



What did the bombing of Dresden achieve?

From about 9pm on 13 February 1945, 805 British bomber planes dropped 2690 tonnes of bombs on Dresden. The raid went well. The weather was clear and there was no resistance from German fighter planes or anti-aircraft guns.

Dresden burned for seven days. No one knows how many people died; estimates range from at least 25,000 to double or triple that number or even higher. When the extent of the damage became known, there was concern in Britain and abroad.

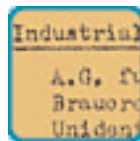
The decision to bomb Dresden came as a surprise to some because there was little industry of importance in the city, though Dresden was being used in the transport of troops. RAF commanders had queried the decision. However, it went ahead.

The bombing of Dresden did not make Hitler surrender. What were its results?

Examine these sources to find out more:



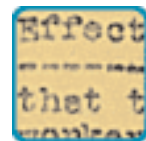
Secret reports on the attack, 14 February 1945



Details of damage in Dresden



Photos of Dresden after the bombing



Air attacks & German morale, 1949 report



Report on results of the Dresden raid, April 1945