

Target for Tonight Steve Dixon's online campaign  
Mission 8

Aircraft: Berlin or Bust 102 Squadron

Exhibit number IWM/BBCOMM/ 2730  
Tail wheel from a Dornier 217N-2 nightfighters

This item was recovered from the astro dome of a 102 Squadron Lancaster "Berlin or Bust" on its return from a mission to bomb a communications and radar installation outside of Berneval France on the night of 1st/ 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1944.

The Lancaster had already successfully beaten off an attack by a Ju 88 nightfighter over the Channel and had survived heavy flak both into and coming away from the target. 40% of their bombs landed on target despite the hazy conditions.

As they turned for home they were attacked from 9 o'clock high by the Dornier nightfighter which punctured the port wing fuel tanks but failed to start a fire but not before the Mid Upper Gunner had scored hits on their attacker causing its landing gear to deploy. The Lancaster took immediate evasive action as the nightfighter narrowly missed a collision with the bomber. However on their safe return to base they discovered that the nightfighter had left behind its tail wheel in their astro dome and that the near miss could have been so much worse.