

Local boy, Mike Powell would deliver eggs to the base and befriended many of the men there. He was allowed to fly with them on occasion when they “flipped” their aircraft between bases.

However on VE Day *"I know it was a day when everyone should have been happy, but I was feeling a bit down at the news really. I knew that now the war in Europe was over they'd all be off to the Far East or back home to America. I think they could see that, and so they offered to take me for one last flip.*

*What I didn't know then was that we wouldn't just be hopping up the coast, they were planning on taking the ground crew on a trip to see the areas the Liberators had been bombing."*

Mike was taken to Cologne. *"It shocked me of course; there was absolutely nothing left but the cathedral sticking up out of this completely flattened landscape. It made me think about the people there, but as the lads pointed out, if it wasn't them, it would have been us."*

*"They called their Liberator 'Bomb Baby'. They'd painted the name on the side, and after every mission they made it back from they painted another little bomb next to the name.*

*"Once we got back that day we added the very last bomb, and it was only then that I remembered that after delivering the eggs I was meant to have gone straight back home to do the milking.*

*"Well of course my dad asked me where I'd disappeared to for the last six hours, and when I told him I'd been to Germany and back I didn't half get a hiding for my cheek!"*

One of the aircrew had to come to the farm to corroborate Mike's story before his father would believe it. But then he let slip that on one of their previous flips an engine had caught fire and Mike had been forced to jump out with the rest of the crew.

*"They'd joked when they were showing me how to use the parachute, that if it didn't open I'd have to go back to the base and get another one; I never dreamt that I'd have to use it for real.*

*"Because I was quite small for my age, even on the tightest fitting the straps were still quite loose. When it opened and yanked me up, I was singing soprano for a week."*

Tragically, having survived more than 20 raids on Germany, 'Bomb Baby' crashed on its approach back to New York later that year, and the pilot was killed.

(Taken from BBC website)