

Target for Tonight Steve Dixon's online campaign
Mission 5 Target Wanne-Eickel, Germany 3rd / 4th July 1944
102 Squadron J Jelly

From the diary of Greta Lemper:

I remember being so frightened when I stepped down from the train at the Wanne-Eickel station.

It was just my second night on duty as a Flakhelfer with a flak battery based in Dorneburger Park that the bombers arrived. At 1am I heard the drone of engines and then against the clouds I saw the silhouettes of the big four-engined bombers. Coloured flares streamed down hanging in the air on their parachutes marking the point for the bombers that would follow to drop their bombs. Our bright blue searchlight searched for a possible target directed by radar apparatus. The noise was terrifying as battery after battery opened fire then the bombs started to fall and the shock of the bomb blast followed immediately after by the noise of the explosions and dust and smoke filled the air. Very soon the heat from the building that had caught fire produced a whirlwind which sucked the oxygen out of the air. The light turned from a hellish red to bright yellow and then to a bright white that hurt the eyes. Our searchlight transfixed one of the bombers and pinned it against the sky while our battery fired and bomber simply ceased to be - blown apart by its own bomb load.

The next day part of the wreckage was located and a letter J was the only identifiable part. The bodies of the crew were never found.