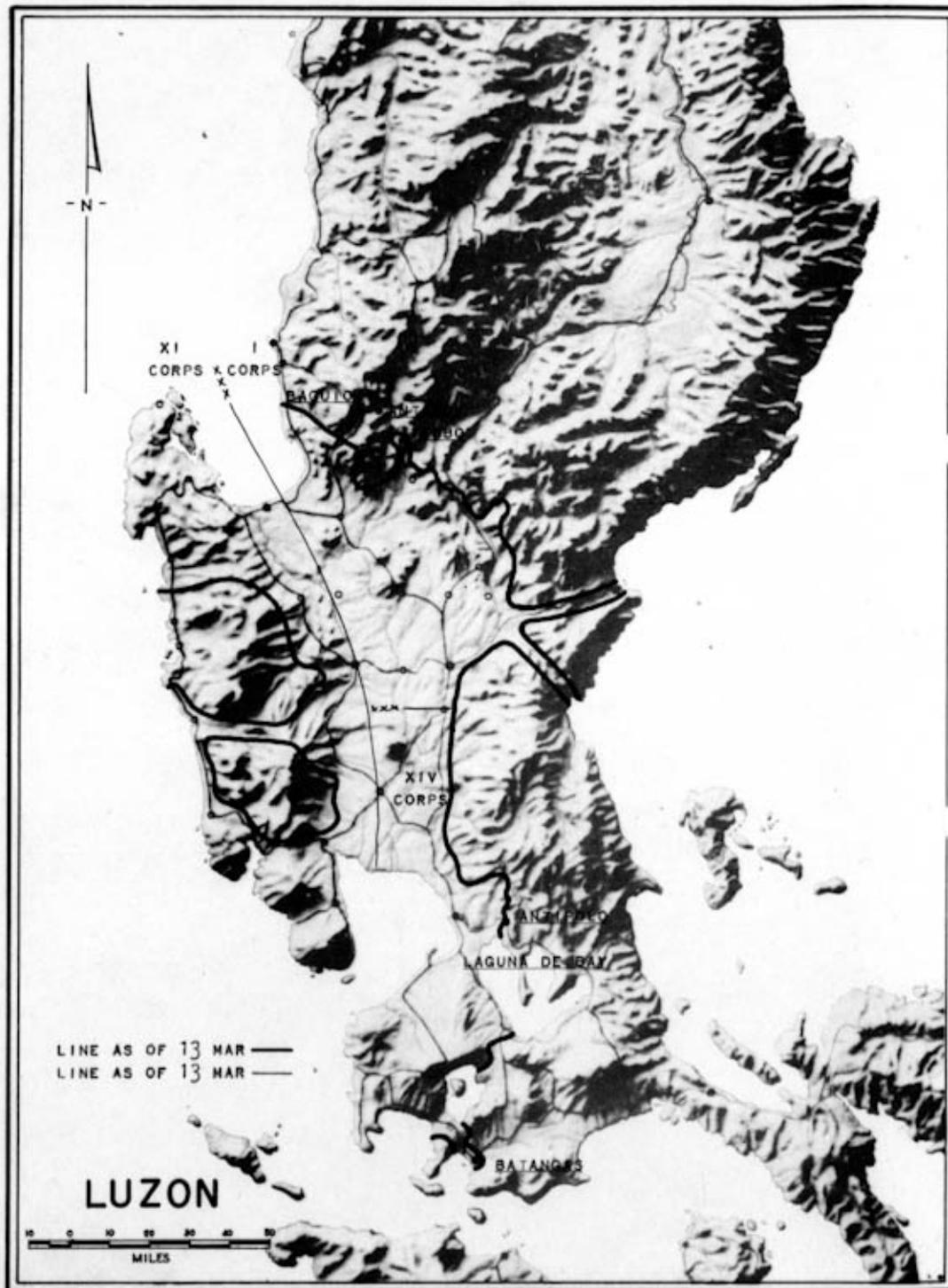
Chinese units pushing south of Lashio gained three miles and established contact with another parallel column from Nantou. Other Chinese gained five miles along the Nantou-Hsipaw road; farther west they had pushed 12 miles south of Namhsan. In heavy house-to-house fighting, British units have captured half of Mandalay. East of the city, they advanced ten miles to cut the Hsipaw-Mandalay railroad at Maymyo while a five-mile expansion of the Ngazun bridgehead cut the railroad running southwest to Myotha. All rail lines from Mandalay have now been severed.





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AND Letter, 6-8-72

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OSD Letter, 5-8-72



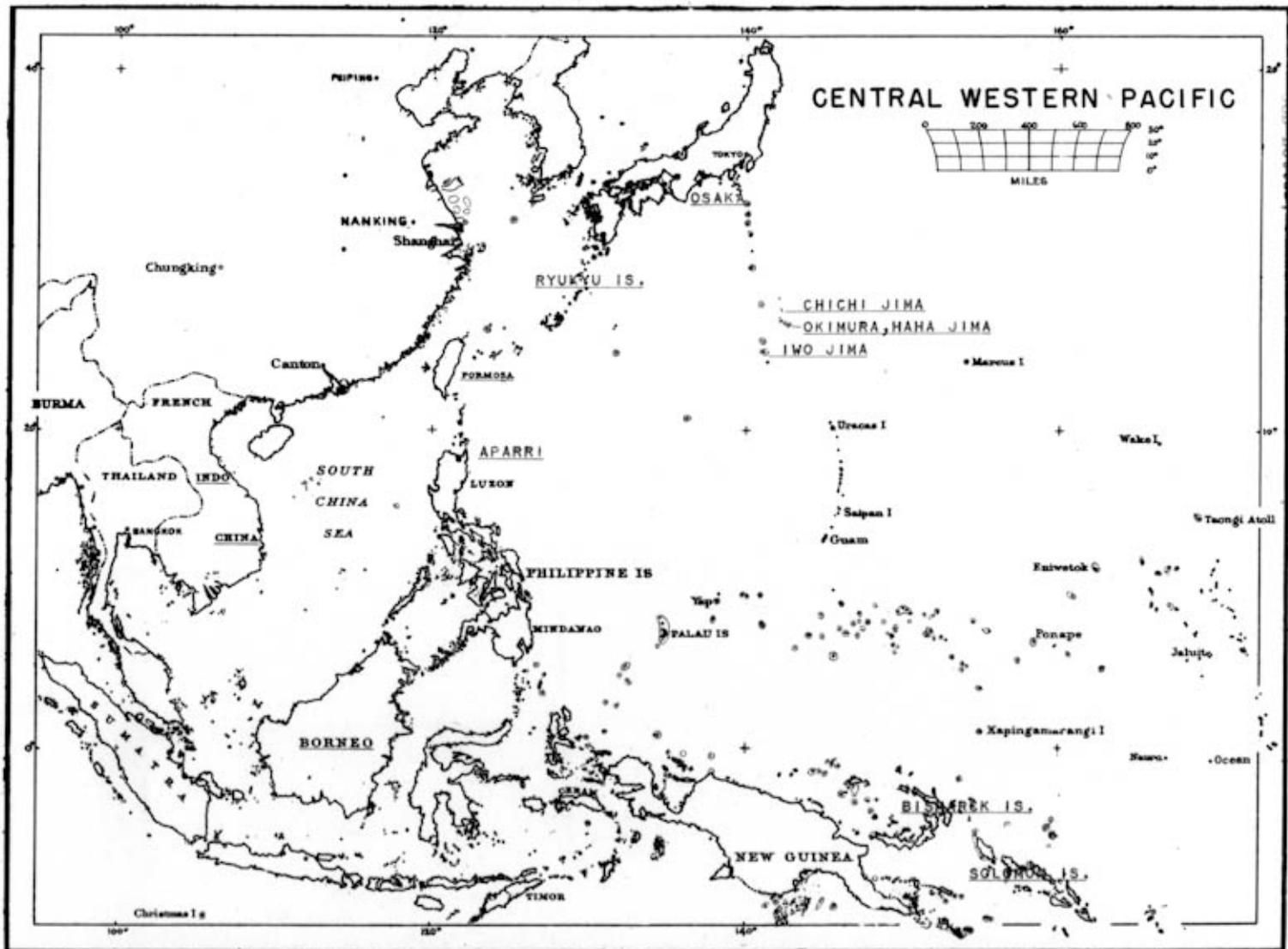
SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA

11 March. More than 470 previously unreported sorties were flown, of which 329 were against targets on Luzon; 33 were against targets in the Solomons and Bismarcks. Fighters shot down an enemy plane off the coast of Indo-China and destroyed two in Luzon.

12 March. Ninety-six sorties were reported by Southwest Pacific aircraft. Supply dumps and personnel areas in northern Borneo were attacked by 25 heavy bombers. Other heavy bombers attacked targets on Mindanao and the town of Aparri on northern Luzon. Medium bombers and fighters supported our ground forces at Zamboanga. Patrol planes near Formosa and the Ryukyus sank three coastal vessels and heavily damaged two others. An enemy torpedo bomber was shot down.

The I Corps, on Luzon, reached Tebbo unopposed and patrolled to Antamok, four miles east of Baguio. North of Laguna de Bay the XIV Corps was attacking Antipolo from three directions and penetrated into the town from the northwest. On southern Luzon, Batangas was captured unopposed. On Mindanao, units of the Eighth Army, moving west of Zamboanga, reached Kawit.

Other units made unopposed landings on Romblon and Simara Islands in the Sibuyan Sea.



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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

PACIFIC OCEAN AREA

11 and 12 March. US fighters swept Japanese positions on Haha and Chichi Jima.

14 March. Formations totalling 279 B-29's made their third large attack against the Japanese mainland on Wednesday when Osaka was bombed. One enemy plane was destroyed. Preliminary reports show that we lost one B-29.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72



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OSD Letter, 5-8-72

EASTERN FRONT

13 March. Soviets further compressed German forces around
Danzig and Gdynia.

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 1189

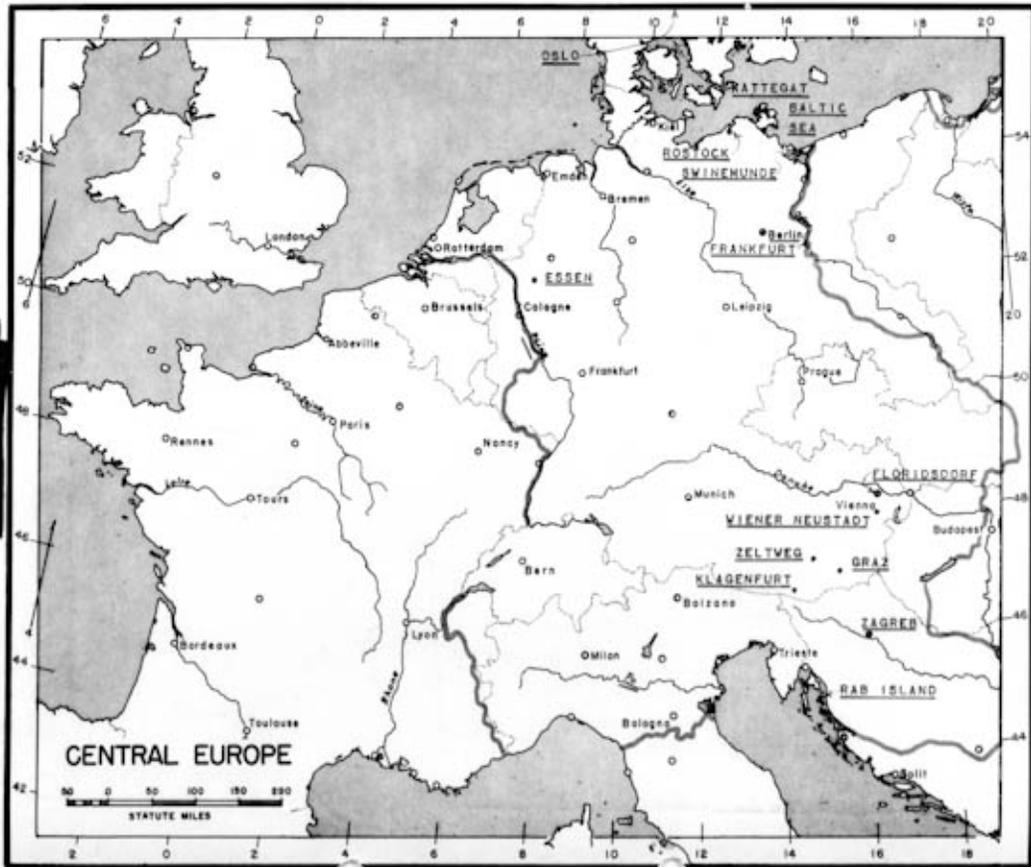
0700 March 12 to 0700 March 13, 1945

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

EUROPE AND THE MEDITERRANEAN - STRATEGIC AIR

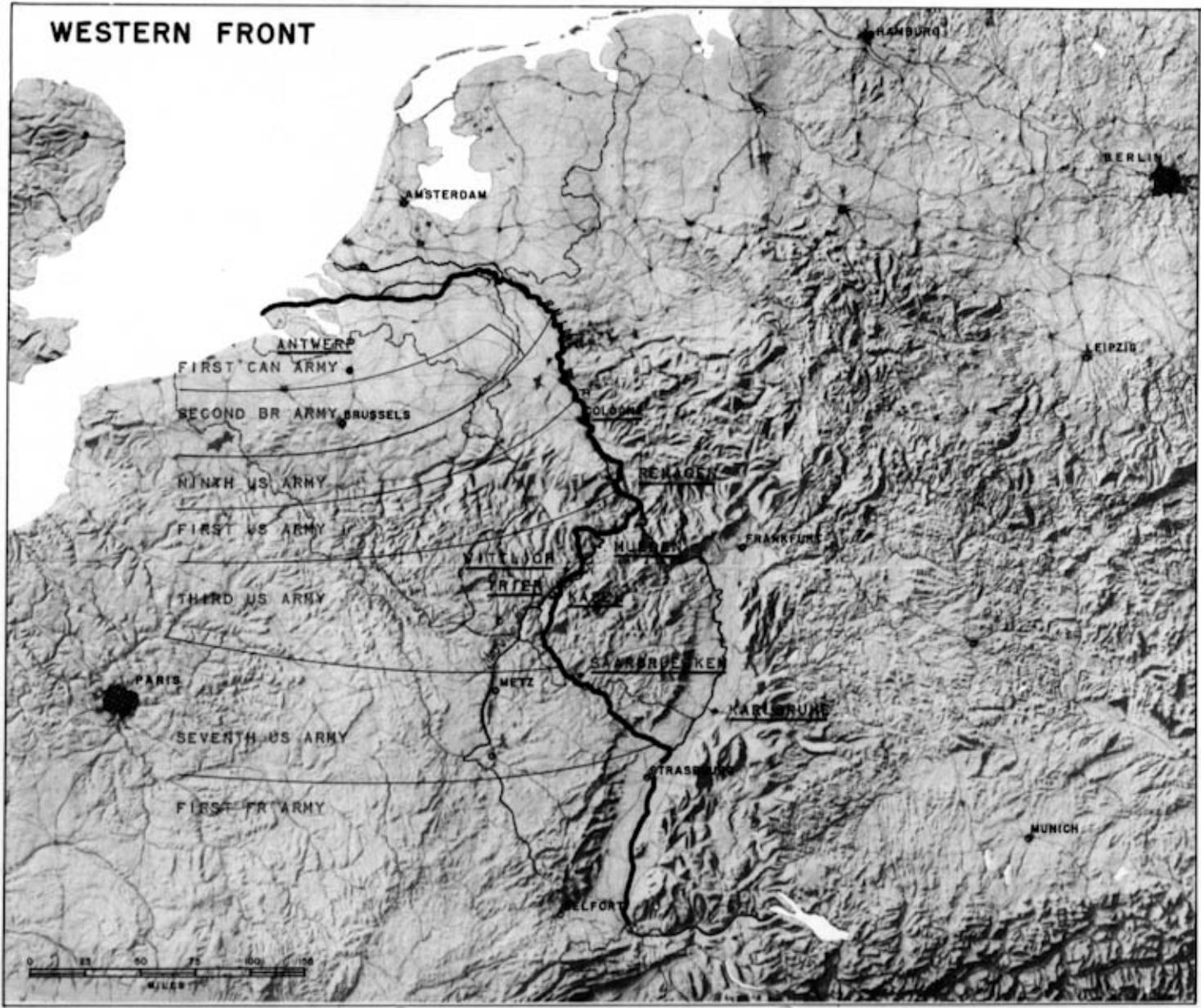
11 March. More than 1,000 RAF heavy bombers struck Essen, dropping 4,737 tons of bombs. That night 90 Mosquitoes attacked Berlin and six others made widespread attacks over Germany. Twenty-one heavy bombers laid mines near Oslo and in the Kattegat. Three heavy bombers are missing.

During previously reported 8th Air Force attacks against shipyards, bridges and oil refineries in northern Germany our bombers dropped over 3,000 tons of bombs. One heavy bomber and six fighters were lost.

12 March. The port areas of Swinemunde and Rostock on the Baltic and railyards between the Rhine and Frankfurt-on-Oder were the targets for 1,355 escorted 8th Air Force heavy bombers. Escorting fighters shot down four enemy planes. Two bombers were lost and four fighters have not yet returned.

The main part of a force of 850 escorted 15th Air Force heavy bombers attacked the Floridsdorf oil refinery in Vienna; other forces bombed railyards at Graz, Zeltweg and Wiener Neustadt. Three bombers and two fighters are missing. The attack on Floridsdorf marked the largest number of planes (747 bombers and 213 fighters) and the highest tonnage (1,664 tons) on a single target by the 15th Air Force.

WESTERN FRONT



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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

TOP SECRET

EUROPEAN THEATER

11 March. The Tactical Air Forces flew 2,554 sorties. Communication centers, ammunition plants, towns and airfields east of the Rhine and in northwestern Germany were attacked by bombers dropping 1,142 tons of bombs. Lighter aircraft patrolled the Cologne area and the Remagen bridgehead, and gave support in the Saarbruecken and Karlsruhe areas. We lost ten planes.

During the 24-hour period ending at 0600, three flying bombs fell in Antwerp. Fifty-six flying bombs fell in neighboring areas and 42 others were destroyed by anti-aircraft fire.

12 March. During the 24-hour period ending at 0600, 14 rockets fell in the Kent, Essex and London areas.

Consolidation of ground and regrouping were the only activities reported by the Northern Group of Armies.

With the bridge and ferry facilities improving at Remagen, the III Corps continued to expand the bridgehead against stiff resistance. Our maximum thrust was five miles east of the Rhine, and we held 11 miles along the east bank. Units of the XII and XX Corps continued to clear the north bank of the Moselle around Mueden. Northeast of Wittlich, a drive along a 15-mile front averaged two miles against light opposition. East of Trier, we advanced a mile along the south bank of the Moselle after repulsing counterattacks.

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

11 March. The Coastal Air Force flew 58 sorties, chiefly against rail and road transportation in northern Italy. The Balkan Air Force, in 90 sorties, attacked gun positions and shipping installations along the Yugoslavian coast.

12 March. The Tactical Air Force reported a total of 852 sorties against targets in the Po Valley and rail and motor transport behind the battle areas. One hundred twenty-seven B-25's struck communications in northeastern Italy, destroying two bridges.

Ground action on the Italian front was limited to patrol clashes.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72



MR. CROWLEY

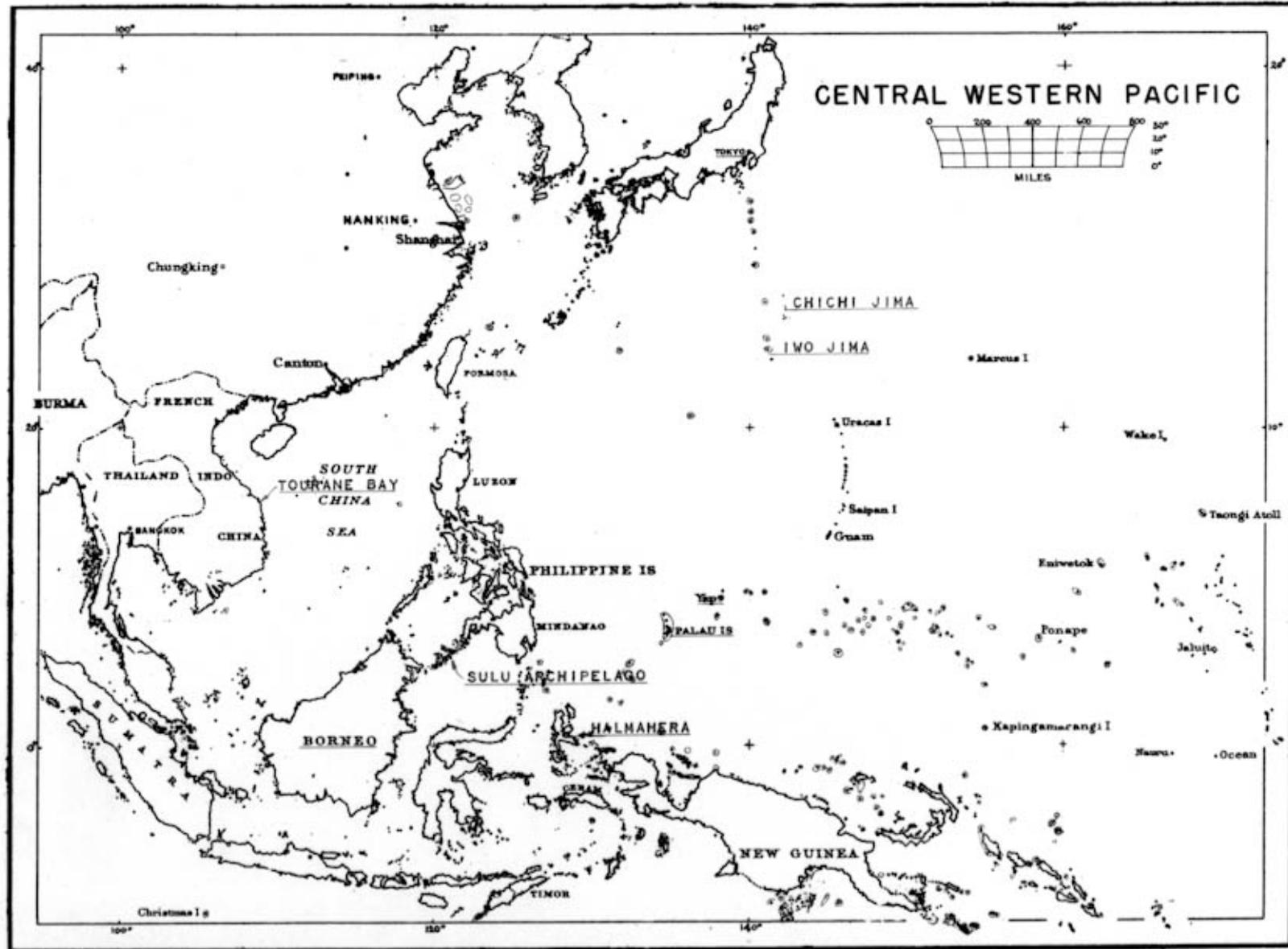
ASIATIC THEATER

10 March. The Eastern Air Command flew 1,988 sorties, of which 1,040 were offensive. Supply dumps in the Kyaukse area were attacked by 35 medium bombers. Mosquitoes and fighter planes attacked enemy positions and dumps in central Burma, chiefly in the Arakan area and along the Mandalay-Rangoon rail line.

Among a total of 112 offensive sorties of the 14th Air Force, 31 heavy bombers attacked Tsanghsien in northeastern China. Other aircraft attacked rail and river transportation and airfields in central China.

11 March. The Chinese gained two miles on the road south of Lashio and to the west, advanced another mile toward Hsipaw.

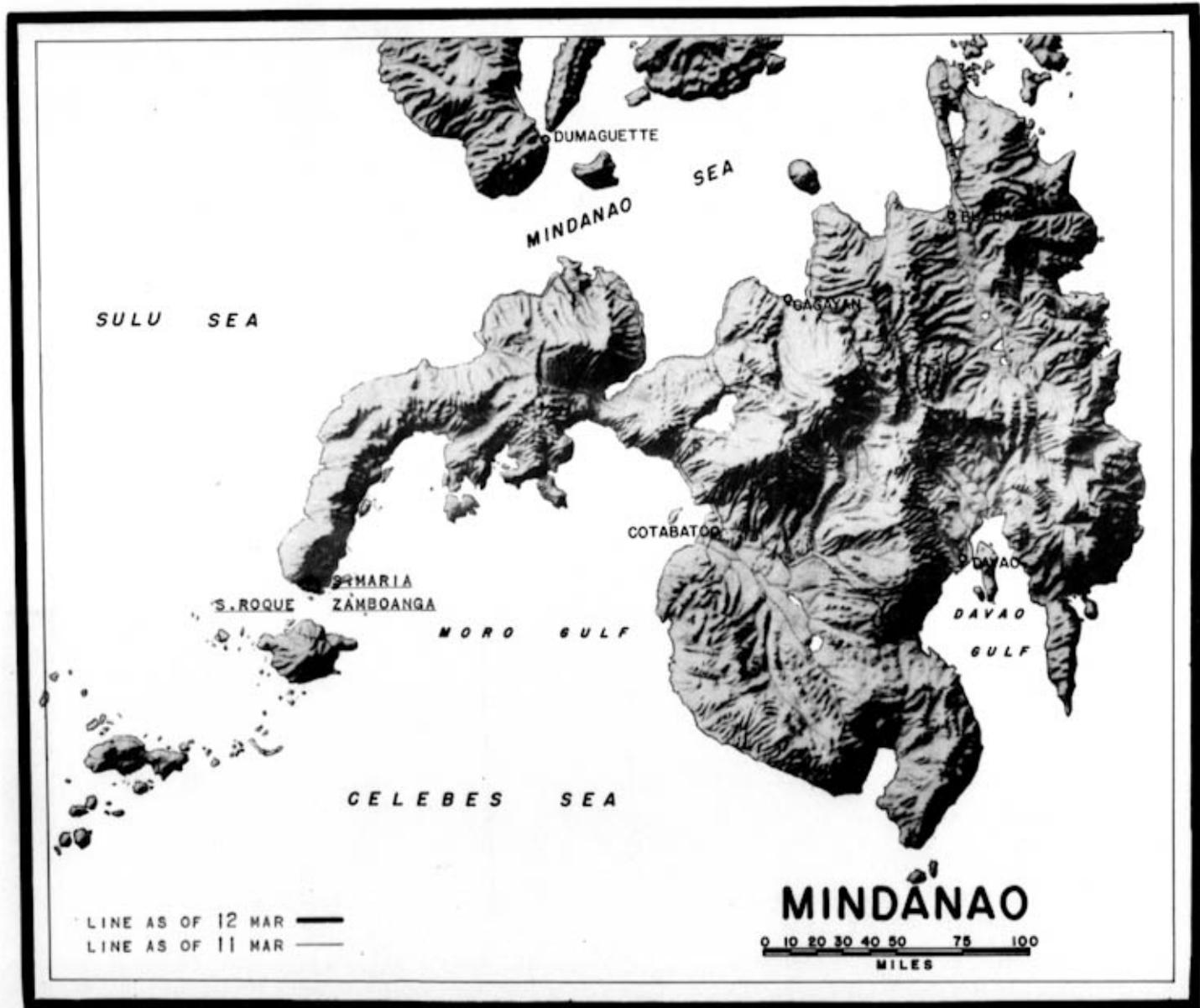
The British encountered stiff opposition in the fighting in the northern outskirts of Mandalay. Northeast of the city, a column driving east is within ten miles of Maymyo. The bridgehead south of Ngazun was substantially expanded against stiff opposition.



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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

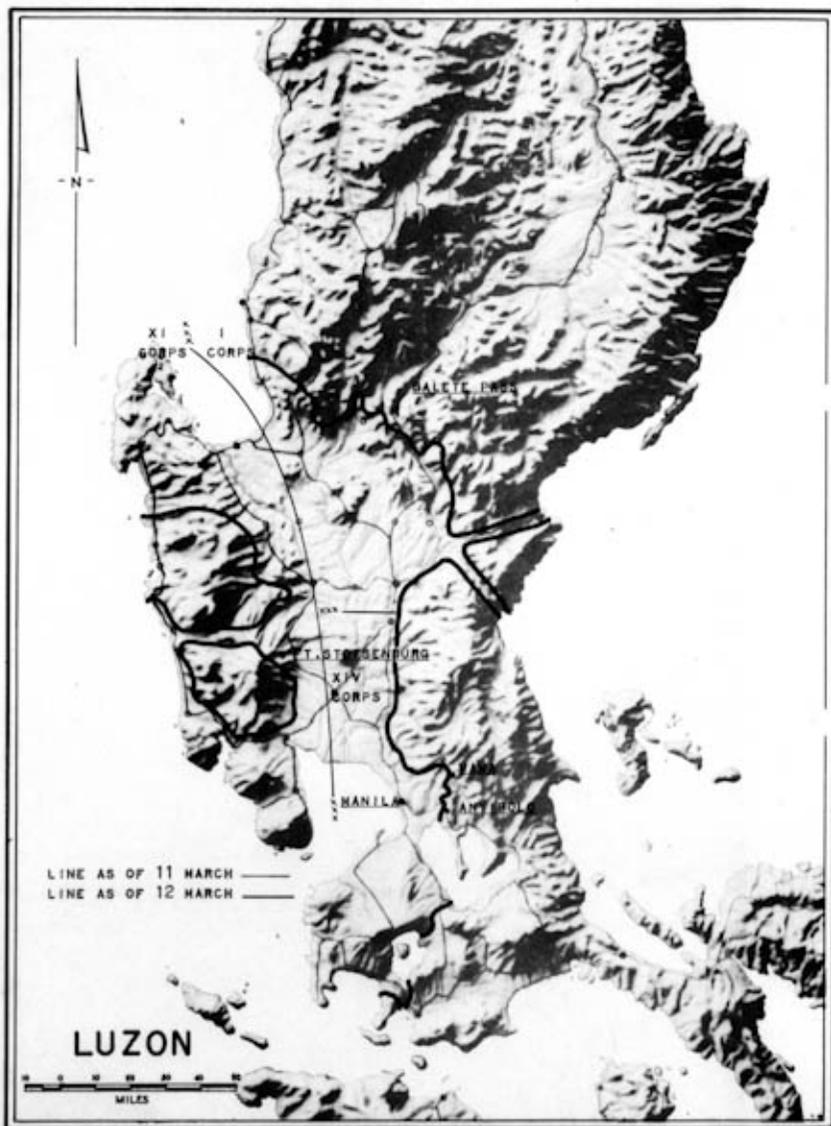
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OSD Letter, 5-3-72



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OSD Letter, 5-8-78

TOP SECRET



SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

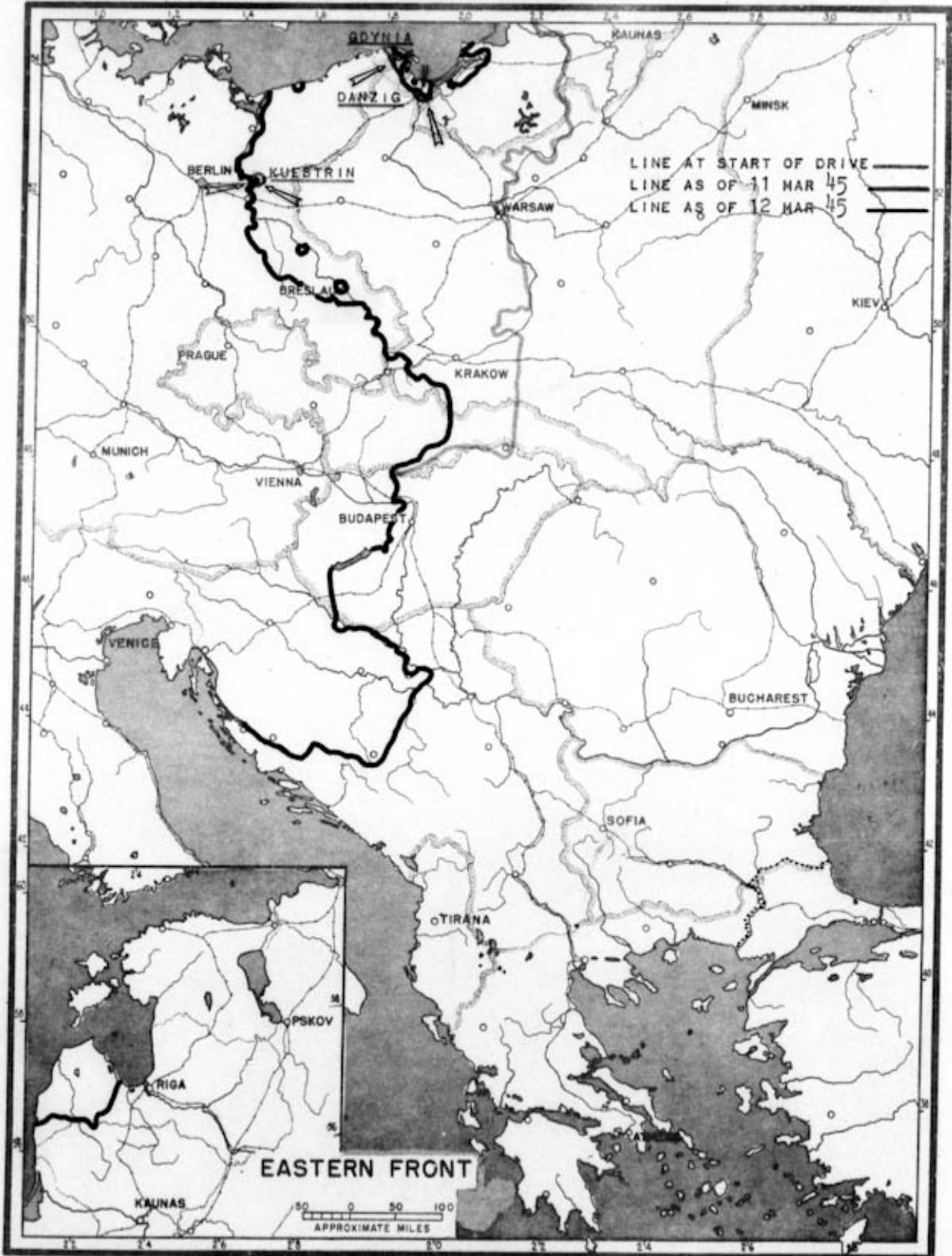
10 March. More than 670 sorties were flown in the Southwest Pacific Area with 422 aircraft striking targets on Luzon. Zamboanga was attacked by 143 planes including 70 B-24's in support of landing operations; other heavy bombers raided targets in the Sulu Archipelago and on Borneo. Medium bombers left a medium tanker sinking and fired a large tanker off the Indo-China coast; fighters sank another tanker near Halmahera.

11 March. More than 110 sorties were flown. Eighteen heavy bombers struck airdromes on Borneo; mediums attacked Zamboanga and other targets on Mindanao.

I Corps troops on Luzon were encountering well-organized resistance in their advance toward Balete Pass. In the Fort Stotsenburg area, XI Corps troops repulsed a Banzai attack, killing 166 Japanese. Our cavalry secured several ridges near Antipolo and drove the enemy from a cave network. On Mindanao, the 41st Division captured Zamboanga. Santa Maria, north of Zamboanga, and the San Roque airfield to the west were taken against light opposition.

PACIFIC OCEAN AREA

10 March. On the previously reported Tokyo raid, 13 B-29's are missing.



EASTERN FRONT

12 March. The German fortified city of Kuestrin was taken by the Red Army. North of Gdynia the Soviets have reached the Gulf of Danzig.

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-78

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 1188

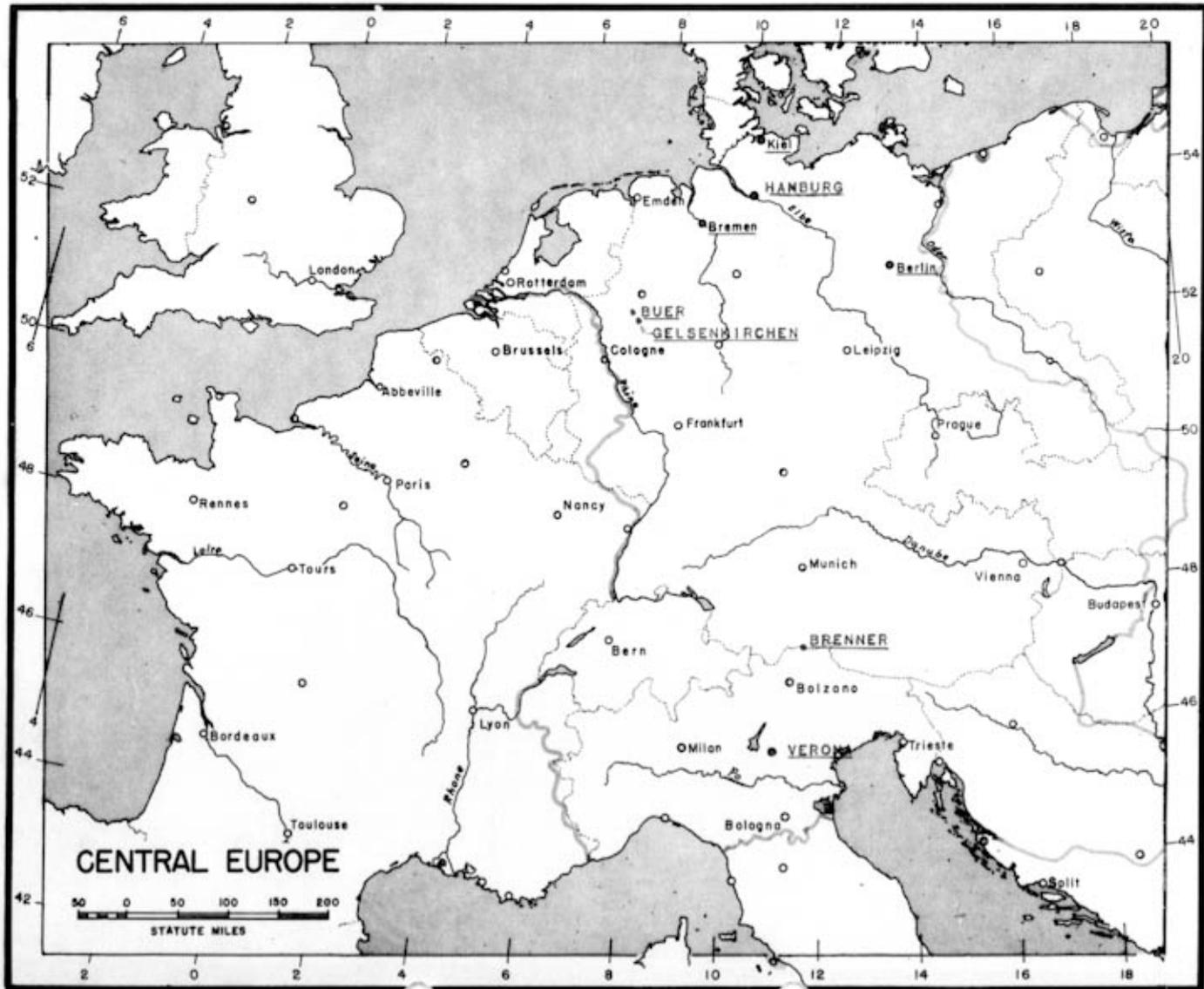
0700 March 11 to 0700 March 12, 1945

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

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WESTERN HEMISPHERE

10 March. B-24's of the 11th Air Force on weather strikes dropped seven tons on Paramushiro Island.

EUROPE AND THE MEDITERRANEAN - STRATEGIC AIR

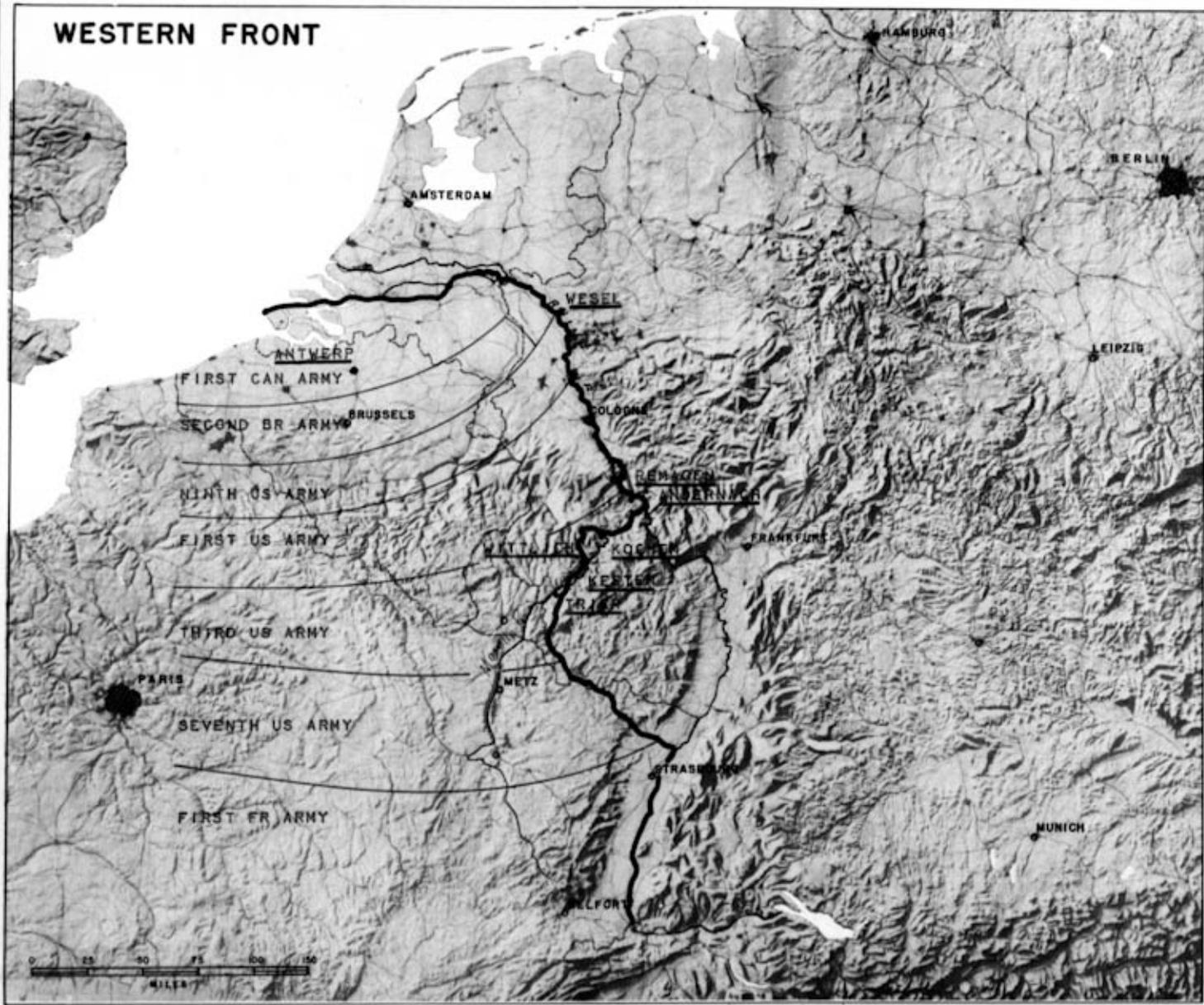
10 March. The Buer synthetic oil plant near Gelsenkirchen was attacked by 153 RAF heavy bombers, dropping 755 tons of bombs. That night 57 Mosquitoes attacked Berlin and ten others made wide-spread attacks over Germany.

11 March. Bridges, oil refineries and shipbuilding yards at Bremen, Kiel and Hamburg were the targets for 1,254 escorted 8th Air Force heavy bombers. One bomber and three fighters were lost.

Sixty heavy bombers of the Mediterranean Strategic Air Force hit rail yards at Verona. Adverse weather grounded the 15th Air Force.

During the 24-hour period ending at 0600, one rocket fell in the London area and one in Hertfordshire.

WESTERN FRONT



DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

TOP SECRET

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OSD Letter, 5-8-72

EUROPEAN THEATER

10 March. The Tactical Air Forces flew 2,097 sorties. Medium and fighter bombers dropped 900 tons on rail and communication centers, mostly south of the Ruhr, and on rocket-launching sites in Holland. Support was given to our troops all along the front and fighters covered the Remagen area. We lost ten planes.

During the 24-hour period ending at 0600, one rocket and 11 flying bombs fell in areas near Antwerp. Antiaircraft shot down nine other flying bombs.

11 March. The German pocket on the Rhine west of Wesel has been eliminated.

The US III Corps continued to expand the Remagen bridgehead despite stiff resistance and heavy artillery fire which still effectively interdicts the railroad bridge for protracted periods. West of Andernach the VIII Corps is mopping up scattered pockets of resistance. The XII Corps advanced up to seven miles to reach the Rhine and the lower Moselle. In the Wittlich sector, other units gained a maximum of four miles along a 17-mile front, capturing Kesten on the Moselle. We now hold the Rhine River line from the Dutch border to the Moselle, and have cleared the enemy from the major portion of the area north of the Moselle.

No change was reported in the US Seventh and French First Army sectors.

~~TOP SECRET~~
DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

10 March. The Tactical Air Force flew 89 previously unreported sorties. During the day, 31 rail cuts were made in northeastern Italy, including eight on the Brenner Route. In all operations, eight of our planes are missing. Flying 144 sorties, the Coastal and Balkan Air Forces attacked rail movements in northwestern Italy and gave support to partisan troops in Yugoslavia.

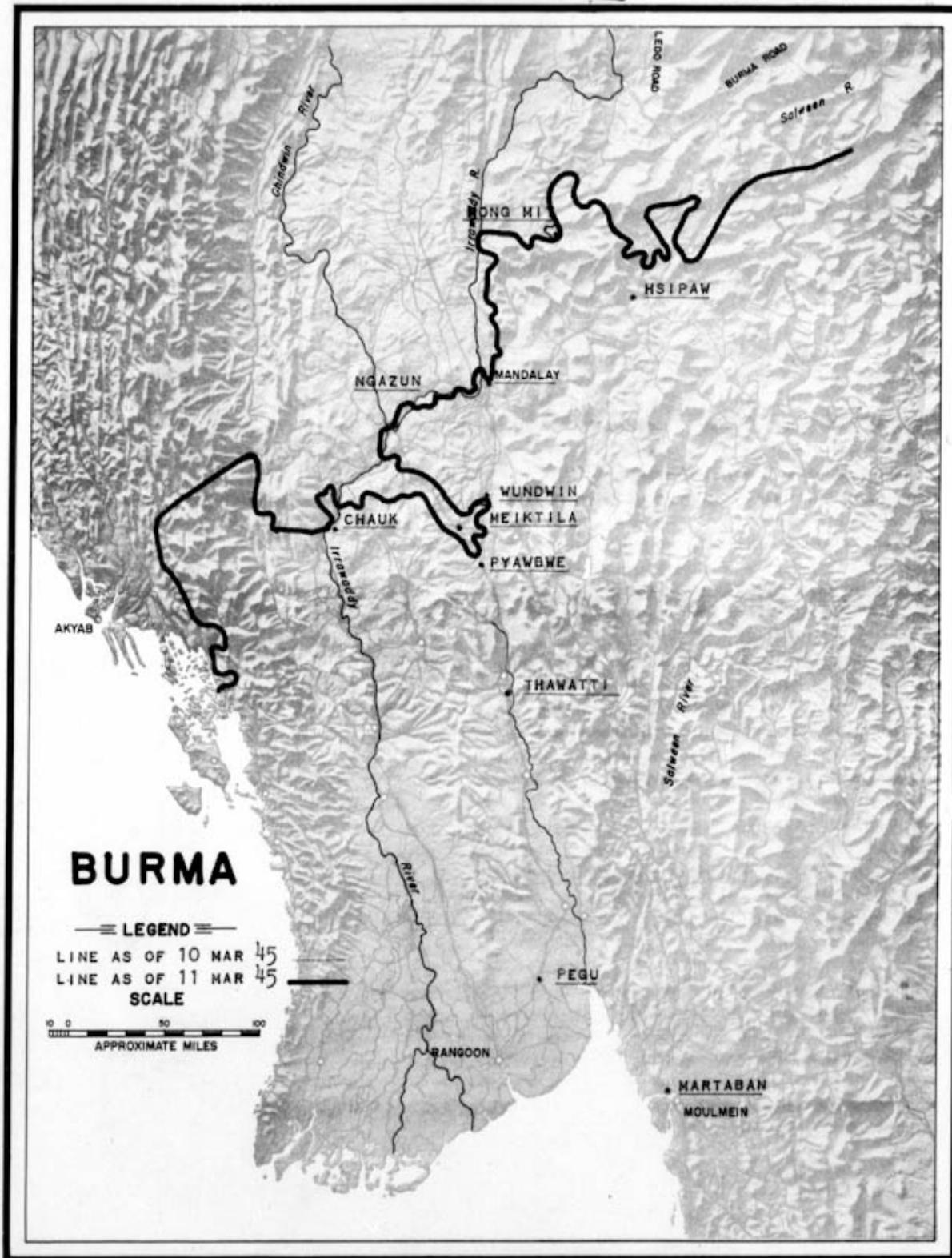
11 March. The Tactical Air Force flew 1,134 sorties, supporting ground operations and attacking communications in the central Po Valley, along the Brenner Line, and in southern Austria.

Activity was limited to patrolling along the Italian front.

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OSD Letter, 5-8-72

TOP SECRET





ASIATIC THEATER

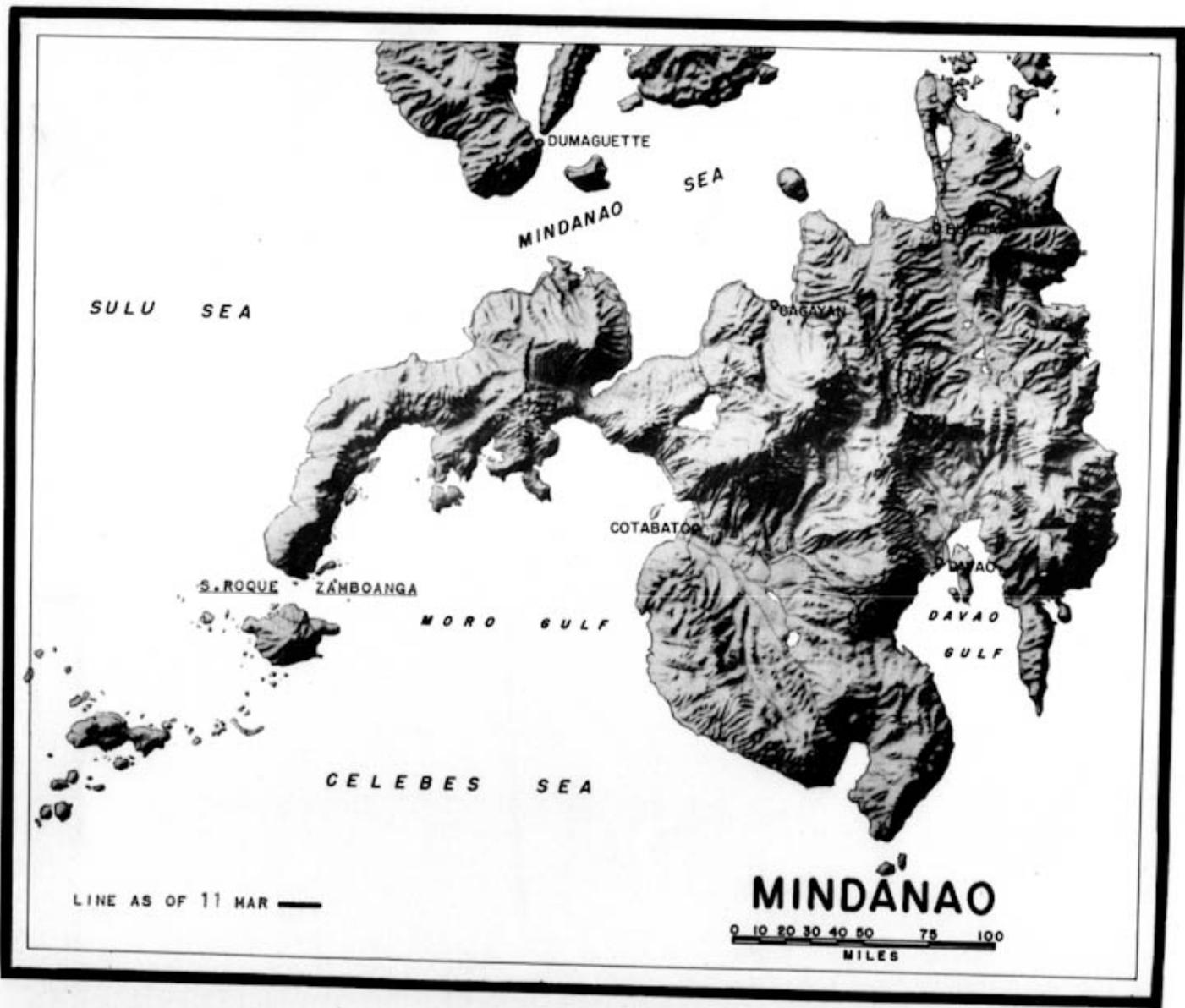
9 March. The Eastern Air Command flew a total of 2,491 sorties of which 802 were offensive. More than 90 heavy bombers attacked supply dumps at Rangoon and bridges along the Pegu-Martaban railroad. Medium bombers hit troop concentrations in the Chauk area and bombed the Thawatti railroad bridge on the main Mandalay-Rangoon line. Fighters and fighter bombers flew ground support and attacked transportation, supplies, defense positions, and airdromes throughout the active battle areas in central and southern Burma.

Among 167 sorties flown by the 14th Air Force, 32 escorted B-24's attacked railyards at Sinsiang. Other planes attacked bridges, railroads and river shipping from Lingling to the Yellow River, and struck docks at Nanking, where three enemy interceptors were shot down.

12 March. Oil storage tanks in the Singapore area and coal mines in Thailand were targets for 46 B-29 bombers.

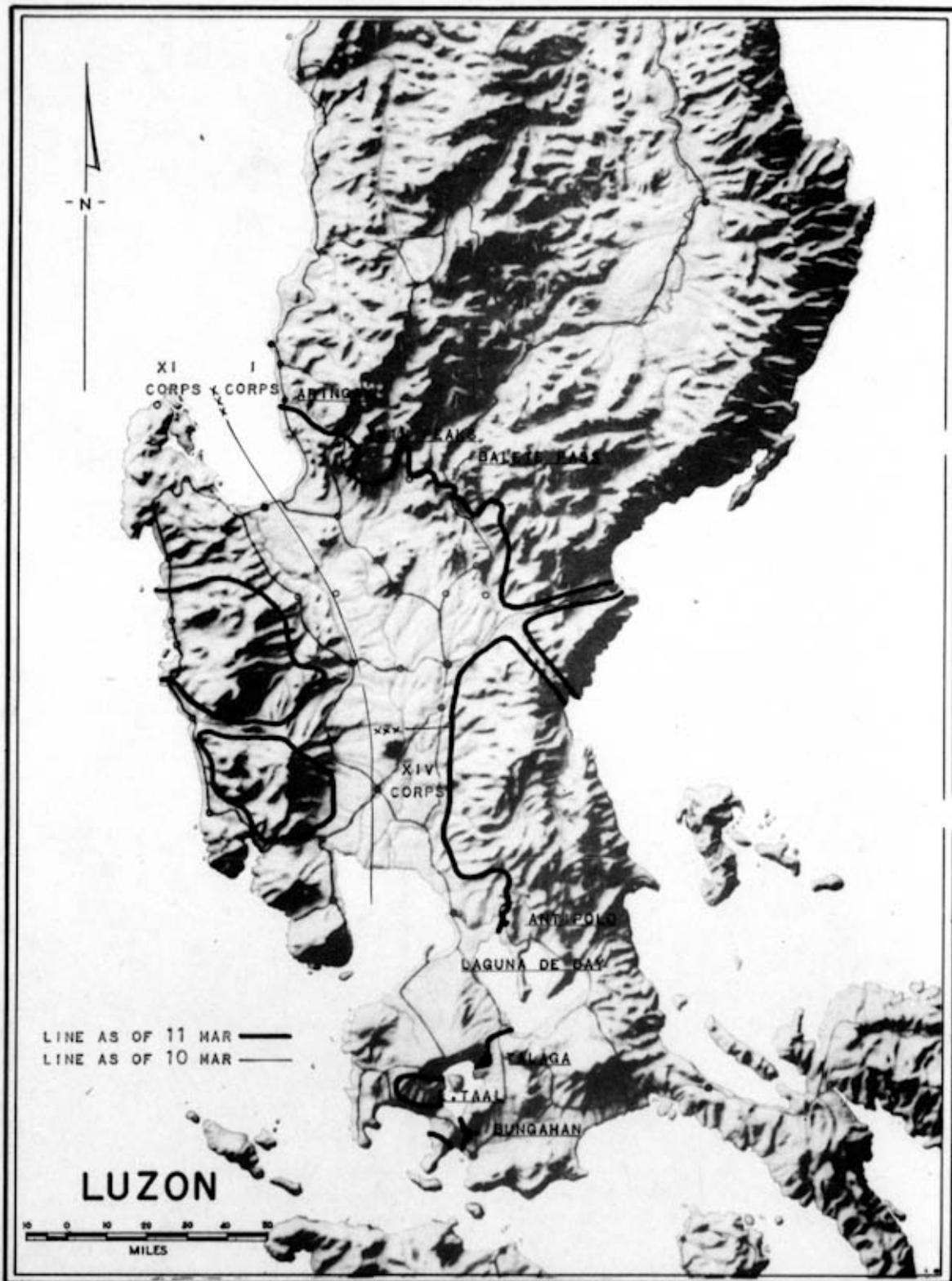
9 March. British forces have occupied Mong Mit against light opposition. Further south other troops are fighting in the outskirts of Mandalay. The Ngazun bridgehead was expanded slightly against strong opposition. In the Meiktila area units have reached Wundwin and have advanced to within five miles of Pyawbwe.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-78



TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET



SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA

9 March. Southwest Pacific aircraft flew 566 previously unreported sorties, including 103 against the Bismarcks and Solomons. Targets on Luzon were attacked by 389 planes. Negros, Cebu, Panay and Mindanao Islands were also hit, including an attack on Zamboanga by 24 B-24's. Heavy bombers dropped 80 tons on Takao dockyards in Formosa, causing fires and explosions. Patrolling B-24's sank three ships and damaged three more in the China Sea.

10 March. During 62 sorties, patrol planes left a medium-sized transport sinking near Hainan Island and shot down one fighter plane. Twenty-six medium bombers attacked targets at Zamboanga. Nine B-24's bombed Keravat airdrome at Rabaul.

On Luzon, I Corps patrols reached a point on the west coast six miles north of Aringay. Other troops occupied hill positions east of Twin Peaks and made further gains south of Balete Pass. North of Laguna de Bay, elements of the XIV Corps captured high ground northwest of Antipolo encountering heavy mortar fire. Other units made limited gains north and south of Lake Taal. On Mindanao, the 41st Division captured San Roque village and Wolfe airdrome near Zamboanga against light opposition.

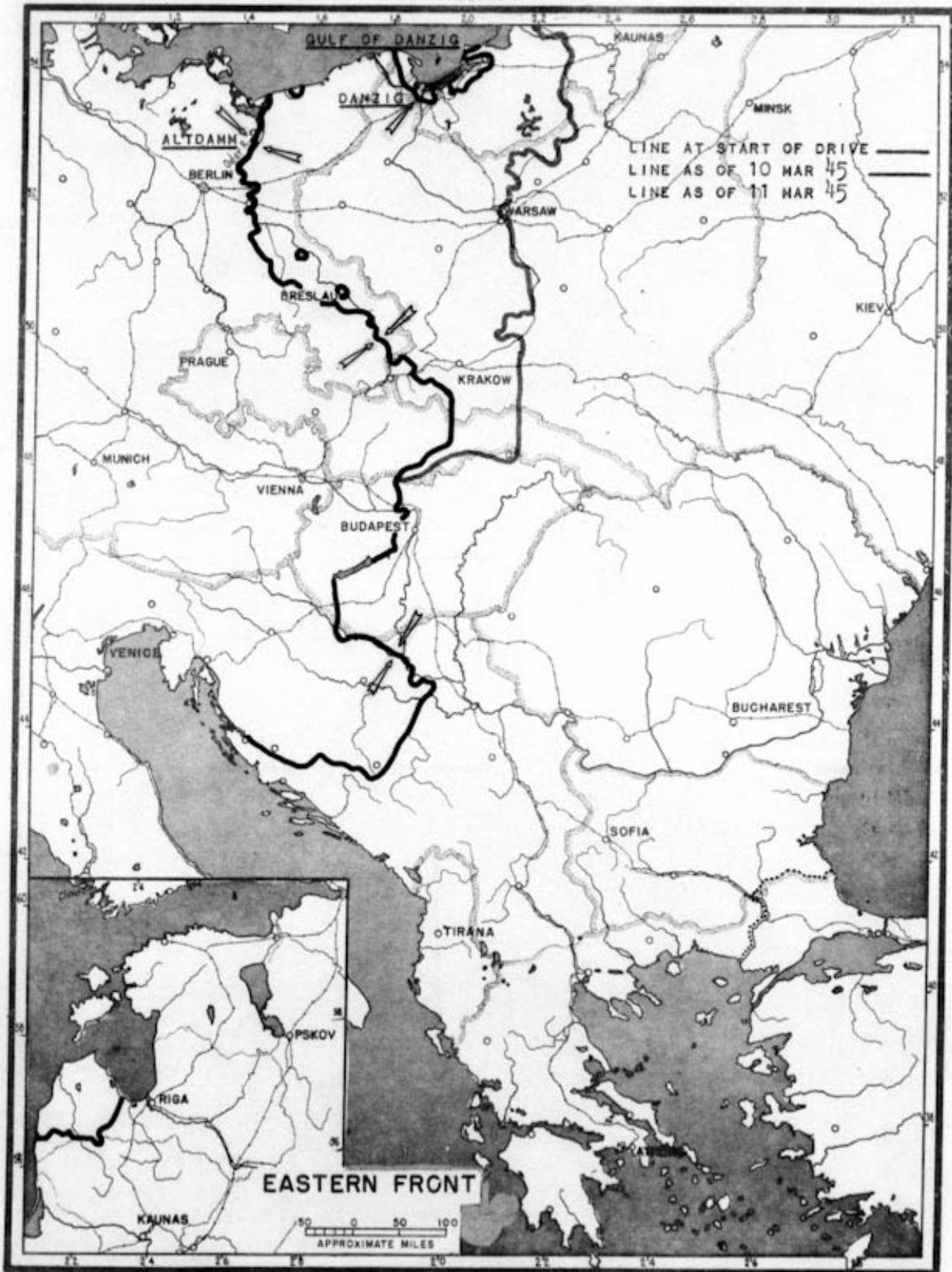
Communique states that our troops have entered Zamboanga city.

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

PACIFIC OCEAN AREA

12 March. Preliminary reports from the XXI Bomber Command indicate that Marianas-based B-29's dropped 1,842 tons on the industrial area of Nagoya. It is estimated that 25 percent of the city is in flames.

[REDACTED]



[REDACTED]

EASTERN FRONT

11 March. In advances up to ten miles, the Red Army approached the western shore of Danzig Gulf on a wide front. East and south of Altdamm, the Soviets pressed toward the Oder despite counterattacks.

GENERAL

Negotiations with French authorities are under way to increase the purchasing power of American soldiers in France. Proposed plan contemplates French agencies furnishing our post exchanges certain luxury items wholesale at cost. Also planned is the subsidizing of clubs and restaurants for the exclusive use of US military personnel. They will receive food under reverse Lend Lease agreement.

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 1187

0700 March 10 to 0700 March 11, 1945

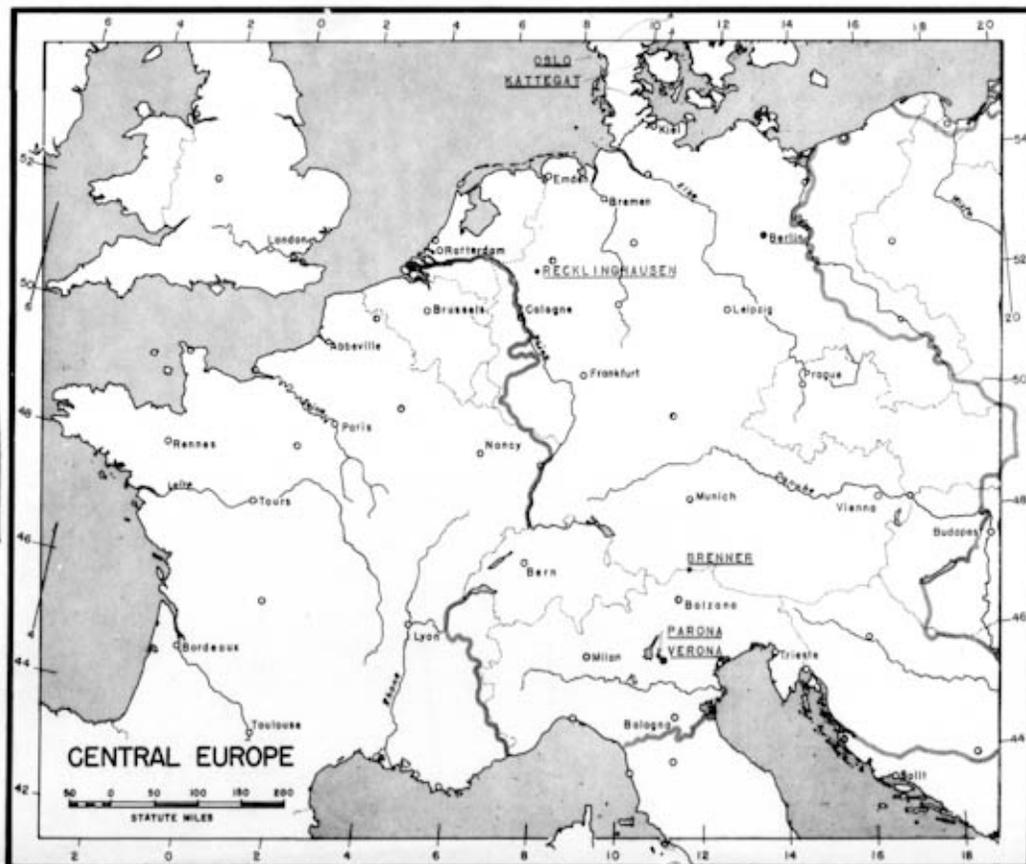
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OSD Letter, 6-9-72



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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

GENERAL

8 March. The War Department has notified all overseas and domestic commands that subsistence supplies in this country are approaching a dangerously low level due to increased demands from overseas theaters. It will become increasingly necessary to substitute available items such as canned corn and corned beef for items in greater demand.

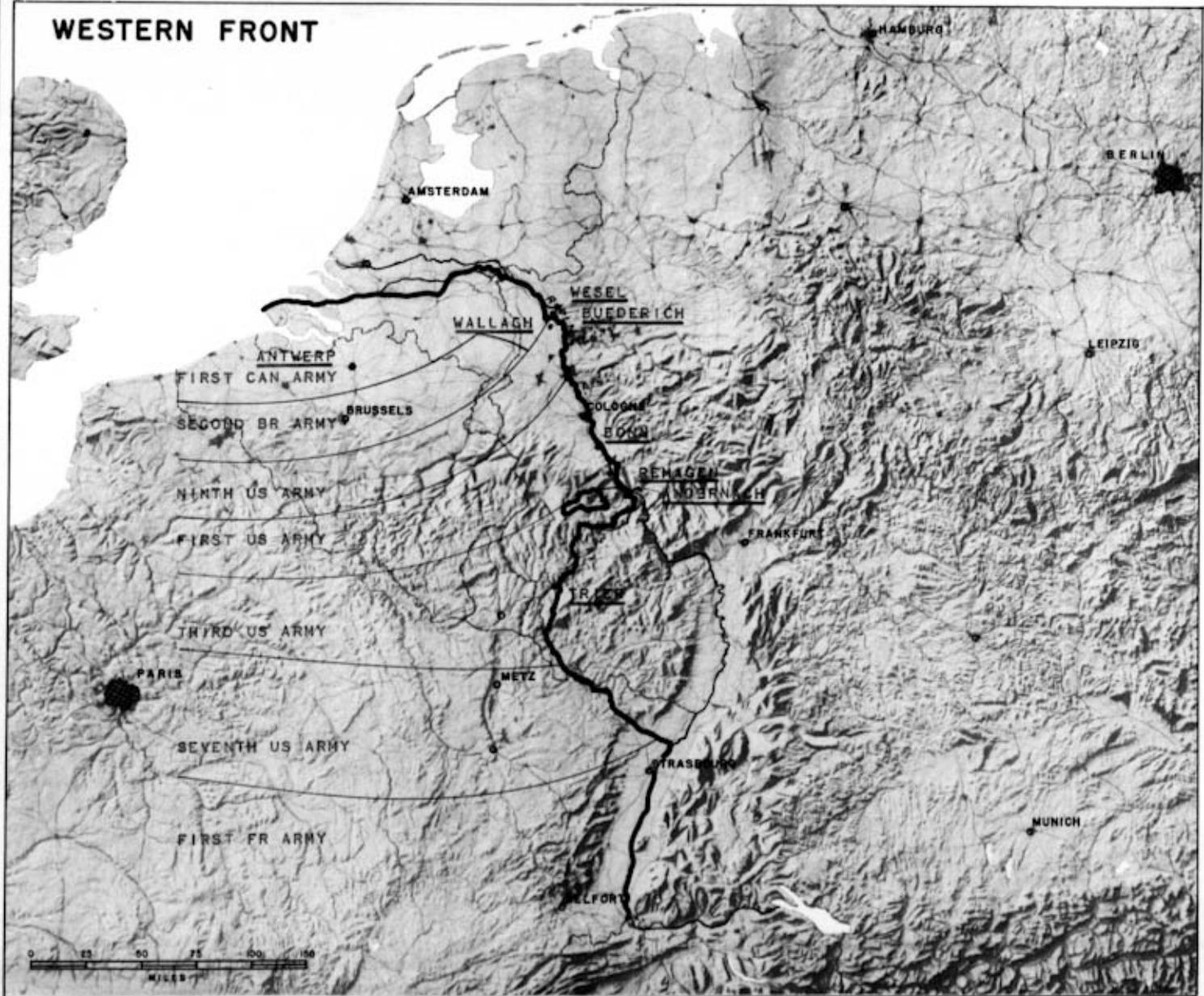
EUROPE AND THE MEDITERRANEAN - STRATEGIC AIR

9 March. One hundred fifty-seven RAF heavy bombers attacked a benzol plant near Recklinghausen with 793 tons of bombs. Other heavy bombers dispatched to attack targets in northwestern Germany were forced back by weather. During the night, 88 Mosquitoes attacked Berlin and four made widespread attacks on targets in northern Germany. Twenty heavy bombers mined the Oslo Harbor and the Kattegat.

10 March. Thirteen hundred sixty-nine escorted 8th Air Force heavy bombers were airborne to attack rail communications and workshops in northern Germany. One bomber and two fighters are missing.

A bridge on the Verona-Perona rail line was attacked by 192 escorted 15th Air Force heavy bombers. One bomber and one fighter are missing.

WESTERN FRONT



DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 6-3-72

EUROPEAN THEATER

9 March. The Tactical Air Forces flew more than 3,400 sorties. Medium bombers attacked railyards, depots, ammunition plants, east of the Rhine and the San Remo tunnel as well as rocket-launching sites in Holland. Over 1,100 fighters flew armed reconnaissance over the Rhine area and supported our Remagen bridgehead forces. Other fighters hit targets all along the front. Twenty-three enemy aircraft were destroyed; we lost 21 planes.

During the 24-hour period ending at 0600, two rockets and three flying bombs fell in Antwerp. Three rockets and 48 flying bombs fell outside the city. Antiaircraft fire shot down 49 flying bombs.

10 March. In the 24 hours to 0600, nine rockets fell in the Essex and London areas.

Canadian First and US Ninth Army troops reduced the bridgehead west of the Rhine from Wesel against rapidly decreasing resistance. After clearing Wallach they advanced a maximum of four miles to the outskirts of Buederich.

Operational messages confirm the Third Army's capture of Andernach and the subsequent drive by the 11th Armored Division up the west bank of the Rhine to make contact with the First Army's 2nd Infantry Division advancing south. The encircled Germans in this area are in a pocket roughly ten miles wide by 20 miles long. III Corps units

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

continued to reinforce the Remagen bridgehead under increasingly heavy artillery fire which at one time rendered the railroad bridge inoperative for 11 hours. Along a front stretching 30 miles north from Trier we gained up to five miles and reached the communications center of Wittlich against light resistance.

There was little change along the US Seventh and the French First Army sectors.

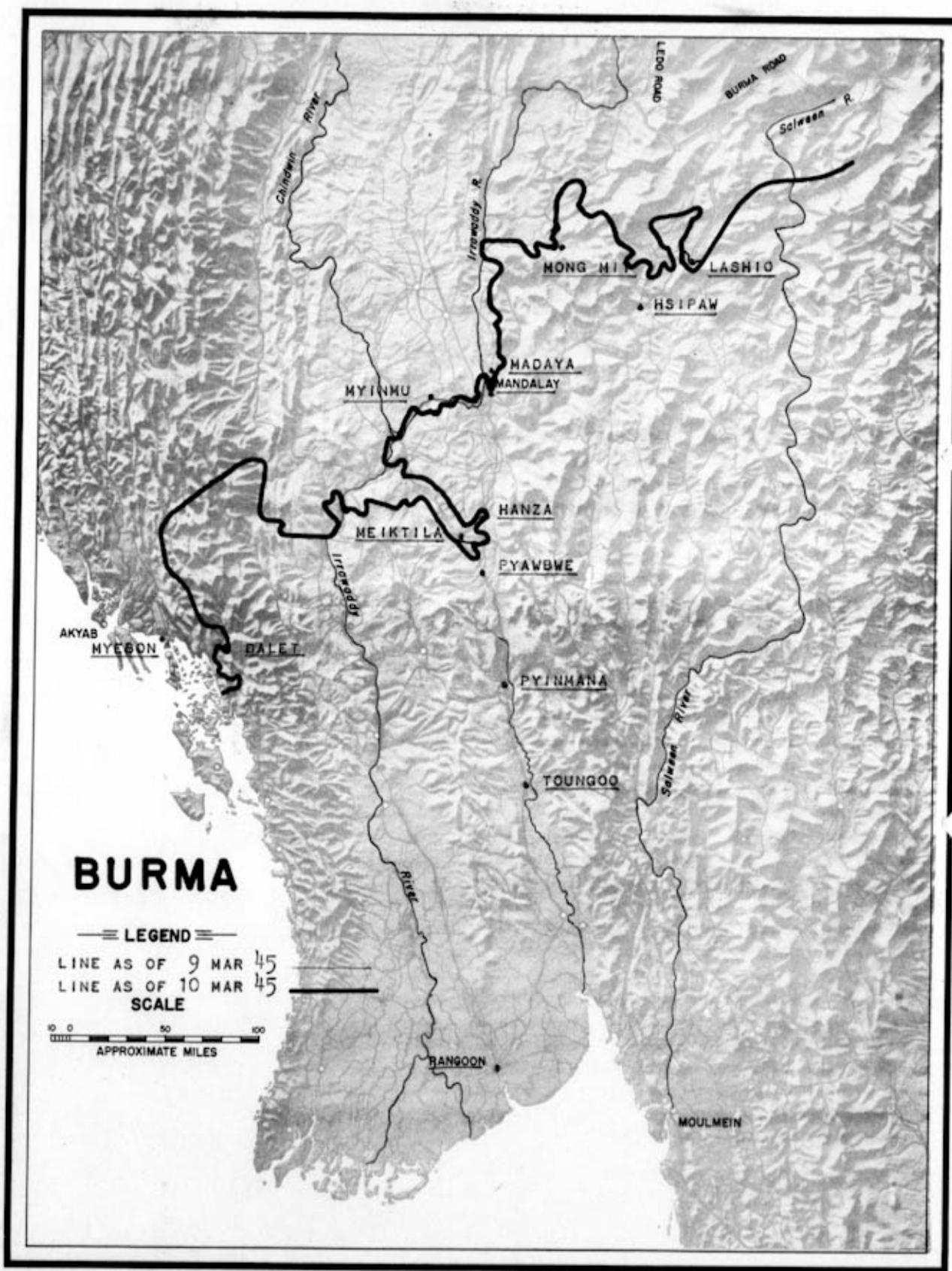
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OSD Letter, 5-8-72

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

9 and 10 March. The Tactical Air Force flew over 2,200 sorties against enemy positions and communications throughout the battle areas and rail routes through the Brenner Pass. Fourteen planes are missing.

10 March. No significant changes were reported on the Italian battlefield.



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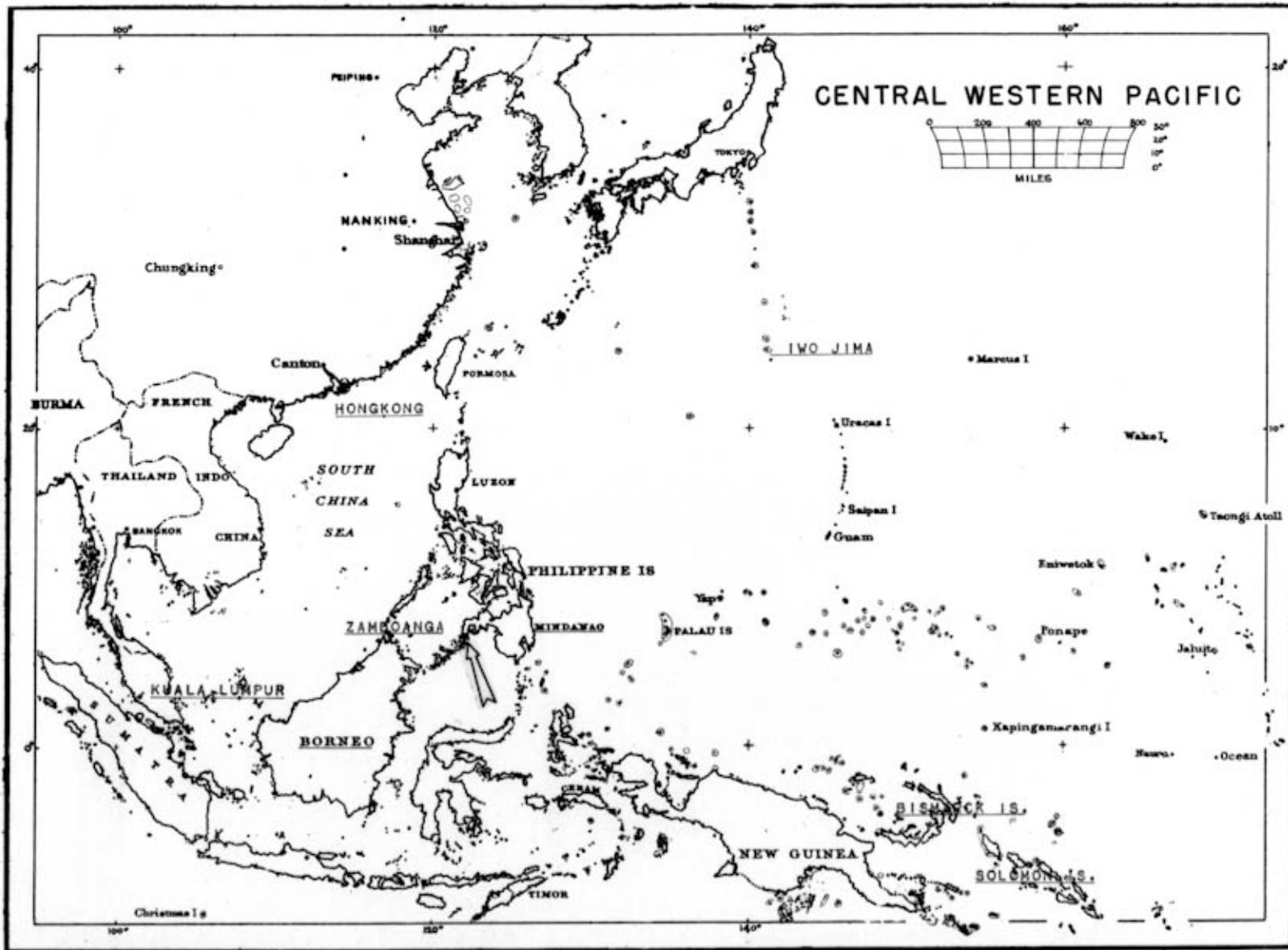
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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

ASIATIC THEATER

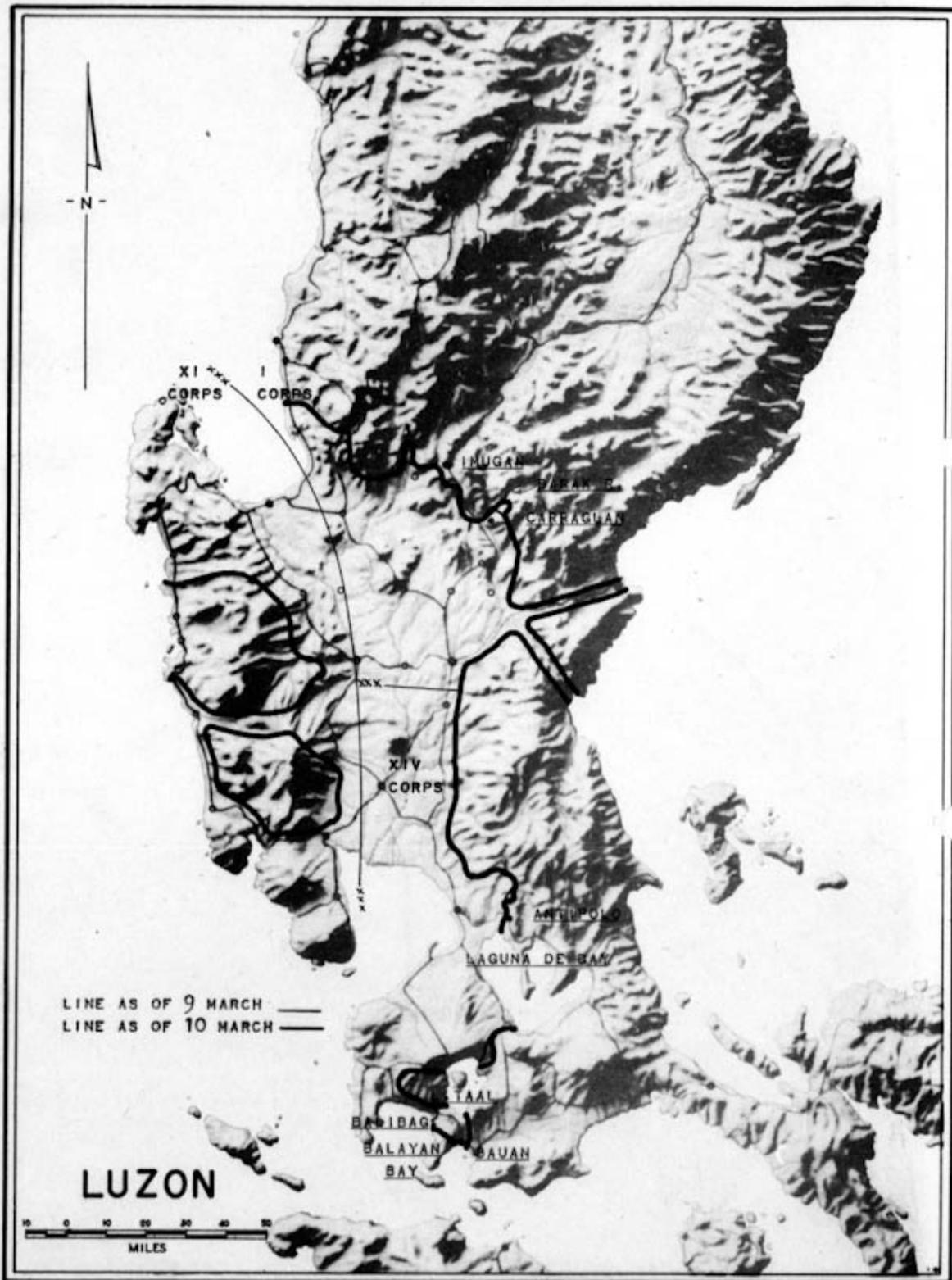
8 March. The Eastern Air Command reported more than 2,250 sorties of which 649 were offensive. Twelve RAF Liberators bombed bridges on the Burma-Siam railway, 35 B-25's hit supply dumps at Pyawbwe, while fighters attacked airfields near Rangoon and swept positions and dumps around Hsipaw, Myinmu, Toungoo and Myebon areas. Twenty-four Mosquitoes dropped 12 tons on the airfield and rail bridge at Pyinmana. Three enemy aircraft were destroyed; we lost one plane.

14th Air Force flew 215 sorties against railyards and bridges in central and northern China. Two planes are missing.

9 March. Chinese troops pushed about three miles south of New Lashio. Farther west, the British were three miles from Mong Mit. Active patrolling continues in all directions from Meiktila. To the northwest, Allied forces entered Thedaw unopposed; southeast of Meiktila our units are consolidating the 16-mile stretch of road previously patrolled towards Pyawbwe.



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OSD Letter 5-3-72



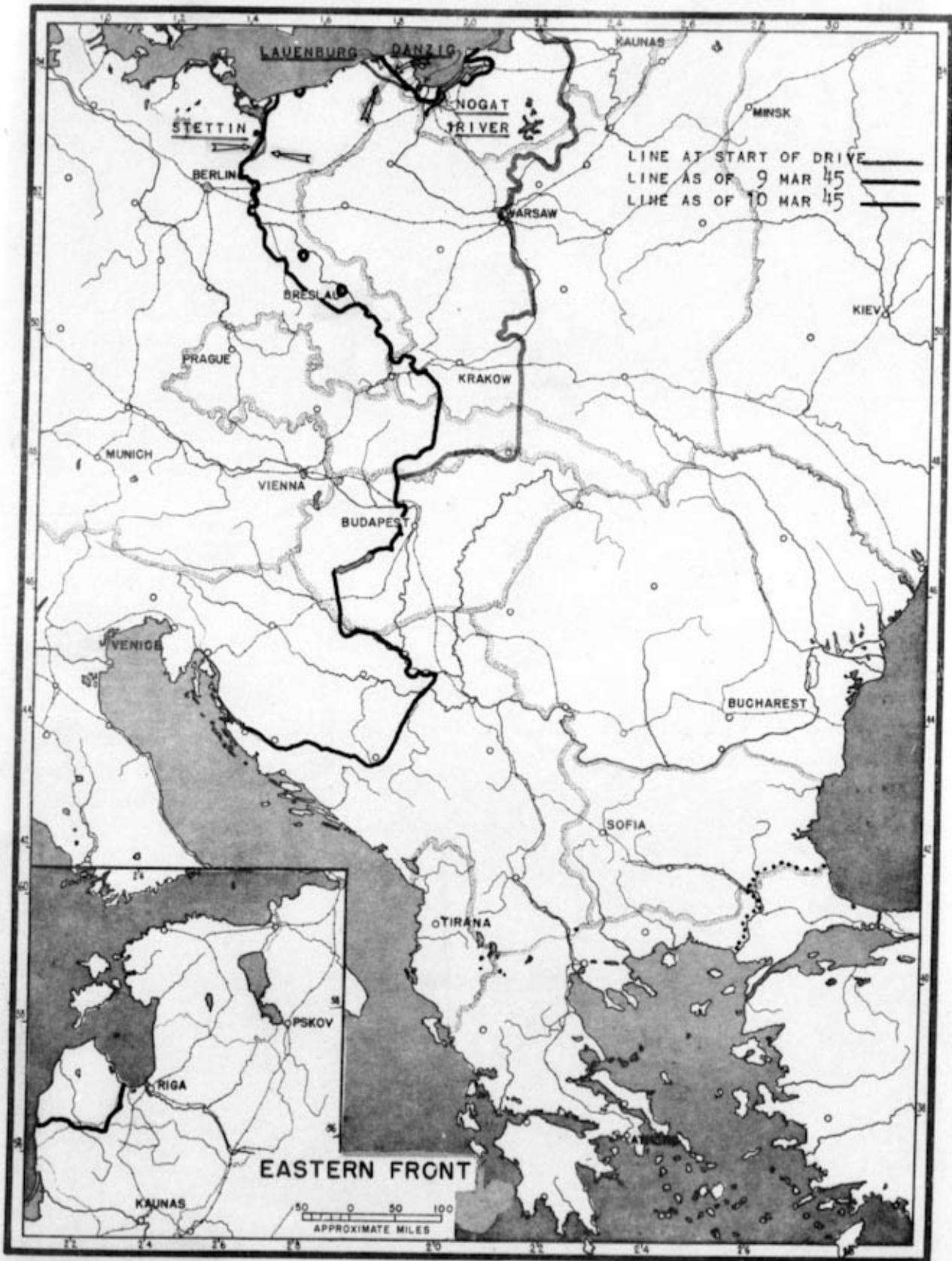
SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

8 March. Southwest Pacific planes flew more than 500 previously unreported sorties, of which 400 were against targets on Luzon.

9 March. Only 82 sorties were reported, several missions being forced back by weather. Forty-six heavy bombers fired dumps near Zamboanga. Patrol planes sank a coastal vessel and a tug off Hongkong and additional China Sea shipping northwest of Borneo.

In the northern Luzon sector, I Corps troops were pushing north along the Barak River and were engaging Japanese units about seven miles northeast of Carraglan. Our forces near Imugan cut an enemy escape route to the north. In the southern Luzon sector, units of the XIV Corps expanding the eastern arm of the corridor between Batangas Bay and Lake Taal reached Bauan and Balibag. East of Manila, we entered the southwest portion of Antipolo.

10 March. US forces landed near Zamboanga on Mindanao Island against mild opposition.



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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

EASTERN FRONT

10 March. The Soviets continued the drive to reduce the Danzig pocket. To the east, they crossed the Nogat River and advanced ten miles; to the west, a general advance of some 15 miles engulfed Lauenburg.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 1186

0700 March 9 to 0700 March 10, 1945

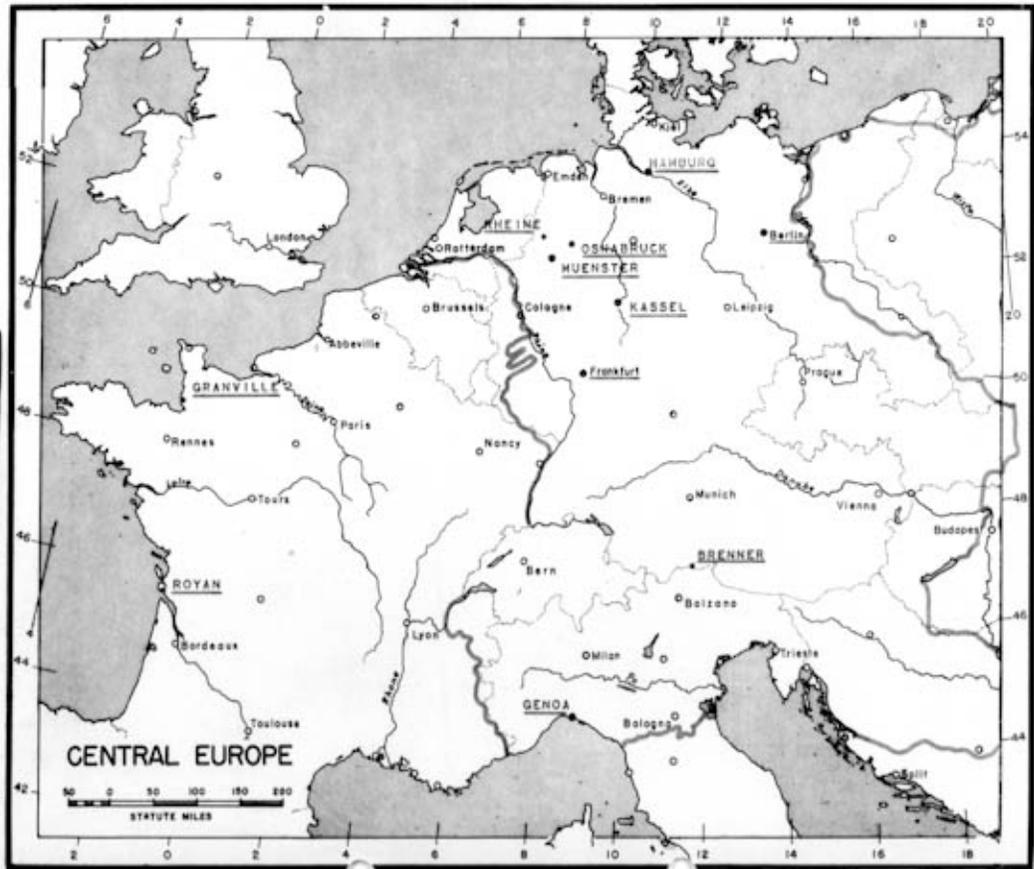
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THE WHITE HOUSE

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OSD Letter, 0-3-72



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OSD Letter, D-8-7A

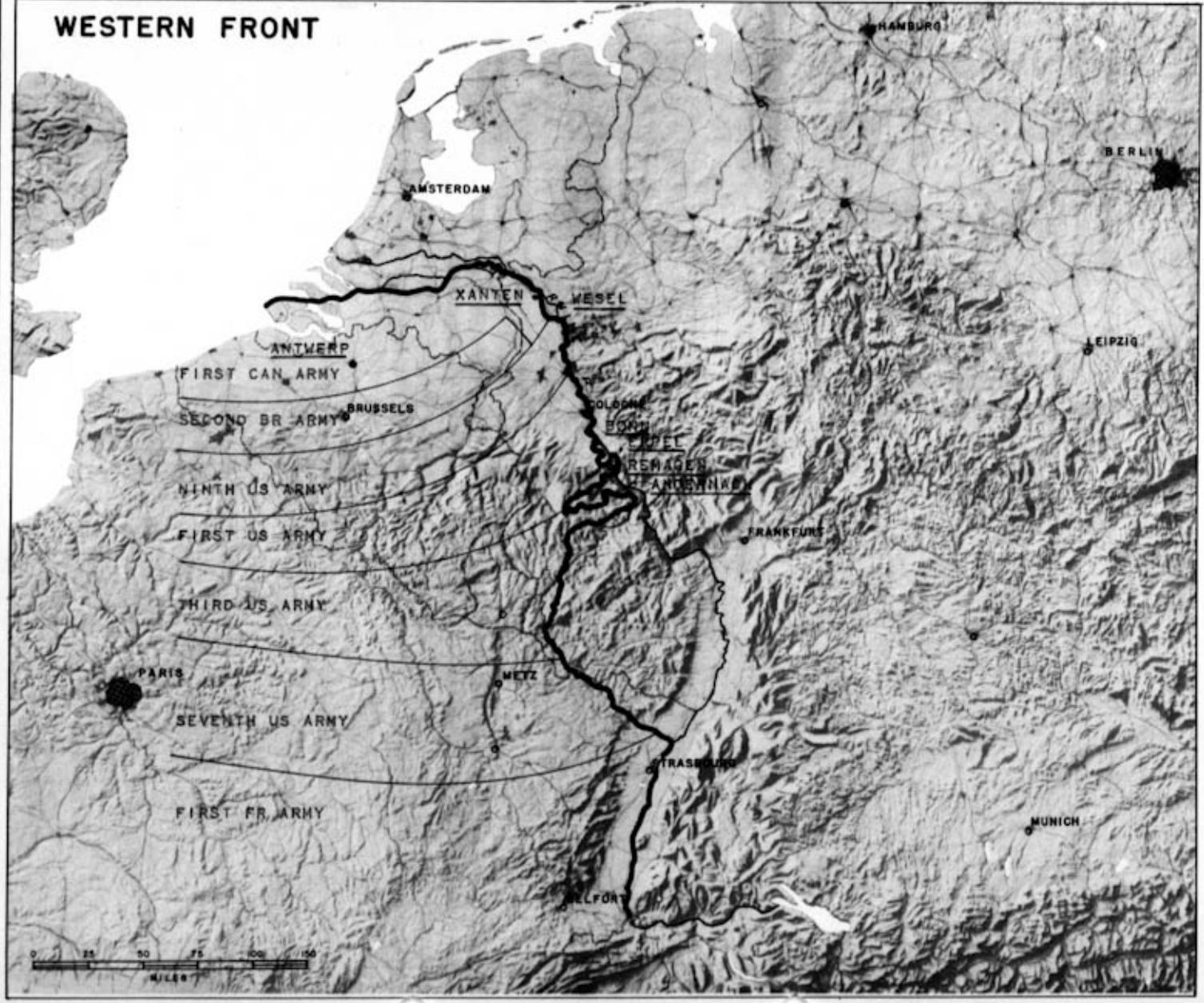
EUROPE AND THE MEDITERRANEAN - STRATEGIC AIR

8 March. In night attacks, 552 RAF heavy bombers struck Hamburg and Kassel. Ninety-nine Mosquito bombers continued to harass Berlin and carried out feint attacks on other German cities. Thirty-five bombers mined rivers and the coastal waters of northwestern Germany.

9 March. Manufacturing plants at Kassel and railyards at Osnabruck, Muenster, Rheine and Frankfurt were attacked by more than 1,000 escorted 8th Air Force heavy bombers. We lost ten bombers and one fighter.

9 March. Bad weather forced back all but 373 escorted heavy bombers of the 15th Air Force out of more than 800 airborne to attack railyards in western Austria. Eight bombers and one fighter are missing.

WESTERN FRONT



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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

EUROPEAN THEATER

8 March. During the 24-hour period ending at sunset, the Tactical Air Forces flew over 550 sorties. Weather severely restricted operations but medium bombers dropped 562 tons on communication centers near Duisdorf. Interception patrols and reconnaissance missions were also flown. The Western French Air Force dropped 20 tons in the Royan area, on the Atlantic Coast. We lost one plane.

In the 24 hours to 0600, three rockets and four flying bombs fell in Antwerp. Seven rockets and 30 flying bombs fell in neighboring areas. Antiaircraft destroyed 16 flying bombs.

During the 24 hours to 0600, 13 rocket incidents were reported in the Kent, Essex and London areas.

9 March. An estimated force of 100 Germans coming from the Channel Islands raided Granville, on the northeastern shore of the Bay of Mont St. Michel; after damaging harbor installations they withdrew, apparently towards the Island of Jersey.

Units of the Canadian First and U. S. Ninth Armies continued to attack the German bridgehead west of the Rhine at Wesel; gains of a mile were made around the perimeter of the bridgehead. Xanten, in the northern portion of the bridgehead where heavy opposition had been maintained, was cleared. There was no change on the remainder of the Ninth Army front.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

The First Army has expanded its Remagen bridgehead to a depth of three miles on an eight-mile base. We control the high ground on the east bank of the Rhine overlooking our crossing; parts of one armored and two infantry divisions have been pushed across. We have captured Erpel, east of the Rhine. Bonn has been captured but reduction of isolated enemy pockets in the southern section of the city continues.

According to a communique of 10 March, armored units of our Third Army have captured Andernach and are driving north along the west bank of the Rhine and have made contact with First Army forces driving south from the Remagen Corridor.

There was no change on the fronts of our Seventh or the French First Army.

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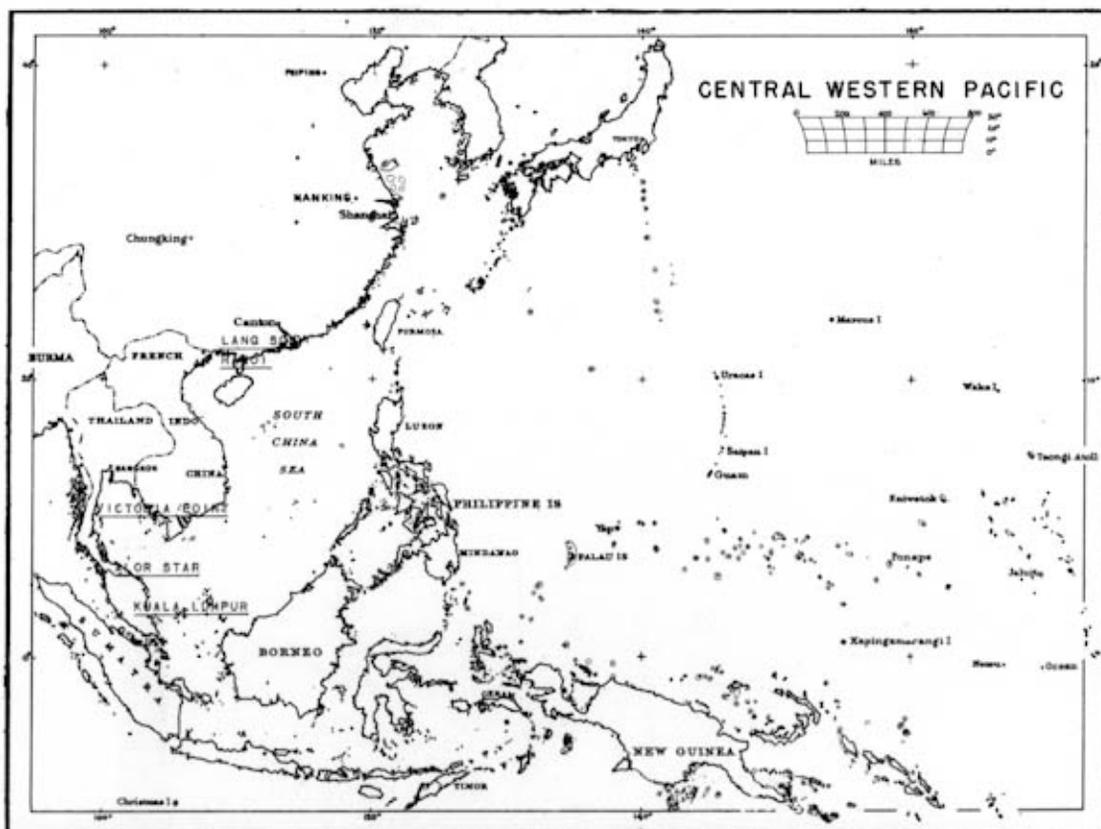
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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-8-78

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

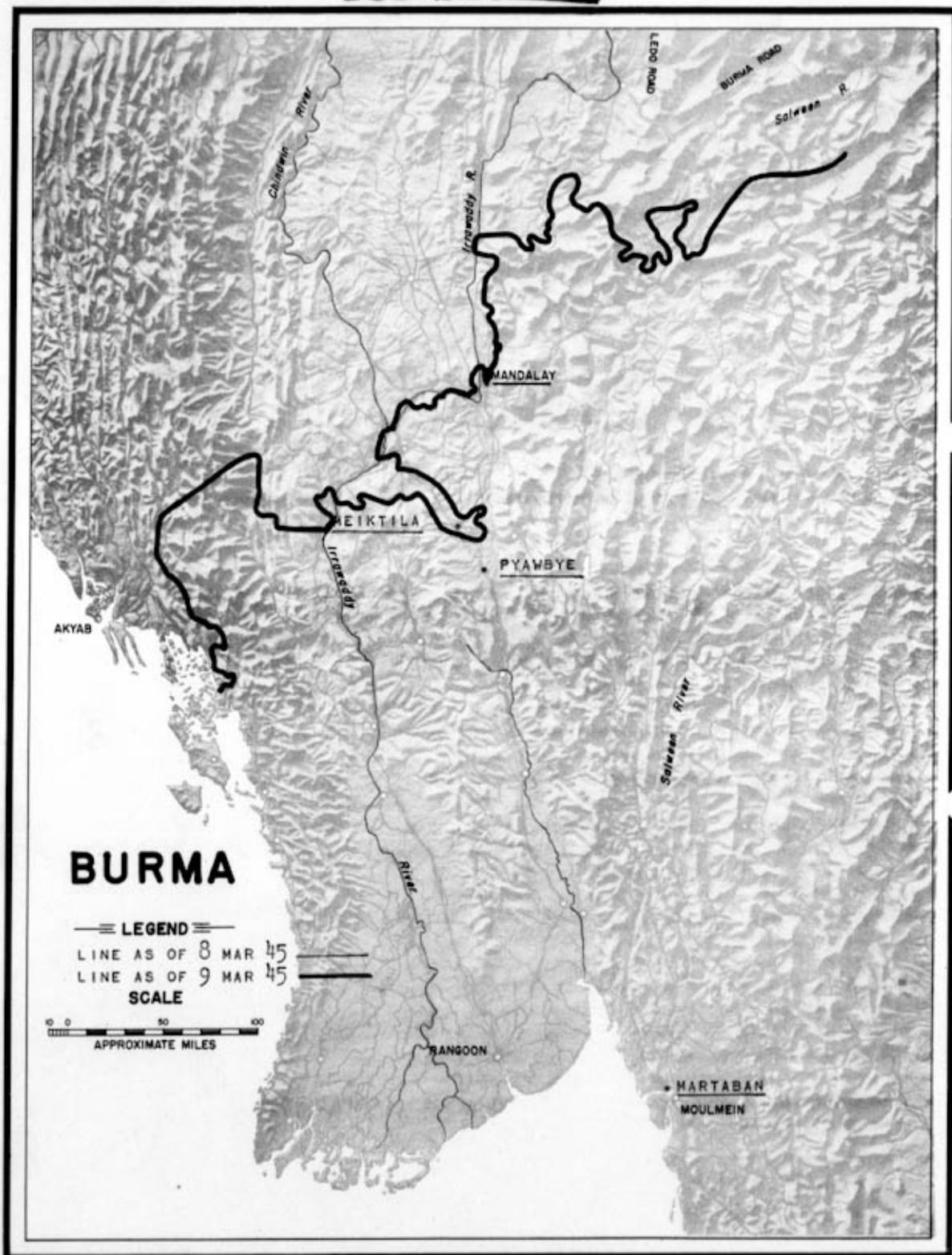
8 March. During the 24-hour period to 1800 hours, the Tactical Air Force flew over 850 sorties. Medium bombers and fighters hit the Brenner Pass route and other rail lines in northern Italy; motor transport and bridges over the Po River were also attacked. The Balkan Air Force swept rail and road traffic in Yugoslavia with 125 sorties. Coastal planes attacked targets along the coast of the Gulf of Genoa.

9 March. Activity on the north Italian battle front was confined to patrol activity.

~~TOP SECRET~~



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 OSD Letter, 6-3-78



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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-8-72

ASIATIC THEATER

7 March. The Eastern Air Command reported more than 2800 sorties of which 707 were offensive. Seventy-four escorted heavy bombers attacked railyards and the dock area at Martaban. Medium bombers and fighters hit enemy positions and supply dumps opposite our Burma battle fronts. Two planes were lost.

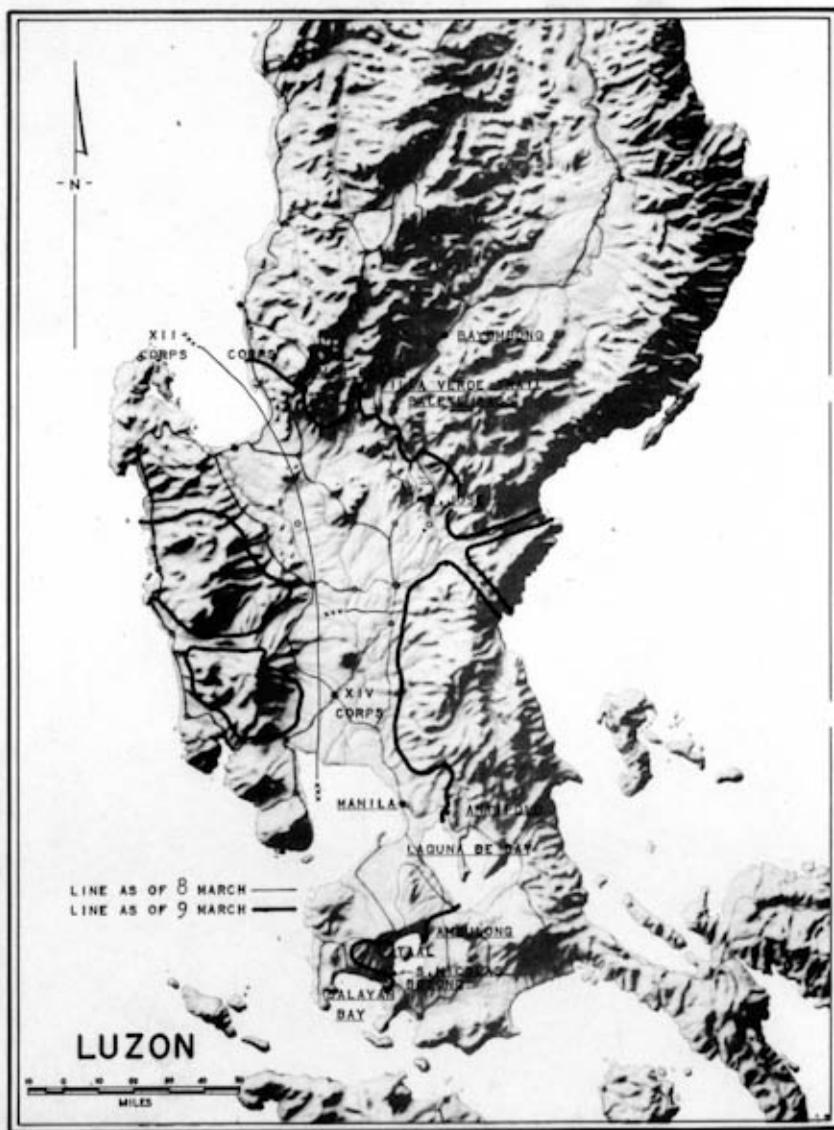
7 March. 11th Air Force planes flew 162 sorties against rails in central and northern China. Four enemy fighters were shot down; we lost six planes.

8 March. East of the Irrawaddy, the British have driven south into the city of Mandalay where heavy fighting was reported against the disorganized resistance. British patrols moving southeast from Meiktila advanced 16 miles down the road to Pyawbye.

10 March. A preliminary report states that 29 B-29's were airborne to attack targets at Kuala Lumpur and Alor Star in Malaya and Victoria Point in Thailand.

According to French report, Japanese troops have attacked the French garrison at Lang Son, northeast of Hanoi, on the French Indo-China - Chinese Frontier.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-78



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OSD Letter, 5-3-78

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

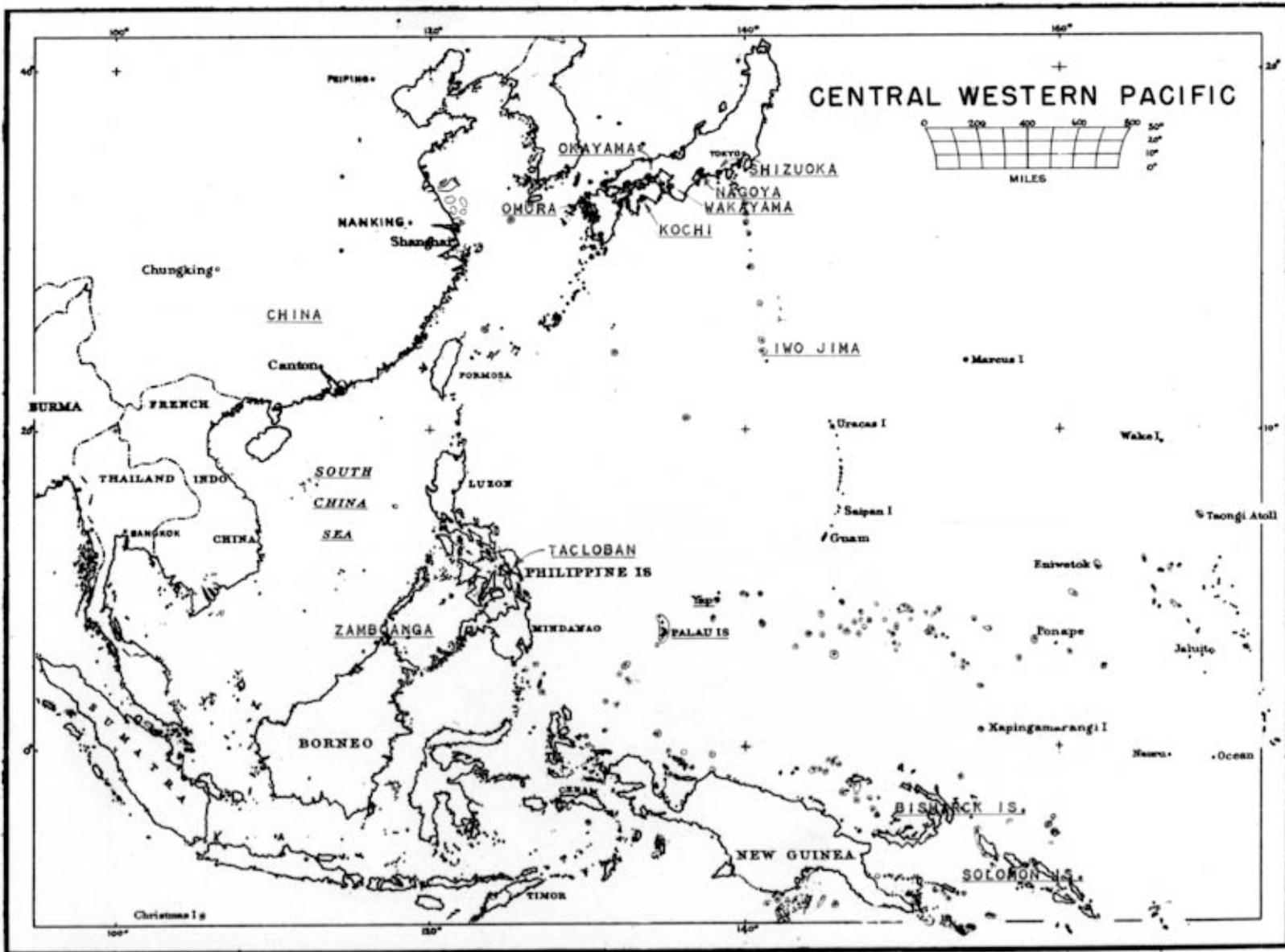
7 March. Among 326 previously unreported sorties were 62 against Japanese positions in the Bismarcks and Solomons. Targets on Luzon were attacked by 190 planes.

8 March. Sixty-nine heavy bombers hit Zamboanga; twelve other B-24's bombed Balete Pass on Luzon. Patrol planes, on sweeps over the China Sea, sank small ships.

On Luzon, elements of the I Corps captured high ground northwest of Twin Peaks despite heavy resistance. Other units made local gains along the Villa Verde Trail and the Bayombong-San Jose highway. South of Laguna de Bay, the XIV Corps reached Ambulong on the northern shore of Lake Taal. To the south, infantry pushing east along Balayan Bay secured Botong against strong opposition. Patrols advanced northeast to San Nicolas on Lake Taal. Our forces in the Antipolo area were less than one-half mile southwest of the town.

9 March. Headquarters, U. S. Army Forces in the Far East closed at Tacloban, Leyte, and opened in Manila.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

PACIFIC OCEAN AREA

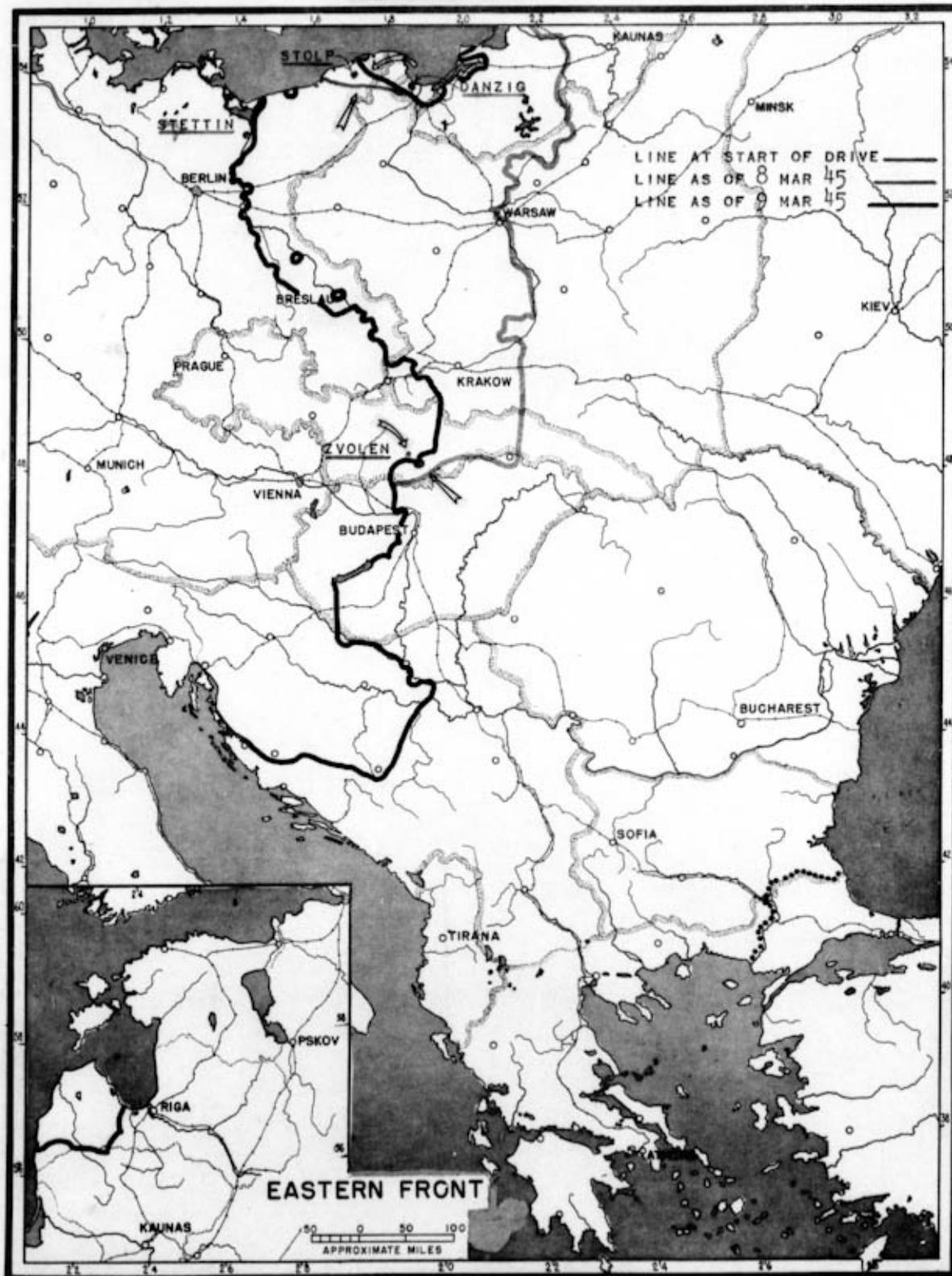
5 March. Seven B-29's hit Wakayama and Nagoya.

6 March. Six B-29's bombed Shizuoka.

7 March. Single B-29's hit Okayama, Kochi, and Omura.

10 March. In a night attack, 285 Marianas-based B-29's, each one carrying approximately four and one-half tons of bombs, the bulk of which were incendiary, attacked the urban area of Tokyo. Nine additional very heavy bombers attacked other targets. After the attack fires were visible 150 miles from the target. Two planes were lost.

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-8-72

EASTERN FRONT

9 March. In the Danzig pocket, Stolp was captured and the Soviets advanced to within seven miles of Danzig. South of Stettin, the Red Army made limited gains toward the Oder.

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OSD Letter, 5-8-78

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 1185

0700 March 8 to 0700 March 9, 1945

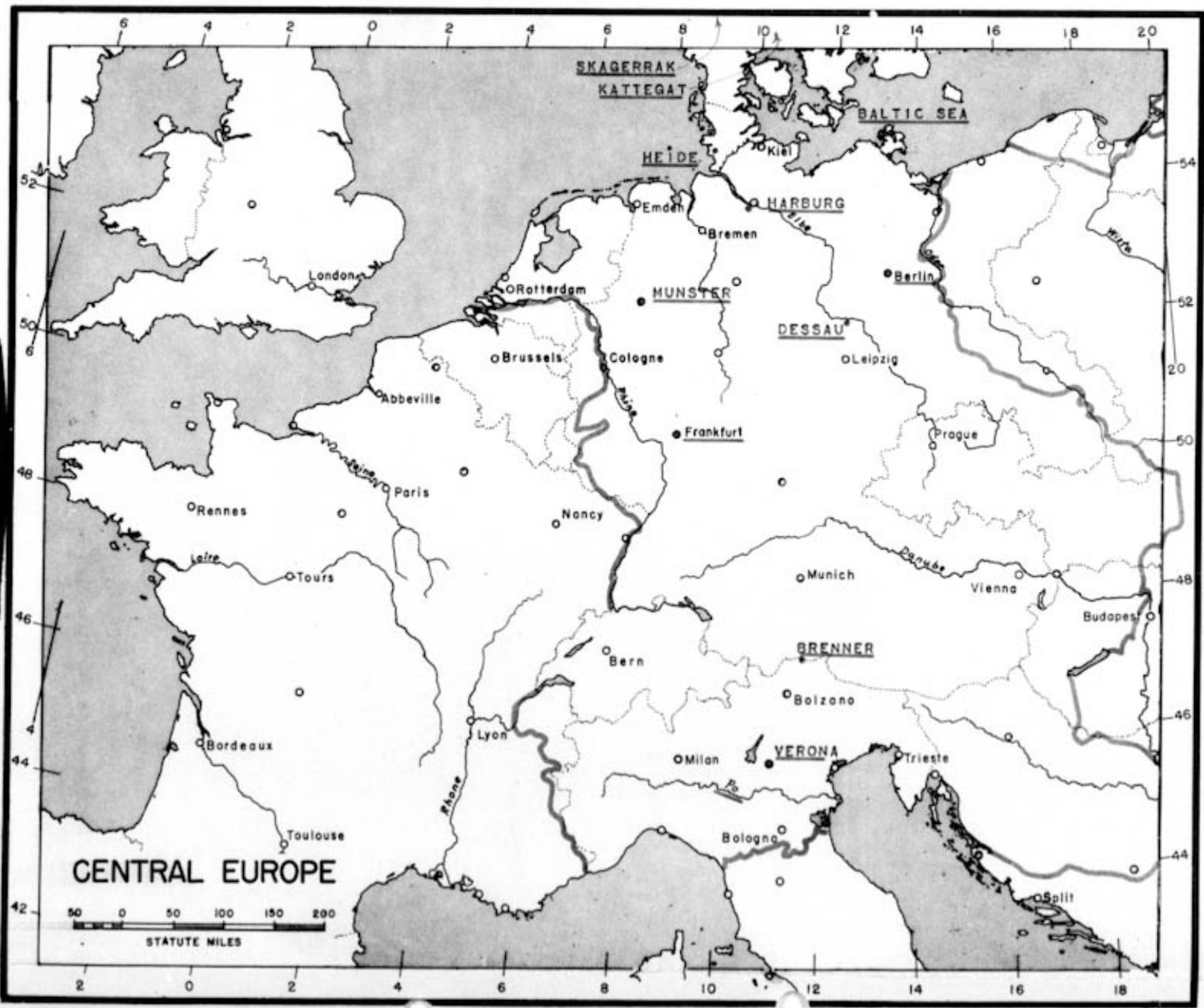
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OSD Letter, 6-3-72



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OSD Letter, 5-8-72

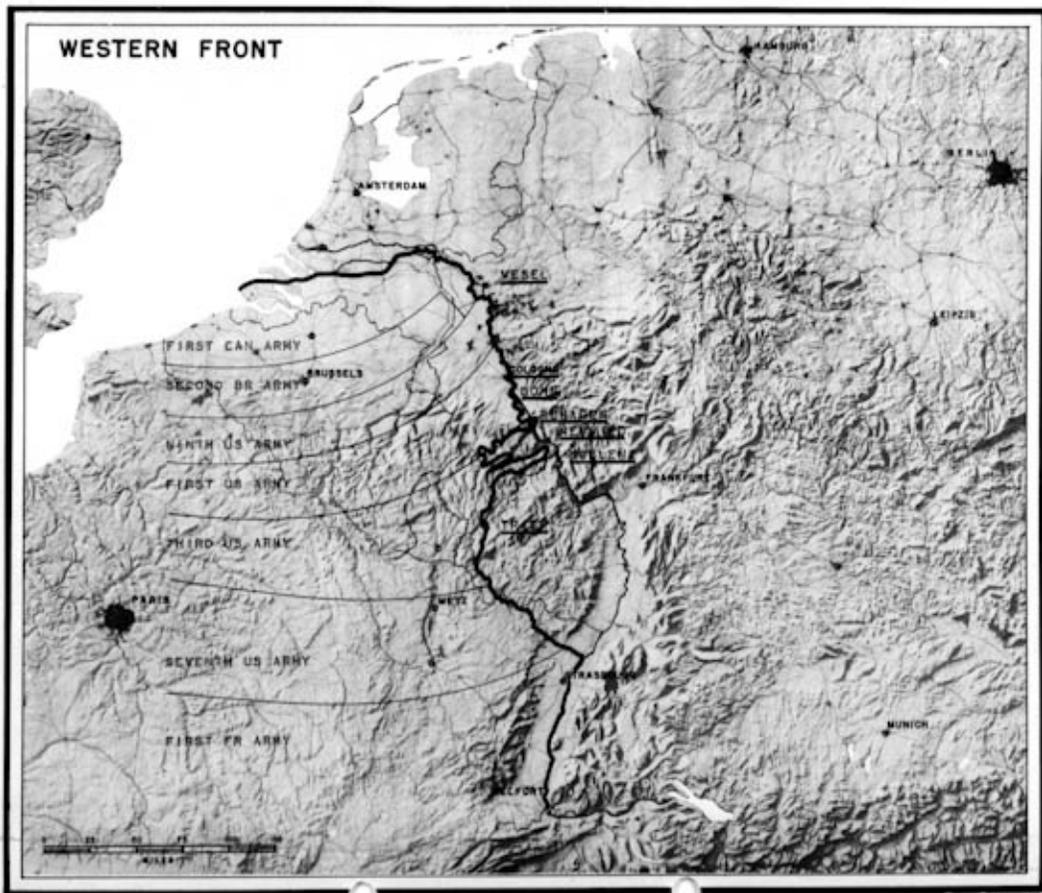
EUROPE AND THE MEDITERRANEAN - STRATEGIC AIR

7 March. One thousand thirty-five RAF heavy bombers attacked Dessau and oil refineries near Heide and at Harburg. Thirty-seven planes were lost. Seventy-four Mosquitoes raided Berlin. Twenty RAF heavy bombers mined the waters off the Baltic coast and attacked enemy shipping in the Skagerrak and Kattegat.

Forty-four heavy and medium bombers of the 15th Air Force, in a night attack, hit rails in northern Italy.

8 March. Railyards in northern Italy and northwestern Hungary and a locomotive depot in northern Yugoslavia were attacked by 553 escorted heavy bombers of the 15th Air Force. Two planes are missing.

Preliminary reports show that 1,260 escorted 8th Air Force heavy bombers attacked oil and transportation targets in the Ruhr. One bomber was lost and two fighters are missing.



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NSA Letter, 5-8-78

EUROPEAN THEATER

7 March. In the 24 hours to sunset, the Tactical Air Forces, restricted by weather, flew 305 sorties. Sweeps were flown over Holland and northwest Germany. Four German planes were shot down; we lost one.

During the 48-hour period ending at sunset, three rockets fell in Antwerp. Three rockets and 54 flying bombs fell in neighboring areas. Thirty-six bombs were destroyed by antiaircraft fire.

8 March. By 0600, 14 rocket incidents had been reported in England.

Canadian and American troops attacking the German bridgehead west of Wesel made limited gains against strong resistance.

The First Army extended our Remagen bridgehead to a depth of two miles, on a four-mile front. Infantry was expanding the southern flank of the corridor to Remagen. We have penetrated into the northern section of Bonn and reached the Rhine north of the town. Still other units were closing in on the Rhine north and south of Bonn.

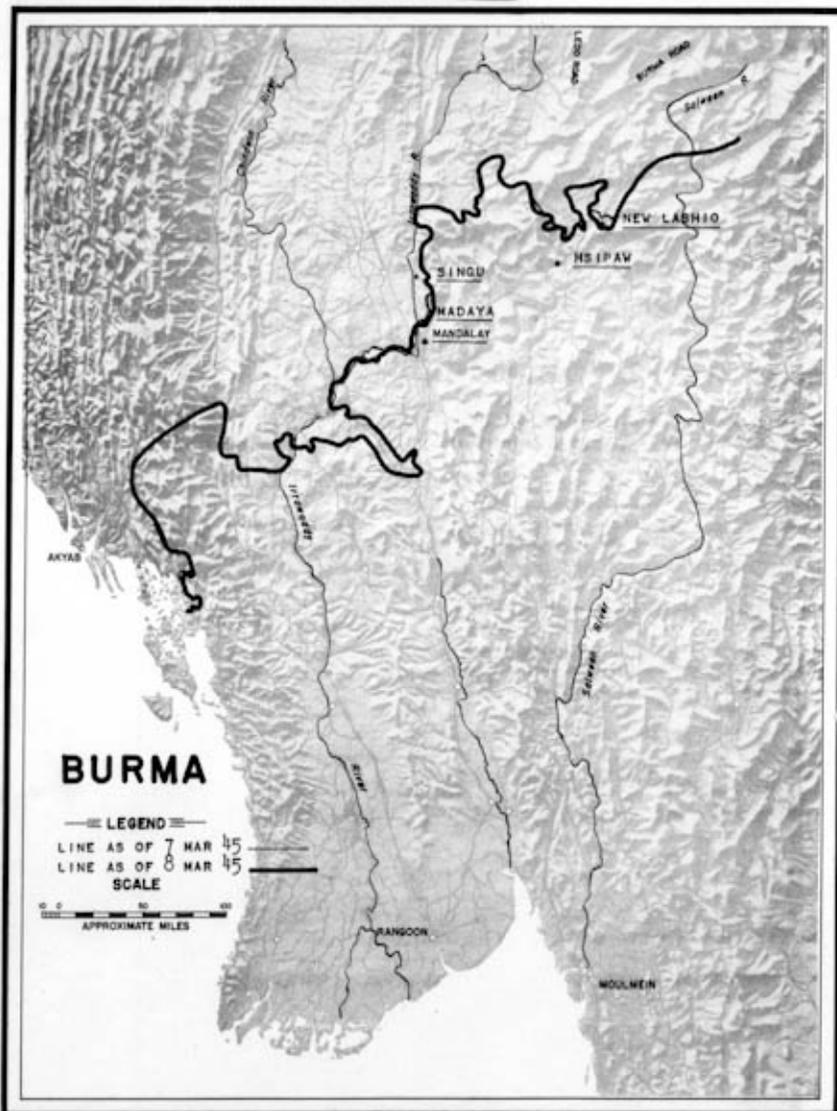
On the Third Army front an armored thrust was two miles from the Rhine at Neuwied and within four miles of Koblenz. Another armored spearhead paralleling the thrust towards Koblenz and slightly to the north gained 15 miles during the day. Additional advances of from three to four miles were made north of Trier.

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

7 March. In the 24 hours to 1800, the Tactical Air Force flew more than 1,000 sorties. Despite bad weather, over 100 medium bombers attacked rail targets along the Brenner Route and in the Po Valley. Lighter planes hit widespread targets in northern Italy, southern Austria and Yugoslavia. Seven planes are missing. The Coastal and Balkan Air Forces reported 95 sorties against rail lines in northwest Italy, Adriatic shipping, and targets on the coast of Yugoslavia.

8 March. There was no substantial change on the Italian battle front.

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OBD Letter, 6-8-72



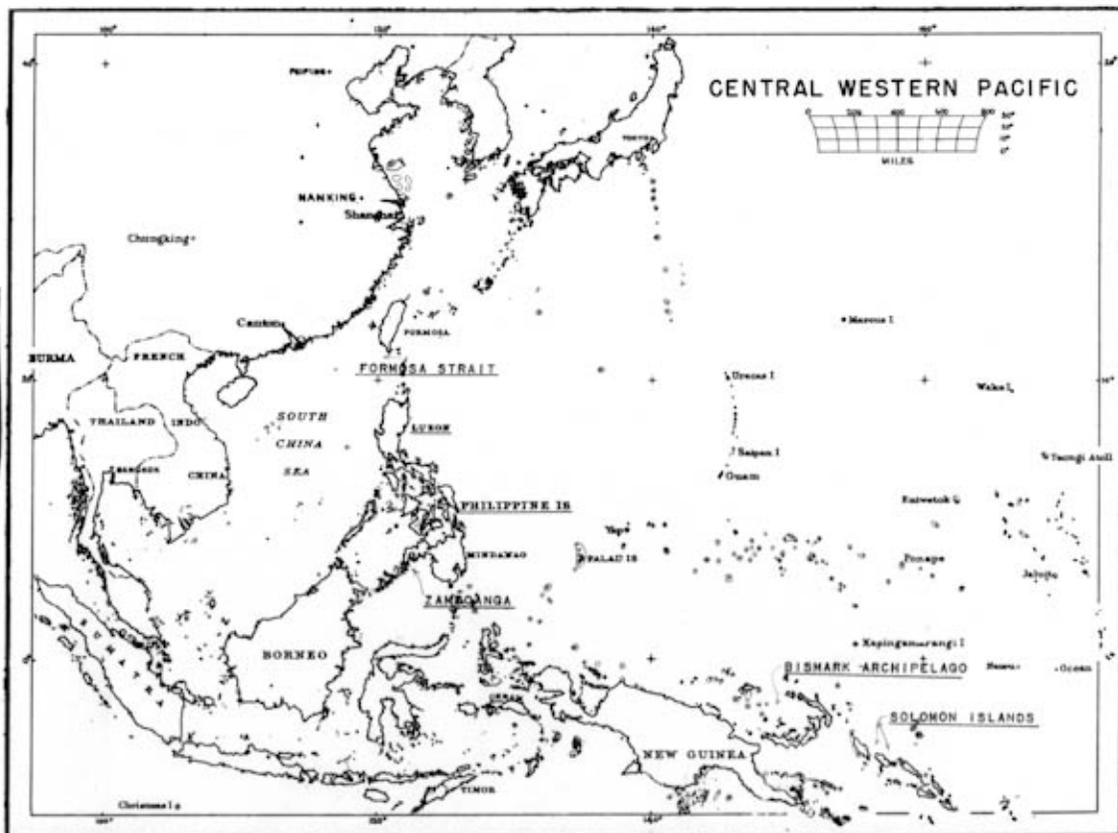
ASIATIC THEATER

5 March. The Eastern Air Command reported a total of 2,536 sorties of which 746 were offensive. Eighty-four heavy bombers attacked docks and railyards at Bangkok with more than 200 tons. Fighters swept roads, enemy positions and supply dumps in and behind central and southern Burma battle areas.

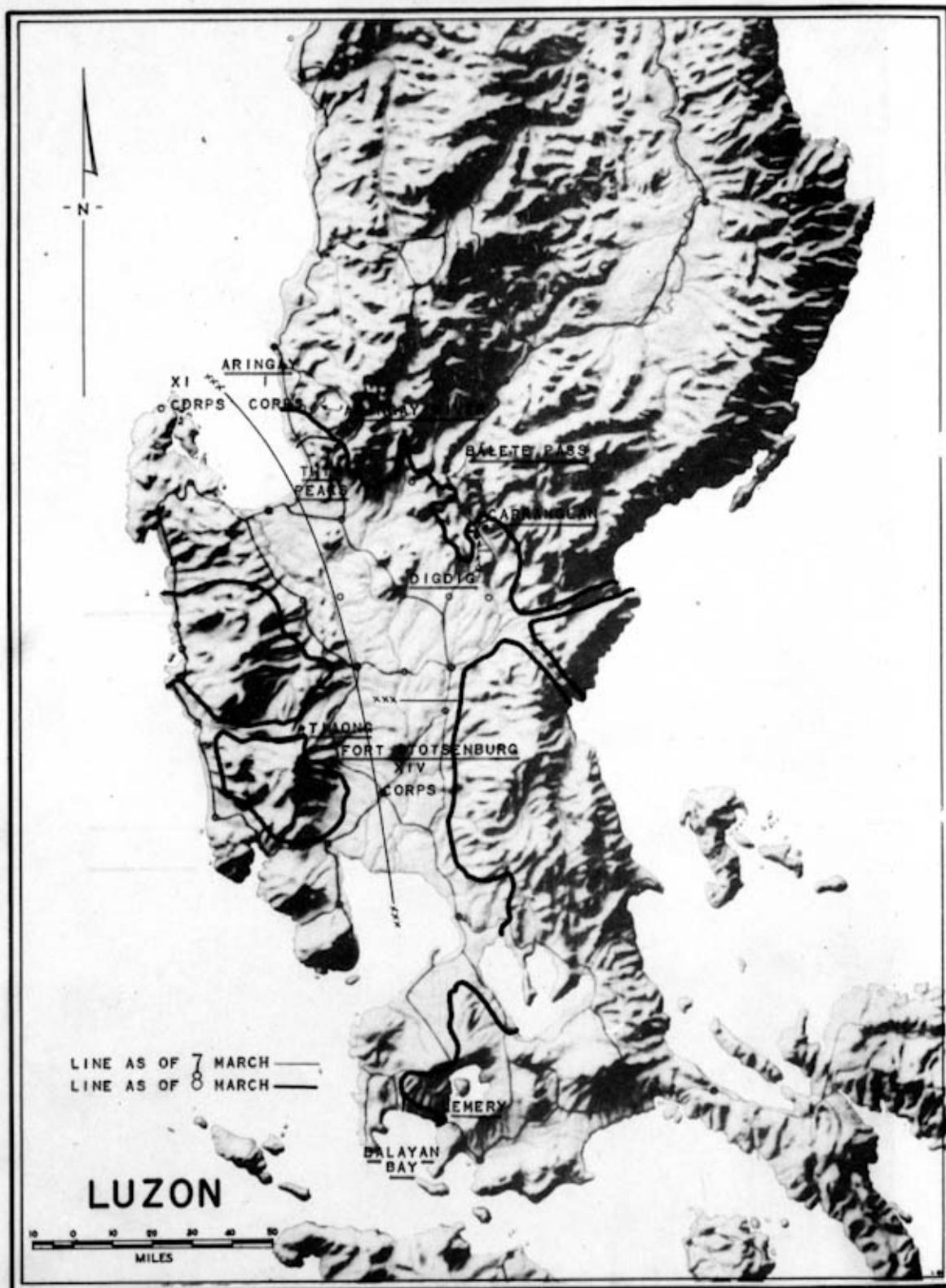
6 March. Among more than 2,600 sorties, 546 were offensive. Medium bombers and fighters continued to bomb enemy positions and dumps in the Hsipaw area and throughout central Burma.

The 14th Air Force reported more than 50 sorties against rail targets in central China and north to Peiping.

7 March. Chinese troops occupied New Lashio against meager opposition. To the west, local gains were made by other Chinese units northeast and northwest of Hsipaw. East of the Irrawaddy, British units pushing south were 13 miles north of Mandalay.



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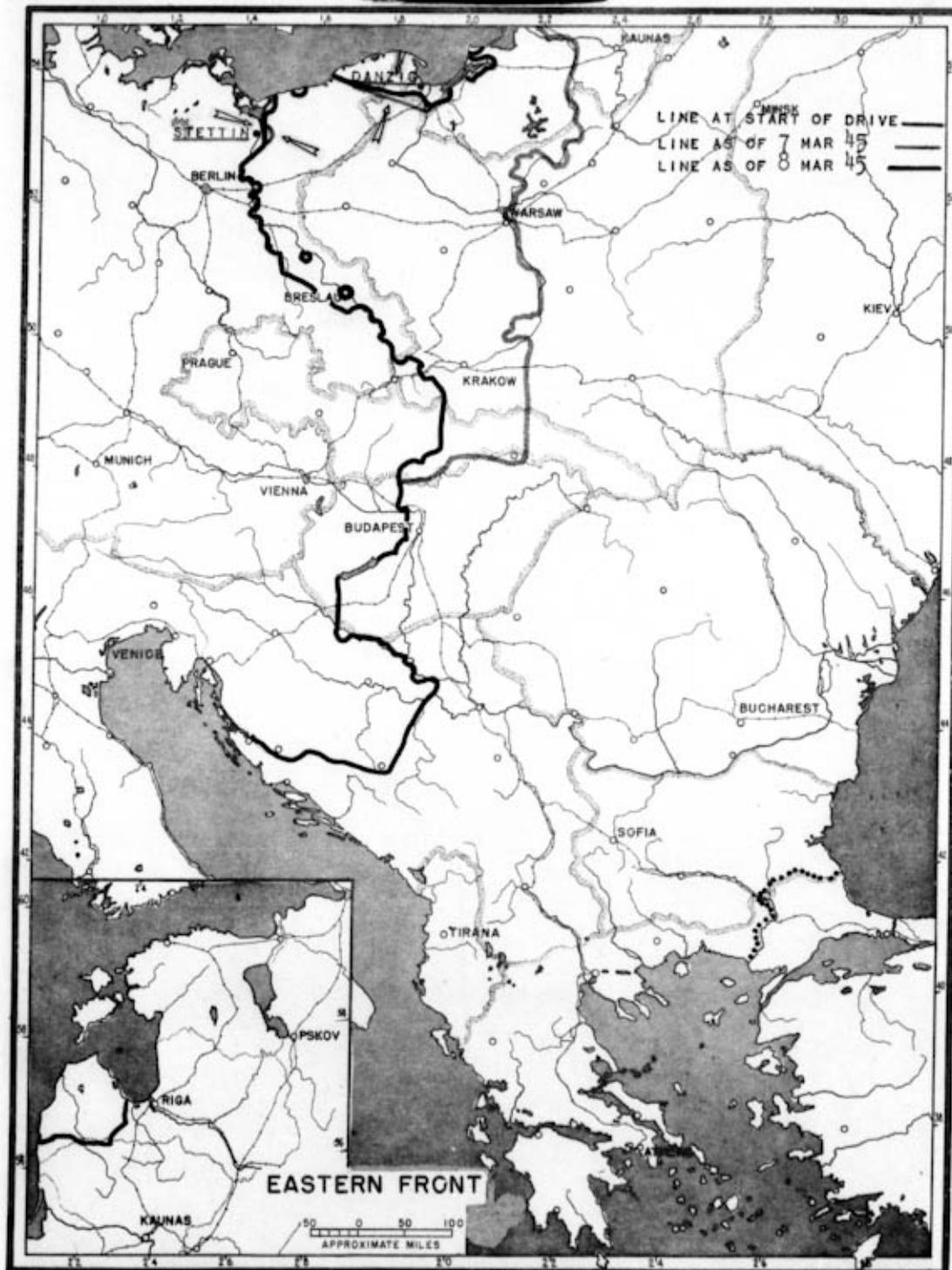
SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA

6 March. Among over 350 previously unreported sorties, 71 were against targets in the Solomons and Bismarcks. One hundred and twenty-eight light bombers supported our ground forces on Luzon.

7 March. More than 220 sorties were flown throughout the theater. One hundred and seven heavy bombers dropped 247 tons of bombs on targets in Balete Pass on northern Luzon. Twenty-eight other heavy bombers accompanied by medium bombers and fighters attacked personnel areas at Zamboanga. Numerous support missions were flown over Luzon.

The I Corps, attacking north along the west coast of Luzon, captured a bridge across the Aringay River, and advanced to a line from Aringay town to Twin Peaks. We continued to probe the foothills north from Digdig and Carranglan. The XI Corps continued to make progress south of Tiaong and reported that resistance was completely broken west of Fort Stotsenburg. A regimental combat team advancing east along Balayan Bay pushed to Lemery.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72



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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

EASTERN FRONT

8 March. Soviet forces scored substantial gains south of Danzig and leading elements are 12 miles from the city. To the west, the Red Army has advanced to within five miles of Stettin.

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-8-72

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 1184

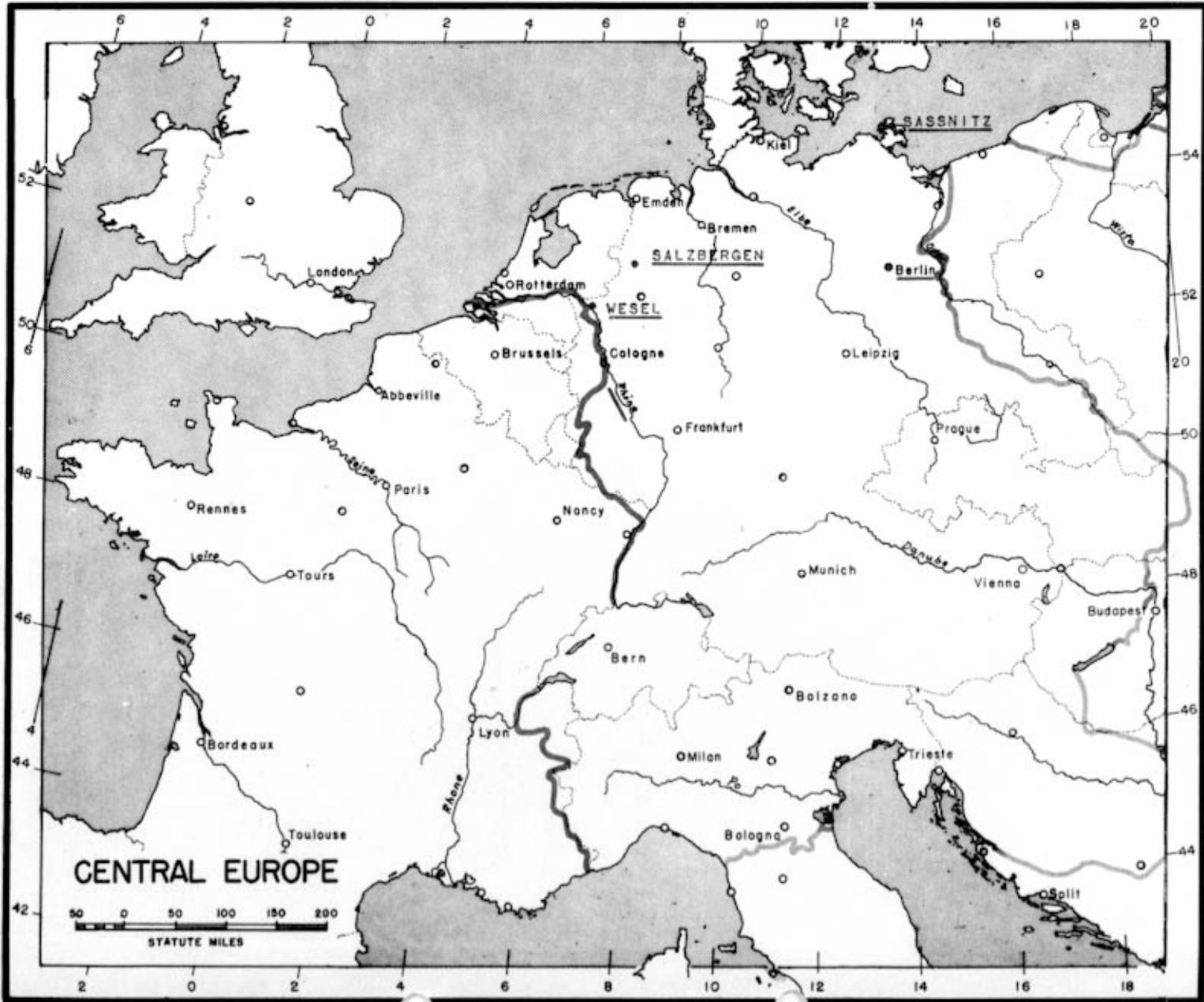
0700 March 7 to 0700 March 8, 1945

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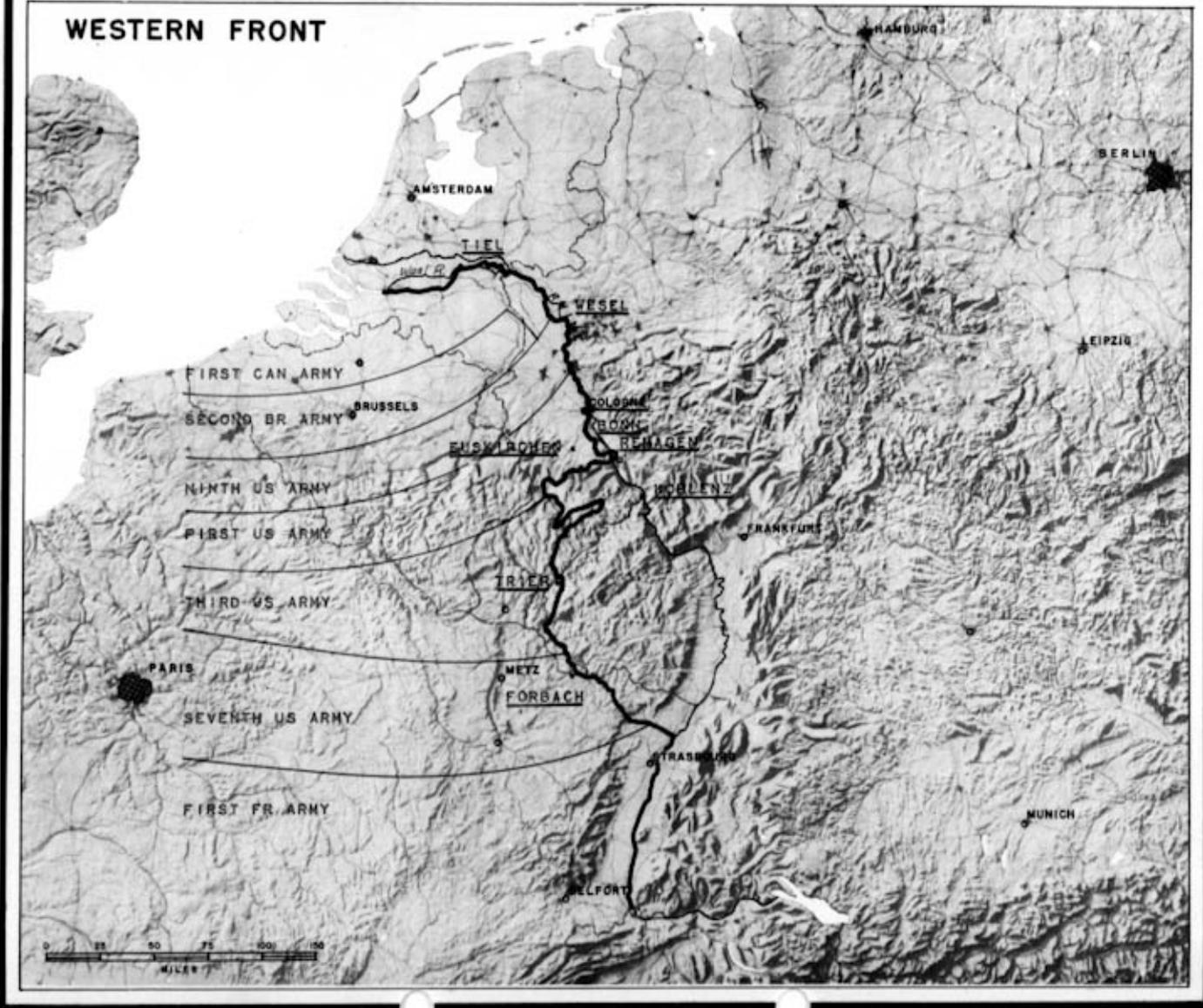
EUROPE AND THE MEDITERRANEAN - STRATEGIC AIR

6 March. One hundred eighteen RAF heavy bombers attacked the Salzbergen oil refinery; one bomber was lost. Thirty-nine Mosquito bombers hit Wesel, attempting to destroy any German troops which may have succeeded in escaping across the Rhine. One plane was lost. One hundred ninety-one RAF heavy bombers attacked shipyards at Sassnitz. That night, the attack on Wesel was continued by over 150 heavy and medium bombers. Thirty-eight Mosquitoes continued to harass Berlin.

7 March. According to a preliminary report, about 820 escorted heavy bombers of the 8th Air Force attacked industrial and rail targets in the Ruhr and northwestern Germany.

15th Air Force bomber operations were cancelled by weather.

WESTERN FRONT



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OSD Letter, 5-8-72

EUROPEAN THEATER

6 March. During the 24-hour period ending at sunset, the Tactical Air Forces flew 652 sorties. Despite adverse weather, some 300 medium bombers hit rails, towns and supply areas east of the Rhine. Other planes flew support missions and attacked rocket-launching sites in Holland. One enemy plane was shot down; four of our planes are missing.

7 March. In the 24 hours to 0600, eight flying bombs were plotted approaching England but only two incidents were reported. Three were shot down by fighters and antiaircraft fire. During this same period thirteen rockets fell in the Essex and London area.

Canadian patrols crossed the Waal at Tiel and reported no contact with the enemy. Units of the First Canadian Army and the US XVI Corps, of our Ninth Army, scored gains of some two miles against heavy opposition in the reduction of the German bridgehead west of Wesel.

On the First Army front, infantry and armor of the VII Corps, in some sections fighting from house to house, completed the reduction of Cologne except for a small portion in the southeastern section of the city. We are two miles from Bonn, and between Bonn and Cologne have driven to within five miles of the river. Farther to the south, an armored thrust, advancing 12 miles, was three miles from Remagen. Other elements of the First Army registered gains up to ten miles along a 30-mile front, south of Euskirchen. On the Third Army front the VIII Corps advanced approximately two miles towards the east along its front

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

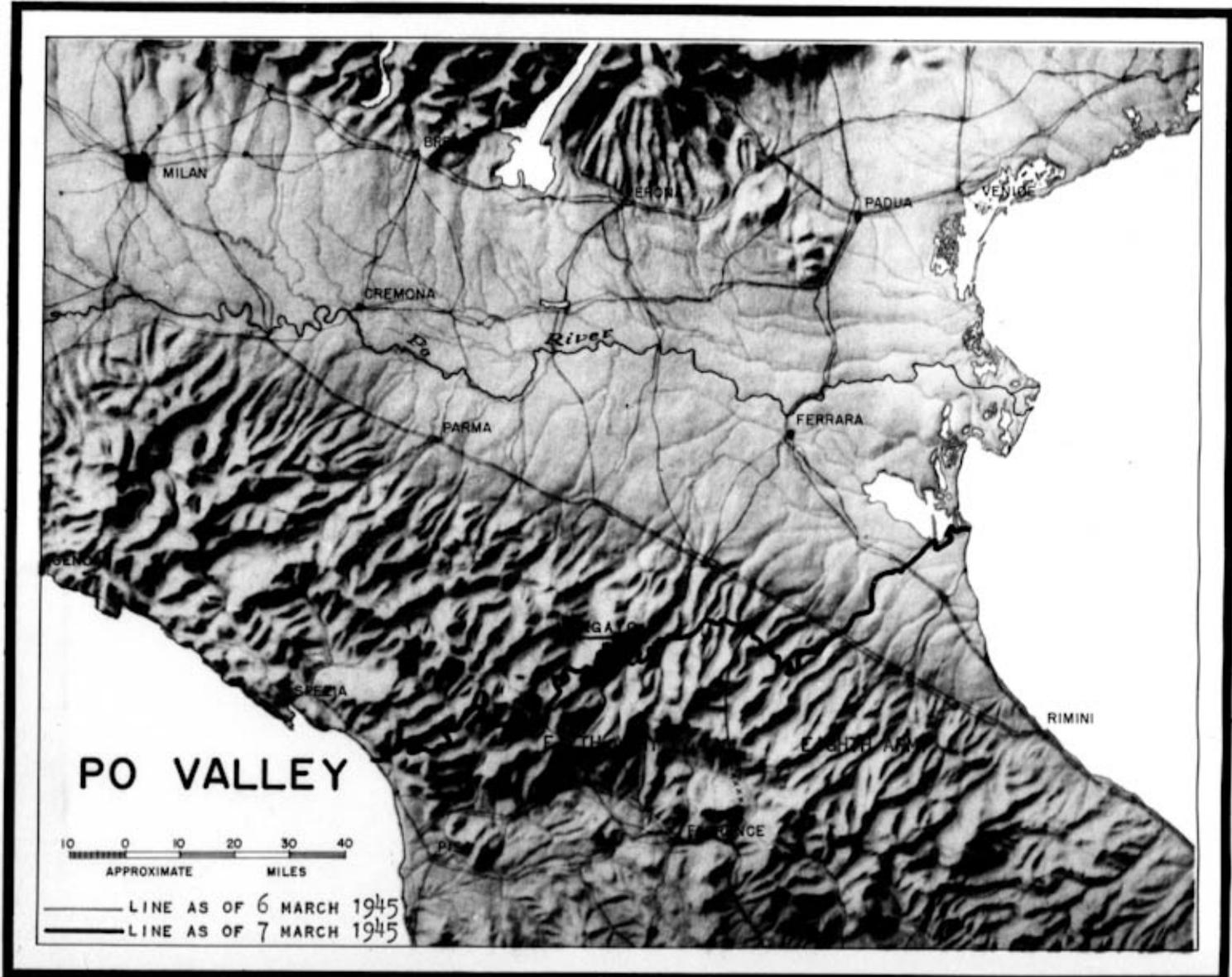
of 20 miles. The armored spearhead of the XII Corps driving towards Koblenz, gained an additional six miles against scattered resistance and according to communique of 8 March had reached the Rhine in the area of Koblenz. Other units of the XII Corps pushed ahead from two to three miles along a 10-mile front north of Trier. An infiltration into our lines some ten miles south of Trier was being mopped up.

On the Seventh Army front we adjusted our lines northeast of Forbach.

8 March. Last night, First Army troops captured intact the railway bridge over the Rhine at Remagen. We are rushing troops to secure an adequate bridgehead.

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GSD Letter, 5-8-72

TOP SECRET



PO VALLEY

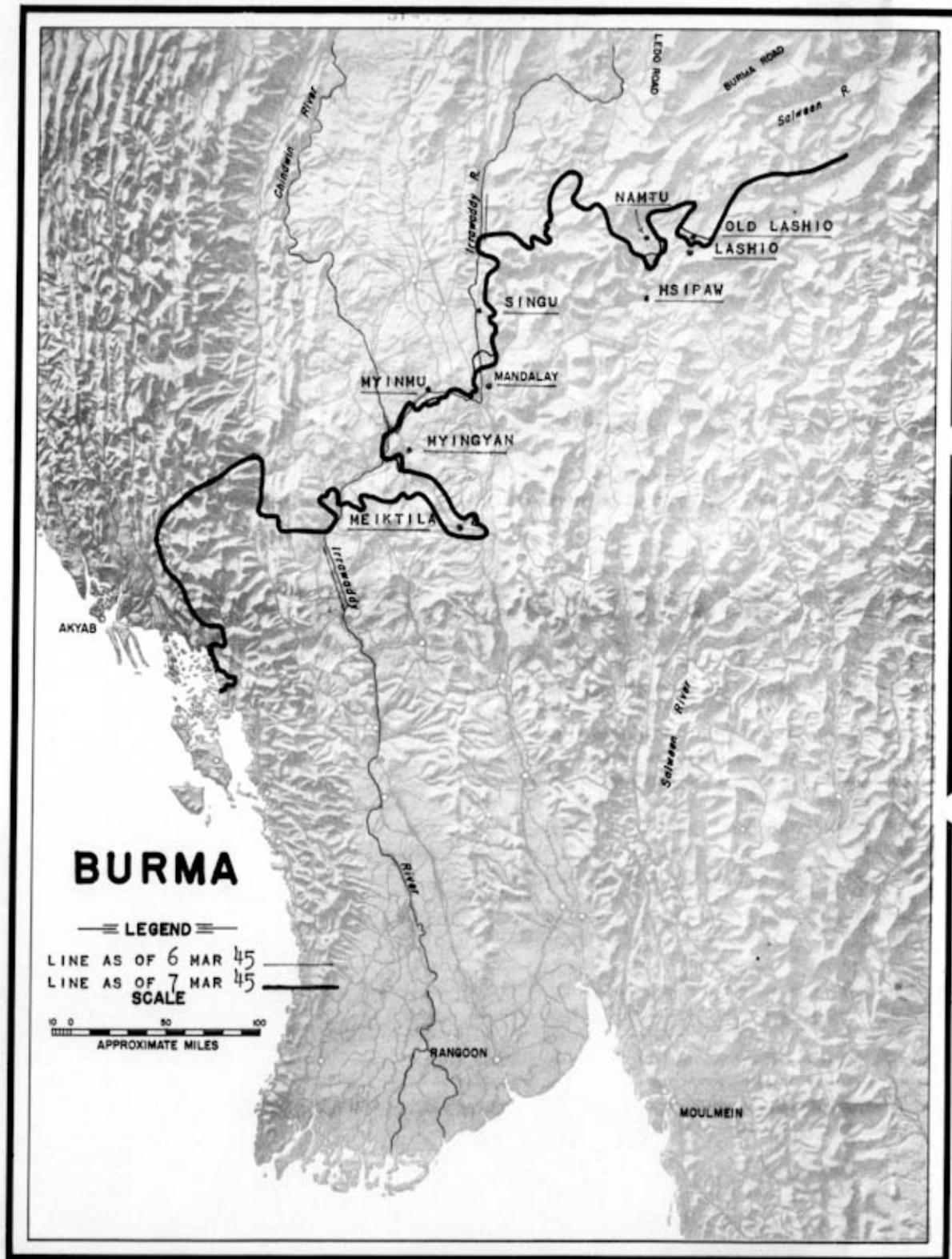
10 0 10 20 30 40
APPROXIMATE MILES

— LINE AS OF 6 MARCH 1945
— LINE AS OF 7 MARCH 1945

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

6 March. During the 24 hours ending at 1800, the Tactical Air Force flew more than 1,200 sorties. Medium bombers attacked communications in northeastern Italy and along the Brenner Route. Fighters and fighter bombers supported ground troops and raided supply dumps and rails in northern Italy and southern Austria. We lost nine planes. Coastal and Balkan Air Forces during 156 sorties attacked enemy installations in northern Italy and Yugoslavia.

On the Fifth Army front, elements of our IV Corps scored local gains southwest of Vergato. There was no change on the Eighth Army front.

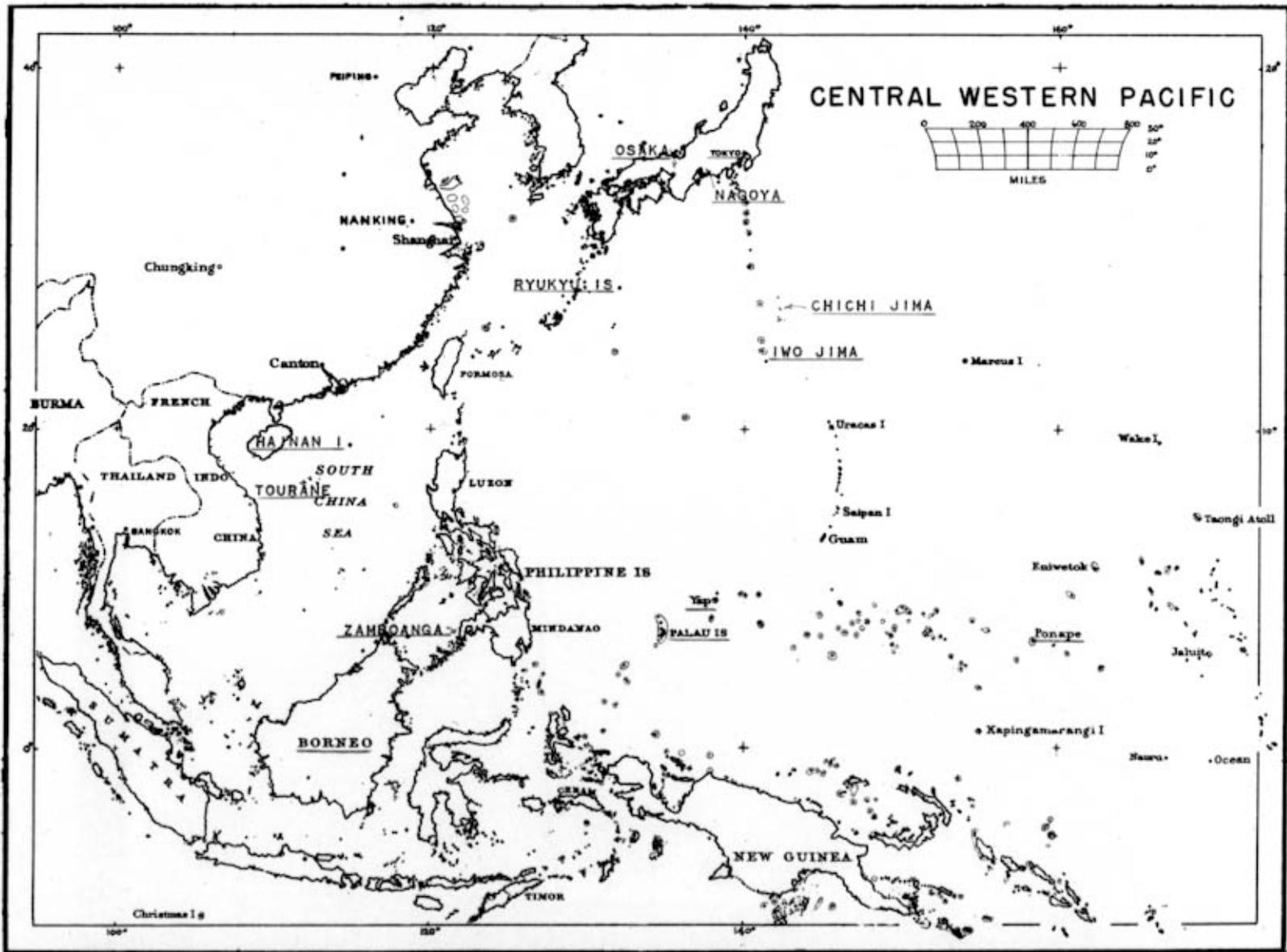


ASIATIC THEATER

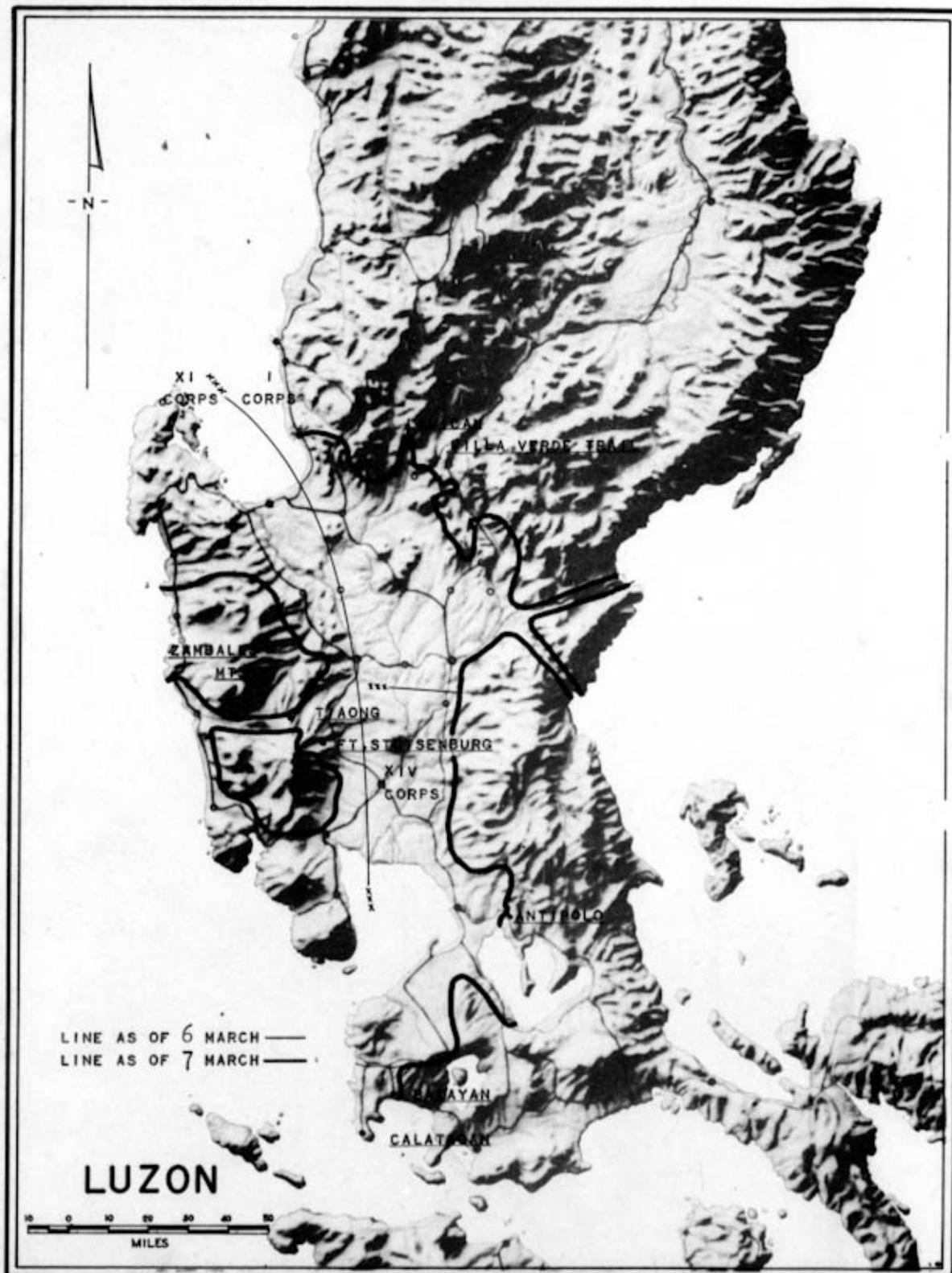
5 March. 14th Air Force flew 28 previously unreported sorties including an attack by ten fighters on Tourane airdrome in Indo-China. Ten parked planes were destroyed.

6 March. Twenty-seven offensive sorties were flown against communications through central China. One fighter was lost.

Chinese troops moving south occupied Old Lashio and the airstrip without opposition. West of Lashio, other Chinese units moving south of Namtu were reported to be 20 miles from Hsipaw. British units have made substantial progress east of the Irrawaddy; forward elements have reached a point 15 miles north of Mandalay. Other British units continued to expand the bridgehead across the Irrawaddy south of Myinmu.



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LUZON

TOP SECRET

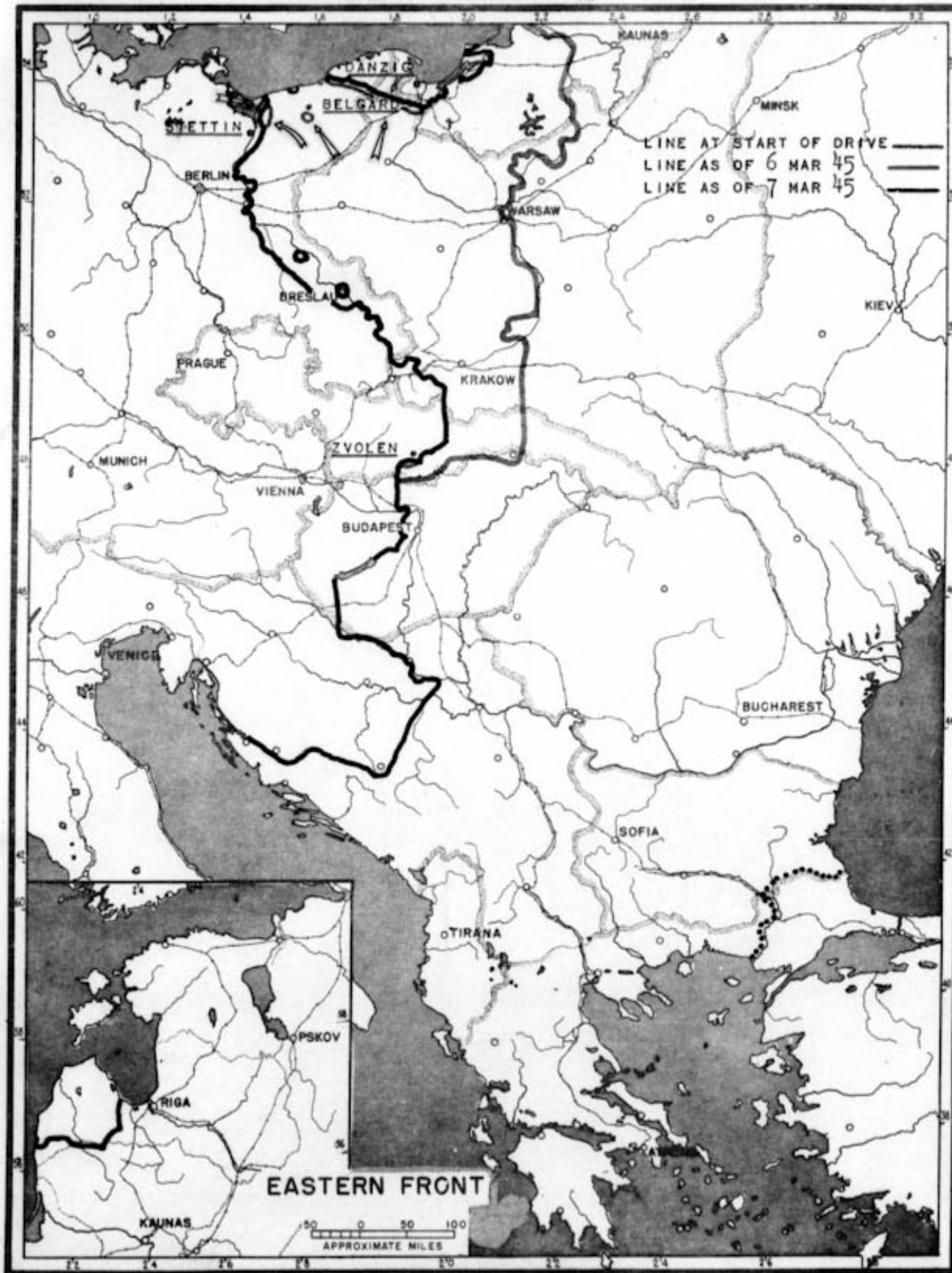
SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA

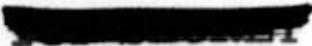
4 March. Among 129 previously unreported sorties, 48 light bombers hit targets on Luzon. A heavy patrol bomber sank a large tanker near Hainan Island.

5 March. More than 260 sorties were flown by Southwest Pacific aircraft including almost 100 by Solomons-based aircraft. One hundred twenty-five planes continued to attack Luzon targets. Patrol bombers sank a destroyer off Hainan Island and shot down two enemy planes.

6 March. Two hundred thirty-four sorties were reported. Medium bombers attacked an airdrome on Hainan Island, destroying or damaging twelve planes on the ground and shooting down five others. Five bombers were lost. In the Philippines, Antipolo was bombed by 97 escorted heavy bombers, and 32 heavy and 12 medium bombers attacked targets at Zamboanga. Search planes attacked shipping in Ryukyu Archipelago and northeast of Borneo. Two vessels were sunk.

Our I Corps troops on Luzon were meeting stubborn resistance on the Villa Verde Trail; local gains were made north of Lawican. West of Fort Stotsenburg we were continuing to reduce enemy positions in the Zambales. A regimental combat team of the XIV Corps was two miles east of Balayan in southwest Batangas; patrols reached Calatagan without contact.




DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

EASTERN FRONT

7 March. The Red Army continued its advance on a broad front towards Danzig and eliminated a German pocket south of Belgard. In Czechoslovakia, the Soviets made further gains southwest of Zvolen.

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 1183

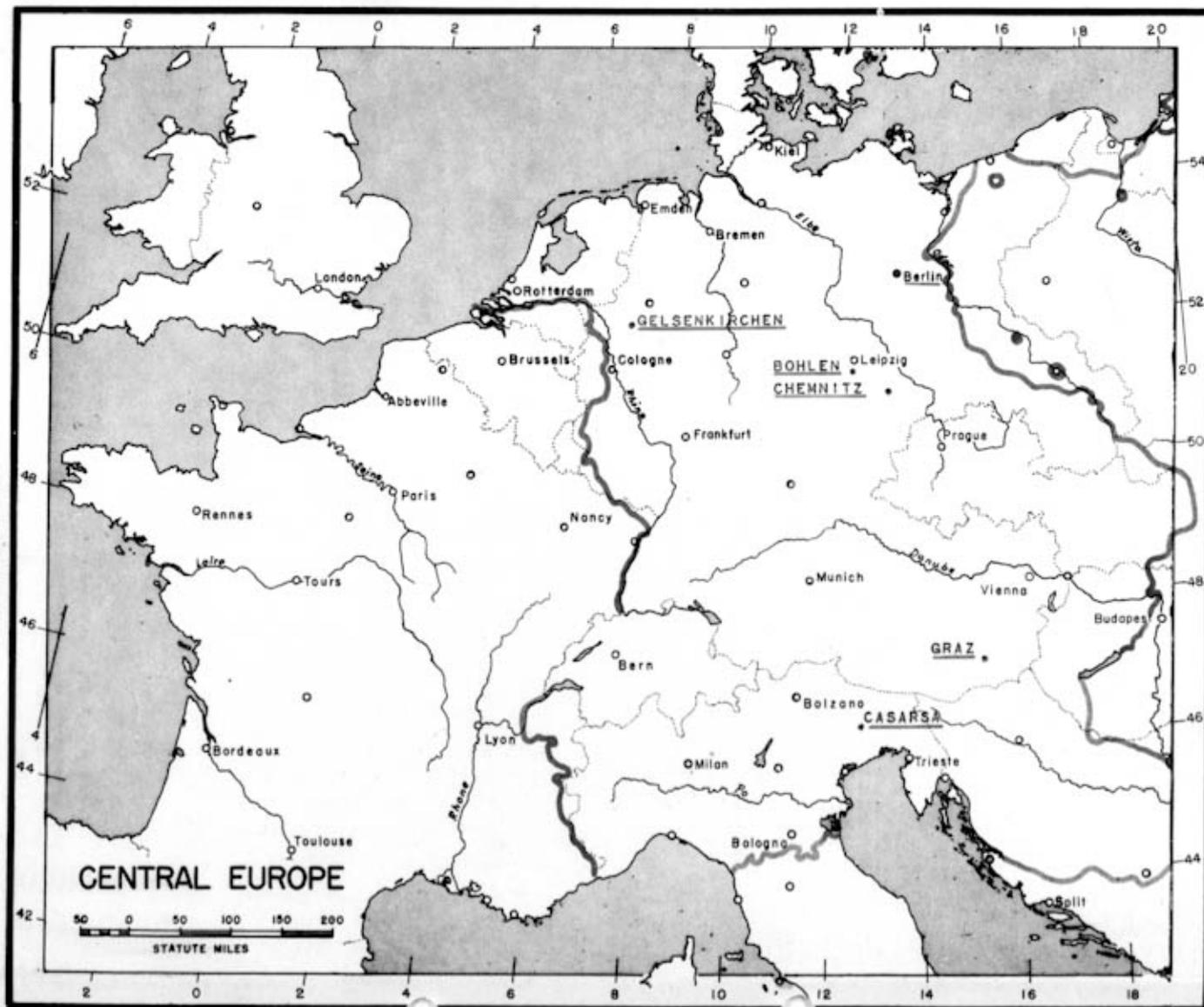
0700 March 6 to 0700 March 7, 1945

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 NSA Letter, 5-3-78

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68D Letter, 5-3-72

EUROPE AND THE MEDITERRANEAN - STRATEGIC AIR

4 March. During the night, Italian based heavy and medium bombers dropped 116 tons of bombs on the railyards at Casarsa.

5 March. A benzol plant at Gelsenkirchen was bombed by 163 RAF heavy bombers. That night, 711 additional RAF bombers attacked the town of Chemnitz, and 248 hit an oil plant at Bohlen. Forty-three Mosquito bombers escorted these attacks and made widespread raids over targets in Germany; seventy others bombed Berlin. Forty-two bombers are missing.

Heavy bombers of the 15th Air Force dropped 125 tons on railyards at Graz that night. Two bombers were lost.

6 March. All 8th and 15th Air Force strategic operations were cancelled due to bad weather.

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 DAD Letter: 6-9-78

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

EUROPEAN THEATER

5 March. During the 24-hour period ending at sunset, the Tactical Air Forces flew more than 2,200 sorties; railyards south of the Ruhr were attacked with 1,328 tons of bombs. Rocket-launching sites in Holland were also bombed. One enemy aircraft was shot down; we lost four planes.

During the 48-hour period ending at 0600, two rockets and five flying bombs fell in Antwerp. Six rockets and 58 flying bombs fell in nearby areas; 83 other flying bombs were destroyed by antiaircraft fire.

During the 24-hour period ending at 0600, of ten flying bombs plotted approaching England, five made landfall and four of these reached the London area; six rockets fell in the Essex and London areas.

Units of the First Canadian Army and the US XVI Corps, of our Ninth Army, were driving towards the Rhine between Oberhausen and a point about ten miles northwest of Wesel; this is the only stretch of the river between the Nijmegen area and Cologne which has not been reached by Allied troops. The US XIII and XIX Corps were reducing pockets of resistance, west of the Rhine, between Oberhausen and Dusseldorf.

First Army troops occupied the west bank of the Rhine between Dusseldorf and Cologne except for a small area immediately north of Cologne.

According to a communique of 7 March, Cologne has been captured except for isolated resistance in the southern part of the city. The III Corps advanced approximately nine miles east of Euskirchen along a 15-mile front, with forward elements three miles from Bonn. On our Third Army front we pushed ahead along a 30-mile front between Schleiden and Trier for average gains of three miles but an armored thrust gained

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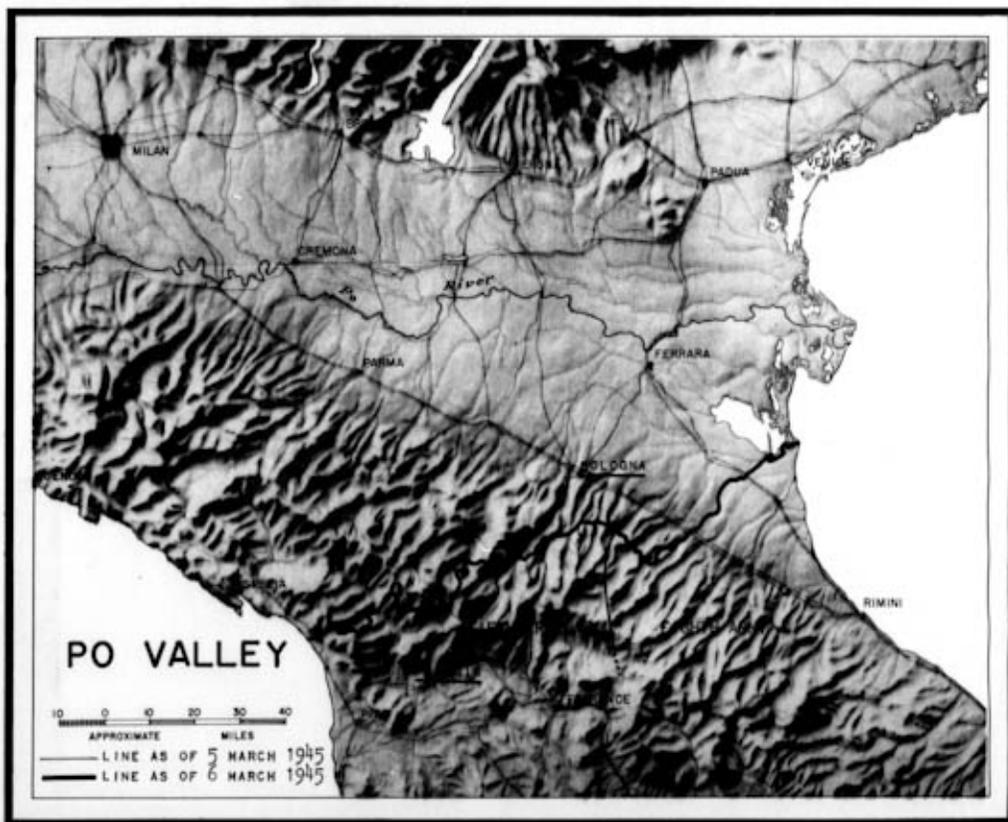
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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

a maximum of 11 miles through the Eifel towards Koblenz. A late
communique reports this column within 20 miles of the Rhine. Despite
counterattacks, north and south of Trier we pushed ahead on a 10-mile
front north of the town.

On the Seventh Army front, we have completed the reduction of
Forbach and consolidated positions southeast of Saarbruecken.

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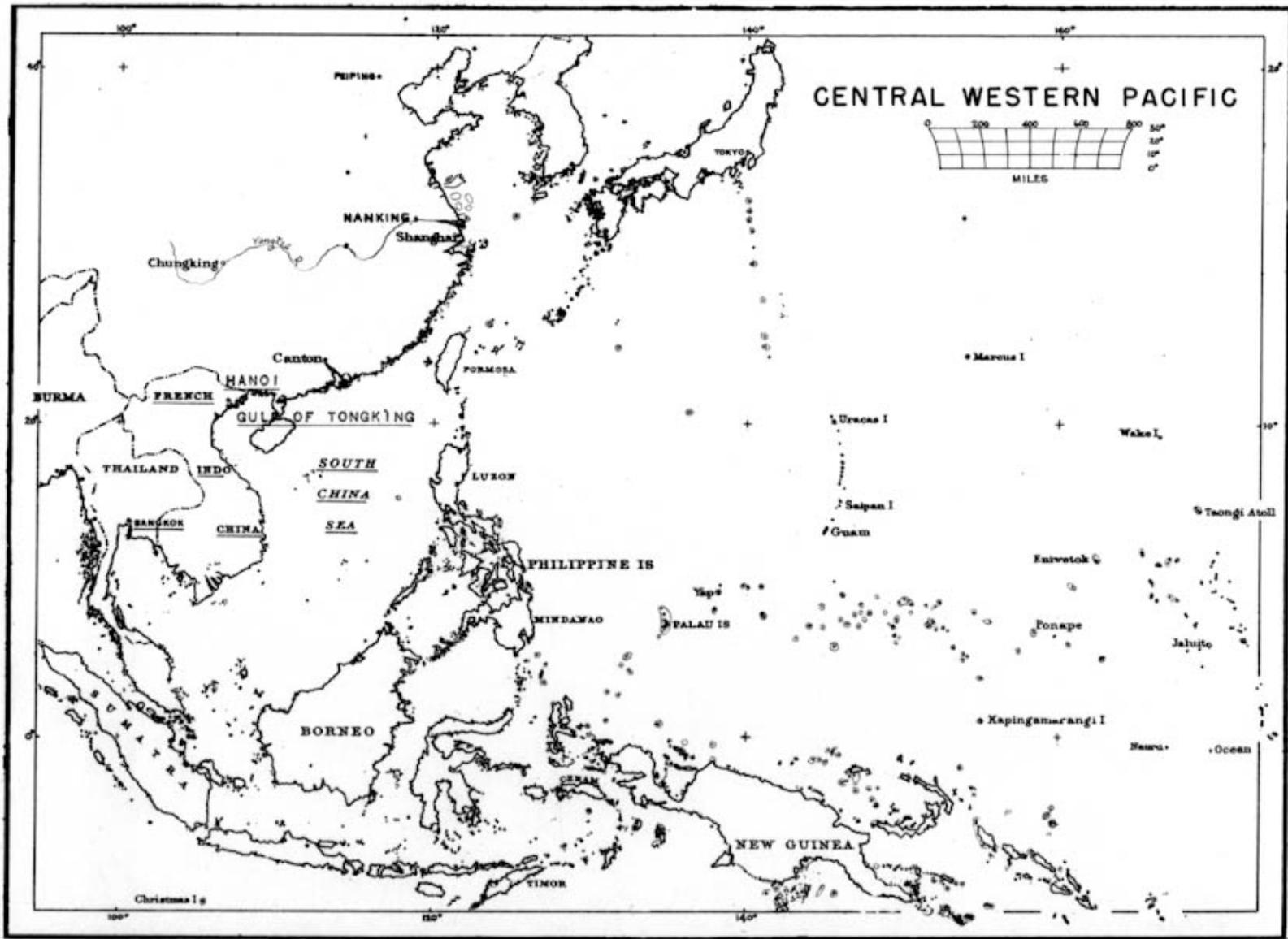


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DATE: 05-03-72

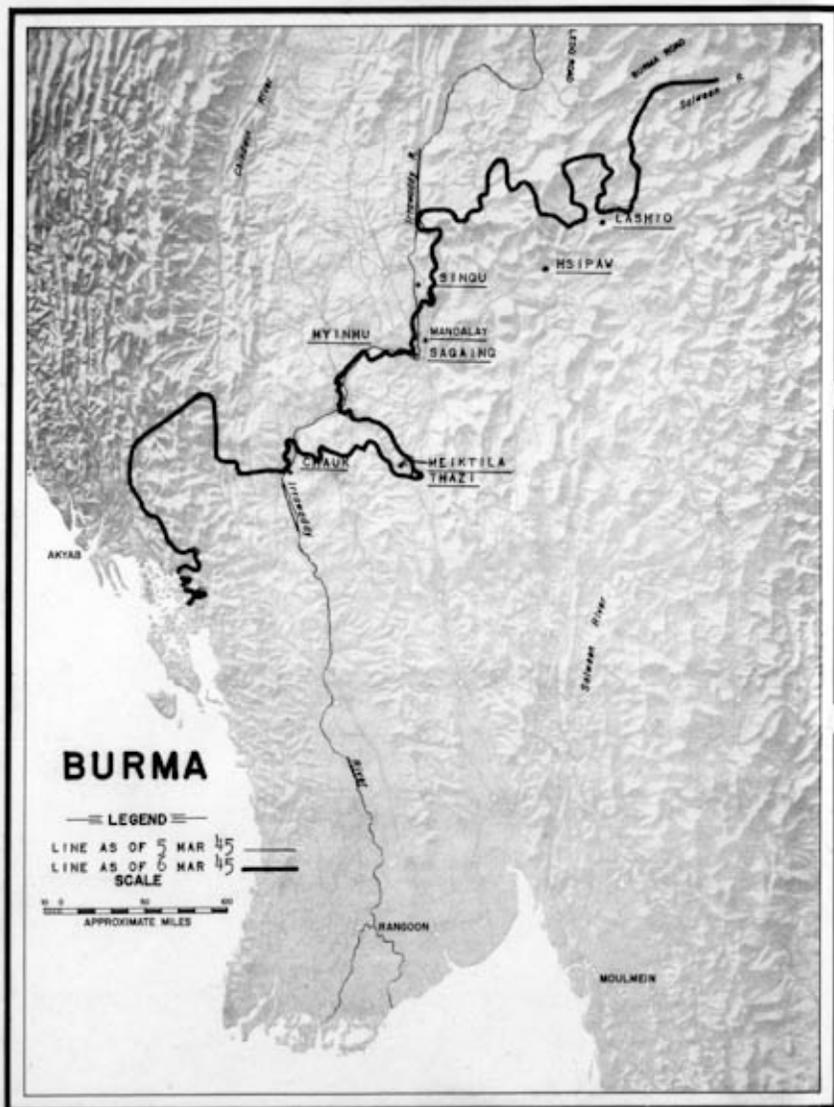
MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

5 March. In the 24 hours to 1800, the Tactical Air Forces flew 688 sorties. Medium bombers were grounded by weather, but fighters and fighter-bombers attacked communications in northern Italy, Austria, and in northern Yugoslavia. We lost six planes. The Coastal and Balkan Air Forces reported 105 sorties against rail installations in northwestern Italy and bridges and highway traffic in Yugoslavia.

On the Fifth Army front, Brazilian and US mountain troops continuing their attack north of Pistoia captured several additional mountain positions and villages along a six-mile front. There was no change on the Eighth Army front.



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OSD Letter, 5-8-72



ASIATIC THEATER

4 March. The Eastern Air Command flew more than 2,500 sorties, of which about one-fifth were offensive against enemy positions and Japanese communications in central and northern Burma and in support of our ground forces throughout the theater. Two enemy planes were shot down; we lost three.

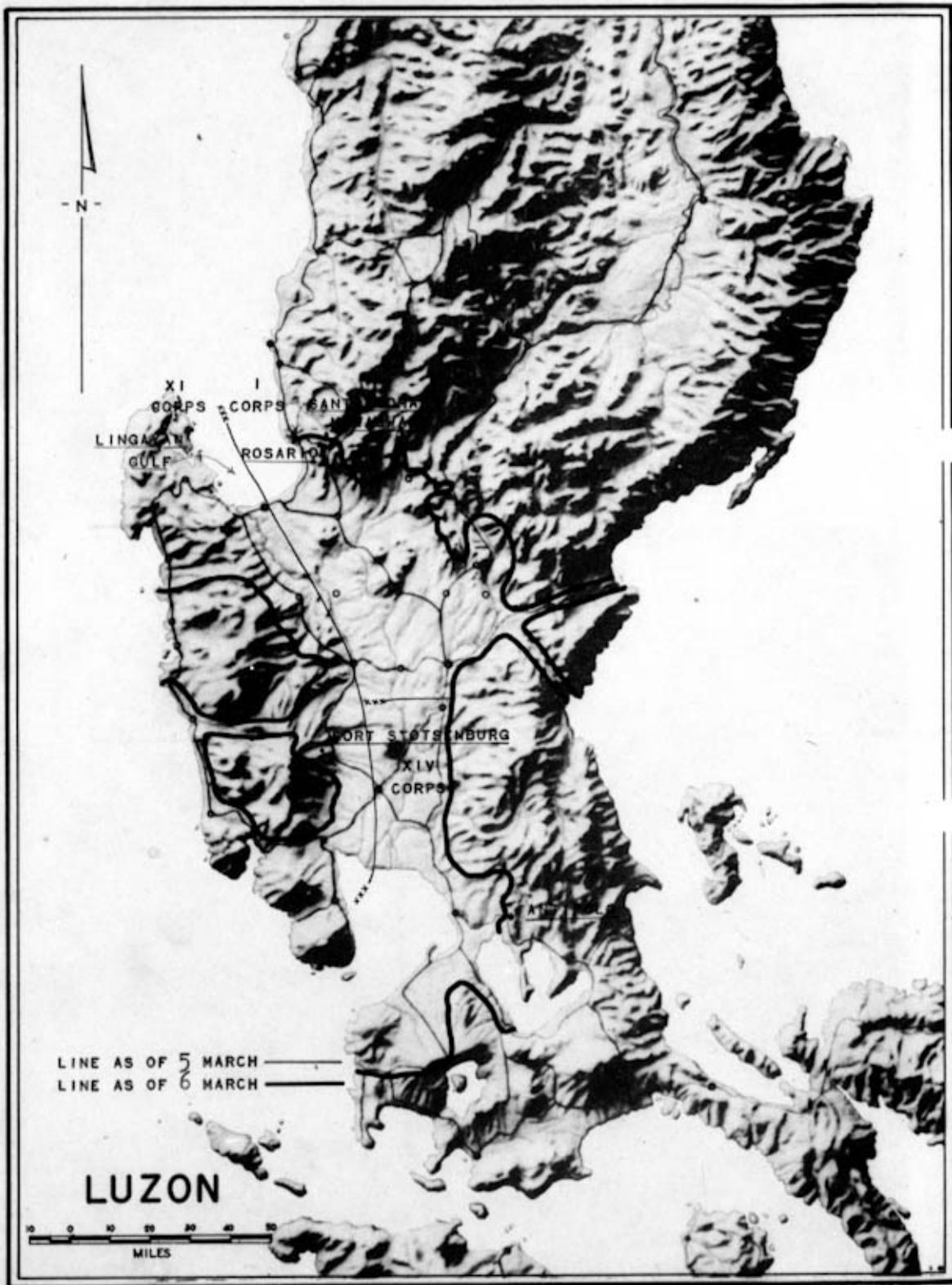
4 March. Three heavy bombers of the 14th Air Force attacked shipping in the South China Sea and the Gulf of Tongking. A lone B-24 mined the Yangtze River.

5 March. Among forty-six offensive sorties flown by the 14th Air Force was an attack by 28 B-25's against bridges around Hanoi. Other aircraft hit rail lines. One fighter and one medium bomber were lost.

5 March. Chinese troops, advancing south, were within eight miles of Lashio. British units attempting to expand the bridgehead southeast of Singu were encountering opposition, but along the east bank of the Irrawaddy other Allied troops were reported to be within 20 miles of Mandalay. A Japanese attack was repulsed north of Sagaing; east of Myinmu the enemy succeeded in reoccupying a village in the bridgehead. Meiktila has been occupied and patrols entered Thazi without opposition. An attack was repulsed northeast of Chauk.



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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

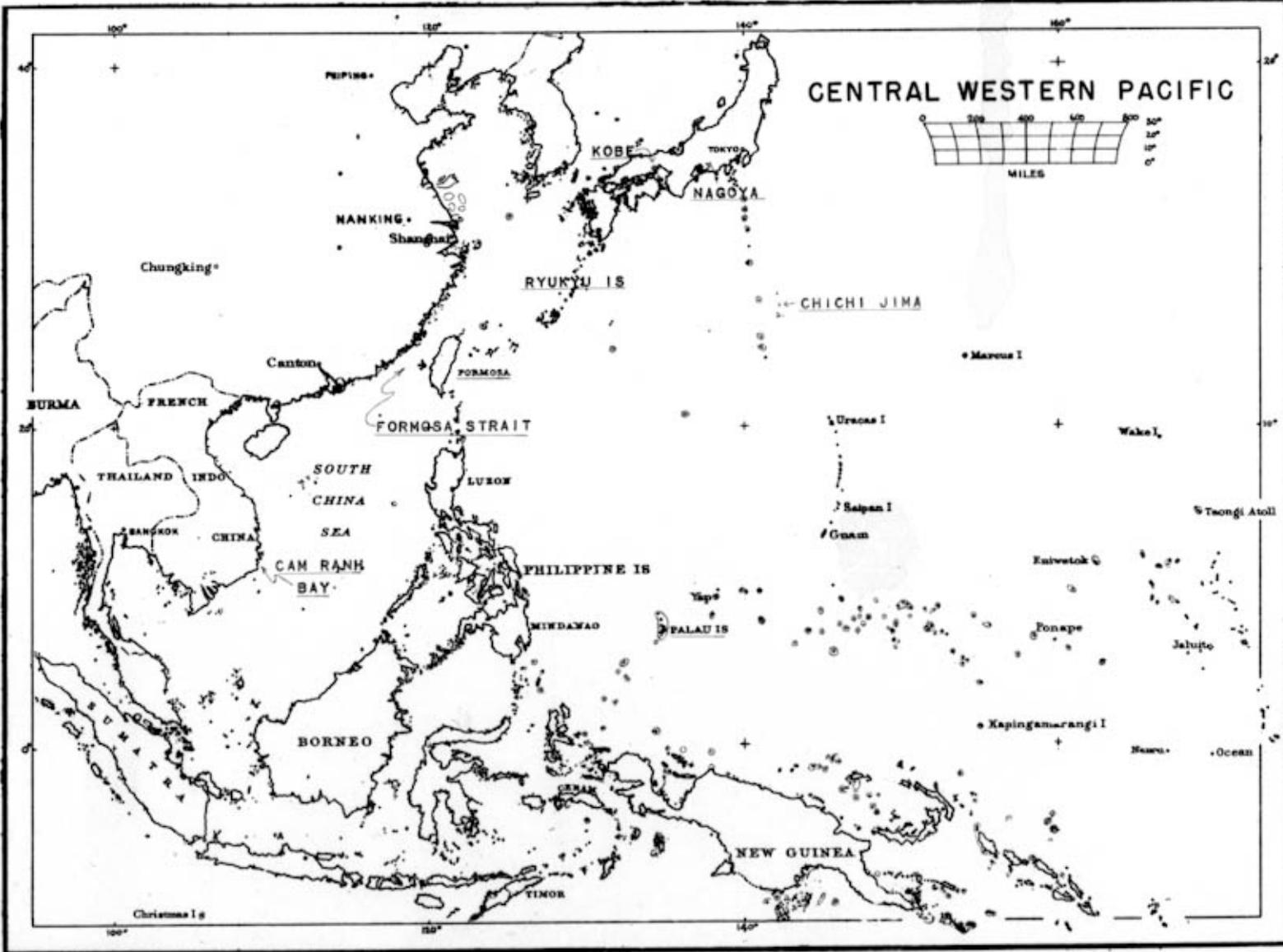
4 March. More than 140 sorties were flown in the Southwest Pacific Area. Navy fighters attacked defense positions on Panay and Mindanao, and supported guerrilla forces near the city of Cebu. Zamboanga was bombed by 24 heavy bombers and others on patrol attacked shipping in the China Sea; one floatplane was destroyed.

5 March. At least 190 sorties were reported against enemy targets throughout the theater in addition to sweeps by medium bombers and fighters over Formosa and along the Asiatic coast from Cam Ranh Bay to Formosa Strait. The B-25's sank seven coastal vessels and damaged eight others while fighters destroyed warehouses, hit rail and road traffic and shot down one enemy bomber. Ninety-nine heavy bombers attacked troop concentrations and gun positions behind the Yamashita line north of Antipolo. Other B-24's dropped 100 tons in the Davao area.

On Luzon, the I Corps pushing north of Rosario, advanced to a line running from Santo Tomas on the Lingayen Gulf to Mawaswas, seven miles to the east. The XI Corps reported that organized resistance in the Fort Stotsenburg area was confined to a strong pocket some three miles west of the fort. On Leyte, our forces were meeting strong local resistance near Abijao. Only minor contacts were reported on Palawan.

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NAV Letter 5-3-72



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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

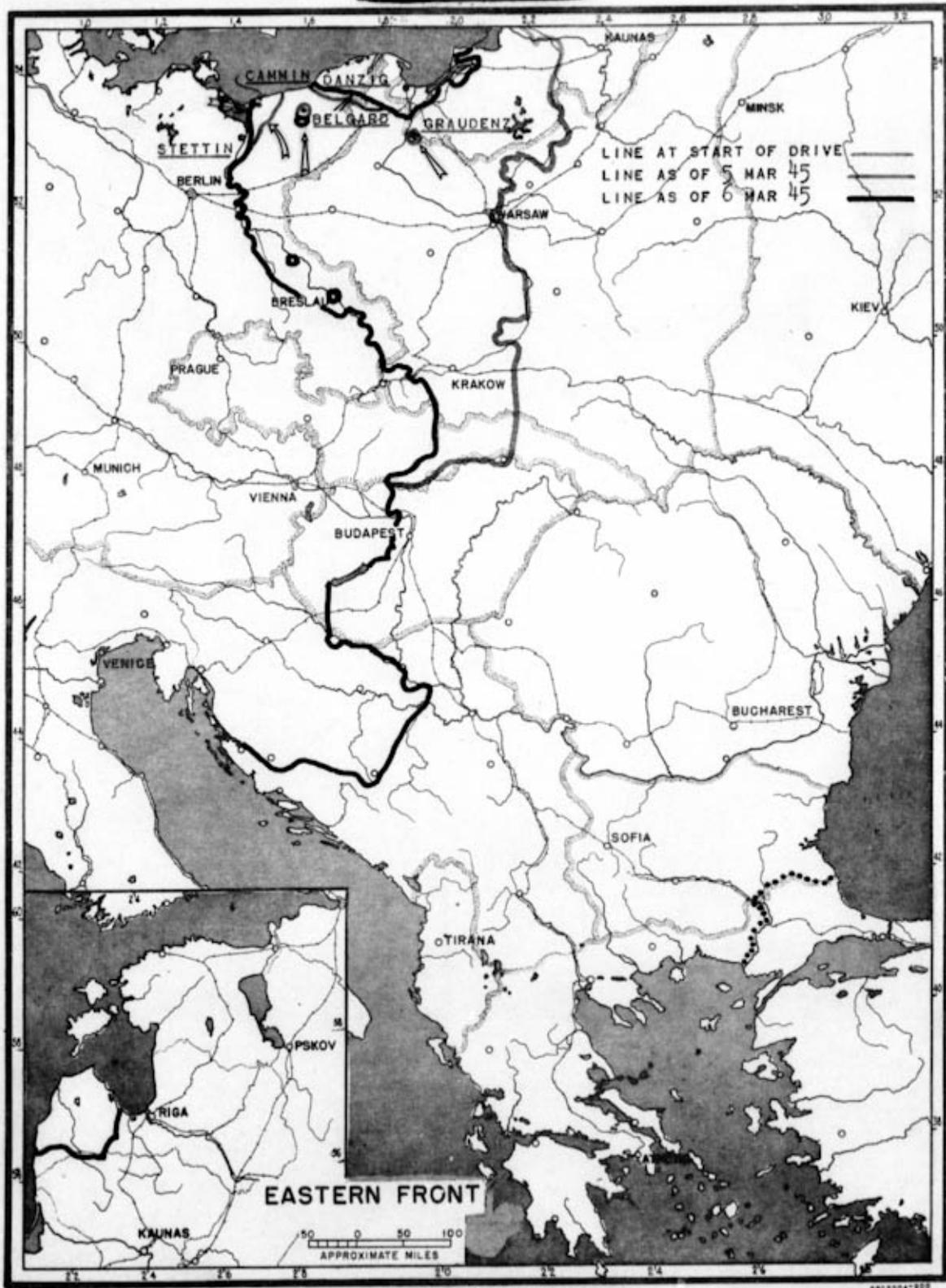
PACIFIC OCEAN AREA

3 March. A lone B-29 raided Kobe during the night.

4 March. Eight B-29's bombed an industrial plant at Nagoya.

Three squadrons of 7th Air Force B-24's bombed Chichi Jima.

5 March. Japanese positions in the Palaus were attacked by 40 Navy planes. Eleven heavy bombers continued to harass Chichi Jima.



EASTERN FRONT

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

EASTERN FRONT

6 March. In Pomerania, Soviets widened their hold on the Baltic coast to more than 70 miles and captured the city of Cammin, north of Stettin. The Red Army has taken the encircled city of Belgard; Grandenz also has fallen.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

WAR DEPARTMENT.

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 1182

0700 March 5 to 0700 March 6, 1945

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OSD Letter, 5-8-72

EUROPE AND THE MEDITERRANEAN - STRATEGIC AIR

3 March. Italian-based heavy and medium bombers dropped 140 tons of bombs on oil storage installations in northeastern Italy and the Naval dockyard at Pola.

4 March. RAF escorted heavy bombers dropped 617 tons on a rail yard at Wanne-Eickel. That night 30 Mosquitoes attacked Berlin, 23 others raided Essen, and ten struck Bremen shipyards and four other coastal towns.

5 March. First reports state that more than 400 escorted heavy bombers of the 8th Air Force attacked a railyard at Chemnitz, and an oil refinery in the Hamburg area. Four bombers and eight fighters are missing.

Weather grounded 15th Air Force heavy bombers.

EUROPEAN THEATER

4 March. Weather limited the Tactical Air Forces to over 800 sorties. Medium bombers dropped 275 tons on railyards and communication centers in the Ruhr and Cologne areas. Six enemy planes were destroyed; we lost five.

5 March. By 1200 hours, troops of the First Canadian Army had made advances up to three miles along a front running from Issum to the Rhine.

Units of our Ninth Army, advancing about seven miles, had cleared the entire west bank of the Rhine between Dusseldorf and Oberhausen and were rapidly approaching the river between Oberhausen and Wesel. All Rhine bridges on the Ninth Army front have been destroyed.

On the US First Army front, the VII Corps registered gains up to five miles towards the Rhine between Cologne and Dusseldorf despite a German counterattack supported by armor north of Cologne. The infantry has reached the outskirts of Cologne and according to a communique armored units have penetrated into the city. To the south, we pushed forward an average of three miles along a 30-mile front.

The Third Army moved ahead some four miles against resistance which varied from light to heavy along a 35-mile front between Schleiden and Trier.

Seventh Army troops made local progress southwest of Saarbruecken, securing Forbach.

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

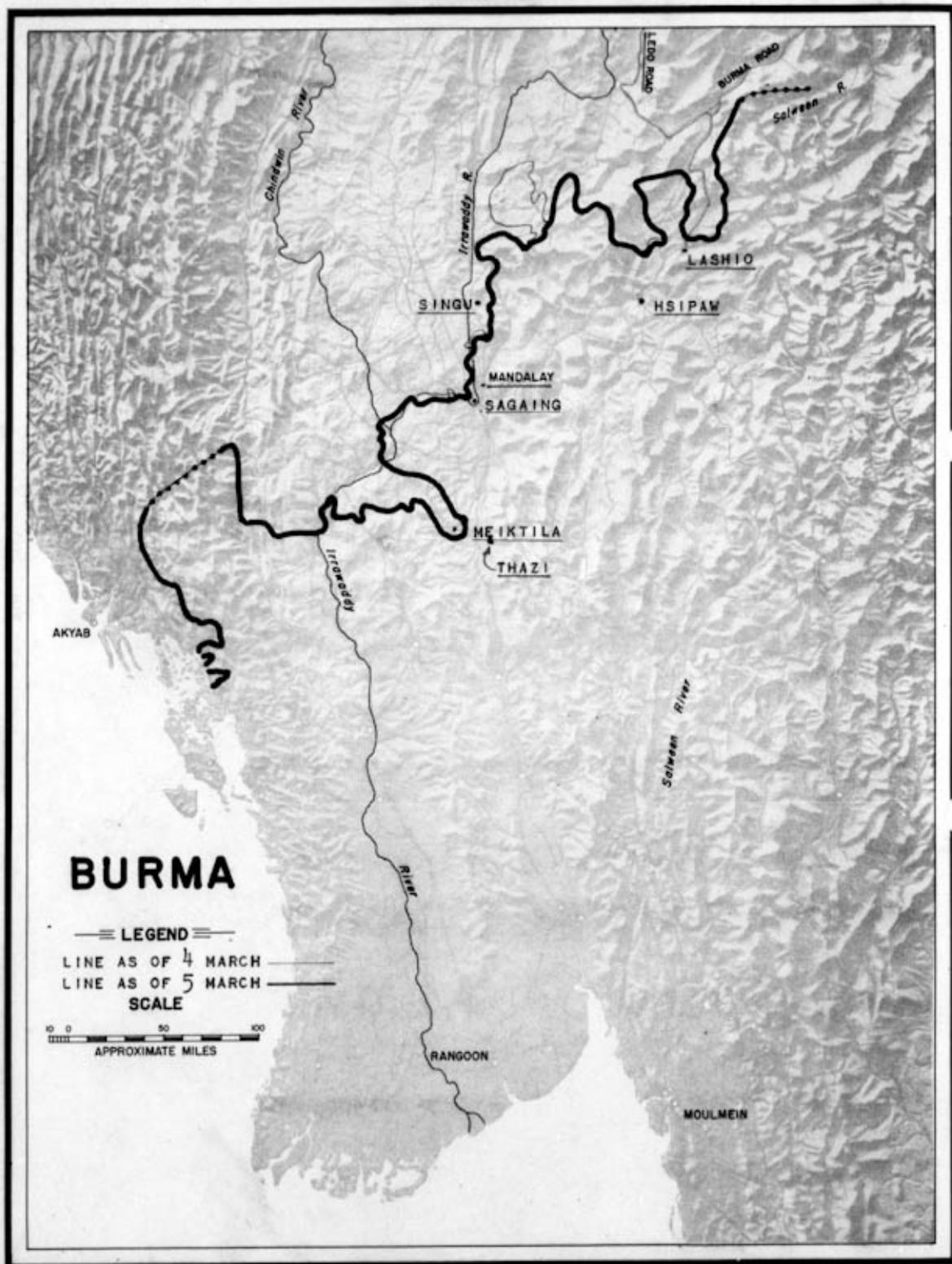
4 March. The Tactical Air Force flew more than 1,200 sorties. Medium bombers continued attacks on bridges of the Brenner Line and caused explosions in railyards and docks in the Trieste area. Fighters swept communications in northern Italy and southern Austria, destroying one rail bridge. Others supported ground forces in the Fifth Army area. Brazilian-piloted aircraft exploded an ammunition dump southwest of Verona. Coastal Air Force planes attacked targets in northeastern and northwestern Italy. Six planes are missing.

By mid-afternoon, US mountain troops had scored gains up to two miles and captured several mountain positions west of the Pistoia-Bologna highway. There was no change on the British Eighth Army front.



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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

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OSD Letter, 5-8-72

ASIATIC THEATER

2 March. The Eastern Air Command flew over 2,700 sorties, of which 815 were offensive. Heavy bombers attacked railyards northeast of Bangkok. Medium bombers and fighters carried out widespread attacks on enemy positions, oil storage and supply areas, and communications throughout central Burma.

3 March. Among nine additional sorties flown by the 14th Air Force, four B-24's hit shipping in Tongking Gulf and the South China Sea.

Among more than 2,400 Eastern Air Command sorties, 557 were offensive. RAF Liberators dropped 156 tons on rail workshops at Bangkok, three others mined Bangkok River and 12 bombed rail bridges on the Burma-Siam line.

Medium bombers and fighters flew ground support around Mandalay-Thazi and Lashio-Hsipaw areas. One plane is missing.

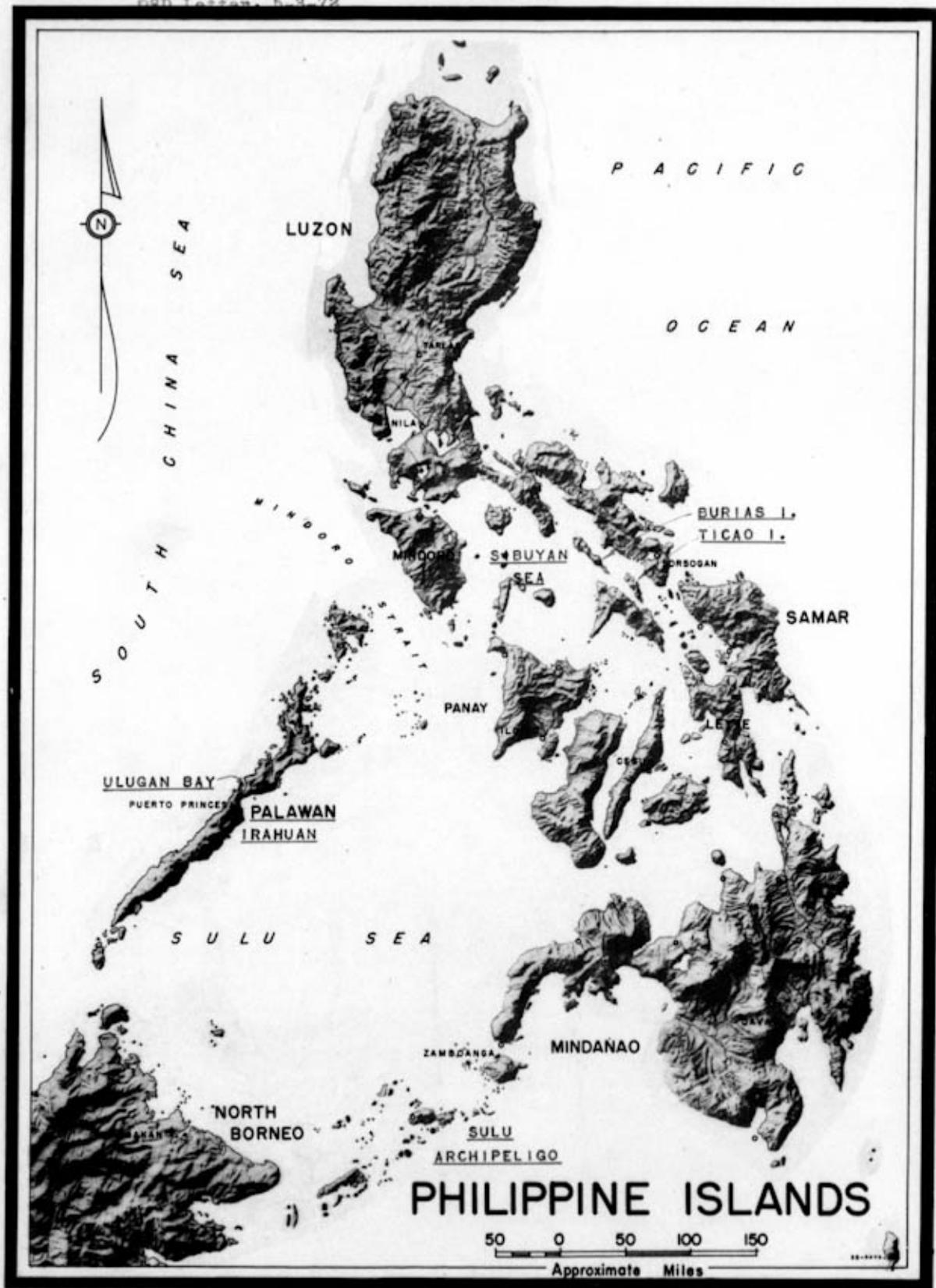
4 March. British Army units continued to advance southeast of Singu and repulsed a counterattack north of Sagaing. Allied patrols have established contact with the enemy some 15 miles east of Meiktila.

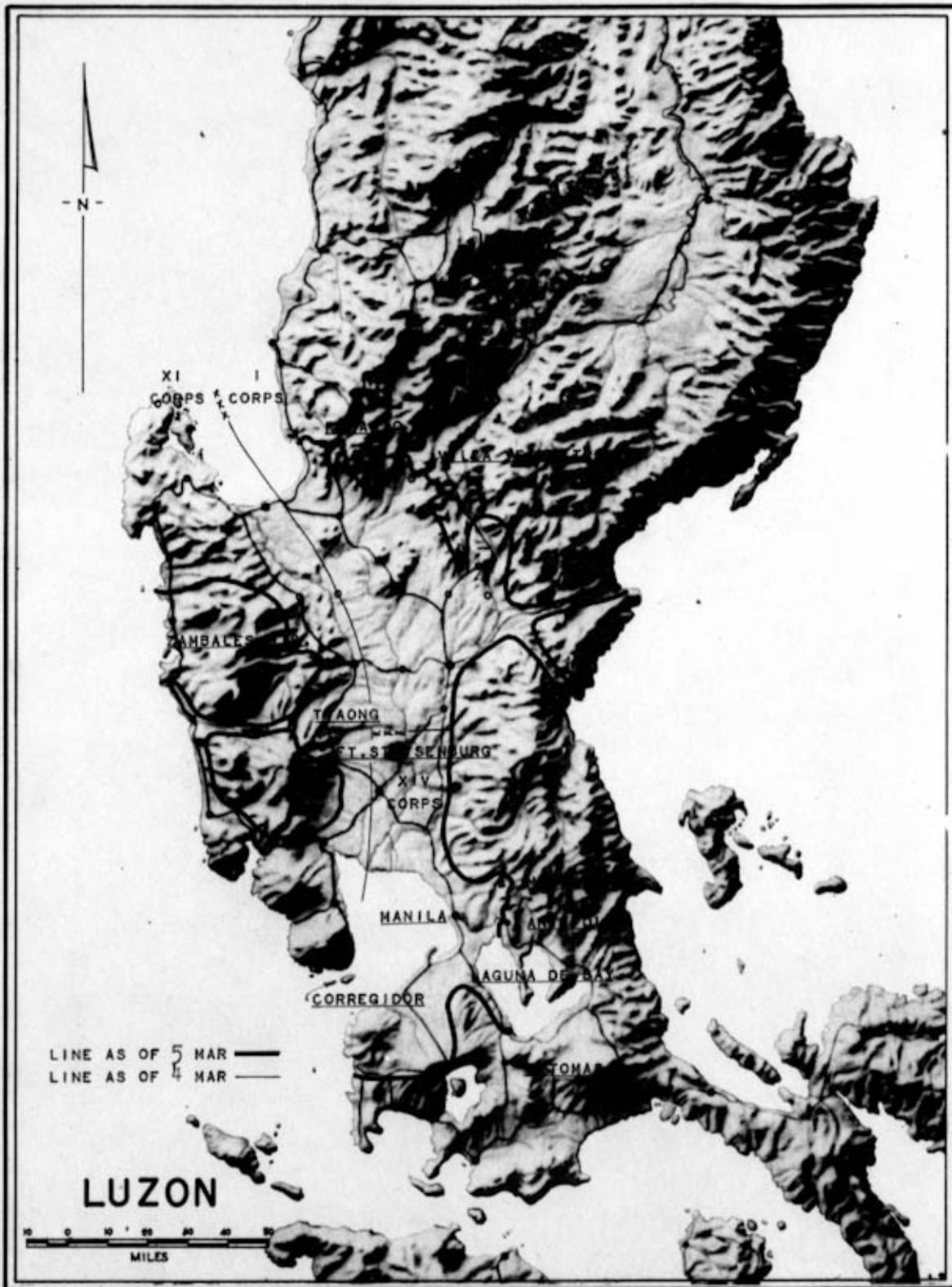
1-28 February. The Air Transport Command carried 40,677 tons over "The Hump" during February.

The first convoy to travel the Ledo-Burma Road left Ledo on 12 January 1945 and reached Kunming, China, 4 February 1945. By 20 February,

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

23 convoys had passed over the Ledo-Burma Road. Included in these convoys were the following: 1,419 vehicles (all types), 426 1½-ton trailers, 71 ¾-ton trailers, 179 Misc. trailers, 1 Battery 105-mm guns, 1 Battery 75-mm guns, 1 Battery 37-mm guns, 2,011 personnel (567 US and 1,444 Chinese), 442 tons POL, 259 tons ammunition and 1,053 tons other cargo.





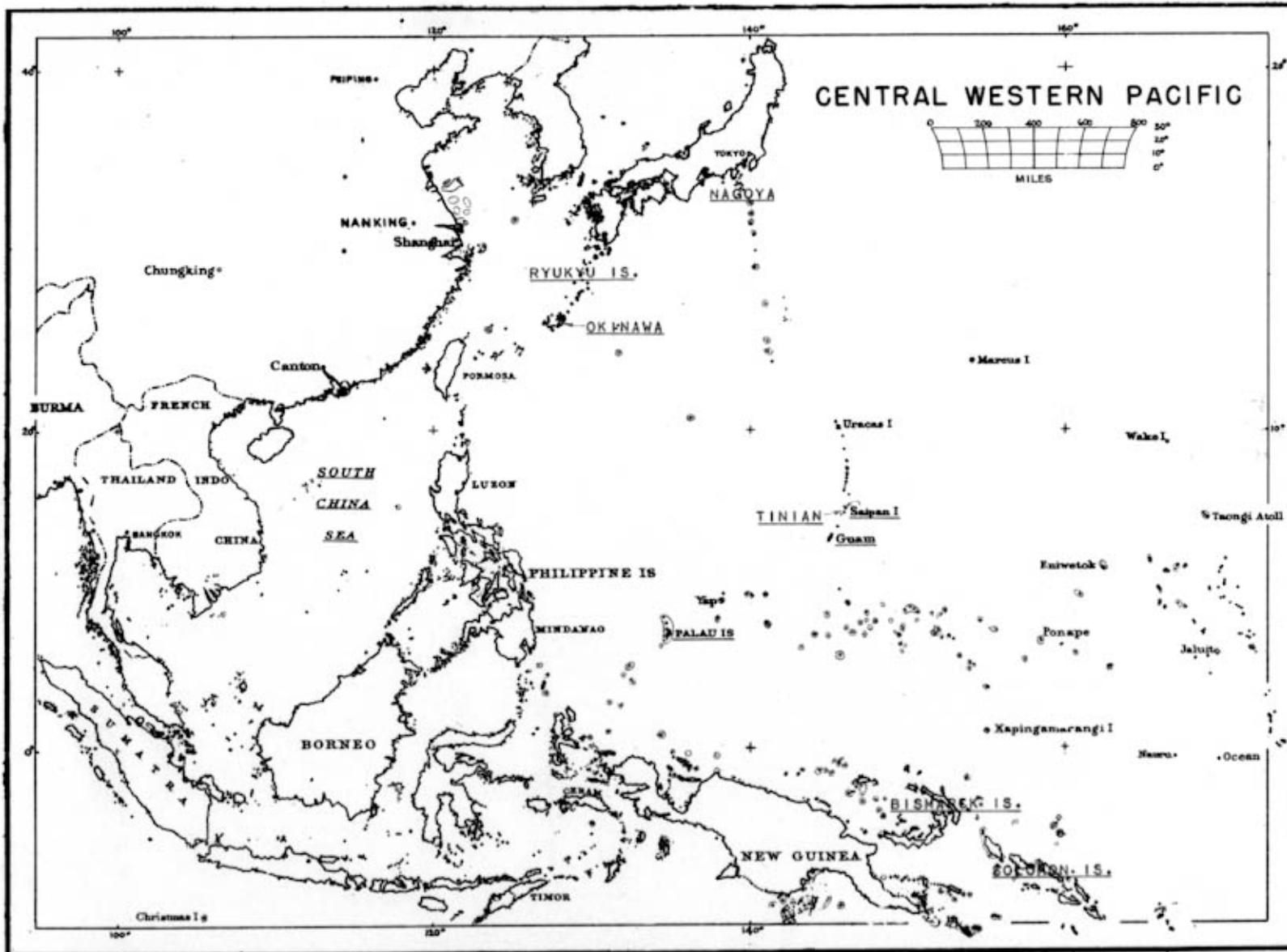
SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

3 March. Among 190 previously unreported sorties, 125 were flown against targets in the Solomons and Bismarcks. One enemy plane was shot down.

4 March. Preliminary reports show that enemy targets were hit throughout the theater by Southwest Pacific aircraft. Thirty-three B-24's bombed air installations and supply dumps in the Sulu area. Other planes supported our ground operations on Luzon.

3 March. Our troops on Ticao and Burias Islands, in the Sibuyan Sea, report no opposition. On Palawan, we repulsed a small counter-attack northeast of Irahuan; a motorized patrol reached Ulugan Bay on the China Sea coast without contact.

4 March. Elements of the I Corps secured high ground four miles northeast of Rosario and made a small gain on the Villa Verde Trail against strong opposition. Resistance in Manila has been reduced to a few snipers who were being rapidly eliminated. East and northeast of the city, strong patrols of the XIV Corps probed enemy defenses in the Antipolo and Montalban areas. South of Laguna de Bay, patrols pushed to within two miles of Santo Tomas. Northwest of Fort Stotsenburg, reconnaissance troops of the XI Corps advancing west effected a junction at Tiaong with other units of the Corps moving east over the Zambales Mountains.



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 OSD Letter, 6-3-72

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

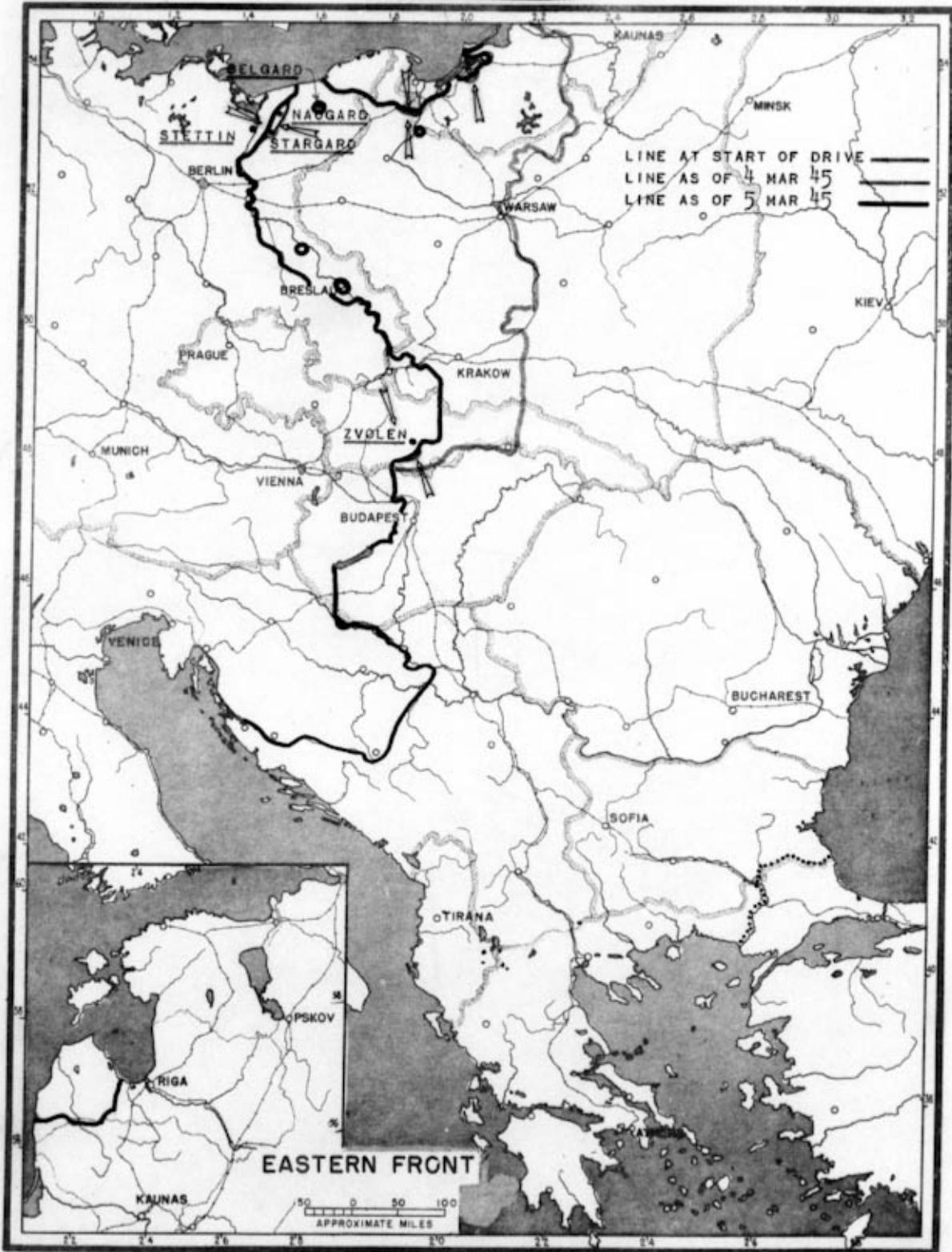
PACIFIC OCEAN AREA

2 March. One B-29 attacked Nagoya in Japan and another hit Okinawa in the Ryukyus.

4 March. US air attacks against isolated Japanese positions in the Palaus continued; we lost two planes.

Our forces in the Marianas continued mopping up operations on Guam, Saipan, Tinian and in the Palaus.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

EASTERN FRONT

5 March. In Pomerania, the Red Army advanced over ten miles towards Stettin, capturing the important communications centers of Stargard and Naugard.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 1181

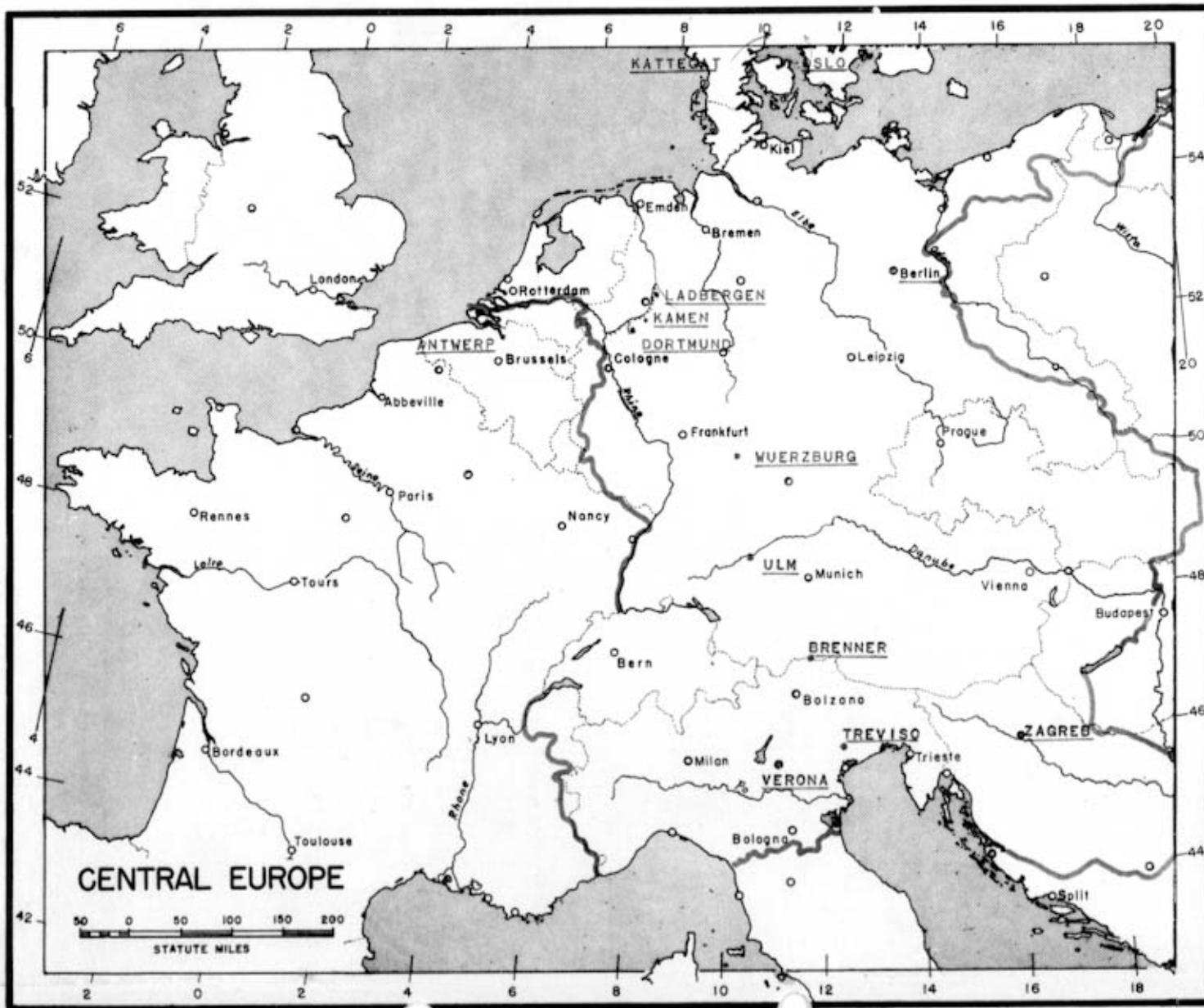
0700 March 4 to 0700 March 5, 1945

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

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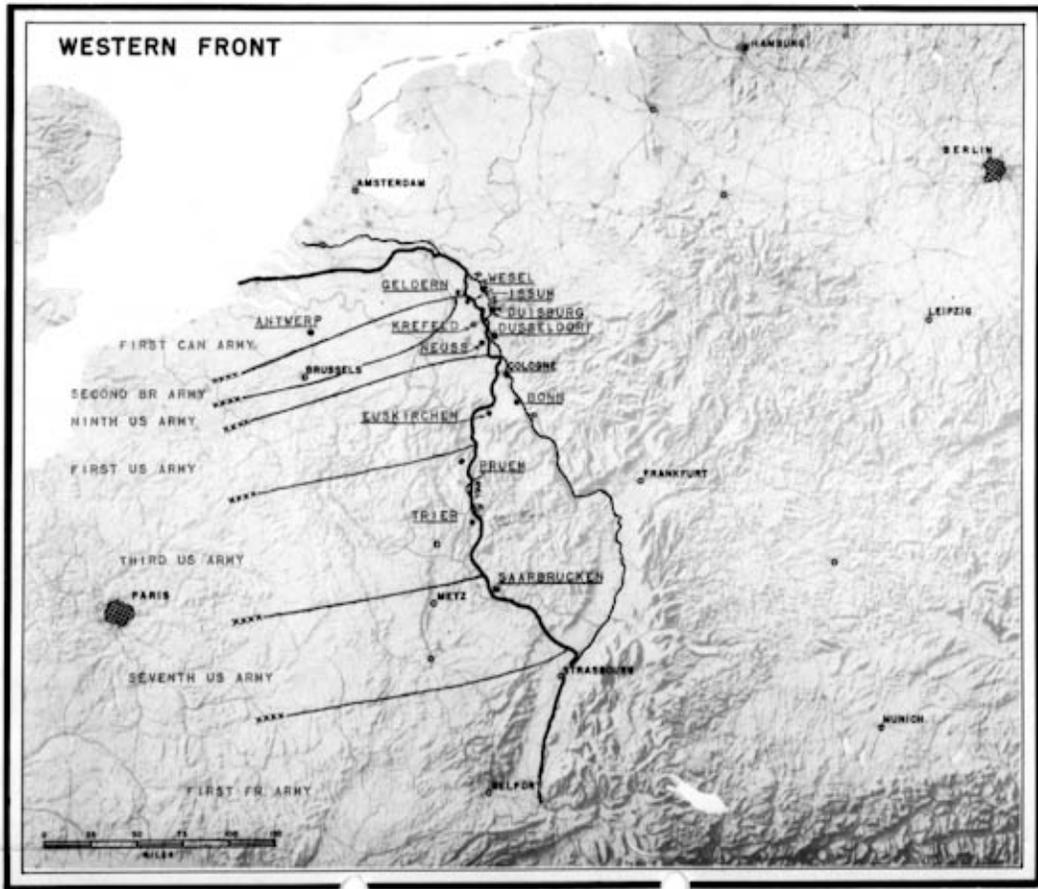


EUROPE AND THE MEDITERRANEAN - STRATEGIC AIR

3 March. Two hundred twenty-two heavy bombers of the RAF attacked the synthetic oil plant at Kamen and 212 others bombed Ladbergen on the Dortmund-Ems Canal. Fifty-eight Mosquitoes hit Berlin and 31 attacked Wuerzburg. Twenty-one heavy bombers mined the Kattegat and Oslo Harbor. Nineteen bombers were lost.

4 March. Of 1,085 escorted heavy bombers dispatched by the 8th Air Force, all but about 480 were forced to abandon operations because of adverse route weather. Targets for the remainder included armored vehicles and jet aircraft plants at Ulm and elsewhere in southwestern Germany. Three bombers and three fighters are missing.

More than 700 heavy bombers of the 15th Air Force attacked rail-yards in eastern Austria and western Hungary and Yugoslavia. Six bombers and two fighters are missing.



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EUROPEAN THEATER

3 March. The Tactical Air Forces flew 4,130 sorties. Wide-spread attacks were made by medium bombers and fighters on bridges, rocket sites, communication centers, depots and motor transport concentrations on both sides of the Rhine. One enemy plane was shot down; we lost ten.

In the 24-hour period ending at 0600, one rocket and one flying bomb fell in Antwerp, and two rockets and 13 flying bombs fell in adjacent areas. Antiaircraft destroyed eight other flying bombs.

4 March. During the 24 hours to 0600, five rockets fell in England. Five flying bombs were plotted approaching England, of which three made landfall and one reached the London area.

In the early morning hours, about 70 enemy aircraft attacked eastern England, operating mainly over coastal areas from Northumberland to the Thames Estuary. This is the first attack made by enemy aircraft on England since the night of 27 June 1944.

By noon, contact was established between Canadian troops and elements of our Ninth Army at Geldern and Issum. Limited advances were made by British troops along a line running generally northwest from Geldern to the Rhine.

The US Ninth Army, continuing to drive ahead in a northeasterly direction towards Duisburg and Wesel, registered gains up to eight miles. Leading elements were within three miles of the Rhine opposite

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OSD Letter, 5-8-78

Duisburg, and another force was ten miles from Wesel. To the south, we hold the west bank of the Rhine from Dusseldorf to the river bend east of Krefeld.

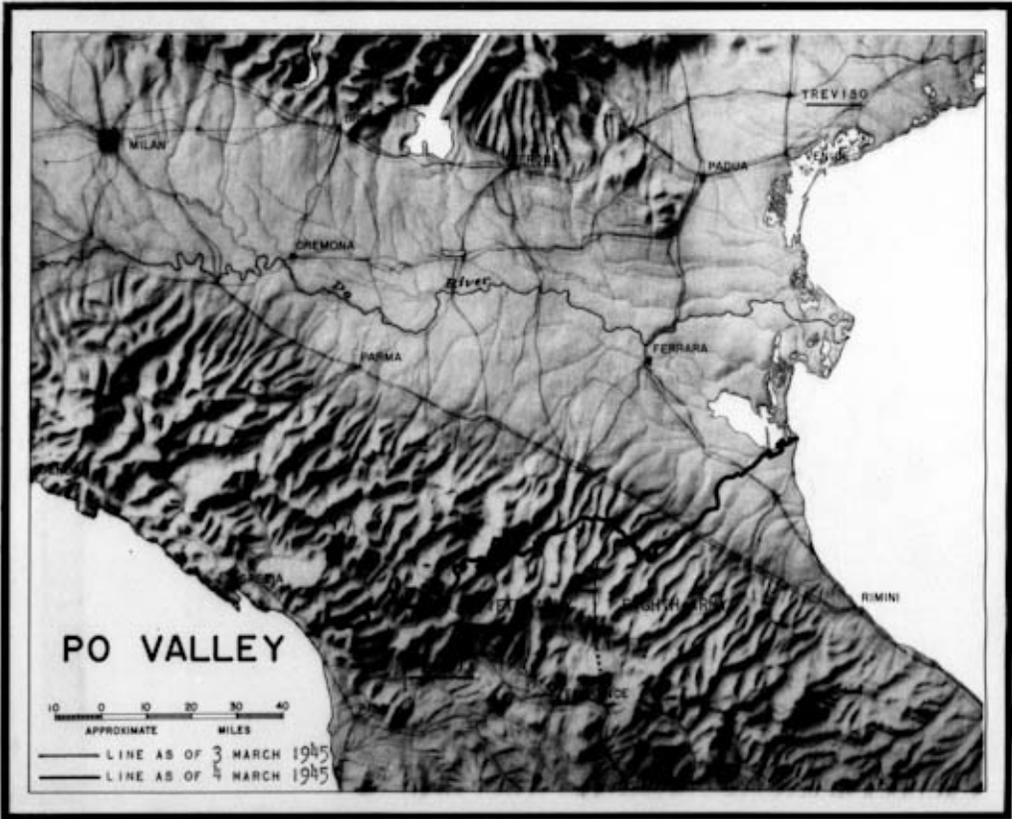
Units of the First Army advanced seven miles against light resistance to reach the Rhine midway between Cologne and Dusseldorf. Smaller gains brought our infantry within three miles of Cologne and to the Rhine, southeast of Neuss. Other units pushed ahead three miles toward Bonn. Additional gains were made to the west of Euskirchen and southwest of the city.

Our Third Army advanced an average of two miles along its 20-mile front to the north and south of Pruem. Infantry units pushed ahead two miles after crossing the Kyll River, north of Trier. Counterattacks north and south of Trier were repulsed.

The US Seventh Army launched a limited objective attack along an eight-mile front south of Saarbruecken and made gains up to a mile against heavy resistance.

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ODD Letter, 0-3-72



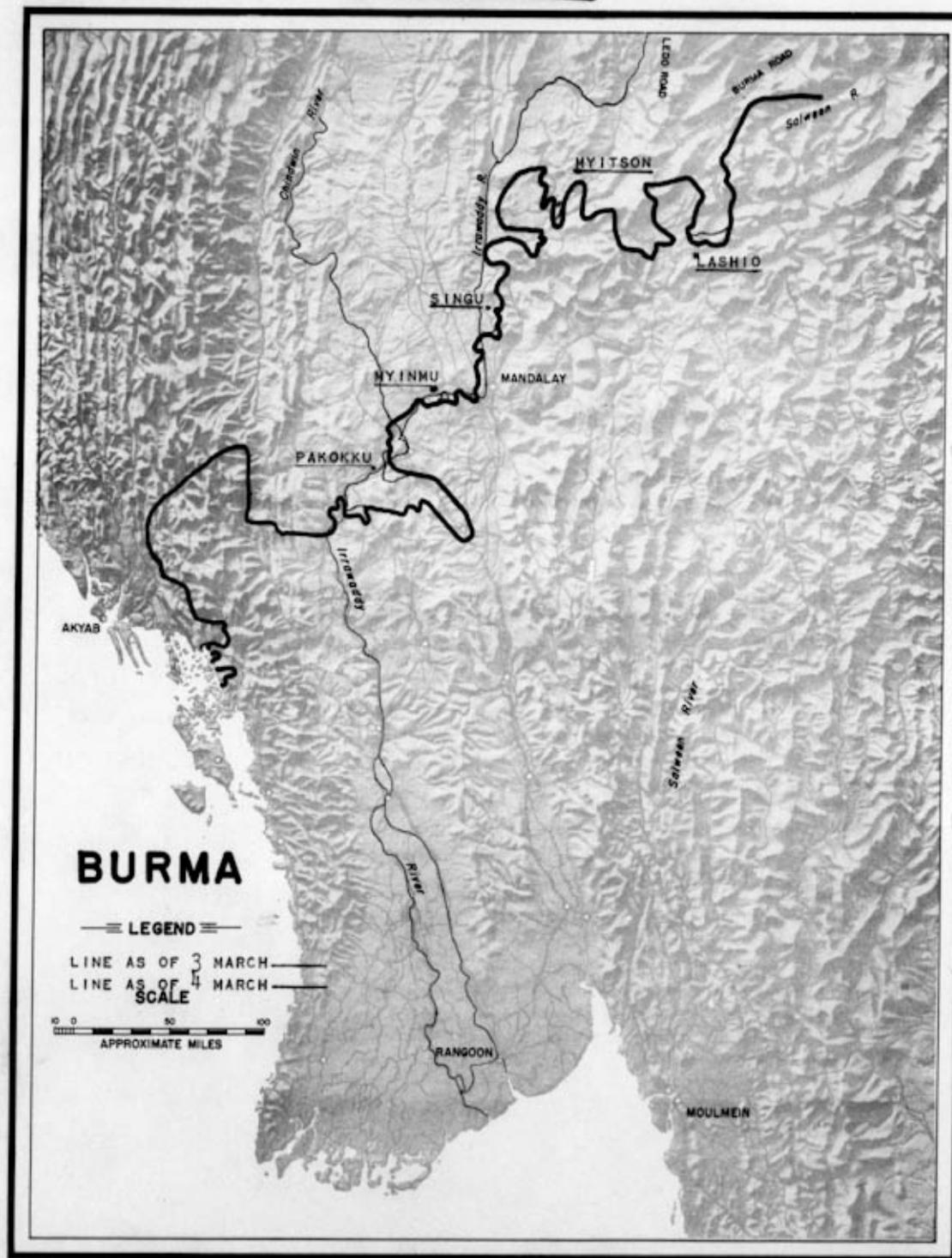
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MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

2 March. Seventy-two heavy and medium bombers, in a night attack, hit the Verona railyard. One heavy bomber is missing.

3 March. The Tactical Air Force flew 1,112 sorties. Medium bombers attacked rail bridges on the Brenner and other lines in northern Italy and railyards near Treviso. Fighters hit transportation in northern Italy and Austria and attacked support targets in the battle area. Coastal and Balkan Air Force planes, limited by weather to 52 sorties, attacked targets in northeastern Italy and Yugoslavia. Two enemy planes were shot down; we lost eight.

During the 24-hour period ending at 1500, mountain troops of our IV Corps advanced an additional two miles north of Pistoia, taking several villages and mountain positions. There were no significant changes elsewhere along the northern Italian battlefield.



ASIATIC THEATER

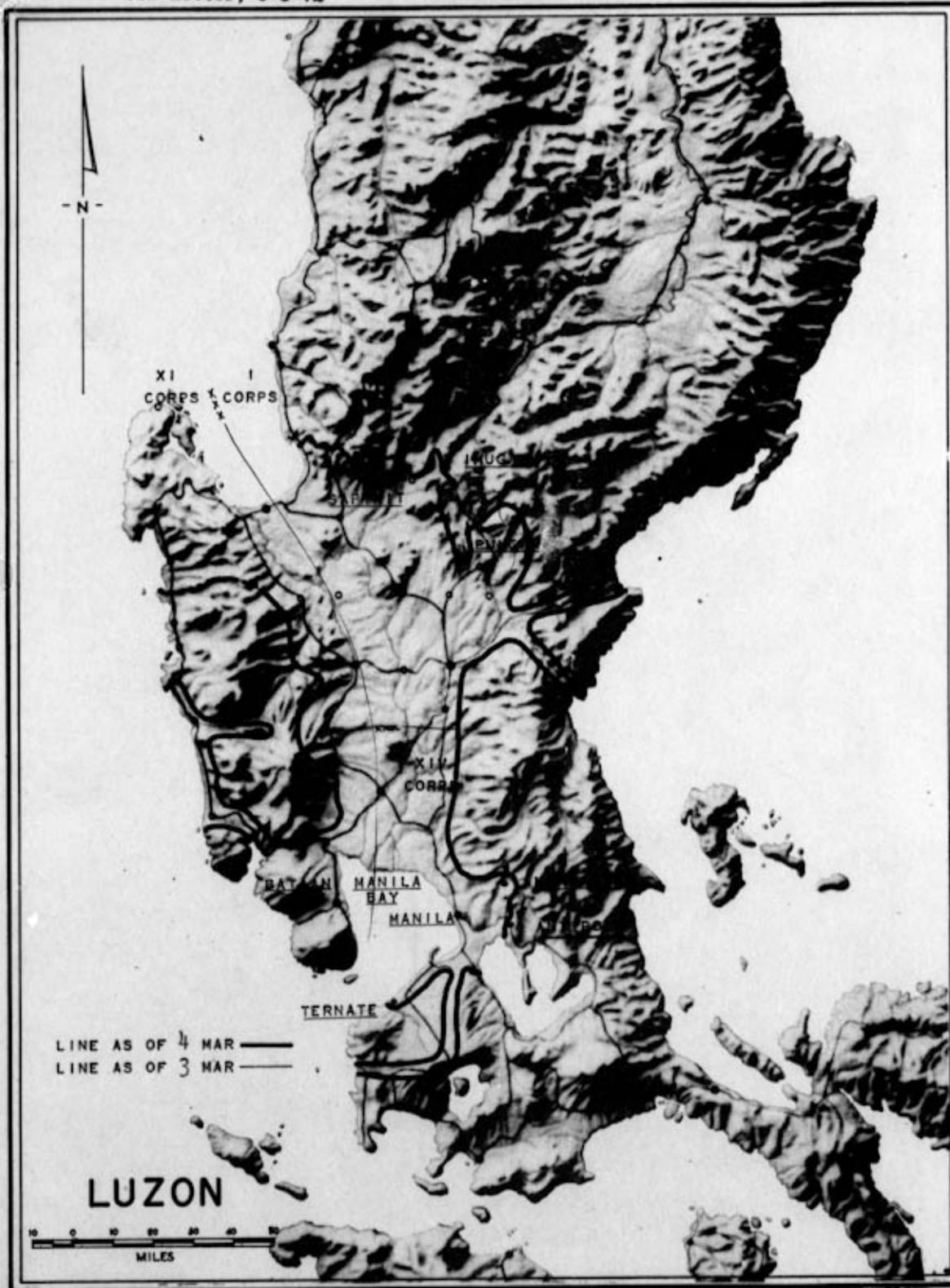
2 March. Five B-24's of the 14th Air Force hit shipping in the Gulf of Tongking; one vessel was sunk.

3 March. The 14th Air Force flew 17 offensive sorties against rail targets in northern Indo-China.

Chinese troops, advancing to the south, were encountering only light opposition ten miles north of Lashio. The Allied bridgeheads south of Myinmu were extended and consolidated despite an enemy attack. Local gains were also reported east and southwest of Pakokku.

4 March. According to preliminary reports, 12 B-29's of the XX Bomber Command were airborne to mine the Yangtze River.

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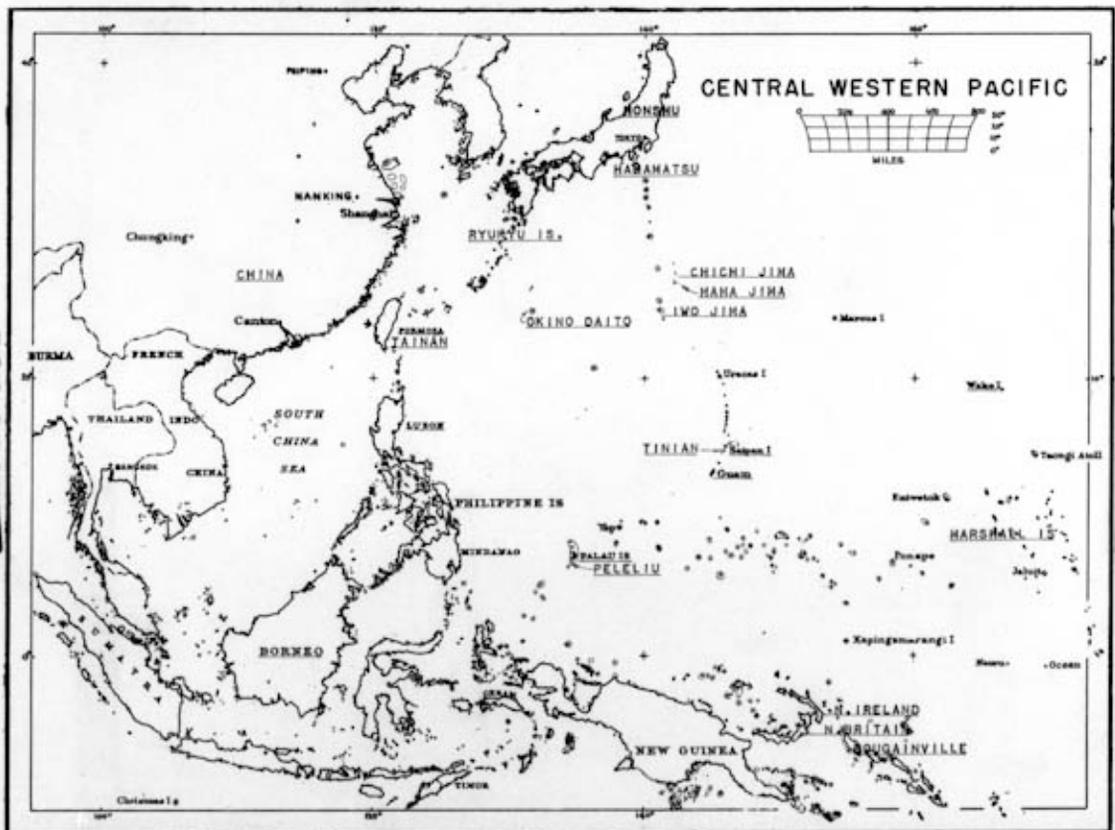
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SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA

1-2 March. Among 382 previously unreported sorties, 77 were against Solomons targets and 170 were in support of our operations on Luzon. Fifteen B-24's attacked Formosa.

3 March. More than 320 sorties were flown during the day. Five squadrons of B-24's attacked harbor shipping in northern Formosa and 32 B-24's struck airdromes in the Tainan area. Additional heavy bombers dropped 64 tons of napalm bombs on Borneo bivouacs and supply dumps. More than 120 planes supported operations on Luzon. An enemy vessel was sunk off the east China coast and another off Borneo. Two enemy planes were shot down; we lost one.

On Luzon, I Corps troops occupied towns north of Sapinit and Puncan and continued to attack positions four miles west of Imugan along the Villa Verde Trail. In Manila, additional Japanese pockets were reduced. East of the city, elements of the XIV Corps occupied hill positions about a mile southwest of Antipolo. To the north, counterattacks against our forces east of Montalban were repulsed with heavy enemy casualties. We have seized Ternate near the southern entrance to Manila Bay against disorganized resistance. Troops of the XI Corps patrolled extensively throughout Bataan and the mountainous areas to the north.



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GSD Letter, 0-3-72

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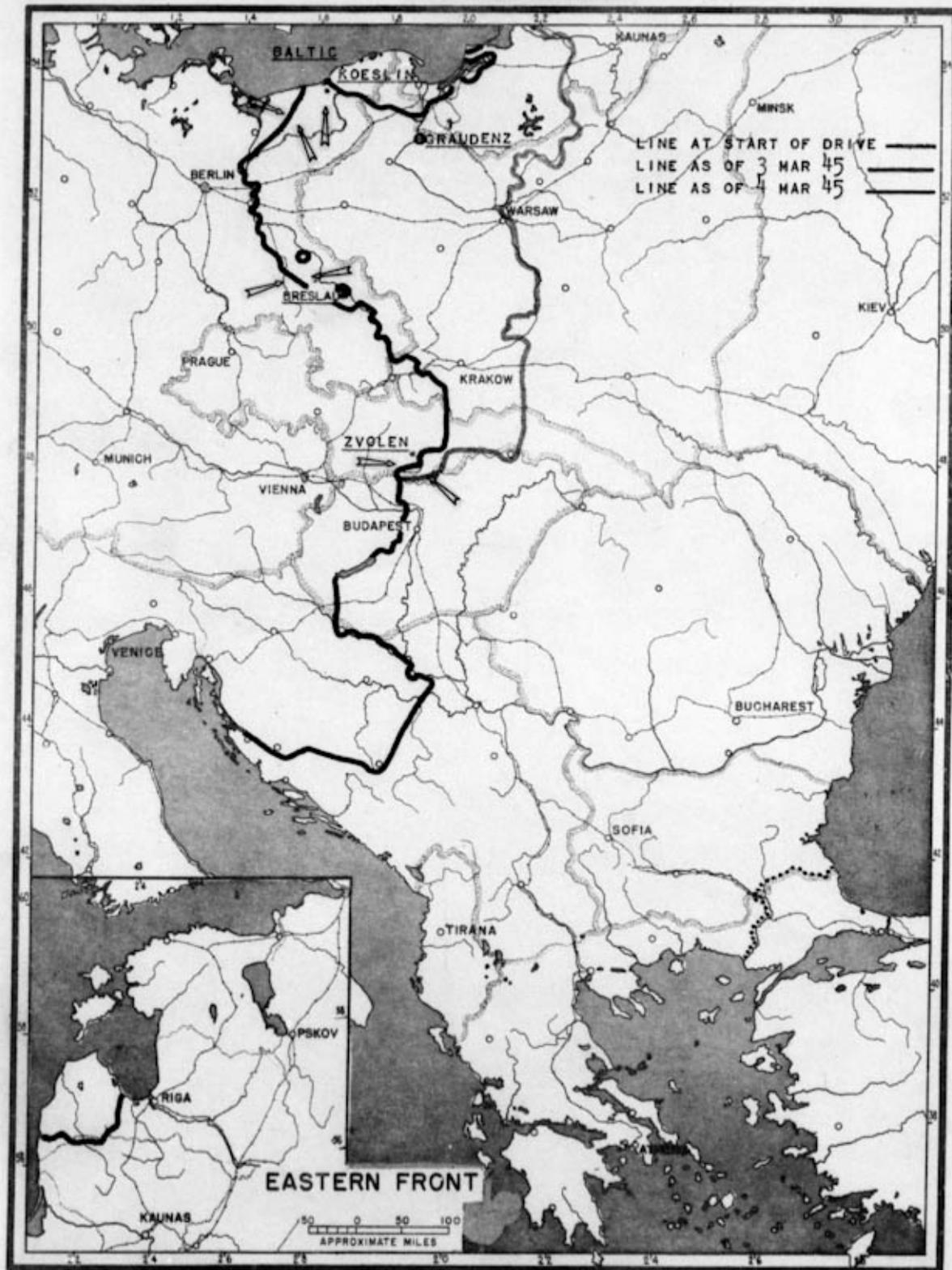
PACIFIC OCEAN AREA

1 March. Army B-24's attacked Haha Jima and Chichi Jima.
Other Pacific Ocean Area planes raided Wake and the Marshalls.

2 March. Nine B-24's attacked Chichi Jima. More than 75
Navy fighters continued to harass Wake and the Marshalls.

3 March. During the 24-hour period ending at 0600, 57 aircraft
attacked the Palaus. We lost one plane.

4 March. According to preliminary report from XXI Bomber
Command, 181 B-29's attacked targets on Honshu, Japan. Nine hit
the Nakajima aircraft engine plant in Tokyo, 154 attacked the
urban industrial area of the city and 18 bombed Hamamatsu (south-
east of Nagoya) as a target of last resort.



EASTERN FRONT

4 March. Soviet forces in East Prussia made minor gains. In Pomerania, two Red Army Groups advanced on a 100-mile front, capturing Koeslin and cutting through to the Baltic on a wide sector. Northwest of Graudenz, the Soviets made minor gains while fighting continued in the city itself. Soviet and Rumanian forces made limited advances toward Zvolen in Slovakia against strong resistance.

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OBD Letter, 5-3-72

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 1180

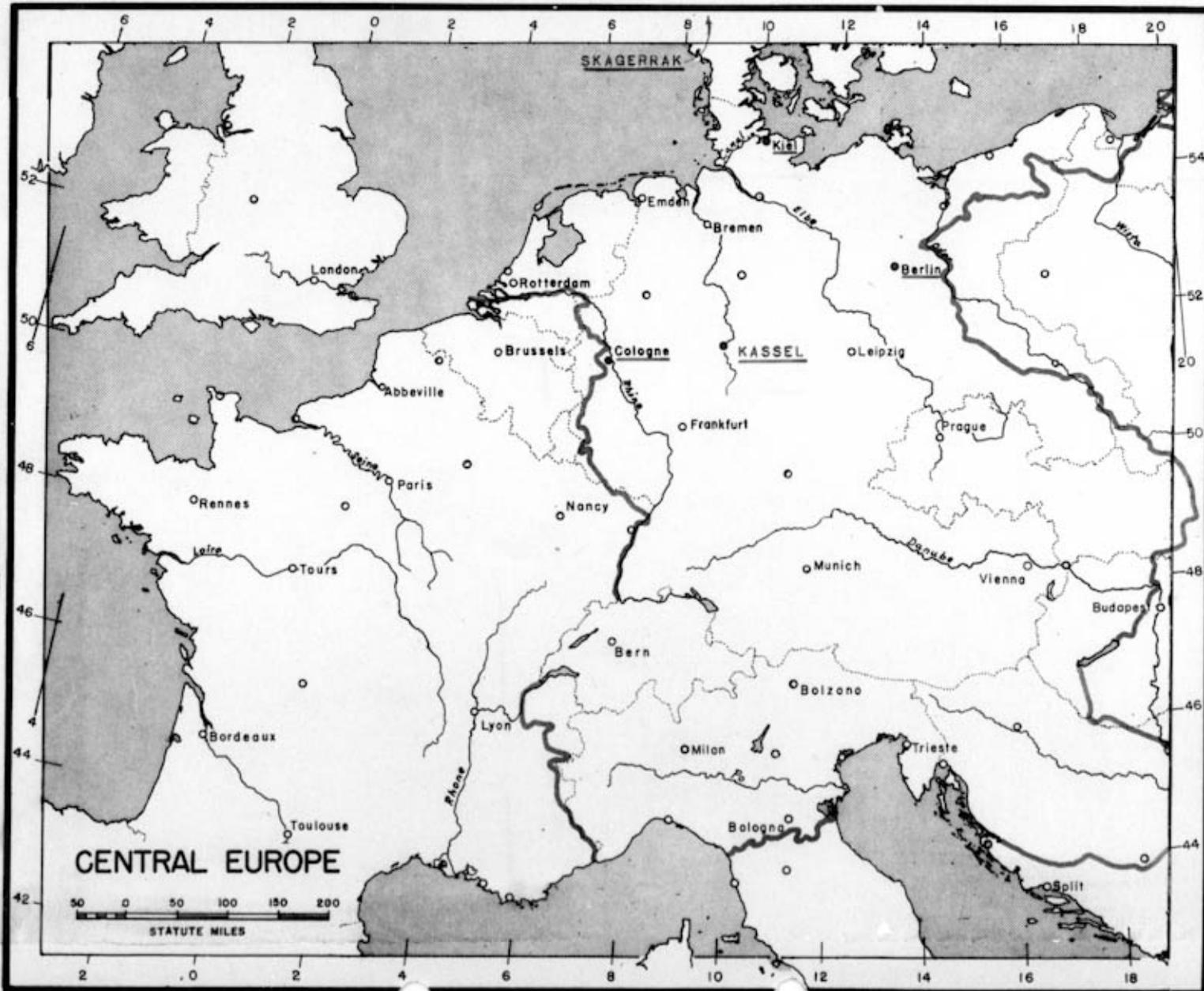
0700 March 3 to 0700 March 4, 1945

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THE WHITE HOUSE

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O&D Letter, 5-3-72

EUROPE AND THE MEDITERRANEAN - STRATEGIC AIR

2 March. Six hundred seventy-six RAF escorted heavy bombers attacked the approaches to the Rhine bridges at Cologne. Nine bombers were lost. That night 66 Mosquito bombers attacked Kassel and 22 others struck Berlin. Additional RAF planes laid 51 mines in the Kiel Canal and the Skagerrak area.

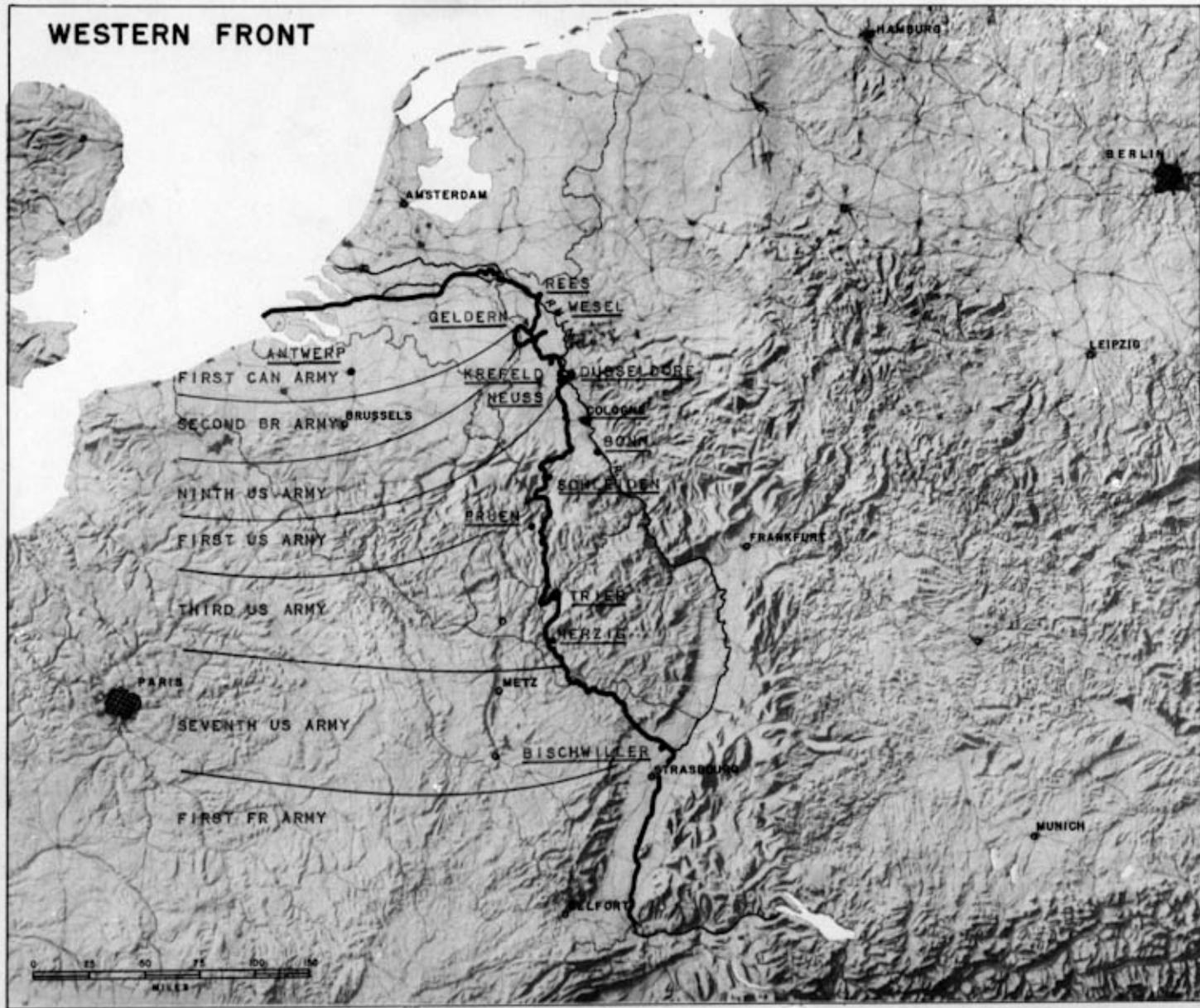
Escorted heavy bombers of the 15th Air Force dropped 34 tons of supplies in Yugoslavia and in northern Italy. One bomber was lost.

3 March. Preliminary reports state that more than 1,100 escorted heavy bombers of the 8th Air Force attacked six oil plants, three industrial targets and a bridge in central Germany. Twenty-three enemy planes were destroyed; 20 bombers and 12 fighters are missing. This is the twelfth 1,000-plane attack in 13 days.

Weather grounded 15th Air Force bombers but twenty-three fighters strafed rail transportation in northern Yugoslavia and eastern Austria. We lost two planes.

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WESTERN FRONT



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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

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EUROPEAN THEATER

2 March. The Tactical Air Forces flew nearly 5,000 sorties. About 900 medium bombers attacked communications, ordnance depots, ammunition dumps and other targets in widespread areas from the Ruhr to Alsace. Fighters swept both sides of the Rhine with heavy attacks on transportation. More than 1,300 tons of bombs were dropped during these operations. Twenty-two enemy planes were destroyed. We lost eighteen.

In the 24-hour period to 0600, one rocket and two flying bombs fell in Antwerp, and ten rockets and 40 flying bombs fell in adjacent areas. Antiaircraft fire destroyed 52 other flying bombs.

3 March. During the 24 hours to 0600, 14 rockets fell in England. Flying bomb activity was resumed for the first time since 13-14 January. Thirteen flying bombs were plotted approaching the Thames estuary; two of these crossed the coast, one reaching the London area. Six bombs were destroyed by antiaircraft fire.

By 1200 hours the Canadian Army had advanced three miles to occupy the bend in the Rhine south of Rees and, driving rapidly to the south to effect a junction with our Ninth Army, had reached Geldern.

A spearhead of our Ninth Army thrusting towards the Rhine south of Wesel gained 12 miles. Other elements advancing generally from three to four miles east and west of Krefeld, reached the Rhine east of Krefeld and captured Huls and Kempen. Krefeld, Neuss, and the area in the bend of the Rhine west of Dusseldorf was being cleared.

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On the US First Army front, our forces driving towards the Rhine between Cologne and Dusseldorf, scored gains of from two to six and one-half miles against heavy resistance. Our advance between Cologne and Bonn registered gains up to four miles against moderate resistance. A heavy counterattack was repulsed southwest of Cologne. Limited gains were reported north and south of Schleiden.

On our Third Army front, Trier was captured and advances of from two to four miles were registered along a ten-mile front west of the town. South of Pruem we drove ahead six miles.

There was no substantial change on the Seventh Army front. Elements of the French First Army repulsed an enemy patrol attacking east of Bischwiller.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

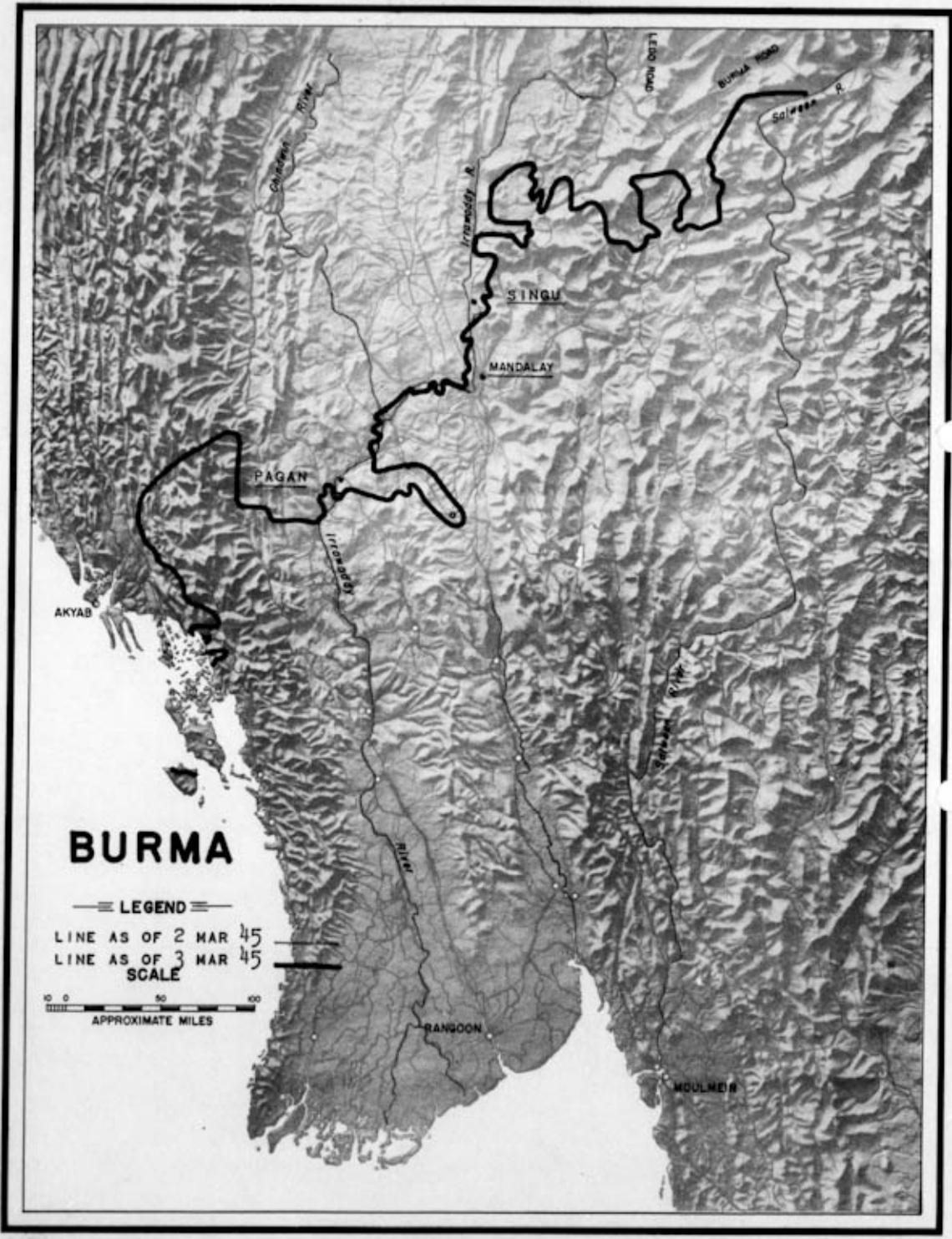
MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

2 March. Coastal Air Force planes attacked rail targets and barracks in northwestern Italy. Weather severely restricted the Balkan Air Force operations. We lost two planes.

3 March. During the 24-hour period ending at 1500, the U.S. IV Corps advanced a mile along a two-mile front to capture Monte Terminale, north of Pistoia. There were no other significant changes on the north Italian battle front.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

ASIATIC THEATER

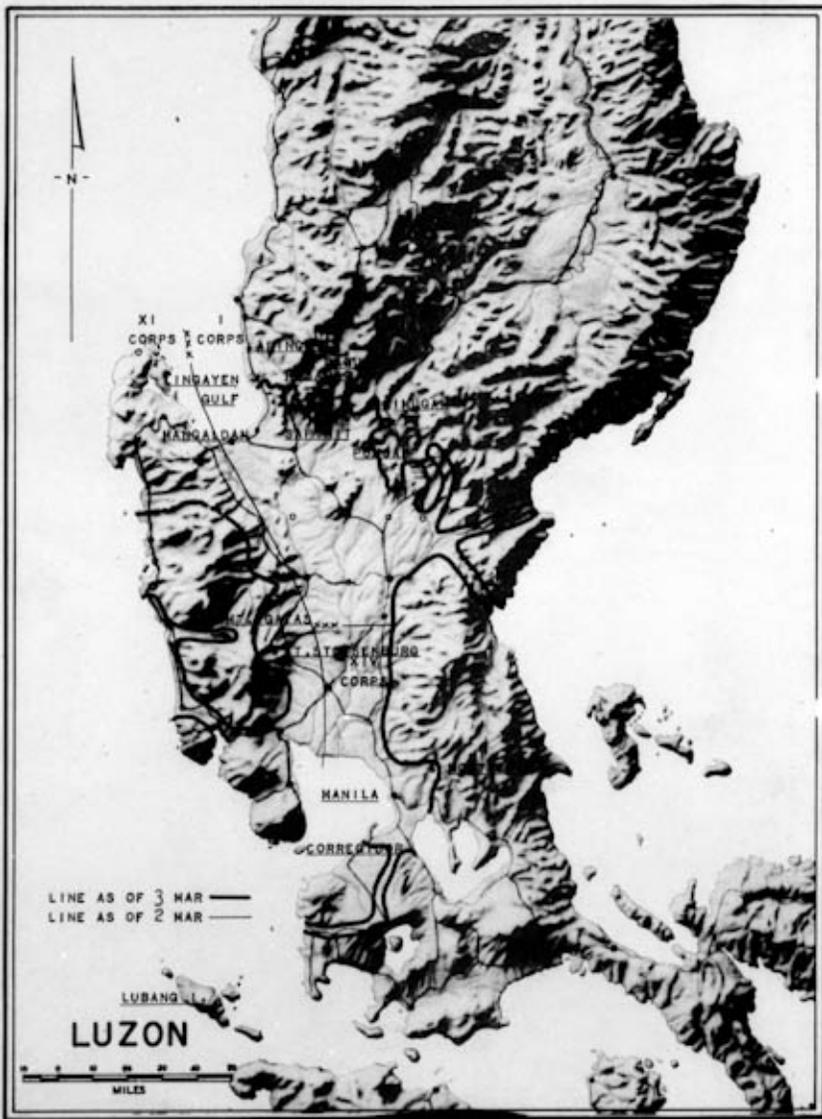
1 March. The Eastern Air Command flew more than 1,800 sorties, of which 605 were offensive, against enemy positions and supply dumps in central and southern Burma. Heavy bombers mined waters off north-eastern Sumatra and thirty-five medium bombers attacked a railroad station east of Mandalay.

The 14th Air Force flew 26 sorties, principally over southern China. Heavy bombers attacked shipping in the Gulf of Tongking.

2 March. British troops extended their Irrawaddy bridgehead south of Pagan. The southeastern corner of the Singu bridgehead was also enlarged by Allied advances up to two miles.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA

1 March. One hundred twenty-five sorties were flown against bypassed Japanese positions in the Solomons and Bismarcks. Two enemy floatplanes were destroyed in waters of French Indo-China and another aircraft was shot down during an enemy raid on our airfield at Mangaldan near Lingayen Gulf.

2 March. Preliminary reports show that more than 130 sorties were flown by Southwest Pacific aircraft. Five squadrons of B-24's attacked the Matsuyama airdrome on Formosa and destroyed 12 enemy planes. Three squadrons of heavy bombers with medium bombers and fighters attacked five additional airdromes on Formosa. We destroyed 37 Japanese planes during these Formosa strikes. Thirty-six heavy bombers dropped 91 tons on Borneo installations. Ground support missions were flown east of Manila and against cave entrances on Corregidor. Two freighter transports and a coastal vessel were sunk, and a destroyer and another transport left afire in the East China Sea and the Formosa area. Two enemy fighters were shot down; we lost four aircraft.

On Luzon reconnaissance elements of the I Corps, patrolling the area north of Rosario, have reached Aringay on the Lingayen Gulf and the vicinity of Baguio; only minor contacts with the enemy have been reported. Other I Corps units were attacking cave positions north of Sapinit and encountering stubborn resistance four miles west of Imugan. To the southeast, we entered Puncan against minor resistance. Bitter

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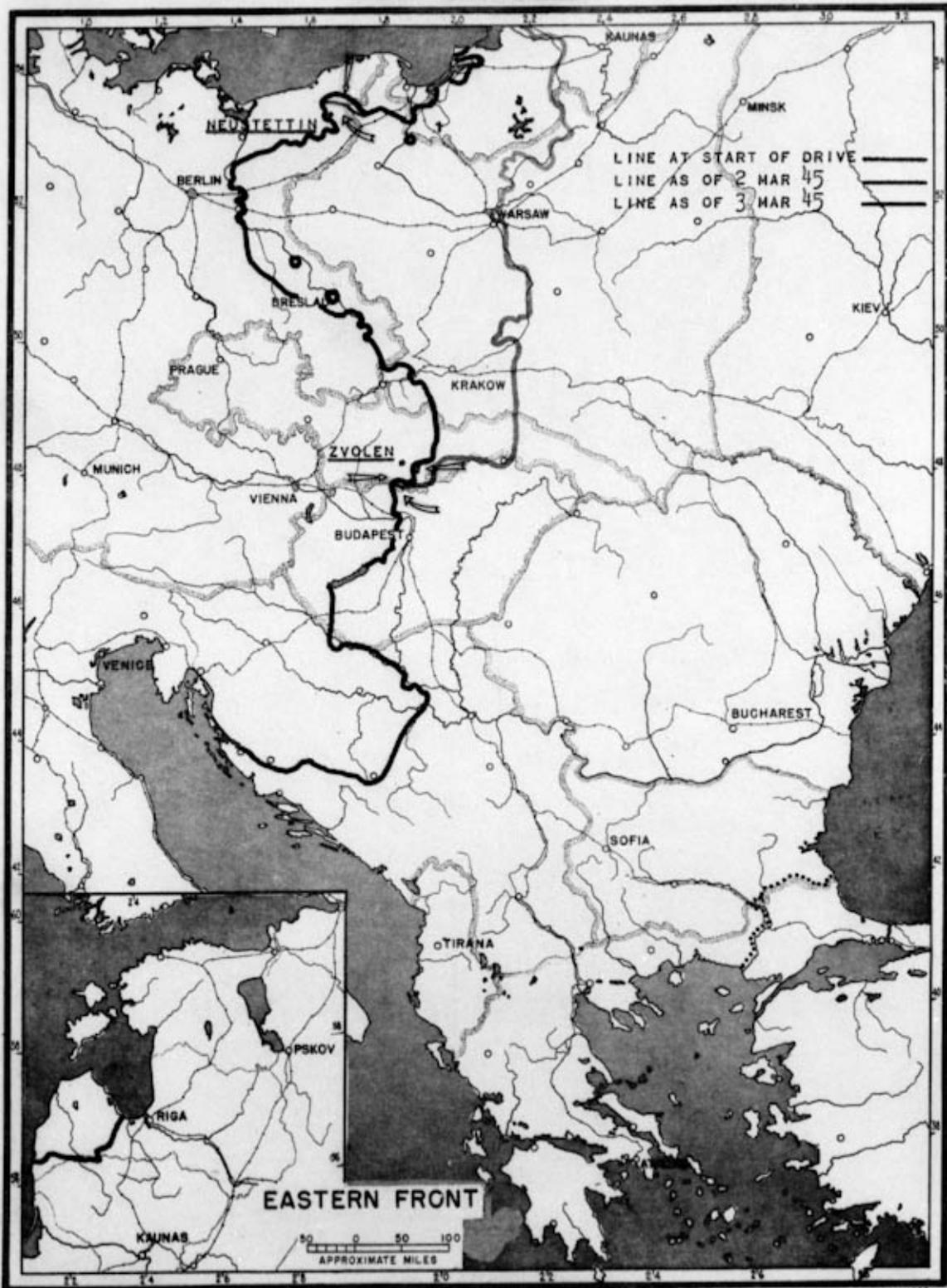
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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

floor to floor fighting continued in the reduction of Japanese pockets in Manila buildings. Elements of the XIV Corps repulsed an attack east of Montalban. Northwest of Fort Stotsenburg, we reached Mt. Gatas. On Palawan meager opposition has been met. Only minor contacts are reported on Lubang.

A communique from Southwest Pacific reports that we have seized the Islands of Ticao and Burias in the Sibuyan Sea.

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EASTERN FRONT

3 March. In Pomerania, Soviet troops continued to expand their Neustettin salient on a broad front. In Czechoslovakia, small gains were made by Red Army units south and east of Zvolen.

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OSD Letter, 5-8-72

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 1179

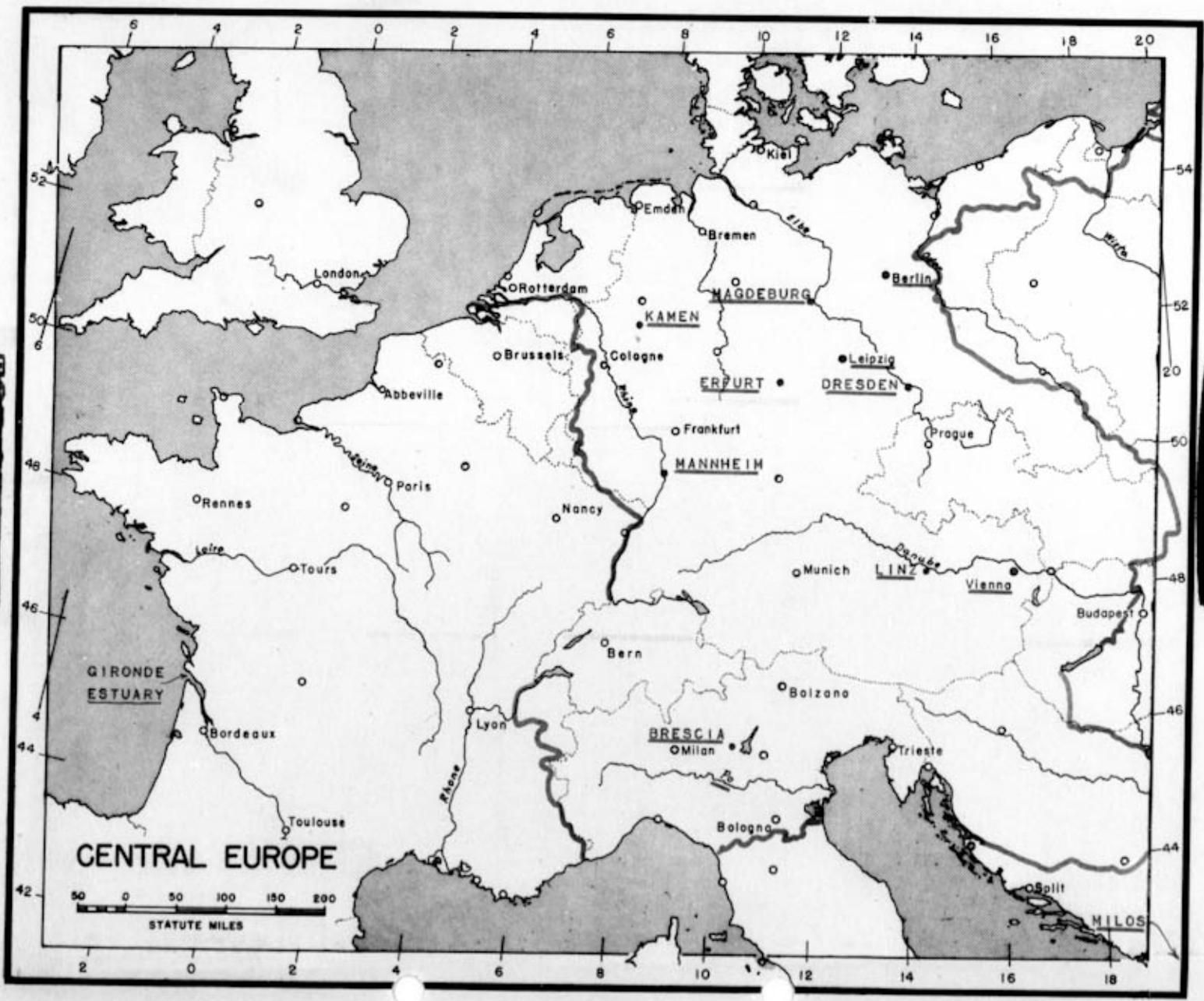
0700 March 2 to 0700 March 3, 1945

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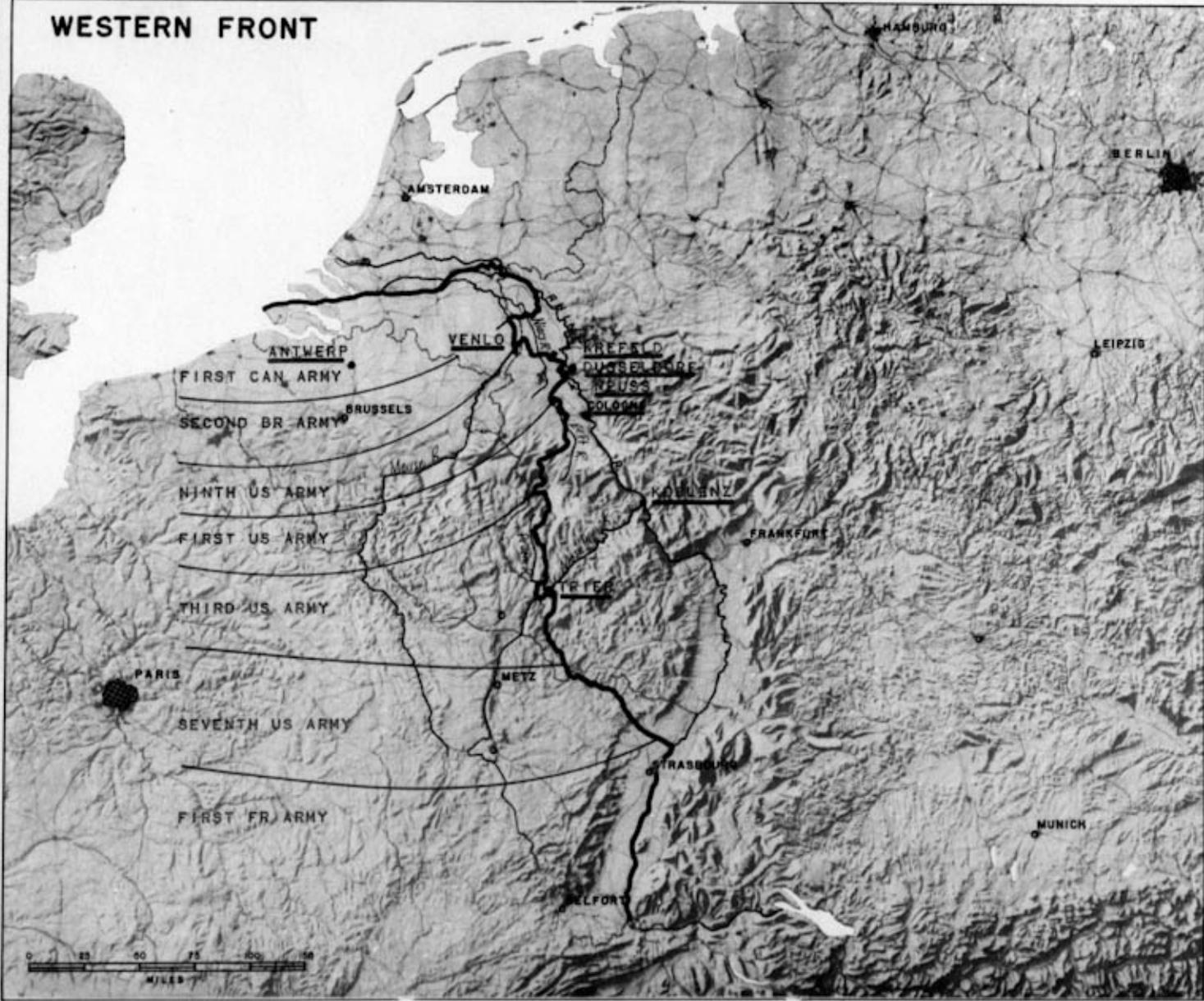
EUROPE AND THE MEDITERRANEAN - STRATEGIC AIR

1 March. Four hundred fifty-eight RAF escorted heavy bombers attacked Mannheim, and 146 others hit a synthetic oil plant at Kamen. That night 88 Mosquitoes attacked Berlin and Erfurt. Three bombers are missing.

2 March. Preliminary reports state that 1,227 escorted heavy bombers of the 8th Air Force attacked three oil plants and three railyards in the Magdeburg-Leipzig-Dresden area. Escorting fighters shot down 66 enemy aircraft and destroyed 36 others on the ground. Thirty-two bombers and 16 fighters are missing.

More than 570 escorted heavy bombers of the 15th Air Force bombed railyards at Brescia and in the Linz-Vienna area. Four enemy planes were destroyed; eight bombers and one fighter are missing.

WESTERN FRONT



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EUROPEAN THEATER

1 March. The Tactical Air Forces flew 3,158 sorties. Medium bombers concentrated on communication centers northwest of the Ruhr and in the Cologne-Koblenz sector, while fighters swept the battle front from Holland to Alsace with principal attacks on transportation and supplies. Twenty-three enemy planes were shot down; we lost 22.

During the 24-hour period ending at 0600, two rockets and one flying bomb fell in Antwerp and one rocket and 28 flying bombs fell in adjacent areas. Antiaircraft destroyed 26 flying bombs.

2 March. In the 24 hours to 0600, 14 rockets fell in the Suffolk, Essex and London areas.

During the 24-hour period ending at noon, the Canadian Army gained one mile between the Meuse and Niers Rivers against light opposition. East of the Niers, limited gains were made against heavy resistance.

The Ninth Army advanced rapidly to reach the Rhine at points north and south of Dusseldorf. Heavy fighting was reported in the city of Neuss. We have entered the outskirts of Krefeld, and, to the west, have captured Venlo and advanced six miles northeast of the city.

West of Cologne, our First Army forced another bridgehead across the Erft River. On the southern Cologne plain an average gain of two miles was made along a 25-mile front. Advances of over a mile were registered east of the Pruem River. Armored columns entered Trier from the south and captured a bridge over the Moselle River.

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Near the Gironde estuary, French troops advanced two miles.

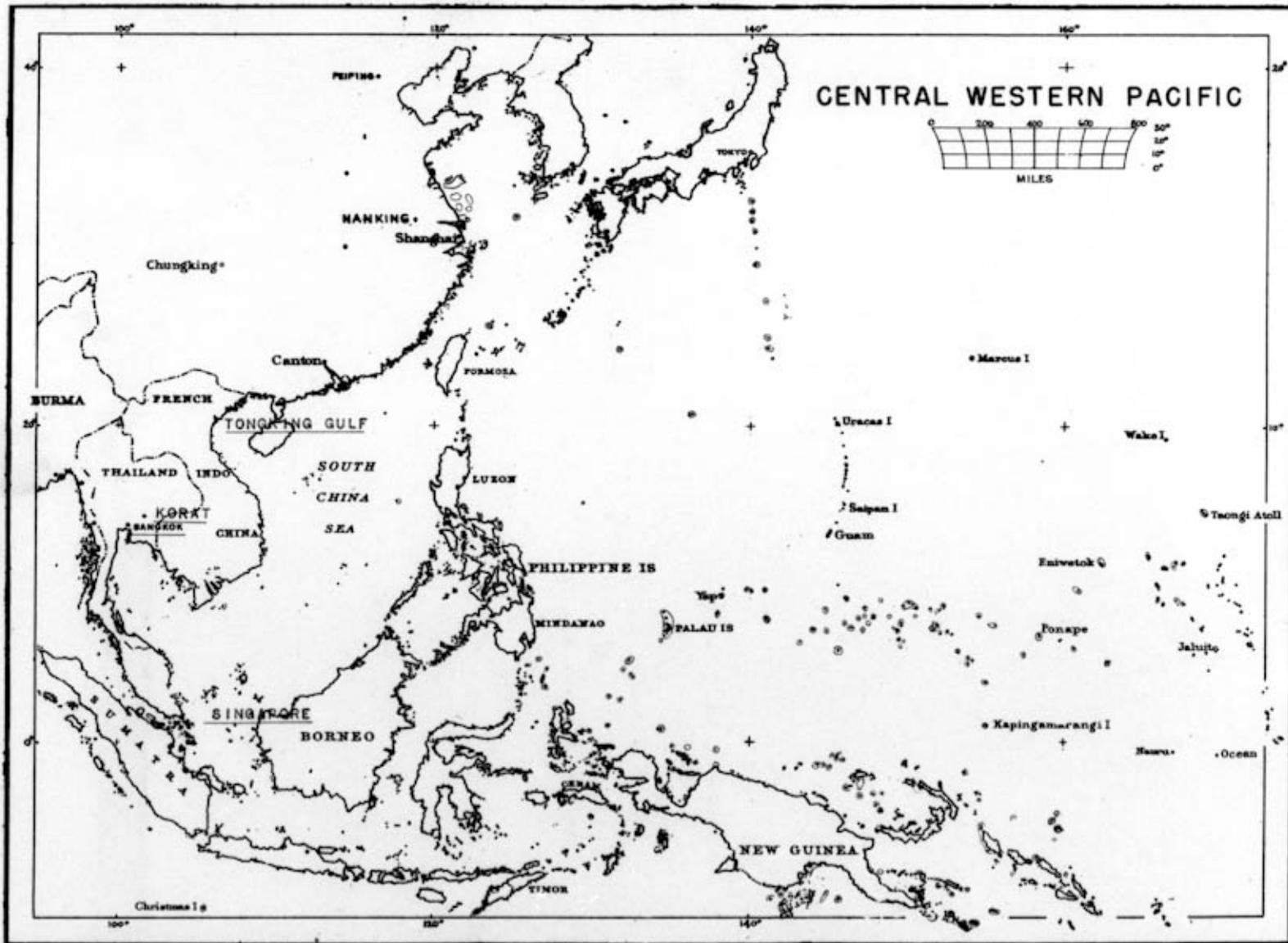
During the month of February we unloaded a total of 258,435 troops, 46,631 vehicles, 1,658,139 tons of supplies and 274,456 tons of petroleum products in France.

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

1 March. The Coastal and Balkan Air Forces, restricted by weather, flew 126 sorties against targets in northwestern Italy and Yugoslavia and on Milos. Two planes were lost.

2 March. The Tactical Air Force flying more than 300 sorties hit communication lines, supply dumps and gun positions in the Po Valley.

Only patrol action and artillery exchanges were reported on the northern Italian battle front.



ASIATIC THEATER

28 February. The Eastern Air Command reported 2,629 sorties, of which 678 were offensive. Thirty-six heavy bombers hit an airfield near Rangoon; 59 others bombed rail installations and bridges northeast of Bangkok. Thirty-six medium bombers attacked gun positions and supply dumps near Mandalay. Other planes supported ground troops and hit communications in central and southern Burma. Two enemy aircraft were destroyed.

1 March. The 14th Air Force reported ten tactical sorties against Japanese concentrations in south China and shipping in the Tongking Gulf.

On the Arakan coast the British crossed the Dalet River; farther to the south they expanded the Ru-ywa beachhead.

Meiktila has been surrounded and a British brigade is being air-landed at Thabutkon, 13 miles northwest of Meiktila. North and west of Mandalay two-mile gains were made in the Ngazun and Singu bridgeheads.

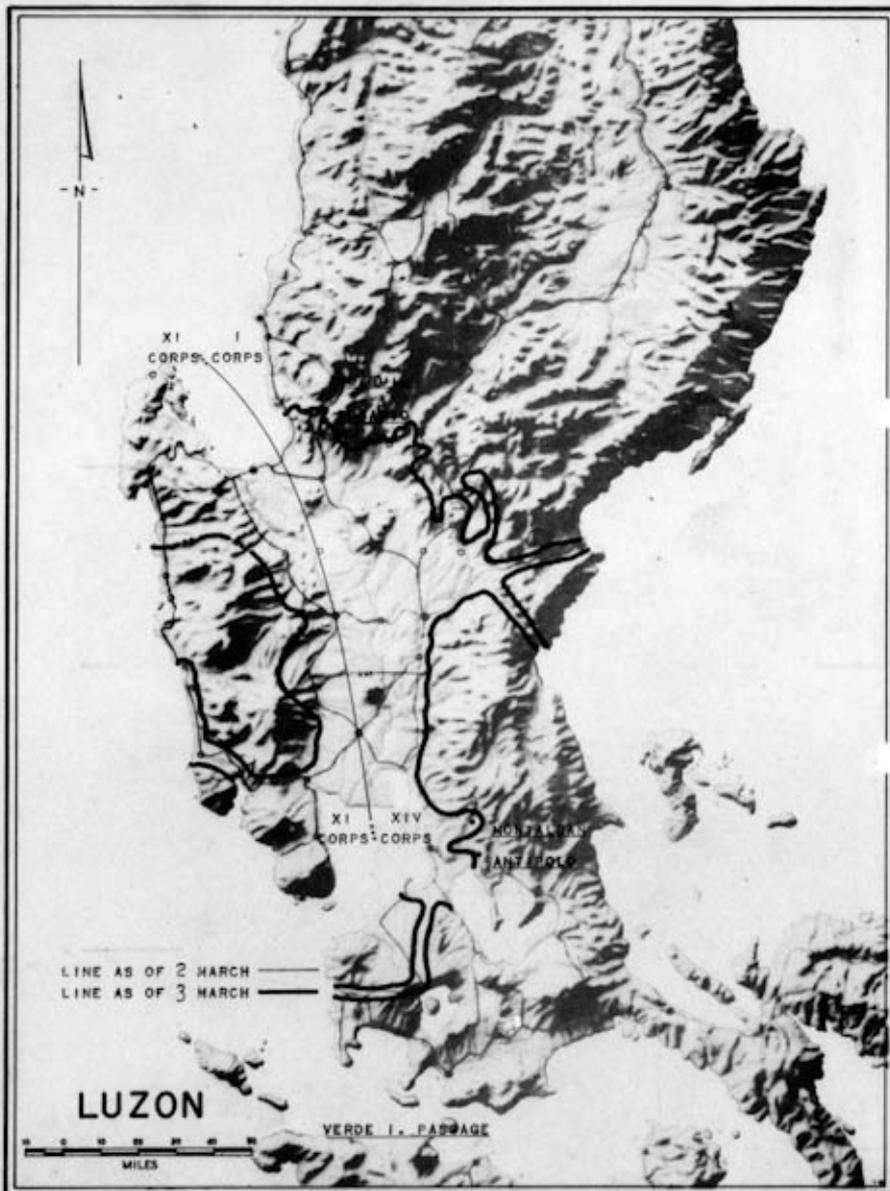
In northeast Burma, Chinese troops advanced another three miles towards Lashio.

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SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

25-27 February. Solomons-based aircraft flew more than 300 sorties against targets in the Bismarcks and Solomons. Search planes sank eight coastal vessels and shot down three enemy planes off the China coast and the Ryukyus.

28 February. Among 230 previously unreported sorties about 100 were flown in the Solomons area. Sixty-eight B-24's bombed Zamboanga and Davao. Patrol planes sank two small freighters north of Formosa.

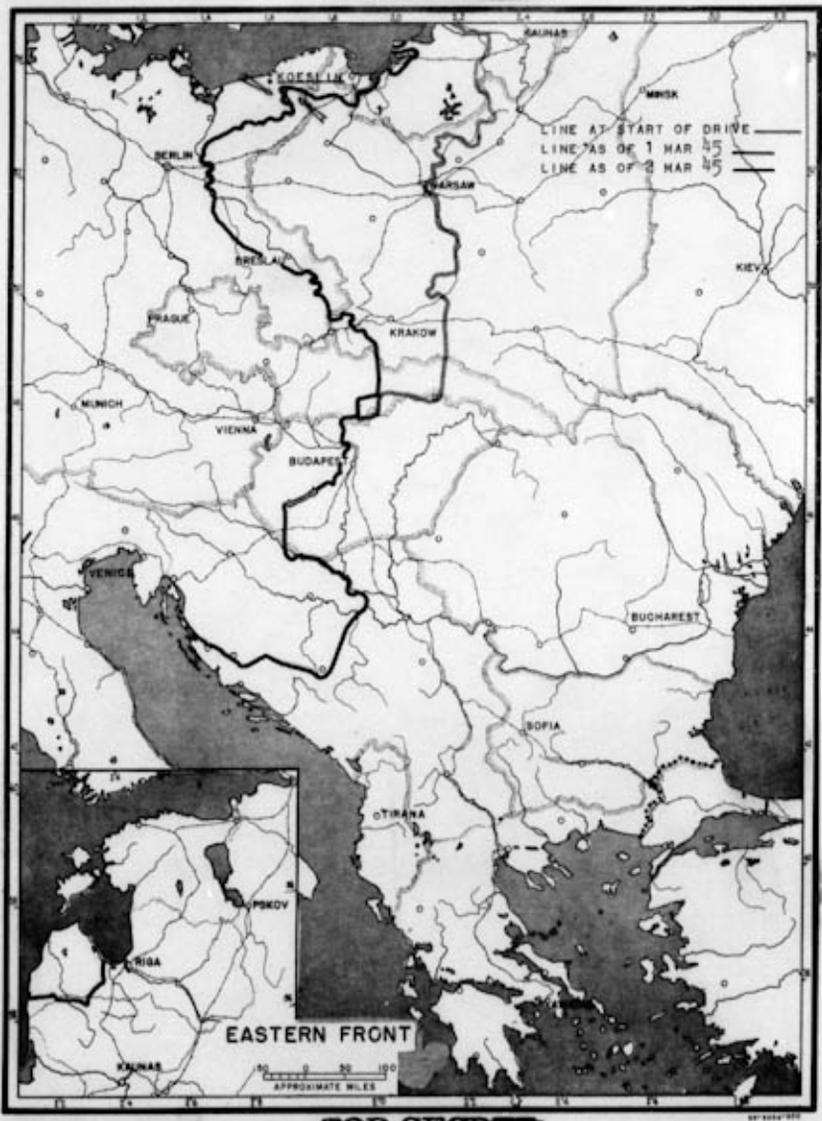
1 March. More than 375 sorties were flown of which about 200 were in support of our ground forces on Luzon. Seventy B-24's attacked an aluminum plant at Takao; thirty-four others bombed Borneo air installations.

On Luzon small gains were made east of Rosario. Patrols were reported within two miles of Baguio without contact. Our forces, east of Manila, continued to attack Japanese positions in the Antipolo and Montalban sectors.

On Palawan we captured Iwahig and, advancing north, joined forces with other troops from the Puerto Princesa peninsula.

US forces landed on Lubang Island during the day. This island controls the important Verde Island passage to Manila Bay.

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EASTERN FRONT

2 March. In Pomerania, Soviet troops expanded their salient southeast of Koeslin.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

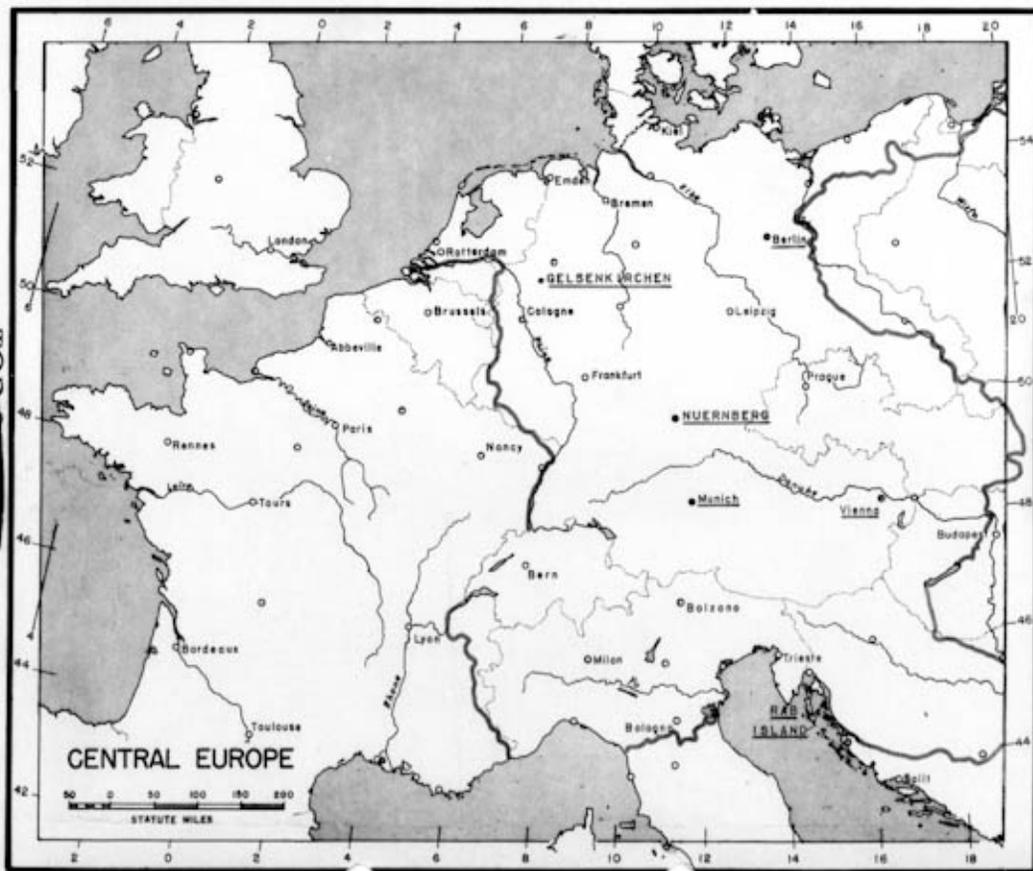
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0700 March 1 to 0700 March 2, 1945

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EUROPE AND THE MEDITERRANEAN - STRATEGIC AIR

28 February. One hundred fifty-four RAF escorted heavy bombers attacked a Gelsenkirchen benzol plant. That night 71 Mosquitoes again bombed Berlin, and 11 others raided Nuernberg and Munich.

During 8th Air Force operations (reported yesterday) against targets in west central Germany, 3,165 tons of bombs were dropped. This marked the tenth consecutive day in which we have dispatched more than 1,000 bombers. Eighteen enemy planes were destroyed. We lost five fighters.

1 March. First reports show that 1,231 escorted heavy bombers of the 8th Air Force attacked rail facilities and a motor transport works in southern Germany. Fourteen enemy planes were destroyed. Our losses were nine bombers and six fighters; 20 additional fighters were missing but most of them are believed safe.

The 15th Air Force dispatched 676 escorted heavy bombers to attack an oil refinery in the Vienna area and on railyards in Austria and northern Yugoslavia. Five enemy planes were shot down. Preliminary reports indicate that three heavy bombers and two fighters are missing.

EUROPEAN THEATER

28 February. The Tactical Air Forces flew 3,436 sorties.

Medium bombers continued to concentrate on rail bridges, defended towns, and communication centers in front of the Allied offensives in Holland and throughout the Ruhr, while fighters attacked transportation and flew reconnaissance missions along the entire front. Eleven enemy planes were destroyed; we lost 16.

During the 24-hour period ending at 0600, three rockets and two flying bombs fell in Antwerp; five rockets and 43 flying bombs fell in adjacent areas. Antiaircraft fire destroyed 50 flying bombs.

1 March. In the 24-hours to 0600, five rockets fell in the London and Essex areas.

By noon the Canadian Army's attack between the Meuse and the Rhine was held to limited gains by stubborn resistance.

Rapid advances were made along the front of our Ninth Army during the day. A breakthrough between Muenchen-Gladbach and Grevenbroich gained eight miles and advance elements were two miles from Neuss; on the flanks our troops have captured Muenchen-Gladbach and are fighting in the outskirts of Grevenbroich. To the north, a column driving toward Venlo gained nine miles. We entered Roermond after German evacuation of the town. On our First Army front stronger resistance limited gains on the Cologne Plain to about two miles.

In southern Eifel, Bitburg was cleared and gains of two miles

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were registered to the north. The drive to the south towards Trier gained five miles and we were within three miles of that city. South of the Moselle armored columns were also within three miles of Trier.

During February, 76,000 prisoners were taken on the western front. Of this total 18,000 have been taken on the Cologne Plain since 23 February.

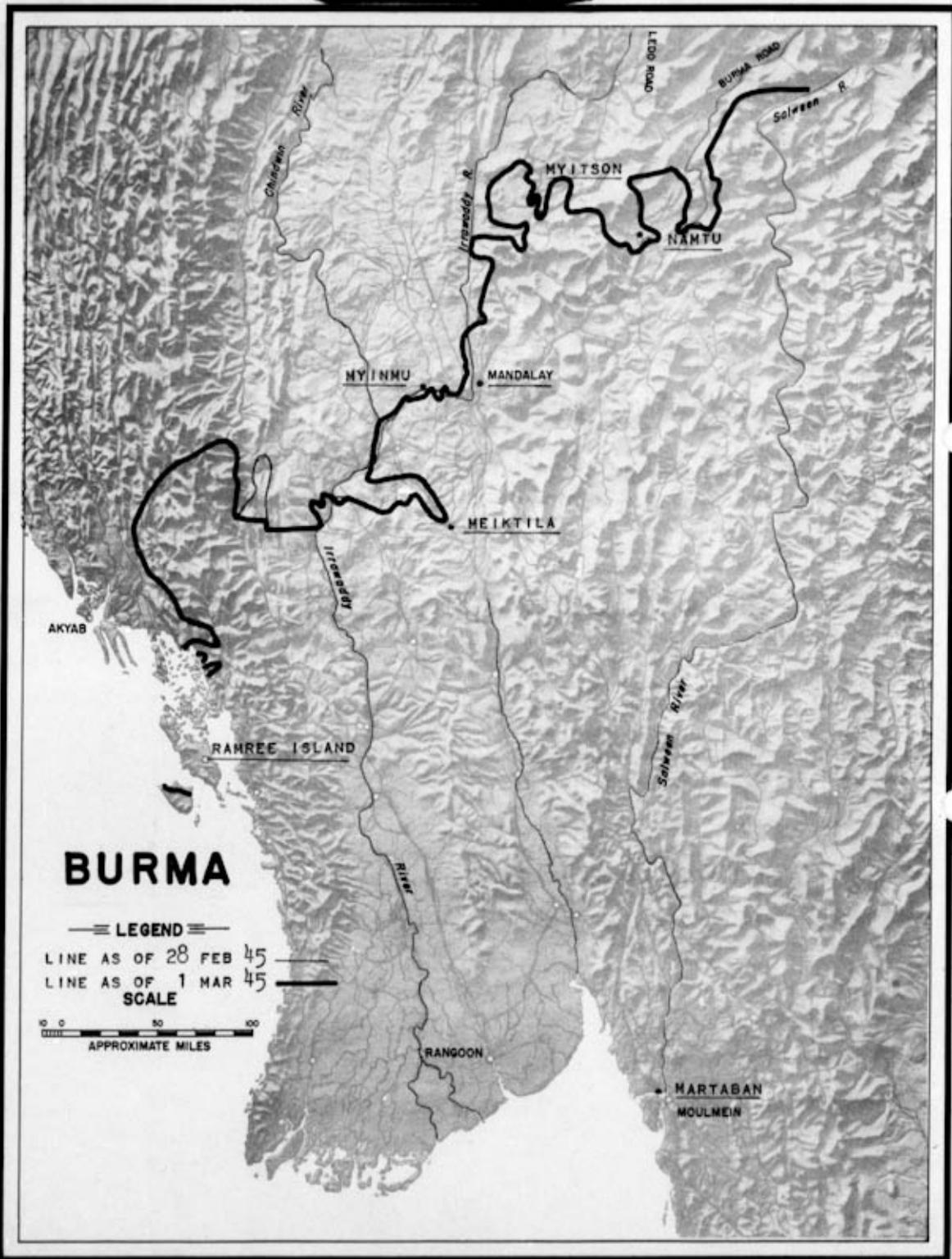
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MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

28 February. The Coastal and Balkan Air Forces flying 146 sorties hit transportation targets over a wide area of the Po Valley and northern Yugoslavia and gun positions on Rab Island.

1 March. The Tactical Air Forces flew only 47 sorties, principally on patrol and reconnaissance missions over the Po Valley.

There were no significant changes along the battlefront in northern Italy.



ASIATIC THEATER

26 February. During more than 1,500 sorties, of which 180 were offensive, Eastern Air Command planes hit Japanese positions, supply dumps and enemy-controlled communications in central and southern Burma. Twelve RAF Liberators bombed a bridge on the Burma-Siam railroad and hit rail sidings and the docks at Martaban.

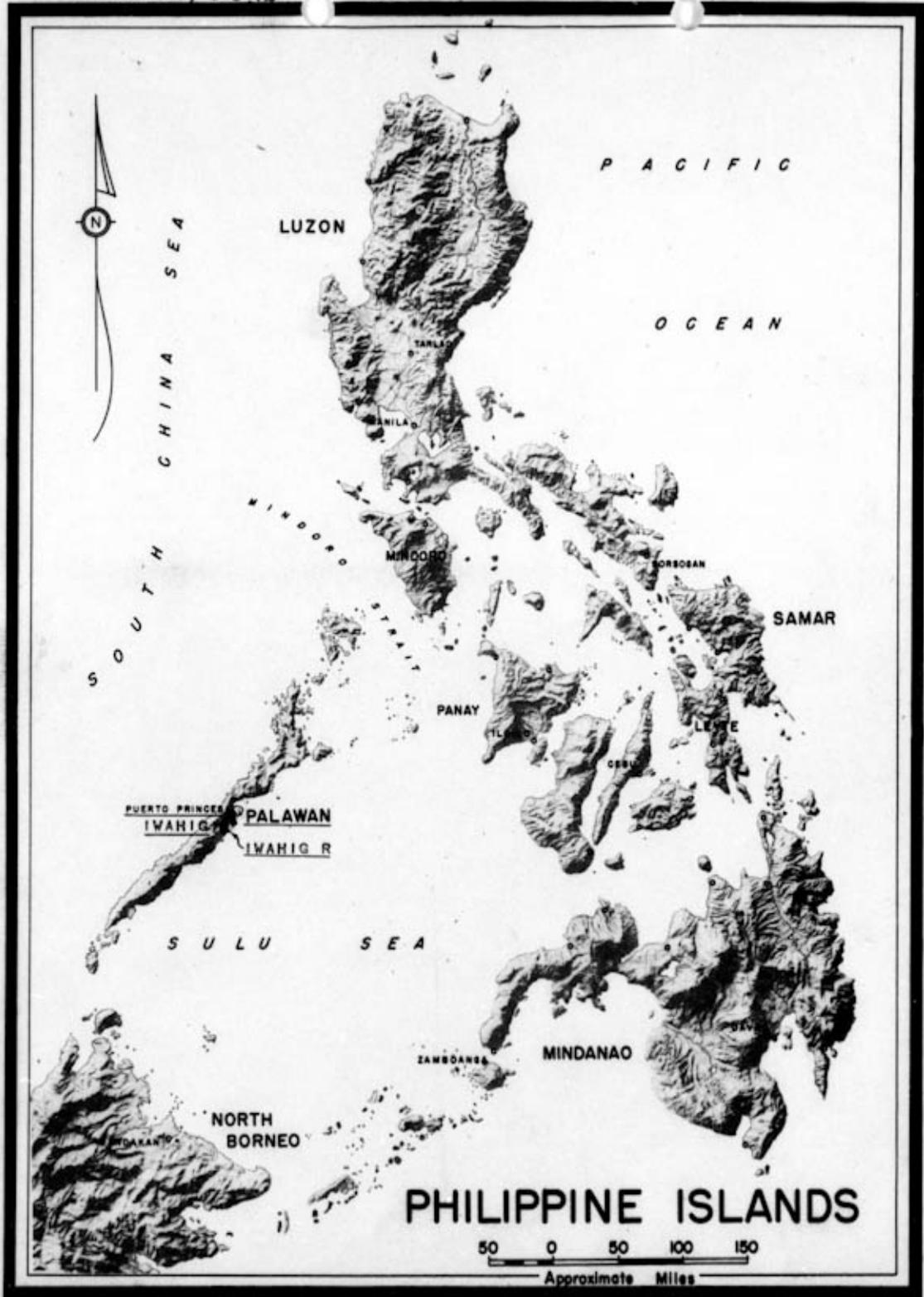
27 February. The Eastern Air Command reported over 2,500 sorties, of which 650 were tactical. Twelve B-24's destroyed one and heavily damaged another bridge on the Burma-Siam railway. Other heavy bombers laid sea mines off Chumphon, Kra Isthmus. Medium bombers dropped 45 tons on stores and military areas near Mandalay. Lighter aircraft supported ground troops and hit transportation targets and supply dumps.

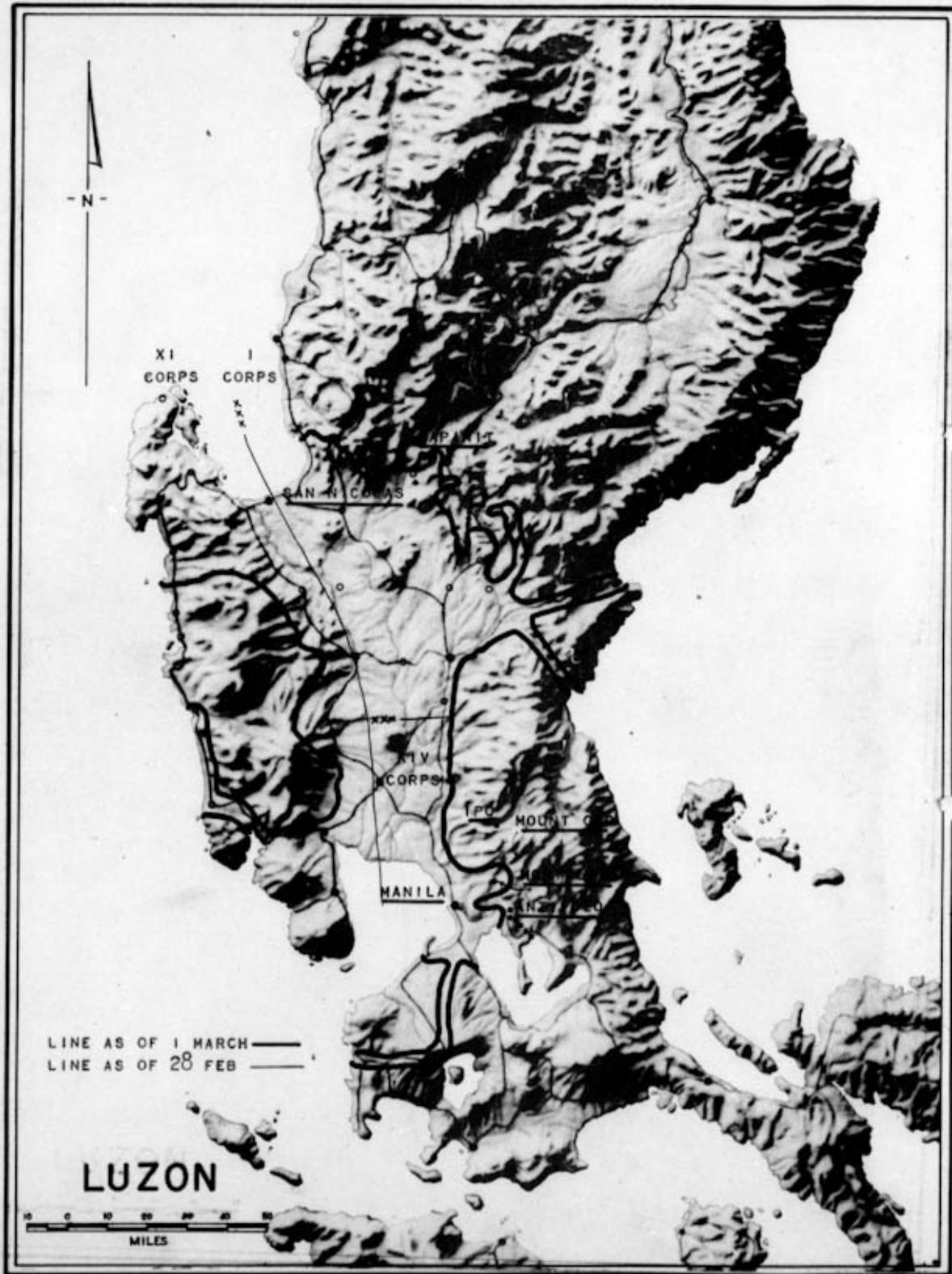
27 and 28 February. The 14th Air Force reported 115 offensive sorties. Heavy bombers attacked shipping in the South China Sea and the Tongking Gulf, sinking three ships. Twelve medium bombers on a rail sweep destroyed four bridges. Other planes made widespread attacks on airdromes, enemy installations, and river shipping throughout central and eastern China. Seven of our planes were lost.

1 March. Sixty-four B-29's of the XX Bomber Command were airborne to attack the Naval base area at Singapore.

28 February. Small Allied gains were made along the Burma Road, in the Namtu area, and south from the Myitson bridgehead.

Three Japanese counterattacks were repulsed by British troops south of Myinmu. Japanese stragglers are still being encountered on Ramree.





SOUTHWEST PACIFIC AREA

27 February. More than 450 previously unreported sorties were flown, of which nearly half were over Luzon. Preparatory to our landing operations on Palawan, heavy bombers dropped 150 tons of explosives, and fighters placed 80 napalm fire bombs on Puerto Princesa. Twenty-two B-24's attacked Mindanao runways and 12 others bombed targets at Wewak.

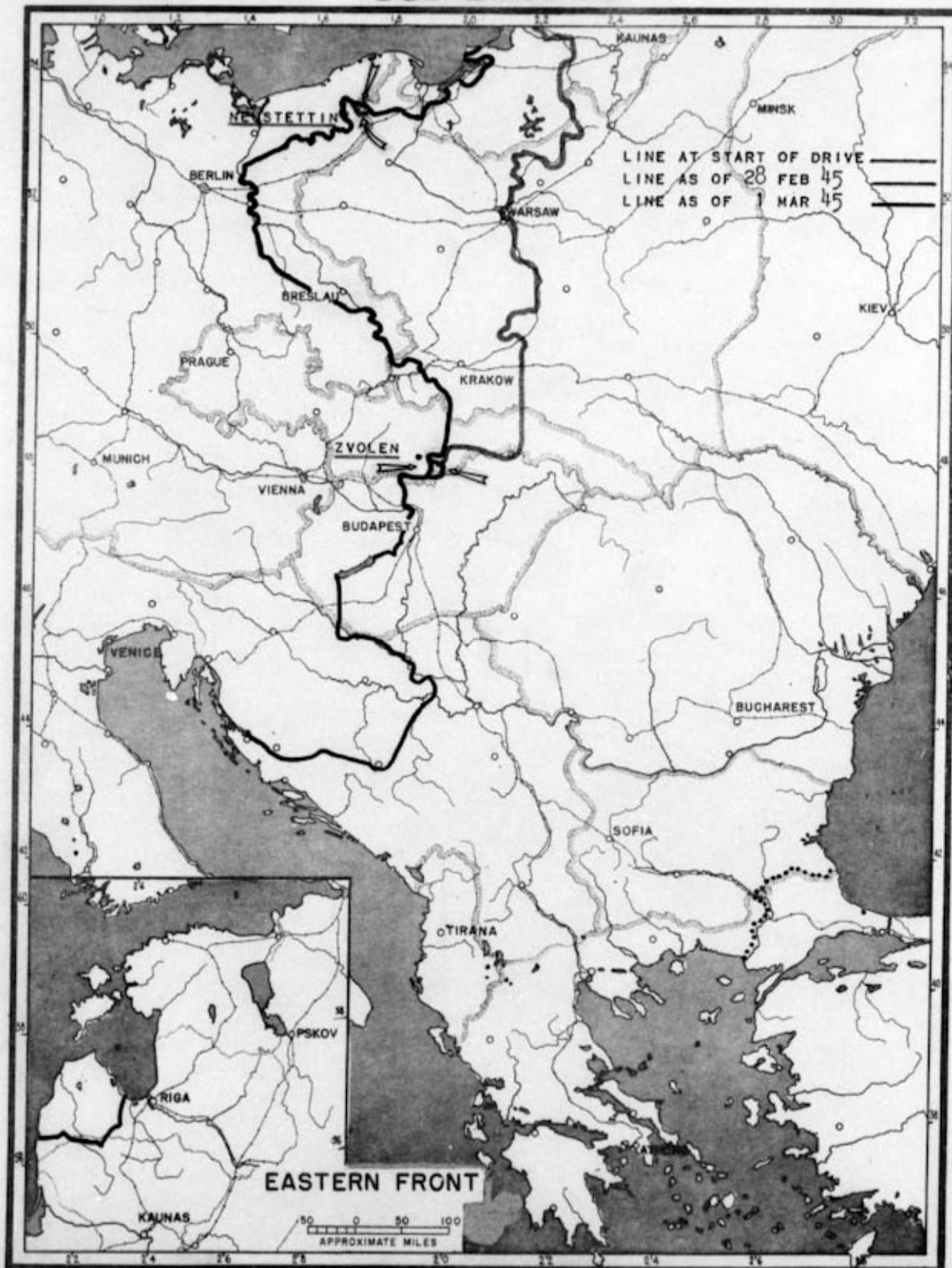
28 February. Among 330 sorties, 59 B-24's hit a defended area near Ipo Dam, northeast of Manila and 42 others attacked Borneo air installations and the Wewak area. Patrol bombers raided small shipping in the Ryukyus and off the China coast.

On Luzon, our I Corps troops captured Sapinit, north of San Nicolas, against light resistance. In Manila, we occupied two municipal buildings despite determined resistance. East of the capital we continued pressure on enemy positions west of Antipolo, and attacked high ground around Montalban and in the vicinity of Mount Oro.

On Palawan, the Puerto Princesa peninsula, together with the town and two airstrips, have been captured. A landing was made west of the peninsula at the mouth of the Iwahig River without opposition.

Allied casualties on Luzon to 28 February were 3,302 killed, 12,676 wounded and 20 missing. Enemy casualties were 59,044 killed and 575 captured.

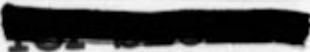
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EASTERN FRONT

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OSD Letter, 5-8-72

EASTERN FRONT

1 March. The Red Army further widened the western face of its salient north of Neustettin despite German counterattacks. The Soviets straightened their lines southeast of Zvolen.