

For those of you following the second edition of Steve Dixon's Target For Tonight Campaign game, the date for this mission is the night of 10/11 October 1943 and No. 104 Squadron is heading for Leverkusen, Germany. Here is "R for Roger's" Peenemunde mission AAR. Hope you enjoy!

No. 104 Squadron (KX) Bomber Command - "R for Roger"  
10/11 Oct 43  
Mission 10/ TGT - Leverkusen, Germany, Zone 6.  
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 (1-Ju88c6, 2- ME-110 G4)
Alfie "Binky" Williams	Pilot Officer	Navigator
Theodore "Teddy" Fernsby	Flying Officer	Pilot
Jeremiah "Jerry" MacKenzie	Sergeant	Mid-Upper Gunner (2-Ju88c6, 1-Do-217)
Oscar Addington	Flight SGT	Wireless Operator/Gunner (Wnd) (Do-217J1)
Sidney Cartwright	Warrant Officer	Senior Erk

**"The Mission to Leverkusen"....**

The club was jumping tonight. An officer was pounding the piano keys, belting out an old favorite song. There were many of the bomber crews clustered around the piano. They were all trying to sing the old ballad. It was raucous and off key and many were drunk...

Teddy Fernsby sat at a table with his back to the wall slowly finishing a pint... the light was dim and the air was thick with cigarette smoke... He slowly looked around at all the new faces in the crowd... replacement crews for friends lost over the Continent.

"Were we ever that young?" Teddy asked looking over at "Binky" Williams, "R for Roger's navigator". "Binky" took a sip from his mug as he looked around at all the fresh young faces ... "They'll look like us in another month." he said... "Half of them won't be here in another month" replied Teddy... "Some of them are gone even before I ever learn their names." Teddy took another sip from his pint as they sat silently watching the new crews celebrating.

The crew of "R for Roger" was all veterans. They had been together for over 2 years and flew missions over Europe during the Dark Times of '41 and '42 where they learned their trade. They had trained new pilots and transitioned them to the Lancaster after two tours on combat operations. They even had Special Operations time... They were posted to 617 Squadron flying against the Ruhr Dams back in May. "Binky" had honed his navigation skills to an elite level while we flew "on the deck" low level missions in 617 Squadron... He and "Binky" had just used those navigation and low level flying skills in their latest mission to Leverkusen.

The take off had gone smoothly Teddy remembered. The weather had been mostly clear across the channel and into the Netherlands... Navigation was easy and with the weather being clear Teddy

was able to follow the bomber stream moving along above them. They crossed the coast south of Rotterdam while flying "on-the-deck". The gunners set up their turrets for forward strafing as they had done when making their runs on the Mohne Dam in the Ruhr last May...

Flying at 200 feet and 280 miles per hours Teddy was high enough to clear most obstacles and had passed over any anti-aircraft batteries so fast that they had no time to effectively target the Lancaster bomber. Teddy saw a few streams of small caliber AA tracers pass lazily to their rear as the gunners frantically swung their guns to track the big bomber. Teddy applied a bit of elevator and rudder to make "Roger" weave and bob a bit to make them harder to hit. Jacob Morton in the rear turret fired an occasional burst back at the rapidly receding AA crews ... just to keep them on their toes and distract them a bit he thought...

Teddy spotted a search light position ahead that had one of our bombers in it clutches... He steered "Roger" so that they would pass over the searchlight emplacement that was illuminating the big Lancaster bomber...

"All Right Gunners... Look Alert! Searchlight ahead ..." he said into the intercom "...Light 'em Up!"

AS "Roger" zoomed in at treetop level Cavendish, our bomb aimer and Addington our Wireless/belly turret gunner had opened fire... Teddy could hear the pounding of the machineguns and chuckled as he saw ant-like figures scabbling away from the searchlights as the tracers streams converged upon the lights... Morten in the quad tail turret picked up the fire as "Roger" streaked over head... Teddy heard Morton say "Scratch on Searchlight!"

"Roger" climbed into the low level altitude band as they entered zone six for the run on Leverkusen... "Roger" picked up a night fighter that was driven off by intense counter fire from "Roger's" gunners... there was no damage from the attack.

Turning at the IP, "Roger" was hit by accurate AA fire as he flew straight and level on the bomb run ... Shrapnel holed the fuselage in several places but there was no major damage... They dropped the bombs on target. Coming off of the target the bomber ahead of "Roger" was hit by heavy Flak ... It started a fire (likely oxygen fed) in the rear of the plane and then a night fighter swept in and made a mess of the wings... fuel was streaming out behind the bomber and began to ignite.

Teddy lowered the nose of "Roger", turned left and headed for the deck... Malcolm Fraser our flight engineer was looking out the canopy to our right ... "Looks like a Night Fighter got him." he said referring to the bomber just ahead of us on the bomb run that was breaking up ...

Teddy's thoughts were suddenly brought back to the here and now... "Binky" was getting up and trying to pull the Mug from his hand... "Hey!" he said "... do you want another one or not?" Teddy blinked a couple times and said "Yeah! ... On me" he said as he dug out a pound note and passed it to "Binky"...

Teddy's thoughts returned to the downed bomber that was ahead of them in the bomb run as "Binky" walked toward the bar... "P for Phoenix" he thought... They didn't know which bomber had gone down until their return to base... "P for Phoenix" was one of the new crews... Teddy sighed he hadn't known any of them ... Fraser had seen at least one 'Chute so Teddy hoped someone had survived...

"Binky" deposited the pints on the table and sat back down ... Teddy smiled and raised his mug ... "To all the new ones... may they learn quickly!"

"Hear, Hear!" said "Binky" raising his pint...

#### Mission Results:

No Night Fighters shot down.

No crew members injured.

60% of the bombs were dropped On Target.

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

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Plane Name: "R for Roger"

