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DATE	TARGET	DETAILS (remarks in " " from DFC citation)
<i>Strategic / Area Bombing Campaign</i>		
15 Mar 1944	Stuttgart	<p><i>"Target Successfully Attacked"</i> The heaviest RAF raid of the war so far, Stuttgart was attacked by 863 bombers dropping 3,000 tons of bombs. 37 aircraft (27 Lancasters, 10 Halifaxes) were lost, 4.3 per cent of the force. Adverse winds delayed the opening of the attack and despite the clear weather conditions some of the early bombing fell in the centre of Stuttgart but most of it fell in open country south-west of the city.</p>
18 Mar 1944	Frankfurt	<p><i>"Target Successfully Attacked"</i> 846 aircraft (620 Lancasters, 209 Halifaxes, 17 Mosquitos) bombed Frankfurt. Cloud made it difficult for the German fighters to reach the bombers and 22 aircraft (12 Halifaxes, 10 Lancasters) were lost, 2.6 per cent of the force. Targets were marked accurately and led to heavy bombing of eastern, central and western districts of Frankfurt.</p>
25 Mar 1944	Aulnoye	<p><i>"Target Successfully Attacked"</i> Attack of railway yards at Aulnoye, France by 192 aircraft (92 Halifaxes, 47 Lancasters, 37 Stirlings, 16 Mosquitos). No aircraft lost.</p>  <p>The Aulnoye Marshalling Yards after the attack of 25 Mar 1944</p>

30 Mar 1944	Nuremberg	<p><i>"Target Successfully Attacked"</i></p> <p>A dangerous moon-lit raid on the distant target of Nuremberg resulted in Bomber Command's greatest loss of the war. 95 bombers (64 Lancasters and 31 Halifaxes), 11.9 per cent of the force (545 crew) out of 795 were shot down. Nuremberg was an important military HQ and key manufacturing site for aircraft, submarines and tanks.</p> <p>795 aircraft were dispatched (572 Lancasters, 214 Halifaxes and 9 Mosquitos). The Germans attacked with 200 fighters astride the route to Nuremberg. The first fighters appeared before the Belgian border and a fierce moonlit battle lasted for the next hour. 82 bombers were lost on the outward route.</p> <p>Very little damage was caused in Nuremberg due to thick cloud over the city, a fierce cross-wind and heavy fighter attack.</p>
18 Apr 1944	Rouen	<p><i>"Target Successfully Attacked"</i></p> <p>A concentrated attack on the railway yards at Rouen, with much destruction, by 273 Lancasters and 16 Mosquitos. No aircraft lost.</p>
20 Apr 1944	Cologne	<p><i>"Target Successfully Attacked"</i></p> <p>A concentrated attack on areas of Cologne north and west of the city centre and partly industrial in nature. 7 railway stations or yards were also severely damaged. 357 Lancasters and 22 Mosquitos of Nos 1, 3, 6 and 8 Groups. 4 Lancasters lost. Cologne was severely and consistently attacked by the Allies during WWII.</p>
22 Apr 1944	Düsseldorf	<p><i>"Target Successfully Attacked"</i></p> <p>An old-style heavy attack by 596 aircraft (323 Lancasters, 254 Halifaxes, 19 Mosquitos) on the northern districts of Düsseldorf, dropping 2,150 tonnes of bombs, and causing widespread destruction. The raid was penetrated by German night-fighters and 29 aircraft (16 Halifaxes, 13 Lancasters) were lost, 4.9 percent of the force.</p>
24 Apr 1944	Karlsruhe	<p><i>"Target Successfully Attacked"</i></p> <p>Bombing raid on Karlsruhe by 637 aircraft (369 Lancasters, 259 Halifaxes, 9 Mosquitos). Cloud over the target and a strong wind pushed the attack over the northern part of Karlsruhe and most of the bombs fell outside the city. Mannheim, 30 miles to the north, recorded a raid by approximately 100 aircraft on this night and Darmstadt, Ludwigshafen and Heidelberg were also hit by aircraft which failed to find the main target. 19 aircraft (11 Lancasters, 8 Halifaxes) were lost, 3.0 per cent of the force.</p>
26 Apr 1944	Essen	<p><i>"Target Successfully Attacked"</i></p> <p>An accurate attack based on good Pathfinder ground-marking by 493 aircraft (342 Lancasters, 133 Halifaxes, 18 Mosquitos). 7 aircraft (6 Lancasters, 1 Halifax) lost, 1.4 per cent of the force. Essen was also heavily bombed in 1943 and had the strategic Krupps armament works which covered an area of 1,088 acres.</p> <p>http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=8NnesOa5KSo</p>
Bombing Campaign Targeting Munitions & Equipment		
27 Apr 1944	Friedrichshafen	<p><i>"Target Successfully Attacked"</i></p> <p>A daring long distance moon-lit raid on tank factories in Friedrichshafen by 322 Lancasters and 1 Mosquito. This small town contained factories making engines and gearboxes for German tanks but was deep in Southern Germany; the disastrous attack on Nuremberg had taken place only 4 weeks previously (30 Mar) in similar conditions. However, Friedrichshafen was further south and on the fringe of the German night-fighter defences; because of this and the various diversions which confused the German controllers, the bombers reached the target without being intercepted. However, the German fighters arrived at the target while the raid was taking place and 18 Lancasters were lost, 5.6 per cent of the force. 1,234 tons of bombs were dropped in an outstandingly successful attack based on good Pathfinder marking; Bomber Command later estimated that 99 acres of Friedrichshafen, 67 per cent of the town's built-up area, were devastated. Several factories were badly damaged and the tank gearbox factory was destroyed. German officials later admitted this was the most damaging raid on tank production of the war.</p> <p>Friedrichshafen is 580 miles "as the crow flies" from RAF Ludford Magna which would have resulted in at least a six hour round trip.</p>
30 Apr 1944	Maintenon	<p><i>"Target Successfully Attacked"</i></p> <p>116 Lancasters of No 1 Group attacked the largest Luftwaffe bomb and ammunition dump at Maintenon in Northern France. The raid was entirely successful and a spectacular series of explosions were seen on the ground. French houses nearby were not hit.</p>

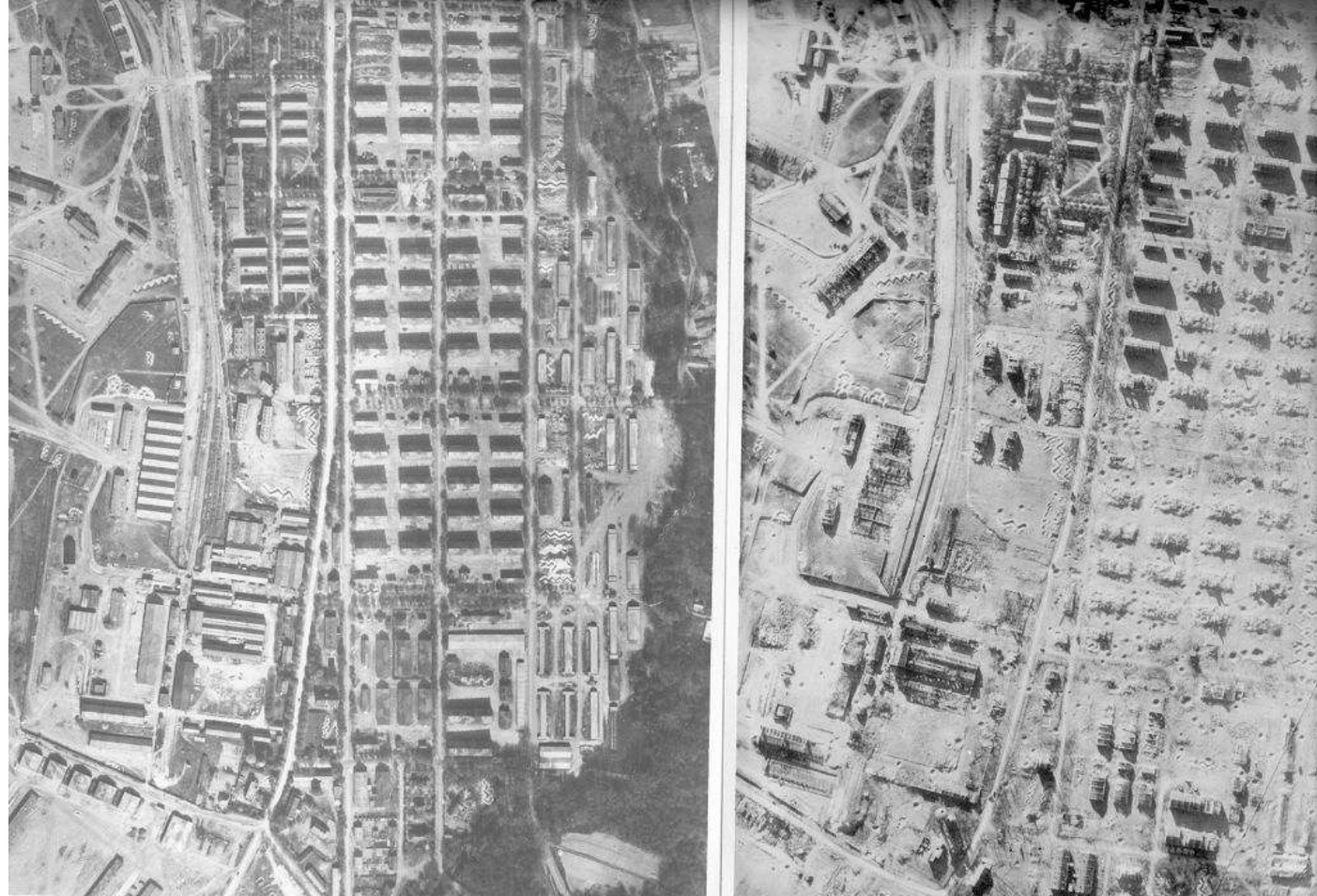
Allied air forces begin a campaign of large scale raids against German airfields and rail networks in preparation for D-Day

3 May 1944

Mailly-Le-Camp


"Target Successfully Attacked"


A heavy bombing attack on a German military camp situated close to the French village of Mailly by 346 Lancasters and 14 Mosquitos of Nos 1 and 5 Groups and 2 Pathfinder Mosquitos. A delay to the raid in the target area was caused by radio transmission errors and German fighters arrived 'prematurely' resulting in heavy casualties; 42 Lancasters lost, 11.6 per cent of the force. Approximately 1,500 tons of bombs were eventually dropped with great accuracy. 114 barrack buildings, 47 transport sheds and some ammunition buildings in the camp were hit; 102 vehicles, including 37 tanks, were destroyed. The night-fighter attacks continued over the target and on the return route. The squadrons of No 1 Group, which made up the second wave of the attack, suffered the most casualties - 28 aircraft out of their 173 dispatched (16.2 per cent).



Before and After reconnaissance photos of Mailly-Le-Camp

The 3rd May raid on Mailly-le-Camp turned into a night fighter massacre of the bomber force. It was a night that is described by veterans as the most terrifying of the war and cost 101 Sqn 4 Lancasters and 31 aircrew killed.

9 May 1944	Mardyck	<p><i>"Target Successfully Attacked"</i></p> <p>Attack of 7 coastal gun batteries in the Pas de Calais area by 414 aircraft (206 Halifaxes, 180 Lancasters, 28 Mosquitos). Four of the positions were claimed to have been hit. 1 Lancaster lost while bombing the Mardyck position.</p>
11 May 1944	Hasselt	<p><i>"Target Successfully Attacked"</i></p> <p>Bombing raid on railway yards in Hasselt in north-eastern Belgium by 126 Lancasters and 6 Mosquitos of Nos 1 and 8 Groups. 39 aircraft bombed, but all missed the railway yards because of thick haze and the Master Bomber ordered the bombing to stop. 5 Lancasters lost.</p>
21 May 1944	Duisburg	<p><i>"Target Successfully Attacked"</i></p> <p>The first large raid on Duisburg for a year by 510 Lancasters and 22 Mosquitos. The target was covered by cloud but the Oboe skymarking was accurate and much damage was caused in the southern areas of the city. 29 Lancasters were lost, 5.5 per cent of the force.</p>
22 May 1944	Dortmund	<p><i>"Target Successfully Attacked"</i></p> <p>The first large raid on Dortmund for a year by 361 Lancasters and 14 Mosquitos. The attack fell mainly in the south-eastern districts of Dortmund, mostly in residential areas. 18 Lancasters were lost, 4.8 per cent of the force.</p>
24 May 1944	Aachen	<p><i>"Target Successfully Attacked"</i></p> <p>A large scale attack of 2 railway yards at Aachen - Aachen-West and Rothe Erde by 442 aircraft (264 Lancasters, 162 Halifaxes, 16 Mosquitos). These were important links in the railway system between Germany and France. The railways to the east of Aachen were particularly hard hit. Because this was a German town, Bomber Command sent more aircraft than normal for railway raids and many bombs fell in Aachen itself and in villages near the railway yards. 18 Halifaxes and 7 Lancasters lost, 5.7 per cent of the force.</p>
27 May 1944	Aachen	<p><i>"Target Successfully Attacked"</i></p> <p>A return attack of the Rothe Erde railway yards at Aachen by 162 Lancasters and 8 Mosquitos. The railway lines at the yards, which were not seriously hit in the raid of 2 nights earlier, were now severely damaged and all through traffic was halted. A large proportion of delayed-action bombs were dropped. The whole raid only lasted 12 minutes. 12 Lancasters lost, 7.0 per cent of the force.</p>  <p>Aachen Marshalling Yards after bombing on 24/25 May and 27/28 May 1944. 614 aircraft were deployed and 37 were lost.</p>

2 Jun 1944	Trappes	<p><i>"Target Successfully Attacked"</i> Bombing of the railway yards at Trappes by 128 aircraft (105 Halifaxes, 19 Lancasters, 4 Mosquitos). Most of the bombing fell in the eastern half of the target area. 15 Halifaxes and 1 Lancaster lost, 12.5 per cent of the force.</p>
<i>Immediate support for Operation Overlord and the D-Day Landings</i>		
4 Jun 1944	Sangatte	<p><i>"Target Successfully Attacked"</i> Attack on coastal gun batteries in the Pas de Calais (including Sangatte) and at Maisy, Normandy by 259 aircraft (125 Lancasters, 118 Halifaxes, 16 Mosquitos). This attack was some 36 hours in advance of the D-Day landings. No aircraft lost.</p>  <p>An abandoned German gun battery position in the Pas de Calais after the bombing of 4 Jun 1944</p>

5 Jun 1944

Special Patrol

"Patrol Successfully Carried Out"

In preparation for Operation Overlord, the evening prior to D-Day landings, 110 aircraft of Nos 1 and 100 Groups carried out extensive bomber-support operations: 24 'Airborne Cigar' (ABC)-equipped Lancasters of No 101 Squadron patrolled all likely night-fighter approaches to jam German wireless communications and support the airborne invasion forces; 2 Intruder Mosquitos and 1 ABC Lancaster were lost.

Total Bomber Command effort for the night: 1,211 sorties, 8 aircraft (0.7 per cent) lost. The number of sorties flown was a new record. British, American and Canadian divisions landed on five Normandy beaches early the next morning.



D-Day (6 Jun 1944) Landings

15 Jun 1944

Boulogne

"Target Successfully Attacked"

Heavy attack on E-boat pens and German light naval vessels gathering in Boulogne harbour by 297 aircraft (155 Lancasters, 130 Halifaxes, 12 Mosquitos). A short French report describes this as the Worst raid of the war on Boulogne, with great destruction in the port and the surrounding areas. 1 Halifax lost.



Damage to the E Boat Pens at Boulogne after the attacks of 15 June 1944

Bombing Campaign Targeting Armament and Infrastructure

On 16 Jun 44, 244 V1 "Doodlebugs" 2,000 lb Flying Bombs Rain Down on England, Marking the Start of a New Retaliation Campaign by RAF's Bomber Command.

By 6 July, 2,754 V1's had hit England causing 2,752 dead and 8,000 injured.

16 Jun 1944	Sterkrade	<p>"Target Successfully Attacked"</p> <p>Raid on the synthetic-oil plant at Sterkrade/Holten by 321 aircraft (162 Halifaxes, 147 Lancasters, 12 Mosquitos). The target was found to be covered by thick cloud and most of the resulting bombing was scattered and had little effect upon production. The route of the bomber stream passed near a German night-fighter beacon only 30 miles from Sterkrade. Approximately 21 bombers were shot down by fighters and a further 10 by flak. 22 of the lost aircraft were Halifaxes, these losses being 13.6 percent of the 162 Halifaxes on the raid.</p>
24 Jun 1944	Les Hayons	<p>"Target Successfully Attacked"</p> <p>Lancasters, Halifaxes, Mosquitos from all groups attacked flying bomb sites, causing fresh damage at most of the targets.</p> <div data-bbox="622 467 1709 1093" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>Illustration showing V1 "Doodlebug" Flying Bomb</p>
25 Jun 1944	Ligescourt	<p>"Target Successfully Attacked"</p> <p>Attack on 3 flying bomb sites by 323 aircraft (202 Halifaxes, 106 Lancasters, 15 Mosquitos). The weather was clear and all 3 raids were accurate. 2 Halifaxes of No 4 Group were lost from the raid on the Montorgueil site.</p>
29 Jun 1944	Siracourt	<p>"Bombs brought back on instruction from Master Bomber"</p> <p>Attack on 2 flying-bomb launching sites and a store by 286 Lancasters and 19 Mosquitos. There was partial cloud cover over all the targets; some bombing was accurate but some was scattered. 5 aircraft (3 Lancasters and 2 Mosquitos) lost, including the aircraft of the Master Bomber on the raid to the Siracourt site.</p>
30 Jun 1944	Oisement	<p>"Target Successfully Attacked"</p> <p>Bombing of a flying-bomb launching site at Oisemont by 102 Lancasters and 5 Mosquitos. The attack took place through 10/10ths cloud and results were not observed. No aircraft were lost.</p>

4 Jul 1944	Villeneuve	<i>"Target Successfully Attacked"</i> Raid on railway yards at Orleans and Villeneuve by 282 Lancasters and 5 Mosquitos. Both targets were accurately bombed. 14 Lancasters were lost, 11 from the Villeneuve raid and 3 from Orleans.
5 Jul 1944	Dijon	<i>"Target Successfully Attacked"</i> Heavy and accurate bombing attack on the main railway area at Dijon by 154 Lancasters of No 1 Group. No aircraft lost.
7 Jul 1944	Vaires	<i>"Target Successfully Attacked"</i> An accurate raid on the railway yards at Vaires by 123 Lancasters and 5 Mosquitos of Nos 1 and 8 Groups without the loss of any aircraft.
12 Jul 1944	Revigny	<i>"Bombs brought back on instruction from Master Bomber"</i> Attack on railway targets at Culmont, Revigny and Tours by 378 Lancasters and 7 Mosquitos of Nos 1, 5 and 8 Groups. Culmont and Tours were accurately bombed but cloud interfered with the all-No 1 Group raid at Revigny and only half of the force bombed. 10 Lancasters were lost on the Revigny raid and 2 on the Culmont raid.

