



Source 4

Extract on the effect of the attack on German morale, from a British Bombing Survey Unit report, 1949

(Catalogue ref: AIR 20/6393)

Questions

1. Does this source suggest that the attempt to break German morale by attacking their towns succeeded or failed? Give reasons for your answer.
2. What do the British know in 1949 that they didn't know during the war?
3. What evidence in this source suggests that the decision to bomb Dresden was wrong? Make a list.



HEROES & VILLAINS

Churchill & Dresden > What did the bombing achieve?

Source 4

168. Effect of Town Area Attacks on German Morale : It is clear that the attempt to break the morale of the German industrial workers as a whole was not achieved and consequently loss to war production on this account did not reach significant dimensions. Since the war -- and contrary to the estimates of the various Intelligence Committees during the offensive -- investigations have shown that German economy was not only able to meet almost all the country's war requirements but that, in many directions, it was under utilised. In making their estimates during the war, it would appear that the Intelligence Committees, although substantially correct in their overall estimates, put their estimates of war production at the same level as the total production and were thus 100% in excess of true figures.