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The following broadcast by the Leader of a Spitfire squadron, made after the 1 o'clock news today, describes how cannon-firing fighters attack French factories working for the Germans.

CANNON SPITFIRES

There is nothing haphazard about these attacks, and there's no sudden dash over the coast, blazing away with our cannon and machine guns at nothing in particular. With Spitfires a low-flying attack is essential, and the target is carefully chosen. Then we make an extremely careful study of roads, railways, and rivers - this is most important - as once the French coast is crossed it's preferable to navigate without a map. There may be 109's about, and it is much safer to have your eyes on the sky than glued to a map.

When all the pilots are certain of their course and target we take off, and once away from land we go right down to sea level. This makes the aircraft almost invisible. When you're flying above the wave-tops you get the most exhilarating and thrilling sensation of speed, which is never experienced when you fly at height. When you reach the French coast every advantage is taken of cloud cover.

We don't really object to fighter opposition, so long as the odds are pretty fair, but flak is the most serious thing we have to look out for on the other side. Enemy flak can be very accurate and intense, so if the target is an important one a surprise attack is very necessary. Usually each aircraft make one attack. Then it snakes away at low level and tries to hide behind buildings and trees while the others carry on.

Our Intelligence Officer has previously told us the best part of the factory to hit to cause the maximum damage, and we concentrate on that. To see the explosive ammunition from your cannon bursting with a bright flash just where your sights were aimed is a most satisfactory feeling.

But I think the best fun of all is when there is something explosive in a factory and then one of our chaps hits the right spot. Talk about fireworks!

Only the other day when four of us went for a factory from different directions, firing as we came, we saw huge sections of the factory thrown into the air, then flames began to spread and smoke shot up 500 feet in the air.

When our attack is over we streak for home. On the way back many a pilot offers a silent prayer for his single engine, which may have been hit in a vulnerable spot by flak.

Some people ask if these low-level attacks of ours are worth while. From experience, I'd say that though with our cannon and machine guns we don't pretend to do what Bomber and Coastal Commands do with their bombs, we do help to upset the German economic war effort by this sort of attack. And what's more we believe that our sudden incursions do a lot to upset the Huns' morale, to say nothing of pepping up the French.