

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

Multiplayer Campaign 4 Mission 2 Total Campaign Missions 62
1944 Mission 2
Sterkrade, Germany - night of October 2nd, morning of October 3rd, 1944

The Phantom of the Ruhr's 5th Combat Mission.

Full Moon – weather on takeoff 'good'.

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 target for tonight is area bombing of the city of Sterkrade, Germany. At 7 pm, we perform our usual ritual on the tail wheel of the Phantom and then begin preflight checklists. At 8 pm, we see the flare which informs us of engine start and meshing then we proceed to the main runway.

Soon we are in the bomber stream. We are tail end Charlie on tonight's mission. We reach operational altitude of 20,000 feet and all is quiet as we fly over free France and Belgium. The sky is refreshingly free of flak and night fighters thanks to our boys on the ground.

Near Arnhem, we begin leaving contrails. The night is clear of clouds.

As we approach Sterkrade, we see that the city is an inferno. Smoke and flames covers most sections of the metropolis. We've hit them hard. We are no longer leaving contrails. In the distance we see searchlights and flak. Archie our bomb aimer drops and 20 % of the bombs effectively hit areas not already destroyed. We make our course correction for our return trip.

The return trip is uneventful and we are debriefed at 3 am. Time for breakfast and sleep.