

1
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:06,422

2
00:00:06,422 --> 00:00:09,386
[MUSIC PLAYING]

3
00:00:09,386 --> 00:00:34,640

4
00:00:34,640 --> 00:00:37,640
On 13th February at
dusk, RAF Lancasters

5
00:00:37,640 --> 00:00:40,340
wing their way toward Dresden
in a massive blow involving

6
00:00:40,340 --> 00:00:43,120
more than 800 heavy bombers.

7
00:00:43,120 --> 00:00:46,240
A new type German scarecrow
bomb explodes in midair

8
00:00:46,240 --> 00:00:48,010
simulating a direct
hit on a bomber.

9
00:00:48,010 --> 00:00:52,350

10
00:00:52,350 --> 00:00:54,510
Pathfinder flares
and incendiaries

11
00:00:54,510 --> 00:00:55,650
mark the immediate targets.

12
00:00:55,650 --> 00:00:59,424

13

00:00:59,424 --> 00:01:02,376
[EXPLOSIONS]

14

00:01:02,376 --> 00:01:06,810

15

00:01:06,810 --> 00:01:09,080
Another scarecrow
bomb, the attack

16

00:01:09,080 --> 00:01:12,020
is in support of Russian armies
moving toward this rail center

17

00:01:12,020 --> 00:01:13,520
on a front 50 miles away.

18

00:01:13,520 --> 00:01:18,640

19

00:01:18,640 --> 00:01:24,000
2,650 tons of bombs are dropped
during the night attack.

20

00:01:24,000 --> 00:01:26,480
Two days later, AAF
flying fortresses

21

00:01:26,480 --> 00:01:29,050
follow up with a second assault
on this German communication

22

00:01:29,050 --> 00:01:29,550
center.

23

00:01:29,550 --> 00:01:40,240

24

00:01:40,240 --> 00:01:43,082
225 tons of explosives
are aimed at what

25

00:01:43,082 --> 00:01:44,290
remains of the freight yards.

26

00:01:44,290 --> 00:01:51,130

27

00:01:51,130 --> 00:01:56,020
Prior to the war, Dresden was
a city of 625,000 population.

28

00:01:56,020 --> 00:01:58,750
The double blow is estimated
to have virtually destroyed

29

00:01:58,750 --> 00:01:59,680
the entire city.

30

00:01:59,680 --> 00:02:07,900

31

00:02:07,900 --> 00:02:11,410
RAF planes over enemy
territory on 22nd February,

32

00:02:11,410 --> 00:02:14,860
a typical day of all
out Allied bombing.

33

00:02:14,860 --> 00:02:17,065
The RAF bombs
highways and viaducts.

34

00:02:17,065 --> 00:02:26,310

35

00:02:26,310 --> 00:02:28,560
Every type of RAF
combat plane is

36

00:02:28,560 --> 00:02:31,200
used in this onslaught on
German transport, troops,

37
00:02:31,200 --> 00:02:32,634
and communications.

38
00:02:32,634 --> 00:02:38,068

39
00:02:38,068 --> 00:02:41,390
1,900 heavy bombers from the
8th and 15th Air Force groups

40
00:02:41,390 --> 00:02:42,380
strike at rail targets.

41
00:02:42,380 --> 00:02:53,130

42
00:02:53,130 --> 00:02:55,860
Rocket firing typhoons
peel off to strike at enemy

43
00:02:55,860 --> 00:02:56,985
installations and supplies.

44
00:02:56,985 --> 00:03:00,802

45
00:03:00,802 --> 00:03:03,778
[EXPLOSIONS]

46
00:03:03,778 --> 00:03:13,710

47
00:03:13,710 --> 00:03:19,470
More than 7,500 sorties are
made and more than 6,600 tons

48
00:03:19,470 --> 00:03:21,893
of explosives have dropped
during this single day of all

49

00:03:21,893 --> 00:03:22,935
out bombing and strafing.

50
00:03:22,935 --> 00:03:26,590

51
00:03:26,590 --> 00:03:29,020
On 23rd February,
the following night,

52
00:03:29,020 --> 00:03:31,120
the German industrial
city of Pforzheim

53
00:03:31,120 --> 00:03:33,580
is hit by more than
400 RAF bombers.

54
00:03:33,580 --> 00:03:41,490

55
00:03:41,490 --> 00:03:45,130
Using a new bombing technique,
the Lancasters lay some 10,000

56
00:03:45,130 --> 00:03:47,910
4-pound incendiaries
to mark the target,

57
00:03:47,910 --> 00:03:49,830
then they drop
everything from 500-

58
00:03:49,830 --> 00:03:51,770
to 12,000-pound blockbusters.

59
00:03:51,770 --> 00:04:07,070

60
00:04:07,070 --> 00:04:09,110
In 20 minutes, the raid is over.

61

00:04:09,110 --> 00:04:11,852
The town of Pforzheim
is completely destroyed.

62
00:04:11,852 --> 00:04:16,579

63
00:04:16,579 --> 00:04:20,360
On 2nd March, 700 Lancaster
and Halifax bombers

64
00:04:20,360 --> 00:04:23,180
roar over Cologne to block
roads and railroads leading

65
00:04:23,180 --> 00:04:26,750
across the Rhine and to destroy
concentrations of German troops

66
00:04:26,750 --> 00:04:29,530
fleeing the city as the American
1st Army smashes into it.

67
00:04:29,530 --> 00:04:37,680

68
00:04:37,680 --> 00:04:40,890
3,000 tons of bombs hit the
city once fourth the largest

69
00:04:40,890 --> 00:04:44,700
in Germany, now a pile of
rubble and shattered buildings.

70
00:04:44,700 --> 00:04:51,560

71
00:04:51,560 --> 00:04:54,640
A German scarecrow bomb
demolishes a Lancaster.

72
00:04:54,640 --> 00:04:59,640

73
00:04:59,640 --> 00:05:01,950
Strategic targets are
hit without destroying

74
00:05:01,950 --> 00:05:04,770
the Cologne cathedral which
still stands amid the ruins.

75
00:05:04,770 --> 00:05:15,456

76
00:05:15,456 --> 00:05:18,432
[MUSIC PLAYING]

77
00:05:18,432 --> 00:05:21,430

78
00:05:21,430 --> 00:05:23,140
The American drive
to the Rhine is

79
00:05:23,140 --> 00:05:26,140
launched on 23rd February with
assaults against the Ruhr River

80
00:05:26,140 --> 00:05:26,640
line.

81
00:05:26,640 --> 00:05:31,059

82
00:05:31,059 --> 00:05:34,990
[EXPLOSIONS]

83
00:05:34,990 --> 00:05:37,660
Troops of the 1st and 9th
armies await the signal

84
00:05:37,660 --> 00:05:40,210
to follow platoons which
negotiated the swollen Ruhr

85

00:05:40,210 --> 00:05:42,370
in the hours before dawn.

86

00:05:42,370 --> 00:05:45,690
Tanks give protective
fire at the river's edge.

87

00:05:45,690 --> 00:05:49,840
[EXPLOSIONS]

88

00:05:49,840 --> 00:05:52,480
An early morning mist
hangs over the west bank

89

00:05:52,480 --> 00:05:54,970
as elements of the
104th Infantry Division

90

00:05:54,970 --> 00:05:56,920
move up assault
craft for a crossing

91

00:05:56,920 --> 00:05:58,960
to the Duhren area
east of Aachen.

92

00:05:58,960 --> 00:06:01,030
Despite enemy fire
from the east bank

93

00:06:01,030 --> 00:06:02,590
and the swift
current of the Ruhr,

94

00:06:02,590 --> 00:06:04,840
the bridge head operations
go forward almost

95

00:06:04,840 --> 00:06:06,099
without interruption.

96

00:06:06,099 --> 00:06:15,680

97

00:06:15,680 --> 00:06:17,900

Once across the
river, assault units

98

00:06:17,900 --> 00:06:21,680

of the 104th's 415th regiment
moved on initial objectives

99

00:06:21,680 --> 00:06:23,330

in and around Duhren.

100

00:06:23,330 --> 00:06:24,860

They attacked the
factory section

101

00:06:24,860 --> 00:06:26,840

of the German industrial
town, which had

102

00:06:26,840 --> 00:06:29,480

a normal population of 35,000.

103

00:06:29,480 --> 00:06:35,150

A building by building
Nazi defense is overcome.

104

00:06:35,150 --> 00:06:38,150

[GUNFIRE]

105

00:06:38,150 --> 00:06:39,650

106

00:06:39,650 --> 00:06:42,780

Except for slight delays at
surrounded strong points,

107

00:06:42,780 --> 00:06:44,720

our troops complete
the capture of Duhren

108

00:06:44,720 --> 00:06:49,130
without encountering
formidable opposition.

109

00:06:49,130 --> 00:06:51,410
Simultaneous with the opening
of the 1st Army's Ruhr

110

00:06:51,410 --> 00:06:54,230
offensive, 9th Army units
are ready to jump off

111

00:06:54,230 --> 00:06:57,870
in the vicinity of Lennik, 16
miles northwest down the river.

112

00:06:57,870 --> 00:07:01,250
Early in February, the Ruhr
had risen from its normal width

113

00:07:01,250 --> 00:07:04,190
of 20 to 40 yards to 300 yards.

114

00:07:04,190 --> 00:07:07,940
By the 23rd, it is down to
a maximum width of 50 yards

115

00:07:07,940 --> 00:07:10,640
but still running six
to seven miles an hour.

116

00:07:10,640 --> 00:07:13,205
The tricky currents twist
and toss light wooden boats.

117

00:07:13,205 --> 00:07:20,362

118

00:07:20,362 --> 00:07:23,320
[EXPLOSIONS]

119

00:07:23,320 --> 00:07:32,720

120
00:07:32,720 --> 00:07:34,340
One of the assault
craft to shown

121
00:07:34,340 --> 00:07:36,260
righted again after
having overturned

122
00:07:36,260 --> 00:07:38,060
and nearly drowned
its occupants.

123
00:07:38,060 --> 00:07:40,580
Repetitions of such
incidents are numerous.

124
00:07:40,580 --> 00:07:42,215
Rescuers save many lives.

125
00:07:42,215 --> 00:07:49,120

126
00:07:49,120 --> 00:07:51,580
Thoroughly drenched and
weary from their ordeal,

127
00:07:51,580 --> 00:07:54,100
they continue on to join
infantry troops moving

128
00:07:54,100 --> 00:07:55,450
beyond the Ruhr's east bank.

129
00:07:55,450 --> 00:08:01,640

130
00:08:01,640 --> 00:08:03,950
A footbridge to facilitate
further crossings

131

00:08:03,950 --> 00:08:05,840
is constructed by
combat engineers

132
00:08:05,840 --> 00:08:08,080
under intense machine
gun and mortar fire.

133
00:08:08,080 --> 00:08:15,450

134
00:08:15,450 --> 00:08:18,360
Troops keep under cover until
the span is ready for use.

135
00:08:18,360 --> 00:08:25,570

136
00:08:25,570 --> 00:08:28,060
As they cross, an American
reconnaissance plane

137
00:08:28,060 --> 00:08:31,650
surveys the operation.

138
00:08:31,650 --> 00:08:34,650
Many small towns fall in the
path of the rapid advance,

139
00:08:34,650 --> 00:08:37,409
and an early count of
prisoners reveals 4,000

140
00:08:37,409 --> 00:08:39,179
captured in the first 24 hours.

141
00:08:39,179 --> 00:08:47,680

142
00:08:47,680 --> 00:08:49,570
The 29th Infantry
Division, still

143

00:08:49,570 --> 00:08:52,240
another arm of the coordinated
drive across the Ruhr,

144

00:08:52,240 --> 00:08:54,100
it has the assignment
of seizing the river

145

00:08:54,100 --> 00:08:55,720
fortress town of Julich.

146

00:08:55,720 --> 00:08:57,310
Veterans of the
siege of Saint-Lo

147

00:08:57,310 --> 00:09:00,310
in Normandy, Major General
Charles Gearhart's troops race

148

00:09:00,310 --> 00:09:01,960
across the infantry
support bridge

149

00:09:01,960 --> 00:09:03,370
and on toward the objective.

150

00:09:03,370 --> 00:09:22,100

151

00:09:22,100 --> 00:09:24,860
General Gearhart makes the
crossing along with his troops

152

00:09:24,860 --> 00:09:27,140
and directs the advance
into besieged Julich.

153

00:09:27,140 --> 00:09:30,290

154

00:09:30,290 --> 00:09:33,110
The town, which had been heavily

attacked by American aircraft

155

00:09:33,110 --> 00:09:36,590

prior to this attack, is
quickly cleaned out by the 29th.

156

00:09:36,590 --> 00:09:39,620

Last ditch defenders are driven
from cellars inside Julich.

157

00:09:39,620 --> 00:09:49,973

158

00:09:49,973 --> 00:09:52,931

[GUNFIRE]

159

00:09:52,931 --> 00:09:57,880

160

00:09:57,880 --> 00:10:01,210

Incidents in the bridging
of the Ruhr, this footbridge

161

00:10:01,210 --> 00:10:04,640

constructed at night was knocked
out early the next morning.

162

00:10:04,640 --> 00:10:06,400

A soldier killed
during the attack

163

00:10:06,400 --> 00:10:08,020

still lies on the wrecked span.

164

00:10:08,020 --> 00:10:13,570

165

00:10:13,570 --> 00:10:15,880

Nearby a heavy pontoon
bridge is erected.

166

00:10:15,880 --> 00:10:17,740

A similar bridge
was halfway finished

167
00:10:17,740 --> 00:10:19,420
when shellfire wrecked it.

168
00:10:19,420 --> 00:10:22,150
The combat engineers changed
their location slightly

169
00:10:22,150 --> 00:10:26,600
and promptly resumed
construction work.

170
00:10:26,600 --> 00:10:28,880
A surrender trick,
supposedly bringing

171
00:10:28,880 --> 00:10:32,330
in prisoners with a white flag,
a Nazi in American uniform

172
00:10:32,330 --> 00:10:34,760
seeks to expose our
troops to sniper fire.

173
00:10:34,760 --> 00:10:37,300
He's immediately shot down.

174
00:10:37,300 --> 00:10:43,000