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HEAVY INDUSTRIAL DAMAGE IN BERLIN

About 100 factories or industrial premises were damaged in the last three attacks on Berlin on the nights of August 23, August 31 and September 3, according to the experts who have now finished their examination of the reconnaissance photographs taken after the last raid.

No fewer than 30 of the damaged factories were engineering and electrical plants, some of them of the highest importance to the German war machine. The biggest of all was the enormous Siemens Works in Siemenstadt, a huge factory town served by three railways and having 250,000 inhabitants. The works belonged to the Siemens and Halske A.G. and the Siemens Schuckertwerke A.G. and constitute one of the largest electrical plants in Germany. Siemens and Halske produce light electrical equipment of all kinds. The Siemens Schuckertwerke turn out heavy machinery for power stations and electrical plants.

Many bombs fell on Siemenstadt. Of the buildings in the electro-chemical branch of Siemens Schuckertwerke, 75 per cent were burnt to the ground, and fire also badly damaged the electric motor works and the accessories works. Blast has damaged several buildings in the metal foundry and despatch department. A power station was not working when the reconnaissance photographs were taken, and it is thought that this building was also damaged by blast. At Siemens and Halske a third of the rectifier plant has been burnt out.

Among other important electrical engineering concerns badly damaged during the attack was the A.E.G. works in Brunnenstrasse Wedding, a first priority factory manufacturing submarine engines, motors and generators, a turbine works of the A.E.G., another factory of the highest priority: two works of the Gosfur Elektrizitätstechnik Unternehmungen, manufacturing machine and precision tools; and the Osram works which turn out large numbers of radio valves. The A.E.G. factory in Wedding was particularly seriously hit. Two high explosive bombs fell on the main workshop, and blast and fire caused a great deal of damage elsewhere.

Three very important general engineering works were badly damaged - The Berliner Maschinenbau A.G., the Daimler-Benz A.G., and the Klockner-Humboldt-Deutz A.G. Between them they manufacture or repair steam and Diesel locomotives, tanks, armoured fighting vehicles, aero engines, torpedo components and precision tools. Another of Berlin's key factories - The Askaniswerke Mariendorf, which makes optical instruments of all kinds and, with another of its Berlin plants, employs 7,000 workers - has also had many of its buildings burnt out.

A further 30 engineering and electrical works were damaged, and some of them were totally destroyed. All of them were engaged on important war production, ranging from heavy machinery to delicate wireless and X-ray apparatus.

The report gives a list of 65 miscellaneous factories and industrial premises which were damaged. Two firms manufacturing balloon fabric and parachutes were demolished, two oil depots were seriously damaged, and a large leather warehouse partly burnt out.

/Photographs also

Photographs also show that Berlin's second largest gas works, in the Mariendorf district, was particularly badly damaged. Two gas holders were burnt out and the pump and meter house, by-products plant, the retort houses and stores were all either damaged or destroyed. Three more gas works in the capital were hit. The Unterspree power station, the district electric switching station at Schoneberg, and a pumping station at Charlottenberg were also damaged during the attack. Railway property was hit. Bombs fell in the Tempelhof marshalling yard, and tracks were cut and wagons destroyed in many places, while half the roof of the main entrance shed was damaged. Elsewhere in the capital five goods yards and five passenger stations were either damaged or destroyed.

PICTURES OBTAINABLE FROM B.I.P.P.A. AND P.N.A.