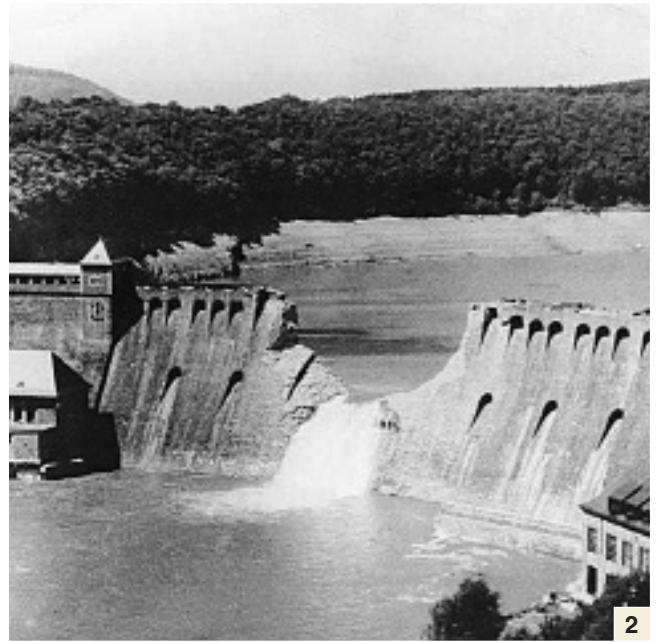


The Dambusters



1

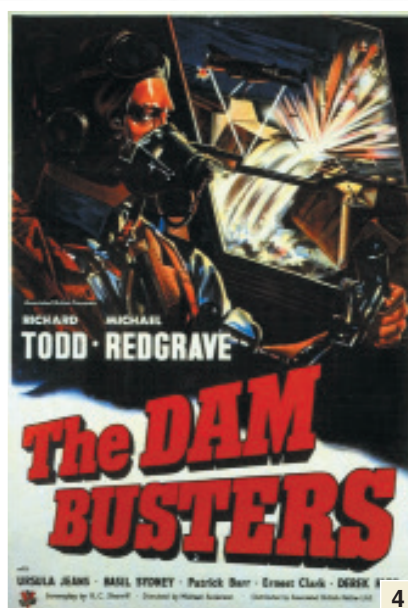


2



3

It was called Operation Chastise—an RAF bomber attack against German dams on May 16 to 17, 1943. It was no ordinary raid. The dams were heavily defended, and high-flying bombers could not achieve needed precision. The dams also were guarded by torpedo nets. RAF Lancaster bomber crews employed a special “bouncing bomb.” Released at extremely low level, it would skip across a reservoir, leap over the nets, stop against a dam wall, and explode. The daring raids breached the Mohne and Eder dams, causing loss of power and water. Catastrophic flooding drowned some 1,600 people. The raid was celebrated a 1955 British film, “The Dam Busters.”



4

1: Practice bomb hits shore target. 2: The Eder Dam, post-attack. 3: Lancaster releases its skip bomb during a trial run. 4: Poster for 1955 film.