

**Account of incident of an aircraft hitting another by (Jack) Stephen G Smith DFC and his Bomb Aimer, Monty Greenblatt DFM, published in 10 Squadron Association, Newsletter, No.17, 1993:**

'This was my first operation and was the start of a week that would haunt me for time. But first, I must take you back to Marston Moor. I was joined by two crews captained by Flying Officer Rudolph (Rudy) Taylor and Flying Officer Ray Rosen. We also had a screened Tail Gunner, Flight Lieutenant Ray Salvoni; posted in as an instructor. We shared a hut together and got to know each other very well.

At the end of the course, Taylor and Rosen were posted to 10 Squadron and I stayed behind for HS2 training. At the end of the course, the CGI informed me that I was to join my friends at 10 Squadron. On the way to Melbourne, we met Taylor and Rosen at York Station, going on leave. They said, "We are operational. Get some in!" By the time they arrived back at base, I was operational.

Daylight raids had started but new crews were kept on the ground in case German fighters might be sent up. As no fighters appeared, new crews were included in the Montorgueil target. At the briefing, Wing Commander Radford suggested that we should get close to another aircraft in the target area. Ray Rosen had been on daylight raids and advised me to get up high to avoid falling bombs.

All went well until we reached the Channel. I had an aircraft slightly higher and about a mile in front which I was trying to get near. Over the French coast, Monty Greenblatt, my Bomb Aimer, said, "I can see the markers. Open the bomb doors." I looked down for the lever, and, on looking up, saw the aircraft in front in pieces which I managed to miss, somehow.

Back at base, Ray Rosen came over to me in a terrible state. He said, "Did you see me hit an aircraft with my bombs?" I said, "Yes. I saw it explode." To which he said, "We hit an aircraft above, and the front hit the aircraft I was following, so two aircraft went down."

On Wednesday we went to Blainville. Rudy Taylor's aircraft was missing. Next day I said to my Flight Commander, "When am I going on leave? I have now been out four times." He said, "You will be going on Saturday."

We saw the aircraft take off for a daylight raid and on returning from leave, we heard that Rosen was missing. Monty Greenblatt and I feel that the bombing incident had had an effect on him. Apparently, for some reason, he had orbited over the target and was shot down. This left me the last of the 'Three Musketeers'. To make matters worse, Ray Salvoni's Bomb Aimer told me that Ray had volunteered for a second tour and was missing. I discovered Ray Salvoni's aircraft and been hit by a bomb over the target, and this removed his turret; the aircraft returned to base minus the rear turret [14<sup>th</sup> Jan 1945 with 35 Sqn]. *Note FO Taylor bailed out and was taken prisoner, surviving the war.'*