PM

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Munich, Heart of Nazism, And Saar Blasted by RAF

The BBC yesterday said:

"The citizens of Munich will, no doubt, be thinking of their Fuehrer today as they survey the bombed-out buildings and piles of rubble in the streets where Hitler first harangued them about his political ideas."

Munich—birthplace and shrine of Nazism and one of the most important railway and industrial centers of southern Germany—was the target of 200 RAF heavy bombers on Saturday night (*Map* ◀). After 30 minutes of dropping high explosives into the city's vital areas, the RAF left fires blazing that could be seen 100 miles away.

Giant four-motored planes flew in over their targets so low that they could clearly see the Brown House and the Beer Hall where Hitler organized his 1923 putsch.

It was the third raid of the war on Munich and the first since the night of Nov. 8, 1940, when British airmen struck only half an hour after Hitler had spoken in the Beer Hall. The bombers had to make a round trip of 1140 miles to reach their objective—the deepest penetration into Germany by the RAF in more than five months.

The Air Ministry gave few details of the raid, but air circles in London said it was a good show, although obviously it was not a "terrific raid."

Five mainline railroads converge at Munich from Italy, Switzerland, Berlin, and what used to be Austria. The bombers were reported to have concentrated on these and on the Bayerische Motoren Werke, which produces motors for the Nazi Junkers, Heinkel, Dornier and Focke-Wulf aircraft.

The bomb-ravaged Saar industrial region, 250 miles northwest of Munich, was attacked at the same time and parts of it were left in flames.

Observers are of the opinion that the double attack was part of a new strategy of hitting more than one target a night to scatter German night defense forces. The attacks cost the RAF only 10 bombers. The last raid on Germany Wednesday night also was a double attack aimed at Ruhr and Rhineland.

A few German bombers were reported to have attacked places on the northesat coast of England Saturday night, but caused no casualties and only slight damage. Two Nazi bombers were shot down.

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