

Fire in the Fortress



It was a spring day in April 1944. After taking part in a bombing attack on a German airfield at Achmer, this B-17 Flying Fortress, Merry On, was hit by flak that set part of the engine and wing on fire. The cockpit filled with fumes, making it so dark that the pilot could not see the instrument panel in front of him. Here, the crash crew at the English airfield extinguishes

the flames with a chemical called Foamite, giving the scene its snow-like appearance.