

IMMEDIATE INTERPRETATION REPORT No. K.1777

LOCALITY : HANNOVER

PERIOD UNDER REVIEW

These photographs were taken after the raid on the night of 9/10 October 1943 by aircraft of Bomber Command.

PROVISIONAL STATEMENT ON DAMAGE

The Maschsee (a long camouflaged lake) lies about a mile S.W. of the main Railway Station of Hannover. Between these two is the central and old town, which, over an area of roughly a mile by 1½ miles is almost devastated by fire. Wispy smoke from burning buildings still slightly obscures the photographs but it is evident that hardly a building of importance in this part of the town has escaped damage.

Whilst this business/residential district has suffered most severely, damage to industrial and commercial buildings is also heavy. Buildings hit include those of :

1. HANOMAG : Gun carriages, tractors, lorries etc. (priority 1)
2. WOLLWASCHEREI : Wool Combers (priority 1+)
3. ELEKTROWERK HANNOVER : Electrical Engineers.
4. HEINHOLD & CO : Insulating Material.
5. Main Passenger Station.
6. MAIN TOWN GAS WORKS :

Many other firms have been damaged, as have many civic and public buildings, goods depots and railway sidings.

The attack appears to have fallen primarily on the central town and to have extended mainly west and south.

This report is subject to correction and amplification from a more detailed assessment.

PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN BY : 541 Squadron, 11 October 1943.

SORTIE : E/356

MEAN TIME OF PHOTOGRAPHY : 1620 hrs.

SCALE : 1/9,600 approx. (F.L.36")

COVER AND QUALITY : The town with the exception of a small area in the S.W. is covered by photographs of fair quality. (Scale 1/9,600)

LAST REPORT : K.1755 3 October 1943

MAPS USED : INDUSTRIAL MAP : DISTRICT TARGET MAP.

SECRET No print distributed.

R.A.F. STATION

MEDMENHAM

N.J.G/MC/C

DISTRIBUTION No. 23

E: 280

I: 35

315 copies

INTERPRETATION REPORT O. K 1777

Photographs taken by 541 Squadron

<u>SORTIE</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>SCALE</u>	<u>MEAN TIME OF PHOTOGRAPHY</u>
E/340	9th October, 1943	1/9,500 (F.L.36")	1230 hrs.
E/356	11th October, 1943	1/9,600 (F.L.36")	1620 hrs.

LOCALITY : HANNOVER

DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

COVER AND QUALITY

The town of Hannover, with the exception of the N. and N.E. part, is covered on Sortie E/340 on photos, on which most of the town is obscured by smoke, but which are of good quality otherwise (Scale 1/9,500). Sortie E/356 covers all of Hannover, except a small portion in the S.W. on photos of fair quality (Scale 1/9,600). Both sorties taken together give practically complete cover.

PERIOD UNDER REVIEW

These photographs were taken after the attack by aircraft of Bomber Command on the night of ~~9/10~~ 10 October, 1943. The immediate report K.1777 on this attack was issued 11th October, 1943. The last detailed report on damage to Hannover was K.1755, issued 10th October, 1943.

GENERAL STATEMENT.

Whereas the damage from the two previous raids was mainly outside the town centre, this time the blow has fallen heavily on the business, residential and public buildings in the central area around and to the south of the main railway station and only to a slightly lesser extent in the industrial district of Linden, which lies to the south west of the town centre. In the former area the fires, seen raging and blanketing the town with smoke on the day after the raid, have spread and devastated a large elliptical area measuring about 2 miles by 1 mile between the main station and the Maschsee. In their paths these fires have indiscriminately taken toll of shops, offices, churches, museums and often buildings of historic interest. In many places they are still seen to be smoking on the third day after the raid. In this fully built-up zone nearly 54% of the built-up area has been destroyed, mainly as a result of fire.

The long list of factories involved testifies that damage to industrial concerns is considerably more grave than that resulting from the two previous raids. The Old Works of Continental Gummiwerke at Hainholz has two small buildings destroyed and the primary mixing building and packing and despatch shop damaged, while six buildings of the main Linen branch of Hannoversche Maschinenbau (Hanomag) have been destroyed besides others damaged. The Wool-Combing Factory at Dohren, which suffered so heavily as a result of the first large raid on Hannover, has had severe damage to what had been left of it. Besides these works other factories or groups of factories numbering 56 in all and covering a great range of industrial activity have been damaged to a varying extent.

Buildings of the Main Station of Hannover have been partly destroyed and the offices of the Railway Directorate appear almost completely burnt out. Sheds at the North Goods Station and in yards and sidings at Hainholz and Linden have been destroyed by fire and some wagons are seen still burning. Engine sheds at a Locomotive Depot near the Main Station have been damaged and several workshops of a Railway Wagon Repair Shop destroyed.

There appears to be serious damage to the town's Main Gas Works and besides the destruction of residential, business and civic property already mentioned a number of warehouses and storage premises of small commercial firms were seen involved in the widespread damage.

/C.I.U.

C.I.U. Damage plot HANNOVER No. 1 issued with this report.

Plans issued: Industrial and district target maps.

SECRET.

DISTRIBUTION NO. 22.

R.A.F. STATION,
BEDMENHAM.
K/MLH/C

E:	282
I:	<u>35</u>
Total:	317

23 October 1943

INTERPRETATION REPORT NO. K.1777

This report covers the attack by a/c of Bomber Command on 9/10 Oct. 1943

<u>M.E.W. RATINGS</u>		<u>DAMAGE CATEGORIES</u>
1 +	Vital factories in primary war industries.	A Entire works demolished. Total loss.
1	Major plants in industries of major importance.	B Entire works 95-75% devastated.
2	Minor plants in major industries or major plants in minor industries.	C Major damage to important buildings. & subsidiary damage elsewhere.
3	Subsidiary factories.	D Minor damage to major buildings or major damage to minor buildings.
		E Minor damage to minor buildings.

SUMMARY OF DAMAGE

NO.	NAME	LOCATION	PRODUCTS OR FUNCTION	DAMAGE CATEGORY	PRINT
			(All prints on E/356 unless otherwise stated)		
	<u>A. INDUSTRY</u>				
1.	WOLL WASCHEREI & KAMMEREI DOHREN (Priority 1+)	Dohren	Wool Tops Wool Combers	C	3005
2.	CONTINENTAL GUMMIWERKE (Priority 1+)	"	Tyres, Rubber Articles	C	4118
3.	HANNOVERSCHE MASCHINENBAU A.G. (HANOMAG) (Priority 1)	Linden	Lorries, Tractors, A.F.V.'s, Gun Carriages	C	E/340 4020
4.	VEREINIGTE LIGHT METALLWERKE G.m.b.H. (Priority 1)	"	Aircraft Components, Light Alloy Sections	C	E/340 4020
5.	BRINKER EISENWERKE (Priority 2)	Brink	Aircraft Repair & Service Depot, Wire Forgings, Pressed Parts	C	3023
6.	ELEKTROWERK HANNOVER BEHNCKE & CO.	Linden	Electrical Engineers	B	4028
7.	Dr. E.F. HUTH G.m.b.H.	"	Apparatabau	B	"
8.	F. STOLLE	"	Coach Builders	B	"
9.	RHEINHOLD & CO. VEREINIGTE KIES-ELGUER U. KORKSTEIN G.m.b.H.	"	Insulating Material	B	"
10.	F. HOSBACH	"	Engraver & Metal Ware	B	"
11.	NATURASPHALT G.m.b.H.	"	Asphalt	D	"

NO.	NAME	LOCATION	PRODUCTS OR FUNCTION	DAMAGE CATEGORY	PRINT
12.	KARL GRUBE G.m.b.H.	Linden	Tarpaulins	C	4028
13.	WERNER & EHLERS	"	Mattresses	C	"
14.	MECHANISCHE WEBEREI ZU LINDEN	"	Velvet, Cord, Cloth, Leather, etc.	B	4029
15.	HANNOVERSCHE BROTFABRIK	"	Bakery	B	"
16.	J. GEISEL	"	Electric Motors	B	"
17.	A. HAMMERSCHLAG	"	Paint	B	"
18.	LINDENER ARTIEN BRAUEREI	"	Brewery	B	"
19.	R. SCHTZEHN	"	Acetylene Welders	B	"
20.	NEUMANN & CO. A.G.	"	Office Appliances	B	"
21.	F.C. WILKESMANN	"	Files & Tools	D	"
22.	W. PIEPER	"	Machinery	B	"
23.	DEUTSCHE EDELSTAHLWERKE A.G. KREFELD - (Branch)	"	Armaments	C	4020
24.	SCHOFFNER OSCAR & CO.	West	Soups, Meat Extracts & Condiments	B	4029
25.	O. HUSIG	"	"	B	"
26.	HANNOVERSCHE BRAUHAUS G.m.b.H.	"	Brewery	B	"
27.	Dr. G. PEINE	"	Paint	A	"
28.	P. KOLBEL & CO.	"	Rubber	B	"
29.	F. ERTINGSHAUSEN & SOHNE.	"	Brushes	B	"
30.	J.C. KONIG u EBHARDT	Central	Printers	C	3023
31.	W. ADLER	"	Electric Apparatus	C	"
32.	HANNOVERISCHE MESSWERK- ZEUG U FEDERNFBK: PAUL GRAFE	"	Dynamometers	C	"
33.	B. HOPPE	"	Knitted Goods	C	"
34.	WEISHAUPL	"	Sausages & Preserved Meats	C	4023
35.	C. BEHRENS	"	Venetian Blinds	C	"
36.	JANECKE-SCHNEEMANN	South	Inks	A	4034
37.	EUGELKE & DROSE	"	Corks & Stoppers	B	"
38.	E. MEIER	"	Enginers	B	"

SUMMARY OF DAMAGE (Contd.)

SECRET
Page 3

NO.	NAME	LOCATION	PRODUCTS OR FUNCTION	DAMAGE CATEGORY	PRINT
39.	ACCUMULATOREN KLEINBELEUCHTUNG G.m.b.H.	South	Accumulators	B	4034
40.	A. BIENKE	"	Ovens	B	"
41.	ARMATUREN-U APPARATEBAU G.m.b.H. (ARMAG)	"	Electrical Engineers	B	"
42.	EISFABRIK KLAREIS FABRIK HEUWEG G.m.b.H.	"	Ice	B	"
43.	J. WESTERMANN	"	Bolting	B	"
44.	C. BECNER	East	Mineral Water	B	4058
45.	HANNOVERASCHE BETTFEDERNFBK, W.LASSEN	"	Eidordown & Mattress	B	"
46.	DREYER RASENFRANZ U DROOP A.G.	"	Armatures	B	"
47.	ACCUMULATOREN-WERKE GOTTFREID HAGEN A.G.	"	Accumulator Repairs	B	"
48.	EDLER U KRISCHE	"	Printers	C	3033
49.	F. WILLMER & SOHN	Dohren	Brickworks	D	3007
50.	SAW MILL (Bertram St)	Hainholz	Saw Mill	B	3024
51.	BODE-PANZER-GELD SCHRANKFKN A.G.	Hainholz	Safe Maker	D	3023
52.	"MAHA" STAHLMO- BELBAU G.m.b.H.	"	Steel Furniture	D	"
53.	W. PRUSS G.m.b.H. AN DER STRANGRIADE	"	Foundry & Electrical Engineers	C	"
54.	KAISER-BRAUEREI	Rick- lingen	Brewery	C	4032
55.	Dr. W. BACKHAUS	"	Brickworks	D	"
56.	BRICKWORKS (Vinehorst - Schulenburg Rd)	Vinnhorst	Bricks	C	3122
57.	H.BAHLSENS KEZSFBK: A.G.	List	Biscuits	C	3025
58.	A.KNOEVENAGEL	"	Boilermaker, Rubber, Chemical & Cement- Making Machinery	C	4118
59.	L & O FEUCHTER	Vahren- Wald	Boilermaker	C	"

/B. TRANSPORTATION

NO.	NAME	LOCATION	DAMAGE	DAMAGE CATEGORY	PRINT
<u>B. TRANSPORTATION</u>					
1.	LINDEN/FISCHERHOF Rail Siding & Mar- shalling Yards. (Priority 3)	Linden	End of one goods shed destroyed, 4/5 wagons burning.		E/340 4020
2.	MORINGSBERG GOODS YARD	Hainholz	A goods shed destroyed		3029
3.	NORD GUTER BAHNHOF (Priority 2)	"	Hit on tracks near bridge. Small build- ings damaged.		"
4.	MAIN STATION	Central	Station buildings two- thirds gutted or des- troyed.		3031
5.	ENGINE SHEDS S.E. of MAIN STATION	East	Roundhouse roof burnt off. 3 small sheds guttled.		3033
6.	RAIL WAGON REPAIR SHOP (Jordan St.)	South	4 buildings destroyed	C	3010
7.	EISENBahn DIRECTION (Railway Adm. Bldg.)	Central	Almost gutted.	B	3031
8.	M.T. YARD (BULT ST)	East	More damage	B	3033
<u>C. COMMERCIAL</u>					
			<u>PRODUCTS OR FUNCTION</u>		
1.	TIMBER MERCHANT (Haspelfelder Str.)	Dohren	Lumber	A	3007
2.	PROVIANT AMT	East	Market	C	3012
3.	"ROMBACH" KOHLEU HANDELS G.m.b.H.	Linden Hafen	Coal	C	4020
4.	BENGEN & CO G.m.b.H.	West	Wholesale Chemists Corn Fodder & Fertil- izer Merchants.	C	4029
5.	UNION GETREIDE-DUNGER FUTTERMITTEL-SPEDITIONS H.LAGE G.m.b.H.	South	Warehouse	B	4034
6.	H. BAETHGE	"	Builder's Yard	A	"
7.	COAL MERCHANT (AUF DEM DORN)	List	Coal	C	4118
8.	BUILDER'S YARD (Neander St.)	Vahren- wald	Builder's Yard	C	"
9.	TIMBER MERCHANTS (Heyden Linden St.)	"	" "	B	"
10.	BESTECK U. SCHULTZ	Central	Paper & Cardboard Ware- house.	B	3029

SUMMARY OF DAMAGE (Contd.)

NO.	NAME	LOCATION	PRODUCTS OR FUNCTION	DAMAGE CATEGORY	PRINT
11.	E. EICHWALD Unidentified Commercial concerns.	East	Scrap Metal	B A-3 B-3 C-1	3033
<u>D. PUBLIC BUILDINGS and UTILITIES</u>					
<u>(a) PUBLIC UTILITIES</u>					
1.	SLAUGHTER HOUSE	East	Meat	C	3010
2.	TRAIN DEPOT	Dohren	-	B	3007
3.	MAIN TOWN GASWORKS of STADISCHE BETREIBS- WERKE	West	Gasworks	C	4029
<u>(b) PUBLIC BUILDINGS</u>					
4.	16 Schools	-		B-10 C-7 D-1	
5.	11 Churches			B-6 C-2 D-2 E-1	
6.	7 Hospitals			A-1 B-2 C-2 D-2	
7.	5 Theatres			B-4 C-1	
8.	4 Museums			D-1 C-2 D-1	
9.	AUSSTELUNGS HALLE	East	Exhibitions	C	4027
10.	LINDEN HOF	Linden	Court	C	4029
11.	RATHAUS	"	Town Hall	B	"
12.	TURNHALLE	West	Gymnasium	C	"
13.	SCHUTZENHAUS	S.W.	Rifle club house	C	4031
14.	REGIERUNG	"	Government building	C	"
15.	AM ALTEN RATHAUS	Centre	Town hall	B	"
16.	STADT BAUAMT	"	Board of Works	C	"
17.	GEORGEN GARTEN	N.W.	Garden buildings	D	3026

NO.	NAME	LOCATION	PRODUCTS OR FUNCTION	DAMAGE CATEGORY	PRINT
18.	JUSTIZ-PALAST AM JUSTIZGELAUBE	Central	Court	B	3031
19.	LAND U AMPS GERIJOHT	"	Land office	D	"
20.	HAUPT POST AMT.	"	Post office	B	"
21.	FINANZ AMT HANNOVERSCHE	"	Finance	B	"
22.	STADT BADEHALLE AM KLAGES MARKT	"	Market	C	"
23.	GEWERBEHALLE	"	Trade Hall	B	"
24.	REICHSBANK	"	Bank	B	"
25.	POLICE STATION	"	-	B	"
26.	STANDEHAUS	"	-	B	"
<u>E. MILITARY</u>					
<u>DAMAGE.</u>					
1.	HANNOVER VAHRENWALDEHEIDE A/F.	North	4 craters on landing ground; hangar roof stripped and 8 small buildings partly destroyed.	D	3020
2.	HANNOVER ARTILLERY SCHOOL	Hainholz	3 blocks destroyed, another $\frac{1}{2}$ gutted.	C	3026
3.	ARTILLERY SCHOOL	List	2 buildings part gutted.	D	4118
4.	ARTILLERY DEPOT	"	2 out of 3 buildings gutted.	C	4116
5.	ARTILLERY BARRACKS	South West	4 blocks partly or wholly gutted.	C	4031
6.	BARRACKS	" "	Large block gutted, another nearly gutted.	C	"
7.	WELFEN BARRACKS	List	6 buildings gutted and another damaged.	C	4116
8.	GUN EMPLACEMENT	Wilfel	Hit near emplacement.	-	4035
<u>BUSINESS AND RESIDENTIAL</u>					

BUSINESS AND RESIDENTIAL

STATISTICAL ANALYSIS

Zone	Gross Acres	Net Acres	Building Density
Fully Built up	1,557	646	41.5%
50% - 70% Built up	1,075	306.4	28.5

ANALYSIS OF CUMULATIVE DAMAGE UP TO
AND INCLUDING ATTACK 9/10 - 10 - 43.

Zone	Percentage Destroyed	Percentage Damaged	Percentage of Business property affected
Fully built up	53.5% (346.3 Net acres)	5.2% (33.6 Net Acres)	58.8%
50% - 70% Built up	33.6% (102.9 Net Acres)	6.3% (19.3 Net Acres)	39.9%

DAMAGE ANALYSIS.

INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC UTILITIES

M.E.W. RATING	TOTAL IN TOWN	CAT. 'A'	CAT. 'B'	CAT. 'C'	CAT. 'D'	CAT. 'E'	TOTAL
1 +	6			2			2
1	2			2			2
2	6			1			1
3	3						-
Unrated	-	2	31	18	6		57
TOTAL	-	2	31	23	6	-	62