



COMBAT CHRONOLOGY OF THE US ARMY AIR FORCES

2 August 1939

In his letter on this date to President Roosevelt suggesting that an atomic bomb be developed, Albert Einstein feared that the bomb might very well prove too heavy for transport by air.

29 January 1940

Air Corps requirement issued for a heavy, four engine airplane that can fly at a speed of 400 mph, with a range of at least 5,333 miles carrying a bomb load of one ton.

8 September 1940

Boeing receives contract for two (later three) Model 345 bombers, designated XB-29, plus a test aircraft.

21 September 1942

The first XB-29 (41-0002) flew on September 21, 1942 at Boeing Field, Boeing's chief test pilot Edmund T. "Eddie" Allen being at the controls.

18 February 1943

The second XB-29 flew again on February 18, 1943, but an inextinguishable engine fire broke out just eight minutes into the flight, forcing an emergency return to the field. While attempting to land at Boeing Field, the fire burned through the main wing spars and caused the wing to buckle. The burning XB-29 plunged into the nearby Frye Meat Packing Plant factory, killing test pilot Eddie Allen and everyone else aboard, plus about 20 workers on the ground.

15 April 1943

The first YB-29 (41-36954) left the production line at Wichita on April 15, 1943, flying for the first time on June 26, 1943.

1 June 1943

The first B-29 combat unit, the 58th (Very Heavy) Bombardment Wing, was activated at Marietta, Georgia in advance of delivery of the first YB-29s. By July, seven YB-29s had been delivered to the USAAF and were used to equip new training squadrons.

15 September 1943

On September 15, 1943, the headquarters of the 58th BW was moved to Salina, Kansas, with some of its groups near the Wichita factory. The first Superfortress wing initially had

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5 groups (the 40th, 444th, 462nd, 468th and 472nd Bombardment Groups). The 472nd BG was destined to remain at Smoky Hill Field, Salina as an operational training unit, and the others were to be deployed to India.

22 November 1943

In Egypt...the Cairo Conference begins. Roosevelt, Churchill and Chaing Kai-shek meet. Discussions center on plans for Burma and China.

23 November 1943

In Egypt...the Cairo Conference continues. Roosevelt, Churchill and Chaing Kai-shek meet

24 November 1943

In Egypt...the Cairo Conference continues. Roosevelt, Churchill and Chaing Kai-shek meet.

25 November 1943

In Egypt...the Cairo Conference ends. Roosevelt, Churchill and Chaing Kai-shek meet. No major decisions are reached. No attempt is made to prepare a joint Anglo-American approach for the coming Teheran meeting with Stalin.

27 November 1943

Alarmed at the slow pace of bringing adequate numbers of Superfortresses into service, on November 27, 1943, General Arnold set up a new organization to take responsibility for the overall control of the Superfortress units. This was to be the XX Bomber Command, to be commanded by General Wolfe. The XX Bomber Command would consist of the 58th Bombardment Wing (the command of which was transferred from Wolfe to his deputy, Col. Leonard (Jake) Harmon). The 58th BW was to initially be comprised of five groups (40th, 444th, 462nd, 468th and 472nd Bombardment Groups). At the same time, a new wing, the 73rd, to be commanded by Colonel Thomas H. Chapman, was added to the XX Bomber Command with four more groups to absorb the second batch of 150 Superfortresses.

13 January 1944

General Wolfe arrives in India to oversee the construction of airfields in India and China.

27 January 1944

From Sydney, London and Washington...The governments of Australia, Britain and the United States protest the Japanese treatment of prisoners of war. They indicate a determination to investigate and punish those responsible



23 February 1944

In the Mariana Islands...American aircraft raid Rota, Tinian and Saipan. The US forces are from Task Group 58.3 (Sherman) and Task Group 58.2 (Montgomery). The attack sinks 20,000 tons of Japanese shipping

28 February 1944

The first drop tests using dummy bombs were carried out at Muroc, California. These lead to the fitting of an entirely new suspension mechanism to the B-29.

10 March 1944

The "Battle of Kansas" begins. To make 175 B-29s ready for military service on time, 600 workers at the Wichita plant work around the clock for four weeks during bitter winter weather.

28 March 1944

The headquarters of the XX Bomber Command had been established at Kharagpur, India on March 28, 1944 under the command of General Wolfe.

2 April 1944

STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (XX Bomber Command): First operational B-29, piloted by Colonel Leonard F Harman, lands at Chakulia, India.

The first B-29 reached its base in India on April 2, 1944. In India, existing airfields at Kharagpur, Chakulia, Piardoba and Dudkhundi had been converted for B-29 use. All of these bases were located in southern Bengal and were not far from port facilities at Calcutta.

4 April 1944

AMERICAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS

ZONE OF INTERIOR: HQ Twentieth Air Force is activated in Washington, DC.

The 20th Air Force would carry out the aerial assault against Japan. This was done at the insistence of General Arnold himself, mainly to avoid having the B-29s being diverted to tactical missions under pressure from CBI Theatre commanders such as Major General Claire L. Chennault or General Joseph Stilwell. The 20th Air Force would be commanded by General Arnold himself at JCS level. The 20th Air Force would be completely autonomous and their B-29s would be completely independent of other command structures and would be dedicated exclusively against strategic targets in Japan.

6 April 1944

AMERICAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS



ZONE OF INTERIOR: General of the Army Henry H "Hap" Arnold assumes command of the Twentieth Air Force at Washington, DC where HQ will remain until July 45. Chief of Staff is Brigadier General Haywood S Hansell, Jr. (currently Deputy Chief of Air Staff), with Colonel Cecil E Combs as his deputy for operations.

7 April 1944

STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (XX Bomber Command): HQ 462nd Bombardment Group (Very Heavy) arrives at Piardoba, India from the US.

10 April 1944

AMERICAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS

STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (XX Bomber Command): The Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) informally approve Operation MATTERHORN, the plan for the bombing of Japan by B-29s based in the Calcutta, India area and staging through advanced fields in the Chengtu, China area, which had been approved in principle by President Franklin D Roosevelt on 10 Nov 43. The operational vehicle is to be the 58th Bombardment Wing (Very Heavy) (4 bombardment groups) of the XX

Bomber Command, soon to be assigned to the newly activated Twentieth Air Force, operating under General of the Army Henry H "Hap" Arnold as executive agent for the JCS.

11 April 1944

STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (XX Bomber Command): Units arriving in India from the US: HQ 444th Bombardment Group (Very Heavy) and 676th Bombardment Squadron (Very Heavy) at Charra with B-29s (first mission is 5 June); and 25th Bombardment Squadron (Very Heavy), 40th Bombardment Group (Very Heavy), at Chakulia with B-29s (first mission is 5 June).

13 April 1944

STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (XX Bomber Command): Units arriving in India with B-29s from the US: HQ 468th Bombardment Group (Very Heavy) and 792nd, 793rd, 794th and 795th Bombardment Squadrons (Very Heavy) at Kharagpur; 677th and 679th Bombardment Squadrons (Very Heavy), 444th Bombardment Group (Very Heavy), at Charra; first mission for all units is 5 June 44.

16 April 1944

CHINA-BURMA-INDIA (CBI) THEATER OF OPERATIONS

STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (XX Bomber Command): 768th Bombardment Squadron (Very Heavy), 462nd Bombardment Group (Very Heavy), arrives at Piardoba, India with B-29s; first mission is 5 June.



19 April 1944

STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (Twentieth Air Force): XX Bomber Command is assigned to HQ Twentieth Air Force.

769th and 770th Bombardment Squadrons (Very Heavy), 462nd Bombardment Group (Very Heavy), arrive at Piardoba, India from the US with B-29s; first mission is 5 June.

23 April 1944

STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (Twentieth Air Force): HQ 58th Bombardment Wing (Very Heavy) moves from Chakulia to Kharagpur, India.

24 April 1944

STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (Twentieth Air Force): A B-29 piloted by Brigadier General Laverne Saunders, Commanding General 58th Bombardment Wing (Very Heavy), arrives at Kwanghan, China. Accompanying the B-29 is another carrying Major General Kenneth B Wolfe, Commanding General XX Bomber Command. These are the first B-29s to fly over the Hump to China.

26 April 1944

STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (Twentieth Air Force): Japanese fighters make their first interception of B-29s as they are flying over the Hump; the brief confrontation results in no losses on either side

1 May 1944

AMERICAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS

STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (Twentieth Air Force): By this date all 4 B-29 fields in the Chengtu, China area are open to B-29 traffic.

3 May 1944

In the United States...The production of synthetic quinine (anti-malarial) by young Harvard scientists Woodward and Doering is announced in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

11 May 1944

In the Sulu Sea...The Japanese begin to assemble most of their remaining heavy warships at Tawitawi. Admiral Ozawa commands the forces. The buildup is in anticipation of the American offensive against the Mariana Islands to the northeast

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13 May 1944

STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (Twentieth Air Force): 771st Bombardment Squadron (Very Heavy), 462nd Bombardment Squadron (Very Heavy), arrives at Piardoba, India from the US with B-29s; first mission is 5 June.

22 May 1944

In the Sulu Sea...An American submarine detects the concentration of the Japanese fleet around Tawitawi

5 June 1944

STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (Twentieth Air Force): The Twentieth Air Force flies its first B-29 combat mission. Of 98 B-29s airborne from India, 77 bomb the primary target-the railroad shops at Bangkok, Siam; 5 B-29s are lost to non-battle causes.

Led by General Saunders himself, 98 B-29s took off from bases in eastern India to attack the Makasan railroad yards at Bangkok, Thailand. This involved a 2261-mile round trip, the longest bombing mission yet attempted during the war. The engines of the B-29 were still causing problems, and fourteen B-29s were forced to abort because of engine failures. The target was obscured by bad weather, necessitating bombing by radar. The formations became confused and dropped their bombs at altitudes between 17-27,000 feet rather than the planned 22-25,000 feet. Only eighteen bombs landed in the target area. Five B-29s crashed upon landing after the mission and 42 were forced to divert to other airfields because of a shortage of fuel. The B-29 campaign was off to a bad start, although none of the bombers were actually lost to enemy action.

11 June 1944

In the Mariana Islands...US Task Force 58 (Admiral Mitscher) begins raids against Japanese bases on Saipan, Tinian and other islands. TF58 has 9 fleet carriers and 6 light carriers. Task Group 58.7 (Admiral Lee) provides escort. An estimated 36 Japanese planes are shot down. Task Group 58.4 attacks shipping in the area. The Japanese lose 3 minor warships and about 30,000 tons of merchant transport by the aircraft. The operations are overseen by Admiral Spruance, commanding the Central Pacific Area, on board the cruiser Indianapolis

12 June 1944

In the Mariana Islands...US naval forces continue attacks on Japanese positions in the island group. They concentrate on Tinian, Saipan and Guam. The Japanese fleets located at Tawitawi and Batjan set sail to counterattack. Admiral Kurita commands a vanguard force while Admiral Ozawa leads the main force. The main force from Tawitawi is sighted and reported by an American submarine. The Japanese have 5 fleet carriers, 2 light carriers, 2 seaplane carriers, 5 battleships as well as several cruisers and destroyers in support. The commander of the Combined Fleet, Admiral Toyoda, realizes that the American forces are numerically superior but he also expects support from the land-



based aircraft on the islands. These air assets, however, are being depleted by American attacks.

14 June 1944

In the Mariana Islands...US naval forces conduct bombardments of Saipan and Tinian in preparation for landings on these islands. The two American naval groups, commanded by Admiral Ainsworth and Admiral Oldendorf, include 7 battleships and 11 cruisers as well as 8 escort carriers in support. The battleship USS California is hit by a Japanese shore battery. Extensive mine-sweeping operations are also conducted by American forces

15 June 1944

STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (Twentieth Air Force): B-29's take off from China to raid the steel works at Yawata, on Kyushu Island, Japan. With the exception of the Eleventh Air Force's raids on the Kurile Islands, this is the first air attack against Japan since the Doolittle's raid in Apr 42. 47 B-29s operating out of Chengtu, China, bomb the primary target, the Imperial Iron and Steel Works at Yawata, Japan. The Twentieth's first combat loss during a bombing mission results when Japanese fighters destroy a B-29 down with engine trouble at Neihsiang Airfield, China.

17 June 1944

In the Philippine Sea...The carriers led by Admiral Clark and the rest of the main US carrier forces sail for a rendezvous to the west of the Mariana Islands.

18 June 1944

In the Philippine Sea...The main US carrier forces rendezvous west of the Mariana Islands. Japanese scout planes sight the American fleet late in the day. The Japanese command intends to launch air strikes next morning, while still beyond range, and fly the aircraft to Guam to refuel and rearm.

19 June 1944

In the Philippine Sea...In the early morning hours Japanese reconnaissance finds US Task Force 58 while remaining undetected. The Japanese immediately launch 372 aircraft, in four waves, to strike the American fleet. Overall, the Japanese have about 550 planes (including those on Guam) while the Americans have roughly 950. Furthermore, US radar provides significant advance warning of the attack. There is enough time to launch an air raid on Guam before the Japanese can arrive over their target. American fighters begin intercepting the incoming Japanese planes while 50 miles away. Many of the attackers are shot down before reaching the American fleet; US anti-aircraft defenses accounts for many more. The only hit achieved by the Japanese is on the USS South Dakota which is damaged by one bomb. The Japanese lose 240 aircraft and the

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Americans lose 29. The attackers fly on to Guam where American aircraft strike and destroy another 50 Japanese planes. Meanwhile, the Japanese aircraft carriers Taiho and Shokaku are sunk by the US submarines Cavalla and Albacore. American participants refer to the day as "The Great Marianas Turkey Shoot" because of the ease with which the Japanese forces have been suppressed.

20 June 1944

In the Philippine Sea...The Japanese fleet withdraws to refuel, believing that their aircraft have landed safely on Guam. US Task Force 58 (Admiral Mitscher) launches an air strike on the Japanese fleet in the late afternoon. The 216 American aircraft encounter 35 defending fighters and sink the carrier Hiyo. Two other Japanese aircraft carriers are damaged as are a battleship and a cruiser. US loses amount to 20 planes shot down and 72 crashing while attempting to land on their carriers in the dark. During the night, the Japanese fleet withdraws and are not pursued

30 June 1944

The U.S. 51st AIR SERVICE GROUP in Mohanbari, Assam reported that during 28 days in the month of June, 32.14 inches of rain fell for an average of 1.14 inches per day.

1 July 1944

STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (Twentieth Air Force): HQ 444th Bombardment Group (Very Heavy) and 676th, 677th, 678th and 679th Bombardment Squadrons (Very Heavy) move from Charra to Dudkhundi, India with B-29s

6 July 1944

STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (Twentieth Air Force): Brigadier General LaVerne G Saunders becomes Commanding General XX Bomber Command with HQ at Kharagpur, India

7 July 1944

STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (Twentieth Air Force): 14 B-29s, operating out of Chengtu, China during the night of 7/8 July, bomb Sasebo, Omura, and Tobata, Japan (most of the planes hitting the Sasebo area); 3 others attack secondary and last resort targets at Laoyao and in the Hankow area of China

20 July 1944

In the Mariana Islands...The bombardment of Tinian is expanded as army artillery based on Saipan becomes available, in addition to the air attacks and naval shelling



24 July 1944

In the Mariana Islands...The US 5th Amphibious Corps (General Schmidt) lands on Tinian. The US 2nd Marine Division first conduct a feint landing in the southwest, while the 4th Marine Division establishes a beachhead in the northwest. The American force numbers 15,600 men. Task Force 52 (Admiral Hill) provides transport. Fire support is provided by battleship groups commanded by Admiral Oldendorf and Admiral Ainsworth. The Japanese forces on the island number 6200 under the command of Colonel Ogata and Admiral Kakuta. Napalm is used for the first time in the Pacific during the defense of the beachhead against Japanese attacks.

25 July 1944

In the Mariana Islands...On Tinian, the forces of US 5th Amphibious Corps advance cautiously southward after repulsing Japanese counterattacks

27 July 1944

In the Mariana Islands...On Tinian, Americans being work on a new airfield at Ushi Point.

29 July 1944

STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (Twentieth Air Force): In China, 70+ B-29s out of Chengtu bomb the Showa Steel Works at Anshan and harbor at Taku; the first B-29 to be shot down on a combat mission falls to 5 fighters near Chenghsien (which the B-29 bombs after engine trouble causes an abort from the primary mission); another B-29 bombs Chinwangtao before making a forced landing at a friendly field near Ankang.

In the Mariana Islands...On Tinian, the American forces now occupy more than half the island. Japanese resistance is increasing

30 July 1944

In the Mariana Islands...On Tinian, the main town of Tinian is captured by American forces. The southern half of Guam has been secured by US troops

31 July 1944

In the Mariana Islands...On Tinian, American forces begin attacks on the last center of organized Japanese resistance, in the south of the island

1 August 1944

AAFPOA is activated at Hickam Field, Territory of Hawaii with Lieutenant General Millard Harmon as Commanding General. Harmon is to be responsible to Lieutenant General Robert C Richardson, Jr., Commanding General US Army Forces, Pacific Ocean Areas (USAFPOA), for logistics and administration, and to Admiral Chester W Nimitz,



Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Ocean Areas (CINCPOA), for operations of AAF air units except those of the Twentieth Air Force. Harmon also is Deputy Commander of the Twentieth Air Force and is responsible directly to General Henry H "Hap" Arnold in all matters affecting the Twentieth in the POA.

In the Mariana Islands...Organized Japanese resistance on Tinian comes to an end. Most of the garrison, over 6000, have been killed and 250 have been captured. American forces have suffered 390 killed and 1800 wounded

10 August 1944

STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (Twentieth Air Force): 2 missions are flown during the night of 10/11 August

In one, 24 B-29s, out of Chengtu, China, bomb the urban area of Nagasaki, Japan and 3 others hit targets of opportunity; the B-29s claim 1 fighter shot down, the first such claim (except probables) by the B-29s.

In other missions, the first staged through China Bay, Ceylon, 31 B-29s bomb oil refineries at Palembang, Sumatra, 8 mine the Moesi River nearby, and 3 hit targets of opportunity and a secondary target; the first attack, from Ceylon to Sumatra, is the longest single-stage combat flight (about 3,900 miles or 6,276 km) by B-29s during the war.

20 August 1944

STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (Twentieth Air Force): 61 Chengtu, China-based B-29s bomb the Imperial Iron and Steel Works at Yawata, Japan during the day, followed by 10 more during the night of 20/21 August, 5 hitting targets other than the primary; 14 B-29s are lost, including 1 to AA and 4 to enemy aircraft (1 by air-to-air bombing and 1 by ramming); B-29 gunners claim 17 air victories.

28 August 1944

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): Brigadier General Haywood S Hansell, Jr. assumes command of the XXI Bomber Command at Peterson Field, Colorado Springs, Colorado; Brigadier General Lauris Norstad succeeds Hansell as Chief of Staff of the Twentieth Air Force.

29 August 1944

STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (Twentieth Air Force): Major General Curtis Emerson LeMay becomes Commanding General XX Bomber Command with HQ at Kharagpur, India.

8 September 1944

STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (Twentieth Air Force): In China, 90 Chengtu-based B-29s bomb the Showa Steel Works at Anshan, 3 others bomb other targets in Anshan, 5 hit



Sinsiang railroad yards, and 3 others hit various targets of opportunity; Major General Curtis Emerson LeMay, Commanding General XX Bomber Command, accompanies the mission. During the night of 8/9 Sep Japanese bombers attack HQ, storage areas, and parked aircraft at Hsinching (near Chengtu) damaging a B-29, a C-46, and wounding 2 soldiers.

26 September 1944

STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (Twentieth Air Force): In China, 83 B-29s, staging from Chengtu, bomb Anshan most of them striking the Showa Steel Works with poor results; 15 others bomb Dairen, Sinsiang, and various targets of opportunity; during the night of 26/27 Sep, Japanese aircraft bomb the Chengtu area, damaging 5 B-29s; this attack along with the one on 8 Sep set the pattern for Japanese raids which usually follow B-29 missions and continue until 19 Dec but are of light nature and annoying rather than seriously damaging.

6 October 1944

STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (Twentieth Air Force): The first P-61 night fighters arrive in Chengtu, China on the eve of the third air raid; in 10 attacks from 6 Sep to 19 Dec, only 43 aircraft participate

12 October 1944

STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (Twentieth Air Force): The following B-29 units are inactivated in India: HQ 58th Bombardment Wing (Very Heavy) and the 795th Bombardment Squadron (Very Heavy), 468th Bombardment Group (Very Heavy), at Kharagpur; the 679th Bombardment Squadron (Very Heavy), 444th Bombardment Group (Very Heavy) at Dudkhundi; the 771st Bombardment Squadron (Very Heavy), 462nd Bombardment Group (Very Heavy), at Piardoba

In Mar 45 HQ VII Fighter Command will be established on Iwo Jima from where some of its units escort B-29 missions.

14 October 1944

STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (Twentieth Air Force): 103 Chengtu, China-based B-29s bomb the Okayama aircraft plant on Formosa; 12 more hit last-resort targets and targets of opportunity; this is the first Twentieth AF mission during which 100+ B-29s attack targets and the first of a series of missions against Formosa in conjunction with the US invasion of Leyte, Philippines.

16 October 1944

STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (Twentieth Air Force): Over 40 B-29s, out of Chengtu, China, bomb the Okayama aircraft plant aircraft plant and Heito Airfield on Formosa; 20+ other

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B-29s bomb alternate or chance targets at Takao, Taichu Airfield and Toshien harbor on Formosa, and Swatow and Sintien harbors, Hengyang, and several airfields in China.

17 October 1944

STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (Twentieth Air Force): 10 B-29s, flying out of Chengtu, China, bomb Einansho air depot on Formosa; 14 others bomb alternate targets

25 October 1944

STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (Twentieth Air Force): 59 B-29s, flying out of Chengtu, China, bomb an aircraft plant at Omura, Kyushu, Japan; several other B-29s hit alternate targets and targets of opportunity.

This attack showed better results, particularly in the decision to use a two-to-one mixture of high-explosive and incendiary bombs.

1 November 1944

Over Japan...The US B-29 Superfortress "Tokyo Rose" of the 3rd Photo Reconnaissance Squadron makes the first American flight over Tokyo since 1942

3 November 1944

STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (Twentieth Air Force): 49 B-29s, operating from rear bases in the Calcutta, India area, bomb the Malagon railroad yards in Burma; almost as many others hit alternate targets.

792nd BOMBER SQUADRON, 468th BOMB GROUP from Kharagpur, India pummeled Rangoon rail center with the largest loads per aircraft so far known to be listed in aerial warfare.

5 November 1944

STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (Twentieth Air Force): 53 Calcutta, India-based B-29s bomb the Singapore naval base in Malaya putting the King George VI Graving Dock (one of the world's best drydocks) out of operation for 3 months, and blast other targets at the base; 7 other B-29s bomb the secondary target and Pangkalanbrandan refinery on Sumatra while 4 more hit other target

12 November 1944

STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (Twentieth Air Force): 29 Chengtu, China-based B-29s bomb Omura, Kyushu Island, Japan; 20+ others bomb the last resort target of Nanking, China (due to bad weather over Omura), and 20+ more hit various alternate targets and targets of opportunity



21 November 1944

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): 61 B-29s from Chengtu, China bomb an aircraft plant at Omura, Kyushu Island, Japan; 13 B-29s bomb Shanghai, China, and several others hit alternates and targets of opportunity; the B-29s claim 27 fighters downed, the highest Twentieth AF claim to date.

24 November 1944

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): The XXI Bomber Command flies its first mission against Japan; the objective is Tokyo; the 111 B-29s are led by 73rd Bombardment Wing (Very Heavy) Commanding General, Brigadier General Emmett O'Donnell Jr. piloting DAUNTLESS DOTTY, copiloted by Major Robert K Morgan, erstwhile pilot of the famed B-17, MEMPHIS BELLE; 35 B-29s bomb the primary target, the Musashino aircraft plant; 50 bomb the secondary target, the urban area and docks; 17 abort enroute; the remainder are unable to bomb due to mechanical difficulties; 1 B-29 crashes off Honshu Island when a fighter rams the bomber, shearing off the elevator and right horizontal stabilizer, becoming the first XXI Bomber Command B-29 lost to Japanese action; 1 other ditches after running out of fuel; B-29 gunners claim 7 aircraft downed.

27 November 1944

(Twentieth Air Force): Operating from the Calcutta, India area, 55 B-29s bomb the Bangsue railroad yards at Bangkok, Thailand; 3 others hit individual targets.

4 December 1944

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): HQ XXI Bomber Command arrives at Harmon Field, Guam Island from the US

7 December 1944

STRATEGIC OPERATIONS (Twentieth Air Force): Mission 19: 108 B-29s, operating from Chengtu, China, are dispatched to bomb the Manchuria Airplane Manufacturing Company and an adjacent arsenal at Mukden, Manchuria; 80 hit primary target and 10 other B-29s bomb a rail yard short of the primary target, and several other bombers strike alternate targets; the B-29s claim 10-10-30 fighters; 7 B-29s are lost

14 December 1944

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): Mission 20: 48 B-29s, flying out of the Calcutta, India area, are sent to bomb a railroad bridge at Bangkok, Thailand; 33 hit the primary and 14 others hit targets of opportunity and alternate targets; they claim 0-1-0 enemy aircraft; 4 B-29s are lost



15 December 1944

ZONE OF INTERIOR (ZI): HQ Continental AF is activated at Bolling Field, Washington, DC, to coordinate the work of the domestic AFs (First, Second, Third and Fourth) and the I Troop Carrier Command but will not assume jurisdiction until 8 May 45. General Henry H "Hap" Arnold, Commanding General USAAF and Commanding General Twentieth AF, is promoted to General of the Army

18 December 1944

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): Mission 21: 94 B-29s, flying out of the Chengtu, China area, are dispatched to drop incendiaries on the docks at Hankow, China in the first mass firebomb attack by B-29s; the strike is made in conjunction with 200 aircraft of the Fourteenth AF; 84 bomb the primary target and 5 others hit alternate targets; they claim 1-3-10 Japanese aircraft

19 December 1944

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): Mission 22: 36 B-29s, from the Chengtu, China area, are dispatched to hit an aircraft plant at Omura, Japan; 17 hit the primary target and 13 others hit secondary target of Shanghai, China, and another 2 strike other alternates; they claim 5-4-12 Japanese aircraft; 2 B-29s are lost.

21 December 1944

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): Mission 23: 49 B-29s from Chengtu, China are dispatched to attack Mukden, Manchuria; 19 hit the primary objective (the Manchuria Airplane Manufacturing Company) but it suffers little damage and a nearby arsenal and rail yards are slightly damaged; 8 other B-29s bomb alternate targets and targets of opportunity; they claim 21-6-19 Japanese aircraft; 2 B-29s are lost

30 December 1944

In Washington...General Groves, head of the Manhattan Project, reports that the first two atomic bombs should be ready by August 1, 1945.

31 December 1944

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): Brigadier General Haywood S Hansell, Jr., and his XXI Bomber Command Forward Echelon HQ staff close the Saipan Island HQ and move to Guam Island where the ground echelon arrived in early December.

2 January 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): Mission 24: 49 B-29s, operating from the Calcutta, India area, are dispatched to attack a railroad bridge at Bangkok, Thailand; 44 hit the primary



target and 2 hit an alternate and a target of opportunity; they claim 0-1-1 Japanese aircraft

6 January 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): Mission 25: 49 Chengtu, China-based B-29s are dispatched to bomb an aircraft factory at Omura, Kyushu, Japan; 28 hit the primary target, 13 bomb a secondary target at Nanking, China while 6 attack targets of opportunity; they claim 4-6-10 Japanese aircraft; 1 B-29 is lost. This is the XX Bomber Command's last mission against targets in Japan.

9 January 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): Mission 26: 46 B-29s from Chengtu, China are dispatched to bomb the harbor at Kirun, Formosa; 39 hit the target and 6 bomb targets of last resort along the China coast; this raid is the first of several such operations against Formosa in conjunction with the US invasion of Luzon.

11 January 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): Mission 27: 47 B-29s out of Calcutta, India are dispatched to bomb 2 large drydocks at Singapore, Malaysia; 25 hit the primary targets; around 15 others bomb Penang, Malaysia, Mergui, Burma, and various targets of opportunity; they claim 6-1-17 Japanese aircraft; 2 B-29s are lost

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): The 3rd Photographic Reconnaissance Squadron (Very Heavy), 311th Photographic Wing (attached to XXI Bomber Command), moves from Saipan to Guam with F-13s (the squadron flies photo, electronic and weather reconnaissance missions in the W Pacific).

14 January 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): Mission 28: 82 B-29s out of Chengtu, China are dispatched to bomb air installations at Kagi, Formosa; 55 hit the primary target while 1 bombs Heito, Formosa; 22 others hit alternates and targets of opportunity at several points, among them Taichu Airfield, Formosa and Hengyang, China; no B-29s are lost.

17 January 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): Mission 29: 77 of 92 B-29s from Chengtu, China bomb the airfield at Shinchiku, Formosa; 8 other hit alternates and targets of opportunity in SE China; 1 B-29 is lost



20 January 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): Brigadier General Roger M Ramey officially becomes Commanding General XX Bomber Command

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): Major General Curtis Emerson LeMay takes command of the XXI Bomber Command

26 January 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): 2 missions are flown during the night of 25/26 Jan.

Mission 30: In French Indochina, 25 of 26 B-29s mine Saigon, Camranh Bay and Phan Rang Bay without loss.

Mission 31: 41 of 50 B-29s mine the 6 approaches to Singapore harbor and Penang harbor in the Malayan States and the Pakchan River and Koh Si Chang Channel in Thailand

27 January 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): By this date the complete forward detachments of the 4 B-29 groups in the Chengtu, China area have evacuated their bases and moved to more permanent bases in India; this move complies with the Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) directive formulated on 15 Dec 44 and received on 18 Dec; the long-existing understanding that the XX Bomber Command might be moved from the CBI Theater when more convenient bases are available is thus put into its initial stage when the XX Bomber Command's Commanding General, Major General Curtis Emerson LeMay, and the JCS agree that on logistical grounds XX Bomber Command's operating scheme is basically unsound, a situation made more apparent when in Nov the Japanese had overrun Luchou and Yungning and threatened Kunming, China; this development necessitated air tonnage flown over the Hump being diverted to Chinese ground forces and the Fourteenth AF, resulting in curtailed supplies to XX Bomber Command and providing the catalyst for beginning a movement of the command from China.

Mission 32: 22 of 25 XX Bomber Command B-29s based in India hit the navy yard and arsenal at Saigon, French Indochina and 1 bombs a bridge at Bangkok, Thailand without loss; the results are poor.

1 February 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): Mission 33: 113 B-29s are dispatched to hit the naval base at Singapore, Malayan States; 67 bomb the Admiralty IX Floating Drydock (and a vessel berthed in it) and 21 bomb the West Wall area of the naval base; 21 others hit alternate targets at Martaban, Burma and George Town, Malayan States; they claim 3-4-14 Japanese aircraft; 2 B-29s are lost



4 February 1945

In the Soviet Union...The Yalta Conference begins. Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin and their senior military and political advisors meet to discuss the postwar order and the war with Japan. Yalta is a recently liberated Crimean resort

7 February 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): 2 missions are flown.

Mission 34: 67 B-29s are dispatched to hit Saigon, French Indochina; 44 bomb the primary target (11 drop prematurely and 33 hit a residential section), 19 hit Phnom Penh, a target of opportunity, and 2 bomb the last resort target, the marshalling yard at Martaban, Burma; they claim 0-0-1 Japanese aircraft; 1 B-29 is lost.

Mission 35: 64 B-29s are dispatched to hit the Rama VI bridge at Bangkok, Thailand; 58 bomb and effect the collapse of most of middle span of the bridge (this is the 3rd strike at this target) and destroy the NE approach; 1 B-29 bombs the Martaban, Burma marshalling yard; no B-29s are lost.

8 February 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): In India, HQ 58th Bombardment Wing (Very Heavy) moves from Kharagpur to Higli Base Area

11 February 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): **Mission 36:** 56 of 59 B-29s bomb storage dumps around Rangoon, Burma; they claim 0-0-3 Japanese aircraft; no B-29s are lost; the mission is flown in conjunction with B-24s of the Eastern Air Command's Strategic AF which also hit the target.

In the Soviet Union...The Yalta Conference ends. Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin and their senior military and political advisors meet to discuss the postwar order and the war with Japan. It is agreed that the USSR will join the war against Japan within two months of the end of the war in Europe. In return, the Soviet Union will be granted the Japanese part of Sakhalin Island and the Kurile Islands. Also, the postwar borders of Poland are established, as is the division of Germany into occupation zones. There are vague Soviet assurances concerning "free" and "democratic" elections in eastern European countries liberated by the USSR. In addition, there is discussion of a United Nations Organization and there is agreement on a preliminary meeting to create the institution, in April in San Francisco. Yalta is a recently liberated Crimean resort.

19 February 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): **Mission 37:** In the Malayan States, 49 of 59 B-29s bomb the Central Railroad Repair Shops at Kuala Lumpur, some bombing from only 1,000 feet



(305 m); 4 other B-29s hit alternate targets, the Alor Star Airfield, and the marshalling yard at Martaban, Burma; they claim 1-0-7 Japanese aircraft; no B-29s are lost

Concerned about the relative failure of the B-29 offensive to deal any crippling blows to Japan, General LeMay issued a new directive on February 19. General LeMay had analyzed the structure of the Japanese economy, which depended heavily on cottage industries housed in cities close to major industrial areas. By destroying these feeder industries, the flow of vital components to the central plants could be slowed, disorganizing production of weapons vital to Japan. He decided to do this by using incendiary bombs rather than purely high-explosive bombs, which would, it was hoped, cause general conflagrations in large cities like Tokyo or Nagoya, spreading to some of the priority targets.

24 February 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): Mission 38: In an all-incendiary attack, 105 of 116 B-29s hit the Empire Dock area at Singapore, Malayan States, burning out about 40 per cent of the warehouse area; 1 B-29 is lost; this is the last 100-aircraft strike by the XX Bomber Command. HQ 58th Bombardment Wing (Very Heavy) and HQ 468th Bombardment Group (Very Heavy) begin a movement from the Higli Base Area and Kharagpur, India respectively to the Mariana.

25 February 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): HQ 40th Bombardment Group (Very Heavy) begins a movement from Chakulia India to the Mariana

26 February 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): HQ 462nd Bombardment Group (Very Heavy) begins a movement from Piardoba, India to the Mariana

27 February 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): Mission 40: In the Malayan States during the night of 27/28 February, 10 of 12 B-29s mine Johore Strait on the E of Singapore and 1 mines Penang harbor.

Personnel of the 58th Bombardment Wing (Very Heavy) begin shipping out of Calcutta, India for Tinian and Guam, implementing the redeployment orders of the 6 February War Department directive; the final shipment arrives in the Marianas on 6 June, completing the transfer of the wing from India without loss of a single life or aircraft.

1 March 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): HQ 444th Bombardment Group (Very Heavy) begins a movement from Dudkhundi, India to the Mariana Islands



2 March 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): Mission 41: In the Malayan States, 50 of 64 B-29s dispatched bomb the shop and warehouse area at the naval base in Singapore; 5 others hit alternates on Bukum Island and at Arang Hill, and at Khao Huakhang, Thailand; they claim 0-1-4 Japanese aircraft; 2 B-29s are lost

4 March 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): Mission 42: In China during the night of 4/5 March, 11 of 12 B-29s, staging from Luliang, mine the confluence of the Hwangpoo and Yangtze Rivers and the Taihsing Narrows at Shanghai and 1 B-29s drops mines at Tungting Lake without loss.

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): Mission 39: A B-29 makes an emergency landing on Iwo Jima Island; this begins a series of over 2,400 such emergency landings on the island during World War II.

10 March 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): Mission 43: In the Malayan States, 24 of 29 B-29s bomb the marshalling yard at Kuala Lumpur; 1 of the B-29s drops over half of its bombs at Alor Star Airfield and another attacks a freighter in the channel leading to Port Swettenham. 3 others attack Khao Huakhang, Thailand

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): Mission 40: During the predawn hours, 279 B-29s, of 325 airborne, blast the Tokyo urban area with incendiaries, destroying 267,171 buildings, about one-fourth in the city, killing 83,793 and wounding 40,918 people and destroying 15.8 square miles (40.9 square km); this death total is the highest of any single day's action during the war, exceeding the deaths caused by the first atomic bomb on Hiroshima; 20 other B-29s bomb alternates and targets of opportunity; 14 B-29s are lost; the participating B-29s are from the XXI Bomber Command's 73rd, 313th, and 314th Bombardment Wings (Very Heavy) based on Guam Island, Tinian Island, and Saipan Island in the Mariana Islands; the raids are flown at levels ranging from 4,900 to 9,200 feet (1,494 to 2,804 m)

11 March 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): Mission 41: Attacking at altitudes ranging from 5,100 to 8,500 feet (1,554 to 2,591 m), 285 of 310 B-29s bomb the Nagoya, Japan urban area with incendiaries during the night of 11/12 March destroying 2.05 square miles (5.31 square km); 6 others hit a secondary target; 1 B-29 is lost



12 March 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): Mission 42: 44 of 49 B-29s hit oil storage facilities on Bukum Island, Malayan States, and Samboe and Sebarok Islands, Sumatra; 1 other B-29 bombs Arang Hill, Malayan States; they claim 0-0-1 Japanese aircraft; results are poor

13 March 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): Mission 42: In the third of the Twentieth AF's great fire raids, 274 of 301 B-29s begin bombing Osaka, Japan shortly after 2400 hours local on the night of 13/14 March; because of 8/10 cloud cover, bombing is by radar; the heart of the city, an area of 8.1 square miles (21.0 square km), is wiped out during 3 hours of bombing from altitudes of 5,000 to 9,600 ft (1,524 to 2,926 m); 134,744 houses are destroyed, 1,363 houses damaged and Japanese casualties are 3,988 dead, 678 missing and 8,463 dead; 5 other B-29s bomb other targets; the B-29s claim 1-0-0 Japanese aircraft; 2 B-29s are lost.

16 March 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): Mission 43: 307 XXI Bomber Command B-29s, of 331 airborne, fire-raided Kobe, Japan in the heaviest attack to date, bombing from 5,000 to 9,500 feet (1,524 to 2,896 m) during the predawn hours of 16/17 March; the attack lasts for 2 hours and 8 minutes; about 2.9 square miles (7.5 square km), i.e., 20%, of the city's area is burned destroying about 500 industrial buildings and damaging 162; 65,951 homes are lost leaving 242,468 people homeless. Casualties are 2,669 dead or missing and 11,289 injured. The B-29 crews see 314 enemy aircraft which make a total of 93 individual attacks; the AAF claims 1-0-? Japanese aircraft; 3 B-29s are lost, none to the fighters

17 March 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): Mission 44: In Burma, 70 of 77 B-29s hit a storage dump at Rangoon; 2 others bomb targets of opportunity, the Sagyi Airfield and warehouses at Bassein without loss

18 March 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): Mission 44: During the night of 18/19 March, 290 of 313 XXI Bomber Command B-29s continue the fire raids on Japanese cities, bombing Nagoya from 4,500 to 9,000 feet (1,372 to 2,743 m) with incendiaries for the second time this month; an additional 3 square miles (7.8 square km) are destroyed; the Nagoya arsenal, Aichi engine plant and freight yards are damaged but the Mitsubishi plants escape with minor damage; this mission ends the March fire raids

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22 March 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): Mission 45: 76 of 78 B-29s, operating in 2 waves, blast storage dumps at Rangoon, Burma without loss

28 March 1945

(Twentieth Air Force): 3 mining missions are flown during the night of 28/29 March without loss: Mission 46: 10 of 10 B-29s mine the mouth of the Hwangpoo River and the S channel of the Yangtze River at Shanghai, China. Mission 47: 17 of 18 B-29s mine the waters at Saigon and Camranh Bay, French Indochina. Mission 48: 32 of 33 B-29s mine the Singapore, Malayan States area.

29 March 1945

Twentieth Air Force): Mission 49: 24 of 29 B-29s fly the last mission under the XX Bomber Command, attacking oil storage facilities on Bukum Island in the Malayan States during the night of 29/30 March; 2 other B-29s bomb individual targets on the Malay Peninsula.

1 April 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): During Apr 45, the 25th Bombardment Squadron (Very Heavy), 40th Bombardment Group (Very Heavy), the 676th, 677th and 678th Bombardment Squadrons (Very Heavy), 444th Bombardment Group (Very Heavy), and the 768th, 769th and 770th Bombardment Squadrons (Very Heavy), 462nd Bombardment Group (Heavy) move from Chakulia, Dudkhundi and Piardoba, India respectively to West Field, Tinian Island, Mariana Islands with B-29s

4 April 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): HQ 40th and 462nd Bombardment Groups (Very Heavy) arrive at West Field, Tinian Island from India.

6 April 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): HQ 468th Bombardment Group (Very Heavy) arrives at West Field, Tinian Island from India

7 April 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): 2 missions are flown.

Mission 58: 101 of 107 B-29s bomb the Nakajima aircraft engine plant at Tokyo; 2 others hit targets of opportunity; they claim 80-23-50 Japanese aircraft; 3 B-29s are lost.

Mission 59: 153 of 194 B-29s hit the Mitsubishi aircraft plant at Nagoya; 29 others hit targets of opportunity; they claim 21-11-22 Japanese aircraft; 2 B-29s are lost.

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HQ 444th Bombardment Group (Very Heavy) arrives at West Field, Tinian Island from India

Over Japan...American P-51 Mustang fighters, based on Iwo Jima, escort B-29 Superfortress bombers on a raid to Tokyo.

8 April 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): 2 missions are flown against airfields on Kyushu Island, Japan from which Kamikaze attacks are originating.

Mission 60: 29 of 32 B-29s strike 2 airfields at Kanoya.

Mission 61: 48 B-29s attack the airfield at Kokubu; 1 B-29 is lost.

12 April 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): 4 missions are flown.

Mission 63: 94 B-29s, escorted by 90 P-51s, strike the Nakajima aircraft factory at Tokyo while 11 hit the secondary target, the Shizuoka engine plant; B-29s gunners claim 16 fighters downed.

Mission 64: 66 B-29s hit a chemical plant at Koriyama and 9 hit targets of opportunity.

Mission 65: 70 B-29s hit a second chemical plant at Koriyama and 6 hit targets of opportunity; 2 B-29s are lost.

Mission 66: During the night of 12/13 Apr, 5 B-29s mine Shimonoseki Strait.

Note: Mission 66 includes planes from the 468th who flew this mission with the 9th Bomb Group. The 468th planes had been the first to arrive from their base in India.

13 April 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): Mission 67: During the night of 13/14 Apr, 327 B-29s bomb the Tokyo arsenal area; 3 others hit targets of opportunity; 7 B-29s are lost

Note: Mission 67 includes planes from the 468th who flew this mission with the 9th Bomb Group. The 468th planes had been the first to arrive from their base in India.

15 April 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): 2 missions are flown during the night of 15/16 Apr.

Mission 68: 194 B-29s bomb the Kawasaki urban area; 8 others hit targets of opportunity; 12 B-29s are lost.

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Mission 69: 109 B-29s hit the urban area of Tokyo; 1 B-29 is lost.

Note: Mission 68 includes planes from the 468th who flew this mission with the 9th Bomb Group. The 468th planes had been the first to arrive from their base in India.

25 April 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): Brigadier General Joseph Smith assumes command of HQ XX Bomber Command

4 May 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): The 792nd, 793rd and 794th Bombardment Squadrons (Very Heavy), 468th Bombardment Group (Very Heavy), begin a movement from Kharagpur, India to Tinian Island, Mariana Islands with B-29s.

10 May 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): 8 missions are flown; the B-29s claim 10 Japanese aircraft; 1 B-29 is lost.

Missions 159 to 162: 42 B-29s hit airfields at Matsuyama, Usa, Miyazaki, and Kanoya on Kyushu and Shikoku Islands; 14 others hit targets of opportunity.

Mission 163: 54 B-29s bomb the Tokuyama naval fuel station; 2 others hit targets of opportunity.

Mission 164: 56 B-29s hit the Tokuyama coal yards; 1 other hits a target of opportunity.

Mission 165: 112 B-29s hit the Otake oil refinery; 14 others hit targets of opportunity; 1 B-29 is lost.

468th Mission - Mission 166: 80 B-29s bomb the Amami-O-Shima naval oil storage facilities; 4 others hit targets of opportunity

11 May 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): 6 missions are flown.

Missions 167 to 171: 50 B-29s attack airfields at Oita, Saeki, Nittagahara, Miyazaki, and Miyakonojo on Kyushu Island; 8 others hit targets of opportunity.

Missions against Japanese airfields terminate the air campaign, begun on 17 Apr, during which the Twentieth AF has devoted a major effort toward hitting sources of Kamikaze raids against USN and US Marine Corps (USMC) forces in the Battle of Okinawa.

468th Mission - Mission 172: 92 B-29s bomb the Kawanishi aircraft plant at Kobe; 1 other hits a target of opportunity; they claim 9 Japanese fighters; 1 B-29 is lost



14 May 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): Mission 174: 472 B-29s blast the urban area of N Nagoya, Japan; 8 others hit targets of opportunity; they claim about 20 Japanese fighters; 11 B-29s are lost. This is the XXI Bomber Command's first 4-wing raid as B-29s of the 58th Bombardment Wing (Very Heavy) join bombers from the 73rd, 313th, and 314th Bombardment Wings (Very Heavy) in a single mission

Over Japan...The US 20th Air Force conducts a fire bombing raid Nagoya. About 2500 tons of incendiary bombs are dropped by 472 B-29 Superfortress bombers. Some 20 Japanese fighters are shot down.

17 May 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): Mission 176: Between 0300 and 0600 hours local, 457 of 522 B-29s attack the Nagoya urban area in the last great attack on this city; the S part of Nagoya, the site of the Mitsubishi Aircraft Works, Aichi Aircraft Company's Atsuta plant and the Atsuta branch of the Nagoya Arsenal, the Nippon Vehicle Company and other targets are attacked; the attack is made from low levels; 11 other B-29s hit targets of opportunity; 3 B-29s are lost.

19 May 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): Mission 178: 272 B-29s make an abortive raid on the Tachikawa Aircraft Company and bomb the city of Hamamatsu; 14 others hit targets of opportunity; 4 B-29s are lost

Over Japan...Some 272 American B-29 Superfortress bombers strike Hamamatsu, 120 miles (192 km) from Tokyo. Bombs are dropped through the clouds from medium altitude.

23 May 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): Mission 181: During the night of 23/24 May, 520 out of 562 B-29s sent against Tokyo bomb an urban-industrial area S of the Imperial Palace along the W side of the harbor; 5 others hit targets of opportunity; 17 B-29s are lost; this is the largest number of B-29s participating in a single mission during World War II.

24 May 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): Mission 182: During the night of 24/25 May, 25 B-29s lay mines in Shimonoseki Strait and at Niigata, Nanao, and Fushiki

25 May 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): By concurrence of Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Ocean Areas (CINCPOA), the VII Fighter Command, with its subordinate units, is assigned to



operational and administrative control of HQ Twentieth AF. 100 Iwo Jima-based P-51s fly 73 effective strike sorties against Matsudo and Tokorozawa Airfields, Japan claiming 8-0-1 Japanese aircraft in the air and 10-0-40 on the ground; 3 P-51s are lost.

Mission 183: During the night of 25/26 May, 464 B-29's pound the urban area of Tokyo immediately S of the Imperial Palace just N of that bombed on 23/24 May, including financial, commercial, and governmental districts as well as factories and homes; 6 others bomb targets of opportunity; they claim 19 Japanese fighters; 26 B-29s are lost on this mission, the highest single-day loss of B-29s in World War II.

In Washington...The American armed forces Chiefs of Staff set November 1, 1945 as the start date for the invasion of Japan -- Operation Olympic.

29 May 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): Mission 186: 454 B-29s, escorted by 101 P-51s from the VII Fighter Command for the first time on a fire-bomb raid, bomb Yokohama with incendiaries and destroy the main business district (a third of the city's area) along the waterfront; the burned out area of Yokohama now amounts to almost 9 square miles (23.3 square km); about 150 Japanese fighters attack the formations; the B-29s claim 6 fighters and the P-51s claim 26-9-23: 7 B-29s and 3 P-51s are lost.

1 June 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): Mission 187: 458 B-29s attack Osaka, Japan and 16 others hit targets of opportunity; 148 P-51s of the VII Fighter Command, enroute to the escort rendezvous with the B-29s, encounter a severe weather front; flying behind in excessive turbulence, many of the fighters collide and 27 are lost; 27 others manage to find the B-29s and escort them over the target; the B-29s claim 16 Japanese fighters and the P-51s claim 1-0-0; 10 B-29s are lost.

5 June 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): Mission 188: 473 B-29s pound the city of Kobe, Japan with incendiaries; 8 others hit targets of opportunity; they claim 86 Japanese fighters; 11 B-29s are lost; the attack burns off over 4 square miles (10.4 square km) and damages over half of the city.

This attack was so effective that the city was crossed off the target list as not worth revisiting. By the end of the month, the six major cities on LeMay's list had all been effectively destroyed.

7 June 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): 2 missions are flown.



468th Mission - Mission 189: 409 B-29s, escorted by 138 VII Fighter Command P-51s, drop incendiary and high explosive bombs on Osaka, Japan, hitting the east-central section of the city which contains industrial and transportation targets and the Osaka Army Arsenal (largest in Japan); despite being forced to bomb by radar because of heavy undercast, the B-29s burn out over 2 square miles (5.2 square km) of the city, destroying 55,000+ buildings; 9 other B-29s hit alternate targets; the P-51s claim 2-0-1 Japanese aircraft; 2 B-29s and 1 P-51 are lost.

Mission 190: During the night of 7/8 June, 26 B-29s mine Shimonoseki Strait and waters around Fukuoka and Karatsu, Japan. 20 P-47s from Ie Shima Island hit targets of opportunity (radio station, warehouses, freighter, and motor launches) on Kyushu Island, Japan, and claim 5 aircraft downed

8 June 1945

In Japan... There are reports that every able bodied man, woman and child is being given instructions in the fighting of tanks, paratroops and other invading forces

9 June 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): Five missions are flown.

468th Mission - Mission 191: 44 B-29s attack the Kawanishi Aircraft Company's plant at Narao; 1 other hits a target of opportunity.

Mission 192: 24 B-29s hit the Kawasaki plant at Akashi; there is 9/10 cloud cover and bombing is by radar; the village of Akashi rather than the factory is hit; 2 others bomb targets of opportunity.

Mission 193: 42 B-29s hit Aichi's Atsuta factory; only 4 bombs hit the target area but 1 causes a devastating fire; 1 other hits a target of opportunity.

Mission 194: During the night of 8/9 June, 26 B-29s mine Shimonoseki Strait; 1 other mines an alternate target. 20 P-47s from Ie Shima strafe various targets of opportunity on Kyushu Island, Japan. 57 P-51s from Iwo Jima Island pound Kagamigahara Airfield and the surrounding area in the Nagoya area; 20+ parked airplanes are claimed destroyed or damaged; 3 P-51s are lost

10 June 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): 6 missions are flown.

468th Mission - Mission 195: 23 B-29s attack the seaplane base at Kasumigaura; 2 others hit alternate targets.

468th Mission - Mission 196: 32 B-29s bomb the Japan Aircraft Company plant at Tomioka; 1 other hits an alternate target.



Mission 197: 118 B-29s are dispatched to hit the Nakajima Aircraft plant at Musashi; clouds cover the target and they hit the Hitachi engineering works at Kaigan; 2 others hit alternate targets.

Mission 198: 26 B-29s attack the Hitachi plant at Chiba.

Mission 199: 52 B-29s hit the Nakajima plants at Ogikubu and Omiya; 4 others hit alternate targets; 1 B-29 is lost. **Mission 200:** 29 B-29s attack the Tachikawa Army Air Arsenal and 3 others hit alternate targets. The VII Fighter Commands sends 107 P-51s to escort the B-29s; 27-7-10 Japanese aircraft are claimed without loss. 39 Ie Shima Island-based P-47s sweeping Kyushu Island, Japan, strafe numerous ground targets of opportunity, and claim 17 aircraft shot down

15 June 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): 2 missions are flown.

468th Mission - Mission 203: 444 B-29s fly an incendiary mission against the Osaka-Amagasaki urban area, ending a month of concentrated fire raids against large Japanese cities; an additional 1.9 square miles (4.9 square km) of Osaka and 0.59 square miles (1.5 square km) of Amagasaki are burned out; 25 other B-29s hit alternate targets; 2 B-29s are lost. 123 P-51s are dispatched as escort but 380 miles (612 km) from Iwo Jima the fighters are warned by a weather plane of a towering front over Japan and they abort the mission; 1 P-51 is lost.

Mission 204: During the night of 15/16 May, 30 B-29s mine Shimonoseki Strait and waters around Fukuoka, Karatsu, and Fushiki. The 680th Bombardment Squadron (Very Heavy), attached to HQ 504th Bombardment Group (Very Heavy), arrives at North Field, Tinian Island from the US with B-29s

17 June 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): 1 mining and 4 incendiary missions are flown during the night of 17/18 June.

Mission 205: 25 B-29s mine Shimonoseki Strait and waters around Kobe; 2 others mine alternate targets.

Mission 206: 117 B-29s attack the Kagoshima urban area and 1 hits an alternate target; 2.15 square miles (5.56 square km) are destroyed; 1 B-29 is lost.

468th Mission - Mission 207: 116 B-29s hit the Omuta urban area and 3 hit alternate targets; this was the heaviest attack of the 5 but only 0.217 square miles (0.56 square km) were destroyed, only 4.1% of the city's area.



Mission 208: 130 B-29s hit the Hamamatsu urban area; 2.44 square miles (6.32 square km) are destroyed.

Mission 209: 89 B-29s attack the Yokkaichi urban area; 1.23 square miles (3.19 square km) are destroyed. 33 P-47s from Ie Shima Island bomb and strafe shipping, the airfield, villages, a bridge and radar and radio facilities on Amami Gunto Island and Tokuno, Japan. During the night of 17/18 June, 2 P-51s from Ie Shima Island fly an unsuccessful (due to weather) intruder strike over Amami Gunto and Kyushu, Japan; this begins a campaign of night and day intruder missions over Kyushu and the Ryukyu Islands by the night fighters (12 more are flown during June)

19 June 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): 4 missions, 1 mining and 3 incendiary missions against secondary cities, are flown during the night of 19/20 June.

468th Mission - Mission 210: 136 B-29s hit the Toyohashi urban area destroying 1.7 square miles (4.4 square km).

Mission 211: 221 B-29s attack the Fukuoka urban area destroying 1.37 square miles (3.55 square km); 2 other B-29s attack alternate targets.

Mission 212: 123 B-29s attack the Shizuoka urban area destroying 2.25 square miles (5.83 square km); 1 other hits an alternate target; 1 B-29 is lost.

Mission 213: 28 B-29s mine Shimonoseki Strait and the waters at Niigata, Miyazu, and Maizuru. 47 Ie Shima Island-based P-47s bomb the airfield on Tokuno Island while 16 others patrol uneventfully over Amami-O-Shima Island. 117 fighters dispatched from Iwo Jima Island against Kagamigahara Airfield and Meiji, Japan abort because of bad weather.

22 June 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): 446 B-29s are dispatched in 6 missions to targets on S Honshu Island, Japan during the day.

468th Mission - Mission 215: 162 B-29s attack the Kure Naval Arsenal and 12 others hit alternate targets; 72% of the roof area of the arsenal is damaged; 2 B-29s are lost.

Mission 216: 108 B-29s hit the Mitsubishi aircraft plant at Tamashima destroying 135 of 231 machine tools and almost half the roof area; 10 others hit alternate targets; 2 B-29s are lost.

468th Mission - Mission 217: 52 B-29s attack the Kawanishi aircraft plant at Himeji causing great destruction among the buildings and total destruction of machine tools; 4 others hit alternate targets.

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Missions 218 and 219: 34 B-29s hit the Mitsubishi and Kawasaki aircraft plants at Kagamigahara and 10 others hit alternate targets; 1 B-29 is lost.

Mission 220: 25 B-29s hit the Kawasaki aircraft factory at Akashi and 1 hits an alternate target. 40+ P-47s from Ie Shima Island fly combat patrols over Amami Gunto Island, Japan, claiming 11 Japanese aircraft downed.

26 June 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): 510 B-29s and 148 P-51s fly 9 missions against aircraft factories, light-metals industries and arsenals in S Honshu and Shikoku; 6 B-29s and 1 P-51 are lost.

468th Mission - Mission 223: 64 B-29s hit the light metal industry at Osaka and 4 others hit alternate targets.

Mission 224: 109 B-29s attack the Osaka Arsenal; 3 others hit alternate targets; 1 B-29 is lost.

Mission 225: 31 B-29s hit the Kawasaki aircraft plant at Akashi and 5 others hit targets of opportunity; the 4,000-pound (1,814 kg) bombs are well- placed but the target has been almost destroyed in previous raids.

Missions 226 and 227: 58 B-29s attack the Nagoya Arsenal; 6 others hit alternate targets; 1 B-29 is lost.

468th Mission - Missions 228 and 231: 85 B-29s hit the Kawasaki aircraft plant at Kagamigahara; 23 others hit alternate targets; 2 B-29s are lost; every important building is knocked out.

Mission 229: 50 B-29s attack the Aichi aircraft plant at Eitoku and 14 others attack alternate targets; 2 B-29s are lost; the raid causes light damage.

Mission 230: 29 B-29s hit the light metal industry at Nagoya and 2 others hit targets of opportunity. The B-29s claim 20 Japanese fighters destroyed. The Nagoya and Osaka missions are escorted by 148 P-51s; they claim 2-0-5 Japanese aircraft; 1 P-51 is lost.

Mission 232: During the night of 26/27 June, 33 B-29s attack the Utsube Oil Refinery at Yokkaichi, the top-priority petroleum target; 1 other B-29 hits an alternate target.

28 June 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): 487 B-29s fly 4 incendiary missions against secondary cities during the night of 28/29 June; 1 B-29 is lost.

468th Mission - Mission 234: 138 B-29s attack Okayama destroying 2.13 square miles (5.52 square km), 63% of the city area; 1 B-29 is lost.

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Mission 235: 141 B-29s hit Sasebo destroying 0.97 square miles (2.51 square km), 48% of the city area; 2 other B-29s hit alternate targets.

Mission 236: 91 B-29s attack Moji destroying 0.302 square miles (0.782 square km), 26.9% of the city area; 3 B-29s hit alternate targets.

Mission 237: 117 B-29s hit Nobeoka destroying 0.52 square miles (1.35 square km), 36% of the city area. 39 P-47s from Ie Shima attack shipping at Koniya, Japan with rocket and bombing and hit Tokuno Island with rockets and machinegun fire; 26 more hit targets of opportunity in the Sakishima Archipelago including vessels, docks, an airfield, floatplane, and village

1 July 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): During the night of 1/2 July, 1 mining and 4 incendiary missions are flown:

Some 550 B-29 Superfortress bombers -- the greatest number yet to be engaged -- drop 4,000 tons of incendiary bombs on the Kure naval base, Shimonoseki, Ube and Kumanoto, on western Kyushu.

468th Mission - Mission 240: 152 B-29s attack the Kure urban area destroying 1.3 square miles (3.4 square km), 40% of the city; 2 other B-29s hit alternate targets.

Mission 241: 154 B-29s hit the Kumamoto urban area destroying 1.0 square mile (2.6 square km), 20% of the city; 1 other B-29 hits an alternate target; 1 B-29 is lost.

Mission 242: 100 B-29s bomb the Ube urban area destroying 0.42 square miles (1.1 square km), 23% of the city.

Mission 243: 126 B-29s attack the Shimonoseki urban area destroying 0.51 square miles (1.32 square km), 36% of the city; 5 other B-29s hit alternate targets; 1 B-29 is lost.

Mission 244: 24 B-29s mine Shimonoseki Strait and the waters at Nanao and Fushiki. 148 Iwo Jima based P-51s are dispatched to hit airfields in the Nagoya area (Kasumigaura, Itami, Hamamatsu, and Nagano); they claim 2-0-0 aircraft in the air and 3-7 on the ground; 2 P-51s are lost

3 July 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): 509 B-29s participate in 1 mining and 4 incendiary missions during the night of 3/4 July; 3 B-29s are lost:

Mission 246: 26 B-29s mine Shimonoseki Strait and waters at Funakawa and Maizuru during the predawn hours of the 4th; 2 other B-29s mine alternate targets.

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468th Mission - Mission 247: 116 B-29s attack the Takamatsu urban area destroying 1.4 sq mi (4.6 sq km), 78% of the city; 3 other hit alternate targets; 2 B-29s are lost.

Mission 248: 125 B-29s hit the Kochi urban area destroying 0.92 sq mi (3.0 sq km), 48% of the city; 1 B-29 is lost.

Mission 249: 106 B-29s attack Himeji urban area destroying 1.216 sq mi (3.99 sq km), 63.3% of the city. Mission 250: 129 B-29s hit the Tokushima urban area destroying 1.7 sq mi (5.6 sq km), 74% of the city; 2 B-29s attack alternate targets

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): The air echelon of the XX Bomber Command, including Brigadier General Joseph Smith, Commanding General, sets sails from India for Okinawa; the rest of the command sails in 2 lots, on 12 July and 4 August, leaving only a few small detachments in the India-Burma area. [The 58th Bombardment Wing (Very Heavy) earlier sailed to the Marianas on 27 February].

5 July 1945

In Washington...It is announced that General Spaatz will lead the US Strategic Air Force in the campaign against Japan.

6 July 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): Taking off during the late evening hours of 6 July, 517 B-29s make four incendiary and 1 HE attacks between 0700 and 0800 hours local on 7 July; 1 B-29 is lost:

468th Mission - Mission 251: 124 B-29s attack the Chiba urban area destroying 0.86 sq miles (2.23 sq km), 43.4% of the city; 1 other B-29 hits an alternate target.

Mission 252: 123 B-29s hit the Akashi urban area destroying 0.81 sq miles (1.7 sq km), 57.0% of the city; 1 other B-29 hits an alternate target.

Mission 253: 133 B-29s attack the Shimizu urban area destroying 0.71 sq miles (1.49 sq km), 50% of the city; 1 B-29 is lost.

Mission 254: 131 B-29s hit the Kofu urban area destroying 1.3 sq miles (2.7 sq km), 65% of the city; 1 other B-29 hits an alternate target.

Mission 255: 59 B-29s drop 500-pound (227 kg) bombs on the Maruzen Oil Refinery at Wakayama; 1 other hits an alternate target. 110 Iwo Jima-based P-51s attack airfields in the Tokyo area (Kumagaya, Yamagata, and Chiba); they claim 1-0-0 aircraft in the air and 6-25 on the ground; 1 P-51 is lost

9 July 1945

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HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): During the night of 9/10 July, 1 mining, 1 bombing and 4 incendiary missions are flown against Japan; 3 B-29s are lost:

Mission 256: 29 B-29s mine Shimonoseki Strait and the waters at Niigata and Nanao; 1 other mines other targets; 1 B-29 is lost.

468th Mission - Mission 257: 123 B-29s attack the Sendai urban area destroying 1.22 sq mi (3.16 sq km), 27% of the city area; 1 other B-29 hits an alternate target; 1 B-29 is lost.

Mission 258: 115 B-29s attack the Sakai urban area destroying 1.02 sq mi (2.64 sq km), 44% of the city area; 3 other B-29s hit alternate targets.

Mission 259: 108 B-29s hit the Wakayama urban area destroying 2.1 sq mi (5.44 sq km), 52.5% of the city area.

Mission 260: 129 B-29s attack the Gifu urban area destroying 1.93 sq mi (5.0 sq km), 74% of the city area; 1 B-29 is lost.

Mission 261: 61 B-29s attack the Utsube Oil Refinery at Yokkaichi with poor results; 1 hits an alternate target. 102 Iwo Jima Island-based P-51s hit airfields at Itami, Hamamatsu, Aichi, and Washinomiya, claiming 1-0-0 aircraft in the air and 15-5 on the ground; 3 P-51s are lost

12 July 1945

HQ AAF (Twentieth Air Force): During the night of 12/13 July, 1 bombing and 4 incendiary missions are flown; 3 B-29s are lost. Targets on the Japanese home islands of Shikoku and Honshu are heavily bombed

468th Mission - Mission 263: 115 B-29s attack the Utsunomiya urban area destroying 0.94 sq mi (2.4 sq km), 34.2% of the city; 5 others hit alternate targets; 1 B-29 is lost.

Mission 264: 123 B-29s hit the Ichinomiya urban area destroying 0.01 sq mi (0.03 sq km), 0.8% of the city area; 2 others hit alternate targets.

Mission 265: 92 B-29s attack the Tsuruga urban area destroying 0.77 sq mi (2 sq km), 68% of the city; 2 others hit alternate targets.

Mission 266: 123 B-29s hit the Uwajima urban area destroying 0.14 sq mi (0.36 sq km), 14% of the city; 1 other hits an alternate target.

Mission 267: 53 B-29s attack the Kawasaki Petroleum Center destroying about 25% of the target; 2 B-29s are lost, 1 between Guam and Tinian

16 July 1945

In the United States...The world's first atomic bomb is exploded at Alamogordo in New Mexico (the Trinity test) at 1730 hours. The steel tower, on which the Plutonium fueled



device was mounted, is vaporized by the heat of the explosion (which is greater than the temperature of the inside of the sun). The detonation is visible and audible up to 180 miles away. It is estimated that the blast generated by the explosion is equal to that yielded by between 15,000-20,000 tons of TNT.

CENTRAL PACIFIC (Twentieth Air Force): HQ Twentieth AF is officially moved from Washington, DC to Harmon Field, Guam Island; HQ XX Bomber Command is inactivated, effective 18 July, and HQ and HQ Squadron XXI Bomber Command is redesignated HQ Squadron, Twentieth AF; thus the Bomber Commands are brought to an end as actual establishments and their wings pass to direct control of HQ Twentieth AF of which Major General Curtis Emerson LeMay takes command on this date.

During the night of 16/17 July, 469 B-29s fly 4 incendiary raids against Japanese cities without loss and strike targets on Honshu and Kyushu. In total, over 1500 American planes attack raid various objectives on the Japanese home islands during the day.

468th Mission - Mission 271: 119 B-29s attack the Namazu urban area destroying 1.4 sq mi (3.6 sq km), 89.5% of the city.

Mission 272: 124 B-29s hit the Oita urban area destroying 0.555 sq mi (1.437 sq km), 25.2% of the city.

Mission 273: 94 B-29s attack the Kuwana urban area destroying 0.63 sq mi (1.63 sq km), 77% of the city; 2 other B-29s hit alternate targets.

Mission 274: 129 B-29s hit the Hiratsuka urban area destroying 1.04 sq mi (2.69 sq km), 44.2% of the city; 1 other hits an alternate target. During the day, 5 P-47s hit Yanagawa and 96 Iwo Jima-based P-51s hit targets (mainly airfields) at Kameyama, Kiyosu, Komaki, Okazaki, Suzuko, and Akenogahara; 22 air victories are claimed; 1 P-51 is lost. HQ 21st Fighter Group moves from Central Field to South Field on Iwo Jima

19 July 1945

The USAAF struck the cities of Choshi, Hitachi, Fukui and Okazaki with 600 B-29 Superfortress bombers dropping some 4000 tons of bombs. It is largest employment of the bomber type yet

CENTRAL PACIFIC [US Army Strategic Air Forces in the Pacific (USASTAF)] Twentieth Air Force: During the night of 19/20 July, 1 mining, 4 incendiary and 1 bombing missions are flown by B-29s against Japan and Korea; 3 B-29s are lost.

Mission 276: 27 B-29s lay mines in the Oyama, Niigata, Miyazu, Maizuru, Tsuruga, Nezugaseki, Obama Island, and Kobe-Osaka areas of Japan and at Wonsan, Korea; 1 B-29s mines an alternate target.



468th Mission - Mission 277: 127 B-29s attack the Fukui urban area destroying 1.6 sq mi (4.2 sq km), 84.8% of the city; 1 other B-29s hits an alternate target.

Mission 278: 126 B-29s hit the Hitachi urban area destroying 0.88 sq mi (2.28 sq km), 64.5% of the city; 1 other B-29 hits an alternate target; 2 B-29s are lost.

Mission 279: 91 B-29s attack the Choshi urban area destroying 0.379 sq mi (0.982 sq km), 33.8 % of the city.

Mission 280: 126 B-29s hit the Okazaki urban area destroying 0.65 sq mi (1.68 sq km), 68% of the city; 1 B-29 hits an alternate target.

Mission 281: 83 B-29s bomb the Nippon oil plant at Amagasaki; 1 other B-29 hits an alternate target. Iwo Jima-based P-51s strike airfields, factories, railroads, power lines and other tactical targets at Kagamigahara, Nagoya, Meiji, Izumi, Nishinomiya, and Tambaichi during the day

20 July 1945

CENTRAL PACIFIC [US Army Strategic Air Forces in the Pacific (USASTAF)] Twentieth Air Force: The 393rd Bombardment Squadron (Very Heavy), 509th Composite Group, begins a series of 12 precision attacks over Japan for the purpose of familiarizing the crews with the target area and tactics contemplated for the scheduled atomic bomb missions; the strikes (on 20, 24, 26, and 29 July) are mostly against (or near) cities previously bombed, in the general area of cities chosen for possible atomic attack, and involve from 2 to 6 aircraft in order to accustom the Japanese to sight of small formations of B-29s flying at high altitudes. 94 P-51s based on Iwo Jima are dispatched against targets, mainly airfields, at Kamezaki, Meiji, Okazaki, Nagoya, Kagamigahara, Hamamatsu, and Komaki, Japan; they claim 1-11 Japanese aircraft on the ground; 3 P-51s are lost

24 July 1945

The Osaka-Nagoya area, the second largest population center in Japan, is bombed by 600 B-29 Superfortress bombers.

Twentieth Air Force: 7 missions (625 B-29s) are flown against targets in the Nagoya and Osaka areas; 1 B-29 is lost.

Mission 284: 82 B-29s attack the Sumitomo Light Metals Industries propeller factory at Osaka; most of the machine tools had been removed but the facility is completely wrecked; 4 others hit alternate targets; 1 B-29 is lost.

468th Mission - Mission 285: 81 B-29s hit the Kawanishi Aircraft Plant at Takarazuka destroying 77% of the plant; 3 others hit alternate targets.



Mission 286: 153 B-29s hit the Osaka Arsenal and Kuwana; the arsenal sustains additional damage amounting to 10% of the original roof area; 9 others hit alternate targets.

Mission 287: 66 B-29s attack the Aichi aircraft plant at Eitoku; the plant sustains its heaviest damage of the war; 5 others hit alternate targets.

Missions 288 and 289: 113 B-29s hit the urban area of the city of Tsu; 2 others hit alternate targets.

Mission 290: 77 B-29s attack the Nakajima plant at Handa destroying the principal assembly buildings; 1 B-29 hit an alternate target. 91 P-51s, operating out of Iwo Jima, hit airfields and other tactical targets at Hamamatsu, Suruga Bay, and other points in the Nagoya, Japan area

28 July 1945

Some 2000 Allied planes bomb Kure, Kobe and targets in the Inland Sea. The air strikes sink the Japanese aircraft carrier Amagi, the old cruiser Izumo, the light cruiser Oyodo and a destroyer

Twentieth Air Force: During the night of 28/29 July, 554 B-29s fly 6 incendiary raids on secondary cities and 1 bombing raid without loss.

468th Mission - Mission 297: 76 B-29s attack the Tsu urban area destroying 0.84 sq mi (2.18 sq km), 57% of the city area.

468th Mission - Mission 298: 61 B-29s hit the Aomori urban area destroying 1.06 sq mi (2.75 sq km), 64% of the city area; 3 others hit alternate targets.

Mission 299: 122 B-29s attack the Ichinomiya urban area destroying 0.99 sq mi (2.56 sq km), 75% of the city area; 2 others attack alternate areas.

Mission 300: 93 B-29s hit the Uji-Yamada urban area destroying 0.36 sq mi (0.93 sq km), 39% of the city area; 1 other hits an alternate target.

Mission 301: 90 B-29s attack the Ogaki urban area destroying 0.48 sq mi

1 August 1945

During the night (August 1-2), 820 US B-29 Superfortress bombers drop a record total of 6632 tons of bombs on five Japanese cities including Hachioji, Nagaoka, Mito, Toyama and the petroleum center of Kawasaki. Most of Toyama is obliterated. Also, Americans claim to have sunk 26 ships in the raids

Twentieth Air Force: During the night of 1/2 August, 801 of 836 B-29s dispatched carry out 1 mining, 5 fire-bomb and 1 bombing raids on Japan; 1 B-29 is lost.

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Mission 305: 37 B-29s drop mines in Shimonoseki Strait, in Nakaumi Lagoon, at Hamada, Sakai, Yonago, Najin, and Seishin; 5 others mine alternate targets.

468th Mission - Mission 306: 169 B-29s attack the Hachioji urban area destroying 1.12 sq mi (2.9 sq km), 80% of the city; 3 others hit alternate targets; 1 B-29 is lost.

Mission 307: 173 B-29s hit the Toyama urban area, a center of aluminum, ball bearing and special steel production, destroying 1.87 sq mi (4.84 sq km), 99.5% of the city; 1 other hits an alternate target.

Mission 308: 125 B-29s attack the Nagaoka urban area destroying 1.33 sq mi (3.37 sq km), 65.5% of the city; 5 others hit alternate targets.

Mission 309: 160 B-29s hit the Mito urban area destroying 1.7 sq mi (4.4 sq km), 65% of the city; 1 other hits a target of opportunity.

Mission 310: 120 B-29s bomb the Mitsubishi Oil Company at Kawasaki but could only add slightly to the damage previously inflicted; 2 other hit targets of opportunity. 30+ Iwo Jima-based P-51s hit airfields and other targets in the Osaka-Nagoya area of Japan; bad weather prevents numerous other fighters from reaching targets.

2 August 1945

Twentieth Air Force: Lieutenant General Nathan F Twining relieves Lieutenant General Curtis Emerson LeMay as Commanding General Twentieth AF; LeMay is assigned to USASTAF as Chief of Staff

5 August 1945

Aircraft from the US 5th and 7th Air Forces, based in Okinawa, raid Tatumizu in the south. About 325 planes take part in the attack. Another 12 Japanese cities have leaflets dropped on them by B-29 bombers, warning of coming raids. During the night, American bombers strike Imabari, Ube, Mayobashi, Saga, Nishinomiya and Mikage, fulfilling the threat made by leaflet drops.

Twentieth Air Force: During the night of 5/6 August, 612 B-29s fly 1 mining, 1 bombing and 4 incendiary raids against Japan; 2 B-29s are lost.

Mission 311: 27 B-29s mine the waters of the Sakai, Yonago, Nakaumi Lagoon, Miyazu, Maizuru, Tsuruga, Obama, Najin and Geijitsu areas; 1 other B-29 mines an alternate target.

468th Mission - Mission 312: 63 B-29s attack the Saga urban area destroying 0.02 sq mi (0.05 sq km), 1.5% of the city; 1 B-29 is lost.



Mission 313: 92 B-29s hit the Maebashi urban area destroying 1 sq mi (2.59 sq km), 42.5% of the city; 4 others hit alternate targets.

Mission 314: 250 B-29s attack the Nishinomiya-Mikage urban area destroying 2.8 sq mi (7.25 sq km), 29.6% of the city; 3 others hit alternate targets; 1 B-29 is lost.

Mission 315: 106 B-29s bomb the Ube Coal Liquefaction Co. facility at Ube destroying 100% of the refining units and destroying or damaging 80% of other structures; 2 others hit alternate targets.

468th Mission - Mission 316: 64 B-29s attack the Imabari urban area destroying 0.73 sq mi (1.89 sq km), 76% of the city area.

HQ VII Fighter Command is officially assigned to HQ Twentieth AF. 100+ P-51s strike airfields and military installations in large area around Tokyo, scoring especially effective hits at Katori Airfield.

6 August 1945

Twentieth Air Force: The world's first atomic attack takes place. At 0245 hours, Colonel Paul W Tibbets pilots the B-29 ENOLA GAY off the runway at North Field, Tinian Island; at 2-minute intervals, 2 observation B-29s follow (Major Charles W Sweeney's GREAT ARTISTE and Captain George W Marquardt's Number 91. At 0915 hours (0815 hours Japan time) the atomic bomb is released over Hiroshima from 31,600 feet (9,632 meters); it explodes 50 seconds later.

The plane is named by Tibbets after his mother, Enola Gay. The bomb is a uranium fission weapon and the yield is in the region of 20,000 tons on TNT. Sixty percent of the city is destroyed in the blast and the firestorm that follows. About 80,000 Japanese are killed. Many more are severely burned and others become ill later, from exposure to radiation. It is not the most devastating bombing attack of the war but the economy of the effort involved in sending only one plane on a mission to destroy a city shows only too well the complete change in military and political thinking which has begun. Meanwhile, other American aircraft raid Tarmuizu, Kagoshima and Miyakonoju.

The ENOLA GAY lands on Tinian at 1458 hours, followed within the hour by the 2 observation B-29s. Almost 100 fighters from Iwo Jima attack airfields and military installations at 6 locations throughout the general area around Tokyo

7 August 1945

In Japan...Japanese radio condemns the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and denounces the United States, as the first country to employ the new weapon, as "the destroyer of mankind and as public enemy number one of social justice." Meanwhile, the first flight of the Nakajima Kikka (Orange Blossom) jet bomber takes place. The plane is based on the German Me262.

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Over Japan...More than 200 B-29 Superfortress bombers raid Yahata, Tokyo and Kukuyama.

Twentieth Air Force: 154 B-29s fly a bombing mission during the day and 30 B-29s fly a mining mission during the night of 7/8 August; 1 B-29 is lost.

468th Mission - Mission 317: 124 B-29s, escorted by VII Fighter Command fighters, bomb the naval arsenal at Toyokawa. 1 B-29 is lost. After escorting the B-29s on their bombing mission, P-51s attack railroad targets and shipping in and near Magarimatsu, Chofu, Atsugi, and Sagami.

Mission 318: During the night of 7/8 August, 29 B-29s, escorted by FEAF P-47s, drop mines in Shimonoseki Strait, at Miyazu, Maizuru, Tsuruga, Obama and at Najin; 1 other mines an alternate target.

8 August 1945

In Tokyo...The Japanese Supreme War Council agrees, late that night, that they should accept the Potsdam Declaration if the monarchy is preserved. Some of the objections from the military are overruled by the Emperor himself.

In Washington...President Truman makes a public radio broadcast in which he threatens Japan with destruction by atomic bombs. During the day, he also signs the United Nations Charter, making the United States the first country to ratify its original signature.

Twentieth Air Force: 381 B-29s fly three missions, 2 during the day of 8 August and 1 during the night of 8/9 August; 7 B-29s are lost.

468th Mission - Mission 319: Shortly before 1200 hours, 221 B-29s drop incendiaries on Yawata destroying 1.22 sq mi (3.16 sq km), 21% of the city; 6 others hit alternate targets; 1 B-29s is shot down by Japanese fighters and 3 are lost to mechanical reasons.

Mission 320: Late in the afternoon, 60 B-29s bomb an aircraft plant and arsenal complex at Tokyo; 2 others hit alternate targets; 2 B-29s are lost to flak and 1 to mechanical reasons (these are the last B-29s lost in action by the Twentieth AF).

468th Mission - Mission 321: During the night of 8/9 August, 91 B-29s hit Fukiyama with incendiaries destroying 0.88 sq mi (2.28 sq km), 73.3% of the city; 1 hits an alternate target.

100+ fighters from Iwo Jima hit airfields, factory buildings, barracks, and rail installations in the Osaka, Japan area.

9 August 1945

Over Japan...The second atomic bomb (nicknamed "Fat Man") is dropped on Nagasaki by a specially equipped B-29 named "Bock's Car" and piloted by Major Charles Sweeney.

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This is a plutonium fission device similar to the one tested at Alamogordo, New Mexico. The bomb weighs about 10,000 pounds and its detonation yields an explosion equivalent of about 20,000 tons of TNT. About 40,000 Japanese ultimately die from the attack and 60,000 are injured.

In Tokyo...Japanese Prime Minister Suzuki says that the entry of the USSR into the war "makes the continuance of the war impossible." Towards midnight Emperor Hirohito calls the Supreme Council together and tries to make the military leaders accept the proposed surrender. At about 0300 hours, the meeting breaks up with nothing decided other than a cautious sounding of the possibilities of peace through Sweden and Switzerland.

Twentieth Air Force: The second and last atomic bomb of World War II is dropped on Japan; Major Charles W Sweeney pilots a B-29, BOCK'S CAR , off the runway at North Field, Tinian Island, Mariana Islands, at 0230 hours; he is followed by 2 observation B-29s-the GREAT ARTISTE piloted by Captain Frederick C Bock (who has exchanged planes with Sweeney for the mission) and another B-29 piloted by Major James I Hopkins (who loses contact with the other 2 B-29s); the primary target, Kokura, is obscured by bad weather; the attack is made against the secondary target, Nagasaki. The bomb, dropped from 28,900 feet (8,809 meters) at 1158 hours (1058 hours Nagasaki time), explodes about a minute after release. Japanese reports claim nearly 24,000 killed; US figures estimate about 35,000. The attacking B-29s refuel on Okinawa, and return to Tinian by 2339 hours.

Twentieth Air Force: The Japanese radio announces the Japanese desire for peace and USASTAF limits operations to precision mission. 104 B-29s fly 2 missions against Japan without loss.

11 August 1945

On Kyushu Island in Fukuoka, 8 U.S. airmen were beheaded at a nearby crematorium.

August 13 1945

Over Japan...About 1600 American aircraft fly over Tokyo and other Japanese cities dropping millions of leaflets explaining the position reached in the surrender negotiations and the state of affairs in Japan. Most Japanese "hawks" still refuse to admit defeat. Japanese Sub-Lieutenant Saburo Sakai, the one-eyed fighter ace (with 64 victories), shoots down a B-29 near Tokyo during the night (August 13-14).

14 August 1945

In Tokyo...At a government meeting with Emperor Hirohito, the emperor states that the war should end. He records a radio message to the Japanese people saying that they must "bear the unbearable." During the night, beginning about 2300 hours, a group of army officers lead forces numbering over 1000 in an attempt to steal the recording and prevent it being broadcast but fail to overcome the guards at the Imperial Palace. Coup

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leader, Major Kenji Hatanaka, who killed the commander of the imperial guard, commits suicide after its failure. The Japanese decision to surrender is transmitted to the Allies.

Over Japan...In the last air raid of the war, during the night (August 14-15) US B-29 Superfortress bombers strike Kumagaya and Isezaki, northwest of Tokyo, and Akita-Arabi oil refinery.

Twentieth Air Force: 752 B-29s fly 7 missions against Japan without loss. These are the last B-29 missions against Japan in WWII.

The following 3 missions were flown during the day:

468th Mission - Mission 325: 157 B-29s bomb the naval arsenal at Hikari; 4 others hit alternate targets.

Mission 326: 145 B-29s bomb the Osaka Army Arsenal and 2 hit alternate targets; 160+ P-51 escort the B-29s and attack airfields in the Nagoya area; 1 P-51 is lost.

Mission 327: 108 B-29s bomb the railroad yards at Marifu; 2 others hit alternate targets.

The following 4 missions were flown during the night of 14/15 August:

Mission 328: In the longest nonstop unstaged B-29 mission from the Mariana Islands, 3,650 miles (5,874 km), 132 B-29s bomb the Nippon Oil Company at Tsuchizakiminato.

Mission 329: 81 B-29s drop incendiaries on the Kumagaya urban area destroying 0.27 sq mi (0.7 sq km), 45% of the city area.

Mission 330: 86 B-29s drop incendiaries on the Isezaki urban area destroying 0.166 sq mi (0.43 sq km), 17% of the city area.

Mission 331: 39 B-29s mine the waters at Nanao, Shimonoseki, Miyazu, and Hamada. Before the last B-29s return, President Harry S Truman announces the unconditional surrender of Japan. Immediately thereafter, the 11th Airborne Division leaves the Philippine Islands by air for Okinawa, where it goes on standby as the initial occupation force for Japan

15 August 1945

Following Jap Emperor's radio surrender speech, 16 captured B-29 crewmen on Kyushu Island were trucked to a nearby hill, stripped, and led into woods where they were executed.

27 August 1945

CENTRAL PACIFIC Twentieth Air Force: B-29s begin supplying prisoners-of-war and internee camps in Japan, China, and Korea with medical supplies, food, and clothing.

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The first supply drop (to Weih sien Camp near Peking, China) is followed by a concentrated effort of 900 sorties in a period of less than a month. 4,470 tons of supplies are dropped to about 63,500 prisoners in 154 camps.

The 468th Bomb Group participates in three supply missions:

08/30/45

08/31/45

09/02/45