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MOSQUITOS OVER LORRAINE

Important railway workshops at Thionville in Lorraine, now incorporated in the Reich itself, were attacked yesterday by Mosquito bombers. The attack was made in the evening but while the light was still good.

The flight was some 600 miles there and back, and the target is nearly 200 miles from the nearest point on the enemy coast.

The Mosquitos, led by S/Ldr R.W. Reynolds, D.S.O., D.F.C., flew in formation little above roof height. "Our only anxiety was the weather", S/Ldr Reynolds said. "On the way there was haze and light rain, but luckily this cleared before we reached the target. There was practically no opposition.

"On the way out I saw a derailed train which may have been the result of a fighter sweep. We saw the two buildings which were our targets quite clearly, and after we made our bombing run I saw my bombs go into them".

The pilot of another Mosquito, F/Lt. C.E. Patterson, D.F.C., of Caithness, Scotland, said that after S/Ldr. Reynolds' bombs went into the main shed he saw a wisp of smoke from it and then a red glow inside the building before the bombs exploded".

Sgt. P. Thomas, of Cardiff, was the navigator of the last aircraft to leave the target. "After we had left the target", he said "it looked to me as though the building blew up in a mass of debris and a cloud of dust".

The workshops attacked, the Ateliers du Chemin de Fer Basse Yutz - Kuntzig, are at a vital point in the Lorraine railway system, now part of the Reichsbahn.

Thionville (renamed Didenhofen by the Germans) is at the centre of the Lorraine iron ore industry and its railways handle ore from the whole Lorraine field, as well as much coal. It is a junction of the main Rhine valley - Thier - Paris and the Brussels - Saarbrucken line, and there is no obvious alternative route for traffic.

The railway workshops attacked have two main buildings surrounded by many serving lines which are always active. It is a very important railway workshop where well placed bombs may cause widespread disorganisation and shortage of rolling stock. The two main buildings with the railway lines around them cover 160 acres.
