

Draining the Wehrmacht Lifeblood: Air Campaign

The Allied air campaign against Germany's oil industry during World War II was one of the most successful strategic bombing campaigns in history. It played a critical role in weakening the German war machine and helping to bring about Germany's defeat.



The Oil Campaign 1944–45: Draining the Wehrmacht's lifeblood (Air Campaign)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English
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Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 94 pages



This book tells the story of that air campaign, from its early beginnings in 1940 to its culmination in the massive bombing raids of 1944 and 1945. It examines the planning and execution of the campaign, the technologies and tactics used, and the impact of the bombing on the German economy and military.

The Early Years

The Allied air campaign against Germany's oil industry began in 1940, with small-scale raids on oil refineries and storage facilities. These raids were

initially ineffective, but they gradually increased in size and intensity over time.

In 1943, the Allies launched Operation Pointblank, a major offensive aimed at destroying Germany's oil industry. Pointblank involved a combination of strategic bombing raids by heavy bombers and attacks on oil targets by fighter-bombers and light bombers.

The Combined Bomber Offensive

In 1944, the Allies launched the Combined Bomber Offensive, a massive bombing campaign against Germany that included both strategic bombing raids and attacks on oil targets. The CBO was the most intensive bombing campaign in history, and it played a major role in weakening the German economy and military.

The CBO was carried out by the Royal Air Force (RAF) and the United States Army Air Forces (USAAF). The RAF conducted night raids on German cities, while the USAAF conducted daylight raids on oil targets and other strategic objectives.

The Impact of the Bombing

The Allied bombing campaign against Germany's oil industry had a devastating impact on the German economy and military. The bombing destroyed or damaged oil refineries, storage facilities, and transportation networks, which resulted in a severe shortage of fuel for the German war machine.

The fuel shortage crippled the German military, which was unable to operate its tanks, planes, and other vehicles effectively. The bombing also

caused widespread economic disruption, as factories and other businesses were forced to close due to a lack of fuel.

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