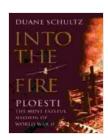
Ploesti - The Most Fateful Mission of World War II

The Ploesti Raid was one of the most daring and dangerous missions of World War II. On August 1, 1943, a group of American B-24 Liberator bombers attacked the Ploesti oil refineries in Romania, a key source of fuel for the German war machine.

The raid was a success, but it came at a high cost. Of the 177 B-24s that took part in the mission, 54 were shot down and over 500 airmen were killed. The Ploesti Raid is a story of courage, sacrifice, and the indomitable spirit of the American people.



Into the Fire: Ploesti, the Most Fateful Mission of World

War II by Ruma Chopra

★★★★★ 4.7 out of 5
Language : English
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Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
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: 312 pages

The Planning of the Raid

Print length

The Ploesti Raid was planned by the United States Army Air Forces (USAAF) in early 1943. The target of the raid was the Ploesti oil refineries, which were the largest in Europe and a vital source of fuel for the German

war machine. The refineries were heavily defended by German anti-aircraft guns and fighter aircraft, making the raid a very dangerous mission.

The USAAF assembled a force of 177 B-24 Liberator bombers for the raid. The B-24 was a four-engined heavy bomber that was well-suited for long-range missions. The bombers were armed with bombs, machine guns, and rockets.

The Raid

The Ploesti Raid was launched on August 1, 1943. The bombers took off from bases in Italy and flew over the Mediterranean Sea and the Balkans to reach Ploesti. The bombers encountered heavy anti-aircraft fire and fighter attacks as they approached the refineries. Despite the intense opposition, the bombers were able to bomb the refineries, causing extensive damage.

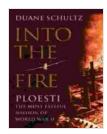
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The Aftermath of the Raid

The Ploesti Raid had a significant impact on the course of World War II. The damage to the Ploesti refineries reduced Germany's fuel supply and contributed to the Allied victory in the war. The raid also boosted the morale of the American people and showed the world that the United States was willing to fight for freedom and democracy.

The Ploesti Raid Today

The Ploesti Raid is still remembered today as one of the most daring and dangerous missions of World War II. The raid is a reminder of the courage and sacrifice of the American airmen who fought for freedom and democracy. The raid is also a reminder of the importance of oil in the modern world.



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