

Target for Tonight  
“The Phantom of the Ruhr” - Lancaster Mk 1

Multiplayer Campaign 4 Mission 16 Total Campaign Missions 76  
1945 Mission 16  
Dessau, Germany - night of March 5th morning of March 6th, 1945

The Phantom of the Ruhr’s 19th Combat Mission.

Full Moon – weather on takeoff 'poor'.

The Phantom is crewed by:

Pilot	Rueben Woodyear	P/O
Wireless	Harvey Rumble	F/SGT
Tail Gunner	Roman Castevet	SGT
Navigator	Owen Hanks	WO
Mid-Upper	Harry Goodyear	F/SGT
Bomb Aimer	Peter Alderman	WO
Engineer	Harvey Lewis	WO

Operational tempo is picking up. Only one day of r&r between missions this time. The weather is still horrible and the moon is still full but I guess the powers that be think we are having successes, so the show must go on. Our target for tonight is the city of Dessau which houses the sprawling Hugo Junkers plant and airfields. The last two missions have also seen an uptake in night fighter attacks including that new German jet aircraft, the Me 262. On our last mission, we lost two of our squadron’s planes and crews. They were good friends.

At 7:00 pm, we line up and take off. The Phantom of the Ruhr is 6<sup>th</sup> aircraft in the lead bomber stream. Operational altitude will be 20,000 feet. Clouds are 10/10 over our airfield. Soon we North of Amsterdam and the clouds begin to clear to 5/10. By 11:30 pm, we enter German airspace just north of Frankfurt. Bomb Aimer Alderman has been dropping Window to help confuse any German long range radar systems that we haven’t already knocked out.

By 1 am, we are west of Leipzig and approaching the target zone. Peter stops dropping Window and returns to the nose of the plane and his bomb aimer position. Ahead of us we see fires and massive flares from our pathfinders. More searchlights and flak than we’ve seen in a while. The Junkers factory is critical to the production of German aircrafts like the Ju88 so it will be well protected.

Flak bursts all around us but the Phantom slips through unscathed. “Bomb doors open. Target in sight. Bombs dropped.” Announces Peter. He estimates that a good 50% of the bombs fell on target. Negligible thermal turbulence. The bomb doors close and we swing about to our return course.

Near Kassel we begin leaving contrails but they soon leave us.

The return trip is uneventful and by 8 am we touch down at our airfield. Another mission completed.