

Chapter 1 : Operation Gomorrah is launched - HISTORY

The Battle of Hamburg, codenamed Operation Gomorrah, was a campaign of air raids which began on 24 July and lasted for 8 days and 7 calendrierdelascience.com was at the time the heaviest assault in the history of aerial warfare and was later called the Hiroshima of Germany by British officials.

Conn Nugent August 4, at 4: Many believe that it was the fact of one-bomb-per-city that led the Japanese to believe correctly that the new weapon represented a gigantic new capability and incorrectly that the Americans had many other such bombs ready to drop. Most historians also agree that the terror bombings on Germany did succeed in killing, frightening and inducing despair among the German civilians who were its targets. The war machine kept in high gear regardless of popular sentiment. Nick Kelly July 19, at 3: Actually the US daytime effort with un-escorted Liberators and Fortresses was arguably the largest disaster of the war for the Western Allies. Most guns and ammunition were removed, resulting in a dramatic improvement in performance. Precision bombing was scrapped for incendiary fire bombing. But the real missed opportunity was the Mosquito, the Wooden Wonder, that could deliver the same the bomb load as a Fortress but mph faster. An early version was shown to the US who passed. If the Mossie, which used non-strategic materials for its airframe had gone into large scale US production, say 10, instead of the or so the Brits and Canadians manages to wring out of a much more stressed economy. The Allies would have daytime superiority in mid late , and Germany turns into a shooting gallery. The Mossie loss rate at less than 2 percent was the lowest of any Allied airplane. Arguably yes, but the US was the only allied power with any discretionary room in its armament budget. Lancaster production was in full swing before the Mossie was approved. The prototypes were built as a private venture by De Havilland, after the Air Ministry scoffed at the idea of a wooden plane. This was the same Ministry by the way that also forced Hawker to tool up the Hurricane privately because the bureaucrats wanted a bi-plane! At any rate, the entire manpower and woman power of Britain was entirely taken up by this time and its something of a miracle they produced any Mossies. But they did and also somehow managed to up-gun Shermans with the 17 lb. The famous Black Baron Micheal Wittman, who once with his lone Tiger wiped out an entire regiment of British vehicles and was decorated by Hitler, was taken out by a Canadian crewed Firefly. Barry August 5, at 5: At this point, tens of thousands of people dying in a single night were part of the war. The nuclear bombs at first just made it possible to do the same thing with a single plane. The Wikipedia page for Operation Gomorrah links to a copy of this photo, and dates it from or So the trees are showing the growth from a later season, or even two later seasons. And the buildings have not been touched. That makes much more sense. How can they have survived, when one reads about the winds uprooting trees, about the flames spreading across streets, about the heat capable of scorching things yards away? I am not suggesting anything conspiratorial, I simply wonder whether, e. Or, as a different possibility, whether this photo could be a composite of a before photo and an after photo? The trees look just as they might in high summer, i. Or am I misinterpreting something else, e. I have no axe to grind here, I am simply puzzled.

Chapter 2 : 4th August The horror of Hamburg resounds around Germany

Operation Gomorrah is launched On this day in , British bombers raid Hamburg, Germany, by night in Operation Gomorrah, while Americans bomb it by day in its own "Blitz Week."

A year earlier Churchill had called for the ruthless bombing of Germany. Bomber Command had been engaged in the Battle of the Ruhr since March , in which the major German industrial cities were laid waste in a co-ordinated plan. Now an even more devastating blow was planned for just one city. It was intended to demonstrate the awesome destructive power that the bomber forces were now capable of "and by doing so send a message to every German as to what they could expect if the war continued. The raid was considered so important that a new weapon was used operationally for the first time. The effect of Window on the German radar was calculated to produce confusion. Luftwaffe night fighter pilot Wilhelm Johnen was one of those on the receiving end on 24th July: The early warnings from the Freya apparatus on the Channel coast indicated a large-scale British raid. In the late afternoon various flak units, night-fighter wing and civilian air-raid posts had been given orders to have their full complement at action stations. What were the British up to? What city that night would be the victim of these well-prepared raids? Every ominous presentiment was to be fulfilled that night. In all ignorance, the night-fighter squadrons took off against the British bombers, whose leaders were reported over Northern Holland. I was on ops and flew in the direction of Amsterdam. On board everything was in good order and the crew was in a cheerful mood. Radio operator Facius made a final check and reported that he was all set. The ground stations kept calling the night fighters, giving them the positions of the bombers. That night, however, I felt that the reports were being given hastily and nervously. It was obvious no one knew exactly where the enemy was or what his objective would be. An early recognition of the direction was essential so that the night fighters could be introduced as early as possible into the bomber stream. But the radio reports kept contradicting themselves. Now the enemy was over Amsterdam and then suddenly west of Brussels, and a moment later they were reported far out to sea in Map Square What was to be done? The uncertainty of the ground stations was communicated to the crews. Since this game of hide-and-seek went on for some time I thought: To hell with them all, and flew straight to Amsterdam. By the time I arrived over the capital the air position was still in a complete muddle. No one knew where the British were, but all the pilots were reporting pictures on their screens. I was no exception. At 15,000 feet my sparker announced the first enemy machine in his Li. I swung round on to the bearing in the direction of the Ruhr, for in this way I was bound to approach the stream. Facius proceeded to report three or four pictures on his screens. I hoped that I should have enough ammunition to deal with them! Then Facius suddenly shouted: Facius already had a new target. It was not long before Facius shouted again: But I soon lost my sense of humour for this crazy performance was repeated a score of times and finally I gave Facius such a rocket that he was deeply offended. This tense atmosphere on board was suddenly interrupted by a ground station calling: A thousand enemy bombers over Hamburg. Calling all night fighters, calling all night fighters. Full speed for Hamburg. It was a long way to Hamburg. Duel Under the Stars:

Chapter 3 : Operation Gomorrah, July - Rough Guides | Rough Guides

Operation Gomorrah was an aerial bombing campaign that occurred in the European Theater of Operations during World War II (). Operation Gomorrah - Dates: The orders for Operation Gomorrah were signed on May 27,

Etymology[edit] The etymology of both names is uncertain, and scholars disagree about them. Published in There are other stories and historical names which bear a resemblance to the biblical stories of Sodom and Gomorrah. Some possible natural explanations for the events described have been proposed, but no widely accepted or strongly verified sites for the cities have been found. Of the five "cities of the plain", only Bela, modern-day Zoara , is securely identified, and it remained a settlement long after the biblical period. The ancient Greek historiographer Strabo states that locals living near Moasada as opposed to Masada say that "there were once thirteen inhabited cities in that region of which Sodom was the metropolis". Strabo identifies a limestone and salt hill at the south western tip of the Dead Sea, and Kharbet Usdum Hebrew: The names si-da-mu [TM. However, despite this seemingly incriminating find, these sulfuric deposits are most likely the result of calcite and gypsum reacting with the local strata following a seismic event. This might have unleashed showers of steaming tar. There is a lack of contemporary accounts of seismic activity within the necessary timeframe, however, to corroborate this theory. Thomas Schaub discovered or visited a number of possible sites of the cities, including Bab edh-Dhra , which was originally excavated in by archaeologist Paul Lapp, and later finished by Rast and Schaub following his death. Each of the sites were near the Dead Sea and showed evidence of burning and traces of sulfur. Merrill believes that the identification of Tall el-Hammam with Sodom would require an unacceptable restructuring of the biblical chronology. He refers to the lake by its Greek name, Asphaltites. Please help improve this section by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. August The Book of Genesis is the primary source that mentions the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. Battle of Siddim[edit] See also: At this time, "the men of Sodom [were] wicked and sinners before the Lord exceedingly". Their kingship, however, was not sovereign, because all of the river Jordan plain was under Elamite rule for 12 years. The kingdom of Elam was ruled by King Chedorlaomer. In the 13th year of subjugation to Elam, the five kings of the river Jordan plain allied to rebel against Elamite rule. These kings included those of Sodom and Gomorrah as well as their neighbors: They waged war in the Vale of Siddim in the 14th year. The battle was brutal with heavy losses in the cities of the plain, with their resultant defeat, Genesis Sodom and Gomorrah were spoiled of their goods, and captives were taken, including Lot. The Judgment upon Sodom and Gomorrah[edit] See also: Three men, thought by most commentators to have been angels appearing as men,[citation needed] came to Abraham in the plains of Mamre. After the angels received the hospitality of Abraham and Sarah, "the Lord" revealed to Abraham that he would confirm what he had heard against Sodom and Gomorrah, "and because their sin is very grievous. Abraham then inquired of God for mercy at lower numbers first 45, then 40, then 30, then 20, and finally at 10 , with the Lord agreeing each time. Lot refused to give his guests to the inhabitants of Sodom and, instead, offered them his two virgin daughters "which have not known man" and to "do ye to them as [is] good in your eyes". However, they refused this offer, complained about this alien, namely Lot, giving orders, and then came near to break down the door. Then not having found even 10 righteous people in the city , they commanded Lot to gather his family and leave. As they made their escape, one angel commanded Lot to "look not behind thee" singular "thee". Other references[edit] Major and minor prophets in the Hebrew Bible have referred to Sodom and Gomorrah to parallel their prophetic events. The New Testament also contains passages of parallels to the destruction and surrounding events that pertained to these cities and those who were involved. Later deuterocanonical texts attempt to glean additional insights about these cities of the Jordan Plain and their residents. Moses[edit] Moses referred to the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah in Deuteronomy The whole land will be a burning waste of salt and sulfurâ€”nothing planted, nothing sprouting, no vegetation growing on it. It will be like the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, Admah and Zeboyim , which the Lord overthrew in fierce anger. They were haughty and did detestable things before me. New Testament[edit] In Matthew You shall be brought down to Hades. For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Sodom,

it would have remained until this day. But I tell you that it shall be more tolerable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom than for you. Wisdom rescued a righteous man when the ungodly were perishing; he escaped the fire that descended on the Five Cities. Evidence of their wickedness still remains: For because they passed wisdom by, they not only were hindered from recognizing the good, but also left for mankind a reminder of their folly, so that their failures could never go unnoticed. They found themselves in total darkness, as each one groped around to find his own door. So will I do to those who have not listened to me, says the Lord Almighty. In 2 Esdras 7: Jewish[edit] Rictor Norton views classical Jewish texts as stressing the cruelty and lack of hospitality of the inhabitants of Sodom to the "stranger". Rabbinic writings affirm that the Sodomites also committed economic crimes, blasphemy and bloodshed. The citizens regularly engaged in the torture of foreigners who sought lodging. They did this by providing the foreigners a standard-sized beds and if they saw that the foreigner was too short for the bed, they would forcibly stretch their limbs but if the foreigner was too tall, they would cut off their legs. Another woman was similarly executed in Admah for giving a traveler, who intended to leave the town the next day, water. When the scandal was revealed, the woman was stripped naked and covered with honey as she was slowly stung to death by bees. Her cries reportedly went up into the heavens, the turning point that was revealed to have provoked God to enact judgement upon Sodom and Gomorrah in the first place. Reading the story of Sodom as being about homosexuality is like reading the story of an ax murderer as being about an ax. The verses cited by Michaelson include Jeremiah And they were haughty, and did to evah before me, and I took them away as I saw fit. A second area of dispute is whether the act of homosexuality or the act of inhospitality and violence towards foreigners is the more significant ethical downfall of Sodom. And they called unto Lot, and said unto him, Where [are] the men which came in to thee this night? One example can be found in Genesis 4: Behold now, I have two daughters which have not known man; let me, I pray you, bring them out unto you, and do ye to them as is good in your eyes: Even as Sodom and Gomorrah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire. Countering this, it is pointed out that Genesis 6 refers to angels seeking women, not men seeking angels, and that both Sodom and Gomorrah were engaged in the sin Jude describes before the angelic visitation, and that, regardless, it is doubtful that the Sodomites knew they were angels. In addition, it is argued the word used in the King James Version of the Bible for "strange", can mean unlawful or corrupted. She and her daughters were arrogant, overfed and unconcerned; they did not help the poor and needy. Therefore I did away with them as you have seen. If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake the dust off your feet when you leave that home or town. I tell you the truth, it will be more bearable for Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town. Kugel, Starr Professor of Hebrew Literature at Harvard University suggests the story encompasses the sexual and non-sexual: Within the Christian Churches that agree on the possible sexual interpretation of know yada in this context, there is still a difference of opinion on whether homosexuality is important. On its website, the Anglican Communion presents the argument that the story is "not even vaguely about homosexual love or relationships", but is instead "about dominance and rape , by definition an act of violence, not of sex or love". This argument that the violence and the threat of violence towards foreign visitors is the true ethical downfall of Sodom and not homosexuality , also observes the similarity between the Sodom and Gomorrah and the Battle of Gibeah Bible stories. In both stories, an inhospitable mob demands the homosexual rape of a foreigner or foreigners. Lot in Islam Lut fleeing the city with his daughters ; his wife is killed by a rock. The Quran contains twelve references to "the people of Lut", the biblical Lot, but meaning the residents of Sodom and Gomorrah, and their destruction by God is associated explicitly with their sexual practices: Lot only prayed to God to be saved from doing as they did. Then Gabriel met Lot and said that he must leave the city quickly, as God had given this command to Lot for saving his life. Except an old woman among those who remained behind. This was his wife, who was a bad old woman. She stayed behind and was destroyed with whoever else was left. So they patiently obeyed the command of Allah and persevered, and Allah sent upon the people a punishment which struck them all, and rained upon them stones of baked clay, piled up.

Chapter 4 : Operation Gomorrah: The Hamburg Firestorm Raids: Gordon Musgrove: calendrierdelascience

Operation Gomorrah was a joint British-American campaign to hit Hamburg by day and night, dropping at least 10, tons of bombs and destroying the city.

Hire Writer This is excessively barbarous to this small male child. But he was thrilled to be out-of-doors On the one manus. When he thought back to the whole narrative. For the obedient kid. His sensitive makes him a individual who ever thinks excessively much. That he ever considers the feelings of others. When his female parent was ill. His behaviour described in this portion gave me the feeling of unreal. All of these secret plans indicate that Ingram has elusive nervousness. He is sensitive to environment. At first reading I do non understand what he got. But so I understood that Inge was loath to assist them during that despairing state of affairs. He is so smart and sensitive to things. His sensitiveness inspires his thought. He is good at observation and analysis. He was so quiet merely maintain his idea in his head. As for the catastrophe. Marion Ingram used abundant item description to demo the pandemonium scene. There are besides many environmental descriptions during the bombardment. At one point between life and decease. She was followed by a immature adult male dressed in the khaki trunkss and shirt of a Hitler Youth. I thought they must be fliting from a bomb shelter that had been damaged. There are abundant psychological and action descriptions. All these descriptions are so all right. Sensitive and delicate as he is. Marione Ingram concludes abundant item descriptions in this essay that even gave readers the feeling that this narrative is non his ain narrative. And because of his sensitive nature. How to cite this page Choose cite format:

Chapter 5 : The bombing of Hamburg in - History Learning Site

The attack during the last week of July, , Operation Gomorrah, created one of the largest firestorms raised by the RAF and USAAF in World War II, killing 42, civilians and wounding 37,

C N Trueman "The bombing of Hamburg in " historylearningsite. The History Learning Site, 19 May
Hamburg was bombed in July According to Joseph Goebbels , Nazi Minister for Propaganda , the bombing of Hamburg was the first time that he thought Nazi Germany might have to call for peace. However, the bombing of Hamburg brought utter destruction to the city and regardless of what happened to the city itself, it did a great deal to hearten people in Britain who had seen London and many other cities attacked and bombed with the resulting casualties. However, Harris, supported at this time by Winston Churchill , still believed that a devastating attack on a symbolic target would push the Nazis into seeking a peace deal. Cologne, Dortmund and Dusseldorf had all been bombed. The most obvious other target of any symbolic importance to the Germans was Hamburg. It was a joint British-American venture. The combination of both bomber forces gave Harris a substantial number of bombers and therefore a substantial number of bombs that could be dropped. Hamburg was well defended. The Nazis were aware of its historic significance as the major port in the old Hanseatic League. The city was ringed with anti-aircraft defences and there were 1, shelters for , citizens. Radar around the city could pick up enemy bombers when they were miles away. These served to confuse radar crews whose screens were effectively obscured by one mass echo blob and individual bombers could not be identified. The first attack came in the early hours of Sunday 24th. In one hour, between In previous bombing raids, the RAF had sent in pathfinder planes to illuminate the target by dropping incendiary bombs. The main bulk of the attack followed on to what was now a burning target. For the attack on Hamburg, the RAF combined the use of high explosive bombs and incendiary bombs, which were dropped together. The result made all but useless any form of fire fighting. The Americans attacked on Monday 26th July and sustained heavy losses as a result of Luftwaffe attacks. An American attack on the Tuesday was called off due to poor weather. The raid was resumed on the Wednesday. The bombers were loaded with an extra tons of incendiary bombs and dropped a total of 2, tons of bombs in just 50 minutes. The impact of this attack led to a firestorm with temperatures estimated to have reached oC. Bomber crews reported smoke reaching 20, feet. Winds on the ground reached mph. While not exclusively a wooden city, Hamburg did have many old wooden houses and after a dry summer they easily burned. The streets were burning, the trees were burning and the tops of them were bent right down to the street. Burning horses out of the Hertz hauling business ran past us, the air was burning, simply everything was burning. The tarmac on roads melted and anyone who had the chance of escape found they were stuck in the sticky mess that remained. There was no way to save them. Her hair had caught fire. With the small amount of water I had in a bucket with me I was able to put out her burning hair. At the same time I cooled my hands and face. My feet are burned. Around us were hundreds of people. All this happened in silence. The terrible heat had dried throats so much that no one could scream. On the Thursday the smoke blotted out the sunlight associated with July. Did the raids have any value? There can be little doubt that the reported impact of the raids did a great deal to lift morale in Britain. Hamburg was the major port of the north and the work done by the port was disrupted. The bombing of German cities had its supporters " Harris in particular believed that an all-out campaign would have ended the war earlier. Others were less enthusiastic. Bomber Command was the only British military arm in World War Two not to receive a campaign medal " dispute the very high casualties suffered. Harris felt that the Establishment had turned its back on him and he left Britain and retired to South Africa.

Chapter 6 : Operation Gomorrah - Metapedia

Operation Gomorrah ran until 3 August and involved six major raids. Estimates of the dead vary between 34, and 43, Records show the destruction of industrial plants 2, businesses, office buildings, 24 hospitals, schools and government or Nazi party buildings.

Naming[edit] The name Gomorrah comes from that of one of the two Canaanite cities of Sodom and Gomorrah whose destruction is recorded in the Bible: Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed. It was at the time the heaviest assault in the history of aerial warfare and was later called the Hiroshima of Germany by British officials. The initial attack on Hamburg included two new introductions to the British planning: No 35 Squadron led the target marking and, thanks to the clear weather and H2S radar navigation, accuracy was good, with markers falling close to the aiming point. On 24 July, at approximately The confusion caused to German radar kept losses of aircraft low. While some 40, firemen were available to tackle fires, control of their resources was damaged when the telephone exchange caught fire and rubble blocked the passage of fire engines through the city streets; [6] fires were still burning three days later. It had been intended for aircraft to attack Hamburg and Hanover but problems with assembling the force in the air meant that only 90 B Flying Fortresses reached Hamburg. The bombers attacked the Blohm and Voss shipyard and an aero-engine factory, with German flak damaging 78 aircraft. However the shipyard was not badly damaged and the aero-engine manufacturer could not be seen for smoke a generating station was attacked instead. Extra firemen were brought in from other cities including Hanover; as a result when the US bombers attacked, these firemen were in Hamburg and fires in Hanover burned unchecked. Another attack by the RAF on Hamburg for that night was cancelled due to the problems the smoke would cause and bombers raided Essen instead. Mosquitos carried out another nuisance raid. A third raid was conducted on the morning of the 26th. The RAF night attack of 26 July at That attack is often not counted when the total number of Operation Gomorrah attacks is given. There was no day raid on the 27th. Asphalt streets burst into flame, and fuel oil from damaged and destroyed ships, barges and storage tanks spilled into the water of the canals and the harbour, causing them to ignite as well. The majority of deaths attributed to Operation Gomorrah occurred on this night. A large number of those killed died seeking safety in bomb shelters and cellars, the firestorm consuming the oxygen in the burning city above. The furious winds created by the firestorm had the power to sweep people up off the streets like dry leaves: Some people who tried to walk along, they were pulled in by the fire, they all of the sudden disappeared right in front of you You have to save yourself or try to get as far away from the fire, because the draught pulls you in. A planned raid on 31 July was cancelled due to thunderstorms over the UK. Operation Gomorrah killed 42, people, left 37, wounded and caused some one million German civilians to flee the city. No subsequent city raid shook Germany as did that on Hamburg; documents show that German officials were thoroughly alarmed and there is some indication from later Allied interrogations of Nazi officials that Hitler stated that further raids of similar weight would force Germany out of the war. The industrial losses were severe: Hamburg never recovered to full production, only doing so in essential armaments industries in which maximum effort was made. Other losses included damage to or destruction of industrial concerns and armaments works, of which were important enough to be listed by name. Local transport systems were completely disrupted and did not return to normal for some time. Dwellings destroyed amounted to , out of , In total, the RAF dropped 22, long tons of bombs on Hamburg. The adjoining quarter of Rothenburgsort shared the same fate, as only a small area of housing was rebuilt. The underground line which connected these areas with the central station was not rebuilt either. In the destroyed residential areas many houses were rebuilt across the street and therefore do not form connected blocks anymore. He estimated that more than 40, people died in Hamburg. The ruins of the Nikolaikirche St. Nicholas Church , which was largely destroyed during the bombing, have been made into a memorial against war. The spire of the church survived the attacks. The department store was hit by a bomb on the night of 29 July. The people in the air raid shelter below were killed by the heat and carbon monoxide poisoning. The victims of the air raids were buried on the Ohlsdorf Cemetery in mass graves. The memorial

"Passage over the Styx" by Gerhard Marcks is in the center and shows how Charon ferries a young couple, a mother with her child, a man and a despairing person over the river Styx. Sculpture at the main memorial, Nikolaikirche ruins.

Chapter 7 : 24th July Operation Gomorrah – and the German night-fighters are duped

Operation Gomorrah was the military codename for the Allied bombing of Hamburg (Battle of Hamburg) during World War II (24 July - 2 August).

Image copyright bpk Hans Brunswig Image caption The scale of the destruction caused shock and fear across Germany This story contains graphic images. The centenary of the RAF not only coincides with the 75th anniversary of one of its most famous missions - the Dambusters - but also with one of its most controversial. Kate Hoffmeister, 19, was trying to escape the furnace her Hamburg neighbourhood had become. They must have rushed on to the roadway without thinking. They were on their hands and knees screaming. Air raids were nothing new. The agonies of Guernica, Warsaw, Rotterdam, London, Coventry and Cologne, where raids killed hundreds, were already seared on the international consciousness. But Gomorrah in July would be on a new and terrible scale - unmatched by any other single Allied air attack in Europe during World War Two. In it was calculated it took five tonnes of bombs to kill one German. The numbers of enemy dead were almost the same as Allied aircrews lost. This prompted a change in tactics. Specific industrial targets were mostly abandoned. By the following year Bomber Command had enough aircraft, a single-minded leader in Arthur Harris and the technical knowledge to carry this plan out. Tuesday 27 July had been a hot summer and the city was tinder dry. Emergency teams were busy dealing with fires from earlier raids in the western districts. And the RAF had a secret weapon - codenamed Window. Image copyright Sven Hartmann Image caption Even outside the firestorm area, large areas of the city were devastated Tens of thousands of strips of aluminium paper were launched from planes, creating a snowstorm of reflected radar signals and effectively blinding the fearsome German defences. Almost unhindered, at In the next few hours, a new word was added to the dictionary of war - firestorm feuersturm. Image copyright Sven Hartmann Image caption Heussweg, a street in central Hamburg, before the bombings Image copyright Sven Hartmann Image caption The same view in the aftermath of Operation Gomorrah The phenomenon matched the apocalyptic name of the operation. Something akin to the wrath of God was visited on the city. Concentrated, unchecked fires linked up to turn parts of Hamburg into a furnace. Hot air soared into the sky, sucking more from street level. Wood, fabric and flesh blazed. Glass exploded, metal twisted, stonework glowed dull red. Packed apartment blocks became shells within minutes. Streets became tunnels of screaming hurricane-force winds - one survivor recalled a noise "like an old church organ when someone is playing all the notes at once". Operation Gomorrah timeline July: Night raid by about RAF bombers. First use of Window 25 July: Evacuation of Hamburg ordered July: Second Firestorm August: Night raid by about RAF Bombers, which were scattered by bad weather Already stretched fire crews were overwhelmed. They faced a "sea of fire", with clothes and vehicles bursting into flames. One described rescue efforts as like "throwing a drop of water on a hot stone". The tornado, filled with fire, embers and debris, sucked people - especially the old and young - towards the fire. Image copyright bpk Hans Brunswig Image caption Many Hamburg residents died together when overwhelmed by heat or struck by debris Henni Klank fled her apartment with her husband and baby only when the curtains were on fire and the ceiling began to crack. Image copyright Getty Images Image caption The damage was beyond anything previously achieved by aerial bombing With oxygen becoming so thin candles were fading, they broke down a cellar wall to escape. They faced a scene from the end of days. The streets were burning, the trees were burning and the tops of them were bent [by the wind] right down to the street. The air was burning; simply everything was burning. And that was just the firestorm. Devastation was spread over roughly 12 sq miles 31 sq km. At the height of the raid 16, apartment buildings, with frontages of miles km , home to nearly , people, were ablaze. Kate Hoffmeister, who had seen the people stuck on the melted road, found herself, her mother and her Aunt Emma trapped by burning trees. Image copyright Bunkermuseum Hamburg Image caption One shelter in Hamburg has been restored and serves as a museum A grassy bank offered some shelter: I went and I think I rolled over some people who were still alive. I lost my aunt at that point. Air gunner Douglas Fry recalled it as: I remember saying to the navigator, who was engrossed with his charts: Image copyright Getty Images Image caption The worst-hit areas were sealed off and survivors rehomed across the country Operation

Gomorra ran until 3 August and involved six major raids. Estimates of the dead vary between 34, and 43, Records show the destruction of industrial plants 2, businesses, office buildings, 24 hospitals, schools and government or Nazi party buildings. Somewhere upwards of half of all homes in the city were destroyed. A million of the 1. Kate Hoffmeister lost her aunt, father and two uncles, but later found she was in the same hospital as her mother. Henni Klank and her family escaped in a boat packed with traumatised women and children, and had a last glimpse of the city covered in smoke "as if to hide the horror". Dr Malte Thiessen, professor of contemporary European history, says: Newsreels and papers claimed "Hamburg smashed! Improved defences and greater distances made the bombing campaign a costly slog. Even devastating raids like Dresden, in the last days of the war, saw fewer people killed. You might also like:

Chapter 8 : Air Force Magazine

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The purpose of this analysis is to explore how Ingram constructs her Jewish identity using different literary features. Ingram explores the theme of cultural identity using symbols including figurative language, a contrasting tone and imagery reflecting the effect of Jewish and German cultural identity in a period of history, using factual evidence. Ingram describes this symbol as: Ingram shows how this identification meant there was no help available for her: Ingram reveals in her text. Fear outweighed any rationale they had towards housing them in the shelter, instead the neighbours blamed them, for the bombing: They sold us out. Therefore, since this badge was on her mothers dress, her identity is also attached to it as a child in the war. Ingram uses contrasting tone to build her description of her identity as a child. This was in contrast to her sister Helga, who although had the same mother, could attach herself to the German Hamburg identity since she: As one of the terms of being an evacuee, she had to change her religious identity to that of: Therefore the mother wanted to spare her children from the horrors of what would happen to them in the hands of the Gestapo. The imagery Ingram uses in this text depicts what might have happened to them after the deportation her mother feared. For example, Ingram uses imagery that could relate to the gas chambers, designed to eliminate the Jews by using: Also the use of imagery like: Ingrams uses a tone contrasting both the German and the Jewish identity in terms of how they endured the pain and hardship. She yelled at her husband that he had to put us out because he was in charge Mother bent with a calm, protective look and adjusted my blanket It is known that the Germans were in denial about the atrocities they inflicted on the Jews, and pleaded ignorance: Whereas Ingram shows that as a Jew she lives with the effects of Operation Gomorrah with certain elements in her life: Ingram uses a contrasting tone to build a description of her cultural identity, attached to her mother in contrast to her sister Helga. Ingram also uses contrasts how different two cultural identities are challenged through endurance and adversity.

Chapter 9 : Operation Gomorrah: Firestorm created "Germany's Nagasaki" – Veterans Today

The final attack of Operation Gomorrah, the co-ordinated bombing of Hamburg, took place on the night of 2nd August. The bomber force hit a thunderstorm as it approached the target area, Pathfinder marking could not take place and the eventual bombing was widely dispersed. Yet a final attack was.

Significant missions Battle of Hamburg The Battle of Hamburg, codenamed Operation Gomorrah, was a campaign of air raids beginning 24 July for 8 days and 7 nights. It was at the time the heaviest assault in the history of aerial warfare and was later called the Hiroshima of Germany by British officials. The initial attack on Hamburg included two new introductions to the British planning. They used "Window," otherwise known as chaff, to confuse the German radar, whilst the Pathfinder Force aircraft, which normally kept radio silence, reported the wind they encountered. This information was processed and relayed to the bomber force navigators. No 35 Squadron led the target marking and thanks to the clear weather and H2S radar navigation accuracy was good with markers falling close to the aiming point. On 24 July, at approximately 22:00, the confusion caused to German radar kept losses of aircraft low. While some 40,000 firemen were available to tackle fires, control of their resources was damaged when the telephone exchange caught fire and rubble blocked the passage of fire engines through the city streets; [6] fires were still burning three days later. Army Air Forces was conducted at It had been intended for aircraft to attack Hamburg and Hannover but problems with assembling the force in the air meant that only 90 B Flying Fortresses reached Hamburg. The bombers attacked the Blohm and Voss shipyard and an aero-engine factory; German flak damaged 78 aircraft. In return the shipyard was not badly damaged and the engine manufacturer target could not be seen for smoke a generating station was attacked instead. Extra firemen were brought in from other cities including Hannover; as a result when the US bombers attacked the firemen were in Hamburg and fires in Hannover burnt unchecked. Another attack by the RAF on Hamburg for that night was cancelled due to the problems the smoke would cause and bombers raided Essen instead. Mosquitos carried out another nuisance raid. A third raid was conducted on the morning of the 26th. The night attack of 26 July at That attack is often not counted when the total number of Operation Gomorrah attacks is given. There was no day raid on the 27th. On the night of 27 July, shortly before midnight, aircraft attacked Hamburg. Asphalt streets burst into flame, and fuel oil from damaged and destroyed ships, barges and storage tanks spilled into the water of the canals and the harbour, causing them to ignite as well. A large number of those killed died seeking safety in bomb shelters and cellars, the firestorm consuming the oxygen in the burning city above. The furious winds created by the firestorm had the power to sweep people up off the streets like dry leaves: Some people who tried to walk along, they were pulled in by the fire, they all of the sudden disappeared right in front of you You have to save yourself or try to get as far away from the fire, because the draught pulls you in. A planned raid on 31 July was cancelled due to thunderstorms over the UK. Operation Gomorrah killed 42,000 people, left 37,000 wounded and caused some one million German civilians to flee the city. No subsequent city raid shook Germany as did that on Hamburg; documents show that German officials were thoroughly alarmed and there is some indication from later Allied interrogations of Nazi officials that Hitler stated that further raids of similar weight would force Germany out of the war. The industrial losses were severe, Hamburg never recovered to full production, only doing so in essential armaments industries in which maximum effort was made. Other losses included damage to or destruction of industrial concerns and armaments works, of which were important enough to be listed by name. Local transport systems were completely disrupted and did not return to normal for some time. Dwellings destroyed amounted to 1,000,000, out of 2,000,000. Aftermath Cityscape The totally destroyed quarter of Hammerbrook, in which mostly port workers lived, was not rebuilt as a housing area but as a commercial area. The adjoining quarter of Rothenburgsort shared the same fate, as only a small area of housing was rebuilt. The underground line which connected these areas with the central station was not rebuilt either. In the destroyed residential areas many houses were rebuilt across the street and therefore do not form connected blocks anymore. He estimated more than 40,000 people died in Hamburg. The Nikolaikirche, which was largely destroyed during the bombing, has been made into a memorial against the war. The spire of the church, which

was used by the bomber pilots as aiming point [citation needed], endured the attacks. The department store was hit by a bomb on the night of the 29th of July. The people in the air raid shelter below were killed by the heat and carbon monoxide poisoning. The victims of the air raids were buried on the Ohlsdorf Cemetery in mass graves. The memorial "Passage over the Styx" by Gerhard Marcks is in the center and shows how Charon ferries a young couple, a mother with her child, a man and a despairing person over the river Styx. Many houses rebuilt after World War II show a memorial plaque with the inscription "Destroyed Rebuilt" as a reminder of their destruction during the air raids in July