

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9910958961603321
Autore	Chorlton Martyn
Titolo	The RAF pathfinders : bomber command's elite squadrons // Martyn Chorlton ; foreword by Michael Wadsworth
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Newbury, Berkshire, : Countryside Books, 2012
ISBN	1-84674-835-6
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (193 p.)
Disciplina	940.5449
Soggetti	World War, 1939-1945 - Aerial operations, British
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Includes index.
Nota di contenuto	<p>""Cover""; ""Title""; ""Copyright""; ""Contents""; ""Foreword""; ""Introduction""; ""Leading the way""; ""The Butt and Cherwell reports""; ""The Pathfinder Concept""; ""Group Captain S. O. Bufton (1908a€? 1993)""; ""Early Beginnings and Formation""; ""1 Operations 1942""; ""August a€? A tentative start""; ""September a€? Illuminating, marking/route-marking and backing up""; ""October a€? Italian targets""; ""November a€? Boozer""; ""December a€? OBOE trials & Wanganui into service""; ""2 Operations 1943""; ""January a€? 8 Group is born, new TIs, ground-markers & H2S Operational""; ""February a€? Battle of Berlin comes to an end""; ""March a€? Tactical Targets increase""; ""April a€? 8 Group lose, 5 Group gain!""; ""May a€? D-Day build-Up""; ""June a€? Overlord and the Flying-bomb""; ""July a€? a€?Heavy Oboea€? attack method""; ""August a€? 8 Groupa€?s first Victoria Cross""; ""September a€? Operation Market Garden""; ""October a€? The Second Battle of the Ruhr begins""; ""November a€? LNSF attacks grow in strength""; ""December a€? 8 Groupa€?s only Oboe VC""; ""4 Operations 1945""; ""January a€? the Mosquito takes charge""; ""February a€? Bomber Commanda€?s last VC of the war""; ""March a€? The Allies push into Germany""; ""April/May a€? a€?Eaglea€?s NESTA€, Exodus, Manna and Victory!""; ""8 Groupa€?s Swan Song""; ""Appendix I""; ""8 (Pathfinder Force) Group Statistics August 1942 to May 1945""; ""Appendix II""; ""Aircraft types""; ""Appendix III""; ""The Pathfinder crewsa€? eight duties""; ""Appendix IV""; ""8 Group Squadrons August 1942 to August 1945""; ""Appendix V""; ""Early Radar and navigational</p>

Sommario/riassunto

The formation of the Pathfinder Force in August 1942 produced a steady but certain change in the fortunes of Bomber Command. During the early years of the war, aerial photographs showed that less than one third of the aircraft were successfully placing their bombs with accuracy. There was a basic lack of navigational skills, as well as what came to be known in the RAF as the will to Press On. These shortcomings were addressed, and the special force of elite aircrew, the Pathfinder squadrons, whose purpose was to locate targets and mark them, proved indispensable to the success of the RAF's overall bombing campaign. Led by the inspirational and imaginative Don Bennett, Pathfinders were equipped with the best available aircraft, which included the famous Lancaster bomber and later, increasingly, the Mosquito. To join a Pathfinder squadron (all crewmen were volunteers) was a rare privilege but with it went a huge leap in the likelihood of being shot down. Pathfinder aircraft led the way for their following bomber force in hazardous raid after raid. They were highly vulnerable to the wall of flak thrown up by German city defenders, as well as to attacks by night-fighters; and it took a full 25 minutes to run the gauntlet of the Berlin defences from end to end at full stretch. By the end of the war, some 56,000 crewmen of Bomber Command had lost their lives. Martyn Chorlton has written a gripping account of the RAF's Pathfinder squadrons, recalling the often reckless heroism of the young aircrew and the challenges they faced in the smoke-filled skies over occupied Europe. His book also contains a moving foreword by Michael Wadsworth, chaplain to the Pathfinders Association.
