

AIR EXERCISE OVER BRITAIN

At Coningsby and other airfields throughout the country bombers prepare for the opening of "Operation Pinnacle." The bombs are dummies, but that's the only difference between this and the real thing. Now the crews board their American-built Washingtons and the toughest test of Britain's air defenses is underway.

Many of the bombers are just back from "Operation Cirrus," the big air exercise over the Continent in which eight nations took part.

Back at Stammers, British and American ack-ack chiefs, Major-General Irving and Lt-General Lowman are ready. Over the North Sea the bombers turn and begin their raids.

The raiding force is picked up by radar, and the Royal Observer Corps alerted. They did a grand job in the war. They've spotted the first raiding formation, and a report flashes to Fighter Command Headquarters. Markers indicate a big attack is building up and fighters are ordered up to intercept. The high speed of British jet fighters calls for a new attack technique.

The controller watches progress. Now friendly markers take their place on the board. U.S. bombers are in the exercise, too, and besides Meteors American fighters are among the interceptors.

A Meteor spots the first raider and attacks. But the raiders' gunners are ready and the battle's on.

First reports say interceptions are good but one big raiding force got through to Liverpool before it was attacked. The magnitude of this exercise has underlined the importance of such training operations which go towards the building of an Air Force second to none.