

It had been a while since we were sent up to bomb Jerry. Tonight's briefing was short. Target for tonight, Vegesack, Germany was the target. And unless something serious came up, there would be no mission recall.

SASSY and the 104th took off in the lead third of tonight's bomber stream to our designated target. We gained high altitude without any incidents or contact with enemy. As we flew most of tonight's mission over the sea. Encountered two E/A prior to making our turn for the continent, neither inflicted any serious damages to us; one bit of something grazed my neck causing some bleeding, but other than it stinging like all blazes, I was not seriously wounded. One Jerry did take out the heat in the nose and oxygen to wireless operator's position. As a result, I dropped SASSY to a low altitude (1500m) as we crossed the coast and angled for target city. On approach to Vegesack, we were lit up by searchlights, there was no contact with E/A, but a Mossie did flash by in front of us in the searchlights glare, with his guns blazing at something to our port 1:30. There was a lot of flak, but most of it seemed to be exploding way above us. SASSY was not hit by flak. For whatever reasons, we believe our bomb drop was off target, but some hit in intended zone.

We turned for our return and made it back out over the sea before we were attacked by a single E/A, an Me110. Sgt. Rogers spotted 'em up at 12 high diving at us. Neither our mid upper guns or nose guns hit 'em, and he put several hits on us. That Jerry must have been one of their "Experten" because he made runs at us three more times, popping up unseen each time, and even with our frantic maneuvering, kept putting bullets and shells into us. The worse of it all was he killed Sgt. Manson at the tail guns, and shot up engine 4, rendering it inoperable. He finally disappeared. I suspect he was out of ammunition. After Cpl. Upbridge ran through an intercom check to see if we were all intact and heard nothing from Sgt. Manson, Cpl. Upbridge went back to check on tail gunner Sgt. Manson and reported he was dead, his neck severely cut and blood everywhere in the tail turret.

We flew home ok on three engines and landed safely without incident. An ambulance came for Sgt. Masons body and I took myself to the infirmary to get my neck looked after. They put some bloody stinging medication salve on it, and a plaster and said it would be ok in a few days, don't get the plaster wet. SASSY should be repaired and ready for next mission.

Respectfully Submitted,  
David Gallagher, P.O., RAF Bomber Command  
Pilot: LANCASTER ~ SASSY 104th BS