

PREPARATION FOR DESTRUCTION OF HELIGOLAND.

Heligoland the German Gibraltar will have all its fortifications blown up on April 18th. Preparations have been made to destroy the 14 miles of tunnelling. 8000 tons of explosives have been put in the tunnel including torpedo heads, mines, shells. A quantity of ammunition shells which supplied the batteries will remain in the tunnel. Lt.Com.F.Mildred of London will press the button from a ship about 8 miles away and no one will land on the island until 2 days later in order that the birds should not be destroyed a clock will be set to give an alarm every half minute for half hour before the big bang. This is considered to be the biggest man made explosion ever. The town on the island was destroyed by the RAF and not a road remains, very little damage was done to the U boat pens these will be destroyed.

- Roll.1. 1. Scenes as we enter the harbour
(owing to the fog no general view of the island could be got.)
2. POW's unloading torpedo heads which have been brought from the salt mines nr Hanover.
3. Scenes of destruction on the island.
- Roll.2.1. General scenes of RAF bomb destruction.
2. A battery which had been put out of action by the RAF.
3. One of the entrances to the tunnel.
4. Unloading torpedo head at the Main entrance of the tunnel.
5. POW's rolling " " into tunnel.
6. Scene from inside U boat pen.

First scenes in roll.1.Lt.Com.Mildred pressing the button which starts the explosion.

HELIGOLAND GOES UP IN SMOKE. (AERIAL SCENES)

1. Roll Eycms. (100 feet) 2 rolls Newman Sinclair (200 & 150 feet)
1. Roll Avia. (40feet.)

A smoke plume like a giant "X" rose more than 8,000 Feet into the air when the German Fortress Island of Heligoland was blown up this afternoon.....Scenes show the Explosion....and various lenses on the cloud of smoke & dust rising.....

Owing to a last minute instruction from the Navy (in charge of the operation "Big Bang"....) No aircraft were allowed to approach the island after the Explosion....therefore no low level scenes of the Aftermath were possible....however, we did creep in as much as possible....and Roll 2 N & S shows the Island after the Explosion There was very little flash to be seen from the height at which I was flying (7,000 feet)....but the Ground camera will probably show the actual flashes better....Scenes of the Island before the Explosion took place were not possible...because all the Aircraft involved in this operation had to fly around the Island in a clockwise direction....(keeping the Island on the Starboard beam and as the aircraft in which I was flying only had it's Port window removable for Photography...we had to comply with the instructions laid down... until half a minute before the Explosion...when we did a quick turn and brought the Island on our Port Beam....from then onwards we did left-hand or Anti-clockwise circuits of the Island.

DESTRUCTION OF HELIGOLAND.

Heligoland was destroyed to-day. The fortifications consisted of submarine shelter, gun defences and power installations, tunnel systems and underground installations at one o'clock today Lt. Com. F. Mildred pressed a button which detonated and caused the explosion, pictures of the explosion were taken from a ship nine miles away.

Roll. 1. Pictures taken of the island the evening before the day of destruction (These pictures are general views of the island which were missing from the material taken 2 weeks ago.)

Roll. 2. The Explosion taken on 6 inch lens.