KEEPER FILE

AIR FORCE Magazine

"Strategic Offensive Against Germany" RAF Air Marshal Sir Arthur Travers Harris C-in-C, RAF Bomber Command Remarks for Royal Air Force Films London, England June 3, 1942

The Nazis entered this war under the rather childish delusion that they were going to bomb everybody else and nobody was going to bomb them.

At Rotterdam, London, Warsaw, and half a hundred other places, they put that rather naive theory into operation.

They sowed the wind and now they are going to reap the whirlwind.

Cologne, Lubeck, Rostock—Those are only just the beginning. We cannot send a thousand bombers a time over Germany every time, as yet. But the time will come when we can do so.

Let the Nazis take good note of the western horizon. There they will see a cloud as yet no bigger than a man's hand. But behind that cloud lies the whole massive power of the United States of America.

When the storm bursts over Germany, they will look back to the days of Lubeck and Rostock and Cologne as a man caught in the blast of a hurricane will look back to the gentle zephyrs of last summer.

It may take a year. It may take two. But, for the Nazis, the writing is on the wall. Let them look out for themselves. The cure is in their own hands.

There are a lot of people who say that bombing can never win a war. Well my answer to that is that it has never been tried yet. And we shall see.

Germany, clinging more and more desperately to her widespread conquests and even seeking foolishly for more, will make a most interesting initial experiment. Japan will provide the confirmation.

But the time is not yet. There is a great deal of work to be done first, and let us all get down to it.

Film preserved at the Imperial War Museum, London