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COLOGNE DAMAGE

Photographic reconnaissance of Cologne after the 1,000 bomber raid on May 30 was hampered by a continuing pall of smoke, cloud, and cloud shadow. Due to these conditions the first photographs gave only a general impression of the damage. Later ones have now been secured, which indicate more clearly the extent of destruction.

These are now being interpreted.

Many fires were still burning when the preliminary reconnaissance took place. No part of the city escaped, and the heavily damaged areas total some 5,000 acres.

In addition to isolated points of damage, there are six major areas of devastation in the old city.

1. Three areas due west of the Cathedral and the main station, measuring approximately 890 x 270; 490 x 250 and 700 x 250 yards.
2. An area 360 x 240 yards north west of the main station.
3. An area of 360 x 120 yards south of the Cathedral.
4. An area of 249 x 360 yards near the West station.

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On the west bank of the river, in the Ehrenfeld district, east of the city gas works, a large industrial area, measuring approximately 1550 X 440 yards has been severely damaged. This district contained the Rheinwalz-Maschinenfabrik, K.G. Mauser, Metallwerk Albert Sonnenberger, Verdeutsche Metallwerke A.G. Vulkan A.G., Fahrwerke W.A. Hospelt, Elektra Stahldraht Fabrik.

On the east bank of the river, at Koln Deutz, the exhibition hall has been destroyed by fire.

At Koln Mulheim, in the tyre factory, two large buildings covering areas of approximately 300 X 120 and 120 X 60 Yards have been gutted by fire, while on the east side of the Hafen a group of factory buildings, including those of the Deutsche Waggon Fabrik A.G. and the Humboldt Deutsche Motoren A.G. are seriously damaged.

The Humboldt Deutsche works at Koln Kalk have also suffered.

Close inspection of later photographs reveals large areas where damage has been particularly severe. Especially pronounced is the devastation around the main station and the HIPPES railway works the main shop being completely destroyed.

In other areas entire blocks of buildings have been gutted, their remains showing only the groundplan. Roofs have been ripped off, walls shattered, and fire has completed what high explosives began.