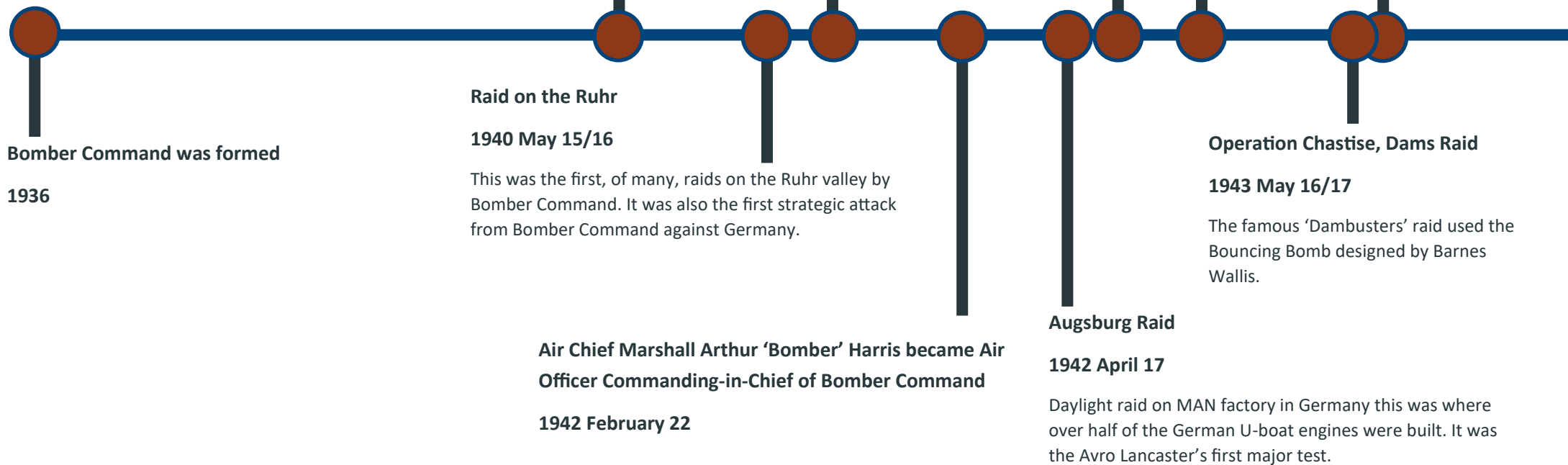




TIMELINE OF KEY DATES

WORLD WAR II



1942 saw the introduction of new Radar systems such as Monica and HS2. This allowed for the creation of Path Finder Force, a special squadron that specialized in locating and marking targets increasing bombing accuracy

Sinking of the Tirpitz

1944 November 12

Many attempts had been made to sink this German warship since 1940, when it was being built. Finally, on a clear night in Tromso, Norway, Bomber Command sunk the ship.

Raid on Nuremberg

1944 March 30/31

Night raid on the city with 2,500 tonnes of bombs dropped. No serious damage caused. It was the heaviest defeat suffered by Bomber Command.

Operation Exodus

1945 April 3- May 31

The Lancaster was sent all over Europe to bring back POWs from collection points. Bomber Command flew over 3,500 sorties.

VE Day

1945 May 8

End of World War II

1945 September 2

Air Marshall Norman Bottomley became Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Bomber Command

1945 September 15

Bomber Command disbanded

1968

Bomber Command merged with Fighter command to become Strike Force

Operation Taxable

1944 June 5/6

Part of the air and sea support of D Day, specifically to persuade the Germans that an invasion of Pas de Calais or round Le Havre was imminent. The aim was to convince the Nazis small fleet of ship approaching France was a much bigger fleet invading by using 'Window'.

Operation Manna

1945 April 29- May 8

Bomber Command dropped 6,685 tonnes of food on the fields of Holland. The Nazis had cut off their food supplies and they were dying of starvation. 20,000 people were saved. 33 squadrons were involved. 3,181 Lancaster sorties and 147 mosquito sorties.

VJ Day

1945 August 15

Raid on Dresden

1945 February 13/14

Night area raid on city centre, 1,600 acres devastated. Incendiary bombs caused the worst fire storm of the War. This was the most destructive and controversial raid of the War.