

For those of you following Steve Dixon's 2nd Target For Tonight! Campaign game, the date for this mission is the night of 25/26 November 1943 and No. 104 Squadron is heading for Bristillerie, France. Here is "R for Roger's" mission AAR. Hope you enjoy!

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

25/26 Nov 43

Mission 13/ TGT - Bristillerie, France, Zone 5.

Formation - Middle 1/3.

Moon Phase: Crescent

**Crew:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Position</b>
Malcolm Fraser	Warrant Officer	Flight Engineer
William Cavendish	Warrant Officer	Bomb Aimer
Jacob Morton	Sergeant	Rear Gunner (1-Ju88c6, 2- ME-110 G4, 1-Do-217N2)
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)
Oscar Addington	Flight SGT	Wireless Operator/Gunner (Wnd) (Do-217J1)
Sidney Cartwright	Warrant Officer	Senior Erk

**"The Mission to Bristillerie, France" ....**

Three days made a big difference in the weather... that Channel storm had passed thru and now there was a lull that brought broken cloud cover up to 50%. That crescent moon also favored the bombers.

Teddy Fernsby and "Binky Williams were a bit perplexed over the targets... The photos they were looking at looked like a few buildings that were still in the construction stage... nothing to call for a maximum effort raid. The group commander had said at the briefing that while the aerial target recon photos did not show much Bomber Command was making a maximum effort against this site as part of an ongoing operation named "Crossbow". Initially the V-1 launching sites had storage buildings that were curved at the end to protect the contents against damage from air attacks. On aerial reconnaissance pictures these storage from above looked like snow skis ("ski sites"). An October 28, 1943 intelligence report regarding construction at Bois Carré near Yvrench prompted No. 170 Squadron RAF reconnaissance sortie E/463 on November 3 which detected "ski-shaped buildings 240-270 feet long." By November 1943, 72 of the ski sites had been located by Allied reconnaissance, It appeared that their target at Bristillerie was still "under construction".

Since the target lay almost due south of England, Bomber Command had plotted a target route that took the mission east of London and exited England near Brighton. Then a quick dash across the Channel and into France... It was about 125 miles or 40 minutes of flight time from Brighton to Bristillerie... a relatively close target in zone 5.

Weather at take off was good and there were no problems. "R for Roger" joined the middle of the middle of the bomber stream and headed southwest...

The Germans must have dispatched night fighters into England for tonight's raid. Teddy could see some aerial tracers being exchanged between dark shadows silhouetted in the night sky. On exchange culminated in a large explosion that lit up the sky for a few moments and then settled into darkness again...

The flight droned on... "Roger's" gunners called out an occasional RAF night fighter passing by, providing escort for the bomber stream. Then "Binky" Williams popped up next to Teddy and reported the turn to course 125 degrees in one minute.

"Roger" crossed the English coastline just north of Brighton in zone 4. Teddy was flying on the deck over the Channel. Navigation was pretty easy as Teddy could see the glow in the sky from the bombing at Bristillerie as they entered zone 5...

Over the intercom Teddy said "Ok Guys, going "feet dry" as "Roger" flashed across the French coast. Teddy pulled back on the wheel and "Roger" began to climb to bombing altitude.

That is when the Jerry night fighters found "Roger"! Fortunately it was a single seat Fw-190 A-5 that found us... Our crew was caught by surprise as heavy cannon shells ripped several holes in the fuselage as he swooped in from above... Fortunately, the cannon shells only caused superficial damage.

Teddy" made a hard turn into the attack to extend the night fighters turn radius to get back to the bomber ... This game the gunners more time to locate and setup another pass... As the "Butcher Bird" turned and circled back for a second pass Jerry Mackenzie in the Mid-Upper Turret hosed him down with a long burst from the twin 50 caliber MGs in his turret. It was a solid hit! Flames burst from the engine as the FW began to burn and then started to nose down in a dive... Jacob Morton in the tail turret called out the burning night fighter all the way to earth where it exploded in a ball of fire! No 'chute was seen.

The "Butcher Bird" must have had a partner directing him as almost immediately a second night fighter made another surprise attack... more heavy cannon shells struck "Roger" in the Front Centre section... this time the oxygen system took hits but still seemed to be functioning.

As the Do-217 N2 continued to close from 6 O'clock high it met a heavy return fire from both Mackenzie and Morton's twin 50s ... Both gunners were on-target and the Do-217 also began to burn... Malcolm Fraser watched the Do-217 crash into the ground ... A second kill tonight! Credit goes to Jacob Morton, the tail gunner.

F/SGT Addington begins dropping Window packets as they climbed into radar range for the AA guns in the target zone... Flak is light over the target and "Roger" avoids being targeted by the searchlights and AA Fire in the target zone.

Teddy contacted the Master Bomber and receives directions for the bomb run. Cavendish takes over control of "Roger" for the minute long straight and level run over the target, Cavendish releases the bomb load. All bombs are On-Target. F/SGT Addington takes the Target Strike photos and returns to dropping Window as "Roger" leaves the target... Post strike, the photos reveal that 30% of the bombs hit the targeted area.

"Roger" turns for home. Over the channel in zone 4 SGT MacKenzie, mid-upper Gunner spotted a German night fighter believed to be a Do-217 pass above "Roger". Calling him out on the intercom the other gunners prepare for the attack but the Do-217 does not attack, it appears to not have seen "Roger". A roll on the Random Events Table shows that Lady Luck smiles upon us!

The remainder of the flight back to England is uneventful and "Roger" lands safely.

Photos below:

"R for Roger"

The Bristillerie Mission Map

Mission Results:

Two Night Fighters shot down:

Fw-190 A-5/ credited to MacKenzie

Do-217 N2/credited to Morton

No crew members injured.

Bombs were - ON TARGET

Bomb Accuracy - 30% on target.

"R for Roger" will be ready for the next mission.

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Plane Name: "R for Roger"

