



Beyond the Dams to the Tirpitz: The Later Operations of the 617 Squadron

Alan W Cooper

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Beyond the Dams to the Tirpitz: The Later Operations of the 617 Squadron Alan W Cooper First published to acclaim in 1983, this book is set to impact upon the book-buying public, eager for accounts of this period of World War history. Relaying the later operations of 617 Squadron, this book steers away from typical accounts of the group, which dwell on this predominant feature of their service history.

617 Squadron carried some of the most outstanding exploits of the air war out, after they had executed their famous Dam's Raid in May 1943. These included special low-flying attacks on canals, factories, rocket sites, viaducts, and, of course, the attack on the German battleship Tirpitz. The standard set to serve in 617 Squadron is shown in the success of such operations. They were led firstly by Wing Commander Bruce Gibson, who set this standard, followed by Squadron Leader Mick Martin, and the incomparable Wing Commander Leonard Cheshire, who developed the accuracy of marking and bombing to a very high degree. He in turn was succeeded by Wing Commander Willie Tait who led all three attacks on the Tirpitz, and from then on was known as 'Tirpitz' Tait.

All the leaders of the Squadron were outstanding airmen, each having more than a hundred operations to his credit. This book is a timely reminder that there was a lot more to the Squadron's history than their exploits on the Dams.



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