MARCH

THE DAM BUSTERS

by

ERIC COATES

Associated British presents

Richard Todd · Michael Redgrave

in

The DAM BUSTERS

with

URSULA JEANS · BASIL SYDNEY

PATRICK BARR · ERNEST CLARK and

DEREK FARR

Screenplay by R. C. Sherriff

Directed by Michael Anderson

DISTRIBUTED BY ASSOCIATED BRITISH-PATHE LTD

Arranged for

PIANO SOLO

by the Composer

3/-

MADE IN ENGLAND

Eric Coates

CHAPPELL

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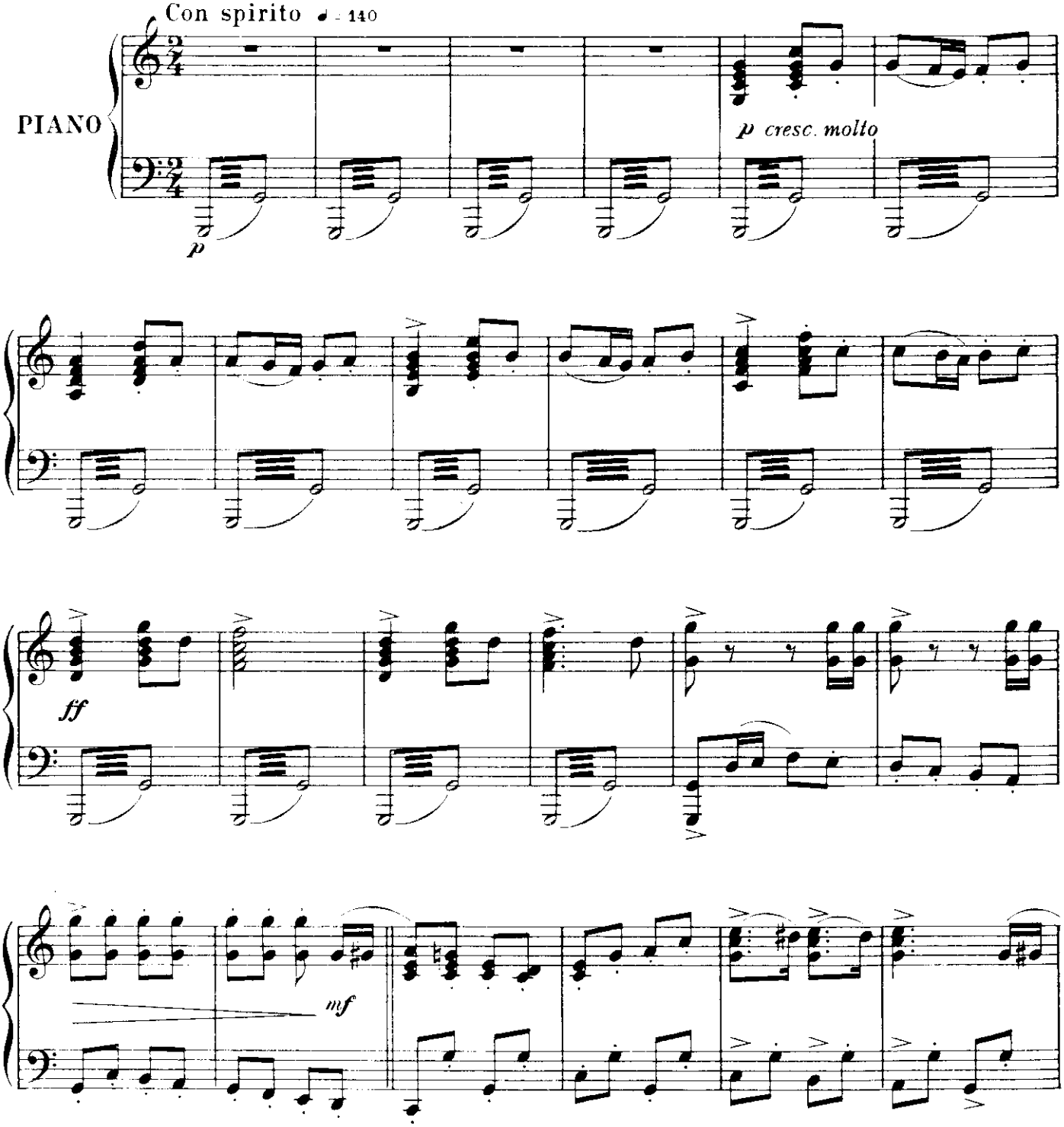
MARCH

"THE DAM BUSTERS"

from the Associated British Picture "The Dam Busters"

ERIC COATES



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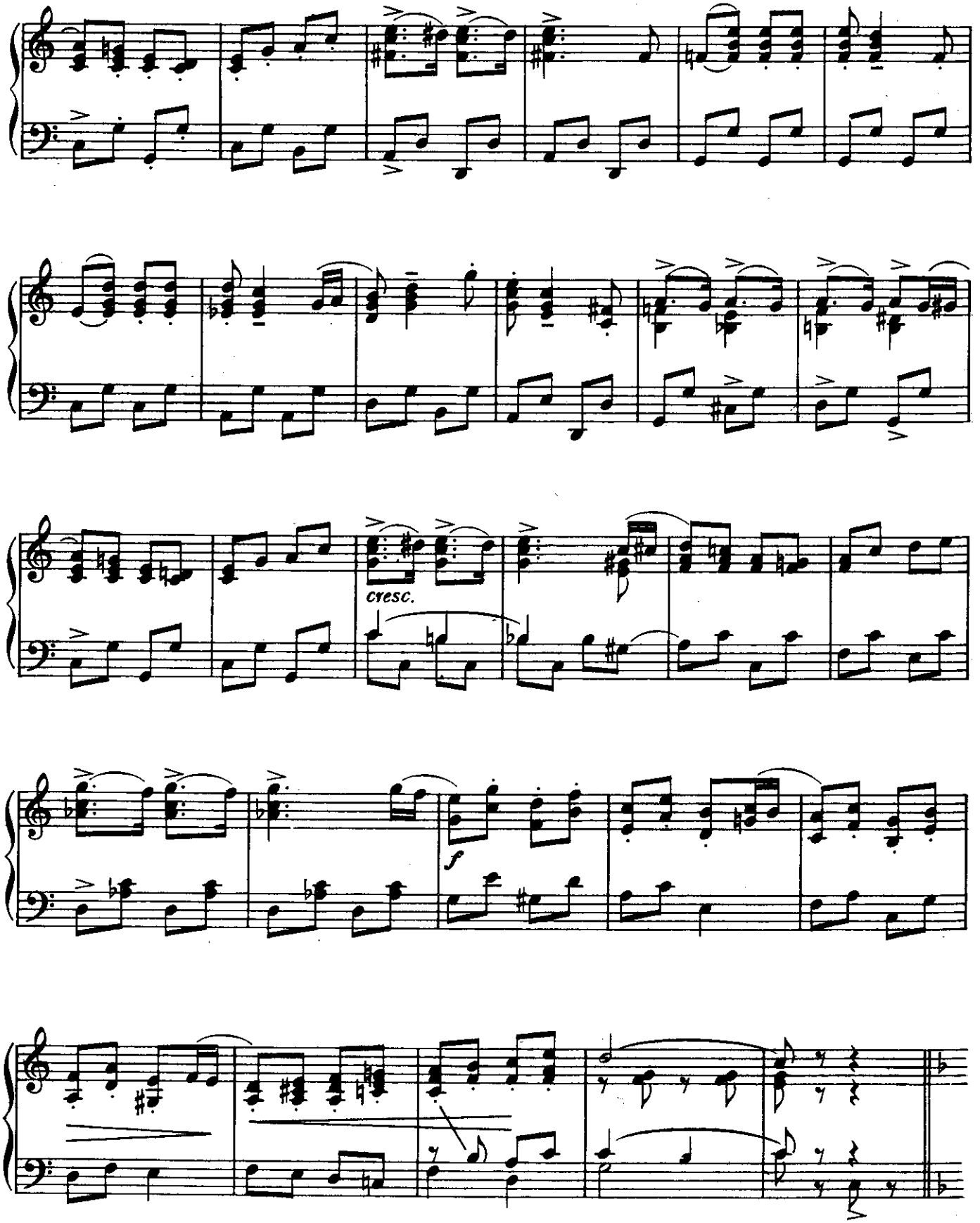
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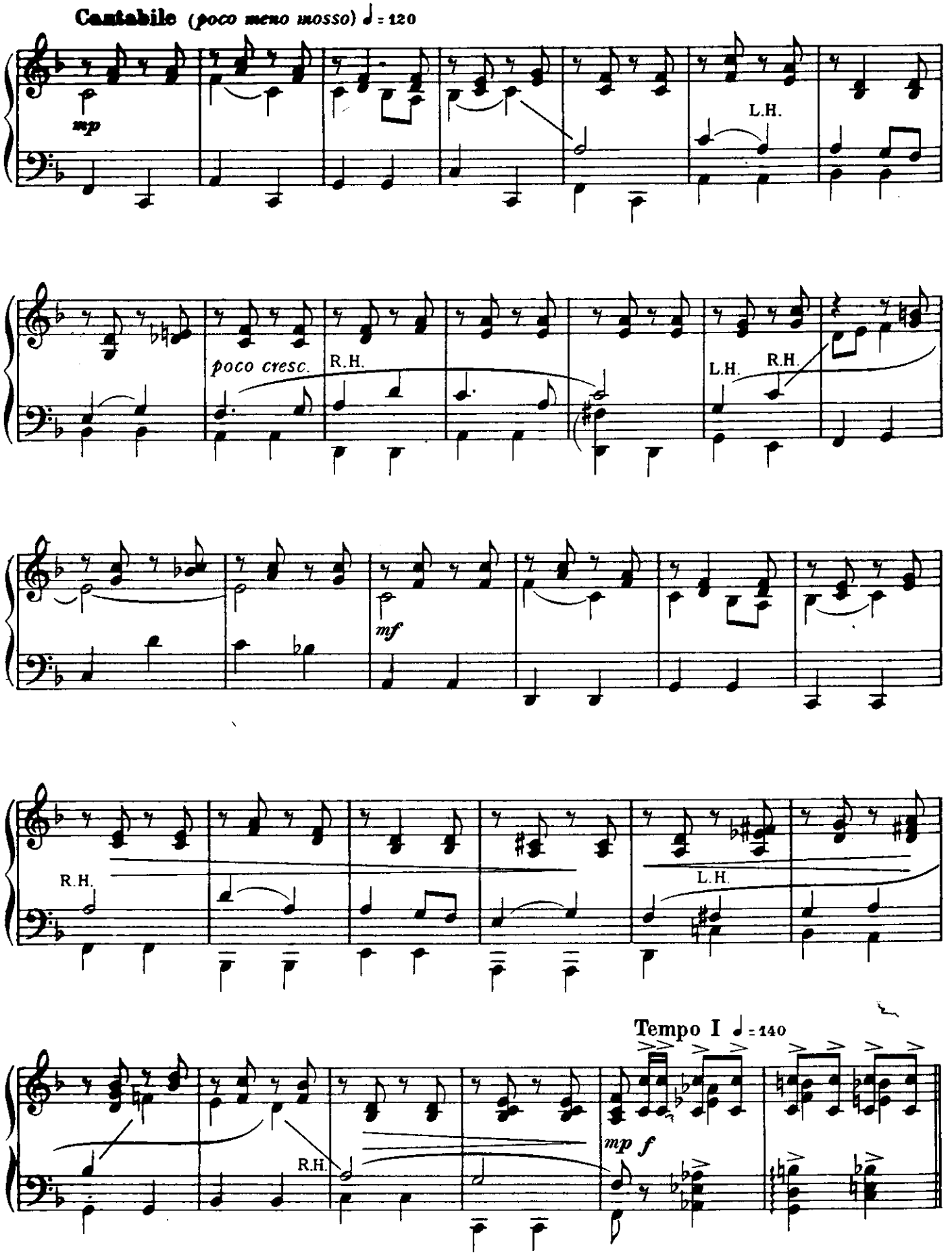
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L.H.
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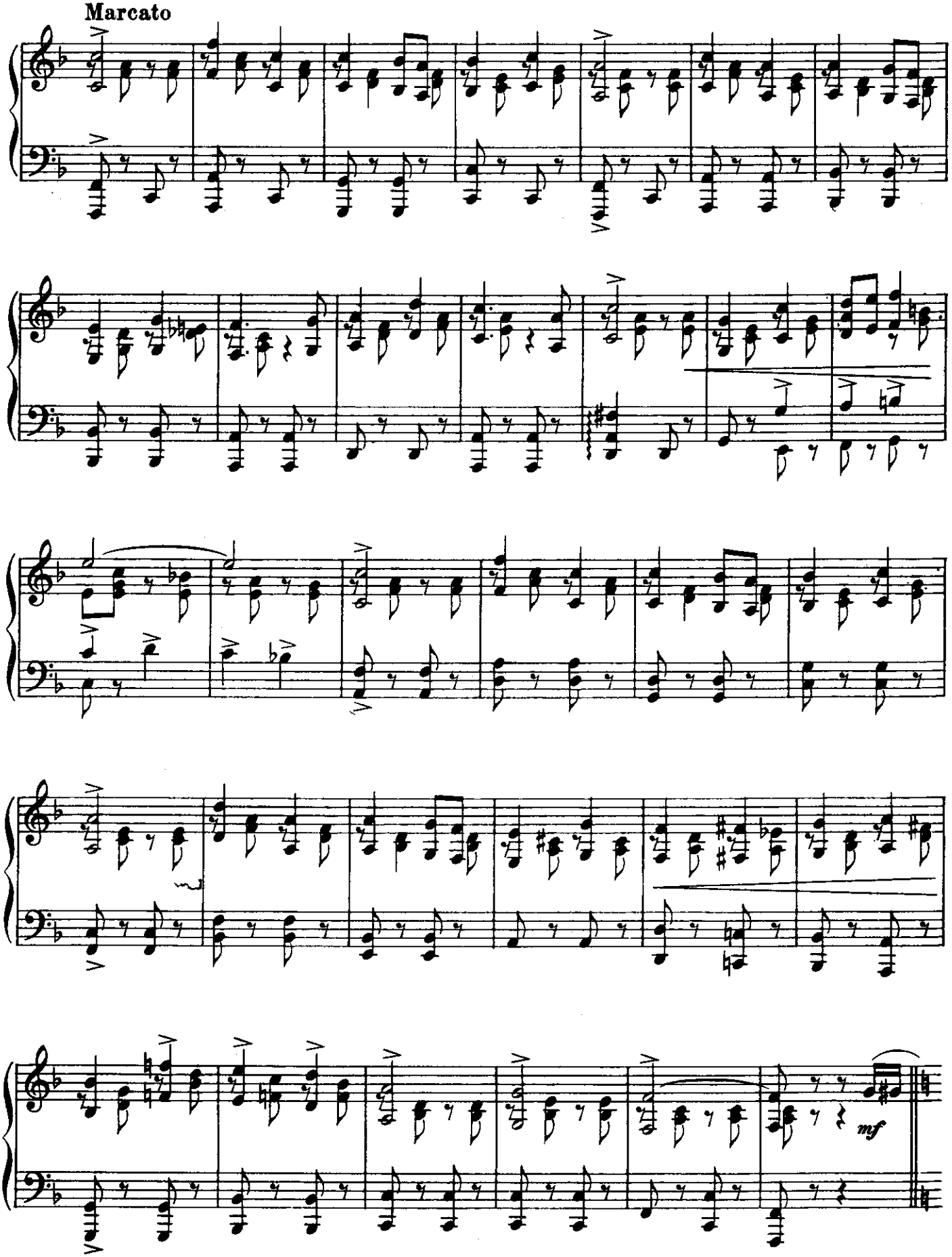
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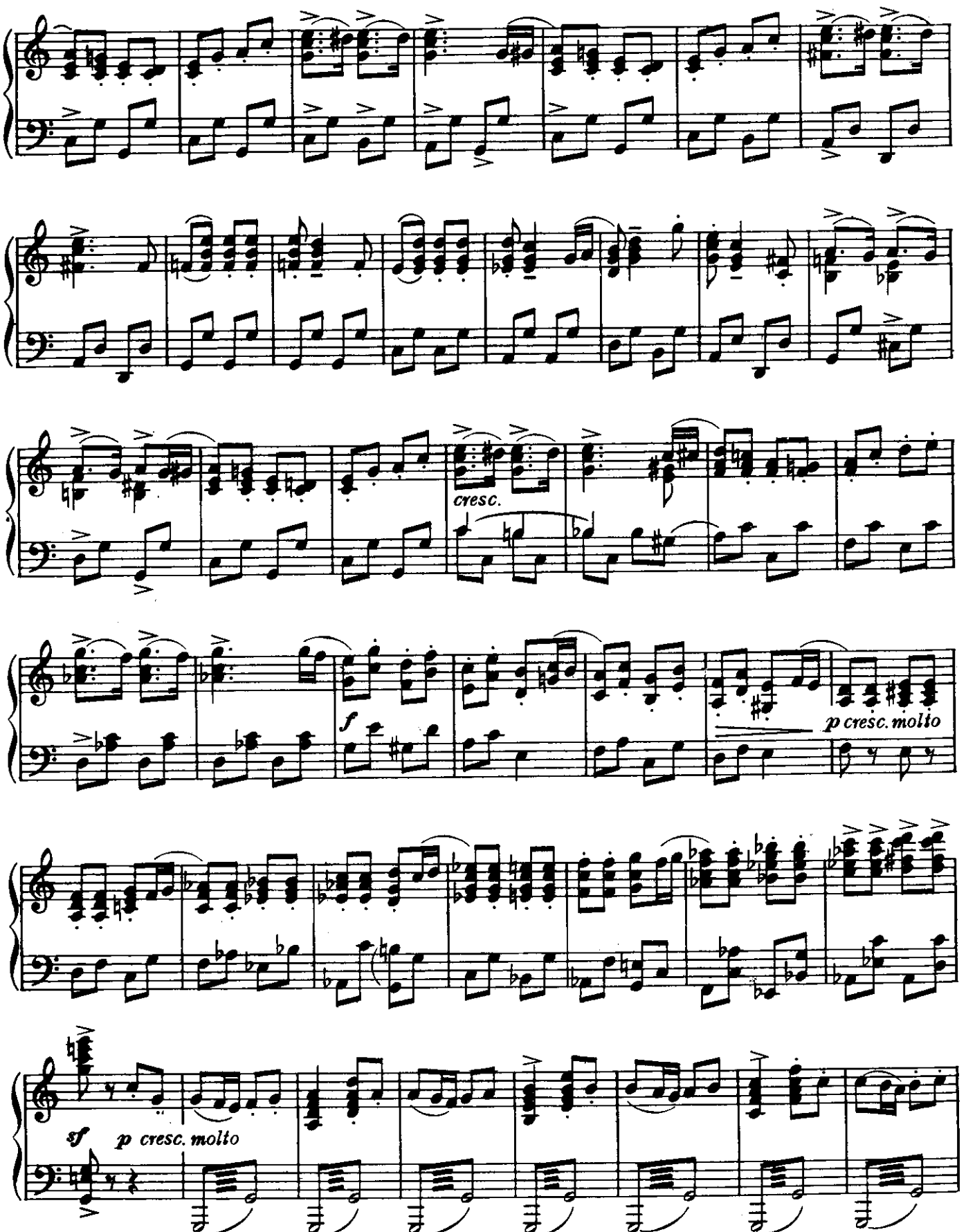

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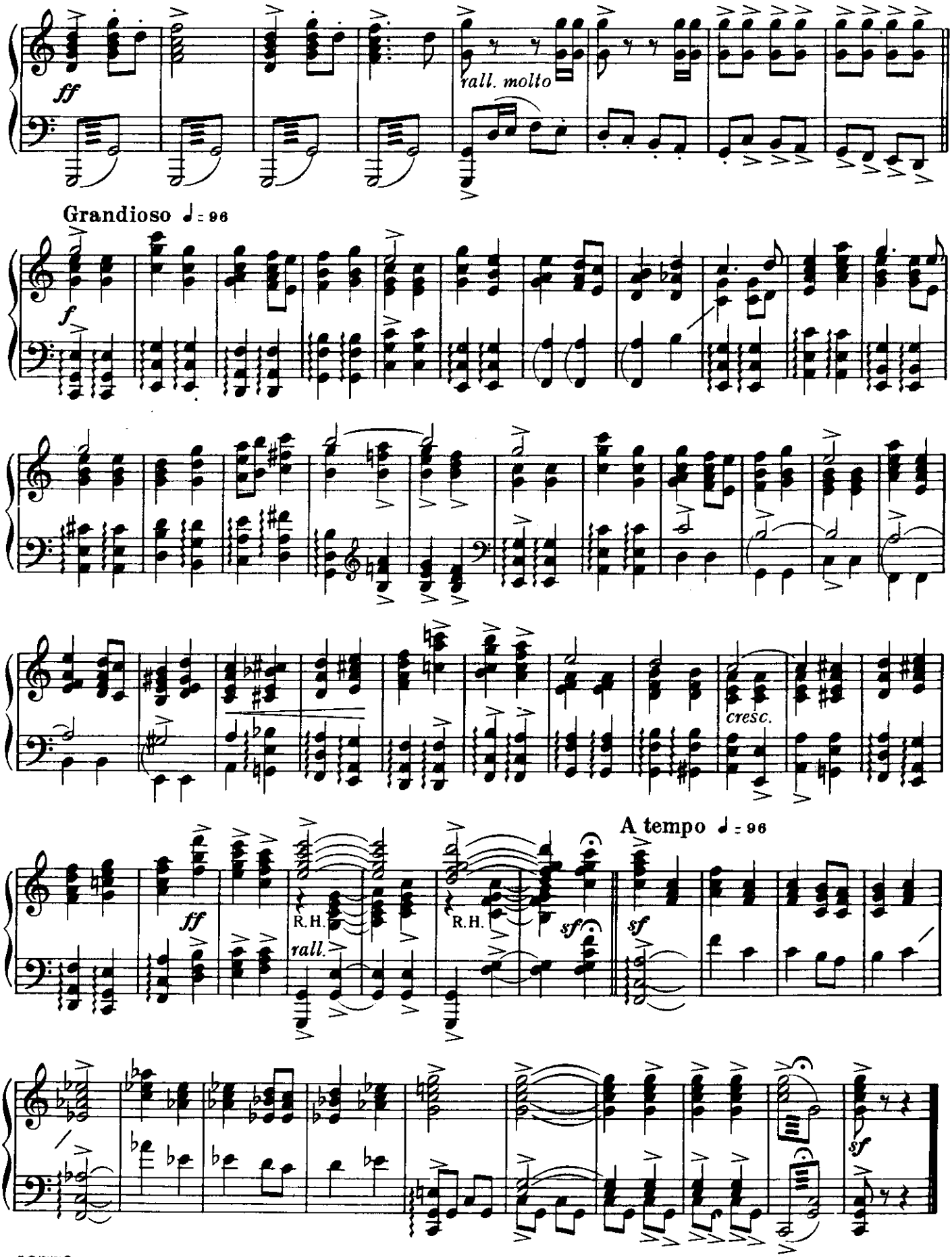

SYMPHONY REPRODUCTIONS LTD., LONDON.

THE DAM BUSTERS

The Story of the Film

Scientist Dr. Barnes Wallis believes World War II can be shortened by destroying the Ruhr dams, paralysing the enemy's industrial nerve centre. In spite of the difficulties caused by the critical situation at the time, he works steadily to perfect a special bomb of his own invention for the purpose. Finally, permission is given for the manufacture of the bombs and formation of a special squadron to carry out the raids on the dams. Air Ace Wing Commander Guy Gibson is chosen to form, train and lead the hand-picked squadron.

Flying at tree-top height, they cross the Rhine and start the attack on the first dam—Moehne. For a while the bombers seem unable to maintain the accuracy essential for success, but suddenly the masonry begins to crumble—the first dam has been breached.

With a depleted force Gibson presses on to the Eder dam, surrounded by dangerous and mountainous country. Here again the squadron suffers losses, but the dam is broken—the devastation even more complete than at Moehne.

Back in the Group Ops Room, the tensely-awaited news comes through—the historic mission has succeeded —the Dam Busters have played their part.

Finding the Real Guy Gibson

When Richard Todd was asked to play the part of Guy Gibson in "The Dam Busters," he realised that it was going to be a difficult task to make a 'real' person out of the legend of heroism and glory that surrounded Gibson's name. It would be fatally easy to present him as a stock figure :—Todd wanted to do more, to show the man himself in his portrayal, so he set out slowly and carefully over the two years the film was in preparation and before shooting even began, to meet as many people as possible who had known Gibson. He met friends of the pilot, people who would know how he talked, walked, lived. He met fellow officers, who could tell him the sort of man Gibson was—on and off duty. He met, finally, Guy's father, who might explain, perhaps, what made Guy Gibson the man he was. And all the time Richard Todd absorbed, analysed and stored away what he heard, until when shooting began, he used it as the basis of a characterisation amazing in its accuracy and likeness to the real Guy Gibson.

Playing the part of Wing Commander Guy Gibson, the most highly decorated man of the war at the age of 24, is Richard Todd. Guy Gibson, one of the most brilliant pilots in Bomber Command, won the V.C. for his leadership and complete disregard for personal safety on the Moehne and Eder dams raid.