

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 5/6 September 1943 and No. 104 Squadron is heading for Peenemunde, Germany. Here is "R for Roger's" Peenemunde mission AAR. Hope you enjoy!

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

5/6 Sep 43

Mission 09/ TGT - Peenemunde, Germany, Zone 12.

Formation - Last 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, 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 Peenemunde" ....**

Flying Officer Teddy Fernsby, command pilot of R for Roger was leaning against the wall in the de-briefing hut listening to the young Intelligence Warrant Officer asking FO "Binky" Williams, our navigator to repeat part of his report on the disposition of C for Canuck... Teddy exhaled a long column of smoke from his cigarette and let his mind drift back over the mission...

There had been a lot of pre-mission chatter going on with the crews from R for Regent, C for Canuck and P for Phoenix while they waiting for the briefing to start ... He remembered "Chuck" Morton the pilot of Canuck coming up to him and asking about mission protocols. This was Canuck's and Morton's second mission and Morton had some of the "New Kid" jitters... Teddy offered some advice and then the call to "Attention" came and the briefing started.

After the order to "Take Seats", the Briefing Officer began... "Gentlemen, this raid is absolutely necessary and if we don't succeed tonight you will be back tomorrow night and every night until you ARE successful. Peenemunde is a centre for developing the latest night fighter radar systems, so it's in your own interest to get it right first time! Let me make it quite clear how important security is about this mission. If the Op is scrubbed and the target leaks out then the person responsible will be summarily shot!"

"Binky" had looked over at Teddy with a grim face and whispered "... Yeah, they probably would, too!"

Teddy had last seen Canuck heavily engaged with a night fighter as Canuck came off the target after dropping their bombs. One engine was on fire when Canuck was crossing over the North Sea coast of Germany. Both Teddy and "Binky" had seen Canuck and commented that it didn't

look good for them getting back to England. Then Canuck turned Northeast toward neutral Sweden ... "Binky" took a sighting on Canuck's new course and entered the event in their mission log. Teddy had mentally wished them luck and hoped they had made it and did not ditch in the Baltic Sea somewhere...

Teddy's thoughts returned to the present as he took another drag off of his cigarette. He could hear that the young de-briefer who was now taking with Jerry MacKenzie... Teddy could hear Jerry telling about seeing a Lancaster... probably R for Regent ... explode and light up the night sky for miles. MacKenzie said this occurred just north of the Frisian Islands... Teddy remembered seeing the blinding flash of light and thinking "... there will be empty chairs in the mess tonight".

The Met Officer had predicted Good Weather for tonight's Mission with either clear conditions or maybe a little ground fog and haze over the water an 50% cloud cover at the English coast.

"He had been right..." thought Teddy... With those kinds of conditions, Teddy and "Binky" had decided to fly at low level and "On the Deck" to the target. "Binky" was a very skilled navigator and looking up into the clear night sky they would be able to pick out a Lancaster or two and basically follow them to the target. Since No. 104 Squadron was flying "tail-end Charlie" they hoped any night fighters would be looking for bombers well above their flight path and they would be "lost" to Germany Radar in the "Ground Clutter" on their scopes. R for Roger could slip into the target area unmolested... Or, at least Teddy had hoped they could.

It was a good takeoff and R for Roger had followed P for Phoenix into the evening twilight. R for Roger crossed the coast to the north of Great Yarmouth and had taken up a position below and behind P for Phoenix...

Back in the moment Mackenzie's voice drones on about the exploding Lancaster as Teddy's mind slips back into the mission...

Teddy remembers that shortly after R for Regent exploded MacKenzie reported seeing a Do217J trying to circle around into the blind spot of P for Phoenix... He had called it out ... and then MacKenzie called out a "Mossie" (RAF Night Fighter) that got the jump on the "Jerry" Night Fighter... Flames erupted from the Jerry night fighter and he trailed a long stream of fire until he crashed into the sea. Teddy had seen the final plunge of the burning Jerry night fighter. The vision played like a cinema film before his mind's eye as it hit the sea and exploded...

Teddy was jarred back to reality as "Binky" nudged him in the ribs ... looking around he saw Binky offering him the ashtray ... Teddy must have had a blank stare on his face as Binky pointed to his cigarette that had a long ash on it and was about to fall onto the table... Teddy nodded his Thanks, took the ashtry and ground out his cigarette...

William Cavendish was speaking now ... The de-briefer must have just asked him about the bomb run... Cavendish was saying "... Window and Mandrel did their job ... SGT Addington, I think was throwing it out ... " He paused as Oscar Addington, wireless operator nodded his head in agreement... Cavendish continued " ...The Pathfinders did a great job placing offset TI's on

the target. The Master Bomber told us to ignore the dummy fires to the south of the target. I did and we were able to drop 50% of our bombs on the target ... I think the photo boys will confirm that from the bomb shots..." said Cavendish.

Addington broke in "Yeah ... On the way in here I dropped the film at the photo developing hut and its processing now, but it looked good from the bomb bay".

Malcolm Fraser the flight engineer started speaking ... "Just after we dropped we got hit by some light AA fire... there was no serious...."

Teddy's mind's eye drifted back to the post target turn ... "No Serious damage, Eh!!... " he thought. "Well, no serious damage to "Roger" but I about crapped my pants when the shrapnel from the explosions ricocheted off of the instrument panel and lodged in the padding on the seat between my legs!" He reached into the pocket of his flight suit and felt the jagged piece of metal about an inch long that almost caused him a serious wound!"

Suddenly ... Teddy looked around ... everyone was quiet and looking at him expectantly... Then "Binky's" voice boomed out "Well, what are you waiting for? Are you going to show them the piece of Jerry Metal that almost ruined you Manhood!!!" To a chorus of laughter and some "Yeah, lets see it!" calls Teddy took the piece of shrapnel out of his pocket and dropped it on the table where it gave off a wicked glint in the light ... There were a chorus of ohh's and aww's and a few rude comments...

Teddy said "Alright Now! Enough about me ... I think it's time to congratulate Jerry MacKenzie on his Downing of that Me-110 G4 that tried to nail us as we crossed the Jerry coast for home!" There was a chorus of "Good Job!" calls ...

Turning to the young de-briefer ... "Well Warrant Officer, are we done here? I think it's time for Pints at the Club! for us all"

Mission Results:

One Me-110 G4 Night Fighters were shot down MacKenzie.

No crew members injured.

50% bombs were dropped on the target.

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

Name: Bob Best

Email: b52bob@prodigy.net

Plane Name: "R for Roger"

