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

Multiplayer Campaign 4 Mission 10 Total Campaign Missions 70
1945 Mission 10
Hanover, Germany - night of January 10 morning of January 11, 1945

The Phantom of the Ruhr's 13th Combat Mission.

Crescent 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	Archie Smothers	WO
Engineer	Harvey Lewis	WO

The Phantom has been fully repaired after our landing gear failure 8 days ago. This time we are heading to Hanover for an area bombing attack. The German counterattack in the Ardennes is beginning to faulter; its now being called "The Battle of the Bulge".

At 7 pm, we take to the freezing night sky with 5/10 cloud cover and, soon, we join the bomber stream at 23,000 feet. The Phantom is plane number 4 in the forward bomber stream.

As we approach just north of Amsterdam, the 5/10 cloud cover gives way to fog. The sound of the 4 Merlin Type XX engines is calming for the crew. "Keep your eyes open gunners. We are now over enemy occupied territory" commands Pilot Woodyear. Archie moves from his bomb aimer's position in the nose of the plane to the rear hull dump shoot. He begins dropping bundles of Window in an attempt to fool the Germans' ground-based radar systems.

Soon we are over land near Groningen. Here and there we see searchlights stabbing back and forth through the night. We begin leaving contrails which is not a great thing for a night bomber to do.

"Good teamwork chaps. Nice shooting both of you," says Woodyear.

In the distance, we see fires from the 3 bombers ahead of us. We line up and drop our bomb load. 30 % of our bombs land on target.

"Let's get home boys" says Woodyear as he banks the plane to its return course.

Archie, his bomb aiming completed, resumes his Window dropping.

The clouds clear over the Netherlands on our return trip. Landing is uneventful. Mission 13 was in the bag.