1. Birth

Bombs dropped from the black sky. They flashed white as they exploded. Ships, docks, and warehouses were blown to bits. Homes were on fire. Some people were hurt or dying. And some were already dead. Liverpool, England, was again being blasted by German bombers. It was October 9, 1940.

World War Two was raging in Europe. Nazi Germany seemed to be winning. Poland was defeated. Norway and Denmark were defeated. France surrendered. Country after country fell. And by the fall of 1940, Germany was trying to bomb Great Britain into giving up.

Hundreds of German warplanes flew across the English Channel. They dropped thousands of bombs on seaports, airfields, railway lines, and military areas. As one of England's most important seaports, Liverpool was often attacked.

A bomb fell not far from the hospital on Oxford Street. Inside, Julia Lennon worried as she waited to give birth. Her husband, Alfred, was away. He was serving aboard a ship somewhere in the North Atlantic Ocean. Julia's family was worried, too. It was a dangerous time in England, especially for a mother-to-be.

Then, late in the afternoon of October 9th, Julia Lennon's child was born. It was a boy. Her sister, Mimi Smith, got the news by phone. She told the rest of the family.

"We were five girls in my family," Mimi Smith remembered, "and I nearly went off my nut. I said, 'Mother, Mother, a boy, a boy! A boy in the family at last!'"

Mimi Smith rushed out of her house and ran toward the hospital. It was now evening, a time when the bombing raids usually started again. No buses were running. No traffic moved in the street. Hardly any people were out.

Sirens wailed as another raid began. Mimi kept on running. She ducked into doorways to avoid being hit. Then, during a break in the bombing, she raced the last few blocks to the hospital.

Moments later, she was in her sister's room. There, snuggled against his mother, was a beautiful baby boy. "We're going to call him John Winston," Julia told Mimi. "Isn't he lovely?"

Mimi Smith picked up the baby and held him close. Just then, a shrill siren announced another wave of bombers. A nurse hurried into the room and said visitors must leave. At the same time, she took baby John and placed him under his mother's bed. For newborn babies, this was the only protection the hospital had against flying glass and falling plaster.

１　EXERCISES

１　( )に適切な日本語を入れ、本文のあらすじを完成させなさい．

　ジョン・レノンは1940年10月9日、ドイツ軍の(ア　　　）の最中にイギリスの(イ　　　　）で生まれた．そのとき父親のアルフレッドは不在で(ウ　　　　）上で船に乗って働いていた．おばのミミ・スミスは誕生の知らせを聞いてとても（エ　　　　）．それは、スミス家にとって初めての(オ　　　　）だったからである．夕方になるとふつう（ア）が再開されたが、ミミは危険を冒して(カ　　　　）に向かい、母のジュリアに抱かれたかわいい赤ん坊に初めて会った．

２　本文の内容に合うものにはT、合わないものにはFを書きなさい．

(1) Liverpool was attacked by German bombers because it was one of England's most important seaports. ( )

(2) When John was born, Germany was nearly defeated by Great Britain. ( )

(3) It was dangerous to go out in the evening because there were German soldiers in the street. ( )

(4) A nurse put John under his mother's bed so that he might not be hurt by flying glass and falling plaster. ( )

３　日本文の意味に合うように、( )に１語入れなさい．

(1) その問題は検討されているところです．

　　The problem is ( ) discussed now.

(2) 兄は部屋で電話をかけているようだ．

　　My brother ( ) to be making a phone call in his room.

(3) 何千人もの人が公園に集まった．

　　Thousands ( ) people came together in the park.

(4) 今こそ我々が立ち上がるべきときだ．

　　This is the time ( ) we should start up.