

Steve Dixon's 3rd Target For Tonight! Campaign game has started! The date for this mission is the night of 3/4 April 1944 and No. 104 Squadron is heading for St. Valery, France. Here is "R for Roger's" mission AAR. Hope you enjoy!

No. 104 Squadron (KX) Bomber Command - "R for Roger"
3/4 Apr '44
Mission 2/ TGT - St. Valery, France, Zone 5. (Gun Positions)
Formation - Middle 1/3.
Moon Phase: Crescent Moon

Crew:

Name	Rank	Position
Malcolm Fraser	Warrant Officer	Flight Engineer (Wnd)
Gerry Hansen	Flight SGT	Bomb Aimer (MB - Well Done Mission #2)
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 St. Valery...

WO Sidney Cartwright, Senior ERK got "R for Roger" repaired mission #2. He assured Roger's Command Pilot, FO "Teddy" Fernsby and Flight Engineer WO Malcolm Fraser that the engine "...had been gone over with a fine toothed comb" and there should not be any issues this time. "Teddy" handed Cartwright a bottle Glenlivet Scotch... "Thanks for the extra effort to make sure it's right for the mission, Sidney... we all appreciate it!"

Teddy and Fraser took "Roger" for a quick test flight before the mission briefing to insure everything was right for tonight's mission...

No. 104 Squadron would be paying a visit to St. Valery France to go after coastal gun battery positions... While being told not to speculate everyone knew that these short missions into France were signaling that an invasion of Europe was coming soon... The weather had closed in ... a big storm from the North Sea was passing thru the channel ... "Stormy" the weather briefer said they should expect poor weather almost the entire mission with the brunt of the storm hitting England about the time of landing ...

The crew exchanged grim looks at the prospects of rough weather... Mid Upper Gunner Jerry Mackenzie quipped "Well at least Jerry will have it just as bad as us"... No one laughed...

The mission was planned to fly the first three zones over England... While Jerry Radar and signal intelligence units would know a raid was forming up it might be assumed they were heading to bomb U-Boat targets in southern France... until they made that quick turn toward the French coast that is!

"Stormy" said there was a good possibility the mission would be recalled because of the weather. As it was 100% cloud cover in zones 3 and 4, the wireless operators should keep a sharp radio watch.

No. 104 Squadron was flying in the middle of the bomber stream. Teddy was hoping they could fly in the low altitude range and follow the leading bombers into the target. He was hoping Jerry would also have committed most of their on-station night fighters before "Roger" arrived at the target.

Takeoff was "bumpy". High winds buffed the big Lancaster bomber as the climbed to altitude. The crew received a major scare when they almost collided with another bomber while climbing. Fortunately, Teddy was able to pull off a diving turn to the left as a big black shadowy form passed close overhead on a collision course... it was a very near miss!

WO Cartwright's skills were as good as advertised. There were no mechanical issues for the mission and "Stormy's" prediction of a Mission Recall failed to materialize...

PO "Binky" Williams' navigation was spot on. Roger crossed the French Coastline in zone 5 just as planned. Oscar Addington moved to the rear centre section to begin dropping chaff bundles in the target zone. He did a good job because we had no night fighter contacts over the target or on the return to England.

AAA fire was sporadic in the target zone. Teddy checked in with the Master Bomber, who gave him the bombing instructions... The weather created problems for the big bomber on the bomb run from the buffeting and high winds but F/SGT Gerry Hansen, Roger's bomb aimer managed to put 90% of the bombs on target. (Great Dice! - Rolled an 11 to start.) This earned a "Well Done!" from the Master Bomber. The crew was anticipating dividing up the "Bombing Target Pool Money"!

The landing was dicey, but Roger made it back to England without incident or enemy contacts!

Roger would be ready for the next mission.
90% of the bombs were On Target.
No Night Fighters were shot down
There were no casualties.

Photos below:

"R for Roger"

The St. Valery Mission Map

Name: Bob Best