

For those of you following Steve Dixon's 2nd *Target For Tonight!* Campaign game, the date for this mission is the night of 2/3 March 1944 and No. 104 Squadron is heading for Berlin Germany. Here is "R for Roger's" mission AAR. Hope you enjoy!

No. 104 Squadron (KX) Bomber Command - "R for Roger"  
2/3 Mar '44

Mission 20/ TGT - Berlin, Germany, Zone 6. (Area Targets)

Formation - First 1/3.

Moon Phase: Crescent Moon

### **Crew:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Position</b>
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 Berlin..."**

A drop of sweat was trickling down Flying Officer Teddy Fernsby's forehead as he twisted his head around to see if that last corkscrew maneuver had thrown off that Damn German "Uhu" night fighter pilot! "He was a devil..." mumbled Teddy as he twisted his head around to look over his other shoulder... "But of course he was!" he thought "...Only Expert Ace pilots were given a "Uhu" to fly!" Teddy wrenched the Big Lancaster bomber into a left bank and rolled up onto the left wing to make a tight hard turn... he was aiming for cloud cover that he hoped would hide the bomber...

But then a Red stream of 20 and 30 mm tracer shells lit up the night followed by several loud "BANGS!" as if someone was hitting the fuselage with a sledge hammer. "R for Roger" shuddered and absorbed yet another punishing series of hits! A roar of engine noise and the dark shadow of the HS-219 A0 "Uhu" flashed past ... barely clearing the Bombers nose! Teddy rolled the big bomber to the right and pushed the nose down to gain speed. He was trying to follow in the direction the "Uhu" had gone, hoping to get behind the night fighter and then turn away to lose him... The "Uhu" was very fast and began a loop to circle around behind the bomber... Checking the bomber's air speed Teddy rolled left again and dove toward the rapidly thickening cloudbank...

A blast of cold air rushed past Teddy... one of the cannon shells had exploded in the radio compartment and holed the fuselage pretty thoroughly... cold air was now flowing thru the

compartment from another set of holes in the nose section... Another drip of perspiration formed began running down Teddy's forehead... with the night fighter zooming up to the top of the loop to set up for another run, Teddy had a moment to reflect on the situation...

The mission had been an easy one up to that point. Weather was good for takeoff. No 104 Squadron had been the lead formation with R for Roger flying leader position. P/O "Binky" William's navigation had been spot on and F/SGT Addington had moved from the radio compartment to the mid section to throw out the "window" bundles to confuse Jerry Radar. Flak had been light with just a couple of near misses. The Path Finder's had marked the target well. Teddy checked in with the Master Bomber and had been directed to make his run... F/SGT Gerry Hansen, Bomb Aimer had done a masterful job and dropped their load of bombs right on target, getting a "Well Done!" from the Master Bomber... They had turned for home and made it to zone 6 just past Dortmund when the "Uhu" had found them...

They hadn't seen the night fighter until it was too late... somehow he slipped in underneath them... "How had he done that?!!" thought Teddy "...he should not have been able to get into a firing position below us without being seen...

The "Uhu's" initial "Schrage Musik" attack scored 3 hits; the Starboard Wing #3 engine causing an oil leak; the Rear Centre Section, knocking out the guns in the mid upper turret; and causing Superficial Damage in the Bomb Bay. Teddy immediately went into a Corkscrew maneuver...

The "Uhu's" second attack came from 3 o'clock high, punching multiple 20mm and 30 mm cannon shell holes in the nose and destroying the Mk 14 Bomb Sight...

The "Uhu's" third attack had come from 9 o'clock low and had hit the feed racks for the tail turret causing feeding issues and jamming...

The "Uhu's" fourth attack came from 6 o'clock high, hitting the Radio Compartment and knocking out the radio.

Teddy called over the intercom, "Where is he at! ... Anybody have him? ..."

Checking off in turn each crewman reported "negative contact!". Sergeants Mackenzie and Morton, Tail Turret and Mid Upper Gunners, both reported their turrets were non-operational!

Teddy was scared! ... There was a Top of the Line German night fighter out there and he didn't know where it was. ... Number 3 Engine was leaking Oil and moving toward red line and a possible fire and Teddy was about to push the engine throttles to war emergency power while trying to dive away and into a cloud bank to get away...

Flying Inverted above the badly damaged Lancaster bomber, Oberst Helmut Lent, Kommodore of NJG-3 with 50 victories was watching the bomber frantically trying to reach the safety of the cloud bank ahead...

Lent's Radio Operator, Oberfeldwebel Werner Streib's voice came over the intercom... "It looks like this one will live to fight another day, Heer Oberst... I heard our cannons stop firing before you had completed the attack run..."

"Yes, Werner, unfortunately we are out of shells, but this one had spunk and he earned his freedom... I guess we should be content with the other two Lancaster Bombers we downed tonight." said Oberst Lent. "Call Control and check us off station. Maybe we can land, rearm and get back up before the last of the English have finished bombing Berlin and left the area."

R for Roger made it home without further contacts. The landing was safe. As they exited the bomber to load up in their lorry, SGT Morton (Tail Gunner) asked to speak with Teddy privately... walking away from the group a very embarrassed SGT Morton confessed to Teddy that it was his fault that the "Uhu" snuck up on them... He confessed he had to "Take a Whiz" and left the turret to go to the loo!! SGT Morton bought the beer that night at the club!

Roger would be ready for the next mission.

60% of the bombs were On Target earning a "Well Done" from the Master Bomber.

No Night Fighters were shot down

There were no casualties.

Photos below:

"R for Roger"

The Berlin Mission Map

Name: Bob Best

