

For those of you following Steve Dixon's Target For Tonight Campaign Game, here is mission number 7 to Rostock, Germany for 101 Squadron's Wellington Bomber "F for Freddie" ... Hope you enjoy!

No. 101 Squadron (KX) Bomber Command - "F for Freddie"

05/06 Apr 42

Mission 07/ TGT - Rostock, Zone10.

Formation - Last 1/3.

Crew:

| Name | Rank | Position |
|------------------------|-----------------|---|
| Oliver Davies | Pilot Officer | Pilot |
| Henry "Harry" Ponsonby | Warrant Officer | Nav/Bomb Aimer (Conspicuous Gallantry Cross 6th Mission) |
| Richard Watkins | Flight Sergeant | Observer/Nose Gun |
| Thomas Stanley | Flight Sergeant | Wireless Operator |
| William Bedford | Sergeant | Waist Gunner |
| Giles Corbyn | Sergeant | Tail Gunner (1Bf-110 Kill-4th Mission) |

Narrative from Oliver Davies' Diary:

April 4th 1942 Entry:

We welcomed F/SGT Thomas Stanley and SGT William Bedford to the crew this week. They replaced SGT Edward Neville and F/SGT George Blackwood who were lost on Mission number 6. Both Stanley and Bedford were fresh out of the Training Unit. Wilcox, our Senior Erk did a herculean job and had "Freddie" ready for a test flight yesterday. That was the first time we all got to fly together.

Freddie" performed well, the crew... not so much... I gave everyone a pep talk as morale was down and there had been a few procedure glitches during the training flight. We worked on them today and I think we are ready.... well, even if we are not ready, 101 Squadron has been stood up for a mission to Rostock tomorrow night, so we will be going, ready or not!

April 6th 1942 Entry:

It was another Full Bomber's Moon ... My dread had built to a high level but I was holding it inside to "set the example" for the crew. Briefing had been called for 1500 hours... It was a somber group that filed out of the briefing room and headed for the mess. Not much talking over our meal or when we kitted up. At the "ritual peeing" on the tail wheel, the crew broke up into laughter when I told the guys I had "procured new dice" for tonight's Mission! As iuf on cue Harry Ponsonby was right there too as he held up his "New Rabbit's Foot" saying "With new dice and a new rabbit's foot how could we not be looked upon favorably by Lady Luck!"

It worked! ... We got some laughs and the crew began to perk up as we climbed aboard "Freddie". The Erk gave me thumbs up and we started our taxi roll...

The weather was good and we had a smooth takeoff and assembly... Again "Stormy" our weather briefer hit it right on... we had 50% cloud cover crossing the Channel until zone 8. We got ground fog and haze overcast as we crossed the coast and then 100% cloud cover across German territory. We slipped into 50% cloud cover as we crossed the coast and flew the remaining leg over water to Rostock.

Between the New Dice and "Harry's" New Rabbit's Foot (and a blessing from Lady Luck on the Random events table) we got lucky and only had a couple minor brushes with night fighters... Flying in the last 1/3 of the formation, it seemed that the night fighters must have been low on fuel or low on ammo as neither one made more than two passes at us and we only took minor damage to "Freddie".

Both our new crew members performed up to snuff and were able to alert me in plenty of time to make my "Cork Screws" against the night fighters.

We had some minor AAA damage over the target but nothing that created any real problems. It looked like we dropped our bombs right on target as SGT Corbyn in the tail said he saw secondary explosions as we came off target.

We were just as lucky coming home ... no contacts, but I did let out a BIG sigh of relief as the lights of our Aerodrome came into view... It was a long flight and I was tired but after we landed, I got down and kissed the ground!

Mission Stats:

The bombing photo showed that we were ON TARGET with 88 (2d6=12) plus (2D6=4) = 92% of our bombs hitting the target.

No Night Fighters shot down and no crew injured.

The Senior Erk was glad to see "Freddie" was mostly in one piece! He said he would have him ready for the next mission.

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Plane Name: "F for Freddie"



