

# Appendix One

## RAF LEAFLET DROPS

Our research has revealed for the first time the extent and locations of the distribution of White Rose leaflet by British forces.

The dropped leaflet included the text of the sixth leaflet and an introduction text that is reproduced below, translated into English. The leaflet was titled 'Manifest der Münchner Studenten' (Manifesto of the Munich Students). The dropping of leaflets by the RAF and British army was a common tactic and many millions were dropped throughout the war. The intent was to demoralise and confuse the German people and was part of the technique of 'psychological warfare'.

This leaflet was dropped over Germany in July 1943. The locations of the drops and numbers of leaflets are given in the table below.

DATE (1943)	TARGET	NUMBER DROPPED	HOW DROPPED
3/4 July	Cologne	736,000	Aircraft
3/4 July	Cologne Area	312,000	Aircraft
3/4 July	Unknown	48,000	Aircraft
8/9 July	Cologne	1,088,000	Aircraft
9/10 July	Gelsenkirchen	256,000	Aircraft
9/10 July	Gelsenkirchen area	16,000	Aircraft
9/10 July	Ruhr area	540,000	Aircraft
10/11 July	Oldenburg, Minden, Paderborn, Wiesbaden, Kaiserlauten	320,000	Balloon
11/12 July	Wilhelmshaven, Minden, Paderborn, Frankfurt	604,000	Balloon
12/13 July	Pirmaesens, Kaiserlauten, Mainz, Bielefeld, Oldenburg	600,000	Balloon
13/14 July	Aachen area	288,000	Aircraft
24/25 July	Hamburg	448,000	Aircraft
25/26 July	Ruhr area	16,000	Aircraft
27/28 July	Hamburg area	48,000	Aircraft
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5,320,000</b>	

This research is drawn from the records of the Royal Air Force Museum London and has been confirmed by Department of Research & Information Services at the museum.

Depending upon the type of aircraft used the leaflets were either dropped from the bomb-doors or manually pushed out through the aircraft fuselage flare chute.

The exact method used for dropping these leaflets from balloon is not known but the methods used by the special 'Balloon Units' are well documented.

Bundles of the leaflets were attached to helium balloons with rope. The balloons were released from locations that would catch the prevailing western winds to carry them over Germany. A burning fuse burnt through the rope after a calculated time and the leaflets dropped. The length of the fuse would determine when the leaflets would drop but changes in wind direction or speed could vary the destination considerably. The balloon was destroyed by an explosive charge on a timer after the leaflets had dropped.

This is the text of the introduction of the dropped leaflet:

#### *A GERMAN LEAFLET*

*This is the text of a German Leaflet, a copy of which has reached England. Students from Munich University wrote it in February this year and distributed it at the University. Six of them have been executed for this, others have been imprisoned, others sent to the front as a punishment. Since then the students have been 'screened' at all other German universities too. So, the leaflet evidently represents the opinions of a considerable proportion of the German students.*

*But it is not only students. There are Germans from all social classes who have realised Germany's true situation; Goebbels contemptuously calls them 'the objective people'. If Germany is still to do something itself to avoid its fate, these people must find each other and act. Goebbels knows this, and that is why he desperately claims that 'this type of people are of no importance numerically'. He does not want them to know how many of them there are.*

*We are going to win the war anyway. But we do not see why the sensible and decent people in Germany should not have their say. That is why, together with their bombs, the airmen of the RAF are now dropping over Germany millions of copies of this leaflet, for which six young Germans have died and which the Gestapo of course immediately confiscated.*

(from 'Keine Volksgenossen' by Michael C. Schneider and Winifried Süss)