

Steve Dixon's 3rd Target For Tonight! Campaign game is starting! The date for this mission is the night of 1/2 April 1944 and No. 104 Squadron is heading for Ghent, Belgium. Here is "R for Roger's" mission AAR. Hope you enjoy!

No. 104 Squadron (KX) Bomber Command - "R for Roger"

1/2 Apr '44

Mission 1/ TGT - Ghent, Belgium, Zone 4. (Rail Targets)

Formation - Last 1/3.

Moon Phase: Crescent Moon

Crew:

Name	Rank	Position
Malcolm Fraser	Warrant Officer	Flight Engineer (Wnd)
Gerry Hansen	Flight SGT	Bomb Aimer
Jacob Morton	Sergeant	Rear Gunner (1-Ju88c6, 2- ME-110 G4, 1-Do-217N2, 1-Me-110 F4, 1-Ju-88C6)
Alfie "Binky" Williams	Pilot Officer	Navigator
Theodore "Teddy" Fernsby	Flying Officer	Pilot
Jeremiah "Jerry" MacKenzie	Sergeant	Mid-Upper Gunner (2-Ju88c6, 1-Do-217, 1-Fw-190A5, 1-Me-110F-4)
Oscar Addington	Flight SGT	Wireless Operator/Gunner (Wnd) (Do-217J1)
Sidney Cartwright	Warrant Officer	Senior Erk

"The Mission to Ghent...

Except for F/SGT Oscar Addington's injury the Mission was really pretty much a MILK RUN!

But, we did have a few "Non-Jerry" problems though... The first problem was an Engine Malfunction on Take Off... Number 3 engine lost power ... That got everyone's attention and started the adrenalin pumping! PO Teddy Fernsby's superior piloting skills avoided a crash and WO Malcolm Fraser's engineering skills got number 3 restarted so they could continue the mission. We had no further mechanical issues for the mission.

zone one weather was good for both takeoff and landing but there was 50% cloud cover in zones two and four and 100% cloud cover in zone 3.

We got another scare when we entered zone two when it looked like we had a Jerry night fighter zeroing in on us... but it turned out to be a false contact and "lady Luck" smiled on us from the Random Events Table... There was no mission recall in zone 3. PO Fernsby decided to fly the mission at low altitude...

In zone 2, Oscar Addington moved to the rear centre section to begin dropping chaff bundles. He must have done a good job because we had no night fighter contacts the entire mission ... They must have really busy with the rest of the bomber stream but left us alone...

There was no AAA fire in Zone three either and when we entered the target zone there was only light flak that did not come anywhere near R for Roger.

The Master Bomber gave us our bombing instructions... as we approached the target on the bomb run there were several massive explosions... This gave us our second jolt of adrenalin as Roger was buffeted severely by the impact of Thermal Turbulence! This is where Oscar Addington got hurt. He was standing up throwing out bundles of window when the buffeting happened. He would have been severely wounded probably resulting in a discharge from flight duty, but Lady Luck stepped in and took a hand instead of a major bone break, Oscar was only badly bruised on his left side and the Medics said he would be sore but ready for the next mission.

Even though Roger was severely buffeted around on the bomb run, Gerry Hansen our bomb aimer managed to get 40% of the bombs on target.

We managed to make it back to England with no further accidents or enemy contacts!

An Entry taken from PO "Binky" Williams' diary from the 1/2 April, 1944 mission.

Roger would be ready for the next mission.

40% of the bombs were On Target.

No Night Fighters were shot down

There were no casualties other than Oscar Addington's light wound.

Photos below:

"R for Roger"

The Ghent Mission Map

Name: Bob Best

