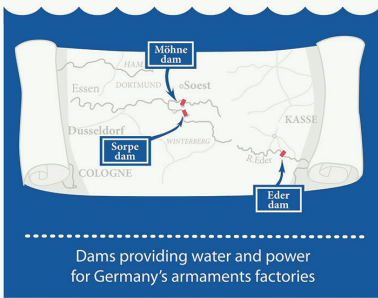
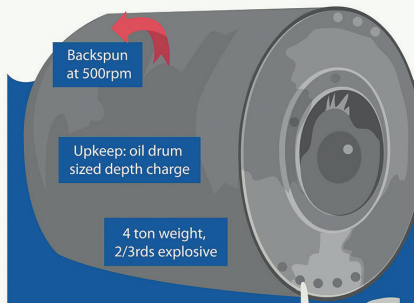


THE STORY OF THE DAMBUSTERS RAID

The targets



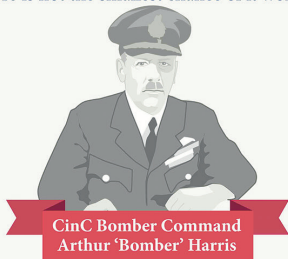
Bouncing bomb



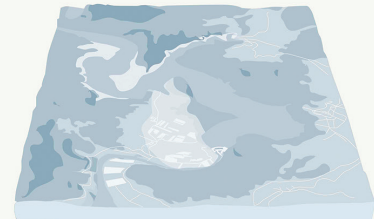
“It is the engineers of this country that are going to win this war”

Backspin bomb rolls down face of dam, focusing explosion

“This is tripe of the wildest description ... there is not the smallest chance of it working.”



Detailed models were made



617 squadron

Formed 21st March 1943

- No working bomb
- Not trained to fly at low-level
- No way to judge height
- No suitable bomb sight
- No adapted aircraft

British (RAF), Canadian (RCAF), Australian (RAAF) and New Zealand (RNZAF) aircrew, plus one American serving in RCAF

Lancaster bomber aircrew

Industry, scientists, squadron engineers and aircrew have just 2 months to get everything done.



Average age: early twenties. Many reservists as well as regulars. Some aircrew had little experience

“This squadron will either make history or be completely wiped out”



The dams must be **hit** while reservoirs full

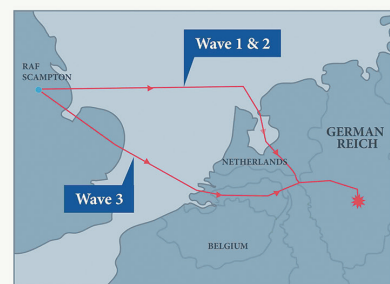
Flying by moonlight



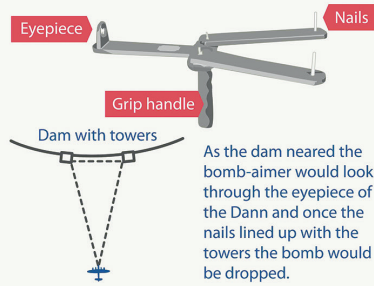
After final briefing



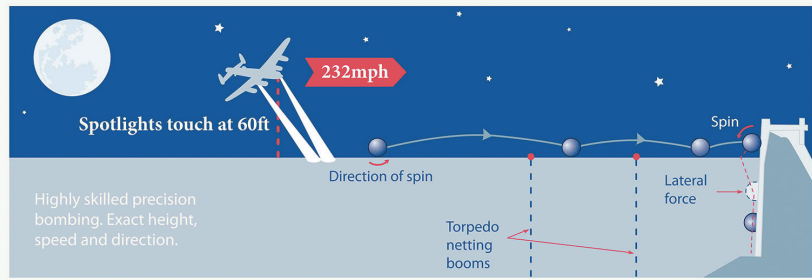
Outbound routes to Dams



## Dann bomb sight



## How the bomb worked



## The raid

16th-17th May 1943

### Flak downed several aircraft

19 Lancasters led by the 24-year-old Guy Gibson DSO - DFC



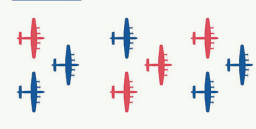
Wave 3



Wave 2



Wave 1



✈ 8 Lost

✈ 3 Turn back

133 Men sent out

53 Killed

3 Taken prisoner

Möhne and Eder dams breached, Sorpe dam damaged.

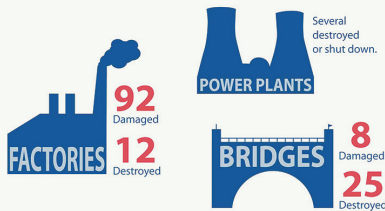
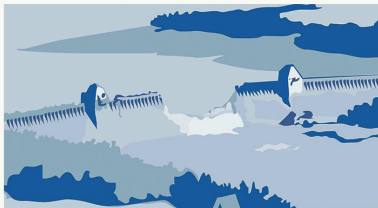
Thousands of workers withdrawn from Germany's Atlantic defences to carry out rebuilding.

## LOSSES ON THE GROUND

1294

Many of these people in a forced labour camp.

### Damage to the Möhne dam and valley below



### OPERATION CHASTISE

was also a massive boost to Britain's morale and political reputation



### Guy Gibson

Received the Victoria Cross and 33 other aircrew received decorations for their bravery.

Come and discover more at...  
[www.raf.mod.uk/dambusters70](http://www.raf.mod.uk/dambusters70)

#Dambusters70

