

## **—1944—**

**Jan 1 1944 —Gen. Jimmy Doolittle assigned to command U.S. 8th Air Force in England.**

**Jan 15 1944 —U.S. force in Great Britain numbers 750,000.**

**Jan 16 1944 —Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower assumes command as Supreme commander of Allied Forces in Europe.**

**Jan 20 —U.S. 36th Infantry Div attacks across Rapido River.**

**Jan 22 —Allied landings on Anzio attempts to outflank Gustav Line.**

**Jan 26 —Force of over 200 U.S. fighters and bombers knock out key Japanese airbase on Rabaul. U.S. sub *Skipjack* sinks Japanese destroyer *Suzukaze* and transport *Okitsu Maru* off Carolines. Off Anzio, *LCI-32* is sunk and U.S. freighter *John Banyard* is so damaged by air attack is sunk. Off Nettuno, Italy a German plane crashes into U.S. freighter *Hillary A. Herbert* but survives.**

**Jan 27 —Convoy JW 56A under attack by U-boats in Arctic and U.S. freighter *Andrew G. Curtain* goes to the bottom, but British destroyer *HMS Inconstant* rescues 68 survivors.**

**Jan 31—U.S. Marines and Army invade Kwajalein and Majuro.**

**Feb 8 —U.S. sub *Snook* sinks troopship *Lima Maru* e. of Goto Archipelago. *Petrella* transporting Italian prisoners is sunk by *HMS Sportsman*, and as she went down Germans refused to open the holds where the POWs were, 2670 died.**

**Feb 9 —The premiere of Lady in the Dark in Hollywood.**

**Feb 10 —U.S. sub *Pogy* sinks Japanese destroyer *Minekaze* and freighter *Malta Maru* off Taiwan.**

**Feb 11 —U.S. sub *Gudgeon* sinks freighter *Satsuma Maru* off Wenchow, China; had been attacked by Chinese B-25s initially.**

**Feb 14 —U.S. sub *Flasher* sinks freighter *Minryo Maru* off Luzon. U.S. sub *Snook* sinks freighter *Nittoku Maru* near Tsushima, Japan. British sub *HMS Tally Ho* sinks Japanese sub *UIT 23* off Malaya.**

**Feb 17 —Huge airstrike on main Japanese base at Truk by carrier**

planes of 9 American carriers accompanied by 6 battleships. [Up in Arms](#) starring Danny Kaye and Dinah Shore premiered in NYC in Technicolor.

**Feb 20** —[Big Week](#) commences: 880 U.S. 8th A.F. bombers (and 835 fighters) drop 2218 tons of bombs on industrial centers at Leipzig, Gotha, Brunswick, Tutow, Oschersleben, Rostok, and Bernberg, Germany; over 200 Americans missing in action.

**Feb 23** —Southern Pacific direct train service to Los Angeles resumed after a big storm in Southern California. 100 war plants were closed by power outages caused by the storm that killed four. U.S. oil tanker *E.G. Seubert* is sunk by U-boat in Indian Ocean. U.S. sub *Pogy* sinks freighter *Horei Maru* off Okinawa. U.S. sub *Sunfish* and aircraft from carrier *Yorktown* sink *Shinyubari Maru* 40 miles w. of Saipan. U.S. sub *Plunger* sinks transport *Kimishima Maru*. U.S. sub *Balao* sinks army transport *Nikki Maru*.

**Feb 24** —Exactly 1746 tons hit aircraft production centers at Gotha, Schweinfurt, Rostock, and Eisenach by 746 B-17's and B-24's of the 8th A.F. protected by 767 "little friends" U.S. fighter pilots shoot down 39 interceptors; 49 U.S. heavies lost, 10 fighters lost (over 433 Americans missing in action.) British carrier HMS *Furious* makes raid on Norwegian coast. Chile crushes a vast Nazi spy ring.

**Feb 25** —First low-level strafing mission by U.S. 8th A.F. One thousand heavies of U.S. 8th and U.S. 15 A.F.'s bomb Regensburg, Stuttgart, Augsburg, Furth and other assembly plants; over 300 Americans missing in action.

**Feb 29** —Against low cloud overcast, U.S. 1st Cavalry Div. makes a surprise landing on Los Negros with only 3 B-24s and 9 B-25s able to see main enemy target; fierce Japanese counterattacks ensue.

**Mar 1** —Destroyer escort *Bronstein* sinks a U-boat in N. Atlantic and then with escorts *Thomas* and *Bostwick* send another U-boat

to the bottom of the sea. Well protected convoy transporting Japanese troops from Manchuria to Guam attacked by U.S. sub *Trout* damages a transport and sinks transport *Sakito Maru* 625 miles e. of Taiwan; but *Trout* was hunted and sunk; *Sakito* lost 2,475 men, *Trout* lost 60 men.

**Mar 2** —The heaviest to date Mediterranean A.F. air support over entrapped U.S. GI's trapped on Anzio beachhead. The last German major counterattack is next day.

*Casablanca* wins Academy Award for Best Picture; Best Actor: Paul Lukas, *Watch on the Rhine*; Best Actress: Jennifer Jones, *The Song of Bernadette*; Best Supporting Actor: Charles Coburn, *The More the Merrier*; Best Supporting Actress: Katina Paxinou, *For Whom the Bell Tolls*; Best Director: Michael Curtiz, *Casablanca*; Alfred Newman won Best Original Music score in [The Song of Bernadette](#), a beautiful depiction of the Blessed Mother's apparition at Lourdes, France with Bernadette, which won 2 more Oscars, in Cinematography, and Art Direction, Interior Decoration, bw; in same 2 categories for color picture [Phantom of the Opera](#) won, nosing out [For Whom the Bell Tolls](#), and [Thousands Cheer](#); Best Documentary: *Desert Victory*; Best Documentary, short subj: *December 7th*, nosing out the shorty *Youth in Crisis* on teen delinquency and growing youth crime (doubling in the 1st 2 yrs of war) a *March of Time* episode; Best Film Editing: *Air Force*; Best Special Effects: [Crash Dive](#); Best Music, Scoring of a Musical Picture: [This Is The Army](#); Best Writing, Original Story: *The Human Comedy*; Best Writing, Screenplay: *Casablanca*; Best Short Subj, Cartoons: *The Yankee Doodle Mouse*; first time Academy Awards held at the Grauman's Chinese Theatre; free passes given to those in uniform.

**Mar 3** —Pres. Roosevelt announces that the Italian Fleet will be distributed among the U.S., U.K., and the U.S.S.R. British sub HMS *Sea Rover* sinks freighter No. 1 *Matsu Maru* in Strait of Malacca. U.S. sub *Rasher* sinks army transport *Nittai Maru* in Celebes Sea.

**Mar 4** —Six hundred B-17's and B-24's of U.S. 8th A.F. conduct [first daylight raid](#) on Berlin proclaims radio; only 30 U.S. B-17's actually bomb Berlin (also seen are refugees awaiting the day of peace.) U.S. sub *Bluefish* sinks oiler *Ominesan Maru* in So. China Sea.

**Mar 6** —5th Marine Reg. of the U.S. 1st Marine Div lands on west coast of New Britain Island, a [forgotten land](#) mainly tropical rain forests and active volcanoes. Colossal air battle over Berlin takes place; 69 U.S. 8th A.F. B-17s and B-24s missing in action out of 600 plus. Rem: the 8th A.F. used only heavy bombers and each had a crew of 10. Major train center Trappes, France, devastated by R.A.F. night bombing. U.S. sub *Nautilus* sinks transport *America Maru*, a captured ex-hospital U.S. ship. Convoy UGS 33 from N.Y. strays into an Allied minefield near Tunis and freighter *Daniel Chester French* sinks, *Virginia Dare* hits a mine but survives.

**Mar 8** —Exactly 539 heavily escorted bombers of U.S. 8th A.F. bombard Berlin; 1060 tons fall; 891 U.S. fighters flew mission. 382 Americans missing in action. 78 interceptors knocked off by U.S. fighters.

**Mar 9** —Berlin, Hanover, Brunswick, Nauen bombed by 489 8th A.F. bombers; 83 Lightnings, 572 Thunderbolts, 153 Mustangs give support; 64 Americans missing in action. Deep in the Persian Gulf Service Command, American railroaders performing outstanding delivery for the Russian Army. (One hardly ever hears about those Americans.) Destroyer escort *Leopold* sunk by U-boat off Scotland, 28 survivors; 172 dead.

**Mar 10** —U.S. 9th A.F. in England secretly granted more independence in operations and will divert to preinvasion tactics as opposed to aerial heavy bomber assistance.

**Mar 11** —B-24's of U.S. 15th A.F. sink two U-boats in the docks of Toulon, France. U.S. sub *Bowfin* sinks freighter *Tsukikawa* off Halmahera. Indian Navy HMIS *Jumna* and Australian HMAS *Ipswich* and HMAS *Launceston* sink Japanese sub *RO-110*. Red

Army pushes down Dneiper River and overruns Berislav.

**Mar 12** –Announcement is made of special trans-Atlantic aerial freight line inaugurated by 8th A.F. Service Command in England to supplement ATC (Air Transport Command) shipments, for top-secret Operation Overlord. U.S. sub *Gato* sinks freighter *No.3 Okinoyoyama Maru* off New Guinea

**Mar 13** –Main body of U.S. 3rd Army HQ sails in convoy from NY for England.

**Mar 15** –In greatest air effort in Mediterranean, Cassino is leveled. Indian 4th Div. attacks toward Monastery Hill making slow progress against stubborn Germans in the rubble. U.S. 85th Inf Div. arrives at the Italian Front.

**Mar 17** –New Zealanders take Cassino railroad station. U-boat sinks U.S. troopship *Dempo* in Mediterranean Sea;498 dead. U.S. troops capture Lorengau airstrip, Admiralty Is.

**Mar 18** –Eruption of Mt. Vesuvius, Italy. Steaming waves of lava bubble over Mt. Vesuvius in an opposite flow from a USAAF bombardment group base; lava buries several villages. New Zealand armor turned back with heavy losses at Cassino. Allied casualty list from January 16, 1944 to end of March 1944 in Italy: a horrible 52,130 (22,219 were American; 22,092 British and other Allies.)