

AAR for C-Charlie, Halifax of 103 Squadron

**After Action Report – C-Charlie
103 Squadron, 15 Group
Halifax**

**Campaign 3, Mission 9
11/12 MAY 1944
Villeneuve-St Charles, France, Rail
On/Off Target: DNB**

AAR

Tonight's mission picked up where the last mission left off – quietly. Not until well into France did C-Charlie see or be seen by enemy aircraft, searchlights, or flak.

Passing Amiens C-Charlie was found by a roving Junkers 88 C6, with a veteran pilot. Fully equipped with Lichtenstein, Naxos, and Flensburg systems, as well as cannons in a Schräge-Musik array, there was little chance the Halifax bomber would escape its attention.

On its first pass the Junkers damaged the bomber's port flap, port dinghy, and the tail gunner's suit heat.

Pilot F/Lt Reid began defensive maneuvers, in an attempt to avoid the enemy attacks as well as try to lose the enemy in the scattered cloud cover.

As the Zerstörer swung around for a second attack pass, F/Sgt Palm, in the tail, fired at the approaching fighter. Unsuccessfully.

Undeterred by the defensive fire, the enemy pilot made another Schräge attack, causing minor damage.

F/Lt Reid continued his evasive flying, but to no effect, as the Zerstörer once again lined up for another attack. F/Sgt Palm once again fired at the enemy, with the same disheartening results.

This enemy pass raked the port and starboard wings. #2 engine was knocked out, and the port outboard fuel tank was pierced, and the fuel ignited. [Previous Lady Luck was used, to no avail, as the same result was reached.]

With the port wing burning, and the fire spreading up the wing to the fuselage, F/Lt Reid sounded the alarm, and the crew bailed out, over France.

F/Lt Reid was captured, as were four other crewmen, and interred as POWs. Two crew escaped capture and were found by local Maquis. Both were eventually repatriated to England.