

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

Multiplayer Campaign 3 Mission 16 Total Campaign Missions 56
1944 Mission 36
Westrove, France - night of July 29th morning of July 30th, 1944

The 'ell Cat's 18th Combat Mission.

Crescent Moon – weather on take off 'good'.

Our squadron has been standing down for 25 days as we all enjoyed some rest and relaxation. And even with the Allied armies giving the Germans hell in France, the Nazis have stepped up their V1 attacks on the UK. But tonight, we are striking them back. Intel has located a V1 rocket launching site in Westrove and we are going to destroy it.

Tonight, The 'ell Cat is tail end charley. As we join the bomber stream at 8 pm, bomb aimer Evans begins to drop Window to help confuse the German radar systems. A fine fog obscures the channel. The fog is expected all the way into France. This should help obscure us from manually aimed antiaircraft guns.

By 9:30 pm, we are over France at our operational altitude of 20,000 feet.

A few days ago, we received the smashing news that Allied troops under American General Patton have pushed the Germans out of Brittany. The lack of flak is a blessing since below us, the land is held by our side.

As we make our approach to the V1 launch base near Westrove, Evans moves back to his position in the nose of The 'ell Cat. Just as Evans takes his position, The 'ell Cat is bathed in a harsh blue white light of a German search lite! Pilot Officer Dixon performs a harsh evasive maneuver as flak burst around us. Almost immediately, the searchlight crew loses us in the fog and Dixon brings us back on course. But then the flak guns fall silent as our Monica Tail Warning Radar begins to ominously chirp over the intercom. Flight Engineer Collier chimes in as he looks at this Monica Radar Screen "Target coming in 6 o'clock low!" Naylor's 4 .303 caliber tail guns open up and then The 'ell Cat shudders as cannon shells rip through her from tail to nose! The tail of the plane takes superficial damage ;the midupper turret's ammo boxes are blown apart ;the Bombay takes superficial damage ;the front fuselage takes a superficial hit ;the nose compartment's heater is knocked out. Then the port wing takes superficial damage. A Heinkel 219 "Owl" tears past our damaged aircraft. Its expert pilot wheels around and disappears in the night. "Too dangerous to take us lower right now. Evans line us up and hit the target. After you do your thing, I'll take us lower so you don't get frostbite." Orders Dixon.

In the distance, we see fires in the area of the V1 site. Evans lines us up and drops the bombs. 30% appear to have landed on the launch sites and the V1 base. Dixon cuts hard to port and, once clear of the target zone, begins to descend to 8,000 feet. Evans reports "I'm back in my Window position so I plugged my heat suit in here, Will. We can raise altitude if you want to."

Dixon got us all home safely and we landed back at base at ten minutes after midnight without incident.