

## BOMB DUMP SHATTERS LARGE AREA

Near Burton-on-Trent the countryside was turned into the likeness of a battle~~XXIX~~ field by the explosion in the R.A.F. Bomb dump, 90 feet below ground. ~~More~~ *Moony*  
~~was~~ four thousand tons of bombs, the weight dropped in some of the largest raids on Germany, blew up through the earth and spread havoc for miles around. Enormous lumps of earth were hurled about like so much paper in a wind. Scores of craters, formed as the explosion broke the surface, filled with water and an area something like half a mile square now looks like a lake of mud.

Forming fantastic caves the underground store has held hundreds of thousands of tons for some years. Down here it was safe from German bombing and the very possibility of an accident probably never occurred to the R.A.F. men in charge, so thorough were the precautions taken. It is a miracle that the disaster was not on a far greater scale.

The explosion took place in the morning. A cement works nearby was completely wrecked. Rescue squads had an almost impossible task digging for bodies. Windows were broken and doors blown open as far as 60 miles away.

~~A small reservoir was burst by the explosion. The escaping water was responsible for much of the mud into which the area has been turned. In one or two local hamlets farm houses have been destroyed and some people~~

1 crest

2

(GVP) The country herabouts is sparsely populated. Villages are few and small. Those that there are were damaged and many farmhouses dotted about were pretty well destroyed.

(bomb dump damage contd)

made homeless.

(GV) Fear of further explosions fortunately turned out to be groundless. A village public house, announcing itself to be open, looked as though it would face quite a problem at closing time....No announcement was made as to the cause of the explosion. The full death roll is not known as we go to press. Obviously it might have been much greater than it is had all the bombs exploded.