

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

Multiplayer Campaign 4 Mission 6 Total Campaign Missions 66
1944 Mission 6
Munster, Germany - night of November 11, morning of November 12, 1944

The Phantom of the Ruhr's 9th Combat Mission.

Crescent Moon – weather on takeoff 'good'.

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	Archie Smothers	WO
Engineer	Harvey Lewis	WO

After a perfect take off in good weather, The Phantom of the Ruhr takes her position as the 8th plane in the middle formation of the bomber stream. Slowly the bomber stream gains altitude as they leave Norwich behind in the darkness.

As we head out over the sea, Archie takes up his ancillary position as Window dropper. The weather is clear and the night sky is beautiful. In the distance, other bombers can be seen dropping the Window foil down to the water below to try and fool German Kammhuber Line ground-based long range radar systems.

Harry in the mid-upper turret reports that the power is out for electronic traverses for his turret. Harvey, our flight engineer, heads back to help Harry with the situation. 30 minutes later, just as we approach the Netherland's coast, it is reported that the turret's power has been restored. Harvey heads back to his station.

Over the Netherlands, our bombers begin leaving contrails at 22,000 feet. Suddenly search light batteries pick up our planes. One lands right on the Phantom effectively blinding everyone in the cockpit with its sharp blue/white light. Flak bursts around us as Rueben takes evasive action which puts us back into our element – total darkness. We did lose over 1,200 feet by performing the maneuver but in 20 minutes we are back at our operational altitude.

All is quiet until we begin our line up on Munster. The bombers ahead of us have made the city into a hellscape of firestorms, searchlights and flak bursts. At least we stopped leaving contrails. We can see huge flaktowers with searchlights and flak guns mounted on them. Archie is back in his bomb aimer's position.

There is 5/10 cloud cover over the city but the smoke from the fires is everywhere. The bombs land 60% in the target area. Moderate thermal turbulence from the explosions below us shake the

aircraft as the bomb doors are closed and the plane turns to its return course. “Jolly good show, Archie! I’m buying you a pint when we get back,” exclaims Rueben.

The return trip is uneventful. Soon it’s debriefing, breakfast and later that afternoon, pints at the pub since we’re not flying tomorrow.