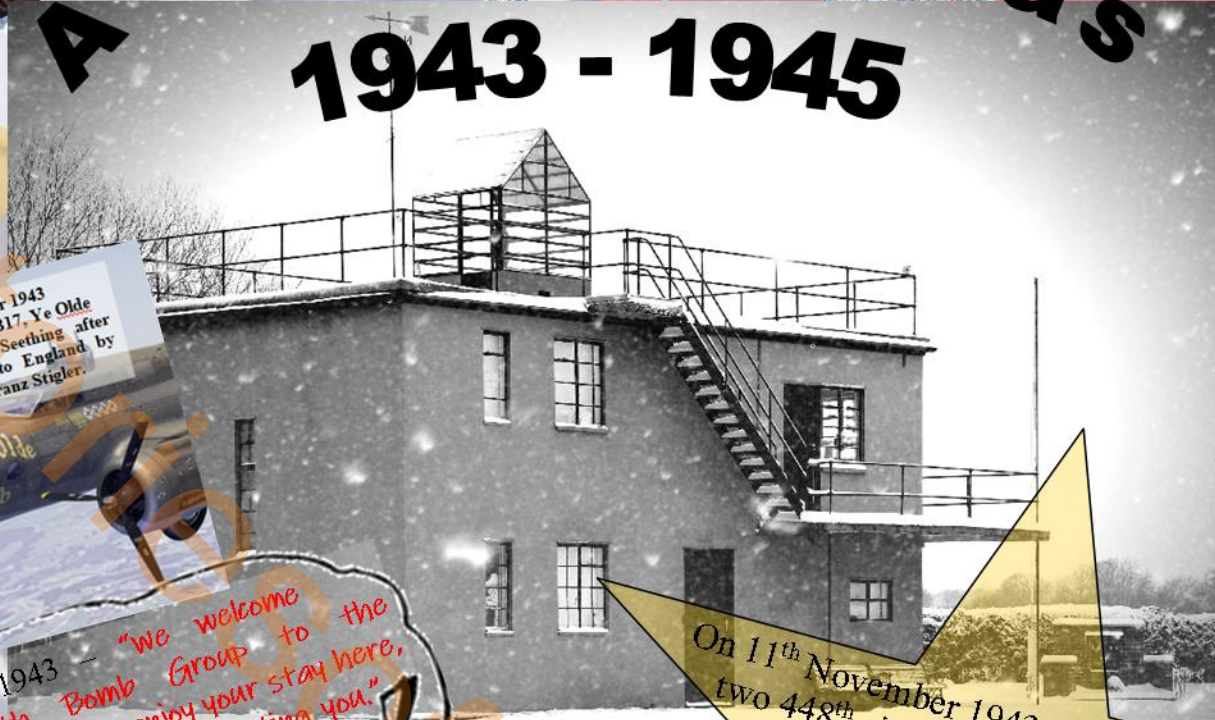


# A 448th Christmas 1943 - 1945



20<sup>th</sup> December 1943  
Badly damaged B17, Ye Olde  
Pub landed at Seething after  
being escorted to England by  
German pilot Franz Stigler.



December 1943 - "We welcome  
the 448th Bomb Group to the  
E.T.O. we hope you enjoy your stay here,  
and we look forward to meeting you."  
German announcer said on the radio.



On 11<sup>th</sup> November 1943, the first of sixty-  
two 448<sup>th</sup> aircraft departed for Station  
146, Seething. However only  
sixty of them made it.  
Two aircraft were lost  
in Marrakech.

448<sup>th</sup> men improvised  
with what was available  
to make Christmas

First mission - 22<sup>nd</sup> December  
1943 to Osnabruk. Twenty-six  
aircraft took off but twelve re-  
turned early due to weather.  
Two 448<sup>th</sup> aircraft were lost.  
Nineteen men died and two men  
became POWs.

Mission 2 - 24<sup>th</sup> December 1943  
to VI launching site at  
LaBroye, France.  
Twenty-seven aircraft took off.  
Black puffs of flak littered the  
sky for the entire flight.  
Six aircraft were damaged but  
no crew was lost.

