

Contents

Water War: 17 May 1943: Bouncing Bombs Against the Dams on the Möhne, Eder and Sorpe Rivers	7
Preface	9
The History of the Reservoirs	11
British Bouncing Bombs Shock Berlin	14
“Reports from the Reich”	20
A District President Makes a Report	21
The “Bomber Committee” Facing Many Problems	28
The Civilian Barnes Wallis Goes to War	32
The Reservoirs in the Sights of Bomber Command	39
The Ingenious Idea of Mr. Barnes Wallis	42
Green Light for the Prototypes “Highball” and “Upkeep”	43
Wallis’ Private War against Aeronautical Technocrats, Bomber Harris “Explodes”	45
Bouncing Bombs Do Not Want to Jump	51
Secret Squadron X Trains Low-Level Flight	52
Encoded Radio Report with “Tulip” and “Mermaid”	58
“Fir Trees” Trouble the British Assault Strategists	60
Technique and Tactics with “Upkeeps”	62
The Decision is Made in the USA	63
Briefing, Operation Order No. B 976	70
Diversionary Attacks	72
The Attack: First Wave against the Möhne and Eder Dams	76
Main Target X: The Möhne Dam	78
Second Wave against the Sorpe Dam	91
Hidden Target Y: The Eder Dam	95
Flying Reserve against Sorpe, Lister, Ennepe and Diemel Dams	98
Mix-up: Ennepe and Bever Dam?	104
Many Questions from the Highest Authorities	110
Protocol of the Debriefing of the “Dams Raid”	110
English Radio Reports	116
British Aerial Photographs in the Interpretation of the Military	117
“Nigger” and “Dinghy” Prompt Exultation in England	126
Royal Visit with the Dam Busters	129
The “Water Front” Breaks, Death and Dismay in the Möhne and Ruhr Valleys	134
Scandal at the Funeral of the Reservoir Victims in Neheim	149
The Camp of the Foreign Female Workers, 800 Dead behind Barbed Wire	156
Happy End with German-Russian Wedding	160
Eye Witness Reports from the Flooded Areas Wiedeck – Fröndenberg – Schwerte	163

Disaster Zone Fröndenberg	171
The Viaduct of Herdecke Collapses	184
The Deluge Races through the Eder Valley.....	189
Private Telephone Warnings Help to Save Human Lives	190
Aerial Situation Protocol: Air Raid Warning Centre, Kassel.....	198
Anti-aircraft Batteries at British Dams	198
“Upkeeps” for Moscow? No Bouncing Bombs for Marshal Josef Stalin	207
Speculations about the Restoration of the Dams at Möhne and Eder.....	209
An Open Balance: Statement on Losses and Damage.....	209
Legends: Treason, Sabotage, Espionage?	226
The Hollywood Project “The Dam”.....	227
German Model Rotational Water Bombs Tested in Berlin	240
Forty-five Years On: Memories of the Dam Busters	241
<i>List of Sources</i>	265