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GREATEST SKY ARMADA IN HISTORY?

Hour for the Allied Airborne Army, making final preparations for its invasion of Holland - the greatest operation of the kind ever undertaken. Gliders standing ready in massed rows are loaded with all the paraphernalia of war from every part of the world. The great enterprise is a deeply scored valley where they come to rest. Men engaged in the great enterprise exchange a few cheerful words, before take-off time. One of the paratroops slips on his harness while other soldiers of the sky go to their waiting gliders.

One last job remains-to fix the tow rope. It won't be long now. Engines splutter into life and the great sky armada is on the move. Aircraft of many types share in the task- and the honour - including R.A.F. Halifaxes, Stirlings and Albermarles.....British 'Horsa' Gliders and American "Waco's".

Passing over the coast. Only a short stretch of water now lies between them and the continent.

A great umbrella of fighters provides cover.

Beneath them glides the Coast of Belgium. The last few miles to Holland lie ahead.

From a liberated Belgian town, an army film unit cameraman took these spectacular shots of Dakota troop carriers passing overhead. The townsfolk sense that another invading force is bringing liberation to a neighbour nation.

By an amazing chance one Dakota in crash-landing, hits a German panther tank and bursts into flames. On goes the sky army...over that flooded country inundated by the Germans. The gliders cast off and swoop groundwards, to Holland.

Like khaki dolls dangling from multi-coloured umbrellas, the paratroops go down - to battle.

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GREATEST SKY ARMY IN HISTORY

H. Hour for the Allied Airborne Army, making final preparations for its invasion of Holland - the greatest operation of the kind ever undertaken. Gliders standing ready in massed rows are loaded with all the paraphernalia of war from the glider resemble piles on a newspaper. They leave a deeply scored trail where they came to rest. The troops from them are scoring a deeper trail still - a trail that leads to Berlin. Men engaged in the great enterprise exchange a few cheerful words, before take-off time. One of the paratroops slips on his harness while other soldiers of the sky go to their waiting gliders.

One last job remains - to fix the tow rope. It won't be long now. Engines splutter into life and the great sky armada is on the move. Aircraft of many types share in the task - and the honour - including R.A.F. Hurricanes, Stirlings and Albatrosses..... British 'Horsa' Gliders and American 'Waco's'.

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From a liberated Belgian town, an army film unit cameraman took these spectacular shots of Dakota troop carriers passing overhead. The townfolk sense that another invading force is bringing liberation to a neighbour nation.

By an amazing chance one Dakota in cross-landing, hits a German Panther tank and bursts into flames. On goes the sky army....over that flooded country inundated by the Germans. The gliders cast off and swoop groundwards, to Holland.

Like khaki balls dangling from multi-coloured umbrellas, the paratroops go down - to battle.