

1939-45

1930

1946

1946

1951

1969

1986

2008

By the end of _____ 63,000 passengers had travelled through London's new airport.

Demand for air travel also created the need for more terminals, and a fifth terminal was opened.

British engineer and aircraft builder Richard Fairey paid £15,000 for a 150-acre plot to build a private airport to build and test aircraft.

During the second world war, the government took control of the airport as they wanted to use it for the Royal Air Force. They made it much bigger, adding several new runways and a control tower so that pilots knew when it was safe to land.

Frederick Gibberd was appointed to design permanent buildings for the airport.

When the government decided it did not need Heathrow airport it was handed over to the Air Ministry as London's first civilian airport. The first aeroplane to fly from Heathrow was called the Lancaster bomber.

Terminal 1 opened, by which time five million passengers a year were passing through the airport as the jet age arrived with Boeing 707s, VC10s and Tridents taking travellers from Heathrow to and from all parts of the world.