

A-Able flew most of the distance to the target at low level, rising to bombing altitude upon approach to the target.

Spotted He-219 over Channel, en route to target. Tail gunner Sgt Rai shot down the enemy fighter by destroying its right engine, causing a fire that engulfed the aircraft.

Crossing the French coast an Me-110 attacked, but missed, and did not return.

Did not see another enemy fighter until well into France. Another He-219 was spotted. Tail gunner Rai and Engineer Sgt Mather fired at the Heinkel. Sgt Mather's rounds struck true, hitting the enemy aircraft's fuel tank, causing a fire that destroyed the enemy aircraft.

Flak was frequent, but inaccurate on flight into the target.

In the target zone a Dornier 217 attacked, knocking out #3 engine, lightly wounding Pilot F/O Hill, and seriously wounding MUG Sgt Rayden. Other damage included oxygen systems being damaged or knocked out, nose heat knocked out, damage to ammunition feeds, the tail guns knocked out, and other minor structural damage, before the fighter departed.

Even with the autopilot bomb mechanism damaged, Bomb Aimer P/O Hardman dropped the bombs on target for 40% accuracy.

As A-Able left the target area she dropped to the deck for the return flight home.

Enemy night fighters harassed A-Able for the next 150 miles.

First, another Dornier attacked, knocking out the rest of the aircraft's oxygen supplies as well as the autopilot.

Another Heinkel made a running attack but missed, and was not seen again.

The coup de grace was by a Junkers 88. Making three passes at the bomber, the enemy knocked out both dinghys, hits on ammo feed mechanisms, structural and control system hits, and finally a hit to the port outboard fuel tank, which caught fire.

Flight Engineer Sgt Mather went down with the plane. The rest of the crew bailed out. Tail Gunner Sgt Rai did not survive the jump. MUG Sgt Rayden evaded capture, and was rescued by the French Resistance. The remaining crew were captured and interred.