## November 1944

**Nov** 1–Pluto extension into Boulogne begins service. (Special oil pipeline.) Fighting for the Scheldt estuary, the approaches to the port of Antwerp, is conducted by a combination land and amphibious operation at a heavy cost to British, Canadian and Polish troops. U.S. establishes nationwide air-sea rescue along America's coast under the U.S. Coast Guard. Crack Japanese "the Imperial Victory Division" lands on Ormoc Bay against no major U.S. or Filipino opposition. Bombed by Japanese Air Force (JAF) 3 U.S. destroyers are sunk in San Pedro Bay, Leyte, with numerous ships damaged. None of the U.S. carriers are nearby. A B-29 photo recon conducts a secret mission over Tokyo at 32,000 ft, for 14 hours and brings back first target photographs. First U.S. aircraft to fly over Tokyo since the April 1942 Doolitte Raid. The B-29 that made history was piloted by Captain Ralph D. Steakley part of a three plane 3rd Photo Recon Squadron, and the B-29 would in a day or two be christened "Tokyo Rose"; in the next 20 days, 17 air missions are conducted but the 3rd PRS would lose 2 aircraft and their 10 men crews. U.S. sub *Atule* sinks transport *Asama Maru* in Luzon Strait. U.S. sub *Blackfin* sinks transport *No. 12 Unkai Maru* and auxiliary *Caroline Maru* in Mindoro Strait. U.S. sub *Ray* sinks tanker *No. 7 Horai Maru* off Mindoro. ***Something For The Boys*** premieres in Technicolor.

**Nov** 2–Luftwaffe springs a surprise trap on 8th A.F. over Merseburg-Leuna as 400 interceptors (largest since before D-Day) contest echelon patterns; U.S. loose 46 heavy bombers, 28 fighters; Luftwaffe 183. Bombers of the No. 550 Squadron RAF attack Dusseldorf, Germany. Night-time air raid by JAF damages 10 and destroys 2 of 20 P-38s on Tacloban air strip of MacArthur's Army Air Force. U.S. sub *Barbero* sinks cargo ship *Kuramasan Maru* in Makassar Strait. German U-boat *U-181* sinks U.S. tanker *Fort Lee* in Indian Ocean. British sub HMS *Terrapin* sinks *Kumano Maru* in Strait of Malacca. British sub HMS *Tantalus* sinks cargo ship *Hachijin Maru* 224 miles e. of Singapore. U.S. 28th Inf Div begins drive on Schmidt. Gen. Bradley, while visiting Patton asks if Third Army can begin offensive alone, since First Army cannot attack until British release 2 U.S. divs. Patton replies he can on a 24-hr notice. All eligible German males ordered to enlist in the Volkssturm under penalty of military court-martial. Partisans seize Dalmatian port of Zara, Yugoslavia.

**Nov** 3–Canadians clear all resistance in Breskens, capture some 12,500 prisoners. Soviet forces reach the gates of Budapest and begin a savage battle to capture it, lasts several months. JAF attacks U.S. airbase at Tacloban, and also attacks airbases on Saipan and Tinian. Chinese 1st Div recovers Lung-ling. U.S. sub Pintado sinks destroyer Akikaze off Lingayen Gulf. U.S. sub *Pomfret* sinks transport *Hamburg Maru* in Luzon Channel. *Above, Nurses arriving in China at a 14th Air Force base*– Play this as you read this PDF, great music by the D-Day Darlings in stereo.

**Nov** 3-15– American P-38s intercept JAF near Tacloban, and knock off 17 intruders trying to reach for big Allied convoy off Leyte. Antiaircraft cruiser *Reno* is torpedoed by sub *I-41* 700 miles n.w. of Ulithi and makes it back to Ulithi. First "Fu-Go" bombs launched by Imperial Japan, a secret method to send balloons by air using the jet steam with bombs that drop over the U.S.

**Nov** 4–In a night raid over Bochum, Germany, airman John Riley Bryne recorded in his diary that "the target was a blazing inferno". Navy beats Notre Dame in football 32-13. Notre Dame's 1943 team were national champions.

**Nov** 5–U.S. aircraft carriers of TF38 strike north of Manila, USS *Hornet* alone destroys 133 aircraft on ground, 29 interceptors in the air; U.S. loose 25. Airplanes from the *Lexington*, *Essex* and *Langley* sink hvy cruiser *Nachi* 5 nautical miles w. of Corregidor; other craft in Manila Bay destroyed/damaged. 500 Liberators of the 15th A.F. bomb crude-oil refinery at Floridsdorf with very good success. 76 B-29s fly nearly four thousand miles roundtrip to bomb Singapore's King George VI Graving Docks with excellent results; docks knocked out for 3 months. British troops occupy Salonika, Greece.

**Nov** 6–Kamikaze slams into USS Lexingto*n*; 42 fall dead, 5 are disintegrated, 127 wounded. Middelburg, the island's capital of Walcheren captured. Capt. Charles Yeager shoots down a Me-

*At the start of 1941, the U.S. only had 101,227 pilots, but by 1944, the number of pilots had expanded to two million. On your left is a Thunderbolt P-47, and below are B-24 Liberator bombers at a very high altitude to go over the Alps. The squadrons who flew above the Alps came from the 15th A.F. in Italy.*

262 jet at Achmer Airfield.

**Nov** 7–Despite poor health, F.D.R. re-elected to unprecedented fourth term defeating Wendell Wilkie (second time both ran against each other). Roosevelt won the election by 3.5 million votes. U.S. Navy reports 249 enemy aircraft destroyed in air and ground near Manila. British motor vessel *Ernebank* rescues 16 survivors of U.S. tanker *Fort Lee*. Soviet spy Richard Sorge and his informant Hotsumi Ozaki executed in Sugamo Prison, Tokyo.

**Nov** 8–Caught off guard outside impregnable Metz, U.S. Third Army begins new ground offensive toward the Saar, in the direction of Mannheim and Koblenz. **Metz had never in modern history been taken by assault.** Robert E. Gajdusek was wounded and captured at Metz and later wrote his memoir in 1998: "Resurrection, A War Journey." Allied troops liberate Veere and Koudekerke and capture the island stronghold of **Walcheren in the Netherlands**. The trapped battalion the video references is from the 36th which Nisei Americans rescued but note, no part of the video shows the Japanese-Americans. Some 25,000 Jews were made to walk 125 miles in a brutal forced march from Budapest, Hungary to the Austrian border. German radio reveals publicly for the first time the V-2 rocket campaign against the British. Maj. Nowotny is killed after his Me-262 jet crashes. U.S. sub *Redfin* sinks merchant tanker *No.2 Nichinan Maru* in South China Sea. Japanese land another division at Ormoc and send it into the mountains. U.S. sub *Hardhead* sinks Japanese tanker *Manei Maru* some 90 miles s.w. of Manila. U.S. sub *Growler* is sunk off Mindoro by Japanese forces. U.S. sub *Queenfish* sinks cargo ship *Hakko Maru* and auxiliary submarine chaser

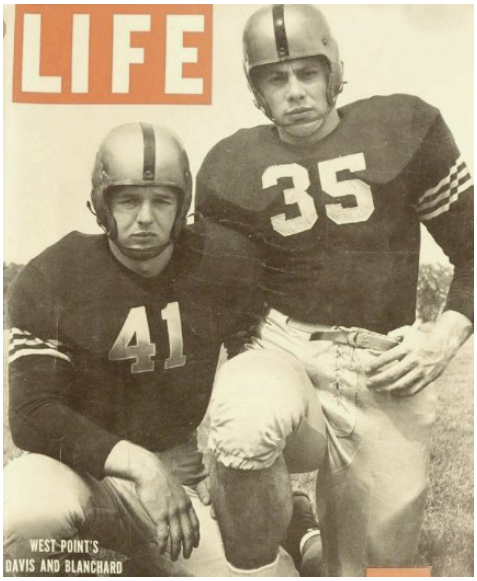
*Photo of pilot Captain Gene Roddenberry.*

*On your left are Dauntless dive bombers, U.S. aircraft that battled in the Pacific. Above is a naval SBD gunner on the USS* ***Independence****, an aircraft carrier.*

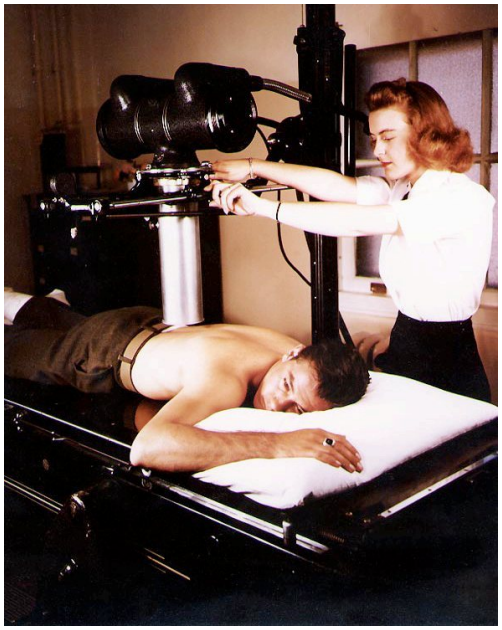
*Ryusei Maru* off s. Kyushu.

**Nov** 9—U.S. 8th A.F. P-51s destroy 61 locomotives and 227 railroad cars near Saarbrucken. Patton's XX Corps begin attacks to encircle and capture Metz, assisted by 8th and 9th Air Forces. Rivers Moselle, Seine, Seille are swollen and are a struggle to cross due to rains. Tank counterattack against 3rd Army forces in Kerling area, s. of Koenigsmacker repelled. Red Cross wins the Nobel peace prize. U.S. sub *Barbero* sinks merchant tanker *Shimotsu Maru* 250 miles w. of Manila. U.S. sub *Queenfish* sinks gunboat *Chojusan Maru* some 50 miles w. of Kyushu. U.S. sub *Haddo* sinks Japanese fleet tanker *No.2 Hishi Maru* in Mindoro Straits. (*Above* U.S. *cruiser Alaska, anchored off Philadelphia.)*

**Nov** 10—British government reveals publicly that London has fallen to V-2 attack. Heavy land fighting at Dagami, Leyte. U.S. sub *Barb* sinks Japanese transport *Gokoku Maru* 7 miles off Koshiki Jima. U.S. sub *Flounder* sinks German sub *U-537* in Java Sea. U.S. Liberators attack Surabaya-bound Japanese ships off Sumbawa, and sink *No. 21 Tachibana Maru, Fuji Maru,* and *Tsukushi Maru*. P-47s, P-38s and B-25s attack Japanese convoy in Ormoc Bay and sink cargo ships *Kashii Maru* and *Takatsu Maru*. ***Enemy of Women*** released, a story of pre-war Nazi Germany Joseph Goebbels propaganda minister, written by an American screenwriter of German descent who worked in Germany until he became a target of Goebbels and the Nazis.




**Nov** 11–Fort Koenigsmacker surrenders. Warships of Third Fleet and land-based bombers bombard Iwo Jima airfields. Powered by 2 great running backs Glenn Davis (41) and Doc Blanchard (35) of **West Point**, Army beats #5 Notre Dame 59-0. (Notre Dame's 1943 team were national champions. They had defeated Army 26-0 with quarterback star Angelo Bertelli under Coach Frank Leahy, who had come from Holy Cross. Bertilli won the Heismann that year when Notre Dame utilized the T-formation; few schools used it. But '43 was Bertelli's senior year, and he headed to the Marines, where he almost got killed later at Iwo Jima. Coach Leahy (also athletic director) accepted a commission in the U.S. Navy and was not at Notre Dame in '44; was a Lieut. in the Pacific. 347 aircraft from carriers of TF38 attack a convoy of transports in the Camotes Sea approaching Ormoc Bay, sink 4 destroyers, cargo ships *Mikasa Maru, Seiho Maru, Tensho Maru* merchantman *Taizan Maru* and minesweeper *W.30*. Almost all of the 10,000 Japanese reinforcements embarked on the transports are killed. U.S. sub *Scamp* is sunk off Tokyo Bay. U.S. freighter *Lee S. Overman* hits mine off Le Havre and is a total loss; 1 casualty. The first **Brazilian Fighter Group**, with P-47s, commence operations with the 12th A.F. in Italy, forming their own squadrons and choosing their own targets. **Brazil was at war** against the Fascist Powers. This song was a music hit in 1944 after the MGM movie *Broadway Rhythm* was released a couple of months back, called ***Amor*** (Skylar-Mendez-Ruiz) sunng by Bing Crosby. ***Bluebeard***, a sinister love story in 19th Century Paris, a noir classic released Nov. 11, 1944, 75 years ago.



**Nov** 12–RAF Lancasters sink battleship *Tirpitz* (42,000 tons) off Tromso Harbor in northern Norway. U.S. subs *Barb* and *Peto* attack convoy MOMA-07 in the East China Sea; *Barb* sinks army cargo ship *Naruo Maru* and damages merchant cargo ship *Gyokuyo Maru*; *Peto* sinks cargo ship *Tatsuraku Maru*. Destroyer *Nicholas* sinks Japanese sub *I-37* s. of Yap Is. Off Leyte: *Thomas Nelson* is hit by a kamikaze, and despite successful firefighting efforts, 133 of the 578 embarked troops are killed, as are 3 of the 28-man Armed Guard; 88 men are injured; repair ships *Egeria* and *Achilles* are damaged by kamikazes; *Leonidas Merritt* is crashed by two kamikazes off Dulag, Leyte, but her crew controls the fires; 1 of the 28-man Armed Guard is killed, as are two others; *William A. Coulter* is struck by two kamikazes, 0 fatalities; troopship *Morrison R. Waite* is strafed and then crashed by a Japanese plane, and the resultant fires kill 21 troops and wounds 41; *Alexander Majors'* Armed Guard gunners deflect a kamikaze with a well-placed 5-inch round, but the plane strikes the mainmast and explodes and showers Liberty ship with burning gasoline that compels the Armed Guards at the forward guns to leap overboard to save themselves. Two crewmen killed, 16 injured; all vessels return to the U.S. for repairs. A special train departs Bialystok, Poland with 1,014 Polish Home Army fighters arrested by the NKVD for Ostashkov "Special" Camp in Tver Oblast. A V-2 rocket hits the Bromley Gas Works in West Ham, London. According to a statement by Indian soldier Havildar Changdi Ram, who was a forced laborer for the Japanese in New Britain, the Japanese

Kempeitai beheaded an Allied pilot, then cut flesh from his arms, legs, hips, and buttocks, and proceeded to cook his flesh. The human flesh was consumed in the evening after a speech was made by a Japanese major general.

**Nov** 13—TF 38 airplanes hit shipping and port facilities at Manila and in central Luzon, sink cruiser *Kiso* and 6 destroyers and 7 cargo ships and destroy 84 planes but lose 25. U.S. sub *Seal* sinks merchant cargo ship *Gassan Maru* n.n.w. of Etorofu, Kurils. Minesweeper *Ardent* and frigate *Rockford* sink Japanese submarine *I-12* (that had sunk freighter *John A. Johnson* on October 29, 1944) 100 miles west-southwest of Los Angeles, California.

**Nov** 15—U.S. 3rd Army 35th Inf Div and 4th Arm reach Morhange and the Metz-Sarrebourg railway. U.S. sub *Barbel* sinks transports *Misaki Maru* and *Sugiyama Maru* in the South China Sea. U.S. sub *Jack* sinks transports *Nichiei Maru* and *No.2 Yuzan Maru* in the South China Sea. U.S. sub *Queenfish* attacks Japanese convoy HI-81, and sinks army cargo ship/aircraft transport *Akitsu Maru* at southern entrance of Tsushima Strait. ***Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo*** released, a classic.

**Nov** 16—U.S. 1st and 9th Armies open 2nd largest breakthrough since St Lo, from the West toward Juelich, Dueren and Cologne after 80 med bombers and 1,208 B-17s and B-24s escorted by 600 fighters hammer the area Duren, Eschweiler, Langerwehe; little enemy air opposition but heavy ground opposition. U.S. 7th Army and Fr. 1st Army push into Belfort Gap in a snowstorm. U.S. sub *Scabbardfish* sinks Japanese transport *Kisaragi Maru* off Chichi Jima. U.S. freighter *Mary Ball* rescues 17 survivors of U.S. tanker *Fort Lee* sunk by U-boat on November 2.

**Nov** 17—U.S. fleet sub *Spadefish* torpedoes and sinks fleet carrier *Shinyo* 140 miles n.e. of Shanghai, China. TBM Avengers from escort carrier *Anzio* sink *I-26* in Philippine Sea. Assault forces of U.S. 9th Army hit hard by German counterattacks near Immendorf and Puffendorf. Enemy continues to contain efforts of 4th Inf Div to advance through Huertgen Forest. Transport *Alpine* is damaged by kamikaze off Leyte. U.S. sub *Gunnel* sinks torpedo boat *Hiyodori* and merchant tanker *Shunten Maru* off French Indochina. ***The Princess and the Pirate*** premiered in Los Angeles in Technicolor.

**Nov** 18—U.S. 5th and 95th Inf divisions push into Metz. U.S. 5th Arm Div and 2nd Moroccan Div drive on Belfort from the n. while U.S. 1st Arm Div with 9th Colonial Div drive 7 miles through Belfort Gap between Rhine-Rhone Canal and Swiss border. *LST-6* hit by mine and sinks in Seine River. TBM Avengers from escort carrier *Anzio* and destroyer *Lawrence C. Taylor* sink Japanese sub *I-41* in Philippine Sea. U.S. sub *Pampanito* sinks *No.17 Banshu Maru* and merchant cargo ship *No.1 Shinko Maru*. U.S. subs *Peto, Spadefish* and *Sunfish* attack a convoy and sink 4 vessels in East China Sea. Navy beats Purdue in football 32-0. Next game is against Army. Army beats Pennsylvania 62-7.

**Nov** 19—In intense tactical air operations, over the area Koblenz-Trier-Schnee, in 3 clear days 842 motor transport, 162 locos and 1,096 R.R. cars are damaged/destroyed. German POW'S exceed 11,000 in fortress town Metz sector. In intense counterattack on Apweiler, U.S. 2nd Arm Div repels fierce attack. French Commandos d'Afrique scale fortress of Salbert in Belfort. Allies reach Chalon-villars, suburb of Belfort. During 4 days of fighting in Huertgen Forest, U.S. 4th Inf

*On your left is Corporal Carlton Chapman in his Sherman tank, part of the 761st Tank Battalion in western Europe.*

Div has gained barely 1 mile, and that at high cost. Destroyer escorts *Conklin* and *McCoy Reynolds* sink Japanese sub *I-37* w. of Palaus. Kamikazes crash on U.S. freighter *Alcoa Pioneer*, Norwegian motor vessel *General Electric* and U.S. merchantman *Cape Romano* in San Pedro Bay, Leyte. From the Corona Naval Hospital, Jack Benny did this radio show for **Thanksgiving**. British submarine HMS *Stratagem* sinks Japanese merchant tanker *Nichinan Maru* in Malacca Strait. TF 38 aircraft hit Japanese shipping and airfields in Luzon in addition to a convoy 10 miles off San Fernando. ***Life of Riley***, aired Nov. 19, 1944, a Thanksgiving Radio Show.

**Nov** 20–The 6th War Bond Drive commenced in America.

**Nov** 21–U.S. sub *Sealion* torpedoes destroyer *Urakaze and* battleship *Kongo* 60 miles n.n.w. of Taiwan (Formosa) and sinks both, becoming the only submarine to sink a battleship. British 2nd Army advances on Venlo but make little headway in other sectors of Holland against strong German opposition and a downpour of rain. All along **the Front**, Allied advance is slow ( you will also see Burma, a newly arrived team of mules, and the supply lines at Leyte); the following are sad examples, U.S. captures town of Bourheim after German withdrawal, but after dark are forced to withdraw after Germans pour into town. South of Bourheim, U.S. troops takes Montdidier and Albestroff, the latter an important road center, but the Americans in Albestroff are then surrounded, isolated and destroyed. Rains also bring Italian front's Gothic Line to a standstill.

**Nov** 22–U.S. troops reach Roer river. British troops reach Maas river. Patton crosses the Saar river. St.-Die, France, liberated by U.S. 103rd Inf Div; in 1507 the *Cosmographiae Introductio* was published in St.-Die where the word "America" premiered. **Metz, Strasbourg,** and **Belfort** liberated. Town of Metz is captured by U.S. Third Army, although the little forts of Verdun, St. Privat, St. Quentin, Plappeville, Driant, and Jeanne d'Arc still hold out and are bypassed. U.S. 26th Inf Div captures Munster, Germany. U.S. Third Army regroups for drive to the Sarre. Battle of Shoestring Ridge opens as Japanese attack sector of thinly spread 7th Inf Div at Leyte. Air raid on U.S. air base at Morotai, JAF destroy15 bombers and damage 31. U.S. sub *Guavina* sinks cargoship *D_wa Maru* near Tizard's Bank, n.w. of Borneo.

**Nov** 23–**Thanksgiving Day with GI's**. Thanksgiving Dinner in ***The Abbott and Costello Show***, (27 mins). Greetings **a Thanksgiving Special** Radio Program, with Lionel Barrymore intro (28 mins). **Strasbourg** liberated by French 2nd Arm Div, raising the French flag over Strasbourg cathedral at 2:30 pm. The Canadian Government issues an order-in-council policy making 16,000 draftees available for overseas service, ending (war-) voluntary enlistment. Troop transport *James O'Hara* is damaged by kamikaze off Leyte. U.S. freighter *Gus W. Darnell* torpedoed by Japanese plane off Samar Island and catches fire. U.S. subs *Bang* and *Redfish* attack convoy in Formosa Strait and sink three ships. U.S. freighter *William D. Burnham* is torpedoed by German U-boat *U-978* off Barfleur, France. U.S. sub *Picuda* sinks merchant *Fukuju Maru* and *Shuyo Maru* in Tsushima Strait.

**Nov** 24–U.S. casualties through November 7 are reported: 528,795, including 162,860 killed. Japanese troops capture Nanning, China. In the first bombing mission over Tokyo since Doolittle, 88 B-29s fly 1550 miles from Marianas and bomb the capital and selected targets; 2 lost in combat

and one falls in the Pacific with crew rescued; mission unsuccessful. Heinrich Himmler orders the destruction of the Auschwitz and Birkenau crematoriums.

**Nov** 25—A V-2 hits crowded Woolworth store in Deptford, England. U.S. pilots from the *Ticonderoga* sink Japanese cruiser *Kumano* off the Philippines. Planes from carrier *Intrepid* sink 2 transports. Planes from *Essex* and *Ticonderoga* sink 4 other ships. Merchant tanker *Ceram Maru* is damaged by aircraft in Manila Bay. U.S. sub *Cavalla* sinks Japanese destroyer *Shimotsuki,* w. of Borneo. Japan resorts to a god-is-on-their- side strategy, and send Japanese pilots as a "divine wind" to attack U.S. carriers: two airplanes crash on the flight deck of the *Intrepid* 60 miles off Pt. Dijohaan, Luzon, and create a raging inferno that lasts three hours; 69 men die, and 35 seriously wounded; *Independence* and *Cabot* damaged sustain over 60 casualties; 62 men were killed or wounded; Kamikaze crashes onto port-side of the *Essex*, creating a giant explosion; fully-armed Hellcats on deck are ripped apart; 15 are killed and 44 wounded; miraculously fires extinguished in 30 mins. A Kamikaze barely misses the carrier *Hancock* but damages carrier *Intrepid*. [A divine wind in 1281 saved Japan from a Mongol invasion.] U.S. 95th Inf Div deployed to the Saar.

**Nov** 26—B-29s make second raid over Tokyo; mission "stinks". **Jack Benny special** Thanksgiving Old Time Radio show, aired Nov. 26, 1944, with commercials.

**Nov** 27—First V-2 blasts Antwerp, Holland. Luftwaffe concentrates on 8th A.F. bombers with over 700 interceptors—this becomes the last big surprise; 0 bombers fall, 11 P-51 downed; 98 enemy aircraft downed. Battleship *Colorado* damaged by Kamikaze. Cruiser *St Louis* knifed by two Kamikazees. U.S. Marines mop up the last Japanese die-hards on Peleliu. Japanese launch initial air strike by night against U.S. bases on the Marianas; 3 B-29s destroyed. Sec. of State Cordell Hull resigns because of ill-health. German fortresses around Metz still in battle.

**Nov** 28—The first Allied convoy crosses the Scheldt estuary and reaches the semi-demolished port of Antwerp, led by Canadian vessel *Fort Cataraqui*. U.S. Third Army moves into the Saar basin. Fifty carloads of flour and 150 tons of frozen beef are distributed to civilian populace of Metz. ***Meet Me in St. Louis*** premieres in St. Louis, Missouri in Technicolor.

**Nov** 29—U.S. First Army captures town of Huertgen. U.S. sub *Archerfish* sinks carrier *Shinano* 160 nautical miles s.e. of Cape Muroto, Japan. U-boat *1230* lands Nazi spies by night at Hancock Point, Maine. Mary Forni and Boy Scout Harvard M. Hodgkins reported two unusual men on the side of a rural road near Bar Harbor; unusual in the sense walking in the snow w/o snow boots. The 16 yr-old Boy Scout followed their tracks to a small rubber raft. Their alert launched an FBI dragnet, apprehended in Jan '45. (They turned out to be Erich Gimpel, a German spy, and William Colepaugh, an American defector, who had slipped ashore as spies; arrested in N.Y. with a secret radio transmitter and over $100,000 in diamonds.) First Open heart surgery performed at John Hopkins Hospital by surgeon Alfred Blalock and Vivien Thomas, a black assistant. German troops are withdrawn from Albania. Albania freed. Battleship *Maryland* sustains severe damage by single Kamikaze. USAAF B-25s and P-47s 5th A.F. attack Japanese shipping near Ormoc Bay sink submarine chaser *Ch 45*. U.S. 5th A.F. P-40s and P-47s sink army cargo ship *Shinetsu Maru* off Camotes Is. and cargo ship *Shinsho Maru* off Ormoc.

**Nov** 30—Air raid over Zeitz cost the 8th A.F. the greatest loss of aircraft due to flak defenses. Throughout November, Glenn Miller's band recorded a number of songs in German that were designed to be played for enemy consumption only. Two Chinese divisions ordered withdrawn from Burma to defend Kumming, China. U.S. sub *Sunfish* sinks Japanese merchantman *Dairen Maru* off western Korea. British submarine HMS *Stratagem* sinks Japanese cargo vessel *Kumano Maru* in Malacca Straits.