

Target for Tonight
"The 'ell Cat" - Lancaster Mk 1

Multiplayer Campaign 3 Mission 17 Total Campaign Missions 57
1944 Mission 37
Aunay-sur-Odon, France - night of August 5th morning of August 6th, 1944

The 'ell Cat's 19th Combat Mission.

Full Moon – weather on take off 'good'.

Tonight The 'ell Cat again takes to the dark skies as the third plane in the middle formation of Lancasters. Our target on this Summer evening are the German troops marshaling at the city of Aunay-sur-Odon at the crossroads of the Caen and Vire and between Bayeux and Falaise. The city had already been hit by another wing back in June but the Germans have cleared the debris and have massed troops and armor for a counterattack into Normandy. We must wipe them out.

The moon is full and the weather is good as we form into our bomber stream at 28,000 feet. As we head past Canterbury and out over the water, Bomb Aimer Evans heads to his 2nd position to drop Window which will hopefully confuse the Axis long range radar systems.

Soon our bomber stream is flying just west of the coast near Calais. Flight Engineer Collier informs us of a slight fluctuation in the hydraulic pressure of the starboard flaps but he says it sorted itself out, but he will keep a close eye on it and inform the ground crew when we get back to base.

West of Rouan we make our turn to approach Aunay-sur-Odon. Searchlights are illuminating the 100% cloud cover as flak begins to burst around us. Evans heads back to the nose of the Lanc. Suddenly the 'ell Cat rocks from a flak hit but its just superficial damage to the right wing.

Just as we leave the flak zone, tracers from a night fighter stream past our bomber from below and to the right. We see a Ju88 C6 with vertically mounted cannons that the German's call Jazz Music. Had the pilot been just slightly more to the left it would have hit us! The Ju88 disappears into the night as Pilot Officer Dixon takes evasive action. The Ju88 doesn't return.

Soon we see tracers in the distance and one of our bombers is on fire and goes down. Poor bastards. It looks like the night fighter found a victim. Glad it wasn't us.

Now we are on the bomb run. In the distance, we see flames and blue tinted flares dropped by the pathfinders. A searchlight locks on us and more flak bursts around us. The 'ell Cat's right wing is blown completely off and she spins out of control! No one makes it out. The 'ell Cat smashes into the ground with no survivors.

The End