

42/95

GENOA BLITZED BY R.A.F.

We present special pictures taken by R.A.F. cameramen during the recent series of attacks on Genoa by mixed concentrations of our heavy four-engined bombers. Striking evidence of the havoc wrought on the Italian Port is dramatically portrayed in a photographic record taken on the night when Halifaxes with Lancasters figured prominently in the raid. A round flight of 1,500 miles and a double crossing of the Alps.

You're looking down now from the Lancaster which obtained these remarkable shots by the light of flares dropped by the leading aircraft over an already heavily battered target. This is the bomb aimers view of Genoa at the very height of the raid. At first sight it may appear an unintelligible mass of flashing lights. To the laymind, we are setting out to explain the differences between the clumps of flares hanging like giant chandeliers and bomb bursts; and how to recognise H.E. and fire bomb, searchlights and flak. To pin-point the detail and explain what's going on, the film is now slowed down. First of all the big round blobs of light you see are the flares. In the bottom right hand corner of the screen a shower of bombs will be seen falling onto the congested areas below. Some of the flares burnt out leave a trail of smoke. Bomb-bursts are identified by stabs of light appearing in the midst of the glowing fires. Now we're travelling over the Main Railway Station where the lines are clearly distinguished left centre.

The aircraft moving South West, we begin to pick out the dockarea.

Over to the right you'll see an arc shaped building. This is a structure 300 yards long. Warehouses and oil storage plant from which the Axis had hoped to send supplies to reinforce their beleaguered armies in North Africa. Solid blocks of buildings being ripped open or gutted by fire.

Now from our Lancaster we get a vivid picture of bombs bursting with devastating effect on the semi-circle of docks located in the inner harbour.

Here comes some flak sailing up from the guns which so far have escaped the smothering weight of our attack. After a short tour over the inky black sea which even one or two drifting flares fail to illuminate, the Lancaster turns inland for another run over the target. One or two ships are thought to be responsible for some more but ineffectual flak.

Where earlier ~~xxxx~~ we were able to see clear cut outlines it is now a glowing mass of fire, with a smoke pall hanging over the bomb battered area. Even the flares are dimmed by the thick blanket hanging over Genoa.

Two lonely searchlights with a stream of incendiary flak coming up from the side of one of them. From this height the beams look like the tails of comets. It is at this point that we say farewell to the bashed, battered and bewildered Italian supply port.

P.T.O.

Now we re-present the film at its normal speed as we take our last glimpse of the raided region as the bomber crews have a last piece of Genoa cake.

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