

KRUPPS: THE HEAVIEST DAMAGE YET

Study of the air photographs of Krupps after Bomber Command's attack of July 25 has convinced the R.A.F. Photographic Interpretation Unit that the damage done that night was as serious a blow to the works as all the damage done in the previous attacks of this year.

One hundred and ten buildings, many of them large essential workshops, were hit in this heaviest of raids on Germany's largest armament works. Fire caused the greatest havoc, and fires were still out of control 36 hours after the attack, though it is obvious that a strong experienced fire-fighting service must have been available.

Among the most important buildings destroyed or damaged on the night of July 25, were the following:-

The Diesel engine works, a building covering an area of more than three acres and now probably making medium and heavy gun mountings, totally destroyed by fire.

Three out of four annealing shops in Krupps were almost entirely destroyed, and the fourth destroyed over a quarter of its area.

There is widespread damage, as a result of many direct hits by high explosive and incendiary bombs, to three large buildings engaged in shell forging and turning.

A machine shop covering $3\frac{1}{2}$ acres, making field-gun carriages has been gutted.

Another machine shop, half destroyed in an earlier attack, has the rest of the building burnt out.

There is new and severe damage to yet another machine shop damaged in earlier attacks.

About an acre of the pattern-making shop has been destroyed.

Fire has destroyed, among many other buildings, a constructional engineering shop, a saw mill, a light railway workshop, a rail-road administration building, many large sheds and warehouse buildings, many huts, and large dumps of stores and timber; 12 or 13 power or generator stations and boiler houses have been damaged; the destruction of a number of cooling towers will have to cut off power from several plants.

There was also much other damage in Essen that night. There was a direct hit on the steel furnaces in Krupps armour foundry in the Vogelheim district. An overhead travelling crane was damaged; the open hearth furnaces appeared to be inactive. There are many bomb craters on railway lines serving this foundry and on others connecting it with the main steel furnaces of Krupps.

Nine engineering works, the Goldschmidt lead and tin smelting works, the Presswerke plastics works, three collieries, a bridge fabricating works, a brickworks, and a number of small factories were hit.

Railway damage is severe throughout Essen. About a fifth of what was left of the town after the earlier attacks of this year was destroyed on the night of July 25.