

CHAPTER 1

Sergeant Farrell looked into the **darkness**. He hated jumping out of aeroplanes at night. He liked to see the ground below him. He needed to see the end of the jump. At night, he couldn't see anything. There was only empty, black sky.

The light in the aeroplane turned green, and he jumped out. He fell into the cold, dark night. He started to count. When he counted to sixty, he opened his parachute. Then he travelled slowly towards the ground. Somewhere above, his men followed him. He couldn't see them. Everybody had a black parachute.

The enemy soldiers were somewhere below. This was their country. Sergeant Farrell and his men were a long way from home.

“If the enemy sees us now, we're in trouble,” thought Sergeant Farrell. “If they start shooting at us, we will all be dead before we land.”

Eventually, he hit the ground. He got up and took off the parachute. He had to move quickly. There was a small group of trees a hundred metres away. He ran towards them. Once he was among the trees, he waited.

darkness (noun) the state of being dark; when there is no light



*Sergeant Farrell fell into the dark, cold night.
He started to count.*

Someone came towards him in the darkness. Sergeant Farrell hid behind a tree. The person **whistled**, and Sergeant Farrell whistled back.

“Hello, Sergeant!” It was Billy, the youngest of the team. He was just twenty.

Every time someone arrived, there was a whistle. Before long, the whole team was back together. All nine men were there. Everybody was **safe** for now.

“Okay, you know the mission,” said Sergeant Farrell. “We will run two kilometres north until we are near the railway track. Then we will turn west and run towards the railway tunnel. In the tunnel, we will prepare five bombs.”

“That sounds like fun!” said Tom. The other men laughed. Tom was always joking. Every team needed someone like Tom.

“Well, this is it,” said Sergeant Farrell. “This is our last mission. The war is nearly over. Soon, we can go back to our families.”

“Oh no!” said Tom. “Not my family. They are much more dangerous than enemy soldiers.”

whistle (verb) to make a high sound by blowing air out through your lips
safe (adjective) free from harm; not in danger



*Before long, the whole team was back together.
All nine men were there.*

Everybody laughed again. The team was happy. It was a long war, but it was almost over. The men were tired. They wanted to go home.

Sergeant Farrell looked at his team.

“Let’s be careful,” he said. “We have been together for a year. We have fought many battles. No one has died. We all started together, and I want us all to finish together.”

CHAPTER 2

The men walked quickly and quietly. They were very fit and they knew how to fight. Sergeant Farrell looked left and right. He watched for danger. **Safety** was the most important thing tonight.

Sergeant Farrell didn't want to be a hero. He didn't want a medal. He just wanted to keep his men safe. This was their last mission. He wanted Billy, Tom, and all the other men to go home to their families.

"I will keep these men **alive!**" he said to himself. "They will be happy and they will have a future."

"Why are we blowing up the tunnel?" asked a soldier next to him. This was Mike. Sergeant Farrell smiled. He liked Mike a lot. They were good friends. Mike was a good soldier. He could be a sergeant too one day.

"Well, it was a secret, but I can tell you now," said Sergeant Farrell. "There will be a big attack on the country's capital city tomorrow. We will destroy the tunnel tonight. This will stop enemy soldiers from travelling into the capital by train tomorrow. It will stop any equipment getting there by train as well."

safety (noun) the condition of being free from harm or danger

alive (adjective) not dead, living



*They did not go too close
because soldiers walked along the track.*

“Okay,” said Mike. “And after the attack on the capital, the war will be over?”

“Yes,” said Sergeant Farrell. “We have a very important mission to complete tonight.”

After thirty minutes, they were near the railway track. They turned west and followed the track from a **distance**. They did not get too close because soldiers walked along the track.

“I have a question,” said Mike. Most soldiers didn’t ask questions, but Mike always wanted to know everything. “When will the bombs destroy the tunnel?”

Sergeant Farrell was carrying one of the bombs on his back. Four of the men had the other bombs.

“We will put them in the tunnel and run away,” said Sergeant Farrell. “We will have one hour before the bombs destroy the tunnel. We will be a long way from the tunnel by then. Sam has a radio. When we get to the coast, he will call the boat. The boat will meet us, and we will **escape**.”

“Okay,” said Mike quietly.

“You seem worried, Mike,” said Sergeant Farrell.

“Well, it sounds too easy,” he said.

distance (noun) the amount of space between two things or places

escape (verb) to get away

Quiz-2

Choose the correct answer.

- While on holiday, we crossed the into Scotland.
a) entrance b) door c) border
- From the top of the hill, I watched fall on the city.
a) daylight b) darkness c) steam
- I love your engagement ring! It's so big and!
a) scary b) quickly c) shiny
- There are lots of alligators in the
a) trouble b) sea c) swamp
- I a tune, and my dog comes to me.
a) listen b) whistle c) chew
- Jacky tapped her foot impatiently because she was in the queue.
a) late b) first c) last
- "Please stay behind the barriers for your own, "
said the police officer.
a) safety b) heart c) concern
- Hugh always told very good
a) laughs b) jokes c) fun
- Please can I see the manager? I want to
a) complain b) conversation c) shine
- During the fire, three prisoners tried to
a) guard b) close c) escape