

ON A GOOD DAY

*- a soldier's struggle for survival
- one man's fight for forgiveness*



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Log Line

During the 1944 Allied invasion of Normandy, two battle weary soldiers meet. One is a German schoolboy from the 12 SS Hitlerjugend Division. The other is a Canadian schoolteacher from the Regina Rifles Regiment. They are sworn enemies but not for long.

Synopsis

It's August 16, 1944, two months after the Allied D-Day landing on the French coastline. Once a German stronghold, the battle scared town of Falaise, forty miles inland from the Normandy beachhead, is now defended by a rag-tag band of teenage Hitler Youth from the 12SS Hitlerjugend Division. Their frontline defense is suicide. The Canadian First Army has encircled most of the retreating German 7th Army.

Inside the brick walls of a high school, the Ecole Superieure de Jeunes Filles, PETER ROHM (15) sits defeated. The barrel of his MG-42 machine gun glows red-hot. A mountain of spent brass casings lie at his feet. His uniform is encrusted with months of dirt and dried blood. Peter's young face has hollow old man eyes. He scratches at the lice encrusted around the beltline of his pants. Outside, soldiers of the Canadian Mount Royal Fusiliers pound away at the school with heavy machine gun and mortar fire. As bullets fly, Peter eats a piece of sweet chocolate and watches in detached silence as a young comrade spits blood and dies with a frightened cry for his mother.

By nightfall, the guns fall silent. Inside the school lie the bloodied corpses of forty Hitler Youth. Peter Rohm is the sole survivor. Heart pounding and frozen with fear, he's plucked from the rubble by COLBY PETERSON (38), a Sergeant from the Regina Rifles Regiment. An opportunity is realized and plans are quickly made. Colby is ordered to deliver Peter to the coastal town of Cherbourg where the boy soldier will be paraded before the North American press. A picture is worth a thousand words. Allied victory is near. Hitler has sacrificed his nation's youth.

A schoolteacher from the Saskatchewan prairies, Colby is now a hardened soldier. He's reluctant to leave the front with a boy as his prisoner but orders are orders and roads take strange turns, especially in war. When a traumatized and disillusioned Peter angrily tells Colby that grownups are liars and murders, an awkward truce begins between the two enemies and a unique friendship forms. As they head for the coast, Colby begins to tell Peter the sad tale of a young student, a neglected twelve-year-old who froze to death in the prairie winter of 1940, an avoidable death that still haunts Colby's dreams.

On a good day, a German schoolboy who envies death will struggle to survive another day. On a good day, a Canadian schoolteacher with a dark secret will confront a painful past.

