

Target for Tonight – Steve Dixon’s online campaign  
Mission 16, Dessau, Germany 5th/6th May 1945

102 Squadron, Lancasters

“Well at least the planners have listened to us about routing us over friendly territory at last Skipper!” Nigel, our navigator, was still nursing a bit scratch from a piece of flak in his backside.

“Contrails forming Skipper. Can you put another bob in the gas meter, its ruddy freezing back here.” That is our tail gunner Ian.

“Well stop sticking your head owt ov the winder, you perisher.” George, our MUG chipped in.

Up ahead the cloud is stacking up to the east of Brussels.

“Turn 45 degrees onto course zero 52 skipper.”

“Let’s hope that this cloud breaks up a bit by the time we reach the target. OK chaps test your guns bandit country up ahead.”

“Break left! Junkers trying to sneak in below our tail.” “Good show Ian. Give him what for!”  
“Ruddy marvellous, my son. He’s a goner. Fuselage cracked open. No chutes.”

After the adrenaline rush things quieten down and we carry on our merry way unmolested across Germany. So it’s sometime later that we see the target glowing in the distance as the first wave has been in and plastered the target.

On the run in there are no nightfighters but bags of flak. One burst explodes right in front of us and red hot pieces of sharp metal patter against the cockpit like a deadly hailstorm but nothing serious is damaged.

“OK its all yours Paul and don’t try any jump shots this time.” Our west country bomb aimer is a demon with a croquet mallet.

“Target mostly obscured by ground fog and smoke but I’ll do my best.”

Shortly after and C Cobblers rears up as the bombs fall away.

“Looks good, skipper.”

“OK lets go home.”

Flak bursts above and below us knocking out our Monica tail warning instruments.

“Break open the cocoa we are back over Belgium and it’s a long trip home.

50% on target. Ju 88C6 confirmed.