

1: WW II Allied bombing campaigns affected the edge of space

And President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill at Casablanca announced the around-the-clock strategic bombing of the Reich. Until most of the death and destruction of World War II had occurred in the countries Germany invaded.

It was a terrifying transformation in the nature of war, that saw industrial towns across Europe smashed to pieces and hundreds of thousands of civilians killed. When Luftwaffe night-bombers unintentionally and against orders attacked London in August, Churchill ordered a retaliatory raid on Berlin. This caused an enraged Hitler to order intensified bombing of targets in and around London. Both sides thus claimed that their attacks on enemy cities were in retaliation for what had been begun by the enemy. In reality, the bombing of cities and their civilian population had been a reality of warfare since the First World War. These were mostly concentrated in cities, and given the inaccurate nature of bombing in World War Two especially at night, this policy would inevitably lead to the destruction of houses and many civilian deaths. In February, RAF Bomber Command explicitly began to focus its attacks on the enemy civilian population, when it shifted from strategic bombing to the night-time area bombing of cities, designed to break enemy morale. He felt that despatching 1, aircraft each night against German objectives, destroying great industrial cities in hours, would render the invasion of Europe unnecessary. He pointed to the Cologne raid of May as an example of what could be achieved: The US Army Air Force, flying raids from British bases from, remained faithful to the concept of precision daylight bombing with variable accuracy. Early daylight raids by the USAAF, without the protection of long-range fighter escorts, could lead to terrible losses. Such long-distance raids were then abandoned until, when long-distance fighter escorts were available. In May, RAF Bomber Command was able to pull off one stunning piece of precision bombing, in the famous Dambusters raids against dams in the Ruhr Valley, in the German industrial heartland. Although the economic impact of the raid was negligible, it was a skilful and courageous operation that had a great impact on public morale. Meanwhile, area bombing continued. In June, in Operation Gomorrah, British and American bombers attacked Hamburg day and night for an entire week; half the city was levelled, and 40, were killed. Yet the bombing continued. The effectiveness of the bombing campaign is still debated. There was terrible destruction of the German economy, although output still rose during the war as the economy was geared more and more towards wartime needs. Public support in Germany for the Nazi regime, and civilian morale, was not obviously affected. The bombing campaign did force Germany to devote huge resources to the defence of the homeland, and the German air force suffered significant losses at the hands of Allied fighter escorts. Six in ten British bomber aircrew were killed, one of the highest casualty rates of any service in the war.

2: 8th June Round the clock bombing pounds Pantelleria

European Allied Strategic Bombing Campaign--Around the Clock Bombing () Figure The combined Allied air assault on Germany was planned and coordinated by Air Marshall Harris and the American commanders General Hap Arnold and Ira Eaker.

German lessons[edit] A German Heinkel He over London dockyard The Germans learned serious lessons in target selection and aircraft construction. The first lesson was that the choice targets of Royal Air Force airfields and the seaport docks and shipping yards were too hastily forsaken for the urban areas of London and Coventry. This lack of heavy bombers was not the only handicap. The German bombers were not adequately armed with power-operated turrets. Of course the Germans were not alone in committing crucial mistakes. Although pre-war theory stressed the invulnerability of bombers flying in close formation with guns blazing, the small-caliber armaments on the Whitley and Wellington bombers were not effective against Luftwaffe Mes coming from behind or across the beam. Bombers flying at night were often unable to hit a prescribed city, much less a specific factory or rail yard. With the failure of both daylight and nighttime precision raids, the British settled upon the practice of area bombing--that is, "dehousing and demoralizing" the German populace by placing bombs in a loose pattern on city centers. Aerial photographs were then taken in the summer of The results, compiled in the Butt Report, were disheartening. While Bomber Command went on its nightly raids, the world stood back to analyze, admire, or condemn the fires in the German cities. The American force had no desire, at least initially, to join in on the night raids with the British. Instead, minor attacks were carried out against precision targets usually railways, factories, and submarine pens [6] in France, Belgium, and the Netherlands. With their Norden bombsights American bombardiers wished to flaunt their daylight precision bombing technique, thoroughly practiced on the home front bombing ranges. Paying little attention to earlier British trials and errors, the American bomber leaders learned for themselves, quite senselessly, the same lessons their RAF counterparts had learned three years before. Also its necessity for a long straight approach to guarantee accuracy made the bomber more vulnerable to anti-aircraft fire flak. The lack of insight was quick to show. On August 17, , Bs made an attack on ball-bearing plants at Schweinfurt in which sixty Flying Fortresses were shot down. On this raid the bombers were incessantly harassed while out of fighter escort range, and 62 planes out of were destroyed. The ratio was now up over one-in-four, and each Fortress carried ten men. The Eighth Air Force, for the time, had to give up any more raids of this type. The invasion of Normandy brought about a new bombing priority: Unfortunately these stretches of track often came very close to urban populations, and the lives of the French citizens were overruled by military necessity. Transition from precision to area bombing[edit] But the return was not quite the same. The nature of American bombing policy definitely changed in a two-step process. Eisenhower stated, "While I have always insisted that U. Strategic Air Forces be directed against precision targets, I am always prepared to take part in anything that gives real promise to ending the war quickly. President Roosevelt himself summarized in August a common belief among military circles: We have got to be tough with Germany, and I mean the German people not just the Nazis It is of the utmost importance that every person in Germany should realize that this time Germany is a defeated nation The German people as a whole must have it driven home to them that the whole nation has been engaged in a lawless conspiracy against the decencies of modern civilization. This plan was drafted in December and was intended to break civilian morale by sending a wide series of low-level attacks across Germany. The targets were ostensibly transportation ones, but the real objective was the psychological collapse of the German populace at large. Small towns were hit later in in a deliberate attempt to bring home to the German citizen the omnipresence of the Allied air forces. CLARION was the call to arms for those military leaders who wished to move from the precise to the indiscriminate in bombing. It was a plan enacted in January which made Berlin, Leipzig, and Dresden acceptable, even preferred, targets. Some military objectives were hit, but 25, civilians may have perished. The ruthless attacks that summer on numerous Japanese cities lends credence to this assumption. Outcomes of the campaigns[edit] After about three years in Europe, American strategic air forces had developed into a gigantic operational group. At its

maximum in August, the U. Army Air Forces had over 10,000 combat personnel. These men dropped 1,000,000 tons of bombs on Germany. The homeless totaled between seven and eight million. Estimates suggest that 1,000,000 were wounded in bombing attacks and that 1,000,000 civilians were killed. It has been proposed that more than 1,000,000 people in Germany were killed by "terror bombing". At what cost was this destruction achieved? Throughout the course of the air war against Germany, 9,000 American bomber planes were lost. This figure accounts for a significant fraction of the total number of bombers in action. It should be considered that with each lost bomber went not one engine, but usually four, not one man, but perhaps ten. In fact, 79,000 American aviators were lost in action [19] more than 52,000 of them killed [20] during bombing sorties. These fliers represented one of the most highly-trained and valuable segments of the military. Was their loss necessary? Spaatz, from "Strategic Air Power: Fulfillment of a Concept", Foreign Affairs, April 1945. A Concise History, New York: The city of Hamburg was devastated by the air raid. Over one million civilians fled the burning city; yet, 31,000 to 50,000 people unfortunate enough to remain were killed. The deaths were often due to asphyxiation, crushing, or intense burns and heat from the notorious fire storm which ensued. The raid also included an attack on the Messerschmitt factory at Regensburg. Oxford University Press, 1964, p. 100. The casualties at Dresden were amplified by the large number of refugees seeking shelter from the advancing Red Army. The total death toll has never been undisputably established, and legitimate estimates range from 25,000 to about 100,000, Lee Kennett has stated p. 100. How Just Was It?

3: Around The Clock Bombing - British Pathé©

It had been heavily fortified by Mussolini with a ring of gun emplacements around the coast but the Allies wanted to take it with minimum losses, a stepping stone on the way to Sicily. On the 8th June , just over a week after the bombing had begun, a Naval bombardment was added to the Italian's torment.

I was almost immediately enthusiastic about it. And it magnificently succeeds. We will follow one of them, Hora. First the alarm clock then the clocks Then the tube subway Segment two or "Getting old and running out of time": A state employee realizes how empty his life was with a shrew of a wife portrayed by the marvelous Jeanne Fusier-Gir Segment three or "The time has come". A glorious champion was given flowers by a lady Hora every time he won the race. Segment four or "these precious minutes". A lady Gaby Morlay comes to visit her very young son in a boarding-school. Too late for her lover who is about to be arrested. Segment five or "Brother can you spare a dime? Segment six or "time waits for no one". A rich owner of a night club feels sick when he comes home late at night. He takes to his bed ,Hora is here. The man Charpin is only fifty and he wants to live more "Half a century" she says " think of it! Like in the old Egyptian religion,then begins some kind of weighing of the soul where even the ghost of his late mother comes back Depressing Segment seven or "Where have all the good times gone? He portrays a man who seems to have everything: He treats her to the delights of champagne and caviar. He opens up and tells his frustrations,his regrets ,he calls her "Grandmother" and longs for a childhood long gone. Then the haunting melody of "Que Reste-t-il de Nos Amours" is not far from driving the viewer to tears. A man was sentenced to death and he waits for the executioner in his cell. The desperate prisoner asks for a reprieve ,crying it was not his fault and he was a victim of destiny. Hora helps him to escape but she knows that his attempt is doomed. As he drives his car at a dizzying speed,she gives him a cigarette. A wheel rolls on the road Claude Sautet will use this picture for the first scene of "Les Choses de la Vie" Hora comes back there where time reigns over man,eternal captive on the carousel of time. Should not be missed. Was this review helpful to you?

4: Vegesack WWII Bombing Mission October 8,

Location Unknown / Unclear. Title reads 'Round-the-Clock Bombing'. Several shots of the bomber planes on unknown American airfield being bombed up.

See more pictures of WWII. By February , momentum in the second World War seemed to have shifted somewhat. In both cases, the overwhelming bulk of enemy armed forces remained undefeated. In each instance, victory was geographically remote from the enemy heartland. The Allies understood that winning the war would be a long, drawn-out, and costly endeavor. The turning points that are familiar to us now were less clear-cut at the time. In most cases, small victories were important in order to keep the Allied populations committed to an otherwise demoralizing and indecisive war. The changing expectations on both sides also played an important part in determining an outcome that was still more than two years away. Just days before the German surrender at Stalingrad on January 31, , President Franklin Roosevelt and Winston Churchill met for a high-level conference in the Moroccan city of Casablanca, recently captured in Operation Torch. There they discussed the future direction of the war. They gave the European Theater priority, but they would not commit to an invasion of Northern Europe until the Atlantic could be made safe for the mass transport of men and supplies. They would also maintain a relentless bombing campaign against the European Axis states to ease the pressure on the Red Army. At the final press briefing of the conference, President Franklin Roosevelt -- in agreement with Winston Churchill -- announced that the enemy states had only one option open to them: No room was put aside for maneuver or compromise. After a year in which the Allies lost 7. Most important was the adoption of new forms of radar on ships and aircraft as well as the transfer of adequate numbers of long-range planes to patrol the sea lanes. In May , the German navy lost 41 submarines while Allied merchant vessel losses dropped sharply. That power was principally represented in the air in Eighth Air Force had begun around-the-clock bombing -- the British by night, the Americans by day -- from the winter of The Russian victory in the Battle of Kursk drove Nazi Germany out of central and southern Russia and opened the way to victory in the East. Efforts to attack identifiable industrial or military targets could not be achieved with prevailing technology without a high cost to civilians. Over the course of the war, more than , German civilians would die from the bombing attacks; a further 60, civilians would be killed in attacks on Italian cities. The bomb attacks immediately affected German strategy. The Germans established a large air defense sector. To do so, they had to withdraw valuable resources of manpower, artillery, shells, and aircraft from the military front line. There, German armies were forced to fight with shrinking air cover. Though military production continued to rise in Germany during , the increase was much lower than it would have been otherwise. Bombing placed a ceiling on the German war effort and brought the war to bear directly on German and Italian society. The Allies capitalized on these growing advantages. In North Africa, the Axis forces that were bottled up in Tunisia were slowly starved of supplies by Allied naval and air power in the Mediterranean. By May 13, when the battle was over, , Italian and German troops had surrendered. Following the collapse of the German assault on the Caucasus and Stalingrad, the Red Army became overly ambitious. After the Soviets pressed the German army back, a swift counteroffensive around Kharkov in early was a reminder that the huge German army remained a formidable foe. Adolf Hitler listened to the advice of his generals, who argued that in summer weather, with good preparation, they could smash a large part of the Soviet army in a single pitched battle. They chose a large salient that bulged into the German front line around the city of Kursk as their battleground. Operation Citadel lacked the geographical scope of previous operations, but it became one of the largest set-piece battles of the whole war. It followed a classic German pattern: Two heavily armored pincers would close around the neck of the salient, trapping the Soviet armies in the salient and creating conditions for a possible drive into the areas behind Moscow. Manstein, who commanded the southern pincer, wanted to attack in April or May, before the Red Army had time to consolidate its position. But Adolf Hitler, in agreement with General Model who commanded the northern pincer , ordered a delay until German forces were fully armed with a new generation of heavy tanks and guns -- the Panthers and Tigers. The Soviets, for the first time, guessed the German plan correctly. Stalin had to be persuaded by Georgi Zhukov and the

General Staff that a posture of embedded defense was better strategy than seeking open battle against a powerful mobile enemy. Stalin accepted it only because the defensive stage was to be followed by a massive blow struck by Soviet reserves against the weakened and retreating German armies. In May and June, a vast army of Soviet civilians turned the Kursk salient into a veritable fortress, and they waited for the Nazi attack. See the next section for a detailed timeline on the important World War II events that occurred during early February To follow more major events of World War II, see:

5: 1 August - This Day in Aviation

In , that power was principally represented in the air. The Combined Bomber Offensive was officially launched as Operation Pointblank in June , although British Bomber Command and the U.S. Eighth Air Force had begun around-the-clock bombing -- the British by night, the Americans by day -- from the winter of

No German reports were available on the final situation regarding this crew and the Liberator. It could be concluded only that this aircrew went down just off shore into the North Sea waters, and never recovered. In February , he provided a statement regarding what he witnessed and thought about their fate. None are available in the MACR account. No German reports exist. National Cemetery reports listing these crew members are as noted: Whitnah; Zschiesche; Willhite; Tynes; and Cavell. All members are noted to have been awarded Air Medals and the Purple Heart. The listing records these relatives: P Capt Buschman, John G. According to the surviving crew member reports, their aircraft was attacked by twin-engine enemy fighters at about 23, feet right after target in the vicinity of Belmanhorst, Germany. The German reports indicate the crash site of the aircraft was at Oerdingen near Sullingen, Germany, after the crew bailed out of their badly crippled ship. As a summation of all survivor testimony taken by U. The latter crew man was later observed by another survivor lying about yards from where this survivor was taken POW. The German reports noted the following: The bodies of Sgts. Hoover and Bernard were positively identified from their respective dog-tags, however, there was one "unknown" person found. No identifying tags were found on this body. A summation of such accounts and testimonies of surviving crew members is given above. The German report KU reported the aircraft crash site at Oerdingen at hours on the mission date and that three dead were recovered at or very near this location. The three crewmen, Sgts. Hoover Florida and Sgt. Bernard was given a Purple Heart Citation. For clearly indeed, as history bears out, it was. While the case for daylight precision bombing by visionary U. Eaker also flying on this initial raid in another B nicknamed "YANKEE DOODLE" had been strongly embraced and correctly so as it later proved throughout for those past fourteen months, the manner now of just how to pursue this strategic doctrine was creating serious concerns at the highest levels in view of mounting heavy bomber losses. The near-devastating losses by the Eighth on the two missions against the German armaments ball-bearing works at Schweinfurt on 17 August and 14 October were stark testimony to this latter fact. On these two raids alone, a total of 96 Bs had been shot down by the Luftwaffe with a direct casualty count of 1, U. These stark consequences were regarded without doubt by all senior air leaders involved from Washington to England as unacceptable. Something had to be done, and soon. And now, the tide of this air war seemed most clearly to be swinging to: This latter opposition had stemmed primarily as being diametrically wrong in doctrine from the British one being followed from the beginning and continued throughout the war - that of, all night time heavy bomber, mass-area concentrated attacks in bringing Germany to its knees. The main problem to solve, and soon, was held apparent at these highest levels of leadership: The absolute necessity to defeat the German Air Force by air superiority and subsequently gain uncontested air supremacy over the entire continental land mass. Up to this time in the air war, the U. P "Thunderbolt" fighter along with the P- 38 "Lightning" and the British-built "Spitfire" had taken the battle to the Luftwaffe with most creditable results. But, even with the recently installed and innovative fuel "drop" tanks with a gallon capacity and made of paper , the P with the modest increase in flying range thus gained could only provide bomber escort protection to about the Rhine River reaching on a line generally from the Ruhr Valley basin target complexes to Frankfurt, Germany. And even as early at then, it was realized this fighter was one that could take the bomber streams aggressively in escort all the way to and out of deep German targets such as Politz, Berlin, Magdeburg and Brunswick to name but few. In so doing, it had the superior capability to inflict telling losses on the Luftwaffe along the bomber corridors, only to return the next day to do the same job.. This decisive air fighter was the North American P "Mustang" - which arguably, was the best all-around and superior fighter aircraft of its time ever deployed, and certainly during the Second World War. This small but incredibly formidable U. The latter fact was also clearly attested by many at the time and later, including the head Luftwaffe Fighter Command General, Adolf Galland, in his memoirs. I opened the bomb bays and

dropped the bombs. It was the job of our radio operator, Newberry, to verify the strike by taking pictures of the drop. He leaned out the bomb bay to do this and was hit with a piece of "ack-ack", shell from an anti-aircraft gun. It went right through his steel helmet and into his head. I put him on oxygen and held him while we returned to base. There was significant damage to our plane and we had to crash land. He died in my arms just as we came in. His home of record was Arkansas.

6: The Bombing Offensive | History TV

Combined with the Royal Air Force's concentration on mass air attacks on industrial areas at night by , this doctrine evolved into the Combined Bomber Offense featuring "around-the-clock" bombing of German targets.

In July , the German navy withdrew from the Atlantic battle. See more pictures of World War II. In May , the German navy lost 41 submarines while Allied merchant vessel losses dropped sharply. In , that power was principally represented in the air. Eighth Air Force had begun around-the-clock bombing -- the British by night, the Americans by day -- from the winter of . Efforts to attack identifiable industrial or military targets could not be achieved with prevailing technology without a high cost to civilians. From July 24 to 28, a succession of attacks on the northern German port city of Hamburg resulted in the first "firestorm," which killed an estimated 40, people. Over the course of the war, more than , German civilians would die from the bombing attacks; a further 60, civilians would be killed in attacks on Italian cities. The bomb attacks immediately affected German strategy. The Germans established a large air defense sector. To do so, they had to withdraw valuable resources of manpower, artillery, shells, and aircraft from the military front line. There, German armies were forced to fight with shrinking air cover. Though military production continued to rise in Nazi Germany during , the increase was much lower than it would have been otherwise. Bombing placed a ceiling on the German war effort and brought the war to bear directly on German and Italian society. In North Africa, the Axis forces that were bottled up in Tunisia were slowly starved of supplies by Allied naval and air power in the Mediterranean. By May 13, when the battle was over, , Italian and German troops had surrendered. As had been decided at Casablanca, the Western Allies launched an attack on Sicily on July , On September 3, an armistice was agreed upon, and on September 8, Italy surrendered. That same week, American and British Commonwealth forces landed in southern Italy against limited German resistance. However, German forces were reinforced as the battle took shape. Though Naples was liberated on October 1, Allied progress slowed in the difficult mountain terrain. By the end of , the German army -- which had formally occupied Italy as an enemy state -- consolidated a strong line of defense, the Gustav Line, south of Rome. Following the collapse of the German assault on the Caucasus and Stalingrad, the Red Army became overly ambitious. After the Soviets pressed the German army back, a swift counteroffensive around Kharkov in early was a reminder that the huge German army remained a formidable foe. Hitler listened to the advice of his generals, who argued that in summer weather, with good preparation, they could smash a large part of the Soviet Union army in a single pitched battle. They chose a large salient that bulged into the German front line around the city of Kursk as their battleground. Operation Citadel lacked the geographical scope of previous operations, but it became one of the largest set-piece battles of the whole war. It followed a classic German pattern: Two heavily armored pincers would close around the neck of the salient, trapping the Soviet Union armies in the salient and creating conditions for a possible drive into the areas behind Moscow. Manstein, who commanded the southern pincer, wanted to attack in April or May, before the Red Army had time to consolidate its position. But Hitler, in agreement with General Model who commanded the northern pincer , ordered a delay until German forces were fully armed with a new generation of heavy tanks and guns -- the Panthers and Tigers. A Russian T tank rolls through a burning village during the battle of Kursk in July The Soviet Union, for the first time, guessed the German plan correctly. Stalin had to be persuaded by Georgi Zhukov and the General Staff that a posture of embedded defense was better strategy than seeking open battle against a powerful mobile enemy. Stalin accepted it only because the defensive stage was to be followed by a massive blow struck by Soviet Union reserves against the weakened and retreating German armies. In May and June, a vast army of Soviet Union civilians turned the Kursk salient into a veritable fortress. Six separate defense lines were designed to absorb the expected shock of the German armored assault. The Red Army numbered 1. Each side had approximately 2, aircraft and more than 2, tanks. On July 5, German forces began the attack. They made slow progress over the first week against determined Soviet Union resistance. But at just the moment that German forces pulled back, the Soviet Union punch into the rear of the northern pincer was delivered. The German army had not expected a counterstroke of such size and ferocity. Over three

months, they were pushed back across the whole area of southern and central Russia. On November 6, Russian forces reentered the Ukrainian capital of Kiev. The Battle of Kursk, more than any other single engagement of the war, unhinged the German war machine and opened the way to victory in the East. In the midst of the euphoria of victory, Stalin traveled to the Iranian capital of Tehran for the first summit conference with his Western partners. The central issue was a second front in the West. Though Stalin now privately argued that his forces could finish the job without Western help, the Red Army continued to suffer a terrible level of loss that could not be sustained indefinitely in a single-front ground war. After two days of argument, in which Churchill tried to insist on a strengthened Mediterranean strategy at the expense of invasion, Roosevelt was able to promise Stalin an operation in the spring of that would bring American and British forces in strength into northwestern Europe. One witness recalled a sober, pale-faced Stalin replying, "I am satisfied with this decision. There, it was still possible for the Japanese to attempt further expansion. In October, the Japanese army undertook military operations in central China designed to erode the spread of Chinese communism. The Communist forces were led by Mao Zedong, who had devoted much of the Communist efforts to maintaining independence from the Chinese Nationalist army of Chiang Kai-shek. By the end of, the central Solomons had been occupied and progress had been made on New Guinea. Throughout the region, Japanese garrisons were left to themselves in strategically unimportant places, increasingly hungry and sick but supplied by submarines. In the rest of the Japanese empire of occupation, imperial rule was consolidated. Anticolonial and anti-European movements were encouraged. The Japanese encouraged the formation of the Indian National Army under the leadership of nationalist Subhash Chandra Bose, who recruited 18, Indian prisoners of war to the cause in Southeast Asia. They were tolerated only as long as they fought for the Japanese. For millions of others in the so-called Great East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere, one form of domination had been exchanged for another. In China, more than 10 million people died during the course of the war with Japan in a conflict largely unnoticed by the rest of the world. Continue to the next section to learn more about crucial World War II events in the second half of A detailed timeline of events from late June to early July is included. To follow more major events of World War II, see:

7: Battlefield - Wikipedia

VS of American Liberator bombers flying back to base in Britain after bombing raid. Good CUs of crew in plane. Good CUs of crew in plane. Shots of planes coming in to land.

Ent , Colonel Addison L. Baker , Colonel Jacob E. Kane , Colonel Keith K. Compton , Colonel Leon W. Arnold , Major John L. Air Force 1 August The mission was a disaster: The damaged refineries were repaired within weeks and their output was higher than before the attack. Five Medals of Honor were awarded, three posthumously, the most for any single air action in history. The following is from an official U. Army Air Corps Army Air Forces as of June 20, developed a doctrine of high-altitude, precision, daylight, massed bombing of selected enemy military and industrial targets. One of the most heavily defended targets in Europe, Ploesti lay outside the range of Allied bombers from England but could be reached by Consolidated B Liberator bombers from the Middle East or North Africa. Smart, left, with Lieutenant General Henry H. Jacob Smart of his Advisory Council. By July , the five groupsâ€”the 44th, 93rd, and th Bombardment Groups from England had joined the 98th and th Bombardment Groups at Benghazi, Libya, where they made final preparations and conducted additional low-level training under the direction of Ninth Air Force. A gunner stands in the waist position. Air Force Commanded by Brig. Ent, the force of Bs took off on the morning of 1 August, followed a route across the Mediterranean, passed the island of Corfu, crossed the Pindus Mountains into Rumania, and approached Ploesti from the east. While over the Mediterranean the formation divided into two parts: Compton commander of the th, consisted of the th and 93rd Bomb Groups; the second led by Col. Killer Kane, commander of the 98th, included the 98th, 44th, and th Bomb Groups. Mandated radio silence prevented the leaders from reassembling the formation. The goal of a single, mass attack disappeared. Consolidated BD Liberator very long range heavy bombers attack the oil refineries at Ploesti, Romania, 1 August It descended to low level and, in error, made its planned turn to the south at Targoviste, miles short of the correct Identification Point IP. Compton led two bomb groups toward Bucharest. Baker, commanding the 93rd Bomb Group following Compton, saw Ploesti to his left, turned his group and led it into the target first. Meantime, Compton found that he was heading to Bucharest and turned, almost reversing course, and bombed Ploesti from the south. As the two groups emerged from Ploesti and escaped to the south, the 98th and 44th Bomb Groups led by Kane plunged into Ploesti where they found many of their targets in flames. They sought alternate targets of opportunity. Far to the north, the th Bomb Group successfully bombed its target, a separate refinery at Campina, as planned. Air Force Survivors of the attack fled south alone or in small groups trailed by Axis fighters which took a toll of the weakened force. Bombers crashed in fields or disappeared into the water; some diverted to Allied bases in the region; others sought sanctuary in neutral Turkey. Some 88 Bs, most badly damaged, managed to return to Benghazi. Personnel losses included airmen killed, captured, and 78 interned in Turkey. Jerstad, and 2nd Lt. TIDALWAVE targeted nine major refineries that produced some 8,, tons of oil annually, about 90 percent of all Rumanian oil production, and the attack temporarily eliminated about 3,, tons, roughly 46 percent of total annual production at Ploesti. Three refineries lost percent of production. Unfortunately, these losses figures were temporary and reflected much less than the planners had hoped for. The Germans proved capable of repairing damage and restoring production quickly, and they had been operating the refineries at less than full capacity, anyway. Ploesti thus had the ability to recover rapidly. The largest and most important target, Astro Romana, was back to full production within a few months while Concordia Vega was operating at percent by mid-September. Army Air Forces never again attempted a low level mission against German air defenses.

8: Allies Bomb Northern Nazi Germany: June December | HowStuffWorks

One of the decisions of the Casablanca was the around the clock bombing of Germany. On January 27th three days after the end of the Casablanca Conference the US Eighth Air Force launched its first daylight raid on Germany.

The initial targets were within the range of fighter aircraft that thus the bombers were escorted to their targets. In January the first US raid was conducted on Germany proper when on January 27th 91 US bombers were sent on a day light raid on the submarine bases at Wilhelmshaven. Thus began US daylight bombing of Germany. The British bombed at night and the US bombed during the day.. The United States Army Air Corps had developed in the interwar years a doctrine that called for the use of heavily armed bombers that could defeat any defensive force that an enemy could present. That doctrine translated into the development of heavy bombers such as the B that was heavily armed and carried as many as 11 machine guns to defend itself. By the end of the year they had carried out 27 missions in France, The targets in France were within range of American fighters, so the bombers were able to reach the targets while being protected by escorts. The British where however impatient and believed that American planes could be put to better use joining them on nighttime raids, something that the US opposed. Eaker to come to Casablanca before Churchill convinced Roosevelt to give up on daylight bombing. He met Churchill and explained that valuable time would be lost if the Eighth had to train for night bombing and suppositions how much better it would be if the US and Great Britain bombed Germany around the clock. One of the decisions of the Casablanca was the around the clock bombing of Germany. The target was the U-Boat yards at Wilhelmshaven. The first raid surprised the Germans and the American lost only three planes. However, as the attacks continued losses mounted. The German air force learned the weakness of the B - a frontal attack. On June 13, , 26 of the bombers that reached its target Bremen were shot down. Each plane carried a crew of German Air production kept on rising during this period thus the fear was that the German would produce ever more planes to defend their skies. The Americans decided they would strike deep into Germany and attack a crucial ball bearing factory as well as a Messerschmidt plant both deep in Bavaria. The plan called for both attacks to be stages minutes apart not giving the Germans a chance to defend themselves. The attack took place on August 17, Both groups were delayed due to weather and the result was a disaster. On October 14, a day that would become known as Black Thursday another raid was scheduled against the ball bearing factories at Schweinfurt. Sixty planes were shot down, 21 percent of the attackers, an additional 17 crash landed. The cost of unescorted bombing missions was just too high. On October 22nd daylight bombing of Germany was suspended. They had operational ranges of 1,000 miles could fly at 14,000 MPH and had 6. The German were surprised to find that there attacking planes were suddenly being attacked. The American planes were superior and soon defeated the Luftwaffe over the skies of Germany. The Air Corps believed until the end of the war that its bombing was decisive in defeating Germany. They always believed that their bombs were accurately destroying German factories. Of course many German industrial resources were destroyed - the sheer quantity of bombs dropped assured that. Ironically it was the fighters that escorted the bombers that ultimately had the greatest impact. The German had no choice but to try to engage them, but when they did the Americans gained control of the skies. Explore our complete time lines of major events in American history as well as World History. Research our special sections on diverse subjects ranging from presidential elections to naval history. Whatever aspect of history you wish learn about, you will find it at Historycentral.

9: Italy Falls to the Allies: February June | HowStuffWorks

Strategic bombing is a military strategy used in a total war with the goal of defeating the enemy by destroying its morale or its economic ability to produce and transport materiel to the theatres of military operations, or both.

Army Air Corps Army Air Forces as of June 20, developed a doctrine of high-altitude, precision, daylight, massed bombing of selected enemy military and industrial targets. One of the most heavily defended targets in Europe, Ploesti lay outside the range of Allied bombers from England but could be reached by Consolidated B Liberator bombers from the Middle East or North Africa. Jacob Smart of his Advisory Council. By July , the five groupsthe 44th, 93rd, and th Bombardment Groups from England had joined the 98th and th Bombardment Groups at Benghazi, Libya, where they made final preparations and conducted additional low-level training under the direction of Ninth Air Force. Ent, the force of Bs took off on the morning of 1 August, followed a route across the Mediterranean, passed the island of Corfu, crossed the Pindus Mountains into Rumania, and approached Ploesti from the east. While over the Mediterranean the formation divided into two parts: Compton commander of the th, consisted of the th and 93rd Bomb Groups; the second led by Col. Killer Kane, commander of the 98th, included the 98th, 44th, and th Bomb Groups. Mandated radio silence prevented the leaders from reassembling the formation. The goal of a single, mass attack disappeared. It descended to low level and, in error, made its planned turn to the south at Targoviste, miles short of the correct Identification Point IP. Compton led two bomb groups toward Bucharest. Baker, commanding the 93rd Bomb Group following Compton, saw Ploesti to his left, turned his group and led it into the target first. Meantime, Compton found that he was heading to Bucharest and turned, almost reversing course, and bombed Ploesti from the south. As the two groups emerged from Ploesti and escaped to the south, the 98th and 44th Bomb Groups led by Kane plunged into Ploesti where they found many of their targets in flames. They sought alternate targets of opportunity. Far to the north, the th Bomb Group successfully bombed its target, a separate refinery at Campina, as planned. Survivors of the attack fled south alone or in small groups trailed by Axis fighters which took a toll of the weakened force. Bombers crashed in fields or disappeared into the water; some diverted to Allied bases in the region; others sought sanctuary in neutral Turkey. Some 88 Bs, most badly damaged, managed to return to Benghazi. Personnel losses included airmen killed, captured, and 78 interned in Turkey. Jerstad, and 2nd Lt. TIDALWAVE targeted nine major refineries that produced some 8,, tons of oil annually, about 90 percent of all Rumanian oil production, and the attack temporarily eliminated about 3,, tons, roughly 46 percent of total annual production at Ploesti. Three refineries lost percent of production. Unfortunately, these losses figures were temporary and reflected much less than the planners had hoped for. The Germans proved capable of repairing damage and restoring production quickly, and they had been operating the refineries at less than full capacity, anyway. Ploesti thus had the ability to recover rapidly. The largest and most important target, Astro Romana, was back to full production within a few months while Concordia Vega was operating at percent by mid-September. Army Air Forces never again attempted a low level mission against German air defenses.

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