

### Background

France, 10th May 1940

On the day Germans launched attack on France and Low Countries (ending the eight-month period of Phoney War) French fighter group Groupe de Chasse I/5 “Les Cigognes” (“The Storks”) based in Suippes near Reims and equipped with American Curtiss Hawks 75 scored several victories before the noon chimed. The scenario starts when their airfield in Suippes became the target of German raid consisting of approximately twenty Dorniers Do 17Z from KG 3 escorted by a lower number of Messerschmitts Bf 110 from ZG 52 in the afternoon. The first two flights from the second escadrille managed to take off before the bombers reached their target. The third flight from the first escadrille led by Cne Jean-Mary Accart and equipped with better Curtiss Hawks 75A-2 took off right before the German arrival. Accart’s number two Czechoslovak pilot Sgt František Peřina had difficulties with the engine. He rolled for a take-off at the moment bombs were hitting the airfield.

### Order of Battle





v1.2, Scenario by Petr & Daniel Mojžíš

#### Defenders – French (set-up first)



##### Elements of GC I/5

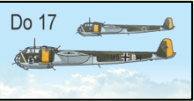

- x2**  **Hawk 75A-1** – Intercept mission  
Takes off [13.7] to the right in M0 on turn 3 and on turn 4 each
- x1**  **Hawk 75A-2** – Intercept mission  
Takes off [13.7] to the right in M0 on turn 5

**Max Losses** Flights 3  
**Alert** All flights start alerted  
**Quality** Veteran 3; Green 0; Experte 1

#### Raiders – German



##### Elements of KG 3 and ZG 52

- x2**  **Do 17 Z-2** – Bombing Mission  
Set-up one each in U2, V2
- x2**  **Bf 110C-4** – Escort Mission

**Max Losses** Squadrons 9, Flights 4  
**Alert** No squadrons start alerted  
**Quality** Veteran 1; Green 0; Experte 0

**Map Edges** *Left* - French *Right* - German

**Doctrine** French flights use rigid doctrine  
German squadrons use loose doctrine

**GCI Control** None

**Radio Nets** *Anatole* - French flights  
*Berta* - German bombers  
*Emil* - German escorts

**Sun Position** Left Horizon

**Clouds** None

**Surface Units** Airfield in M0, Lt Flak A in R0

- Special Rules**
1. Apply -2 die roll modifier on Bombing Table [15.4]. It was well camouflaged airfield.
  2. Experte must be assigned to Hawk 75A-2 flight (Accart – Peřina duet).
  3. Roll a die when Hawk 75A-2 flight takes off [13.7]. If result is less or equal to current number of hits inflicted to the airfield remove Experte marker and treat as single airplane formation [13.6] for the rest of the game

(Peřina didn't make it).

4. When Hawk 75A-2 flight inflicts three or more hits you must sing The Marseillaise during their return to base.

### Victory Conditions

At the game end total each side's Victory Points (VP). Subtract the German VP from the French VP to see who wins:

-1 or less	German Victory
0 to 2	Draw
3 or more	French Victory

### Aftermath

František rolled passing around the bomb craters and successfully took off with blast pressure waves blooming the plane. He joined his number one in pursuit of the bombers. They shot down three Dorniers (confirmed) and were singing The Marseillaise on their return. The total score of GC I/5 on that day was nine confirmed and one unconfirmed victory which made it the most successful Armée de l'air unit of the day. They lost two Hawks. Jean-Mary Accart achieved the ace status on the day after the battle. František Peřina became the first Czechoslovak ace of WWII on the same day. The Storks (GC I/5) retreated to North Africa on July 22nd with the total score of 84 confirmed and 27 unconfirmed victories.