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FIRST STRATOSPHERE RAID BY FLYING FORTRESSES.

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Pathe Gazette brings you pictures of the huge American Boeing Flying Fortresses in their first operational attack on the enemy. Participating in a massive daylight bombing raid, these formidable aircraft and their specially trained R.A.F. Crews make flying history as they prepare to make the first stratosphere bombing attack in actual warfare. Clothed in high-altitude flying kit, they are about to ascend into the rarified atmosphere where the human frame is subjected to a tremendous strain. Between six and seven miles above the earth's surface the thermometer falls to 56 degrees below zero, and the men as well as the machines have to be super charged. Special oxygen breathing apparatus enables them to counteract the low pressure in the realms where no man could breathe.

Four, twelve hundred horse power motors carry the Fortress away on its mission, heading for a fantastic height over its target. A second bomb laden monster takes off and the stratosphere adventure has begun. Out of sight and hearing the scream of their bombs will be the only sound that will disclose their presence.

After their journey into the regions of frost and ice, the Fortresses return to summer heat, after leading the way in one of the most destructive raids carried out on Brest.

We have every reason to be proud of these supermen of Bomber Command.

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