

For those of you following the second edition of Steve Dixon's Target For Tonight Campaign game, the NEW second campaign has moved forward in time a year to 1943. It is now 25/26 July 1943 and No. 101 Squadron is heading for Essen Germany in a Maximum Effort raid on that city as the second mission of this new campaign. Here is "R for Roger's" first mission AAR. Hope you enjoy!

No. 101 Squadron (KX) Bomber Command - "R for Roger"
25/26 Jul 43
Mission 02/ TGT - Essen, Zone 6.
Formation - First 1/3.

Crew:

Name	Rank	Position
Malcolm Fraser	Warrant Officer	Flight Engineer
William Cavendish	Warrant Officer	Bomb Aimer
Jacob Morton	Sergeant	Rear Gunner
Alfie "Binky" Williams	Pilot Officer	Navigator
Theodore "Teddy" Fernsby	Flying Officer	Pilot
Jeremiah "Jerry" MacKenzie	Sergeant	Mid-Gunner
Oscar Addington	Flight SGT	Wireless Operator
Sidney Cartwright	Warrant Officer	Senior Erk

26 July 1943:

Senior Erk, Warrant Officer Sidney Cartwright stood at the revetment smoking a "fag" and watching the dark sky... he exhaled a stream of smoke while cupping the lighted coal of the fag in his hand to cover the light... old habits die hard as he thought about the early days of the war when Jerry was just as apt to appear as our returning bombers... He and the ground crew were waiting for their charge, Lancaster bomber "R for Roger" to return from the mission to Essen. The pilot Flying Officer Teddy Fernsby and his crew were new to the station but they had just rotated back to combat operations again after completing an assignment with Training Command to teach lessons learned to new RAF bomber crews at an Operational Training Unit... This was Fernsby and his crew's second tour...

They were late! ... And he was "cheesed off"... He knew it was a mistake for the CO to have given the Brand New Lancaster Bomber to this crew for their first mission. Cartwright thought that the next senior crew in the squadron should have been given the new kite, but there was "title-tattle" about that said the CO and Fernsby were "old school chums" ...

Cartwright again scanned the eastern horizon ... a low voice out of the dark said "Hey Sir, I think I see a plane comin' in there just over the HQ building" ... Cartwright grunted a reply and looked in the direction of the HQ building... Sure enough low on the horizon Cartwright could just make out the form of a Lancaster coming in from the east...

FO Teddy Fernsby could see the landing lights outlining the runway as "R for Roger" passed over the initial point... "Five miles out Teddy, I told you we would be smack on ..." said PO "Binky" Williams from his navigation station behind the pilot's seat... Fernsby glanced back over

his shoulder and "Binky" flashed him a "Thumbs Up" ... WO Malcolm Fraser the flight engineer who was sitting in the jump seat next to Teddy said "Lad, you better keep your eyes focused on the job at hand... Cartwright wasn't pleased that the CO gave us the New Lanc, so you better not prang it up any more than it already is."...

Giving Malcolm an "I've got this" look, Teddy nodded and returned to watching the controls while setting up for landing.

"R for Roger" was a bit sluggish thought Teddy.... but he had every right to be with that big chunk taken out of his wing. The number 2 engine was feathered and oil was running back off the rear edge of the wing. And, the number 1 engine was running rough and near redline most of the way home and would probably have to be replaced. Cartwright wasn't going to like it!

The Jerry AA fire over the target had done that... Teddy had turned "R for Roger" on the final approach from the Initial Point of the bomb run. The "Path Finders" had done a great job of marking the target and the new "Master Bomber" program PFF had started in June was working well. Teddy had turned control of "Roger" over to WO William Cavendish, bomb aimer and was calmly watching the show when a large explosion lit up the night right off of the port wing...

"Roger" rolled up on the starboard wing and veered off course ... Dazzlewd by the flash of the explosion, Teddy grabbed the controls and took over flying the big bird! Malcolm called over the intercom and advised that engine number two was leaking oil badly and to feather it. Teddy recovered his night vision, called for a crew check and commenced the shutdown procedure for number 2 engine... it feathered nicely winding down to a stop. The auto-pilot was out as well so Teddy continued flying "Roger".

Teddy got control and after everyone checked in as ok he got "Roger" leveled off and was beginning a turn back toward the bomb run heading when a voice came over the radio...

"I say there "R for Roger", are you quite done mucking about down there? ...Can we get back to the business at hand now? The rest of the Lads are stacking up behind you."

Teddy smiled at the Master Bomber's calm demeanor ... He replied back in an equally calm voice... "Righto Sir! Sorry about that... Jerry was just getting a bit Cheeky down here, and I'm turning back onto the IP heading now".

"Good Show!." replied the Master Bomber "... Keep it lined up and drop on command"

The Bomb run had gone well... we later learned we had 65% on target.

(Editor's Note: We were ON TARGET. Our Bombing Accuracy was 65% (An initial roll of 11 on Table 6-7 with 3d6 =13 and 1d6 = 5. Total =65%)

We cleared off target and turned for home...

On the way back, we had a brush with a night fighter that pulled up on us from 6 o'clock and fired a string of cannon shells that passed wide right, not hitting "Roger". SGT Jacob Morton

our rear gunner gave him a Long Burst from those four quad-mounted .303 machine guns in the tail turret. That must have discouraged him as he made only one pass...

Number 1 engine continued to run rough all the way back home... Now Teddy had "R for Roger" lined up and at the proper glide slope for landing. He had to apply more power to engines 3 and 4 and extra rudder to keep "Roger" aligned properly with the runway... The wheels touched down with a screech and the Big Lancaster made a perfect roll out and turned off on the taxiway that led to our revetment.

As Teddy rolled in, turned around and shut down the engines he saw Senior Erk Cartwright looking at the wing damage. Then he walked forward and stopped on the hardstand below the cockpit with his hands on his hips glowering up at him.

Teddy slide the side window open and leaned out ... giving a shrugging gesture with his arms he holler down to WO Cartwright "WHAT!?? ... WE BROUGHT HIM BACK DIDN'T WE? ... HE'S JUST A LITTLE WORST FOR WEAR!"

We had 65% bombs/ON TARGET. No Enemy Aircraft were claimed this mission. There were no casualties and "Freddie" had light damage and will be ready for the next mission.

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Plane Name: "R for Roger"

