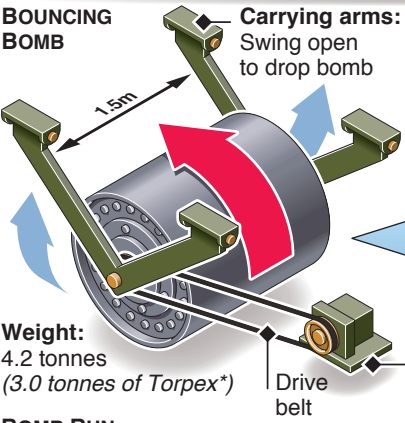


70th anniversary of Dambusters raid

On the night of May 16-17, 1943, 19 Lancaster bombers of the RAF's specially formed 617 Squadron carried out an attack on the Möhne, Eder and Sorpe dams in Germany's industrial heartland, using the famous "bouncing bomb" designed by Barnes Wallis

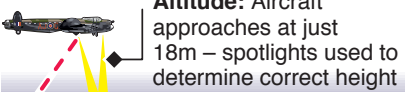


BOUNCING BOMB



Weight:
4.2 tonnes
(3.0 tonnes of Torpex*)

BOMB RUN



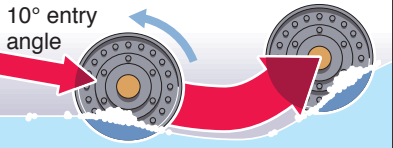
Altitude: Aircraft approaches at just 18m – spotlights used to determine correct height

Release: Bomb dropped 390m from target, hits water at 370km/h

Anti-torpedo nets

BOUNCE THEORY

10° entry angle



- Spin stabilises flight so bomb lands parallel to surface after each bounce
- Momentum creates water surge ahead of bomb – velocity carries it up "ramp" and back into air

Electric motor: Ten minutes from target, motor starts to spin bomb counter-clockwise at up to 500rpm

Back-spin: Helps bomb bounce further and hugs it close to dam while sinking – it detonates at depth of 9m

