

## Love At War

Calvin walked the hallway of the American airbase hospital to visit Jimmy, a fellow B-17 crew member. Jimmy broke his wrist on their bombing mission over Berlin. Evelyn passed Calvin in the hallway and neither could help but turn back. Calvin, sheepish asked, "Where is the coffee room and would you join me?" Evelyn quickly replied "Down the hall, can't join now, but I have a break at four". Shaking, she walked away and teased herself, "I made a date". After that coffee date, they were together as much as possible.

One Saturday morning, Calvin, slowly ate breakfast and dreamed of Evelyn. Arthur, his high school buddy, shouted "Hey lover boy, got Evelyn on the brain"? Calvin bellowed "Shut up jerk, sit down and eat". War made their friendship even closer.

Calvin said "Arthur, remember how green we were when we joined the Air Corp to go fight the Germans". Arthur grimaced "We weren't too smart". "They didn't give us very much training to be Radio Operators, did they"? Calvin laughed "In high school, I thought SOS meant Same Old Shit, not Save Our Ship". "Think about it, thirty-one missions completed. One more bombing raid and we go home",

After breakfast, Arthur asked, "Where's your crew going today"? Calvin laughed, "We practice beach bombing, but rain is keeping all planes grounded". Arthur replied "Same here, but, somebody's upset, all leave cancelled, and everybody is confined to base".

The next morning, Evelyn was glowing to herself "Calvin, I love you and must tell you". Hurrying to work, she approached the front desk of his barracks. "Would Calvin Walker be available"? Not looking up, he replied "no". She then left a private message, "Come to the hospital, I will switch lunch with another nurse".

That morning, Calvin scurried to the hospital, Evelyn switched lunches, and they found a table in the corner. Evelyn started, "Calvin, I imagined this scene to be much more romantic, but, I am so in love with you".

Calvin replied "Evelyn, I dreamed of you last night, I have not told you, "I love you" enough". "Letters to my parents just won't described the woman who is perfect for me".

Evelyn moaned, "Calvin, you haven't met my father or family". "My father's shop bakes bread for our local town and has a contract with Parliament to bake bread for the army". "I will take you to meet him the next time you have off".

Monday night, General Arnold, Commander of the Eighth Air Force, assembled all personnel. "Men, tomorrow, on June 5, 1944, we start the most ambitious military operation ever attempted to free Europe from Germany". "First, We will send our twelve hundred bombers to pound the German Army entrenched on French beaches". "Then, One hundred fifty-five thousand army and support troops from Great Britain, United States, Canada, and Australia will storm five different French beaches". Also, five hundred English fighter planes will provide support any way they can"!

The next day, Calvin buckled into his radio operator's equipment. He said to his navigator, our last bombing raid and we go home. "Be safe, I don't want to take your place". Johnny, laughed,". Over the loudspeaker, Captain Norton spoke "Prepare to takeoff". Their plane, Dream Baby, lifted effortlessly into the sky. The Captain ordered co-pilot "Plane to formation".

German forces commenced firing heavy flack and German fighter planes fired machine guns into American planes. Many bombers, filled with smoke and fire, crashed into the beaches and ocean. Many men escaped their planes and parachutes were opening across the sky.

With bombs dropped, Dream Baby turned to join other bombers. Suddenly, smoke sifted up from the bottom, Calvin radioed the squadron leader "Engine two and three stopped, we are preparing for emergency flight". The Captain smiled to his co-pilot, "Planes are going down, but, lots of parachutes". He said into the intercom "Men, our last mission, you are the greatest"! All crew members bravely smiled"! D Day officially began with the Eighth Army Air Corp doing it's part.

Arthur ran down the runways looking for Calvin and Dream Baby. Running down Calvin's squadron leader, he cried, " Did Dream Baby make it back"? The squadron leader shrugged, "I don't Know". Arthur began running through the crews looking for his friend.

Arthur found Evelyn at the hospital. With tears pouring, "Arthur, did he make it back"? His voice cracking, "Eight Hundred planes left and over five hundred made it back". Evelyn gazed into his eyes, "I am pregnant".

