

Target for Tonight Steve Dixon's online campaign
Mission 7 Target – Noisy-Le-Sec, France 22/23 April 1944

Aircraft: Berlin or Bust 102 Squadron

“That’s it chaps. Another successful mission under our belts. Jolly well done. Pickup bus is on its way.”

Flying Officer Brian Hastings unplugged his intercom and took off his mask and flying helmet. Taking a deep breath he could just smell the fresh air coming in as the hatches were opened. Making his way aft over the main spar he could see the holes made by the flak that had caught them as they crossed the French coast and further back the hole in the deck where a nightfighter shell had exploded taking out the H2S radar on their run into the target area before it was driven off by Bert their tail gunner. Sneaky basket had tried to creep in under their tail but Bert had given him what for alright.

As he stepped down the ladder he caught a glimpse of just how badly their number 4 engine had been hit and they were damned lucky, judging from the scorched fabric on the starboard wing that their fuel tanks hadn’t blown up. He reached up and tore loose the flapping fabric. “Moths!” he said to P.O. Peter Ellwood, his Flight Engineer. “Yes Skipper. Have to see if we can get some moth balls fitted.”

“Jeff! Come here you horrible little Bomb aimer you. Why the hell did you make us go around a second time before dropping our bombs? Were you trying to pick up some mademoiselle?”

“Well, it was like this see. With the H2S on the blink I had to be sure that we were spot on target, didn’t I. What with all those houses close by the railyards and what with the C.O. telling us to be extra careful like.”

“Couldn’t you see the yellow T.I.s like the Master Bomber was telling us?”

“Yeah but I could also see that there a hell of a cross wind, couldn’t I. So I needed to be sure, like.”

“Well that Ju88 very nearly made sure of us as you were busy taking a Cook’s Tour of Paris. I hope that it was worth it.” (*Photographic evidence shows that 52% on target*)

“Harry what was it that attacked us over The Channel coming back? The silly beggar almost landed in my lap.” (*Harry is our Mid Upper Gunner*).

“He219 A-0 one of their new nightfighters. Has more bloody masts than HMS Victory I reckon. Didn’t seem to do him much good though as his shells went wide. I think that I managed to get close enough to him to frighten him off though.”

“OK chaps the bus is here. Climb aboard and watch your language in front of the WAAF driver 10 bob fine if you make her blush.”