

For those of you following Steve Dixon's 2nd *Target For Tonight!* Campaign game, the date for this mission is the night of 18/19 January 1944 and No. 104 Squadron is heading for Ossun France. Here is "R for Roger's" mission AAR. Hope you enjoy!

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

18/19 Jan '44

Mission 18/ TGT - Ossun, France, Zone 13. (Area Targets)

Formation - Last 1/3.

Moon Phase: Half 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

* Note: Cavendish KIA Mission 17/Replaced by F/SGT Gerry Hansen

"The Mission to Ossun, France...

"It was a Hell of a Mission!" thought Flying Officer Teddy Fernsley, Pilot and aircraft commander of "R for Roger". The only saving grace was that No 104 Squadron was flying Tail End Charley, the last position in the bomber stream assigned to the mission... Teddy was able to fly "Roger" at low level and On-The-Deck as we saw fit ... The thinking being that the bomber might avoid some of the night fighters and AA guns who would be firing on bombers flying at higher altitudes. The weather was clear with scattered clouds up to 50% along the route and the moon was half full making the bombers stand out against the clouds for the searchlights and AA gunner, and the night fighters too along the route. Teddy thought that he could slip Roger in on the deck and with "Binky" Williams' excellent navigation they might make it there and back without too much trouble. The half moon would help their new bomb aimer, Gerry Hansen find the target, especially after the entire bomber stream had taken a wack at it and there was sure to be fires burning so it would be easy to follow the Path Finder Master Bomber's directions... That was the plan anyway...

The takeoff had gone well and it was an easy thing to follow the bomber stream across the channel and then down the length of France to Ossun, which was not far from the Spanish border. German AA gun crews had been alerted and while the bomber stream attempted to avoid known heavy flak concentrations it was hard to avoid small caliber guns protecting supply dumps and troop positions that were moving in to prepare for the invasion that everyone knew was coming.

Flying at 200 feet Teddy had enough time to react to any flight path hazards that the crew was watching for and it also made it harder for AA guns to get a bead on them as they flashed over head. Roger was there and gone from view before they could lay accurate fire on the bomber. It also gave protection from searchlights and night fighters trying for a belly shot with those "Schrage Musik" cannons... but some of those wild shots by the AA gunners and the night fighters hit home. Roger took an amazing number of hits but kept on flying. Most damage was superficial but Roger did take some hits to internal systems that would require repairs...

Teddy was standing under the fuselage of "Roger" with their Senior Erk Crew Chief WO Sidney Cartwright. He was pointing out the damage and they were discussing the repairs needed to get Roger ready for the next mission... Roger would need a lot of skin patching to cover over a hundred small and large caliber hits that he had taken during the mission.

It had actually gone well, Roger was attacked by night fighters in Zone 5 and 7 as it was easier to spot the big bomber from above when Roger was flying over ground fog and haze. Several zones were clear weather and night fighters attacked them on three different occasions on the return flight. Both gunners, MacKenzie and Morton made claims and were granted Probable Kills as they were not confirmed. Morton brought down a Ju-88 C-6 in zone 5. F/SGT Addington was able to confirm that the night fighter burned, then crashed into the ground.

Over the target, Roger's new bomb aimer F/SGT Gerry Hansen had done well... He was able to get on target and dropped 60% of our bombs in the target area, or at least that was what the target photos Addington took during the bomb run showed... He did get a "Well Done" from the Master Bomber...

Teddy and Cartwright was finishing up their discussion on repairing the holes in Roger's skin when WO Fraser the Flight Engineer and Gerry Hansen drove up in a lorry ... They hopped out and began unloading some electrical components... "For repairs to damaged components" said Fraser as Teddy and Cartwright gave them a hand unloading the equipment...

Roger would be ready for the next mission.
60% of the bombs were On Target
One (1) Ju-88 C6 was shotdown by Morton
There were no casualties.

Photos below:

"R for Roger"

The Ossun Mission Map

Lancaster with shell and shrapnel damage

Name: Bob Best

