

Box No. 13404.

Ops 268 -- 350 feet.

Theatre A. 2372

R.A.F. FILM UNIT

R.A.F. BOMBER COMMAND ATTACK ON VIADUCT WITH 22,000 LB. BOMB

On Tuesday March 15th Bomber Command sprung its newest surprise on Germany, the 22,000 lb. bomb. This bomb is carried in Lancaster specially modified for the purpose and it was these aircraft which carried out an attack on the Viaduct at Bielefeld, a city with a population of 40,000 60 miles North East of Dortmund. This Viaduct carried one of the last remaining two-track railways connecting the Rhur with the rest of Germany.

The film shows the Viaduct as it was on February 22nd and the spans looking like a small arches can be clearly seen. The start of the attack is shown with the first bombs, 12,000 pounders scoring direct hits and near misses. Then there is a tremendous explosion throwing up a column of earth and smoke like a great inverted mountain. There are two things worth noting about the explosion; firstly just before it happens a crater appears on the ground beside the viaduct and two seconds later an explosion occurs - this has not been seen on film of bombing attacks before - secondly the point where this large explosion occurs is very closely related to the last scenes taken after the attack so it is worth noting and remembering. This big explosion is followed by another big flash from a direct hit and indeed during the whole attack there are none but direct hits and near misses. The final scenes in the film were taken after the attack and it can be clearly seen that a great gap has been smashed in the spans and it will be remembered it was very near this point that the explosion occurred.

N.B. The film is preceded by a shot of a 12,000 pounder so as to give some idea of the size that a 22,000 pounder must be.

Two frames have been held, one before - and one after showing crater.

(On the Lavender print the stretched frames have not been inserted but are joined on the end of the film).

NOTE: No mention must be made in the commentary to any camouflaged aircraft.