

EXPLOSION KILLS MANY.

Air-raid memories were poignantly revived in Dortmund. Two blocks of flats were ruined, as though by bombs. A few minutes after five in the morning this town of 650-thousand people shook with a tremendous explosion, believed to have been caused by leaking gas. All available firemen and 300 British soldiers had been hours on the grim work of rescue, when daylight came. By this time it was known that at least twenty people had been killed; others were in hospital, on the danger list. The search went on in the now dwindling hope that more survivors would still be found. The soldiers belonged to the Royal Artillery, RR.A.S.C. and First Buffs.

Dortmund councillors have been agitating for some time for the withdrawal of the British forces; on this day the Mayor praised them highly for their bravery in the early hours of the rescue and the help they gave in clearing up. This was the saddest day the Ruhr has known since the war ended.

Help is being sent from many parts of Western Germany and abroad. Widespread sympathy has been conveyed to relatives of those who died; people who in the early morning hours were suddenly and cruelly bereaved.