

A Journey I Would Like to Take

“Jenny, Jenny, Jenny!” I yelled excitedly to my girlfriend.

“What, what Josiah why are you so excited.” Jenny said.

“I can finally join the military and go explore part of the world for free without paying any money.”

“But Josiah, if you join the military, you might not come back.” Jenny said.

She caught me off guard, I always wanted to explore Europe, but never had the money too. Now that I’m old enough to join the military. She is not wrong; I might die if I do join. “Well the military do need some men, and besides I will probably get deployed to Africa. I waited to join the military since Pearl Harbor.”

“I get that you are patriotic, and you can never know where you are getting deployed what if it is Europe right where the Nazis are!” Jenny said, “And we can always get the money to go to Europe later like after the war.”

I thought to myself I’m already getting drafted; it is a world war. Jenny is right I never know where I might end up if I join. I could end up in the Pacific, Africa, or Europe. And I didn’t want to tell Jenny that I got the draft papers a week ago. “Jenny I am sorry to say this, but I got my draft paper last week and I have to go to Marine training tomorrow. I’m sorry that I didn’t tell you sooner.” The look on her face was shocked and scared, her blue eyes were starting to get watery.

“What, why didn’t you tell me, I’m your girlfriend, you are supposed to tell me this kind of stuff!” Jenny yelled with a bit of fear and anger mixed with her voice. “What am I going to do now?” I didn’t know what to say or to do. I just stood there with my head down. I didn’t even understand why, why I didn’t tell her the day I got my draft papers. I guess I didn’t want her to get stress, but it wouldn’t matter.

“Well, will you be there at my graduation ceremony?”

“Uh” She said disappointed, “yes, I guess I will see at your graduation ceremony, bye.”

“Where are you going?”

“I am going home; I have a lot on my mind right now, good luck at boot camp,” She said with a single tear going down her pale face. I feel bad for her now, I knew that she lost her brother to the War a month ago, and now I'm guessing she is afraid of losing me. I don’t blame her; I would not be happy with me either.

“Well okay bye, love you.” I said in a calm voice, but Jenny kept walking down street with her head down and not turning back to wave or to say love you back. Well after that I turn around and started walking home. I’m sorry for whoever is reading this book I live in Boise Idaho, in a small apartment by city hall. The walk basically took me like 10 minutes just walking in the warm sun, but I feel a chill down my spine. Once I got up the door of my apartment. The neighbor's boy was sitting at the front of my door smiling. Now let's get this straight, the boy is like 9 years old that wears a rip shirt and jeans with a news boy hat. “Tim, what are you doing at my door you little knuckle head?” I said with joy hoping to get some warm feeling or joy from Tim.

“You are going to join the military right?” Tim said with a bigger smile.

“Yeah why? ”I asked with a strange feeling how this boy already know that. “

You are going to die like my father and brother!” Tim said with joy and started laughing. It was like a creepy laugh not a funny joke laugh. I had no idea that Tims father and brother died, not at all.

“Okay good to know.” I said while I step over him and walked into my apartment. Once inside, I instantly walked into my room and laid on my bed and fall asleep.

In the morning I drove my car to Moutain Home to Boot Camp. Instantly when I got there. There was a six-foot man wearing a Marine's uniform walking towards my car.

I was just about to get out until he punches through the driver's side window, as he was doing this he was screaming, “YOUR LATE QUINLAN! GET OUT AND MOVE LETS GO!!!!”

I never felt so scared of someone in my life. Once I got out of the car, I had to do a 10- 15-mile run then do 20 pullups in a row, crawl through barbwire, and so much more I can't remember the rest. I was stuck in training for like 3 weeks.

On my last day at boot camp, my drill sergeant said “Men I get that boot camp is not easy, but I'm proud of you, you all are official Marines for the United States Military. God bless and good luck in the War.” Then the drill Sergeant look at all our names and told us what our jobs are going to be once we deployed, I got infantry same with a bunch of other guys. Then the drill sergeant said, “The ceremony is tomorrow at the Idaho Center at 12:00. Before you go, go to building A-15 to get your uniform.”

Well after a while going to random building at camp and waiting in a long line for my uniform. I finally grab my uniform as quick as I can and got on the bus that was of course at the Camp, I mean I would of drove my car, but I don't know where it is. So, anyways once I hopped on the bus, I was having mixed feelings about Jenny, I was feeling, happy, and nervous. I was shaking so much on the bus some people might have thought I was having a seizer. Once the bus got to a stop in Boise, I instantly ran out the bus with my uniform in my hands and ran all the way to Jenny's house. I ran through streets, around blocks, backyards, and a church don't ask about why I had to run through the church. Once I finally got to her house, I knocked on the door a couple of times. No one answered, so I knocked again but nothing. So, I sat at the front of the door and waited for like an hour. Nothing, and no one at the house. After an extra 10 minutes I left. While I was walking down the street and having the feeling of defeat, a car pulled right up next to me and a girl step out. It was Jenny! “Josiah, what are you doing here?” she said with a big smile on her face.

“I was coming here to see you.” I said while Jenny ran up and gave me a hug. We walk and talk about what happen when I was in boot camp for a while and I said, “My graduation ceremony is tomorrow at the Idaho center at 12:00 o'clock and I need a ride.”

“Okay I will go and why do you need a ride?”

“Long story I will tell you later.”

The very next day at the ceremony, there were a lot of people, more than I expected. The ceremony in general took an hour. If I am going to be honest here, I thought the whole entire thing was boring. After the ceremony me and Jenny we were going to the park. But the Sergeant pulled me off the side before I could ever walk out the door and said that I need to get on the plane immediately. When I try to ask why he wouldn't let me answer. Right after that talk I went to the airport and waited to get on the

plane. Right before I got on to the plane, Jenny gave me a picture of her and said she will be waiting and ask me to promise that I will come back. "I promise, I will come back." I said with a smile on my face.

"You are the last person that I love in this world, please stay alive." Jenny said

"I will, don't worry about me, I will come back as a war hero." I said

"Flight 38 to New York now boarding." Said some lady on the intercom. As I loaded on the I turn back and wave goodbye to Jenny. that was the hardest thing I ever done was leaving her behind for the war. Well the plane flight was boring, but it took like 5 hours to get to New York. Once landed, I was instantly put into a truck same with all the other soldiers which drove me and the other troops to the docks. When I was on the ship, I never knew my mission, no one else knew theirs either. All I heard it was going to be the biggest invasion known to man. Bigger than the invasion that happened in Troy. I thought to myself "wow this must be big." All I know that the location will be on Normandy Beach in France. I stayed on the boat for three months until the day of the invasion. The day of the invasion, for lunch the chiefs gave the men candy cake little bit of meat. Which I didn't feel like eating a bunch of sugar. After that we had to load up in these LCVP boats for the invasion. It was crowded, I kept on bumping into this one staff sergeant. Then I hear the driver of the LCVP yelled "GET READY FOR SOME HELL BOYS" ah that sent chills down my spine. I still didn't know 100% of what's going on at the beach or what's out there waiting for us. I took one last look at Jenny's picture and gave it a kiss before I put it back in to my chest pocket. Right when the boat was half way to the beach the men in the same boat that I was put in were throwing up, on the ground and my boots. I was disgusted, then the driver yelled "ONE MINUTE TILL LANDING!"

Once the driver said that, there was a bunch of bombs going off around us and bullets flying pass us. I gripped my M-14 rifle tighter. Jenny was right it would have been better for me to go Europe after the War, not into a slaughter house. Then all the sudden the boat hit the beach. The front doors dropped down, there were bullets flying through at us like 10 guys was already dead within 1 second. Just dead, either their head, arm, or legs was gone. Out of instinct I ran past the bullets onto the beach and got cover behind some metal thing. I couldn't think right now. I heard some trooper said, "Man those MG-42 machine guns are packing some heat." After that the trooper went running towards the German trenches on the ground. Until I saw him get blown into pieces. As I look around all I see is blood and dead man. All I hear is bombs, machine guns, and my own comrades screaming for help, mercy, or just kill me. All I can do is sit and hope that a bullet doesn't hit me. Until hundreds on of American troops started running towards the German trench, seeing those men run toward the Nazis gave me a spark of hope and courage, so I got up and ran with them. I was running and shooting up towards one of the bunkers. When I was a few feet from the trench I got shot right through my right shoulder. My body fell into the trench. As I was laying there, and a German soldier started to whack me with his rifle. While he was doing that, I grab my 1911 pistol out of my holster and put two rounds in his head and I shot another German trying to run out of the trench. Then there was an explosion that happen next to me. Everything turns white, and all I hear ringing in my ears. Once everything cleared up, I went to pick up my rifle. When I grab my rifle, I saw blood coming from my right leg. Then at a distance I saw a German soldier with a STG-44. I didn't know what I was thinking but I decide to run at him but as I got close to him. I went through him, like completely went through him.

"What happen to private Quinlan!" One trooper yelled

"He's dead!" The other trooper next to him yelled.

What dead, I can't be dead there is no way. Right when I turned back to look at the Germans, there was a Nazi looking at me face to face, but he didn't even notice me. When I looked down the barrel of his rifle, it was in my body. So, I turn and ran back towards the trench where the explosion happened next to me. I was shocked, when I saw my upper half of my body. Laying there, my body was just lifeless and covered in blood. "NO, NO, NO, NOOO! WHAT IS HAPPENING, WHAT IS HAPPENING!" I yelled in fear, but no one could hear me. "THIS IS NOT THE END, THIS IS NOT THE WAY I SHOULD GO OUT NO, NO!"

Then, I was questioning myself how I was able to pick up my rifle and have blood on my leg. But I did remember seeing my rifle next to my dead body, so does this rifle in my hands make it a spiritual rifle? I don't know, but I do know that I didn't keep my promise to Jenny that I will still be alive. What am I going to do? When I looked straight ahead, I saw American soldiers leaving their bodies and floating off into the clouds why not me. Then, a flash appeared, and I was still on the beach, but everything was different, no trench's, boats, barbwire, no boat defenses, or bodies. There were only the bunkers but seemed to be blocked off. At a distance I saw Jenny standing above a cross that had flowers on it. I walked towards her and stood right next to her I noticed the cross had my name on it. Then I said, "I'm sorry, I failed you."

She turned to face me and said "Josiah I thought you were dead. I saw your body; how could you be alive?"

"I'm sorry, I didn't keep promise and I left you on this world, and I, I . . ."

"Don't worry about it you are here with me." she said while she tries to grab my hand. But her hand went through and could not touch. Then tears started to fall down her face. When I try to say I love her, and I will always be with her, but then I disappeared, and everything turned white and I was standing on clouds and all I could see around me are all the fallen soldiers that attended the battle of D-Day. But all I could hear is Jenny crying.