

1939-09-03	War is declared and a Bomber Command aircraft crosses the German coast on a reconnaissance operation.
1939-09-03/04	First raid over Germany by Whitleys of 52 and 58 Squadrons to drop leaflets on Hamburg, Bremen and the Ruhr
1939-09-04	Sgt. Albert Prince, Pilot, 107 Squadron RAF, born 22 November 1911 in Montreal, PQ, was shot down while attacking enemy battleships with his Blenheim, becoming the first Canadian killed while serving with Bomber Command. Other two crew members became POWs.
1939-10-01/02	First bombers over Berlin by Whitleys of 10 Squadron to drop propaganda leaflets
1939-12-03	Wellingtons from 38, 115 and 149 Squadrons bomb German warships off Heligoland
1940-01-12/13	Whitleys from 77 Squadron drop leaflets on Prague and Vienna
1940-03-7/8	Whitleys from 77 Squadron drop leaflets on Poland
1940-03-19/20	First RAF attack on a land target, the German minelaying seaplane base at Hornum on Isle of Sylt by Whitleys of 10, 51, 77 and 102 Squadrons and Hampdens of 44, 50, 61 and 144 Squadrons
1940-04-04	75 (New Zealand) Squadron at RAF Feltwell, Norfolk, becomes the first Commonwealth squadron in Bomber Command
1940-04-13	First attack on a mainland target by aircraft under operational control of Bomber Command. Stavanger/Sola airfield attacked by Blenheims of 107 Squadron
1940-04-13/14	First mine laying operation by RAF squadrons off the Danish coast
1940-05-10	As German forces invade and occupy western Europe, Bomber Command attacked enemy troops and infrastructure to slow their advance.
1940-05-11/12	18 Whitleys and 18 Hampdens attack road and railways leading from Munchen-Gladbach to slow German advance
1940-05-12	F/O Donald Garland, pilot, 12 Squadron, RAF (28 June 1918-12 May 1940) and his navigator Sgt Thomas Gray, RAF (17 May 1914-12 May 1940) led five Fairey Battle bombers in an attack on the Veldwezelt bridge over the Albert Canal, Belgium. The flight encountered heavy anti-aircraft fire and the bridge was hit but not put out of commission. They either died crashing in the village of Lanaken or in the hospital in Maastricht, Netherlands. Only one bomber managed to return to base. Both F/O Garland and Sgt Gray were awarded the Victoria Cross posthumously
1940-05-15	War Cabinet authorizes Bomber Command to attack east of the Rhine
1940-05-15/16	Bomber Command starts strategic offensive by sending 99 aircraft to bomb oil and steel plants and railway targets in the Ruhr
1940-06-11/12	36 Whitleys from 10, 51, 58, 77 and 102 Squadrons make first raid on Italy by bombing Turin
1940-07-01/02	Bomber Command's first 2,000-lb bomb dropped on raid on the German ship Scharnhorst at Keil by Hampden L4070 piloted by then F/O Guy Gibson of 83 Squadron
1940-08-02	Approximate date the Stirling bomber entered service

1940-08-12	W/Cdr, then F/L Roderick Alastair Brook Learoyd, VC, Pilot, 49 Squadron, RAF, (5 February 1913 - 24 January 1996) awarded the Victoria Cross for successfully bombing the Dortmund-Ems Canal at 150 feet despite heavy enemy fire and severe to his Hampden. He landed his heavily damaged aircraft without causing injury to his crew or further damage to his Hampden
1940-08-25/26	First attack on Berlin by 81 RAF bombers in reprisal for attack on London 24/25 August. Only 29 bombers claim to have hit Berlin due to thick cloud
1940-09-15	F/Sgt John Hannah, 83 Squadron, RAF (27 November 1921-7 June 1947), VC, was a Wireless Operator/Air Gunner on a Hampden piloted by Canadian F/O Clare Conner an attack on German barges at Antwerp. The aircraft was subjected to intense anti-aircraft fire which started a fire which spread quickly on the bomber. The gunner and navigator had to bail out. Instead of bailing out, F/Sgt Hanna remained to fight the fire, first with two extinguishers then with his bare hands. He sustained terrible injuries but successfully out the fire, The pilot was able to bring the almost wrecked aircraft back safely. For his actions, F/Sgt Hanna was awarded the Victoria Cross.
1940-11-06	Manchester bomber enters squadron service with delivery to 207 Squadron
1940-11-13/14	First bombing attack on German <i>Knickebein</i> radio navigation beam transmitting stations using two Wellingtons fitted with equipment to fly down the beam. Direct hit on one station.
1940-11-16/17	Largest force to date dispatched against one target - 127 aircraft against Hamburg
1940-11-25	Air Vice-Marshal A.T. Harris appointed Deputy Chief of Air Staff
1940-12-16/17	First area attack on a German industrial target, Mannheim, when Bomber Command dispatched 134 aircraft
1941-02-10/11	First operation by Stirling aircraft in a bombing mission by 7 Squadron on oil storage tanks at Rotterdam
1941-02-24/25	First operation by Manchester aircraft in a bombing mission by 207 Squadron on the a <i>Hipper</i> class cruiser in Brest Harbour
1941-03-10/11	First operation by Halifax aircraft in a bombing mission by 35 Squadron on the docks and shipping canal at Le Harve
1941-03-30/31	Bomber Command starts its campaign against German battle cruisers <i>Scharnhorst</i> and <i>Gneisenau</i> and cruiser <i>Prinz Eugen</i> at Brest which lasted over 10 months
1941-04-01	First use of 4,000-lb bombs when two were dropped on Emden by modified Wellingtons of 9 and 149 Squadrons
1941-04-14	First B-17 for RAF arrived at Prestwick piloted by Major Walshe, USAAC
1941-04-23	4 Group announces the formation of the first Canadian squadron, 405 (Vancouver) Squadron, at Driffield
1941-05-06	405 (Vancouver) Squadron receives four Wellington II's
1941-05-07	First RAF Fortress squadron formed, 90 Squadron in 2 Group
1941-05-08	S/L D.G. Tomlinson, DFC, becomes first Commanding Officer (Acting) of 405 (Vancouver) Squadron
1941-05-24	W/C P.A. Gilchrist, DFC, becomes Commanding Officer of 405 (Vancouver) Squadron
1941-06-13	405 (Vancouver) Squadron's first operational mission by four Wellingtons is against the marshalling yard at Schwerte

1941-06-24	W/C N.W. Timmerman, DSO, DFC, becomes first Commanding Officer of 408 (Goose) Squadron when it was established with Hampden bombers at Lindholme as part of 5 Group.
1941-07-07	Sgt James Allen Ward, VC, Pilot, 75 (New Zealand) Squadron RAF, (Wanganui, New Zealand 14 June 1919 - 15 September 1941) was second pilot in a Wellington returning from a raid on Munster when they were attacked by a night fighter. The fuel tank was ruptured causing a fire behind the starboard engine. Attempts by the crew to put out the fire using fire extinguishers through a hole made in the fuselage failed. The pilot ordered the crew to bail out. Ward proposed to crawl out on the wing with an engine cover to smother the fire. Tied to a rope, he made his way along the wing using a fire axe to make hand and foot holes for himself. He reached the engine and smothered the flames with the canvas cover which he then used to plug the hole in the wing from which the fuel had come. He made his way back into the aircraft. The Wellington made an emergency landing at Newmarket without flaps or brakes, ran into a hedge and fence and was written off. He was awarded the Victoria Cross for the risks he took to save the aircraft with its crew. On 15 September, 1941, Ward died when his Wellington crashed after an attack by a night fighter while on a raid on Hamburg.
1941-07-08	First operational mission by RAF Fortresses by 90 Squadron in raid on Wilhelmshaven
1941-07-24	S/L Bisset, DFC, becomes Commanding Officer of 405 (Vancouver) Squadron. W/C Gilcrest MIA 24 July on attack on the <i>Gneisenau</i> at Brest.
1941-08-11/12	First service trial over enemy territory of Gee radar aid to navigation and target identifications by two Wellingtons of 115 Squadron. München Gladbach successfully attacked by both aircraft
1941-08-12	408 (Goose) Squadron's first sortie is an attack on the docks at Rotterdam by four Hampdens
1941-08-13	W/C R.M. Fenwick-Wilson, AFC, becomes Commanding Officer of 405 (Vancouver) Squadron
1941-11-07	Bomber Command was ordered to only conduct 'limited raids' following an operation to Berlin that saw 21 (12.4%) of the 169 bombers lost.
1941-11-15	First Mosquito bomber variant delivered to 105 Squadron
1941-11-18	405 (Vancouver) Squadron advised that former CO W/C P.A. Gilchrist, MIA 24 July 1941, is reported interned in Switzerland
1941-12-07	Japanese attack Pearl Harbour
1941-12-07	Stirlings of 7 and 15 Squadrons with second pilots and W/Ops from 109 Squadron used an early blind-bombing device called <i>Trinity</i> (early form of <i>Oboe</i> ) in a series of attempts to bomb cruisers <i>Scharnhorst</i> and <i>Gneisenau</i> at Brest.

1941-12-09	S/L Arthur Scarf, VC, 62 Squadron RAF (14 June 1912 - December 1941) was in Malaya when all available aircraft of his squadron were ordered to make a daylight raid on Singora where the Japanese army was invading. As leader for the raid, Scarf had just taken off when enemy aircraft attacked the base disabling the rest of the squadron. He flew alone to Singora and completed his bombing run despite being attacked by enemy fighters. On his return, he was again attacked with his Blenheim damaged, his left arm shattered and a large hole in his back. He was drifting in and out of conscious. He managed to land at Alor Star without injury to his crew, Scarf died two hours later in the hospital. For his actions, he was awarded the Victoria Cross.
1941-12-15	419 (Moose) Squadron established without any aircraft as part of 3 Group
1941-12-19	W/C J.D.D. Collier (RAF) becomes first Commanding Officer of 420 (Snowy Owl) Squadron when squadron with its Hampden bombers was formed at Waddington as part of 5 Group
1941-12-21	W/C J. Fulton, DFC and Bar, (Canadian in RAF) becomes first Commanding Officer of 419 (Moose) Squadron until 28 July 1942 (KIA). Squadron takes up residence at Mildenhall.
1941-12-24	Lancaster bombers enters service with deliveries to 44 Squadron at Waddington.
1942-01-02	419 (Moose) Squadron receives its first Wellington bombers
1942-01-11	419 (Moose) Squadron first sortie is an attack on Brest by two Wellington bombers led by W/C Fulton and P/O Cottier.
1942-01-21/22	420 (Snowy Owl) Squadron's first mission in Bomber Command is sending five of its Hampdens as part of a total of 38 aircraft in an attack on Emden.
1942-02-11/12	Boston bombers of 88 and 226 Squadrons conduct their first operation on the warships <i>Scharnhorst</i> and <i>Gneisenau</i> when they were escaping from Brest
1942-02-22	Air Marshal Arthur Harris was appointed Commander in Chief and began to introduce new tactics.
1942-02-27	W/C J.E. Fauquier becomes Commanding Officer of 405 (Vancouver) Squadron
1942-02-27/28	Whitleys from 51 Squadron participated in a combined operation to drop paratroopers at Brueval to capture German <i>Wurzberg</i> radar apparatus.
1942-03-03/04	Bomber Command dispatches 235 aircraft to attack Renault factory at Billancourt near Paris with 235 and employs the principle of concentration in time and space for the first time. The average rate of concentration was calculated to have been 212 aircraft an hour.
1942-03-08/09	Gee radar aid to navigation and target identification enters operational service in attack on Essen by 211 aircraft of which 74 were equipped with Gee
1942-03-10/11	First bombing mission by Lancasters is an attack on Essen by 44 Squadron
1942-03-26	W/C A.C.P. Clayton, DFC and Bar, becomes Commanding Officer of 408 (Goose) Squadron
1942-04-XX	405 (Vancouver) Squadron starts to receive Halifax bombers to replace its Wellingtons
1942-04-10/11	First operational use of 8,000-lb bomb dropped on Essen by Halifax of 76 Squadron
1942-04-17	S/Ldr J.D. Nettleton of 44 Squadron awarded VC for his actions during a daylight attack on the M.S.N. factory at Augsburg

1942-04-20	"Air Bomber" introduced as a separate member of RAF crew. "Observer" renamed "Navigator"
1942-04-29/30	Last operation by a Whitley bomber squadron when 58 Squadron attacked the docks at Ostend. Whitleys continued to be used by OTUs
1942-05-12	First main contingent of US VIII Air Force arrived in England
1942-05-18	W/C J.D. Twigg becomes Commanding Officer of 408 (Goose) Squadron to 28 August 1942 (KIA)
1942-05-30	The first of three 'Thousand Bomber Raids' that demonstrated the growing capability of Bomber Command. 1,046 aircraft dispatched for a raid on Cologne
1942-05-30	F/O Leslie Manser, Pilot, 50 Squadron, RAF, VC (New Delhi, British India 11 May 1922 - 31 May 1942) had successfully bombed Cologne from 7,000 ft with his Manchester when it was hit by flak. He took violent evasive action down to 1,000 ft but did not escape the flak until he was clear of the city. The rear gunner was wounded, the front cabin full of smoke and the port engine was overheating. Rather than abandon the aircraft, he tried to get it and his crew to safety. The port engine then burst into flames burning the wing. Wirth the aircraft now over Belgium, Manser ordered the crew to bail out but refused a parachute himself. He stayed at the controls and sacrificed himself to save his crew. The bomber crashed into a dyke at Bree, Belgium. One crew was captured while four others evaded capture and made their way back to the UK. For his gallant efforts, he was awarded the Victoria Cross.
1942-05-31	The first operational mission by Mosquitoes of Bomber Command with a raid at dawn against Cologne by 105 Squadron
1942-06-01/02	The second 'Thousand Bomber Raid' carried out with 956 aircraft dispatched for a raid on Essen
1942-06-25	W/C J. St. Pierre becomes first Commanding Officer of 425 (Allouette) Squadron formed at Dishforth as part of 4 Group with Wellington bombers
1942-06-25/26	The third 'Thousand Bomber Raid' was 1,006 aircraft (including 102 from Coastal Command and 5 from Army Co-op) dispatched for a raid on Bremen. This was the last operational use of Manchesters.
1942-08-XX	420 (Snowy Owl) Squadron's first Wellington bombers arrive to replace its Hampdens
1942-08-05	W/C A.P. Walsh, DSO, DFC, AFC, becomes Commanding Officer of 419 (Moose) Squadron until 2 September 1942 (KIA)
1942-08-07	W/C D.G. Fraser becomes Commanding Officer of 405 (Vancouver) Squadron
1942-08-15	Pathfinder Force (PFF) formed under Group Captain D.C.T. Bennett
1942-08-17/18	Last operational sortie by Blenheims of Bomber Command by night raids on airfields in Holland and Germany by 18 Squadron
1942-09-08	W/C M.M. Fleming becomes Commanding Officer of 419 (Moose) Squadron
1942-09-10/11	First use of 4,000-lb incendiary bomb or "Pink Pansy" when it was dropped on Dusseldorf by PFF as an interim form of target marker
1942-09-13	408 (Goose) Squadron transferred from 5 Group to 4 Group
1942-09-14/15	Last operational sortie by Hampdens of Bomber Command in a raid on Wilhelmshaven by 408 (Goose) Squadron
1942-09-18/19	PFF flew its first operational mission against Flensburg
1942-09-25	Mosquitoes of 105 Squadron attacked Gestapo HQ at Oslo

1942-10-XX	408 (Goose) Squadron starts to receive Halifax bombers to replace its Hampdens
1942-10-05	425 (Allouette) Squadron's first operational mission is an attack on Aachen by eight of its Wellingtons as part of a 250 aircraft Bomber Command raid
1942-10-15	424 (Tiger) Squadron formed at Topcliffe as part of 4 Group to be later equipped with Wellingtons
1942-10-15	W/C S.S. Blanchard becomes first Commanding Officer of 426 (Thunderbird) Squadron until 14 February 1943 (KIA). Squadron was part of 4 Group at Dishforth to be later equipped with Wellingtons.
1942-10-20	W/C H.M. Carscallen becomes first Commanding Officer of 424 (Tiger) Squadron
1942-10-23	424 (Tiger) Squadron and 426 (Thunderbird) Squadron receives their first Wellingtons
1942-10-24	First daylight attack on Italy by UK based aircraft. Lancasters from 74 and 78 Squadrons attacked Milan
1942-10-25	6 Group designation transferred to RCAF with eight RCAF squadrons from other RAF groups
1942-10-25	Air Vice-Marshal George Brookes becomes first commander of 6 Group with headquarters at Allerton Park, Yorkshire, England until 28 February 1944
1942-11-XX	419 (Moose) Squadron receives its first Halifax bombers
1942-11-03	RAF Ventura aircraft (obtained from USA) by 21 Squadron dispatched to attack 'Diesel' works in Henegelo but bombed railways in Holland instead.
1942-11-07	W/C J. Owen becomes first Commanding Officer of 429 (Bison) Squadron with 4 Group. Squadron is at East Moor with Wellington bombers
1942-11-07	W/C A. Earle becomes first Commanding Officer of 428 (Ghost) Squadron at Dalton as part of 4 Group. It has Wellington bombers.
1942-11-08	W/C D. Burnside becomes first Commanding Officer of 427 (Lion) Squadron at Middleton as part of 4 Group. Squadron equipped with Wellington Mk III
1942-11-17	W/Cdr Hugh Malcolm, CO, 18 Squadron RAF, VC (2 May 1917 - 4 December 1942) led 13 Blenheims on an attack on an enemy fighter airfield near Chougui, Tunisia. On reaching the target and starting the attack, they were intercepted by an overwhelming force of enemy fighters. All by one all his bombers were shot down until he himself was shot down some 15 miles from the target. His was the first Victoria Cross to be won in North Africa.
1942-11-20	W/C A.C. Clayton becomes Commanding Officer of 405 (Vancouver) Squadron

1942-11-28	P/O Rawdon Middleton, VC, RAAF, 149 (East India) Squadron RAF (Sydney, Australia 22 July 1946 - 29 November 1942) flew his Stirling on his 29th combat sortie to bomb the Fiat aircraft works at Turin. He had to make three low level passes to positively identify the target. On the third pass, the Stirling was hit by heavy anti-aircraft fire, wounding both pilots. Middleton had shrapnel wounds to the arms, legs and body, his right eye torn from its socket and his jaw shattered and he passed out. F/Sgt Hydere, the second pilot, regained control of the aircraft at 800 ft and dropped the bombs. Middleton regained consciousness and helped fly the plane back to England. Arriving with five minutes of fuel he ordered his crew to bail out and five landed safely. The flight engineer and front gunner tried to talk him into landing on the coast but he did not want to risk civilian casualties so he steered the aircraft over the sea. The last two crew bailed out but died in the English Channel. Middleton stayed with the aircraft and died when it crashed into the sea. He was posthumously promoted to Pilot Officer and awarded the Victoria Cross.
1942-11-28/29	8,000-lb bomb used against Italy for first time when Lancasters from 106 Squadron dropped two on Turin.
1942-12-01	W/C J. Coverdale becomes first Commanding Officer of 431 (Iroquois) Squadron until 1 June 1943 (KIA). Squadron is at Burn as part of 4 Group with Wellington X bombers
1942-12-06	Operation Oyster - No 2 Group dispatches 93 aircraft (Bostons, Venturas and Mosquitoes) in a daylight attack on the Philips radio and valve works at Eindhoven
1942-12-14/15	427 (Lion) Squadron's first mission was a gardening operation near the Frisians by three former 419 (Moose) Squadron crews.
1942-12-20/21	First operational use of <i>Oboe</i> (navigation and bombing radar aid with range-measurement station indicating when bombs to be released) in raid on Lutterade power station
1943-01-01	W/C W.D.S. Ferris, DFC, becomes Commanding Officer of 408 (Goose) Squadron and the Squadron is transferred from 4 Group to 6 Group
1943-01-01	W/C D.A.R. Bradshaw becomes Commanding Officer of 420 (Snowy Owl) Squadron
1943-01-03/04	First squadron operation by 6 Group where six Wellingtons and six Halifaxes were detailed for a "gardening" operation but the Halifaxes did not take off due to poor weather and only three of the Wellingtons were successful.
1943-01-08	PFF redesignated No 8 Group
1943-01-15/16	424 (Tiger) Squadron with five Wellingtons and 426 (Thunderbird) Squadron with seven Wellingtons had their first missions as part of 6 Group's first bombing operation with a raid on the docks at Lorient.
1943-01-16/17	Target-indicator Bombs (250-lb) first used operationally when dropped on Berlin by PFF
1943-01-26	428 (Ghost) Squadron's first mission is a raid on Lorient
1943-01-30	Daylight attack on Berlin by Mosquitoes of 105 and 139 Squadrons which were timed to coincide with Goebbels' and Goering's speeches at 10th anniversary celebrations of Hitler's regime. Earlier Goering had said no British aircraft would ever cross Germany's borders.

1943-01-30/31	H2S radar aid to navigation and target identification first used by Bomber Command when Stirlings of 7 and 35 (PFF) Squadrons led the main force against Hamburg
1943-02-15	W/C I. Crooks becomes Commanding Officer of 426 (Thunderbird) Squadron until 17 August 1943 (KIA)
1943-02-16/17	429 (Bison) Squadron's first mission is a raid on Lorient
1943-02-21	W/C D. Smith becomes Commanding Officer of 428 (Ghost) Squadron until 14 September 1943 (POW)
1943-03-02	427 (Lion) Squadron starts to receive Lancasters
1943-03-02	431 (Iroquois) Squadron's first mission was mine laying at Nectarine 1 by eight aircraft.
1943-03-05/06	Bomber Command starts its Battle of the Ruhr with an attack on Essen by 442 aircraft
1943-03-09	429 (Bison) Squadron starts training on its new Lancasters
1943-03-12	431 (Iroquois) Squadron's first bombing mission target was the Krupps Works at Essen by 12 aircraft but only seven reached the target
1943-04-01	W/C J. Owen becomes first Commanding Officer of 429 (Bison) Squadron as squadron transfers from 4 Group to 6 Group. Squadron is at East Moor with Wellington bombers
1943-04-08	405 Squadron transferred to 8 Group 'The Pathfinders'
1943-04-12	W/C D. McIntosh becomes Commanding Officer of 420 (Snowy Owl) Squadron
1943-04-17	W/C G.A. Roy, DFC, becomes Commanding Officer of 424 (Tiger) Squadron
1943-04-20	W/C J.E. Fauquier, DFC, becomes Commanding Officer of 405 (Vancouver) Squadron for a second time.
1943-05-XX	407(Lion) Squadron starts to receive Halifax Mk III
1943-05-01	W/C H. Kirby becomes first Commanding Officer of 432 (Leaside) Squadron until 29 July 1943 (KIA). Squadron was located at Skipton-On-Swale as part of 6 Group with Wellington X bombers.
1943-05-03	Group Captain, then S/Ldr Leonard Trent, VC, DFC, 487 Squadron RZNAF (Nelson, New Zealand, 14 April 1912 - 19 May 1986) led 12 Venrturas escorted by squadrons of Spitfires to a diversionary attack on a power station in Amsterdam. The group was attacked by 70 German fighters. Only five Venrturas made it to Amsterdam and only Trent successfully completed his run and in doing so shot down one Me 109 with his forward machine guns. Immediately afterwards, his Venrtura was hit and put into a spin. As the aircraft broke up, Trent and his navigator were thrown clear at 7,000 ft and became POWs. The remaining crew were trapped in the aircraft and died when it crashed. For his courage and leadership he was awarded the Victoria Cross.
1943-05-07	331 Wing RCAF formed with G/C C.R. Dunlap as commanding officer and 420, 424 and 425 Squadrons to be based in North Africa to support the invasion of Sicily for about two months

1943-05-16/17	Bomber Command successfully executed the most tactically demanding air raid of the war, the 'Dambusters Raid'. Operation Chastise - Moehne and Elder Dams attacked and breached by Lancasters of 617 (Dambusters) Squadron. W/Cdr Guy Gibson, RAF, VC, DSO and Bar, DFC and Bar, (born Simla, British India 12 August 1918-19 September 1944) who led the attack subsequently awarded the VC as he personally led the attack on the dams as well as organizing and training the special squadron established for the mission. He had also led attacks on the battleship <i>Tirpitz</i> and heavily defended targets such as Berlin, Cologne, Nuremberg, Milan and Stuttgart. While he was with a night fighter squadron, he destroyed three enemy bombers. He also developed new tactics for night fighters and bombing operations. He had over 190 missions when he died in an attack on Bremen on 19 September 1944.
1943-05-31	Last operational missions by several Bomber Command bombers - Bostons in an aborted attempt at the Rouen power station by 107 Squadron, Mithcekl against Flushing oil refinery by 98 and 180 Squadrons and Venrturas raids against airfields at Caen-Carpiquet by 21 Squadron; against the Zeebrugge coke ovens by 464 Squadron and the Cherbourg port area by 487 Squadron.
1943-06-XX	428 (Ghost) Squadron starts to receive Halifax V bombers
1943-06-01	W/C J. Savard becomes Commanding Officer of 429 (Bison) Squadron until 23 June 1943 (KIA)
1943-06-04	331 Wing Wellingtons and crews start to arrive at Teleroma in North Africa for a later move to Kairouan as facilities were not yet ready for them
1943-06-10	Combined Chiefs of Staff issued <i>Pointblank</i> directive for combined bombing offensive to RAF Bomber Command and US VIII Air Force
1943-06-15	W/C C.E. Harris becomes first Commanding Officer of 434 (Bluenose) Squadron as part of 6 Group at Tholthorpe. It was the first Canadian squadron to be equipped with four engined heavy bombers, the Halifax.
1943-06-18	426 Squadron became the first Canadian unit to receive the Hercules-powered Mk II Lancaster
1943-06-19	331 Wing Commanding Officer dispatches signal to RAF HQ Overseas that the wing will be operational 25 June, Conditions at Kairouan are primitive with personnel in pup tents.
1943-06-20/21	First "shuttle-bombing" raid by Bomber Command where Friedrichshafen was bombed, aircraft then proceeded to Algiers and attacked Spezia on return journey to UK three nights later.
1943-06-23/24	432 (Leaside) Squadron's first bombing mission is providing 15 Wellingtons as part of an 826 aircraft raid on Dortmund
1943-06-26	W/C W.F.M. Newson becomes Commanding Officer of 431 (Iroquois) Squadron
1943-06-26/27	First raid by 331 Wing RCAF when 420 and 425 Squadrons attacked the air base at Sciacca in Sicily
1943-06-28	W/C J. Piddington becomes Commanding Officer of 429 (Bison) Squadron until 27 July 1943 (KIA)
1943-07-24	431 (Iroquois) Squadron receives its first Halifax V aircraft.

1943-07-24/25	First of a series of four large scale attacks on Hamburg by Bomber Command by night and US VIII Air Force by day which ended 2/3 August. About 3,000 aircraft were used to drop about 9,000 tons of bombs on the city which resulted in severe industrial losses. <i>Window</i> (tin foil strips designed to confuse German radar) used operationally by Bomber Command for the first time.
1943-07-30	W/C J. Pattison becomes Commanding Officer of 429 (Bison) Squadron
1943-07-30	W/C W. McKay becomes Commanding Officer of 432 (Leaside) Squadron
1943-08-XX	405 (Vancouver) Squadron starts to receive Lancaster bombers to replace its Halifaxes
1943-08-XX	408 (Goose) Squadron starts to receive Lancaster bombers to replace its Halifaxes
1943-08-12	F/Sgt Arthur Louis Aaron, VC, DFM (Leeds, UK, 5 March 1922-13 August 1943) was piloting his Sterling attacking Turin with 218 Squadron when it was attacked by an enemy fighter killing one crew member and injuring others. F/Sgt Aaron was seriously injured and unable to fly the plane. Unable to speak and refusing to rest, he wrote instructions for the bomb aimer to fly the severely damaged plane to the Bond airfield in Algeria. Five attempts were made to land in the dark with retracted landing gear. He died nine hours after landing. For his gallant efforts, he received the Victoria Cross
1943-08-12/13	434 (Bluenose) Squadron first mission is part of a raid on Milan and Turin
1943-08-17/18	First RAF attack by 597 "heavies" on the Peenemunde air research station inflicted severe damage on the Nazi's V-2 Rocket development and testing facility. It was the first time the master bomber technique was applied to large scale attack.
1943-08-18	W/C W.H. Swetman, DFC, becomes Commanding Officer of 426 (Thunderbird) Squadron
1943-08-31/01	First use of flares by enemy night-fighters during an attack on Berlin by Bomber Command
1943-09-06	W/C R. Turnbull becomes Commanding Officer of 427 (Lion) Squadron
1943-08-13	429 (Bison) Squadron moves from East Moor to Leeming and converts to Halifax bombers
1943-09-14/15	Largest force dispatched by 331 Wing RCAF when 126 Wellingtons bombed the road from Battipaglia to Eboli which was being used by strong armoured divisions in a heavy German counterattack.
1943-09-15	W/C W. Suggitt becomes Commanding Officer of 428 (Ghost) Squadron
1943-09-15/16	First operational use of 12,000-lb HC bombs when eight Lancasters from 617 Squadron each carrying one 12,000-lb bomb conducted a low-level attack on the Dortmund-Ems canal. Only two of the bombs hit the target.
1943-09-22/23	First use of "spoofer" raid technique by Bomber Command. Main target was Hanover, spoofer target was Oldenburg
1943-10-01	W/C B.D. Richer becomes Commanding Officer of 425 (Allouette) Squadron
1943-10-03	W/C J.P. McCarthy, DFC, becomes Commanding Officer of 424 (Tiger) Squadron
1943-10-7/8	First operational use of G-H blind bombing radar device in an attack on Aachen by Mosquito of 139 Squadron

1943-10-7/8	First operational use of Airborne Cigar (A.B.C.), an electronic device designed to disrupt communications between enemy night-fighter pilots and their controllers in a raid on Stuttgart by 101 Squadron.
1943-10-08	205 Group directs 331 Wing RCAF to cease operations and to return to UK. Wellingtons left behind for the RAF.
1943-10-8/9	Last bombing operation by Wellington aircraft of Bomber Command which was a raid on Hanover by 300 (Polish) Squadron
1943-10-11	W/C G.A. McMurdy becomes Commanding Officer of 419 (Moose) Squadron until 22 October 1943 (KIA)
1943-10-22/23	High powered jamming of enemy controller to fighter transmissions and broadcasting bogus instructions to enemy fighter force begun from UK ground stations under code name Corona during bomber Command raid on Kassel
1943-10-25	W/C W.P. Pleasance becomes Commanding Officer of 419 (Moose) Squadron
1943-10-25	432 (Leaside) Squadron starts to replace its Wellingtons with Lancasters
1943-10-28	W/C A.C. Mair, DFC, becomes Commanding Officer of 408 (Goose) Squadron to 26 November 1943 (KIA)
1943-10-31	W/C D. French becomes Commanding Officer of 428 (Ghost) Squadron
1943-11-XX	420 (Snowy Owl) Squadron's first Halifax bombers arrive to replace its Wellingtons
1943-11-03	On the night of 3 November, 1944, F/L William Reid, pilot, 61 Squadron, RAF, VC, (Baillieston, Lanarkshire, Scotland, 21 December 1921-28 November 2001), was enroute to Dusseldorf when his Lancaster was attacked by a night fighter which severely damaged the cockpit and rear gun turret. Reid was wounded but continued on in spite of his injuries. He was shortly attacked by a second night fighter killing the navigator and fatally wounding the wireless operator as well as more damage to the aircraft. Reid was further wounded as well as the flight engineer. Reid carried on to the target as he did not want to turn back due to the danger of mid-air collision with the rest of the bomber stream. He released his bombs on target and successfully landed his plane at RAF Shipdham though its damaged undercarriage collapsed and the aircraft slid along the runway. The wireless operator died in the medical centre but five of the crew survived. For his actions, he received the Victoria Cross.
1943-11-03/04	First heavy bomber <i>G-H</i> attack on Mannesmann Steel Works, Dusseldorf by 38 Lancasters of 3 and 6 Groups
1943-11-07	W/C D.S. Jacobs, DFC, becomes Commanding Officer of 408 (Goose) Squadron to 22 May 1944 (KIA)
1943-11-08	Formation of No. 100 (Bomber Support ) Group RAF under command of A/Cdre E.B. Addison with HQ initially at Radlett and later Bylaugh Hall, East Dereham
1943-11-09	W/C C.B. Sinton becomes first Commanding Officer of 433 (Porcupine) Squadron. Squadron is part of 6 Group at Skipton-On-Swale with Halifax III aircraft.
1943-11-18/19	Battle of Berlin opened with heavy attacks on Berlin and Mannheim. Attacks on Berlin continued until 24/24 March 1944 by which time Bomber Command had made 16 major attacks involving 9,111 sorties and 16 minor attacks involving 208 sorties

1943-11-19/20	First emergency use of FIDO (Fog Intensive Dispersal Operation) when four Halifaxes of 35 Squadron landed at Graveley. Eventually 15 airfields got FIDO and 2,486 aircraft were successfully landed with it.
1943-12-10	425 (Allouette) Squadron moves to Tholthorpe and receives its first Halifax bombers
1943-12-16/17	Mosquitoes and Beaufighters operate as "intruders" for first time in Bomber Command
1943-12-18	W/C A.N. Martin becomes Commanding Officer of 424 (Tiger) Squadron until 21 January 1944 (KIA)
1943-12-19	424 (Tiger) Squadron receives its first Halifax
1944-01-02	433 (Porcupine) Squadron's first mission is a mining operation around the Frisians
1944-01-20	W/C R.J. Lane, DFC, DSO, becomes Commanding Officer of 405 (Vancouver) Squadron
1944-01-20/21	433 Porcupine) Squadron's first bombing mission was eight aircraft as part of a 769 aircraft raid on Berlin.
1944-01-27	W/C J.D. Blane becomes Commanding Officer of 424 (Tiger) Squadron until 28 July 1944 (KIA)
1944-02-07	W/C C.S. Bartlett becomes Commanding Officer of 434 (Bluenose) Squadron until 12 June 1944 (KIA)
1942-02-07	432 (Leaside) Squadron starts to receive it's Halifax III's to replace its Lancasters
1944-02-18	Operation Jericho - Mosquitos from 464 (RAAF) and 487 (RNZAF) Squadrons and an escort of Typhoons from 174 and 245 Squadrons attacked the Amiens prison in German occupied France to facilitate the escape of French resistance fighters scheduled to be executed
1944-02-23/24	The "Big Week" began with RAF and USAAF bombers dropped 16,500 tons of bombs in a six-day raid on German aircraft industry
1944-02-23/24	First occasion when Mosquitoes dropped 4,000-lb bombs on Dusseldorf by 692 Squadron
1944-02-24	US VIII Air Force attacked the ball-bearing industry at Schweinfurt followed a few hours later (24/25th) by Bomber Command on same target.
1944-02-29	Air Vice-Marshal Clifford McEwan, DFC and Bar, becomes commander 6 Group with headquarters at Allerton Park, Yorkshire, England until 13 July 1945
1944-03-XX	419 (Moose) Squadron receives its first Lancaster bombers
1944-03-03	W/C D. Kenny becomes Commanding Officer of 429 (Bison) Squadron
1944-03-03/04	Last operational mission by Bomber Command Wellingtons - minelaying off Lorient by 300 (Polish) Squadron
1944-03-06/07	Bomber Command begins large-scale bomber offensive against enemy rail centres in Northern France in preparation for the invasion of Normandy
1944-03-15	Cassino attacked by Allied Air Forces with approximately 1,100 tons of bombs dropped
1944-03-19	Operation Strangle, the road/rail traffic interdiction program in Italy, began and continued until May 1944

1944-03-30/31	The Nuremberg Raid saw Bomber Command's most severe one-night losses and marked the end of the 'Battle of Berlin' -95 of the 795 bombers dispatched (11.9%) were lost. That night, P/O Cyril Joe Barton, RAFVR, 578 Squadron, VC (Elvenden, Suffolk, England, 5 June 1921 - 31 March, 1944) was the pilot of a Halifax that was badly damaged by night fighters. Due to a miscommunication, three of his crew bailed out. He pressed on and he personally released his bombs on target. He nursed the damaged aircraft after a four and a half hour flight over hostile territory back to England. As they were too low to bail out, he crash landed at Ryhope. He died of his injuries before reaching the hospital but the three remaining crew survived. He was awarded the Victoria Cross.
1944-04-04	W/C J. McLearnon becomes Commanding Officer of 425 (Allouette) Squadron
1944-04-05	First of a series of day and night attacks by Allied aircraft from the Mediterranean on oil refineries at Ploesti
1944-04-08	W/C E.C. Hamber becomes Commanding Officer of 426 (Thunderbird) Squadron
1944-04-08	W/C A.G. McKenna, DFC, becomes Commanding Officer of 420 (Snowy Owl) Squadron
1944-04-08/09	RAF bombers flew first minelaying mission to River Danube. Mines laid near Belgrade
1944-04-11	Mosquitoes of 613 Squadron attacked Gestapo HQ in The Hague
1944-04-14	426 (Thunderbird) Squadron starts to receive Halifax Mk II aircraft to replace it's Lancasters
1944-04-14	Strategic bombing in Europe placed under control of Supreme Commander Allied Expeditionary Force (General Eisenhower) for operations in support of <i>Overlord</i> - the Allied invasion of France
1944-04-22/23	"J" bomb (30-lb liquid-filled incendiary) first used operationally by Bomber Command during an attack on Brunswick
1944-04-26	Sgt Norman Cyril Jackson, Flight Engineer, 106 Squadron, RAFVR, VC, (Ealing, Middlesex, 8 April 1919 - 26 March 1994) was in a Lancaster that dropped its bombs on the ball bearing factories at Schweinfurt and was then attacked by a night fighter which caused a fire in the fuel tank of the starboard wing. Despite being wounded, he offered to go out on the wing to put out the fire as the plane was flying at 140 miles per hour at 20,000 feet.. As he was exiting the escape hatch, the parachute pack opened so three crew members held onto the rigging lines as he crawled on the wing. He eventually slipped and managed to hold onto the wing but lost the fire extinguisher he was carrying. His face, hands and his clothing were severely burnt. He eventually slipped and fell 20,000 ft with the his parachute only partial opened and burning in several places. He landed heavily and broke an ankle. He spent 10 months in a hospital and eventually escaped and made contact with a unit of the US Third Army. Four of the crew successfully bailed out. The pilot and one other crew member died in the crash. Sgt Jackson was awarded the Victoria Cross.
1944-05-01	W/C A. Avant becomes Commanding Officer of 429 (Bison) Squadron
1944-05-09	W/C W. McLeish becomes Commanding Officer of 428 (Ghost) Squadron
1944-05-14	W/C H.R. Dow becomes Commanding Officer of 431 (Iroquois) Squadron until 25 July 1944 (POW)

1944-05-24	W/C J. Lecomte becomes Commanding Officer of 425 (Allouette) Squadron
1944-05-24	W/C A.R. McLearnon, DFC, becomes Commanding Officer of 408 (Goose) Squadron
1944-05-25	428 (Ghost) Squadron starts to receive Lancaster X bombers
1944-05-31	W/C J. MacDonald becomes Commanding Officer of 432 (Leaside) Squadron until 25 July 1944 (MIA. Evaded Capture)
1944-05-31	W/C A.J. Lewington becomes Commanding Officer of 433 (Porcupine) Squadron
1944-06-05/06	During the night prior to the 'D-Day Invasion', artillery positions were attacked and successful 'spoof' operations were executed that simulated invasions to the north of the landing area.
1944-06-08/09	First operational use of 12,000-lb DP (Deep Penetration) bombs or <i>Tallboys</i> when 19 Lancasters from 617 Squadron successfully attacked the Saumur tunnel. In all Bomber Command dropped 854 Tallboys on targets on Germany and occupied territory during the European war.
1944-06-12	P/O Andrew Mynarski, Gunner, VC, 419 Squadron RCAF, (Winnipeg, MB, 14 October 1916 - 13 June 1944) was on a Lancaster on a raid on Cambrai in northern France when it was attacked by an enemy night fighter and a hydraulic fire engulfed the bomber. The pilot ordered the crew to bail out. Mynarski saw the rear gunner, P/O Brophy, was trapped in his turret and made his way initially using a fire axe to pry open the doors before beating the turret with his hands. His efforts were in vain and his flight suit and parachute were on fire so Brophy waved him off. Mynarski returned to the rear door and jumped and had a rapid descent due to the burnt parachute. He landed alive, although severely burnt and his clothes still on fire. French farmers took him to a German field hospital where he died shortly after of severe burns. The rest of the crew survived including Brophy as the crash broke the turret open and tossed Brophy out, striking a tree and temporarily knocking him out. Mynarski was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross and was the last Canadian to receive it in WWII.
1944-06-13	W/C F.H. Watkins becomes Commanding Officer of 434 (Bluenose) Squadron
1944-06-14	W/C C. Cribb becomes Commanding Officer of 427 (Lion) Squadron
1944-06-16/17	The first of a long series of attacks on the enemy's V-1 Flying Bomb and V-2 Rocket storage and launch facilities was conducted.
1944-06-18	Bomber Command dropped 5.000 tons of bombs to assist 21st Army Group's offensive SE of Caen
1944-07-XX	408 (Goose) Squadron starts to receive Halifax bombers to replace its Lancasters
1944-07-10	W/C E.C. Burgess becomes Commanding Officer of 426 (Thunderbird) Squadron
1944-07-12	W/C McNeil becomes first Commanding Officer of 415 (Swordfish) Squadron to 21 August 1944 (KIFA)

1944-07-18	F/L David Hornell, pilot, 162 Squadron, RCAF, VC, (Mimico, ON, 26 January 1910-24 June 1944), awarded the Victoria Cross after his Canso was attacked by a German submarine while he was on sea reconnaissance near the Faroes in the North Atlantic. Despite the Canso being badly damaged, F/L Hornell decided to attack and eventually sunk the submarine with depth charges. Badly damaged and on fire he brought the aircraft down in heavy swells. There was only one serviceable dingy the crew took turns in the cold water holding onto the sides. The crew was rescued after 21 hours in the water. F/O Hornell was blinded and completely exhausted and died shortly after being picked up.
1944-07-24	Campaign in Normandy officially ended
1944-07-26	415 (Swordfish) Squadron with its Halifax bombers transferred from Coastal Command to Bomber Command 6 Group and moved to East Moor
1944-07-26	W/C A.D.R. Lowe becomes Commanding Officer of 432 (Leaside) Squadron
1944-07-27	W/C J. E. Mitchell becomes Commanding Officer of 431 (Iroquois) Squadron
1944-07-31	W/Cdr Leonard Cheshire, RAF, VC, OM, DSO and Two Bars, DFC (7 September 1917 - 31 July 1992) awarded the Victoria Cross for his bravery and leadership in a Command. As a skilled pilot and a squadron commander, he led many attacks on heavily defended targets such as the Ruhr defences. Berlin, Munich Cologne, Essen, V-1 and V-2 sites, the Antheor Railway Viaduct and others. As CO of 617 Squadron, (he took a reduction in rank from Group Captain to become CO) he developed target marking tactics for difficult targets.. He flew 100 missions with Bomber Command. He was admired and respected by both air and ground crew
1944-08-01	415 (Swordfish) Squadron was part of a 750 aircraft daylight raid on flying bomb sites but had to all return home with their bombs when the Master Bomber cancelled the operation due to poor weather after 80 crews had bombed the site.
1944-08-04	At Trossy, St. Maximin, France, S/L Ian Bazalgette, RAFVR, 635 Squadron, VC, DFC, (Calgary, AB, October 1918-4 August 1944) was part of a Pathfinder Force to mark the target for the main bomber force when his Lancaster came under severe anti-aircraft fire damaging both starboard engines and causing a serious fire. As the deputy master bomber had already been shot down, he pressed on to the target marking and bombing it accurately. After dropping the bombs, the aircraft was very difficult to control, so he ordered the able crew members to bail out. He attempted to land the crippled plane near Senates avoiding the village but it exploded on impact killing him and two wounded crew members. For saving his crew and avoiding the village he was awarded the Victoria Cross.
1944-08-08	W/C A. Hull becomes Commanding Officer of 428 (Ghost) Squadron
1944-08-14/15	Allied invasion of southern France following an intensive air bombardment and attacks by airborne forces
1944-08-15	W/C G.A. Roy, DFC, becomes Commanding Officer of 424 (Tiger) Squadron until 9 October 1944 (POW)
1944-08-21	W/C H.C. Ledoux becomes last Commanding Officer of 425 (Allouette) Squadron until 10 June 1945
1944-08-22	W/C J. Lecomte becomes Commanding Officer of 415 (Swordfish) Squadron

1944-08-22	W/C D.C. Hagerman becomes Commanding Officer of 419 (Moose) Squadron
1944-08-23	W/C C. Palmer becomes Commanding Officer of 405 (Vancouver) Squadron
1944-08-27	First major daylight operation by Bomber Command beyond the Rhine with fighter cover. Target was the oil plant at Homberg in the Ruhr attacked by 216 Halifaxes of 4 Gp and 27 Mosquitoes and Lancasters of 5 Gp with Spitfires from Fighter command
1944-08-28	W/C E.M. Bryson becomes Commanding Officer of 427 (Lion) Squadron
1944-08-30	W/C A.P. Blackburn becomes Commanding Officer of 434 (Bluenose) Squadron
1944-09-08	Last bombing mission by RAF Stirling aircraft when 149 Squadron attacked Le Harve
1944-09-14	End of campaign in northern France
1944-09-15	Strategic Air Forces in Europe reverted to control of Combined Chiefs of Staff
1944-09-23/24	Dortmund-Ems canal breached by 617 Squadron Lancasters using 12,000-lb <i>Tallboys</i>
1944-09-27	W/C H.A. Morrison becomes Commanding Officer of 405 (Vancouver) Squadron
1944-09-27	W/C V. Ganderton, becomes the Commanding Officer of 427 (Lion) Squadron until 8 May 1945
1944-09-29	W/C J.F.K. MacDonald becomes Commanding Officer of 432 (Leaside) Squadron a second time after being shot down by a night fighter on 26/27 July 1944, evading capture and returning to UK on 20 August 1944
1944-10-03	Bomber Command breached dyke near <i>Wesgkapelle</i> on Walcheren Island
1944-10-07	617 Squadron Lancasters using 12,000-lb <i>Tallboys</i> breached the Kembs Dam on the Upper Rhine to prevent Germans controlling the level of the Rhine and perhaps letting loose a flood while Allies were crossing it.
1944-10-11	W/C R. Bolduc becomes Commanding Officer of 429 (Bison) Squadron
1944-10-14	W/C J.F. Easton, DFC, becomes Commanding Officer of 408 (Goose) Squadron
1944-10-15	Bomber Command's largest number of sorties ever dispatched in a single night with 1,576 on all operations. Duisberg was a major target, receiving 4,547 tons of bombs out of the largest tonnage of bombs (5,453 tons) dropped in one night.
1944-10-17	431 (Iroquois) Squadron receives its first Lancaster X
1944-10-19	W/C C.C.W. Marshall, DFC, becomes Commanding Officer of 424 (Tiger) Squadron
1944-10-24	W/C G.J.J. Edwards, DFC, becomes Commanding Officer of 420 (Snowy Owl) Squadron
1944-10-31	Mosquitos from 21, 464 and 487 Squadrons and FRU escorted by Mustangs of Fighter attacked the Gestapo HQ at Aarhus in Denmark
1944-10-31	W/C F. Ball becomes last Commanding Officer of 415 (Swordfish) Squadron to 15 May 1945
1944-11-01	G/C W.F.M. Newson, DFC and Bar, becomes Commanding Officer of 405 (Vancouver) Squadron with effect 9 October 1944
1944-11-04/05	Dortmund-Ems canal breached again by 617 Squadron Lancasters using 12,000-lb <i>Tallboys</i>

1944-11-06	W/C G.A. Tambling becomes last Commanding Officer of 433 (Porcupine) Squadron until 1 August 1945
1944-11-12	The Battleship Tirpitz was sunk in Tromso fjord by 12,000-lb <i>Tallboy</i> bombs dropped by Lancasters of 9 and 617 Squadrons.
1944-11-16	Bomber Command provides the largest ever number of sorties (1,189 on all operations) in a single day to bomb Duren, Julich and Heinsberg to support the US Army offensives towards Cologne
1944-11-21/22	Dortmund-Ems canal breached again by 617 Squadron Lancasters using 12,000-lb <i>Tallboys</i>
1944-11-24	W/C W.G. Phalen, DFC, becomes Commanding Officer of 420 (Snowy Owl) Squadron
1944-11-26	W/C F.R. Sharp, DFC, becomes last Commanding Officer of 408 (Goose) Squadron to 5 September 1945
1944-12-07	434 (Bluenose) Squadron receives Lancasters to replace its Halifax bombers.
1944-12-23	On what was to be his final mission, S/L Robert Palmer, VC, DFC and Bar, 109 Squadron RAF, (7 July 1920- 23 December 1944) was the 'master bomber' in his Lancaster for a daylight attack on Cologne's railway yards by 30 bombers of 8 Group. As the order to abandon the Oboe run did not reach Palmer, he continued to approach the target. Some minutes before reaching the target, two of his engines caught fire when damaged by flak, but he rejected taking evasive action and kept the Lancaster on a straight course, made a perfect approach and released his target indicators. His Lancaster spiraled to earth in flames with only the rear gunner escaping. He had completed 100 bombing raids and was awarded the Victoria Cross for the last of his many low-level "marking" operations against vital targets.
1944-12-28	Canadian 'Johnny Fauquier' takes command of 617 'Dambusters' Squadron.
1944-12-31	Mosquitoes of 627 Squadron attacked Gestapo HQ at Oslo
1945-01-01	Dortmund-Ems canal breached again by 617 Squadron Lancasters using 12,000-lb <i>Tallboys</i> . The following night the Mittelland canal was breached again by 5 Group
1945-01-01	F/Sgt George Thompson, 9 Squadron, RAF, VC (23 October 1920 - 23 January 1945) was the wireless operator on a Lancaster during the attack on the Dortmund-Ems canal. After dropping its bombs, the Lancaster was hit by two shells and a raging fire broke out setting the mid-upper gun turret ablaze. Thompson went into the fire and exploding ammunition to remove the gunner. He extinguished his burning clothing with his bare hands and in doing so sustained serious burns to his legs, hands and face. Thompson then went to the rear turret which was also ablaze and used his already burnt hands to put out the flames on the rear gunner's clothing. Despite his burns, he returned through the burning fuselage to report to the pilot. The crippled aircraft crash-landed. The rear gunner survived, the mid-upper gunner did not. F/Sgt Thompson began to recover from his injuries but died three weeks later of pneumonia. For the efforts to save his comrades, he was awarded the Victoria Cross.
1945-01-02	W/C M. Gall becomes last Commanding Officer of 428 (Ghost) Squadron until 2 June 1945

1945-01-03	W/C F.C. Carling-Kelly becomes Commanding Officer of 426 (Thunderbird) Squadron until 28 January 1945 (POW)
1945-01-03	424 (Tiger) Squadron receives its first Lancasters
1945-01-11	Approximate date 433 (Porcupine) Squadron started to receive Lancasters to replace its Halifax bombers
1945-01-14	W/C R. Davenport becomes Commanding Officer of 431 (Iroquois) Squadron until 11 March 1945 (KIA)
1945-01-26	W/C M.E. Ferguson becomes Commanding Officer of 419 (Moose) Squadron
1945-01-28	W/C F.S. McCarthy becomes Commanding Officer of 420 (Snowy Owl) Squadron
1945-01-29	W/C C.M. Black, DFC, becomes the last Commanding Officer of 426 (Thunderbird) Squadron until 24 May 1945
1945-01-29	S/L S.H. Minhinnick becomes Commanding Officer of 432 (Leaside) Squadron
1945-02-20/21	First of 25 consecutive night raids on Berlin by Mosquitoes of Bomber Command. Series of raids ended 27/28 March 1945.
1945-02-23	Major Ted Swales, South African Air Force, 582 Squadron PFF, RAF, VC. DFC (Inanda, Natla Province, South Africa 3 July 1915 - 23 February 1945) as the Master Bomber led the bombing raid by 367 Lancasters and 13 Mosquitos on Pforzheim, Germany. Swales' Lancaster was attacked by a fighter which knocked out one engine and put holes in the fuel tanks. The fighter attacked a second time and knocked out a second engine. Swales stayed over the target issuing instructions until the attack was completed. With difficulty on two engines, he flew to friendly territory and encountered bad weather so he ordered the crew to bail out. He kept the aircraft steady so the crew bailed out and the plane then crashed near Valenciennes in northern France. For giving his life so his crew. he was awarded the Victoria Cross
1945-02-28	W/C K.A. France becomes last Commanding Officer of 432 (Leaside) Squadron until 15 May 1945
1943-03-09	429 (Bison) Squadron starts training on its new Lancasters
1945-03-11	1,055 Lancasters, Halifaxes and Mosquitoes dropped 4,661 tons of bombs on Essen which was the heaviest tonnage so far dropped on one target in one day
1945-03-14	22,400-lb DP bomb ( <i>Grand Slam</i> ) was dropped on the Bielefeld viaduct by Lancaster I (Special) PD112 of 617 Squadron. 40 more <i>Grand Slams</i> were dropped (all by 617 Squadron) before Germany surrendered
1945-03-18	W/C W. McKinnon becomes Commanding Officer of 431 (Iroquois) Squadron
1945-03-21	Main building of Gestapo HQ at Copenhagen destroyed in attack by Mosquitoes of 21, 464 and 467 Squadrons and Film Production Unit (F.P.U.) escorted by Mustangs
1945-03-27	Lancasters from 9 and 617 Squadrons attack U-boat shelters at Farge using <i>Tallboys</i> and <i>Grand Slams</i>
1945-03-27	W/C R.W. Norris becomes Commanding Officer of 424 (Tiger) Squadron
1945-04-08	420 (Snowy Owl) Squadron starts to replace its Halifax II's and train on Lancasters to participate in the war in the Pacific.
1945-04-08	W/C J.C. Mulvihill becomes last Commanding Officer of 434 (Bluenose) Squadron until 5 September 1945

1945-04-09/10	German pocket battleship <i>Admiral Scheer</i> capsized by Bomber Command during attack on Kiel. Cruiser <i>Emden</i> and heavy cruiser <i>Admiral Hipper</i> were also severely damaged during the same raid.
1945-04-10	W/C E. Evans becomes last Commanding Officer of 429 (Bison) Squadron until 31 May 1945
1945-04-17	Attack on Gestapo HQ at Odense destroyed by Mosquitoes of 21, 464 and 487 Squadrons and Film Production Unit (F.P.U.) escorted by Mustangs
1945-04-24	W/C R.J. Gray becomes last Commanding Officer of 420 (Snowy Owl) Squadron until 5 September 1945
1945-04-25	Lancasters from Nos. 1, 5 and 8 Groups sent to attack the Eagles Nest, Hitler's chalet or else SS barracks at Berchtesgaden
1945-04-25	The last major operation of the war was an attack on the coastal batteries at Wangerooze that protected harbours on the enemy's northeastern coast by 468 Lancasters, Halifaxes and Mosquitos of Nos. 4, 6, 8 and 100 Groups
1945-04-25/26	92 Lancasters and 8 Mosquitoes attacked oil refinery and storage at Vallo (Tonsberg); the last occasion where main force "heavies" bombed the enemy in WW2. Twelve Lancasters of No. 5 Group laid mines in Oslo fjord off Horten; the last minelaying by Bomber Command
1945-04-29	Bomber Command began 'Operation Manna', which took 3,298 sorties flown by Lancasters and Mosquitoes over nine days to drop food to the 3.5 million Dutch citizens who were starving after four years of Nazi occupation. The USAAF also had a similar operation called Chowhound
1945-04-30	The last of some 10,400 Canadians lost while serving with Bomber Command during the war. Pilot F/Lt. William Gavin Campbell (Strathclair, MB) and crew (F/S Stuart Berryman, Hamilton, ON; Sgt John Henry Kay, Calgary, AB; WO2 Thomas Daniel Lawley, Hamilton, ON; John Lester Tweedy, Fabyan, AB; F/S Walter Graham Ward, Scotland; and F/S Edward James Wright, Brighton, Sussex) of 428 Squadron were killed when their Lancaster crashed during a training flight at Hixon, ENE of Stafford
1945-05-01	425 (Allouette) Squadron receives its first Lancaster to replace its Halifax bombers in preparation to join the war in the Pacific
1945-05-02	Bomber Command's last operation of the war. No. 8 Group had Mosquitoes attack Kiel and airfields at Eggebeck and Husum with bomber support from No. 100 Group Lancasters, Halifaxes, Liberators, Fortresses and Mosquitoes. No. 2 Group made harassing attacks in area of Emden-Weserland-Flensburg.
1945-05-08	Victory in Europe (VE) Day announced by Prime Minister Winston Churchill
1945-05-08	Operation Exodus - Lancasters, Halifaxes and other aircraft from Bomber Command start to repatriate allied POWs to England. This took 36 days.
1945-05-08	W/C E.M. Bryson, DFC, becomes the Commanding Officer of 427 (Lion) Squadron
1945-05-15	415 (Swordfish) Squadron and 432 (Leaside) Squadron are disbanded at East Moor
1945-05-25	426 (Thunderbird) Squadron is retitled 426 Transport Squadron and moves to Driffield on May 26
1945-05-31	428 (Ghost) Squadron departs Middleton-St-George for RCAF Station Yarmouth, Nova Scotia where it is disbanded 5 September, 1945

1945-06-XX	426 Transport Squadron moves to Tempsford and converts to Liberators. It is eventually disbanded on 1 January 1946
1945-06-01	419 (Moose) Squadron with its Lancasters departs Middleton-St-George for Canada to participate in the war in the Pacific which was later cancelled.. The squadron is disbanded in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia on 5 September 1945.
1945-06-07	431 (Iroquois) Squadron departs Croft to return to Canada.
1945-06-10	434 (Bluenose) Squadron departs Croft to return to Canada.
1945-06-11	420 (Snowy Owl) Squadron with its Lancasters departs Tholthorpe to return to Canada to participate in the war in the Pacific. The squadron is disbanded in Debert, Nova Scotia on 5 September 1945
1945-06-13	425 (Allouette) Squadron departs Tholthorpe to return to Canada to participate in the war in the Pacific.. It is disbanded at RCAF Station Debert, Nova Scotia on 5 September 1945.
1945-06-14	408 (Goose) Squadron with its Lancasters departs Linton-on-Ouse to return to Canada to participate in the war in the Pacific. The squadron is disbanded on 5 September 1945
1945-06-16	405 (Vancouver) Squadron with its Lancasters departs Linton-on-Ouse to return to Canada to participate in the war in the Pacific. It is disbanded in Greenwood, Nova Scotia on 5 September 1945
1945-07-14	Air Commodore John Keer becomes commander 6 Group with Main Headquarters at Halifax, Nova Scotia
1945-08-XX	427 (Lion) Squadron and 429 (Bison) Squadron were posted to 1 Group and disbanded at Leamington at the end of August
1945-08-01	W/C G.A. Tambling hands over temporary command 433 (Porcupine) Squadron to S/L Vallance who oversaw the transfer of the squadron to 1 Group RAF for the transportation of Allied troops from Italy under Operation Dodge
1945-08-04	W/C Bryson becomes last Commanding Officer of 431 (Iroquois) Squadron until 5 September 1945
1945-08-07	W/C R.F. Dyer becomes last Commanding Officer of 419 (Moose) Squadron until 5 September 1945
1945-08-24	424 (Tiger) Squadron leaves Skipton-on-Swale on transfer to 1 Group and later disbanded on 15 October 1945
1945-09-05	431 (Iroquois) and 434 (Bluenose) Squadrons are disbanded at Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
1945-09-25	W/C C.E. Harris takes temporary command of 433 (Porcupine) Squadron until its disbandment 15 October 1945 when Skipton-On-Swale also closed.
1945-10-01	W/C R.D.P. Blafra becomes last Commanding Officer of 424 (Tiger) Squadron until 15 October 1945
1946-Early	250,000 Canadians who served in the RCAF and RAF returned to Canada. Some returned with 'war brides' and children