



## Source 2

Extracts from an Air Ministry report on Dresden Railway Marshalling Yard as a possible target, 27 February 1942

(Catalogue ref: AIR 40/1680)



2a



2b

### Questions

1. What reason does this source give for bombing Dresden?
2. What does this tell us about Dresden's strategic position in German transport links?
3. What targets are to be avoided?



# HEROES & VILLAINS

Churchill & Dresden > Why target Dresden?

## Source 2a

SECRET. GERMANY NOT TO BE TAKEN INTO THE AIR.  
INFORMATION SHEET dated February 27th, 1942.

<u>Op. No:- GH 584</u>	<u>PLACE:- DRESDEN</u>	<u>Lat:- 51° 04' N.</u>
<u>A.M.No:- G (d)(vi) 74</u>	<u>CATEGORY:- Transportation</u>	<u>Long:- 13° 42' E.</u>
<u>DISTRICT MAP No:- 82</u>	<u>SUB-CATEGORY:- Railway Marshalling Yard.</u>	<u>Alt:- 380 feet.</u>

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ALL PREVIOUS INFORMATION SHEETS AND AMENDMENTS THERETO ARE  
CANCELLED, AND ALSO ALL ILLUSTRATIONS NOT MENTIONED BELOW.

TARGET MAP:  
Standard 1941 (magnetic) map dated 13.2.42.

DESCRIPTION:

The target is the RAILWAY MARSHALLING YARD DRESDEN-FRIEDRICHSTADT, which has a maximum capacity of 4,000 trucks per 24 hours.

The yard extends for about 1½ miles in a roughly east to west direction, and its ellipse shape develops a bulge in the south, by the inclusion of the repair shops and engine sheds, the latter being at the eastern extremity.

DRESDEN is one of the few direct links through the Erz-Gebirge, between Czecho-Slovakia and Germany. In view of the exploitation of Czech industry, damage to the railway here would cause considerable confusion to rail transit, apart from the probable destruction to goods being sorted in the sidings.



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## Source 2b

