SERENADE

‘John, you’re obsessed with the disappearance of Glenn Miller. Isn’t it time you accepted he can’t be found?’

‘Never luv! Never.’

John’s wife, Daphne, left John in his study with another round of tea and scones for comfort, but the door remained ajar.

John had been researching the mysterious disappearance of the famous band leader since his teens. An RAF man himself, John had unprecedented access to the archives and could often be found scouring old maps and flight logs. He’d travelled to the USA in pursuit of classified files and thanks to his military status, the files would be “cleared” for him to look at.

Forty years had passed and although John had long retired from service, he was still permitted to view the RAF archives. John wasn’t going to give up and in a recent press release from the International Group for Historic Aircraft Recovery announcing a new theory as to the flight path of Miller’s plane on 15 December 1944, his interest was reignited. To his wife’s horror, piles of research papers found their way to his desk and study floor.

‘Daph, I’m pretty sure the flight path was a direct line from Twinwood Farm to St Velery in France.’

Daphne, hearing John’s voice, re-entered the study.

‘John, it was foggy. A real peasouper. That plane could have gone in any direction and don’t forget the Lancaster bombers who were jettisoning their bombs over the channel at the time.’

‘The press release is saying the flight path may have been much more west. Miller’s plane was scheduled to fly over Langney Point at Beachy Head. If it was further west, this would mean Brighton way, Portsmouth, or even Bournemouth. No that can’t be right.’

‘Conspiracy theory?’

‘I’m not sure, but the RAF would have assessed this possibility of a different flight path as part of the official enquiry.’

‘Who’s to say he flew over the channel. What about the North Sea on a diversion due to the fog.’

‘Not a chance of it. The plane was allegedly seen after Twinwood heading south.’

‘Did you see the news of a possible sighting of Amelia Earhart’s plane in the Western Pacific?’

‘Yes. I wonder. Two extraordinary people and both mysteriously lost.’

The phone rang on John’s desk.

‘John Seeley?’

‘Yes’

‘Alan Carmichael of the BBC here. We’re making a documentary about Glenn Miller. I guess you’ve seen the press release? Also, a French fisherman claims to have brought to the surface a piece of wreckage that has been identified as part of a Noorduyn Norseman plane. I understand you are the world expert on Miller’s disappearance. You up for an interview?’

‘What! A Noorduyn Norseman? Are you sure? Where?’

‘Somewhere between St Velery and La Havre I believe. You’ve not heard?’

After making arrangements for a recorded interview, John sat back in his chair and could hear the strains of *Moonlight Serenade* flowing through him. He closed his eyes and visualised a ghostly figure of Glenn Miller, smiling.