

957 4:30 P.M. M. Burkland  
5/2/43

BRITAIN'S EVER-GROWING AIR POWER.

Bombers and fighters in the hands of the A.T.A. --- the air Transport Auxiliary: the men and women who take the planes from the factories and deliver them to operational stations. An essential service to the R.A.F.--- increasingly important as the volume of air production increases. Sir Stafford Cripps as Minister, has been to see things for himself among pilots of this arm of air power.

Ferry Command Pilots ~~have to~~<sup>must</sup> be able to handle every kind of plane from the fastest fighter to the slowest trainer --- from the lightest air-sea rescue amphibian to the heaviest bomber; and every Halifax or Stirling or Lancaster that is delivered by the A.T.A. is used ultimately to deliver bombs on the Axis ~~A~~ - for example: this is the latest film taken over Germany during a night raid. It is Cologne; the aircraft from which these pictures were taken arrived over the target about half way through the attack. Incendiaries have begun their work well --- large fires already are burning. It is difficult to judge how great the ~~fixer~~ fires are, taken from a height of more than 20,000 feet, but the area covered by the film is about six square miles; you can judge from that how big some of those fires would be on the ground. Large flashes dwindling to pin-points are heavy high explosives going off. The damage they cause can well be imagined.

Much of the time during which this film record was being secured the aircraft was being flung about the sky in dives and banks --- evasive action; at any moment it might be hit by an anti-aircraft shell or a night fighter's cannon. ~~But it's also good for those who knew bombing from the ground to imagine how Cologne is also being flung about.~~  
Nice work, Bomber Command.

And this is a mosaic composed of several still photographs of Cologne after the Thousand Bomber Raid in 1942. ~~The famous Cathedral is damaged.~~ The enclosing lines indicate the vast areas which suffered the greatest damage: altogether it represents approximately 600 acres and even German propaganda admitted that their third greatest city had been badly knocked about.

Under the magnifying glass, blocks of buildings are shown to be completely devastated. It's some consolation for the blitzes we've had in Britain.

And these are just a few of the crews that flew over Berlin in the greatest air-raid Germany's capital ever had. No doubt you'd like to hear a few words from the Wing Commander who led the raid and two of the Squadron Leaders.

Yes - Berlin ~~at last~~ has had a taste of what London knew so well in 1940. And here's hoping they've got plenty more to come.