

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-8-78

393

MR 203(2), Sec. 35 -- WAR DEPARTMENT OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

December, 1944

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 1118

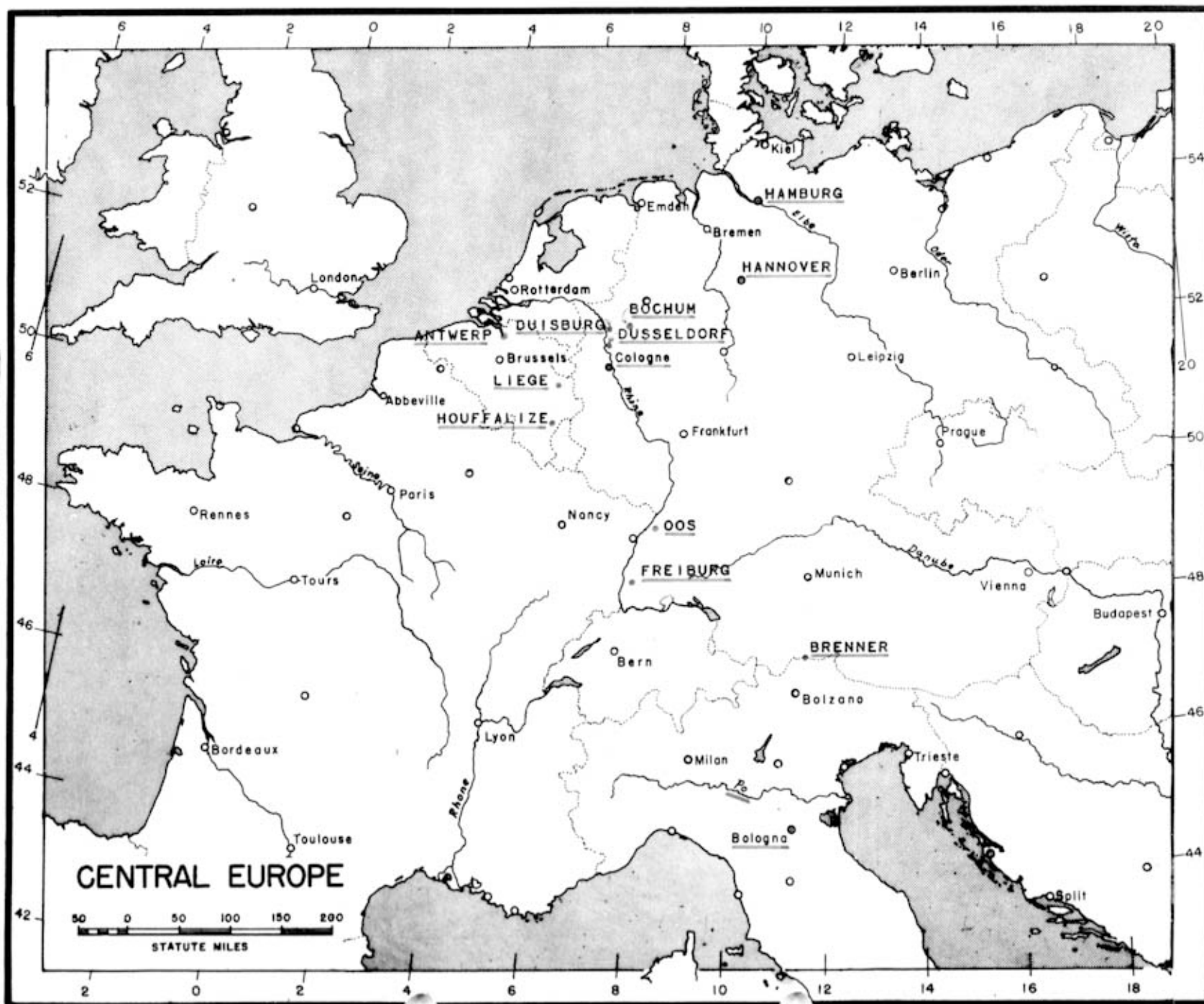
0700 December 31 to 0700 January 1, 1945

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

TOPOGRAPHIC

TOPOGRAPHIC



WESTERN FRONT



~~TOP SECRET~~
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684 Letter, 5-8-72

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Two of our bombers attacked Shumushu in the Kuriles on 30 December.

EUROPEAN THEATER

1. During the 24-hour period to sunset, 30 December, the Tactical Air Forces flew 1,213 sorties. Some 480 of these were flown in support of our ground forces and against enemy communication facilities west of the Rhine. Medium bombers dropped some 150 tons of bombs on a fuel dump and barracks at Oos, and on the Freiburg rail yards. Nine enemy planes were destroyed; we lost eight.

During the night of 30 December, the RAF dropped 1,740 tons of bombs on a rail yard at Cologne and 79 tons on Hannover. Houffalize, in the Ardennes salient, was attacked by 154 heavy bombers and 12 Mosquitoes; 16 additional Mosquitoes attacked Duisburg and the benzol plant at Bochum. Two heavy bombers are missing.

On 31 December, 1,325 escorted 8th Air Force heavy bombers struck oil refineries, submarine yards, and a jet plane factory in the Hannover-Hamburg area, two rail yards near Dusseldorf, and a number of rail junctions, bridges, and detraining points between the Rhine and the Luxembourg-Belgium front. In addition, more than 60 fighters were dispatched to sweep tactical targets in the battle area. The bombers met strong enemy fighter opposition in the Hamburg area. Preliminary reports indicate that 52 enemy planes were destroyed; 35 of our bombers and seven fighters are missing.

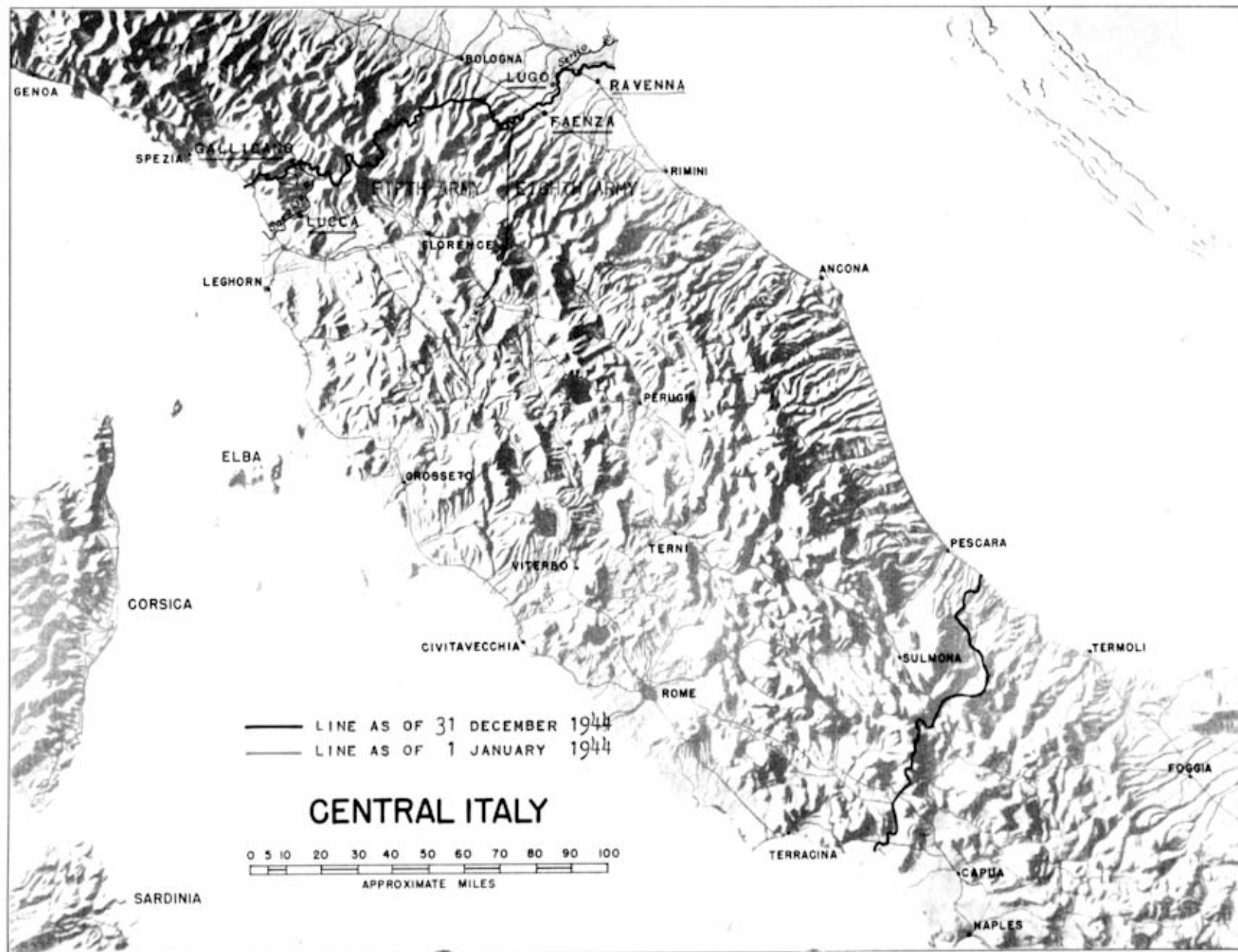
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Four rockets and seven flying bombs struck Antwerp during the 24-hour period ending at 0600, 30 December; 11 flying bombs fell in Liege. Twelve rockets and 60 flying bombs fell in areas near the two cities.

During the 24-hour period ending at 0600, 31 December, ten rockets landed in England.

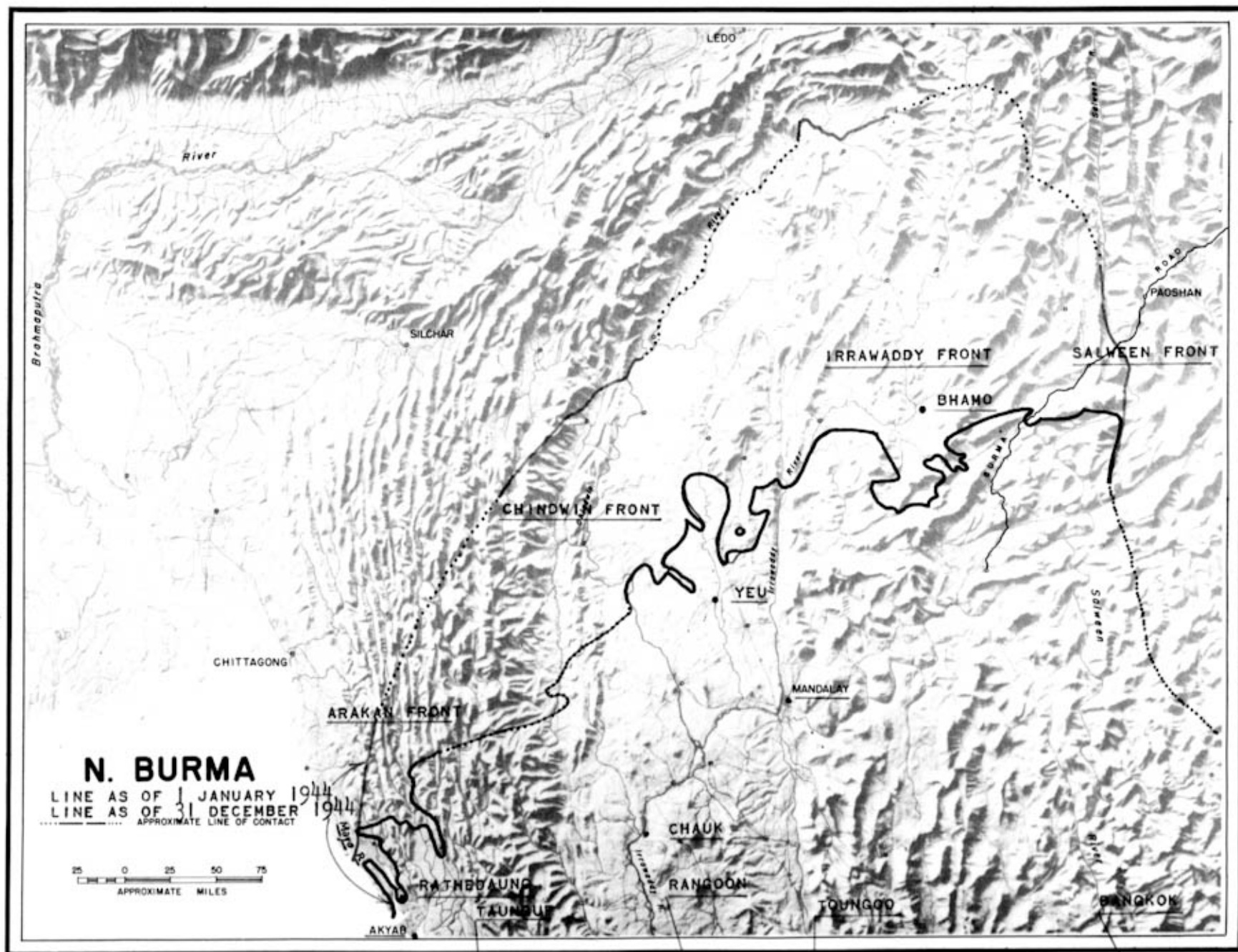
2. In the 24 hours ending at noon 31 December, the northern flank of the Ardennes salient remained generally quiet. Patrols from our First Army's XVIII Corps operating to a depth of more than a mile in front of our lines northwest of Vielsalm, reported no enemy contact. To the west, near Marche, the Corps mopped up isolated enemy pockets. British XXX Corps patrols reported Rochefort clear and, according to communique, Allied troops have occupied the town. Armored patrols of the Corps, advancing from southeast of Beauraing, reached a point about halfway between Rochefort and St. Hubert encountering only light resistance. On the southern flank of the salient, our Third Army's VIII Corps made gains of as much as two and one-half miles across a 15-mile front against heavy opposition in some sectors. We now hold a line which runs from approximately three miles south of St. Hubert generally east to Bastogne. The III Corps repulsed enemy attacks southeast of Bastogne, and the XII Corps made a small gain along the Sauer River east of Diekirch.

American troops of the First French Army repulsed another enemy raid northwest of Colmar. There was no significant change on the other army fronts.



BASE MAP NO. 2769 (FREE)
26 OCTOBER 1943 *

R & A, OSS
REPRODUCED, OSS



MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

1. During the 24-hour period ending at 1800, 30 December, the Tactical Air Force flew 742 sorties. In spite of bad weather, some 190 medium bombers attacked bridges along the Brenner route and bombed an ammunition dump north of Bologna; lighter planes struck communications behind the battle area and in the Po Valley.

On 31 December, 15th Air Force operations were cancelled for the second successive day because of weather.

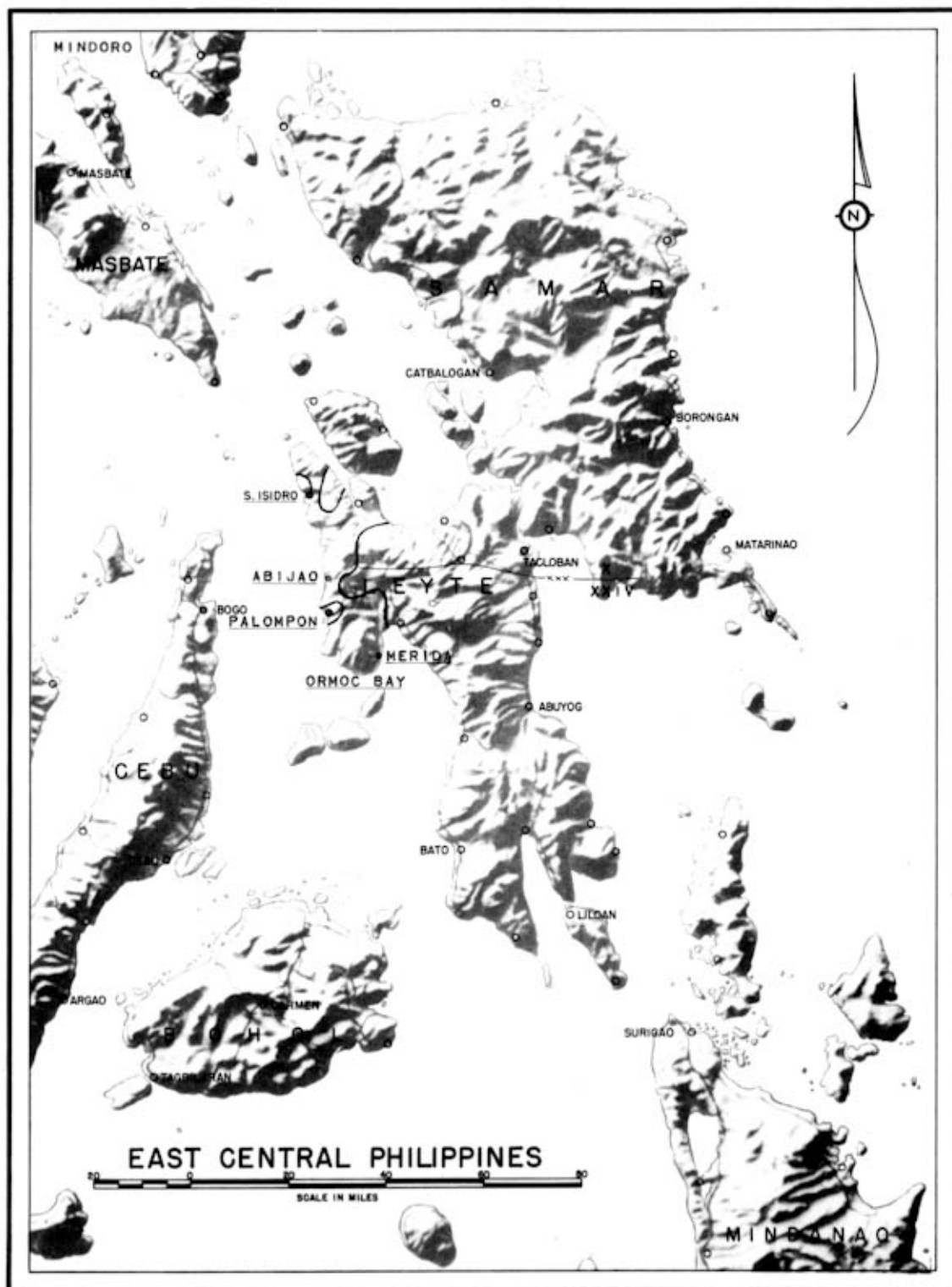
2. To 0600, 31 December, on the Eighth Army front, British troops made a local advance along the Faenza-Lugo highway without opposition; farther east, other local advances were made against strong opposition. Canadian troops repulsed a small raid along the Senio River west of Ravenna. The Fifth Army continued to improve its Serchio River positions north of Lucca, reaching Galliciano without contact and advancing more than a mile in the area northeast of the town.

ASIATIC THEATER

1. On 29 December, the Eastern Air Command flew 1,749 sorties, of which 694 were tactical. During these operations heavy bombers mined the river entrances to Bangkok and Rangoon, while lighter planes attacked communications, supply dumps, airfields and other targets in the area from Bhamo to Mandalay and southward; an oilfield at Chauk was also attacked, and ground operations were supported throughout Burma. Four planes were lost.



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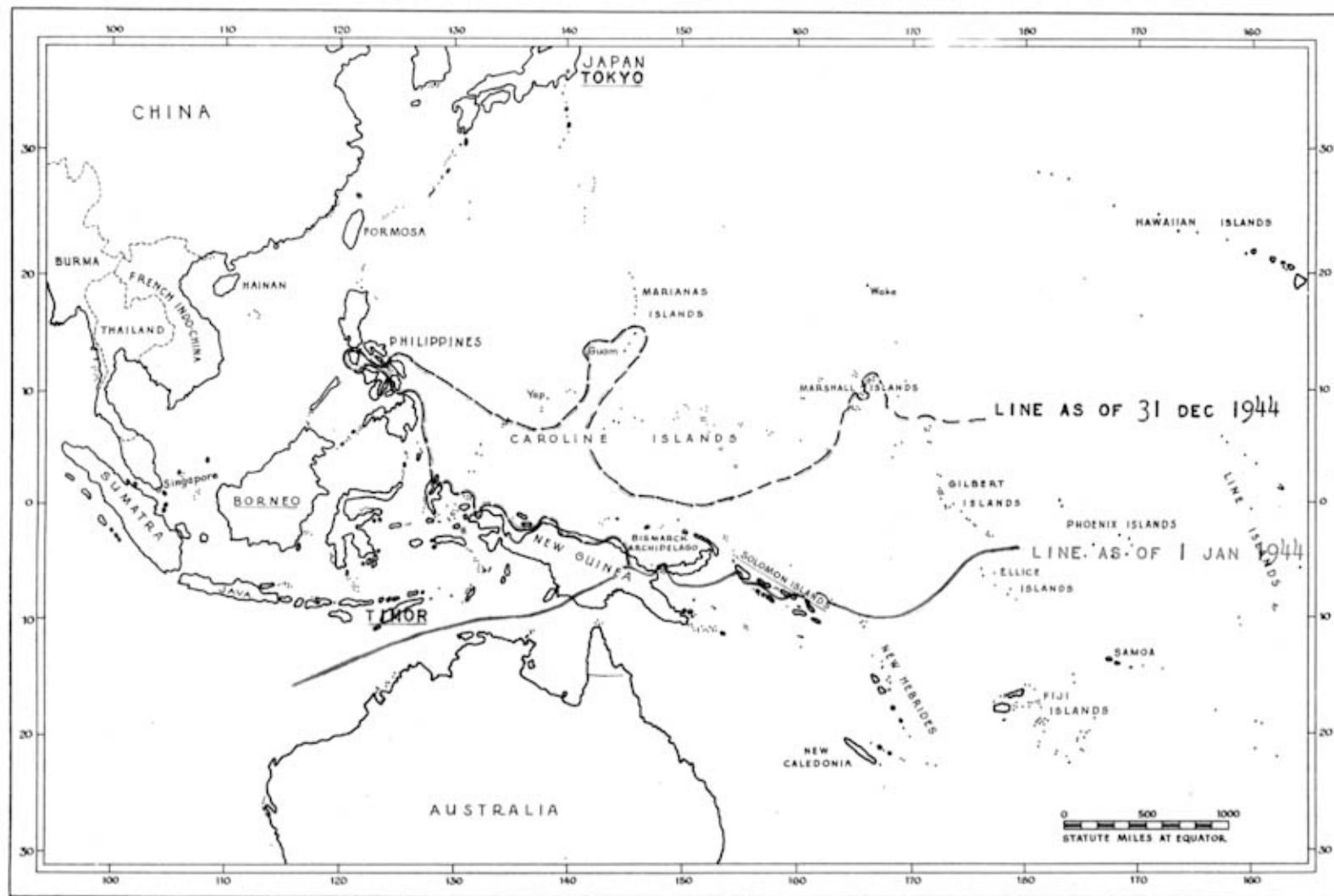


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24-28045

On 30 December, 199 planes attacked Japanese forces trapped in the area north of Akyab for the second successive day; three planes were lost. That same day, 21 B-24's bombed communications in the Toungoo-Taungup area.

2. By 30 December on the Arakan front, patrols of the British force advancing south along the Mayu River occupied Rathedaung without opposition. On the Chindwin front, Allied troops advanced east against slight opposition to a point 17 miles northwest of Yeu.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. During the period 28-30 December, some 400 hitherto unreported sorties were flown. Ranging from the Solomons to Borneo and from Timor to the South China Sea, our planes attacked shipping, airdromes and other targets; they sank three coastal vessels and destroyed 13 Japanese planes. During 29 December, 13 enemy planes were shot down by fighters and antiaircraft fire at Mindoro, and three others were destroyed through abortive suicide dives.

2. By 30 December, patrols of our XXIV Corps on Leyte had landed unopposed at Abijao, some seven miles north of Palompon on the west coast, and at Merida, on the western side of Ormoc Bay.

3. During the night of 28 December, two B-29's, in separate strikes, dropped incendiary bombs on Tokyo; they reported starting numerous large fires. Early on 29 December a third B-29 also bombed the city; the plane is missing.

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EASTERN FRONT

Soviet troops made minor advances in the Losonc sector on 31 December, and continued their attack on the surrounded enemy at Budapest against bitter resistance.

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 1117

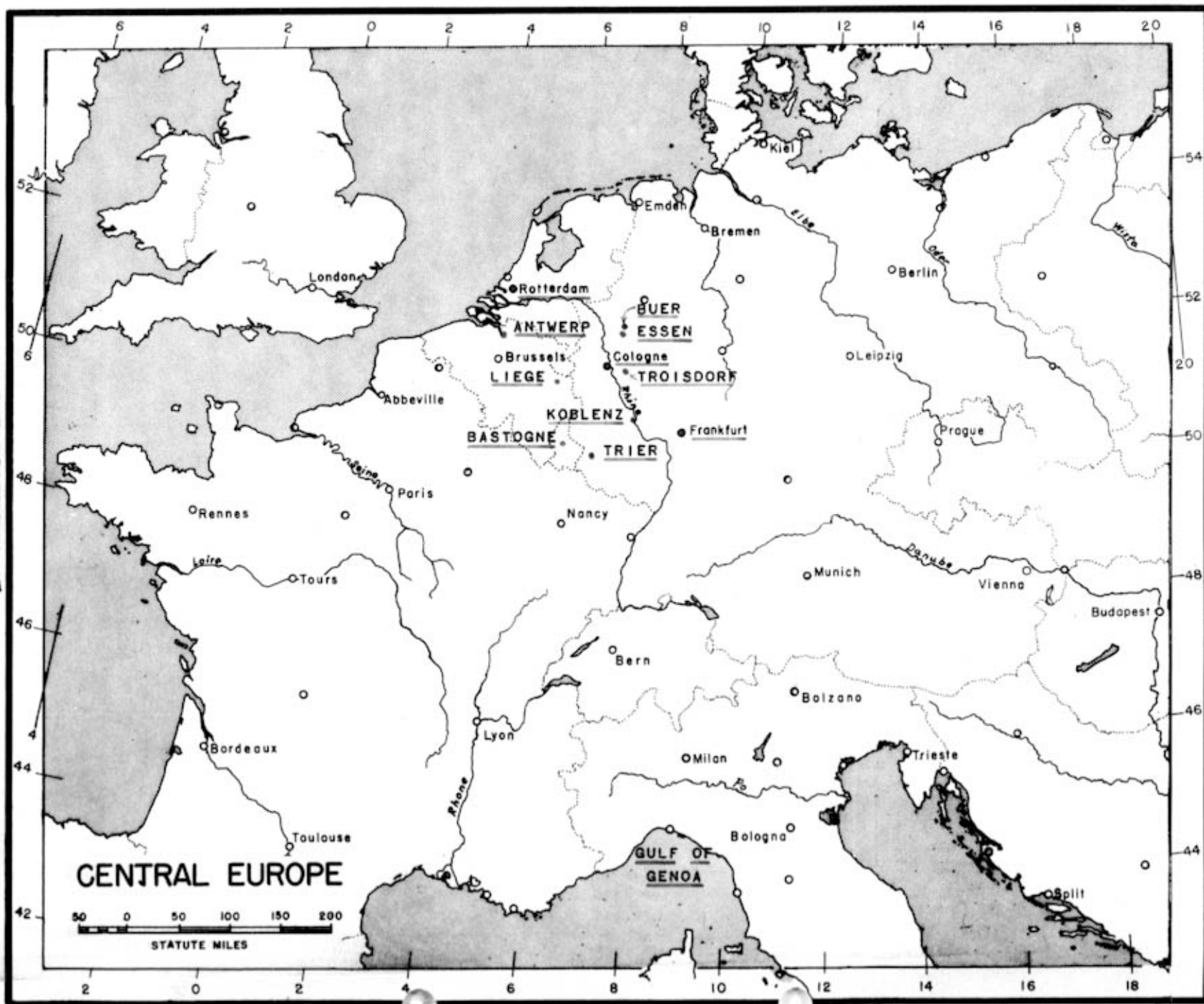
0700 December 30 to 0700 December 31, 1944

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

REPRODUCTION

REPRODUCTION



EUROPEAN THEATER

1. During the 24-hour period to sunset 29 December, the Tactical Air Forces flew 1,993 sorties, for the most part continuing to give support to our ground forces containing the German attack. Rail bridges, barracks and other enemy targets along the entire front from Holland to Alsace were hit. Thirty-two enemy planes were shot down; we lost 25.

On 29 December, the RAF attacked railyards at Koblenz with 892 tons of bombs, and boat pens at Rotterdam with 86 tons. That night the RAF bombed a synthetic oil plant at Buer, near Essen, with 1,619 tons and dropped 608 tons on railyards at Troisdorf. Four bombers are missing.

In the same period 157 US and RAF transports landed airborne troops in the Bastogne area.

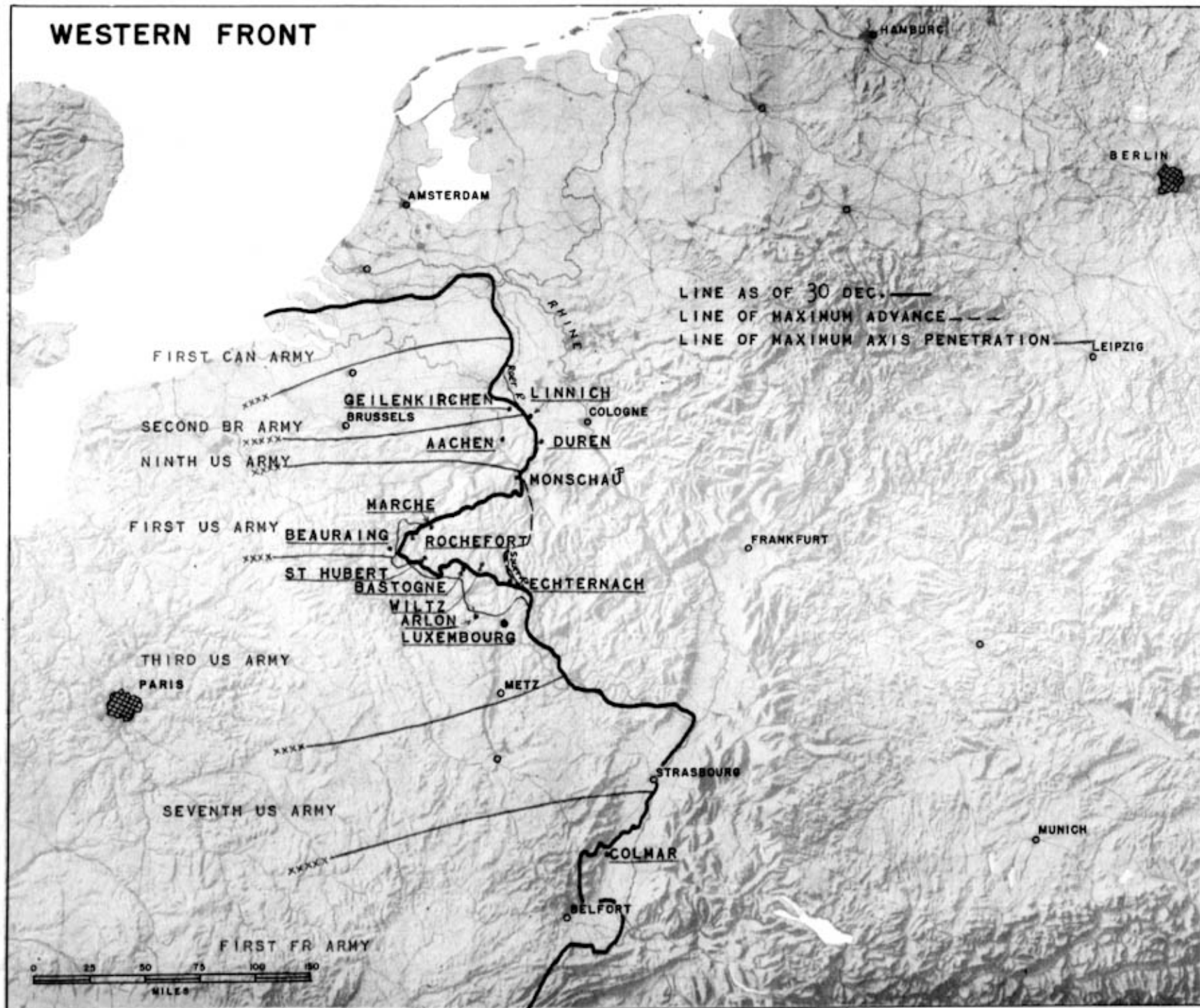
On 30 December, 1,321 escorted 8th Air Force bombers were airborne to attack railyards and bridges in the Cologne-Trier-Frankfurt area behind the enemy salient. Eight bombers and two fighters are missing.

During the 24-hour period ending at 0600, 29 December, 15 rockets fell in the Antwerp area, of which four landed in the city. Thirty-two flying bombs fell in areas near Antwerp and Liege.

During the 24-hour period ending at 0600, 30 December, eight rockets fell in southeast England, of which one landed in London.

2. In the 24 hours ending at noon 30 December, the situation was generally quiet on the northern flank of the Ardennes salient from south of Monschau west to Marche. Our First Army's VII Corps continued

WESTERN FRONT

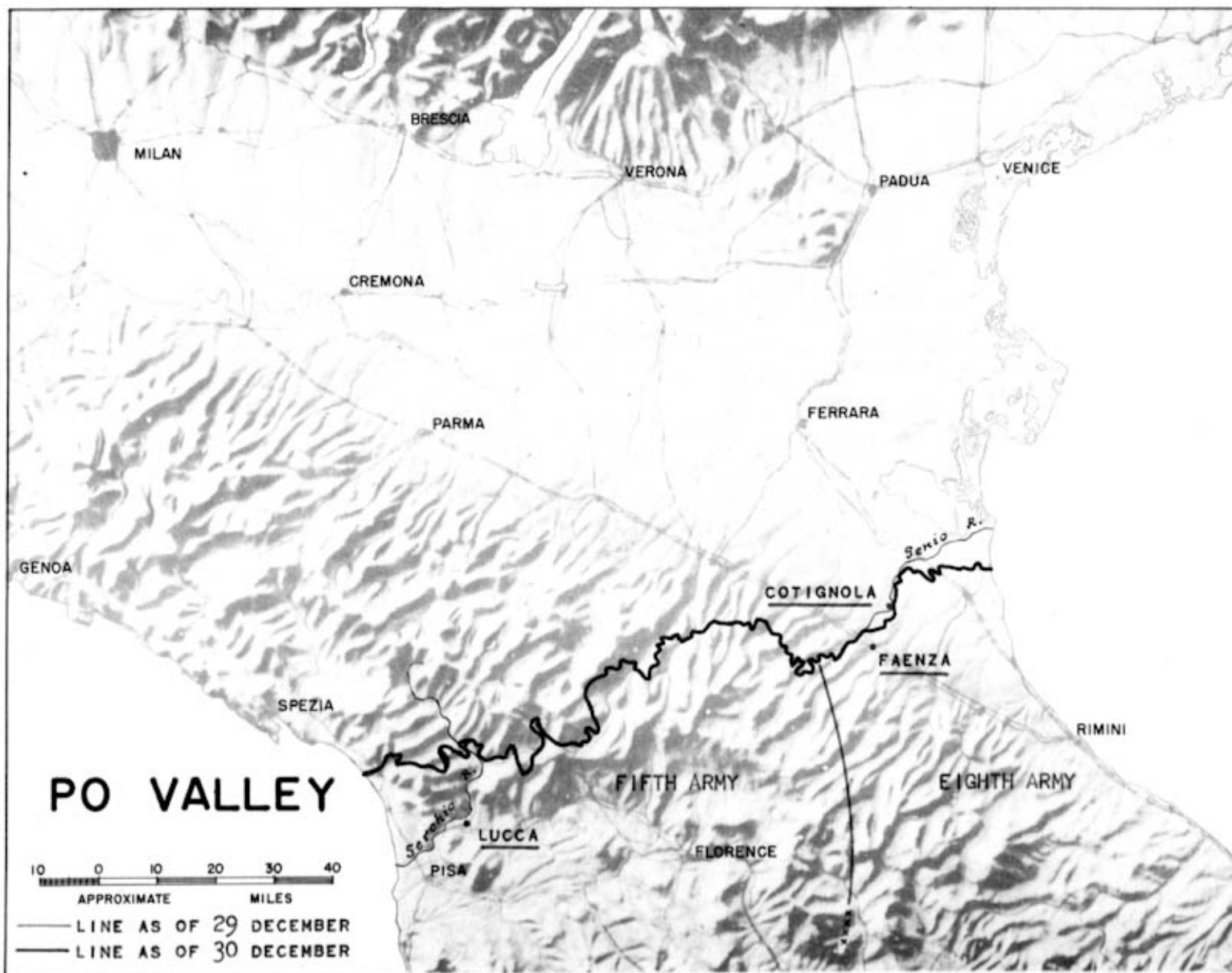


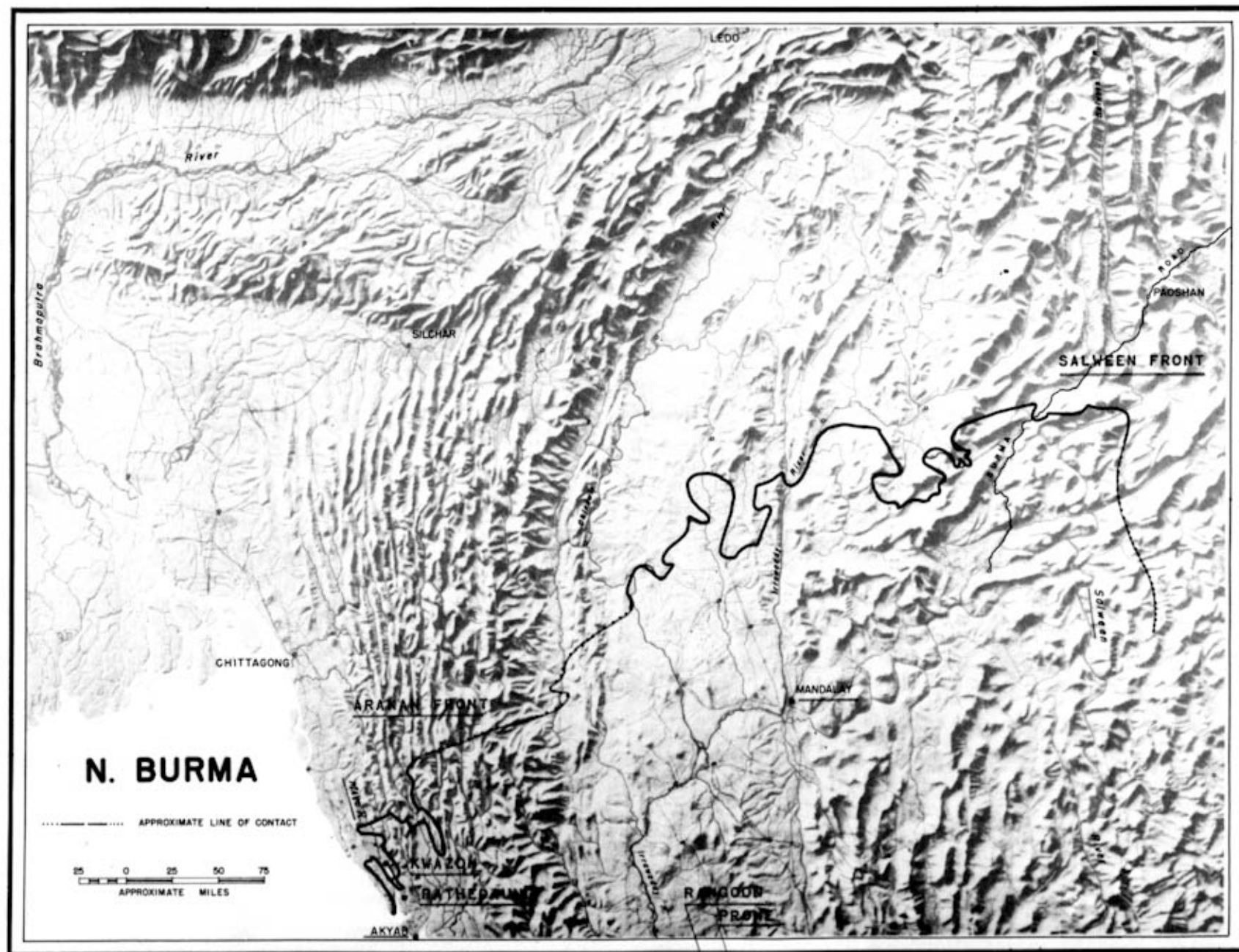
to attack Rochefort, where enemy resistance was reported decreasing, and there were indications of a German withdrawal from the town. Other elements of the Corps, together with the British XXX Corps, now hold a line running generally southwest from Rochefort to a point approximately two miles east of Beauraing. The Third Army's VIII Corps advanced to within five miles south of St. Hubert and was clearing the area to the southeast. The III Corps widened the Bastogne corridor, clearing the Bastogne-Arlon highway. Farther east we continued the advance on Wiltz. The XII Corps gains on a ten-mile front brought them to a general line along the south bank of the Sauer River, northwest of Echternach.

Fighting continued on the British Second Army front north of Geilenkirchen, where another enemy attack was made against the XII Corps. Our Ninth Army repulsed an attack near Linnich and, south of Duren, cleared an enemy pocket west of the Roer River. The First French Army repulsed a violent attack against its line northwest of Colmar. There was no change on the other army fronts.

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

1. In the 24 hours ending at 1800, 29 December, the Tactical Air Force flew 1,155 sorties. In these operations more than 900 light bombers and fighters made their major effort in support of Allied ground forces in the extreme western battle area, while a strong force of medium bombers attacked enemy supply lines in northern Italy. Coastal and Balkan Air Force planes, in 124 sorties, raided small shipping in the Gulf of Genoa and northern Adriatic and attacked enemy communications and troop concentrations in northern Italy and Yugoslavia.





On 30 December, 15th Air Force operations were cancelled because of weather.

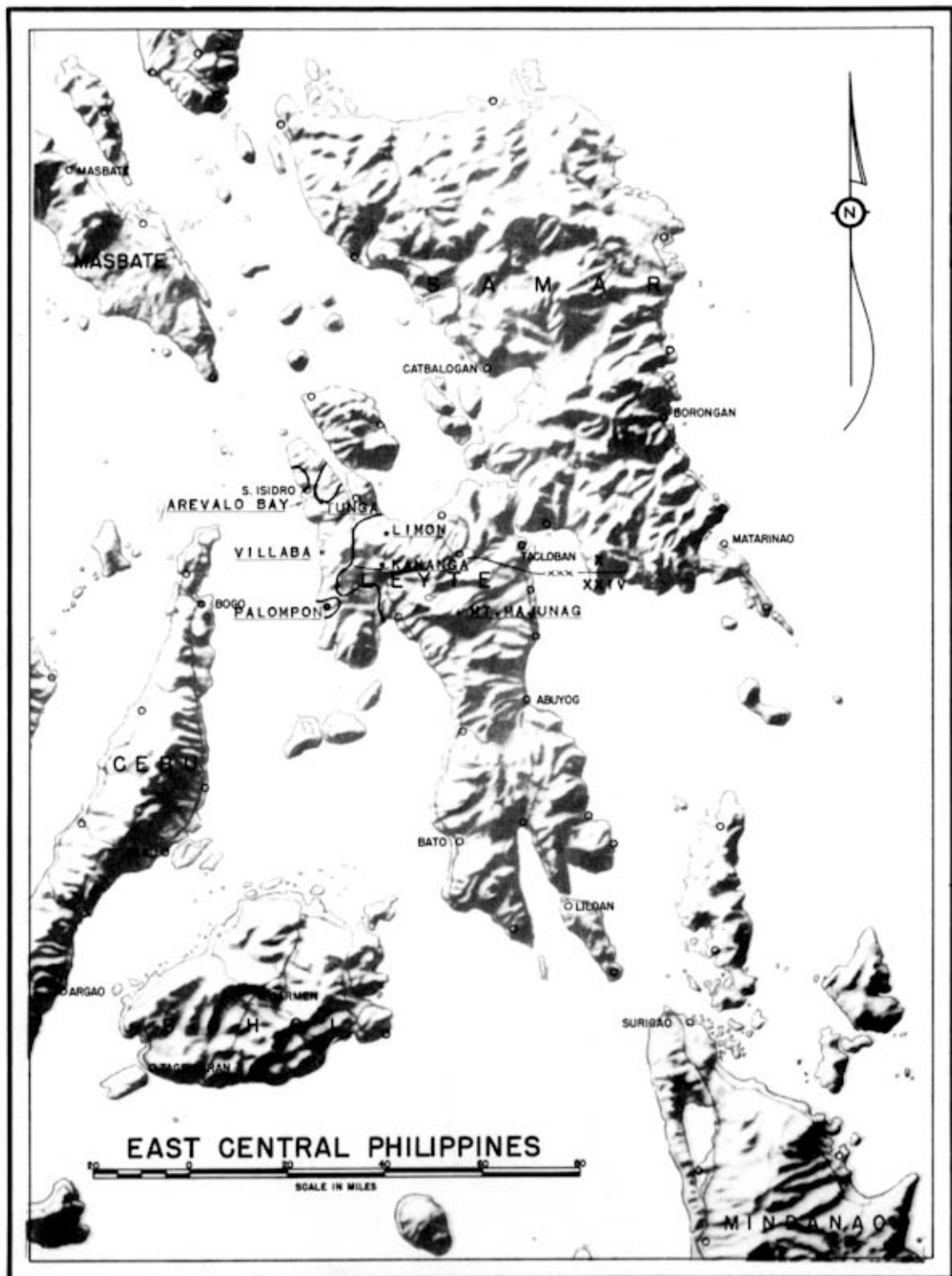
2. In the 24 hours ending at noon 30 December, the Eighth Army made a minor attack, which was repulsed by the Germans, southeast of Cotignola. West of Faenza, Polish troops made slight gains along the south bank of the Senio River. The Fifth Army sector was generally quiet. We readjusted and improved our positions along the Serchio River north of Lucca.

ASIATIC THEATER

1. On 28 December the Eastern Air Command flew 1,443 sorties, of which 594 were tactical. These included an attack in which medium bombers dropped nearly 60 tons on railyards of the Prome-Rangoon line; medium bombers and fighters attacked airfields and communications north and south of Mandalay and supported ground operations. On 29 December, 112 light and medium planes struck at Jap forces trapped north and northeast of Akyab, inflicting an estimated 1,000 casualties.

On 29 December, weather limited the 14th Air Force to 57 combat sorties.

2. By 29 December, British troops on the Arakan front had advanced south along the Mayu River to a point approximately four miles north of Rathedaung without opposition; in rear of the advance they expanded the drive to points four miles west and eight miles southeast of Kwazon.





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OSD Letter, 5-8-72

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. During the period 28-29 December, 112 previously unreported sorties were flown. The majority of these were over the Bougainville-New Britain-New Ireland area; the remainder over the Philippines.

2. By 1500, 29 December, our troops on the northwestern tip of Leyte had advanced south to occupy high ground near Tunga, two miles east of Arevalo Bay. Farther south, troops from the Limon-Kananga area were approaching the west coast. South of Villaba, an enemy force estimated at regimental strength was dispersed by artillery fire. Our forces advancing southwest toward Palompon gained more than two miles. In central Leyte, we reduced organized enemy positions on the southern slopes at Mt. Majunag.

3. On 28 December, 15 B-24's attacked an airfield on Iwo Jima.

EASTERN FRONT

On 30 December, Soviet forces mopped up enemy elements encircled north of Budapest, and made further gains on both sides of the remaining pocket in the city, where an ultimatum to surrender was refused. Northeast of Budapest, the Red Army made a short advance toward Losonc, against stubborn resistance.

WAR DEPARTMENT

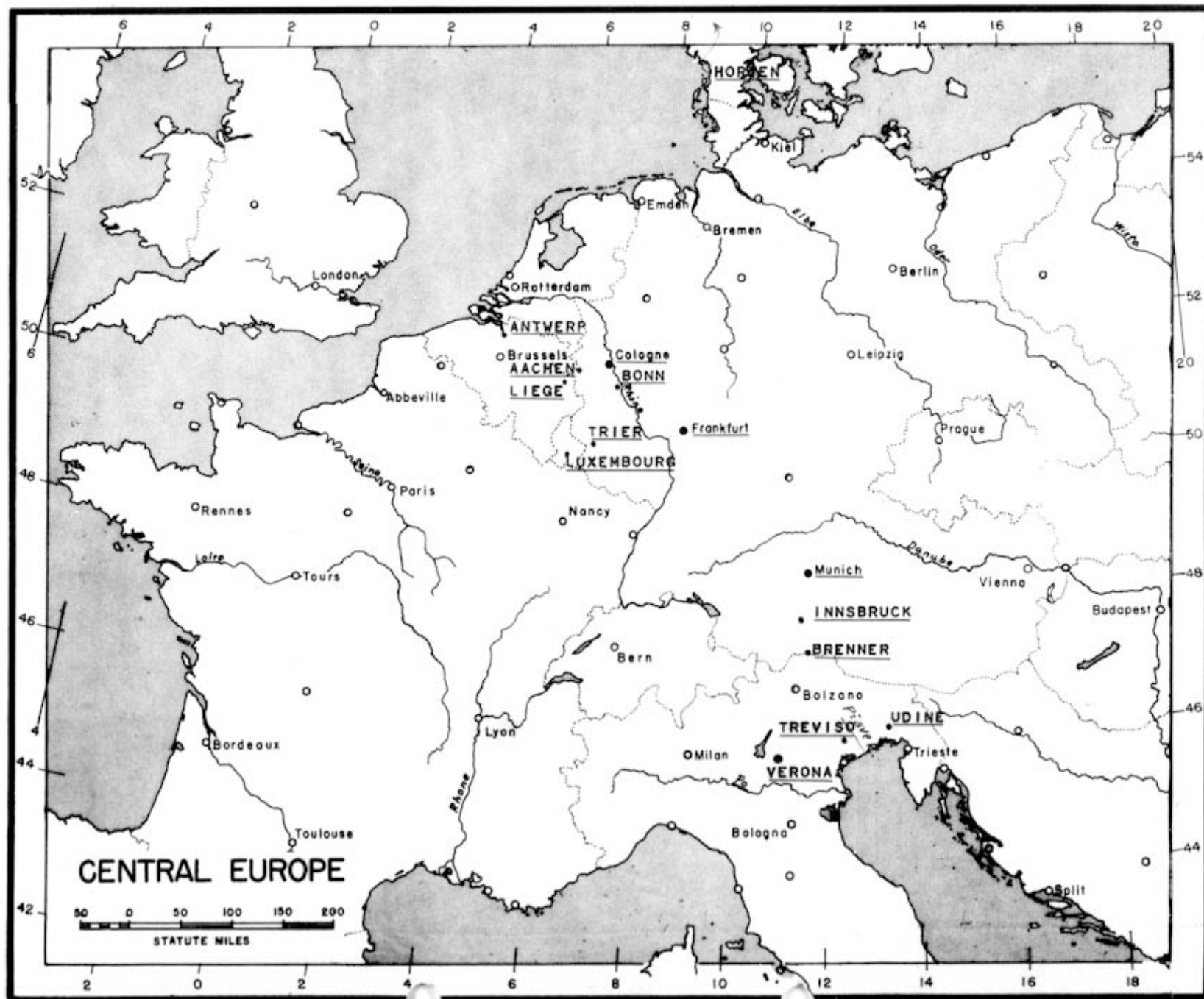
DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 1116

0700 December 29 to 0700 December 30, 1944

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-8-78

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Major General Henry C. Pratt, who formerly commanded the Southern Defense Command, was assigned as Commanding General, Western Defense Command on 30 December. He was previously in temporary command only.

EUROPEAN THEATER

1. On 29 December, despite bad weather, 825 escorted 8th Air Force heavy bombers continued the attack against enemy rail yards, bridges and communication centers vital to the Aachen-Luxembourg salient. Nine bombers and one fighter are missing.

During the 24-hour period ending at sunset, 28 December, weather limited the Tactical Air Forces to 672 sorties. The majority of these were flown against targets in support of our ground forces, and on rocket launching installations in Holland. Five enemy aircraft were shot down; we lost two.

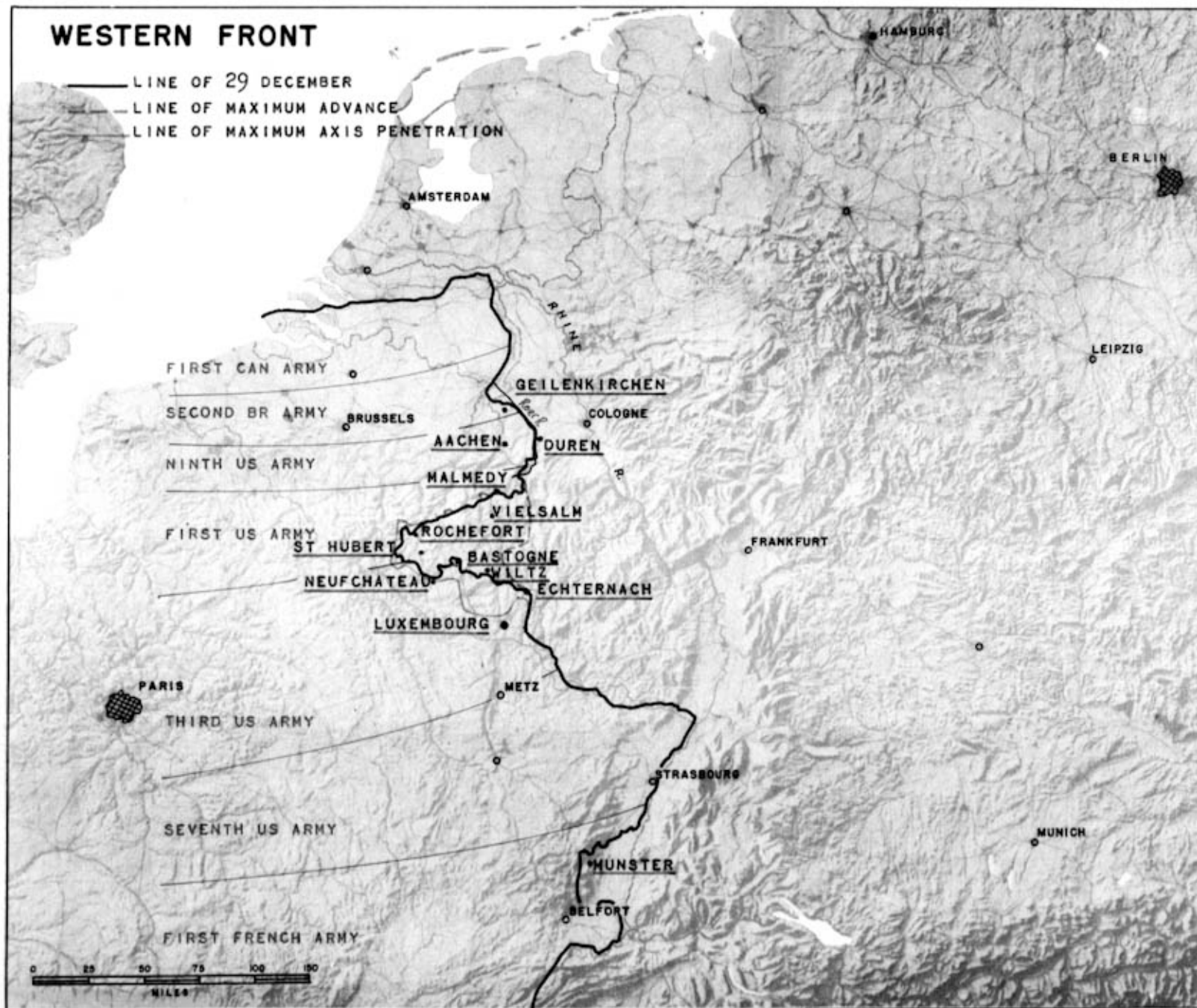
On 28 December, the RAF attacked railway facilities at Cologne with 747 tons of bombs. That night 337 heavy bombers and 114 Mosquitoes bombed rail yards at Munich, Bonn and Frankfurt. Sixty-eight other bombers attacked shipping near Horten in southeastern Norway. Two heavy bombers and one Mosquito were lost.

During the 24-hour period ending at 0600, 28 December, three rockets fell in Antwerp and nine flying bombs in Liege. Forty rockets and flying bombs fell in the vicinity of Antwerp and Liege.

No rockets or flying bombs fell on England on either the 28th or 29th of December.

WESTERN FRONT

- LINE OF 29 DECEMBER
- LINE OF MAXIMUM ADVANCE
- LINE OF MAXIMUM AXIS PENETRATION



~~TOP SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED
OED Letter, 5-3-72

2. In the 24 hours ending at noon, 29 December, our First Army's V Corps recaptured an outpost position on the northern shoulder of the Aachen-Luxembourg salient. To the west, the XVIII Corps encountered only small enemy elements along most of its front north and west of Vielsalm. The VII Corps continued to clear the enemy from areas north-east and southwest of Rochefort, although heavy opposition continued in the town itself. On the southern flank of the salient, our Third Army's VIII Corps consolidated its positions north of the Neufchateau-Bastogne highway, while reconnaissance units of the III Corps probed to within five miles of St. Hubert from the southeast. The III Corps gained some ground southeast of Bastogne against heavy opposition and, farther east, advanced to within a mile of Wiltz. The XII Corps entered Echternach.

The Second British Army recaptured several villages, northwest of Geilenkirchen, lost the previous day. Our Ninth Army reached the Roer River at another point south of Duren and continued to clear enemy pockets from the west bank. The First French Army gained some ground to strengthen its line north of Munster. There was no change on the other army fronts.

3. Following is a summary of verified facts from the First US Army concerning the massacre of American prisoners of war at about 1400 hours on 17 December: Approximately 150 American officers and enlisted men, the majority of whom were from Battery B, 285th Field Artillery Observation Battalion, including medical personnel wearing brassards and Red Cross markings on helmets, had been captured by a German unit, tentatively

identified as the 1st Panzer Regiment of the First SS Division. The prisoners were disarmed, relieved of all valuables, moved into an open field in the vicinity of a crossroad two miles southeast of Malmedy, and sprayed with machine-gun fire from tanks on the road. Subsequently German guards walked among the bodies on the ground and shot those showing signs of life. Forty-three of the prisoners, all but a few of whom were wounded, managed to escape after darkness.

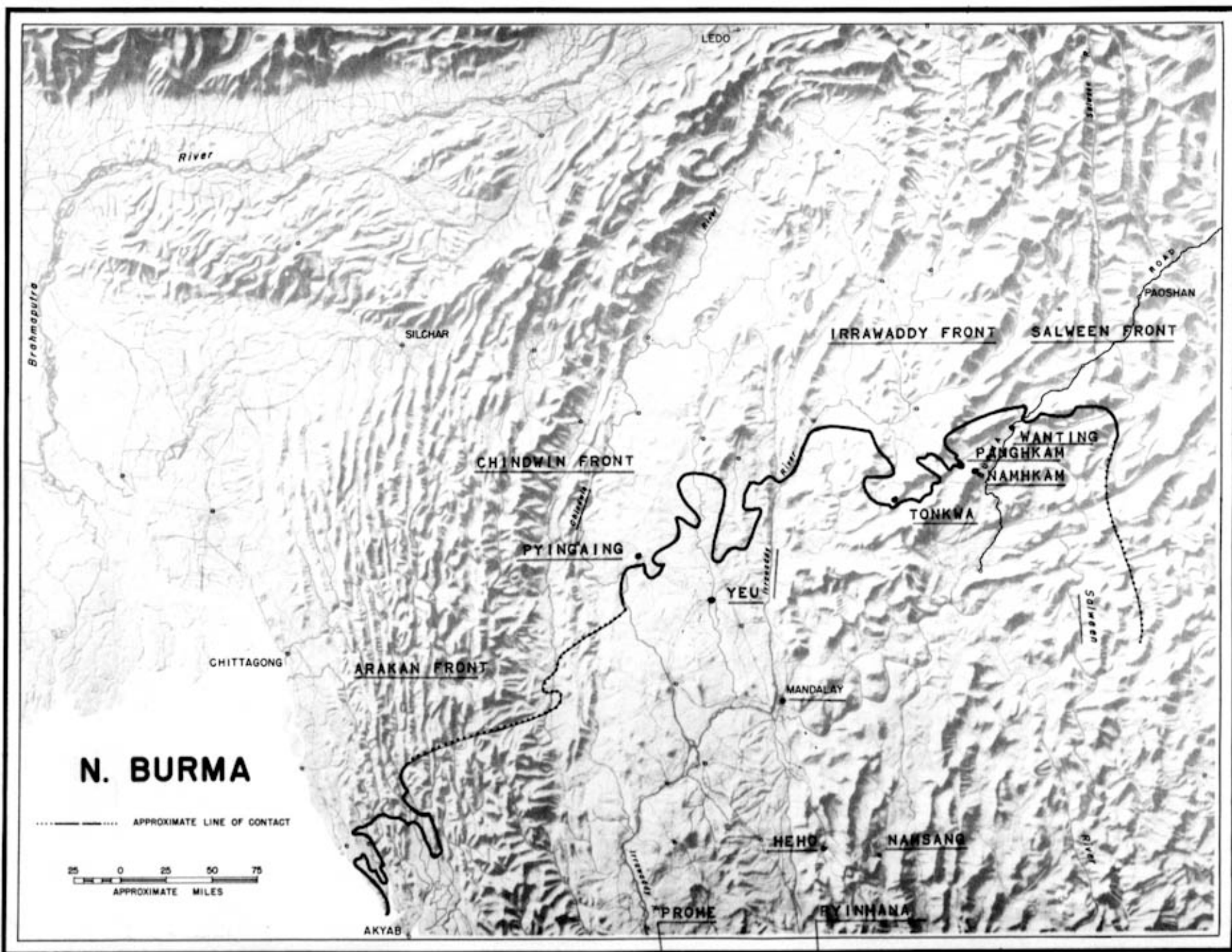
MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

1. On 29 December, escorted heavy bombers of the 15th Air Force dropped more than 1,080 tons of bombs on rail yards at Verona, Innsbruck and southeast and northeast of Munich; other rail targets were attacked along the Brenner and Udine routes. Preliminary reports indicate that 34 bombers and 12 fighters are missing.

In the 24 hours ending at 1800, 28 December, the Tactical Air Force flew 1,325 sorties, making strong attacks against communications and flying in close support of our ground forces; troop concentrations, supply dumps, bridges and other targets also were attacked in northern Italy and Yugoslavia. Coastal Air Force planes in 86 sorties bombed small shipping off Genoa and in the Adriatic and attacked bridges in the Po Valley. The Balkan Air Force flew 133 sorties, attacking troop concentrations and communications in central Yugoslavia. One enemy plane was destroyed; five of ours are missing.

During the night of 27 December, 40 Strategic Air Force bombers attacked a rail bridge across the Piave River north of Treviso.





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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

2. In the 24 hours ending at noon, 29 December, the Eighth Army's I Canadian Corps slightly improved its positions west of Ravenna and remained in close contact with the enemy. There was no change on the Fifth Army front.

ASIATIC THEATER

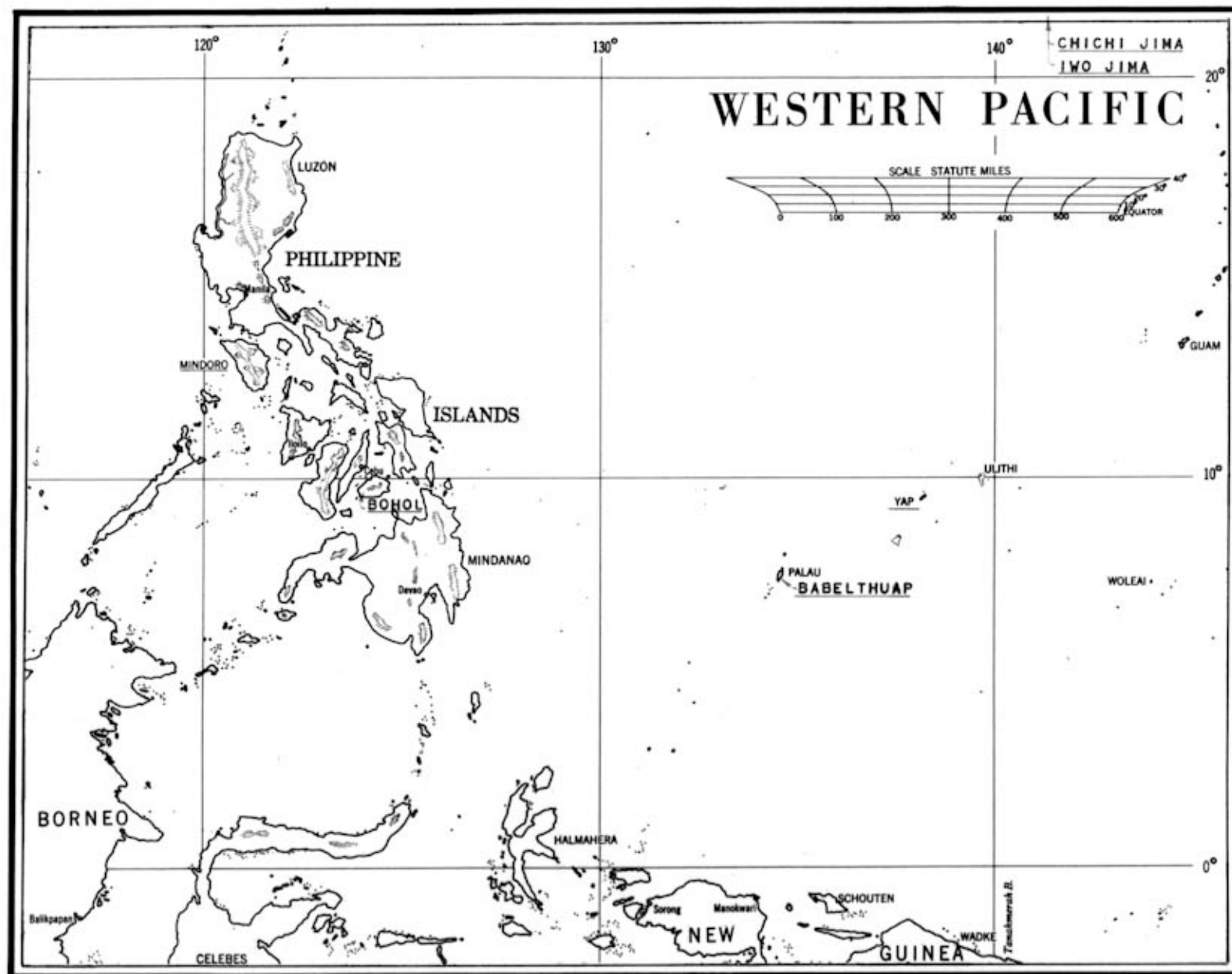
1. On 27 December the Eastern Air Command flew 1,531 sorties, of which 626 were tactical. These included the attacks at Prome and Pyinmana, previously reported, during which heavy bombers dropped 65 tons of bombs. Medium bombers raided communications north of Mandalay, rail lines south of Mandalay, and airfields at Heho and Namsang; fighters supported ground operations throughout Burma.

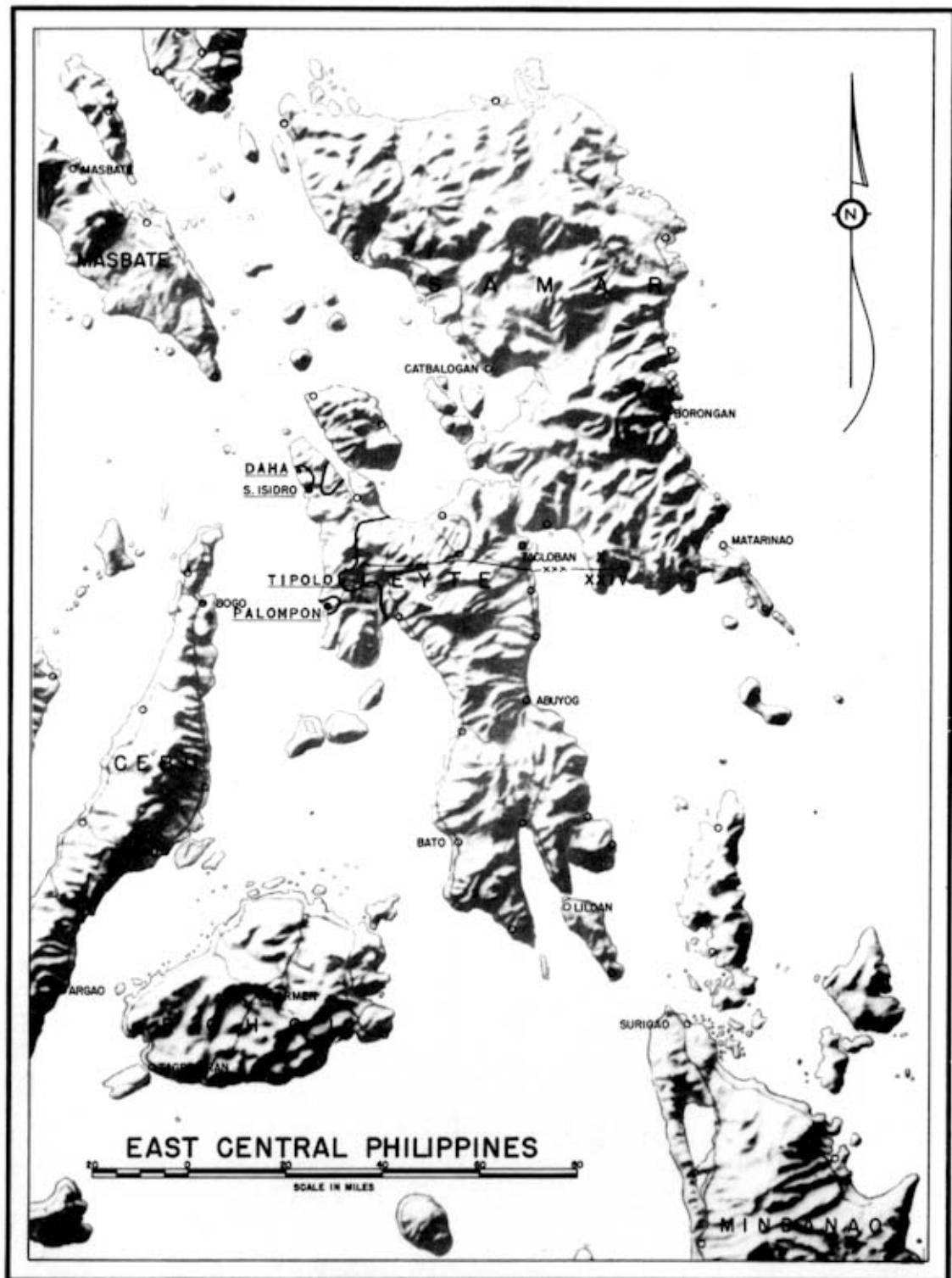
2. On 27 and 28 December the 14th Air Force flew 260 combat sorties, principally against enemy communications and supplies in southwestern China, French Indo-China and along the Salween, Yangtze and Yellow Rivers. Small numbers of heavy bombers attacked the Hengyang area and laid mines in Hongkong Harbor. Ten enemy planes were destroyed on airfields near Canton. We lost two planes.

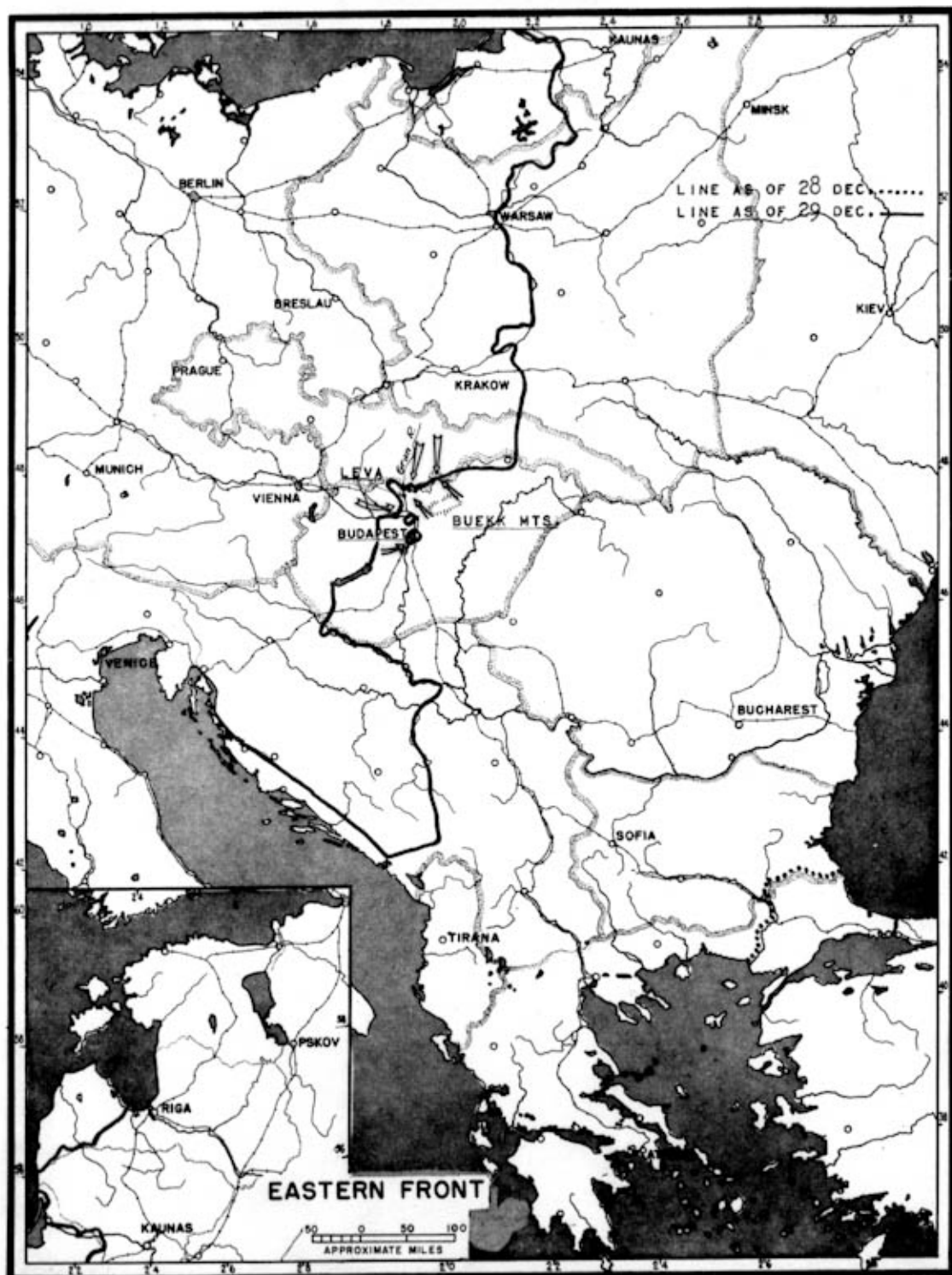
During the night of 27 December, Japanese planes again raided our Suichwan airfield destroying two planes and damaging six.

3. By 28 December, US troops of the Chinese forces east of the Irrawaddy River had occupied a broad area extending 17 miles northwest of Tonkwa. Chinese troops occupied Panghkam, six miles northwest of Namhkam. On the Salween front, other Chinese troops were meeting enemy resistance

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

six to ten miles northeast and east of Wanting.

By 27 December, the Chinese had captured additional enemy positions around Hochih and, in the Nanning area, were attacking Wuming; they were also attacking Japanese positions just southeast of Tungcheng.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. During 27 and 28 December, 225 previously unreported sorties were flown. Heavy and medium bombers continued to attack airfields and enemy shipping in the Philippines and in the South China Sea. Weather limited these operations somewhat. Fifteen additional enemy aircraft were destroyed.

Twenty-one Allied planes are missing from the attack on an enemy task force off Mindoro during the night of 26 December.

2. By 1500, 28 December, our troops from the Dava beachhead on northwestern Leyte had reached San Isidro.

3. During the night of 26 December, seven enemy planes damaged four bombers on our airfields in the Marianas; two of the raiders were destroyed.

On 27 December, 21 B-24's attacked Chichi Jima. Next day, we raided Babelthuap, Yap, and Jaluit.

EASTERN FRONT

On 29 December, Soviet forces continued to make advances along their front north and northwest of Budapest. They crossed the Gran River, just north of the Danube and are holding a bridgehead.

WAR DEPARTMENT

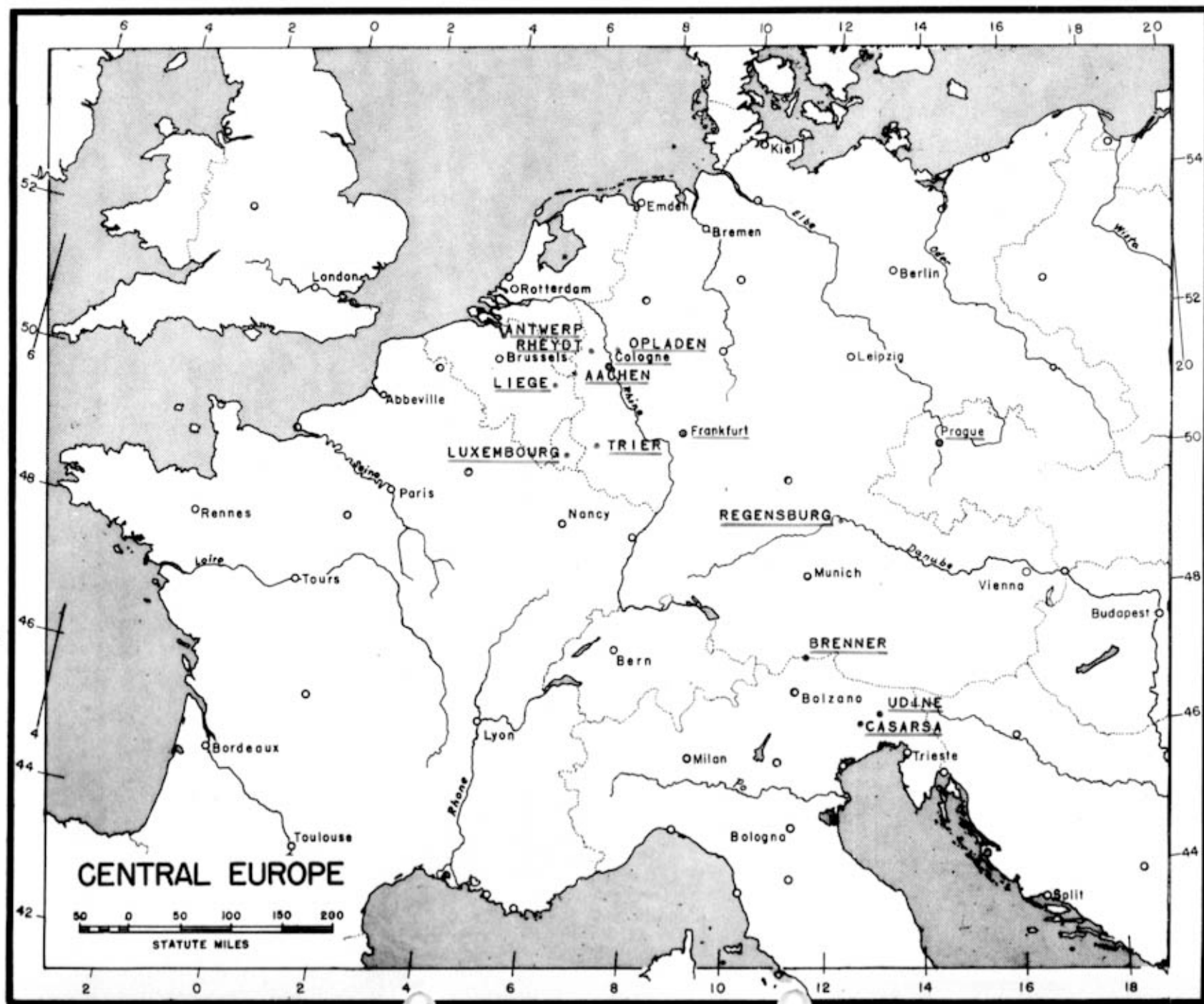
DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 1115

0700 December 28 to 0700 December 29, 1944

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE



WESTERN FRONT



EUROPEAN THEATER

1. During the 24-hour period ending at sunset, 27 December, the Tactical Air Forces flew 2,488 sorties mainly in support of ground operations in the Aachen-Luxembourg salient and against communication centers serving the German offensive. Sixty-six enemy aircraft were destroyed; we lost 34.

The same day the RAF dropped 977 tons of bombs on rail yards at Rheydt; one heavy bomber and one Mosquito were lost. That night 293 heavy bombers and 44 Mosquitoes attacked the Opladen railway work shops near Cologne.

On 28 December the 8th Air Force dispatched 1,275 escorted bombers for another attack on rail facilities in the Cologne-Trier-Frankfurt area. Five bombers are missing.

During the 24 hours ending at 0600, 27 December, two rockets and one flying bomb fell on Antwerp. Seventeen rockets and 22 flying bombs fell in the vicinity of the city. Eleven flying bombs fell on Liege and 15 in nearby areas.

During the 24 hours ending at 0600, 28 December, no flying bombs or rockets reached England.

2. In the 24 hours ending at noon, 28 December, our First and Third Armies continued to contain and drive back the Germans in the Aachen-Luxembourg salient. At the northern shoulder of the salient, south of Monschau, the V Corps repulsed a heavy attack. Northwest of Vielsalm, the XVIII Corps carried out successful raids on enemy positions; enemy

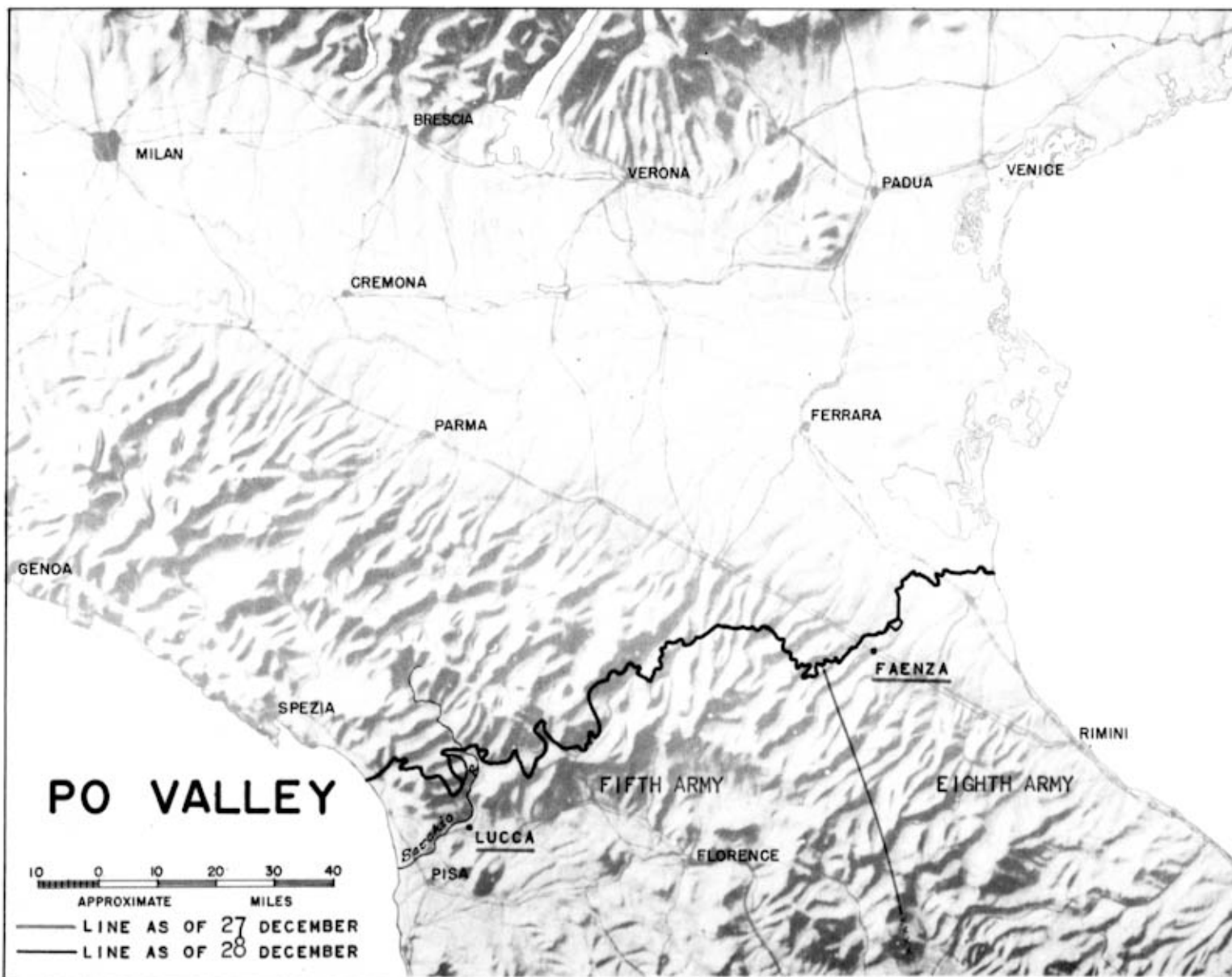
pressure was reported decreasing. The VII Corps mopped up infiltrating parties and cleared an enemy pocket east of Marche. Other Corps elements advanced more than three miles to the outskirts of Rochefort, which was still held by the enemy, and continued to clear the areas west and northwest of the town. Patrols reached a point more than five miles farther south, contacting only scattered enemy elements. Allied patrols reported an enemy roadblock ten miles west of St. Hubert. The III Corps expanded its penetration of the salient south of Bastogne; southeast of the town, the Corps advanced north up to two miles along a 12-mile front and made another crossing of the Sure River. Along the southern shoulder of the salient the XII Corps occupied Ettelbruck and approached the German border in general advances along a 15-mile front northwest and east of Echternach; elements on the right flank of this advance reached the Sauer River.

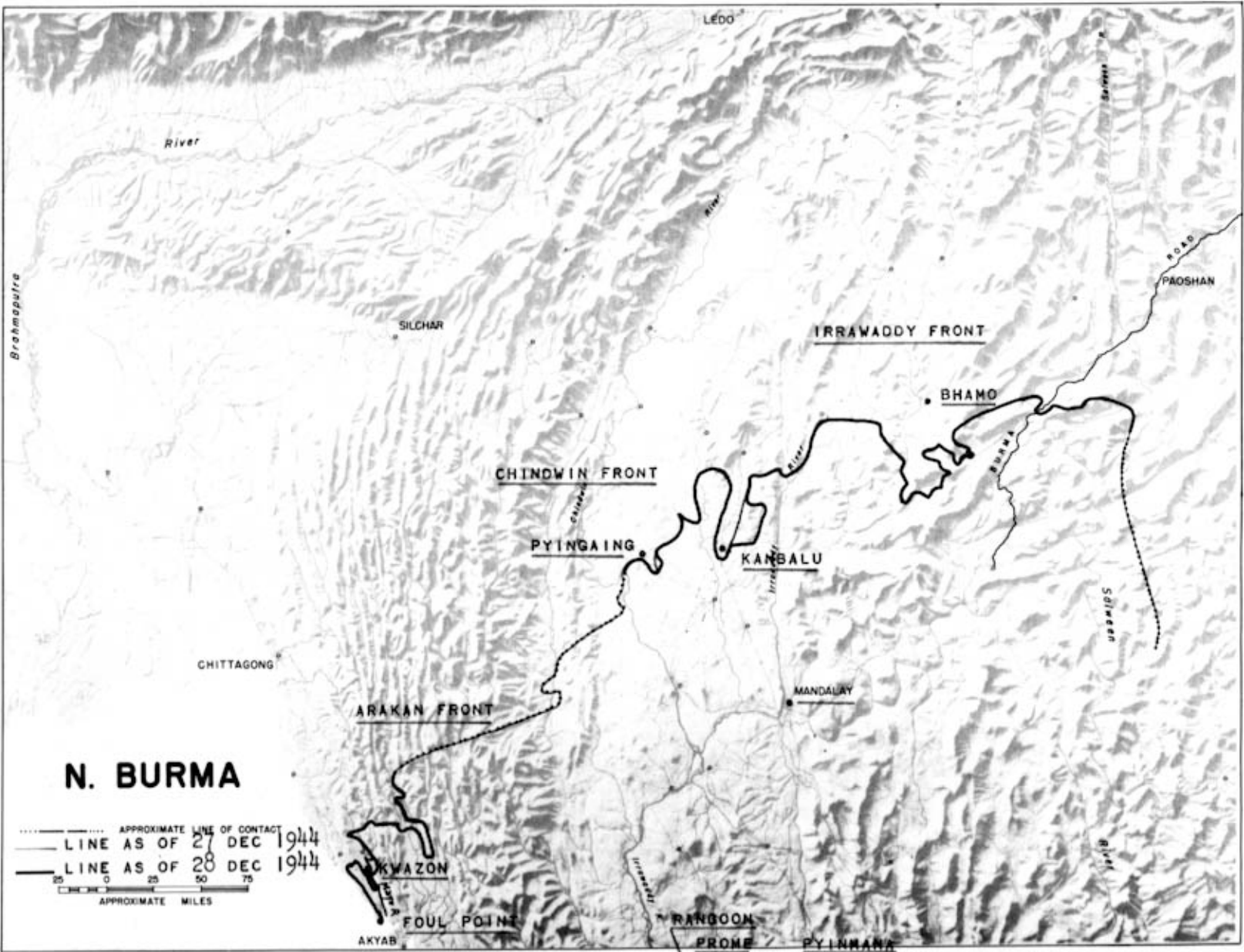
Our Seventh Army continued to gain ground along the German border west of Weissenburg. The Second British Army partially repulsed an enemy attack in its XII Corps sector northwest of Geilenkirchen but fighting continued in the area. There was no change on the other army fronts.

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

1. During the night of 26 December, forty-two bombers of the Strategic Air Force struck a rail bridge at Casarsa. Next day 30 fighter bombers followed up the attack dropping 31 tons of bombs.

In the 24-hour period ending at 1800, 27 December, the Tactical Air Force flew 1,472 sorties. Of this total, 1,389 were flown by light and medium planes during the day, continuing a maximum effort against





communications and targets in the battle area; among communications targets were six bridges and a tunnel on the Brenner and Udine routes. The Balkan Air Force in 121 sorties attacked road and rail targets in Yugoslavia. We lost ten planes.

On 28 December, escorted heavy bombers of the 15th Air Force dropped 1,260 tons of bombs on oil installations at Regensburg, and others near Prague, also on rail targets in Austria, Bohemia and northern Italy. Seven grounded enemy aircraft were destroyed; we lost three bombers and one fighter.

The same day the Strategic Air Force again struck the rail bridge at Casarsa, 36 heavy bombers attacking; other planes dropped supplies in Yugoslavia.

2. In the 24 hours ending at noon, 28 December, Fifth Army troops along the Serchio River north of Lucca improved their defensive positions after continued enemy attacks, which had forced withdrawals earlier in the period. The Eighth Army continued to make local gains northeast of Faenza.

ASIATIC THEATER

1. On 26 December, the Eastern Air Command flew 1,024 sorties of which 370 were tactical. Medium bombers attacked bridges north of Mandalay and along the Prome-Rangoon rail line; fighters swept communications throughout central Burma and supported ground operations. One enemy plane was destroyed; we lost two. Next day, 22 B-24's attacked



supply dumps at Prome and a rail bridge at Pyinmana.

In the period 24-26 December, the 14th Air Force flew 152 previously unreported fighter and bomber sorties. Widespread attacks were made south of Tungting Lake, in Thailand, and in eastern Burma. Several small ships were destroyed at Anking on the Yangtze, and in Formosa Strait. Thirteen enemy planes were destroyed in the Nanking area, and 32 more at Tsinan; we lost one.

2. By 27 December, British troops, moving south along the Arakan coast, had occupied Foul Point, meeting no resistance; those advancing south along the west bank of the Mayu River reached a point nine miles south of Kwazon. On the Chindwin front, Allied troops had reached points 15 miles east of the Burma railway in the area east and northeast of Kanbalu.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

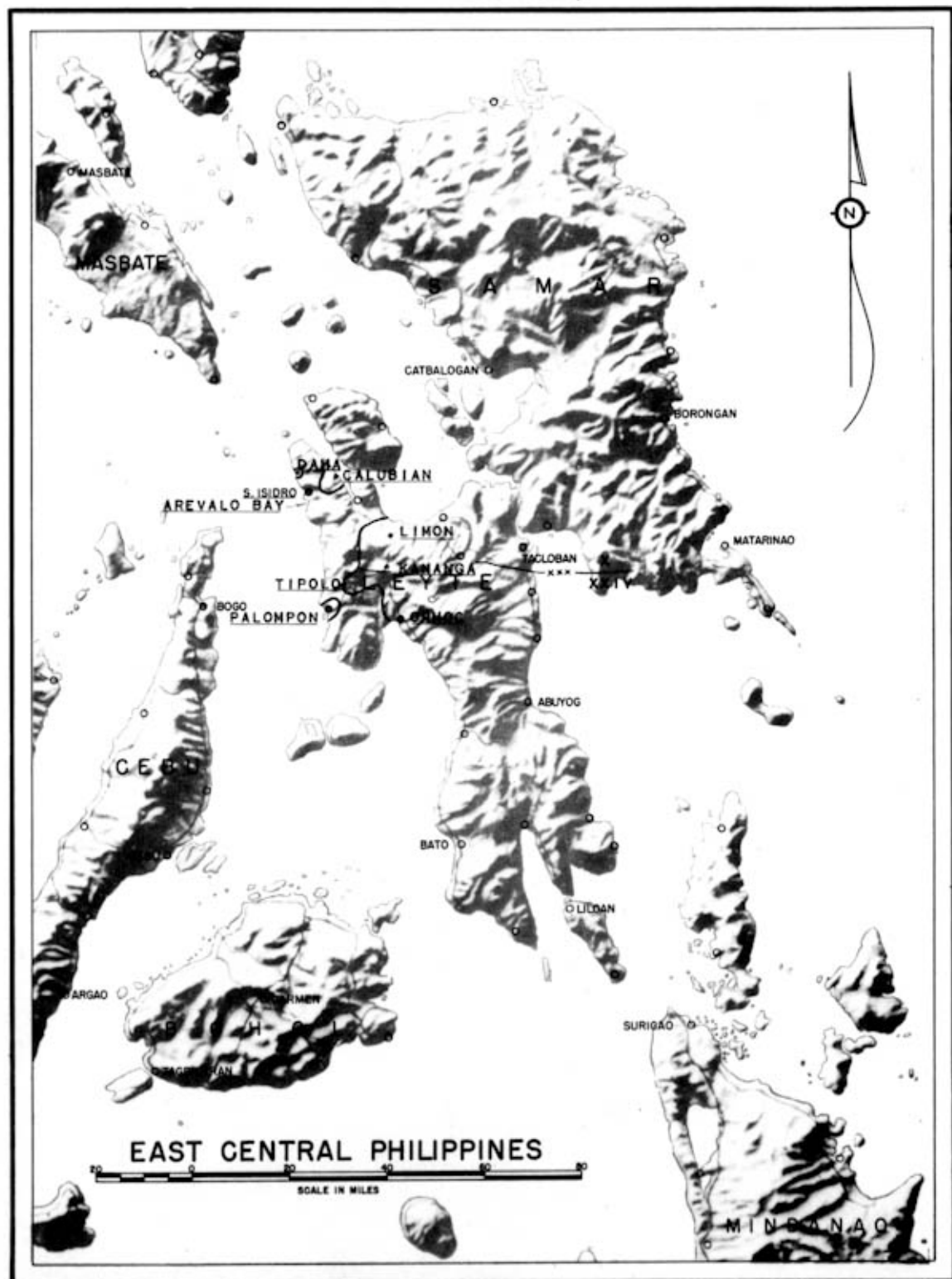
1. In the period 25-27 December, 335 additional sorties were flown over the Southwest Pacific Area. During these operations heavy and medium bombers continued their attacks against airdromes in the Philippines and on Halmahera. Twenty additional enemy aircraft were destroyed; we lost one.

Operations reports covering the attack on an enemy task force off Mindoro on 26 December reveal that our planes sank two destroyers, damaged a battleship and a heavy cruiser, and set fire to three transports.

2. On Leyte, during the 24-hour period ending at 1500 of 27 December

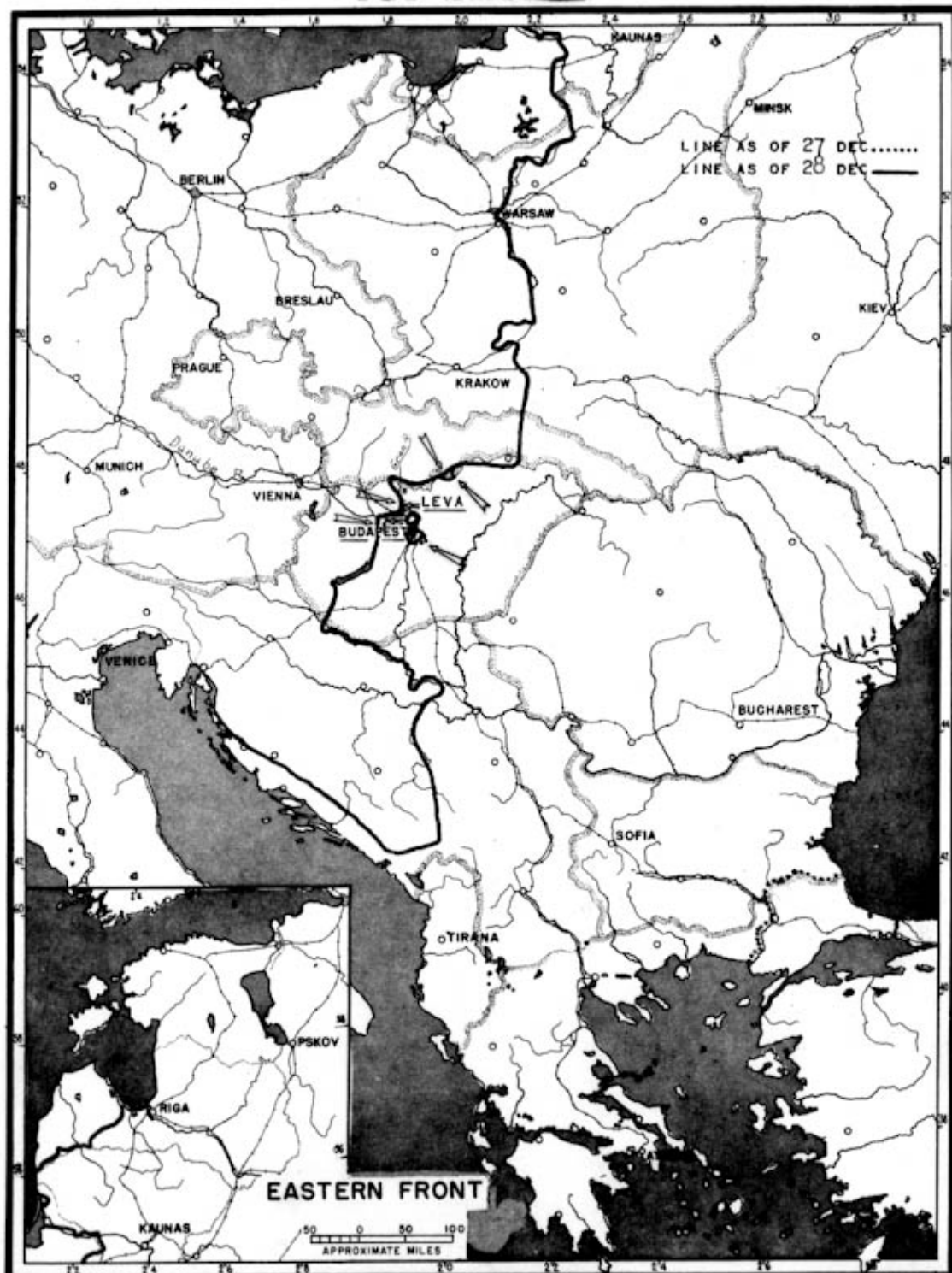
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our troops landed unopposed in the vicinity of Daha, near the north-western tip of the island and advanced south toward San Isidro. Troops from our Calubian beachhead were three miles east of Arevalo Bay. We continued to meet strong resistance near Tipolo.

EASTERN FRONT

On 28 December the Red Army made further gains on the north bank of the Danube reaching the Gran River on a front extending from Leva south. They also pushed ten miles west along the Danube's southern bank.

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

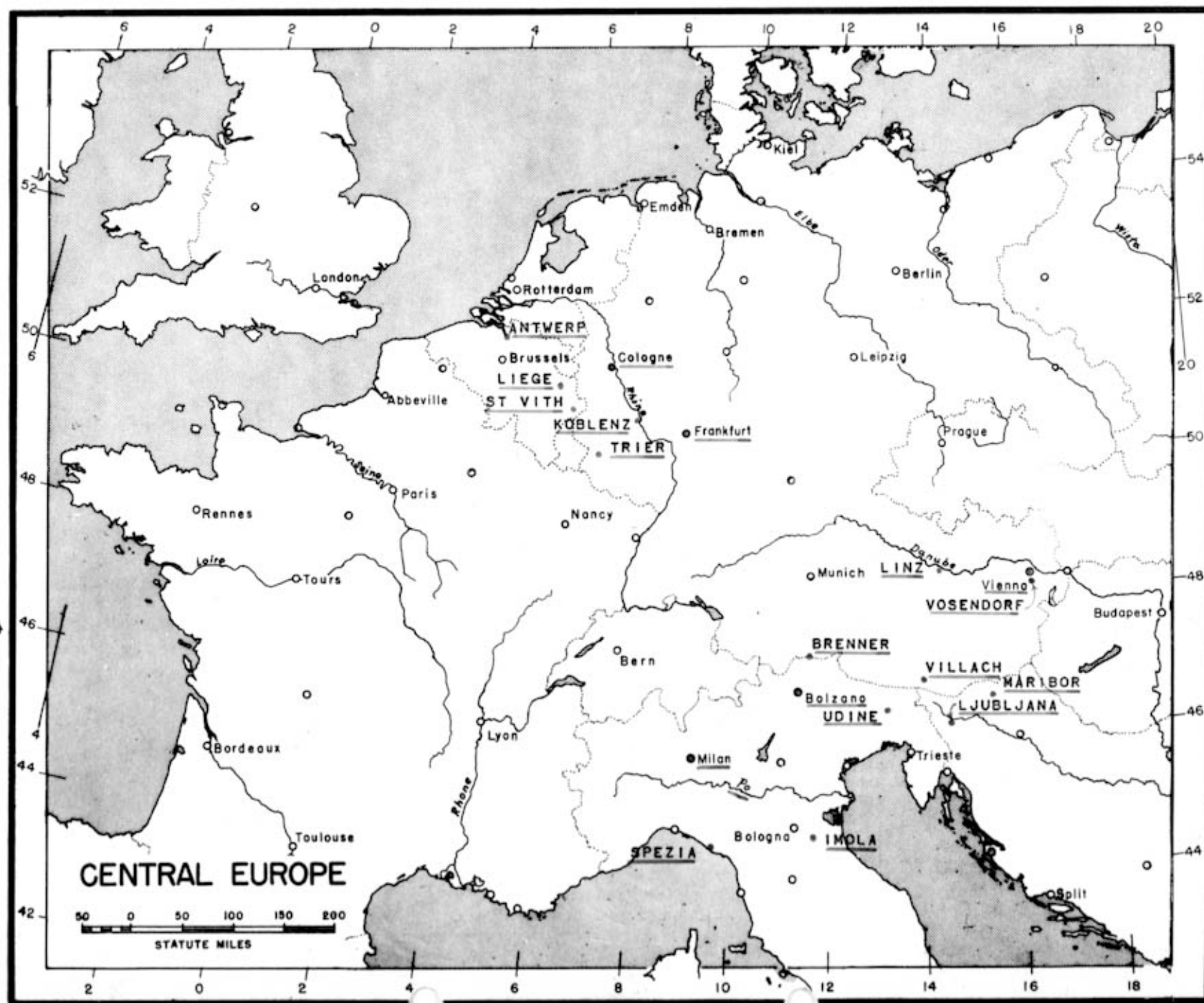
No. 1114

0700 December 27 to 0700 December 28, 1944

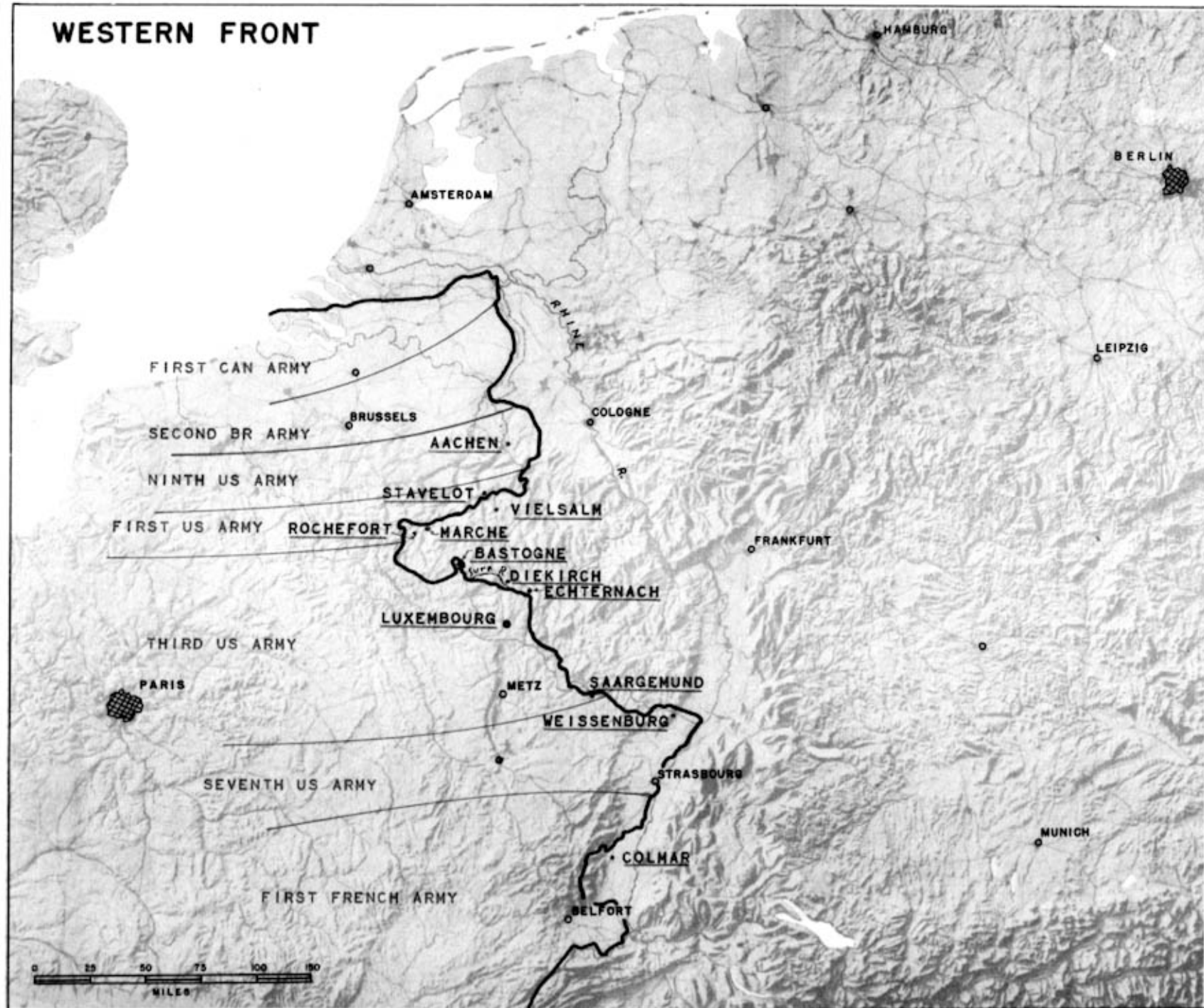
COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

203(4)



WESTERN FRONT



EUROPEAN THEATER

1. During the 24-hour period to sunset, 26 December, the Tactical Air Forces flew 3,138 sorties. Light and medium bombers dropped more than 670 tons along supply lines leading to the German salient. Sixty-five enemy planes were destroyed; we lost 39.

That day the RAF dropped more than 1,130 tons of bombs on enemy concentrations at St. Vith. Two heavy bombers are missing. Weather prevented RAF operations that night.

During the 8th Air Force operation of 26 December in the Koblenz area, 345 tons of bombs were dropped on rail yards and bridges. Eleven enemy aircraft were destroyed; nine of our escorting fighters are missing. On 27 December, 640 escorted 8th Air Force heavy bombers attacked rail targets in the Cologne-Trier-Frankfurt area. Twenty-nine enemy planes were shot down. We lost five bombers and four fighters.

During the 24-hour period ending at 0600, 26 December, one rocket fell in Antwerp. Ten rockets and nine flying bombs fell in areas near Antwerp and Liege.

During the 24-hour period ending at 0600, 27 December, seven rockets fell in England. One landed in London.

2. In the 24 hours ending at noon, 27 December, our First and Third Armies continued to withstand pressure in the enemy's Aachen-Luxembourg salient and drove the Germans back in numerous sectors on both their northern and southern flanks. On the northern flank the XVIII and VII Corps repulsed enemy attacks

between Stavelot and Marche and made small gains west of Vielsalm, and north and northwest of Rochefort; several small villages were recaptured in these areas. On the southern flank, the III Corps made a junction three miles south of Bastogne with our airborne division which has been holding out at that town. Other elements of the Corps advanced north from one to two miles in several sectors west of Diekirch and established a bridgehead across the Sure River. Farther east, the XII Corps drove the enemy back across a ten-mile front extending from northwest to southeast of Echternach, and some elements were approaching the town itself.

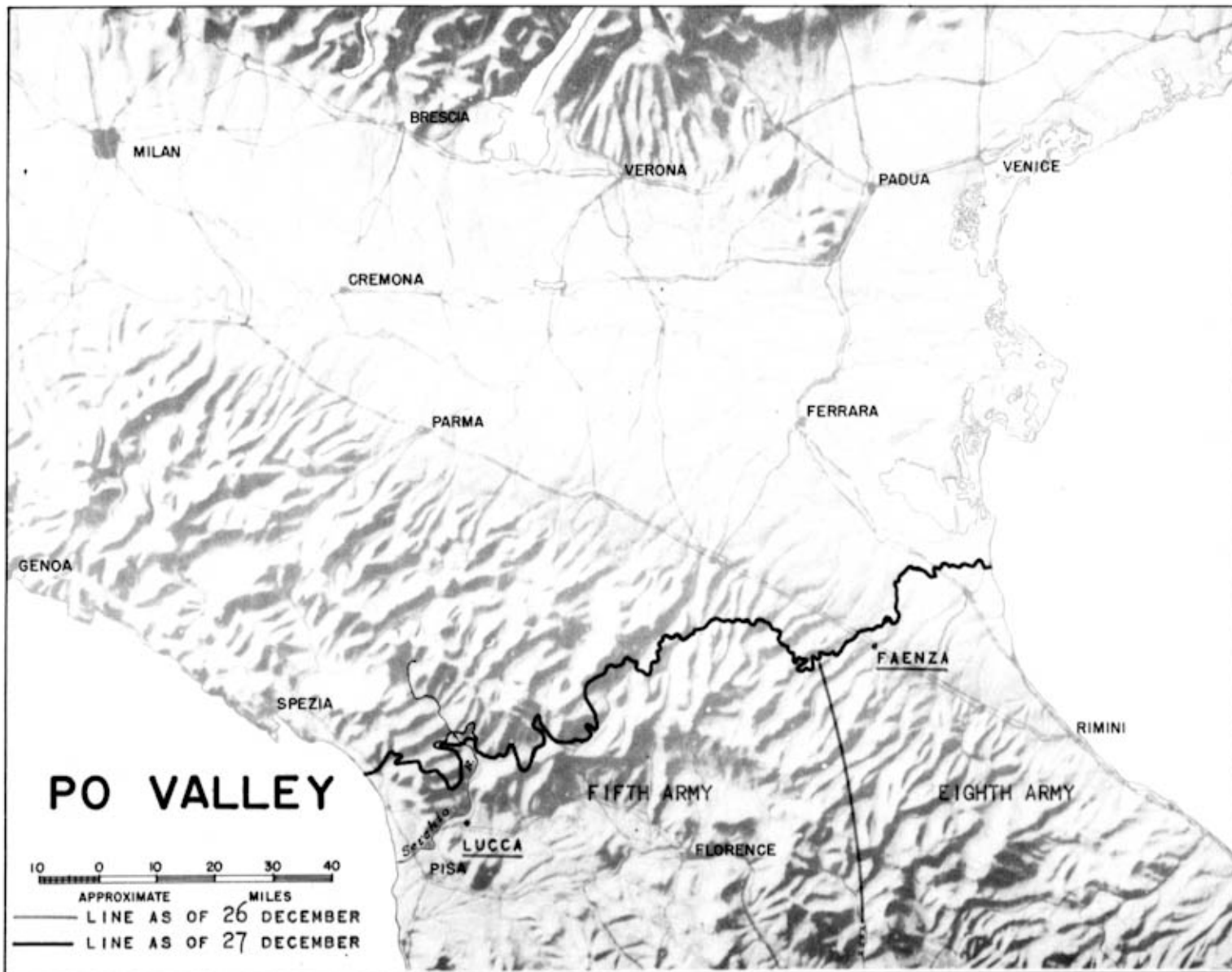
Our Seventh Army made minor gains along the German border east of Saargemund and consolidated an area south of the border to straighten out five miles of its front line west of Weissenburg. US troops in the First French Army sector improved their positions northwest of Colmar.

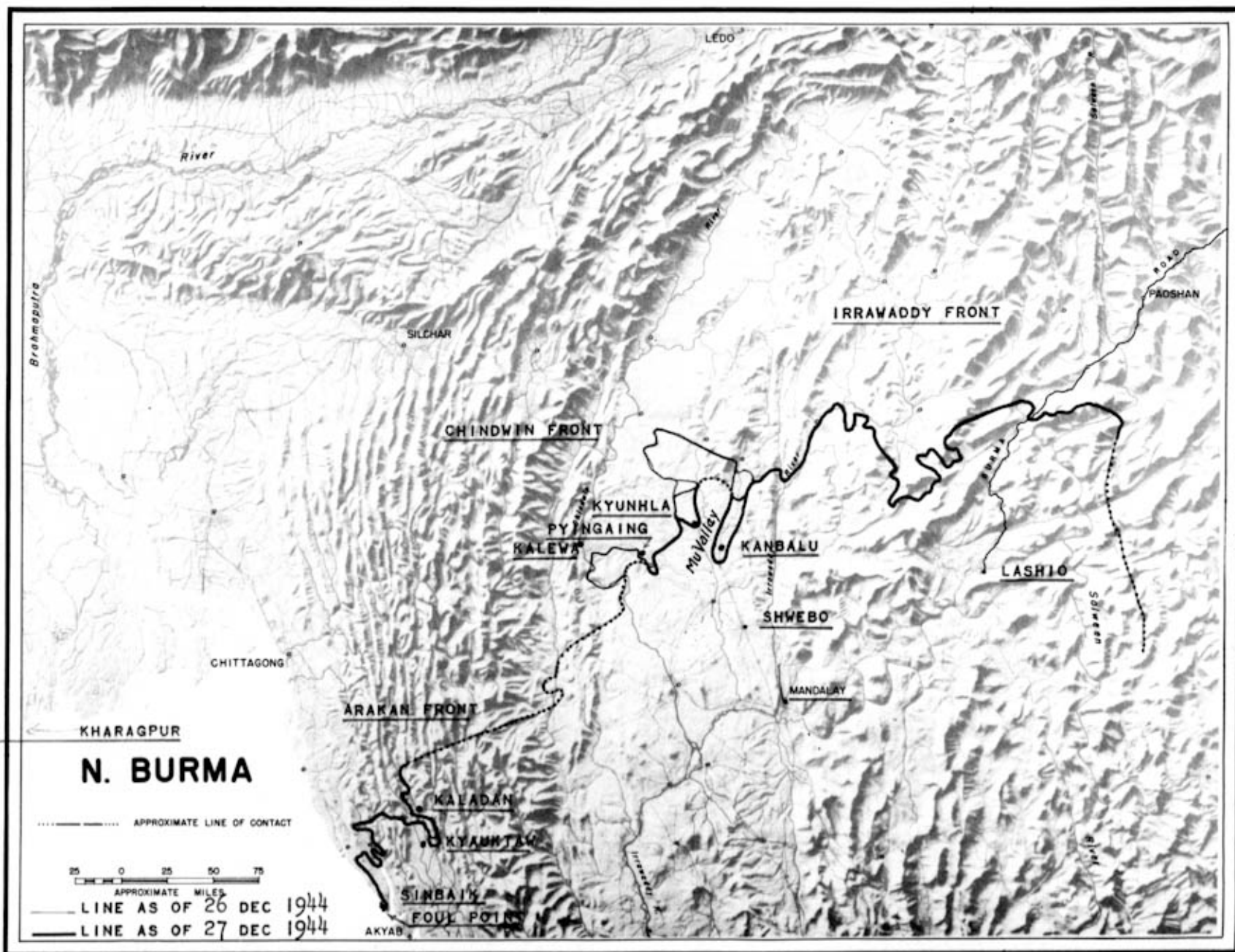
There were no significant changes on the other army fronts.

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

1. During the 24 hours ending at 1800, 26 December, nearly 1,500 Tactical Air Force planes made widespread attacks on enemy supplies and communications along the Brenner and Udine routes, in the Po Valley and at Spezia Harbor; strong support was given to ground forces in the Imola sector, and 16 enemy planes were destroyed on the ground at airdromes near Milan. The Balkan Air Force, in 91 sorties, attacked enemy troop movements in central Yugoslavia and a fuel dump at Ljubljana in northern Yugoslavia. We lost two planes.

On 27 December, escorted heavy bombers of the 15th Air Force dropped more than 1,400 tons of bombs on an oil refinery at Vosendorf and on seven marshalling yards from Villach to Maribor and north to the Linz and Vienna area.





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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

Attacks were also made on other rail targets north of Bolzano. Six bombers and three fighters are missing.

2. In the 24 hours ending at noon, 27 December, our Fifth Army was forced to make further withdrawals from its salient along the Serchio River north of Lucca, in the face of continued enemy attacks. Reinforcements were moved to the sector. On the Eighth Army front, British troops made a local gain northeast of Faenza.

Brigadier General Donald P. Booth assumed command of the Persian Gulf Command on 24 December, succeeding Major General Donald H. Connolly.

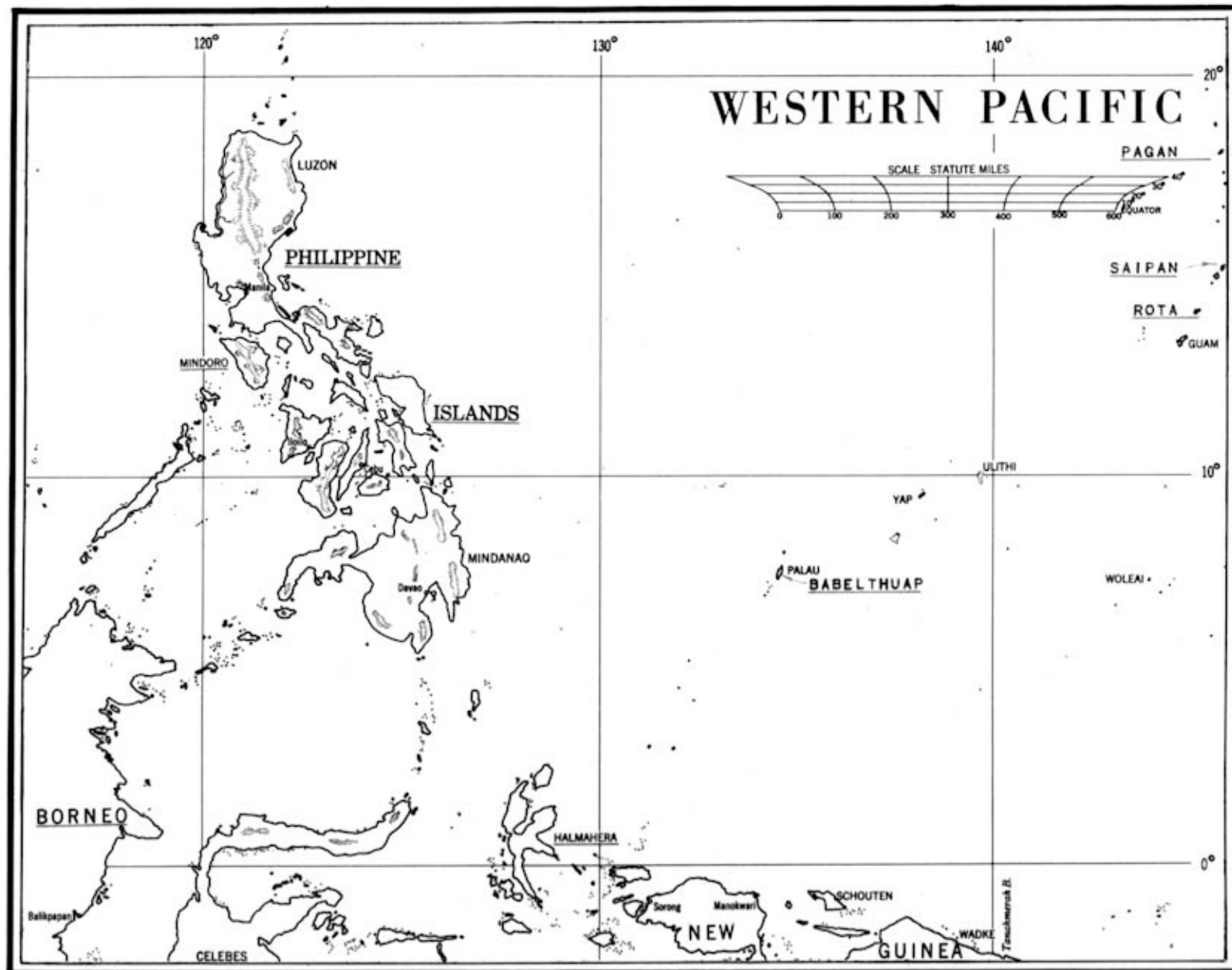
ASIATIC THEATER

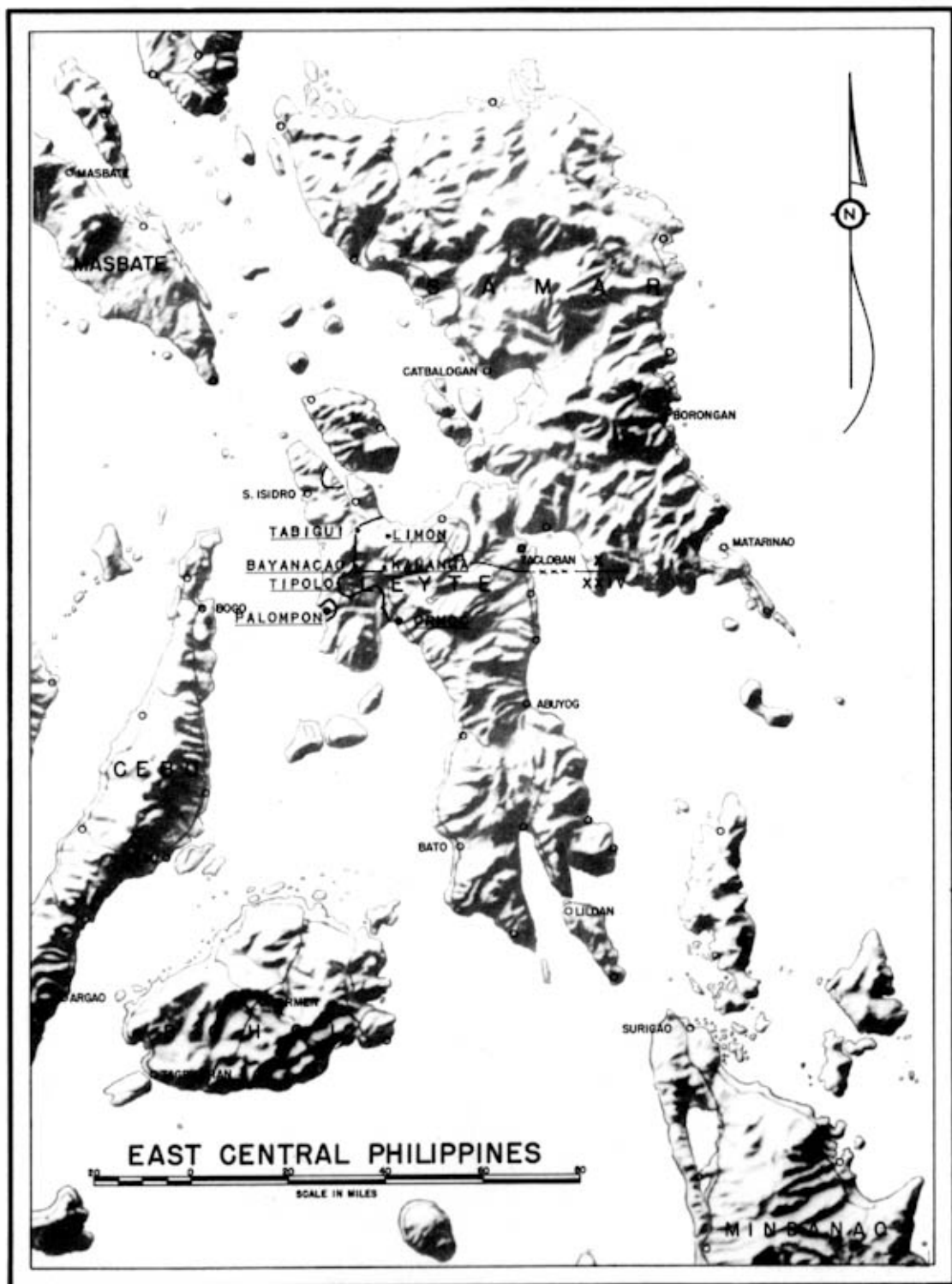
1. On 25 December, the Eastern Air Command flew 1,443 sorties of which 416 were tactical. During these operations medium bombers and fighters attacked communications and ground support targets in the Lashio, Shwebo, and Kaladan areas and south of Mandalay. We lost two planes.

Two Allied barracks at Kharagpur were destroyed by Japanese bombing on the same date; two of three enemy planes making the raid were shot down.

2. By 26 December, British troops moving south along the Arakan Coast had occupied Sinbaik, six miles northwest of Foul Point. Patrols were active in the Kyauktaw area and a British column had advanced to a point approximately 24 miles southeast of Kaladan. East of Kalewa on the Chindwin front, Allied troops were approximately 12 miles southeast of Pyingaing. In the Mu Valley, Allied troops advanced southeast to occupy Kyunhla, while those moving along the Burma

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PSD Letter, 5-3-78

railroad captured Kanbalu and continued south approximately ten miles.

At the same time in southwestern China, fighting was continuing around Hochih.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. During the period 25-26 December, more than 450 previously unreported sorties were flown over the Southwest Pacific area. More than 110 heavy bombers attacked airdromes, shipping and enemy installations in Borneo, the Philippines and New Britain, and some 200 lighter planes bombed and strafed installations on Halmahera. One small freighter, two coastal vessels and four smaller vessels were sunk. Thirteen enemy planes were shot down. We lost three aircraft.

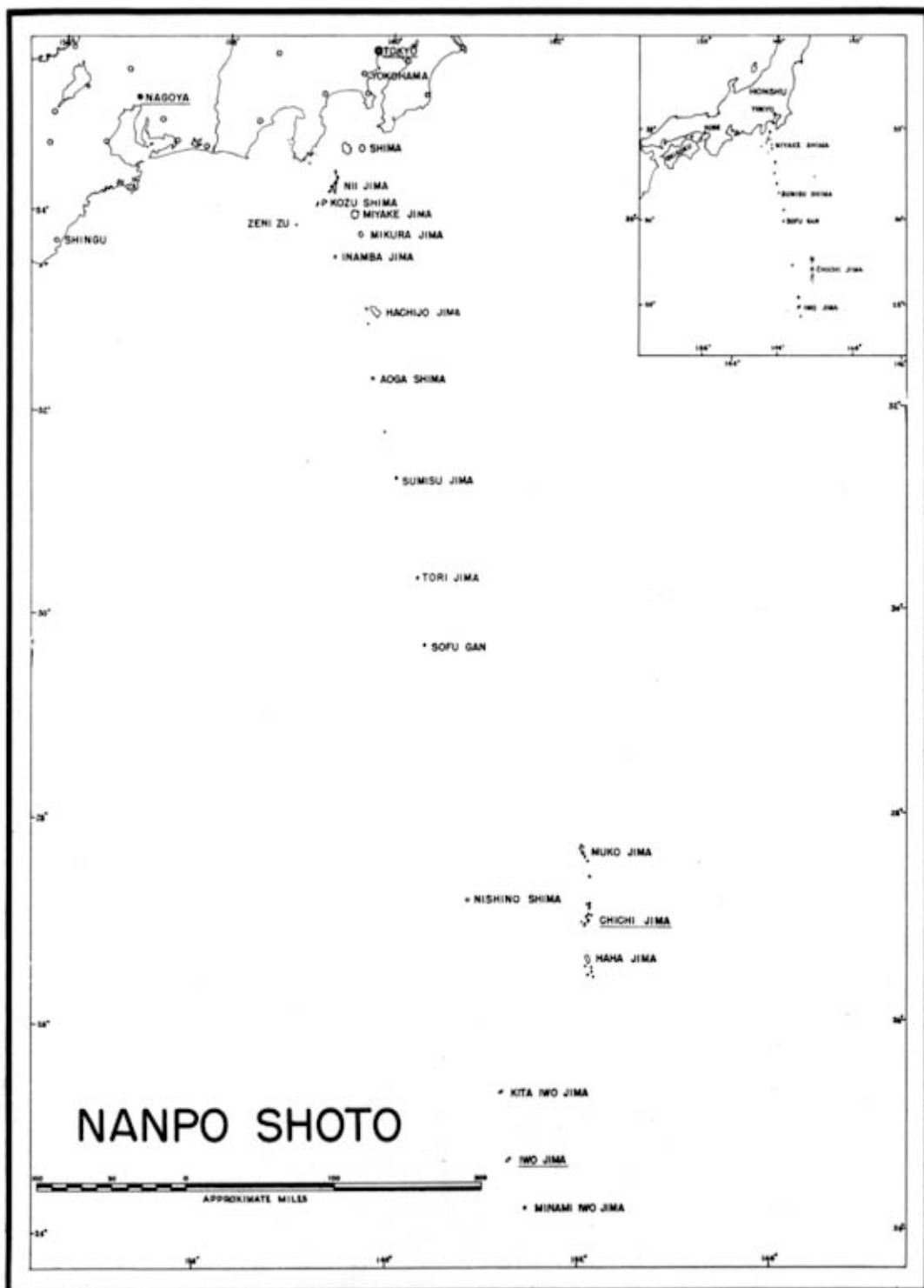
2. By 1500 of 26 December, our troops on Leyte had advanced west more than four miles from Limon and Kananga reaching a line running from Tabigui to Bayanacao; only light resistance was encountered.

To the south, our forces in Palompon beachhead had advanced two miles inland toward an enemy road block at Tipolo, where troops from the northeast continued to encounter heavy resistance.

3. In the same period, an enemy task force consisting of a battleship, a heavy cruiser and six destroyers, shelled our coastline at Mindoro. According to communique, our aircraft and Navy PT boats sank three of the destroyers and damaged the battleship and cruiser before they could withdraw. Three enemy planes were shot down during the engagement.

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TOP SECRET



TOP SECRET



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OSD Letter, 5-3-78

4. On 25 December, B-24's attacked Iwo Jima, and fighters struck Rota and Babelthuaap. That night single B-29's dropped incendiaries on Nagoya and Chichi Jima. Next day, 18 Marine fighters attacked Maloelap in the Marshalls.

Communique reports a joint operation on 26 and 27 December in which our naval surface units teamed with Pacific Ocean Area B-24's and fighters to carry out another heavy raid against Iwo Jima. Two B-29's escorted the fighters for navigational purposes.

On 27 December, 39 Saipan-based B-29's dropped 66 tons of bombs on aircraft factories near Tokyo. Twelve others dropped 18 tons on harbor and industrial targets in the same general area. A single B-29 returning early from the mission attacked Pagan. Sixteen (probably 28) intercepting enemy aircraft were destroyed over the targets. One B-29 was shot down by enemy fighters, and two others were lost from operational causes.

EASTERN FRONT

On 27 December, the Red Army split the enemy forces surrounded in the Budapest area into two pockets, one in the city itself, and the other to the north, and advanced into the western outskirts of the city. Farther north, they pushed forward on their Gran River salient, while southwest of Budapest they made gains along the front extending to Lake Balaton.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

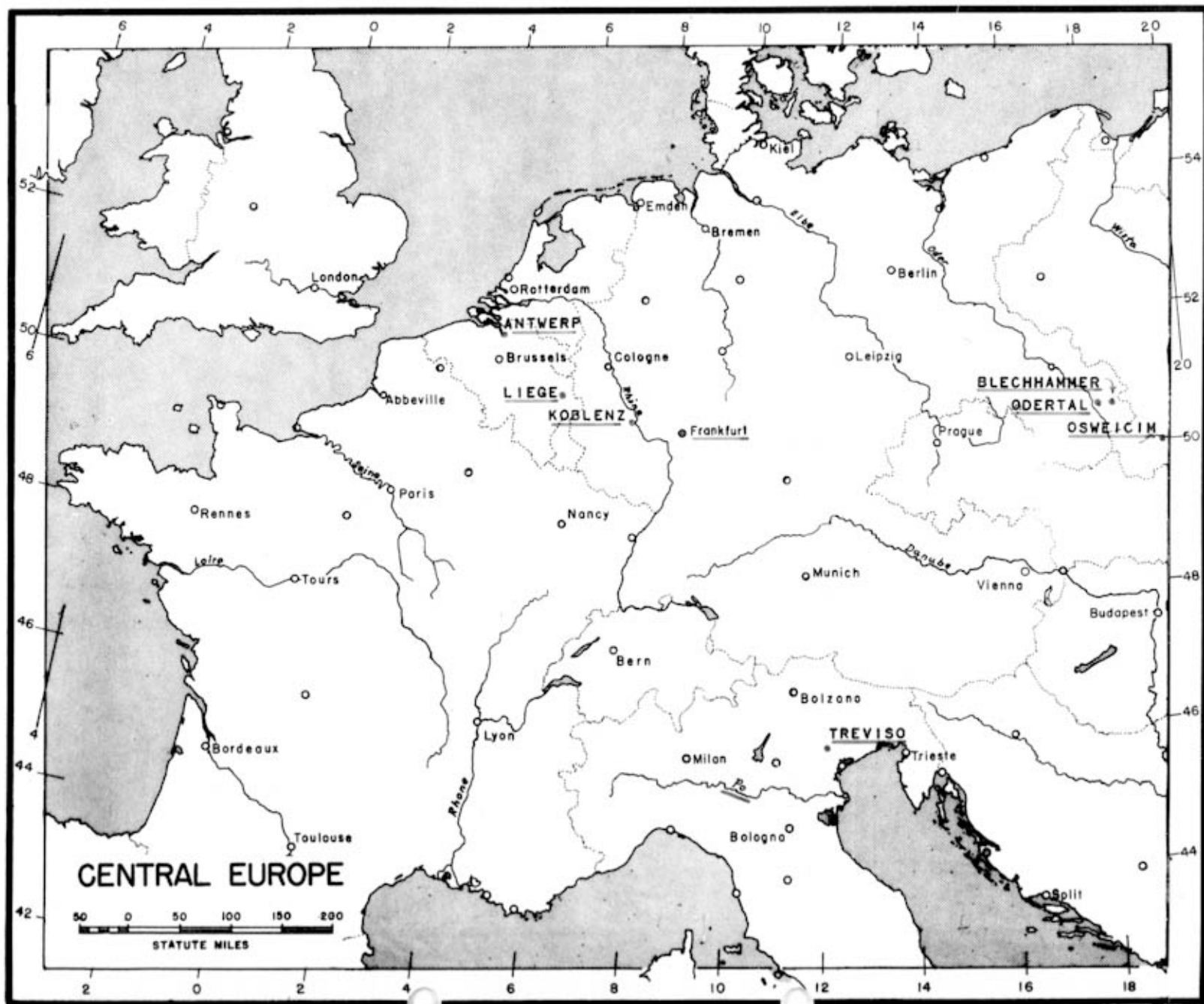
DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 1113

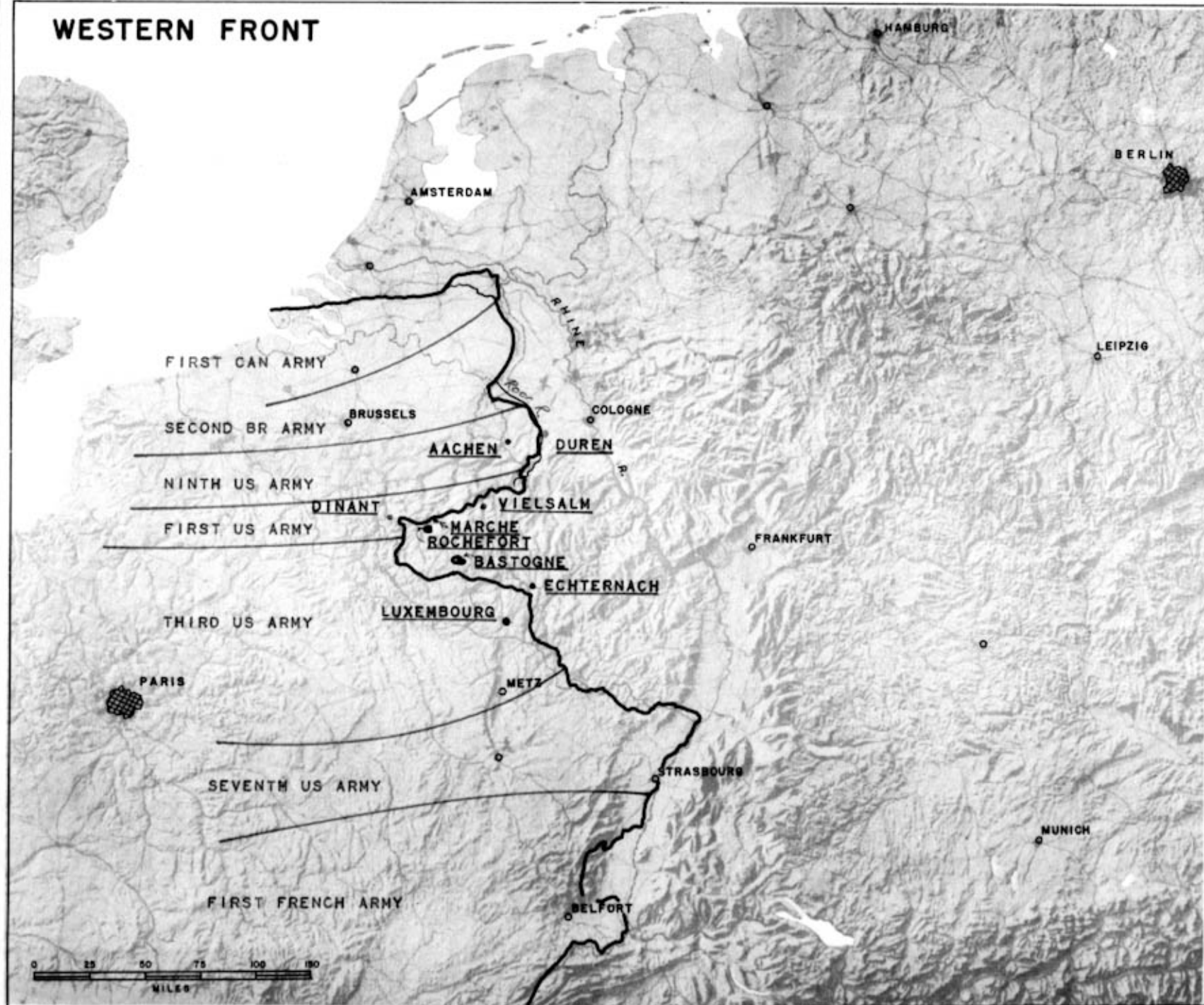
0700 December 26 to 0700 December 27, 1944

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE



WESTERN FRONT



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EUROPEAN THEATER

1. During the 24-hour period to sunset, 25 December, the Tactical Air Forces flew 3,919 sorties. Enemy areas, rail and road junctions and communication centers behind the German salient were attacked with more than 1,300 tons of bombs. Forty-three enemy aircraft were destroyed; we lost 38.

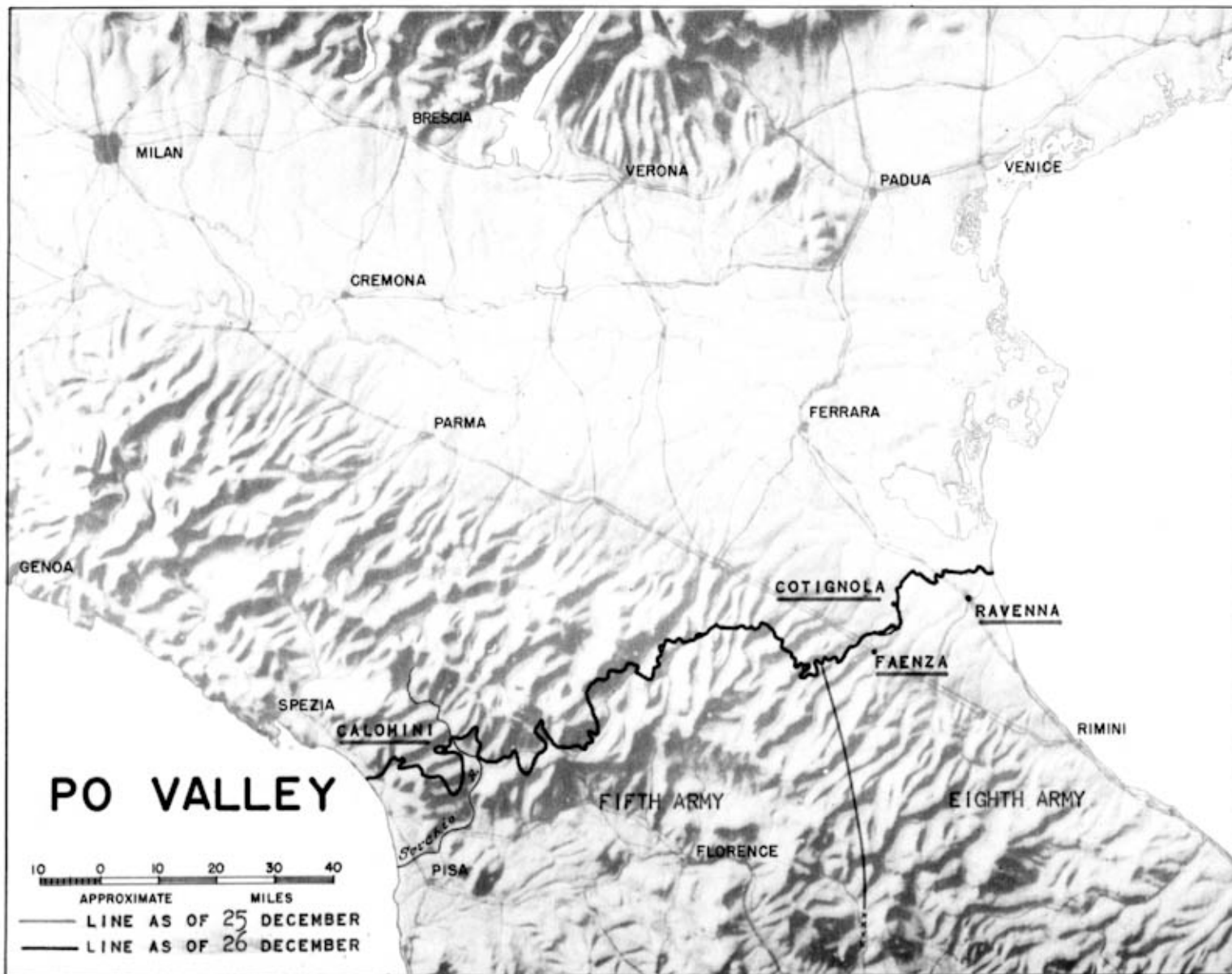
During the previously reported 8th Air Force operations on 24 and 25 December, more than 6,100 tons of bombs were dropped, and a total of 138 German planes destroyed (22 more than previously reported). On 26 December, despite poor weather, some 150 escorted heavy bombers attacked rail yards and bridges in the Koblenz area.

There were no RAF bomber operations on 25 December.

During the 24-hour period ending at 0600, 25 December, one rocket and 23 flying bombs fell in Antwerp. Eight flying bombs landed in Liege. Seven rockets and 33 flying bombs fell in scattered areas behind the front.

During the 24 hours ending at 0600, 26 December, there were no rockets or flying bombs over England.

2. As of noon, 26 December, our First Army had forced the Germans to withdraw in several sectors along the northern flank of their Aachen-Luxembourg salient. The XVIII Corps drove the enemy from two pockets to straighten its line northwest of Vielsalm and repulsed several attacks. Between Marche and Dinant the VII Corps drove the enemy back one to two miles toward Rochefort along a ten-mile front in face of heavy resistance. On the southern flank of



the salient our Third Army continued to push the enemy back slowly in its III and XII Corps sectors from southwest of Bastogne to Echternach.

In the sector south of Duren our Ninth Army continued to clear the enemy from the western bank of the Roer. There was no change on the Canadian Army front. The situation on the US Seventh and First French Army fronts also remained unchanged.

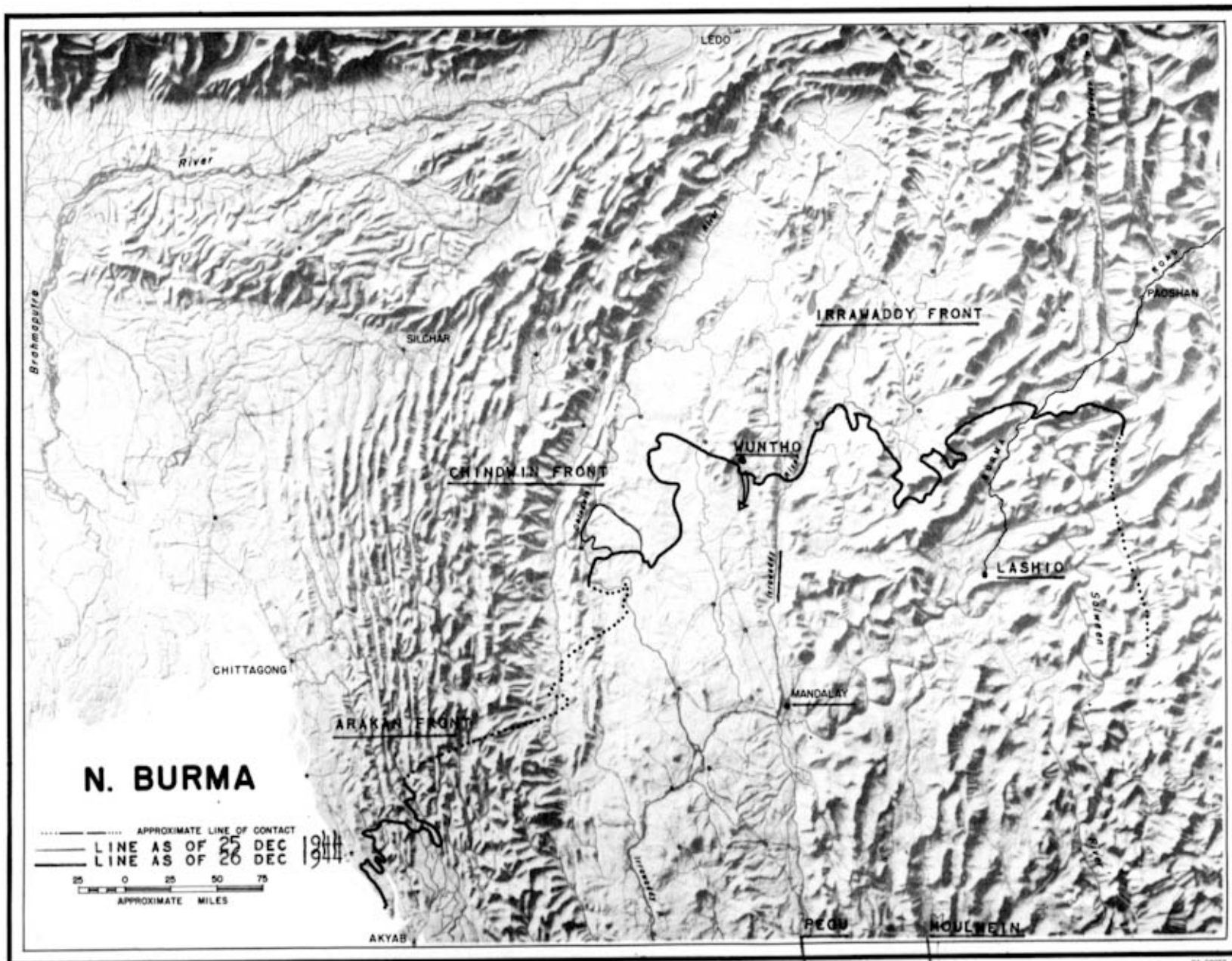
MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

1. During the 24-hour period ending at 1800 on 25 December, the Tactical Air Force reported 648 sorties. Fighters swept the battle area and northeastern Po Valley; medium bombers struck the Treviso rail yards. Weather limited these operations, as well as those of the Coastal and Balkan Air Forces, which together flew only 33 sorties. Some 50 bombers of the Strategic Air Force flew supplies to Yugoslavia. In all these operations, we lost three aircraft. Four enemy planes were destroyed on the ground.

On 26 December, escorted heavy bombers of the 15th Air Force dropped 945 tons on synthetic oil plants near Elechhammer and Oswiecim and elsewhere in German and Polish Silesia and on rail bridges and a viaduct in northern Italy. Two enemy planes were shot down; 19 bombers are missing.

2. In the 24 hours ending at noon, 26 December, on the Eighth Army front, there was no change in the I Canadian Corps sector west of Ravenna; elements on the southern flank of the Corps sector attempting to advance toward Cotignola met strong opposition. British troops made small gains in their sector north-





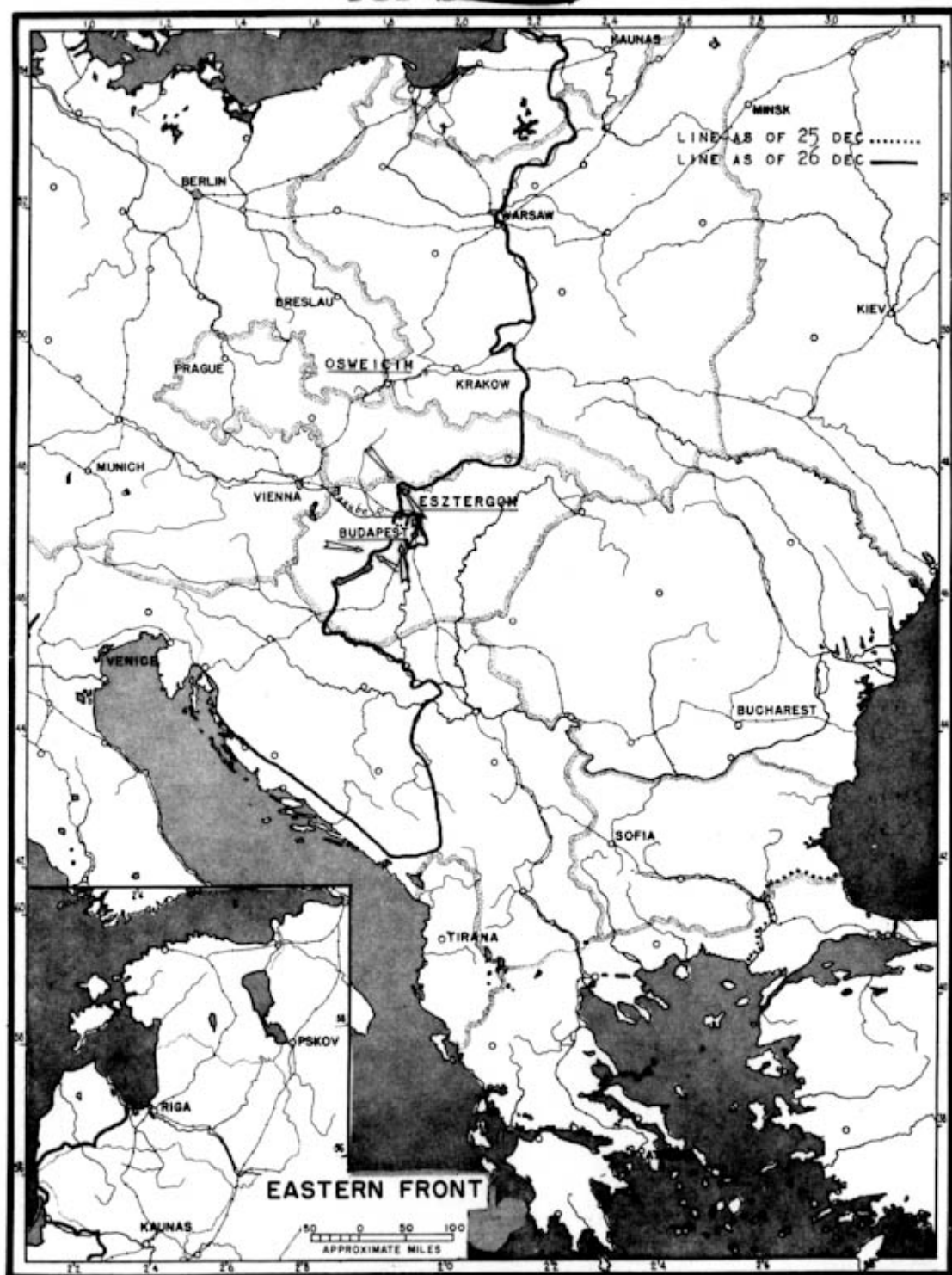
east of Faenza. On the Fifth Army front US troops were reported withdrawing from Calomini after an enemy attack, estimated at two battalion strength, astride the Serchio River.

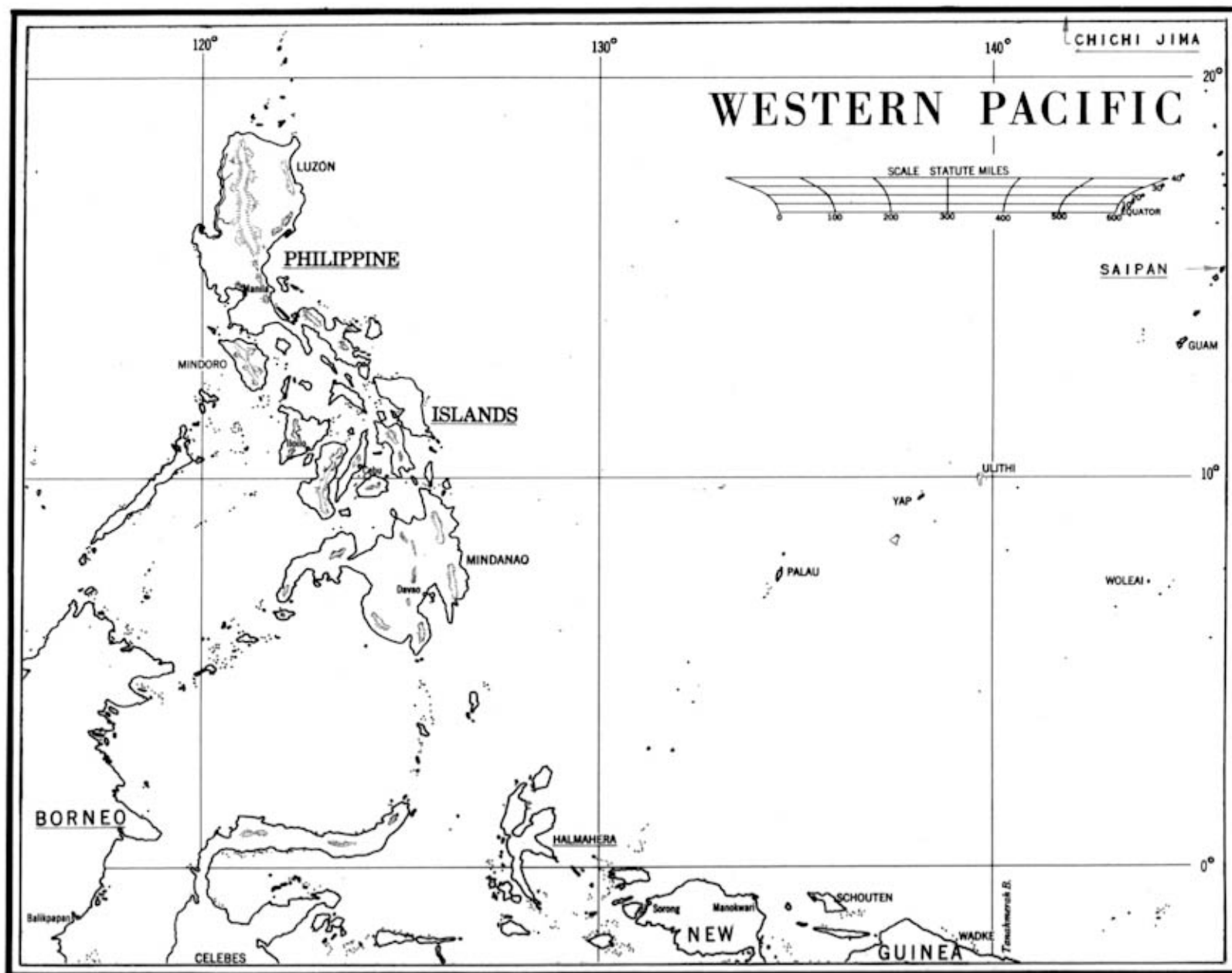
ASIATIC THEATER

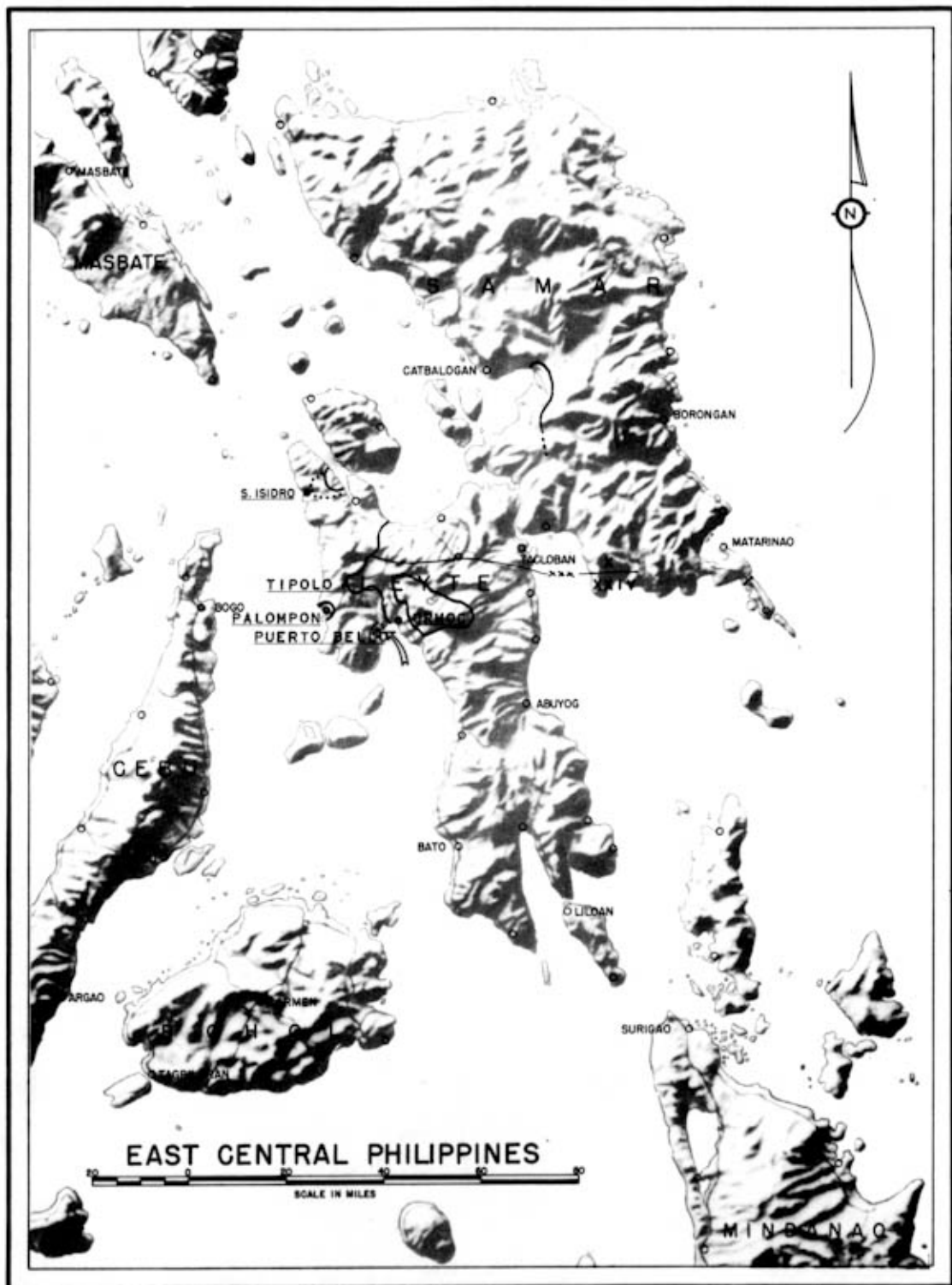
1. On 24 December the Eastern Air Command flew 1,229 sorties of which 494 were tactical. During these operations five medium bombers made an exceptionally long flight to attack a bridge on the Pegu-Moulmein railway line in southwestern Burma; the other planes made numerous attacks, concentrating on communications, ground support targets, supply dumps and airfields in the Lashio-Mandalay area and in southern Burma.

During the period 21-25 December the 14th Air Force flew 242 additional bomber and fighter sorties, the majority of which were against rail and road targets in Japanese-held territory south of Tungting Lake. In Hongkong Harbor, during these operations, fighters sank a 450-foot tanker, probably sank four other ships averaging 250 feet, and heavily damaged a 400-foot freighter. Other fighters sank a 550-foot tanker in Formosa Strait and two B-24's hit and probably sank a 425-foot tanker near Shanghai. Thirty-eight enemy aircraft were destroyed in the air and on the ground at the Tsinan airdrome on 24 December. Seven additional enemy aircraft were destroyed elsewhere during the period; we lost two planes.

2. By 25 December, British patrols west of the Irrawaddy River had reached a point on the Burma railway 26 miles south of Wuntho without enemy contact.







PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. During the period 23-25 December, 470 previously unreported sorties were flown over the Southwest Pacific area. More than 200 planes attacked targets on Halmahera, and some 120 heavy bombers struck at airdromes and shipping in the Philippines, Borneo and New Britain. Several small vessels were sunk. Sixty-four enemy planes were destroyed. We lost eight.

2. Operations reports confirm the capture of Palompon on northwestern Leyte during the period ending at 1500, 25 December. In the same period, our troops moving toward the Palompon beachhead from the northeast were meeting opposition near Tipolo. Mopping up continued elsewhere on Leyte.

On 26 December, the US Eighth Army assumed combat responsibility for the Leyte-Samar area.

3. On 23 and 24 December, more than 150 Marine fighters bombed enemy gun positions and installations in the Marshalls. Our heavy bombers attacked Chichi Jima on the latter day.

During the night 25 December, about 25 Japanese planes attacked Saipan, destroying one B-29 and damaging another probably beyond repair. Four of the enemy planes were shot down.

EASTERN FRONT

Northwest of Budapest on 26 December, the Red Army completed the city's encirclement by driving north to take Esztergom on the Danube thus effecting a junction with forces which had driven west from the Danube bend. Immediately to the north, other Red Army units made slight gains.

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OSD Letter, 5-8-72

WAR DEPARTMENT
DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 1112

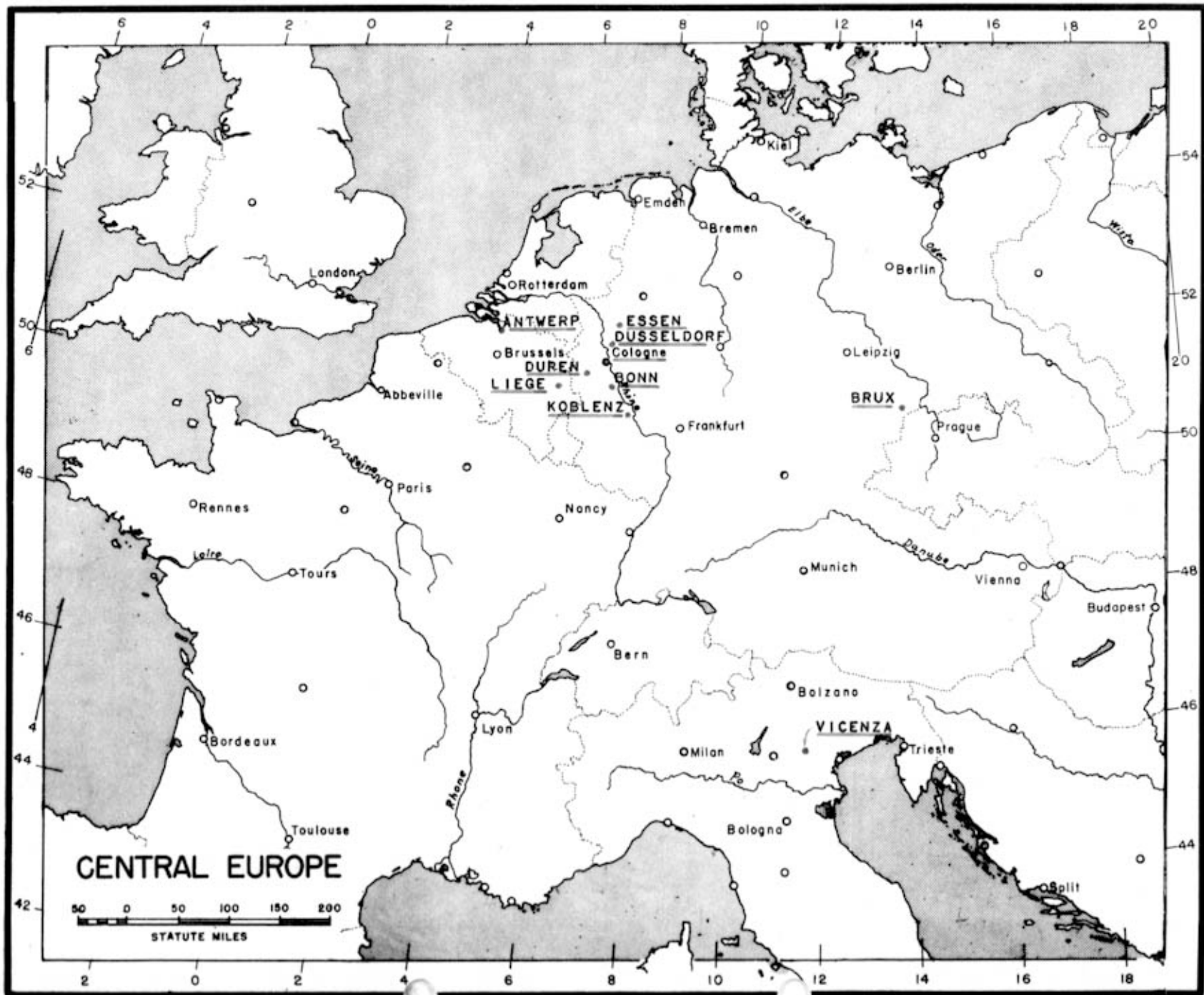
0700 December 25 to 0700 December 26, 1944

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

203(2)

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WESTERN HEMISPHERE

The 65th Infantry Division was ordered from Camp Shelby, Miss., to the New York Port of Embarkation for further movement overseas after 23 December 1944.

EUROPEAN THEATER

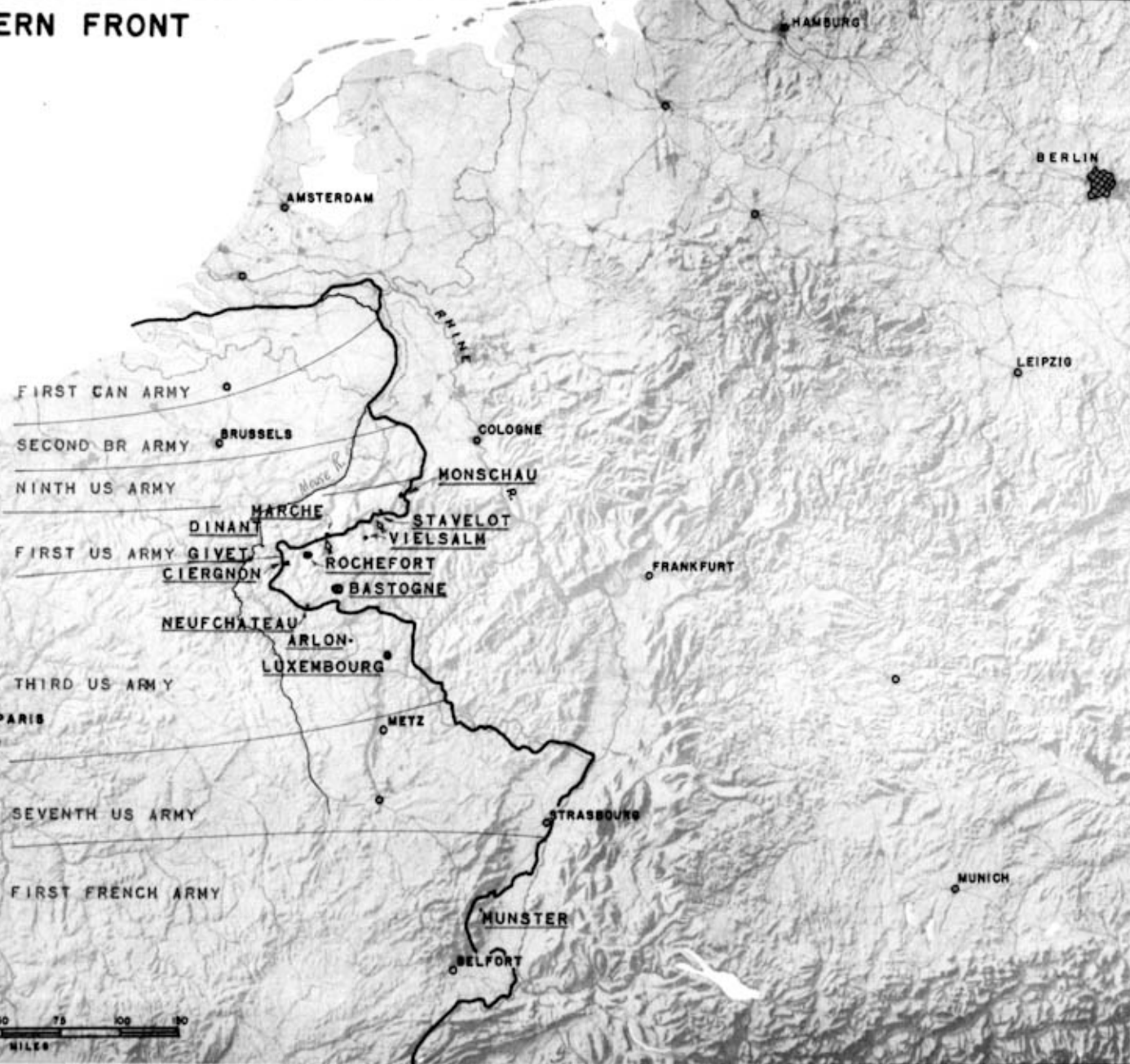
1. During the 24-hour period to sunset, 24 December, the Tactical Air Forces flew 4,192 sorties. More than 1,200 tons of bombs were dropped on rail bridges and communication centers supplying the German offensive. Enemy movements near Koblenz, Cologne and Duren were attacked, and close support was given our ground troops in the battle areas. Fifty-five enemy aircraft were shot down; we lost 61 planes.

On 24 December, 285 RAF heavy bombers attacked airfields at Essen and Dusseldorf with over 1,200 tons of bombs. That night 201 more struck rail yards at Cologne and an airfield at Bonn. Thirteen heavy bombers are definitely reported as having been lost during these operations.

Although hampered by weather on 25 December, 419 escorted 8th Air Force heavy bombers attacked bridges and communications in the rear of the German offensive. Forty-five enemy planes were shot down. Twelve of our bombers and at least 13 fighters are missing.

During the 24 hours ending at 0600, 24 December, one rocket fell in Antwerp and one flying bomb landed in Liege. Eighteen rockets and 57 flying bombs fell in areas near Antwerp and Liege. Four other flying bombs were destroyed.

WESTERN FRONT



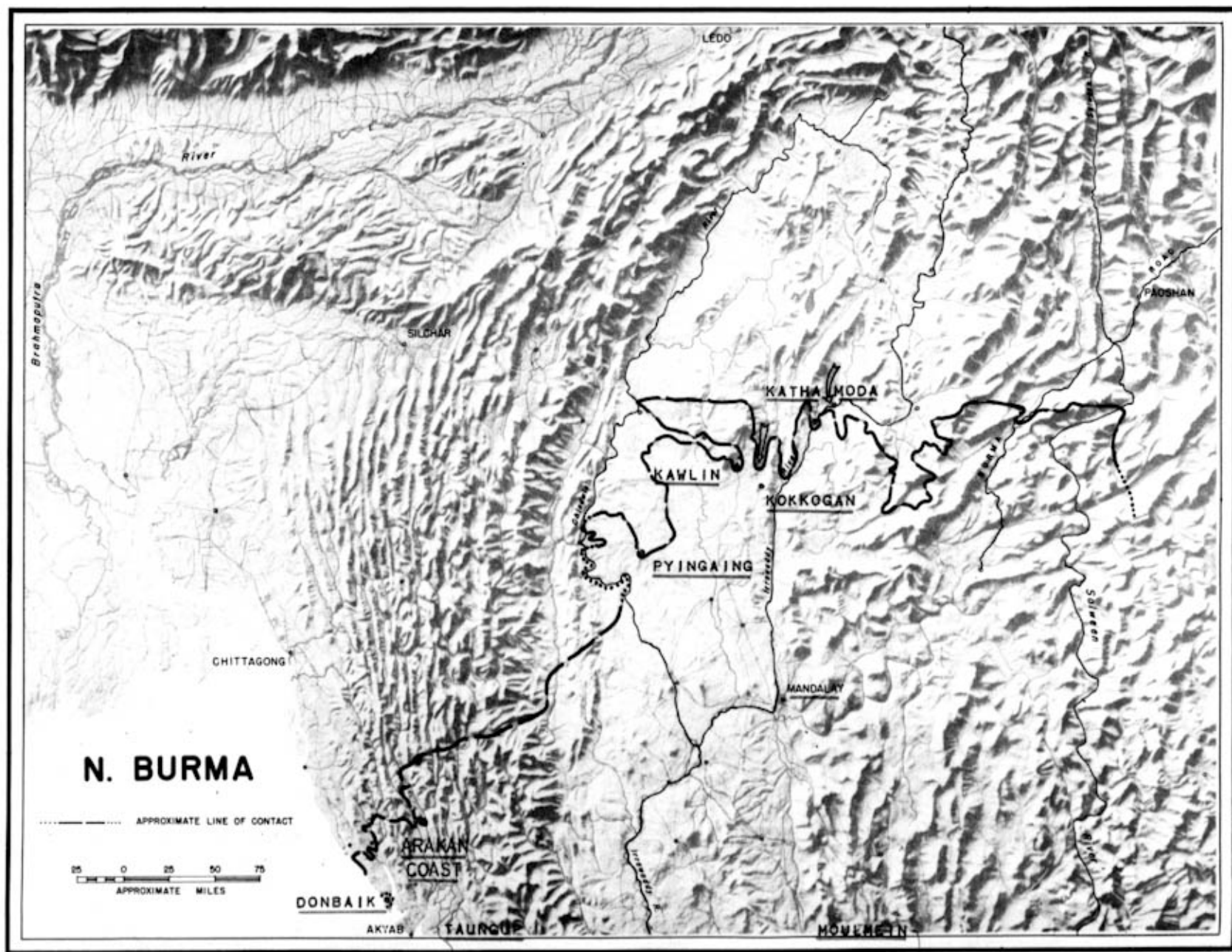
Three rockets fell in the London and Essex areas during the 24-hour period ending at 0600, 25 December. There were no flying bombs over England.

2. By 1200 of 25 December, the situation on the Allied front north of Monschau remained relatively unchanged.

Our First Army was continuing to hold firmly in the Monschau area, and repulsed a small counterattack south of the town. To the west we were resisting heavy pressure by the enemy in his attempts to expand his northern flank. The XVIII Corps withdrew from the area northwest of Vielsalm to occupy high ground along a line running southwest from Stavelot. West of Marche the VII Corps was holding a general line to a point three miles east of Dinant. On this line heavy enemy pressure forced a withdrawal in the sector north of Rochefort where elements of the Corps are isolated. To the east of Dinant we made small advances along a six-mile front.

Southeast of Dinant the British XXX Corps, elements of which are established along the Meuse from Dinant to Givet, gained ground and occupied positions from a point three miles east of Dinant to Ciergnon, ten miles to the southeast.

On the Third Army front the situation in the Bastogne-Neufchateau area still remained obscure, but a fragmentary report shows that elements of the VIII Corps are patrolling in the area to the northwest of Neufchateau. Farther to the east the III Corps advanced in the sector north of Arlon and the XII Corps advanced locally at several points north of Luxembourg.



There was no substantial change on the Seventh Army front.

In Alsace a violent enemy counterattack forced French troops to make a local withdrawal north of Munster.

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

1. Up to 1800 on 24 December, fighters and fighter bombers of the Tactical Air Force destroyed 15 grounded enemy planes at an airdrome north of Vicenza, despite continuing bad weather which limited sorties to 70. Weather also prevented offensive operations of the Coastal Air Force and limited Balkan aircraft to small-scale attacks in Yugoslavia.

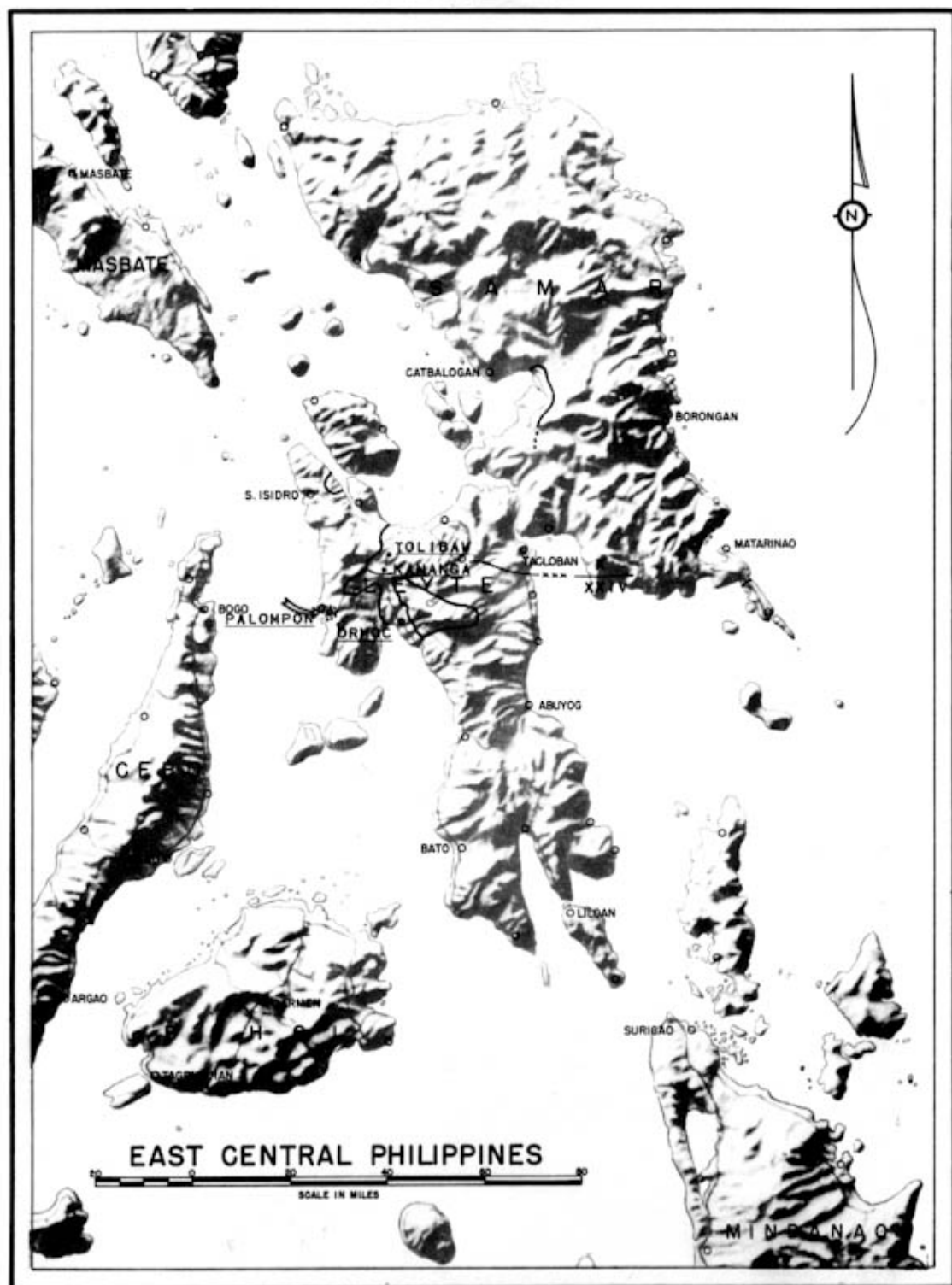
On 25 December, 498 escorted 15th Air Force heavy bombers attacked rail yards in Austria and synthetic oil plants at Brux, Germany. Fourteen bombers and two fighters are missing.

2. During the 18-hour period ending at 0600 on 25 December, winter conditions with heavy snowfall confined activity on the front of the Allied armies to patrolling.

ASIATIC THEATER

1. During the 22nd and 23rd of December the Eastern Air Command flew more than 3,000 sorties of which about 1,100 were tactical. Heavy bombers struck Taungup with over 150 tons and also bombed the rail yards at Moulmein. B-25's hit supply dumps in Arakan, and continued their attacks on key railroad bridges. Fighters and fighter bombers hit various targets in the Mandalay area and on the Chindwin, Irrawaddy and Salween River fronts.

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2. The 14th Air Force flew 122 additional sorties during 21-23 December to attack widespread targets in China, Burma and French Indo-China. A 175-foot naval vessel and a river steamer were sunk at Anking and a destroyer was hit at Hongkong. Twelve enemy aircraft were shot down and 12 additional destroyed on the ground. We lost two planes.

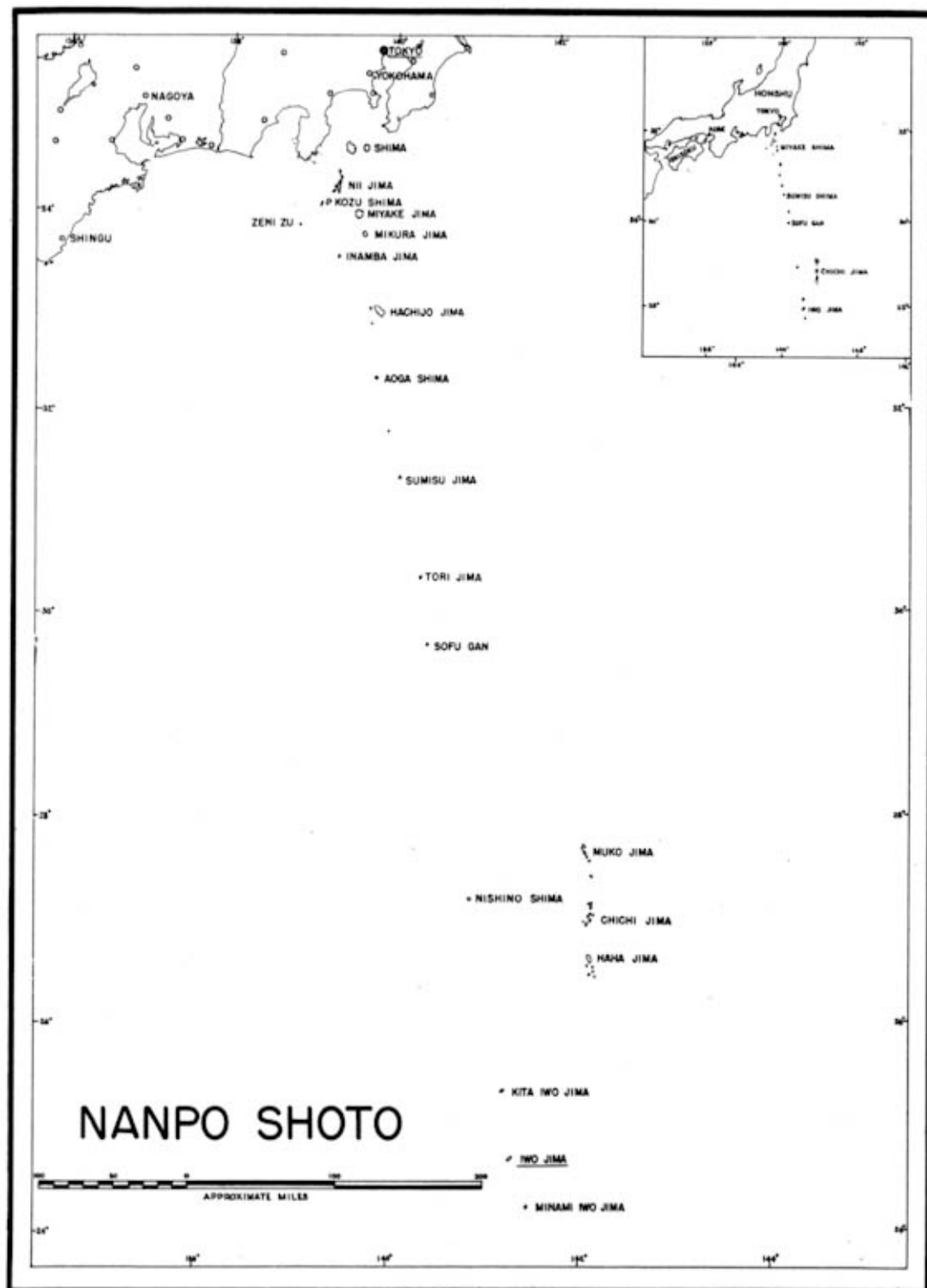
3. By 24 December, additional Chinese troops were crossing the Irrawaddy River at Moda. Southwest of Katha, British troops encountered a Japanese column 14 miles east of Kawlin, but lost contact as the enemy withdrew to the south. Other British were at Kokkagon, 12 miles southeast of Kawlin. On the Chindwin front, the British made contact with the enemy ten miles southeast of Pyingaing. British units on the Arakan coast occupied Donbaik without opposition.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. More than 400 additional sorties were flown over the Philippines Halmaheras and other Southwest Pacific areas during the period 22-24 December. Included was a heavy bomber attack on 24 December on Clark Field, Manila. In all operations 22 Japanese planes and one large enemy vessel were destroyed. We lost one fighter.

2. On 25 December, a battalion of the 77th Division made an amphibious landing on Leyte one mile north of Palompon, meeting slight resistance. Our forces advancing from the northeast reached a point five miles from Palompon. US troops in the Kananga-Tolibaw area advanced nearly three

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miles west on a broad front. Mopping up continued in other sectors of Leyte. Communique of 26 December reports that Palompon has been captured and that the Leyte campaign is virtually over.

3. Delayed report for night of 21-22 December states that three reconnaissance-bombing B-29's dropped 11 tons on Tokyo.

Fighters attacked Babelthuap on 23 December, and a small number of B-24's struck Iwo Jima and Woleai. On 24 December, a coordinated attack was made upon Iwo Jima by our naval surface units and aircraft including B-29's, B-24's and fighters. A preliminary report states that our ships sank a Japanese destroyer escort, a patrol craft and a landing ship; one grounded enemy plane was destroyed. On the same day, fighters again attacked Babelthuap.

EASTERN FRONT

Heavy fighting continued in Latvia without major change in the front during 25 December. Northwest of Budapest Soviets reached the Gran River on a broad front. Extending their salient between Lake Balaton and Budapest, Soviets have advanced north within eight miles of the Danube, and have made smaller gains to the west. ✓

WAR DEPARTMENT

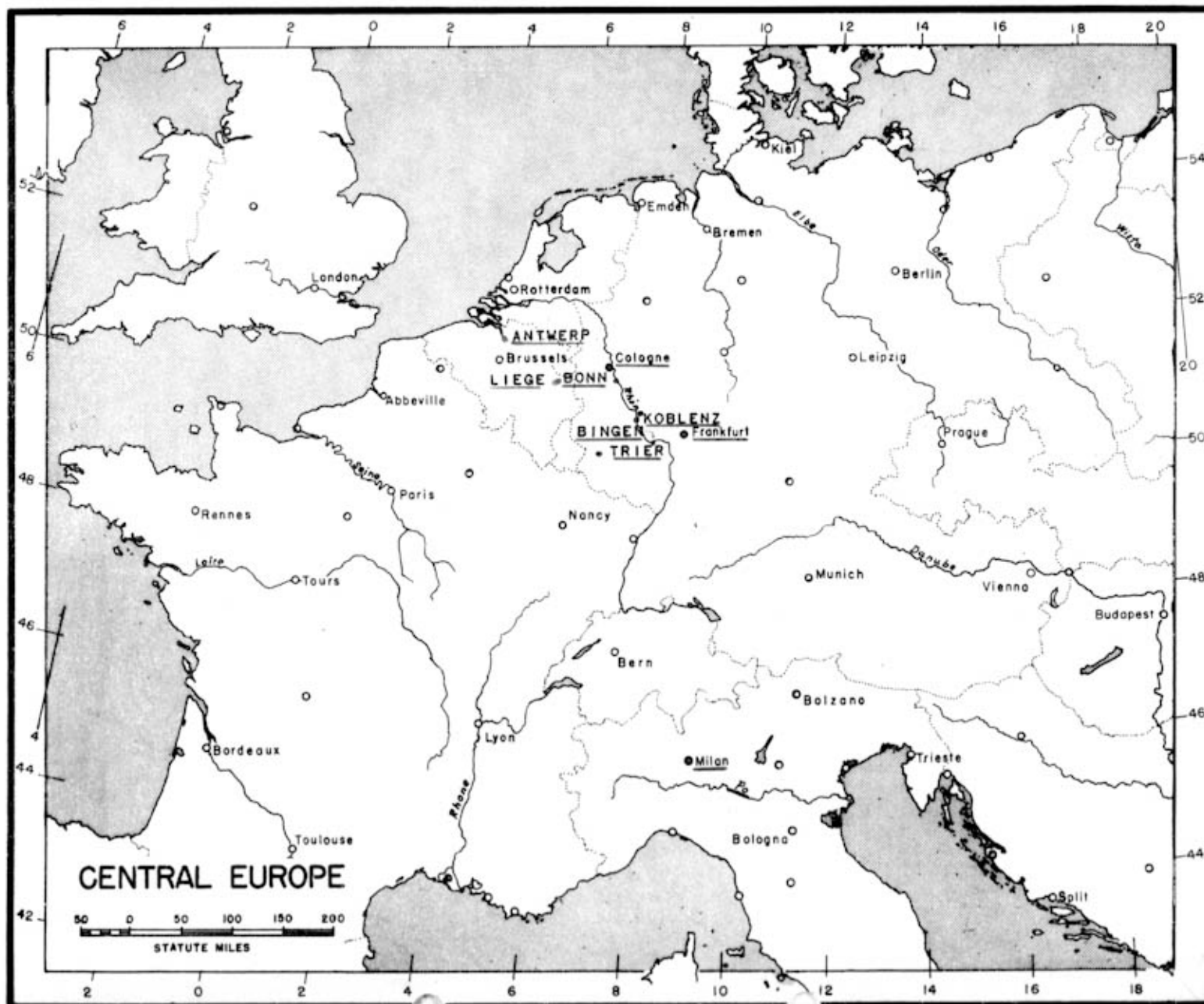
DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 1111

0700 December 24 to 0700 December 25, 1944

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE



EUROPEAN THEATER

1. During the 24-hour period to sunset, 23 December, the Tactical Air Forces flew 2,916 sorties. Bombers dropped nearly 800 tons on communication centers and bridges behind the lines of the German offensive, and fighters supported our ground forces in the battle area. At least 102 enemy planes were shot down and nine others destroyed on the ground. Thirty-three of our aircraft were lost.

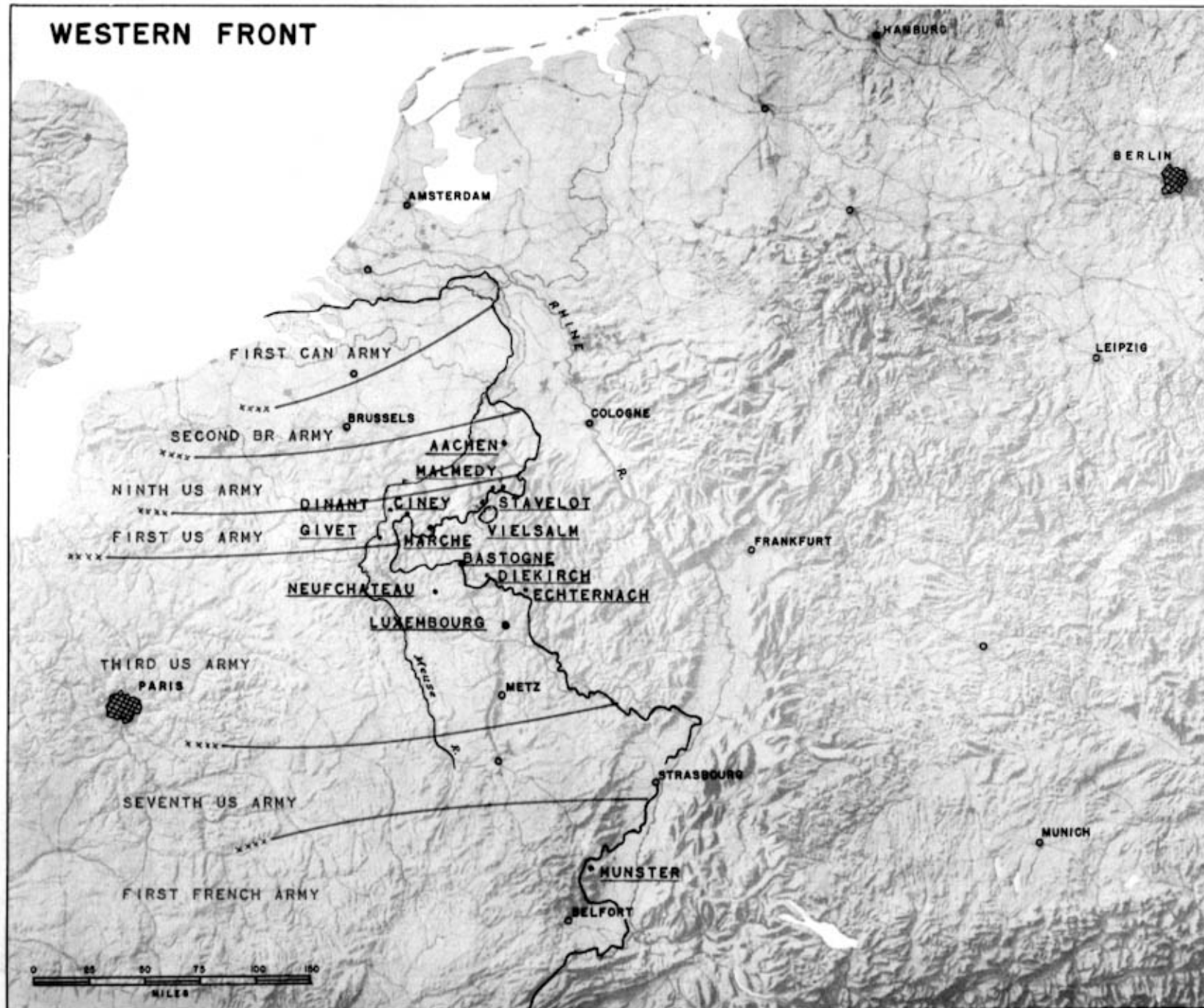
That day, 151 RAF heavy bombers struck at supply installations and troop concentrations at Trier; 22 others attacked Cologne rail yards. That night, 81 Mosquitoes attacked rail centers near Bonn and Koblenz. Three enemy planes were destroyed. Six RAF bombers and one Mosquito failed to return.

On 24 December, 2,075 8th Air Force heavy bombers, escorted by 911 fighters, were dispatched: about 1,400 bombers attacked ten airdromes in the Frankfurt area and about 600 struck at communication and supply centers opposite the bulge of the German offensive. This was the largest force ever dispatched from the United Kingdom on a single operation. Preliminary estimates reveal that of some 275 enemy aircraft encountered, 71 were shot down; 39 of our bombers and nine fighters are missing.

In the 24-hour period ending at 0600, 23 December, two rockets and one flying bomb fell in Antwerp. Seventy-three other rockets and flying bombs fell in areas near Antwerp and Liege.

During the 24-hour period ending at 0600, 24 December, of 50 flying bombs launched against England, 32 crossed the coast. Several

WESTERN FRONT



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OSD Letter, 5-8-74

incidents were reported in the northern midlands and several in the Manchester area. Two rockets fell in England during this period.

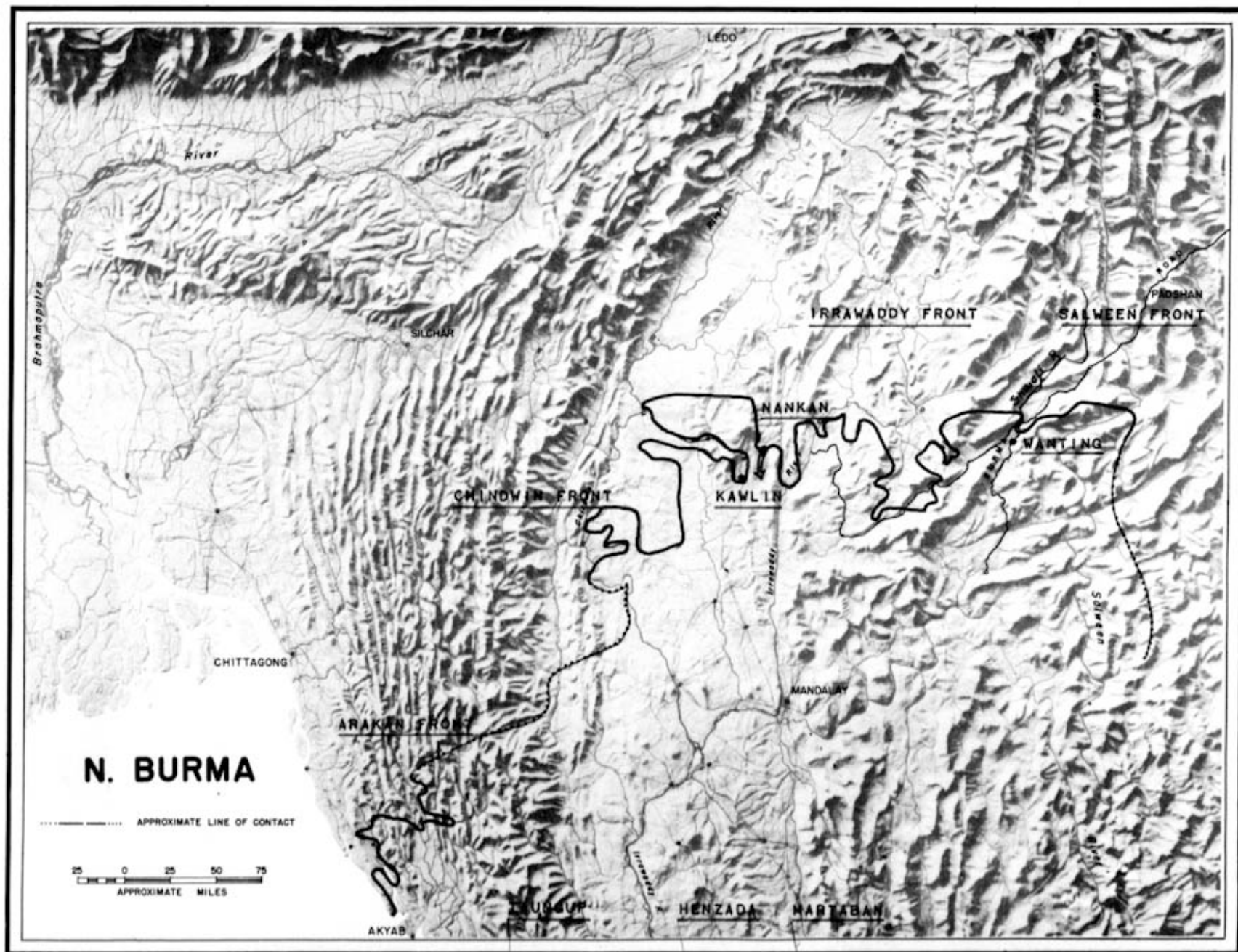
2. To noon, 24 December, the Germans had penetrated west through our Aachen-Luxembourg front to within three miles of the Meuse near Dinant, and farther to the south reached a point ten miles southeast of Givet.

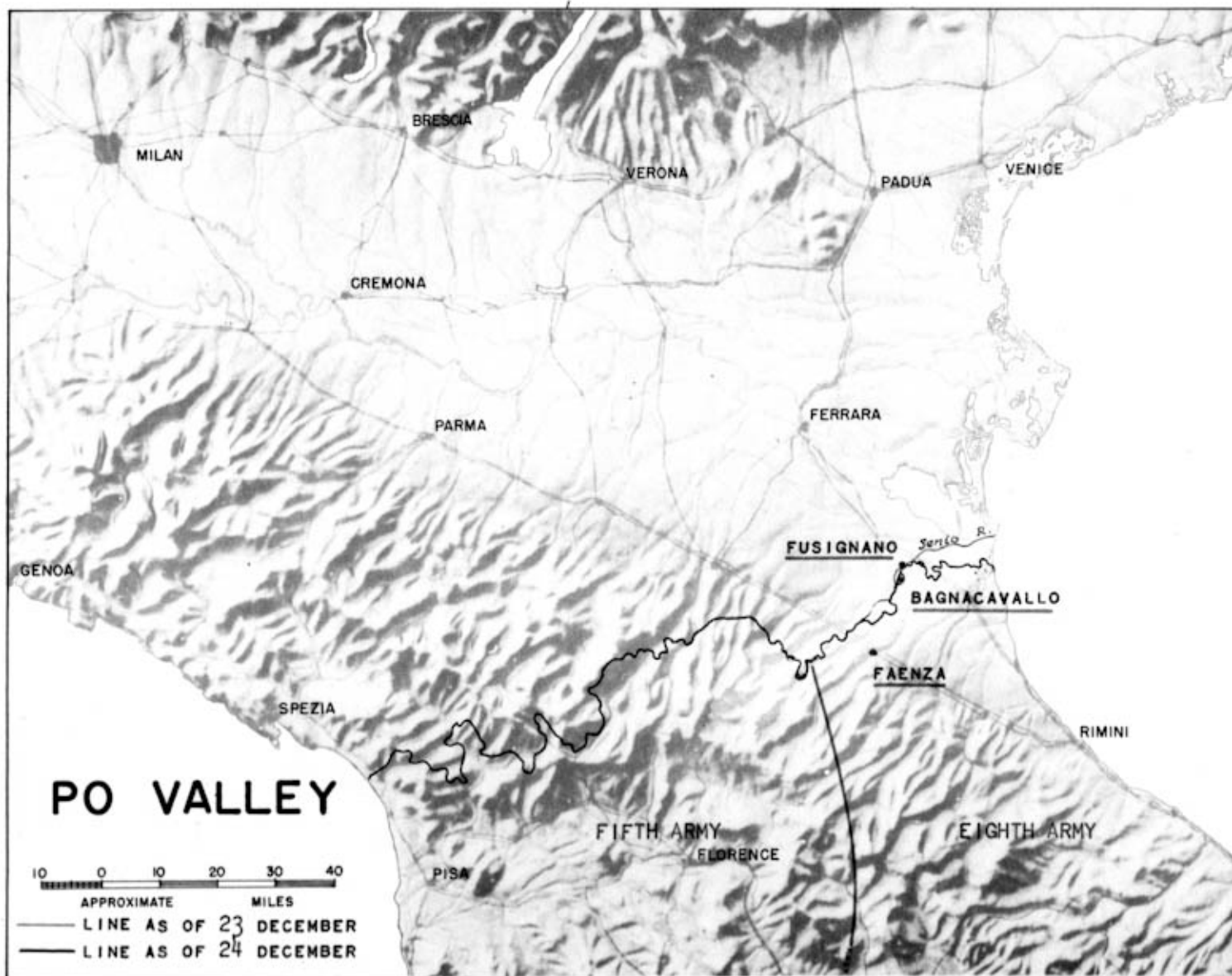
We continued to hold the general line Malmedy-Stavelot against increasing pressure. From Stavelot to Vielsalm the XVIII Corps' line was strengthened. East of Marche the VII and XVIII Corps were forced to make small withdrawals in isolated sectors. Our VII Corps was in contact with an enemy column at Ciney, approximately 12 miles northwest of Marche and was withdrawing from the area southwest of Marche where enemy strength was increasing.

On the southern flank of the enemy's salient the situation remained obscure between Neufchateau and Bastogne. According to a communiqué however, the enemy continued to exert heavy pressure southwest of the latter town. To the east, the III and XII Corps drove the enemy north across a front which extended from six miles south of Bastogne to the area immediately south and southeast of Echternach. In the center of this advance our troops had reached a point approximately eight miles ^{west} ~~northeast~~ of Diekirch.

In Alsace the First French Army advanced more than a mile on a four-mile front north of Munster.

There were no significant changes on the other fronts.





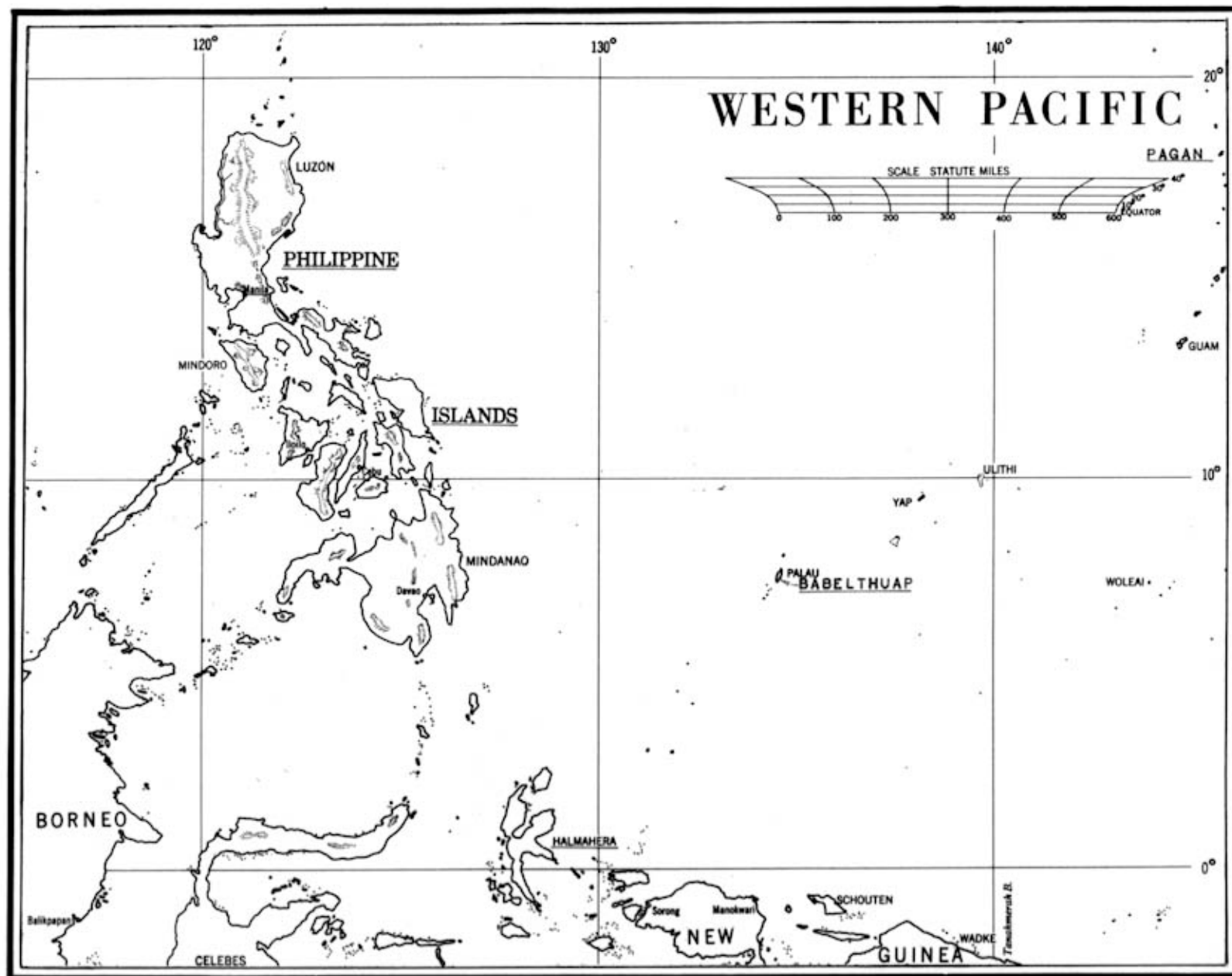
MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

1. During the 24-hour period ending at 1800, 23 December, adverse weather prevented offensive operations of the Coastal and Balkan Air Forces and limited the Tactical Air Force to 507 sorties. Attacks were made upon communications, principally in the central Po Valley, and upon an airfield near Milan, where 14 grounded enemy planes were destroyed. Three enemy aircraft were shot down; we lost three fighters.

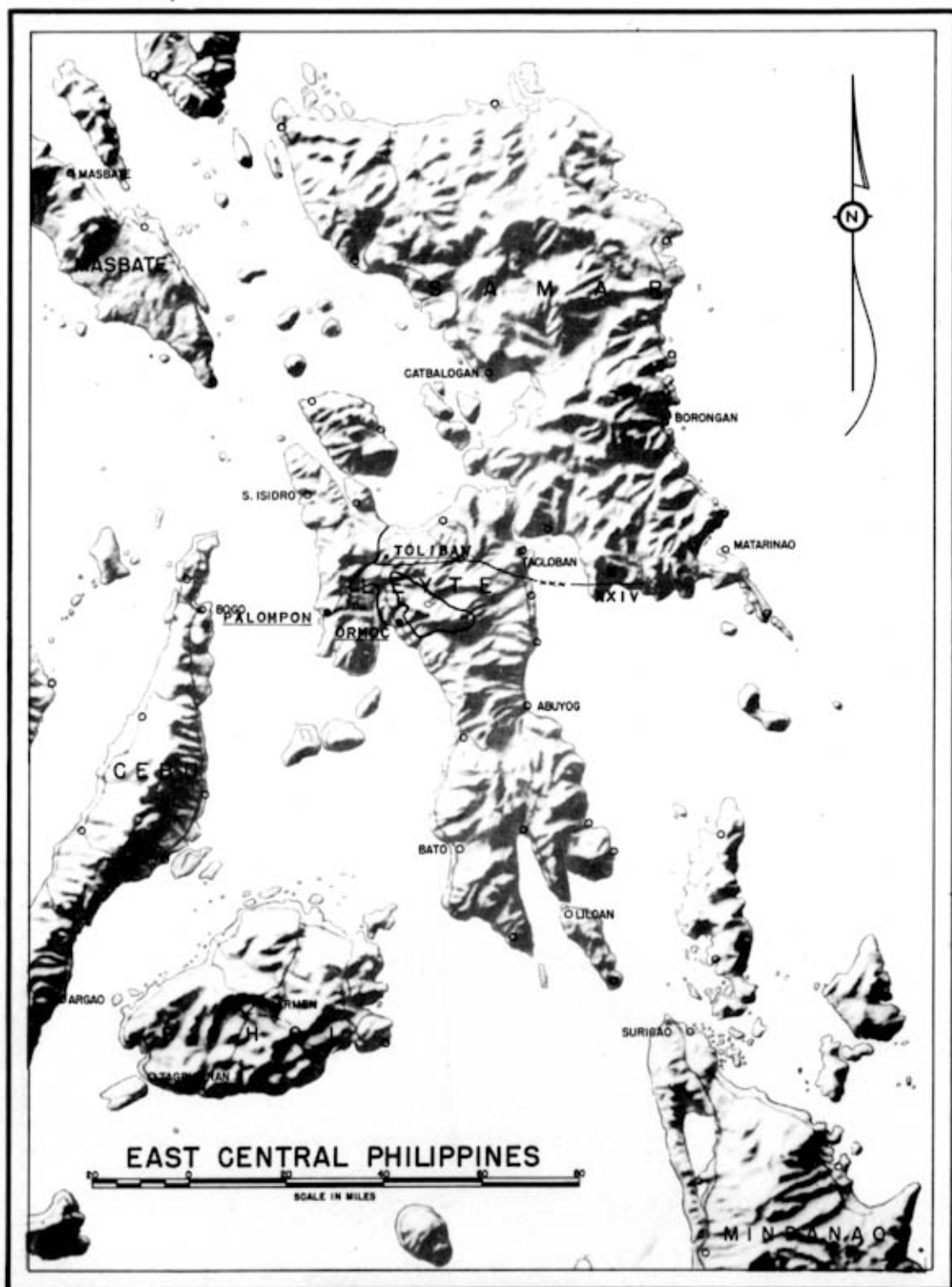
2. In the 24 hours ending at noon, 24 December, the Eighth Army's Canadian Corps made local advances northeast of Fusignano improving its positions along the Senio River. West of Bagnacavallo, the Corps consolidated an area between previous gains to straighten two and one-half miles of the front. British troops made a local advance northeast of Faenza against light opposition. West of Faenza, Polish troops, and British troops in the adjacent Fifth Army sector, continued to clear the area south of the Senio River. Adverse weather prevailed throughout the period.

ASIATIC THEATER

1. On 21 December, the Eastern Air Command flew 1,236 sorties, of which 623 were tactical. During these operations 73 heavy bombers dropped 236 tons of bombs on Taungup in the largest raid of heavy bombers in this theater; other B-24's dropped 70 tons on the Martaban dock area, and medium bombers raided docks at Henzada. Lighter planes attacked transportation, supply dumps and enemy positions along the Burma fronts. We lost one fighter.



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ON letter, 5-8-78



2. During 21-22 December, the 14th Air Force flew 160 sorties to attack widespread targets in central and southern China, the Salween front, central Burma, and French Indo-China. Six enemy planes were destroyed in the Hongkong area. We lost three fighters.

3. On 23 December British troops advancing south from Nankan encountered Japanese forces seven miles east of Kawlin.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. During the period 21-23 December, some 750 additional aircraft attacked targets in the Southwest Pacific Area. More than 400 of these, including 68 heavy and nearly 130 medium bombers, struck at airdromes, supplies and other targets on Halmahera. Other aircraft, including about 85 B-24's, attacked airfields in the Philippines. An enemy freighter-transport and a coastal vessel were sunk and 35 enemy planes destroyed, including 20 in the Manila area.

2. By 23 December our troops on Leyte, supported by heavy artillery, reached a point seven miles northeast of Palompon. Mopping up continued in other sectors.

3. On 24 December, 23 B-29's of the XXI Bomber Command attacked Iwo Jima in an attack which was coordinated with a scheduled bombardment by naval surface craft.

EASTERN FRONT

On 24 December, the Red Army broke through German defenses between

TOP SECRET



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2. 10. 1945
Revised 10. 10. 1945

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

Lake Balaton and Budapest, advancing north and reaching positions six miles west of Budapest. To the north of Budapest the Soviets pushed their salient northwest to the Hron River, while to the east they continued their advances against the German pocket.

[REDACTED]

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

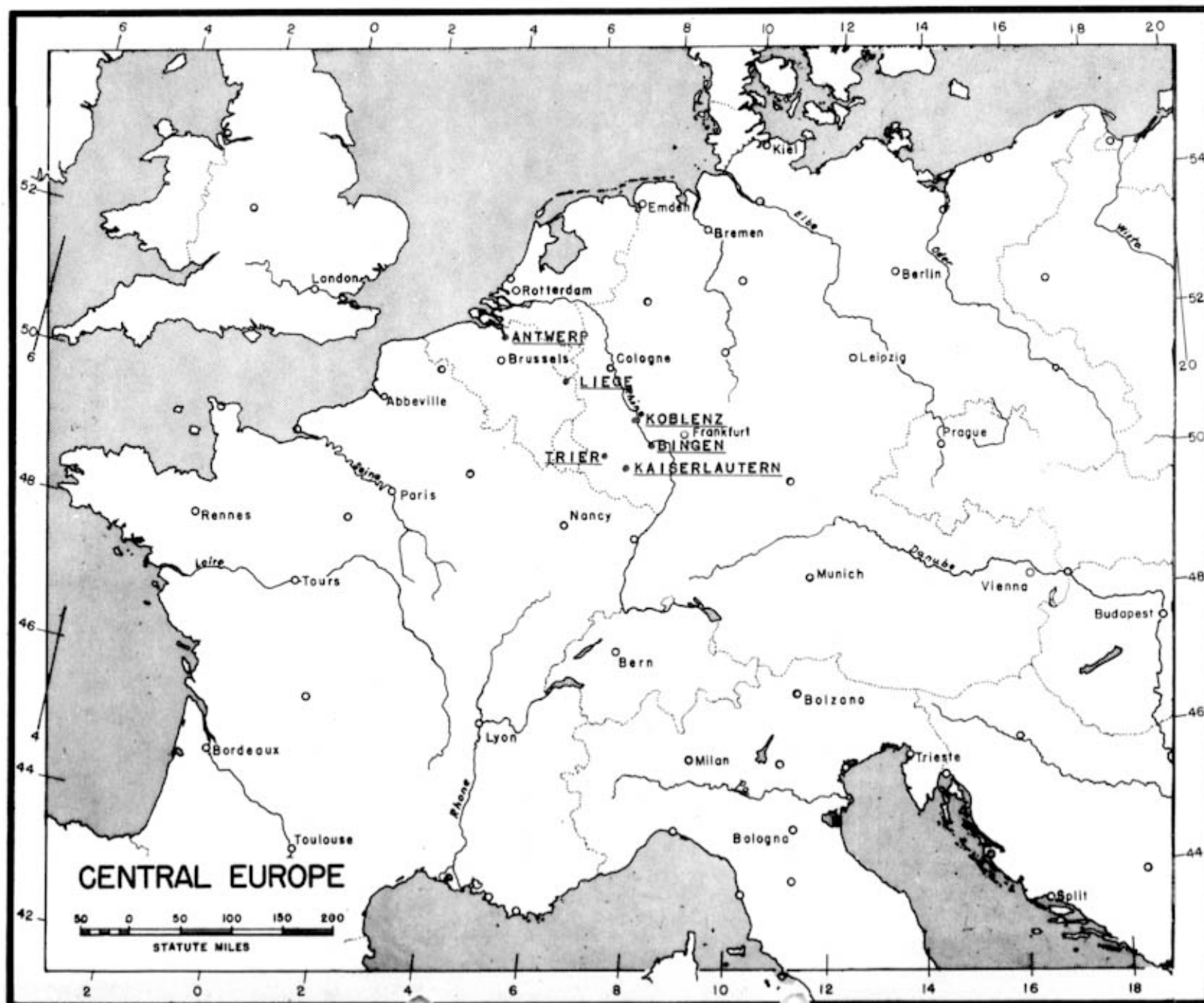
No. 1110

0700 December 23 to 0700 December 24, 1944

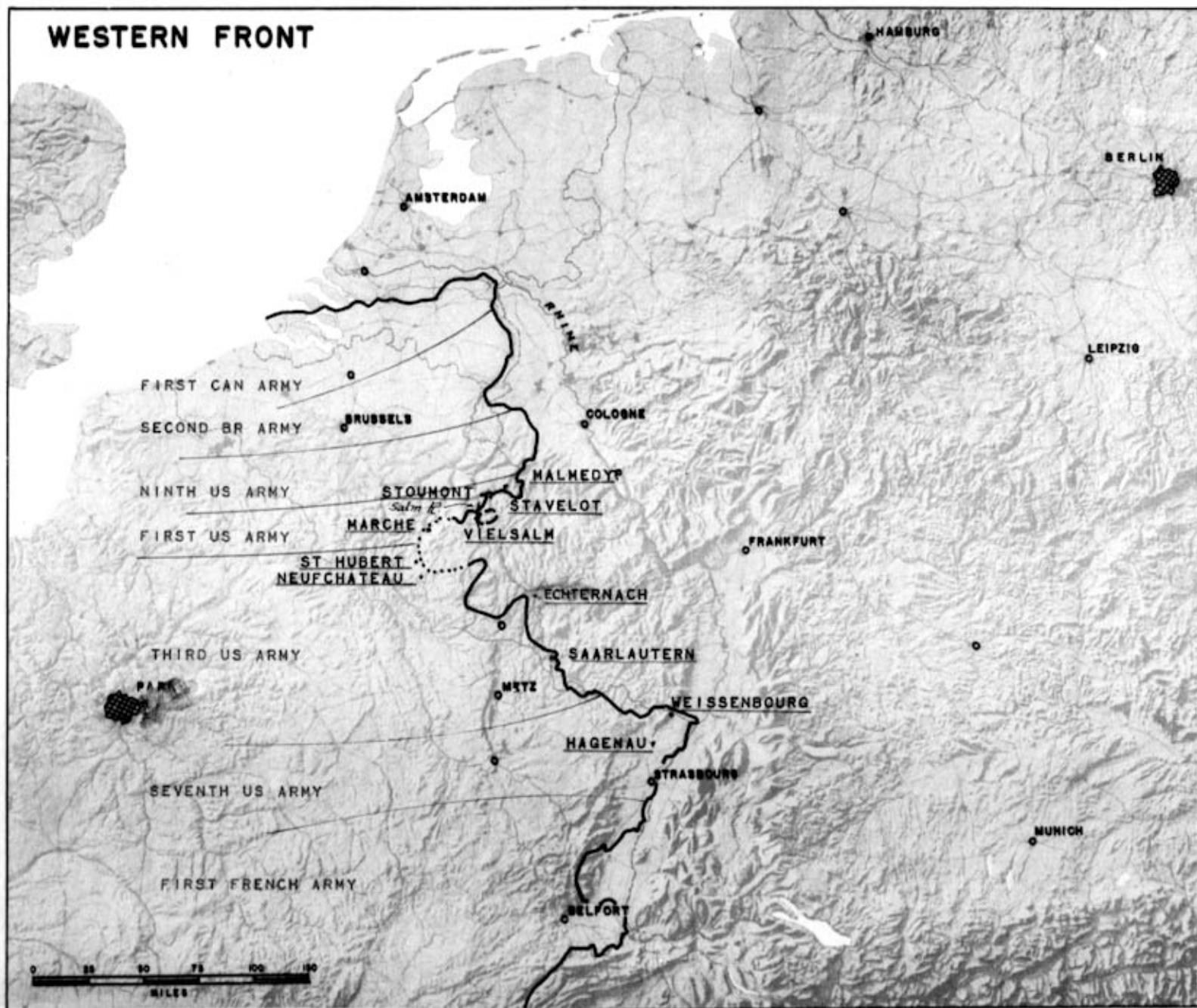
COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

203(2)



WESTERN FRONT



DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-78

EUROPEAN THEATER

1. During the period to sunset 22 December, weather limited the Tactical Air Forces to 458 sorties. Among these more than 250 planes attacked in support of our ground forces in the battle area. Six enemy planes were shot down; we lost eight.

During the night of 22-23 December, some 270 heavy bombers of the RAF attacked the railway centers of Koblenz and Bingen. One enemy aircraft was destroyed. Eight of the bombers were lost.

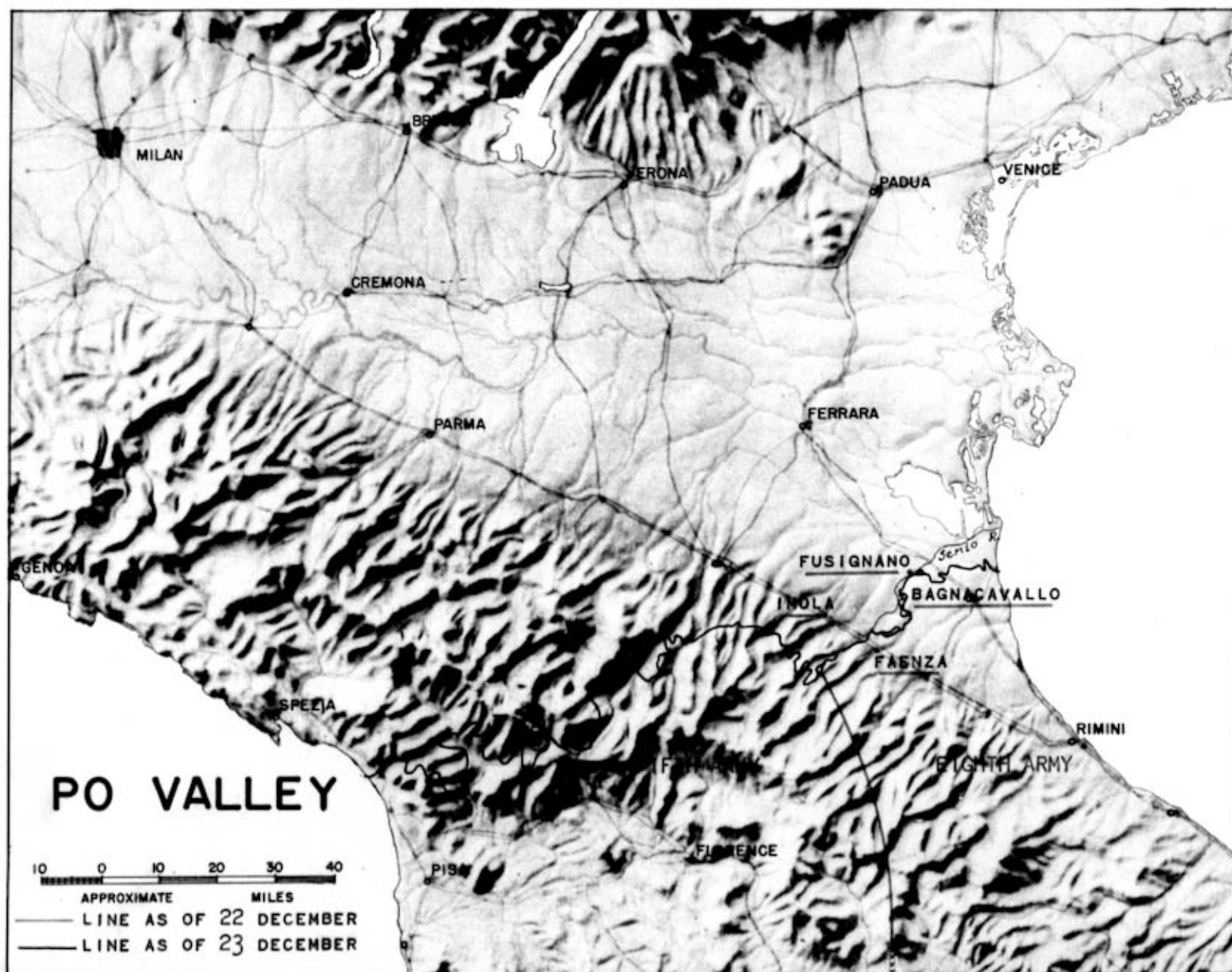
On 23 December, 421 escorted 8th Air Force heavy bombers attacked railyards near Trier and at Kaiserslautern, and bombed communications west of Koblenz. Seventy (probably 88) enemy aircraft were shot down. We lost three bombers and 13 fighters.

During the 36-hour period ending at 0600, 22 December, four rockets and eleven flying bombs fell in Antwerp. One flying bomb hit Liege. Five rockets and 118 flying bombs fell in areas near Antwerp and Liege.

2. By 1200 of 23 December, there was no significant change on the British or U.S. Ninth Army fronts.

The V, XVIII, and VII Corps of our First Army were resisting heavy attack along the general line Malmedy-Stavelot-Vielsalm-Marche in efforts to block the German counteroffensive. ✓ Malmedy was in our hands, but Stavelot was taken by the enemy after a heavy attack. ✓ We retook Stoumont, west of Stavelot. ✓ The XVIII Corps repulsed a strong German effort to cross the Salm River between Stavelot and Vielsalm. ✓ Farther west, XVIII Corps and VII Corps units were heavily engaged in the area to the northeast of Marche, which was in German hands. ✓

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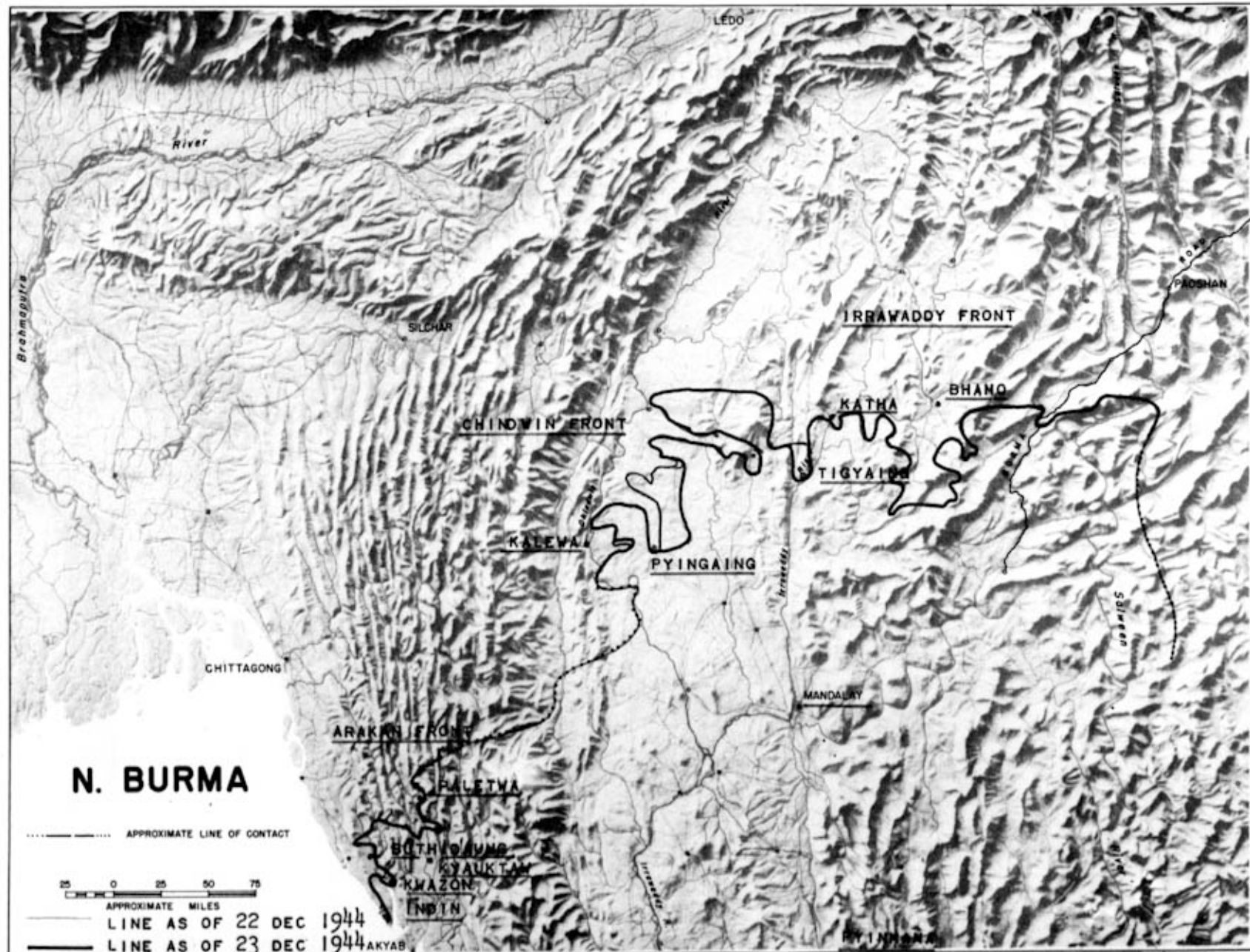
South of Marche, on our Third Army front, penetrations reached the vicinity of St. Hubert and were approaching Neufchateau from the northeast. The XII Corps was holding firmly in the Echternach area. The XX Corps repulsed an attack near Saarlautern.

Our Seventh Army was in contact with strong enemy forces in the general area north of Hagenau; a counterattack was repulsed north of Weissenbourg, but farther west we made local withdrawals under strong enemy pressure.

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

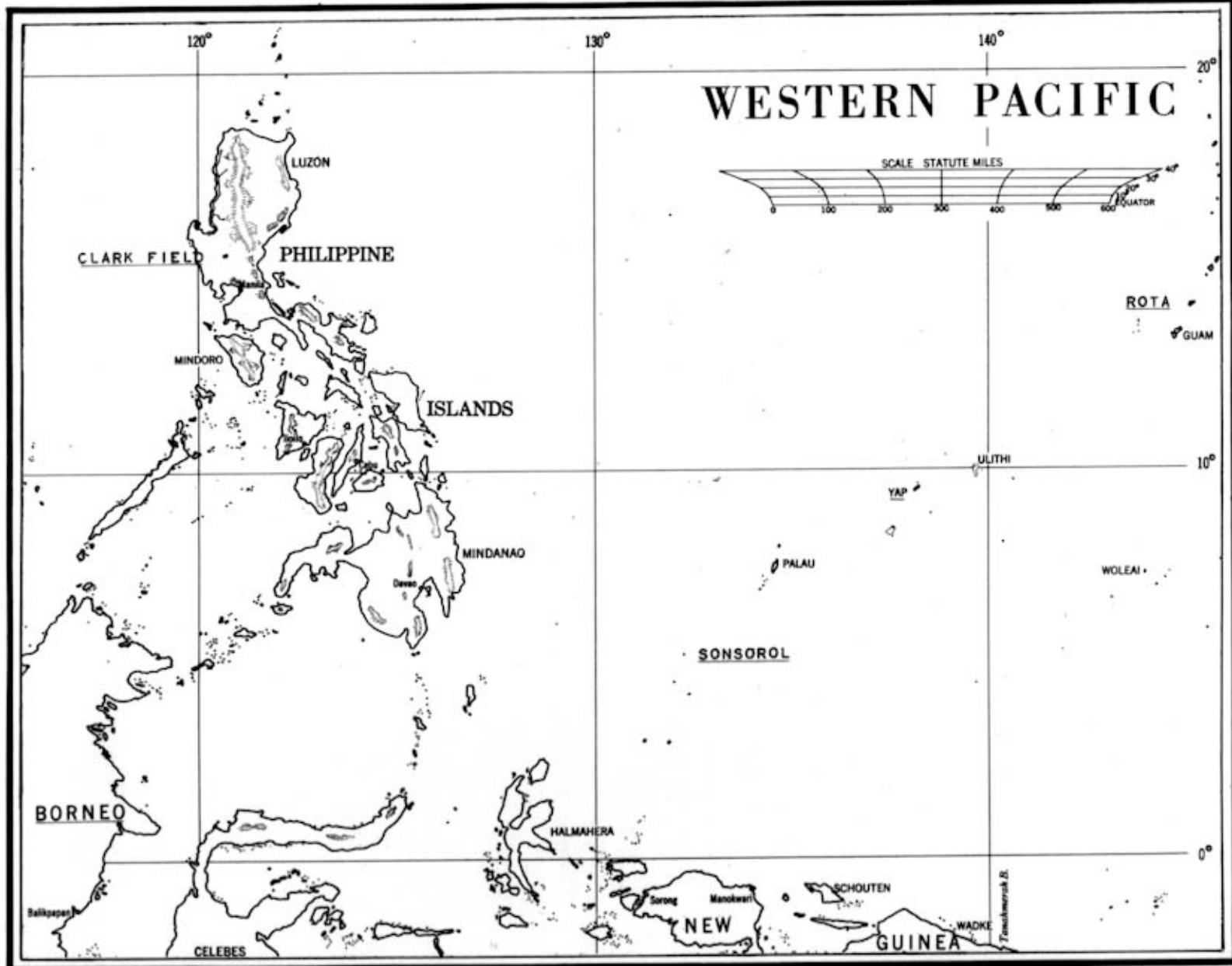
1. During the 24-hour period ending at 1800, 22 December, 163 medium bombers of the Tactical Air Force attacked rail bridges in the Po Valley, and 996 lighter planes attacked targets in the battle area and communications in the rear. Six fighters were lost. Among 52 sorties, Balkan Air Force planes swept roads in southern Yugoslavia and bombed a reported explosive motor boat position on the Adriatic coast. Weather prevented strategic bomber operations and continued on 23 December to ground the 15th Air Force.

2. By 1200 hours of 23 December, the British troops of the Eighth Army had made additional gains up to a mile on a four-mile front north-east of Faenza. Canadian troops had advanced more than a mile west to the line of the River Senio on a two-mile front flanked on the north by Bagnacavallo. They also made a small advance to the Senio River north-east of Fusignano and held off German efforts to retake the ground. South of Imola there were local gains in both the Eighth and US Fifth Army sectors.



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ASIATIC THEATER

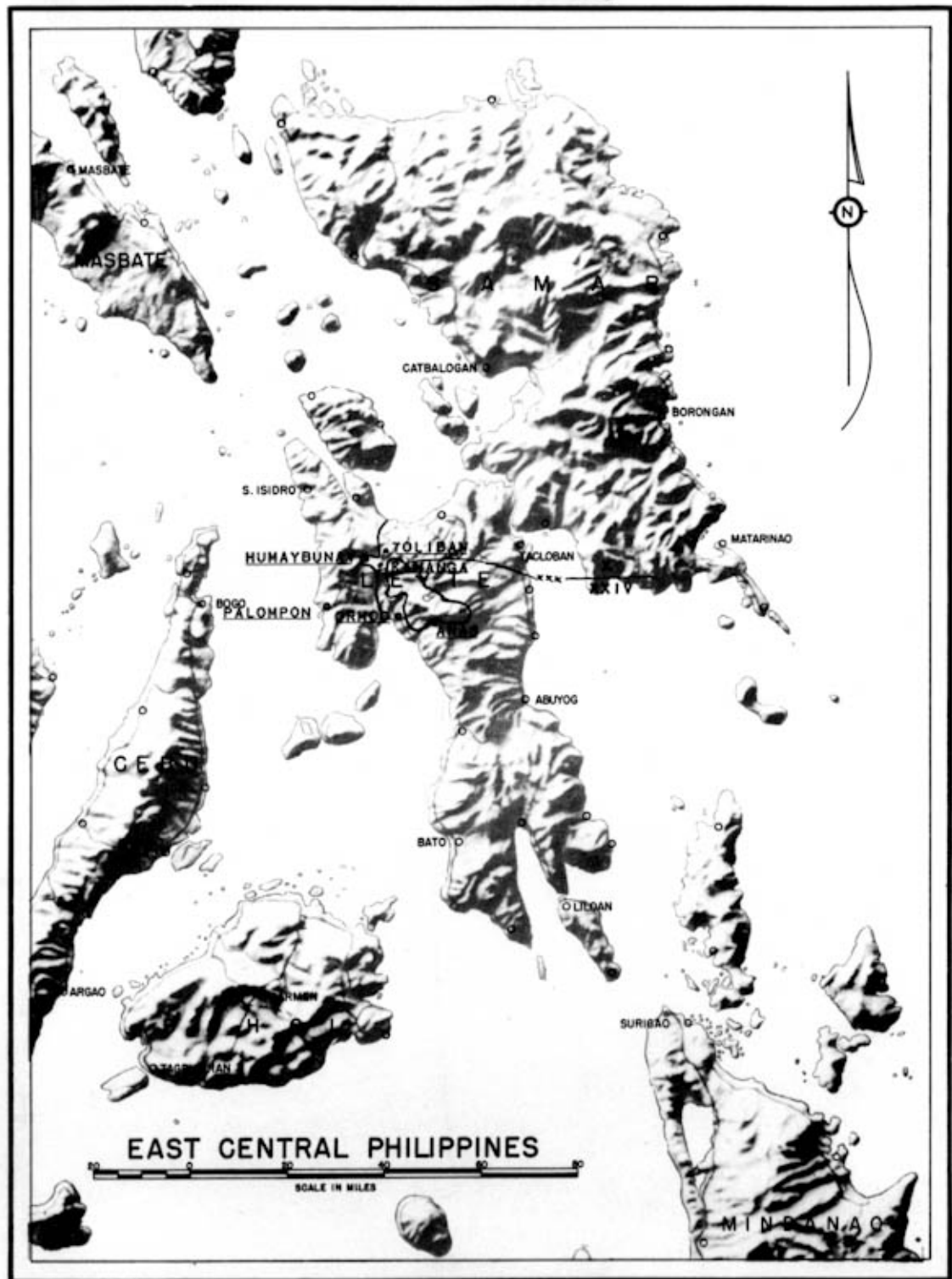
1. On 20 December, the Eastern Air Command flew 1,533 sorties of which 600 were tactical. Principal targets were the Pyinmana rail yards, communications and supply dumps between Mandalay and Bhamo, and Japanese installations on the Chindwin and Arakan fronts.

2. By 21 December, heavy fighting was reported two miles west of Hochih. There and in the Wuming area the Japanese were reported to be digging in.

By 22 December, Allied troops reached a point on the east bank of the Irrawaddy River 24 miles south of Katha and on the west bank occupied Tigyaing, eight miles farther south. Both advances were unopposed. East of the Chindwin River, British troops moved south to occupy Pyingaing, 34 miles east of Kalewa. Patrols 18 miles northeast of Pyingaing found no enemy. On the Arakan front south of Buthidaung, British troops occupied Kwazon and Indin without contact. South of Paletwa, other troops occupied an area from eight miles east to twelve miles northeast of Kyauktaw.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. During the period 20-22 December, more than 460 additional sorties were flown. Heaviest of the attacks were against airdromes in the Philippines, with more than 140 heavy bombers and 100 lighter planes participating. Two ships were sunk north of Borneo. A total of 82 enemy planes was destroyed including an estimated 50 on the ground at Clark Field.



TOP SECRET



2. By 1500, 22 December, our troops on Leyte had cleared the high ground south of Tolibaw, capturing large quantities of equipment. In the Kananga area, we launched an attack toward Palompon and reached the town of Humaybunay. Northeast of Ormoc mopping up continued, and around Anas all enemy resistance was reported broken.

3. On 20 December, Marine aircraft attacked Rota, Yap, and shipping at Sonsorol (about 150 miles southwest of the Palaus). On 21 December, medium bombers set fire to a large cargo vessel in the Bonin Islands area.

Further report of the 22 December B-29 attack on Nagoya states that 48 bombers dropped 130 tons. There were 400 encounters with Japanese interceptors. Eleven (probably 31) enemy aircraft were destroyed. One bomber was lost by enemy action and another to unknown causes prior to reaching the target.

EASTERN FRONT

On 23 December, strong German counterattacks on the Latvian front limited the Soviets to local gains. Northeast of Budapest, Soviet troops made further advances against the German pocket, while north of the Danube bend they drove west against strong resistance, reaching the Ipoly River on a 20-mile front. Renewed attacks in the area between Budapest and Lake Balaton achieved only local gains.

WAR DEPARTMENT

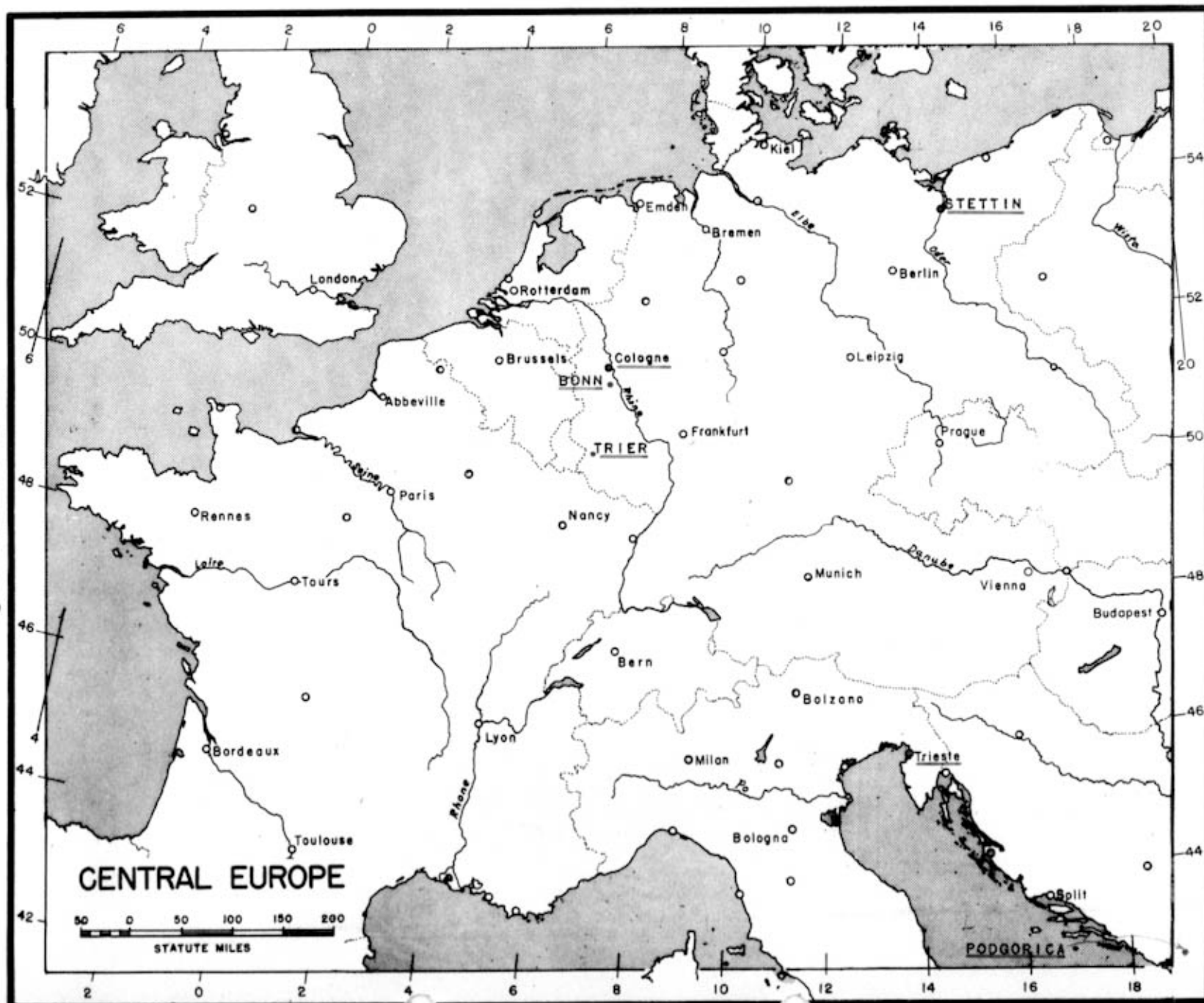
DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 1109

0700 December 22 to 0700 December 23, 1944

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE



EUROPEAN THEATER

1. During the 24 hours ending at sunset, 21 December, weather again prevented the Tactical Air Forces from operating in strength against the German counter-offensive. Sorties totalled 171, those in close support of ground forces being limited to 46, which were flown for our Seventh Army.

Although grounded by weather earlier in the day, 94 heavy bombers of the RAF attacked troops, supplies and communications at Trier on 21 December, dropping 441 tons of bombs. That night 206 heavy bombers struck at a synthetic oil plant near Stettin, 121 at rail yards in Cologne, and 97 at Bonn. Thirty-three Mosquitoes participated. Eight heavy bombers and one Mosquito were lost.

Weather grounded the 8th Air Force on 22 December.

In the 24 hours ending at 0600, 22 December, three rockets fell in the London and Essex areas.

2. As of 21 December, our First and Ninth Armies were assigned for operational command to the Twenty-first Army Group (Northern Army Group) which hitherto has been composed only of the Second British and First Canadian Armies. The Twenty-first Army Group assumed responsibility for the sector south to the general line Givet (France)--Prum (Germany).

By 1200 hours of 22 December, there was no significant change on the battle front north of Duren.

WESTERN FRONT



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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

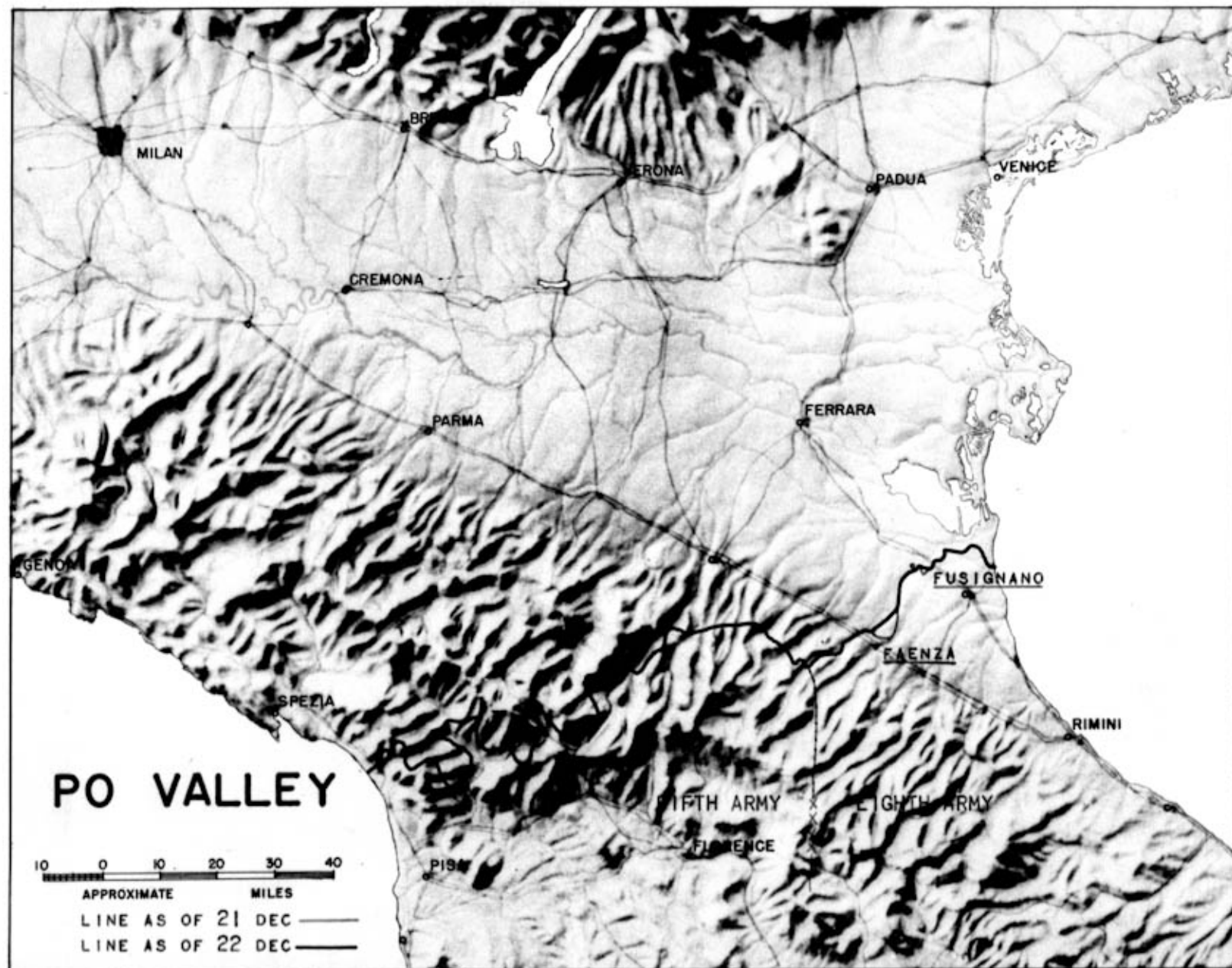
The V Corps of the First Army maintained its positions in the Monschau area and was containing the enemy's salient to the north along the line Malmedy-Stavelot, despite heavy enemy attacks. The XVIII Corps continued to hold a line southwest of Stavelot. The enemy has made progress toward linking his drive in the Stavelot-Vielsalm area with the column headed northwest from Bastogne. Pocketed in between are two XVIII Corps divisions which were forced from St. Vith and virtually surrounded in the area east of Vielsalm. To the west, German elements are in Laroche and seven miles northwest. Last reports show a considerable southern extension of the German drive through central Luxembourg but state the III Corps of our Third Army is attacking to the northeast along a line Arlon-Luxembourg and has advanced three to four miles. This Corps was recently withdrawn from the Metz area.

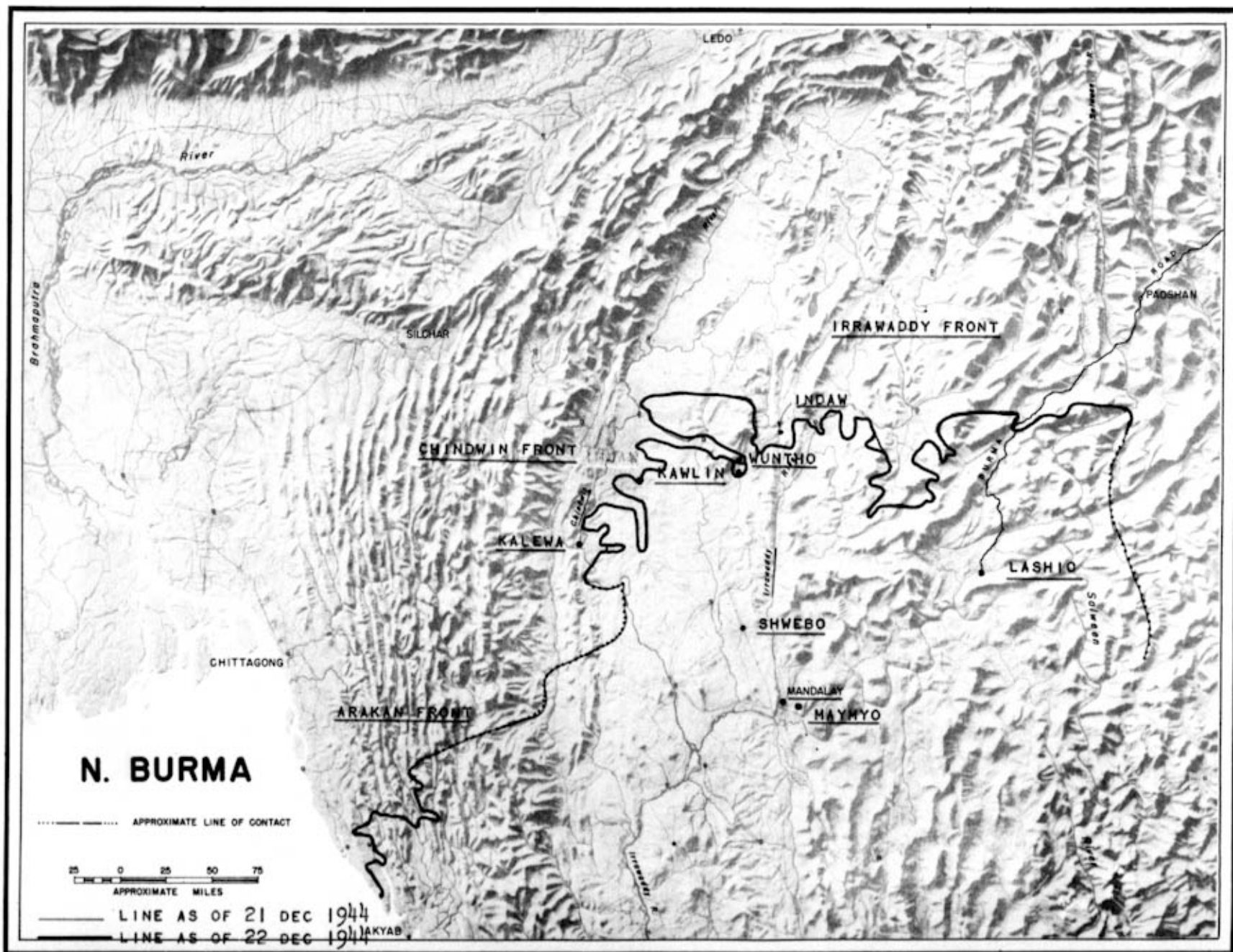
There was no significant change on our Seventh Army front or in Alsace.

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

1. During the 24-hour period ending at 1800, 21 December, 325 Tactical Air Force sorties were flown in continuing adverse weather against targets in the battle area and communications in northern Italy. Fighters of the Coastal Air Force sank a 100-foot vessel in the Gulf of Trieste. Included in 54 Balkan Air Force sorties were harassing attacks on German columns northeast of Podgorica in southern

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Yugoslavia. Thirty-four medium bombers of the Strategic Air Forces bombed road targets in that area and 38 heavy bombers flew supplies to Greece.

Weather prevented offensive operations by the 15th Air Force on 22 December.

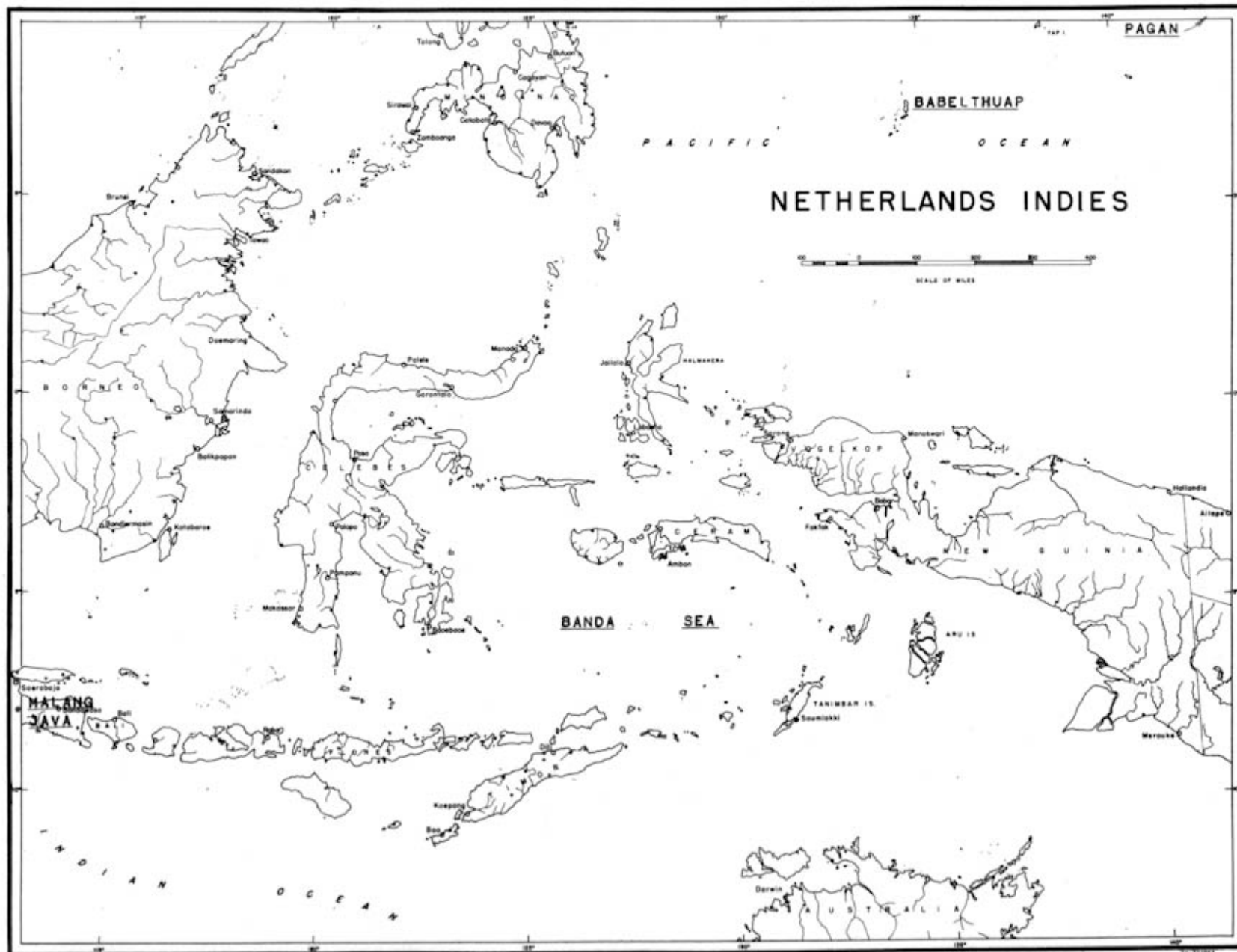
2. By 1200 hours of 22 December, British troops of the Eighth Army had advanced up to two miles on a three-mile front to the north-east of Faenza and Canadian troops advanced locally east of Fusignano.

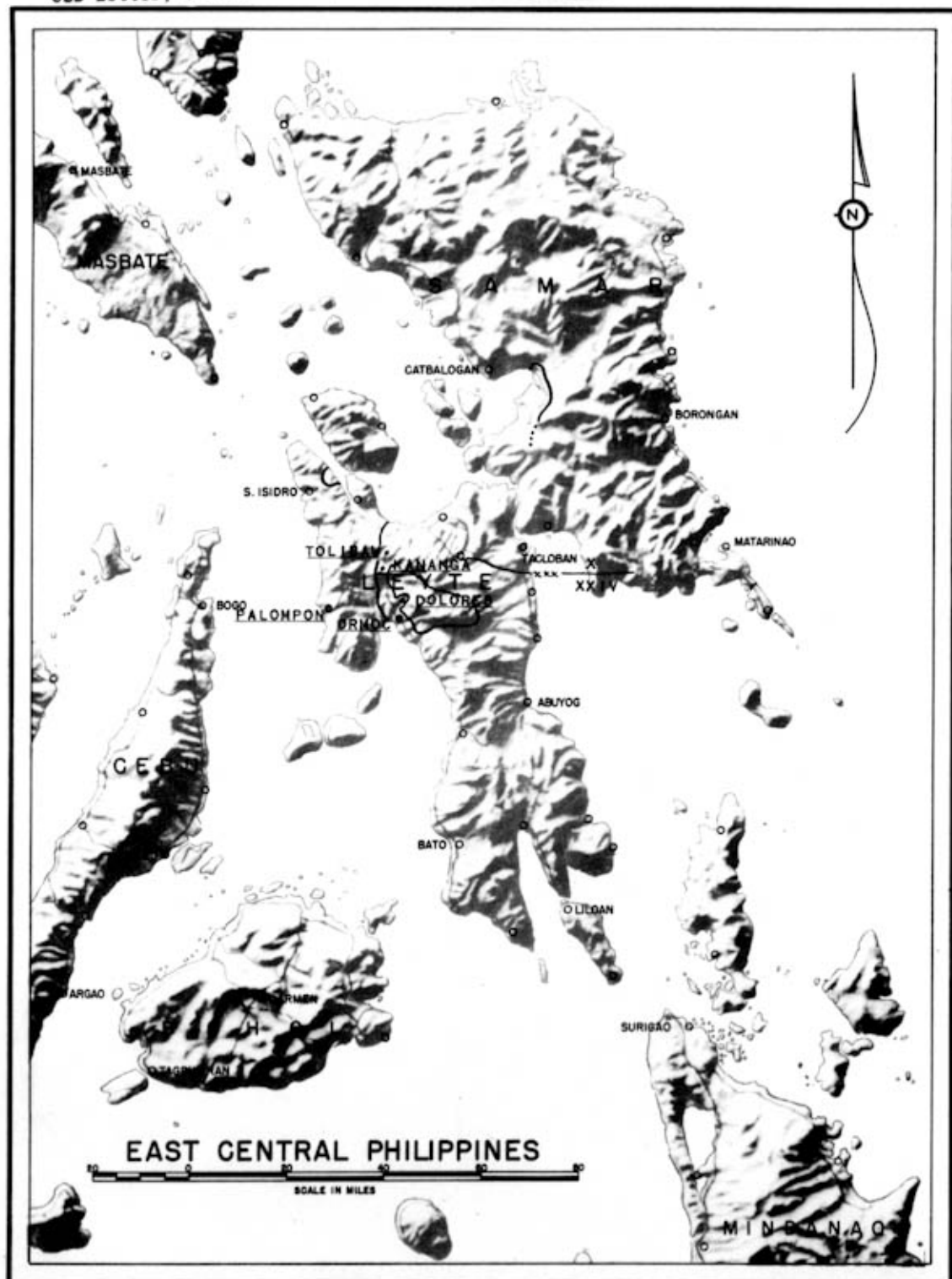
Activity on the Fifth Army front was confined to patrolling.

ASIATIC THEATER

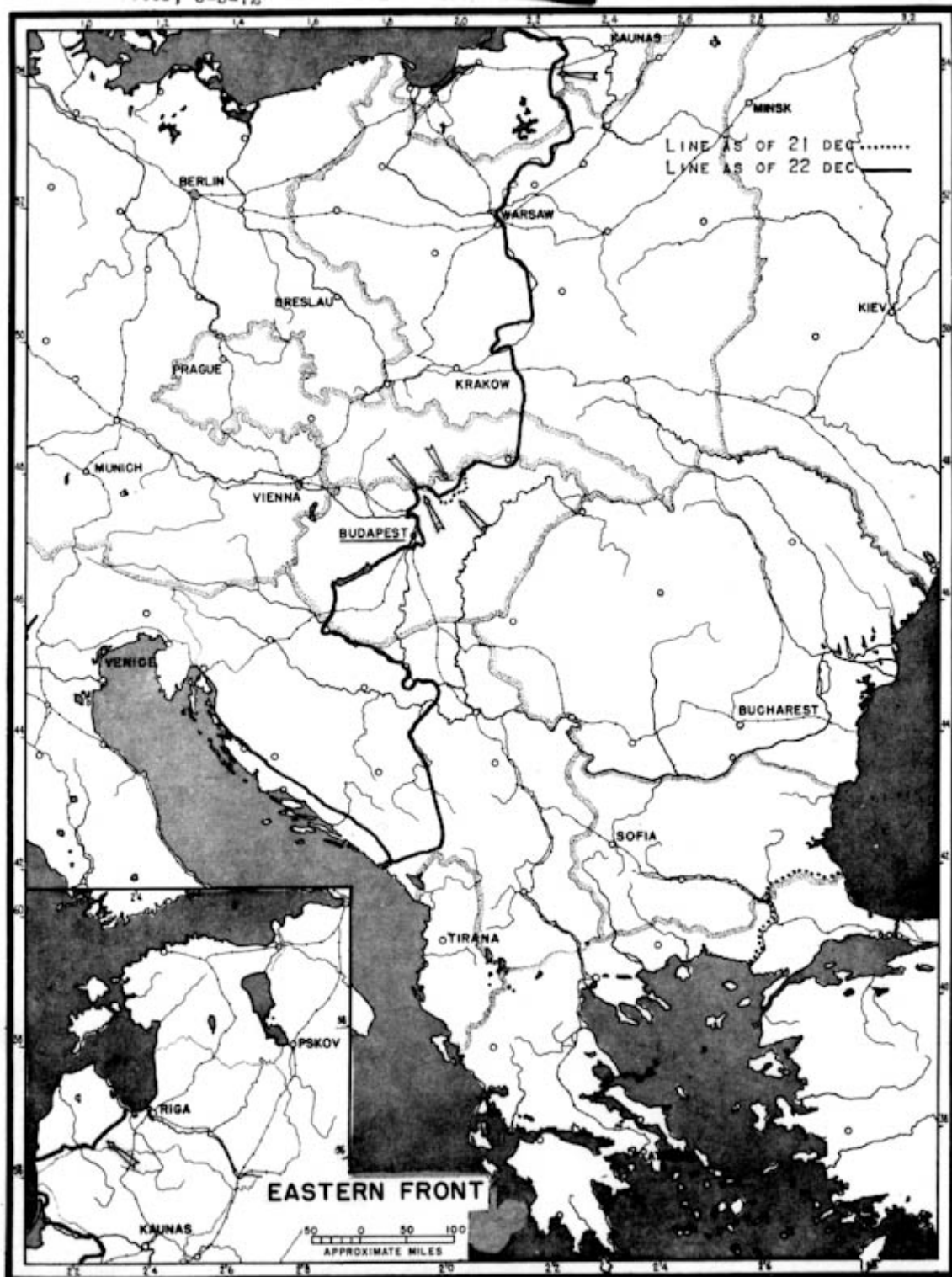
1. On 19 December, the Eastern Air Command flew 1,394 sorties, of which 494 were tactical. Twenty-three heavy bombers attacked Maymyo. Lighter planes struck at communications along the rail line from Shwebo to Lashio; attacked supply dumps, airfields and river traffic north and south of Mandalay and on the Arakan coast; and also supported Allied ground operations.

2. By 21 December, British troops had extended their gains between the Irrawaddy and Chindwin Rivers. Patrols reached an area 30 miles south of Indaw without enemy contact, while troops who had advanced to Wuntho from the west turned south to occupy Kawlin. Patrols were 20 miles east of Kalewa without opposition.





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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. During the period 19-21 December more than 380 additional sorties were flown. Australian-based heavy bombers attacked the Malang airdrome on Java and Allied medium bombers sank a troop-laden transport in the Banda Sea. Bomber and fighter attacks continued against airfields, supply dumps, and shipping. Twelve enemy planes were shot down.

2. By 1500 of 21 December, our forces on Leyte had captured Kananga against determined resistance. There was strong opposition to our attack south from the Tolibaw area. Other elements captured Dolores, while south and east of Ormoc, mopping up continued.

3. During the period 19-21 December, storage areas at Babelthuaup installations at Wotje and an airfield at Pagan were bombed and strafed by our fighters.

EASTERN FRONT

On 22 December the Soviets made further advances toward reducing the German pocket northeast of Budapest. It was reported that the Red Army has launched an offensive in Latvia.

WAR DEPARTMENT

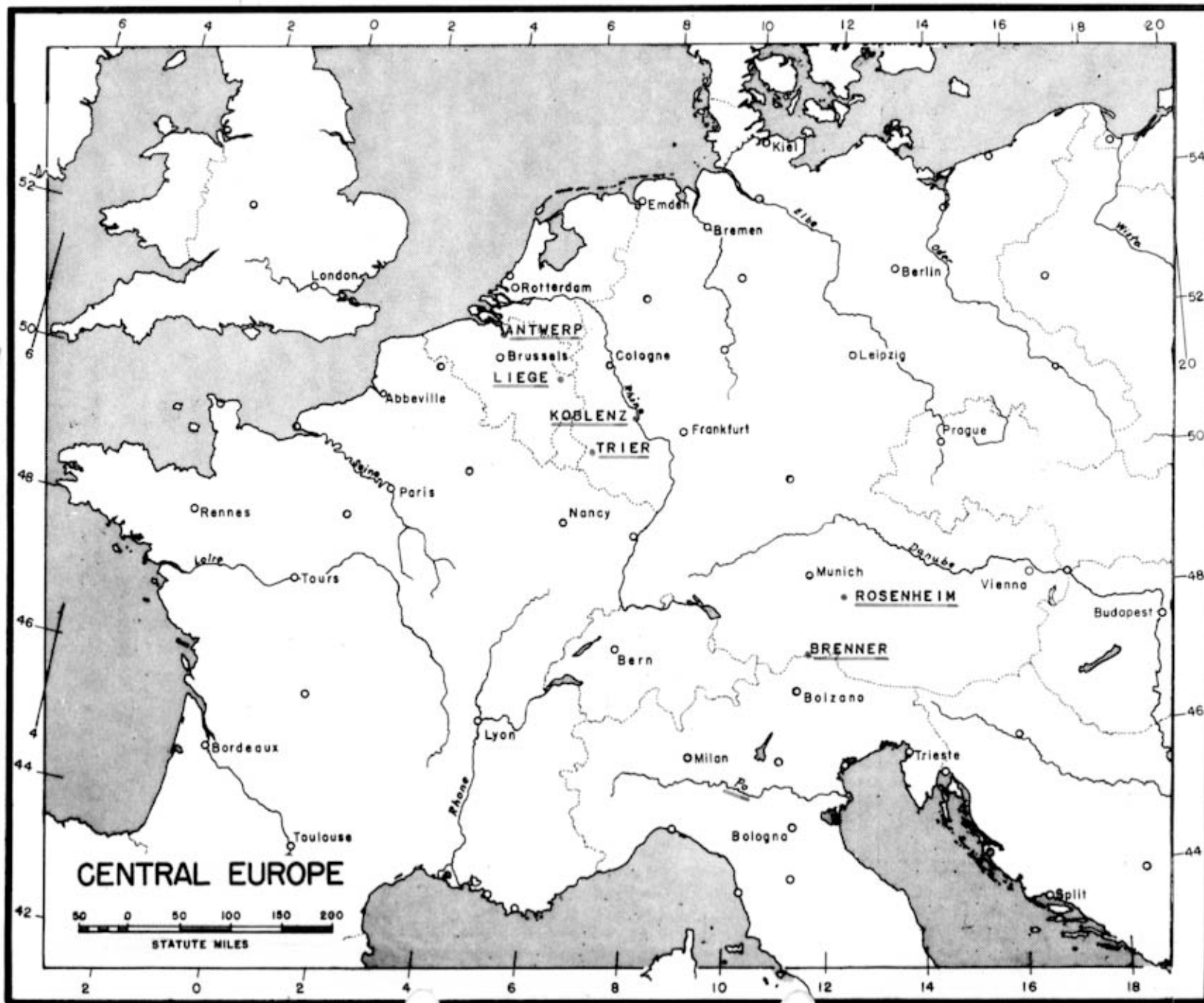
DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 1108

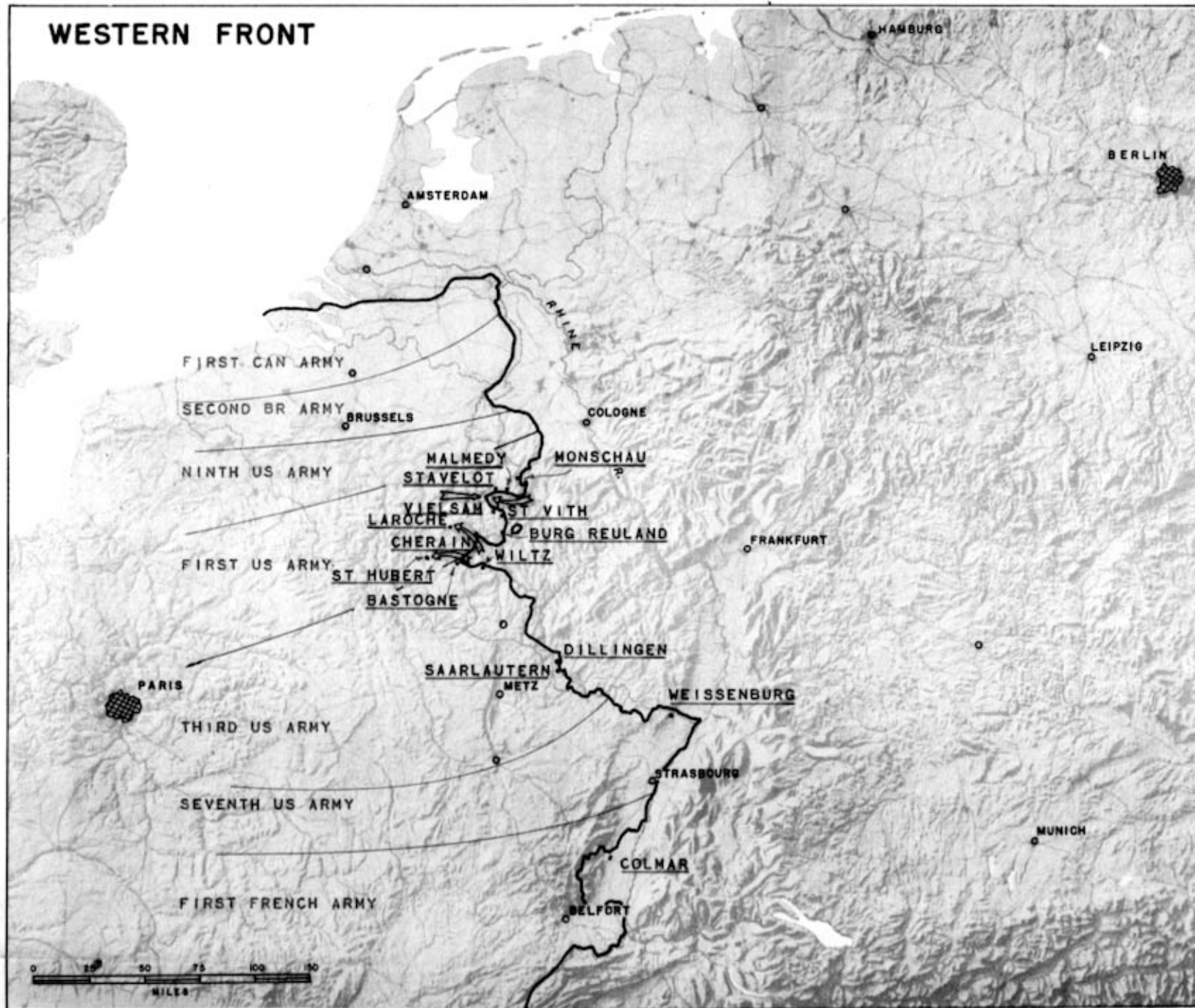
0700 December 21 to 0700 December 22, 1944

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE



WESTERN FRONT



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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

EUROPEAN THEATER

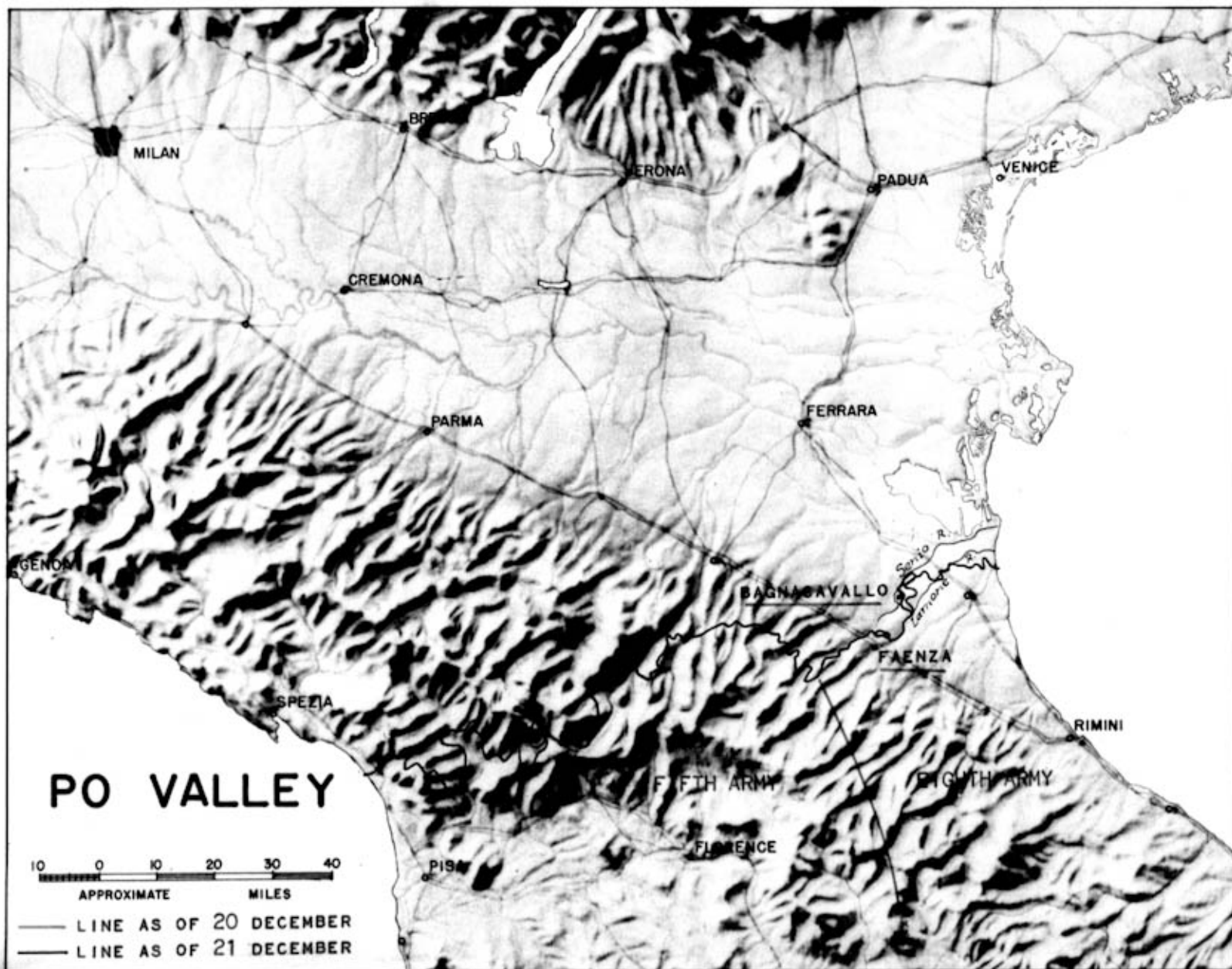
1. In the 24 hours ending at sunset, 20 December, weather grounded strategic bombers of the 8th Air Force and the RAF, and limited the Tactical Air Forces to 12 sorties. That night and 21 December, weather continued to ground the 8th Air Force and the RAF.

During the 24-hour period ending at 1800, 20 December, three rockets and five flying bombs landed in Antwerp. One flying bomb landed in Liege. Three rockets and 25 bombs fell in scattered areas behind the front.

During the 24 hours ending at 0600, 21 December, six rockets fell in England.

2. By 0213 of 22 December there had been no significant change on the British or US Ninth Army fronts.

Our First and Third Armies continued to meet the shock of the German counteroffensive aimed at eastern Belgium and through northern Luxembourg. On the north flank of the northern thrust the V Corps was holding firmly in the Monschau area and repulsing attacks coming from the south. Malmedy and Stavelot were being held against continuous attack. To the west the XVIII Corps has checked further penetration in the area immediately southwest of Stavelot. Farther south, however, forward German elements penetrated to within three miles of Laroche on the Ourthe River but were meeting strong resistance from one of our armored divisions. German efforts to widen this salient southward were being checked along a line running from Vielsam to St. Vith and thence



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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

south to Burg Reuland. In the southern salient the enemy was exerting very strong pressure in the Bastogne area, employing heavy armor and infantry concentrations which were fanning out north and south of the city. The Germans made limited gains northeast of Bastogne to the vicinity of Cherain, and, east of Bastogne, extended the salient to Wiltz. Enemy armor was reported as far west as St. Hubert.

Other divisions of the Third Army have cleared Dillingen north of Saarlautern.

Elements of the Seventh Army carried out a slight withdrawal northwest of Weissenburg and repulsed a counterattack north of that city.

In Alsace, American troops of the First French Army made local gains north of Colmar, and French troops made some progress farther to the west.

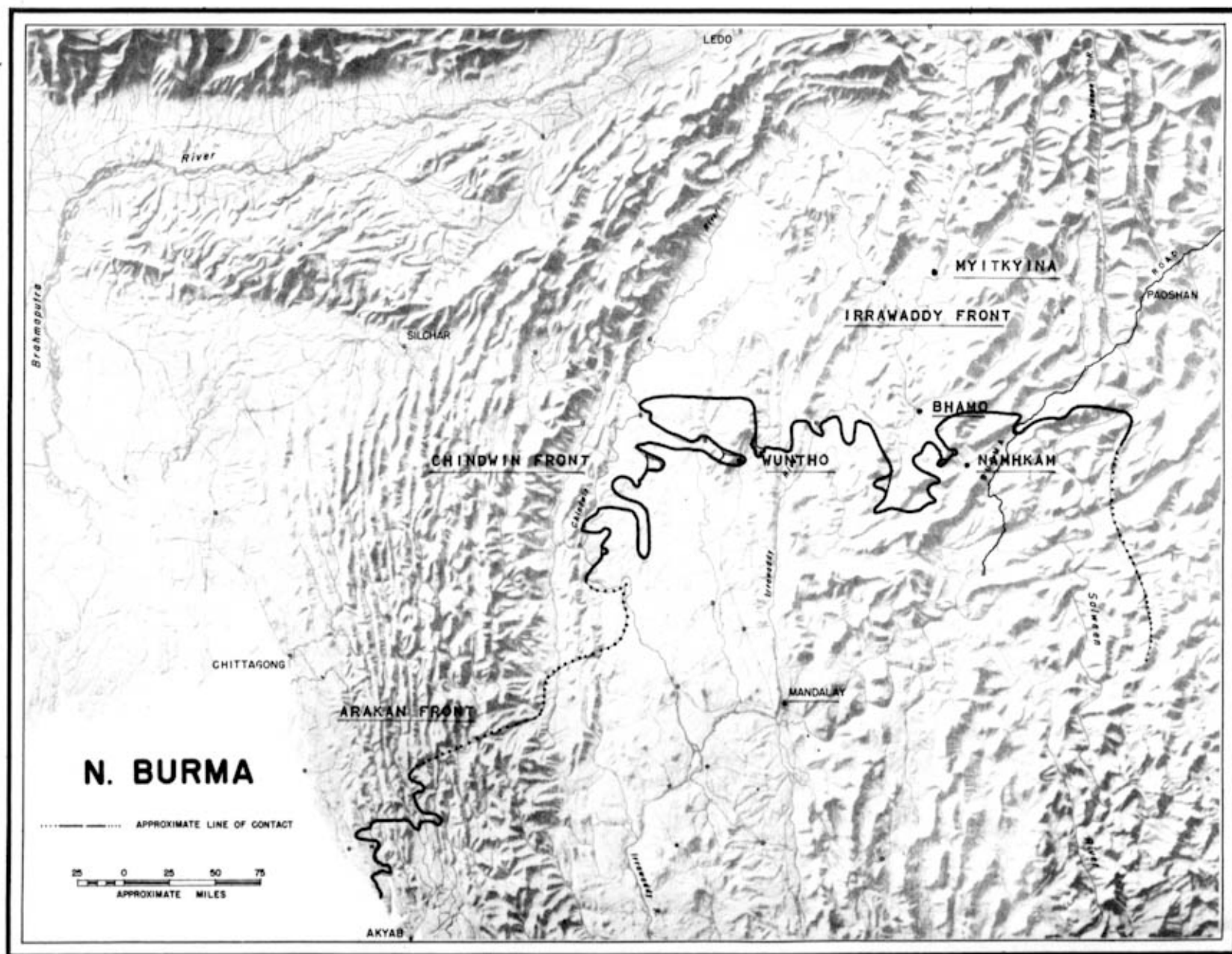
MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

1. During the 24-hour period ending at 1800, 20 December, the Tactical Air Forces flew 264 sorties despite bad weather. A rail cut was scored on the Brenner Pass line during attacks which also covered the Po Valley and battle area. The Balkan Air Force flew 96 sorties, mainly against road transportation in Yugoslavia. We lost two planes. Thirty-eight medium bombers of the Strategic Air Force also struck at road transportation in Yugoslavia, while 39 heavy bombers flew supply missions to Greece.

On 21 December, 96 escorted 15th Air Force heavy bombers dropped 197 tons of bombs on rail yards at Rosenheim (Germany). We lost one bomber.

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2. By noon 21 December, Canadian troops of the British Eighth Army had entered Bagnacavallo. North of Bagnacavallo they reached the banks of the Senio River, forcing the retirement of German forces weakened by counterattacks the previous day. South of the city they were advancing west against light resistance. North of Faenza, between the Lamone and Senio Rivers, British troops advanced a half mile on a three-mile front.

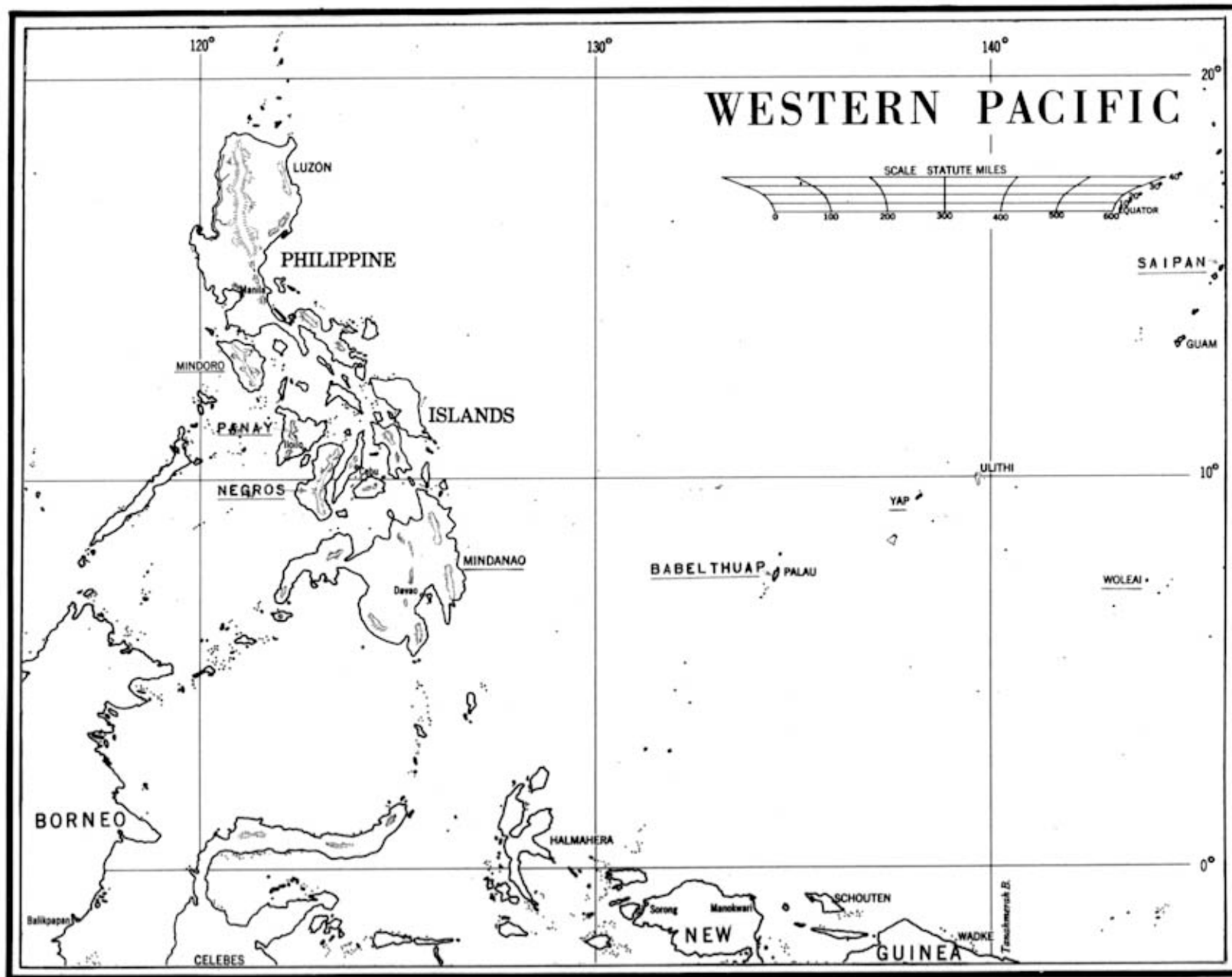
ASIATIC THEATER

1. Further reports of the 21 December raid on Mukden state that 36 B-29's dropped 144 tons of bombs on the Manchuria aircraft plant, the primary target. Seven planes bombed neighboring targets. Fifteen enemy planes were destroyed. We lost two bombers.

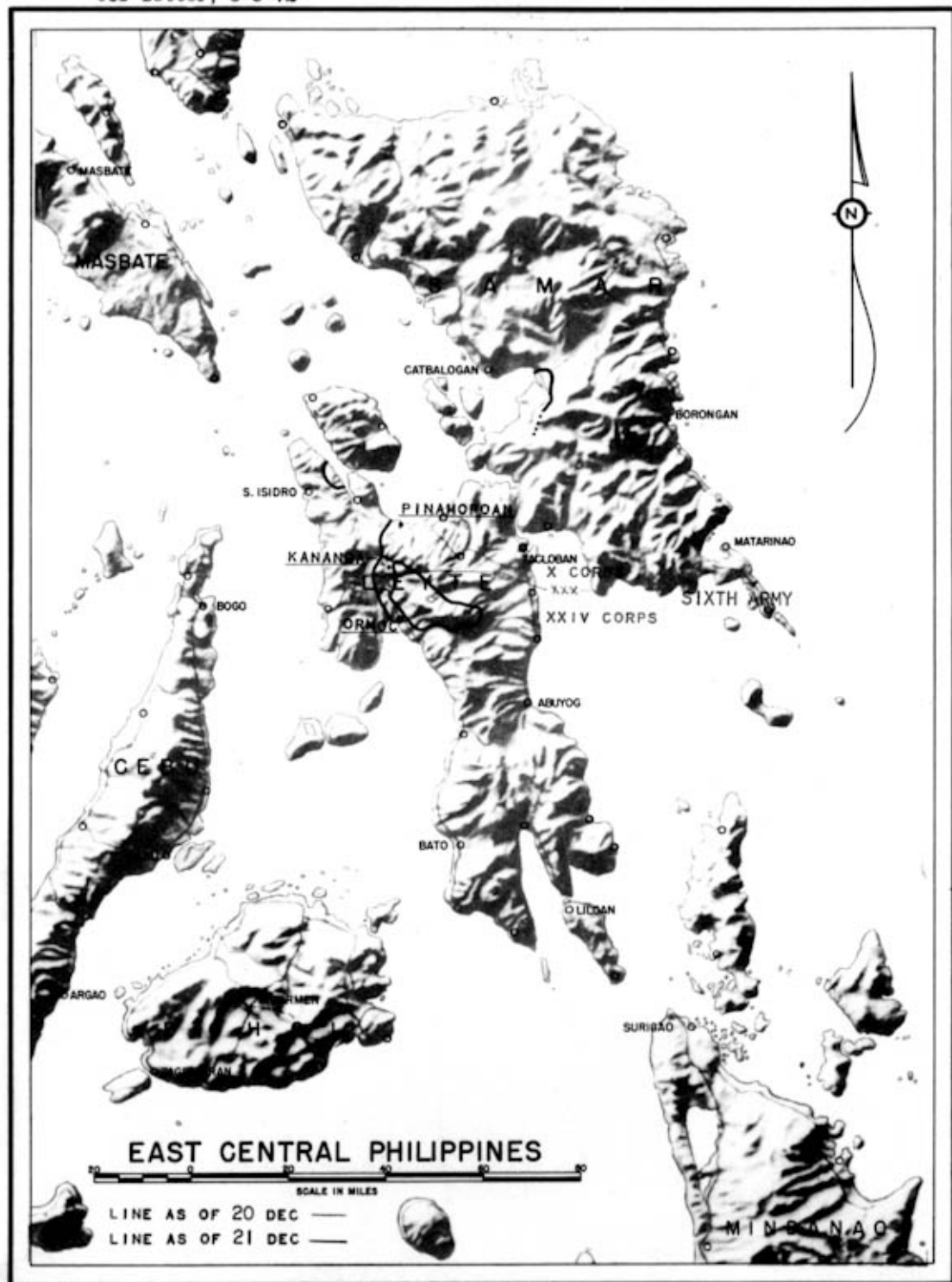
2. 14th Air Force reports covering 27 offensive sorties on 19 December confirm the damage to enemy shipping and aircraft at Hankow reported yesterday by communique.

3. East of the Irrawaddy, Chinese troops advancing southeast from Bhamo were 12 miles northwest of Namhkam by 20 December. In an advance from the west, British troops occupied Wuntho on the Mandalay-Myitkyina branch of the Burma railroad, while other British troops advancing southwest along the railroad were 15 miles to the northeast. Farther south, British units extended their movements eastward from the Chindwin River.

By 20 December, in southern China, heavy fighting, hampered by snow and severe weather, was in progress around Hochih. Engagements



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with the enemy were reported in the Wuming area.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

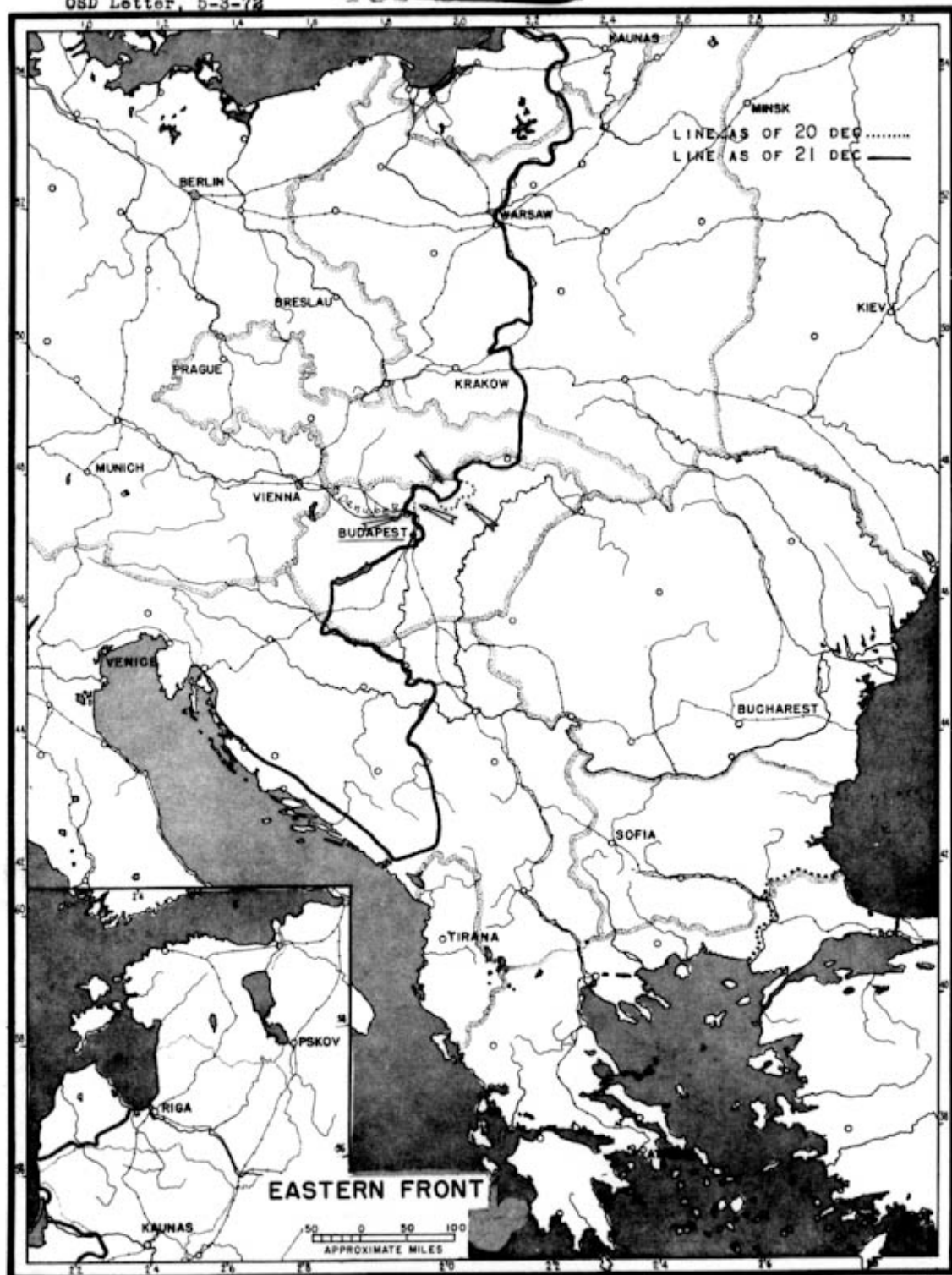
1. During the period 17-20 December, more than 560 additional sorties were flown against targets throughout the area; principal strikes by heavy bombers were against airdromes on Panay, Negros and southern Mindanao, while lighter planes also struck airdromes and attacked shipping. A medium freighter was set afire off Mindoro and 21 enemy planes were destroyed; we lost five.

2. On 20 December, our forces on Mindoro were consolidating defenses against possible attack. On Leyte, our troops advancing toward each other along the Ormoc-Pinamopoan road, made contact. There was heavy resistance near Kananga.

3. On 17 December, Pacific Ocean Area B-24's dropped 112 tons of bombs on airfield installations at Iwo Jima. That same day other B-24's attacked Woleai. Fighters raided Yap and Babelthuat.

In the 18 December B-29 mission, 160 tons of bombs were dropped on the Mitsubishi aircraft plant at Nagoya. Two (probably eight) enemy planes were shot down. One B-29 was ditched, one crashed at Saipan, and two are missing.

On 19 December, B-24's resumed their attacks on Iwo Jima airfield areas, dropping 118 tons; fighters over the same target shot down ten enemy planes and destroyed another on the ground.



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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

Preliminary reports state that approximately 50 B-29's made another attack on Nagoya on 22 December.

EASTERN FRONT

On 21 December, Germans were withdrawing from the pocket north-east of Budapest, and Soviet troops advanced ten to 15 miles. At the Danube bend, the Soviets advanced five miles west along the north bank of the river.

WAR DEPARTMENT

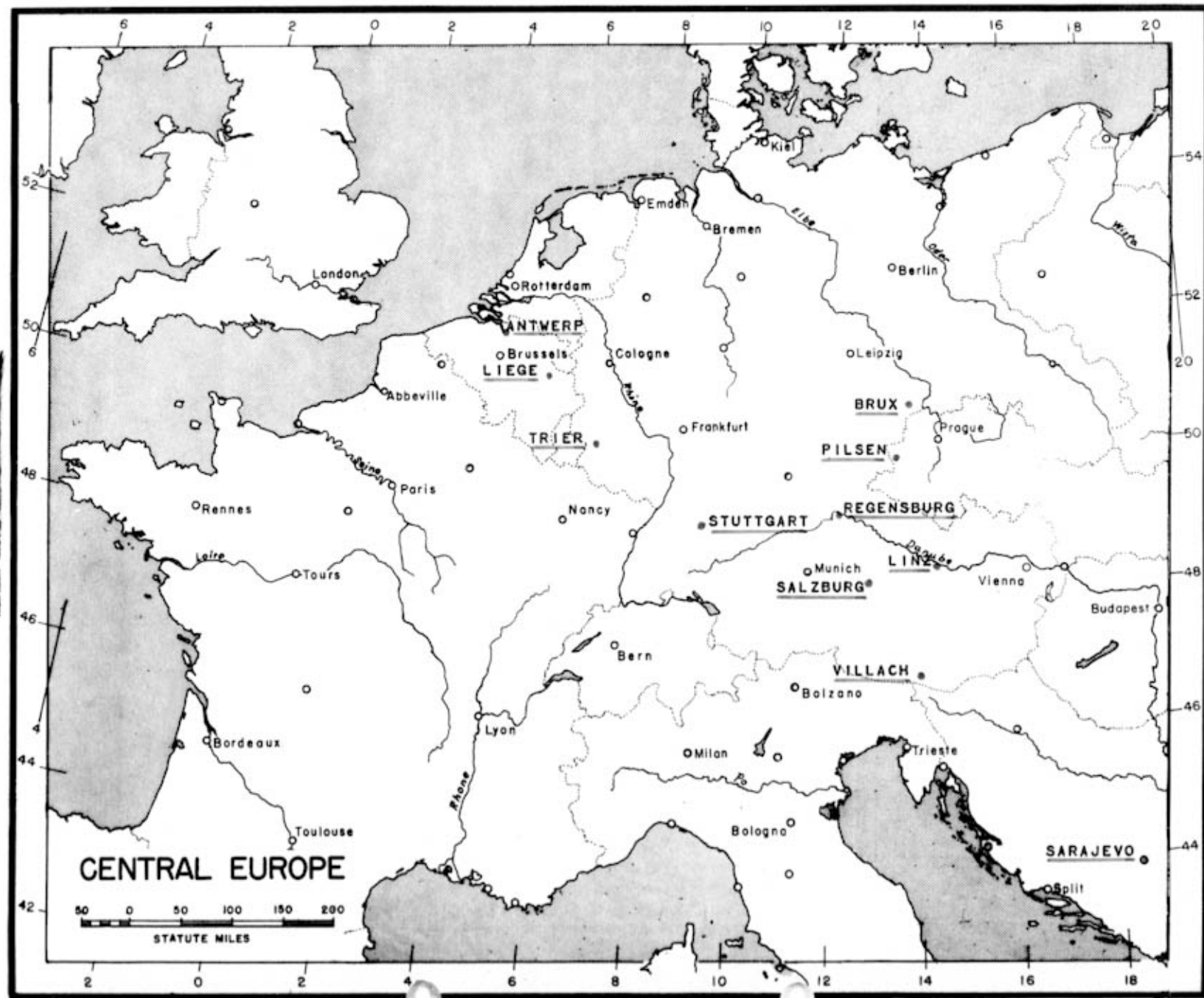
DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 1107

0700 December 20 to 0700 December 21, 1944

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THE WHITE HOUSE



WESTERN FRONT



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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

EUROPEAN THEATER

1. During the 24 hours ending at sunset, 19 December, the Tactical Air Forces flew 784 sorties, mainly over the battle areas. Fifteen enemy planes were shot down; we lost eight.

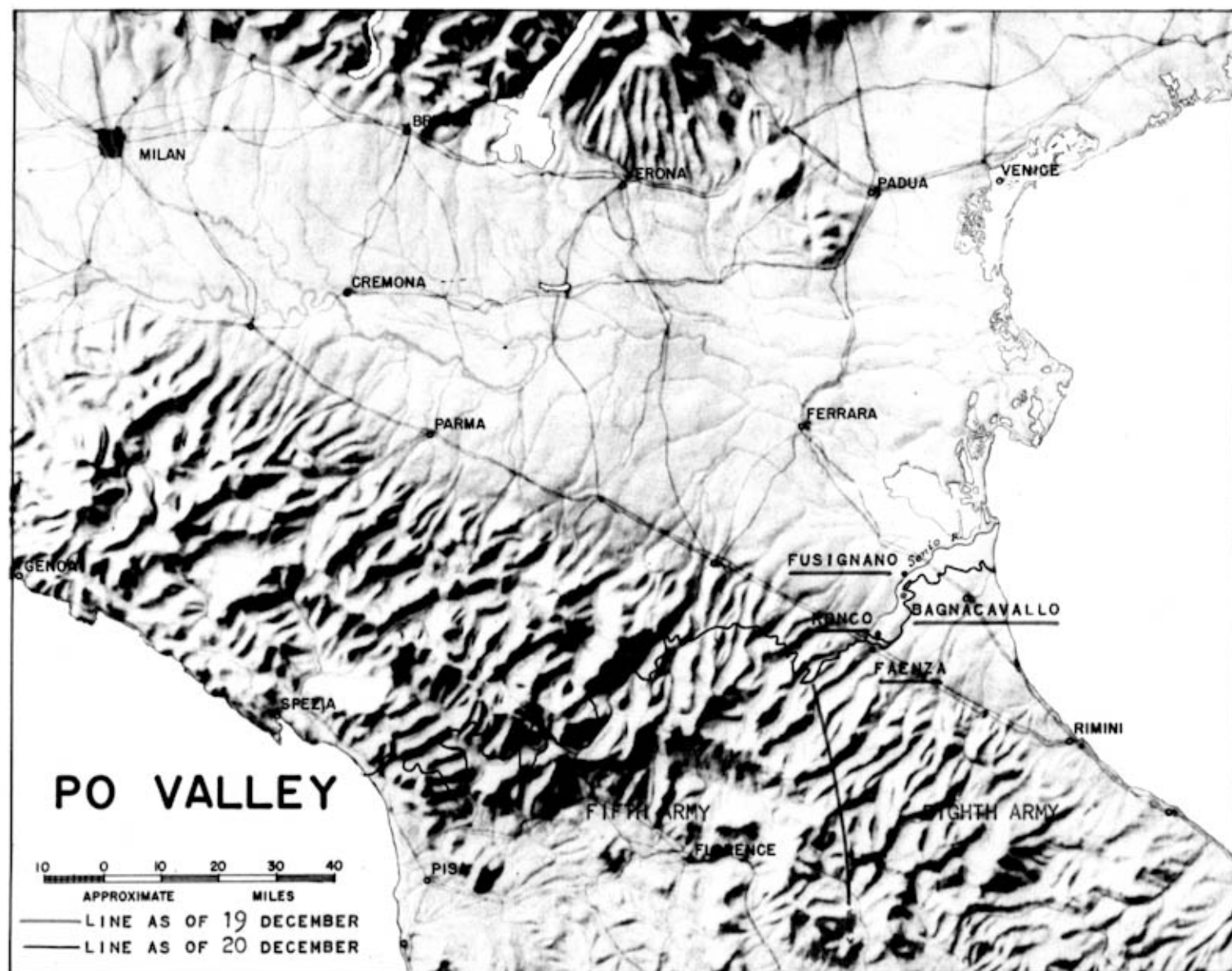
During the 24 hours ending at 0600 on 20 December, four rockets fell in Essex and the London area.

During the 24-hour period ending at 1800 on 19 December, one flying bomb fell in Liege and 14 bombs and two rockets in areas surrounding Liege and Antwerp.

2. By 1200 of 20 December, there were no significant changes on the British or US Ninth Army fronts.

In the counteroffensive on our First Army front, the enemy was attempting to widen and deepen the salient of his northern thrust, but its impetus had been slowed down. Units of the V Corps were resisting heavy pressure south of Monschau and along the northern edge of the salient. We made a one-mile withdrawal west of Wirtzfeld to better defensive positions. An attack by 30 enemy tanks made some progress in this area, but generally our line was firm. The V Corps also continued to hold Stavelot against heavy attack from the southwest; farther west, the enemy held Stoumont. Elements of the XVIII Corps have checked the penetration to the west and regained some ground south of Stoumont, while the VIII Corps continued to hold St. Vith, preventing the widening of the salient to the south. In the southern salient the enemy was still increasing his penetrations westward, particularly in the Bastogne area. The situation there remained

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fluid, but no coordinated break-through had developed. Advance enemy elements had cut the Bastogne-Arlon road.

There was no significant change on the Third Army front.

The XV Corps of our Seventh Army continued to attack and made local progress northwest of Bitsch. The VI Corps made small gains in heavy fighting north of Weissenburg.

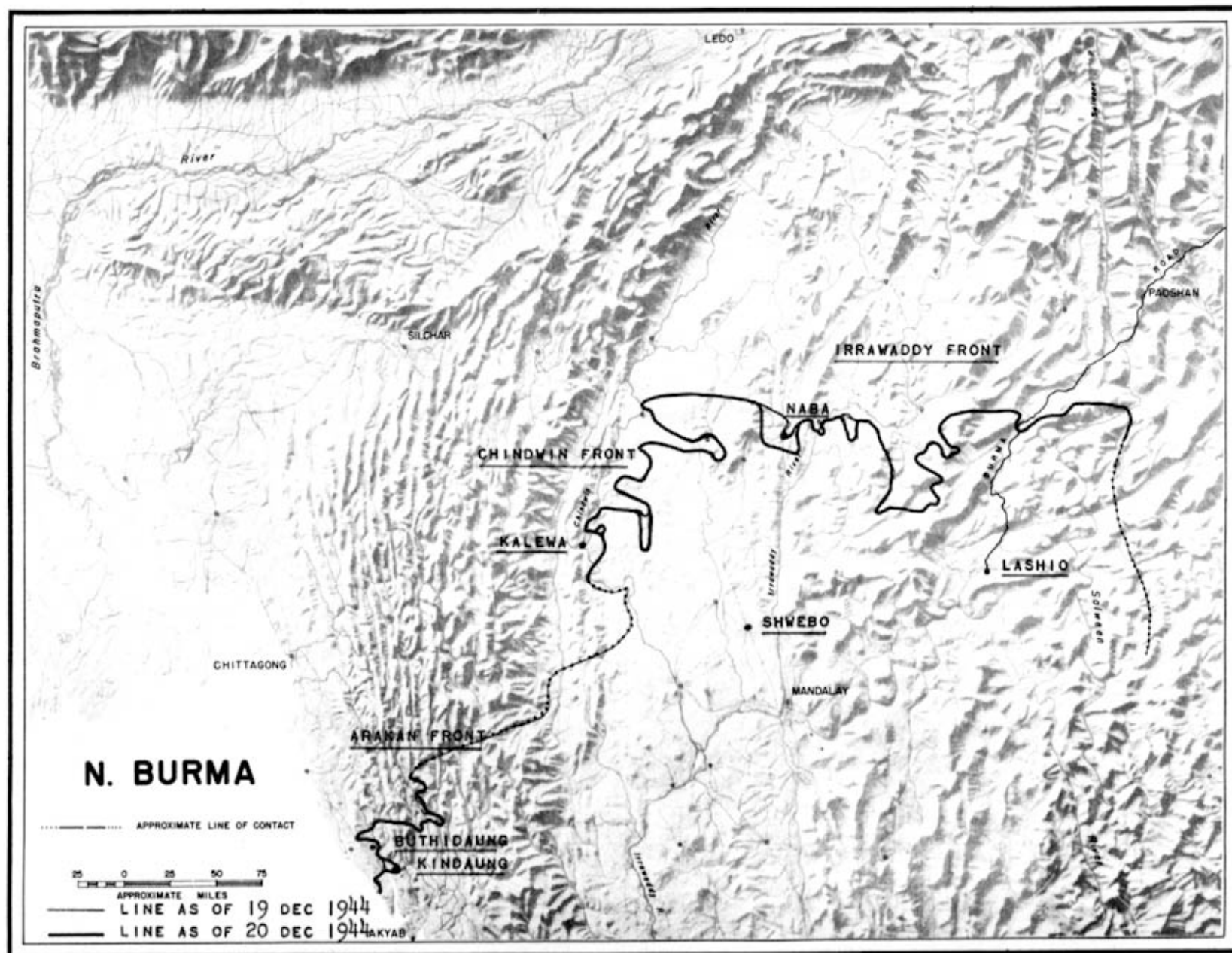
In Alsace, American troops of the First French Army continued to advance slowly to within two and one-half miles of Colmar. French troops made additional local gains north of Munster.

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

1. During the 24 hours ending at 1800, 19 December, adverse weather limited the Tactical Air Force to 109 sorties. The Balkan Air Force, during 123 sorties, attacked targets in southern Yugoslavia. Three fighters are missing.

On 19 December, 53 bombers of the 15th Air Force attacked Sarajevo rail yards and roads in southern Yugoslavia. On 20 December, 522 escorted heavy bombers struck at oil plants at Regensburg (southern Germany), the Skoda Works at Pilsen, and rail yards at Linz, Salzburg, and Villach in Austria. Fifteen bombers and two fighters are missing.

2. By 1200 of 20 December, the Eighth Army had cleared the area north of Faenza from the river Senio, three miles northwest of the city, to the village of Ronco, two miles to the northeast. Farther northeast, Canadian troops attacked north of Bagnacavallo, but strong counterattacks





forced them back to their original positions except for a limited gain southeast of Fusignano. Activity on the Fifth Army front was confined to patrolling.

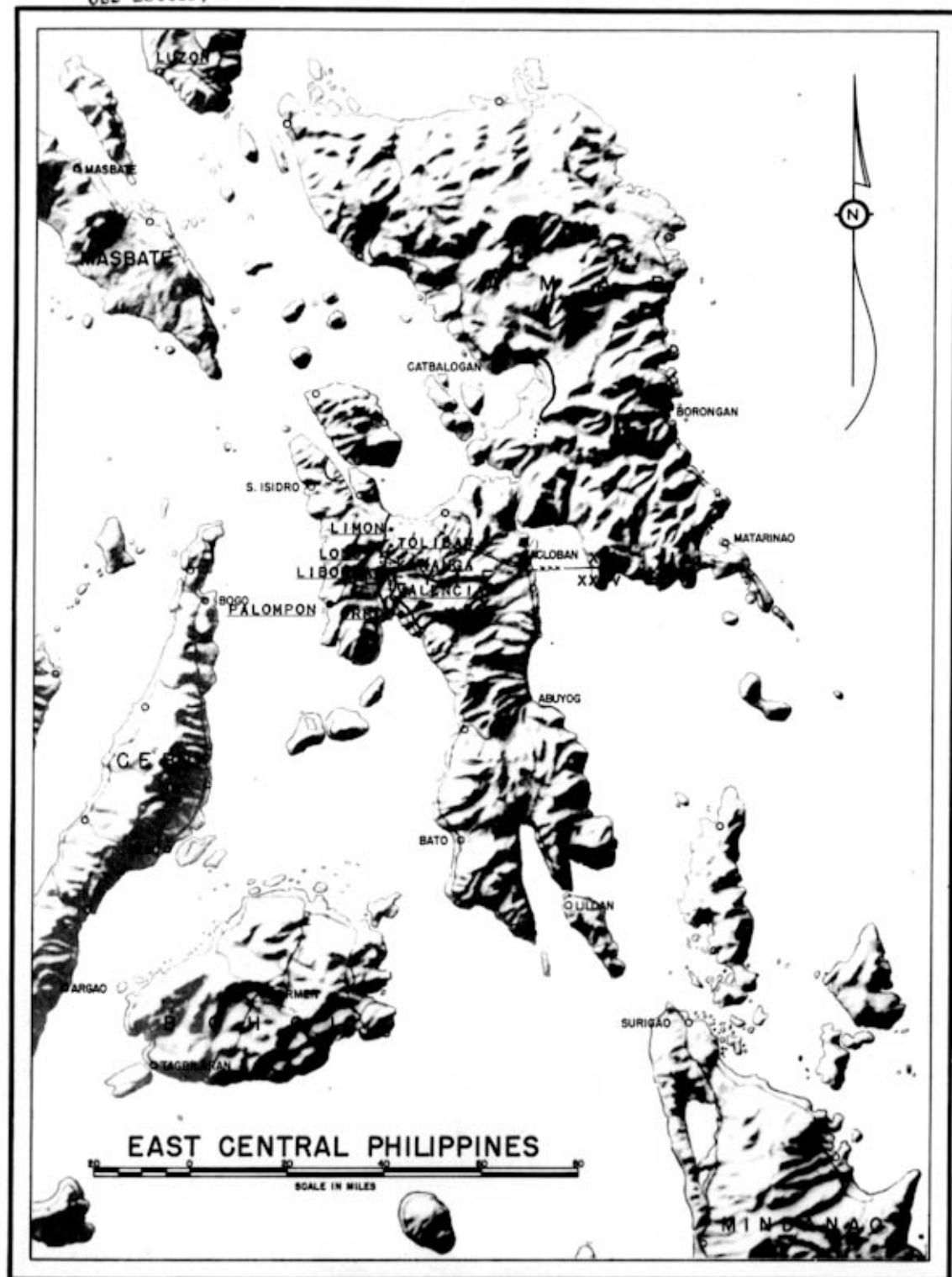
3. As of 16 December, Lieutenant General Lucien K. Truscott assumed command of the Fifth Army.

ASIATIC THEATER

1. Preliminary reports state that 40 B-29's bombed the Manchuria aircraft plant at Mukden on 21 December. Nine B-29's bombed alternate targets.

2. On 18 December, the Eastern Air Command flew a total of 1,773 sorties. Fighters and fighter bombers attacked targets in the Lashio area and supported ground operations on the Irrawaddy front. Medium bombers destroyed two railroad bridges south of Shwebo and attacked other railroad targets throughout central and southern Burma.

3. On 18 December, the 14th Air Force flew 281 fighter and bomber sorties, including 212 in the raid on Hankow reported yesterday. The total of enemy planes destroyed in this attack has been raised to 42 (probably 66). Four fighters failed to return from Hankow, and one fighter was lost elsewhere. A communique reports that on 19 December fighter bombers sank a large Japanese tanker and probably sank a destroyer and two large freighters at Hongkong. Five enemy planes were destroyed in the Hongkong area and two others at Hankow.



4. By 19 December on the Irrawaddy front, two British columns 15 miles apart had moved south on either side of the Burma railroad to points 15 and 20 miles southwest of Naba. On the Chindwin front, another British column had advanced south to a point 30 miles due east of Kalewa. On the Arakan front, British troops moving southeast from Buthidaung occupied Kindaung. No opposition was reported to any of these moves.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. For the period 16-19 December, more than 670 additional sorties were reported. Attacks were made on Japanese air installations on southeastern Luzon, Negros, Zamboanga, Amboina and Rabaul. In attacks on shipping, a coastal vessel was left sinking, a small freighter was set afire, and a medium freighter was damaged, all in the Philippine area. We lost three fighters. Our ground and PT boat fire shot down eight enemy planes over Mindoro.

2. Enemy ground action on Mindoro was reported as nil from 17 to 19 December.

By 19 December, on Leyte, the 77th Division had advanced from Valencia and captured Libongao, while the 1st Cavalry Division, moving south from Tolibaw, captured Lonoy. In the Limon-Tolibaw area, resistance was decreasing. Southeast of Ormoc our attacks continued in the Anas area and our forces there were being reinforced.

3. On 19 December, 167 Marine planes struck Ollot Island in

Malcoelap Atoll, dropping 296 fire bombs in addition to high explosives.
Three planes were lost.

EASTERN FRONT

On 20 December, Soviet forces continued to narrow the German pocket northeast of Budapest.

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Effective 1 January 1945, the Southern Defense Command will be abolished and its functions absorbed by the Eastern Defense Command, which will comprise the continental United States less the states of Washington, California, Oregon, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, Montana and Idaho.

WAR DEPARTMENT

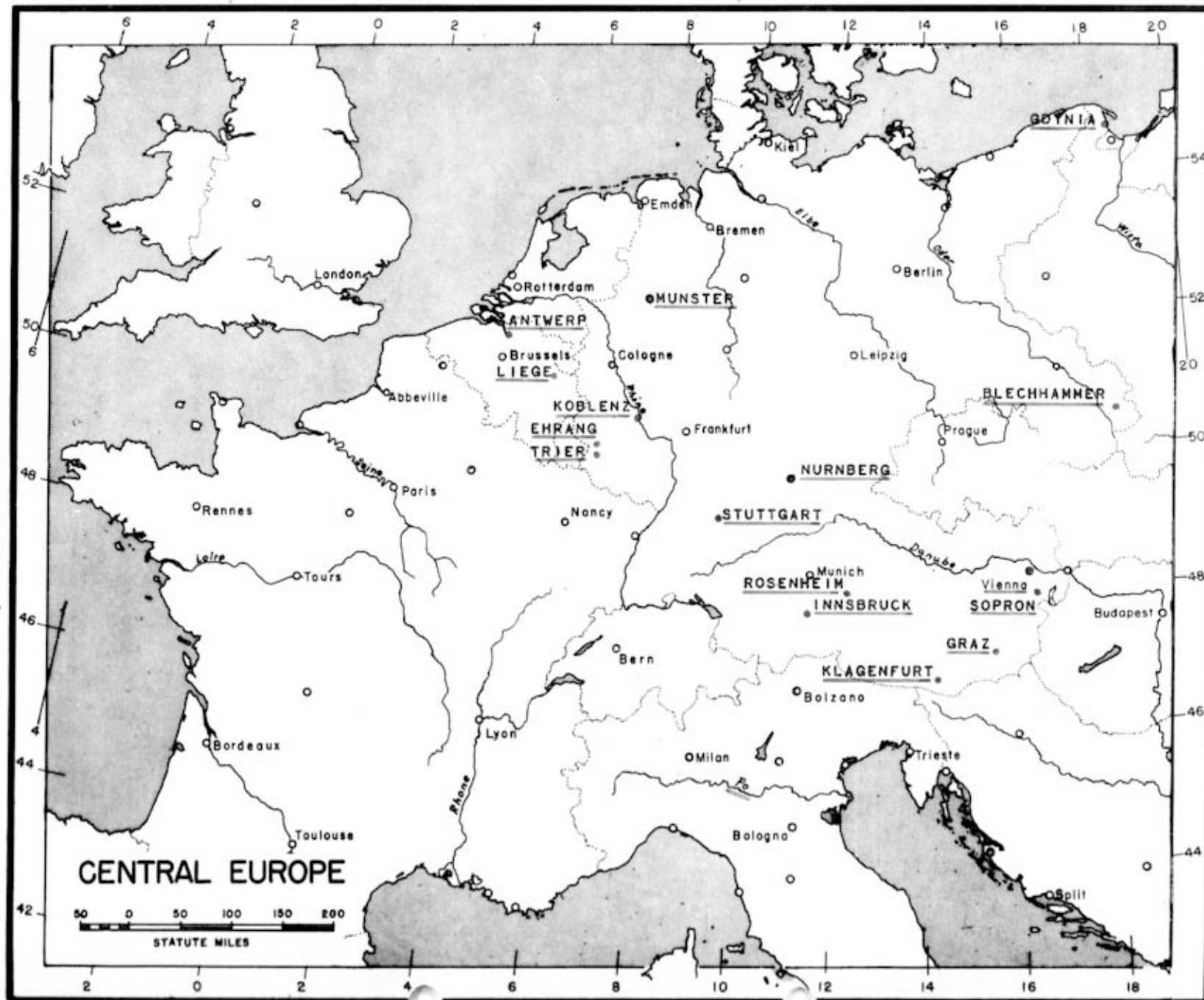
DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 1106

0700 December 19 to 0700 December 20, 1944

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE



EUROPEAN THEATER

1. A review of the period from 20 October to 17 December shows that 16 flying bombs and 58 rockets fell in the Antwerp port area. Twenty ship berths, an electric power station, and the telephone exchange suffered damage. The power and telephone facilities have been repaired, and the damage to the ship berths has not affected the discharge of cargo. As of 19 December, six to ten US ships can be accepted daily.

On 16 December, 235 8th Air Force bombers struck at German rail yards, principally at Stuttgart. On 17 December, weather forced cancellation of operations. Operations of 18 December were reported yesterday. On 19 December, despite adverse weather, more than 300 heavy bombers attacked rail yards at Ehrang (Trier area) and seven railroad junctions west of Koblenz vital to the supply of attacking German ground forces. Preliminary reports state that three enemy aircraft were destroyed. Two of our bombers and three fighters are missing.

During the night of 18-19 December, RAF heavy bombers dropped 615 tons on shipping at Gdynia. Fifty-two Mosquitoes attacked Nurnberg and Munster.

During the 24 hours ending at sunset, 18 December, the Tactical Air Forces flew 1,792 sorties, principally over the battle area. More than 300 vehicles, including 75 armored type, were destroyed, and 47 enemy planes were shot down. We lost 18 planes.

Three rockets fell along the east coast of England during the 24-hour period ending at 0600, 19 December.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

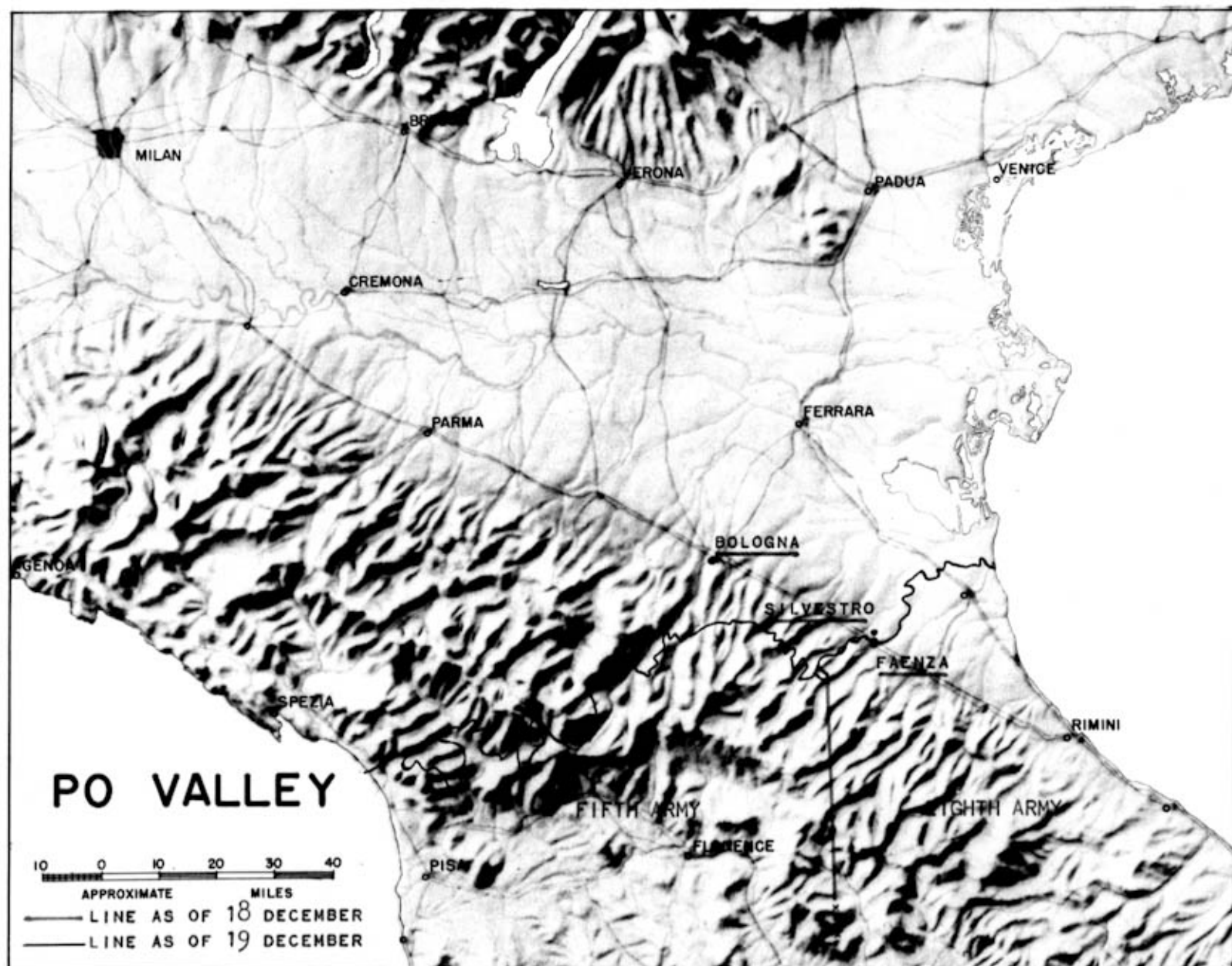
During the preceding 24 hours, four rockets landed in Antwerp and nine in the surrounding area. Reported flying bombs were: five in Antwerp, 13 in surrounding areas, and two in the Liege area.

2. By noon, 19 December, there had been no significant changes on the British or US Ninth Army fronts.

The German counteroffensive on the First Army front between Aachen and Luxembourg had developed in great strength by 18 December and penetrated our lines in two major thrusts, the more northern of which broke through on a 12-mile front north of St. Vith and has penetrated to a point eight miles west of Stavelot, (this point is 30 miles west of the 17 December front). The southern thrust, through northern Luxembourg broke through on a ten-mile front to a depth of 17 miles, reaching the town of Bastogne. Several of our units have been cut off. Other enemy attacks northeast and southeast of Monschau have been repulsed. West of Echternach the enemy pressure forced us to withdraw up to two miles on a seven-mile front. On the northern flank of the First Army sector our troops drove to the Roer River at the western outskirts of Duren, after advancing approximately a mile on a four-mile front. Northeast of Monschau, near Kesternich, two counterattacks were repulsed.

On 18 December, the Third Army made local gains to the northwest and to the east of Saargemund.

On the Seventh Army front, the XV Corps was engaged in stiff fighting in its attack near Bitsch. The VI Corps advanced up to three miles along a 20-mile front in the zone between Lauterburg and Weissenburg. West of Weissenburg, the Lauter River was crossed against very stiff resistance.



TOP SECRET



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In Alsace, the First French Army captured Ammerschwihr, three miles northwest of Colmar. On 18 December, advances were made north of Munster, and a counterattack was repulsed northwest of Thann.

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

1. During the 24-hour period ending at 1800, 18 December, weather was adverse. The Tactical Air Force flew 150 sorties; the Balkan Air Force flew 137.

On that date, the 15th Air Force dropped 915 tons of bombs on oil refineries at Blechhammer and on rail yards at Rosenheim, Saproon, Graz, Klagenfurt, Innsbruck and Vienna. Six bombers are missing.

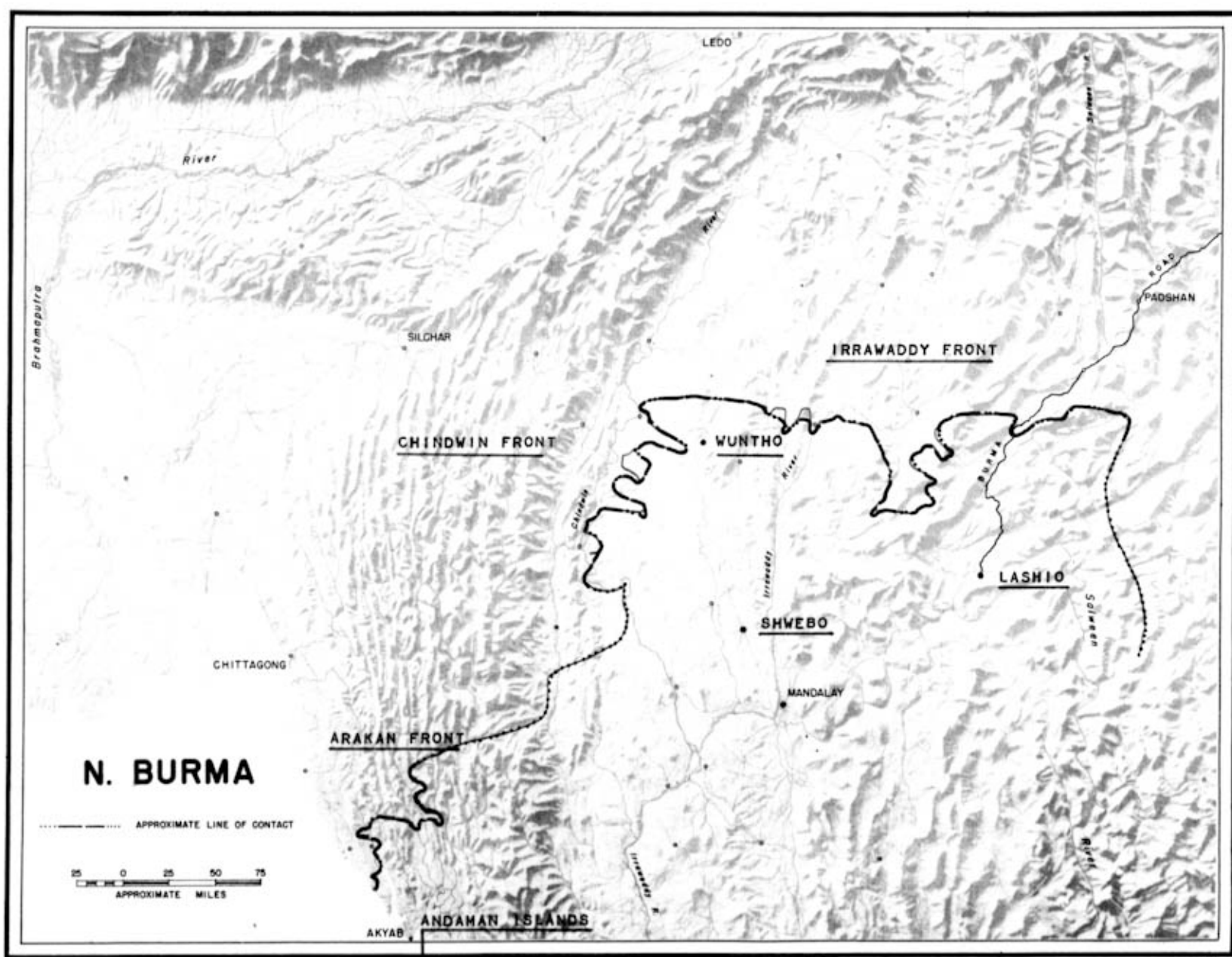
2. By 1200 hours of 19 December, the Eighth Army had followed German withdrawals through the northern outskirts of Faenza and had pushed patrols a mile north to Silvestro. There was vigorous patrol activity on the Eighth Army front to the west of Faenza. There, and also the eastern Fifth Army front several small gains were made.

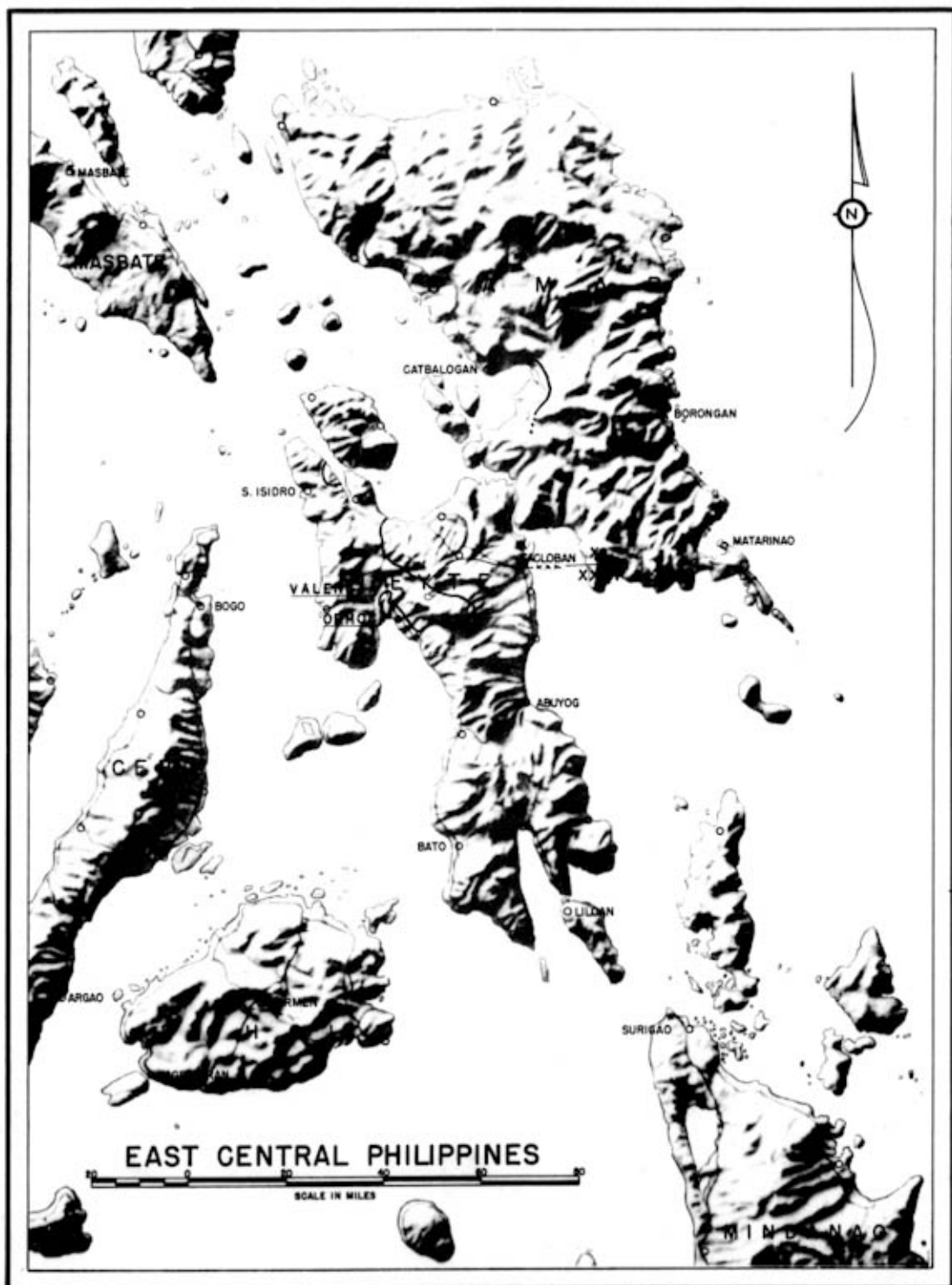
ASIATIC THEATER

1. Detailed reports of the 19 December operations of the 20th Bomb Command state that 17 B-29's dropped 55 tons on Omura; 13 dropped 42 tons on Shanghai; two dropped six tons at Nanking; two were unable to bomb, and two are missing. Five enemy aircraft were destroyed.

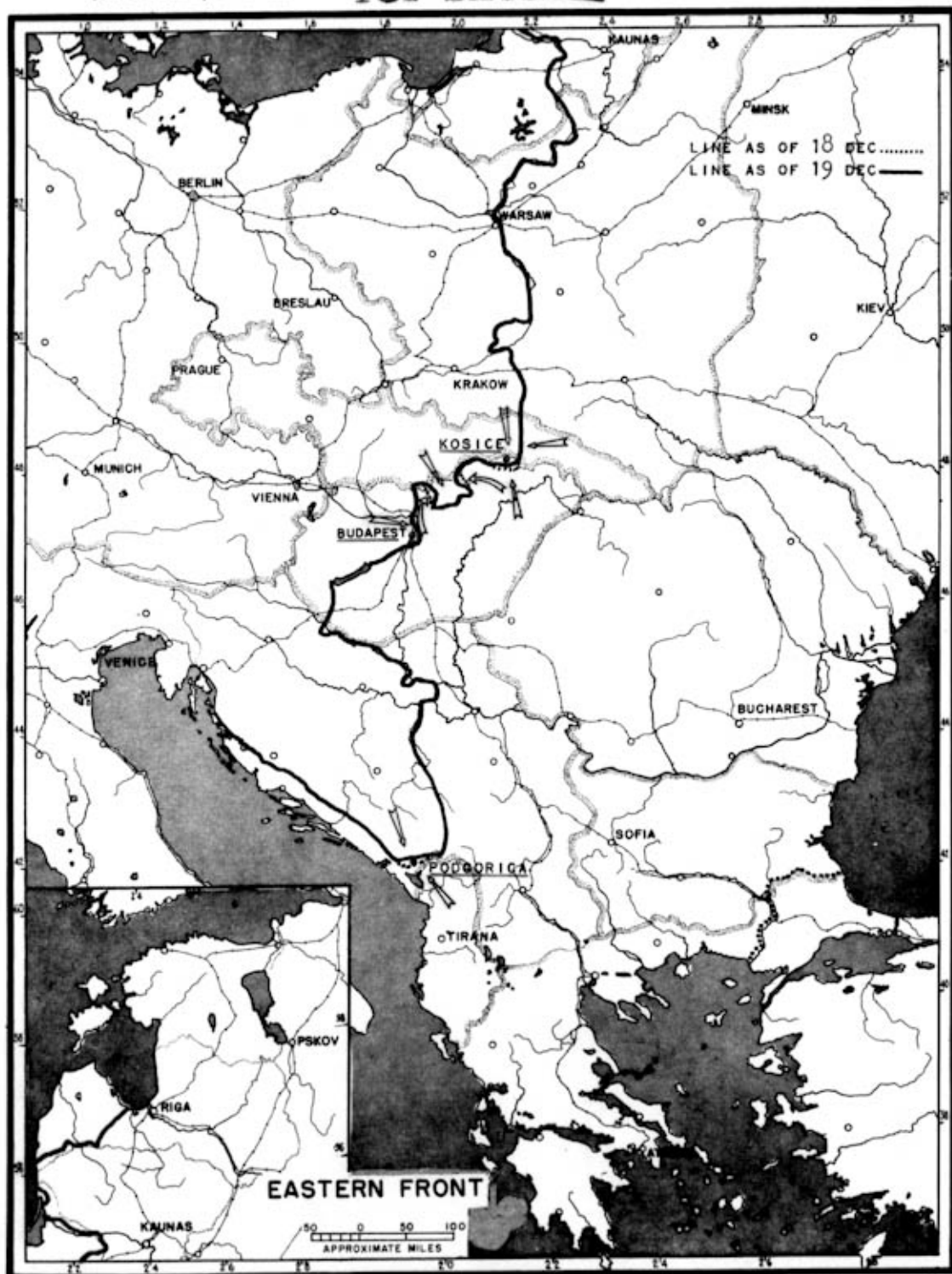
2. During 17 December, the Eastern Air Command flew 1,439 sorties of which 557 were tactical. Targets included supply dumps in southern

TOP SECRET





TOP SECRET



TOP SECRET

Burma, the Mandalay-Lashio railroad and Japanese installations in the Andaman Islands.

3. During 16-17 December, the 14th Air Force operating in continuing bad weather flew 65 additional tactical sorties. Communiques report that on 18 December, a formation of escorted B-24's, composed of more than 200 planes, struck Hankow in coordination with the B-29 attack that day; 18 enemy aircraft were destroyed.

4. Liaison reported on 16 December that Chinese troops entered Hochih.

By 18 December, British troops had advanced unopposed east of the Chindwin River to within 12 miles of Wuntho.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. More than 250 previously unreported sorties were flown during the period 16-18 December in the Southwest Pacific Area. Thirty-eight enemy planes were shot down. We lost one fighter.

2. No operations reports were received covering the Philippine ground action, but a communique dated 20 December states that on Leyte the 77th Division captured Valencia and was pushing northward. The Valencia airdrome was taken intact and is already in use.

EASTERN FRONT

On 19 December, Soviet troops advanced to within eight miles of Kosice in Czechoslovakia and were closing the pocket north-east of Budapest. In Yugoslavia, Partisans occupied Podgorica.

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

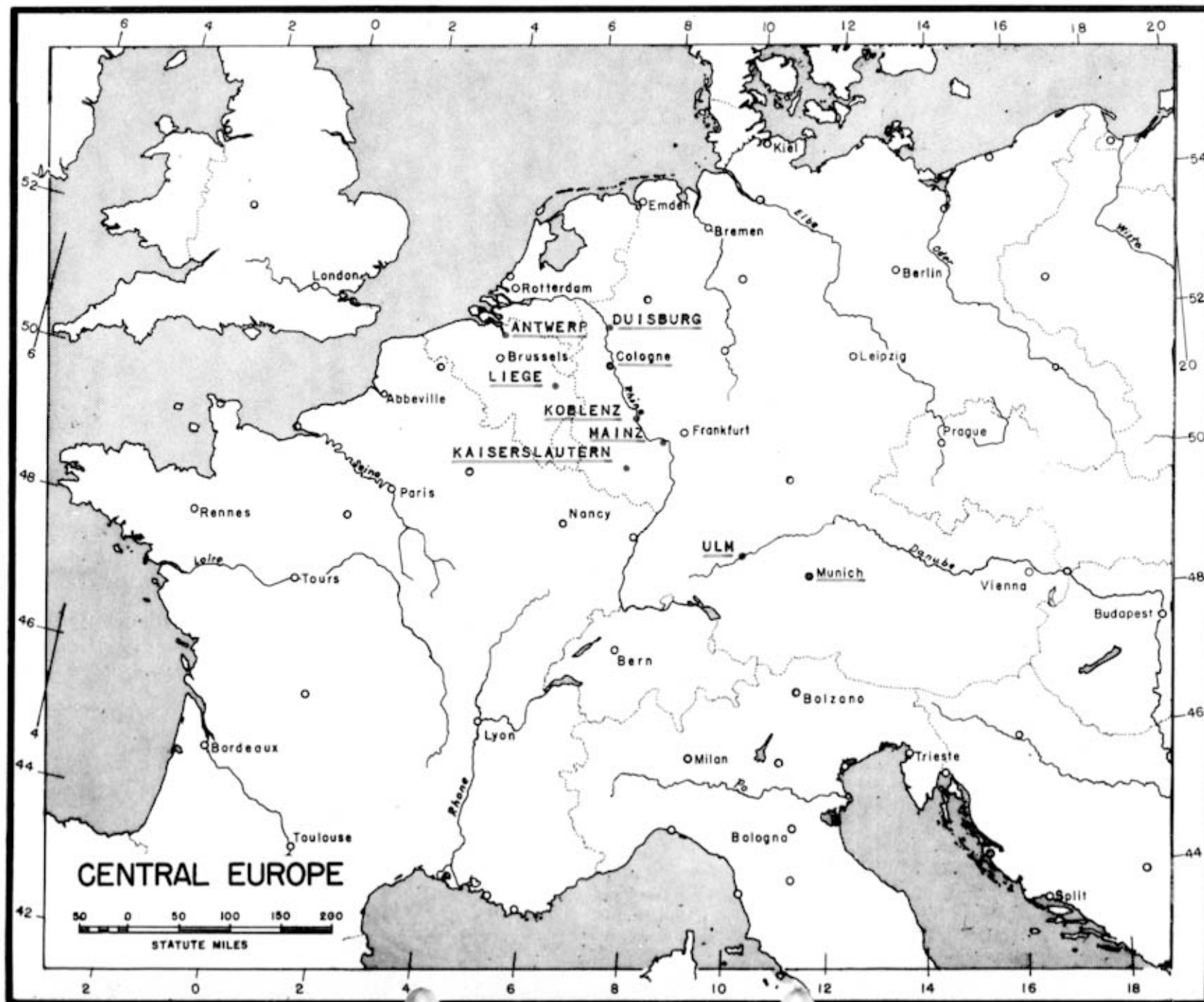
No. 1105

0700 December 18 to 0700 December 19, 1944

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

203(2)



EUROPEAN THEATER

1. During the 24 hours ending at sunset, 17 December, the Tactical Air Forces flew 2,337 sorties mainly in support of our ground forces. One hundred sixteen of some 320 enemy aircraft sighted were shot down. We lost 40 planes.

During the night of 17 December, nearly 1,100 RAF heavy bombers attacked Ulm, Duisburg and Munich. More than 100 Mosquitoes also struck these three places and other targets in Germany. Two enemy aircraft were shot down; nine of our planes are missing.

On 18 December, about 450 escorted 8th Air Force heavy bombers attacked rail yards at Koblenz, Cologne, Kaiserslautern and Mainz. Adverse weather forced more than 500 others to abandon the mission. Three enemy planes were destroyed. Five bombers and three fighters are missing.

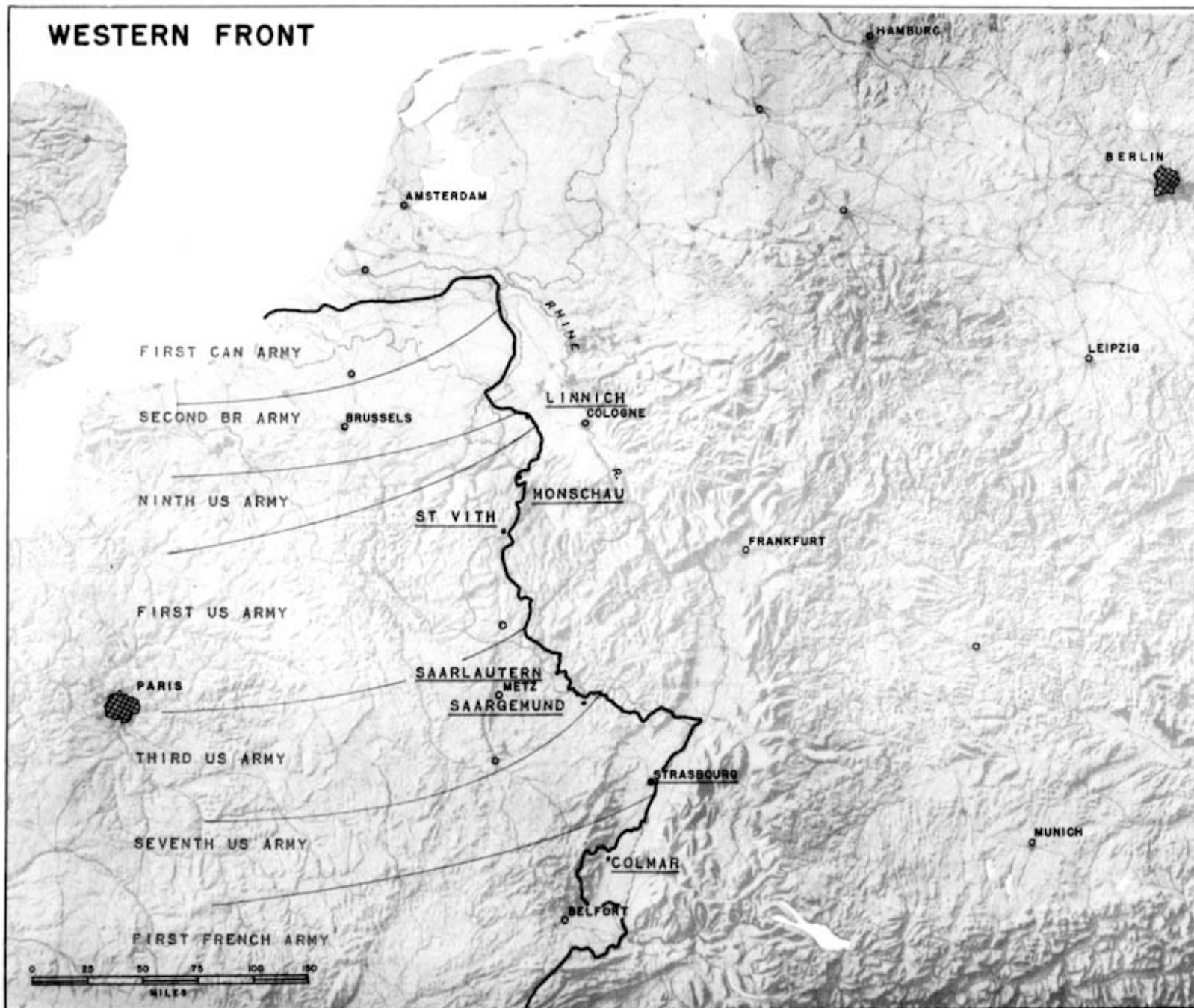
During the 24-hour period ending at 1800, 17 December, one rocket fell in Antwerp, and four flying bombs landed in Liege. Three rockets and 15 flying bombs fell in scattered areas behind the front.

During the 24 hours ending at 0600, 18 December, there were 62 flying bombs plotted against England. Fifteen of them fell in England including three in the London area. Fighter and antiaircraft defenses destroyed 15 bombs. During the same period, three rockets fell in the London and Essex areas.

2. There was no report from the Canadian and British fronts for 18 December.

Our Ninth Army continued to mop up enemy resistance in villages

WESTERN FRONT



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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

along its front line west of Linnich.

According to communique, heavy fighting continues on our First Army front in the sectors where the enemy launched his attack between the Monschau area and the southern part of the Luxembourg border. Few details are available but it was reported that St. Vith was still in Allied hands late on the 18th.

Our Third Army continued to make slow progress in wiping out enemy strong points in its bridgeheads near Saarlautern and gained ground northeast of Saargemund.

There was no reported action on the Seventh Army sector north of Strasbourg.

The French Army is still meeting heavy opposition west of Colmar.

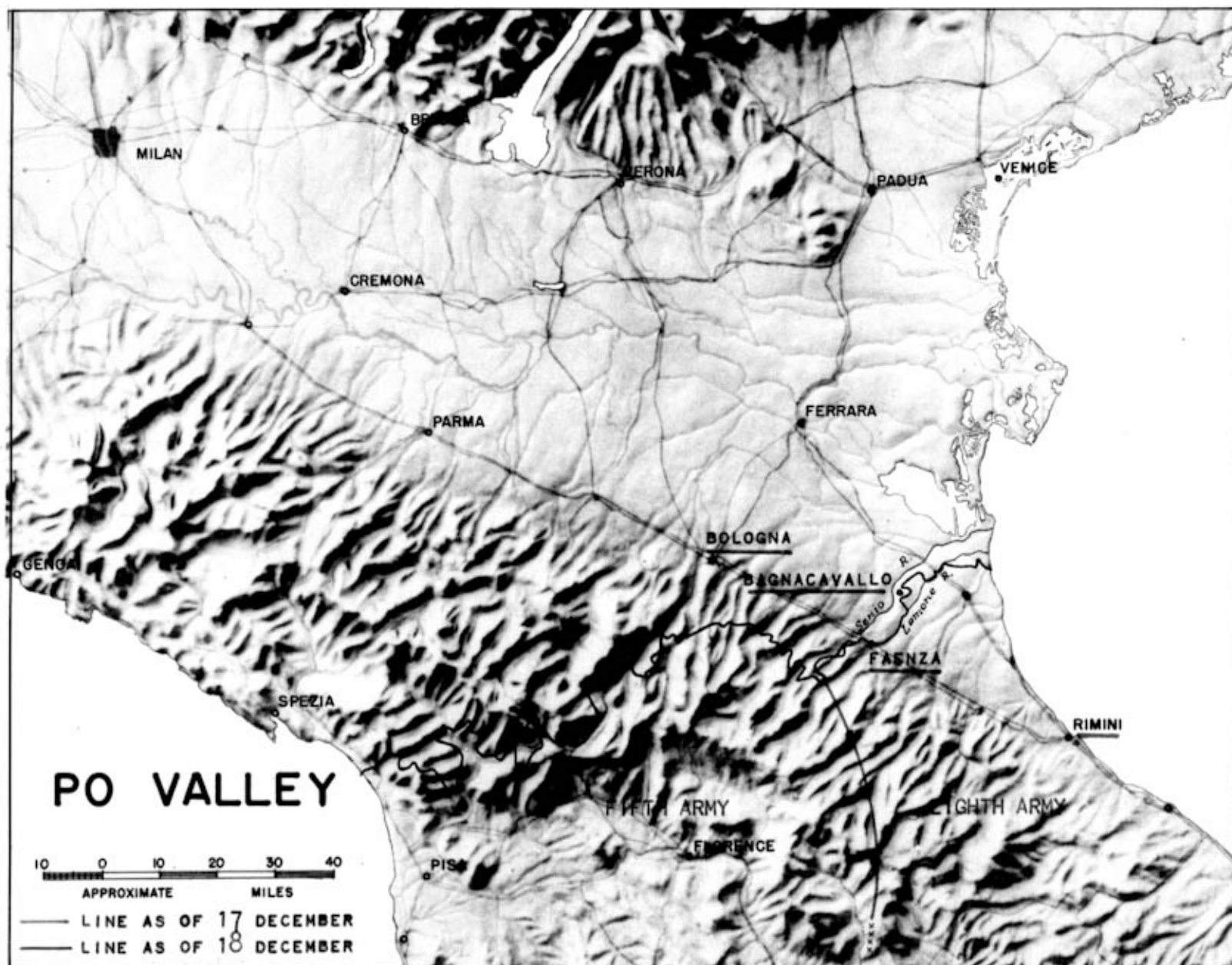
MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

1. In the 24 hours ending at 1800, 17 December, light planes of the Tactical Air Force flew 625 sorties in the battle area and in northern Italy. Coastal and Balkan Air Forces flew some 150 sorties and Greece-based planes again supported British troops. Weather hampered all these operations. We lost two planes.

On 18 December, escorted 15th Air Force heavy bombers dropped 1,110 tons of bombs on oil and rail targets in German Silesia, southwest Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Austria. Four enemy aircraft were shot down. Thirty-one bombers and one fighter are missing.

2. Poor visibility and rain hampered operations on the Eighth Army front up to noon, 18 December. The I Canadian Corps, attempting to expand





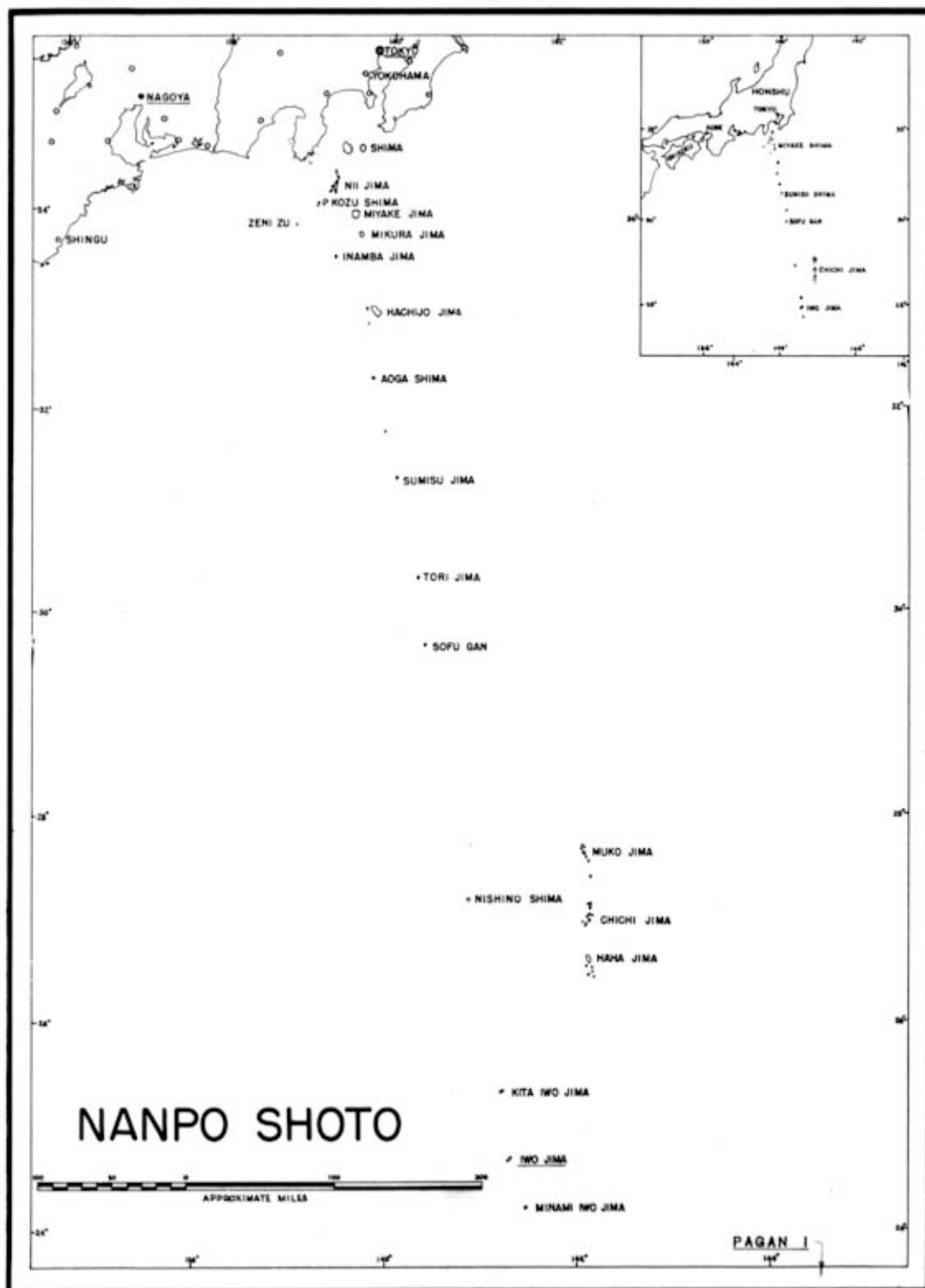
its Lamone River bridgehead south of Bagnacavallo, met heavy opposition from enemy tanks and infantry and failed to gain ground. Similar opposition was encountered by British troops along the railroad paralleling the Rimini-Bologna highway northwest of Faenza and only small gains were reported. Farther to the west enemy attacks forced the British to withdraw from a bridgehead across the Senio River; another bridgehead established the previous day was expanded slightly. Polish troops in the adjacent sector to the west continued to mop up scattered enemy resistance south of the river. There was no change on the Fifth Army front.

ASIATIC THEATER

1. On 16 December, the Eastern Air Command flew 1,421 sorties, of which 536 were tactical. During these operations heavy bombers attacked supply dumps near Akyab; lighter planes supported ground operations, and struck airfields south of Mandalay and other targets in Burma. We lost two planes.

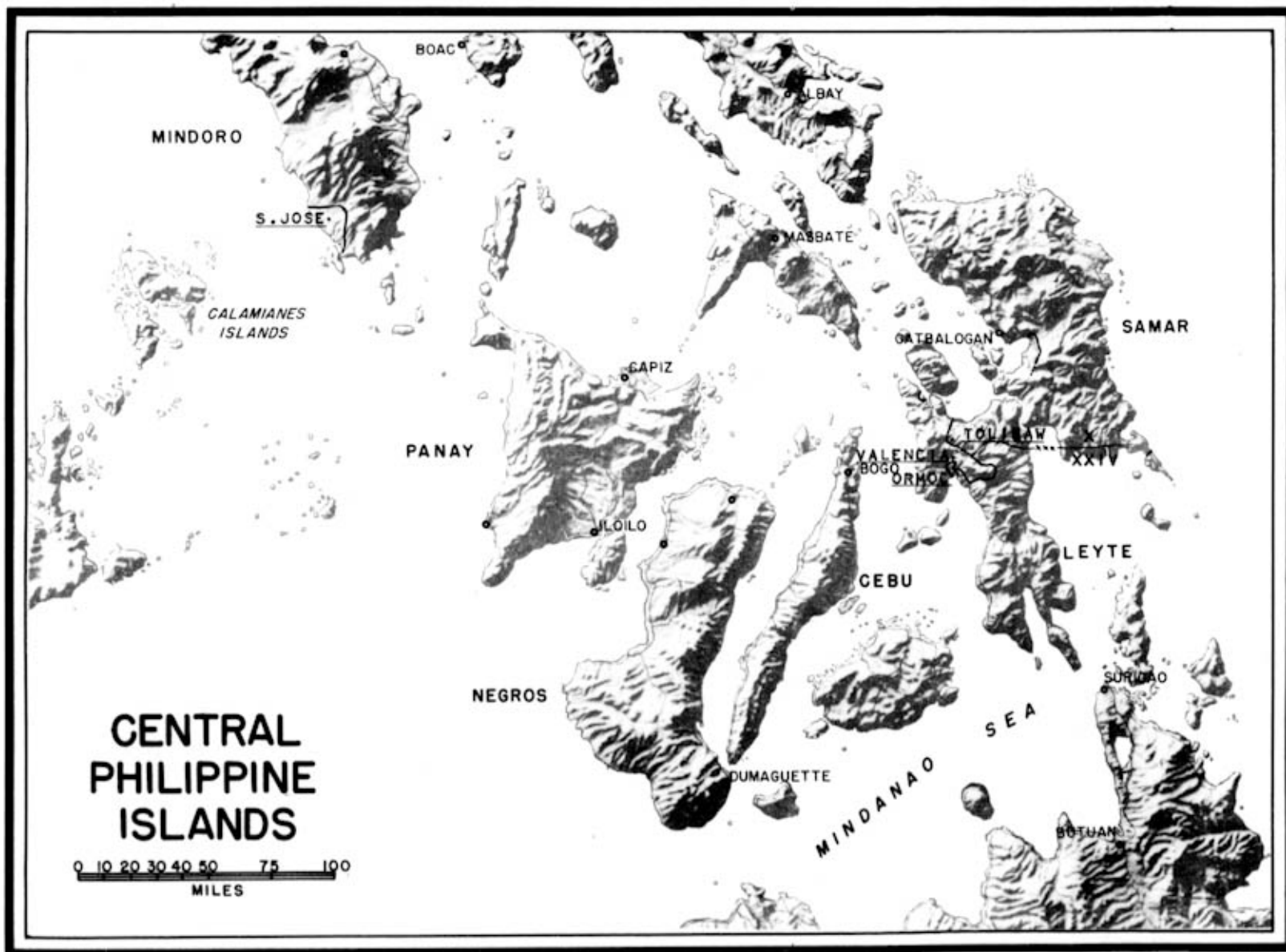
2. In 20th Bomber Command operations on 18 December more than 500 tons of bombs were dropped on targets at Hankow and some 40 additional tons were dropped on Yochow and Tangyang. There were no losses. Early on 19 December, 36 B-29's were dispatched to attack an aircraft plant at Omura, Japan. Secondary and last-resort targets were designated at Shanghai and Nanking.

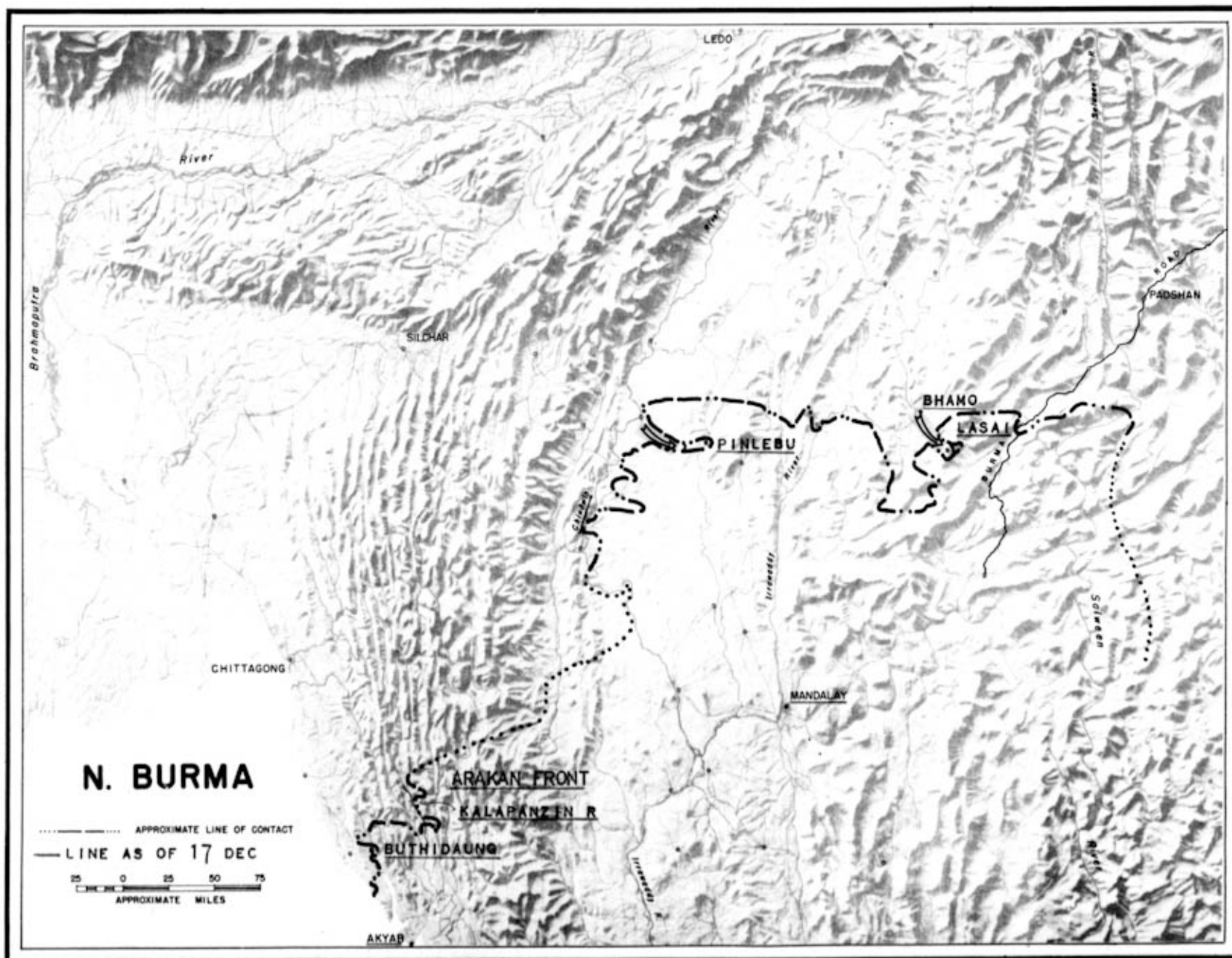
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3. By 17 December, British troops on the Arakan front continued to expand their Kalapanzin River bridgehead near Buthidaung. Other British advancing east from the Chindwin River reached Pinlebu. On the Irrawaddy front southeast of Bhamo, Chinese troops had advanced five miles east of Lasai.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. During the period 14-17 December, nearly 650 previously unreported sorties were flown in the Southwest Pacific Area. Heavy raids were continued against enemy airdromes throughout the area. Eighty-three additional enemy planes were destroyed, of which 50 were shot down during raids against Allied shipping in the Mindoro area.

2. To 17 December, on northern Leyte, our troops advancing south from Tolibaw were limited to small gains by stubborn resistance and difficult terrain. Our forces attacking north from the Ormoc area reached points about a mile south and southwest of Valencia against light resistance. There was no enemy ground activity reported on Mindoro.

3. During 14 and 15 December, three B-29's, in separate raids, attacked Tokyo and Pagan Island. On 16 December, B-24's and fighters continued our raids against Iwo Jima and Babelthuap.

EASTERN FRONT

In gains north, northeast and northwest of Miskolc on 18 December,



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the Red Army has reached the old Czechoslovakian border on a wide front. Northeast of Vac, Soviets failed to gain while farther south, German counterattacks succeeded in retaking a town. South of Lake Balaton strong Soviet attacks were repulsed.

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Proclamation of 17 December 1944 announced the rescission, effective 2 January 1945, of all general exclusion measures against persons of Japanese ancestry in the Western Defense Command.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

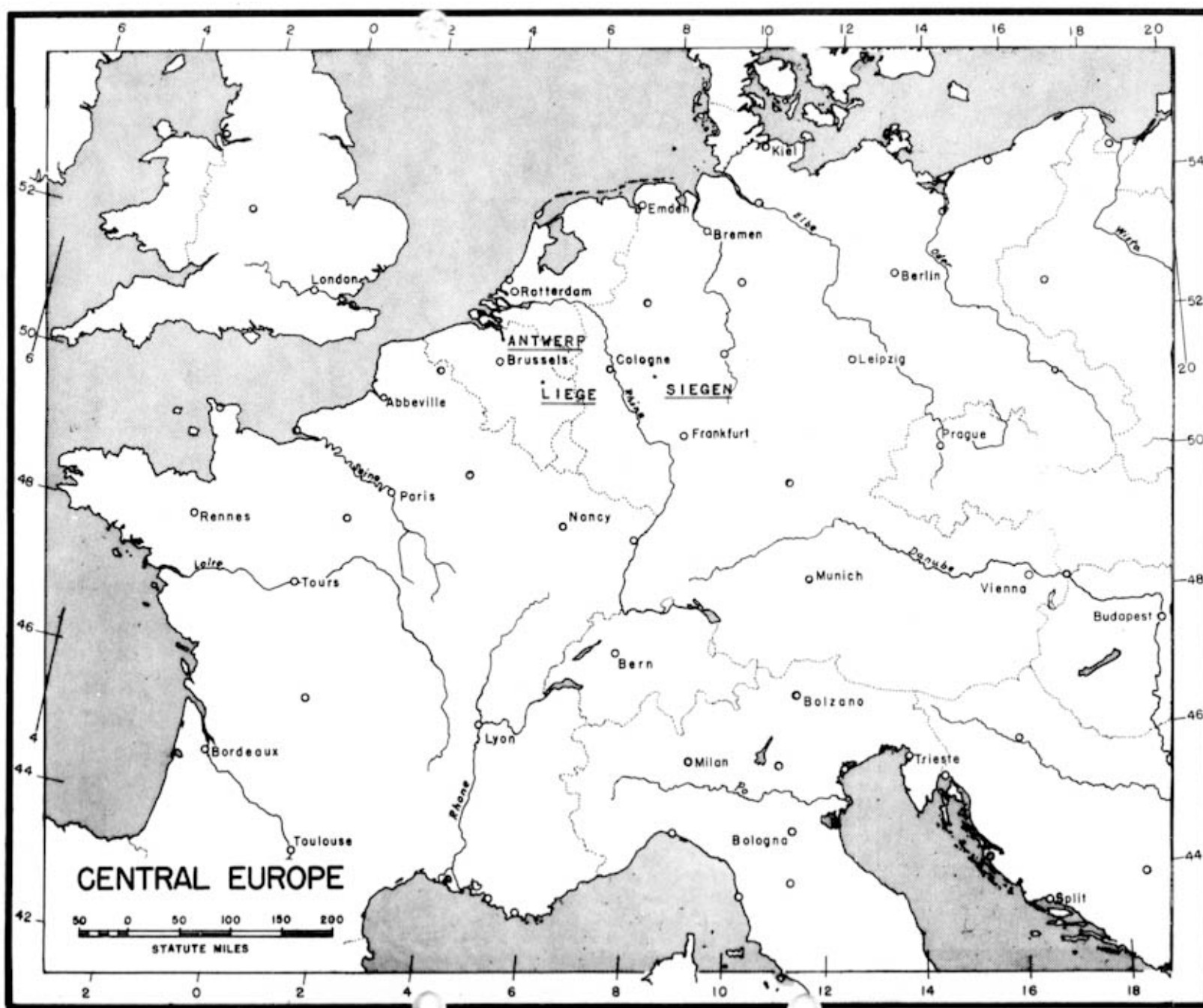
DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 1104

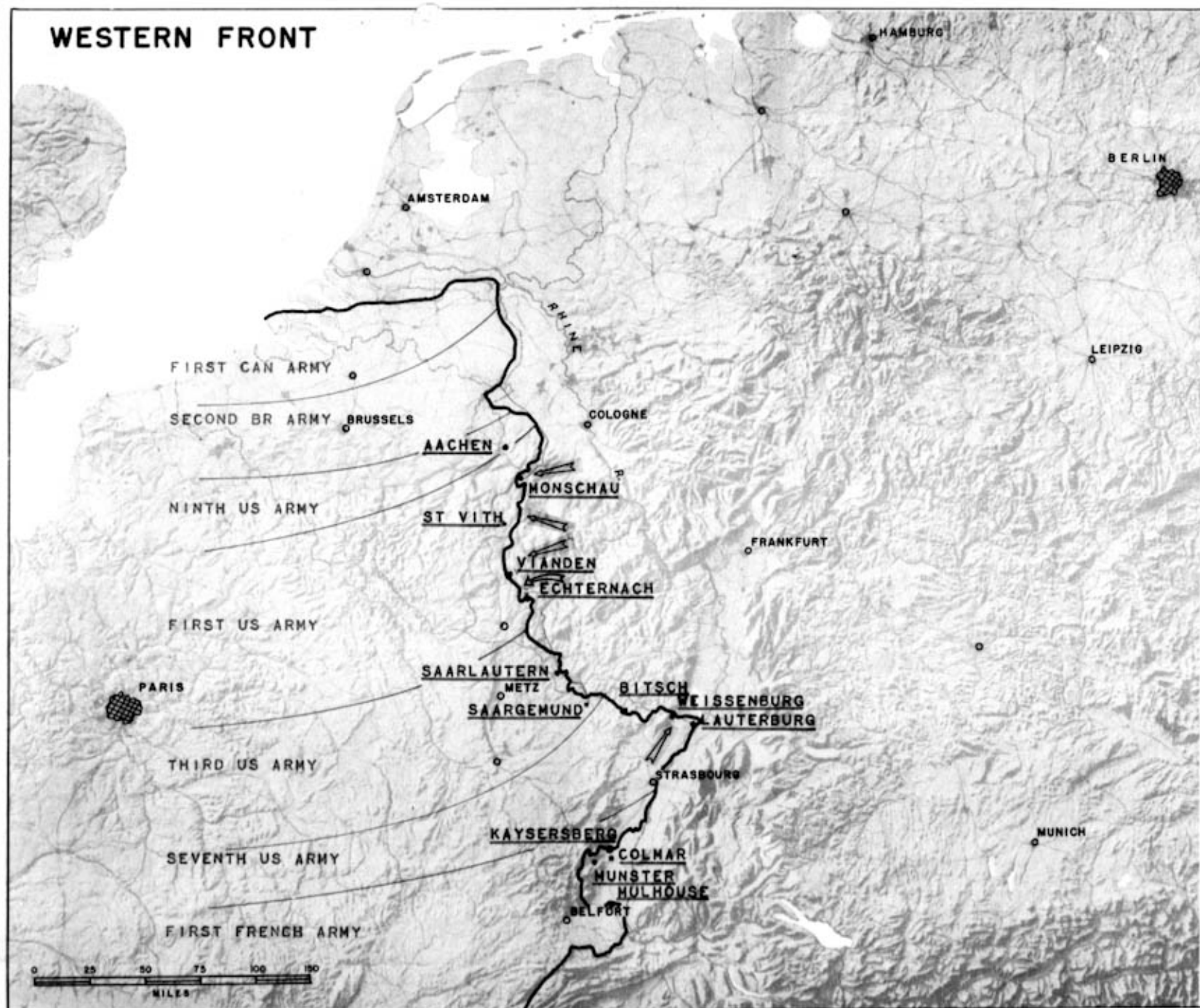
0700 December 17 to 0700 December 18, 1944

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE



WESTERN FRONT



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OSD Letter, 5-3-73

TOP SECRET

EUROPEAN THEATER

1. During the 24 hours ending at sunset 16 December, the Tactical Air Forces flew about 900 sorties. Eight enemy aircraft were shot down. We lost seven.

The RAF attacked rail yards at Siegen on 16 December, dropping 475 tons of bombs; one bomber is missing.

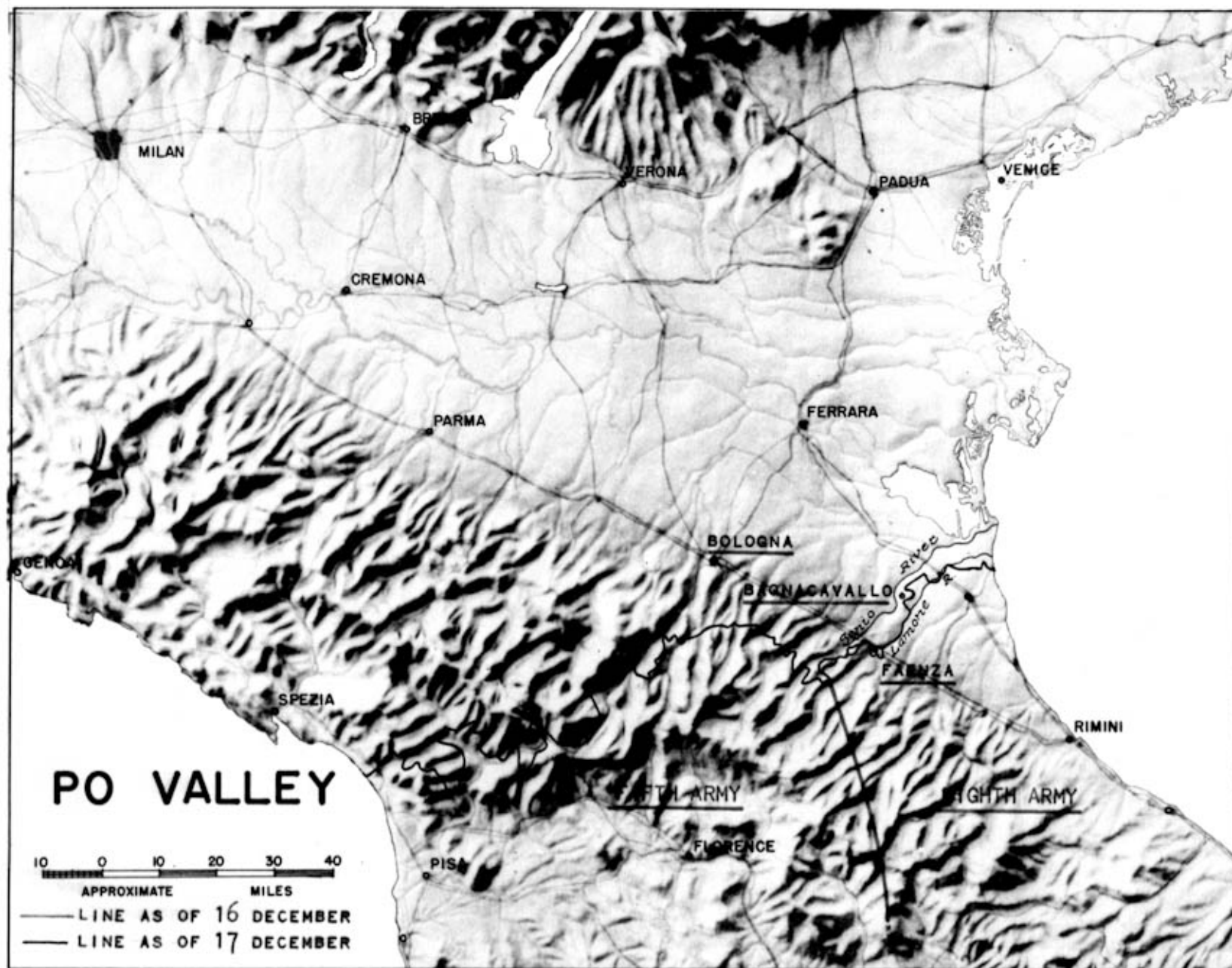
During the 24 hours ending at 1800, 16 December, eight rockets and one flying bomb fell in Antwerp. Twenty-seven other rockets and flying bombs fell in rural areas outside Antwerp and Liege.

2. In the 24 hours ending at noon, 17 December, there were no changes on the Canadian and British Army fronts. 22

German attacks which began in localized sectors of the First and Ninth Army fronts the previous day were increasing in scope and intensity from the Monschau area to the southern end of the Luxembourg-German border. Both infantry and armor were thrown against our lines and, in some sectors, the enemy made use of small groups of parachute troops. The XIX Corps eliminated two of four such groups which were dropped five miles north of Aachen, and were engaged in house-to-house fighting with the others. Enemy penetrations were reported along the German border between Monschau and St. Vith, southwest of Vianden and south of Echternach. Heaviest penetrations were in the Monschau area, where Germans pushed west of the town, and in the St. Vith area, where they advanced west three miles to within five miles of the town.

Our Third Army continued to make steady progress in the Saarlautern

TOP SECRET



bridgeheads and northeast of Saargemund.

On the Seventh Army front, the XV Corps made small gains to the northeast and continued to maintain pressure on Bitsch. The VI Corps advanced into Germany on an eight-mile front in the Weissenburg area and, northwest of the city, was more than two miles north of the border. Farther to the east near Lauterburg other units were across the border on a six-mile front.

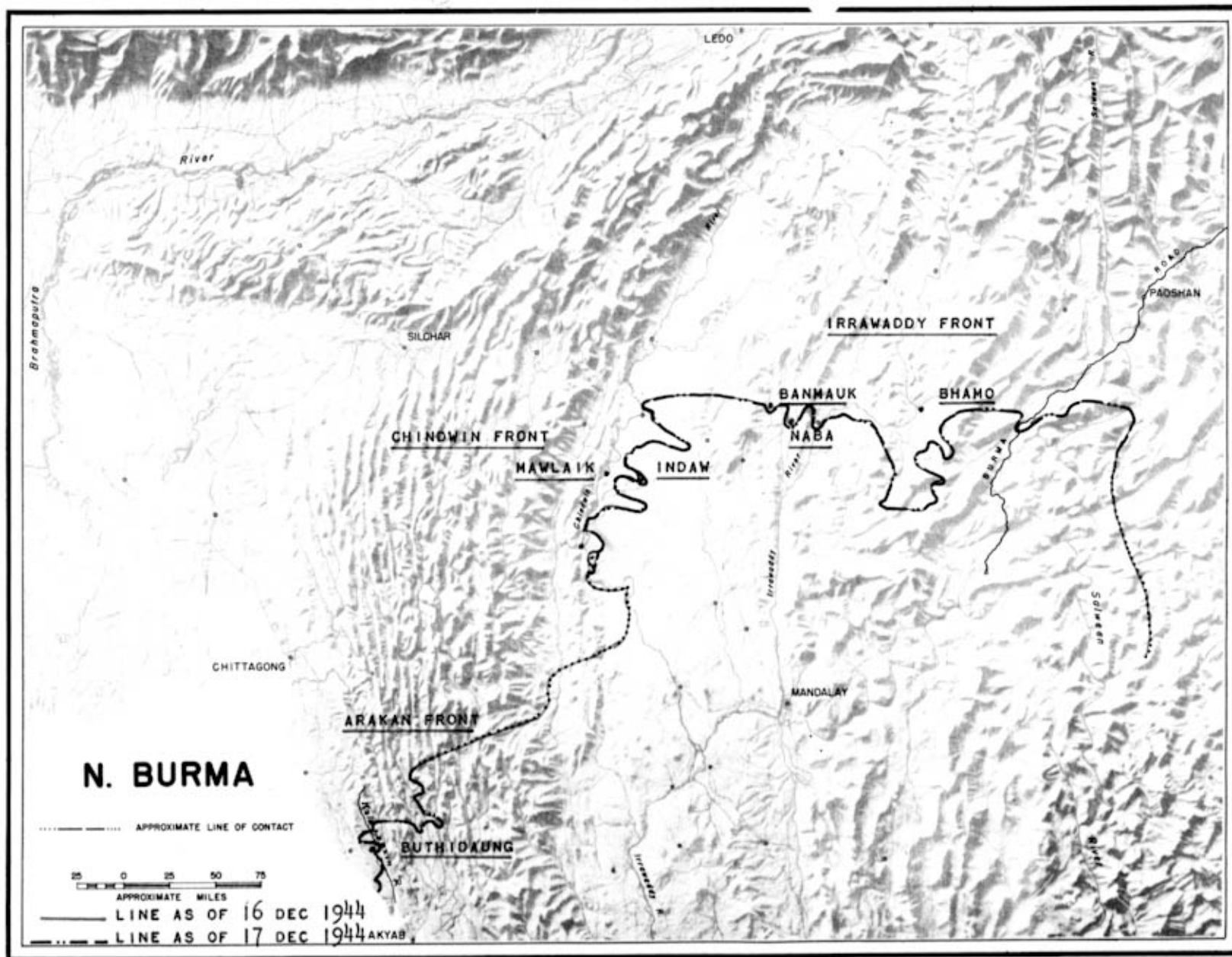
Northwest of Colmar, the French Army captured Kaysersberg and gained ground to improve its positions north of Munster. Enemy infiltration was reported into Mulhouse.

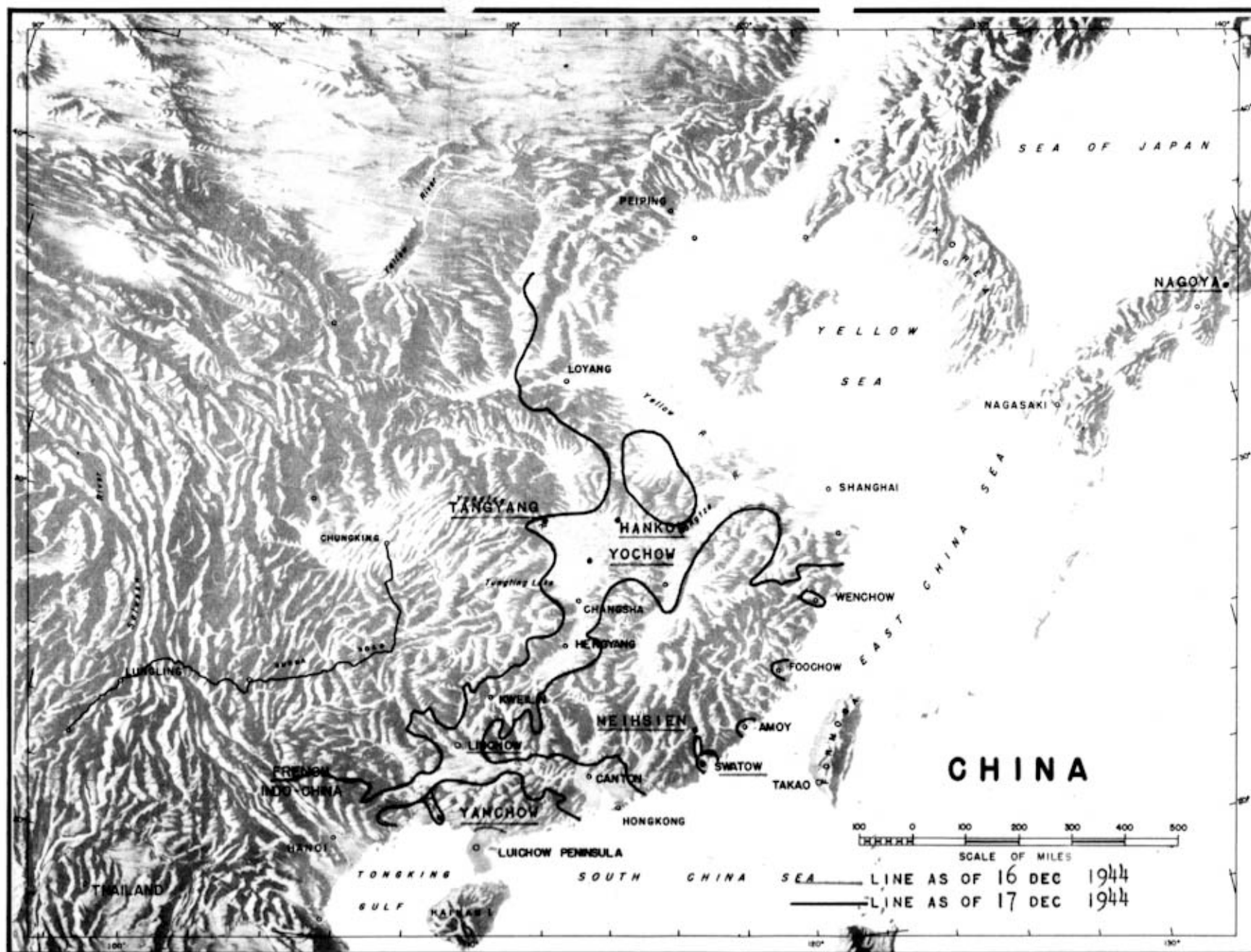
3. Antwerp can now accept US ships at the rate of five a day.

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

1. In the 24 hours ending at 1800, 16 December, weather restricted Tactical Air Force operations to light planes which flew 516 sorties; one plane was lost. During more than 100 sorties, the Balkan Air Force attacked motor transport in southern Yugoslavia and supported the British in the Athens and Araxos areas.

On 16 and 17 December, the 15th Air Force dropped nearly 2,550 tons of bombs on oil, rail and armament targets in Austria, Czechoslovakia and southeastern Germany. The RAF component dropped more than 150 tons on a highway in southern Yugoslavia, and flew supplies to Greece. Of about 125 enemy planes encountered on the latter day, we shot down 48. Our losses for the two days were 34 bombers and seven fighters.





2. On the Eighth Army front as of noon, 17 December, the I Canadian Corps repulsed counterattacks all along its Lamone River bridgehead making gains against strong resistance south of Bagnacavallo. In the Faenza sector, British troops cleared the area south of the Rimini-Bologna highway and east of the Senio River. Advanced elements crossed the Senio west of Faenza and, in the adjacent sector to the southwest, Polish troops approached the river against lessening resistance. There were no changes on the Fifth Army front.

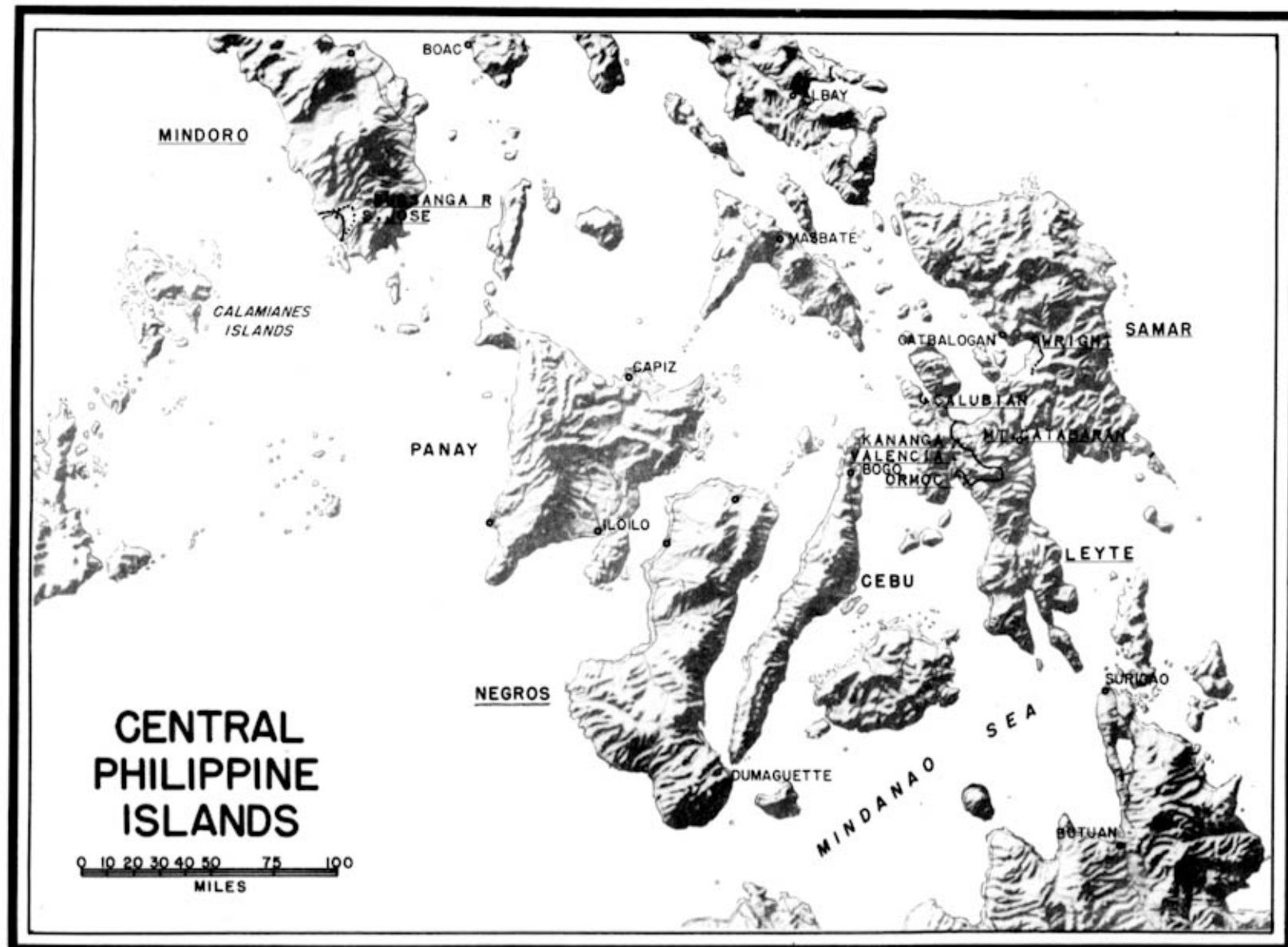
ASIATIC THEATER

1. During 14 and 15 December, the Eastern Air Command flew 2,635 sorties, of which 980 were tactical. Heavy bombers attacked the Burma-Siam railroad, and lighter planes struck at targets along the Burma fronts. Four enemy planes were shot down. We lost two.

On 16 December, weather continued to limit 14th Air Force operations; only 23 tactical sorties were reported.

2. On 18 December, the 20th Bomber Command dispatched 94 B-29's to attack docks and storage areas at Hankow. Secondary and last resort targets were rail yards and airfield storage areas at Yochow and Tangyang.

3. By 16 December, Allied troops on the Chindwin front occupied the town of Indaw which is 22 miles east of Mawlaik. Others advancing east of Banmauk contacted Allied patrols moving west from the Irrawaddy River. Troops moving southwest along the Burma railway were 12 miles southwest



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of Naba. Mopping up continued at Bhamo.

Liaison (of the 14th Air Force) reported that by 12 December Japanese troops had advanced in southwestern China toward the Tongking Gulf, capturing Yamchow, and in southeastern China had moved more than 70 miles north from Swatow to the Meihsien area.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. During the period 14-16 December, some 280 previously unreported sorties were flown in the Southwest Pacific Area. Among these, heavy bombers dropped more than 125 tons on Negros airdromes; other planes attacked airdromes and struck at shipping and fuel dumps over a wide area. Twenty-six additional enemy aircraft were destroyed.

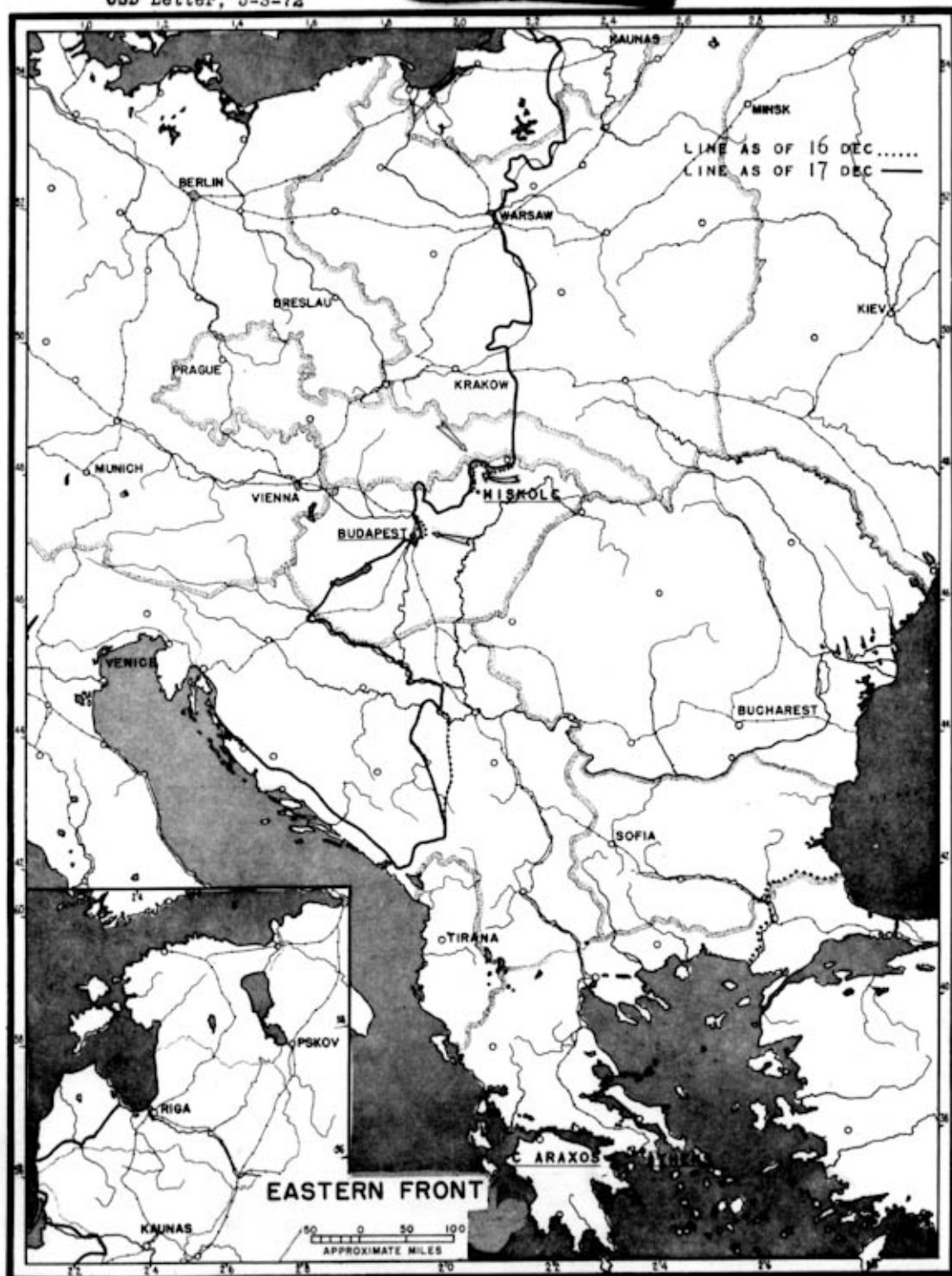
2. By 1500, 16 December, our task force on Mindoro was advancing northeast of San Jose along the Bugsanga River.

On northern Leyte, our troops pushing south toward Ormoc were two miles northeast of Kananga; in rear of the advance we occupied the northwest slopes of Mt. Catabaran. At the same time, an attack was launched from the Ormoc area toward Valencia. Mopping up continued in the mountains southeast of Ormoc.

3. Seventy B-29's from Saipan attacked the Mitsubishi aircraft plant at Nagoya on 18 December. Preliminary reports state air opposition was intense.

On 15 and 16 December, more than 60 Pacific Ocean Area planes attacked Wotje and Mille in the Marshalls.

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EASTERN FRONT

On 17 December, the Red Army gained ground all along its Miskolc salient meeting stiff German resistance to the northwest. A small gain placed other Soviet troops less than five miles northeast of Budapest.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 1103

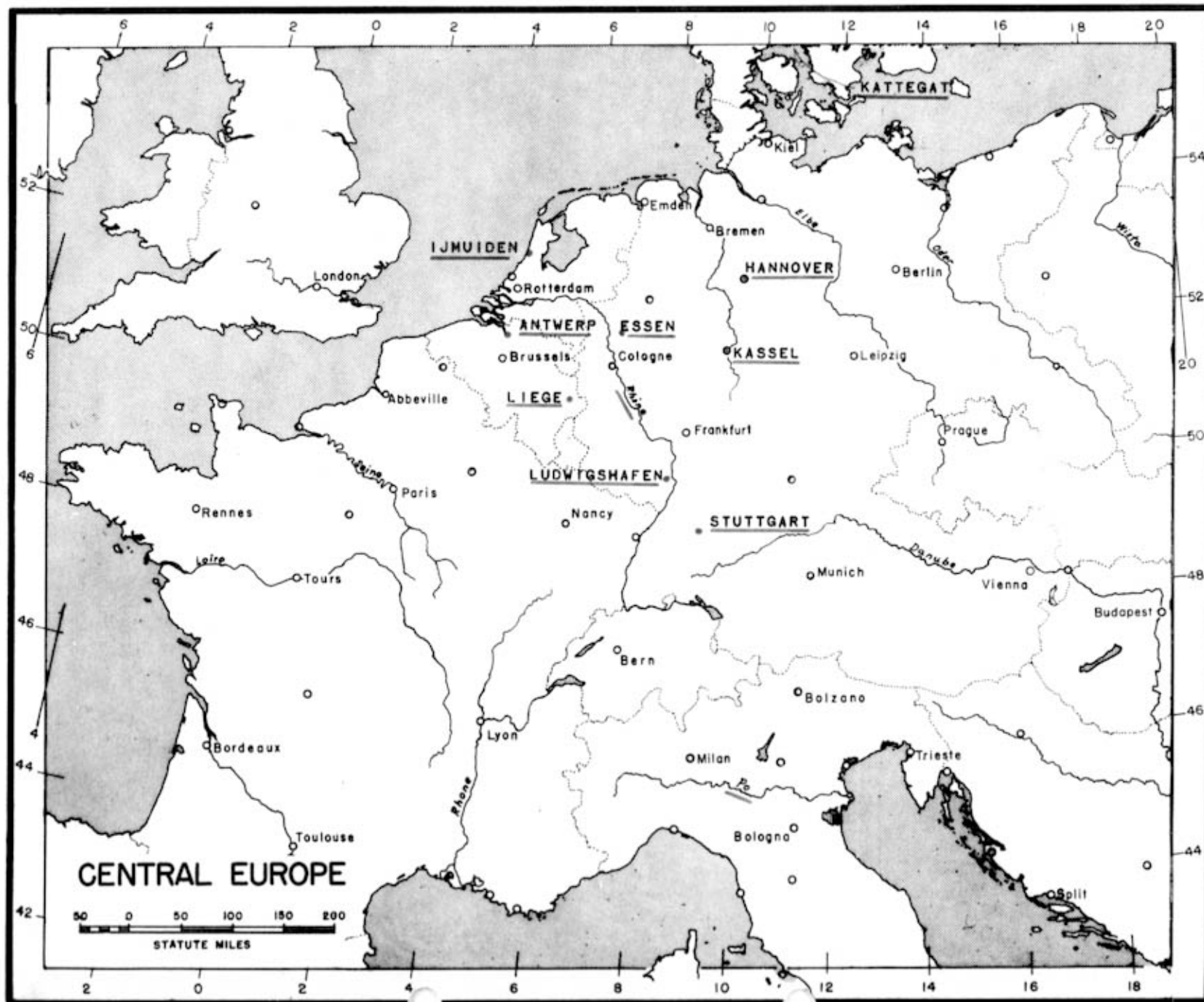
0700 December 16 to 0700 December 17, 1944

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

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EUROPEAN THEATER

1. During the 24 hours ending at sunset, 15 December, the Tactical Air Forces flew 1,845 sorties. During these operations, nearly 700 planes supported ground operations west of the Rhine, while others dropped more than 500 tons of bombs on defended areas near the front, and on an oil storage plant east of Essen. We lost seven planes.

On 15 December the RAF dropped 70 tons of bombs on boat pens at IJmuiden in Holland. That night, 320 RAF heavy bombers attacked a nitric acid and oil plant at Ludwigshafen and over 70 Mosquito bombers attacked Hannover and other targets in western Germany. Heavy bombers mined the Kattegat for the third consecutive night. Two bombers were lost.

On 16 December, although hampered by bad weather, the 8th Air Force sent more than 100 escorted heavy bombers to attack rail yards in the Stuttgart area. Five planes were lost.

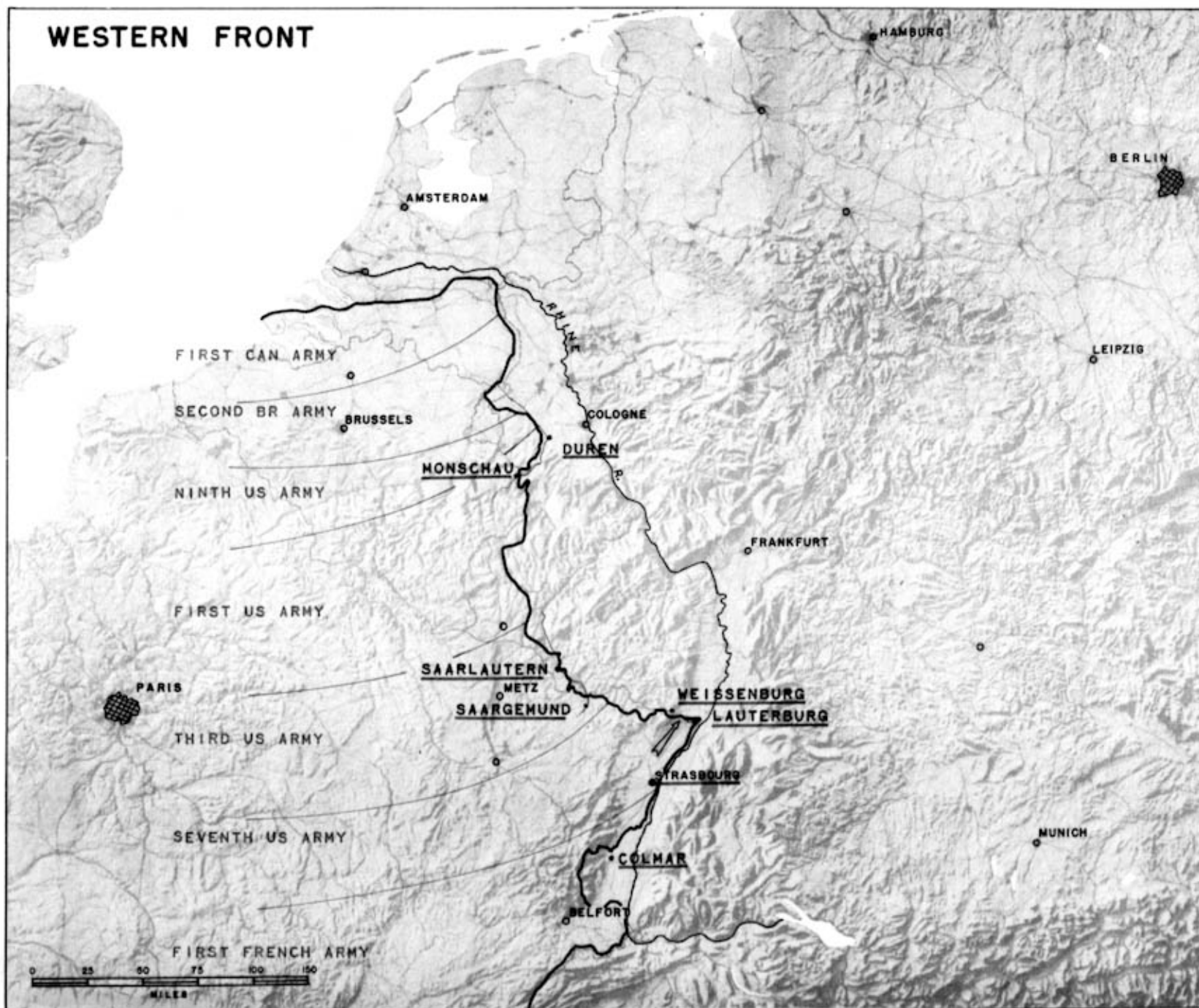
During the 24 hours ending at 1800, 15 December, eight rockets and one flying bomb fell in Antwerp. Eight rockets and ten flying bombs landed in the country near Liege and Antwerp. One flying bomb was destroyed.

During the 24 hours ending at 0600, 16 December, one rocket fell in the sea off the east coast of England.

2. There were no changes reported from the Canadian, British and US Ninth Army fronts for 16 December.

Our First Army repulsed local attacks northwest and southwest of Duren and north and south of Monschau.

WESTERN FRONT



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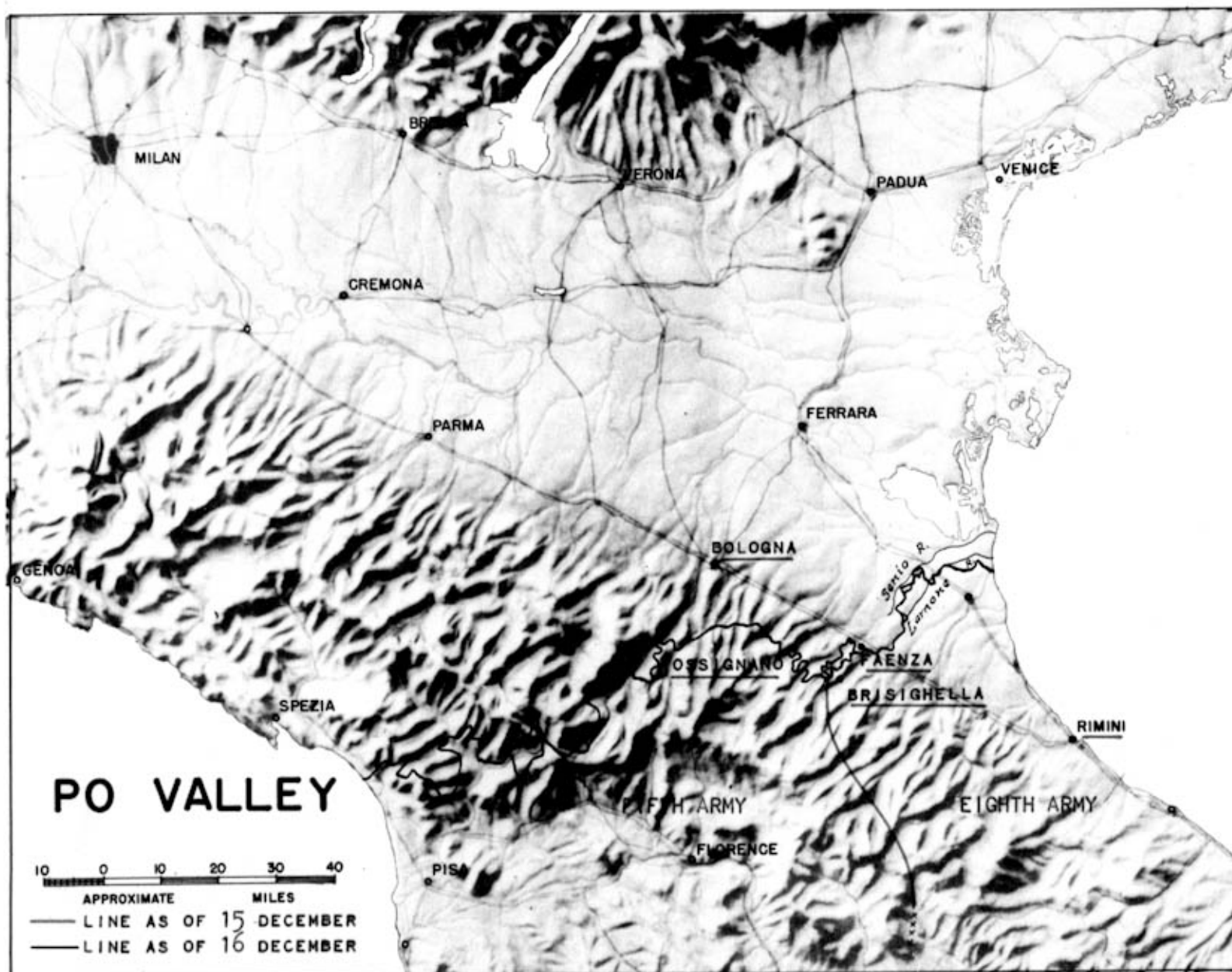
Our Third Army enlarged its bridgeheads near Saarlautern but continued to be subjected to heavy enemy artillery concentrations. Northeast of Saargemund we advanced in spite of armor and infantry counterattacks.

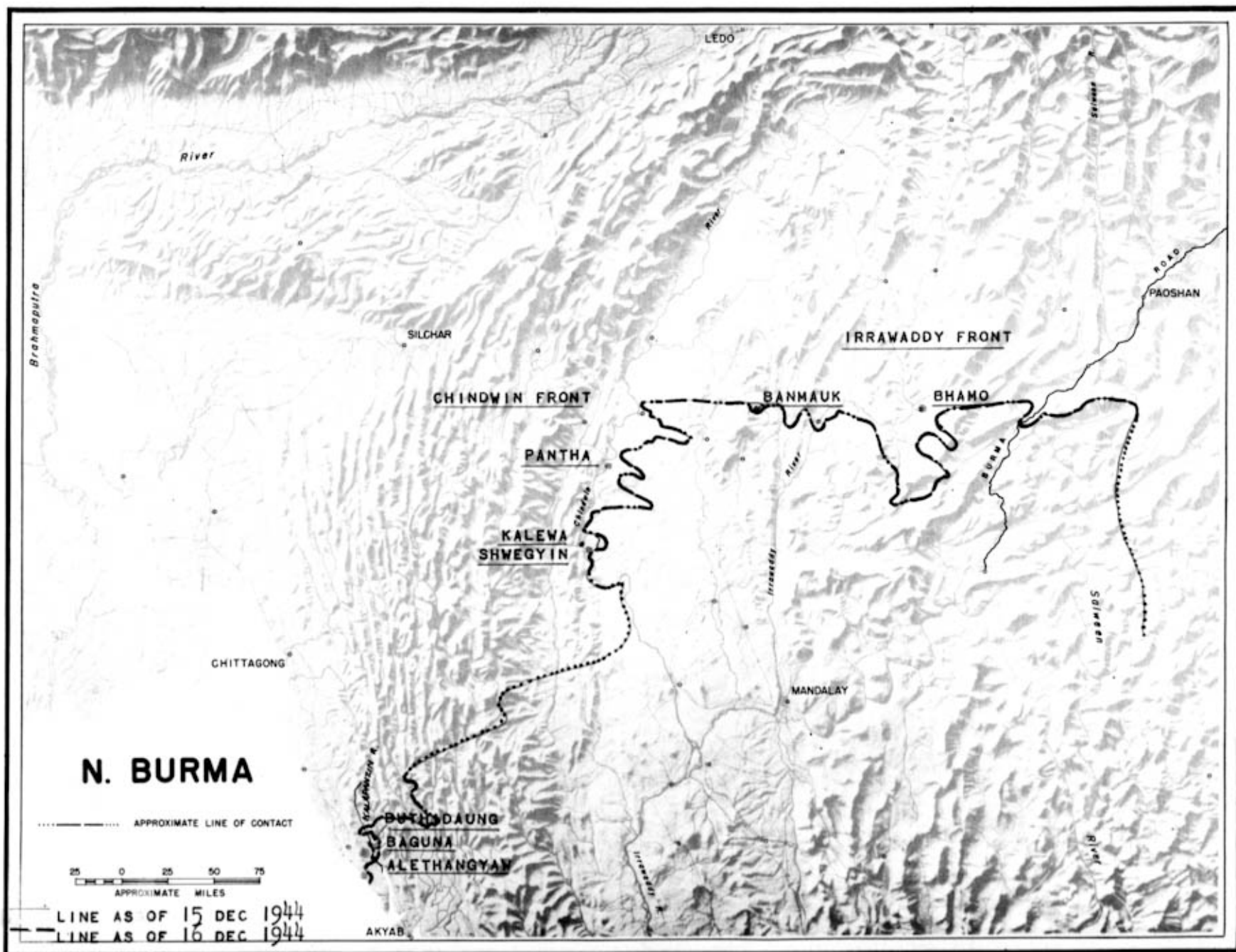
The Seventh Army crossed the German border northwest and southeast of Weissenburg which, according to communique, was captured. Lauterburg was cleared against strong resistance. South of Strasbourg, strong counterattacks forced the French Army to withdraw about a mile near the Rhine, but other units improved their positions northwest of Colmar, advancing a mile.

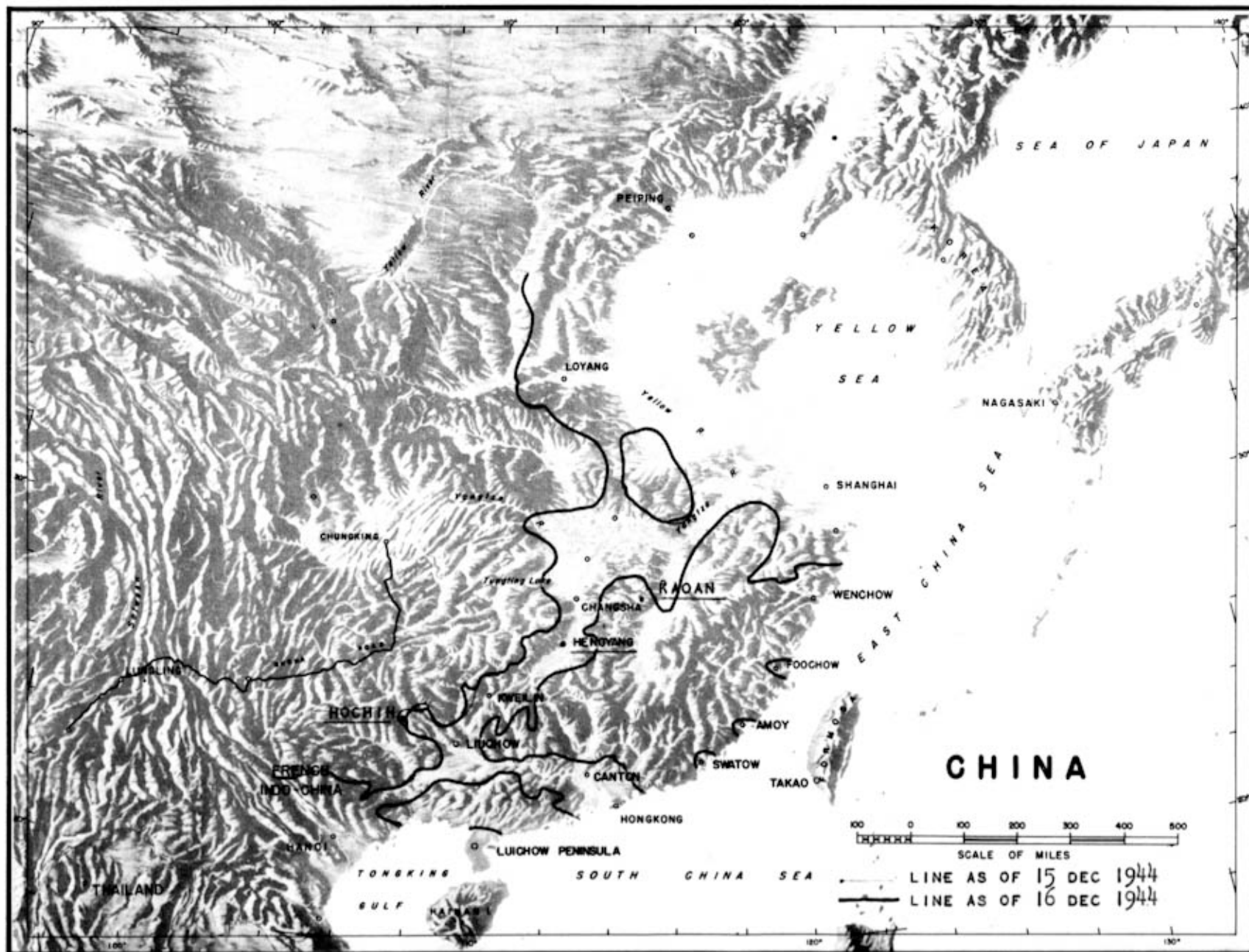
MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

1. During the 24 hours ending at 1800, 15 December, more than 1,200 Tactical Air Force planes attacked communications, troop concentrations and supply dumps near the front lines and in the Po Valley. Coastal and Balkan Air Force planes, in more than 145 sorties, struck at small shipping in the Adriatic and transportation in northwestern Italy and Yugoslavia. Greece-based aircraft again supported British troops in the Athens area. In all these operations, we lost eight planes.

2. In the 30 hours ending at noon, 16 December, the Eighth Army's I Canadian Corps expanded its forward positions slightly to the north and west in the Lamone River bridgehead against decreasing resistance, although in general the enemy was defending strongly. Southeast of Faenza, British elements crossed the Lamone and established positions in the outskirts of the town astride the Rimini-Bologna highway. Northwest of the town, other British troops advanced against light and scattered







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opposition to cut the highway at the Senio River. Farther to the southwest they reached the river in an advance of more than two miles. North of Brisighella, Polish troops met stiff opposition and counterattacks but pushed forward on a four-mile front. On the Fifth Army front, British troops withdrew to positions south of Tossignano where heavy fighting continued. Southwest of Bologna, other British were forced from a hill position.

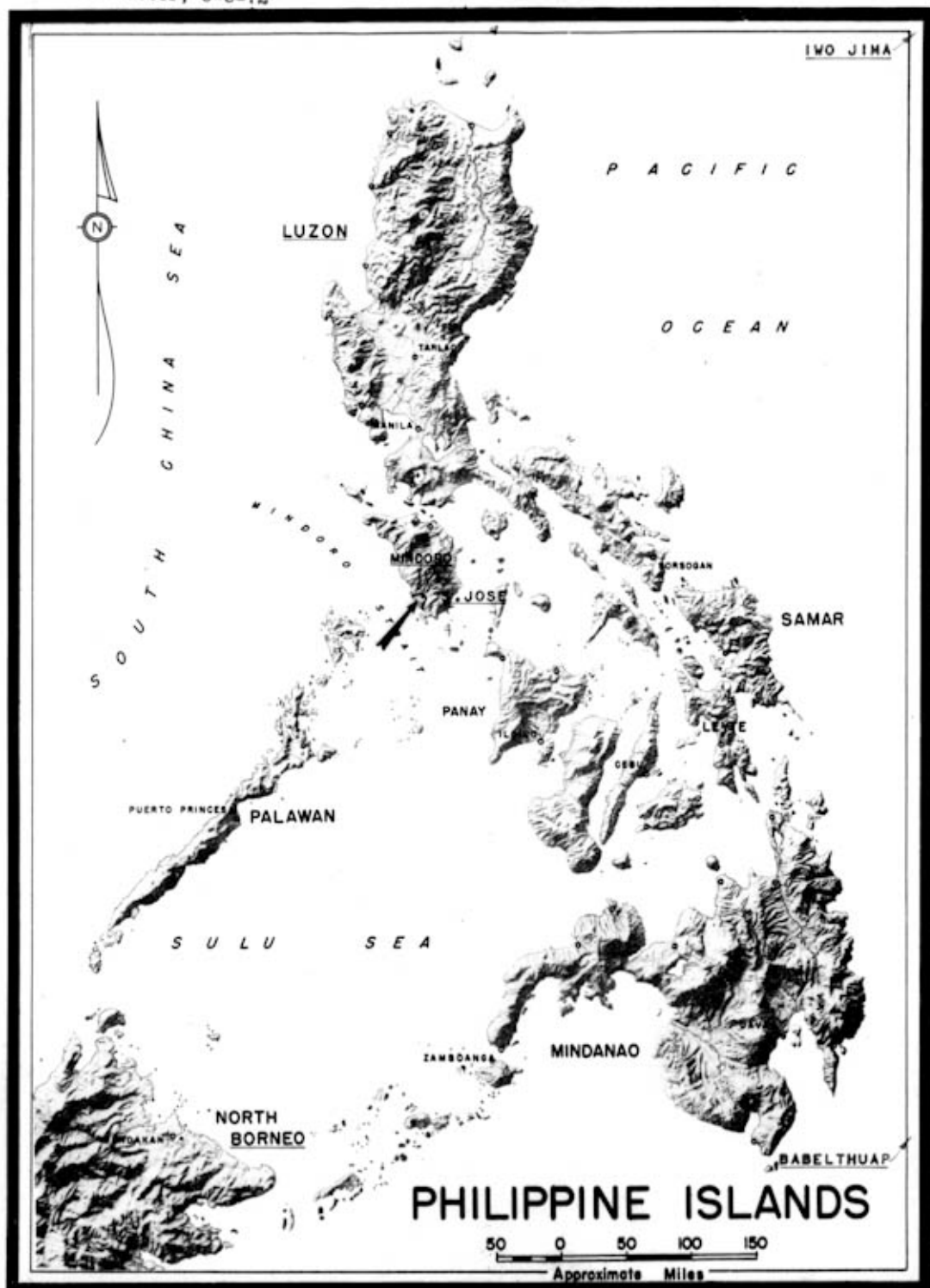
ASIATIC THEATER

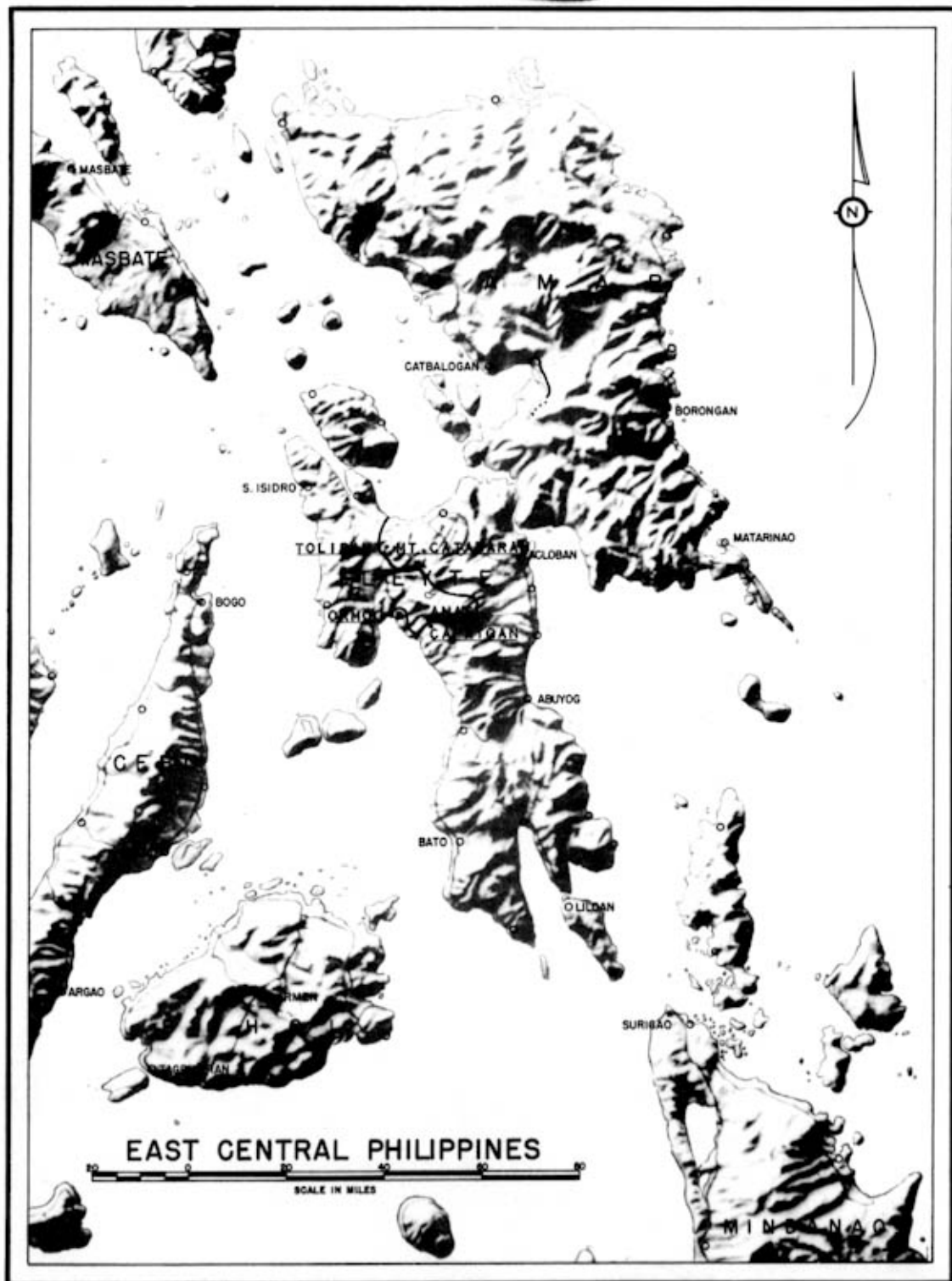
1. On 15 December, weather continued to limit operations of the 14th Air Force; 27 sorties were reported.

2. On 15 December, Chinese troops captured Bhamo and were mopping up, after an attempt by the Japanese garrison to break through to the south. Two Japanese attacks south of Bhamo were repulsed. West of the Irrawaddy, Allied troops entered Banmauk without opposition. On the Chindwin front Allied forces occupied Shwegyin and reached areas 10 miles east of Kalewa and 25 miles east of Pantha without contact. On the Arakan front, Alethangyaw, Baguna and Buthidaung were occupied; in the latter area, advanced elements were across the Kalapanzin River.

By 14 December, in southern China, two Chinese columns were following up the Japanese retreat north and northeast of Hochih. Other troops were advancing on Hochih from the southwest. In eastern China, a new Chinese division was engaging the enemy east of Kaoan. Minor engagements were reported around Hengyang.

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PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. During the period 13-15 December, some 120 previously unreported sorties were flown in the Southwest Pacific area. Airdrome installations in the Philippines and on Borneo were attacked. Thirty additional enemy aircraft were destroyed, including 21 shot down during raids which caused some damage to our shipping in the Mindoro area on 15 December.

The total of enemy planes destroyed by our carrier planes in the Luzon area during the period 14-16 December has been raised to 235. Results against shipping included one oiler and one cargo ship destroyed, eleven others left burning, and three destroyers and destroyer escorts damaged.

2. By 1500, 15 December, our task force on southwestern Mindoro had captured San Jose without casualties. Airfield construction was started.

On northern Leyte, we continued to advance south of Tolibaw, and small gains were made on Mount Catabaran. The 77th Division consolidated positions in the Ormoc area. Farther to the southeast, the 7th Division made contact with our troops in the Capatgan-Anas area.

3. On 15 December, 32 B-24's attacked Iwo Jima and 16 fighters attacked storage areas on Babelthaup. One enemy plane was destroyed.

EASTERN FRONT

On 16 December, fighting on a reduced scale took place at numerous points along the front from Tarnow to Vinkovici, where the Germans



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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

counterattacked with tanks. The front was without significant change except for Soviet gains along the northern flank of their Miskolc salient.

WAR DEPARTMENT

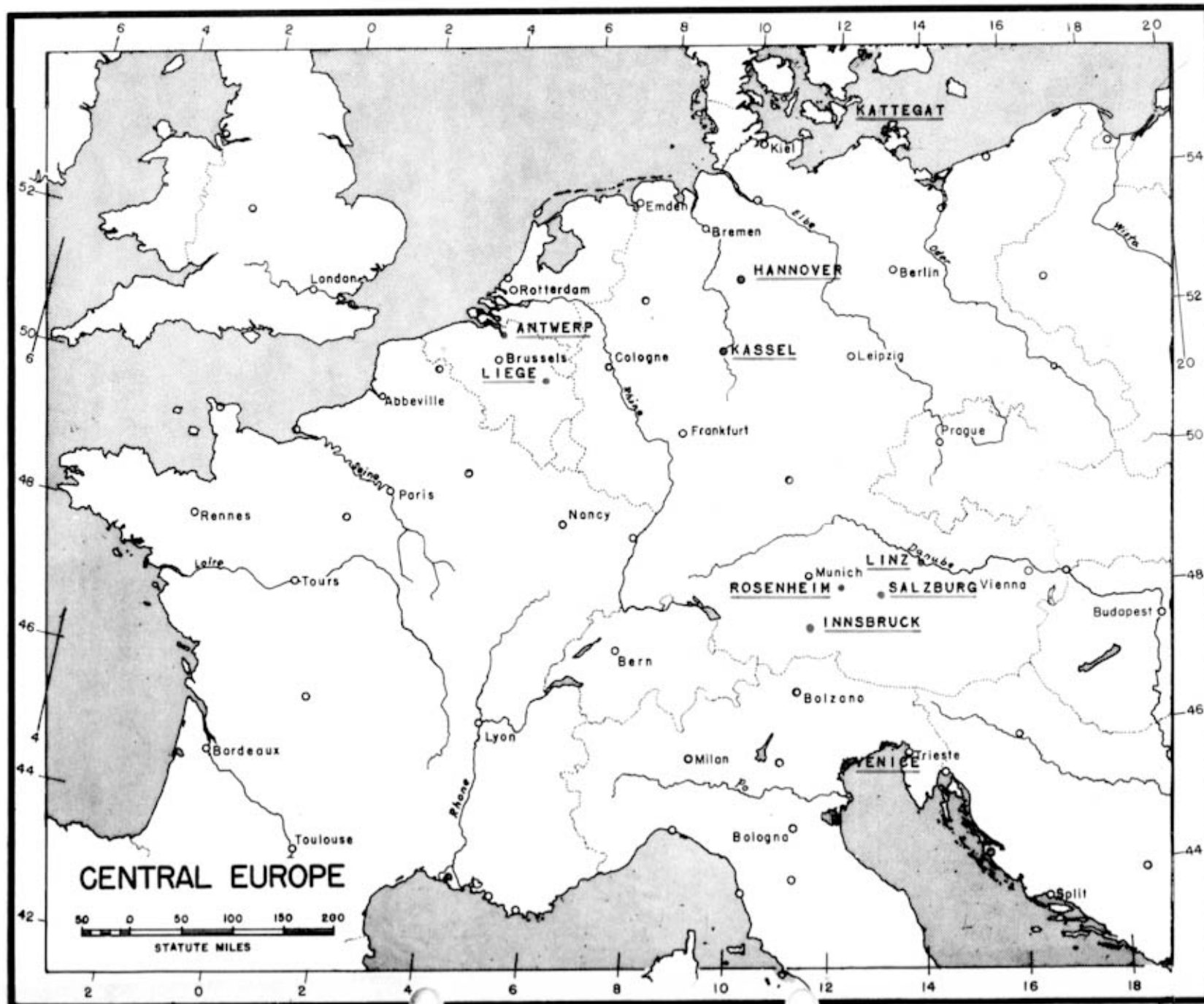
DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 1102

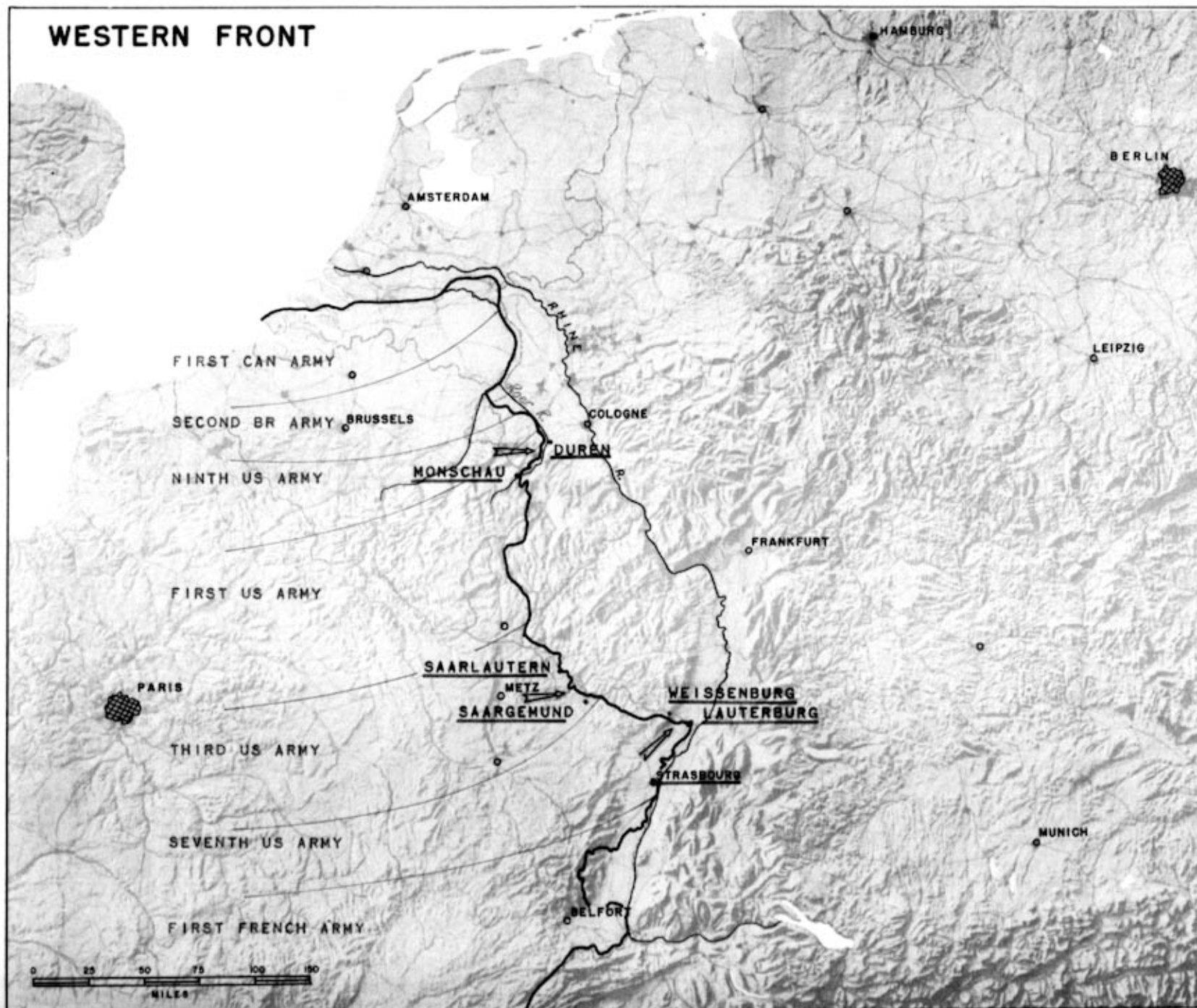
0700 December 15 to 0700 December 16, 1944

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE



WESTERN FRONT



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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

EUROPEAN THEATER

1. During the 24 hours ending at sunset, 14 December, the Tactical Air Forces flew some 865 sorties. Seven enemy aircraft were destroyed; we lost four.

During the night of 13 December, RAF bombers attacked German naval units south of Oslo with more than 130 tons of bombs. The next night, a small force of RAF bombers again mined the Kattegat.

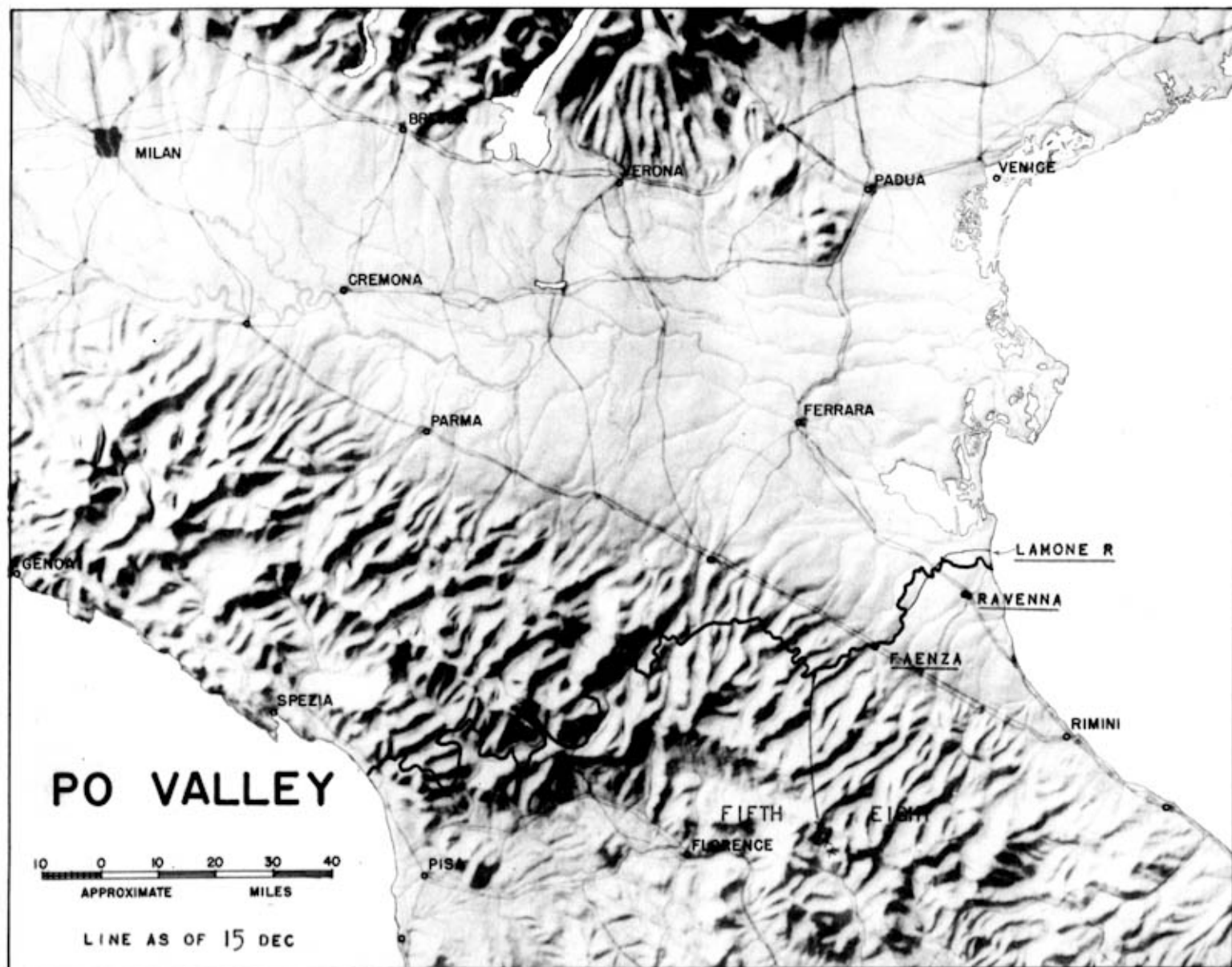
On 15 December, 670 escorted 8th Air Force heavy bombers attacked rail yards at Kassel and Hannover. Three bombers and two fighters are missing.

During 13 and 14 December, two rockets fell in Antwerp and four others in the neighboring countryside. Seven flying bombs landed in rural areas outside of Antwerp and Liege.

During the 24 hours ending at 0600, 15 December, five rockets fell in the vicinity of London and Essex.

2. In the 24 hours ending at noon, 15 December, there was no change on the Canadian and British front.

Our First Army continued to clear the enemy from the west bank of the Roer River in the VII Corps sector south of Duren; resistance was decreasing, and the enemy was reported blowing bridges across the river. The V Corps made minor gains northeast and southeast of Monschau, but progress was slow because of extensive enemy obstructions and stubborn resistance.



On the Third Army front, resistance was decreasing in the Saarlautern bridgehead. There were small gains along the German border northeast and east of Saargemund. The Seventh Army continued to approach the German border on a broad front south of Weissenburg and was fighting in the border town of Lauterberg. South of Strasbourg, the French Army again gained about a mile near the Rhine.

US casualty figures, excluding Air Force, from D-day through 2400, 30 November, are as follows:

Killed	44,143
Wounded	189,118
Missing	24,863.

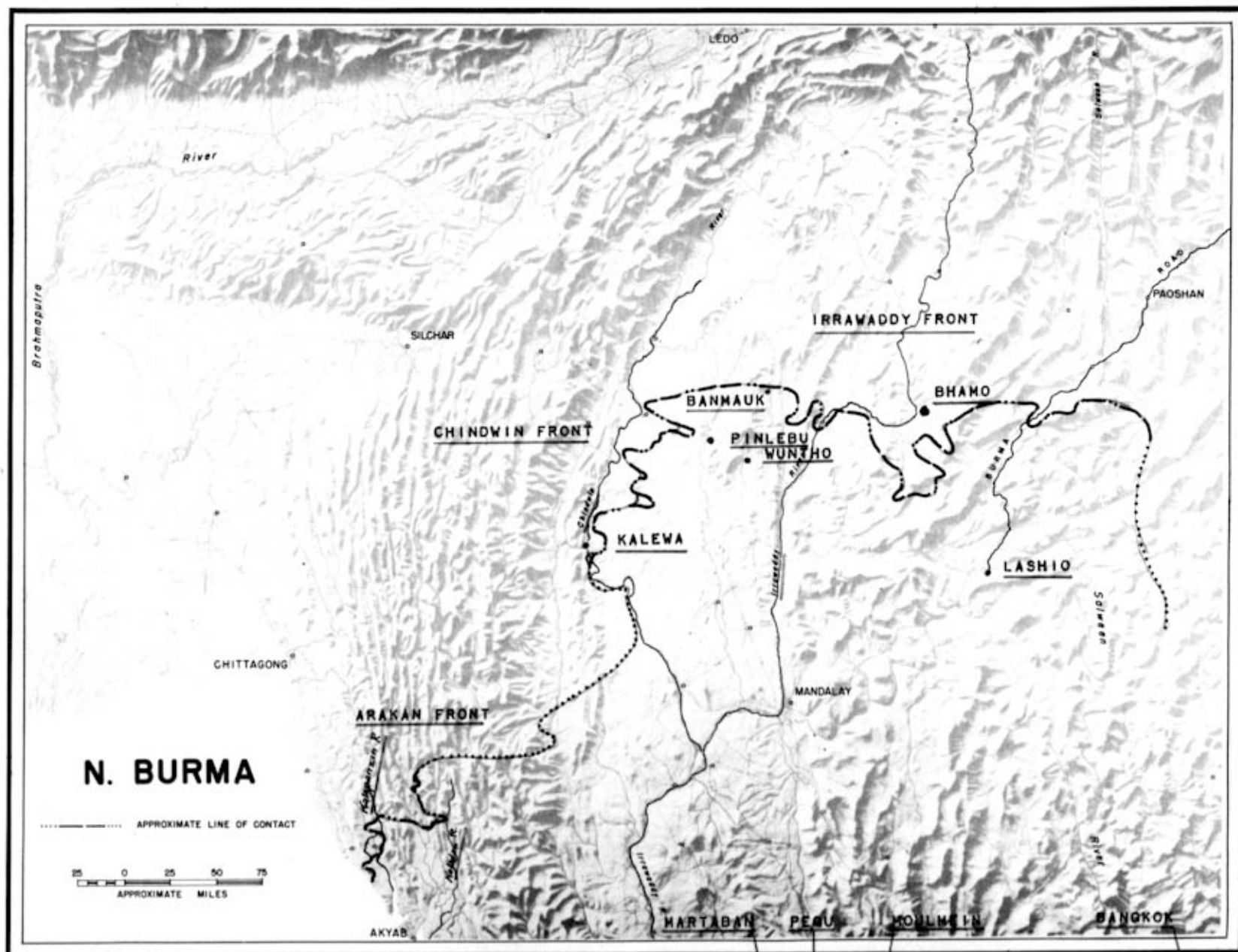
MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

1. In the 24 hours ending at 1800 on 14 December, although adverse weather hampered operations, the Tactical Air Force flew 680 sorties. In the Athens area, some 30 Greece-based aircraft supported British troops. Nine light bombers based in the Middle East attacked shipping off Rhodes.

On 15 December, 450 escorted heavy bombers of the 15th Air Force attacked railroad targets at Rosenheim, Innsbruck, Salzburg and in the Linz area. Three bombers are missing.

2. The Eighth Army's I Canadian Corps continued up to 0600, 15 December, to be limited by heavy opposition to local advances in the Lamone River bridgehead west of Ravenna. Southwest of Faenza, British and Polish troops moved north approximately 800 yards in stiff fighting. There was no change on the Fifth Army front.

TOP SECRET



ASIATIC THEATER

1. On 13 December, the Eastern Air Command flew 988 sorties, of which 481 were tactical. Escorted B-24's attacked rail bridges on the Pegu-Martaban and Moulmein-Bangkok lines. Medium bombers attacked targets on the Arakan front and in central Burma. Fighters swept the Lashio-Bhamo-Wuntho area and attacked troops crossing the Kaladan River.

On 14 December weather continued to limit operations of the 14th Air Force; 27 sorties were reported.

2. By 14 December, Allied troops on the Arakan front had reoccupied all that ground west of the Kalapanzin which was vacated prior to the monsoon. Numerous moves were reported between the Irrawaddy and Chindwin Rivers: patrols were 10 miles southeast of Kalewa, and a British brigade was 40 miles northeast; elements of other brigades were near Banmauk and seven miles west-southwest of Pinlebu.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. During the period 12-14 December, some 575 previously unreported aircraft, including more than 170 B-24's, struck at targets in the Southwest Pacific Area. Heavy bombers attacked airdromes on Cebu, Negros, and southern Mindanao. Leyte-based fighters, in an attack on Negros airdromes, destroyed at least 60 grounded enemy planes, and shot down nine others. Seven additional Japanese planes were destroyed elsewhere, including four attacking an Allied convoy in the south Sulu Sea. Two coastal vessels were sunk off Davao. We lost one light bomber.



S O U T H
C H I N A
S E A

LUZON

P A C I F I C

O C E A N

M I N D O R O

MINDORO

JOSE

ORSOGAN

SAMAR

PANAY

NEGROS

PUERTO PRINCES

PALAWAN

COMMUNIQUE REPORT-
IN HANDS OF GUERRILLA
FORCES.

S U L U
S E A

ZAMBOANGA

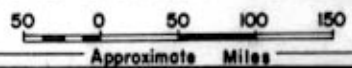
MINDANAO

NORTH
BORNEO

SULU
ARCHIPELAGO

BATELTHUAP
HOROTAI

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS



~~TOP SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

During the night of 12 December, our PT boats exploded a coastal vessel carrying troops and supplies off Palompon (Leyte).

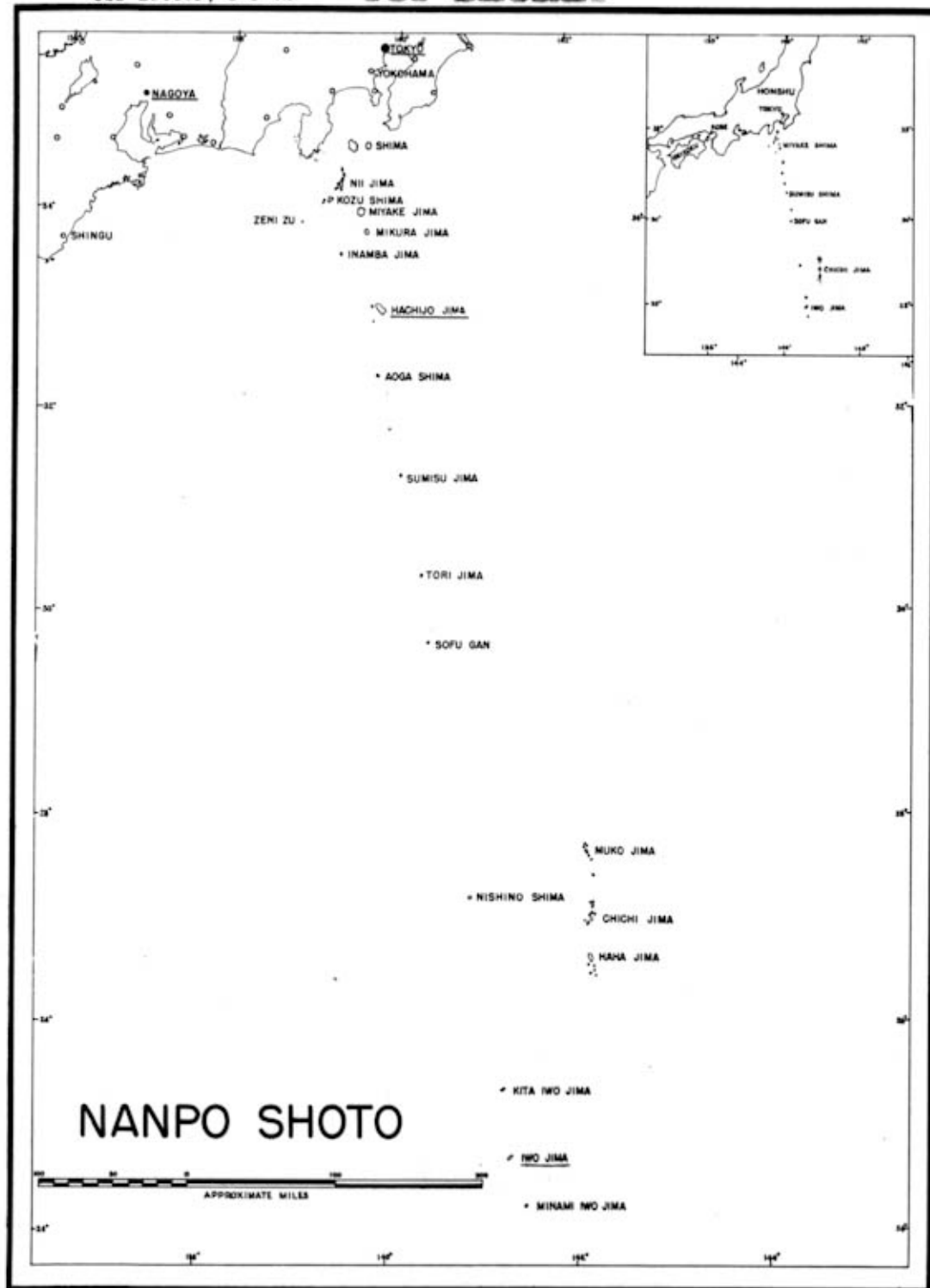
2. By 1500, 14 December, our troops on Samar had captured Wright. On northern Leyte, we advanced on a two-regiment front against strong opposition to a bridge one mile south of Tolibaw; other units captured a strong point on the north slopes of Mount Catabaran. In the Ormoc sector, the 77th Division advanced nearly half a mile north of Cogon against pillboxes organized in depth. Southeast of Ormoc, units of the 7th Division secured the coastline, while other units advanced eastward to within 600 yards of our troops in the Anas-Mahonag area. Trapped in that vicinity were an estimated 1,500 Japanese troops.

On 15 December, our forces landed without opposition in the San Jose area of southwestern Mindoro, and by evening had penetrated eight miles inland. Unloading operations were ahead of schedule. Enemy air reaction during the approach and unloading was reported as weak, although there was considerable air action against our escorting naval units.

Meanwhile, according to communique, our guerrilla forces in the western Visayas and Mindanao have sustained an aggressive offensive against enemy garrisons on the several major islands. They have succeeded in capturing large areas including strongly-held coastal points and airfields on Mindanao, Panay, Negros, Cebu, Bohol and in the Sulu Archipelago.

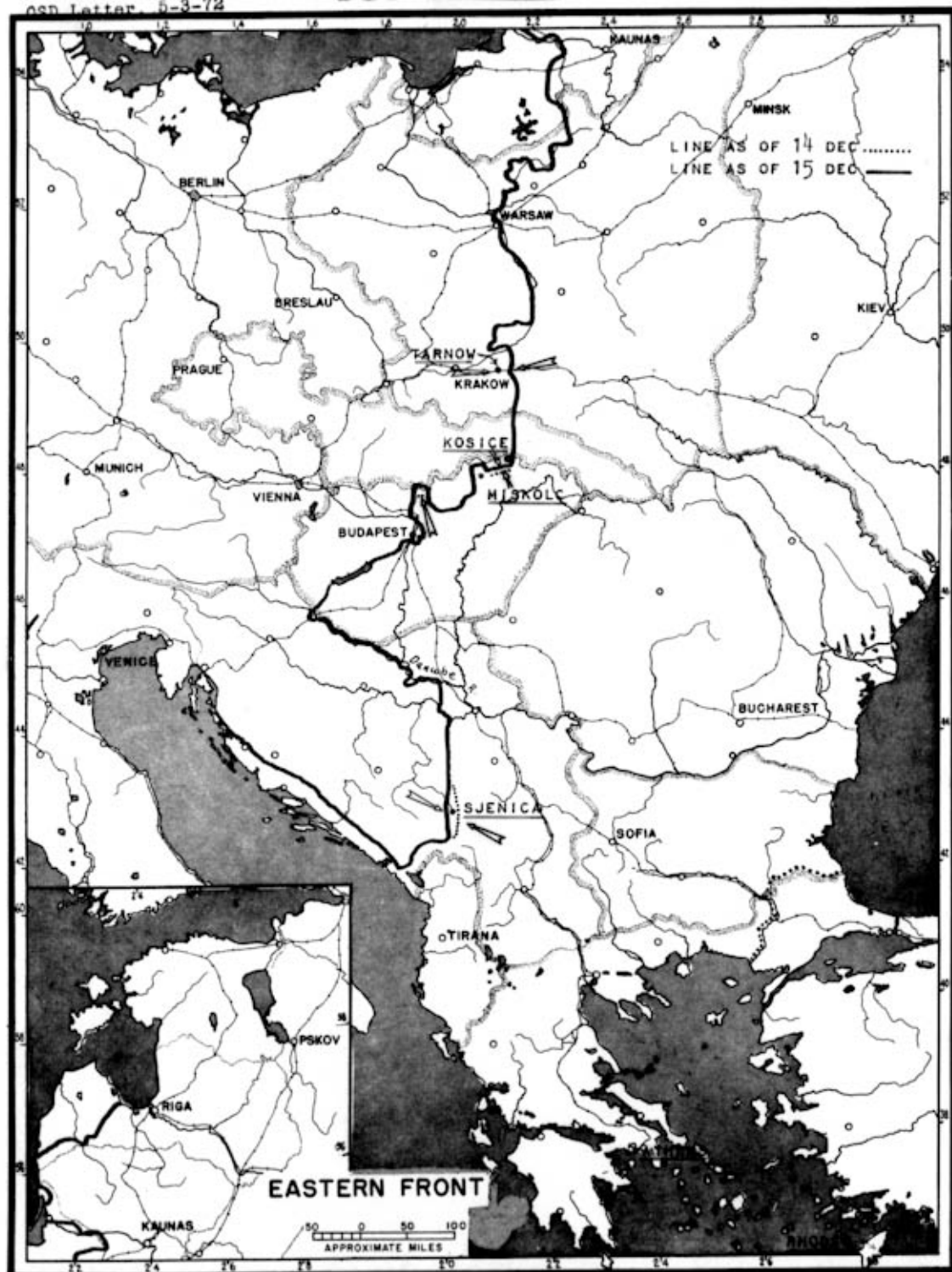
3. During the nights 12 and 13 December, four B-29's in separate attacks dropped incendiary bombs in the Tokyo area; another attacked

TOP SECRET



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Hachijo Jima. Twenty B-24's attacked Iwo Jima, and 68 Marine planes attacked targets in the Marshalls. Late reports reveal that four B-29's were lost during the 13 December attack on an aircraft factory at Nagoya.

EASTERN FRONT

On 15 December, Soviet troops failed to gain ground in minor efforts east of Tarnow and of Kosice. Both the Miskolc and Danube-bend salients were expanded, the latter being pushed into Czechoslovakia. In Yugoslavia, Partisans occupied Sjenica, following German withdrawal.

WAR DEPARTMENT

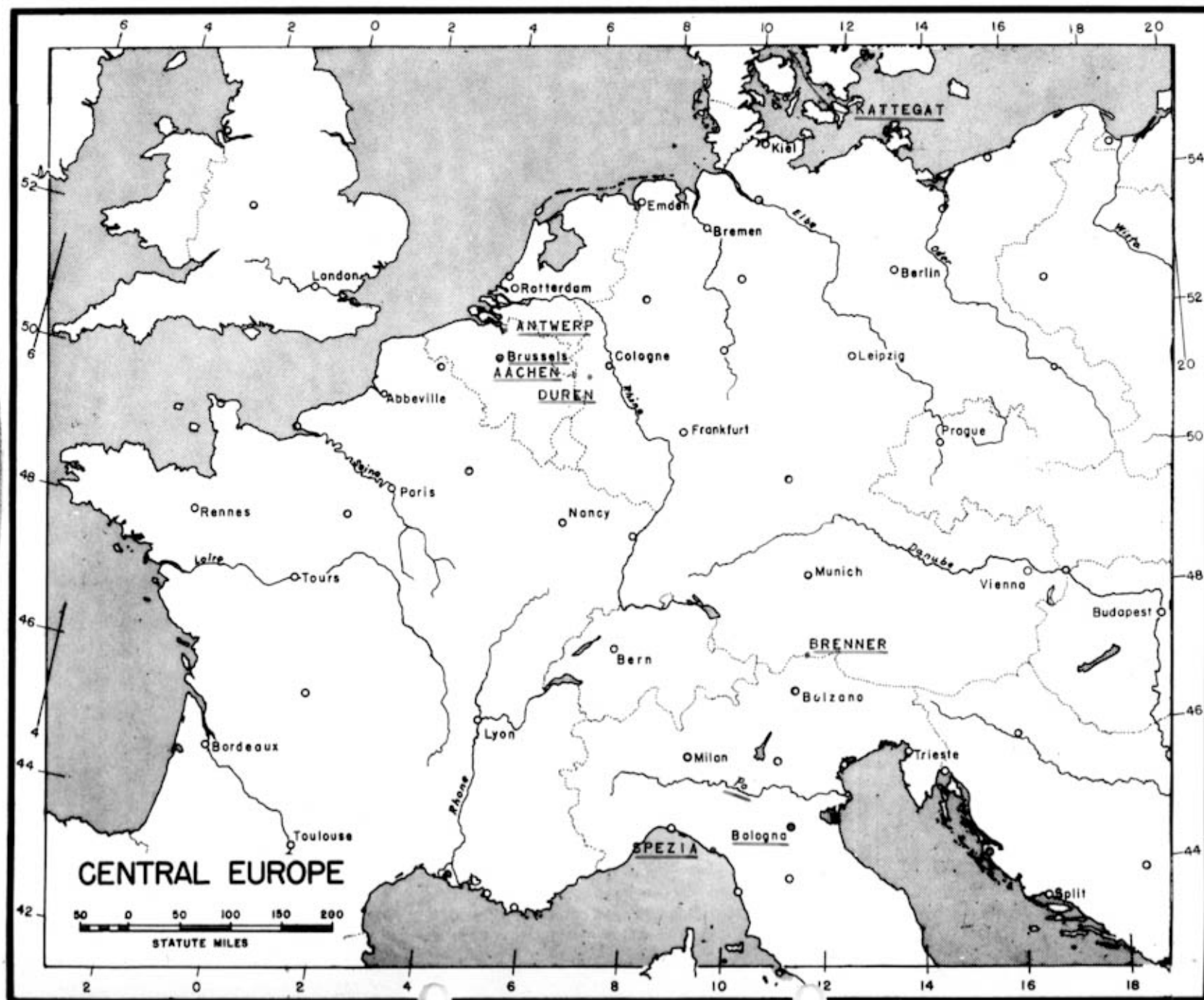
DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 1101

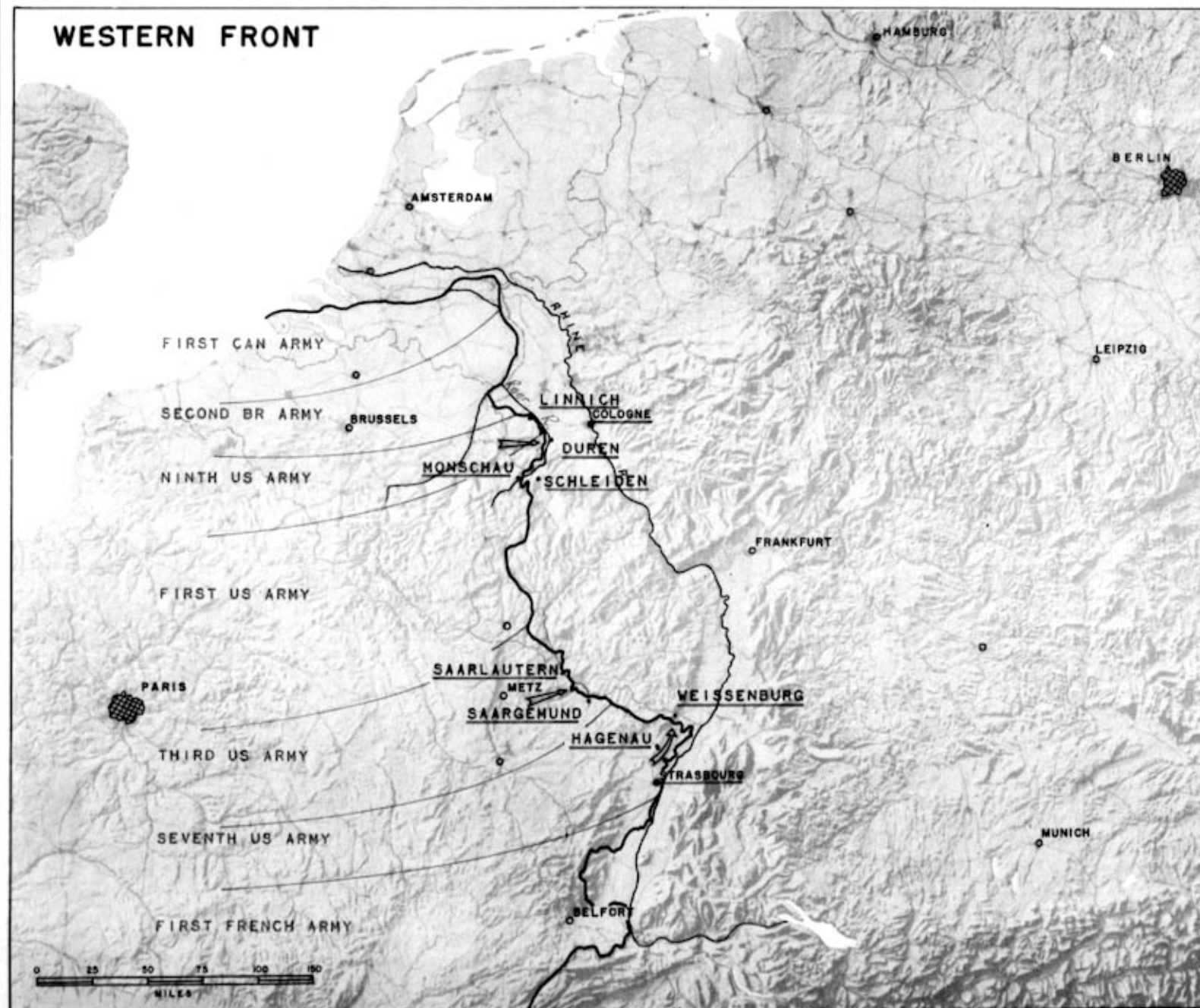
0700 December 14 to 0700 December 15, 1944

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE



WESTERN FRONT



EUROPEAN THEATER

1. In the 24 hours ending at sunset, 13 December, the Tactical Air Forces flew more than 700 sorties. During these operations, some 450 tons of bombs were dropped on defended villages, supply dumps, and railyards south of Duren. We lost three planes.

During the night 13 December, a small force of RAF bombers mined the Kattegat and the Oslo Fjord area.

On 14 December, 8th Air Force operations were cancelled because of weather.

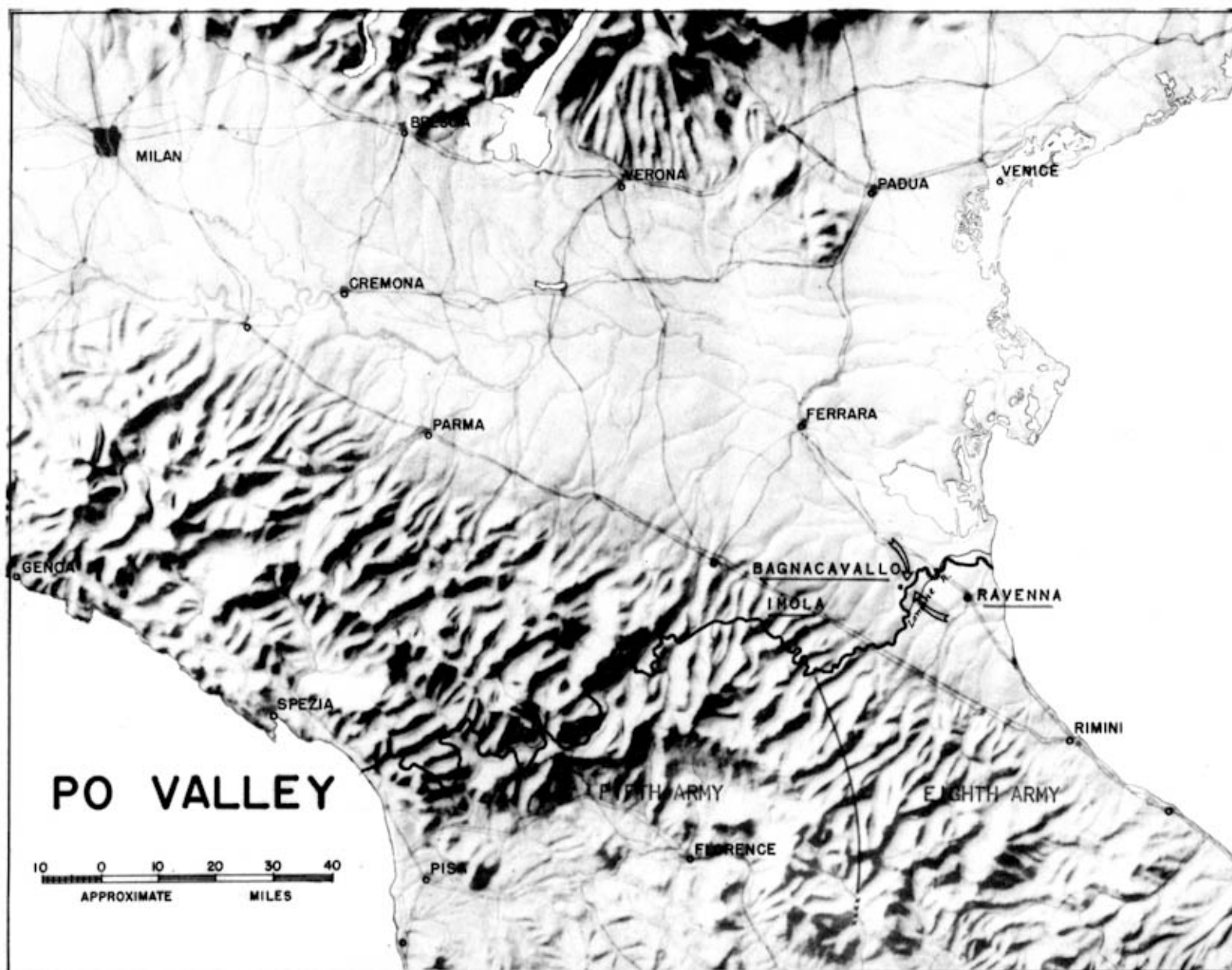
During 12 and 13 December, four flying bombs and seven rockets fell in the Antwerp area. One bomb landed near Brussels. Three bombs and two rockets fell in scattered areas behind the front.

During the 24 hours ending at 0600, 14 December, five rockets fell in England.

2. In the 24 hours ending at noon, 14 December, there was no change on the Canadian and British fronts.

Our Ninth and First Armies, driving toward Cologne, consolidated and improved positions and made advances which virtually cleared the west bank of the Roer River from Linnich south to the northern outskirts of Duren. The VII Corps advanced about a mile to straighten out a four-mile stretch of its front southwest of Duren. The V Corps advanced more than a mile in the area northeast of Monschau; positions south of the Monschau-Schleiden highway were consolidated and some ground gained to the east.

TOP SECRET



80-13874-200

On the Third Army front, heavy fighting continued in the bridgeheads near Saarlautern. The XII Corps expanded its line along the German frontier east of Saargemund more than half a mile. Farther to the east, on the Seventh Army front, the XV Corps made small gains to the north. North and northeast of Hagenau the VI Corps again made general advances along a 20-mile front. According to communique, advance elements were two miles from the border town of Weissenburg, and farther to the east had moved north, paralleling the Rhine and are within a mile of the Franco-German frontier.

South of Strasbourg, the French Army made a small gain near the Rhine.

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

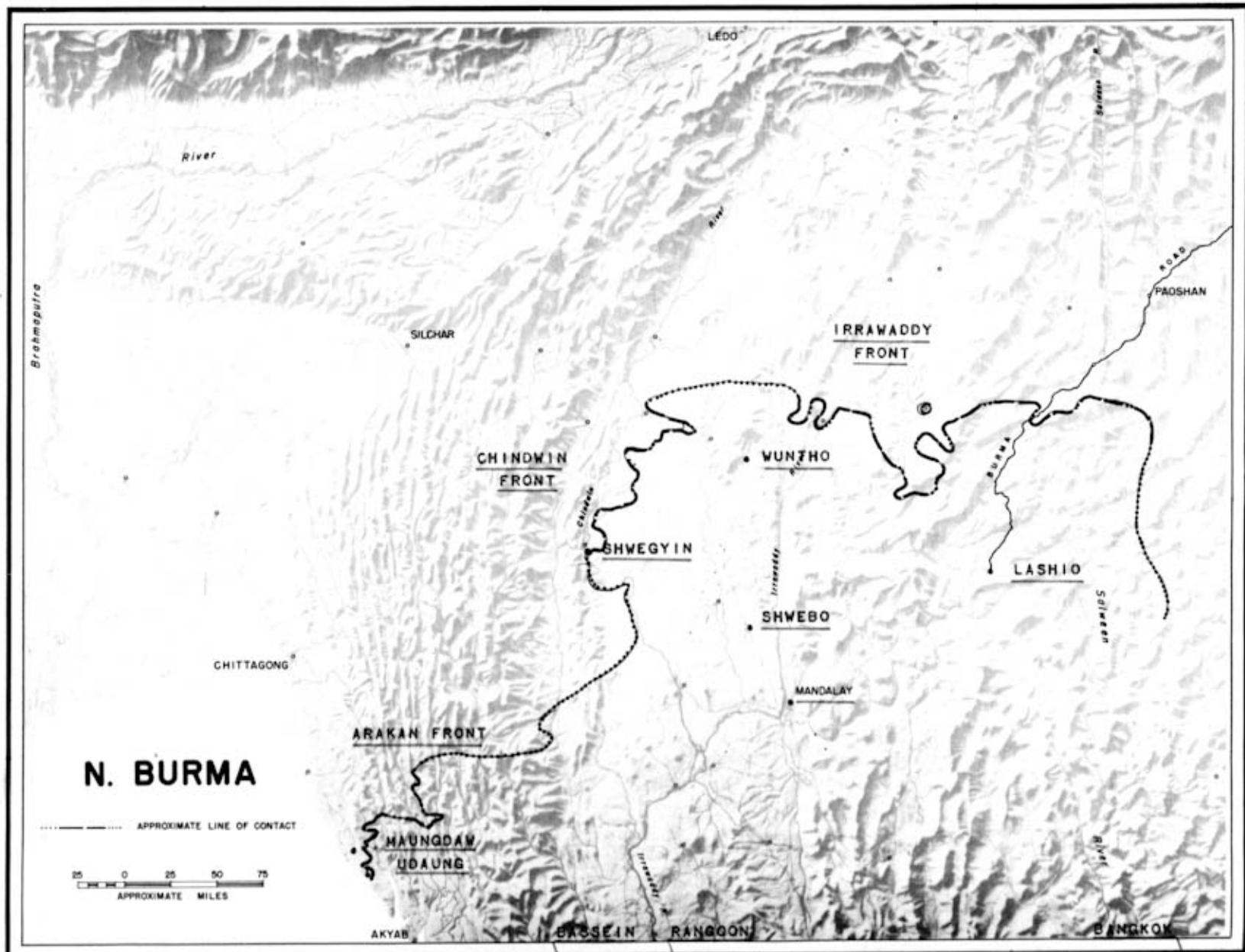
1. During 13 December, weather continued to curtail air operations. Some 300 Tactical Air Force planes attacked communications in the Po Valley and on the Brenner route, supported ground operations south of Bologna, and bombed Spezia Harbor. We lost three planes.

The same day, eight Middle East-based light bombers attacked shipping off the Island of Rhodes.

On 14 December, bad weather continued to prevail; the 15th Air Force was grounded.

2. In the 24 hours ending at noon, 14 December, heavy opposition again limited the Eighth Army's I Canadian Corps to a local gain in its Lamone River bridgehead west of Ravenna. Near Bagnacavallo, the enemy

TOP SECRET



TOP SECRET



attacked the bridgehead with upwards of three battalions closely supported by tanks, forcing the Canadians to give some ground; later, however, their original positions were restored and expanded to the west. On the Fifth Army front, British troops were meeting heavy opposition southwest of Imola.

ASIATIC THEATER

1. During the 20th Bomber Command operations on 14 December, B-29's attacking the primary target at Bangkok dropped 188 tons of bombs; other bombers attacking targets at Rangoon and Bassein dropped 94 tons. Four B-29's are missing.

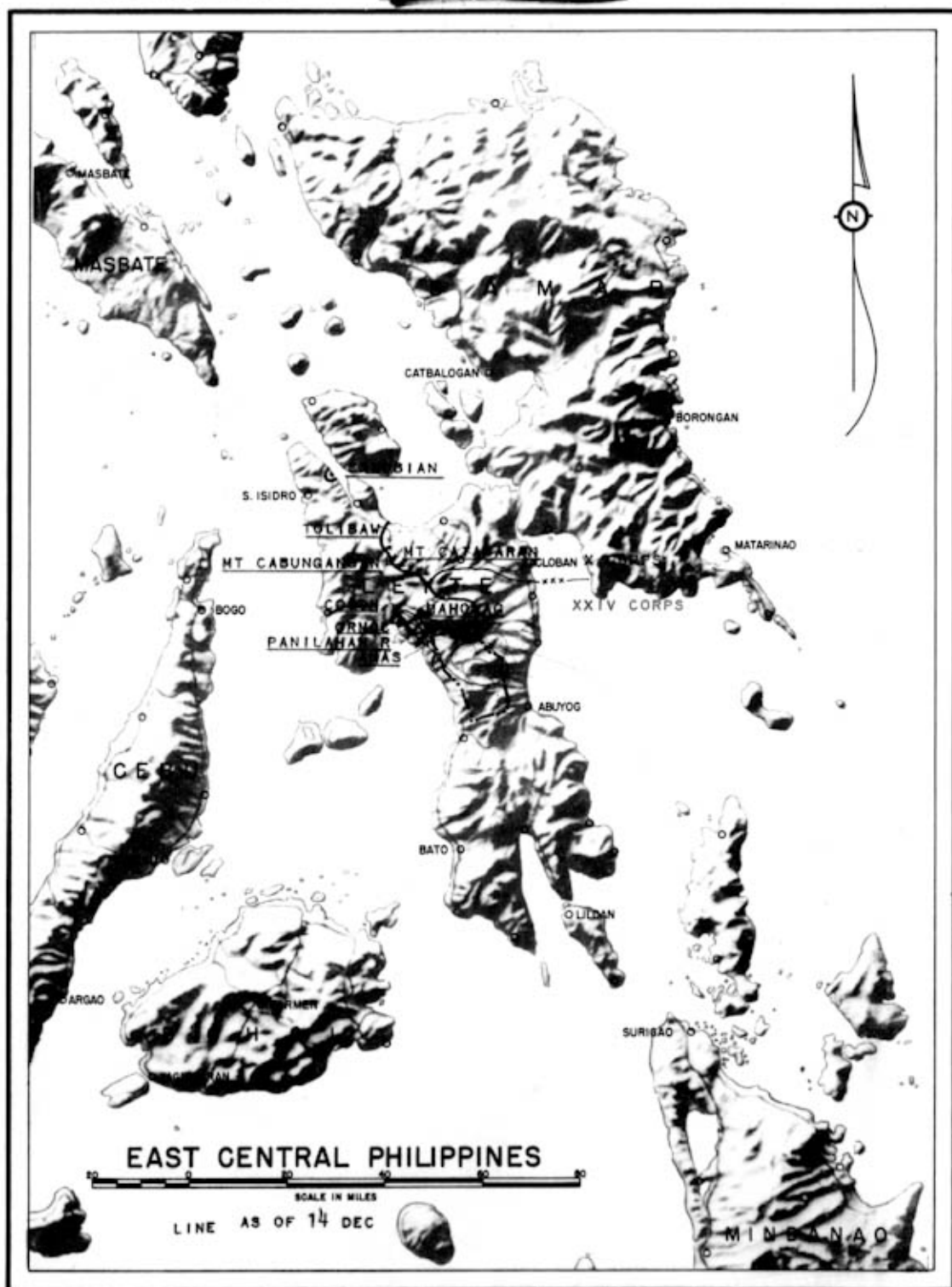
2. On 12 December, the Eastern Air Command flew 1,105 sorties of which 384 were tactical. Escorted medium bombers attacked enemy areas near Lashio, and bombed airfields south of Mandalay. Fighter bombers supported our ground forces along the Burma fronts, and attacked enemy targets in Shwebo and south of Wuntho. One plane was lost.

3. On 13 December, weather continued to limit operations of the 14th Air Force; 49 tactical sorties were reported. Sixty-one additional tactical sorties on 12 December bring that day's reported total to 83.

On 12 December, the Chinese Air Force in 55 sorties attacked enemy installations in the Nantan-Hochih area.

4. On 13 December, a Chinese division entered Nantan without opposition and other troops were reported to be within 15 miles of Hochih.

~~TOP SECRET~~



~~TOP SECRET~~

To the south, Chinese following Japanese withdrawals eastward found no enemy forces west of Wuming, but two Chinese divisions were engaged with the enemy in the Wuming area.

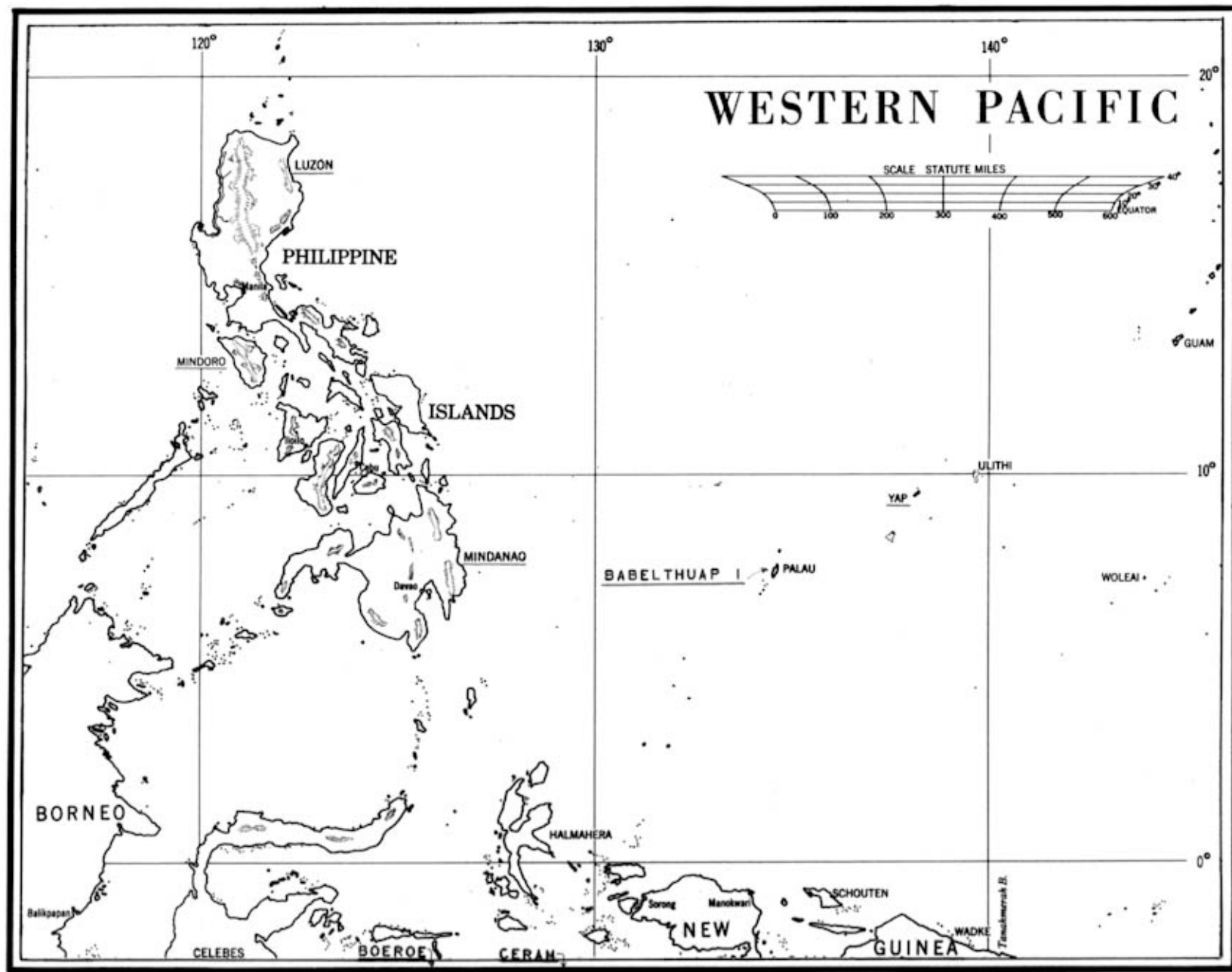
By 13 December, Allied troops on the Arakan front had entered Udaung, 13 miles southeast of Maungdaw, without opposition. On the Chindwin front, patrols entered Shwegyin.

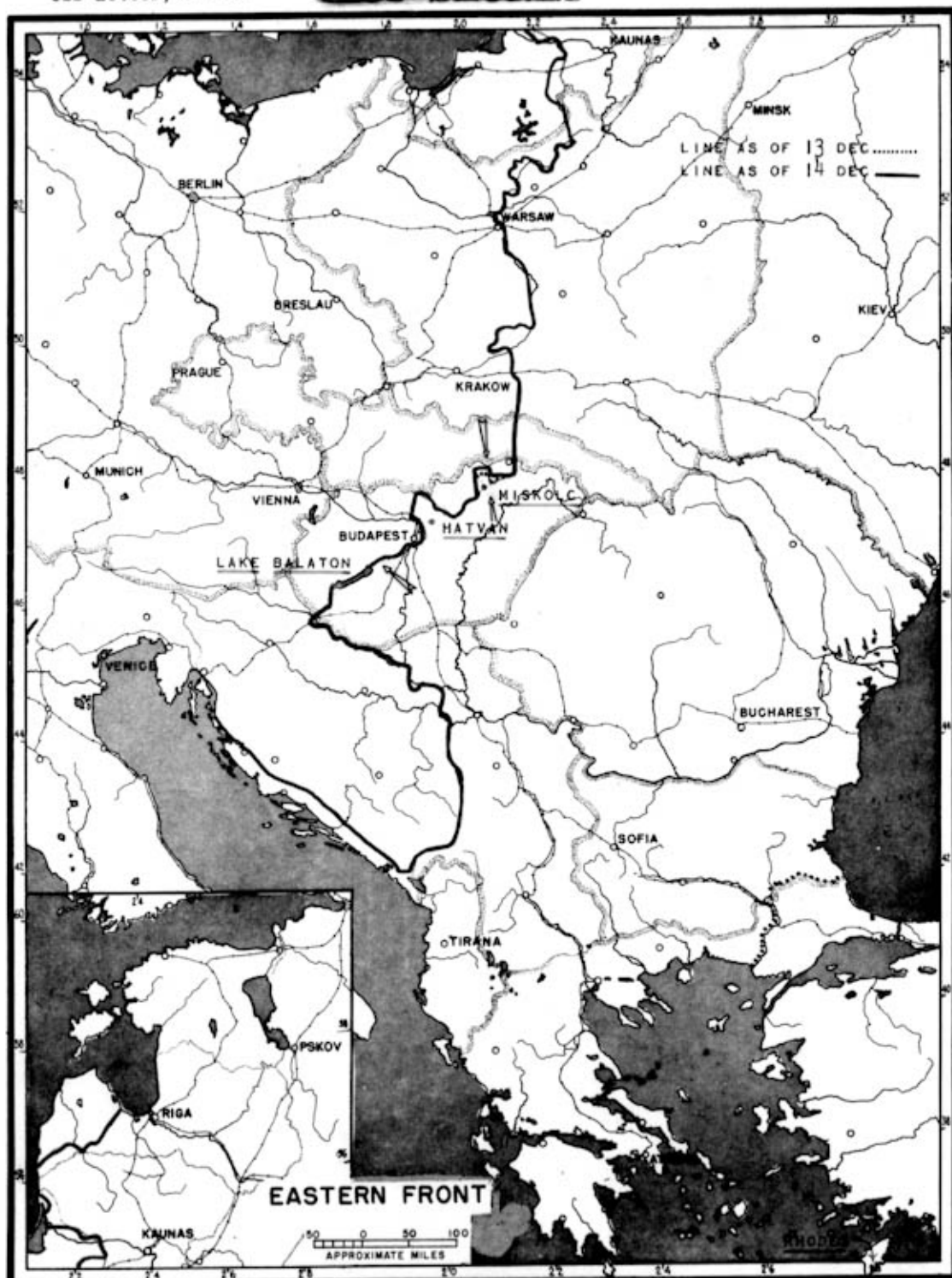
PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. During the period 10-13 December, some 300 additional offensive sorties were flown in the Southwest Pacific Area. In these operations, airdromes in the Philippines, in the Ceram-Boeroe area, and on western New Guinea were attacked, and a small freighter was sunk off Mindoro; numerous smaller craft were sunk or damaged. Seven additional enemy aircraft were destroyed, including four bombers attacking an Allied convoy in the Mindanao area.

2. By 1500, 13 December, on Leyte, the 77th Division had captured Cogon one mile north of Ormoc, against stubborn resistance. Southeast of Ormoc our troops were under attack along the upper Panilahan River; farther to the east in the Mahonag-Anas area they were meeting heavy resistance and attacking the rear of enemy positions. On northern Leyte, local gains were made against strong enemy positions on a ridge 1,000 yards south of Tolibaw. Additional strong points were reduced in cliffs around Mounts Cabungangan and Catabaran.

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-78





~~TOP SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

On the night of 11 December, shore fire sank one enemy barge and two ships attempting to land at Ormoc.

Report has been received that our forces have landed on Mindoro without opposition. The naval escort, which includes three battleships and six escort carriers, has been under heavy air attack. On 14 December prior to the landing, carrier-based aircraft sweeping Luzon airfields, destroyed 77 Japanese planes on the ground and shot down 14 others.

3. During the period 11-13 December, more than 40 Pacific Ocean Area planes, previously unreported, attacked targets in the Marianas and on Babelthuap and Yap.

EASTERN FRONT

On 14 December, Soviet troops continued to enlarge their salient north and northeast of Miskolc. From Hatvan to Lake Balaton, action was confined to local engagements.

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

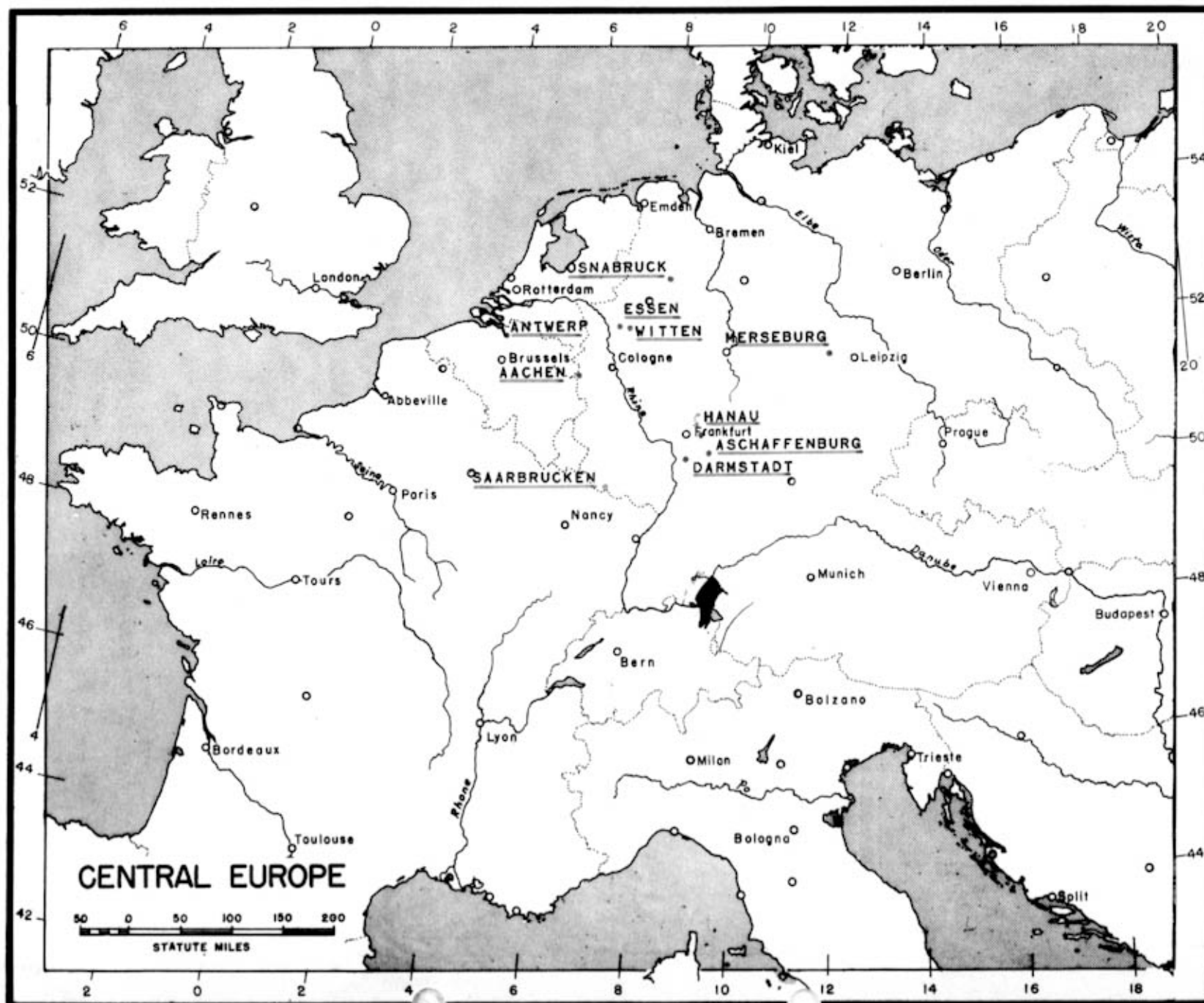
No. 1100

0700 December 13 to 0700 December 14, 1944

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

203(2)



EUROPEAN THEATER

1. In the 24 hours ending at sunset, 12 December, the Tactical Air Forces flew 1,300 sorties. Some 400 of these were flown over our XII and XX Corps sectors in the Saarbrücken area. Twenty enemy aircraft were destroyed; we lost seven.

On 12 December, a large force of escorted 8th Air Force heavy bombers dropped nearly 3,300 tons on railway centers at Darmstadt Hanau and Aschaffenburg, a synthetic oil plant at Merseburg, and other targets. Nine bombers and 13 fighters are missing.

On 13 December, 8th Air Force operations were cancelled because of weather.

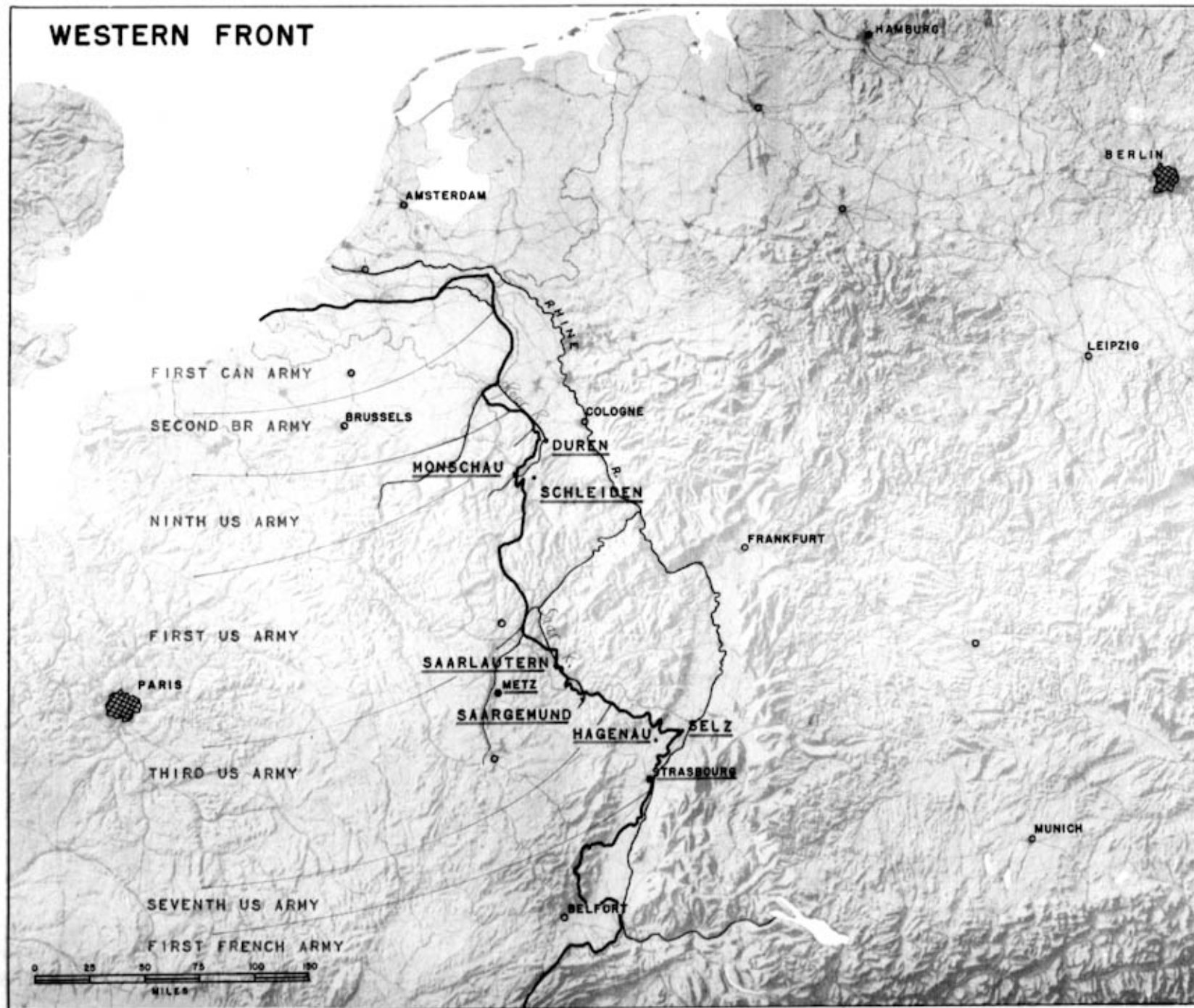
12 DEC
~~The same day~~ RAF bombers dropped 627 tons on Witten, and that night struck at Essen with approximately 2,600 tons. One enemy plane was destroyed; 14 RAF bombers were lost.

During 11 and 12 December, two flying bombs and two rockets fell in the outskirts of Antwerp; ten other flying bombs and five other rockets fell in scattered areas well behind the front.

In the 24 hours ending at 0600, 13 December, twelve flying bombs were plotted, of which five reached England; none reached London. During this period, five rockets fell in the Essex and London areas.

2. In the 24 hours ending at noon, 13 December, there was no change on the Canadian and British Army fronts.

WESTERN FRONT



DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72



West of Duren, the VII Corps of our First Army continued to gain ground toward the Roer River against stubborn opposition. Pockets of resistance in several villages were cleared in advances which stretched across an eight-mile front. In the adjacent sector to the south, the V Corps advanced about one-half mile east in the area north of Monschau. South of the town they advanced a mile and one-half north toward the highway running east to Schleiden.

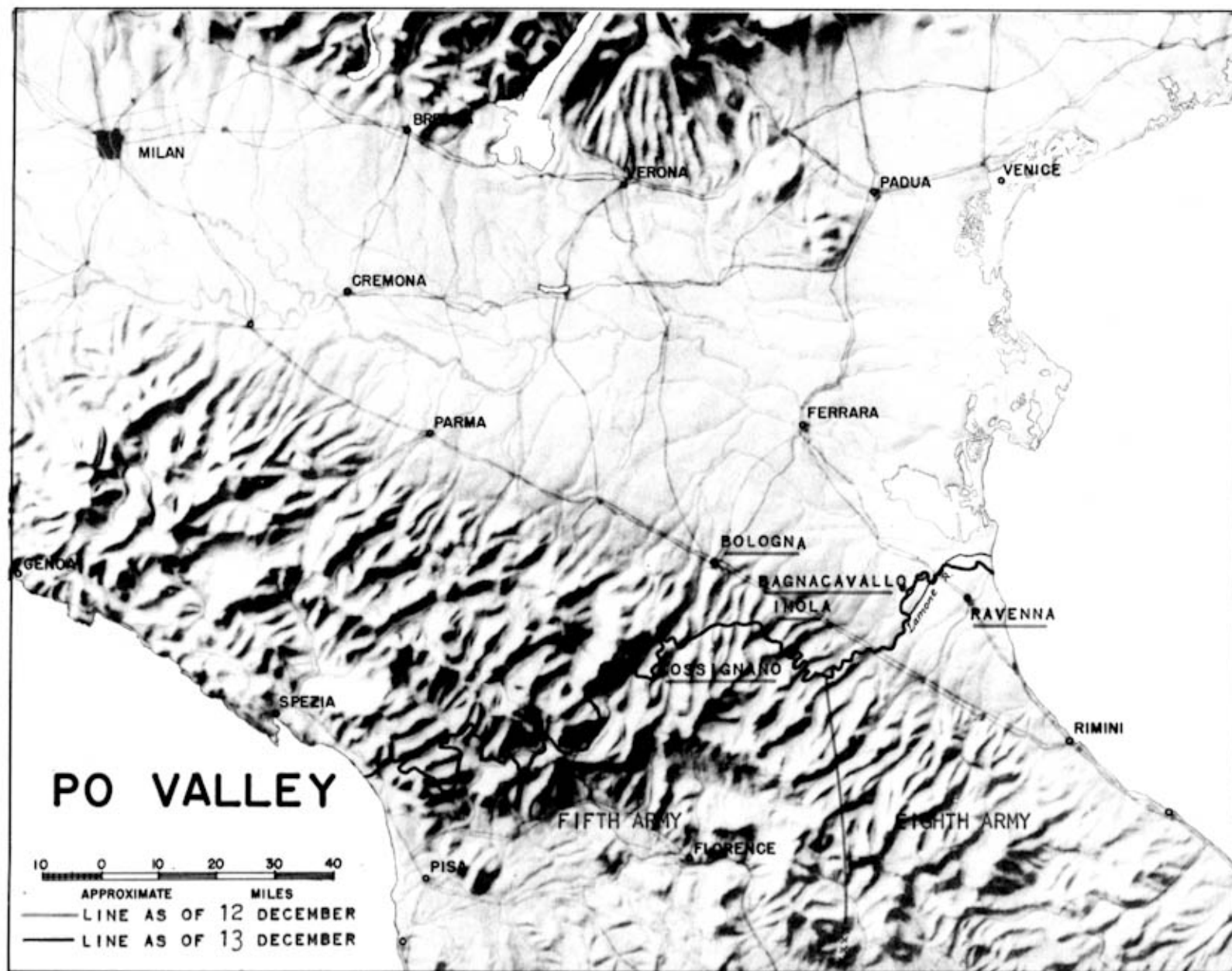
Fort Jeanne D'Arc, the last of the forts held by the enemy at Metz, has been captured.

On the Third Army front, the XX Corps continued ferrying operations across the Saar River north of Saarlautern, and withstood enemy attacks on the southern flank of the bridgehead. Slight gains were made in house-to-house fighting at the Saarlautern bridgehead where our forces have been continuously subjected to heavy enemy pressure and intense artillery fire. Northeast of Saargemund, the XII Corps gained some ground at the German frontier against heavy opposition from Maginot Line defenses.

Our Seventh Army made general advances to the north in its drive toward the German border. Largest gains were made by the VI Corps in the sector north and northeast of Hagenau; fighting continued in Selz.

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

1. On 12 December, weather forced cancellation of all offensive operations by the Tactical Air Force and limited Coastal and Balkan



Air Force planes to small-scale attacks on communications in north-west Italy and Yugoslavia. Twenty-four Greece-based aircraft attacked transportation and ammunition dumps in the Athens area.

During the night 11 December, about 40 15th Air Force bombers dropped supplies in Yugoslavia. On 12 December, 50 Liberators carried out a special mission to Greece. On 13 December, nearly 80 bombers carried out a special mission to an undisclosed destination. All other 15th Air Force operations that day were cancelled due to weather.

2. In the 24 hours ending at noon, 13 December, Canadian troops of the Eighth Army expanded the northern end of their Lamone River bridgehead west of Ravenna. Heavy resistance and counterattacks limited further advances west to a local gain northeast of Bagnacavallo. British troops of the Fifth Army reached Tossignano and gained some ground along the highway southwest of Imola. Southwest of Bologna heavy fire forced Brazilian troops to withdraw a narrow salient they had established the previous day.

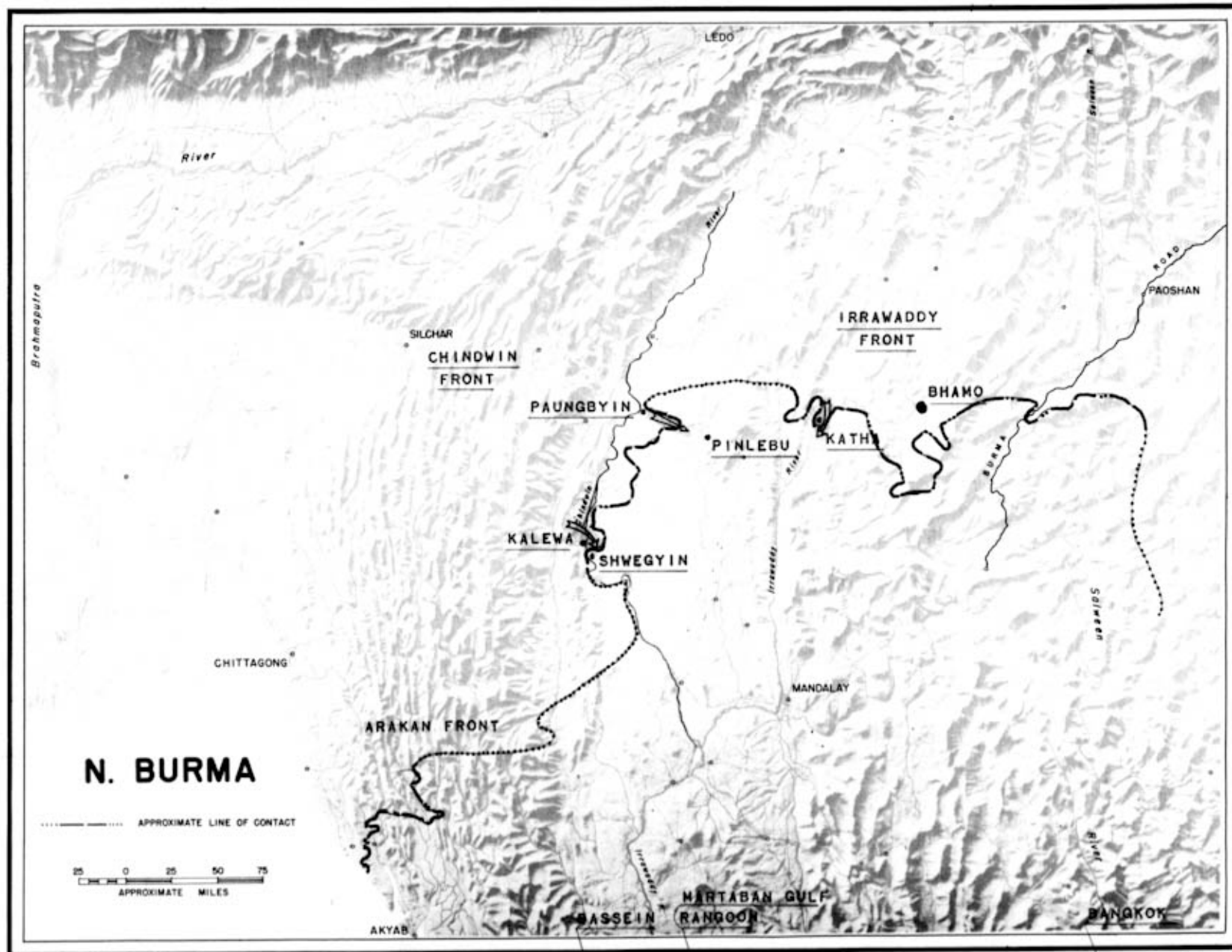
As of noon, 16 December, Lt. General Clark will assume command of Fifth and Eighth Armies with the title of Commanding General, 15th Army Group. At the same time, Headquarters, Allied Armies in Italy will become Headquarters, 15th Army Group.

ASIATIC THEATER

1. On 12 December, weather limited 14th Air Force operations; 22 uneventful tactical sorties were reported.



101-1000



On 14 December, the 20th Bomber Command dispatched 48 B-29's to attack a railroad bridge at Bangkok. Secondary and last resort targets for the mission were other rail installations at Rangoon and Bassein in Burma.

On 11 December, the Eastern Air Command flew 1,210 sorties of which 517 were tactical. During these operations heavy bombers again attacked the Burma-Siam railroad and bombed waterfront targets along the eastern coast of the Martaban Gulf; lighter planes struck at Japanese rear installations throughout Burma and supported our ground operations on the Arakan and Irrawaddy fronts.

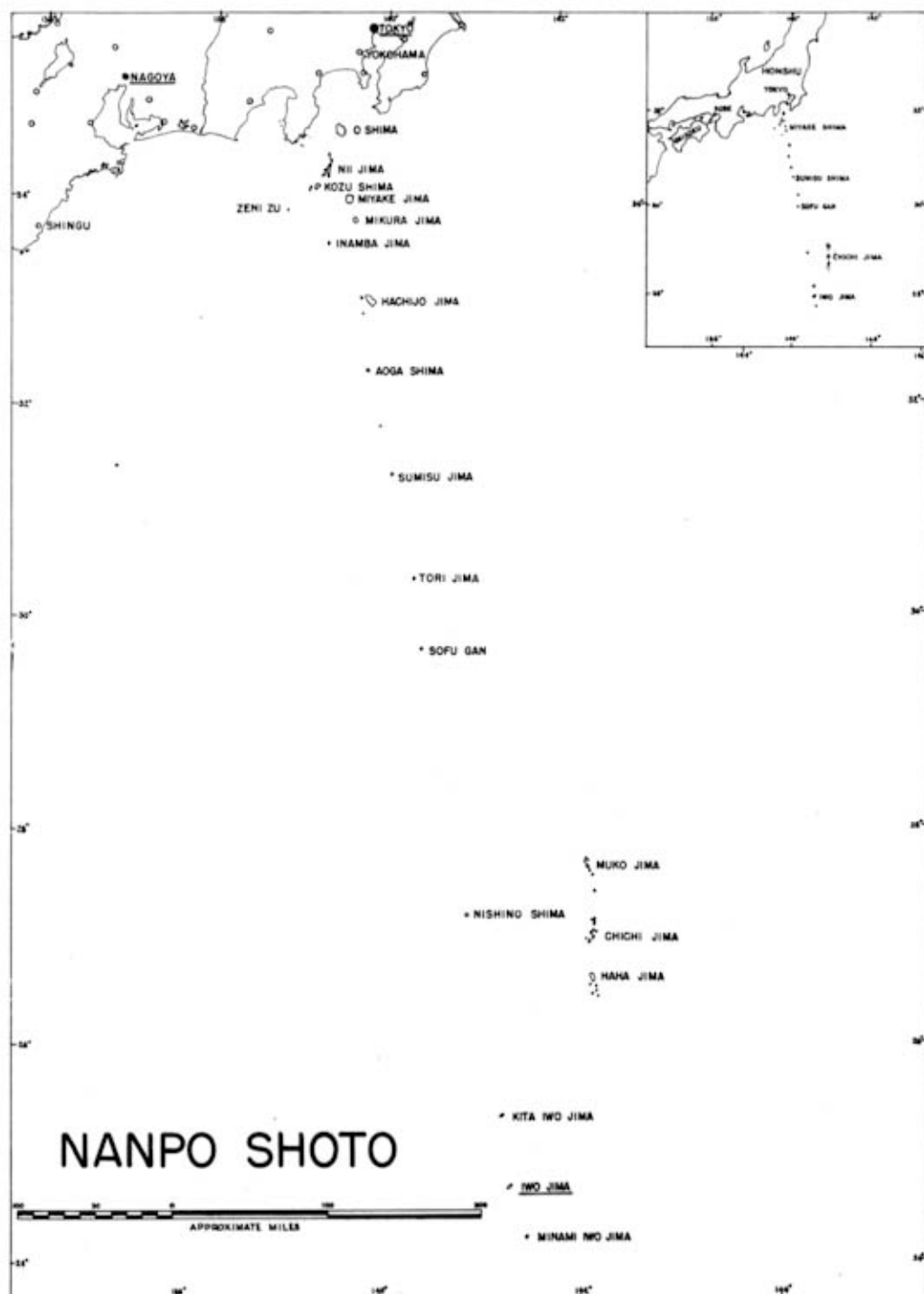
2. On 12 December, Chinese troops, following up the Japanese withdrawal west of Kweilin in southern China, reached the Nantan area without contact.

In Burma, that same day, British troops advancing south from Kalewa along the east bank of the Chindwin River regained contact with the enemy just north of Shwegyin. In the salient southeast of Paungbyin, leading elements of a British Brigade had advanced to within 12 miles of Pinlebu. On the Irrawaddy front, British patrols were active ten miles south of Katha; Chinese made local gains in the northern sector of Bhamo.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

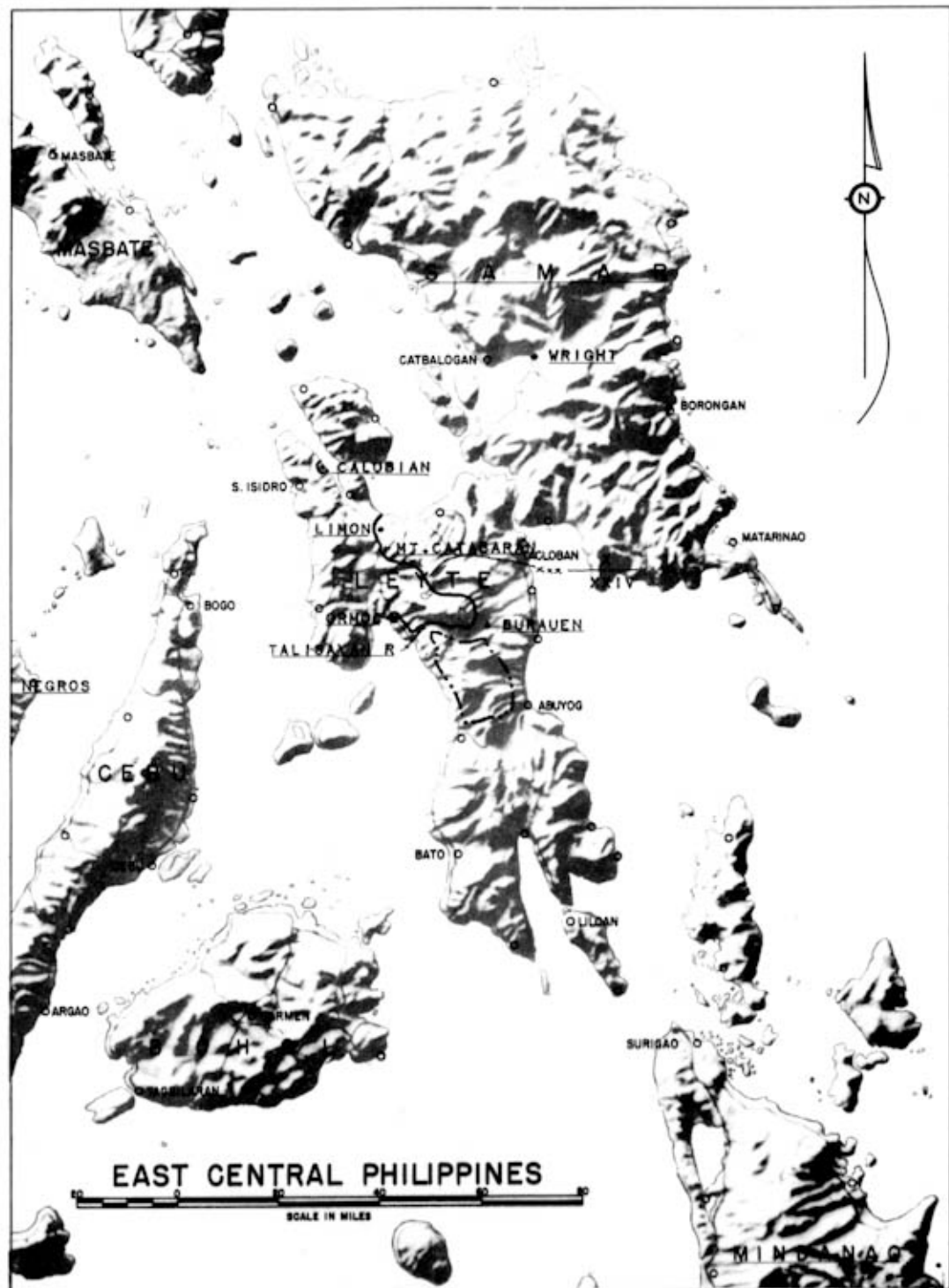
1. During 11 and 12 December, some 350 previously unreported aircraft, including 140 B-24's, attacked targets in the Southwest

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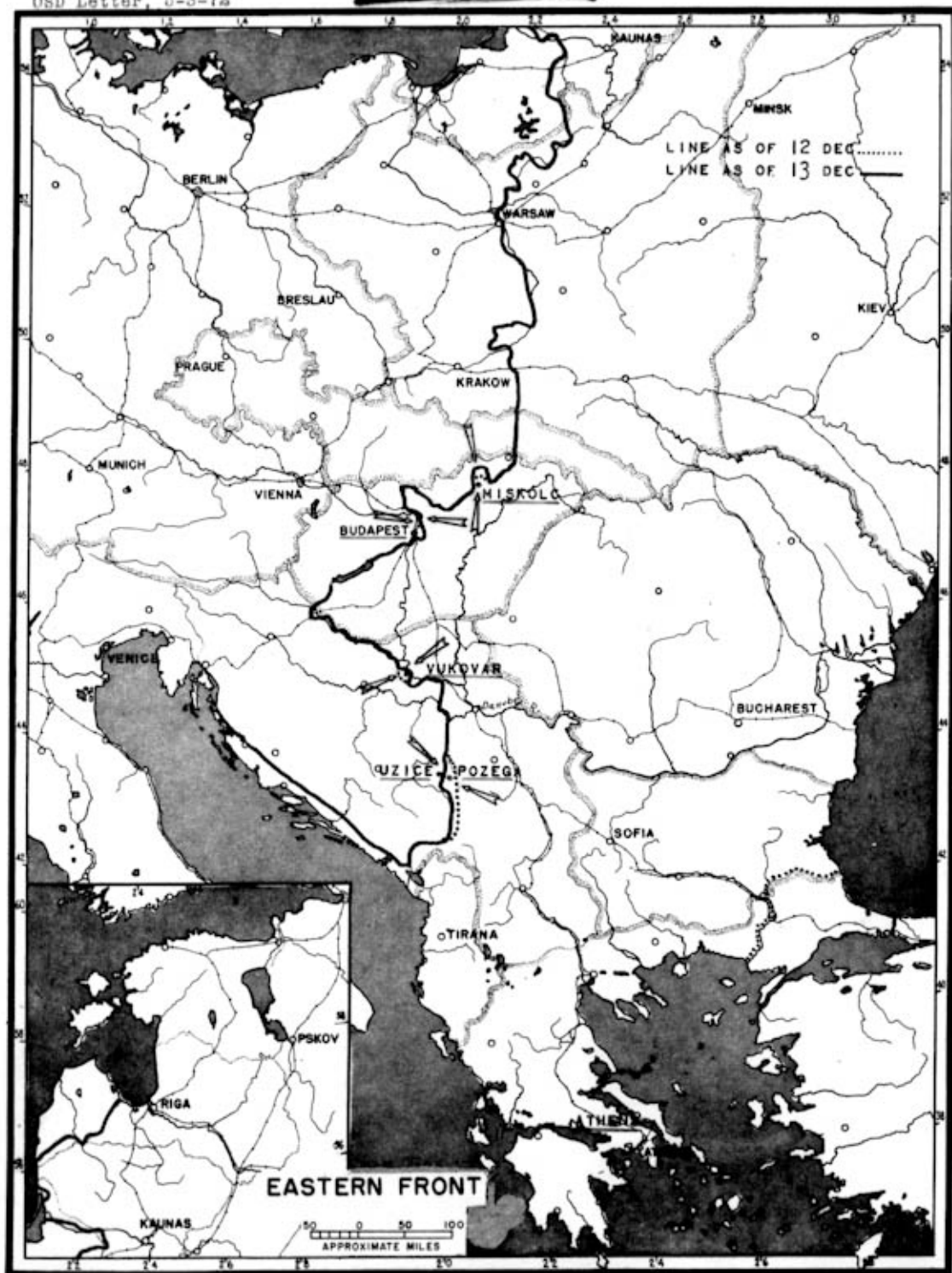
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Pacific area. Heavy bomber attacks were concentrated on airdromes on Negros and southern Mindanao, and on an airdrome and barracks area on Celebes. Two enemy freighters and three smaller vessels were sunk and 18 additional Japanese planes destroyed during the period.

2. To 1500, 12 December, on Leyte, the 77th Division continued to mop up the Ormoc area and sent strong patrols to the north and east. To the southeast, the 7th Division crossed the Talisayan River, meeting heavy resistance from hills on its northern flank. Our troops continued to mop up scattered pockets in the Burauen area. On northern Leyte we wiped out a series of pillboxes on the eastern slopes of Mount Catabaran. Resistance increased south of Limon. In the Calubian beach-head area, we repulsed two more attacks. Our troops on Samar captured the road junction one mile east of Wright.

3. During the night of 10 December, two B-29's operating singly dropped incendiary bombs on the Tokyo dock and industrial area, setting several fires. On 11 December, 29 B-24's attacked airfield installations on Iwo Jima. On 11 and 12 December, more than 50 fighters attacked enemy targets in the Marshalls.

EASTERN FRONT

On 13 December, Soviet troops continued to advance north and northwest from Miskolc. They approached closer to Budapest from the east and north. South of Budapest, their bridgehead across the Danube at Vukovar was lost. Partisans occupied Pozega and advanced to Uzice, where fighting continues.

WAR DEPARTMENT

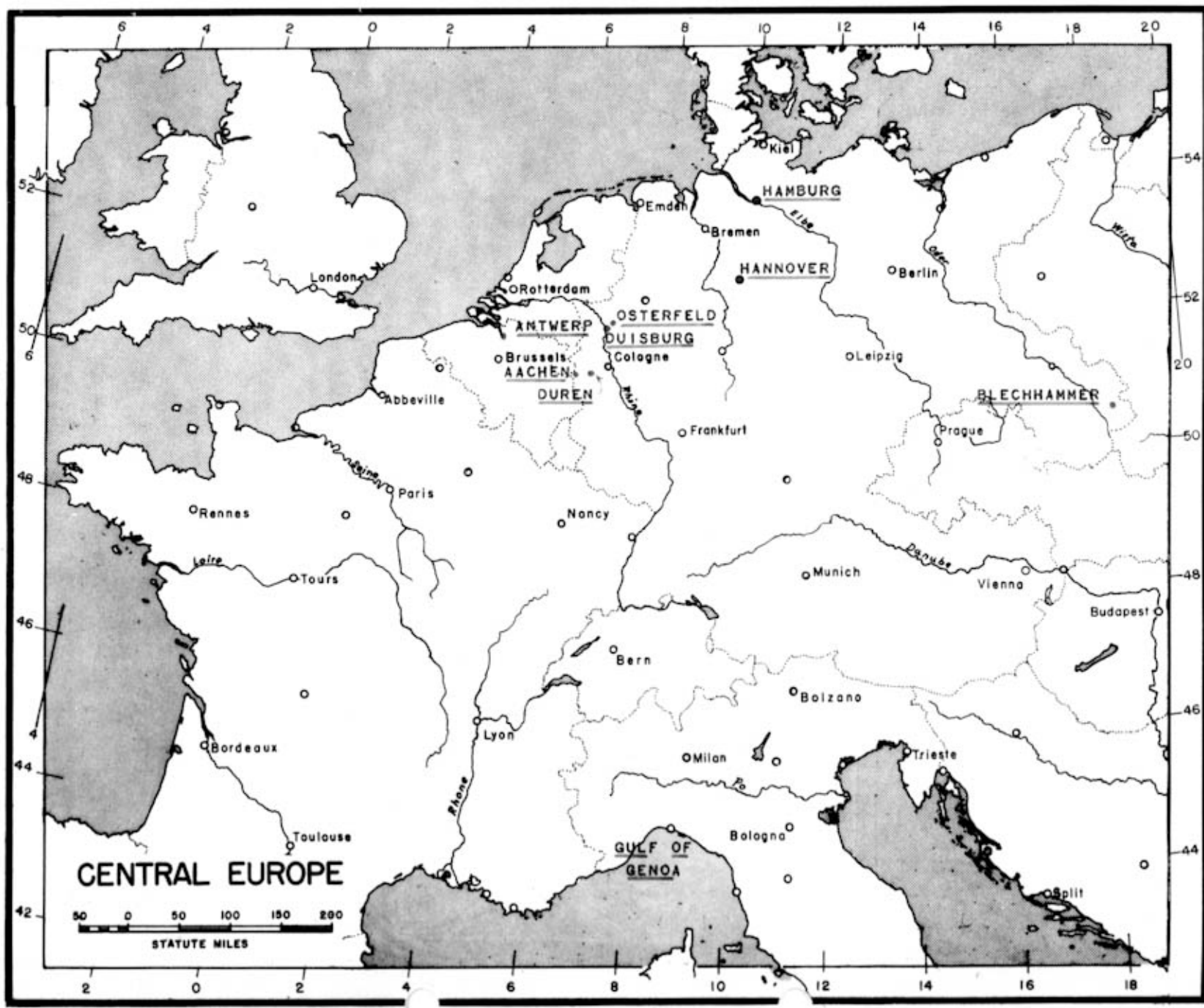
DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 1099

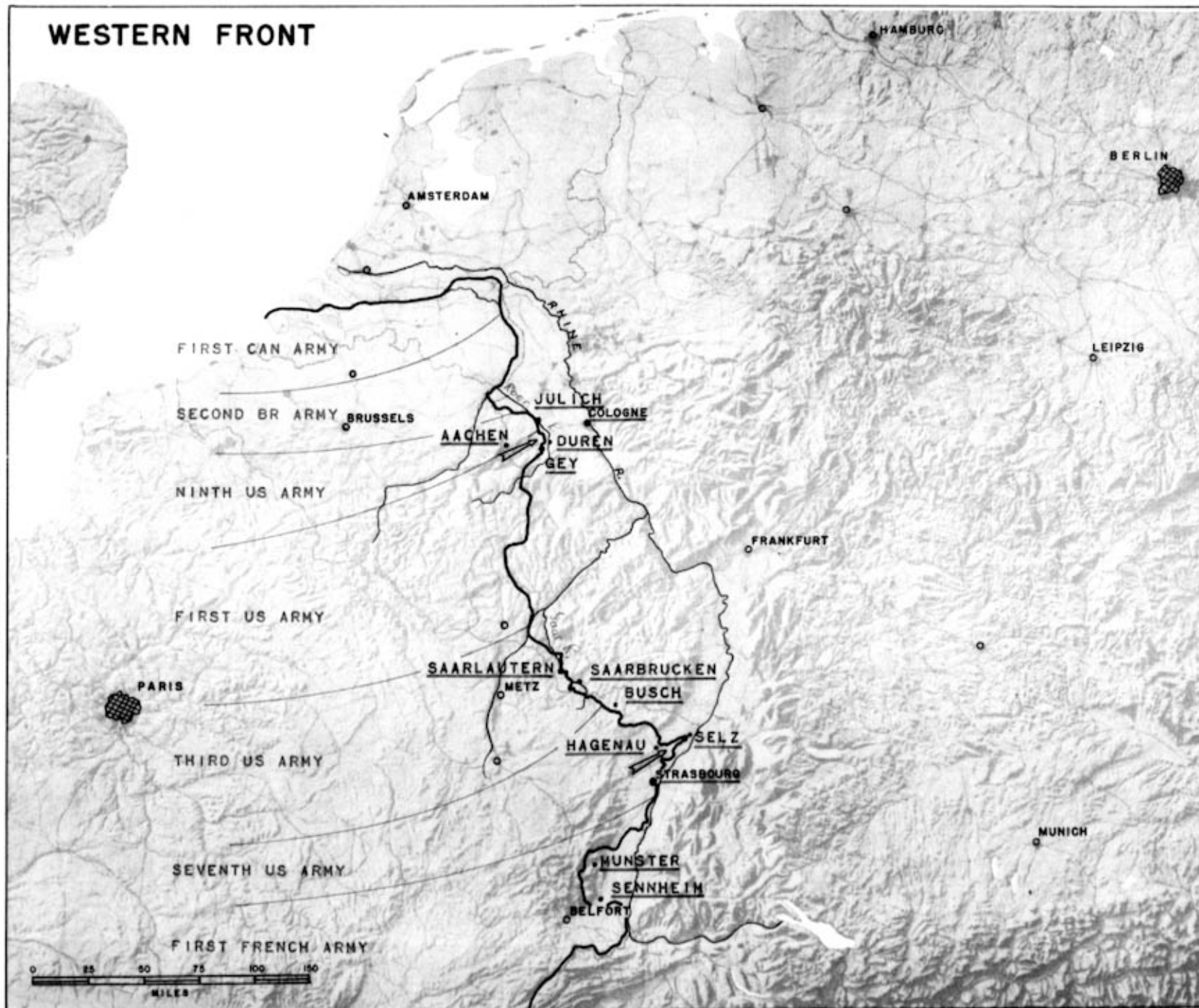
0700 December 12 to 0700 December 13, 1944

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE



WESTERN FRONT



DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

TOP SECRET

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-8-72

EUROPEAN THEATER

1. In the 24 hours ending at sunset, 11 December, the Tactical Air Forces flew 1,545 sorties; 439 of these were concentrated in support of our VII Corps, east of Aachen. Two enemy planes were destroyed; we lost eleven planes.

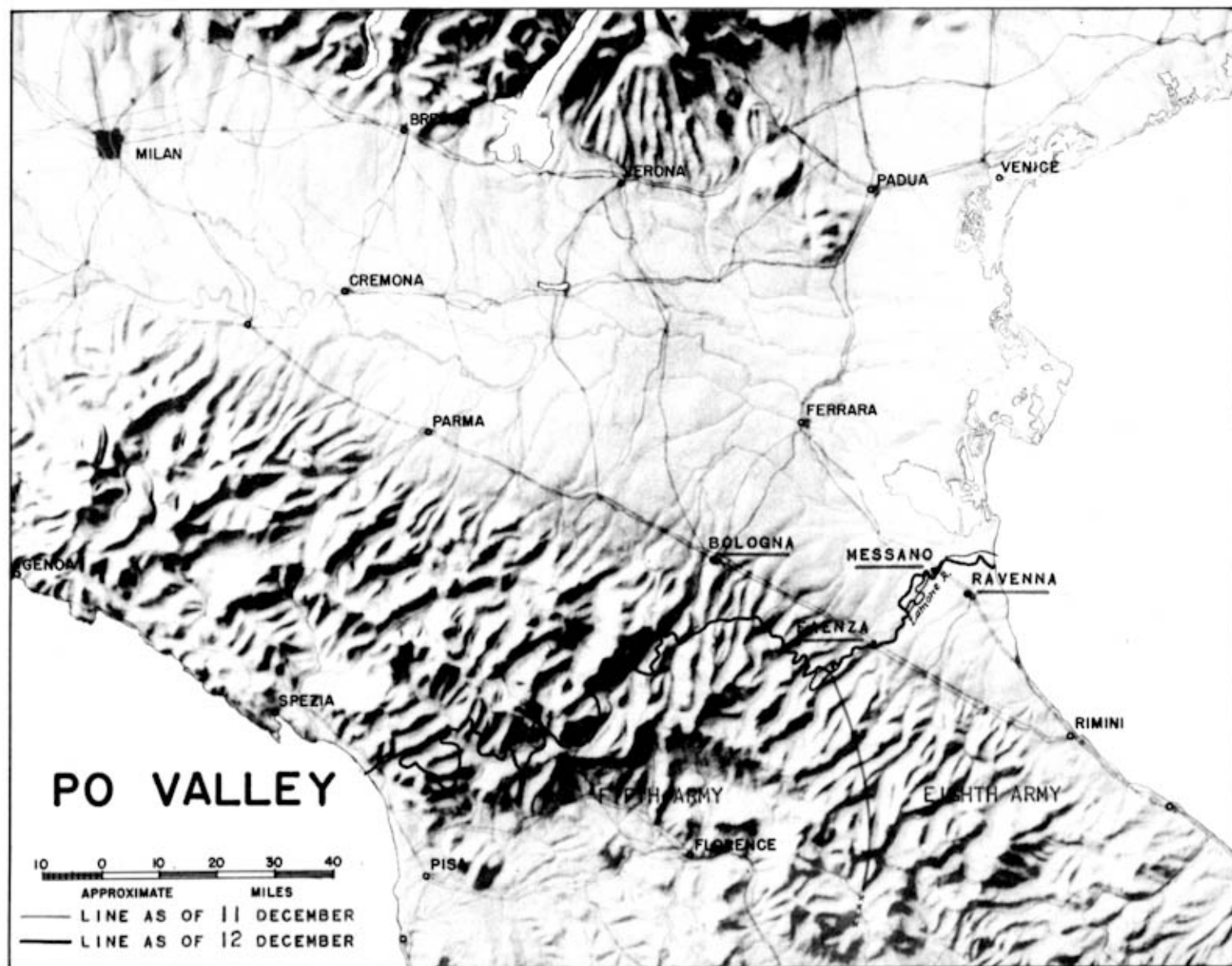
During the 8th Air Force operations of 10 and 11 December, 5,360 tons of bombs were dropped on railyards and transportation targets in western Germany. On the latter day, RAF heavy bombers attacked a dam in the Urft River, south of Duren, with 1,066 tons and a rail center and benzol plant at Osterfeld with 780 tons. In raids continuing into that night, Mosquitoes dropped 100 tons on an oil plant at Duisburg and 70 tons on Hannover and Hamburg. Three RAF bombers are missing.

During 10 and 11 December, three rockets and one flying bomb fell outside of Antwerp.

In the 24 hours ending at 0600, 12 December, of nine flying bombs plotted, six made landfall in England, one of these in the London area. One was destroyed. During the same period two rockets fell in the London area and one in the sea off the east coast.

2. During the 24 hours ending at noon, 12 December, there was no change on the Canadian and British fronts.

In our drive toward Cologne, the Ninth Army adjusted its lines near Julich, while the First Army's VII Corps pushed forward on a four-mile front to within a mile of Duren.



~~TOP SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

Our Third Army was advancing slowly in its bridgehead over the Saar River north of Saarlautern. House-to-house fighting continued in the northeastern suburbs of the city. Minor advances were made to the south of Saarbrücken and to the southeast along the German frontier.

Northwest of Strasbourg our Seventh Army made local gains along a ten-mile front and advanced to within a mile and a half of Busch. North of Strasbourg, general advances were made along a 20-mile front extending northwest and southeast of Hagenau, which was cleared. Northeast of Hagenau, our troops advanced rapidly through the Rhine Valley, reaching Selz.

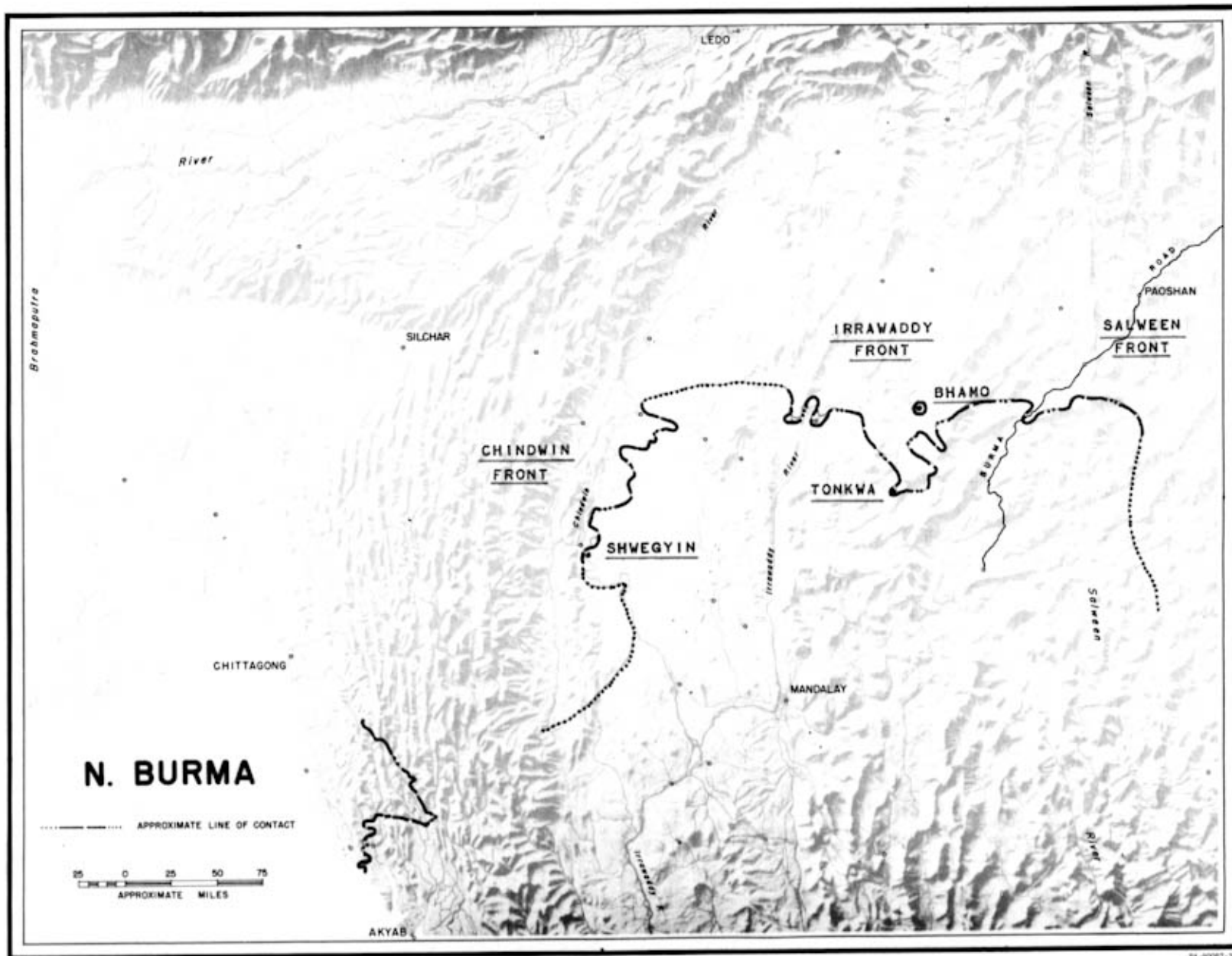
On the French Army front, local gains were made near Munster and Sennheim.

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

1. During the 24 hours ending at 1800, 11 December, some 860 Tactical Air Force planes attacked targets on the Eighth Army front, and communications north of the battle area and in Yugoslavia. Balkan Air Force planes, in 85 sorties, also attacked communications in Yugoslavia. Weather hampered these operations. We lost three planes.

On 12 December, 15th Air Force heavy bombers dropped 143 tons on an oil refinery at Elechhammer. Three bombers are missing.

2. In the 24 hours ending at noon, 12 December, the Eighth Army consolidated the area between its bridgeheads across the Lamone River west of Ravenna, and advanced up to a mile and a half along a four-mile





front against light opposition. Astride the highway running northwest from Ravenna, other Canadian troops crossed the Lamone near Mezzano, which was reported clear.

Polish troops of the Eighth Army and British troops of our Fifth Army made local gains southwest of Faenza. Southeast of Bologna a counterattack estimated at company strength was repulsed, while southwest of the city Brazilian troops advanced two miles on a narrow front.

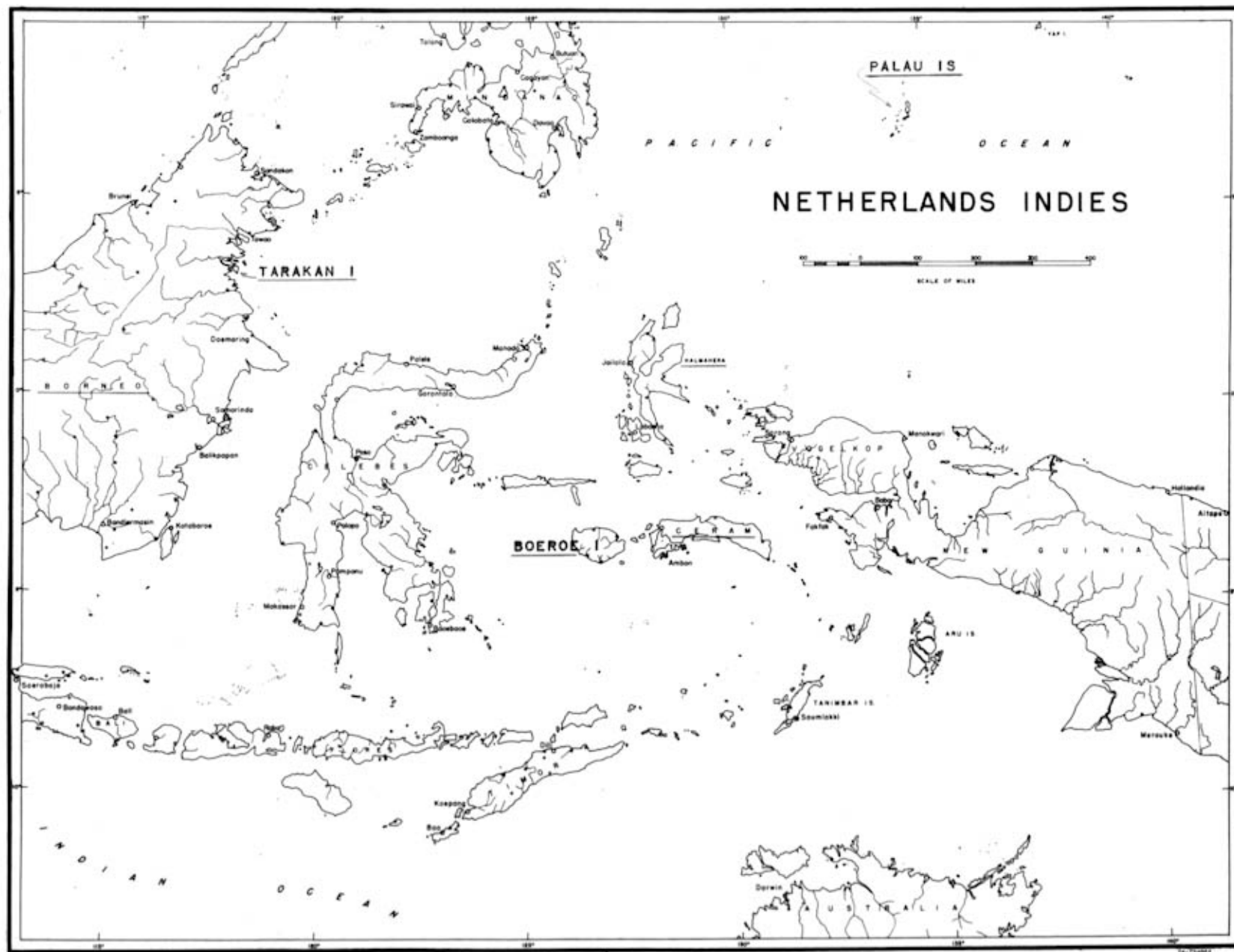
3. Field Marshal Alexander assumed command in the Mediterranean Theater at 0900, 12 December, succeeding General Wilson.

ASIATIC THEATER

1. On 10 December, the Eastern Air Command flew 882 sorties, of which 421 were tactical. Heavy bombers attacked the Burma-Siam railway; medium bombers and fighters attacked airfields, rail installations, supply dumps and enemy strong points along the Burma fronts. One enemy aircraft was shot down.

2. On 10 and 11 December, the 14th Air Force flew approximately 165 bomber and fighter sorties, attacking targets in the Changsha, Liuchow and Nantan areas and on the Salween front. On the latter day, according to communique, 14th Air Force fighters destroyed nine enemy planes in a surprise attack on an airdrome near Canton.

3. On 11 December, Chinese troops on the Irrawaddy front captured



~~TOP SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

Tonkwa on the western flank of the salient south of Bhamo. Along the Chindwin River, British troops were advancing on Shwegyin without making contact with the enemy.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. On 30 December, 90 B-29's, favored by good weather, bombed Mitsubishi aircraft factory at Nagoya. Further data have not yet been reported.

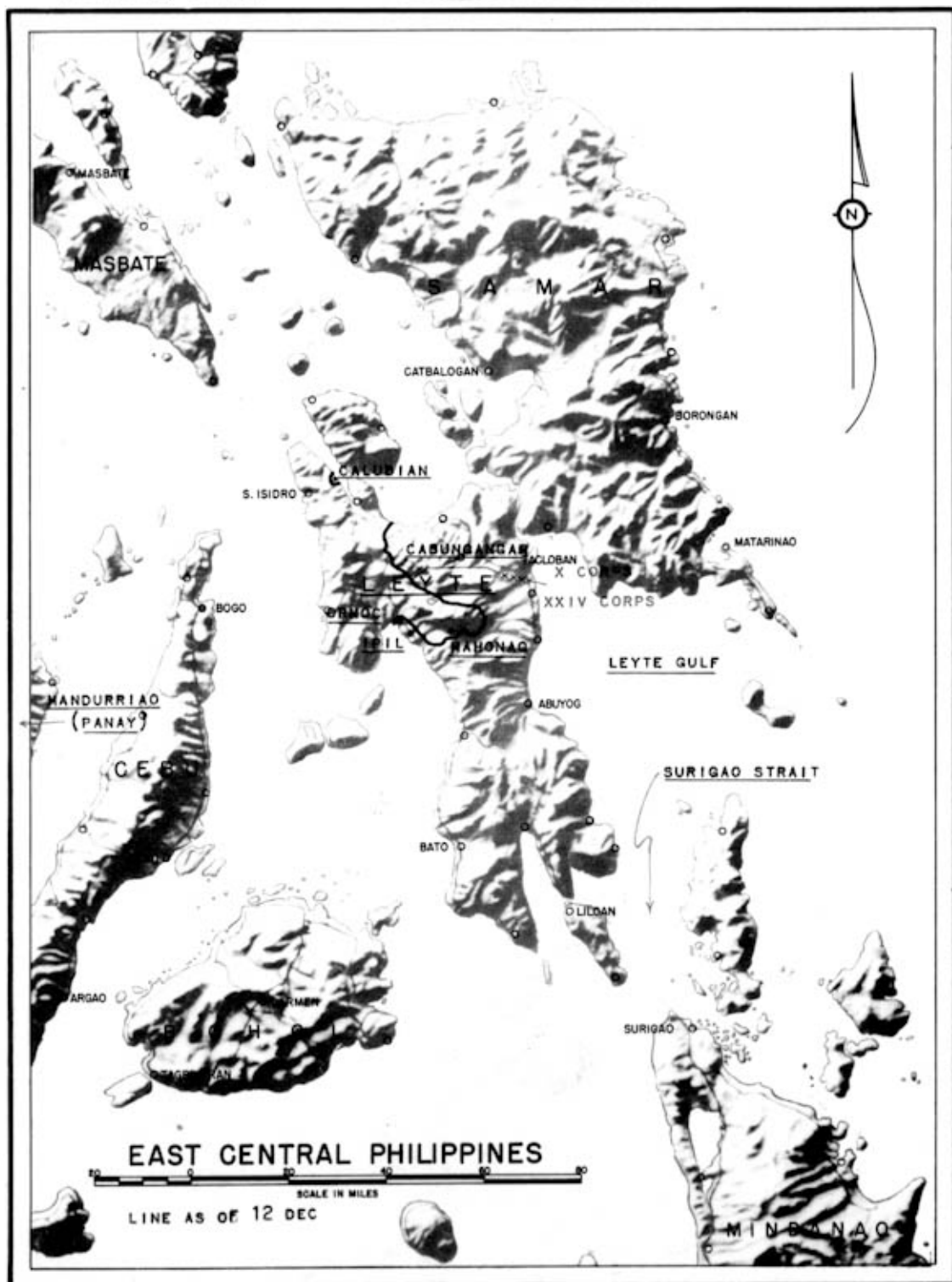
During the period 8-11 December, more than 450 previously unreported Allied planes attacked targets in the Southwest Pacific Area. Heavy strikes were made on airdromes and fuel supply dumps in the Philippines, and at Borneo, Halmahera, Ceram, and Boeroe; heavy bombers dropped more than 125 tons of bombs on the Mandurriao airdrome (Panay), and 72 tons on tank farms in the Tarakan (Borneo) area. Six enemy aircraft were destroyed; we lost one plane.

On 10 and 11 December, enemy suicide planes damaged Allied convoys in Leyte Gulf and in Surigao Strait.

On 11 December, off the northwest coast of Leyte, our air and naval forces sank three enemy transports (of 10,000, 5,000 and 4,000 tons) three escorting destroyers, a 5,000-ton cargo ship, and shot down 50 enemy planes. Another destroyer and two medium transports were left dead in the water and burning. We lost eight fighters. (Communique report)

2. Operational reports confirmed the capture of Ormoc by our troops. By 11 December only small pockets of enemy resistance remained in the

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town, and elements of the 77th Division had advanced to a line 1,500 yards northeast. Southeast of Ormoc, the junction with the 7th Division was effected at Ipil.. Our troops advancing in the area west of Mahonag repulsed attacks by enemy infiltrating parties. In northern Leyte, the advance south from Limon continued over difficult terrain, and some ground was gained on the northern slopes of Mount Cabungangan. Farther to the northwest, our troops holding a beachhead near Calubian repulsed an enemy attack.

3. On 10 December, Navy planes continued to raid enemy installations in the Bonins, Palaus and Marianas.

EASTERN FRONT

On 12 December, Soviet troops continued to close in on Budapest from the north and northeast. Fighting around Lake Balaton was on a reduced scale.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

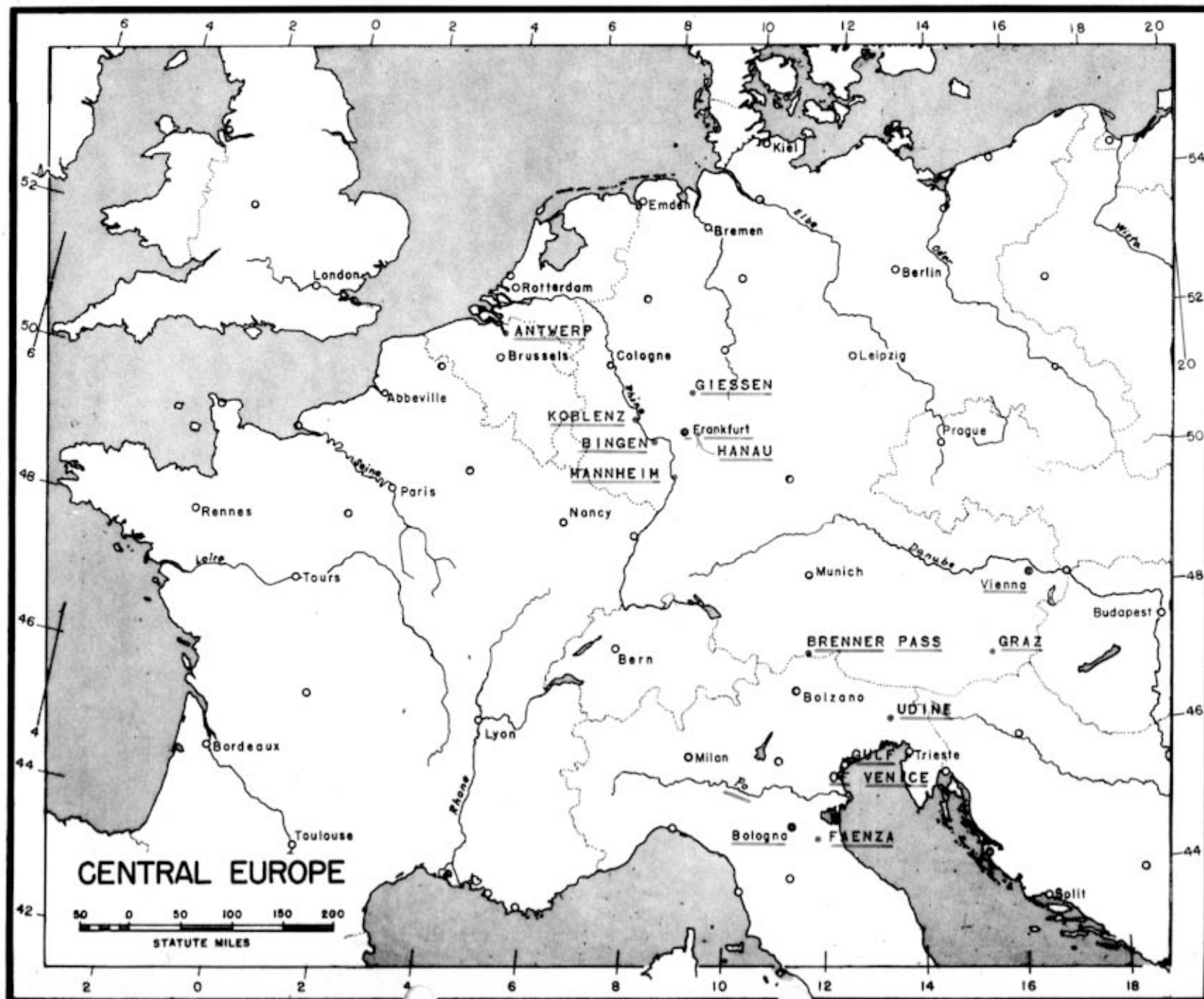
No. 1098

0700 December 11 to 0700 December 12, 1944

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

203(2)



EUROPEAN THEATER

1. In the 24 hours ending at sunset, 10 December, the Tactical Air Forces flew 1,548 sorties. During these operations more than 300 tons of bombs were dropped on bridges, defended areas, and other targets behind the German lines, and 587 planes gave direct support to ground operations. Six enemy planes were destroyed; we lost seven.

On 10 December, some 500 escorted 8th Air Force heavy bombers attacked rail yards at Koblenz and Bingen. Weather impeded the operation. Two bombers and one fighter were lost.

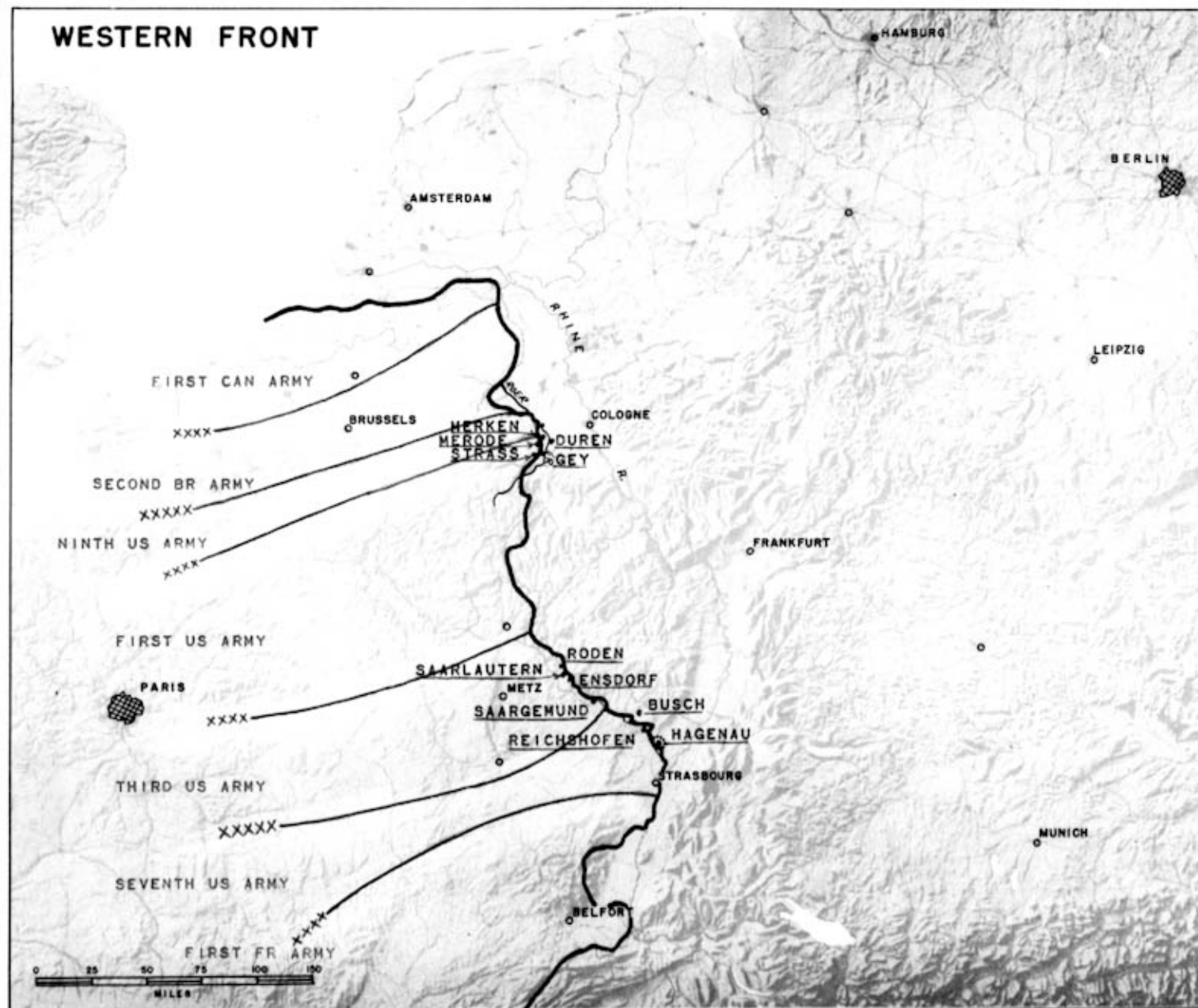
On 11 December over 1,600 heavy bombers of the 8th Air Force, escorted by 800 fighters, comprising the largest number of aircraft ever dispatched by the 8th Air Force on a single operation, attacked rail yards and transportation targets at Frankfurt, Mannheim, Hanau, and Giessen. Bombs were dropped under adverse weather conditions. Our reported losses are two fighters and 14 bombers, some of which are believed to be safe on friendly fields.

In the 24 hours ending at 0600, 11 December, 18 flying bombs were plotted against England, of which six made landfall and one reached the London area. Four bombs were destroyed by antiaircraft fire. Two rockets fell in the London area during the period and another landed in the sea off the southeast coast.

On 9 and 10 December, five rockets fell in the vicinity of Antwerp, one hitting the dock area.

2. During the 24-hour period ending at 1200, 11 December, there

WESTERN FRONT



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were no appreciable changes on the British and Ninth Army fronts.

The attack of the VII Corps of the First Army made substantial progress near Merode to the west of Duren. Advance elements were engaged in stubborn house-to-house fighting in the village of Merken less than a mile west of the Roer River and three miles northwest of Duren. To the southwest of Duren, other elements of the VII Corps captured the village of Strass and were fighting in Gey after repulsing a counterattack.

Elements of the XX Corps of the Third Army repulsed counterattacks at Roden and Ens Dorf in the Saarlautern bridgehead. Units of the XII Corps were engaged in street fighting in Saargemund; southeast of the city advances up to two miles were made on a five-mile front.

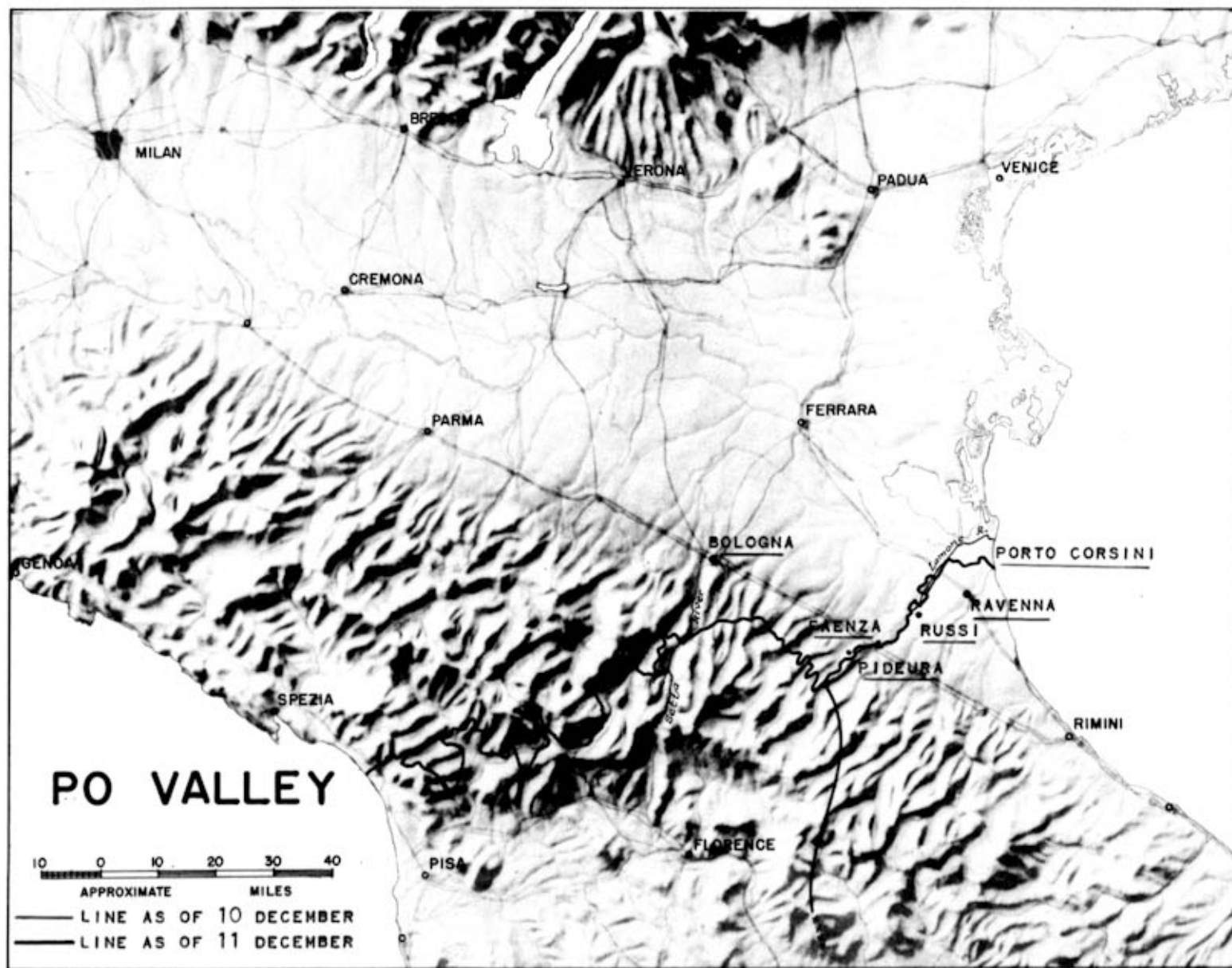
On the Seventh Army front, the XV Corps made local progress west of Busch and gained three miles southeast of the town. The VI Corps cleared Reichshofen and advanced two miles to the east on a ten-mile front. Other elements of the Corps entered Hagenau and registered gains southeast of the city.

There was no substantial change in Alsace where the enemy still offers strong opposition.

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

1. In the 24 hours ending at 1800, 10 December, 1,353 bombers and fighters of the Tactical Air Force supported ground operations on the battle fronts, attacked communications in the Po Valley, and also the Brenner Pass and Udine rail routes. Particularly heavy attacks were

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

made on enemy positions in the Faenza-Bologna areas. Weather forced cancellation of all offensive operations by the Balkan Air Force and limited the Coastal Air Force to small-scale attacks on shipping in the Gulf of Venice. Five enemy aircraft were destroyed; we lost 12 planes.

On 11 December, 15th Air Force heavy bombers dropped 927 tons of bombs on an oil refinery, a tank factory and other installations in the Vienna-Graz area. Two enemy aircraft were destroyed; 25 of our bombers and one fighter are missing.

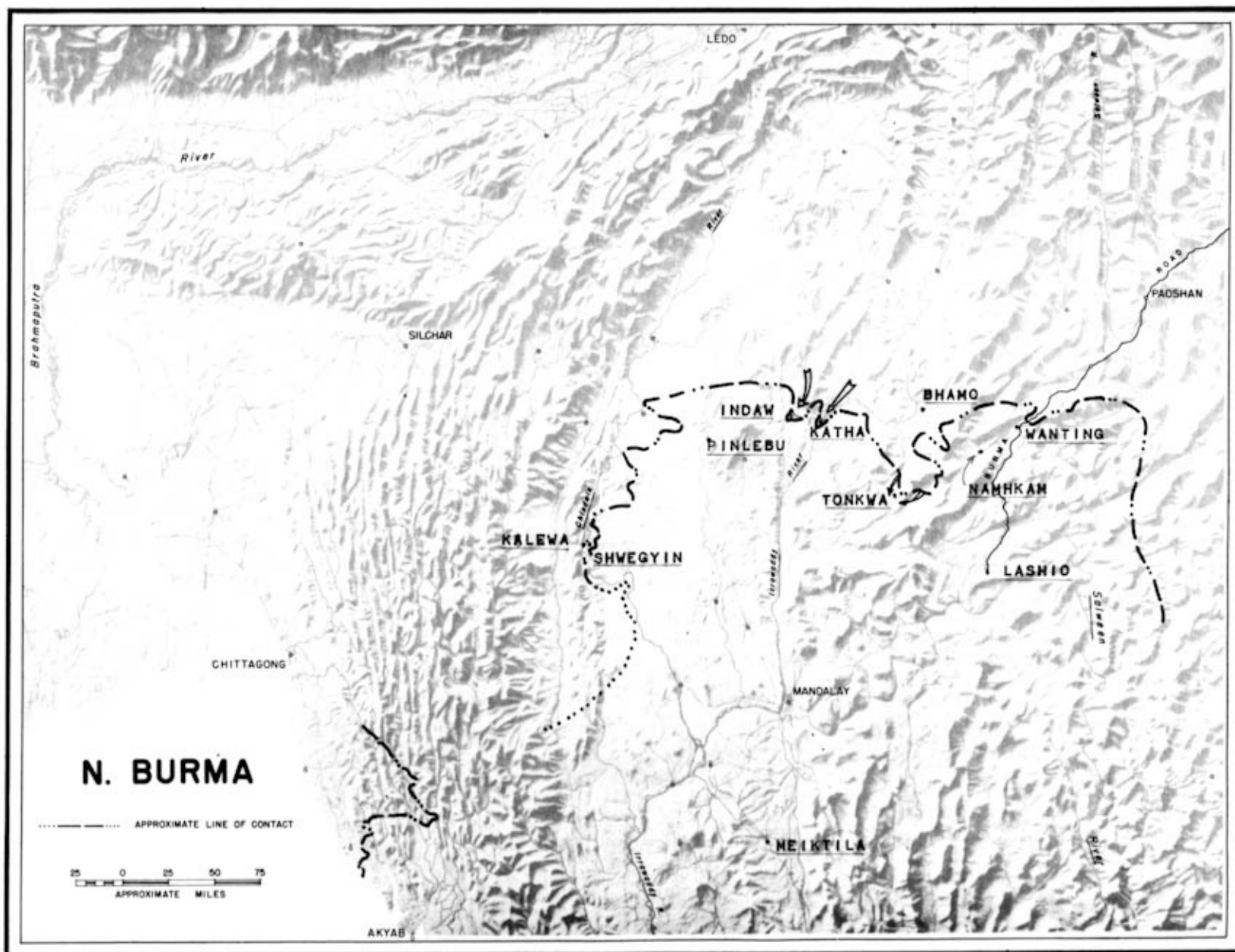
2. During the 24 hours ending at 1200, 11 December, on the Eighth Army front the Canadian I Corps attacked across the Lamone River in the area west of Ravenna and established a bridgehead one mile deep on a three-mile front. Immediately to the southwest of this bridgehead a second was established across the river northwest of Russi along a mile and a half front. Fighting continued between Pideura and Faenza without substantial changes of position. A communique reported that Italian patriots have cleared the enemy from Porto Corsini, a German supply center on the Adriatic.

On the Fifth Army front south of Bologna an enemy attempt to infiltrate into our positions north of the Setta River was repulsed.

ASIATIC THEATER

1. During previous reported operations on 7 and 8 December, the 14th Air Force destroyed a total of 31 enemy aircraft. From 8 through

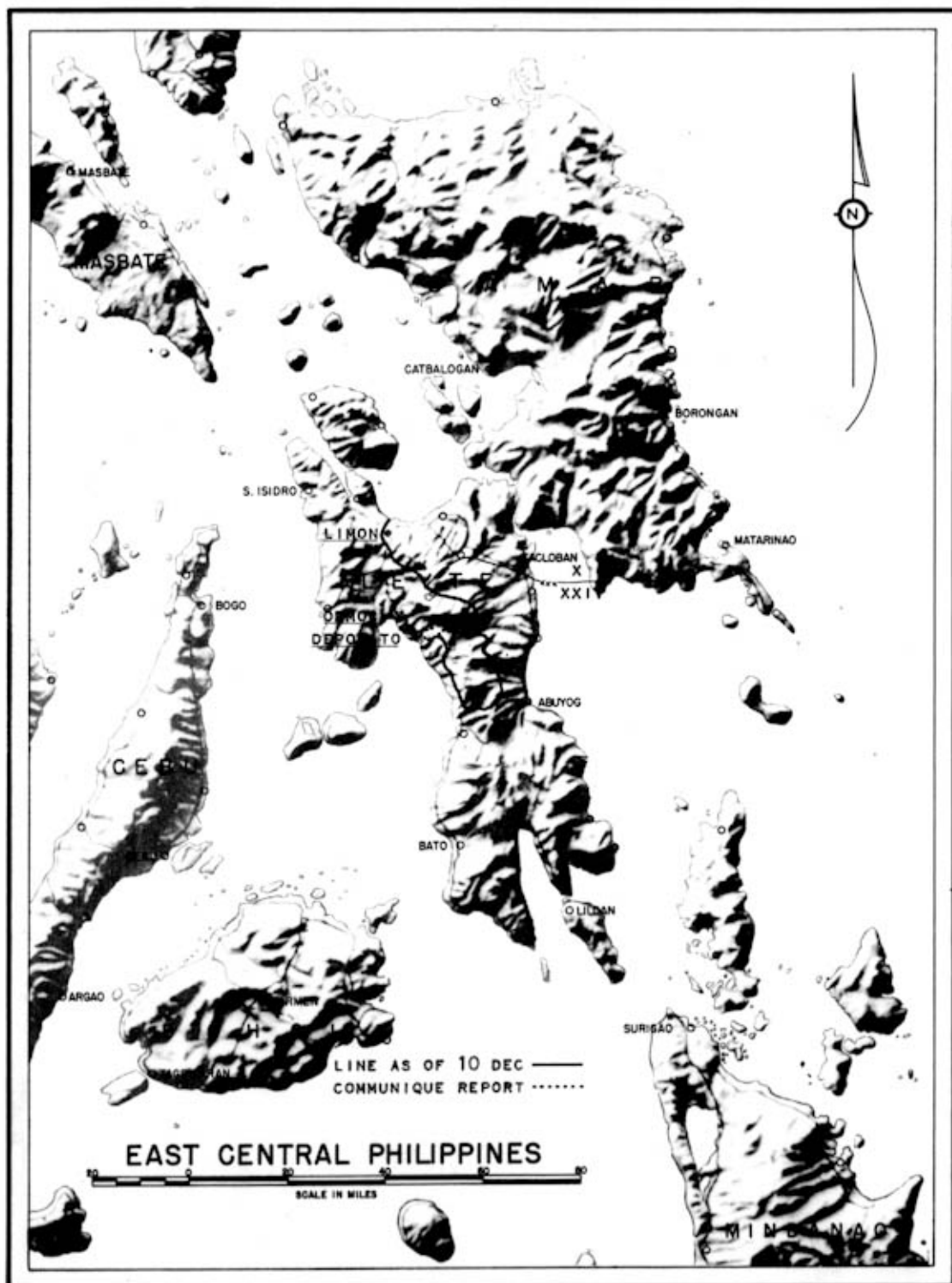
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10 December, more than 350 offensive sorties were flown by fighters and medium and heavy bombers. The majority of these attacked targets along the route of the Japanese advance from the Yangtze to Kweilin and thence to Tuhshan. Heavy bombers fired the warehouse district of Hankow, medium bombers attacked targets on the Salween front, and other aircraft swept road, rail and river traffic throughout southern China. A heavy bomber sank a 450-foot merchant vessel in the South China Sea. We lost one plane.

2. On 9 December, the Eastern Air Command flew 1,170 sorties of which 443 were tactical. During these operations medium bombers and fighters attacked rail yards and supply areas at Meiktila and Lashio, and supported ground operations on the Burma fronts. We lost one aircraft.

3. On 10 December, British troops on the Irrawaddy front occupied Indaw and Katha without opposition. Southeast of Kalewa, the British advancing along the Chindwin River are two miles north of Shwegyin.

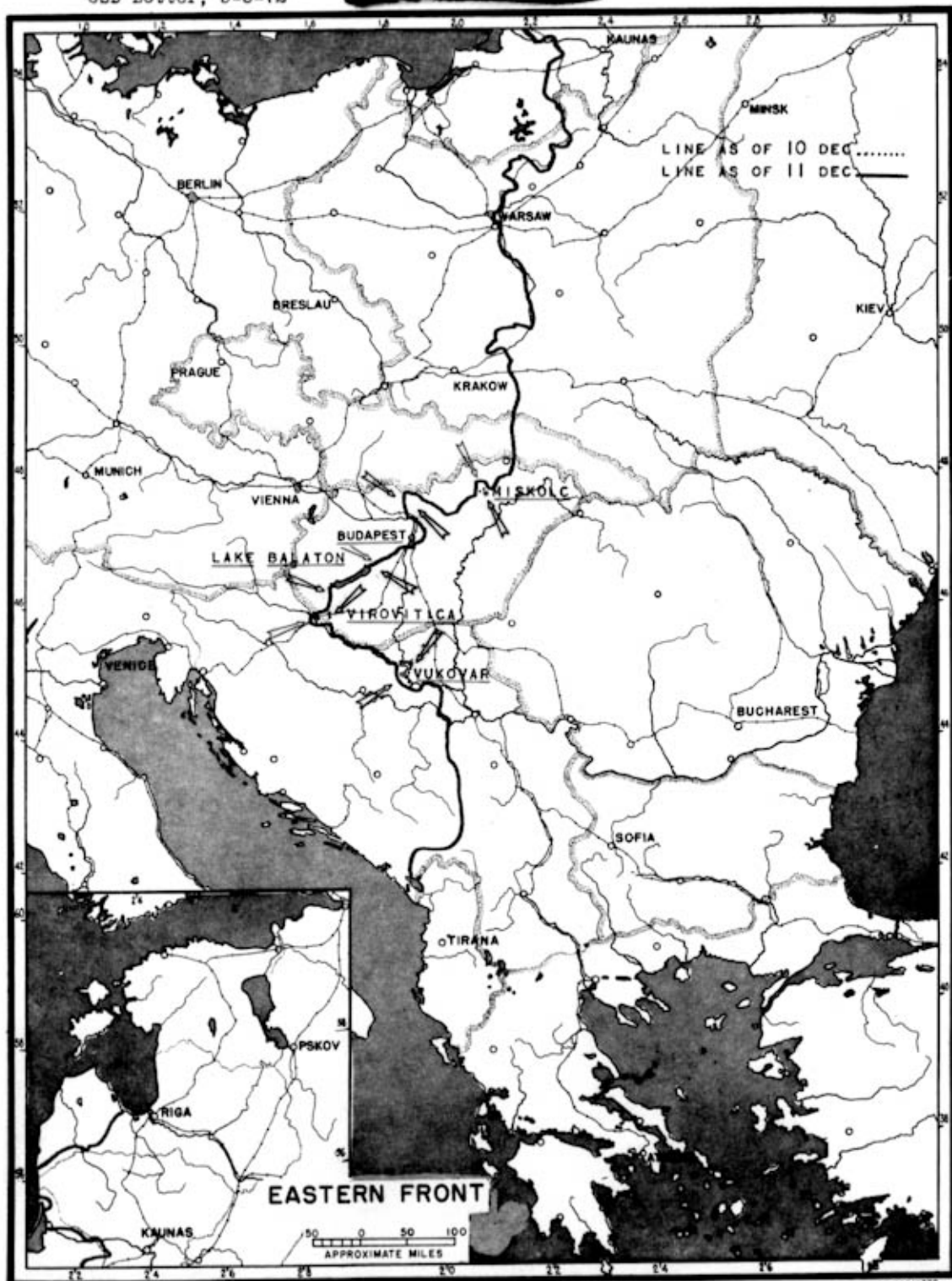
PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. No official report has been received from General MacArthur's Headquarters, but according to a press communique dated 12 December, Ormoc was taken after heavy fighting.

South of the city, a junction of the 7th and 77th Divisions has been effected.

2. On 9 December, 33 Marine fighters and fighter bombers attacked

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targets on Babelthuap in the Palaus and one B-24 hit Iwo Jima.
During 10 December, 26 Army Liberators bombed Iwo Jima.

EASTERN FRONT

On 11 December the Red Army made slight gains northwest of Miskolc. The advance north and northeast of Budapest was slowed down but there was some progress. The Germans are still counterattacking at both east and west ends of Lake Balaton. Soviet troops who had crossed the Drava are reported to have taken Virovitica. Vukovar is in Russian hands.

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

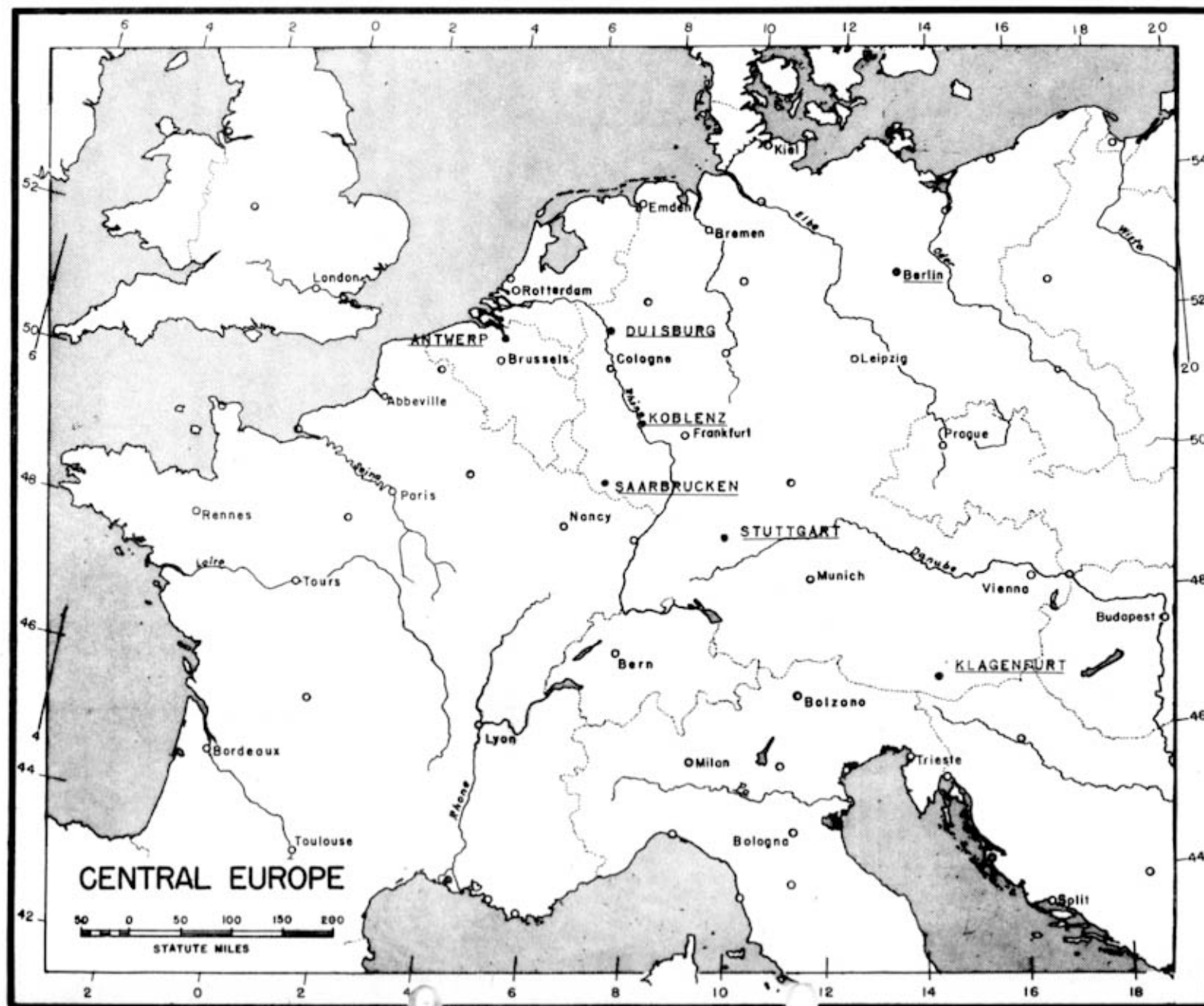
No. 1097

0700 December 10 to 0700 December 11, 1944

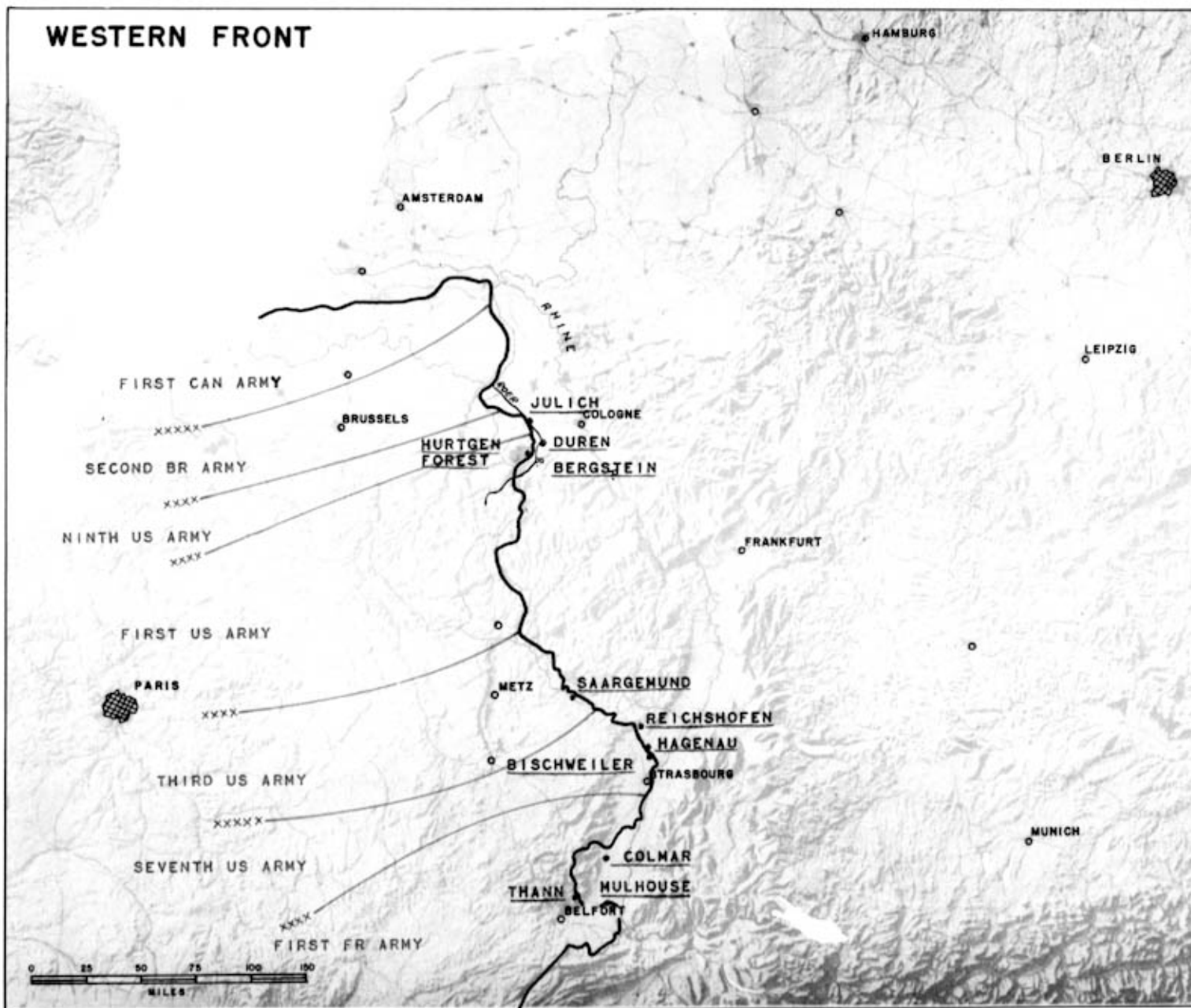
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THE WHITE HOUSE

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WESTERN FRONT



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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

EUROPEAN THEATER

1. During the 24 hours ending at sunset, 9 December, the Tactical Air Forces flew 800 sorties. Principal missions were the bombing of defended villages and barracks, and support of our ground troops in the Saar Valley. We lost four planes.

On 9 December, some 400 escorted 8th Air Force bombers attacked railyards, airdromes, and towns in the Stuttgart area. One enemy jet-propelled aircraft was shot down. We lost six planes.

On the night of 9-10 December, 59 RAF Mosquitoes bombed Berlin and 12 others attacked Koblenz and the Duisburg oil plant. Two were lost.

On 8 and 9 December, seven rockets fell in the Antwerp area, one landing inside the city.

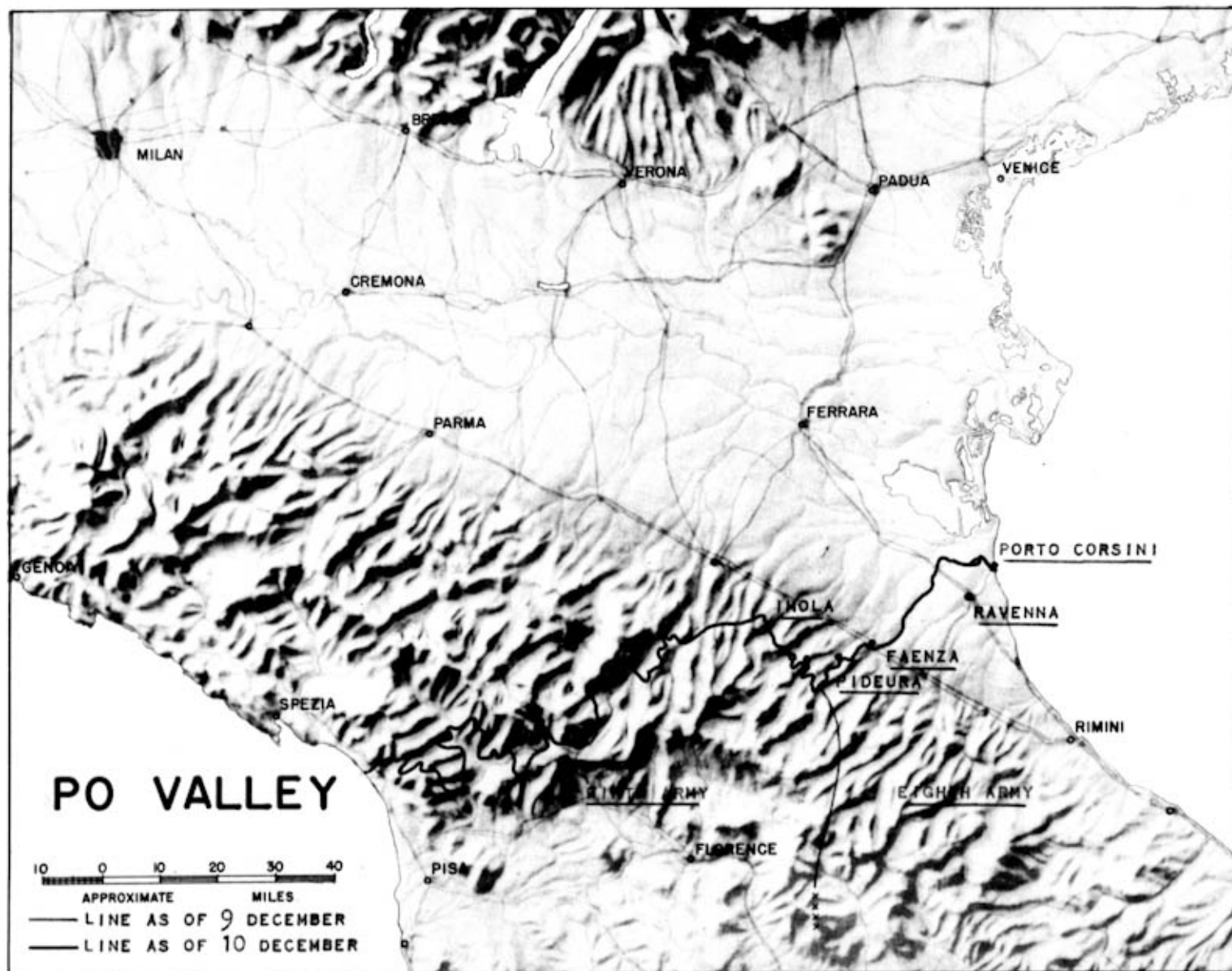
During the 24 hours ending at 1200, 10 December, four rockets fell in England.

2. During the 24 hours ending at 1200, 10 December, no significant changes occurred on the British front.

Our Ninth Army reported that in the vicinity of Julich all resistance west of the Roer River had ceased.

The VII Corps of our First Army launched an attack northwest of Duren, gaining one mile along a three-mile front, despite minefields, mud, and heavy fire of all types. Southwest of Duren another effort resulted in half mile advances along the edge of Hurtgen Forest.

The XII Corps of the Third Army and the XV Corps of the Seventh



Army advanced up to two and one-half miles along a ten-mile front southeast of Saargemund against light resistance. The Seventh Army's VI Corps was closing in on Reichshofen. The VI Corps also was fighting in Hagenau and had cleared Bischweiler and advanced a mile north.

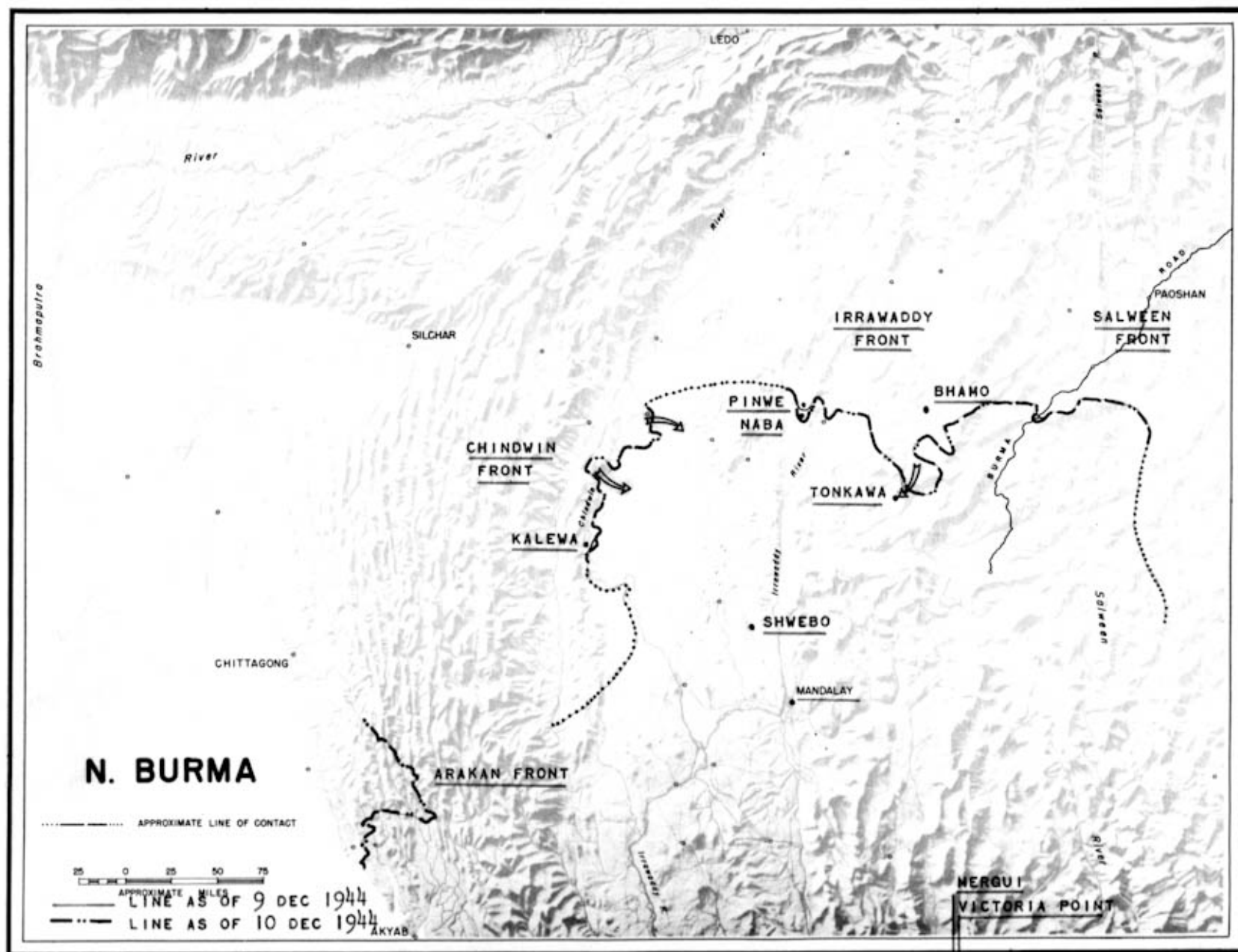
In southern Alsace, American troops of the French II Corps continued to move southward on Colmar. French troops cleared Thann of the enemy. The Nineteenth German Army continued to resist strongly in the Mulhouse area and, southeast of Thann, launched a counterattack which was repulsed.

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

1. On 8 December, 453 Tactical Air Force planes, in spite of bad weather, attacked targets in support of our ground forces and bombed communications in the Po Valley. Coastal and Balkan Air Force fighters sank small shipping in the north Adriatic and attacked communications on the French-Italian Riviera and in Yugoslavia. We lost nine planes.

On 10 December, weather forced 550 escorted heavy bombers of the 15th Air Force to abandon their missions. One bomber and one fighter were lost.

2. During the 24 hours ending at 1200, 10 December, the enemy continued to launch determined counterattacks on British Eighth Army position between Faenza and Pideura; all were successfully repulsed. Beyond Ravenna, the enemy forced our allies to make a slight withdrawal west of Porto Corsini.



TOP SECRET



On the Fifth Army front, we made local gains southwest of Imola.

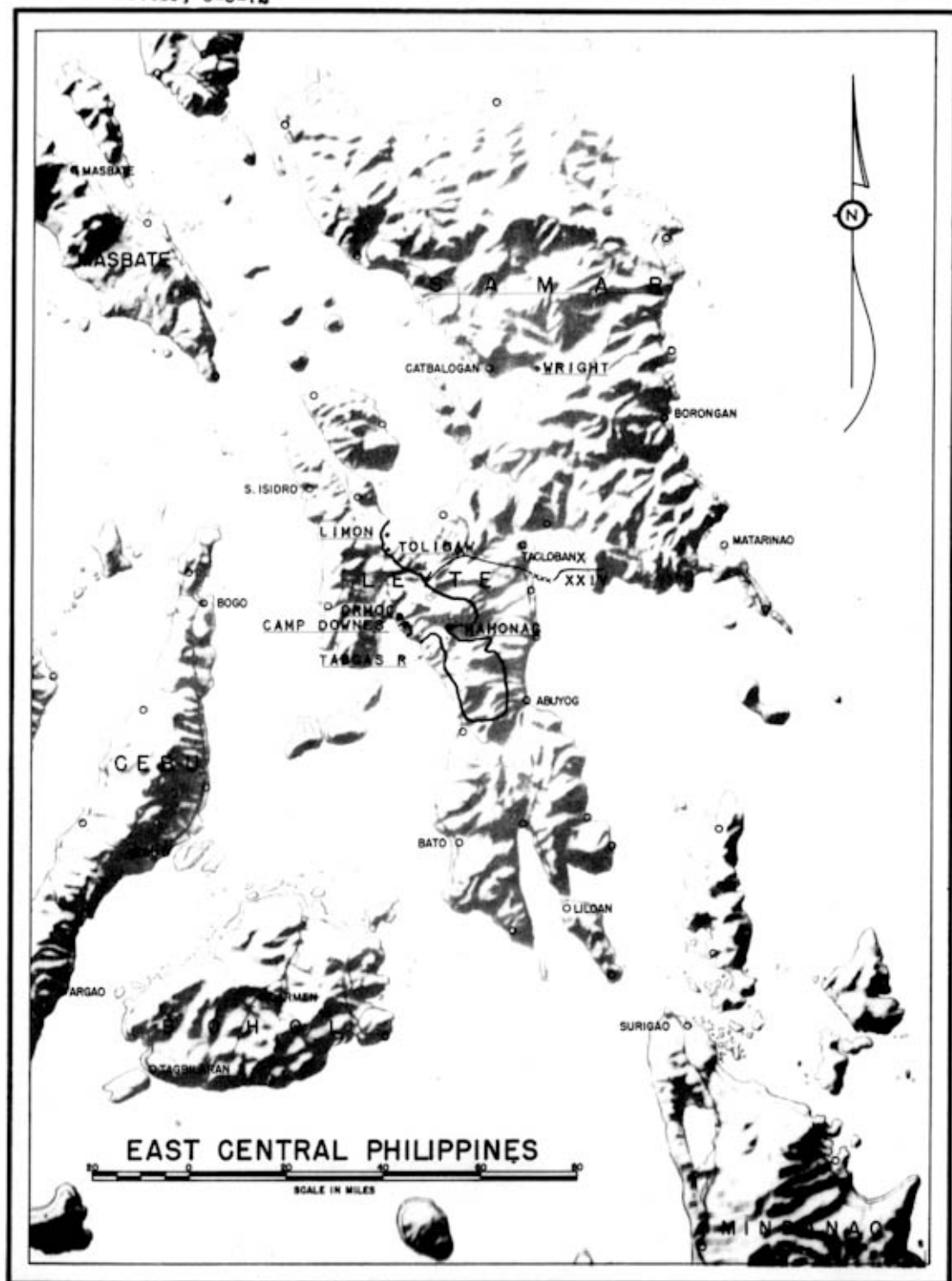
ASIATIC THEATER

1. For 7 December, 81 sorties were reported by the 14th Air Force. At an airfield at Anking we destroyed two Japanese planes; east of Hongkong two B-24's sank a 300-foot freighter. On 8 December, 14 fighter bombers made an attack at Hongkong, during which a destroyer and a 500-foot transport were sunk, two medium freighters left burning, two small freighters damaged, and four grounded planes destroyed.

2. On 8 December, the Eastern Air Command flew 902 sorties of which 336 were tactical. Heavy bombers attacked the Burma-Siam railroad in the Mergui area and north of Victoria Point, and medium bombers struck at rail facilities south of Mandalay and in the Shwebo area; fighters supported ground operations.

3. On 9 December, British troops on the Chindwin front were meeting opposition east and northeast of Kalewa. On the Irrawaddy front, British patrols entered the railroad junction of Naba, eight miles south of Pinwe, without opposition.

The Japanese continued to withdraw their leading elements on both principal salients in southern China during 7 December. On the northerly salient, the Chinese reoccupied Tuhshan and Sanho (southwest of Pachai); on the southern salient they also advanced.



PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. In the period 6-9 December, nearly 500 previously unreported Allied planes attacked targets in the Southwest Pacific Area. About half of these planes, including 90 heavy bombers, struck airdromes in the Philippines and on Halmahera, Celebes and Boeroe. Five enemy planes were destroyed; we lost one.

2. By 9 December, on western Leyte the 77th Division was encountering increasingly heavy resistance southeast of Ormoc at Camp Downes. The 7th Division, advancing from the south, was three miles from the 77th Division's beachhead; its patrols to the east made contact with those of our troops who had advanced through the mountain pass at Mahonag. (The communique dated 11 December states that Ormoc was taken and that troops advancing from the south were only one mile from the beachhead.) In northern Leyte, the drive south from the Limon sector reached a point half a mile southwest of Tolibaw. On Samar, we were two and one-half miles southeast of Wright.

EASTERN FRONT

On 10 December, Soviets expanded their salient north of Budapest, advancing south to within nine miles of the city and north to the Slovak border on a 15-mile front. German counterattacks forced withdrawals at both ends of Lake Balaton.

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WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Major General Henry C. Pratt has been designated to command the Western Defense Command during the absence overseas of General Bonesteel.

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WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

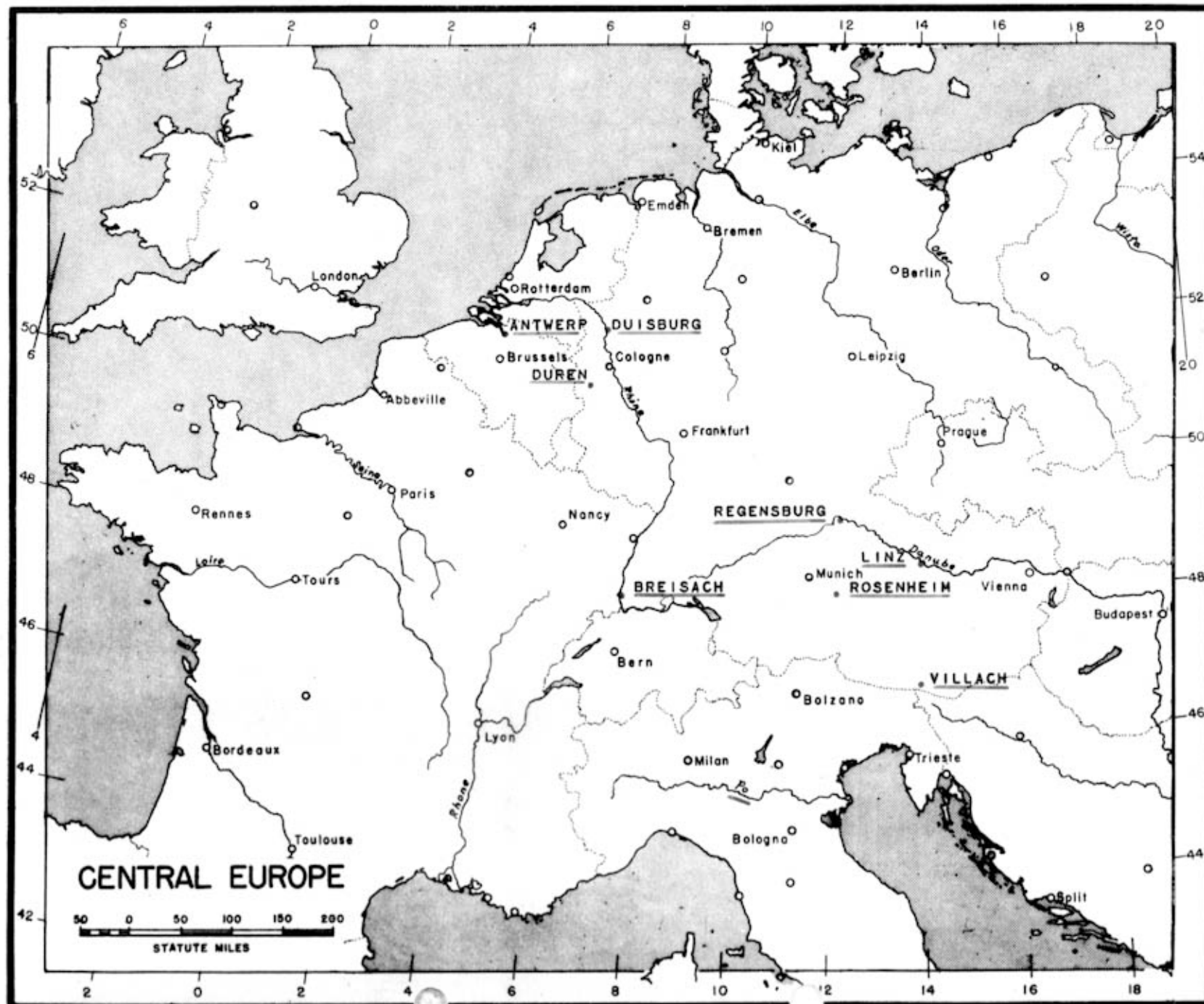
No. 1096

0700 December 9 to 0700 December 10, 1944

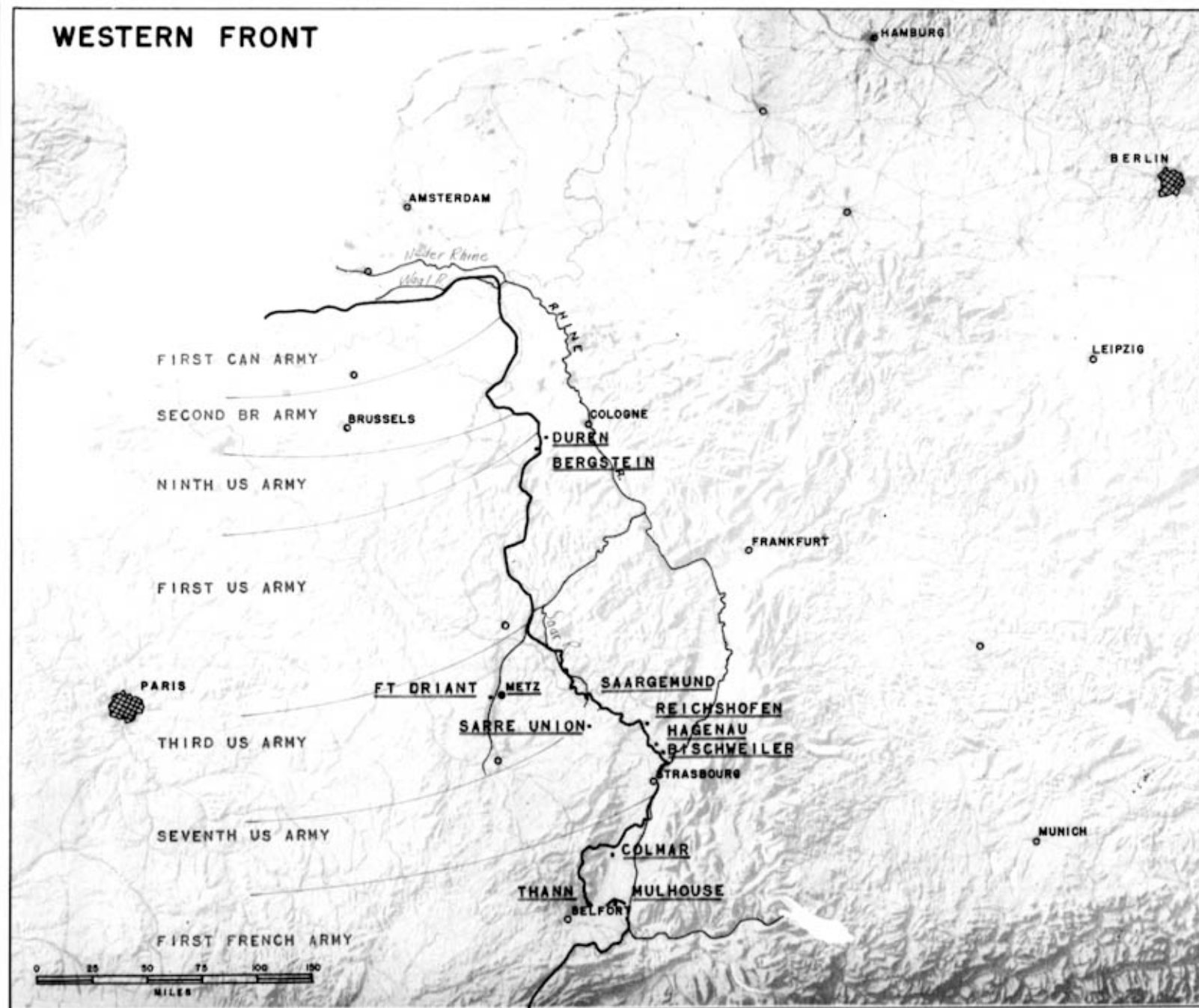
COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

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WESTERN FRONT



EUROPEAN THEATER

1. On 8 December, adverse weather again grounded the 8th Air Force. However, during the 24 hours ending at sunset that day, 2,223 sorties were flown by the Tactical Air Force. Among these, more than 400 planes gave close support to our ground troops with attacks in Holland, on Ruhr Valley communications, and on targets in Alsace, where they bombed gun positions and the highway bridge over the Rhine at Breisach. Fifteen enemy planes were shot down and two destroyed on the ground. We lost four planes.

That same day, the RAF dropped 797 tons of bombs on a dam in the Urft River south of Duren and 900 tons on rail yards at Duisburg; 27 Mosquito bombers attacked a benzol plant in the same area. One heavy bomber is missing.

During 7 and 8 December, seven rockets fell in areas around Antwerp.

During the 24-hour period ending at 0600, 9 December, five rockets fell in England.

2. By 1200 hours of 8 December, the inundation between the Neder Rhine and the Waal was spreading farther to the west. There was no significant change on the British front or in the US Ninth Army sector.

A division of our First Army repulsed a counterattack from the east in the vicinity of Bergstein, southwest of Duren, and made slight progress against heavy resistance.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

The Third Army put an additional division across the Saar River southeast of Saargemund and enlarged that bridgehead. At Metz, Ft. Driant was captured after a combined air and ground assault; 670 prisoners were taken.

The Seventh Army made local progress northeast of Saare-Union. The VI Corps advanced northwest of Hagenau, in the vicinity of Reichshofen and southeast of Hagenau advanced along a five-mile front, reaching Bischweiler.

Northwest of Mulhouse, French troops were mopping up in Thann while they made local progress in two sectors near Thann and one northwest of Colmar. The enemy still offers heavy resistance in the Mulhouse area.

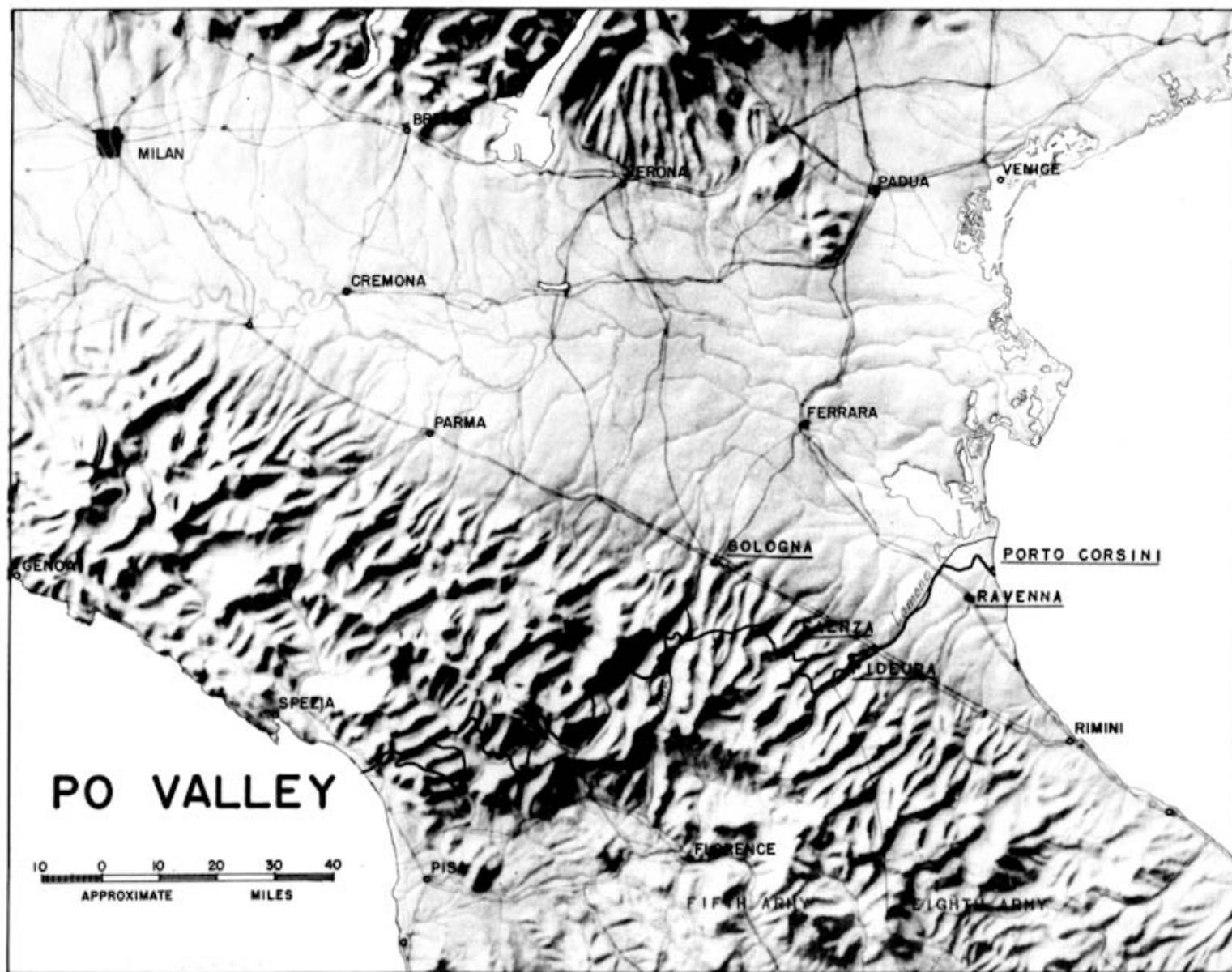
MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

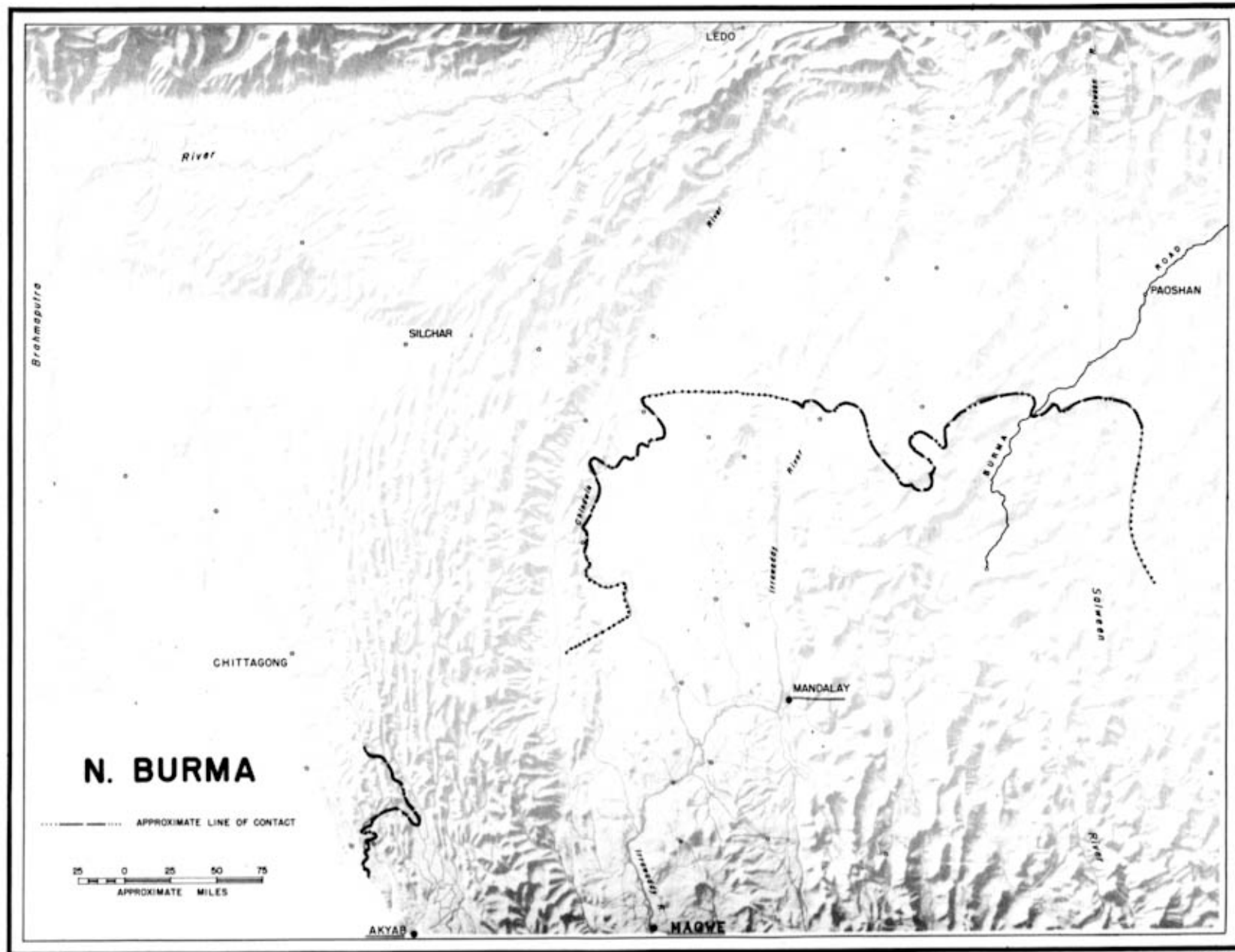
1. During the 24-hour period ending at 1800, 8 December, weather virtually suspended air operations. The Tactical Air Force flew 12 sorties against communications in the Po Valley, and the Balkan Air Force made small-scale attacks against similar targets in Yugoslavia.

On 9 December, the 15th Air Force dropped 144 tons of bombs on rail yards and industrial targets at Linz, Regensburg, Villach and Rosenheim. More than 700 bombers, plus escorting planes, were dispatched, but weather forced most of them to return early. Fifteen bombers and 13 fighters were missing, but some of these are believed to be at friendly fields.

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OSD Ltr 5-3-72

2. During the 24-hour period ending at 1200, 8 December, British troops of the Eighth Army were engaged in continuous heavy fighting north of the Lamone River from west of Faenza to the village of Pideura. Supported by an unusually large number of tanks, the enemy launched numerous counterattacks. Most of these were beaten off without loss of ground; but one forced a half-mile withdrawal of the British salient west of Faenza.

Canadian troops cleared an area extending four to six miles north of Ravenna from the Adriatic ten miles inland; Porto Corsini on the Adriatic remained in enemy hands.

On the Fifth Army front, south of Bologna, South African troops of the IV Corps made a local attack west of the Setta River, but an enemy counterattack forced them back to their original positions.

ASIATIC THEATER

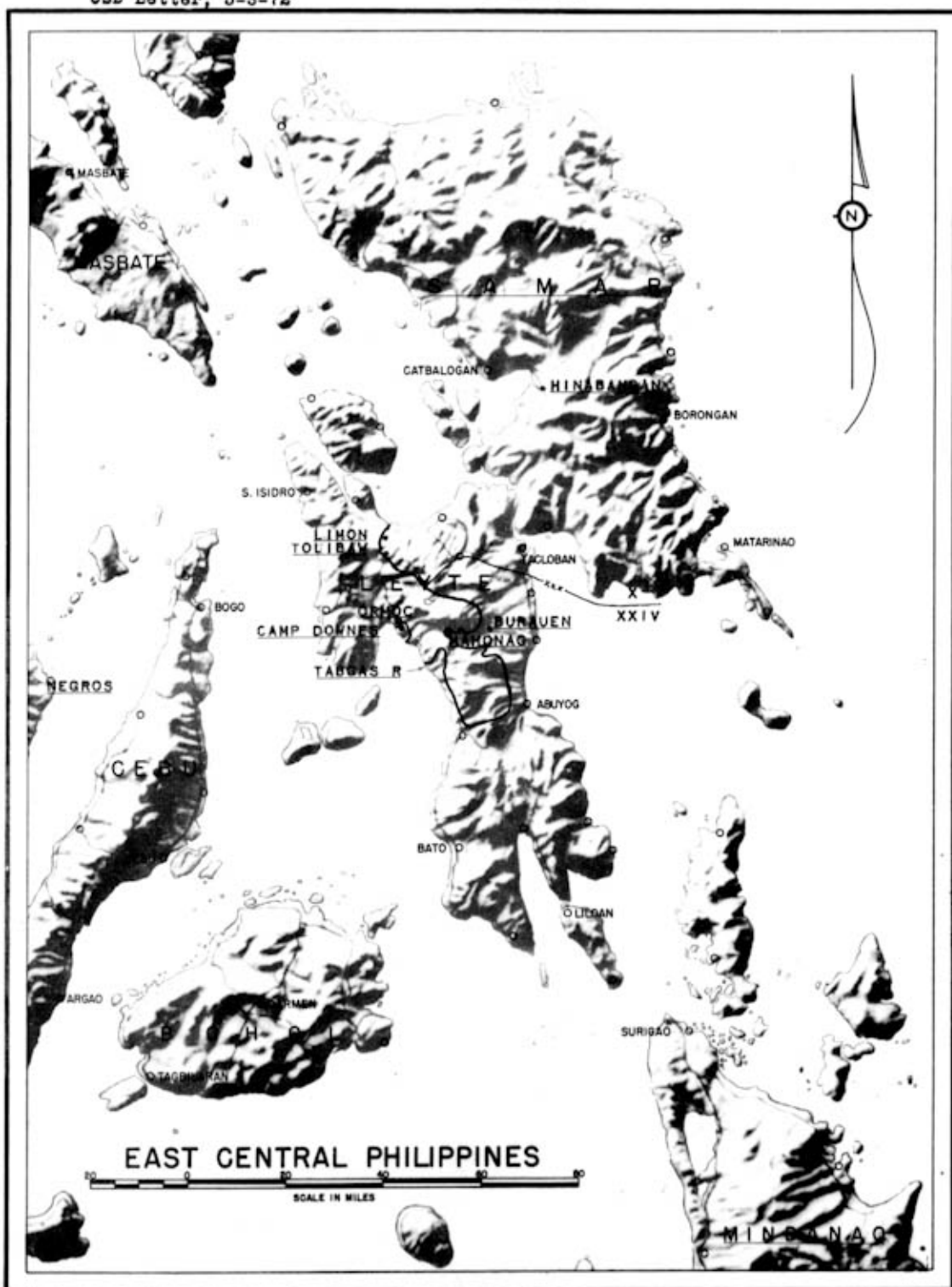
During 7 December the Eastern Air Command flew a total of 844 sorties of which 313 were tactical. During these operations 60 tons of bombs were dropped on railroads radiating from Mandalay, and fighters attacked airfields near Mandalay, Magwe and Akyab.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. During the period 7-8 December, about 250 previously unreported sorties were flown in the Southwest Pacific area. During these operations, heavy bombers dropped nearly 80 tons of bombs on airfields on Mindanao,

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Negros and Celebes; other planes sank a small freighter and a coastal vessel in the Philippines, and throughout the area damaged or set fire to six other small ships. Fourteen additional enemy aircraft were destroyed in the period.

2. By 8 December on western Leyte, the 77th Division had expanded its beachhead northward to the outskirts of Camp Downes, less than a mile southeast of Ormoc. Our troops advancing toward the beachhead from the south captured a hill north of Tabgas River against moderate enemy resistance. The drive south from the Limon sector reached a line approximately 500 yards southwest of Tolibaw. In central Leyte, some progress was made near Mahonag; enemy paratroops in the Burauen area had been reduced to one remaining pocket. On Samar, our troops attacked enemy positions one mile north of Hinabangan.

Communique dated 10 December reports torrential rains on Leyte, rendering terrain in the north almost impassable.

EASTERN FRONT

Northeast of Budapest, Soviet units advanced up to 30 miles, taking the town of Vac, and reaching the Slovak border north of the Danube bend. Between Budapest and Lake Balaton, Soviets took several towns against strong Axis resistance. Fifteen miles south of Budapest, they made another Danube crossing which was consolidated with the Lake Balaton front.

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

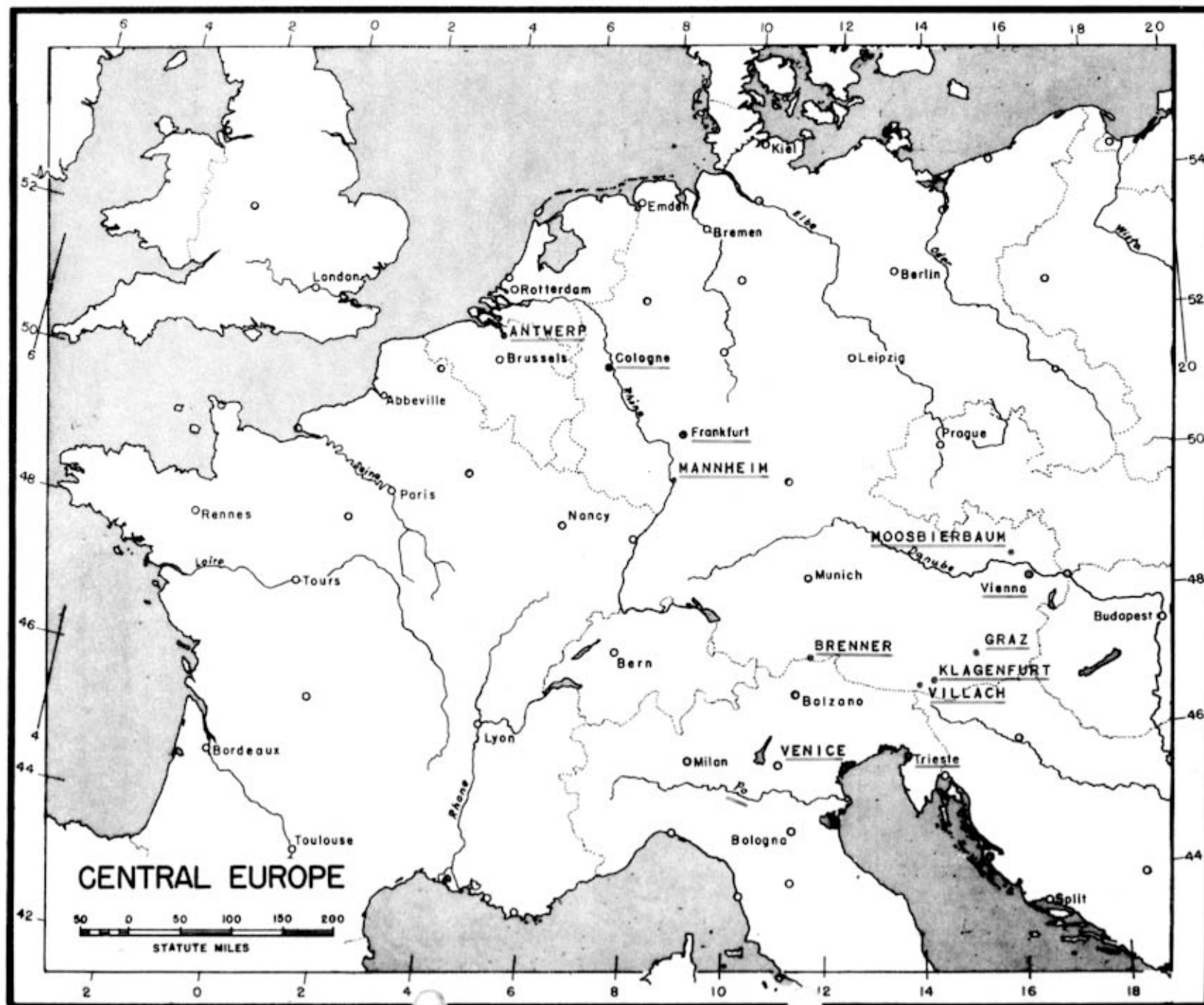
No. 1095

0700 December 8 to 0700 December 9, 1944

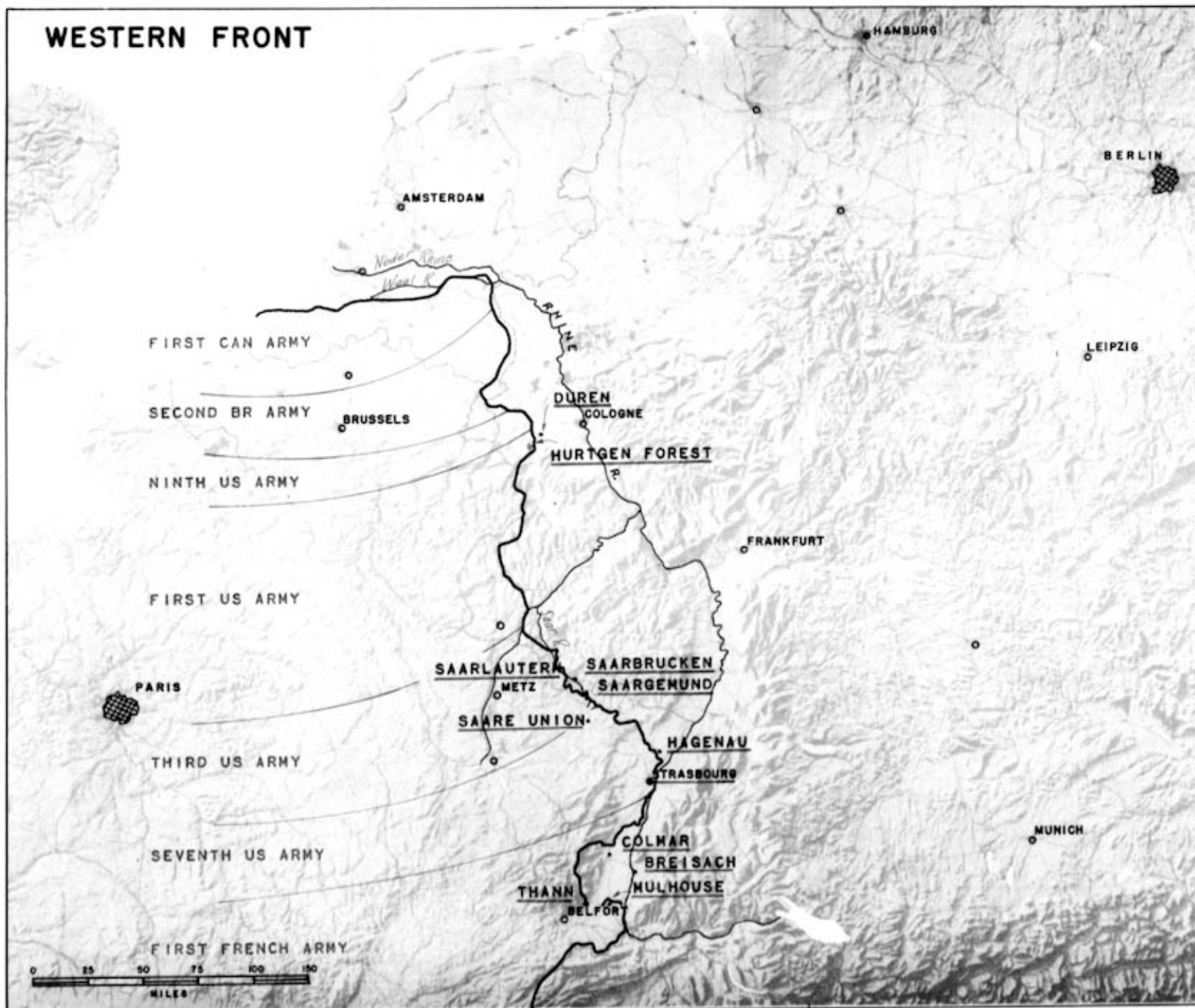
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WESTERN FRONT



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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

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O&D Letter, 5-3-72

EUROPEAN THEATER

1. On 7 December weather drastically limited air operations. The 8th Air Force was grounded.

In the 24 hours ending at sunset, 7 December, the Tactical Air Forces flew 282 sorties. These included attacks by 90 Mosquito bombers on communications and billeting areas in northwestern Germany and Holland. Six enemy aircraft were destroyed; we lost two planes.

During the night of 7-8 December, 52 RAF Mosquitoes attacked Cologne, and seven others attacked targets in the Frankfurt and Mannheim areas.

During 6 and 7 December, 8 rockets fell in the Antwerp area; only one hit inside the city.

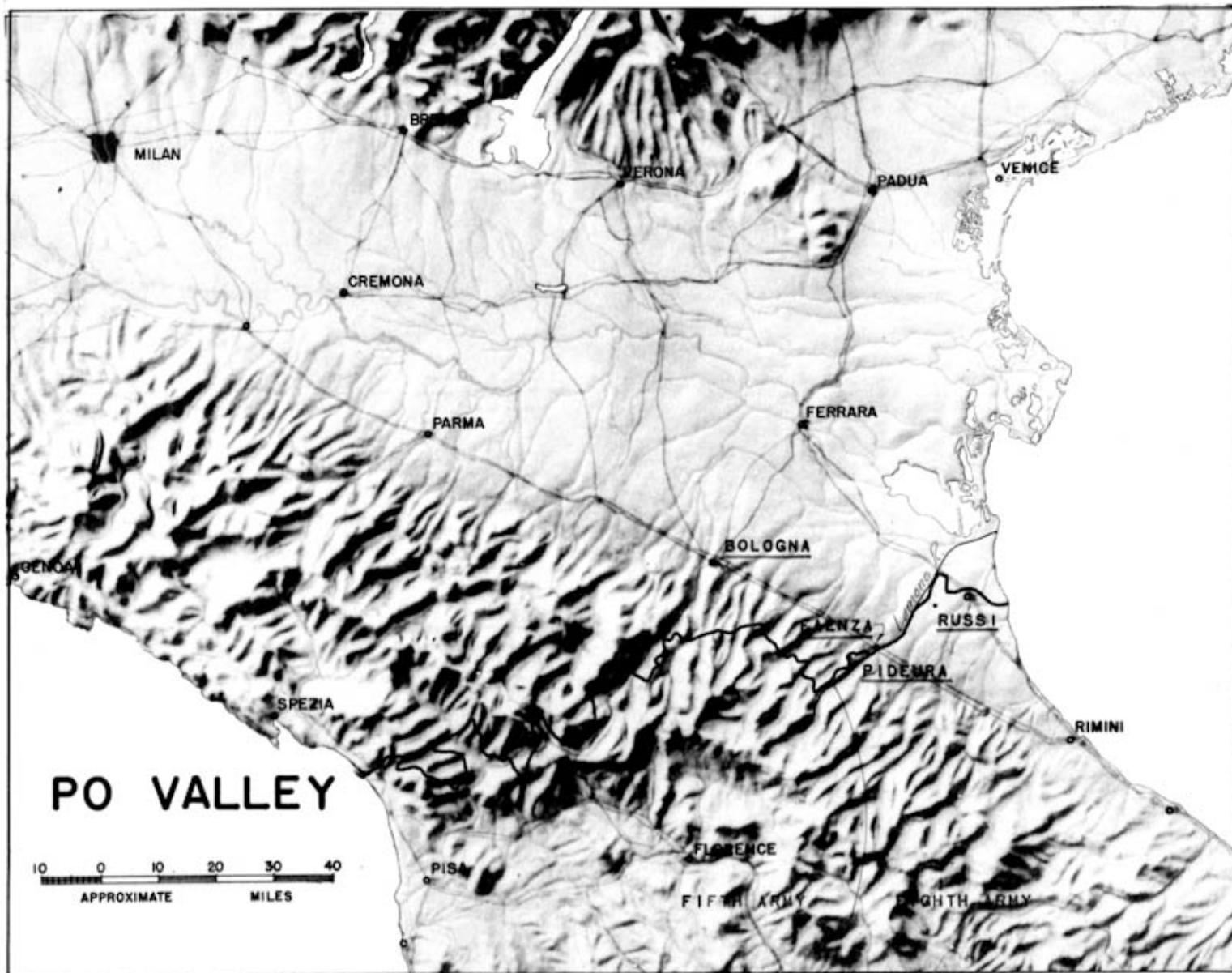
In the 24 hours ending at 0600, 8 December, 14 of 17 flying bombs plotted against England were destroyed. Four bombs made landfall and one fell in the London area. Also, two rockets fell in the London area during the period.

2. By noon, 8 December, the floods between the Neder Rhine and the Waal were receding slightly. There were no significant changes on the British Second or US Ninth Army fronts.

The V Corps of our First Army repulsed counterattacks on our salient south of Duren and progressed slightly to occupy high ground on the eastern edge of the forest of Hurtgen. Our Third Army, continuing its drive into the Saar, eliminated two German salients in its lines to

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the north and south of Saarlautern; advance elements reached positions three miles west of Saarbrücken. South of Saarbrücken, the XII Corps thrust a bridgehead across the Saar River north of Saargemünd, and made other gains at two points to the southeast.

Our Seventh Army made local gains along its front from the Saar to Strasbourg. The XV Corps straightened its line to the northeast of Saare-Union and advanced slightly at several points. The VI Corps made local progress toward Hagenau, reaching the outskirts of the city, and approached the Rhine in an advance between Hagenau and Strasbourg.

In southern Alsace, American troops of the French First Army continued to close in on Colmar from the north and northwest along a 15-mile front. Northwest of Mulhouse, French troops were fighting in Thann, and advanced some two miles on a three-mile front northeast of the town.

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

1. During the 24 hours ending at 1800, 7 December, about 200 Tactical Air Force planes attacked communications in the Po Valley and on the Brenner Pass route. Weather hampered operations and prevented any offensive sorties by the Balkan Air Force. We lost two planes.

During the night of 7-8 December, 28 heavy bombers struck the oil refinery at Moosbierbaum, near Vienna, the rail yards at Graz, and targets at Villach and Klagenfurt, all in Austria.

2. By 1200 hours of 8 December, British troops of the Eighth Army had firmly established their bridgehead across the Lamone River

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west of Faenza in heavy fighting and were holding it with two battalions, elements of which were patrolling toward the city. Other British troops captured the village of Pideura some three miles to the southwest of this bridgehead and repulsed a strong counterattack, inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy and taking a number of prisoners. Enemy tanks were active in this area. There was heavy shelling by enemy artillery in the vicinity of Russi northeast of Faenza and numerous patrol actions along the entire army front.

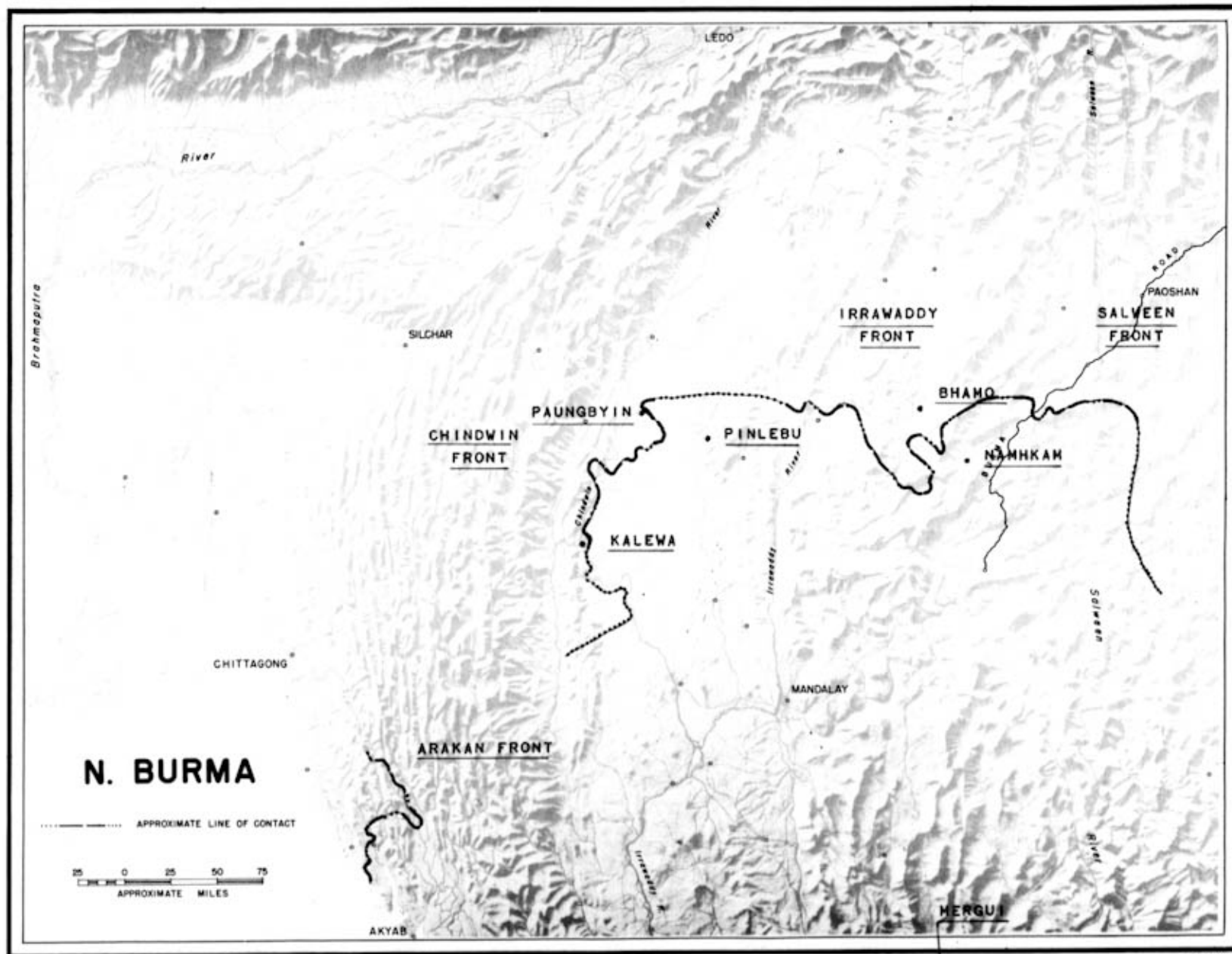
Fifth Army patrols were active; enemy artillery fire increased in the area to the south and southeast of Bologna and also in the coastal sector.

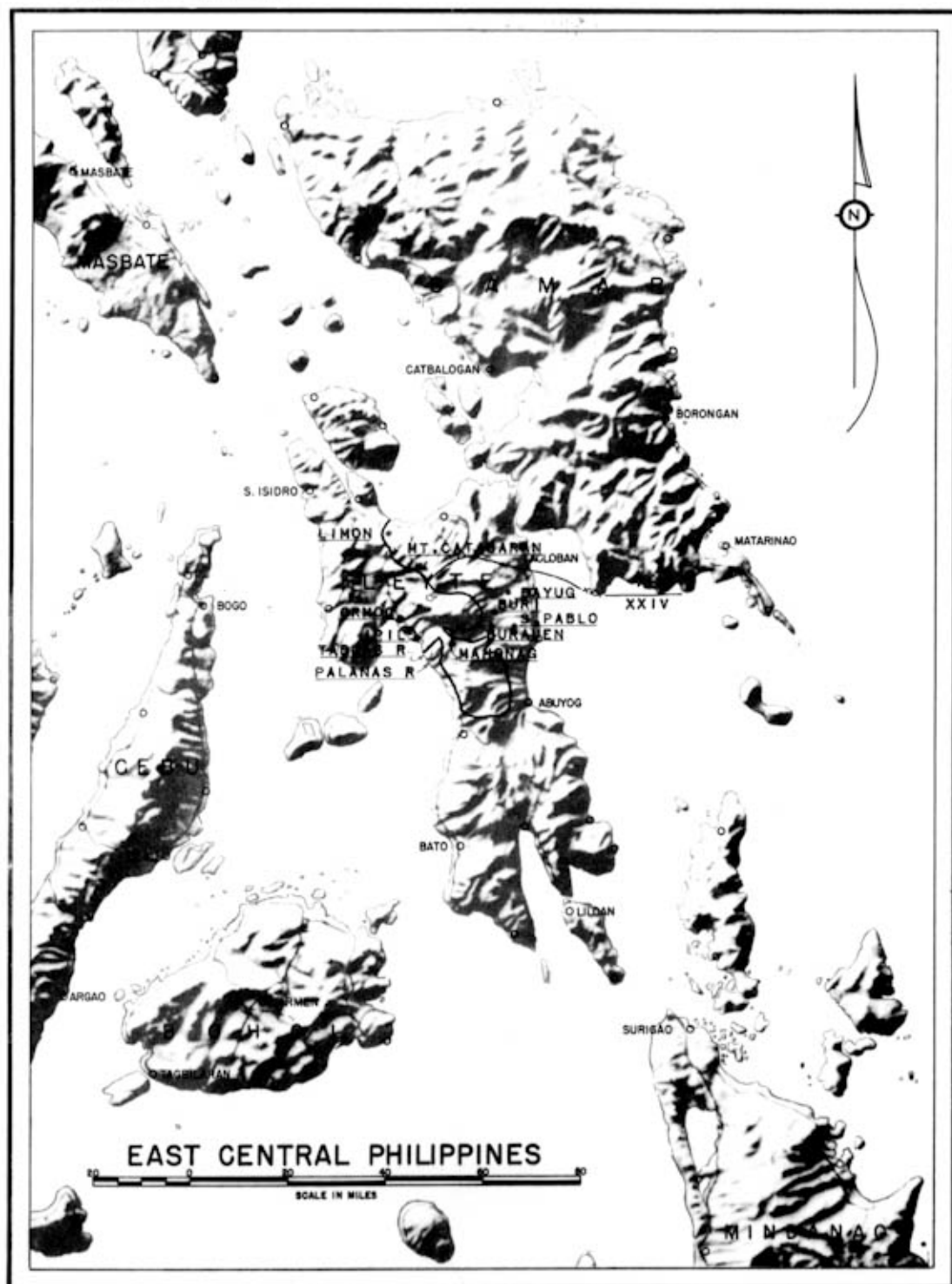
ASIATIC THEATER

1. During 3-5 December, the 14th Air Force flew 180 additional sorties of which 140 were tactical. Targets included bridges and rail installations on the Yellow River front, shipping on the Yangtze River, and troops and transportation in the Kweilin-Hengyang and Tuyun-Hochih areas. Three enemy planes were shot down.

During 6 December the Eastern Air Command flew 870 sorties, of which 351 were tactical. During these operations medium bombers and fighters supported ground operations on the Arakan, Chindwin, and Irrawaddy fronts, and heavy bombers sank a small merchant vessel near Mergui. We lost one plane.

2. By 7 December, British troops on the Chindwin front were





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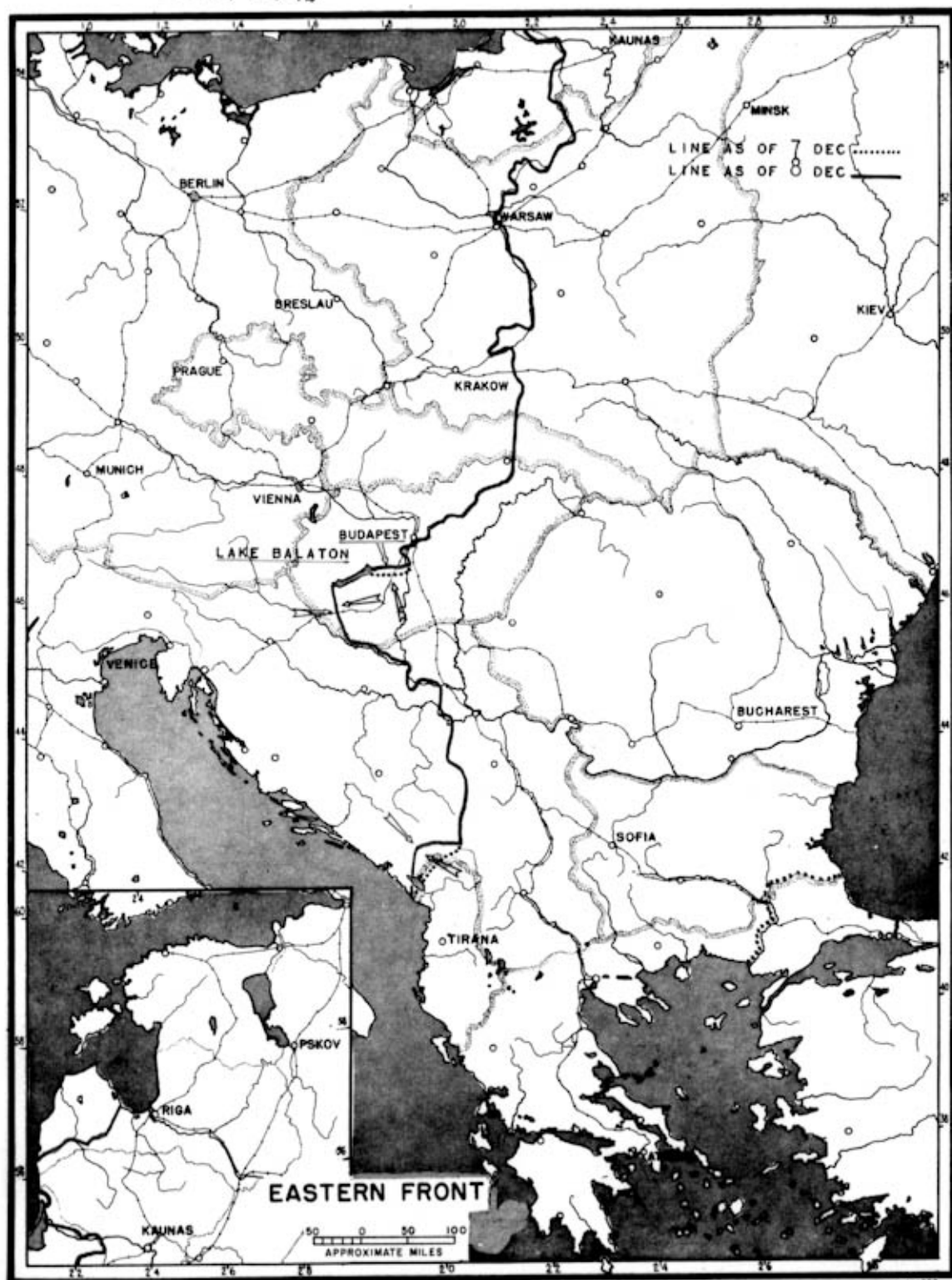
engaging the enemy two and one-half miles east of Kalewa. Southeast of Paungbyin other British troops encountered Japanese positions 15 miles west of Pinlebu. On the Irrawaddy front, Chinese troops made slight gains in the Bhamo area and along the Namhkam Road.

In China, by 6 December, Chinese re-occupied Pachai. Japanese were reported 20 miles west and 20 miles north of Tuhshan.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. During 5-7 December, more than 400 additional sorties were flown. About half of these were over the Bougainville-New Britain-New Ireland area on 5 and 6 December; eighty-two more, including 65 by B-24's, were flown against Halmahera airdromes destroying one grounded bomber. In the Philippine area on 7 December, in addition to destroying the 13-ship convoy (reported yesterday), our aircraft sank one medium transport, three small freighters, a seatruck and a lugger, set two coastal vessels and four small freighters afire, and damaged two other small freighters. Twenty-seven additional enemy planes were destroyed, including ten shot down by naval antiaircraft.

2. By 7 December, on western Leyte, the 77th Division had captured Ipil, three miles south of Ormoc, and expanded its beachhead 3,000 yards south and 2,000 yards inland. Our troops advancing north toward the beachhead from the Palanas area reached the Tabgas River; they reported inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy. North of Ormoc, we made slow progress against stubborn opposition in the Limon sector and continued



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to attack enemy positions at Mount Catabaran. In central Leyte near Burauen, some 200 to 300 enemy paratroopers who landed during the night were cleared from the San Pablo and Bayug airstrips and were under attack at Buri. In the latter area, enemy infiltrating parties were turned back prior to the paratroop landings.

Communique dated 9 December places the 77th Division in the outskirts of Ormoc, and states that troops are driving west through a mountain pass at Mahonag.

The main strength of the 38th Division landed on Leyte on 6 December.

3. On 6 December, a single B-29 in a nuisance raid dropped two and one-half tons of incendiary bombs on Tokyo.

On 8 December, 82 B-29's of the 21st Bomber Command and 102 B-24's were airborne to attack Iwo Jima, while surface units of the Pacific fleet in a coordinated attack bombarded the island's shore installations. Fighters escorting the B-24's destroyed five of six enemy aircraft attempting to intercept. The B-29's encountered no interception or anti-aircraft fire; all returned.

EASTERN FRONT

On 8 December, Soviet troops south of Budapest were advancing northeast of Lake Balaton against increasing resistance and had made minor gains south of the lake despite heavy counterattacks.

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

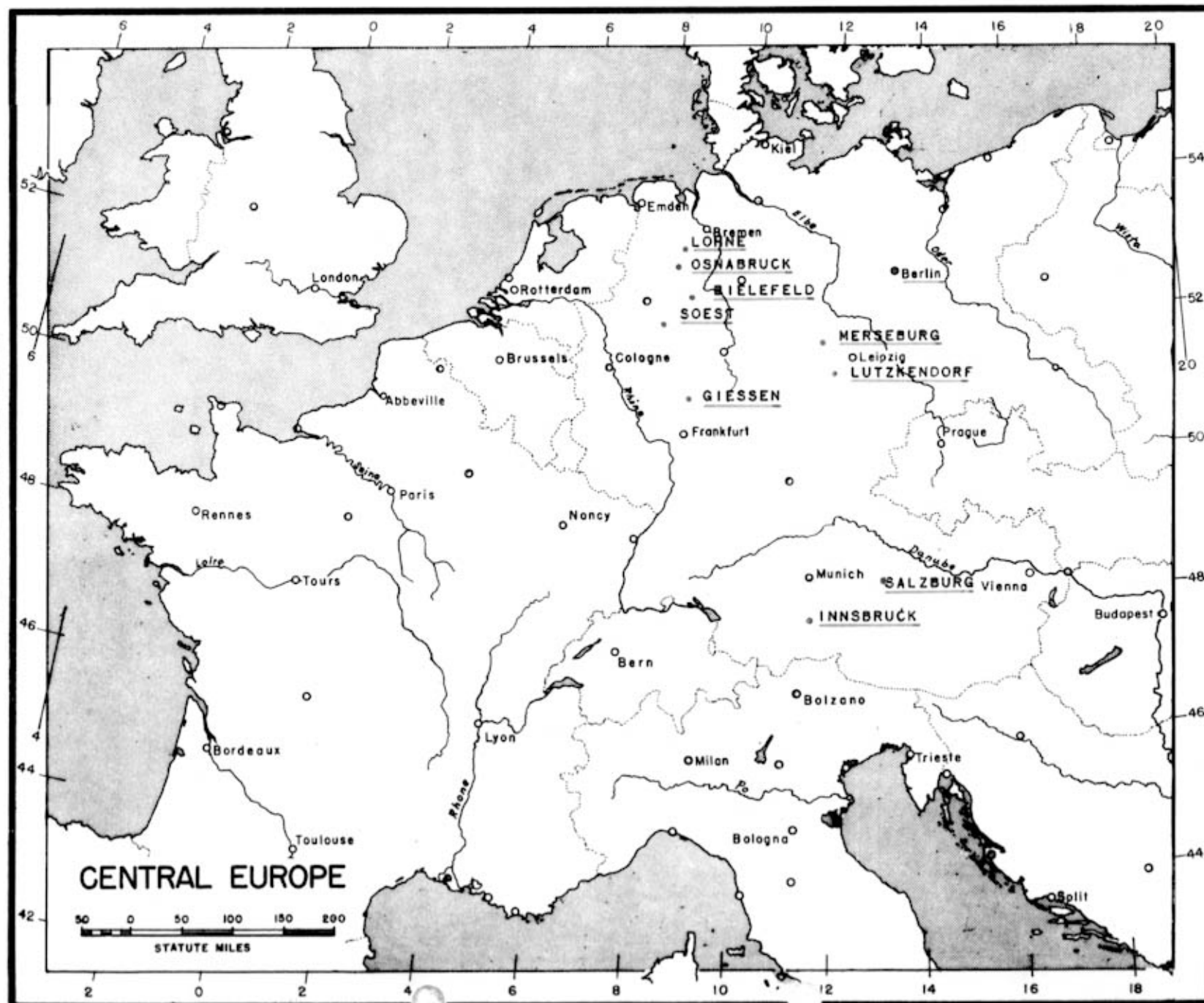
No. 1094

0700 December 7 to 0700 December 8, 1944

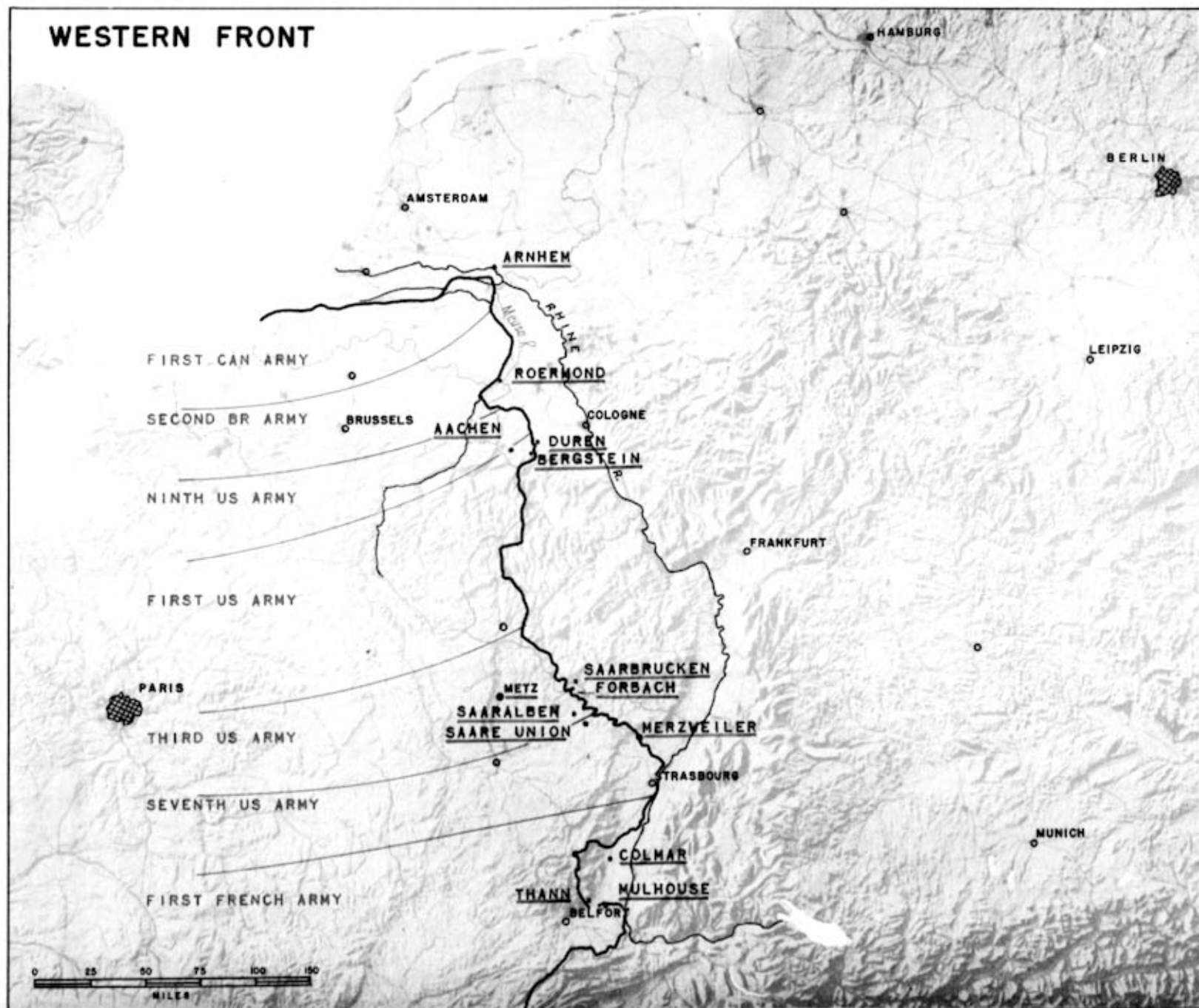
COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

203(2)



WESTERN FRONT



DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-8-72

~~TOP SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

EUROPEAN THEATER

1. During the 24 hours ending at sunset, 6 December, the Tactical Air Forces flew 1,254 sorties, mainly in support of ground operations. Six aircraft were lost.

Detailed report of the RAF mission against the Soest railway center on the night of 5-6 December states that 2,036 tons of bombs were dropped and four heavy bombers lost.

On 6 December, 818 escorted heavy bombers of the 8th Air Force were airborne to attack synthetic oil plants at Merseburg and Lutzkendorf, a railroad viaduct at Bielefeld, and railroad sidings at Lohne. Preliminary reports listed four bombers and two fighters missing.

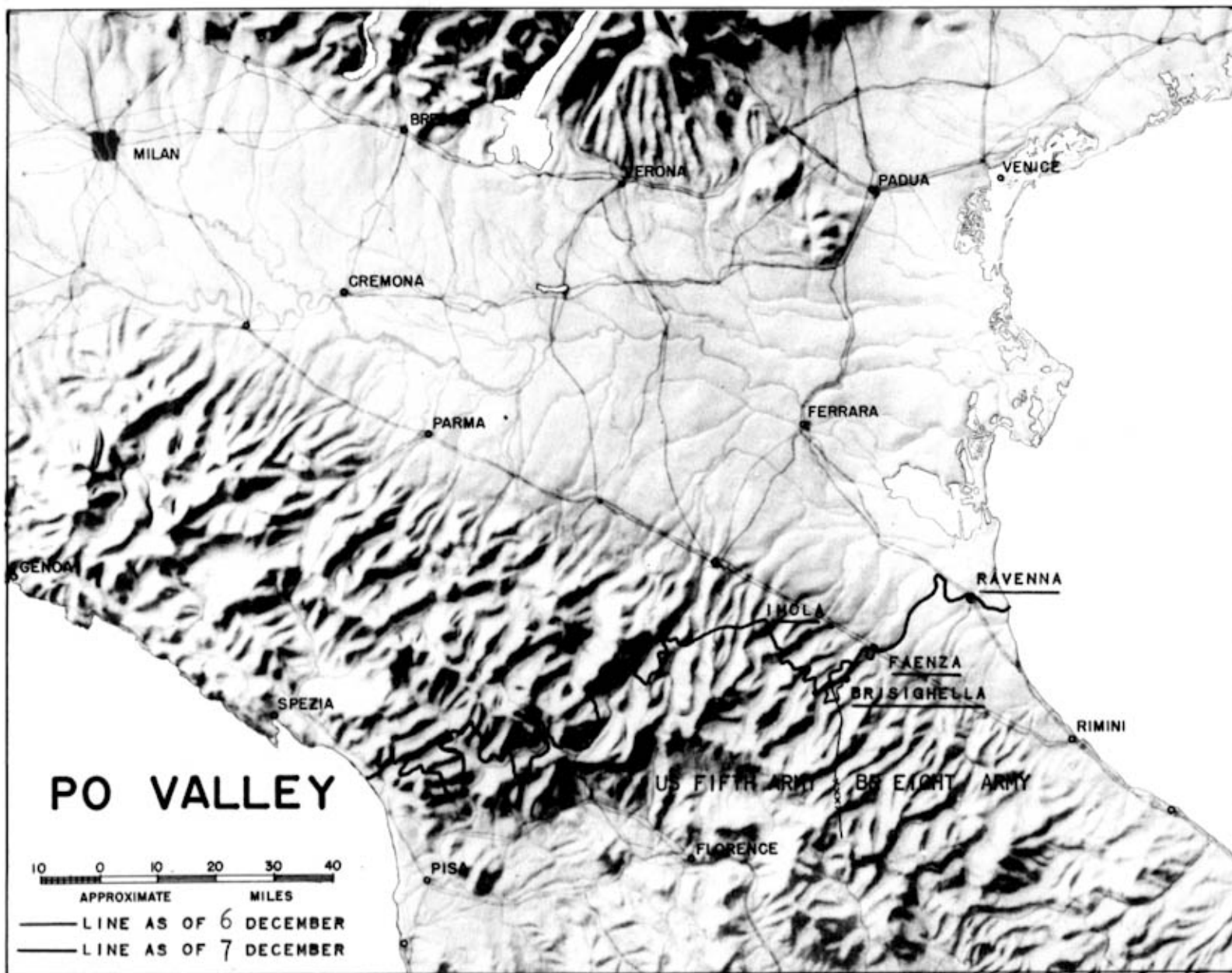
During the night of 6-7 December, 448 heavy bombers of the RAF attacked the synthetic oil plant at Merseburg, 405 attacked Osnabruck, and 243 attacked the town of Giessen and its railway center. Thirty-nine Mosquitoes hit Berlin and 41 carried out scattered missions over Germany. The total bomb weight for the night exceeded 4,800 tons; 19 heavy bombers and one Mosquito were lost.

During the 24-hour period ending at 0600, 7 December, four long-range rockets fell on England.

2. By noon, 7 December, floods had spread in the area southwest of Arnhem and in one area all the ground between the Waal and the Neder Rhine was inundated. Enemy patrols were active in the bends of the Meuse southwest of Roermond. There was no significant change on the British front.

East of Aachen the First Army repulsed a counterattack at

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Bergstein southwest of Duren and advanced 800 yards toward the south.

Near Metz, Fort San Quentin finally surrendered to the Third Army. The XII Corps drove ahead some four miles toward Saarbrücken, reaching the southern edge of Forbach five miles from Saarbrücken, and made local progress to the northeast of Saaralben.

The Seventh Army advanced from two to four miles on an eight-mile front to the northeast of Saare-Union, although progress was hampered by mines. An enemy counterattack on Merzweiler forced a local withdrawal.

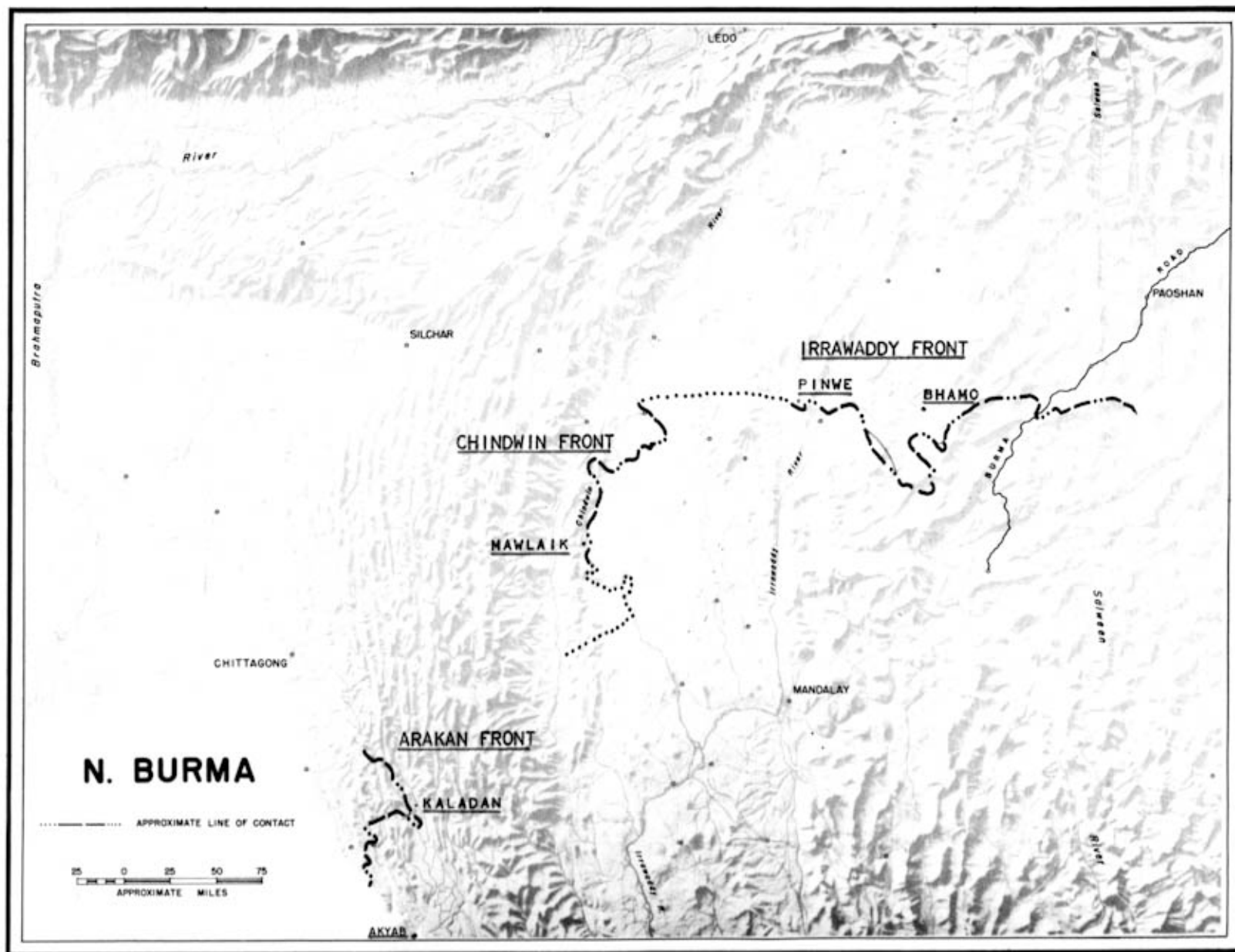
In Alsace, American units of the French First Army advanced to a point five miles north of Colmar despite an enemy counterattack. French troops made local gains and reached the vicinity of Thann northwest of Mulhouse.

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

1. During the 24 hours ending at 1800 on 6 December, the Tactical Air Force flew 146 sorties, 123 of them against enemy positions in the battle area. Coastal planes flew 33 sorties. Balkan planes (135 sorties) ranged as far north as Germany.

On the night of 7 December, 50 heavy bombers were airborne to attack targets at Salzburg and Innsbruck. Weather hampered the operation. Two bombers are missing; one enemy aircraft was destroyed.

2. During the 24-hour period ending at 1200, 7 December, patrols of the British Eighth Army penetrated into the marshy area north of Ravenna for approximately seven miles. The V Corps made local gains





against strong opposition southwest of Faenza; Polish patrols operated north of Brisighella. There was considerable patrol activity on the Fifth Army front southwest of Imola. On the Italian battle line as a whole, there was no substantial change.

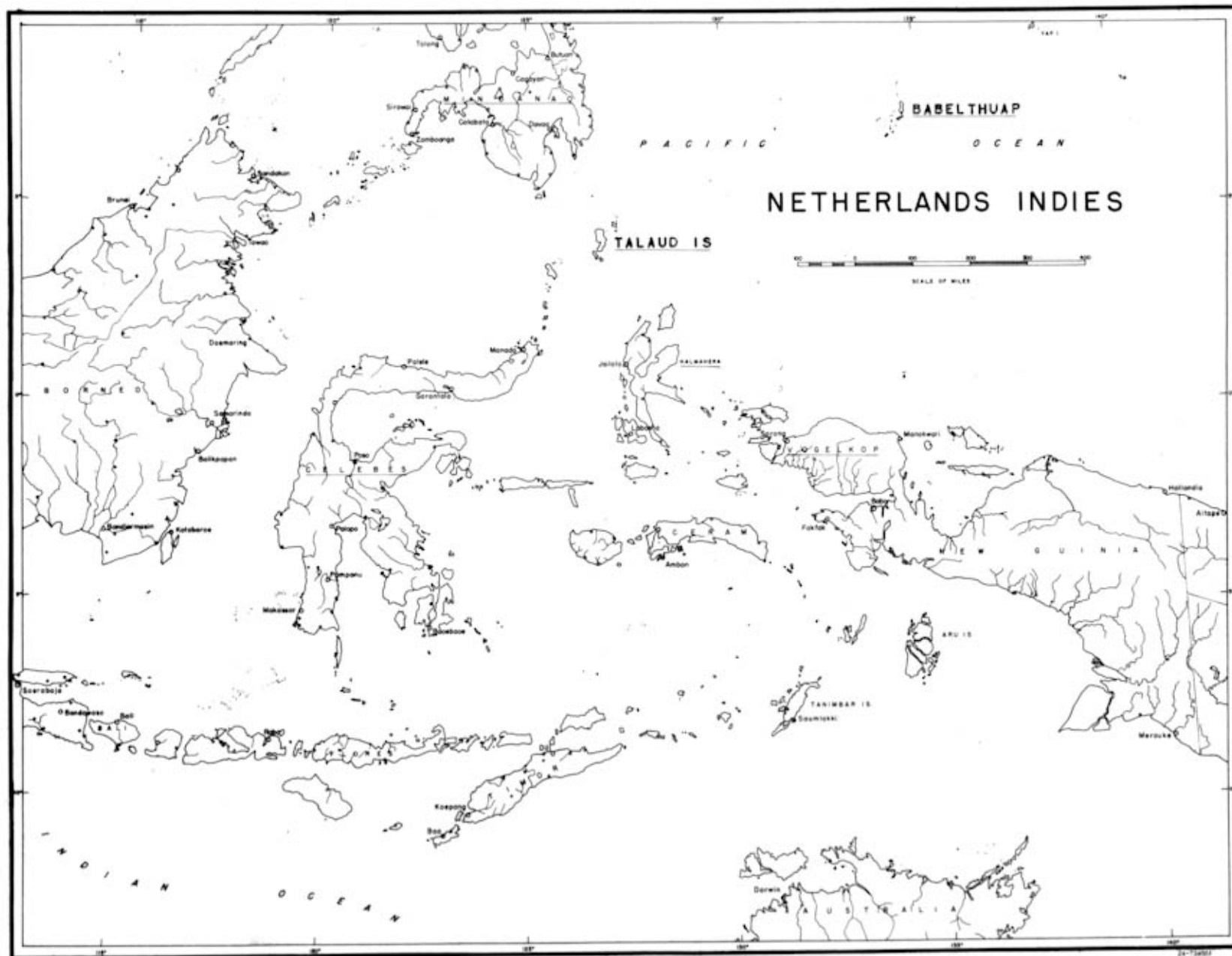
ASIATIC THEATER

1. Further reports of the 20th Bomber Command attack on 7 December state 87 B-29's hit the plant of the Manchuria Aircraft Company at Mukden with 286 tons of bombs, four bombed Darien, three bombed Chenghsien and two bombed targets of opportunity. Twenty-six (probably 39) enemy planes were shot down. We lost six bombers of which four were destroyed by enemy action (two of these by ramming).

Among 46 additional 14th Air Force sorties reported for 4 December were those which sank and damaged the Japanese shipping reported yesterday by communique and another attack on shipping east of Hongkong where one 400-foot freighter was probably sunk and another damaged. For 5 December, 23 tactical and 23 supply sorties were reported. In the two days, two planes were lost.

During 5 December the Eastern Air Command flew 981 sorties of which 431 were tactical. Fighters supported Chinese troops in the Bhamo area and bombed targets on the Irrawaddy, Chindwin, and Arakan fronts. Medium bombers and fighters swept rail lines and hit rail installations in central and southern Burma. B-24's attacked targets on the coast near Akyab.

2. By 6 December, British patrols reached points 12 and 14 miles



east of the Chindwin River, near Mawlaik and to the north, without encountering enemy. On the Irrawaddy front, there were five-mile advances south from Pimwe and in sectors southwest and southeast of Bhamo. A local gain on the Arakan front placed Allied troops eight miles south of Kaladan.

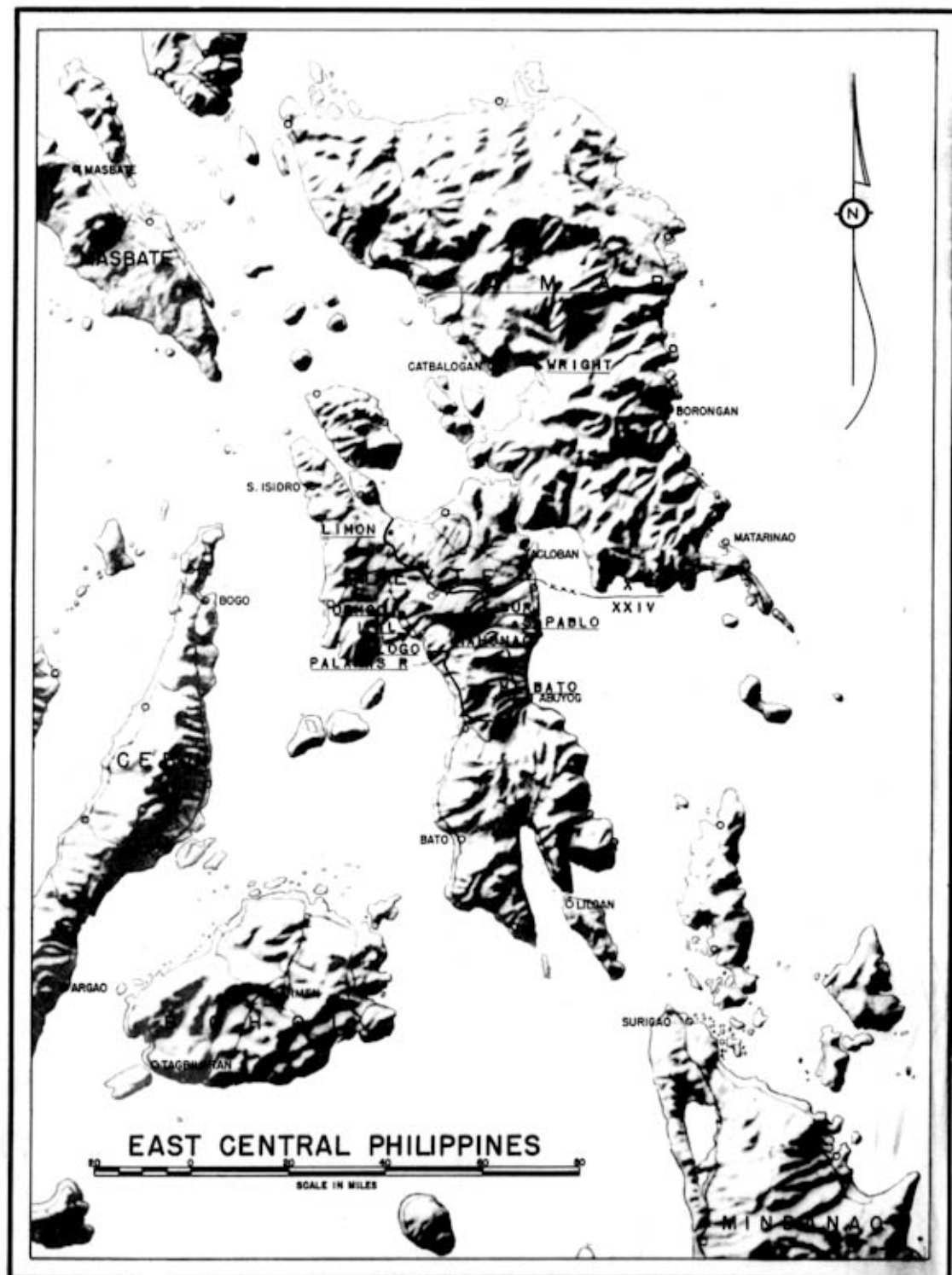
Japanese moving into China from French Indo-China were reported to have occupied Lungchou on 3 December.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. Communique reports that on 7 December an enemy convoy was discovered approaching the Ormoc area from the north. There followed two-way air attacks in which we sank all 13 ships of the convoy (4 large transports, 2 medium freighters and 7 destroyers or destroyer-escorts) and shot down 52 planes, while we lost one destroyer, one small transport and five planes.

An additional 305 sorties were reported over the Southwest Pacific for the period 3-5 December, including those which follow. On 3 December over 60 bombers and fighters attacked airdromes in Halmahera, and airdromes in the Celebes were the principal targets for 80 others; further strikes were made near Mindanao and in the Vogelkop area. On 4 December, Halmahera airdromes were again attacked, this time by more than 90 planes, and an airdrome in the Celebes as well as the Vogelkop area were also struck again. On 5 December, patrol planes exploded a Japanese freighter near Mindoro, set two small freighters afire near Manila, and destroyed a coastal vessel near the Talaud Islands. Our losses for the period were one bomber and one

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fighter.

On 6 December, east of Leyte two enemy bombers were destroyed in an attack on our ships.

2. The 77th Division (less one combat team) landed three miles southeast of Ormoc during the night of 6 December and was pushing north toward Ipil, encountering sporadic resistance.

During the day of 6 December, our troops advancing north on Samar were reported shelling Wright. In the Limon area a drive south toward Ormoc was initiated. North of the Palanas River we occupied two hill positions northeast of Balogo. Enemy forces were contacted near Mahonag and in the vicinity of Mt. Bato. Enemy infiltration parties and paratroops were reported near San Pablo and Buri airstrips on the night of 6 December.

3. On 5 and 6 December, neutralization of Marshall Island targets continued with strikes against Wotje and Maloelap. Gun positions on Rota and the airfield at Pagan were also hit; a large warehouse on Babelthuap was destroyed. Early on 7 December, ten enemy planes attacked Saipan, destroying one, and damaging two, of our B-29's. Six of the ten planes were destroyed.

EASTERN FRONT

On 7 December, Soviets advanced further along the fronts south of Budapest, making short gains in the Lake Balaton area and west of Csepel Island.

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 1093

0700 December 6 to 0700 December 7, 1944

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EUROPEAN THEATER

1. During the 24 hours ending at sunset 5 December, the Tactical Air Forces flew 3,291 sorties. Missions included support of ground operations, bombing of defended areas and launching sites behind the battle line, and escort for various bomber attacks. Thirteen enemy aircraft were destroyed; we lost 17 planes.

Details of the 8th Air Force attack on rail yards in the Dusseldorf-Kassel-Mainz area on 4 December include: tonnage of bombs, 3,200; enemy aircraft destroyed, six (including two jet planes on the ground); our losses, four fighters and seven bombers.

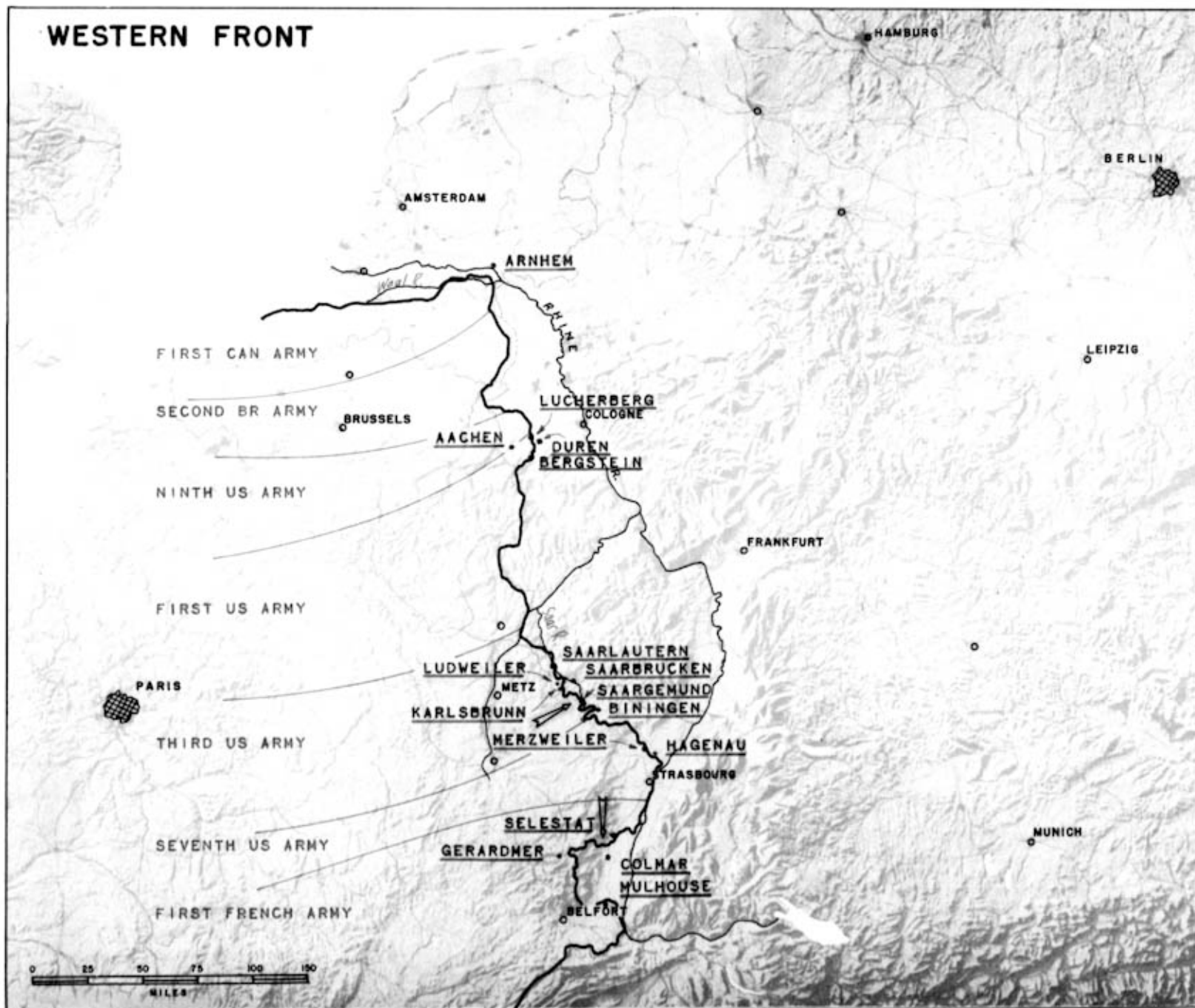
On 5 December, tank works at Berlin and rail yards at Munster were struck by 541 heavy bombers of the 8th Air Force with 1,300 tons of bombs. More than 700 fighters escorted the bombers and encountered strong aerial opposition in the Berlin area; fighters claim the destruction of 91 enemy aircraft. Our losses were 12 bombers and 14 fighters.

During 5 December, 91 RAF heavy bombers attacked Hamm to complete the destruction of the town and its rail facilities. Some 300 tons, consisting mainly of very heavy bombs, were dropped. That night the rail center at Soest was attacked by 485 heavy bombers, while 85 Mosquitoes hit Ludwigshafen and Nurnberg.

During 5 December, one additional flying bomb fell in the Charleroi area, and two rockets landed near Antwerp.

In the 24 hours ending at 0600, 6 December, four rockets were reported landing in England and 15 flying bombs were plotted. Four of

WESTERN FRONT



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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

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the flying bombs made landfall, one reaching the London area.

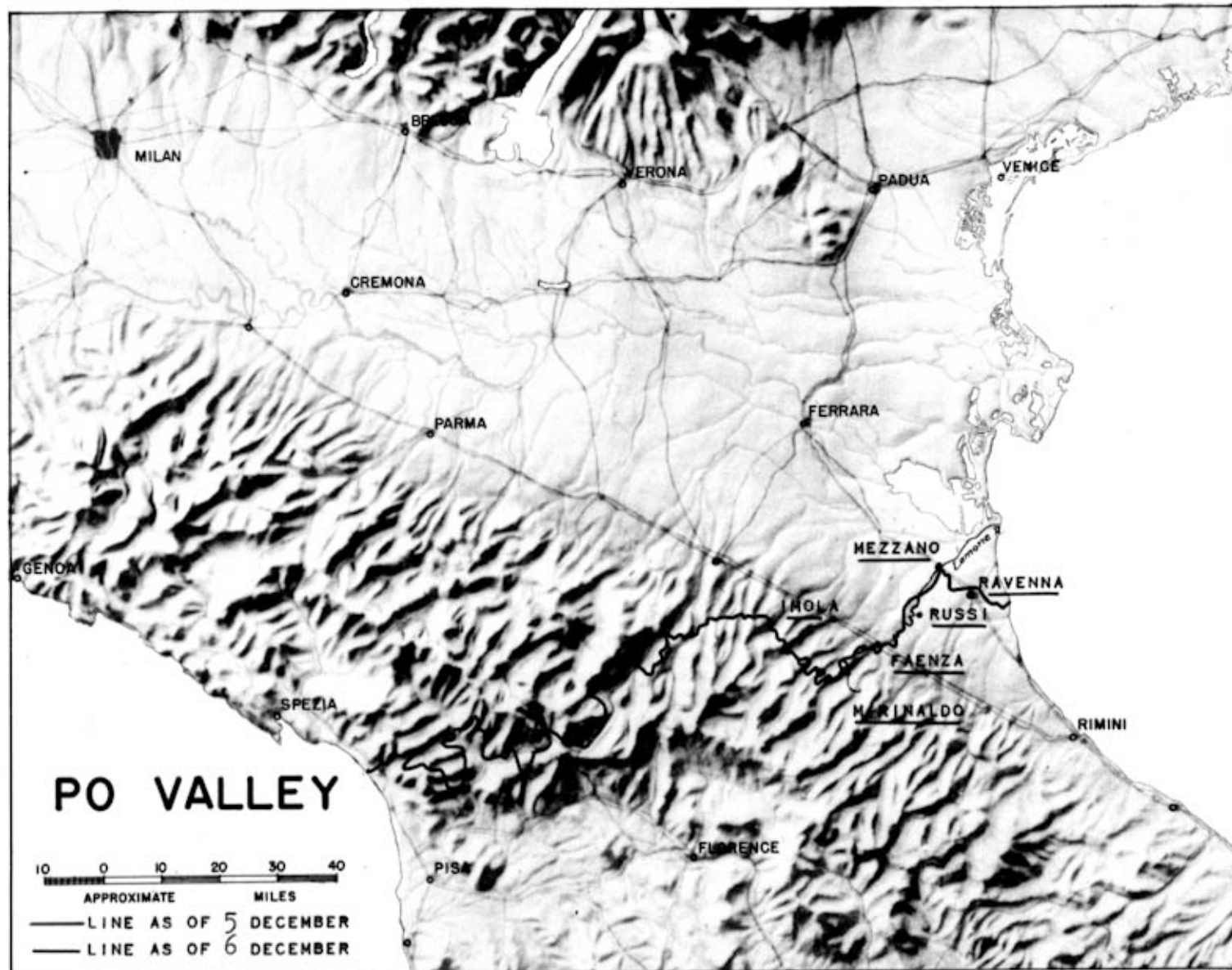
2. The flood between the Neder Rhine and the Waal forced Canadian and British troops in the area south and southwest of Arnhem to pull back their positions still further.

To the east of Aachen the front was relatively quiet. A small counterattack pointed at Lucherburg northwest of Duren was repulsed. The V Corps captured the village of Bergstein and repulsed several attempts at infiltration to the north and immediately south of the town.

The Third Army continued its drive into the Saar. At Saarlautern two bridgeheads across the Saar River were held despite continual enemy counterattacks. The XX Corps, advancing three miles and capturing Karlsbrunn and Ludweiler, is now within four miles of the city of Saarbrücken. Farther to the south the XII Corps gained six miles on an eight-mile front, reaching Saargemund where house-to-house fighting continued. Other elements of the XII Corps progressed ten miles, reaching the village of Biningen.

The Seventh Army made local progress to the east of Sarre-Union and cleared Merzweiler, northwest of Hagenau.

The First French Army continued to draw its lines tighter around the German Nineteenth Army in Alsace, despite heavy resistance in the south which forced the withdrawal of a salient northeast of Mulhouse. American troops of the French II Corps cleared Selestat and general advances were made on Colmar by French and American troops in an arc extending from the area east of Gerardmer to the Rhine.



MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

1. During the 24-hour period ending at 1800 on 5 December, adverse weather grounded strategic bombers, limited Tactical Air Force planes to 151 sorties, mainly near Bologna, and confined Coastal and Balkan forces to 49 sorties.

On 6 December, escorted heavy bombers dropped 544 tons on railroad yards in Yugoslavia at Maribor and Brod and in Austria at Graz and in the Vienna-Bratislava area. Thirteen enemy aircraft were destroyed; we lost eight bombers.

2. By 1200 of 6 December, the Eighth Army was pushing patrols into the area to the north and northwest of Ravenna. Between Ravenna and Faenza, Canadian patrols had reached the Lamone River west of Russi without establishing contact with the enemy. A slight advance was made on a two-mile front to the southwest of Faenza against fierce opposition. Polish troops repulsed four counterattacks on their position on Monte Rinaldo and made some progress to the west.

On the Fifth Army front, the British XIII Corps made local gains in the area south of Imola. Elsewhere the front was without significant change.

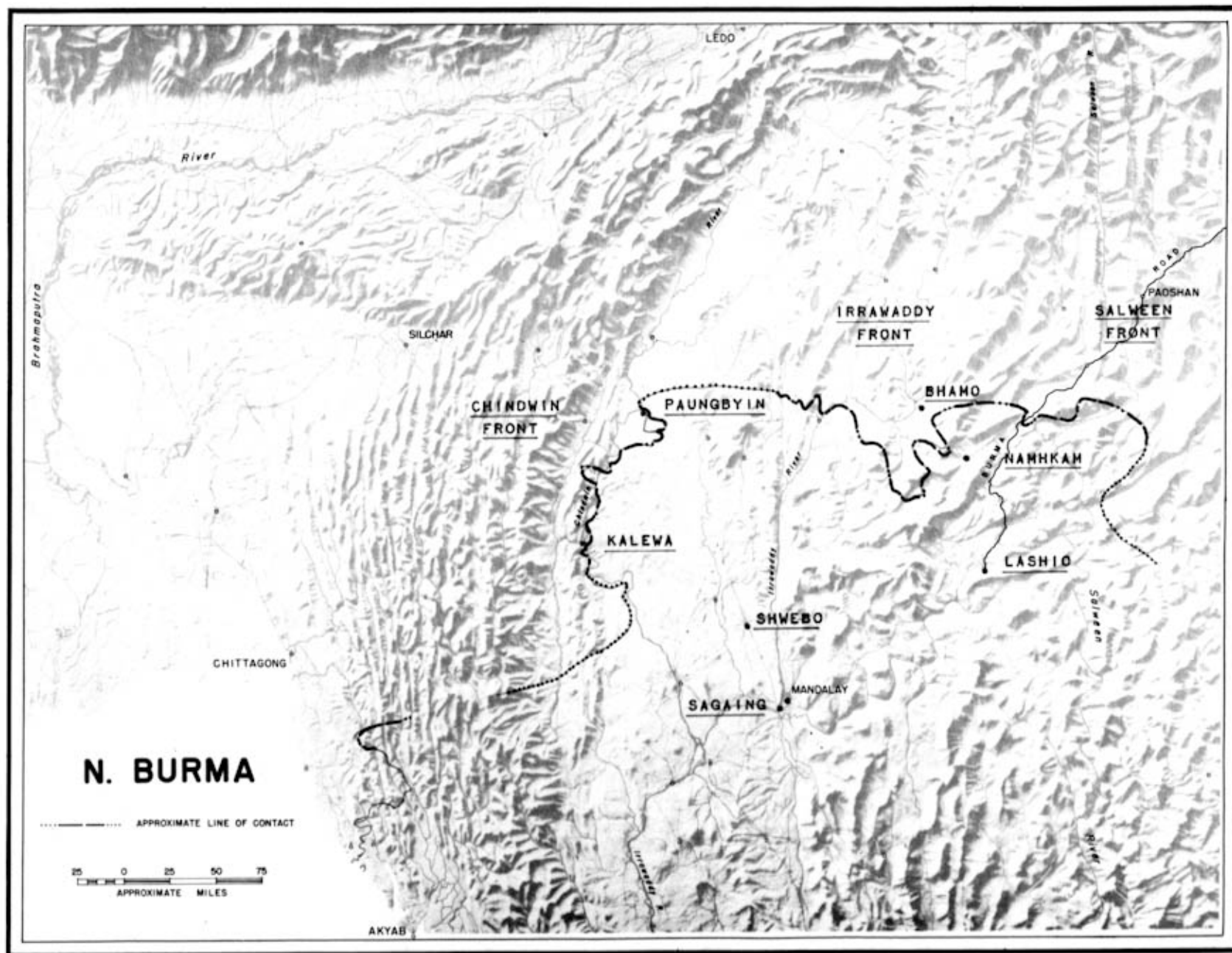
ASIATIC THEATER

1. Preliminary reports state that 80 B-29's of the 20th Bomber Command attacked an aircraft plant at Mukden on 7 December.

2. Communique reports that on 4 December, fighter bombers of the



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OSD Letter, 5-8-72

14th Air Force struck a heavy concentration of shipping in the Yangtze River at Pengtseh, destroying one freighter, leaving two freighters sinking, and damaging eight others, and that Liberators sank a large freighter east of Shanghai. Twenty-seven tactical sorties were flown mainly against bridges along the Burma Road from Lashio to Namhkai.

That day the Eastern Air Command flew 1,084 sorties of which 359 were tactical. Fighters provided close support for Chinese troops at Bhamo and hit targets on the Irrawaddy River front and in the Shwebo area, north of Mandalay. Medium bombers swept rail lines in central Burma, and B-24's bombed the jetty area at Sagaing, near Mandalay.

3. By 5 December, Allied troops across the Chindwin River at Kalewa advanced a mile east against light opposition. Fighting continued eight miles to the north. Chinese troops south of Bhamo have advanced four miles along the main highway and are within 18 miles of Namhkam. No changes were reported on the other fronts.

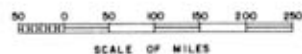
In China, the Japanese advance toward Kweiyang occupied Tuhshan on 2 December and by 3 December was a few miles south of Tuyun. At the same time a column to the east occupied Pachai and continued northward eight miles. No further report has been received concerning the Japanese movement north from French Indo-China.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. More than 329 additional sorties were flown during the period 2-5 December over the Southwest Pacific. Targets for 2 December included

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CAROLINE AND MARIANAS IS.



MARCUS

Assangong I.

Agrihan I.

Pagan I.

Alamagan I.

Guguan I.

Sarigan I.

Anatahan I.

Medinilla I.

Saipan I.

Tanlon I.

Aguijan I.

Rota I.

Guam

Ulithi Is.

Fale I.

Yap I.

Ngulu Is.

Sorol Is.

Gaferut I.

Feroulep Is.

West Faya I.

Olmorosa Is.

Woleai Is.

Ifalik Is.

Elato Is.

Lemotrek Is.

Eauripik Is.

Pikolot I.

Pulap Is.

Pulwat Is.

Pulusuk Is.

Olat Is.

Hali Is.

Truk Is.

PHILIPPINE IS.
(Mindanao I.)

C A R O L I N E

I S L A N D S

Sonsoral Is.

Pula Anna I.

Merir I.

Taloud Is.

Tobi I.

Helen I.

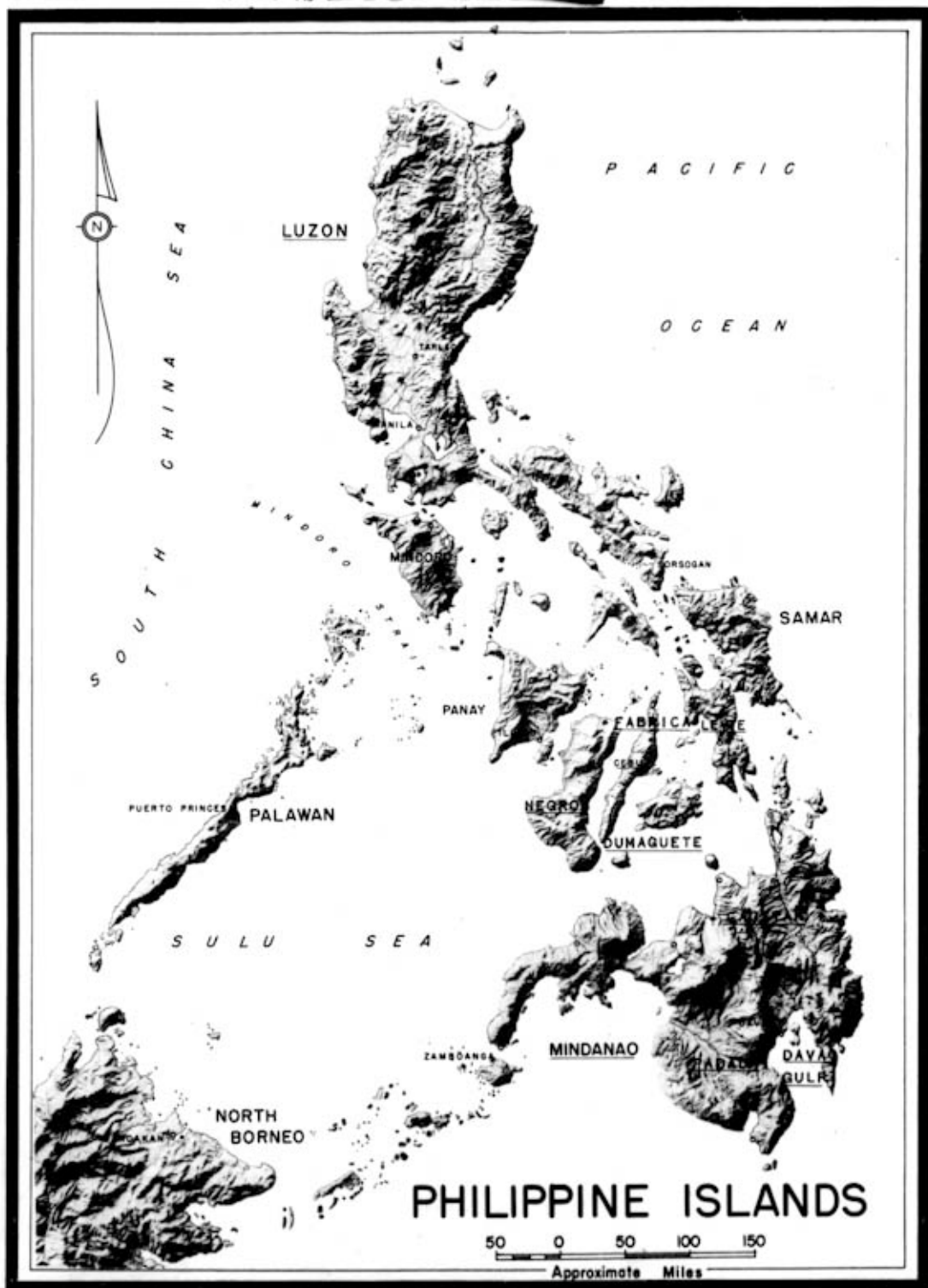
Morotai I.

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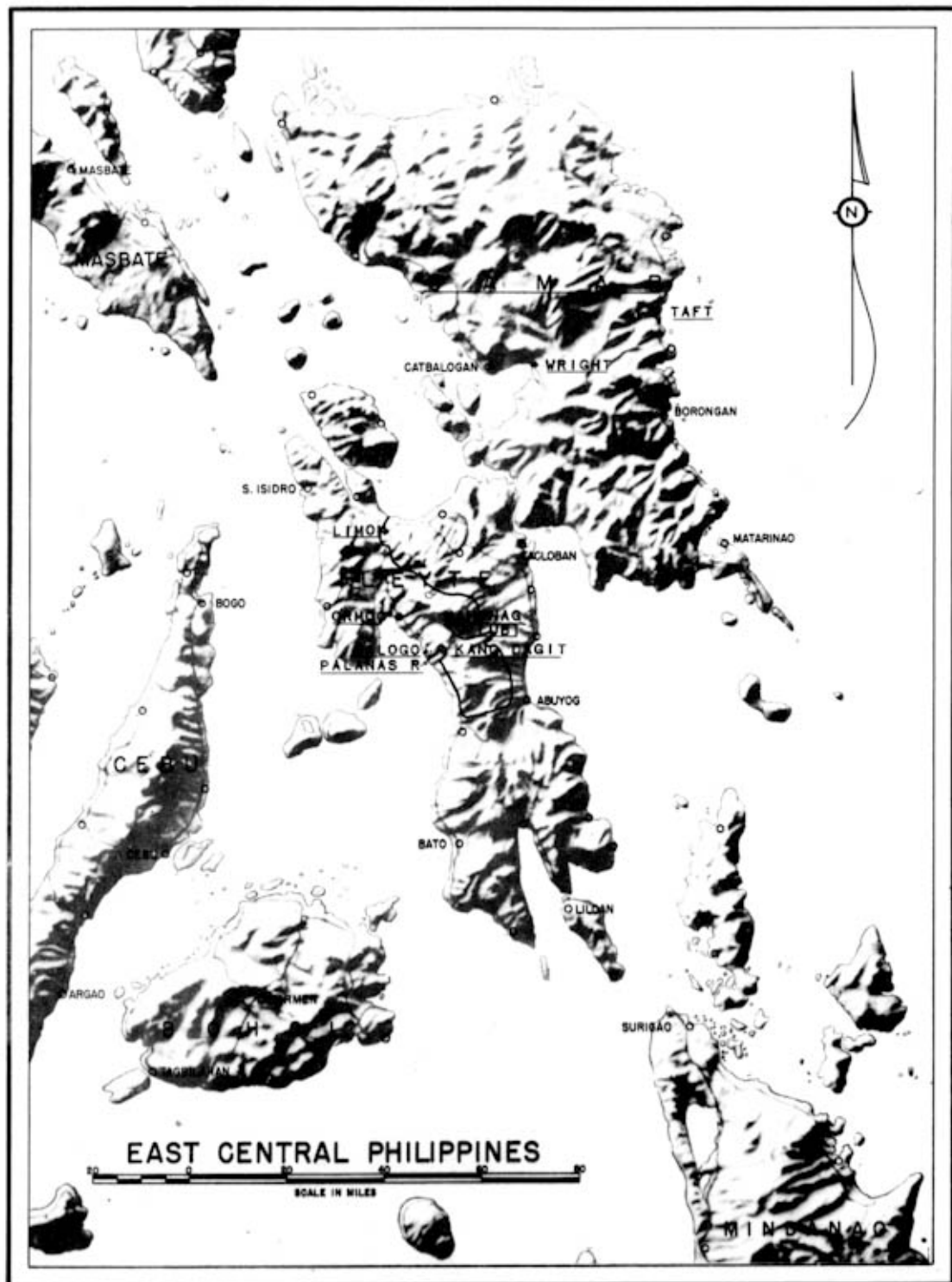


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Letter, 5-3-72

the Dumaguete and Fabrica airdromes on Negros and the airports at Cagayan and Padada on Mindanao; five enemy aircraft were destroyed. Other fighters and bombers attacked the Langoan and Kendari airdromes on Celebes and targets on Halmahera and Boeroe. On 4 December, supply and bivouac areas north of Ormoc were attacked. A patrol bomber sank a fuel barge, and destroyed one enemy aircraft near Davao Gulf. On 5 December, we struck airdromes on Luzon and Cebu, destroying two enemy planes. Other targets included Flores and Timor Islands and the Wewak area. The same day nine enemy aircraft were destroyed during attacks on Allied shipping southeast of Leyte.

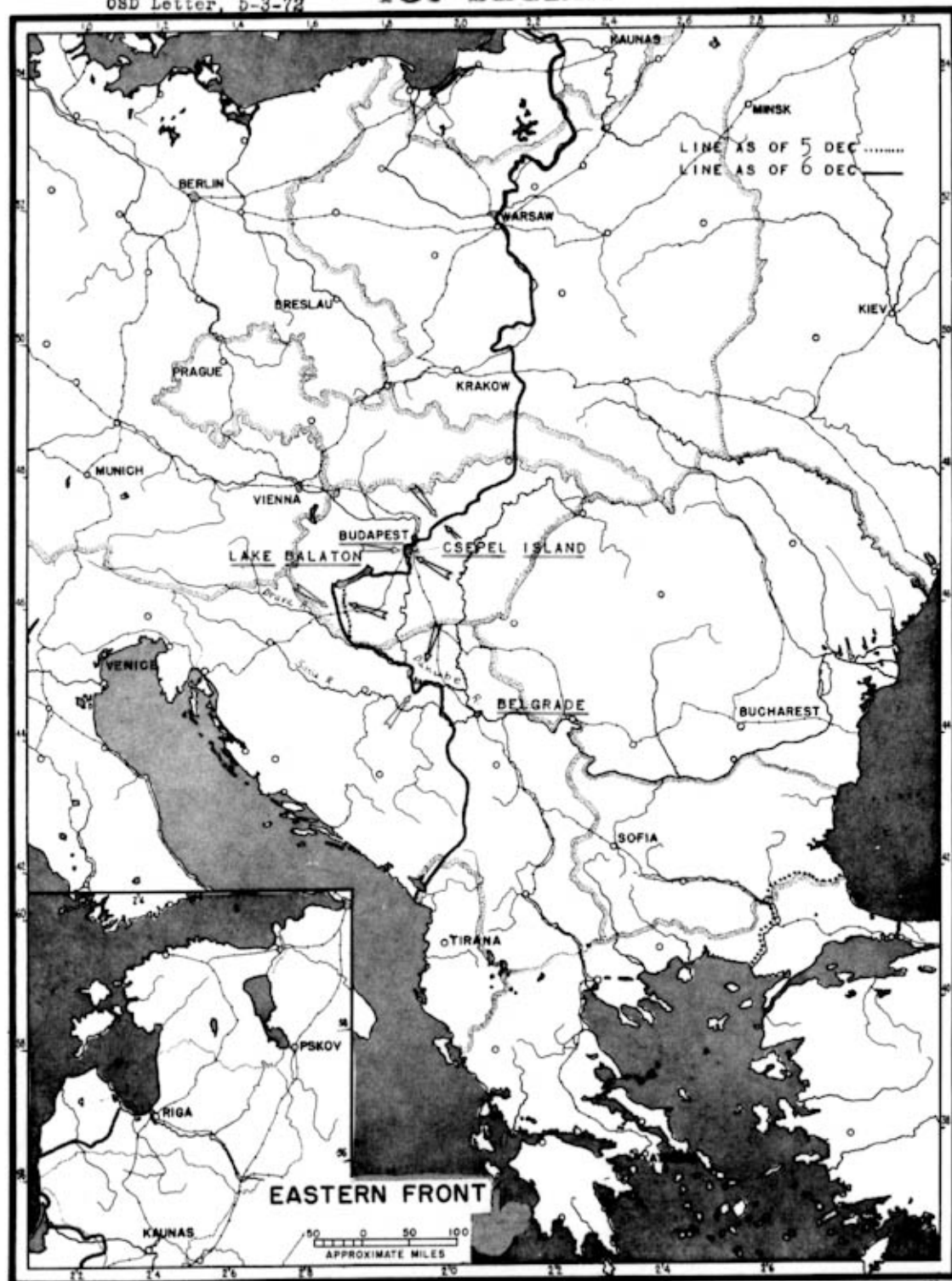
2. On 4 December, in the Limon area, the X Corps advanced 500 yards along the Ormoc Road against heavy opposition. On 5 December, XXIV Corps troops crossed the Palanas River and attacked toward Balogo against slight enemy resistance, and an attack northeast reached Kang Dagit. Troops moving west from Lubi toward Mahonag reported no opposition. Our forces on Samar have initiated operations to seize the east-west highway from Wright to Taft.

3. On 4 December, 36 fighters hit gun positions on Rota and others struck Pagan Island and, on 3 December, Marcus. One Japanese bomber was destroyed by fighters over Saipan.

EASTERN FRONT

Northeast of Budapest Soviet units, with air support, exerted increasing pressure. South of Budapest, troops from Csepel Island crossed to the west bank of the Danube and established several small bridgeheads.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

Advancing over difficult marshlands in the Lake Balaton area, Soviet troops scored gains despite several German, air-supported counterattacks. Northwest of Belgrade, Soviet and Yugoslav troops made gains across the Danube.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 1092

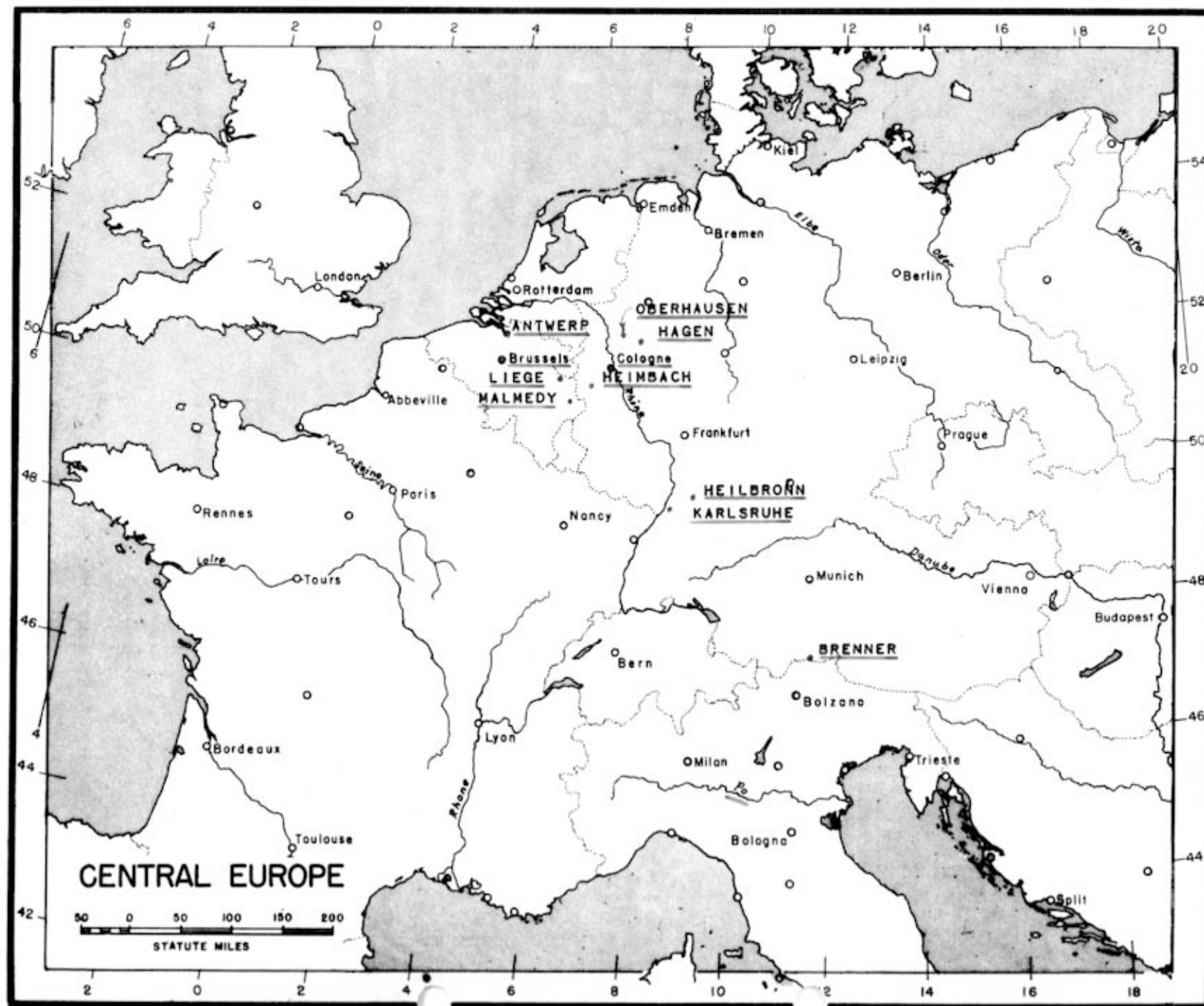
0700 December 5 to 0700 December 6, 1944

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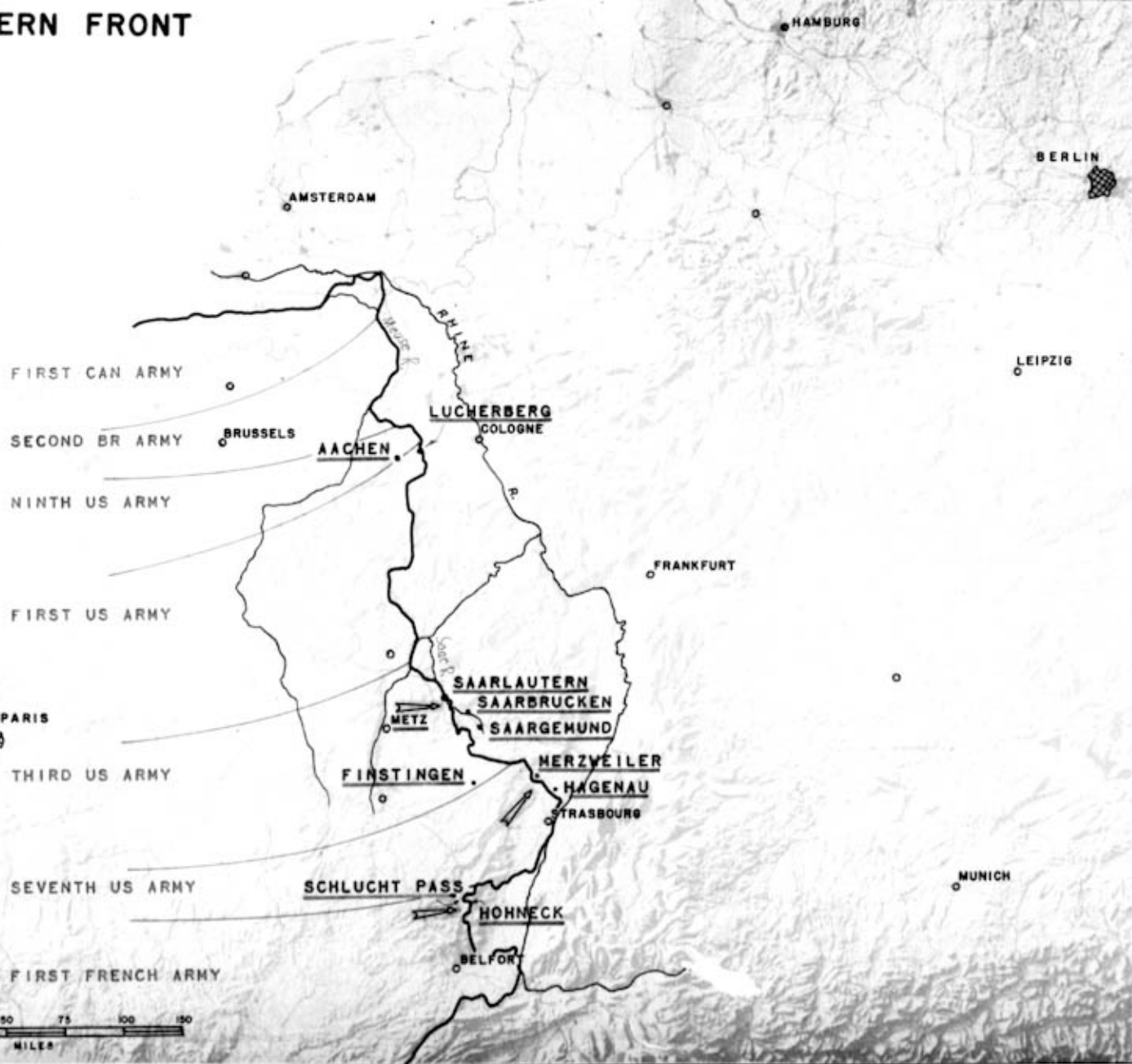
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WESTERN FRONT



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ON 10/06/07, 5-3-72

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EUROPEAN THEATER

1. During the 24-hour period ending at sunset, 4 December, the Tactical Air Forces flew 1,455 sorties, the majority of which were over the battle area on the Continent; 194 aircraft flew prearranged support. We destroyed one enemy plane and lost nine aircraft.

On 4 December, 156 escorted RAF heavy bombers dropped 941 tons on Oberhausen and 27 others with three Mosquitoes attacked a dam near Heimbach, southwest of Cologne, with 149 tons. That night, 781 heavy bombers and 12 Mosquitoes dropped 4,344 tons on Karlsruhe and Heilbronn; 66 Mosquitoes attacked Hagen and other targets in Germany. Patrolling Mosquitoes destroyed 17 enemy planes. Seventeen heavy bombers and one Mosquito failed to return.

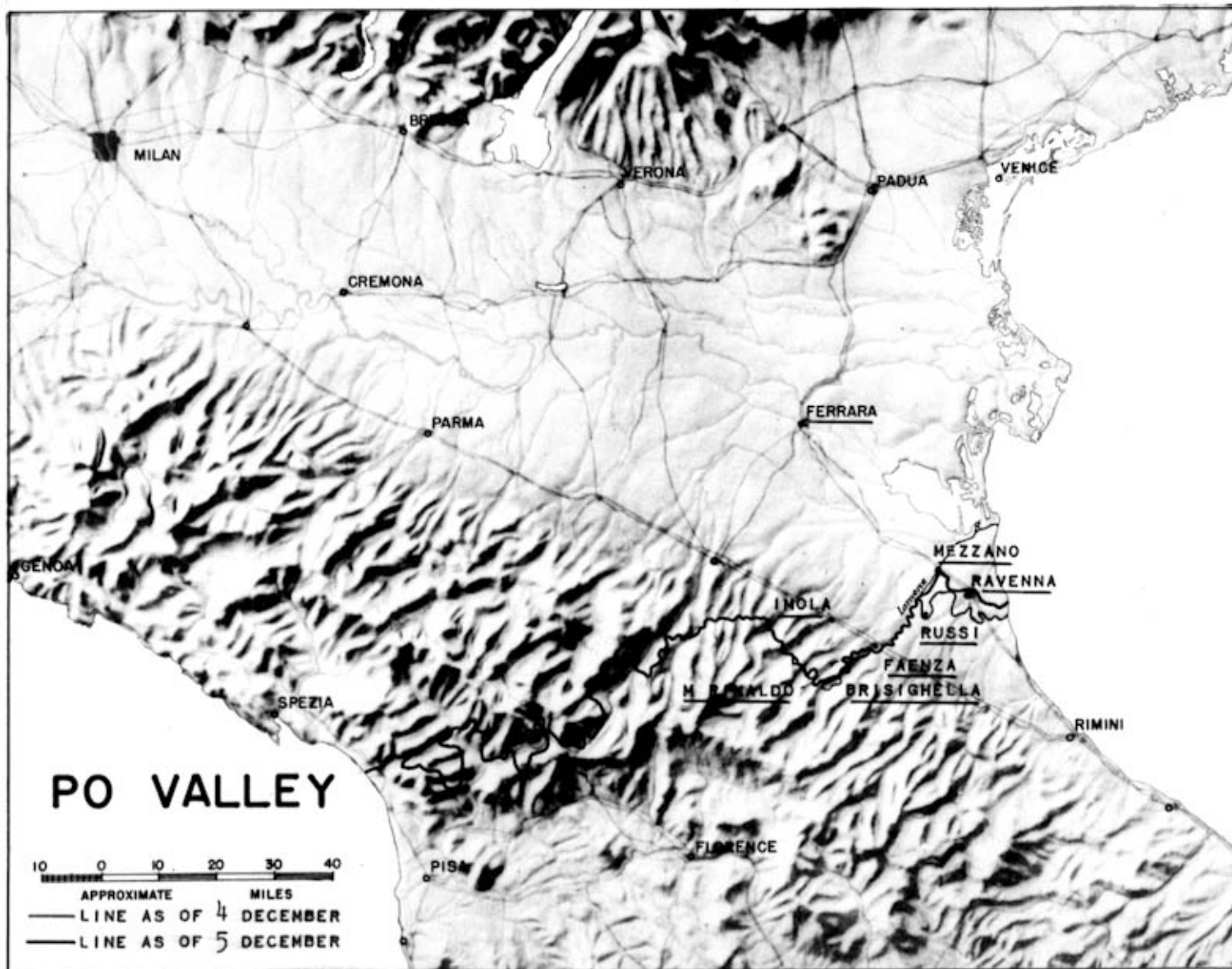
During 3 and 4 December, two additional flying bombs landed in the Malmedy area and one near Brussels. Three rockets fell in the Liege area and four near Antwerp.

In the 24 hours ending at 0600 on 5 December, one rocket fell in England and ten flying bombs were plotted, of which only one came overland; antiaircraft destroyed two.

2. On the front of the Second British Army, all organized resistance west of the Meuse River had been cleared by 1200 of 5 December. Northeast of Aachen, our forces repulsed two counterattacks in the vicinity of Lucherberg. East of Metz our Third Army continued to drive on Saarbrücken two columns being within seven miles of the city. Our XX Corps now holds two bridgeheads across the Saar River southeast of Saarlautern and has

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completed the crossing of a regimental combat team. Fighting continued in the city and a counterattack to the northwest was repulsed. Our XII Corps made gains up to three miles on a ten-mile front to the east of Saargemund. Local progress was made by other elements of the XII Corps northeast of Finstingen.

In the Southern Army Group, northwest of Hagenau our forces entered Merzweiler against strong resistance. Hohneck mountain dominating Schlucht Pass was cleared of the enemy.

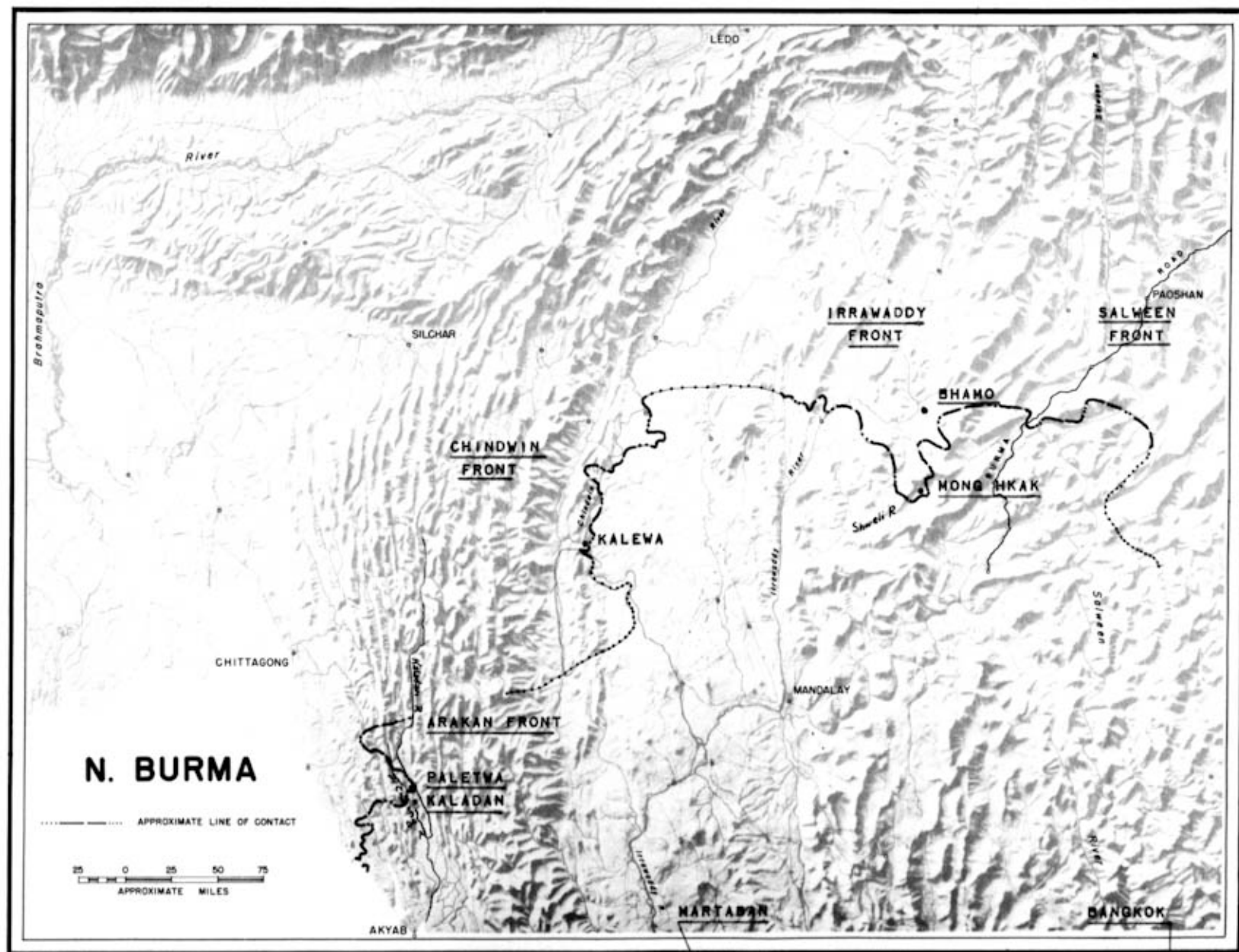
MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

1. During the 24-hour period ending at 1800 on 4 December, the Tactical Air Force flew 951 sorties to attack close support targets in the battle area and communications in the Po Valley, the Brenner Route and Yugoslavia. Coastal and Balkan planes flew 135 sorties; included were attacks upon transportation in northwestern Italy and sweeps over Yugoslavia. We lost nine fighters and one medium bomber.

On 5 December, weather prevented operations of the 15th Air Force.

On 4 December, four Middle East fighters attacked transportation on western Crete; one fighter was lost.

2. By 1200 hours of 5 December, Canadian troops of the Eighth Army occupied Ravenna after the enemy had evacuated the city, and advanced down the Ravenna-Ferrara highway to Mezzano where the highway crosses the Lamone River. It is believed that no resistance remains in the swampy area east of the Lamone River and north of Ravenna. Southwest



of Mezzano other Canadians were meeting resistance as they approached the Lamone. A counterattack supported by tanks was repulsed north of Russi. The Polish II Corps continued to make local advances along its front southwest of Faenza and captured Monte Rinaldo north of Brisighella despite heavy resistance and a subsequent counterattack.

Southwest of Imola on the Fifth Army front, a counterattack was repulsed and local gains were made. There were no other significant changes.

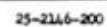
ASIATIC THEATER

1. During 3 December the Eastern Air Command flew 1,124 sorties, of which 460 were tactical. B-24's attacked targets in the Gulf of Martaban area and on the rail line to Bangkok; two B-24's are missing. Fighters swept the Chindwin and Irrawaddy River fronts and medium bombers attacked rail lines through central Burma.

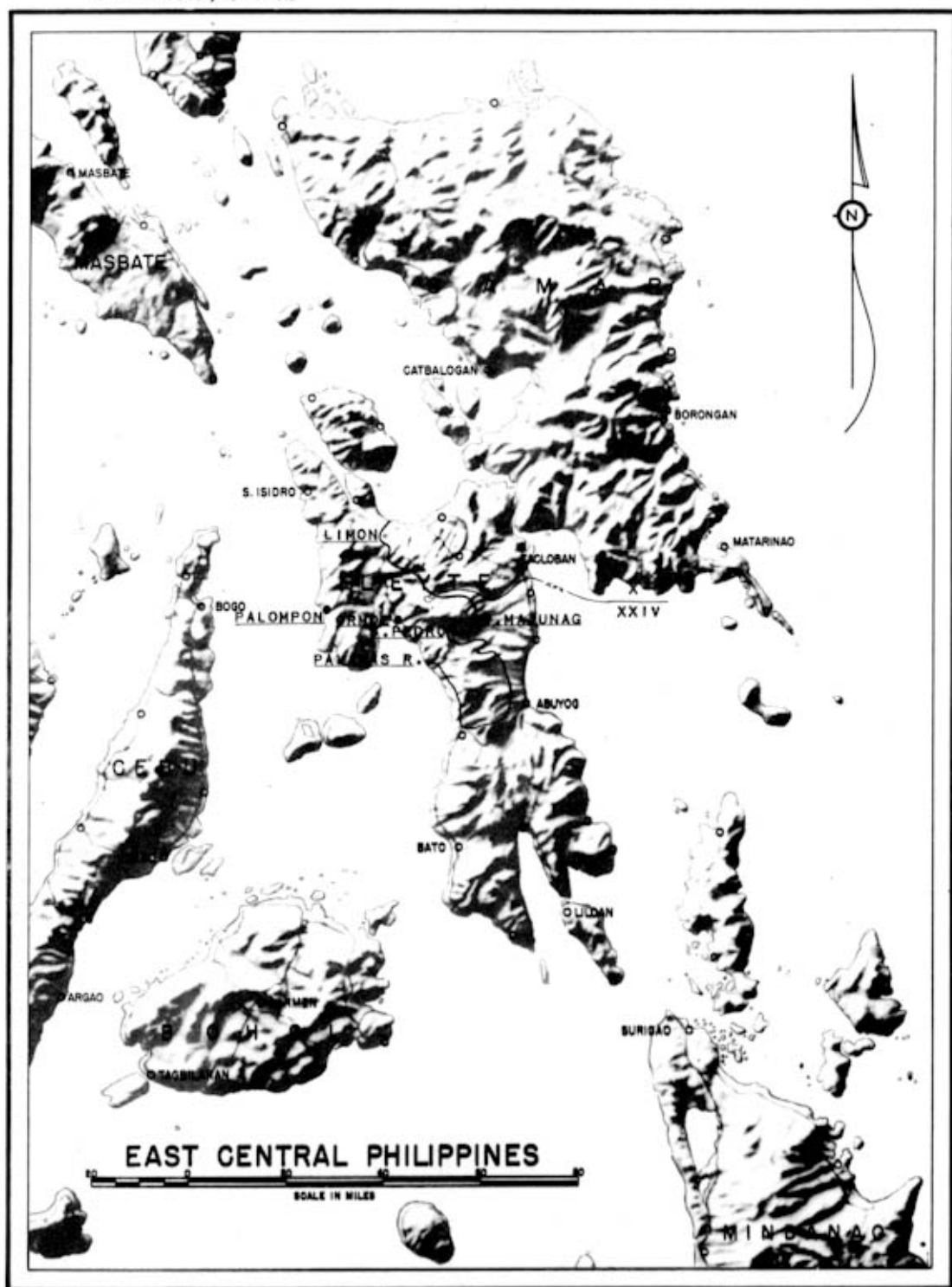
2. The 14th Air Force reported some 70 additional offensive sorties for 2 and 3 December, which included attacks on Yangtze shipping and on rail and road traffic in the Hengyang-Lingling area; Liberators attacked targets on the Liuchow Peninsula and mined the Yangtze River near Hankow.

3. By 4 December, West African troops on the Arakan front, after an advance south from the Paletwa area, were holding an east-west line from the Pi Chaung River to the Kaladan River, six miles south of Kaladan village. There was no major change on the Chindwin front. On the

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Irrawaddy front south of Bhamo, Chinese troops were in contact with the enemy on the south bank of the Shweli River, five miles southwest of Mong Hkak.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. More than 100 previously unreported sorties were flown in the Southwest Pacific area in recent days, including a 92-ton attack by B-24's on four airdromes on Halmahera. Improvement of our Leyte airfields continues. On 4 December, four Marine fighter squadrons arrived on Leyte from the Palaus.

2. In central Leyte rainy weather continues. By 4 December, XXIV Corps troops north of San Pedro advanced 1,200 yards toward Mt. Majunag. Added reinforcements were sent to the Palanas River sector. Communique reports that our forces turned back an enemy night tank attack on the roadblock south of Limon.

3. On 2 December 18 Pacific Ocean Area fighters attacked Pagan. We lost one plane in the attacks on Babelthup, previously reported. On 3 December, our aircraft attacked Haha Jima and Iwo Jima, Rota, Pagan and Yap.

On 4 December, 41 fighters and nine dive bombers attacked Ponape and Wotje, with the loss of one fighter. Operations against Jaluit were cancelled due to weather.

4. Pulo Anna Island was occupied on 20 November without opposition



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OSD Letter, 5-8-72

EASTERN FRONT

During 5 December Soviet troops continued their advance and reached the southeastern shore of Lake Balaton on a 30-mile front. South of Kaposvar Red Army troops advanced southwest to the Drava River despite stiff German resistance. South of Apatin, the Soviets made small gains on the west bank of the Danube.

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OSD Letter, 5-8-72

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 1091

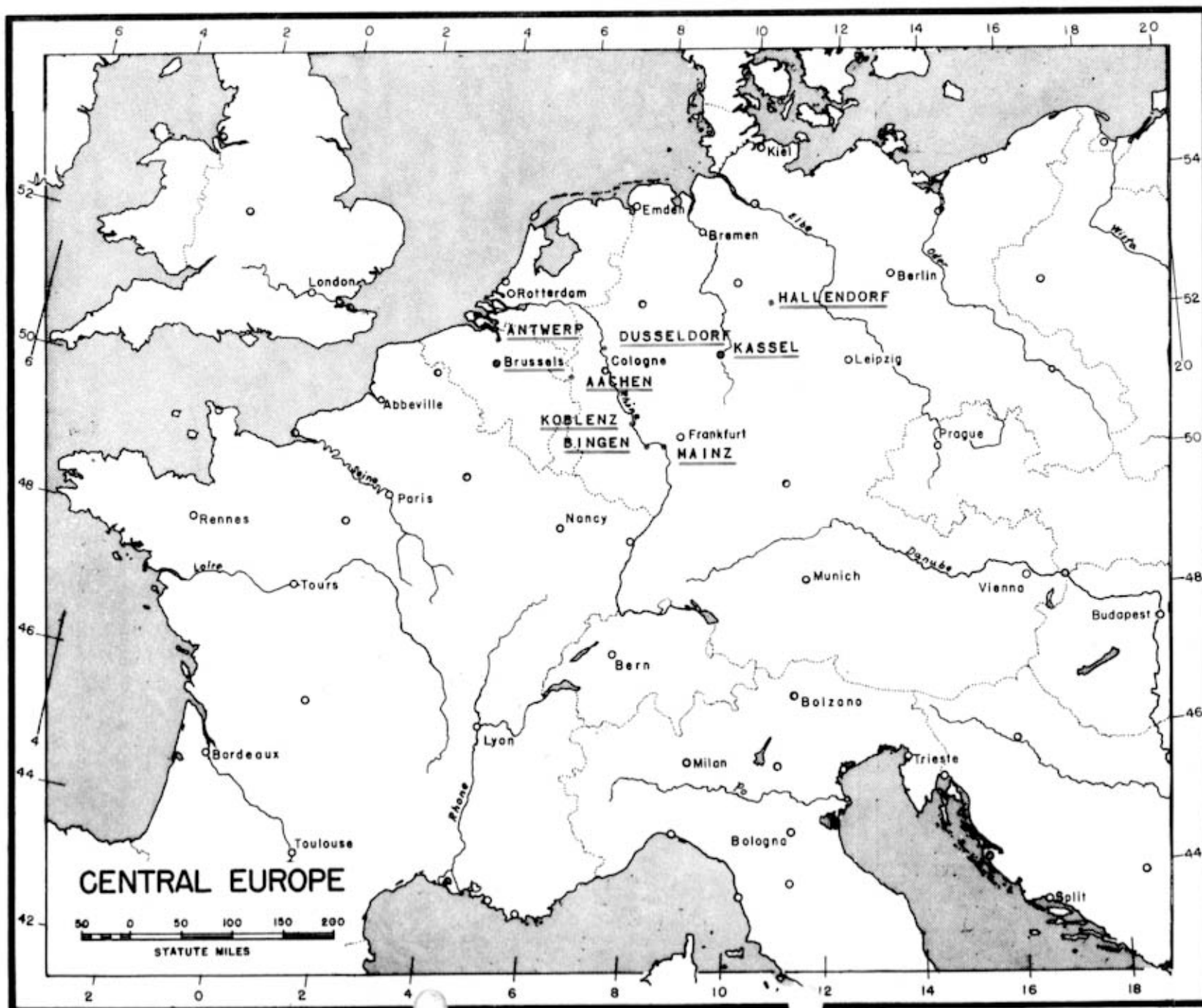
0700 December 4 to 0700 December 5, 1944

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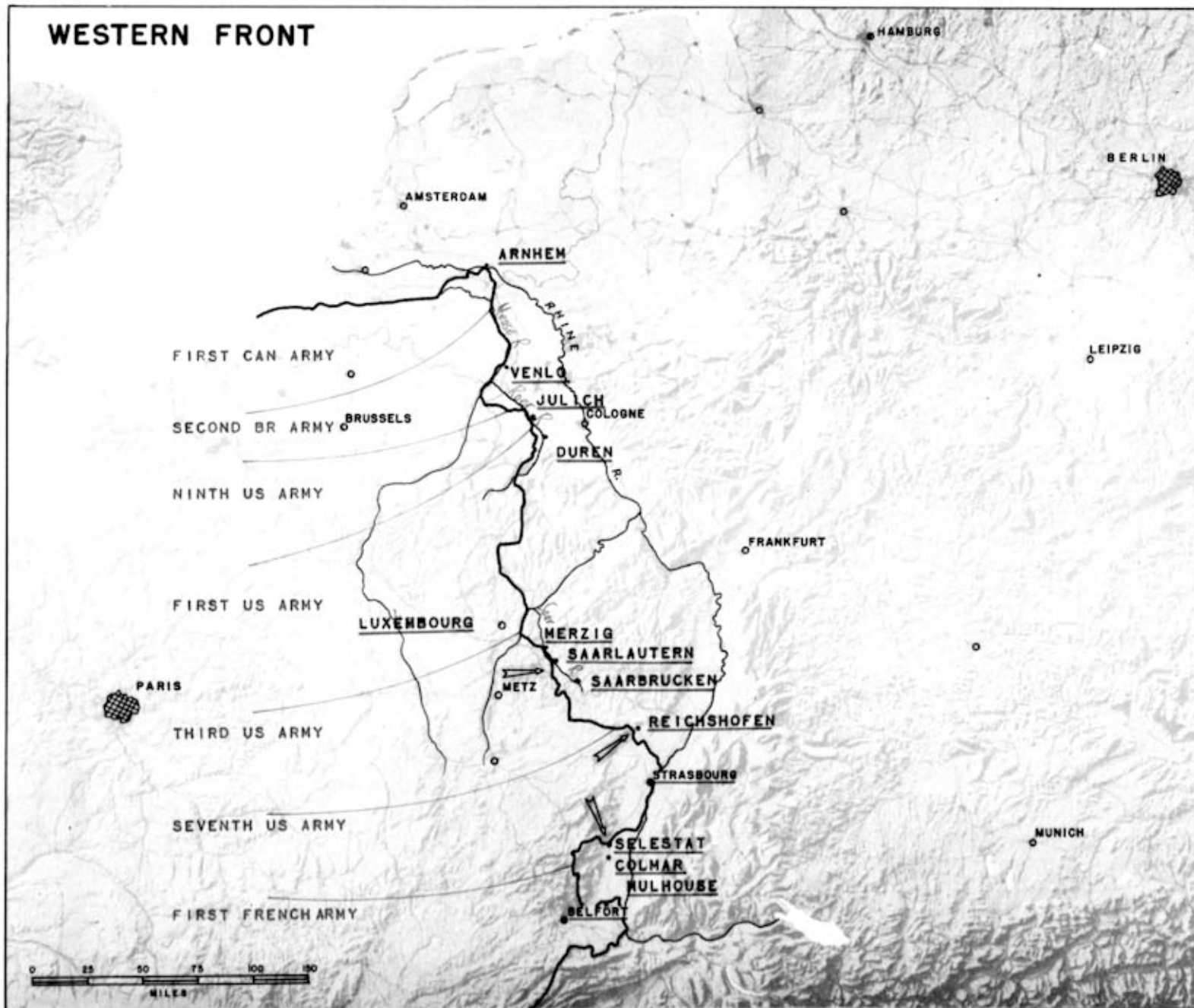
THE WHITE HOUSE

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WESTERN FRONT



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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

EUROPEAN THEATER

1. During the 24-hour period ending at sunset, 3 December, Tactical Air Forces flew 1,877 sorties. Of these, 351 were pre-arranged ground support, and the remainder were mostly over the immediate battle area; 280 tons of bombs were dropped on strongpoints and communication centers. Two enemy planes were destroyed. We lost eleven.

On 3 December, 208 RAF bombers flew over western Germany but failed to bomb because of cloud. That night, eleven Mosquitoes attacked steel works at Hallendorf.

The communique reports that 1,200 8th Air Force bombers were airborne on 4 December to attack rail yards in the Dusseldorf-Kassel-Mainz area.

On 2 and 3 December, 16 additional flying bombs and eight rockets landed on the Continent. One bomb hit Brussels and five rockets hit the Antwerp suburbs. The remaining missiles dropped on scattered points behind our lines west and south of Aachen.

In the 24 hours ending at 0600, 4 December, ten rockets landed in England.

2. In the 24 hours ending at noon 4 December, the First Canadian Army was forced to withdraw farther to the southwest of Arnhem by floods caused by breached dikes, which had inundated an area approximately ten miles wide and four miles deep. At Venlo, the Second British Army cleared

the last enemy bridgehead west of the Meuse.

On the Aachen front our Ninth Army continued to attack near Julich without appreciable change in position. The First Army, in heavy fighting, cleared several villages along our lines northwest of Duren and southwest of Duren made a local advance to within a mile of the Roer River. There was no other change south to Luxembourg.

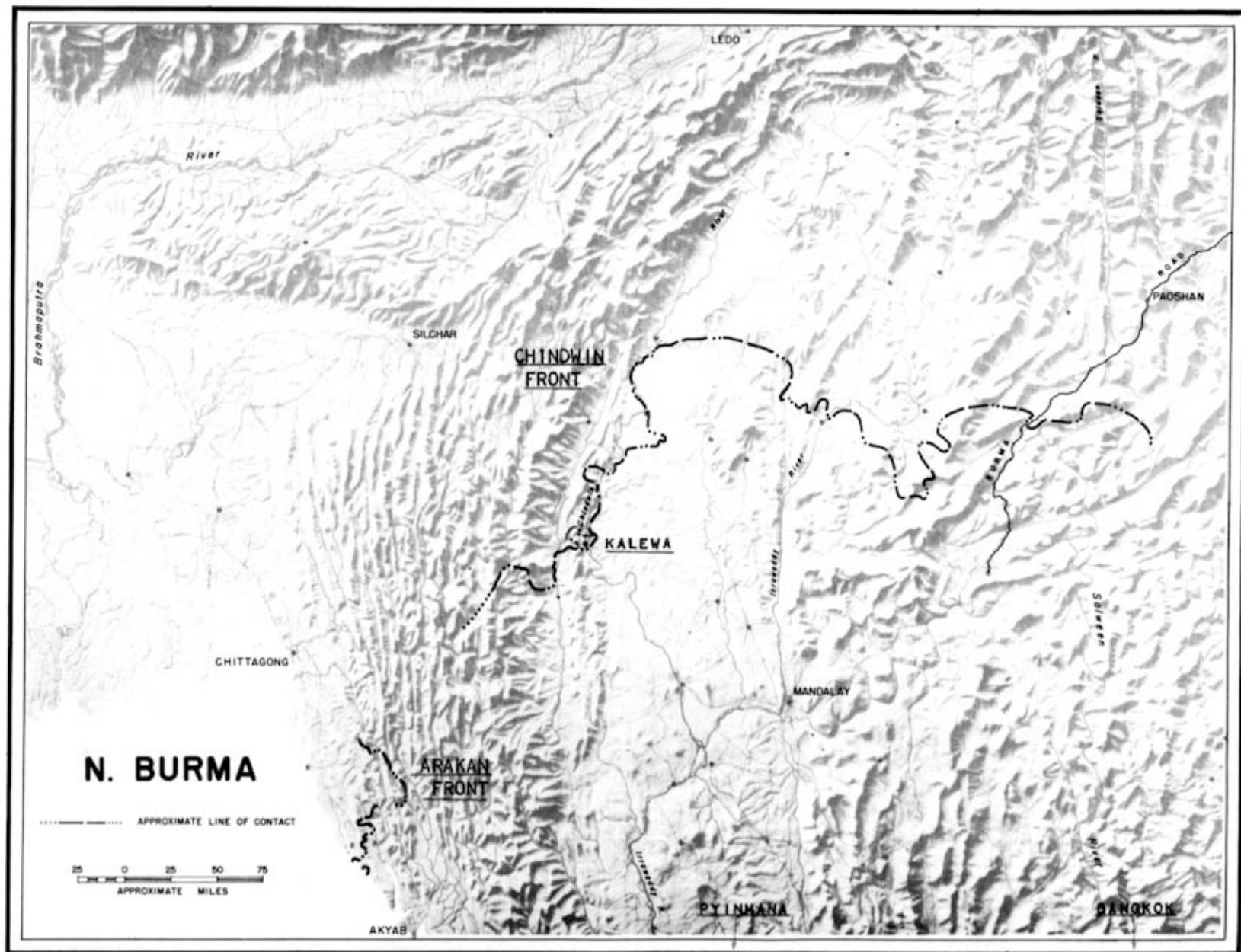
The Third Army cleared the west bank of the Saar River between Saarlautern and a point five miles north of Merzig. House-to-house fighting was in progress in the ~~latter~~ ^{former} town where a bridge, captured intact, is being used to continue the advance east. Other Third Army gains were made southwest of Saarbrucken.

The Seventh Army was advancing northwards along a 20-mile front some 25 miles northwest of Strasbourg. On the east flank of this advance our front line was one mile west of Reichshofen. Farther to the south, fighting continued in Selestat and leading elements were seven miles north of Colmar.

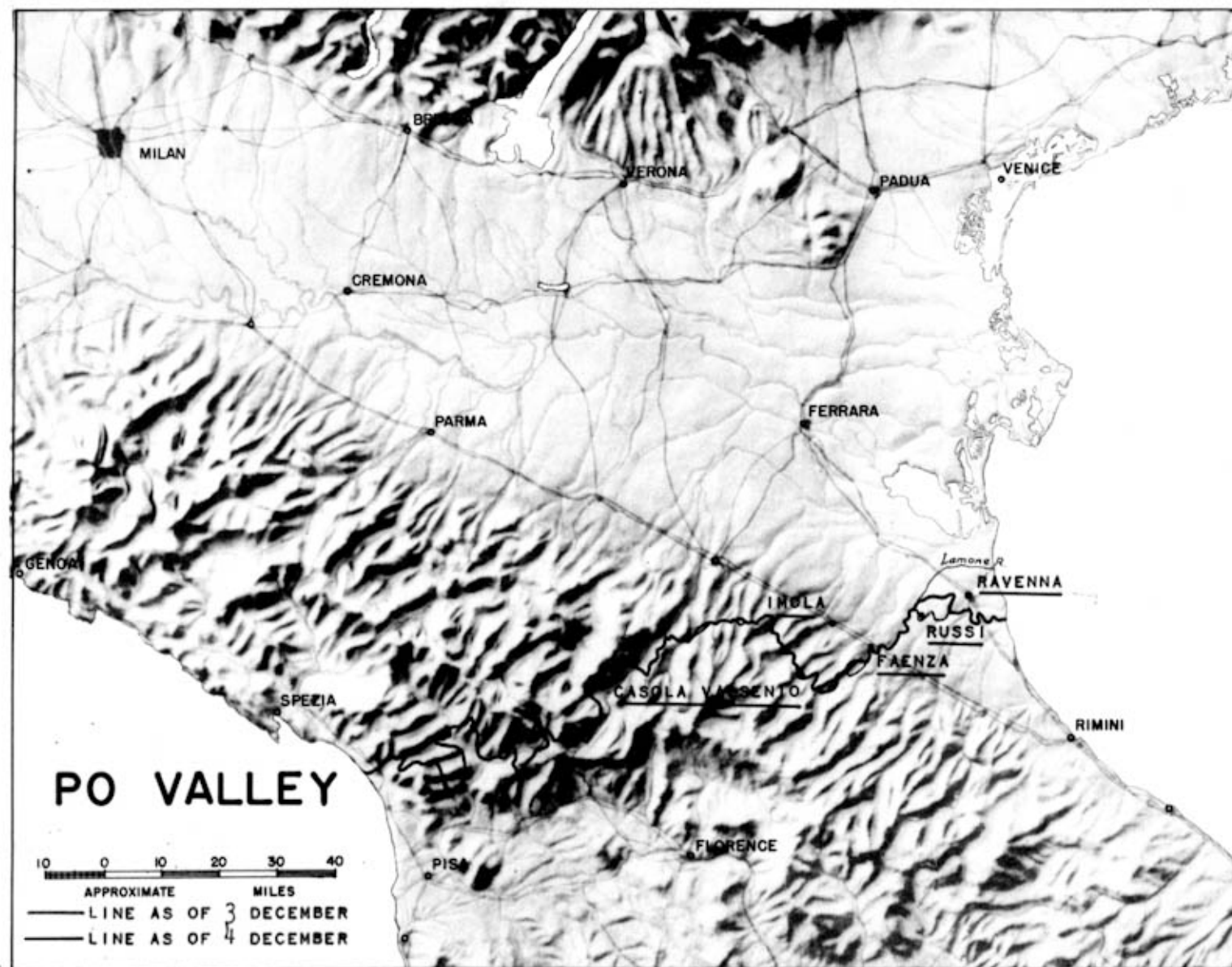
The First French Army made small gains to consolidate its advances north of Belfort; northeast of Mulhouse enemy counterattacks forced a slight withdrawal.

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

1. During the 24-hour period ending at 1800 on 3 December, the Tactical Air Force flew 329 sorties, about half of them over the battle area and the remainder against communication facilities in northern Italy and Yugoslavia. Coastal and Balkan planes flew 165 sorties.







Weather hampered operations. We lost one light bomber.

During the nights of 2-3 and 3-4 December, 30 bombers of the 15th Air Force dropped supplies in Yugoslavia; two were lost. On 4 December, heavy bombers were grounded by weather, but 29 fighters attacked a bridge in Yugoslavia.

2. In the 24 hours ending at noon 4 December, Canadian troops of the Eighth Army advanced rapidly along an eight-mile front reaching positions less than two miles west of Ravenna; patrols along the coastal highway moved to within a mile of Ravenna without making contact with the enemy. On the western flank of the advance, Russi was taken. Southwest of Faenza, British and Polish troops attacked across the Lamone River on a four-mile front, advancing more than a mile against stiffening resistance. South of Imola our Fifth Army occupied Casola Valsenio, but there were no other significant changes on its front.

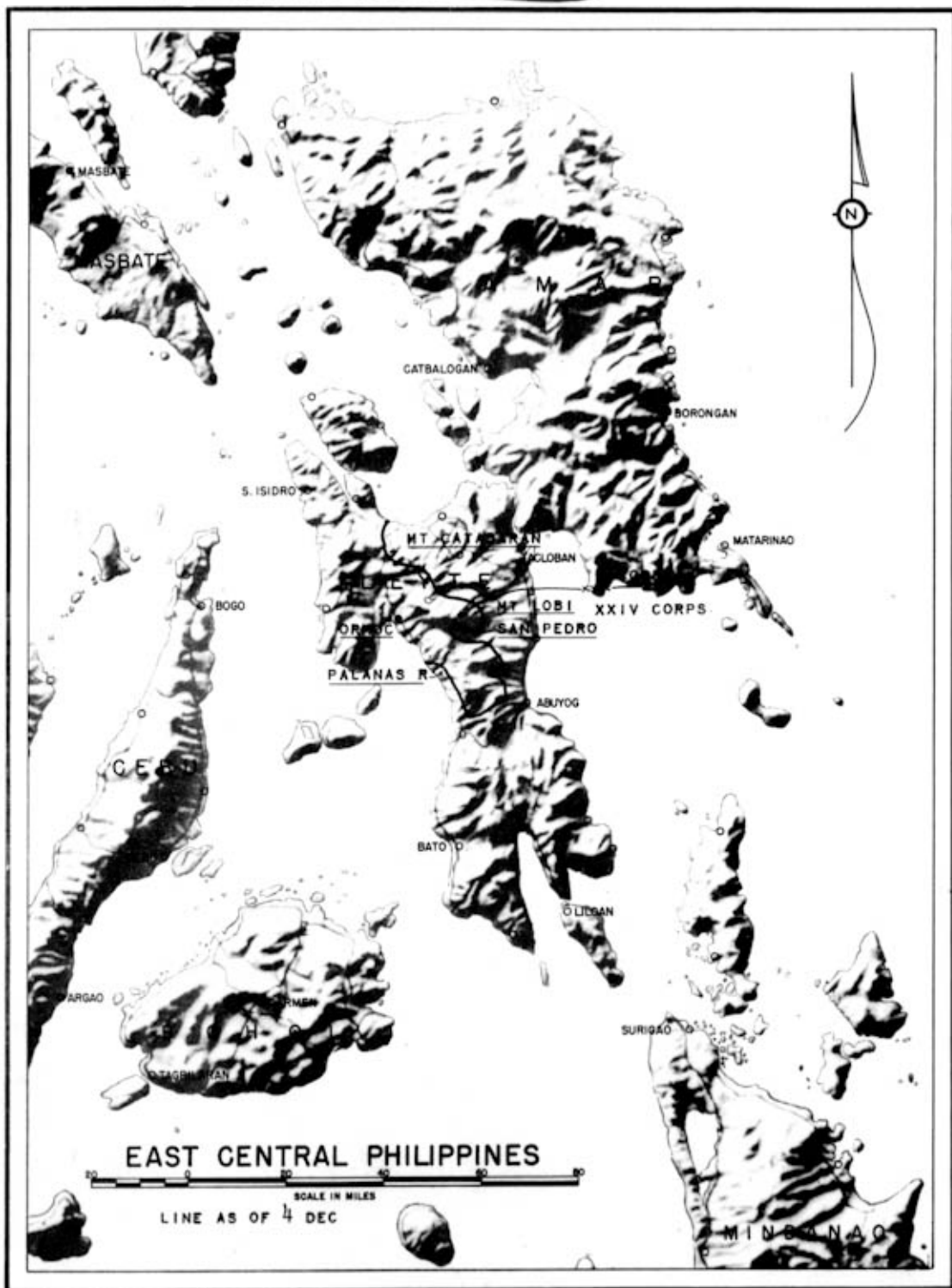
ASIATIC THEATER

1. For 2 and 3 December, the 14th Air Force reported 32 sorties during which a medium freighter was sunk east of Hongkong and a 150-foot gunboat probably destroyed at Kiukiang.

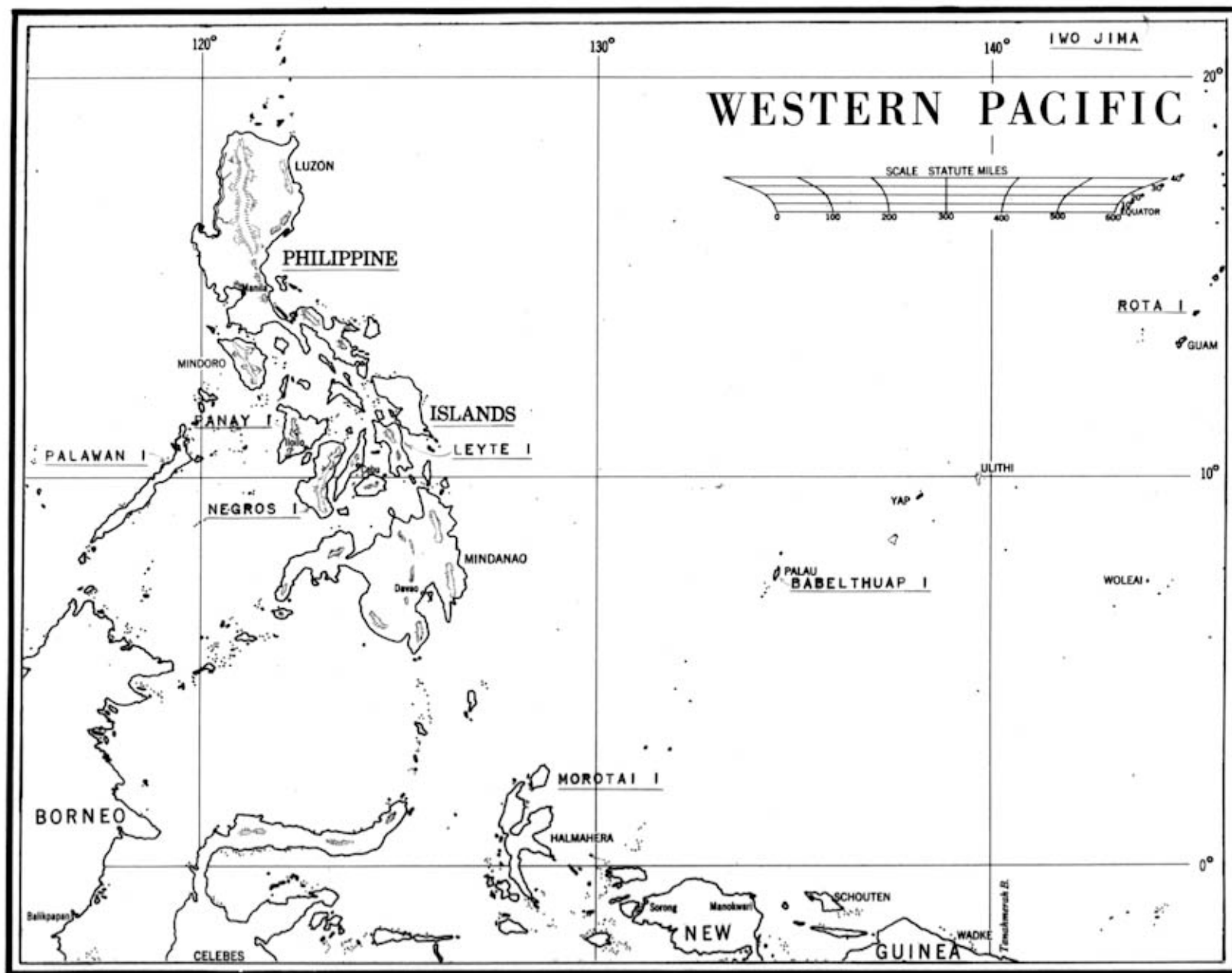
2. On 2 December, the Eastern Air Command flew 971 sorties, of which 398 were tactical. More than 100 tons of bombs were dropped on rail installations in the Bangkok and Pyinmana areas. One plane was lost.

3. On 2 December, the British on the Chindwin front occupied Kalewa.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

4. That day, Japanese troops were reported to have moved northeast from French Indo-China, crossing the border into China and approaching Lungchou. By 3 December, in the area southeast of Kweiyang, the Japs had isolated a Chinese division 12 miles south of Tuhshan. Another Chinese division was in contact with the enemy at Pachai.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. During the four-day period 29 November - 2 December, more than 735 additional sorties were flown in the Southwest Pacific area. B-24's attacked airdromes on Palawan and Negros, dropping 244 tons. Lighter planes struck other airdromes, supported ground forces and attacked targets on Leyte. Operations reports confirmed the sinking of three freighters near Borneo (reported yesterday by communique) and listed the following additional shipping sunk: one freighter transport near Panay and one in Macassar Straits, one escort vessel and two coastal vessels near Borneo. Twenty-one enemy planes were destroyed. We lost two heavy bombers.

On 30 November four Jap planes raided Morotai destroying seven of our grounded planes and damaging 21 others.

On 3 December X Corps troops on Leyte continued to advance south on both sides of the Ormoc road, clearing enemy pockets in the rear of forward elements. Other troops destroyed a roadblock southeast of Mt. Catabaran and continued attacks against strong positions. The XXIV Corps neutralized a series of pillboxes on the south bank of the Palanas River and probed enemy positions for weak points. Our troops made gains on the east slopes of Mt. Lobi and continued to attack in the San Pedro area.



2. On 2 December, Iwo Jima air installations were bombed for the sixth consecutive day, this time by 26 B-24's which dropped more than 35 tons. Sixteen fighters attacked Rota and others Babelthuap.

EASTERN FRONT

On 4 December, in their drive southwest of Budapest, Soviet troops made extensive gains northward along a 70-mile front, approaching Lake Balaton. Yugoslav partisans captured the inland port of Knin.

GENERAL

Remaining elements of the 63rd and 70th Infantry Divisions have been ordered to ports of embarkation for movement to the European Theater. Headquarters detachments and infantry regiments are already en route.

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 1090

0700 December 3 to 0700 December 4, 1944

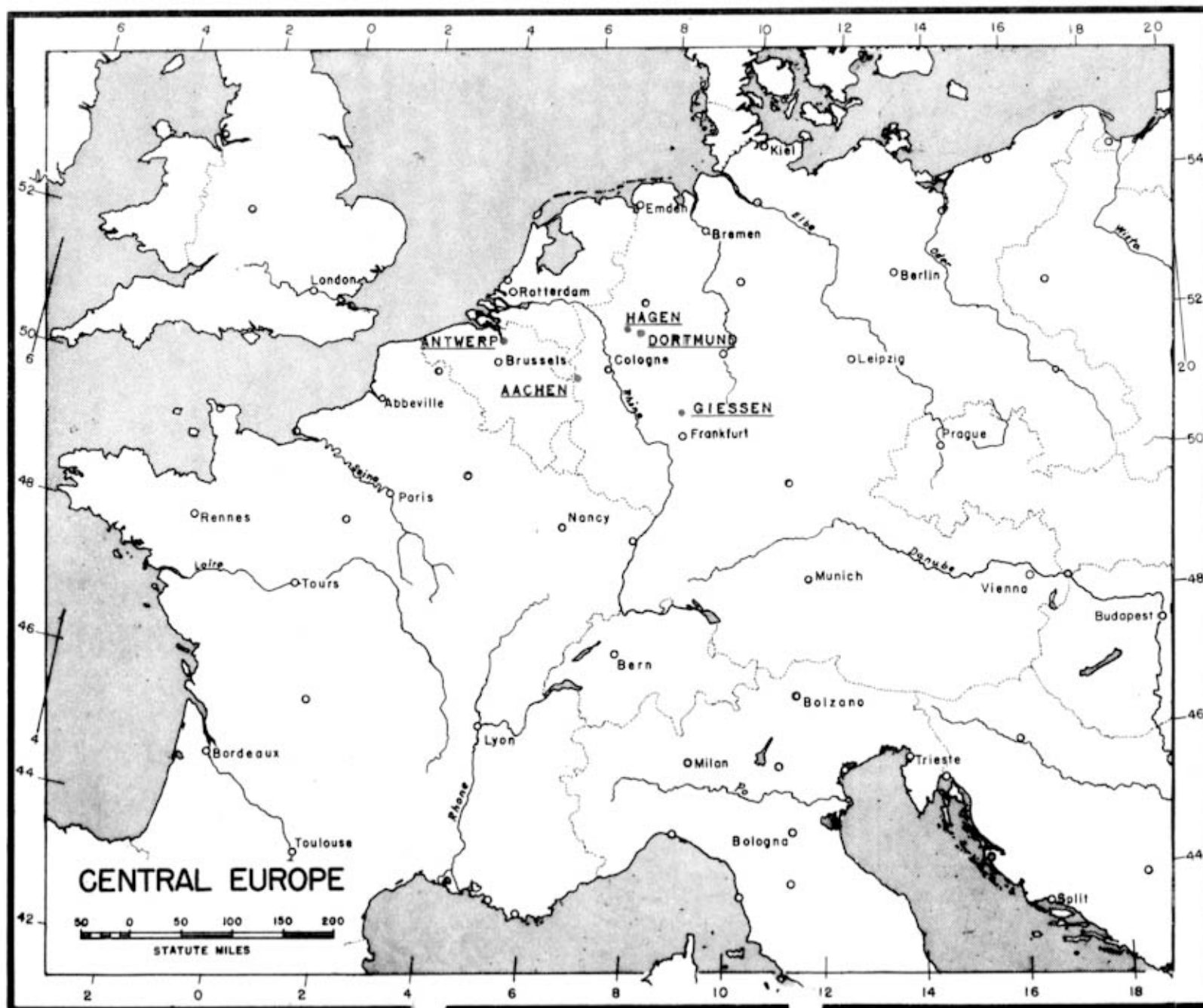
COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

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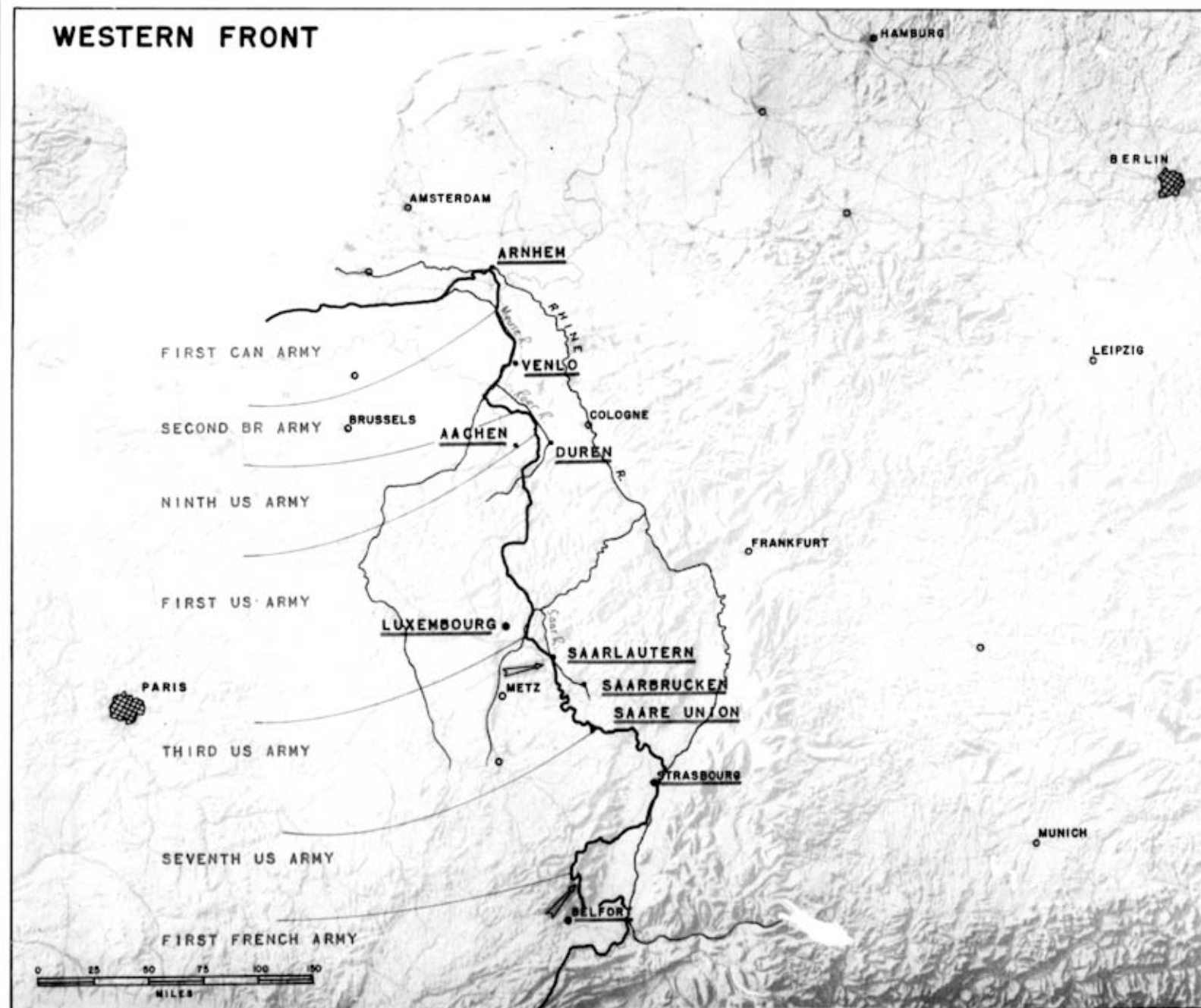
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WESTERN FRONT



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UNCLASSIFIED
Uob Letter, 5-8-72

WESTERN HEMISPHERE

Due to critical shortage of tires for operational use overseas theaters are being surveyed with a view to utilizing tires which have become excess because of curtailment of activities.

EUROPEAN THEATER

1. During the 24-hour period ending at sunset, 2 December, the Tactical Air Forces flew 1,801 bomber and fighter sorties. Nearly 800 tons of bombs were dropped on defended areas and bridges behind enemy lines and on strong points in the battle area. Eleven enemy planes were destroyed; we lost 28 aircraft.

On 2 December, the RAF dropped 533 tons on a Dortmund oil plant, and that night hit Hagen with 1,977 tons while 60 Mosquitoes attacked Giessen. Patrolling aircraft shot down two enemy planes and destroyed one on the ground. Two heavy bombers and a Mosquito were lost.

During the 24-hour period ending at 0600, 3 December, five rockets fell in England.

On 1 and 2 December, 26 additional flying bombs and three rockets landed on the Continent. Two bombs and two rockets hit Antwerp, one of the latter falling in the dock area. The remainder of the bombs fell in widely scattered areas behind our front west and south of Aachen.

2. In the 24 hours ending at noon, 3 December, the Canadian First Army was forced to withdraw about three miles in the area southwest of Arnhem after the enemy caused floods by breaching dikes along the Rhine.

3. British troops passed through the outer defenses west of

~~TOP SECRET~~

Venlo, reaching the Meuse; opposition was light although there was considerable enemy artillery fire.

There was no change on our Ninth Army front northeast of Aachen. The First Army made local advances against heavy opposition in its sectors northwest and southwest of Duren. The remainder of the First Army front south to Luxembourg was quiet. Our Third Army advanced to Saarlautern where, a communique reported, they have crossed the Saar River and are fighting in the eastern part of the town. Farther to the south, slight gains were made toward Saarbrucken. Saare-Union has been cleared.

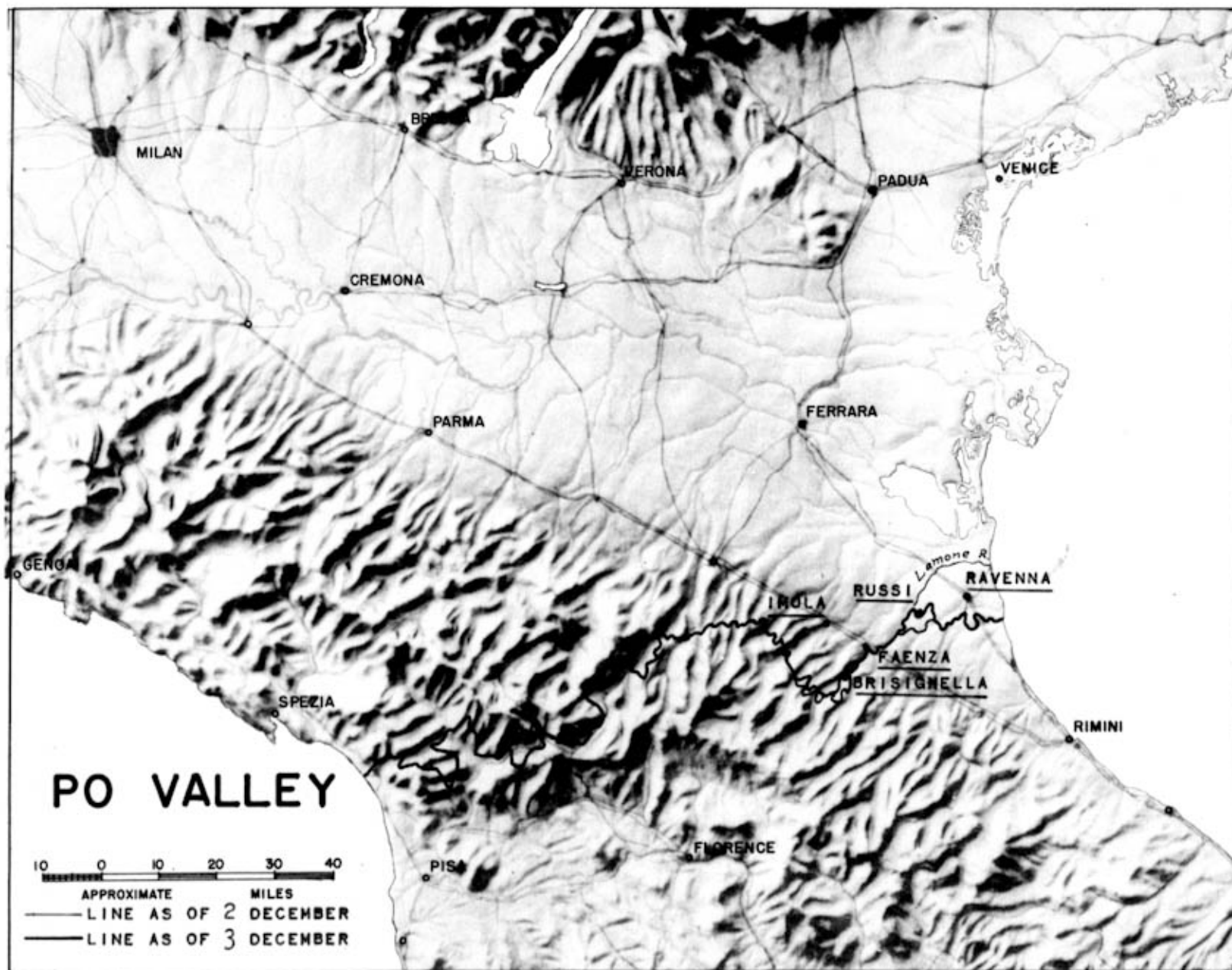
Our Seventh Army gained ground and consolidated its advances north and south of Strasbourg. The First French Army gained more than three miles on its front northeast of Belfort.

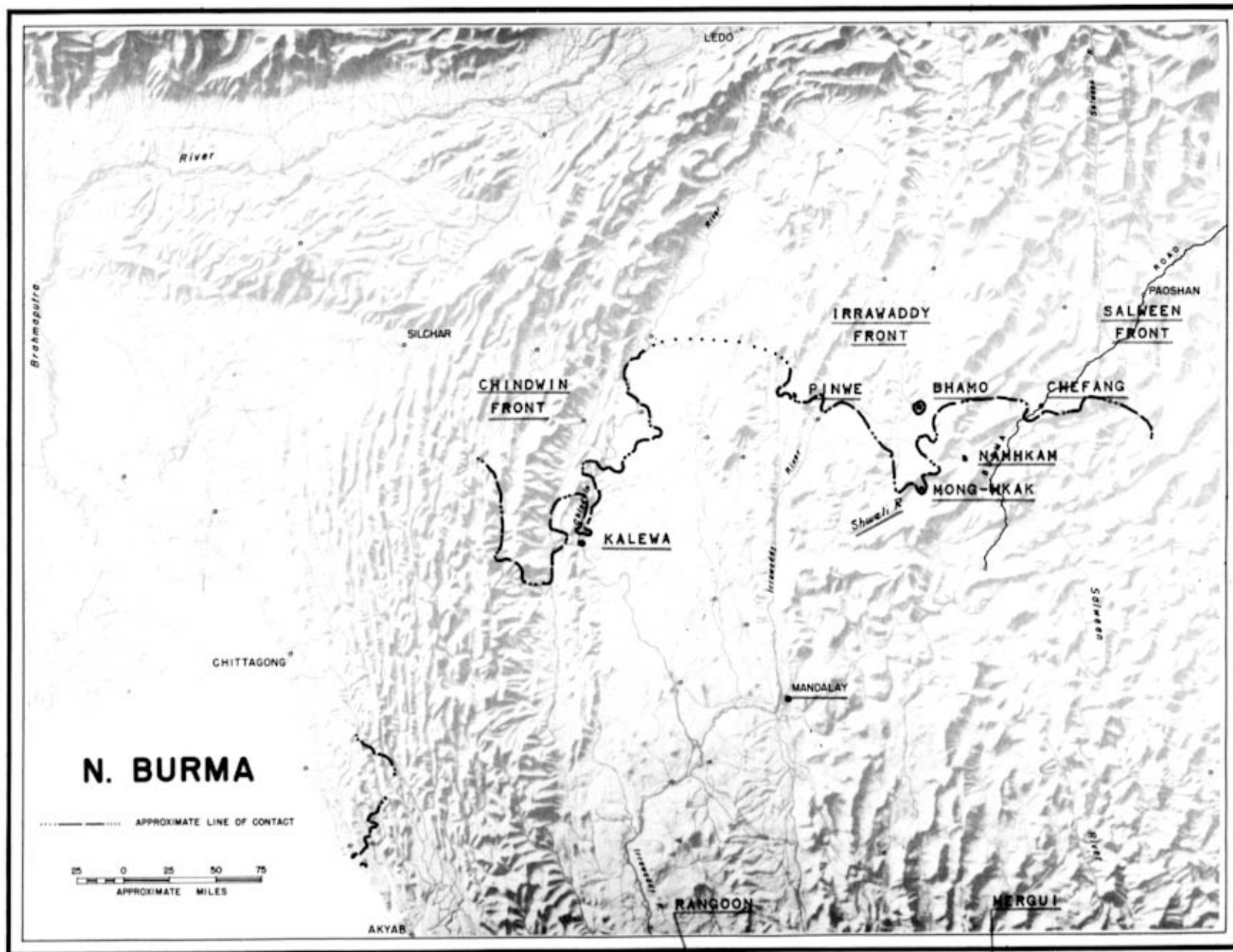
3. A large quantity of undamaged tank and pipe line equipment having been captured from the enemy, the War Department has directed the European Theater of Operations to investigate, together with the British, the possibility of returning a substantial quantity of this type of equipment, including some which had been shipped under Lend Lease, since critical shortages of such equipment exist in other theaters.

MEDITERRANEAN

1. During the 24-hour period ending at 1800 on 2 December, the Tactical Air Forces flew 1,375 sorties, of which 160 were flown by medium bombers attacking rail bridges and causeways, mainly on the Brenner route. Coastal and Balkan planes flew 194 sorties. One

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

enemy plane was destroyed; we lost three fighters and one light bomber.

On 3 December, escorted heavy bombers of the 15th Air Force dropped 160 tons on rail and industrial targets in Austria. Adverse weather limited the effort. Two bombers and one fighter are missing.

Further reports of 15th Air Force operations on 2 December reduce our heavy bomber losses to eight (instead of 15).

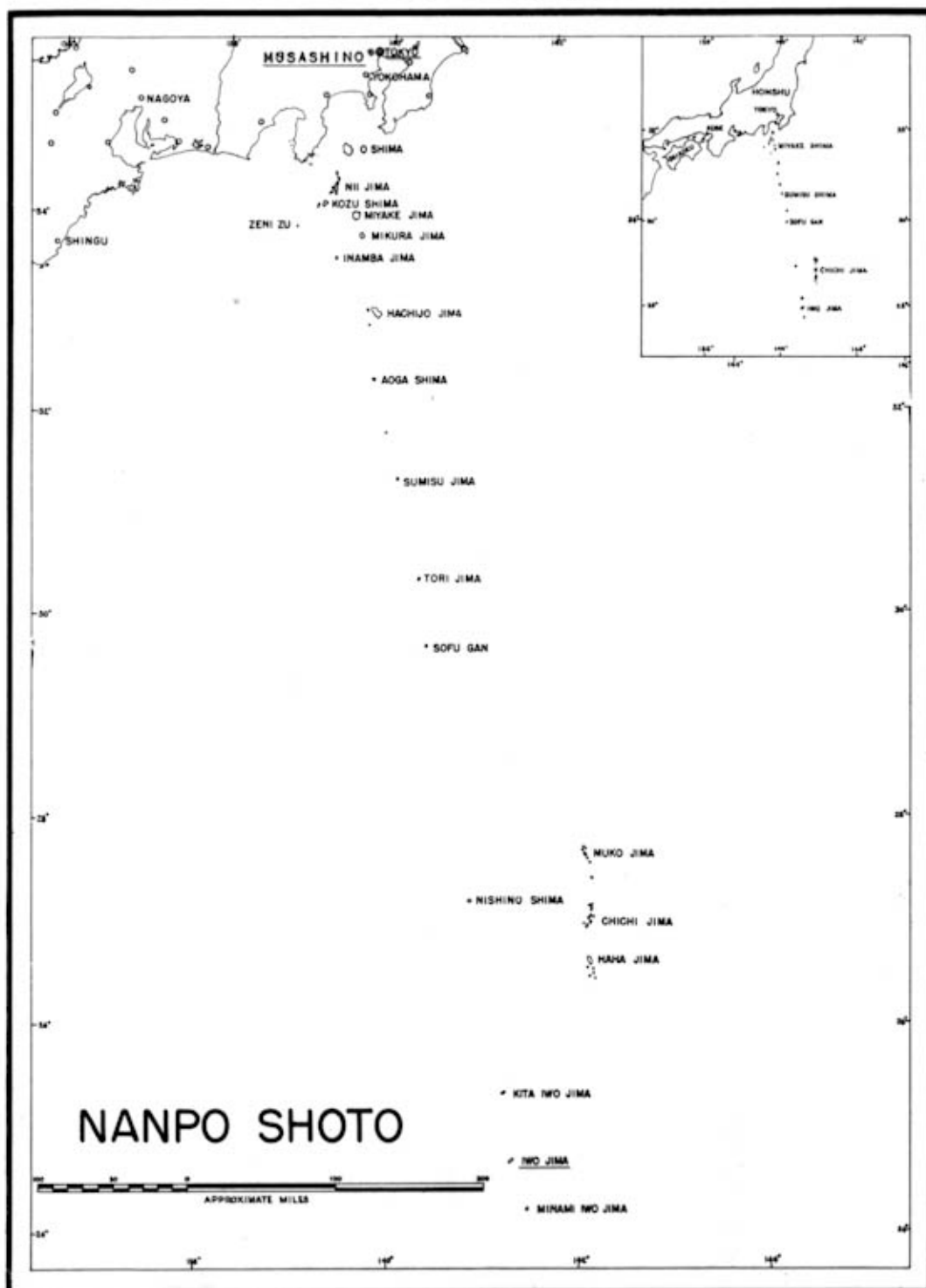
2. In the 30-hour period ending at noon 3 December the Fifth Army made local gains along 10 miles of its front south of Imola. An Eighth Army attack between Faenza and Ravenna advanced up to three miles along a six-mile front, by-passing Russi on the west and east; opposition was initially light but became fierce as the attack progressed. Air support was favored by good weather in this sector. Other Eighth Army troops reported Brisighella clear of the enemy and crossed the Lamone River northeast of the town.

ASIATIC THEATER

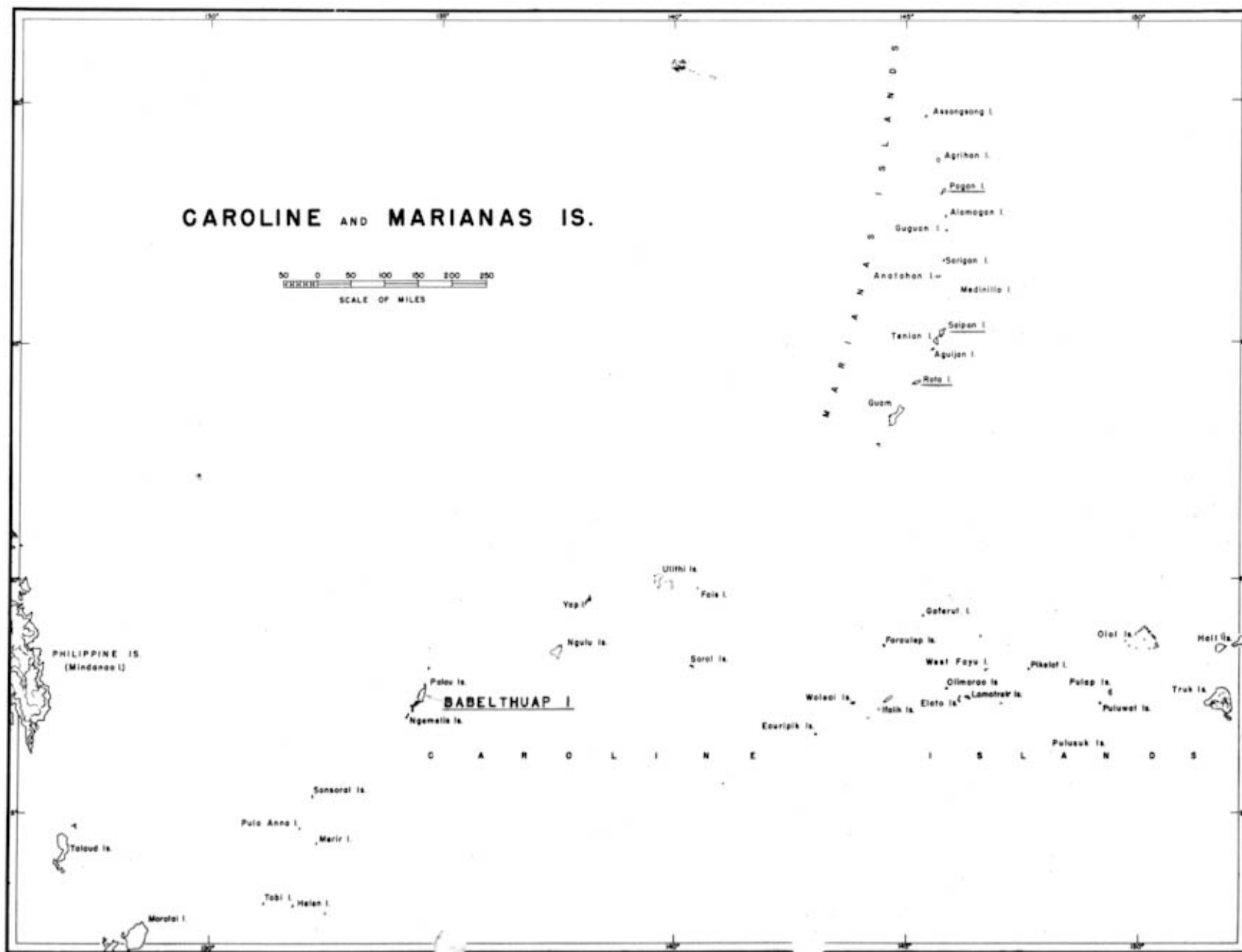
1. During 30 November and 1 December the Eastern Air Command reported 2,269 sorties of which 860 were tactical. Among these, 12 B-24's sank a small merchant vessel and attacked other shipping near Mergui, southern Burma; medium bombers attacked bridges and rail targets on the Salween and Chindwin River fronts and in the Mandalay area, while others attacked two rail stations north of Rangoon and bombed shipyards in northeastern French Indo-China.

2. By 2 December Allied troops on the Chindwin front were within two miles of Kalewa, while those advancing south along the Chindwin

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A horizontal scale bar labeled "SCALE OF MILES" at the bottom. The scale has major tick marks at 0, 50, 100, 150, 200, and 250. The segment between 0 and 50 is further divided into five smaller equal segments, each representing 10 miles.



River were three and five miles away on the west and east banks respectively. On the Irrawaddy front, Chinese troops moved eight miles along the Namhkam Road to a point 24 miles southeast of Bhamo. South of the Shweli River they occupied Mong-Hkak. On the Salween front, Chinese troops were eight miles southwest of Chefang.

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATER

No official report has been received from General MacArthur. His communique dated 4 December reports the sinking by patrol planes and bombers of three freighters (two of 1,000-tons, one of 3,000-tons) in two actions near Borneo.

Ground action on Leyte was limited by heavy rainfall to local attacks and patrolling.

PACIFIC THEATER

On 1 December, Iwo Jima was hit for the fifth consecutive day by B-24's which dropped 57 tons of bombs on airfields. Fighters attacked Pagan, Rota and Babelthuap. On 2 December, six medium bombers attacked Wake.

On 3 December, 70 B-29's from Saipan bombed the Nakajima airplane engine plant at Musashino, near Tokyo, seven others hit the Tokyo dock and industrial area, and two attacked Pagan. One B-29 was lost to enemy action, and four others were lost over the ocean while returning from the mission. About 40 enemy planes were encountered over the

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SD Letter, 5-8-72

primary target, of which we shot down four (probably 12). The weather was clear, with excellent visibility.

EASTERN FRONT

On 3 December the Soviets captured Miskolc in advances of five miles and more extending along a 30-mile front to the northeast; other gains were made along a similar front 20 miles farther north. The advance toward Lake Balaton continued northward on a front from Kaposvar to the Danube.

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GSD Letter, 5-3-72

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 1089

0700 December 2 to 0700 December 3, 1944

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THE WHITE HOUSE

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EUROPEAN THEATER

1. During the 24-hour period ending at sunset, 1 December, the Tactical Air Forces flew 1,417 sorties. Seven hundred and twenty-two of these were in direct support of ground forces; others dropped 260 tons of bombs on defended areas west of Saarbrücken. Five enemy planes were destroyed; we lost nine.

On 2 December, 250 bombers of the 8th Air Force, escorted by 550 fighters, attacked marshalling yards near Koblenz and Bingen. Preliminary figures are: 28 German planes shot down; 11 bombers and 8 fighters missing.

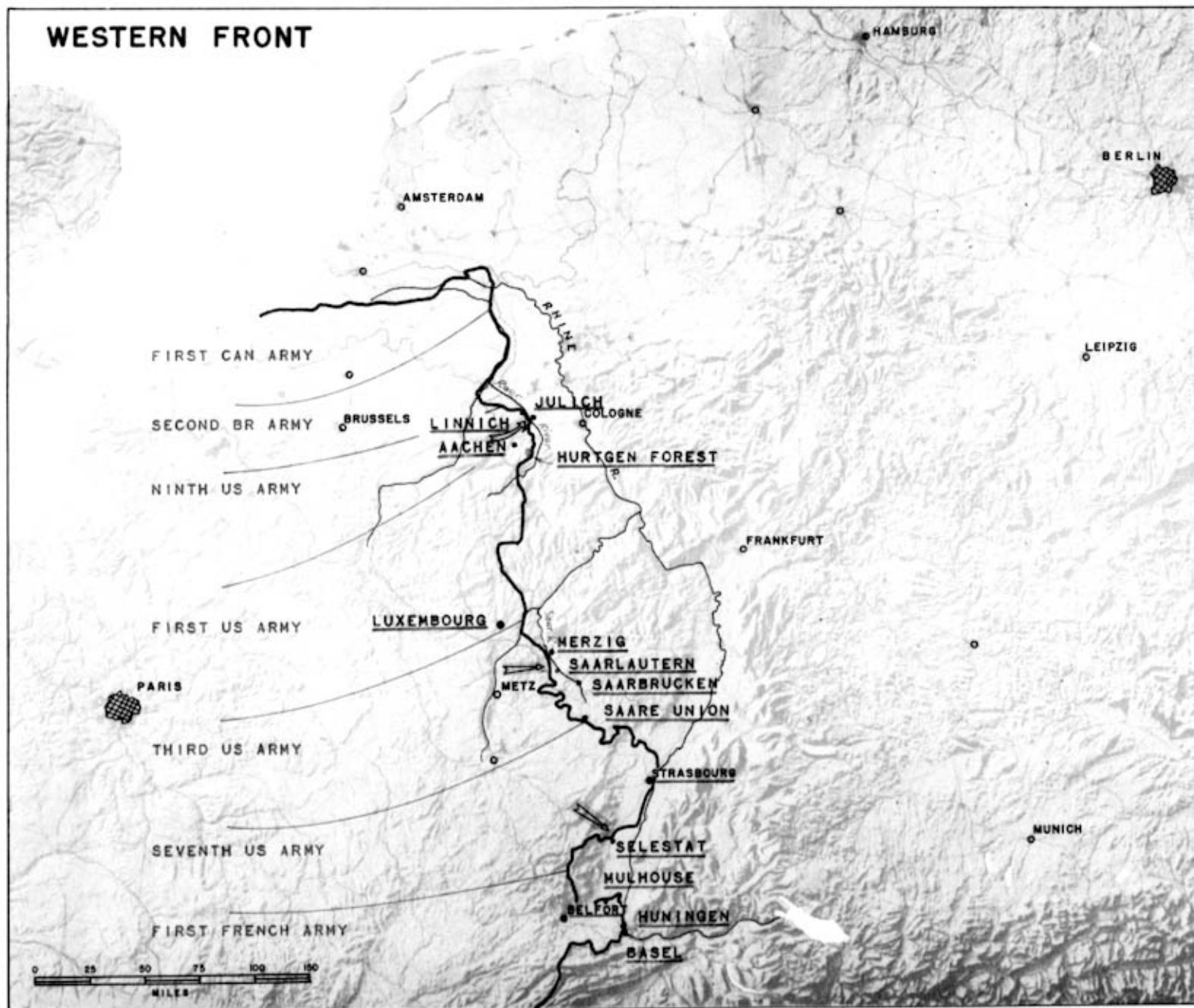
The night of 1-2 December, 78 RAF Mosquitoes attacked Karlsruhe and other targets in Germany.

During the 24-hour period ending at 0600 on 2 December, eleven rockets fell in England.

On 30 November-1 December, 38 additional flying bombs and five rockets fell on the Continent. More than half the bombs landed in sparsely settled areas well behind our front, west and south of Aachen. One bomb fell in enemy territory near our front line south of Saarbrücken and another landed just behind our lines in the same area. Six bombs and two rockets fell in Antwerp proper and a single bomb hit the center of Liege.

2. In the 24 hours ending at noon, 2 December, there was no change on the Canadian and British Army fronts.

WESTERN FRONT



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OSD Letter, 5-8-72

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OSD Letter, 5-3-72

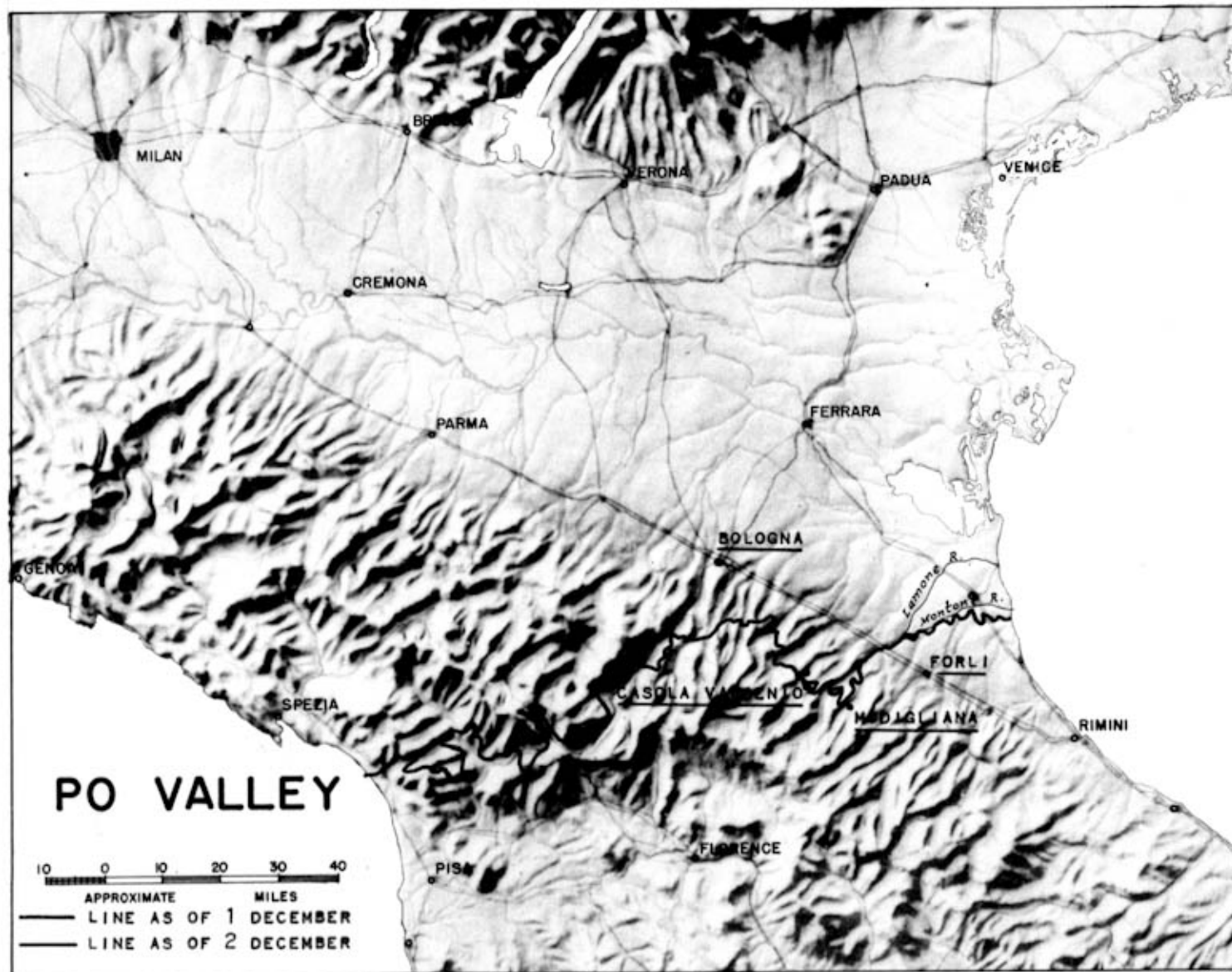
On our Ninth Army's left flank northeast of Aachen, the XIII Corps, in a general advance on a six-mile front, captured Linnich and several smaller towns on the west bank of the Roer River. Advances on the northern flank of the Corps sector were limited by opposition from dug-in tanks and pillboxes. The situation remained unchanged in the area southwest of Julich.

Our First Army's VII Corps cleared the northern tip of the Hurtgen Forest and approached a village in which US units had been isolated the previous day. On its southern flank, the Corps advanced more than half a mile, repulsing a strong counterattack during which enemy parties penetrated our lines temporarily. Adjacent units of the V Corps made minor gains over heavily mined terrain. The remainder of the Army front south to Luxembourg remained quiet.

Our Third Army advanced along a front of more than 20 miles in the XX Corps sector northeast of Metz; positions were extended along the Saar River west and south of Merzig and advance elements were within two miles of Saarlautern. South of Saarbrücken the XII Corps reached Saare-Union.

The Seventh Army's XV Corps made small gains north of Strasbourg. The VI Corps held the west bank of the Rhine at Strasbourg except at the northern tip of the city; all three Rhine bridges at Strasbourg were reported destroyed. To the southwest we advanced five miles to the outskirts of Selestat.

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The First French Army advanced more than three miles east along a 12-mile front north of Belfort, improved their positions on the northwestern edge of Mulhouse, and occupied Huningen. The enemy was reported still holding one bridgehead west of the Rhine midway between Mulhouse and Basel.

MEDITERRANEAN THEATER

1. On 1 December, adverse weather prevailed. The Tactical Air Force flew 586 sorties against bridges and communications in the Po Valley and along the Brenner route and a few close support targets on the Eighth Army front. A dam in the Brenner Pass was breached. Coastal and Balkan planes flew 69 sorties. Three fighters were lost.

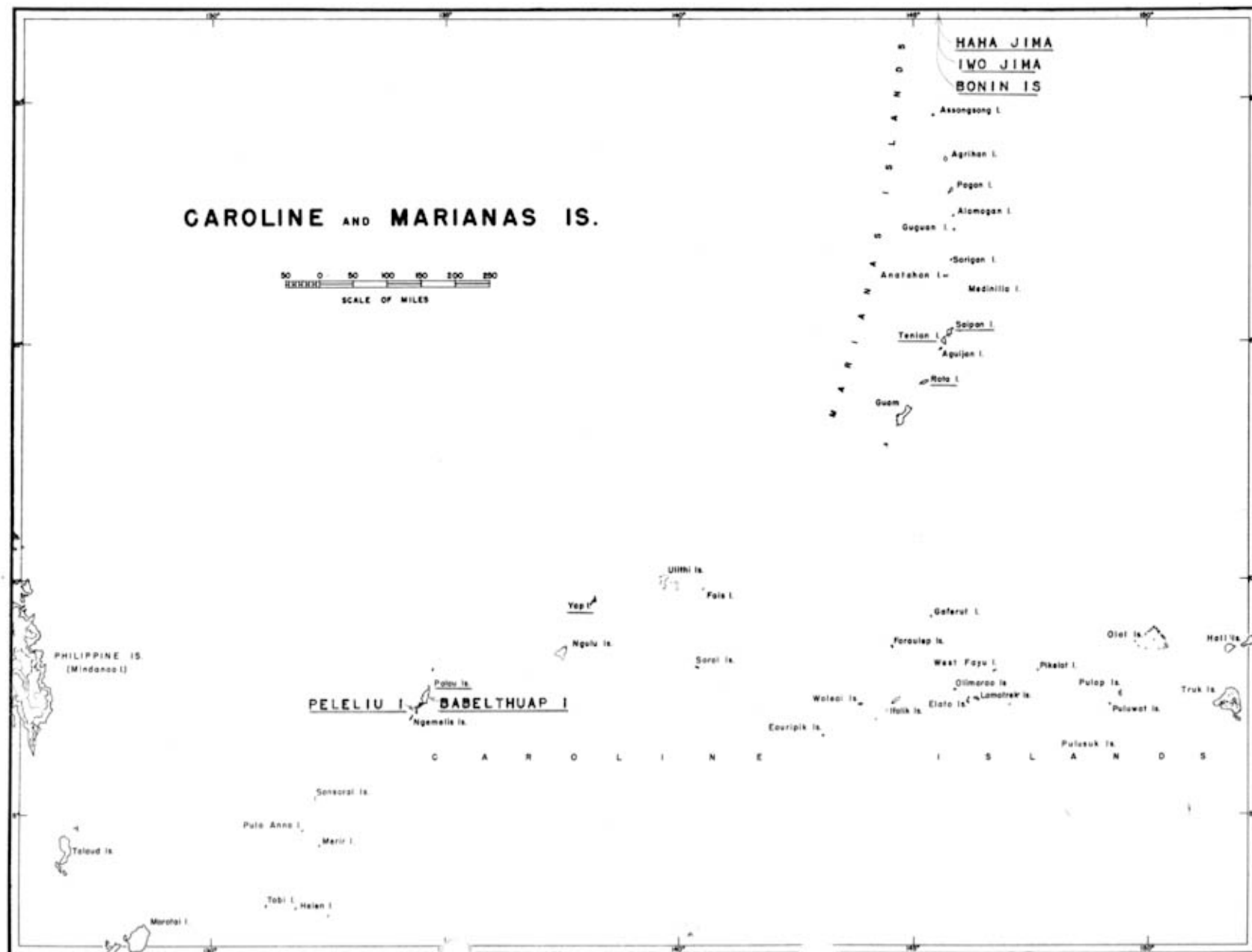
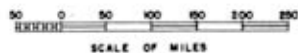
On 2 December, the 15th Air Force dropped 1,032 tons of bombs, principally on oil plants in the Vienna and Blechhammer areas. Fifteen bombers and one fighter are missing.

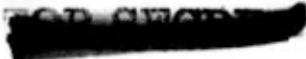
2. To 0600, 2 December, the Fifth Army front remained quiet from the Mediterranean to the sector south of Bologna. To the east, British troops of the Fifth Army made local advances to consolidate positions between Casola Valsenio and Modigliana. The Eighth Army continued to gain ground north of Forli between the Montone and Lamone Rivers.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. During 86 additional sorties reported for 30 November, 33 bombers hit airdromes on Mindanao and Luzon destroying several Jap planes,

CAROLINE AND MARIANAS IS.





16 fighters participated in attacks on shipping off Cebu, and other fighters shot down two planes; one fighter was lost.

2. On 1 December on northern Leyte the X Corps, to the southeast of Limon, made further advances south against determined enemy resistance. In central Leyte, the XXIV Corps reduced enemy positions in the mountains southwest of Dagami and patrols were operating in the areas to the northwest of Mt. Lobi. Other units of the Corps were in the Lake Danao area. Divisional artillery shelled Ormoc from positions on the Palanas River.

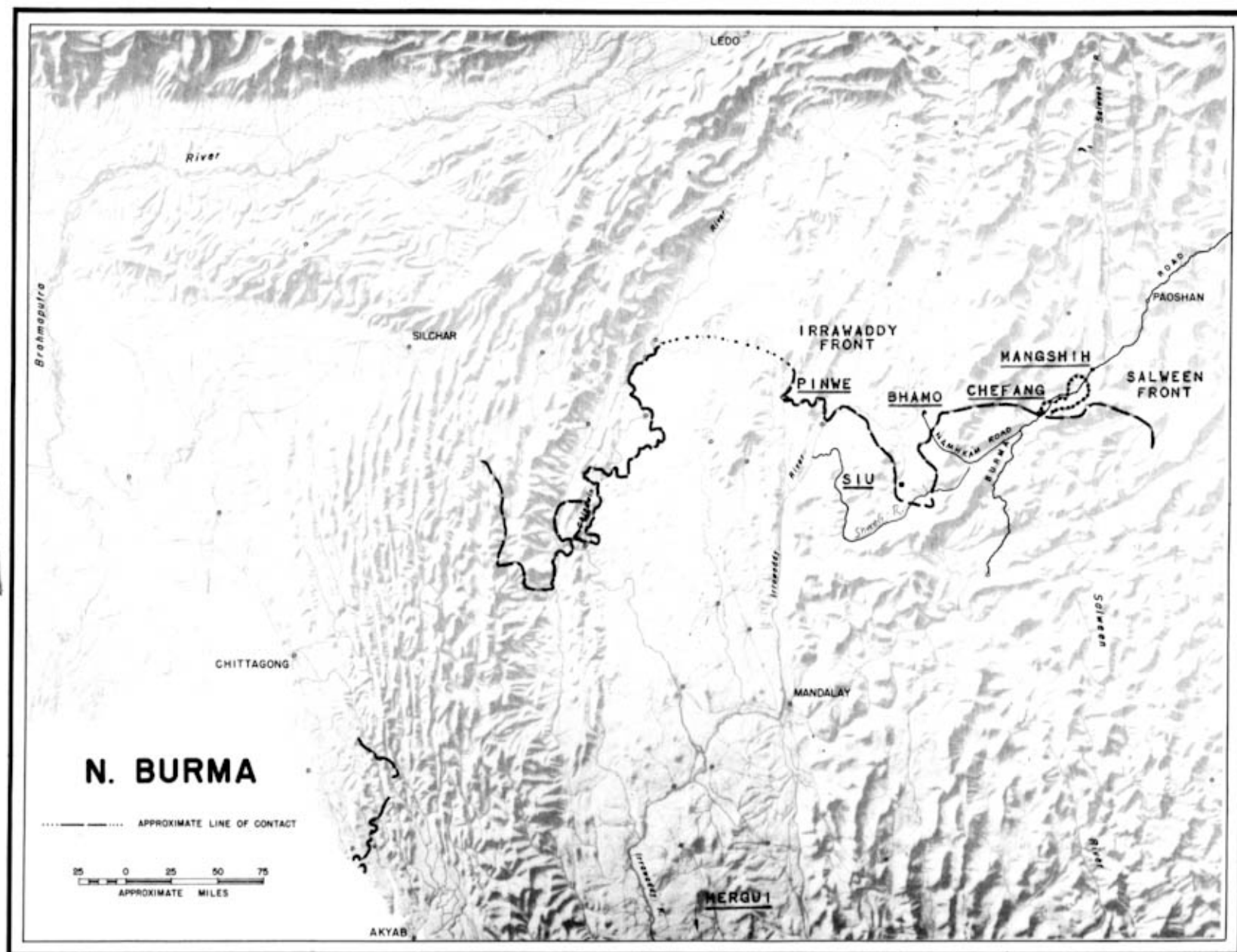
3. On 29 November, Iwo Jima air installations were hit by 29 B-24's and on 30 November by 25, making four consecutive days of attack. One Jap plane was destroyed. Other targets extended from Haha Jima to Babelthuap. We lost one medium bomber.

On 29 November, one enemy plane was shot down during attacks on our bases on Saipan and Tinian. We suffered no damage.

4. On 27 November, principal resistance ceased in the caves on Peleliu. Since 21 October, when the 81st Division began clean-up operations, 1,300 Japs have been killed and 142 taken prisoner. Our losses during this period were: 92 killed, 622 wounded, 5 missing.

ASIATIC THEATER

1. On 1 December, the 14th Air Force flew about 90 sorties. Heavy bombers attacked Fort Bayard (Luichow Peninsula), Hainan and the





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Kowloon docks; medium bomber and fighter sorties were flown over the Salween front.

On 27 November, 45 B-29's attacked Mergui harbor in southern Burma, in addition to those which attacked Bangkok that day.

2. On 30 November, on the Irrawaddy front, British troops occupied Pinwe without opposition. Farther to the east, Chinese troops continued the reduction of the isolated Japanese garrison within Bhamo while other elements reached a point approximately 16 miles south-east of the city along the Namhkam Road without opposition. In the salient south of Bhamo two Chinese companies crossed the Shweli River east of Siu.

On 1 December, Chinese troops on the Salween front occupied Chefang on the Burma Road southwest of Mangshih without opposition.

EASTERN FRONT

On 2 December, the Soviets made gains east of Kosice in Slovakia. In Hungary, they enlarged their Danube bridgehead north of Pecs, capturing Paks, and advancing 16 miles to Kaposvar.

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OSD Letter, 5-8-72

WAR DEPARTMENT

DAILY OPERATIONAL SUMMARY

No. 1088

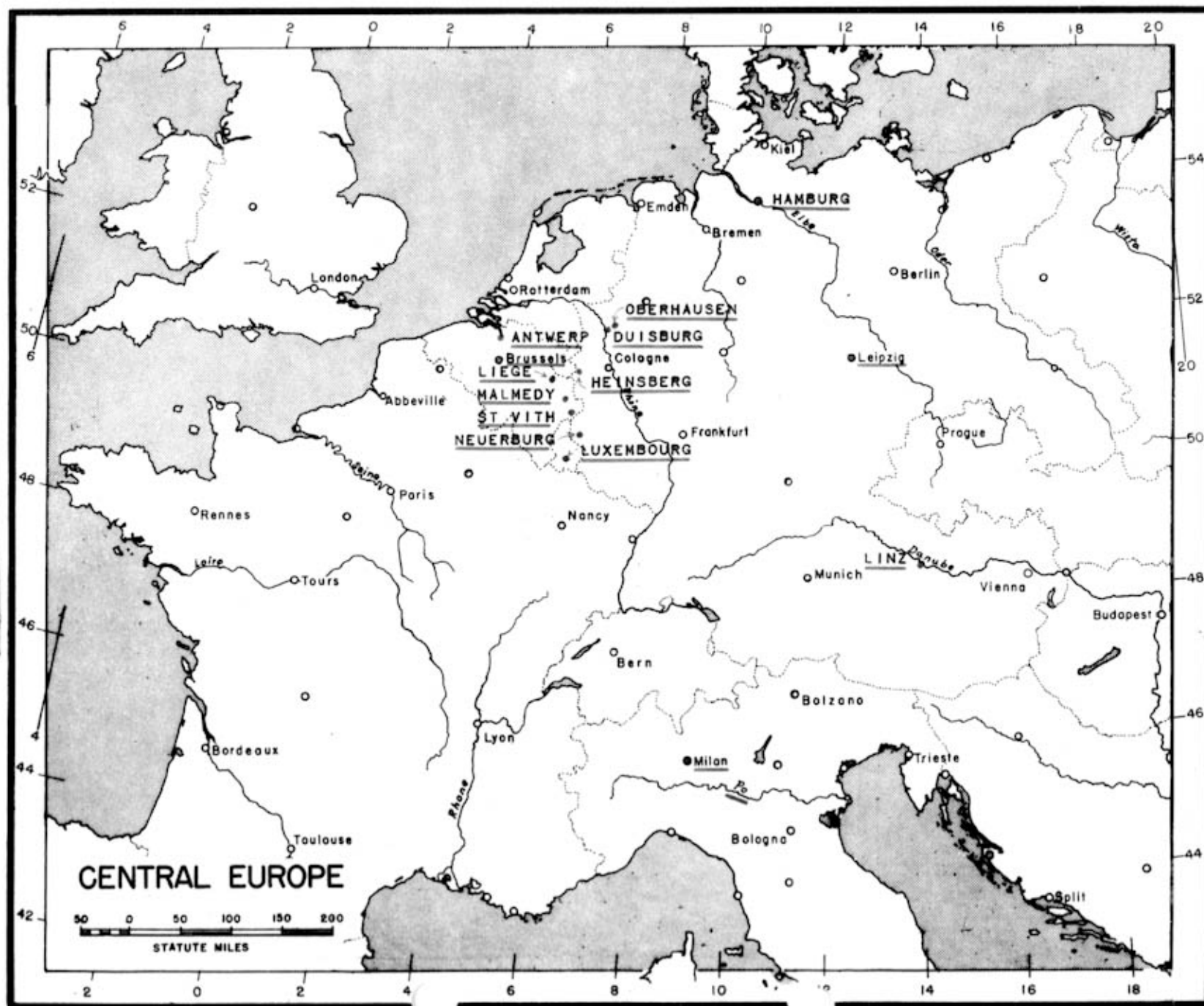
0700 December 1 to 0700 December 2, 1944

COPY FOR

THE WHITE HOUSE

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EUROPEAN THEATER

1. During the 24-hour period ending at sunset, 30 November, the Tactical Air Forces flew 2,001 sorties. Among these, 536 aircraft flew direct support over the battle area while others dropped 257 tons of bombs on defended villages in the German rear. Two bombers and three fighters were lost.

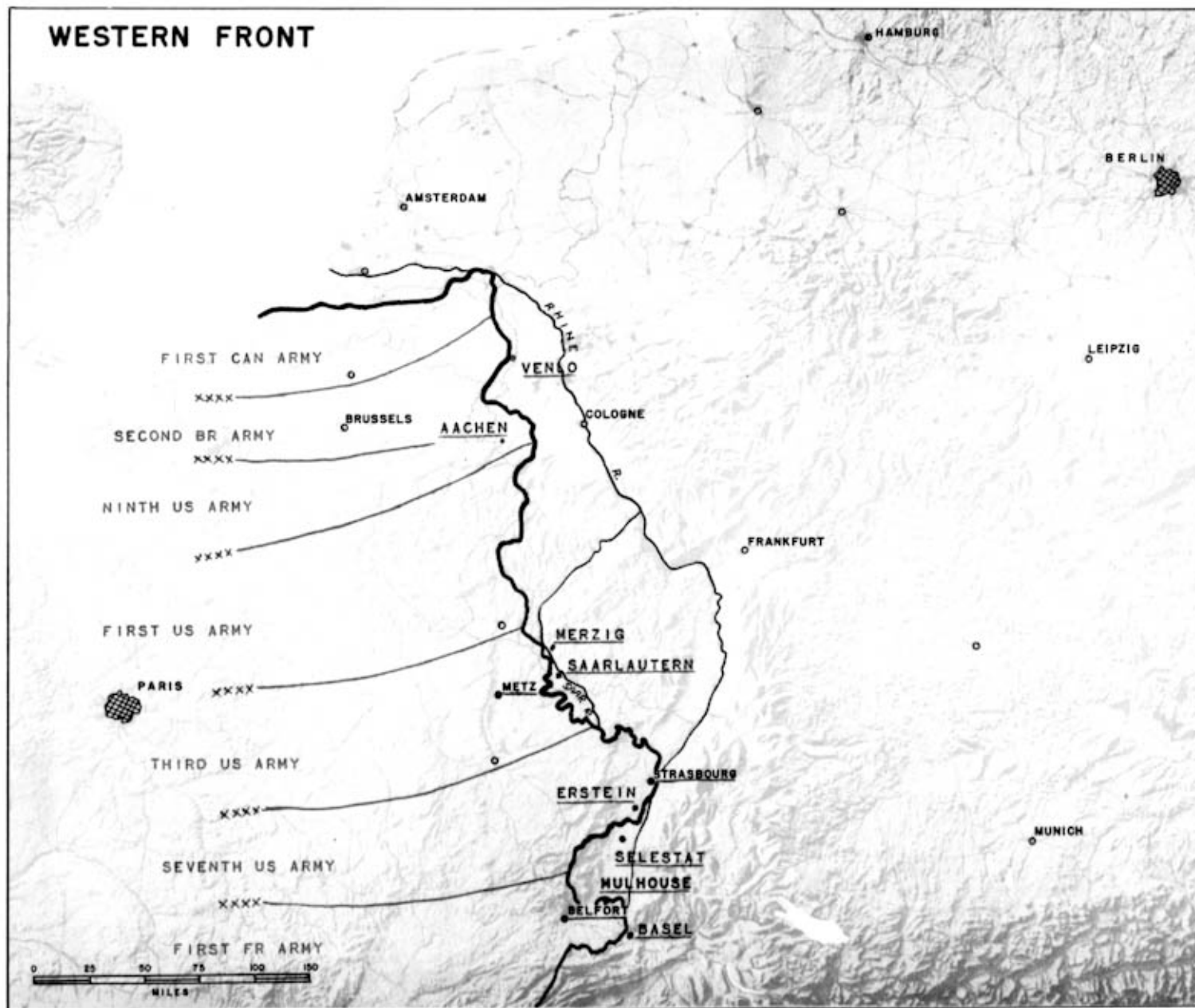
On 30 November, RAF heavy bombers dropped 686 tons on two coking plants near Oberhausen, and 37 Mosquitoes attacked an oil plant at Duisburg. That night, Duisburg was hit with 2,877 tons of bombs, and 57 Mosquitoes attacked Hamburg and vicinity. Two enemy planes were destroyed; two bombers were lost.

During operations on 30 November against targets in the Leipzig and other areas in Germany, the 8th Air Force dropped 3,417 tons of bombs. Revised losses reported by communique reduce the numbers of missing aircraft to 40 bombers and 13 fighters; eight of these fighters are believed safe in friendly territory.

During the 24-hour period ending at 0600 on 1 December, no rockets or flying bombs fell in England.

On 29 and 30 November, 57 additional flying bombs fell on the Continent, nearly half of them near Liege. Five additional rockets fell near Antwerp.

WESTERN FRONT



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OSD letter, 5-3-72

2. In the 24 hours ending at noon 1 December, the British made local gains north of Venlo.

On our Ninth and First Army fronts east of Aachen, advances were limited to minor gains in isolated sectors. Heavy opposition continued.

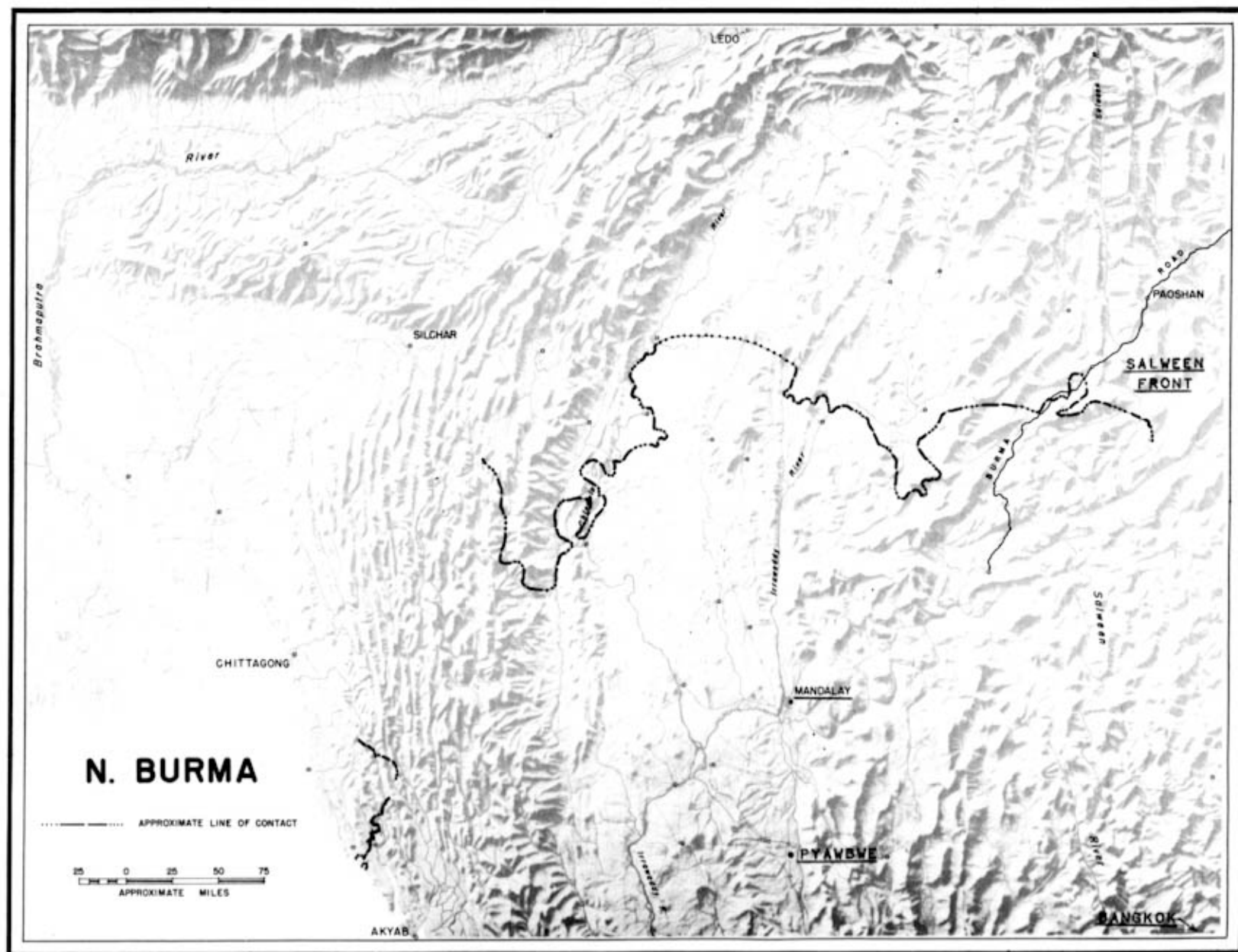
Our Third Army reached the Saar River at three points near Merzig and advanced to within three miles of Saarlautern.

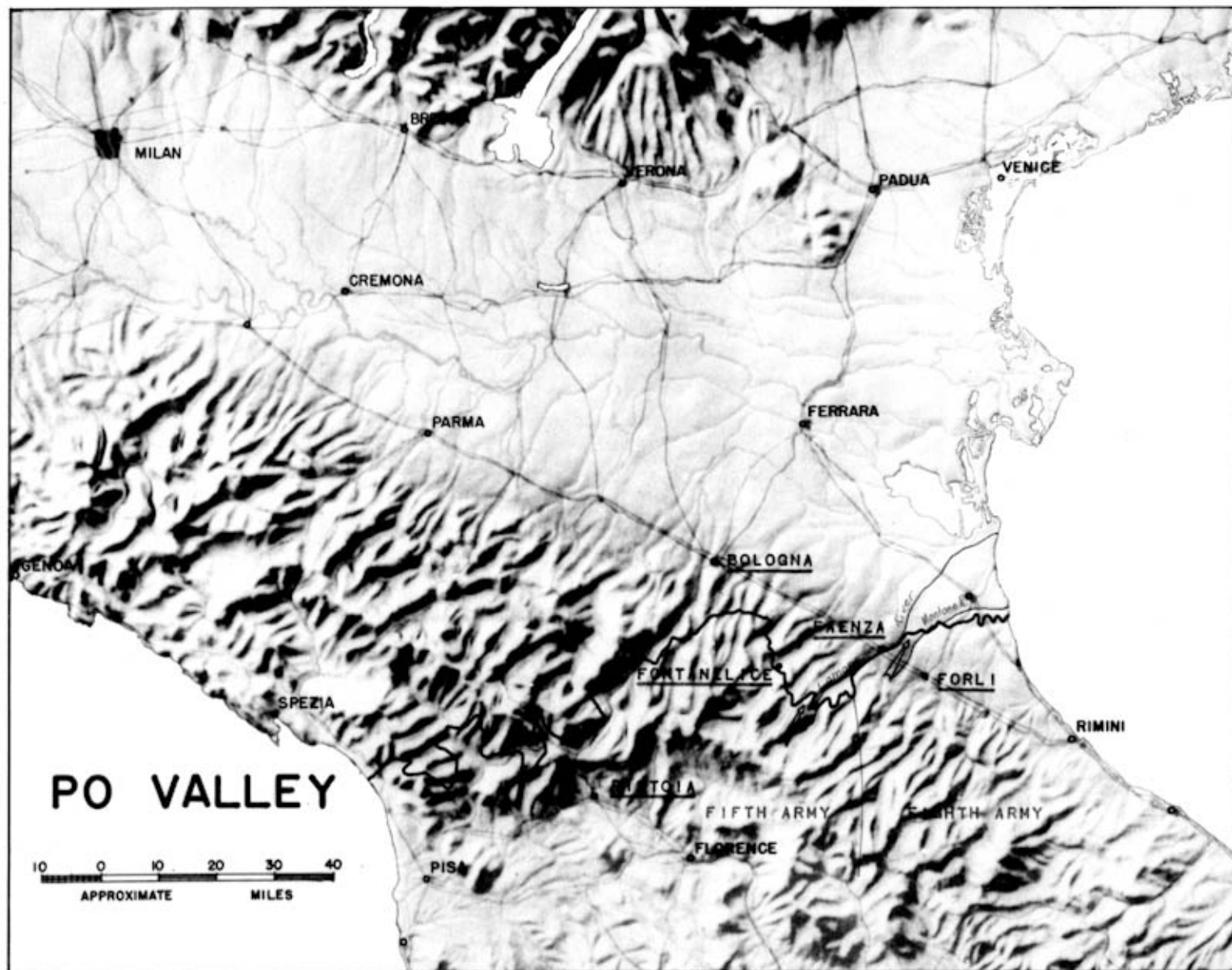
On the Seventh Army front, the XV Corps made minor gains to improve its positions north of Strasbourg, and attacked an enemy bridgehead in eastern Strasbourg. A French armored column advanced from Erstein more than five miles south along the Rhine, while other VI Corps units advanced on Selestat from the north and were within three miles of the city on the west.

The First French Army gained some ground northeast of Belfort and improved its positions along the Rhine east of Mulhouse and northwest of Basel.

MEDITERRANEAN

1. During the night of 29-30 November, 30 heavy bombers of the 15th Air Force made "Pathfinder" attacks on an oil plant at Linz and other targets in Austria and southern Germany. On 1 December, heavy bombers were grounded by the weather.





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DECLASSIFIED
OSD Letter, 5-3-72

During the 24-hour period ending at 1800 on 30 November, 37 medium bombers of the Tactical Air Force hit two railroad bridges east of Milan and 250 fighter bombers concentrated on rails and roads in the northern Po Valley. The Coastal and Balkan Air Forces flew 82 sorties, principally over northwestern Italy, Yugoslavia, and Albania. Weather hampered all operations. We lost four fighters.

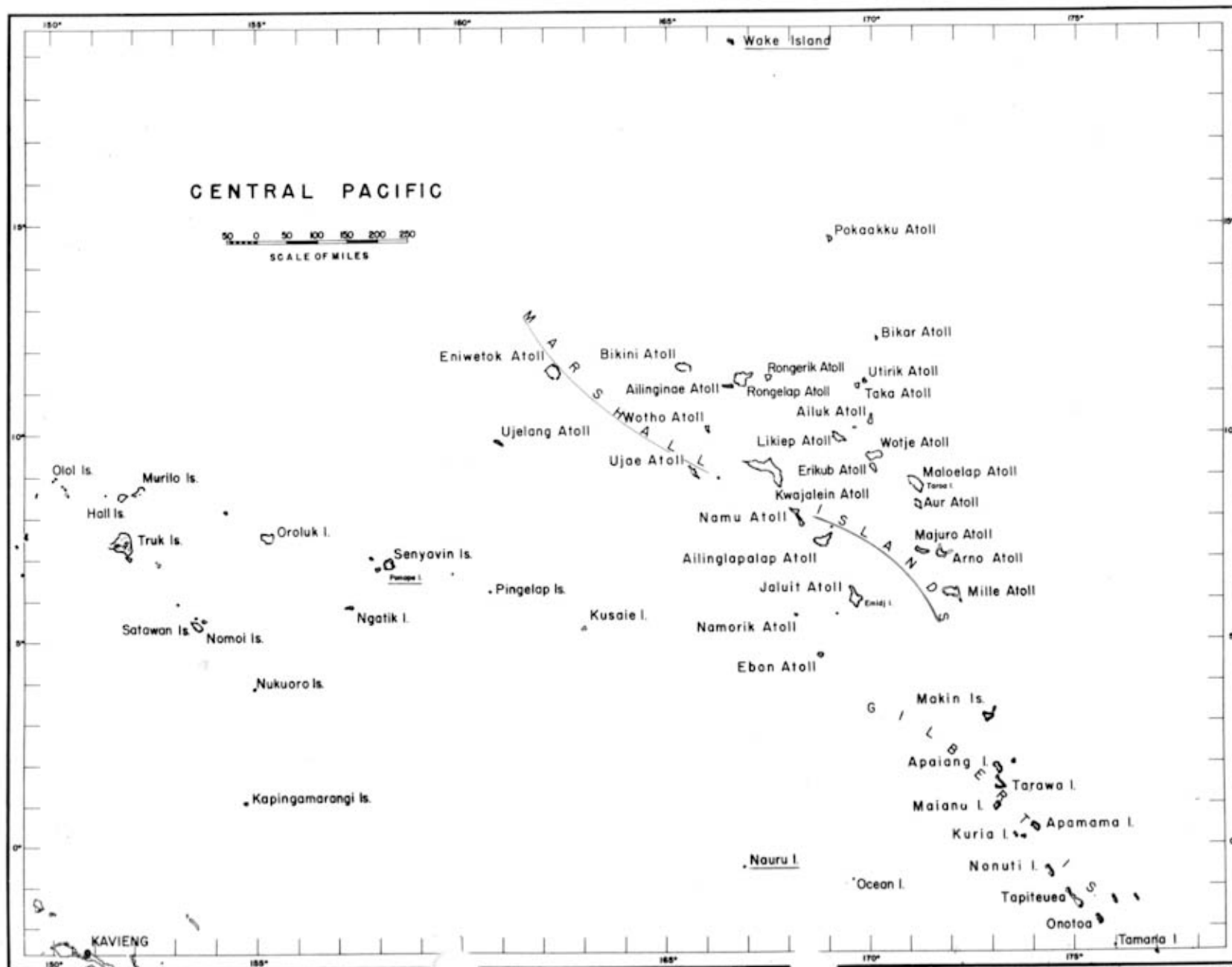
2. In the 24 hours ending at noon 1 December, Brazilian and British troops again repulsed enemy raids against our positions on the Fifth Army front north of Pistoia and southeast of Bologna. On the eastern flank of this front British troops consolidated their positions near Fontanelice; farther to the south, British Indian troops advanced more than three miles to occupy a hill position near the road leading northwest to Faenza. On the Eighth Army front, other Indian units advanced north of Forli to capture important enemy positions between the Montone and Lamone Rivers.

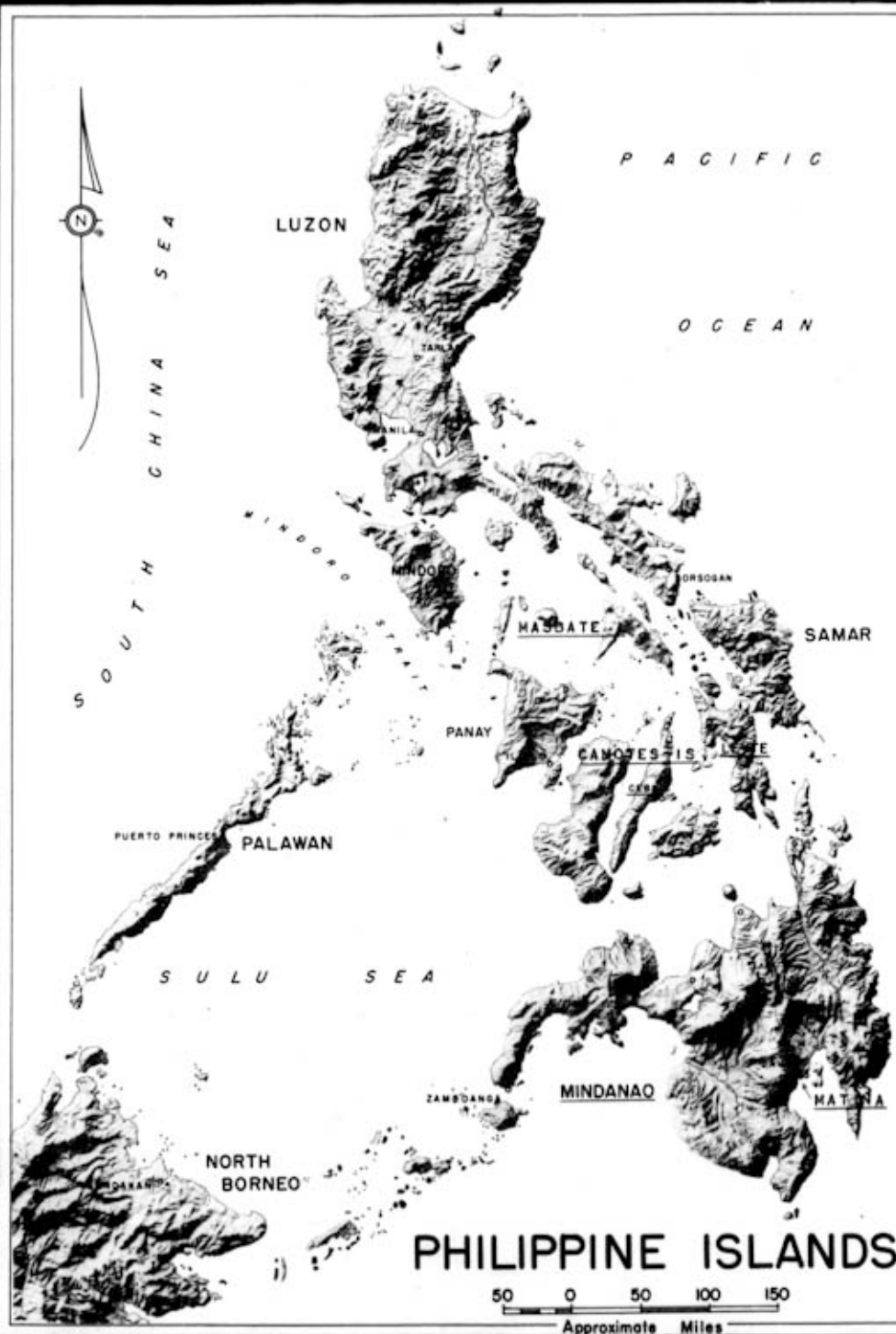
ASIATIC THEATER

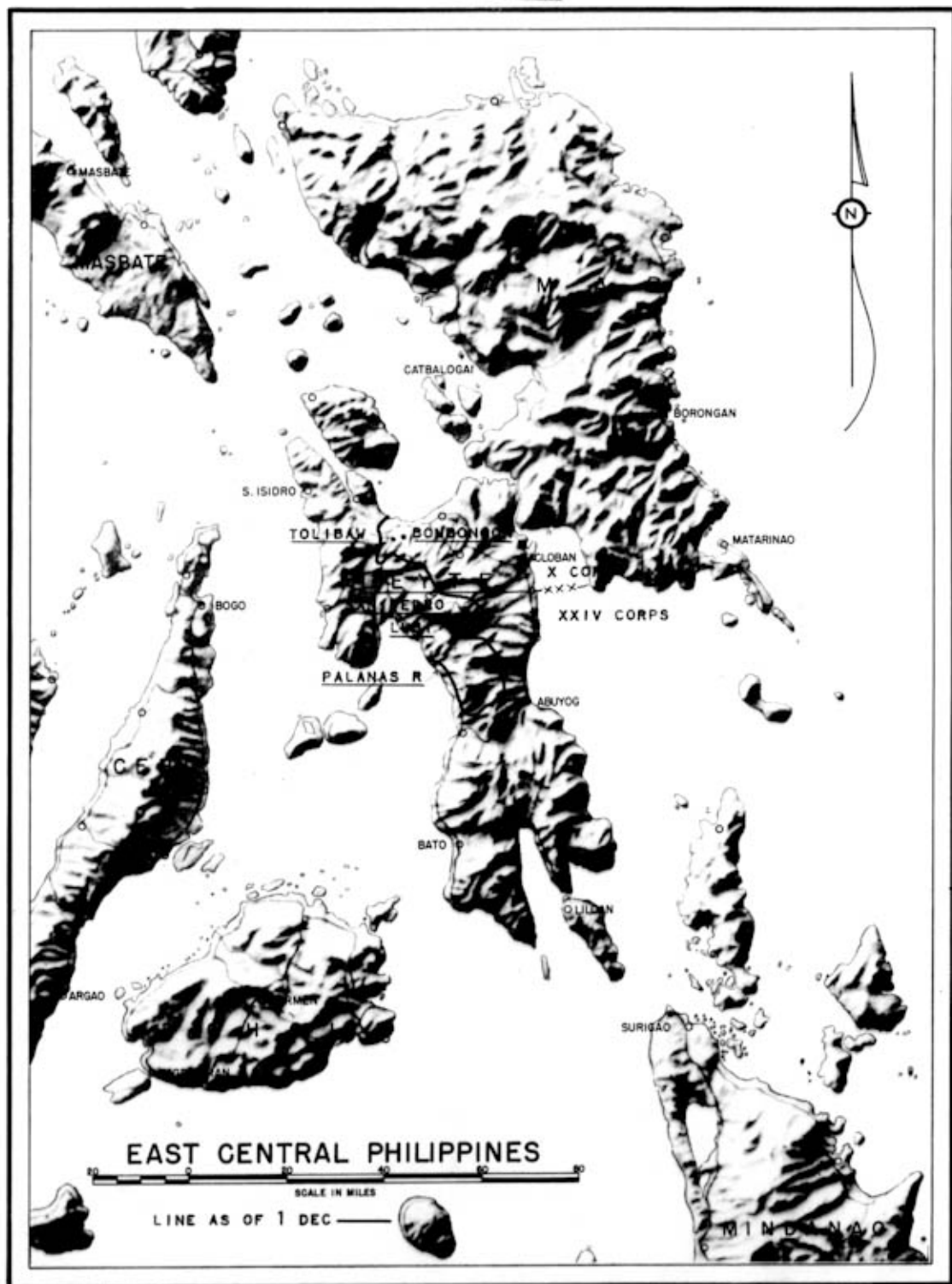
1. The 14th Air Force reported 55 offensive sorties on 29 November, 32 of them over the Salween front.

The same day the Eastern Air Command flew 1,042 sorties of which 461 were tactical. In these operations medium bombers attacked railroad installations in the Mandalay and Pyawbwe areas and fighters

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supported ground operations throughout Burma. During 29-30 November, 15 Liberators hit Bangkok.

PACIFIC AND SOUTHWEST PACIFIC THEATERS

1. On 28 November, 47 Solomons-based fighters and medium bombers attacked targets on New Ireland, and 103 fighters demolished buildings and swept motor traffic on the Gazelle Peninsula of New Britain.

On 29 November, 16 B-24's bombed Matina airdrome on Mindanao, destroying two Jap bombers. Sixteen fighters swept Cebu and the Camotes Islands. Sixty seven sorties were reported for 30 November; these included 26 against Jap shipping in the Masbate-Cebu area and 18 by heavy bombers over Celebes where three Jap bombers were destroyed at an airdrome.

By 30 November, the X Corps was converging on enemy positions in the vicinity of Tolibaw and Bonbongon. In central Leyte, the XXIV Corps continued to reinforce the Palanas River area and repulsed several enemy attacks in that sector. Resistance was encountered north-east of Lubi in the San Pedro area.

2. On 28 November, Navy fighters and medium bombers attacked Nauru. On 29 November, more than 80 Navy fighters and medium bombers hit Wake, Ponape and targets in the Marshalls.



EASTERN FRONT

On 1 December, Soviet attempts to cross the Danube at Kalocsa were repelled. North of Pecs the Red Army continued to advance toward Lake Balaton. In the Balkans, Novi Pazar was occupied by Bulgarian troops and Scutari was reported evacuated by the Germans. The Soviets continued to advance in western Slovakia.

GENERAL

1. The remaining elements of the 42nd and 76th Infantry Divisions have been ordered from their home stations to ports of embarkation for movement to the European Theater. Elements previously ordered were headquarters detachments and Infantry regiments.

2. General Eisenhower reports that an US-British-French agreement, retroactive to 6 June 1944, has been reached for the handling of tort and related claims against US-British forces in France (excluding damage from action by or against the enemy, which in no case will be charged to the British or US).

British-US responsibility will include payment of French claims arising out of criminal acts by our respective personnel. Claims for property damage, traffic accidents and other civil matters arising from our occupancy will be paid by the French as reciprocal aid. In traffic accidents involving damage to government property of the respective governments, each will bear its own losses.