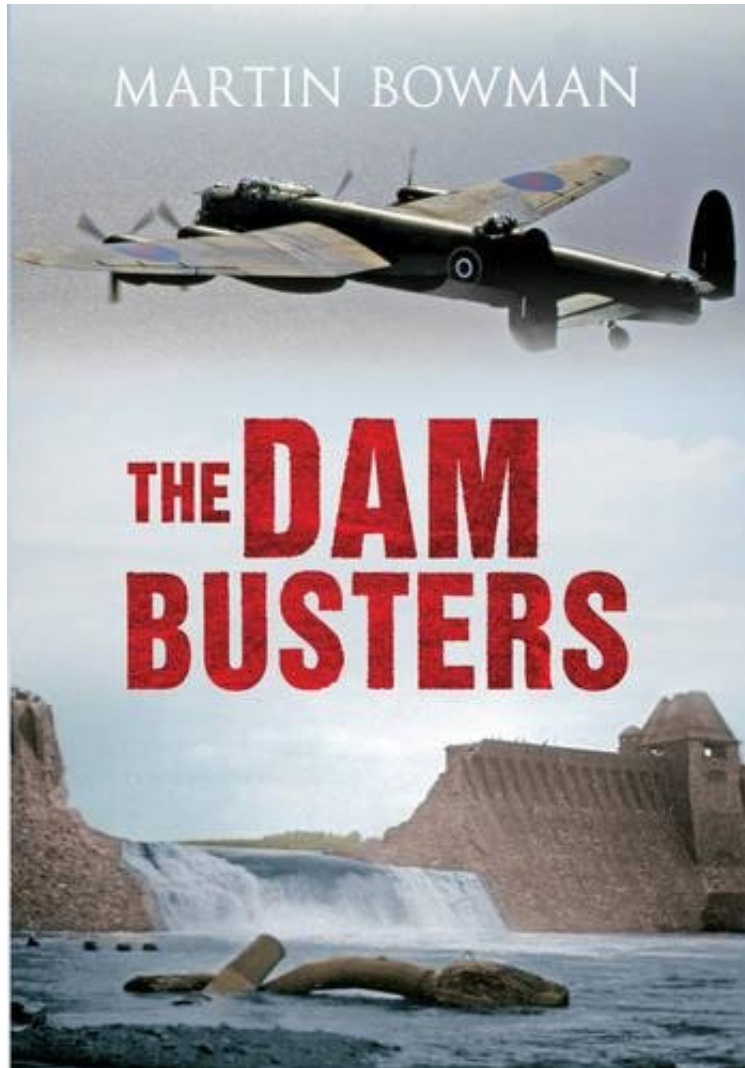


## The Dam Busters

*Martin W. Bowman*

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**Martin W. Bowman : The Dam Busters** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Dam Busters:

Guy Gibson's 617 Squadron was founded for one reason only - Operation Chastise - the raid on the Ruhr dams. Using Barnes Wallis' revolutionary bouncing bomb, the hand-picked crews trained day and night over British reservoirs, perfecting the techniques required to deliver the new weapon to its target. On the night of 16/17 May 1943, three waves of modified Lancasters took off and headed for the industrial heartland of Germany and a series of daring raids

on the various dams providing water and electricity to the heart of the Nazi war machine. Of the three main targets - the Mohne, Sorpe and Eder dams - two were destroyed, causing chaos downstream. The Mohne dam succumbed after five Upkeep bouncing bombs had hit it. It took three bombs to destroy the Eder dam but the Sorpe dam remained almost intact. Despite the losses in men and aircraft, the raid was a huge success. 617 Squadron went on to become one of the premier squadrons in Bomber Command, and destroyed the Tirpitz using another of Wallis' bombs - the Tallboy, a 12,000lb 'earthquake' bomb. Made into a film starring Richard Todd as Wing Commander Guy Gibson VC, their raid on the Ruhr dams has become the stuff of legend. This is the story of the Dam Busters.