

NAZI PLANTS ARE HIT HARD IN BIG RAIDS

Thunder of Bombs
Shakes Dover Area
as Attacks Kept Up

ESSEN BLASTED

London, March 9 (CP). — The earth-shaking thunder of bombs and answering gunfire across the Strait of Dover testified tonight that the R.A.F.'s spring offensive was rolling against German war production and offensive shipping concentrations in occupied France.

Explosions great enough to shake buildings on the south coast of England sounded across the Channel from the directions of Boulogne and Cap Gris Nez and big concentrations of searchlights played on the British raiders from the French coast.

Flashes of gunfire were seen almost constantly over the low banks of mist on the Channel soon after the R.A.F. bombers flew over.

Thus the brisk pace was kept up against coastal objectives and factories tuning up Hitler's war machine for the spring after heavy week-end raids from the Ruhr Valley to Northern France and suburban Paris.

Keeping up the assaults started by a daylight attack on the Paris region yesterday and the sprawling Krupp works at Essen last night, R.A.F. bombers flew over Northern France today and blasted a big power and industrial plant at Mazingarbe, near Bethune.

Other British bombers struck hard at the region around Boulogne sur-Mer.

Four of the escorting fighters were lost in today's raids and five challenging Nazi fighters were knocked down, the Air Ministry announced.

Essen was the principal target of last night's R.A.F. attacks, which also included the invasion ports of Ostend and Le Havre and airfields in France and Holland. These forays cost the R.A.F. eight bombers.

Exchange Telegraph said it heard the Vichy radio report an R.A.F. raid today on the Paris region, but this may have been confused with yesterday's attack on a truck factory at Poissy, second place to be hit about the occupied French capital within a week.

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EUROPEAN
1939
BRITAIN
AIR FORCE
RAIDS
GERMANY