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Over Germany - 1944

Sunday, December 24th: *better weather for ending The Battle of the Bulge*



Christmas Eve Morning, 1944

A warm-up of over 2,000 heavy bombers! Fifty bomb groups of the 8th Air Force in England spaced fifteen minutes apart as they flew to assigned targets in and around Belgium. Time in flight: 7 hours, 15 minutes.

In the history of the 447th Bomb Group to which I was attached "This was the mission to end all missions." Our four squadrons were ordered "to put up everything that would fly. This was the first clear flying day since the beginning of the Battle of the Bulge on December 16th."

Here is a comment from our troops on the ground who had been badly hurt by both the harsh weather and a German counteroffensive. "We got up on the 24th of December and saw there wasn't a cloud in the sky and soon we could hear and see the formations of American bombers going over and you wouldn't believe anything could make a bunch of guys so happy as that sight did."

It wasn't easy but in less than four months World War Two in Europe was out and over.