

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

Multiplayer Campaign 4 Mission 15 Total Campaign Missions 75  
1945 Mission 15  
Dortmund, Germany - night of March 2nd morning of March 3rd, 1945

The Phantom of the Ruhr’s 18th 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

Word came down that Archie has been stabilized after getting wounded from a Me 262 attack on our bomber during our last mission. Tonight’s target is an area bombing of the city of Dortmund, Germany. It is the 9<sup>th</sup> largest city in Germany and a critical hub to resupply German troops in the Rhine region.

The moon is full with snow, high winds and 5/10 cloud cover. Not ideal take off weather but the war waits for no one.

Our new bomb aimer, Peter Alderman, has fit right in with our crew. The fact that he has 23 missions under his belt makes us feel confident in his skills.

Take off is a little rough but we are soon taking to the night sky as the 7<sup>th</sup> aircraft in the bomber stream and we are climbing nicely. As we join the bomber stream, our midupper gunner, Harry Goodyear, reports that his turret has frozen up. He’s going to try and fix it. Our flight engineer, Harvey Lewis, heads back to help. 22 minutes later they report that the turret is working again but a little slow in its traversal. The gunners test their machine guns.

As we are over the sea, Peter leaves his nose position and begins dumping Window out of the Phantom’s dump shoot.

We are flying true and straight at 22,000 feet.

As we fly over the Netherlands, just north of Amsterdam, the Phantom is pummeled from cannons fired under it. A Ju88 C 6 with Jazz Musik upward firing cannons has hit us without being detected! Our compass system is knocked out (-2 on navigation); there is superficial damage to our bomb bay; our port wing aileron is destroyed; the oxygen system in the tail turret is out so Roman moves out of the turret and plugs his oxygen mask into the center section near the mid upper gun turret.

The Ju88 comes back around and this time he's spotted by our midupper gunner at 3 o'clock high. Harry shoots his .303 machine guns. Harry's shots go wide but the Ju88 hits us for superficial damage on the starboard wing and superficial damage to the rear fuselage. The Ju88 disappears into the night.

As we approach Dortmund, we spot the flares dropped by the pathfinders. Peter takes over his bomb aimer position and the bombs are dropped. There is a notable lack of flak and searchlights. 50% of the bombs are on target. Thermal turbulence was negligible. We turn towards home.

Pilot Officer Woodyear announces that he's taking us down to 9000 feet so that we can get off the oxygen and so that Roman can use the tail guns again if needed.

We get a low fuel warning light – looks like the automatic fuel transfer pump has failed. Probably damaged when the night fighter hit us. Peter is assigned to man the manual fuel pump and soon the fuel is transferred with much arm power.

A few hours later, we land back at base and examine the damage to the bomber from the outside. We were lucky tonight.