For those of you following the second edition of Steve Dixon's Target For Tonight Campaign game, it is now 28/29 July 1943 and No. 101 Squadron is heading for Hamburg Germany. Mission 3 is the second strike on Hamburg in a week! Here is "R for Roger's" Hamburg mission AAR. Hope you enjoy!

No. 101 Squadron (KX) Bomber Command - "R for Roger"
28/29 Jul 43
Mission 03/ TGT - Hamburg, Zone 8.
Formation - Middle 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-Upper Gunner
Oscar Addington	Flight SGT	Wireless Operator/Gunner
Sidney Cartwright	Warrant Officer	Senior Erk

29 July 1943:

It started when "Jerry" MacKenzie, "R for Roger's" Mid-Upper gunner called out a German Night Fighter as the Lancaster entered zone 3...

In a calm voice Teddy Fernsby heard Jerry say "Hey, Skipper... I have one that looks like he's looking us over! ... Crossing left to right at 3 o'clock high" ... Terry could hear Jerry's Mid-Upper Turret whineing as he tracked the bogey.

Teddy looked off to the right but saw nothing ... he looked around and picked out the Crescent Moon and the dim reflection it made on a massive cumulus cloud. Teddy slowly rolled "Roger" into a shallow bank and began watching the compass needle begin to register the turn, slowly putting the luminous cloud at their 6 o'clock. Teddy heard Oscar Addington, the wireless operator and gunner unbuckle and his feet hit the deck as his voice came over the intercom... "W/O moving to the Ventral Turret" ... ("Roger" had a twin gun FN-64 retractable turret installed in the belly) ... Then he heard "Jake" Morton, announce that he had the rear turret manned and ready...

Teddy smiled... this was a well choreographed action that the crew had spent long hours perfecting on their first tour and then taught to new students at transition school... The night fighter didn't know it yet but it was about to become the hunted...

Teddy slowly continued the turn ... "OK Lads, let's see if I can drag him across that illuminated cloud at our 6 o' clock..." All was quiet on the intercom... everyone had done this before. They knew the drill and radio discipline was good. No one talked but Jerry... he continued calling the

night fighter's position and direction... "He's coming around nicely at about 15 degrees above the horizontal plane... Looks like a Ju-88 C-6"...

Jake picked up the call from the tail turret... "Confirmed... Ju-88 C-6"

Oscar, in the ventral turret checked in on the intercom with "No Contact"

Teddy pushed the wheel forward and watched the artificial horizon guage as it lowered to about 10 degrees down angle... He retarded the throttles so the Lancaster kept a steady speed in the shallow dive ... Teddy checked forward to make sure "Roger" was moving toward a dark area ahead to make it harder for the Night Fighter to target them.

Teddy was trying to position the Lancaster in the most favorable position for the gunners where there was no relative motion of the Night Fighter as viewed from the bomber so they could fire at a fixed target that was back lit by the moon's reflection from the clouds behind them. By not making any radical moves Teddy hoped the Night Fighter pilot would think the bomber's crew had not spotted him. Teddy thought the night fighter would continue to close in an attempt to get in close for his best shot. The Lancaster's profile was as small as possible when viewed from the night fighter's position and was partially hidden by the dark area ahead of the bomber...

It had worked for them several times before... Teddy was betting that two of the three turrets with their six .303 caliber machineguns could concentrate their fire on the night fighter before the night fighter could turn his 20mm cannons on them...

Malcolm Fraser, flight engineer took the jump seat opposite Teddy ... As soon as the gunners fired Teddy would make a hard climbing turn to break away from the night fighter diving flight path. Malcolm would handle the throttles and push them to full power while Teddy did the evasive maneuvers...

Jake calmly continued calling the night fighter ... "Leveling out 10 degrees above the horizontal..."

Jerry MacKenzie from the mid-upper turret interjected... "I've got him dialed in..."

Oscar Addington from the ventral turret called "No Joy" ... The night fighter was out of sight from his field of fire.

"Closing... Closing... Closing... And FIRE!" called Jake...

Many things happened quickly... Teddy could hear the heavy pounding of six machineguns. The four engines on "R for Roger" roared as Malcolm pushed the throttles to their stops... Teddy counted "One Thousand One, One Thousand Two ..." to give the gunners the maximum amount of time to pour lead into the night fighter before the bomber's radical evasive turn threw off their aim... And then he banked hard left, standing the big bomber up on its left wing as he began a climbing turn to port... All good so far he thought...

STREAKS OF LIGHT FLASHED BY THE COCKPIT! "Tracers!" he thought...

And then loud BANG! BANG! BANG! sounds as 20mm shells hammered the metal skin of "Roger" hitting and detonating... There was a flash of light outside the port canopy window and Teddy heard Malcolm yell "OH BULLOCKS!"...

This all happened in the space of three heart beats... Looking left Teddy could see the number 2 engine was on fire, brightly lighting up the left wing. Glancing back to the right Teddy saw Malcolm franticly flipping switches, moving levers and pulling Number 2's throttle back to the shutdown position...

"Shutting down number 2 and feathering... Is the fire retardant putting out the fire?" asked Malcolm... Teddy glaced back to the left... "Fire subsiding!" he called...

As the bomber came around in a half circle and continued its steep climbing turn to the left, the Jerry Night Fighter came into view passing under the left wing ... it was out of control, on fire and diving downward as it passed. Teddy could see the pilot slumped over the controls...

Oscar's voice came over the intercom... "He's burning and going down... no 'chutes visible" ... Teddy righted the big bomber and leveled off as bomb aimer "Billy" Cavendish's head popped up from below... That "Bleedin' Jerry played hell with the bombsite, its wrecked ... we are not gonna' be using it tonight!" he exclaimed.

Just then, all Hell broke loose! A stream of Tracer's lit up the night sky as they passed by the cockpit... Several merged with "R for Roger's" black form and the familiar BANG-ing came again as heavy cannon shells hit and detonated... A menacing black form passed over the bomber at high speed from 3 o'clock to 9 o'clock as Teddy automatically put the bomber's nose down to pick up air speed...

"It looks like our first friend had a partner..." said Teddy to no one in particular...

"BREAK RIGHT NOW, Skipper!" came Jerry's calm voice over the intercom ... Teddy could hear the whine of Jerry's turret and the pounding of the machineguns as Jerry tracked the new menace... "He's circling left toward our 6 o'clock... came Jerry's calm voice again...

Teddy, continued the dive and steered a course 180 degrees away from the new night fighter threat... Jake Morton in the tail gun position called out "I'm on him... Turn left!" There was more firing from the tail as Teddy made a sweeping left turn and continued the dive away from the night fighter...

The firing slacked off ... Jake came up on the intercom ... "Lost him in the clouds... "
Jerry followed with "No Joy here..."
And finally Oscar advised "Nothing from below..."

A few seconds later Teddy said "OK... looks like we lost him... I;m leveling off...is anyone hurt?" A chorus of "All Good" replies came in as each crew member acknowledged his call in the proper order.

Teddy brought the nose up and immediately noticed a loss of air speed ... Malcolm said "Number 3 has been hit... It's Red Lining and I'm shutting it down before we get another fire". Malcolm feathered number 3...

Engine's numbers 2 and 3 are now feathered and the bombsight is wrecked... A quick conference with the crew and they all agree its time to jettison the bombs and turn for home...

Malcolm looked over at Teddy and said "... Boy is Senior Erk Warrant Officer Sidney Cartwright going to be "Cheesed" over this!!"

They both looked at each other and burst out laughing as Teddy turned the bomber back toward England!

"R for Roger" Aborted the mission. The Target was NOT bombed. One Ju-88 C6 was claimed by Jerry MacKenzie. There were no casualties. "Roger" had two engines heavily damaged and the bombsight destroyed.

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