



To Be Continued ... 2018

Coming Home

by

Ben Markey & Friends

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Foreword

This is the fifth book of stories inspired by Ben Markey. His class moved to secondary school last September 2017 but Ben continues to be an inspiration and to motivate and to encourage the primary school pupils in Bunclody and surrounding areas to write.

For those not familiar with this project Ben had many great ideas for stories and loved writing. Due to his untimely death some of his stories were never completed. He always intended to come back at a later time to complete them and so the primary school pupils in the Bunclody area have decided to compose their own endings to his stories.

This book is a collection of some of this work. The stories represent the wide range of pupils from second to sixth class. I sincerely thank the pupils and teachers from the eight participating schools for supporting the project – Ballyroebuck NS, Carrigduff NS, Clonegal NS, Kildavin NS, Kilmyshall NS, Leighlinbridge NS, Our Lady of Lourdes NS and Tombrack NS.

The imagination and creativity of these young authors is to be highly commended and I congratulate them on their fantastic work.

James Roberts

Principal
Our Lady of Lourdes NS, Bunclody

Front cover illustrated by Luke Burke

Coming Home by Ben Markey

Chapter 1

Michael paced up and down the room very frustrated. The law said you weren't allowed to go to war without a dog. "Who made up that stupid idea" Michael asked the other men. "Your father" a man answered. Michaels' father had died in war and no one ever spoke of him. "Go home Michael" Jamie said. "Wha..." "Go home ". The man left the room.

Michael glanced at the other men. They left as well. Michael sighed. His father had said; think before you act but now it was too late and he was left alone with his own thoughts.

Michael left the room and headed home. The ship to France was leaving soon and he had no chance of getting there. Just then a bicycle pulled up beside him. "A letter for Mr. Cullen ". The man hopped back on his bike and cycled down the road. Michael read the letter;

Mr. Cullen we have a dog for you. Ship sails from London. Hurry.!

Michael dropped the letter and got onto his bike. His head was swirling with questions. He took a deep breath and started to cycle towards London.

As Michael approached London City he heard the sound of engines. He knew at once the ship was leaving without him. Michael parked his bike beside a building and ran after the ship. "Hey" a man yelled. "Sorry" Michael called. "You can keep the bike though". Michael ended up at the railing. The sea lay ahead of him. How was he supposed to catch up with the ship now? Without thinking he jumped over the railing and splashed into the sea.

Michael didn't have time to scream before he hit the water. Water filled his mouth. A voice rang in his head: death, it is time Michael Cullen, you will die! A hand crashed into the water and grabbed Michael by the shirt and pulled him above the surface. He was in a rowing boat with several men. They were being lured onto the ship by some ropes. Michael was relieved but he knew his journey wasn't going to end well. When the rowing boat got on board the engines roared and the ship started to move. A man handed him a towel. "Your late" the man said studying him. "And wet" Michael groaned. The man had short brown hair. His moustache was neatly combed. He wore a white shirt with a waist coat and a jacket over it. "Come on Michael I`ll show you your dog".

The man led Michael down a dark corridor. "Ah, here we are cabin 15" he exclaimed finally. The sign on the door said, Dog Centre in big writing. The man opened a door. Silence filled the room. "Cage 6" he muttered. "Okay, Michael, meet your new dog, Louie". Michael thought Louie wouldn't be like his last dog, Rex. Rex had died in war and Michael really missed him but when Louie stepped out of his cage he knew he had been mistaken. Louie was brown and white. He had a small tail and floppy ears but most of all he had eyes the size of saucers. "Whoa!" Michael said. He instantly forgot about Rex. "How much is he?" he asked. "For free of course "the man answered. Louie sniffed Michael curiously and barked. "He likes you" the man laughed. "Tomorrow I will show you your horse Flash", he said. "I have a horse as well?" Michael asked. "Yes he was your Dads", the man said. "Come on we better get back to our room".

The man showed the way through the dark corridor, Louie walked beside Michael. He wagged his tail as he went. Michael couldn't help smiling. The man turned right and opened a door. They were out on deck. "You better get to bed you've got a big day tomorrow", he said. "Which room?" Michael asked. "Room fourteen on corridor 5", the man answered. Michael and Louie walked down the silent corridor. There were no lights so Michael held a candle in his hand. Paintings hung on the walls above them. Michael could hear Louie breathing. He was relieved he'd met Louie. It wouldn't be the same without him. When they reached cabin fourteen Michael sighed tiredly. He found a blanket and a cot and made a bed for Louie. Then Michael got into his bunk and nodded off.

Michael was dreaming. He was in a dark corridor just like the one he'd passed through before. Where was Louie? He looked around but there was no sign of him. "Louie", he called. His voice echoed off the walls. A shadow stirred in the corner of the corridor. A gun fired.

Michael woke with a start. Louie was already up scratching at the door. He got dressed and opened the door. There were people racing through the corridor and carrying guns over their shoulders. Michael remembered they were due to attack the Germans that morning. He packed a bag with food and water and ran after all the men. When they reached the deck he could hardly hear the engines above the noise of the men. A hand touched his shoulder. "Jamie", Michael gasped as he turned around, "you came back". "I'm sorry I lost my temper", Michael apologised. Louie barked. "I need to get my bag", said Jamie and he disappeared. Michael gazed at the horizon. The ship was moving slowly across the water. Michael wondered what would happen when the war was over, if he survived would he be able to go home and keep Louie?

The wind blew softly on his face. Michael didn't realize Louie had left his side. "Louie", Michael called in panic as he saw Louie leaning against the railing of the ship about to fall in. Michael rushed towards him and grabbed him just as he fell. Louie sprang out of his hands and made for the deck but his jump failed by a lot and he fell into the black sea. Michael buried his head in his hands. He didn't want to do it again but he had to. He quickly got undressed and dived into the sea.

Louie woke with a towel wrapped around him. He remembered he had tried to get a good look at the propeller and Michael had caught him as he fell. Louie had tried to jump back on deck but failed. He shivered. Michael was beside him. A cup was being pressed to his lips. Louie put his head under Michael's arm. He had an expression on his face that Louie didn't like. Michael reached into his pocket and pulled out a dog collar. Louie nudged him. He placed the collar around Louie's neck. A voice called, "Quickly, it's already started".

Guns fired, bodies lay scattered on the ground. Louie would have preferred anything even a bath rather than being on the battle field. They silently crept up to the next fence and ducked behind it. "Stand back", Michael said as he pulled the trigger on his gun. A tank fired and blew up the fence they were behind. "Run", Michael told Louie, "run". Louie didn't need to be told a third time. He sprang into action and ran down the battlefield jumping over screaming men and avoiding being shot. Suddenly something hit his leg. Pain overtook him. Everything started to blur. Where was Michael? Everything went black.

Chapter 2

Louie woke to find two men standing over him. He understood. He was at the vets. A woman entered the room and said, "Results please". They started to talk quietly

between themselves. All Louie heard was, "Leg badly broken, shot, never walk properly again". Louie was horrified. He could feel a breeze blow on his fur. He turned looking desperately for an open window. He spotted one but it was not wide enough. How was he supposed to find Michael now? He noticed an air vent above him. He hobbled and jumped onto a shelf. It wobbled and several medicines fell. Louie's leg burned with pain. He just had to jump one more time. "Stop", yelled one of the men, "you'll just make your leg worse". Louie ignored the advice. He was going to find Michael and not lose him again. He pounced into the air vent and toppled in.

The air vent was hot and there were sounds everywhere. The vet clinic was connected to a hospital he discovered. Wounded men lay on beds being cured or tested. He could smell food from the kitchen, he just couldn't find it. He was starving. He'd been in the vent a long time and he was exhausted. He just wanted to find Michael, losing him was a nightmare. Louie wondered if Michael was injured in the hospital somewhere. What if he'd died fighting the tank?

He finally found the kitchen. Looking down he saw two men asleep on chairs. A jar of peanut butter was on the counter. The pushed against the vent and the screws gave way and he fell down. The men woke as Louie knocked over a plate that shattered on the floor. "What are you doing in here", one of them asked. Louie grabbed the jar of peanut butter and raced through the kitchen door. The men chased after him. There was an open window and Louie jumped without thinking.

Michael awoke. Blood lay splattered on his face. He remembered being kicked off the tank and smashing his head against a rock. Then he remembered who had kicked him off the tank, it was Jamie! He was in the back of a truck and he could see Jamie with another man. "Confused?" Jamie smirked. "I'm really a German spy. I was the one who killed your father, I was the one who ordered the attack on the ship, I was the one driving the tank and I was the one who shot Louie". Michael gasped. "Traitor", he screamed lunging at him. A gun fired and he fell unconscious.

Louie had landed on a truck, his bones ached. The air stank of smoke. He heard a gun fire inside the truck. He wanted to get off but he couldn't move. The truck pulled over at a warehouse. Five people got out carrying a body. It was Michael. Forgetting his pain, Louie leaped. "Look who's here", laughed Jamie, "super dog". One of the men reached for Louie and he bit him. "Leave him here", Jamie ordered. They carried Michael into the warehouse and shut the door.

"Louie", Michael's voice echoed through the warehouse. "He's dead Michael, I told you", Jamie said slumped on a chair nearby. He held a rifle in his hand. Anger and hate sat at the pit of Michael's stomach. How could this be his best friend? "It's over Michael", said Jamie, "half the English are dead and do you know the first thing we're going to do when we win the war? Kill the king and make me President". Michael cursed. "Bring in the dog", Jamie ordered. A man stumbled in holding a black sack. "He's dead alright", the man cackled. Michael reached into his shirt pocket and clutched a knife that Jamie hadn't taken. He slit the ropes on his wrists. Part of him said that Jamie was still his friend but that part was wrong. He rushed at Jamie. Jamie fired his rifle but Michael ducked and it hit the other man who dropped the sack.

Louie could hear guns firing around him and Michael's voice. Michael was fighting with Jamie! He tried to bark but only a whine came out. "How is he alive", Jamie gasped, "those imbeciles". Michael seized his chance. He punched Jamie in the stomach and grabbed the rifle and held it against his head. "Ah Michael you wouldn't shoot an old friend", Jamie said. "I will", Michael warned his finger against the trigger. "Think again", a voice said and Michael could feel a gun to his head. He looked desperately for a way out. A chandelier hung above him. A stairs led to a long landing. He had a plan but he needed help.

Michael looked at Louie and the dog read the message in his eyes. "Now you'll know my wrath", Jamie cried reaching for Michael. Michael kicked the man with the gun in the shin and shoved him into Jamie. He grabbed a rifle and shot the chandelier down on top of the two men. It burst into flames. The fire spread and Michael's eyes grew wide in terror. Jamie and the man started up the stairs. Smoke filled the warehouse. Michael scooped Louie up and ran to the stairs trying to avoid the fire. The man turned and for a second everything felt like slow motion. He tried to duck but the man kicked his head sending him backward into the fire.

The door of the warehouse flew open and two men ran in. The taller one was skinny and his face was covered in blood, the smaller one carried a long gun and his eyes were red from crying. "Michael what are you doing her", the small one said when he spotted him. Michael recognized his voice. "Stanley here catch", he said throwing Louie over the fire. Stanley caught him. Michael looked for Jamie. A gun fired. Michael remembered Jamie had said he'd killed Michael's father and anger grew inside him. Michael started to move low across the floor. A cry came from across the room. Terry and Stanley had started a fight with another German soldier and Stanley lay unconscious on the ground. Michael reached the stairs and tried not to cough with the smoke. Jamie might hear him and shoot in his direction. He crawled up the stairs hoping none of the floorboards would give way. Michael straightened his gun. He was going to kill the man who had murdered his father. He caught a movement and fired. He heard a scream. Had he got him, did he kill him?

Jamie staggered back as pain shot through his hand. His rifle was blasted out of his grip. Blood ran down his hand in a race to reach his wrist. He looked for his rifle but it had been knocked over the railing. There was another gunshot and when he looked up he saw a boy standing over the body of the other German soldier. It was Michael. The fire was spreading up the stairs behind him and Jamie looked around to see another flight of stairs. Jamie ran and the fire followed, he thought Michael would never reach him. A room lay at the top of the stairs full of dust. Everything looked like it hadn't been used for fifty years. There was a window behind a desk but it looked too high to jump. Panic grew inside him, if he didn't get out of the room the fire would get him. Jamie feared the worst, no gun, no exit. He paced the room hopelessly. He looked out the window but realized the drop was enough to kill him. Smoke was filling the room. He opened the window and saw the truck was still parked below.

Michael and Terry emerged from the warehouse dragging Stanley with them. Michael clutched Louie protectively. They walked towards the truck. Jamie leaped at that moment and landed on the truck with a crash. Michael and Terry raised their guns. Jamie realized he had nothing to defend himself with. The boy on the ground moaned and thrashed distracting Michael and Terry. Jamie took his chance and hopped into the driver's seat. He started the engine and drove knocking the two over. Michael scrambled up and fired but it was hopeless. All he could do as watch as the truck sped away.

Chapter 3

Stanley soon came around so the others didn't have to carry him. They followed the tracks left by the truck. They could hear a distant trickle of water. It was a hot night and they were thirsty. A light shone ahead. If they could reach it they might be able to get a bed for the night. Stanley broke the silence, "Where are we?" he asked exhausted. "Don't know, do you Michael", Terry asked. He pulled out a map and Michael studied it. "I think we're near Toulouse", he guessed. "We're lost", Stanley sighed. "If we can get to that light maybe we can get directions and some rest", Michael said. "Maybe", Stanley muttered. They continued on battling through some reeds. Stanley fell to the

ground with exhaustion. Terry managed to pick him up, "Just a little further", he told him. They could now see an old stone building, the light was coming from inside.

Louie's wounds were starting to heal but he still couldn't walk very well. It was almost dawn. They reached the building and Terry took a deep breath before knocking on the door. "Who is it?" a frightened voice called from inside, "what do you want?" "Just a place to rest", Terry said trying to sound friendly. The door opened. A man with grey hair and a beard opened the door. There were bits of gravy and potato stuck to his beard. "You're English", Michael noticed, "who are you?" "Thomas", he replied studying them, "come in". It was warm inside, a fire lit the corner of the room. Thomas carried an oil lamp in his hand. He poured some water into a jug at the sink. "Are you thirsty?" he asked. Stanley pushed past the other two and gulped down the water. "We're looking for a man called Jamie Richards", said Michael, have you seen him?" "Is he an English soldier", asked Thomas. "he's a German spy actually", insisted Terry. They explained how he had tried to kill them. Thomas looked appalled. "If I hear that he's around I'll tell you", said Thomas, "now go upstairs and get some rest there's some hay up there to lie on". They thanked him and went upstairs. The hay was warm and they instantly fell asleep.

Michael dreamed he was back on the tank with Jamie fighting. Jamie pointed a gun at his head and pulled the trigger. Michael woke with a start. He could hear fighting and shouting downstairs. Stanley appeared, "The Germans have killed Thomas and Terry", he cried. Michael grabbed Louie as soldiers started climbing the stairs. They jumped from a window and ran to the stables. Michael and Stanley hopped on two horses. "How are we going to get out without getting shot", cried Stanley. They opened a smaller door at the back and the horses reared up before galloping off. The soldiers had started their vans and motorbikes and were starting to catch up. "Faster", Stanley shouted. They could hear gunfire behind them. "We'll have to take another road", Michael shouted over the gunfire. "Head east and we might be able to lose them". They changed direction. A bullet dug into Michael's hip and he screamed in agony. He clutched his wound. "Hold on Michael we have to get out of here before we get killed", called Stanley. They changed direction again. Louie started to lick the wound on his hip. Slowly they were losing the soldiers.

"I watched as Terry died", Stanley said sadly. "What?" Michael asked. "All I did was watch", he continued. "It's not your fault", Michael told him. "I could have saved him", Stanley said. "We were defending the stairs and Terry decided to protect us. He was fighting his way through the Germans. A soldier aimed at him and I hesitated. Terry was killed", he said sadly. Their horses reared up as a plane flew low over their heads. Michael's horse reared again sending him flying off. "Run Louie, run", he ordered. The same words he'd used when the tank had attacked.

To be continued.....

Coming Home continued
by Kayla Andre, Tombrack NS

Run Louie run he ordered the same words he used when the tank had attacked. I woke up wondering where I was. It was dark all I could see was a dull light in the distance. It was cold I knew I was outside all I remembered was being on a horse then flying off. I was in agony but I had to get up and find Jamie but first I needed to find Stanley and Louie I couldn't kill Jamie on my own he needed to pay for what he did killing my father what was he thinking. Psst Michael, Michael I'm here over here he whispered. He was hiding from Jamie. I just can't... I can't do this, I don't want to die he said. You're not going to die if anyone's going to die it's going to be Jamie. As they walked up to the ware house a woof came out from nowhere. "Louie" shouted Michael. He sprinted over to Michael licking his face clean but Louie knew what was going to happen next. Michael, Stanley and Louie rambled through the woods and stumbled upon a camp with a sign declaring do not enter and out from nowhere came Jamie. Michael and Stanley hid behind a tree Louie hesitated for a second but came through in the end. It was time to get in and kill Jamie but how were we supposed to get in. "Bark! Bark!" It was Louie he had found a way to get out it was small but it didn't matter to Louie he was small anyway. As I crawled through the space I felt something dig into my thigh it was like it was digging deeper. When I got up it was barbed wire stuck into my leg. I pulled it out not thinking and carried on my mission. As they snuck quietly into the camp they saw 3 rows of tents with 15 tents in each row. Michael found a tent had no one in so they camped there for the night because it was getting dark. The next morning Michael woke up to two men walking past shouting for everyone to get up. It sounded like Jamie but Michael wasn't too sure as Michael, Stanley and Louie snook out to the back of the camp they saw soldiers packing their bags with explosives and loaded guns. Michael knew Jamie wanted to find him but on Michaels watch it wasn't going to happen. Michael, Stanley and Louie followed the motor bikes to the back of the camp where there was a one story house. Michael told Stanley and Louie to go out and search for Jamie while Michael went to explore the house. Michael knocked on the door and an old lady called Mary opened the door. Michael thought he recognised her but he couldn't remember the name Mary. She welcomed him into chat but he didn't have the time he just asked how her house ended up there or even why it was built next to the camp. She just said it wasn't my choice and shut the door. Michael was running back into the camp before Jamie saw him. Michael saw him go into a tent if you could call it a tent, it was big for a tent but it was time for him to sneak in behind and picked up a loaded gun. As Michael crept up behind him trying not to make a sound but it was too late he stepped on a branch and made a big loud noise. Trying to avoid the bullets Jamie was shooting at Michael. He got his gun and held it up and shot, he missed but Jamie didn't it went right through my leg. I was on the ground. He put his finger to the trigger and pulled it back as I closed my eyes but it didn't hit me..... Stanley, Michael cried. You saved me, you're my hero Michael, and they were the last words Stanley heard before he shut his eyes and fell asleep in my arms.

Coming Home continued
by Stacey Binions, Kildavin NS

The horses galloped on leaving Michael behind. Stanley managed to control his horse and he dragged Michael out straight out of sight into a dark forest. Stanley used his shirt to make a bandage to try stop the bleeding on Michael's hip. The roar of the plane was silent. "Go-leave me here," said Michael, "Save yourself!! 'The soldiers will be back to find us soon,'" Stanley replied "I will never forgive myself for not saving Terry, so there is no way I am leaving you here alone!" With that, Stanley lifted Michael up across his shoulder and put him up on his horse. There was room for two, so Stanley continued heading east.

Once they emerged from the forest, they saw the wreckage of a small aircraft, smoke still blowing from the cockpit. There were two bloody bodies visible behind the shattered windscreen. 'It's a German plane,' said Michael, "Be careful' when he saw Stanley dismount and begin to crawl over to the wreckage.

One of the bodies was clearly dead. His neck had been broken on impact, and his hands were tied behind his back, so he had no way of saving himself. It was the English man who had given Michael and Stanley a place to hide from the soldiers.

There was a gruelling noise from the pilot....Stanley turned to look at him and shouted out to Michael "It's Jamie! Stanley ran back to Michael to continue on their journey but Michael insisted that he see Jamie one last time. "I need to say something to the man that killed my father". Stanley understood and helped Michael over to the cockpit. Just as Michael was leaving in to speak, Jamie pulled the trigger of a gun with a weak hand and a sly grin on his dying face.

Out of nowhere Louis appeared, jumped on Michael and knocked him out of the bullets path Jamie was taking his dying last breath as Michael got back on his feet and Michael looked at Jamie and said to him in a whisper, "This is for my father" and shot him straight in the heart!

Coming Home continued
by Luke Burke, Fifth Class, Our Lady of Lourdes NS

Michael slapped the horses side and grabbed the reins as he and Stanley galloped away. His head was stuck in a mixture of worry for Louie and shock over Jamie's betrayal. He was still aware of the German planes soaring above, as well as the tanks closing in from behind him. He tried to clear his mind from all these thoughts and he continued on in silence.

Some time afterwards, they spotted an old, and by the looks of it, abandoned barn on the horizon. Michael and Stanley agreed to take shelter there for a little while. They tied up the horse outside and pushed open the large doors.

The first thing Michael saw was the thing that made him most happy; it was Louie! He went over and embraced the dog with a sigh of relief. "Am I glad to see you!" He laughed.

"Uh, Mike," began Stanley slowly, "You'd better get ready for a fight."

At first Michael was confused, but then turned to see Jamie staring right at him. Anger bubbled up inside him and he ran at Jamie, fists posed and ready.

"Wait! exclaimed Jamie. "Hear me out! I'm not a German spy!"

Michael hesitated. He stepped back and took the gun Stanley had salvaged from earlier. He loaded it and pointed it at Jamie's head. "Talk," he ordered sternly.

"It was all an act," said Jamie. "England needed a man on the inside. I trained with them, even shot a few Brits- sacrifices had to be made. "C'mon Michael. I'm your friend..."

Out of the corner of his eye, Michael saw Jamie slip his hand into his pocket. After seeing a flash of black, Michael reacted immediately.

BANG!

"Germany...will...avenge me..."

Those were Jamie's last words before he fell to the ground, stone dead. The empty gun shook in Michael's hand, but he said nothing. All feelings of regret had disappeared from his mind.

After a few silent moments Louie began to whimper. "Whats wrong, boy?"asked Michael worriedly. Army dogs were trained to know when trouble was nearby.

"Hey," said Stanley. "Do you hear that?" A distant boom sounded and the ground and the barn shook vigorously.

The Germans were dropping bombs.

This had barely registered with Michael before the barn exploded. Planks of wood and splinters flew everywhere.

This was the end.

□ □ □

When Michael woke up he didn't know where he was. "Hello?" he called out.

"Oh good, you're awake," said a voice. Michael looked up. A woman he assumed was a doctor was standing at the foot of his bed.

"I'm afraid your friend didn't make it," she said shaking her head. "But we did find a dog in the wreckage." She gestured to the side. Michael turned and saw Louie waddling over to him with just three feet. Michael smiled and turned back. "Where am I anyway?"

The doctor smiled. "Home."

Coming Home continued
by Róisín Carroll, Sixth St. Brigid's NS Clonegal

Chapter 4

Michael heard a bomb drop and heard many screams. Suddenly everything went black. A few hours later Michael woke up in a field. There was fire everywhere and it looked as if they were bombed. A few minutes later when the air raid was over Michael got up to look for Stanley but all he could find was his dead body on the ground below. Stanley was dead. Michael took his bag and map and headed for Toulouse. But wait. Where was Louie? "LOUIE..... LOUIE"

Louie woke in a field. His leg felt worse than it had ever felt. But it wasn't only his leg it was his neck. There was blood all over it and he could hardly move it. But he had to do a job. He was determined that he would find Michael. He yelp in pain but he was going to do it. He let out a bark hoping that Michael would hear. Louie headed in the direction of Toulouse as his leg got sorer.

5 hours later, the exhausted Michael arrived in Toulouse but he still didn't find Louie. A couple of minutes later Michael heard talking underground. He looked around for a while and found a stairs at the side of a building. It looked as if there was a bunker. He was there! Jamie!

Michael got closer to hear what they were saying. "How did you let him get away?"

"I didn't mean to. He was just too fast"

"Too FAST. I guess he is just like his Father. I am going to give you one day to bring him back to me or else you will go to the camp."

"I will capture him and bring him to the camp where he and his father can die together."

"You will have to or else we might lose this town as well"

Michael gasped with fear. Is that person me? Is my father alive? Who was that man in the room? Why am I so targeted? He knew Jamie would be coming any moment now but he didn't have much time. He ran but he heard the door open. He knew he wouldn't make it.

"You" he shouted "Where is your dog to help you now?"

Jamie grabbed Michael and put him in the back on a truck. There was other soldiers in the truck too. In the distance he could a dog. It was beginning to run towards him. It was getting closer. The dog jumped up on to the trailer. It was Louie.

After a long 3 hour drive they finally reached a rundown building in the middle of nowhere. Michael was let into a room where there was another man in. The man turned around and it was Father.

"You're alive! I thought you were dead"

"My son. They captured me, brought me here and told you that I was dead."

"Do you ever think that we will get home"

"I don't know son but maybe we will go home someday and live a happy life with the rest of the family"

That was the last we heard from Michael and his father but when the allies won the war Louie was sent home to be with Michael's family and the story would never be forgotten.

Coming Home continued
by Zoe Conroy, Sixth Class, Our Lady of Lourdes NS

Chapter 4

Louie did not run he wanted to stay with Michael. Michael wanted him to be safe but he couldn't do anything because he was still on the horse.

"Forget about the dog Michael, they are coming" shouted Stanley.

Before Michael could reply, another blast of gunfire sounded close to them,

"We need to split up," shouted Michael.

"Ok, you head East, I'll go West," shouted Stanley.

So they split up. Louie went along with Michael. Michael screamed again with pain.

"Don't give up! You can do this; you are going to find him" he said to himself.

Louie barked and Michael whispered "Shut up Louie! Be quiet!"

Stanley was by himself. He looked behind him. There was a van there. He tried to go faster, but he couldn't. All he could think about was if Michael was ok, and what had happened to Terry. Michael looked back and the motorbike was right behind him.

"Ok, ok, just stop! Let's talk!" he shouted.

He could hear it slowing down, but then it stopped. After that, Michael stopped. But before he could say anything, they pulled the trigger.

All of a sudden, Michael woke up from his dream. He woke up everyone else.

"Come on, we need to go", he said.

They walked downstairs and said to the man

"Thank you very much, but it's time for us to hit the road."

"You're very welcome. Goodbye," he said.

They walked out the door. They made their way back. When they got back everyone was gone except for Jamie, but they didn't know that.

Jamie wanted to do the same job that he did to Michael's father as he wanted to do to Michael. They walked inside. The first thing that Michael saw was Jamie.

"What are you doing here?" asked Michael.

Jamie did not reply. Then Michael noticed Jamie had a gun.

"RUN!" he shouted as loud as he could. "He's got a gun!"

Jamie fired a shot into the roof.

"Next one will be you," he warned them.

"Oh yeah?" said Michael.

Michael pulled on Jamie. They fought for a minute until Michael noticed that Jamie had let the gun fall. Michael grabbed it.

"Who's in charge now?" he asked.

"You wouldn't dare!" said Jamie as he tried to get hold of the gun.

"There's only one way this will end," said Michael.

"What's that?" asked Jamie.

"You die or I die, and I pick you!" replied Michael. "You will know what my father felt like when you pulled the trigger on him."

Jamie came at him again. This time, he had a knife in his hand. He put the knife to Michael's throat... Michael put the gun to Jamie's head and pulled the trigger...

The other men came down.

"What have you done?"

"I didn't mean to; it was self-defense," said Michael, in shock; he couldn't believe he had killed him.

The men said to Michael "We need to get rid of him."

"Throw the body in the sea!" one of them shouted.

So they did.

Michael dropped the gun.

"I didn't mean to! I didn't want to!" he cried.

"Clean him up," said one of the men.

It took Michael a while to get over what he had done. He thought about it every night. He got on with his normal life; he had no choice. He had to live with what he had done...

Coming Home continued
by Nicola Corrigan Ballyroebuck NS

Louie sprinted on as fast as he could and Michael followed closely behind. Suddenly Louie was lifted off the ground by Michael and just in time, for a bullet barely missed his leg.

"Come on boy, you've got to be careful". Louie could just make out what Michael had said over the sound of the fire from the German guns. He replied with a bark. Stanley slowed down the horse for the two to catch up. Louie was watching everything from Michael's arms until he was flung through the air and landed in one of Stanley's powerful arms. He held Louie tight as he reached out with his other hand to grab a hold of Michael. Michael desperately tried to grab his hand but was just out of reach. Louie barked and tried to help but Stanley pushed him back. Michael eventually caught hold of his hand but just as he did, Michael felt an agonising pain shoot through his hand. He let out a screech of pain and blood splattered everywhere. "Michael", Stanley shouted, petrified, "are you alright?" Michael didn't get a chance to reply. The ground swayed dangerously under him and the noises around him started to fade. He fell to the ground with a thump. He could feel something wet on his forehead, at first he thought it was dew from the grass, but when he touched it carelessly, he let out a groan of pain and the substance felt warm and sticky. It was blood he thought, but soon his sight blurred and he was in a depth of darkness.

Michael awoke to find himself in his house with his mother looking down over him. He blinked in surprise and disbelief. He tried to get up but failed. His mother said sternly "Lie down Michael, you need to rest."

"How did I get here?" he asked rather confused. "You were brought here by the British Officers. A woman called Lucilia Brown found you out in a field, nearly dead and she cared for you until you had recovered enough and then got in contact with the British Army and they brought you here." Michael laughed at the story and was very grateful to Lucilia, but he remembered that Louie and Stanley were still out there, somewhere and he desperately wanted to find them.

One afternoon, two weeks after Michael got home, he received a visitor. At the door stood a man in uniform with a yellow piece of paper in his hand; he gave it to Michael and left. Michael opened it and read it. After he had finished he let the paper fall to the floor and he slid down onto a chair. Louie and Stanley had been killed in an attack by the Germans. They could not have made it out alive. Michael felt empty, he couldn't feel anything only numbness. He left the room without saying a word.

A year had passed since Michael had received the letter and he had never gone back to the army. On his 20th birthday his mother came into his room singing and bringing a present with her. Michael still had no emotion left in him, but he forced a smile. "Here you go" she said and handed him the box. He opened it to find a small puppy inside, brown and white with floppy ears and eyes the size of saucers. Michael's emotions all came back. He laughed and cried. The puppy looked just like Louie. "What are you going to call him?" his mother asked. Michael replied with pride in his voice, "Hero, just like Louie was".

Coming Home continued
by Niamh Cox, Kildavin NS

Louie ran off and managed not to get shot. Suddenly he remembered what happened last time he ran off. Stanley was behind Louie. Michael found the motivation and got up off the ground. He tried to run but with the pain he was in he had to stop.

Just when Louie was about to run back to Michael Stanley stopped him. "You're coming with me," Stanley said. Louie couldn't believe what he had just heard. He was a German Spy.

Stanley took Louie to the German base. Louie couldn't help but think about Michael. Suddenly Michael burst into the room. Louie ran out because he saw the bomb in Michael's hand. When Louie was out Michael threw the bomb in. They ran for cover. Then they heard Jamie. They hid behind a wall nearby. Michael grabbed a gun and shot Jamie.

Louie sensed danger and started to bark. Michael knew what he meant and ran. When they were safe they saw a pack of dogs and their German soldiers walk by. "Good boy Louie!," Michael whispered.

When they knew danger had passed they went back to their camp. Michael went straight to a nurse because he had two bullets in his leg. Louie was also very lame. Especially after all of the running he did. This time Louie wasn't worried so he got the bullets out and covered up the wounds.

Michael was not great. His wounds had got infected. It would take time to recover if it would improve at all. Louie knew Michael was not great. "At least he knew he had a chance unlike some other soldiers," Louie thought.

A few months later, Michael was back in the war with Louie by his side. The Germans were still going after Louie and Michael. Louie was not worried because a lot of dogs looked like him. Michael had to be a bit more cautious.

When Michael was in his trench a bomb fell about two meters away. Just when it was going to blow up someone grabbed him. When Michael woke up someone was at the end of the bed. "Who are you?", Michael asked. "I'm your father", Dan replied. "I thought you died," Michael was crying now. "No a spy sent a letter home as if he was the General," Dan was crying too. "I missed you so much Dad," Michael said.

A few months later Dan, Michael and Louie were on the boat back to London. Michael's arm had to be removed and Dan got hurt in the bombing as well. Louie was injured in the leg and couldn't run. They were finally coming home.

Coming Home continued

by Donnacha Cosgrave Second Class, St. Brigid's NS, Clonegal

Chapter 4

"Run Louie run". Louie ran. It would have been better if they still had horses because the Germans were gaining on them, the plane was German, it was a bomber plane. Jamie was flying it. Anger filled Michael for the fourth time. Suddenly Michael spotted that Jamie had nothing with him, luckily Louie was very good at sniffing things out, Michael asked Louie to try and sniff out the truck, it was hard to sniff while running but Louie managed in the end. The Germans caught up now. Just then they saw the truck, quickly they made their move and darted as quickly as their legs would carry them and hopped into the truck. Jamie dropped a bomb, it landed on the truck. Quickly Michael grabbed some guns and scurried out of the truck, immediately the Germans fired their guns, Louie got shot in the leg without Michael noticing. Michael ran on and then Jamie dropped a second bomb on Louie. It killed him. The sound grabbed Michael's attention, he turned and looked. He was devastated. He really wanted to do something, so after a lot of dodging he took a moment to shoot when the plane was above the soldiers, it landed and killed them. Without hesitation as soon as Jamie opened the cab Michael shot him, he died. The war was over and the English had won. It was time to come home.

Coming Home continued
by Emma Curran, Fifth Class, Leighlinbridge NS

Louie didn't want to leave Michael, but he had to! He knew they wouldn't survive otherwise. He didn't run to save himself, he ran to get help. Stanley spoke less and less, he was just thinking about Terry all the time. Michael tried comforting him, but failed miserably.

Just then they heard shots. "Where did they go?" someone asked in a German accent. "I-I-I think the-ey -" "Shush! Don't abandon Brita - " Suddenly, another shot rang out. "Speak now," commanded the German "or end up like him!" "They went that way," whispered the boy, pointing in an easterly direction. "What should we do?" asked Michael. Stanley exclaimed "Avenge Terry! I'm going to kill the man who killed him!". "Stanley, I'm warning you! Vengeance is a terrible thing. There are better ways to seek revenge," shouted Michael.

Louie came running. His legs ached, but that didn't matter. He could hear Michael. There! Now he could see Michael. He had brought soldiers. They would be safe. Michael cursed. "Shoot! There are more Germans and they've got Louie!" "Oh no!" realised Louie. He had brought German soldiers, not British. Michael had run out of ammunition. "This is the end," he thought.

Just then, a girl approached Michael and ordered him to accompany him if he wanted to live. He had no other choice. Anywhere seemed better than where he was at that exact moment in time. Louie and Stanley followed in close proximity.

"I'm Helen," announced the girl. "I'm - " began Michael, only to be interrupted by Helen. "I know who you are!" she stated. "You do? How?" asked Michael incredulously. "Who do you think sent that letter? The army?" Helen asked. "It was me!" she exclaimed.

Louie recognised Helen straight away. Her long dark hair and her green eyes.... How could he forget her? She raised him and brought him to Michael. "Why help me?" asked Michael. "Your father helped me when I was a young girl and I promised I would repay him. Now was my chance. How is he?" "He died," replied Michael tearfully. " I am so sorry to hear that. He was a good man" responded Helen sadly. "You should get some sleep," offered Helen. "Well only forty winks," yawned Stanley.

A short while later Michael woke up. He checked his watch. It was 7:40. He looked around and saw German bodies lying on the ground. "Are they?" Asked Michael, his eyes wide open, trying to take in what he was actually seeing. "Some of the others are just unconscious," answered Helen. "Did you do this by yourself?" enquired Michael. Helen simply nodded.

Coming Home continued
by Ellen Dobson, Sixth Class, Kilmyshall NS

Michael's horse ran off and he couldn't catch it, he had tried but the reigns slipped through his sore, blistered hands. Stanley got off his horse and sent it off. 'If we send the horses off they'll follow the tracks' shouted Stanley. 'Come on, we have to keep going,' Michael said, 'follow Louis'. They had run so far that they could only hear the gunfire as a soft noise in the distance. 'My wound has gotten worse' exclaimed Michael. Stanley tore off a piece of his shirt and wrapped it around Michael's wound. 'Ouch', exclaimed Michael, suddenly Louis' ears perched up and he ran over to Michael. 'Sorry' said Stanley 'well at least you know he's loyal.' 'We better keep going better keep going' said Michael.

They had walked a few miles and then stopped upon an old shack. 'Wait' shrieked Stanley anxiously, 'what if it's a trap?' 'You're right' whispered Michael. He had asked Lois to sit behind a bush as he didn't want anything to happen to him. They picked up their guns with their fingers firmly on their triggers. 'If you're in there you better come out I'm warning you' shouted Stanley. It was eerily quiet as there was no reply. 'Alright we are coming in' shouted Michael; his heart was beating so fast he thought it might fall out of his chest. The shack was dark and full of dust and it looked like no one had been in it for a while. 'It's probably an old miners cave, come here Louis' Michael called. Louis sprang up out of the bush towards him. 'Good boy' said Michael scratching Louis' chin. 'We could stay here a few nights' said Stanley 'and look there's even an old tunnel leading to some caves'. They settled in for the night and soon fell asleep.

The next morning Michael was awakened by the sound of gunfire and men shouting and marching. He sprung out of bed and ran over towards Stanley who was asleep on the ground. 'Wake up' he shouted. Stanley woke up confused but as soon as he heard the men he knew they would have to go and fast. Suddenly there was a loud bang at the door. "Open up" a man shouted in a familiar voice. 'Come on', said Stanley 'we have to go we will be safe down in the tunnels'. Suddenly the door flew open and Jamie stood in the doorway. Michael grabbed his gun and pulled the trigger without hesitation. Jamie fell to the ground. Michael stared down at him in disbelief. 'Come on Michael, we have to go now', shouted Stanley. They hurried down into the tunnels and ran until they saw daylight. When they surfaced over ground, they made their way back to base. Michael was relieved to be back at base with Louis by his side, their mission complete.

Coming Home continued
by Fionn Doyle, Tombrack NS

Louie ran under the cover of darkness into the forest. ~After Michael had fallen off his horse Louie lost sight of Stanley. Louie was still running until he came to a river. He was cornered. The German soldiers were closing in. Louie had to think fast. He turned around and made a leap for the other side but he fell in the water. The water brisk and cold, Louie tried to swim to the surface but he was knocked out by the debris floating on the surface of the water. Louie awoke, but it wasn't where he was last. He was washed up on a bank of a river. Louie felt strange and hazy. He slowly got up. He walked at a snail's pace and collapsed. Louie got up and started looking for a village or a town. Back in a German camp Michael was just waking up when he heard a bang. He looked outside but when he looked outside he turned pale and looked like he was going to faint. Back with Louie he had found a German camp that was hidden in the middle of a forest. Louie heard some gun shots ahead and got curious. He stumbles down a hill and was beside the wall. There was a small hole just perfect for a little dog like him. He crawled into the camp and could see lots of blood. He heard people shouting but couldn't understand what they were saying. What language were they speaking? thought Louie. Then he heard someone shouting "Stop! Stop!" Louie recognized that voice. It's Michael! Barked Louie. Louie sprang into action. He ran over to a rope that was supporting some ammunition and guns they were transporting. Louie started biting through the rope. The rope snapped and the ammo and guns fell on a jeep with a big bang. The German soldiers came over to investigate. Louie quickly ran off to Michael and started clawing at the rope that tied up Michael. The rope broke and Michael was free. Michael and Louie quietly walked around the back of the main building holding the prisoners. The wall was too high to climb so Michael pushed a crate over to the wall. He climbed on the crate and hopped over the wall with Louie in his arms. They stole a horse from the front of the camp. They both rode back to an English camp. At the camp they met up with Stanley. From there they made their way back to the ship. Once they boarded the ship Stanley went to his room. Michael and Louie went to their room also. After walking through the door. Michael went to his bed. He went to check if his pistol was there. "That's strange" said Michael. "My gun is not there" as he said that sentence he realised that someone was hiding behind his door. "Hello Michael" he said. "Who are you"? Said Michael. "I'm your old friend" he said. "Jamie" said Michael. "Yes Michael" said Jamie. "Let's take a walk" said Jamie as he poked Michael with his gun. Louie watched what was going on. He ran to Stanley's room. He started barking. Stanley opened the door and followed Louie. Jamie and Michael were walking up to the front of the ship. Louie and Stanley were close behind. Jamie and Michael reached the front of the ship. "Goodbye Michael" said Jamie and went to push Michael. Stanley came and tackled Jamie to the ground. Stanley was about to punch Jamie but at that moment he just stopped. He turned around and pulled Jamie up. Stanley started laughing. "I've been working for the Germans for a long time now" said Stanley. Before he could finish what he was saying Michael punched him in the face and he was knocked out cold. Michael and Jamie started to fight. Michael pulled out a knife and stabbed Jamie in the hand. Jamie dropped the gun and they both made a leap for the gun. Michael grabbed the gun and hit Jamie with the gun. Michael grabbed the gun and hit Jamie with the gun on his forehead. Michael shot Jamie in the knee. Michael dragged Jamie over to the rail. "This is for my father and for shooting Louie" said Michael. Louie came over and bit Jamie in the foot. Michael threw Jamie over the rails. Jamie couldn't swim because Michael shot him in the knee. Slowly Jamie drowned. A week later Stanley was in prison and Michael and Louie lived happily ever after.

Coming Home continued

by Tony Doyle, Fourth Class, Our Lady of Lourdes NS

Michael awoke to the sound of the harsh consonants of the unfamiliar German tongue being hurled at him and the ominous sight of the dark swastika. All he could think of was Stanley.... Where was he? Was he dead? And Louie, did he manage to escape?

Michael again drifted in and out of consciousness during his journey, no doubt to a Nazi POW camp. He had heard about the war crimes, the torture and the abuse. But he was determined not to be broken. As he arrived in Hamburg POW camp the sight of the starved and maimed prisoners was frightening and horrific. After what seemed like hours of solitary confinement he was finally brought up to an "interview" room. The shock and anger of seeing Jamie again spurred Michael to dive at Jamie but two Nazi soldiers held him back. Jamie sneeringly said "Meet my father General Himmler you may have heard of him, head of the S.S. and a close associate of Hitler himself". After several days of torture Michael planned his escape. At midnight he would sneak out of his cell and steal supplies from the Germans. Then he would use a flashlight to help him find his way. But he had to be careful of the snipers on the watch towers. Then he would use a clippers to cut a hole in the barbed wire fence. After that he'd search in the hope of finding Louie. But then he remembered he couldn't leave Stanley behind.

So that night he began to break out of his cell. The rusty iron bars easily snapped. He searched for and found Stanley on the floor of another cell. He whispered to Stanley through the iron bars "What happened?" Stanley replied "They beat me with metal bars and wooden bats". Stanley's cell bars were a lot firmer than his. Michael couldn't break him out and he knew he had to go soon. Stanley told him to leave. Michael felt bad but fled to the supply room. There he found a map, a Luger hand gun, a torch and clippers. Michael crawled along the ground with the torch in his hand. A soldier spotted him and started firing. He was inches away from hitting Michael. Now Michael took cover behind a wall. He took out his gun and began to shoot. Michael shot him in the arm. So the soldier dropped his gun and Michael began to run over to the fence. What Michael didn't know was that the soldier managed to get reinforcements on his walkie-talkie. Then Michael felt a bullet whizz by his head. He was half-way through making a hole he could crawl through. But now he was trying to avoid being shot. Michael fired at two soldiers killing them both. Then he leaped behind a barrel of water. Recklessly shooting he managed to shoot a soldier in the leg. Michael's gun had run out of ammo. "Damn " he thought "I should have checked the bullets before taking it. Now I'm doomed".

Michael had no choice but to run and barge through the cut barbed wire fence. As he was running he managed to dodge four bullets before the fifth hit his shoulder. He managed to scramble through the half hole. Then he found shelter for the night and lay down with a torn shirt sleeve covering his wound. The following morning Michael awoke to a cold tongue licking his face and a barking noise. It was Louie. He looked at his arm and saw it was all bandaged up and then he noticed he was in a ship's cabin. He got up and went outside. A British General was waiting in the corridor. He told Michael how Louie had found them in France and by using their network of spies they managed to track him down and rescue him outside a POW camp in Hamburg. "Without Louie you'd be dead right now" smiled the General. As the words came out of his mouth a bomb hit the ship and then Nazi soldiers boarded the ship and began killing British soldiers. As the ship began to sink Michael and Louie raced upstairs to the top floor where Michael found a machine gun and managed to kill forty-five Germans before attempting to kill Jamie but narrowly missing him. Now he had caught Jamie's attention and as the water reached waist height poor Louie was struggling to breathe. Michael and Jamie were now battling. Jamie had shot a bullet that skimmed Michael's ear and had scraped him badly

but then Michael shot Jamie in the forehead killing him. Michael had won the bittersweet revenge on Jamie for killing his beloved father.

Now Michael grabbed Louie and they paddled for nearly fifteen minutes before finding shore. Then they signalled for help and after nearly three days a rescue boat saved them.

When they returned to England both Michael and Louie were awarded the Victoria Cross medal from King George VI. All Michael could think of was how proud his father would be if he could see him now.

Coming Home continued
by Danny Dreelan, Tombrack NS

..... Run Louie, run he ordered. The same words he'd used when the tank had attacked. But Louie wouldn't listen he just couldn't follow Michael's orders. "Run, just go, leave me" Michael was crying at this time, shivering and roaring in pain, he just knew he couldn't stay alive. "Go with Stanley" insisted Michael. Tears were flowing down Michael's face. Louie hesitated for a moment he couldn't leave his master but it got in Louie's head and he stayed with Michael. Suddenly the notion got in Stanley's head as well, he galloped as fast as the wind back to Michael. Stanley finally arrived. To their surprise he bailed off his horse and quickly picked up Michael over his shoulder in cover in the ruins of a house away from German's sight. Louie sat up beside Michael. Stanley tried to find rags or bandages of some sort, they had to act fast in order to keep Michael alive. Now, the moment of truth he needed to make sure he can connect through the --- only to the doctors and soldiers.

"Solidier Michael has been shot, looks like a sniper bullet not sure though, canine 73 by his side not badly wounded, located in Toulouse come in, over" "Copy that". They were so relieved but it wasn't over yet Jamie was still somewhere nobody knows. Now it was just silence. Nothing to be heard or seen they weren't sure if that was a good sign or not. After a long period of time they heard a motor, not all confident if it was German or English. Michael, Louie and Stanley peeked out. Louie ran out and barked at the track then ran back to Michael's side. It must have been the soldiers. Thankfully it was, they ran with great speed towards us. They were all crying with relief and Michael crying with both pain and relief. Michael was put in the truck along with Stanley and Louie still by his side. "It looks like a 50 calibre bullet. I'm sorry men. I don't think he'll make it. Fair well Michael it's been an honour. He has lost too much blood. But Louie knew he had that the 1% chance he could live was worth all the effort but they didn't know how. Louie did though. Louie just kept licking the wound and Michael couldn't feel much pain anymore.

They arrived finally in La Harve and what do you know but a row boat was at the shore, they all boarded the boat. By this time it was pitch black but luckily all the soldiers must carry a compass. Michael had lost his but Stanley still had his. No Germans would be scouting the channel they wouldn't suspect. 2 days later they arrived back in England very thirsty and hungry but they were still in one piece. Michael's wound had healed up successfully and a few English soldiers and hundreds of savillions greeted them clapping and cheering with joy. They couldn't stay there for long they had to return to their bunker, the room they were in before they left for France.

I needed some more rest so I lay down in a bed from the medic soldiers. I got paper, ink and pen.

Dear Mother

Your son Michael here. I'm writing to you from our bunker in Portsmouth. I hope you're doing well. I'm getting better, I got shot in Toulouse but it's healing up, sore one that, right in the hip. My dog Louie is the best dog in the world super dog perhaps he got shot in the leg but he's fine somehow though. I don't know how. I'm healing up well but I just wanted to say "I'm coming home".

Coming Home continued
by Damien Duke, Sixth Class, Carrigduff NS

Chapter 4

Michael came to as the pain in his hip subsided. He was on the back of a horse, but he had no idea where he was, until he saw Stanley walking alongside the horse. Stanley glanced around and saw that Michael was awake. "Where is Louie?" Michael asked, terrified of the answer he might receive. Stanley looked behind and said "He's fine; he wouldn't move and wouldn't stop barking. I knew I couldn't leave you so I put you onto the horse we took from Thomas' house, the other horse ran away." "Where are we?" Michael asked. "Somewhere at the edge of Toulouse." Stanley answered. They had been walking for about twenty minutes when they saw a church and the parochial house where the priest lived.

When they reached the house they left the horse to graze and walked up to the front door. When they knocked on the door they were greeted by an old man in his sixties. The priest led them inside and introduced himself as Fr. Jerry. Stanley then explained how Jamie had tried to kill them. Michael told the priest how Jamie was really a German spy. Fr. Jerry offered the two men a place to stay for a few days. They gladly accepted the offer. Fr. Jerry led them to a small but comfortable room at the back of the house. He gave them dinner of steak, wild mushrooms and potatoes, he also told them that he had heard of their platoon at the weekly church service. Michael and Stanley planned to go after their platoon and warn them about Jamie. They stayed for a few days which, was long enough for the condition of Michael's hip to improve. When they left the house they mounted the single horse that they had. They headed off to Toulouse because according to Fr. Jerry, their platoon was fighting to take control of the city.

Once they were a couple of hundred metres away they abandoned the horse and walked. As they neared the middle of the city they could hear fighting. "What are we going to do?" Michael asked. "I think we should see what happens and see if we can re-join our platoon" Stanley replied.

"But what about warning them about Jamie?" asked Michael, "First things first Michael" Stanley said, now slightly irritated. When there was a lull in the fighting they could see that their platoon had won the battle and were fortifying their positions and taking the German weapons and ammunition. Michael got Louie to bark, to warn them that they were approaching. "It's Michael and Stanley", they both yelled as Louie barked. "Is it really you?" one of the men shouted. "Yes it's us" Michael yelled. They went over to their platoon and were confronted by the weary looking Lieutenant "Get a gun and some ammo each" he ordered. "The Germans are about to attack and your dog will have to stay with the other dogs". "Go on Louie, you'll be safe" Michael said. Michael walked away as the dog looked after him. "But will YOU be?" Louie thought, as he went off to where the other dogs were being kept.

Michael was worried as there were loads of Germans coming. Suddenly a scout ran back from the house he had been hiding in. "The Germans are coming" he said breathlessly, "How many?" inquired the Lieutenant. "Too many for us" the scout replied. "Ok, radio headquarters and request back up." the Lieutenant ordered. "Are there any tanks?" a young soldier of around eighteen asked. "Just one, I'm not sure what type?" the scout answered. "Ok how long till reinforcements arrive?" asked the Lieutenant. "Fifteen minutes." the radio operator answered. "Ok lads let's just hold out for as long as we can", said the Lieutenant "I want two volunteers to jump onto the tank as it goes around the corner and throw grenades down the hatch." "I'll go" Michael said at once, and after a couple of seconds Stanley said "I'll go as well".

As they got some grenades Stanley whispered furiously "You've got us killed you little idiot!" "What, how?" Michael said surprised. "How can you not see that this is a suicide mission?" Stanley said. "They're coming!" a lookout shouted "Come on, let's get in position" Michael said. They ran to a small shop at the corner of the street and waited for the Germans to come. Soon they could see the infantry and then they saw the tank "That's one crazy tank" Michael gasped but it didn't matter, Stanley was already up and running. Michael scrambled to his feet and ran after Stanley, they jumped onto the tank, opened the hatch, dropped the grenades in and closed the hatch. There was a tremendous bang followed by the sound of the ammo starting to blow up. Michael and Stanley both dived off the tank and ran behind a low wall.

They lay for a few seconds gasping when Jamie suddenly appeared with a rifle in hand, he laughed. "Drop your weapons or I'll shoot you!" Stanley slowly dropped his weapon. Suddenly bullets came flying over the wall "Blast it!" Jamie shouted. Michael saw a smear of blood on Jamie's arm. While Jamie was concentrating on his arm, Michael glanced at Stanley who gave the smallest of nods. Simultaneously they both jumped at Jamie. Michael gripping the knife, plunged it into Jamie's thigh. Jamie screamed out in agony and grabbed a small revolver that seemingly appeared out of nowhere and shot Stanley in the stomach. Michael yelled "Louie, Louie help!" Louie heard Michael yelling in the distance, he ran and jumped over the low wall surrounding the area where the dogs were kept. He tracked the sound of Michael and ran down the street, he saw Jamie hitting Michael. Louie jumped over the wall and started biting Jamie. Jamie stopped hitting Michael and tried to fend Louie off. While Jamie was distracted, Michael grabbed a discarded helmet off the ground and whacked Jamie on the head, stunning him. Michael hit him again and knocked him out. Then Michael crawled over to Stanley. He was a gory mess and they both knew that Stanley was going to die. Stanley tried to say something, but his mouth was full of blood. Michael leaned closer as Stanley tried again, he could just make out the words "Stay safe....." Michael gently closed his eyes.

Coming Home continued

by Nicky Byrne Fitzpatrick, Third Class, Our Lady of Lourdes NS

(Chapter 4)

As Michael looked up from the ground upon which he lay, he could hear his horse galloping off in the distance. Michael called after the horse "Flash, Flash, Flash! Come back here Flash. I need you Flash..."

Michael looked up into the sky as he lay there in the dirt thinking about how is he ever going to catch up to Jamie now. All of a sudden a hand came out of no where down towards him. It was Stanley! Michael could not believe his eyes... Stanley helped Michael back on to his feet. Michael was so happy to see Stanley they hugged with excitement. Michael said to Stanley "I thought you were dead, I was so afraid it was only myself and Louie that made it away from Jamie".

Stanley took hold of the horse that he had rode onto the battlefield. Stanley helped Michael to get upon the horse and they both rode to safety. It was getting cold and getting close to nightfall now so the men really needed to find a safe spot to lay their heads for the night in the distance they could see an old ruin of a house. They both looked at each other could this be the place that they were they were going to rest their heads and make a plan on how they will get out of this place alive. We need to figure out a plan to get rid of Jamie once and for all. He is a German spy! He killed my father in cold blood and Terry too. He also shot poor Louie; he won't be the same ever again.

As they got closer to the old ruins, they could see a bike lying on the ground close to the house. They dismounted from the horse and got their guns ready. They walked around the outside of the house. As they got closer to the main entrance where an old door lying on its side they saw drops of blood all over the ground. They took the safety off their guns and they slowly made their way into the house. It was after getting dark and now there was poor visibility.

(Chapter 5)

Louie lead the way, he kept looking back to make sure Michael and Stanley were still following him. they went in and out of all the rooms there were no one inside the rooms they entered. There was one last room to check. It was the darkest room in the ruins as there was no window. Louie started to act strange Michael knew something was up. The dog started to growl as the two men entered the dark room. There was a shape on the floor in the corner of the room, their hearts started to race. As they got close to the shadow, they noticed that it was a person. They got closer to the person only to find that they were in this dark room with the horrid Jamie, the stone cold killer.

Jamie was sleep he seemed to have lost a good bit of blood he seemed to have a cut on his face as well as a gunshot wound in the thigh and hip area. Stanley had an idea he took the reins off the horse and tied up Jamie with them Jamie woke up asking what do they think they are doing to him.

Michael and Stanley said we are heading back to the base camp in the morning we are handing you over to the brass and they will locking you up for the rest of your worthless life or worse .

In the morning as the sun was about to rise Michael and Stanley got Jamie from the dark room and tied him to the horse. They made their way cross many fields to get back to the original base camp were all of this started. A strange feeling came over Michael. He thought back to the first time he arrived at the camp. He thought about all that had happen since then. Michael was tired of this war and just wanted to go home and sleep. They found their commander and handed Jamie over to him. Their

commander told them that they saved a lot of lives by catching Jamie. As the military police led him away, Jamie stared at Michael and Stanley, but said nothing.

Over the next few weeks, life carried on. Louie slowly recovered from his wounds and built up his strength, Michael and Stanley rejoined their friends. Weeks quickly turned into months and as the march to Germany continued Michael often thought about his father and Terry. Then one day there was an excitement in the camp, Germany had surrendered, the war was over. Michael held Louie tightly and cried with happiness, they were going home.

Coming Home continued
by Ailbhe Fortune, Fifth Class Our Lady of Lourdes NS

Stanley nervously watched the plane fly overhead. He suddenly pulled the reins and the horse halted. Micheal stopped to see what Stanley was doing. Micheal looked past Stanley and he saw a tank. Through the window of the tank Micheal saw Jamie laughing. "Stanley, Stanley", called Micheal, but Stanley just stared overhead. Micheal had no choice but to move on. He didn't look back, he just looked straight ahead, until he came to a sudden stop. He found himself looking at the ground, where there was a trail of paw prints. Louie, he decided. He followed the trail for a long time, a couple of hours, he thought. Then he saw the sea. He traveled a bit further and found Louie. He jumped off his horse to meet the dog. Louie was barking at the sea. Micheal laughed. "We can't go home yet. We have to catch Jamie first. He tried to kill you and he did kill my Dad and my friends." Louie looked up at Micheal and barked agreeingly. Micheal sat down on the side of the road and sighed. "We have to come up with a plan. I'd bring you with me and we could go undercover as German soldiers but their rule is you have to have a cat". Louie growled at the word 'cat'. Suddenly, a boat pulled up. Micheal stared for a while and exclaimed "You can go home on that boat and I'll get a cat and go undercover! Come on hurry up Louie!" Louie wouldn't budge. "Ha! Can't get rid of me that easy!", he thought. Just then Jamie's tank pulled up. Jamie fired at Micheal but Louie jumped in front. Louie sacrificed himself for Micheal. Micheal began to cry. He had loved Louie and Jamie had killed him. Anger started to build up inside him. He hated Jamie. For him, this was no longer about England or Germany. This was about him and the man who had killed everyone he loved. "Jamie". He had no pistol. Jamie did. But he just couldn't contain his anger. He flung everything and anything he could find, stones, sticks, twigs. A log hit Jamie's hand and knocked his gun out of his hand. Micheal picked it up and fired it a number of times. "This is for my Dad, this is for Louie, this is for Stanley and this is for all the soldiers you've ever killed. Then Micheal walked over to him and shot him. "This is for our false friendship". Shortly after that, the war ended and Micheal buried Louie. England had won the war but lost so much more.

Coming Home continued

by Isobel Furlong, Fourth Class, Our Lady of Lourdes NS

Michael was ok after falling off the horse. Flash eventually settled down. They walked for hours and hours. They stayed hidden in the trees in case anyone saw them. After they had walked a long way they came across an old hut. They decided to have a look inside. It was very dark and very dirty. "I know" said Stanly "we could use this as a place to hide" "Good idea" replied Michael.

Meanwhile the German soldiers were sitting at a campfire after a long day at war. They were all looking shabby and worn out. Many of them had bandages covering their cuts. One man complained "it's not fair that some man made a rule that you have to bring a dog to war". "I agree" said another man "We have to leave some of our best soldiers behind because of that stupid rule".

Later that evening Stanley and Michael found some hay to lie on while they slept. The next morning they woke to the sound of gunfire. Stanly and Michael were starving because they hadn't eaten in a couple of days. They picked some berries from the bushes.

Some of the German soldiers were still complaining about the rule that Michael's dad had made when a soldier came shouting "Hey guys guess what? I found out that the man who made the dog rule, has a son, and he is here in the war. His name is Michael". Another soldier replied "we never had a chance to go after this man so we shall go after his son". That day they asked anyone they met if they had seen Michael. Everyone said no, but then an old man said he has seen two young boys with a horse go in that direction, he pointed straight ahead of him.

Michael was just about to hop on flash when he saw a head pop out from the side of the hut. "Who are you?" said Michael. He got no response so he asked again. This time a man jumped out, "I am a German soldier and I am here to attack you and your friend". Michael and Stanly had to think quick. Michael jumped on Flash and grabbed Stanly, flash galloped away. Once they were far enough away from the soldier they stopped. But soon Stanly saw a German soldier and then a few more came. They were trapped. The soldiers pointed their guns at Michael. He didn't know what to do. Somehow Michael managed to dodge the gunfire and grab Stanly again. Flash galloped away. They found an old barn and hid in there for a few days until the war was over. They came out of hiding. Stanly found his family and asked if Michael could stay with them. They said yes. Michael stayed with them and they took good care of him.

Coming Home continued
by Gemma Hassey, Tombrack NS

"Run Louie, run" he ordered

Michael awoke in a small room, with one narrow bed and an oil lamp in the corner. His eyes landed on a tall, stout woman. She had a very manly stare and was wearing a long black dress made of starchy material, a grey woollen shall and tough black boots. Her thick hair as white as snow was tied back in a tight knot. She walked over to him. "You're awake" she muttered in a gruff voice. "You seem to have been in the wars lately, haven't you". Michael didn't know how many Brits were living in France, but he is encountering many. "I'm Martha, Thomas' sister God rest his soul she said loudly while blessing herself. A beautiful girl walked in features resembling an angel. She wore a long white dress, her golden locks tumbling down her shoulders. She had pale skin, porcelain some might say. She was thin and tall. Only 2 or 3 years younger than Michael. "Madam" she said in a French accent, "I found this in Papa's room". She held a golden locket in her hand, it wasn't any old locket, it was Jamie's! Michael tried to tell them that but all that came out was a loud groan. "Hush now, boys Martha said sternly. "This is my niece Margaux". The girl smiled at Michael. She saw Michael's efforts to tell about the locket so she gave him an old piece of paper. He wrote, it's owned by the man who killed Thomas. Margaux and Martha shared and alarming looks.

Louie looked at his surroundings. A dark, empty, bare field. Stanley was sleeping on an old sack they found and Louie was curled up on his lap. From a distance she could hear the firing of guns, the yelling of soldiers and the loud thud of bombs. He heard a thump of boots against dusty soil. He looked up to see a boy of about 13 and a girl about 8. The girl was crying. The boy started shaking Stanley talking to him in a foreign language. The girl started petting Louie. Stanley stretched out and talked to him in French. Stanley gave the boy a hug. He put the girl on his back, wrapped Louie in the sack and him and the boy started running. After what seemed like forever they found another field and drifted off to sleep.

"Sir, I think we've lost them" the driver notified Jamie." "You Neanderthal" screamed Jamie. He had to find Michael and that blessed dog Louie. Keep going Jamie demanded. With all due respect sir its 00:01 and I haven't gotten a wink of sleep. "KEEP GOING"

When Michael had gotten his voice back he and Martha devised a plan. They would lure Jamie to the house and get the British soldiers to torture him. Margaux rushed in "Michael, Stanley, Louie, Claude and Celine are here to see you. The four walked in, Stanley giving Michael a bone crushing hug and Louie jumped on the bed. When Stanley explained that Claude and Celine's parents were shot and they found them in a field, they are looking after them. Martha gave food and clean clothes. But suddenly a hand was wrapped around her mouth and pushed her into the tank outside.

Jamie saw the girl and grinned. He pushed her to the ground and chopped of a lock of her hair wrote a note to Michael stating "I want Stanley dead or your precious Margaux will be headless" he handed the note to one of his men. He tied the hair to the note and the note to a brick. He shot the brick through the window. Jamie rubbed his hands and smiled mischievously. His plan was coming together splendidly.

Martha heard a scream and looked at Michael alarmingly. She ran out to see a German tank speeding away. "Margaux" she screamed. Stanley ran out holding the brick. Martha fell to the ground clutching the lock of hair. Michael heard the commotion form upstairs and weakly pushed himself up. He groaned in pain, holding the wall he hobbled on one leg. He stumbled on a few steps but finally got upstairs. Martha was talking to

Stanley and once he told Michael what happened headed to bed. Martha and Michael stayed up all night and at around 4 in the morning they had a plan.

Jamie received a letter at six in the morning the letter had no name. It stated " Meet me at the harbour at sundown. Come alone" he rolled his eyes at the letter but widened his eyes when he saw his mother's rosary beads. He knew they were hers because they had her initials on them. He knew what he had to do.

Michael and Stanley were waiting at the empty harbour. Jamie showed up with Margaux I told you to come alone said Michael. Jamie pushed Margaux at Michael. Give me my mother yelled Jamie. What Jamie didn't know is that his mother gave Michael her rosary beads for good luck. Once Stanley told Jamie the truth he lunged at Michael attempting to get Margaux back. The boys looked at Jamie and laughed. Jamie had lost everything. He was a miserable boy. The trio arrived at Martha's house. Martha hugged Margaux. I'm not going to tell you that they lived happily ever after because they didn't. In the real world not everything perfect. Life is about the journey not the destination.

Coming Home continued
by Lilly Jones, Fourth Class, Our Lady of Lourdes NS

Just as they thought they had lost the soldiers, a shot came from behind, causing a bad wound in the horse's right hind leg. Panicking as the horse slowed down, Stanley helped Michael run to the nearest village. Louie ran close behind them following their trace as they ran.

Jamie came across the horse and laughed, "We will have them soon boys".

Stanley and Michael walked into the church in the village asking for a drink and a place for them to stay for the night. Kindly the priest provided them with a lovely meal and some bedding for the night. During the meal the two boys told the priest all about the journey, just as they did to Thomas. The maid suggested they go to relations if they had any, then Michael's sister came to his mind, "I have a sister in the West of France" he thought. Louie swallowed a large chunk of meat and barked.

After the dinner the nurses managed to remove the bullet from Michael's hip and helped him to recover. The following day the people from the stable arranged a horse and enough food for their long journey ahead. About an hour later they set off for Bordeaux, where Sarah, Michael's sister, lived. The first part of the journey was peaceful, through a nice and quiet wood. Once out in the open, they came across a busy road. To the right of the road there was a farm with two fields, a barn and a small, tidy farm house. They went for one of the fields as a short cut, but as soon as they were crossing, an angry farmer, about the age of fifty, shouted at the boys. They couldn't make out what the man was saying, but they galloped off anyway. Within two hours, they got to the house but the door open!

Jamie must in there already, Michael thought up of a simple plan. Stanley should say to Jamie that Michael died from the wound in his hip and while they were talking, Michael would sneak up behind Jamie and kill him and his two soldiers. Stanley nodded in agreeance and walked through the door.

Stanley walked into the first room on his left. Jamie, with a bad burn on his face, and two soldiers were standing beside what Stanley believed to be Sarah, dead on the ground. "Well, well, well, it took you some time to get here" said Jamie. Stanley ignored him and proceeded to tell Jamie that Michael was dead because of his shot. Stanley informed Jamie that Michael's last words before he died were "Kill Jamie!"

Jamie grinned at this and said "I would like to see you try." Just then Michael popped up behind him and stabbed Jamie in the back with a sharp kitchen knife. Before they had the chance to shoot, Stanley punched both soldiers, knocking them out.

Stanley liked France and decided he would like to live there for a while, but as for Michael, he just looked forward to coming home... with Louie of course!

Coming Home continued

by Zara Keating, Fifth Class, Our Lady of Lourdes NS

A few hours passed and it was starting to get dark .Michael could only think about Louie, where he was or even if he was alive .The thought of Louie suffering was horrifying. They had arrived at a destination. All of a sudden Michael heard a voice saying, "hello, hello!" It turns out he was in a daze and Stanley was telling him they had arrived .It was later that day and Michael had barely said anything to anyone, not even Stanley. He was so depressed he could not even eat.

On the other hand, Louie was hiding under some rubble, scared, tired and weak because the only thing he had eaten that day was peanut butter in the hospital. Louie had decided to go look for some food. As soon as he stood up he felt his legs trembling with fear that he may be shot. He started walking towards an old run down shop to see if there was food there. It turns out that there were two other dogs there. Their names were Rosie and Rocky .They also had lost their partners in the war.

A couple of days passed and Michael had started to come around. He just accepted the fact that it all happened for a reason and if him and Louie do meet again someday, it would be amazing. But for now he had to put the past behind him and think about the future.

Louie had really started to get along with Rosie. She was always there to listen when he needed her. He did not get along so well with Rocky, Rosie's brother but, Louie wasn't the only one who had met someone...

Michael had met Stanley's sister Kayla. She reminded him of his mother who he really missed. He was going home soon so he didn't have that long to wait. He was sharing a room with Stanley. They went to bed at nine every night. Louie didn't know night from day so he slept whenever he was tired. Louie, Rocky and Rosie were starting to worry because the food was getting scarcer every meal. It would soon run out. What would happen then, thought Louie.

A few days later and it was time to go home and surprise his mum. They hadn't seen each other in over six months. It felt like this day would never come. One of Michael's old friends found Louie one day and brought him to Margaret, Michael's mum. Margaret could only think if Louie was alone, where was Michael or had he died like his father?

On the way home Michael had never felt so much excitement since his dad was coming home when he was alive, but now it was his turn. Margaret heard a noise outside. Louie had an instant feeling it was Michael. He was right. As soon as Margaret opened the door Louie ran to Michael. Michael's face lit up. It was the first time he had really smiled in weeks. It was the best day of his life.

Coming Home continued
by Erin Kehoe, Sixth Class, Ballyroebuck N.S.

Louie kept on running, until he reached the beach. Within a matter of seconds German soldiers had captured Stanley and Michael. They mercilessly threw them into the back of a truck.

Louie was still looking at the water when a man spotted him. The man read his tag. "Louie, soldier 14672. " In a soft shaky voice the man said. "Louie, is it really you?" At the sound of his voice, Louie threw himself at him. The man fell onto the ground crying with joy. "Come on old boy let's take you home."

Michael and Stanley were taken to a camp and set to work. One night Stanley told Michael he'd over-heard Jamie and the commandant talking about a giant jet, filled with 'precious cargo' Jamie was to fly it over London, he was told to go to area 113 in Nantes.

Stanley became sick and got weaker by the day. Michael was crushed. He couldn't escape now and Jamie's mission was getting closer. The next morning Michael was awoken by an American soldier. It took him a few moments to realize that the uniform wasn't Nazi. The soldier said softly. "I'm sorry, your friend has died". "We have to go, now." Michael didn't move. He just stared at Stanley.

Michael told them what Stanley had overheard. But they didn't believe him. This made Michael's blood boil!

It was imperative for him to steal a jeep and go to Nantes. Michael drove like a mad man. As he got into the small town of Nantes, he ditched the American army jeep and dived into the back of a moving Nazi truck. He hid himself in a pile of sandbags. The truck came to a halt inside a rusty old hanger. The soldier got out and started to unload the bags. The pile got smaller and as soon as Michael started to become visible, he knocked the Nazi out cold then took all his ammunition, put on his uniform and stuffed him under the remaining sand bags. He put a sand bag over his shoulder and walked onto the plane. It was filled with explosives! This made him wonder why they needed sand bags. He ripped one open only to find grenades! He stuffed one into his pocket.

Without warning the plane took off! Michael raced to the front of the plane and found Jamie, smug faced at the controls. "Pity" Jamie gloated, "We could have served together, but now you're gonna finally die in flames". Michael grabbed the parachute on the back of Jamie's seat. "I shall die doing my duty" he said as he quickly put it on and pulled the pin on the grenade. Michael swung the plane door open and jumped, throwing the grenade into the plane at the last second.

BOOOOM!!

Jamie was gone and many lives had been saved.

Michael landed on the French coast near a small beach house that belonged to an old man and his dog.

The dog leaped excitedly at him "Louie!"

Coming Home continued
by Katelyn Kehoe, Tombrack NS

Run Louie run, he ordered. The same words he'd used when the tank had attacked. Please Louie, run. If not for yourself then for me. I've already lost my dad, my mother and my best friend. I can't lose you too. Argued Michael, Louie looked into Michael's eyes and saw a meaning Michael losing Louie wasn't like a child losing its favourite toy. It was like a mother and her child. So he ran, he ran until his legs felt numb and his tail couldn't wag any longer. He sat down to rest and while he rested he heard an engine. The sound kept getting closer and closer, louder and louder. Until it stopped. He peeked out from behind a broad tree and saw a grimy black van. Out of the van came a brown boot and after that came its owner, Jamie, Louie a low but distinct growl, Jamie appeared to be waiting for someone. But Louie never thought that Terry would walk out of the forest and start talking to Jamie. He tried to concentrate on the conversation but could only catch little snippets of it. "Followed to the crossroads. Lost him, you imbecile"! From there on the words were clearer. "If you mess up one more time then that's it. You're dead. I saved your life in exchange for you working for me. But we can go back in time to when you were on the run with the fear of death, understand"? Said Jamie Yes sir answered Terry

Louie needed a plan and quickly. He knew that sooner or later Jamie would find Michael, Louie looked around him and saw that a branch was about 6 feet above Jamie's head. All of a sudden and started climbing up the tree. Higher and higher, when he was almost at the branch. He was so relieved. He was so tired it felt like a hundred daggers were sticking into him. But he clawed his way onto the branch and finally jumped up as hard as he could and landed on the branch with a massive THUMP. At the same time the branch cracked and fell but with it went Louie. As Louie was falling time seemed to slow down around him. But when the branch hit Jamie. Everything went black.

"Crash" Michael awoke as the massive sound echoed in his ears. He gazed around dreamily and could dimly make out a worn out path leading to where the sound came from. He followed the path until he saw a car. He ran over to it in delight but stopped when he saw Jamie's body lying on the ground and Louie's beside it.

Michael woke up to see a grey room, crisp sheets and a vase of Lillie's the flowers of death. He could feel the stale air on his tongue but when she saw Terry he almost choked. As soon as Terry noticed that Michael was awake, he started to talk. "Oh Michael, I'm so so sorry. When the soldiers shot me I was knocked unconscious. I woke up in a dark room and Jamie said if I didn't work for him he'd kill me, so I agreed Michael. If I didn't I'd never see my daughter Diana ever again, and she means the world to me. Please, Michael, will you ever forgive me". "Yes, Terry of course. We all do mad things to protect our loved ones, I don't know what I'd do without Louie" answered Michael. All of a sudden Michael exclaimed "Wait, where is Louie"? But then right on cue Louie burst through the door and started licking Michael's face. Everything was just as it should be. Michael's wounds healed over time and he was dismissed from the hospital, Michael and Louie returned to England and bought a cottage in South Yorkshire. Michael and Louie lived to a healthy age and were buried under an apple tree. That apple tree turned into an apple orchard and the orchard was dedicated to Michael and Louie. Outside the orchard is a sign saying "Curiositas et fide" which is "Curiosity and loyalty" in Latin. The two things that Michael and Louie lived for, after all they were best friends.

Coming Home continued

by Aoibheann Kelly, Fifth Class, Leighlinbridge NS

Louie ran faster than he had ever run before. Michael was so proud of him. Louie ran to the tank right in front of him. The tank was dark green and black, obviously camouflaged. Louie smelt a familiar scent. It was Jamie in the tank, trying to kill Michael and Stanley. Suddenly, a bomb exploded from the tank, its impact heading right for them. Louie did the only thing that he could think of.

Michael turned around and saw it! A bomb! Twice the size of his hand grenade. He saw that it was rapidly approaching his direction. He covered his eyes, waiting for the bomb's impact and his final breathing moments. Then, there was nothing. He looked up and saw Louie in a huge crater in the ground. Louie was dead!

Everything began to blur. He fell to the ground crying. Who was this monster who had killed Louie? Who was this sick person whom he was going to murder! Then he heard a laugh, a familiar laugh. "Third times the charm!" jeered Jamie. "How did a dog block that bomb?" enquired a German soldier, in German. "Plot convenience, you imbecile!" screamed Jamie in German.

Michael peered up. Jamie was distracted. He was going to slaughter him, even if it was the last thing he ever did. He got into the tank adjacent to him. He began shooting at Jamie's tank. The black, shiny bomb shot out of the rear of the tank and exploded on impacting the centre of Jamie's tank, with Jamie inside of it. Jamie cursed as he was catapulted out of the tank and into the hole where Louie lay.

Stanley went over to the hole and shot Jamie in the heart. Jamie screamed in agony. The bullet, piercing his heart, only gave him a few more minutes to live. Stanley lowered his gun and bitterly asked Jamie "How did that hurt since you didn't have a heart to pierce in the first place?" Jamie fell to the ground, clutching his chest, which, by now, was bleeding profusely. "My cousin Adolf will avenge my death," he cried. Jamie lost all control over his body and died.

Michael emerged from the tank and paused. He saw a pale blue, silvery thing in the distance. It looked like Louie, but how? Louie was dead! He ran through the battlefield. He could smell the stench of death. As Michael got closer he made out a figure and it spoke. "Michael, you have avenged me and now I grant you one wish." Michael was shocked! He could wish for life, death, or even a fortune, but he knew what he wanted. "I want to have Louie back," he said simply. "This magic stone has only one use, so use it well and whilst you can, before Louie's soul leaves his body," advised the ghostly figure.

Michael raced back to the hole where Louie lay. He took the grey, diamond shaped stone from his pocket and pressed it against Louie's body. Immediately, Louie's eyes opened and he began to lick Michael earnestly. The stone lost its bluish colour and turned brown. Michael attached the stone to Louie's collar. He didn't know why, but he thought it was the right thing to do. They both walked into the sunset and lived long and happy lives together.

Coming Home continued
by Sarah Kenny, Fifth Class, Kilmyshall NS

Michael saw two or three bombs drop so he and Stanley sprinted away. The bombs exploded and debris was flying everywhere. Stanley shouted 'I think we should find some shelter'. Michael agreed but his hip was so sore he thought it was going to explode. They walked for about fifteen minutes and still found nothing but then Louis started barking very loudly. Michael saw a light in the distance and told Stanley. They walked towards the light, when they got closer they realised it was an inn. Stanley, Michael and Louis went in. The man who owned the inn told them that there was only one room left. Michael didn't think so many would need a room. The room was small with a chair and a bed. Stanley cleaned Michael's wounds and they fell asleep.

When they woke up four hours later they heard gunshots. Michael's hip was better so he grabbed his rifle and opened the door. Stanley also had a rifle and followed Michael. Louis was beside them growling. Michael whispered to Louis to quiet down and they crept down the stairs. They heard men fighting. Michael thought he heard some German words so he ran down towards the gunshots. Over the gunfire Michael heard a familiar voice, it was Jamie Richards.

He could hear him asking the innkeeper 'did two men run in here with a dog, one of them could be clutching his hip? Michael gasped. The innkeeper said 'Yes room number twenty-one, what do you want with them?' 'Oh I just came to visit' he replied. That was enough thought Michael and he shouted 'You killed my father, but you won't kill me Jamie'. Jamie pulled his trigger but missed Michael by inches. Michael shouted 'run' to Stanley and Louis. Michael wanted to finish these Germans off, especially Jamie Richards. Since Stanley, Louis and the innkeeper had run out the back door and hid, Michael shot his bullets in random directions until he ran out. He picked up an old rifle that someone had dropped and started shooting again. He heard someone shout out in pain and knew it was Jamie. Michael had enough experience to know that they might be tricking him but then he saw Jamie lying on the floor. He was shot three times in the stomach. When he had his chance he finished the rest of the Germans off and then ran outside to find Stanley and Louis. They were hiding behind an old car and Stanley asked Michael, 'why is it so quiet?'. 'I killed the Germans' he replied. 'I killed Jamie, but we should get moving just in case more Germans are on the way'. Three days later, Michael, Stanley and Louis returned to base where they joined up with the other English soldiers and continued to fight in World War 2.

Coming Home continued
by Sam Lonergan, Sixth Class, Our Lady of Lourdes NS

Chapter 4

Louie ran as fast as he could across the battlefield dodging bullets and barb wire fences. Louie looked ahead; there was a trench full of enemy soldiers about 50 metres in front of him. Louie picked up speed and leaped. He had missed by an inch. "LOUIE!" screamed Michael.

Louie, dangling by his front paws, used all his strength to drag himself up onto the bank. An enemy soldier had caught sight of him. The soldier tried to grab his hind paws but Louie snarled and bit. The soldier shrieked in pain and collapsed. Louie used the injured soldier's head as a step and climbed up onto the bank and continued his run. He had lost his energy and stopped to take a rest. Louie looked up and BANG something had hit him full force in the face. That's when everything went blank.

When Louie woke up everything was quiet, no gunfire, no screaming. There was a horrible smell of smoke and gas in the air. There was a shell of a blown-up tank buried in a trench. Louie tried to get up but failed as his front paw was badly injured.

Louie lamely strolled back along the battlefield not having a notion where he was going. Night approached quickly and Louie had no place to sleep. He continued his stroll through the dark. Suddenly he saw light. He lamely limped over but it was only the street lights of a run-down town. Hotel lights flickered, rubbish was all over the ground, apartment windows were boarded up with damp plywood and glass was shattered everywhere.

The town looked pretty isolated but he had to find somewhere to sleep. Louie finally settled on sleeping in an apartment with a smashed in window. It was cold but it was better than sleeping in a bin.

Louie was woken up at four o'clock in the morning by a rumbling noise. It was the bin-lorry collecting the rubbish. Louie decided to continue his walk or 'limp' to find his owner. Suddenly a hand grabbed him and picked him up. A grubby bin-man had picked him up. Louie wanted to snap at him but then thought that this man might rescue him.

"Let's keep him" said the bin-man.

Louie's instincts kicked in and he bit the man. The man shrieked in pain. Louie slowly ran as the other bin-men laughed.

Louie strolled around for another three hours and then a very familiar silver jeep drove by, a very familiar man hopped out with a very familiar voice. Suddenly he realised it was Michael. Louie snuggled into his feet and whimpered. Michael picked him up, looked into his eyes and smiled.

A few hours later Louie's paw was bandaged up and he was sitting in front of a cosy fire.

Chapter 4

Fright hit Stanley like lightening. He didn't know what to do. A million thoughts raced through his head. He decided to do the right thing, so he turned his horse around to find Michael laying on the ground and Louie beside him. Stanley perched Michael on the back of his horse and galloped off with Louie by his side. The gunshots were getting fainter and fainter, until finally they were no longer heard.

When it was safe, Stanley hopped off the horse and lay Michael down in the corner of a field.

"Ouch!" Michael groaned, as Stanley tried to have a look to see how badly injured he was.

"You'll survive," Stanley said thankfully. Michael propped himself up on some hay and fell sound asleep, Louie curled up beside him.

The next morning, Michael awoke with a nudge as there were German soldiers approaching in the distance.

"Get up quickly! We have to move! NOW!" he heard Stanley whisper urgently, even though the soldiers were far off and wouldn't be able to hear him.

The boys and Louie moved quickly as there were only three of them, one being a dog, and an army of soldiers. Stanley brought the horse as he thought he would come in handy.

The boys headed back towards the old man's house, as they needed a "home-base" or a "safe-house". Louie was getting tired so Michael picked him up and put him on the horse, with himself and Stanley. Louie was very thankful for this and he sat propped up with his tongue flying out of his mouth.

After a while they finally made it back to the old man's house. Stanley dragged the bodies outside so there wouldn't be a bad smell.

"Want some water?" asked Michael.

"If you wouldn't mind," Stanley replied.

So for the rest of the night they drank water in silence, trying to process all the thoughts running through their heads; they both knew they would end up saying something they would eventually regret.

The following morning, Michael woke up bright and early to search the house for some guns. He found two rifles. Stanley went outside but he immediately ran back in as he had spotted Jamie circling outside in his van.

"It's Jamie! He's outside!" Stanley blurted out.

Michael threw Stanley a gun and said "Kill him."

"Jamie is unarmed and unsuspecting, so this should be easy," Stanley said, with more confidence than he felt.

The boys discussed a plan.

"Let's go!" Michael exclaimed when they were ready.

Stanley crept up on Jamie and boxed him in his weak spot. Jamie stumbled to the ground with a groan. Michael approached him and held the rifle to his head.

"Any last words?"

"Yes – you wouldn't kill your best friend, now would you?" replied Jamie.

"No... but I have no problem killing an enemy. Goodbye Jamie" said Michael.

There was a deadly gunshot, and blood splattered everywhere. Then, everything went silent. Jamie was dead.

Victory belonged to Michael and Stanley, but with it came a lot of guilt.

Michael's war was over!

Coming Home continued
by Oran McGovern, Tombrack NS

"Run Louie run" he ordered. The same words he'd used when the tank had attacked. Louie looked at Stanley. Louie ran as fast as he could (well as fast as a dog with a broken leg could run). Stanley had escaped with Louie. Michael had been captured. Stanley found a dead German with a rifle. He took the rifle. Stanley looked at Louie and said "what would Michael do" he went outside clenching on to the gun. Louie gazed for a second. It was Michael he was standing still. Louie ran rapidly, bang!! Louie had been shot by Jamie. Stanley took a shot. It grazed Jamie's arm. Louie was in a lot of pain. Stanley ran down the hill. He kept shouting at Jamie. Jamie got into cover. Stanley jumped into a bush with Louie in his arm. Jamie popped his head up. Stanley took another shot. It hit Jamie's helmet. Stanley heard the sound of an engine. He looked up and saw a plane it was British. "Boom"!!! It dropped bombs. Jamie leaped into the van. Stanley was out of ammunition. He ran up the hill with Louie. He hopped on the horse he rode earlier and tried to catch the van. Stanley jumped onto the van. Jamie jumped on the roof. Stanley and Jamie started having a brawl. Louie hopped on the van and bit Jamie on the arm. Stanley punched him in the nose. Jamie was knocked out. Louie bit Michael's ropes. Michael was free. They jumped out of the van. Jamie woke up. "Go" said Michael. Michael started to fight Jamie. Stanley brought the horse. Michael hopped on the horse. They got away for now. It wasn't over Michael knew it. We need to be smart said Stanley. They went into an old shack. It had a sniper rifle with one bullet they had to make it count. They had to lure Jamie out into the open. Louie ran out in the open. Jamie tried to shoot him. He missed. It shot just past his ear. Michael ran after Louie. Jamie was calling for back-up. Stanley was in the shack waiting just waiting for that moment to take a shot at Jamie. Louie looked over his shoulder to find a shadowy man with a pistol in his holster and a sniper on his back. He took out the gun and shot at Jamie. The strange looking man ran to Michael. "Who are you" asked Michael. My name is Jacob Collins the man said. "Dad" said Michael. He looked at him and asked where have you been. Well after World War 1 they cleared out the bodies and I was never found. "But how" It's not possible. We need to get out of danger. There is a shack across the hill we need to get there to be safe. They made a run for it. Stanley was waiting in the house across the road. Michael let out a yelp. Stanley looked at him with deserted eyes. "What's wrong Stanley" Michael asked. There he saw a man with black hair with a pistol to Stanley's head.... It was Jamie. Jacob looked at Jamie. He knew he had seen him before. "You" Jacob shouted. Michael hesitated for a moment. Jacob said "This man shot me and left me dying on a hill". Move any closer and I'll shoot him, Jamie told them. Louie ran at Jamie. Bang!! Stanley dropped to the ground as if he was knocked out but he wasn't. "He is dead" said Jamie. Jacob pulled a revolver from his holster. Bang!! Bang!! Bang!! Jamie was shot three times in the chest. He is dead said Jacob. Michael ran out of the house. He saw huge British ships. A tear rolled down his face. You're not coming are you asked Michael. No said Jacob. I have been here for thirty years this is my home. Beside Mary won't remember me. She will, she does said Michael. Michael ran to the boat and got on. Louie ran after him.

Dear Mother,

The war is over. I'm here with Louie. You might be wondering where Stanley is well he is dead. I don't want to talk about it. I'm grand and well. I hope you're grand in London. How is Grandad getting on? Louie broke his legs. You will have to tell Lorna that Stanley is dead. I'm on a boat now sailing back to London. I'll see you soon.

Dearest Son

Michael Collins.

When Michael got back he told his mother everything until. Knock, knock, knock Michaels mother opened the door to find a man with broad shoulders. Mary started to cry. She went over to the kettle and made herself a cup of tea. I'm not going to tell you who it was but you'll know won't you.

Coming Home continued
by Niall McGrath, Second Class, St. Brigid's NS, Clonegal

Chapter 4

"Run Louie run" shouted Michael, Louie ran as fast as he could, until he had reached a forest. Louie heard all the Germans shouting behind him saying "don't lose track of that dog"! Louie found a shed and he went into it. He saw all the Germans run past him. Louie was very scared. Louie forgot that he had just got a rifle off Jamie. He went to find Michael, Michael's hip was very sore. Stanley was able to fix Michael's hip the best he could with a bandage, but Michael and Stanley got captured by the Germans. Just as they were going to be shot, Louie came in and quickly gave the rifle to Michael and he shot all the German soldiers. Louie and Michael heard that the war was over! Michael and Louie had won. The rest of the German soldiers and Jamie had to go to jail, and Jamie and the soldiers were never seen again. Michael. Stanley and Louie were coming home at last.

Coming Home continued

by Leanne Mahon, Fifth Class, Our Lady of Lourdes NS

When I told Louie to run I knew we had to follow. Stanley and I dodged most of the bullets but one hit my right arm. I felt the blood ooze out of my wound and soon I saw a large red stain on the sleeve of my uniform. I struggled to hold on to the reins of my horse. We finally reached an area full of trees. We could still hear the sound of gunshots and as we journeyed further they became very distant.

When we had lost the Germans, we decided to stop. We were all exhausted. My arm was very painful at this stage and I ended up falling from my horse in agony. Stanley made no hesitation to attend to my injury. It turned out that he had trained to be a doctor back home before he joined the army.

After a short while we continued on our journey to find shelter. We came across an old shed. It was not an ideal place to sleep in as it smelt like dead rats and cow dung but, it was the only shelter we had come across for miles and was the only place to rest.

I woke up early the next morning to the sound of voices. The sound was coming from behind the hay bales so I crept towards them, careful not to make a sound. I craned my neck and that was when we made eye-contact. Our shrieks were probably heard from miles away. Stanley and Louie woke up with a start and came to see what the commotion was. I looked at the person again and realised that he looked a lot like..... Jamie!

Stanley and I took out our guns and Louie started to growl viciously. "This is the end of Jamie," I thought to myself lifting my gun, ready to shoot. Suddenly five German soldiers came from behind and snatched our weapons. "Join us or you'll end up the same as your father," said Jamie. He was enjoying himself now and a wide evil grin spread across his face. Jamie continued moving towards us, slowly taking out his gun. I could not contain myself and lunged at him, knocking the gun out of his hands. Stanley caught it and shot four of the soldiers and Louie helped him with the last one. My hands had a tight grip on Jamie's throat and he had lost most of his strength. "I killed your father because I was forced to," wheezed Jamie "My grandfather goes on about how my father has raised a wimp of a son and my father tries to prove him wrong." I suddenly felt sorry for Jamie and loosened my grip. "Don't stop now go ahead, kill me," he said, "I'd rather die than get whipped by a man everyday who I'm supposed to call my dad." That was when I stopped completely. I knew I had to do the right thing so I lifted Jamie up and said "You should come home..... with us."

Coming Home continued
by Mairead Mahon Sixth Class Our Lady of Lourdes NS

Michael and Stanley ran as fast as their legs could carry them. They soon reached a dark dense forest and Michael took out a small whistle and blew softly. On hearing the whistle Louie came out from behind the trees. Michael found some fire wood on the ground and Stanley made a fire. They kept the fire small, because they did not want to be spotted by the soldiers. Soon both men were fast asleep.

The next morning Louie and the two men woke up early. They made sure to remove any fire evidence as they did not want to leave a trace of their whereabouts. They then continued on their journey. All of a sudden they heard the noise of a truck engine, and then there was gunshots which seemed to get closer and closer. The two men and Louie stood still. They waited cautiously hoping the soldiers had not seen them. All of a sudden there was another gun shot. Stanley fell to the ground. He had been shot in the head and was bleeding profusely. His last words were, "Run Michael, run".

Michael was in shock. He picked up Louie and ran as fast as he could. He had been running for a good while. When he stopped to catch his breath, he heard someone shouting. It sounded like a young girl's voice. He ran in the direction the shouting was coming from and he found a woman chained to a tree. Michael was not sure what to do. She looked very scared. He gently asked who she was and she told him her name was Riley and she had been visiting friends in Germany. She had been captured by this horrible, brutal man who had left her to die chained like an animal to a tree. The man she described sounded a lot like Jamie. He had left the keys in plain view but out of reach of Riley to further torture and torment her. Michael set Riley free. She told him there was a vehicle not so far away. They found the vehicle, Louie jumped into the back and they started driving.

In the distance, they saw a number of soldiers. One of them was shouting madly, but they were too far to understand what was happening. They abandoned the car and cautiously crept as close as they could. There was only one soldier in view. Riley recognised him. Michael recognised him too. It was Jamie.

When they were sure there were no other soldiers close by, Michael snuck behind him, tapped him on the shoulder and when Jamie turned Michael boxed him across the jaw. Jamie was infuriated. He started kicking and shouting. The men were looking at each other enraged. There was a gunshot and Jamie fell down to the ground. Riley had shot him. Jamie was dead!

Riley, Michael and Louie were relieved. Suddenly they heard a plane land nearby. Thankfully it was a British plane – the British had been looking for Michael and his crew. Finally they were safe. The captain organised for their journey back home. What a home coming they had! Riley and Michael remained friends for life!

Coming Home continued

by Lili Markey, Fourth Class, Our Lady of Lourdes NS

Michael was unconscious after the fall from his horse. He'd told Louie to run but he decided there was no way he was running away again; last time he left Michael he was kidnapped by German soldiers. The Germans on their horses were getting closer and closer. One of them jumped down from his horse and Louie tried to protect Michael but he shoved him saying, "Get out of the way stupid dog". He felt helpless, how could he save Michael? Stanley was gone, Louie would have to go get help. "Seize the dog", one of the Germans cried but quick as a flash Louie bolted away. He didn't know where he was going but he had to help Michael.

Michael woke in a tent to find his hands and feet tied with thick rope. He struggled to get free but he was still weak from his wounds. His head had been bandaged and he guessed they wanted to keep him alive to interrogate him. A pang of worry overcame him, Where was Louie, was he ok, had the Germans killed him? As bad as his situation was he couldn't stop thinking about Louie. Overhead he heard planes and bombs in the distance. German voices were shouting and there were lots of people running around. He hoped those were English planes and bombs he could hear.

Louie had not run very far away and had hidden in a bush. He saw the Germans pick up Michael's unconscious body and he decided to follow them at a distance. He followed until night turned to dawn and morning turned to afternoon always staying just far enough behind so they wouldn't see him. By mid-afternoon they reached the German camp. Louie was tired and hungry but he couldn't stop, he had to find Michael. He searched around the camp always being careful not to be seen. He was looking for food but then he came across a different scent, it was Michael! He followed it until he came to a tent. There were two soldiers guarding it but Louie sneaked around the back and dug a hole until he could squeeze under the tent.

Michael could hear a scraping, scabbling noise at the back of the tent. He stayed dead silent waiting to see what would happen. Suddenly a little head popped up, it was Louie who whined with delight when he saw Michael. Quickly he chewed through the ropes on Michael's arms and legs. "Good boy", said Michael, "now let's get out of here". He hopped up expecting pain but there was none. He helped Louie make the hole under the tent a bit bigger and then they wriggled through. A group of soldiers were running past so they ducked into the next tent, not even thinking if there was anyone in there. Luckily it was deserted but full of uniforms. An idea struck him, he would put on the uniform and go and kill Jamie.

Louie watched as Michael dressed in the German uniform. He was deeply intrigued. What was Michael planning to do? Michael didn't know where he was going but his plan was simple, find a weapon, find Jamie, kill him and get home alive. He peered casually into some of the tents looking for him until he heard loud voices and one he recognised.

"Why are we keeping him alive, why don't we just get it over with and kill him", said the first voice. Then a voice Michael knew very well, "Didn't your mothers ever tell you that patience is a virtue"? said Jamie. "Let's get the information we need and kill him", said a third, "the other boy escaped and there's probably a whole English army coming this way". "Don't worry boys, we have the bomb, a massive one that will wipe out all the English", said Jamie. Michael was shocked; he had to take out that bomb.

Jamie and the others left the tent and Michael followed still pretending to be a German soldier, along the way he picked up a rifle. In the distance he could see tanks and soldiers, the English were here for the final battle and if he didn't stop Jamie they would

all be wiped out. They came to a clearing in a small wood with a massive bomb in the centre. Jamie picked up a remote control with a big red button. Michael jumped out from behind a tree and pointed the rifle at him. "Stop Jamie", he shouted. Jamie sneered, "You wouldn't kill your best friend would you?" Louie edged closer to Jamie, something bad was going to happen.

"You're a traitor", Michael screamed pulling the trigger and instantly regretting it. As Jamie fell to the ground Louie snatched the remote in his mouth and made a run for it. A shot was fired and the last thing Michael remembered were English voices as he lost consciousness.

The next thing he knew was waking in a hospital bed. He didn't know where he was but Louie was curled up asleep on his feet. A nurse stopped at his bed and checked his temperature. "Where am I, what's happened", Michael asked. The nurse answered in English, "It's ok the war is over and we won. You were shot in the leg but you'll be ok. You're back in England and you just need to rest now", she said. Once he was reassured he fell back asleep. Over the next few days he recovered and both he and Louie were presented with medals for bravery and courage. Everyone came to talk to him in the hospital and congratulate him. They patted Louie on the head and said, "That's a marvellous dog you've got there".

Soon enough he was well enough to leave the hospital and they took a train into the countryside. He limped down the path to home with Louie trotting happily beside him. Finally they reached a cottage with a gate and he turned to Louie to say, "We're finally home".

Coming Home continued
by Katie Moynihan, Sixth Class, Our Lady of Lourdes NS

Chapter 4

Stanley trotted behind Louie, Michael was in front of them screaming for them to hurry. The plane was still flying above their heads. The Germans on the plane were firing out bombs and trying to shot for Michael but missed. Stanley and Louie had caught up with Michael. "Come in here quickly!" Stanley roared out. It was a bush that the Germans would not see them in. As Louie was a foot away from the bush he got caught in a branch. Michael rolled out and grabbed him in. Michael's father's horses had been shot by one of Jamie's fighters. Stanley's horse galloped across the battlefield. When the plane had gone Michael, Louie and Stanley went back to Tomas's house.

When they got back they made sure the German Spies were not there. Stanley cried out "Terry was my best friend he could have still been here if I jumped in front". "And Tomas such a nice man for letting us spend the night here" said Michael. Stanley and Michael cleaned up the blood and brought the dead bodies outside. Louie dozed off as they were eating. After Louie had awoke they marched back to the English. Hundreds of them had been killed but many more were still fighting the Germans. There was no sign of Jamie. Michael fired his rifle and shot a German soldier. Michael was so proud he was fighting for his country just like his father. "I will survive!" Michael screamed as loud as he could. He knew his father had heard him.

Louie had ran back in to the half burnt down ware house. Where no one was there at least he thought. "Where is Louie?" Stanley asked Michael. Michael ran around the battlefield screaming Louie's name. He heard him bark. He followed the direction he heard him from. Jamie was there.

Michael ran in to Jamie with Louie in his arms. Stanley was still outside, fighting.

Michael was screaming "Let him go! Now!"

"Or what?!" laughed Jamie.

Michael got a plank of wood from the burnt out warehouse, and swung it at Jamie's head, but he missed and hit Louie. Louie squealed in pain.

"Look what you've done," smirked Jamie.

Michael got down on the ground and picked up Louie quickly. As he was getting up, Jamie kicked him in the back.

"And to think you were my best friend!" shouted Michael.

Jamie sniggered. The two boys heard screams from behind them. It was Stanley, laid out on the floor. As Jamie went to see who it was, Michael got his rifle and fired five shots at Jamie, hitting the back of his neck. He was dead.

"I've never felt happier for you Michael," Stanley said with a smile.

"I couldn't have done it without your great plan!" replied Michael.

It was the next day and the war was over. The ship was heading home. What they didn't know was that one of Jamie's soldiers was on the same ship.

"Watch out!" an English soldier shouted.

But too late... The bullet was on its way, and hit Stanley in the head. Michael ran and pushed the shooter overboard as he had killed his friend.

The war wasn't finished as Michael had thought..

Chapter 4

For the first time, Louie disobeyed. As Michael and Stanley ran towards the nearest tree they heard gunshots. Stanley ran towards the tree but Michael stopped. Terrified that he had lost another dog he turned to see nothing but the countryside but he still hoped that he was somewhere in the fog. Thoughts raced through his mind. Michael felt a grip on his arm and he turned to see Stanley clutching his arm dragging him. Michael went along willingly. The plane began firing bullets. Stanley had run ahead of Michael. Michael started running towards the tree too as he realised there was more he had to live for than his dog, as he had a family at home. The plane flew closer towards them, but he stumbled and fell. The bullets stopped firing and the plane flew off. Michael realised that the plane had thought him dead.

A few days later they were hundreds of miles away. They had decided the best way to go was towards the sea where they would find a boat. They decided to stop at an abandoned bomb shelter where they found bandages which helped Michael with his infection. When Michael had gotten shot, it had dug in deeper than he thought and it was getting worse. That night, when they fell asleep behind the broken down wall in the shelter, Stanley woke to a start, when he realised that there was paws placed on his chest ... he was first confused when he realised it was Louie. Michael was overjoyed. He fell asleep with Louie, wondering how he escaped. The next time they woke up it wasn't Louie. At first Michael thought it was Louie, but then he realised Louie couldn't stomp around. He peeked around the wall to see Jamie commanding orders. When he saw Jamie last he had tried to kill him... he now had the chance. Instead of risking his friends for one petty feud, he chose to try escape.

Stanley was awake, but had no idea what was happening and Michael raised his finger to his lips. He directed Stanley towards the gap between the walls and they were nearly through it before there was an alarm raised. He heard them and knew there was no escape... unless he left with them! He pointed towards the truck and Stanley knew his plan. Stanley threw brick as a distraction and ran for it Michael clutched onto Stanley for support as he could not walk too well with his infection. They jumped into the back and into some empty barrels which stunk.

A few days after hiding in the barrels, Michael and Stanley were awfully sore. Their joints were aching. The truck had stopped multiple times since. It was beginning to smell like sea. The next time they stopped Michael and Stanley escaped the stuffy truck. Fresh air was so nice but they had no time to enjoy it so they began heading towards the harbour. Finally they reached the harbour. They boarded a ship with multiple English sounding sailors. After a few hours they were back in England. Michael and Stanley had returned to their families and were safe at long last. As for Jamie we do not know but we assume he is in some prison somewhere serving trial for murder.

Coming Home continued
by Pierce Murphy, Tombrack NS

"Run Louie run" Michael ordered. The same words he used when the tank attacked. Those were last words he would use for a long time.

Michael slowly woke up his eyes were not open yet, he could smell blood and something disgusting he didn't even want to identify. He could hear men screaming from agonising pain. Michael was freezing cold. He opened his eyes he sat up and felt a terrible pain in his side. His grazed hip was badly stitched up. He was in an uncomfortable bed in a white room with many beds around him. Some beds had men in them some didn't. I must be in the English base camp he thought. He tried to get out of his bed. He struggled to get his left leg out. When he eventually got out he started walking and he heard a hug clank. Michael looked down to his ankle there was a chain coming from it he slowly looked along the chain and saw a huge rock. Michael could still walk but not fast. He couldn't believe it he was probably going to die alone without his family or friends a tear rolled down his cheek. Michael always tried to take things in his stride but this was the end but then he looked around him and he thought about all of these English and French men around him were probably going to die too and he thought about the inhumanity of war. In theory being a soldier like his father sounded great getting cool clothes and a gun but overall war was a place where real men, family men died, which destroyed more than one life and it was all caused by a stupid man with a terrible moustache.

"If your well enough to stand your well enough to walk" shouted a man in a German accent. The soldier threw some white clothes at Michael and a large spoon called a ladle. He got dressed and dragged his rock outside.

Michael assigned to the smallest table where there were six men with a lot of lines on their shoulders. Michael went over and asked if they would like anything. Who Michael believed to be the captain said "You will get me water you disgusting creature" The captain kicked one in the leg and laughed. Michael went into what they called a kitchen but what he called a prison cell. Michael turned on the tap but suddenly "Boom, Boom, and boom" The British were bombing the camp. "Boom, Boom" Michael jumped to the ground. He could hear screams from fear and pain. "Boom" a bomb hit the entrance and debris covered my way out. Michael was crying and shouting "I don't want to die, I'm not ready to die" Michael prayed. But then everything went silent. The bombing was over and Michael was alive. After waiting an hour Michael made his way out with a slide. Michael saw Stanley running to them. Michael could see the fear in Stanley's eyes and how Stanley was about to start crying. The Germans fell back why are you scared Michael said. Suddenly a gun came out to the side of his head, it was Jaime. "Look who we have here" said Jamie.

Michael winked at Louie. Louie jumped out of Stanley's arm and bit Jamie viciously in the shin. Jamie dropped his gun and Michael picked it up and shot Jamie in both feet. "Arrrgh" said Jamie in pain while he was crying on the ground. Jamie's uncle had got out of the grimy jeep with his hands in the air. Michael put his gun to his head and waited for back up.

Back-up got there in half an hour they took Jamie back to England. Michael pressured the Nazi until he said where their base was. The base was 10 minutes away. Michael didn't think there would be much in the base except a few English soldiers. Going to base there was 2 jeeps and 1 truck with space in the back for soldiers. The base was a 2 storey warehouse in the middle of nowhere. Michael thought this might be a ruse but he had 8 soldiers with him including Stanley and Jamie. They slowly made their way in with Michael leading the charge. They saw 2 Germans asleep on chairs. Stanley shot them both. Michael ran upstairs expecting more soldiers but there was only 1 soldier and a

horse. "Dad" shouted Michael. "Son" shouted Mr. Cullen. Michael started running to him. But Michael stopped running when he saw his father's broken legs. Flash's legs were broken too. "Let's get you home" said Michael. Michael carried his father out to the jeep while the rest of the soldiers tried to carry Flash to the truck. "Oh how the tables have turned" said Michael to his father in his arms.

On the way home Michael wrote a letter to his mother which mainly said we're coming home mum, we're coming home. When they got back to England Michael got his stitches checked out. The doctor said if you get them redone it probably would have got infected.

When they got home Michael's mum was delighted because both of her men would be home for a long time because of injuries, they got a new dog named Louie and Michael's father was alive.

Do you know how the last person ever killed in Tower of London was a German spy, well that was Jamie and do you know the part of Michael that said Jamie was still his best friend that part was long gone.

Coming Home continued

by Alison Kennedy Murphy, Sixth Class, Kilmysall NS

Louis ran and leaped into Michael's arms; Michael calmed his horse down and leaped onto him with the injured Louis in his arms. With the sound of the noisy engines approaching rapidly, the horses ran faster. Eventually after about one mile and nowhere to go, they came to a narrow slip road to the right. They took the sharp right and the planes began to attack. Bombs were falling, missiles shooting and soldiers were parachuting out of the planes. They had nowhere to go.

Then all of a sudden Thomas came galloping up on his beautiful, black horse and led them into a forest. But the relentless soldiers were on their tails. A gunshot flew through the air and hit Thomas' left thigh, he fell to the ground and his horse galloped on ahead, as did Stanley. Michael scurried to a halt, jumped off his horse; he then carried Thomas to his horse and put him on his back. Michael hid behind some trees and got some cloth. He tried to stop Thomas' gunshot wound from bleeding. 'Just in case anything happens to me' whispered Thomas. 'I need to tell you something'. 'What Thomas?' demanded Michael. 'The reason I let you stay in my house was because', then he paused, 'I am you Dad!' Michael was in shock; his whole life had been a lie. 'I left you when you were younger, Jamie killed your mother's boyfriend and she never wanted you to know about me because I walked out on her.' 'I can't deal with this right now', stammered Michael and they galloped off to try and find Stanley. He saw Stanley's horse but Stanley was nowhere to be seen.

Michael got off his horse, he heard someone shouting 'HELP!' He crept around a dark corner to see a worried Stanley all tied up. A dark silhouette appeared around a corner. It was Jamie! Thomas was waiting back on the horse with Louis. Jamie had a rifle and whispered loudly in Stanley's ear. Michael crept up on Jamie, who was standing in front Stanley and Michael put his finger on his lip to signal Stanley not to look at him. Then Michael wrestled Jamie to the ground, got the rifle and said, 'Now you feel my wrath'. The same words Jamie said to Michael back at the warehouse when Jamie escaped from Michael and the crew. Then Michael pulled the trigger, Jamie died instantly. Michael went back to the horse with Stanley. 'I want answers, now!' shouted Michael but before Thomas could answer, an English rescue plane landed and took them back to base. There, Thomas answered all Michael's questions. He was angry his life was a lie but he was happy he had a father. When the war was over Thomas, Michael and Louis moved into a seaside cottage. When Stanley retired and moved in beside them. Little did they know, Jamie's brother was on the way and looking for revenge.

Coming Home continued

by Emma Murphy, Sixth Class, Our Lady of Lourdes NS

Michael's horse ran instead of Louie, but Louie's quick on his feet and ran after the horse. Michael saw that the plane is landing in the field beside them. Stanley shouted at Michael to jump on, quickly he did so. They galloped swiftly across the plain. Michael jumped off fearlessly. He had a plan so he ran into Oakley's wood, of course Jamie followed him. Jamie was fast and soon caught up with Michael.

Jamie tried to jump on to Michael. Michael smoothly moved out of the way and Jamie went flying forward, getting his ankle stuck in a bear trap. Michael reached for his gun as a soft breeze blew in his face and wondered about his father being in this position. Jamie begged Michael not to do it. Michael asked "why shouldn't I " but Jamie didn't have an answer. So Michael pulled the trigger. Michael took Jamie's shoe and t-shirt with him.

Out of the corner of his eye Michael could see two bears approaching. The bears looked hungry so Michael ran fast but they did not follow. Instead they sniffed Jamie's body.

When Michael got out of the wood he could see Stanley cradling Louie. Louie had been shot in the tail and needed someone to pet him. Michael told Stanley how he had killed Jamie and Stanley was impressed. They decided to go back and tell everyone Jamie was dead and there was no need to worry. They trotted back to the ship where people were. They told them the good news, but nobody believed them so Michael showed them the shoe and t-shirt as proof he had killed him. The Germans didn't know what going on and decided to let Michael's side win.

Later that day Michael and Louie boarded the ship and Michael was allowed to keep Louie. Michael had to carry Louie to his house from the dock but it was worth it because tea was ready.

Coming Home continued
by Enya Murphy, Third Class Our Lady of Lourdes NS

Louie refused to leave Michael's side Michael screamed again "run Louie run". This time Stanley's horse reared and the two boys lay flat on their backs on the ground. Michael screamed at Louie again but still he refused to leave his side. The boys finally found enough strength to pick themselves up. Michael and Stanley ached with pain even though they were battered and bruised they didn't give up the fight. They could here gun fire behind them. Michael scooped Louie up grabbed Stanley's hand and ran they knew that if they didn't it was doom.

CHAPTER 4

Michael and Stanley didn't know where they were going but they just kept running. Stanley shouted to Michael over the sound of the gun fire "do you know where were going" "no" answered Michael. Well we have to find somewhere to hide from the Germans Michael said. Good idea said Stanley. As they raced on into the battle field bombs blew, gun's fired, the ground shook. The boys trembled with fear they didn't know where they were, they were hungry, thirsty, and hurt. What would happen next?

CHAPTER 5

Jamie was right on their tails. The gun shots came louder. Then there was a really loud shot. It was Jamie, he had shot Stanley. He lay down and cried in agony. Michael knew he couldn't stay or he would be shot too. Jamie started to mutter to himself. Michael said "no friends, talking to yourself, typical." Jaime scowled at Michael. Michael turned around to sprint but there was two German soldier's behind Michael

CHAPTER 6

Michael panicked, he tried to barge through the two men but he was pulled to the ground. Michael tried so hard to break through but as much as he tried he failed. He fell to the ground and was knocked unconscious. After ten minutes Michal woke. He looked around him, there was no sign of Louie, he panicked. Then he spotted him out of the corner of his eye, he was lying down whimpering. Michael rushed over and knelt beside him. Louie had been shot again this time in the other paw. He was bleeding. Michael looked around; he saw an old abandoned house that had been blown up by the German's. He ran towards it not knowing where Jamie was. The door creaked open, Michael walked in cautiously.

CHAPTER 7

The floor boards creaked. Dead bodies lay on the ground. The house was falling to pieces. Half of the house had been blown up, and the rest of it was falling down Michael found a cupboard under the stairs. He placed Louie there and promised he would come back for him. Jamie was nowhere to be seen. Michael saw something on the ground. He walked up to it and found it was Jamie.....DEAD. Michael almost cried with relief that his enemy was gone.

CHAPTER 8

Michael thought to himself all I need to do now is go back to the abandoned house pick up Louie and go home, And that's exactly what Michael did.

Coming Home continued

by Jasmine Currey Nardin, Fourth Class, St. Brigid's NS, Clonegal

Chapter 4 The Truth

Their horses reared up as a plane flew low over their heads. Michael's horse reared again sending him flying off.

"Run Louis, run", he ordered.

The same words he'd used when the tank had attacked. He couldn't move because of his wounded hip. Then he heard a gun fire and all was blank.

He woke up in a dark room with stone walls and floor. With the little light there was he could just make out the dark figure of a man rummaging about in an old box. Michael was too tired to sit up so he lay down and felt his wounds being cleaned with a damp cloth. He peered through his eyes and looked into the well known eyes of Jamie.

"Ah", he yelled. He remembered he'd nothing to protect himself with. Michael raised his arms ready for the predicted shot. Nothing happened. Then he heard Jamie's familiar voice.

"I know I have a lot to explain but I'll do it all when the time is right."

"Well that's now then", shouted Jamie, hot fury running through his veins. He wanted to know everything. If this was really who he thought it was, it was a miracle he was still alive.

"I'll explain after you've rested a little," said Jamie.

Without realising, without knowing he fell into a deep sleep. When he awoke it was lighter, and he saw Jamie cooking on an old wood burning stove. It smelt like onion gravy.

"Here eat this", said Jamie. "You'll feel better". Jamie handed him a bowl of roast potatoes and gravy.

"Now it's about time I started explaining", he said. "Your father didn't really die".

"You..wha'?' spluttered Michael. "But you killed him".

"No he's still alive. I've been trying to set him free."

"B working for the Germans", shouted Michael.

"Don't you understand I was a spy sent by the English army".

"But you tried to kill me!"

"I had to, to make it look realistic".

Realistic!" roared Michael.

"Shh! They'll hear you. But too late. Michael heard footsteps. He dived behind the bed just as a squat little man walked in.

"Who were you talking to?"

Jamie hesitated, then replied "My dog Louis". Louis was in a crate in the corner. He growled. "We're trying to make friends".

"Hmh", grunted the man. As soon as he was gone Michael leapt to his feet and grabbed Louis.

"We have to get out of here", said Jamie.

"And find my dad"

Chapter 5 Free

The two men changed into uniforms and snuck out of the hut.

"Come on . The trucks are up here", whispered Jamie.

It didn't take them long to find the prison.

"So", said Jamie, breaking the silence. "Remember the plan"

"Yeah", said Michael.

They parked outside the jail. They got out of the truck. Jamie gave Michael a boost into the air vent and walked off to cause a diversion. Michael clambered through the vent until he reached the fourth opening. He prised it open and jumped down onto the floor. He ran down the aisle. This was evidently where they kept the prisoners. He stopped at vault number thirteen.

"Dad", he cried.

"Son", said the man. "Get out of here. They'll find you".

"No. Where's the keys?"

"Over there".

Michael took the keys off a hook in the corner. They both crawled along the vent, and they met Jamie at the end. They were free, happy and safe at last. And they could live their life as three men together until Jamie got a girlfriend.

Coming Home continued

by Liadh Nolan, Fourth Class, Leighlinbridge NS

"Run," Michael shouted, but Louie wouldn't go. He knew he couldn't leave Michael again. He started barking. Stanley looked back, he saw Michael lying on the ground helplessly. Stanley knew he couldn't let Michael die like he did with Jerry. He turned his horse. "Faster, faster," he shouted. When he got to Michael and Louie he bent down and picked them up onto the horse. Then Louie jumped off. "No Louie," shouted Michael. Louie began barking and running from side to side. He repeated this a few times to confuse the Germans. He did it, he lost them.

Pride filled Louie's body, but now he had to get to Michael. He took a leap into Michael's arms. "Well done Louie!" said Michael, patting Louie on the head. "We better find somewhere to sleep," yawned Stanley. Then as though someone was trying to help, they came to a small village that was deserted. "The Germans have been here," Michael said with disgust. "Maybe we could sleep in one of the houses for the night?" suggested Stanley. They tied up the horse to a lamp post outside and went into a house that was open.

Michael didn't sleep well. He dreamt of Jamie shooting his father. Anger and rage filled Michael and he woke. He lay there for a minute then he heard voices. He called Stanley. However, Stanley was fast asleep. Michael couldn't hear what they were saying but he could hear mumbling. He tried to figure out where it was coming from. It was coming from the house beside them. "Stanley!" he said, shaking Stanley awake. "What?" said Stanley with alarm. "We need to go check out the house beside us," whispered Michael. They crept out of the house with Louie.

They opened the door very carefully. Michael recognised the voice but couldn't figure out who it was. "What do you mean you can't find him? Michael is the one thing standing in my way," roared the voice. Michael realised who it was, it was Jamie. Michael was filled with rage once more. He couldn't keep it in and he hastily took out his gun and pulled the trigger. It was too late, he had shot Jamie. They stepped into the room and found a note saying:

To Michael,

I know you will never forgive me for killing your father but I had no choice. The Germans tortured me until I gave in, and I regret it.

Michael stood there, shocked. He would live his life in regret.

When Michael went to sleep he had nightmares, he dreamt of Jamie coming back to haunt him. When he and Stanley woke they set off for the boat back to England. Michael held Louie tight as the road was very bumpy. When they arrived there were lots of people lifting badly bruised people onto the boat. Michael, Stanley and Louie stepped on board. The boat gave a loud hoot. "I can't believe it Stanley," Michael said cheerfully. "I, I, I'm coming home!"

Coming Home continued
by Heidi O'Leary, Third Class, Our Lady of Lourdes NS

Chapter 4

I softly wept as Terry and Thomas lay dead on the floor, but there was no time for crying. The Germans were winning the war. Louie ran over to Michael and barked.

"Alright Louie, are you ready to win the war?" Louie barked again. "I'll take that as a Yes" said Michael.

Michael heard something from behind them. It was Jamie and a few of his friends loading their guns.

"Well, well, well! Look who we have here, weaner dog" said Jamie.

They all laughed at Michael and Louie. They went to attack Jamie but he was too quick for them. Jamie threw Louie into a truck and it drove away.

"Louie" Michael shouted but Jamie was still there standing over Michael.

"Now, time to finish you off", said Jamie.

"Think again Jamie", said Stanley.

"Stanley, you're back" said Michael.

"Of course I'm back. I would never leave a friend" declared Stanley as he shot Jamie in the head. He lay on the ground unconscious.

"Hooray", they shouted. "Now, let's get Louie back" they said.

They walked along as bodies lay scattered on the ground. Michael felt scared and so did Stanley. They were thirsty and hungry. Suddenly they saw two motor bikes and hopped on them and drove away.

Chapter 5

As they approached the city they saw the van that Jamie had thrown Louie into. Michael opened the back of the van and called "Louie" but he wasn't there.

"Oh No he's gone" Stanley said.

The man who was driving the van was Jamie's friend Mick but he was missing too. They drove all over the city but there was no sign of either Louie or Mick. Suddenly they found a note that was for Michael.

The note said:

Michael say goodbye to Louie because I am going to drop Louie from the tallest tower in the city.....from Mick & Jamie.

After hours of searching they finally found the tallest tower in the city. They spotted Louie at the top of the tower but Mick was not there. They crept to the top of the tower and grabbed Louie and ran back down to the bottom of the tower. They drove around

until they found the nearest shelter. They were exhausted so they soon fell asleep. When they woke up the next morning, they heard the news that the war was over.

Michael, Stanley and Louie got on the earliest ship back to London. They went back to Michael's house and his Mum was standing at the door.

"Are you hurt?" she cried.

"It doesn't matter, I'm home!" cried Michael.

Coming Home continued
by Stephen O'Toole, Tombrack NS

"Run Louie, run" he ordered. The same word's he'd used when the tank had attacked. Louie looked ahead of him to see Stanley on his horse. Stanley hauled him up on the horse and he sat on the saddle. There was a small hill about half a mile away. Stanley nudged the horse and it sped away. When they reached the hill Stanley got off and hid in a bush, Louie followed him. Just below them they saw a German truck. Louie thought that it must be Jamie and Michael was probably in it as well. Stanley had a sniper and he was about to use it when they heard the crunch in the leaves behind them. Louie turned around and to his surprise, he saw Jamie and in his hand he had a knife. Louie suddenly realised that Stanley hadn't noticed him so Louie started barking violently to warn him. Stanley turned around and saw Jamie he suddenly pounced on him shouting "Traitor, Traitor". Louie watched on in shock as the two men wrestled on the ground. All he heard was Stanley ordering Louie to run and find Michael. Louie didn't want to leave him but he had no other choice he had to find Michael. As he hobbled as fast as he could down the hill he heard a scream and he knew right away who it was. It was Stanley. He must be dead thought Louie. Which meant Jamie is alive and probably looking for him. He tried to pick up his pace but he just couldn't because of his leg. This is when he realised he hadn't seen it yet. He saw a big red gash on his right back leg. By the time he had reached the bottom of the hill it was getting dark. He knew he needed some where to stay, he needed to find somewhere and fast. After about an hour of a painful treck he finally came across an old barn beside a little cottage. He settled down on a nice piece of hay and he slowly dozed off.

When Louie woke up all he saw was the gleaming sun steaming into the barn. That is when he heard a door closing and footsteps outside the barn, Louie suddenly became very worried because he thought it might be Jamie and his soldiers, so he hid in the corner behind a pile of hay. When the door opened he realised that it wasn't Jamie at all. It was a young girl she was about 9 year's old and she had beautiful blonde platted hair. She was wearing overalls and mucky wellies. When she spotted Louie she ran out of the barn and into the cottage. A few minutes later the girl came rushing into the barn but a woman was with her this time. It's probably her mam Louie thought. "Can we please keep it mam" said the girl. "No Kate" she answered. Louie then realised that they were English. "We just can't you already have enough pets" said the woman. "Please, Please, Please" pleaded the girl. The woman then came over and pulled Louie up. She let out a little squeal and nearly dropped him when she saw his injury. She then brought him inside and bandaged him up immediately. Their house was a small, snug and warm little cottage and this would be Louie's home for quite a while.

It has been about 4 years since the day Louie and Michael had been split up, and they still haven't found each other. Louie found a life in the small snug and warm cottage. The family there have taken excellent care of him. His leg is healed but there is still a scare. He had worked a routine for every day. He slept on a bale in the barn, got up and helped round up sheep. He'd then go inside and get food and in the evening he'd lye by the fire. That was what he was doing when the news came. Kate's mam came in and said she had wonderful news. She said "we're going to England to see Granny" "Yeahh" exclaimed Kate. Louie's ears immediately peeked up. He knew this was his chance to look for Michael if he had survived. Her mam said that they would be going by boat tomorrow and that we had to pack. That night Louie made a plan to find Michael. The next morning they went to the dock on a horse and cart. The journey to England took 3 hours. Louie slept most of the way beside Kate. When they arrive Kate's mam said her house was in Devon so that means we're going through Manchester. The train journey took about 2 hours but Louie had a plan. His plan was to get off the train at one of the stops and then he would search for his owner.

About half way into the trip the train stopped in London somewhere. Louie seized his chance and he quietly snuck out the door. He heard Kate and her mam calling him back but he didn't he couldn't. He had to find Michael his proper owner. As the train chugged down the track he looked into Kate's deep blue eyes with tears glistening in them. Louie turned and walked away. He knew now he was on his own he was going solo. Louie thought about where he should look and he knew straight away. The place they had first met. As Louie arrived at the harbour he saw people getting off a boat. But they weren't any normal people they were soldiers. Louie ran towards them and started barking. He then saw someone very familiar. It was Michael it had to be. He ran towards him and the man spotted Louie and ran as well. Louie jumped on him and started licking him. Michael had changed a lot. He had grown a beard and was limping badly because of when he was shot. As they sat there Michael said "So we have a lot to catch up on ""Whoof" answered Louie. "You must be starving come on we're going home".

Coming Home continued
by Oliwia Plata, Fifth Class, Our Lady of Lourdes NS

The next minute Michael was talking to Stanley about Louie "Louie is the best dog I've ever seen in my whole entire life" said Stanley." Really?" asked Michael. "Ye" said Stanley. "OK I think I'm going to go now" said Stanley. "OK" said Michael. "Bye" said Stanley. "Bye" said Michael.

The next few hours when Stanley left Michael and Louie were playing their favourite game called "catch the ball" Michael made up that game especially for Louie. "Go get the ball Louie" shouted Bruno. A minute later Michael walked up to Louie and asked what's wrong. "What's wrong Louie?" asked Michael. Of course Louie didn't respond because he is a dog. A few minutes later Bruno looked at Louie's paw. "Let's go to the vet Louie and show your paw to the vet" said Michael.

After about 10 minutes Michael and Louie arrived at the vet but there was no one at the vet so Michael had to buy a bandage himself and put it on Louie's paw. After about 3 minutes Michael and Louise came into the shop. "Hi can I buy a bandage?" asked Michael. "Hello yes you can get a bandage" said the shopkeeper. "Thank you" said Michael. Two minutes later the shopkeeper came back with the bandage. "That will be \$5" said the shopkeeper. "Thank you so much" said Michael. "No problem young man" said the shopkeeper. "Bye" said Michael. "Bye" said the shopkeeper.

Seven minutes later Michael and Louie arrived at the place where Louie got hurt and Michael cleaned out the paw from blood and he started putting on the bandage on Louie's paw. "There we go" said Michael. "Now let's just rest for a few minutes and try to get our way back home" said Michael. One hour later Michael decided to make his way back home. 'Come Louie" said Michael. Michael and Louie walked for almost a week and they just stopped for a drink of water and something to eat.

A week later of walking back home Louie's bandage started to fall off. "Louie your bandage is falling off" shouted Michael. "Woof! Woof!" barked Louie. Michael and Louie stopped and Michael had to take off Louise bandage off his paw. Michael looked at Louie's paw and smiled because Louie's paw was better. Five minutes later Michael and Louie walked back home running.

One hour later Michael and Louie arrived back home Michael was very happy to be back home. The best thing was the war ended over a week ago. Six days later Michael woke up and did his every morning task and went outside to play 'catch the ball' with Louie. They were very happy that they could play their favourite game again.

Coming Home continued
by Ben Plummer, Tombrack NS

"Run Louie run" he ordered. At this point Stanley and Louie thought they had got away from the German soldiers but then they could hear the speeding vans and tanks not far behind them. Louie and Stanley knew they wouldn't be getting away from the German soldiers. Stanley and Louie knew they had to act fast. Then they noticed a rusty old decaying falling apart barn and covered in spider webs. They didn't want to go in but it was go in or die. They didn't take any chances and without thinking they jumped in head first into a bale of hay. Louie and Stanley could hear and feel the ground shaking as the tanks and vans drove by and men started to search the building. Louie and Stanley rushed up to the attic of barn. They knew they wouldn't be getting out for at least a night or two. Stanley said to himself everything is going to be ok. Even if the soldiers did get up they would not be able to get in because the attic door was locked. As the sun went down Louie and Stanley made a bed out of hay. Louie walked around the neatly made bed before sitting on it and falling asleep for the night. That night Stanley was having night mares about Michael laying on the ground after getting shot in Toulouse after dawn had broken and the sun had risen over the horizon. Stanley woke with a fright to find that Louie was gone. He looked out the window to see Louie being shoved into a black sack and being put on a truck. They must have broken through the attic door while Stanley was asleep. Stanley went to get his horse but he was dead. He didn't have anything else to do other than grab onto the back of the truck and jump into the boot of the truck. Stanley searched around for a black sack. Then he saw a black sack that was moving around. He notices that the truck was filled with explosives which wasn't very good news for Louie and Stanley. Stanley then heard a barking sound coming from the black sack. He opened the sack to find Louie. The van slowly came to a halt and two soldiers started to panic so hard that Stanley's face went red like a fire. Then they noticed a stack of T.N.T. in the corner of the truck. They both crept behind the boxes. They could hear the footsteps of the soldier. Then there was silence nothing but Stanley's and Louie's breathe. The man then said it must have been a rat and walked back into the van. Finally we stopped behind a security point. Stanley and Louie had to hide again. Then they looked out to find they were in a German base camp in the middle of nowhere. Now they were really panicking. Two men got out of the van and saw them. The soldiers grabbed them by the neck of their shirts and grabbed Louie by the tail. Louie started barking at the German soldiers. Then the two men put chains around Stanley's hands and put a collar around Louie's neck. Next the two German soldiers threw them into a dark dirty jail cell. The bed had dust on it and the pillows were filthy and the toilet was broken and the water was green. At this point Michael woke up in a bed and could see a man standing in front of the bed with two nurses beside him. Then the man said you have been asleep for a long time. Michael was confused and asked where was he. The man then said you are in an English base camp, Michael then got a shock it was like a stress signal and he could see in his head Stanley and Louie in the German base camp. Michael told the leader of the camp to get the best men. Michael hopped into a van with the other English soldiers. After driving over the English plains to the dock took an army boat they came to free Stanley and Louie. Michael burst through the door and opened the cell. The building was shaking and they could hear the bombers planes. They rushed outside to find guns going off. Michael jumped into a van and drove away. They could see the flames going into the air. At the end Jamie got arrested. Louie is very happy in his new home at my house. Everything is going great for me. I liked the war but I wouldn't go again if you asked me.

Coming Home continued

by Szymon Poplawski, Fifth Class, Our Lady of Lourdes NS

Louie didn't run he was trying to help him up but he wasn't able. Stanley got off his horse and helped Michael up. Michael went to his horse while screaming with pain in his hip, Stanley went to his horse and hopped on him and the horses galloped again. Then the plane flew over their heads but no one fell off the horses this time, then the horses galloped off the road. Michael asked "Why are we off the road?" "We're not on the road because the plane won't find us anymore." he answered, "Oh all right." said Michael. "Is your hip still bleeding?" asked Stanley, "Yes a little bit." he answered, "Is it very sore?" "Not really." answered Michael. Louie barked as if he seen something "What is it Louie?" asked Michael. Louie looked back then Michael looked back. "The soldiers again, why." said Michael, "Oh no they found us again." said Stanley, "Faster Stanley, faster!" Michael shouted. "We've got to get out of here very quickly." he said "where can we go, Stanley?" Michael asked, "I don't know," he answered. The soldier took his gun out and fired it in the horse's leg. The horse reared and fell, it was Stanley's horse "No" said Stanley. "Get on my horse." said Michael. "Go back on the road, Michael." The horse galloped back on the road and Michael said "I see a city " when they got to the city they got off the horse and ran inside a building there was no people in the city but there was a ship. They went out of the house and ran on the ship and checked if the captain is there. There was no Captain so Stanley took his place. They were going to England Michael was happy when they got to England Michael went off the ship and said "Goodbye my friend" then Stanley said "Bye" then Stanley went back to where he lived and when he got there he got off and said "The war is over!" When Michael went into his house his daughter jumped on him. His wife asked "Why were you there so long?" "I was getting chased." he answered. Then Louie came in and his daughter said "Yay a dog." Then Michael said "His name is Louie"

Coming Home continued

by Megan Redmond, Fifth Class, Our Lady of Lourdes NS

Chapter 3

Louie kept running until his leg hurt so bad he had to stop. Louie looked around for a safe place to rest for the night. Eventually he found a well-hidden spot behind some shrubs and bushes. So Louie lay-down and quickly fell asleep. Louie was awoken by gunfire, causing him to run jumping over dead bodies and trying to dodge bullets. Louie spotted Jamie he ran over and bit the hand with the gun in it, Jamie howled in pain. "Somebody kill that dog!" Jamie said furiously. Louie was afraid so he ran away but as he was just about to go into the clearing a shot of pain went into his back leg. Louie looked around and saw that his leg was bleeding. Louie lay down as if he was dead. "Hey Jamie the dog is dead will I leave it here or bring it to you?" said the German soldier who had shot him.

Chapter 4

"Just leave him there." said Jamie delightedly. Meanwhile Michael and Stanley weren't getting on that well either. "Let me bandage your wound!" said Stanley. Finally, thought Michael. "Be careful though!" said Michael. Five minutes later. "All done," said Stanley. "I wonder how Louie's doing all alone." said Michael worriedly. "I bet he's doing fine," said Stanley trying to cheer up Michael. Soon they heard Jamie talking to his soldier. "I'm so happy that dog is dead!" When Michael heard him say that he was over-come with emotion. Michael nearly ran over and strangled him to death. Stanley we need to get out of here. Stanley, Stanley come on we need to go. To Michael's horror while he was somebody had shot Stanley. Michael didn't dare to move for about thirty minutes. When he was sure they had gone he went over to Stanley. Michael took his bag and gun. Then he continued on his journey. Back at the clearing, Louie was thirsty and hungry. Louie heard something behind him, Louie ran and ran. Michael soon found an old lighthouse. The lights were on so he knocked on the door. "What do you want?" asked the stranger softly. "I was wondering if I could stay the night," replied Michael.

"Sure." said the man. "As long as you're not German!" he said sternly. "I swear I'm not" said Michael. Louie saw Michael he leapt into Michael's arms. Then Michael and Louie went inside. The next day Michael asked Andrew, [That's the owner of the lighthouse] "What's the quickest way back home. "Sneak on the ship and get off when you hear the fog horn." said Andrew. That night they hid on the ship and waited for the fog horn. The next day they heard the fog horn. They quickly got off and went home. Michael vowed that he would never get involved in a war again. From then on he never went abroad again.

Coming Home continued
by Sean Roberts, Kildavin NS

Eventually Michael, Stanley and Louie lost the Germans and Jamie. Stanley was still sad about Terry. Michael, Stanley and Louie decided that they would make a plan to defeat the Germans and Jamie, but first they would need help. Luckily there was an old phone in the back of the jeep. Michael was still in very bad pain from the gunshot in the leg. Stanley asked Michael did he know the number for the British commandments, Michael tried to think but he couldn't take his mind off his leg. 'It's so painful' Michael said.

Stanley remembered it 076 535 605. Stanley rang the number. It was a while before it answered but it did. Stanley said, 'Hello!' A voice on the other side said 'Hello'. Stanley asked to send more troops. The voice said 'Ok, they will be there in a week'. Stanley asked, 'How many troops are coming? The voice said, '500 professional troops'.

The three decided to camp out in the wild. A week went by. Stanley and Michael had 500 troops by their side. Michael had a plan. They would camouflage themselves. They will then sneak into the secret control room. It was 06:00 am. At dawn they hitchhiked tanks and trucks. They killed the drivers. Stanley and Michael hitchhiked a German tank. Stanley was driving and Michael was shooting. English troops threw grenades into the camp and there were massive explosions. Jamie came out and screamed, 'WHAT IS ALL THIS NOISE?' Jamie gasped it-it-it its Michael. 'KILL HIM' Jamie ordered. Michael jumped out of the tank, Michael went for the shot and Jamie dodged it. Stanley got out of the tank with his rifle and shot Jamie in the head, Jamie lay there, dead. Michael and Stanley and Louie didn't know what they would do with the wounded but go back to Britain, where Michael and Stanley lived. They were rewarded for their bravery and heroism. Michael, Stanley went home for a surprise to see that Terry was alive. They all jumped in joy. Louie barked with joy too. Michael said 'How did you survive? Terry said 'Local villagers found him and brought him straight to hospital. 'It took a while but I did survive'. Thomas is well to. Now Terry, Stanley, Louie and Michael are now home.

Coming Home continued

by Kaylen Sunderland Fifth Class Our Lady of Lourdes NS

.....As Stanley and Michael were on the horses with a helicopter above them that came a few minutes ago. Michael's heart was thumping so hard he nearly fainted, Stanley was just afraid he would die. Suddenly the helicopter flew into the distance, Michael and Stanley could not see it anymore, but the horses kept on galloping. Then Michael shouted to Stanley saying, "Why can't I hear the helicopter anymore?". Stanley replied, "Maybe it landed somewhere or something". Just then Stanley could see something about a mile away. As they got closer they saw a helicopter and a man, as they got even closer again they could see a helicopter and Jamie. The horses came to a stop. Michael shouted at Jamie, "what do you want from us?". Jamie said, "You know I am a German spy not your friend, and what do you think I want....., I want to have a better life....., without you, I want to ruin your life, I actually hated you, I just wonder how you didn't notice, now your life is about to get even worse".

There was shouting, horses whinging. My own friend, Stanley, shot by my new worst enemy, Jamie. I ran over to Jamie, grabbed his gun and whacked him as hard as could with it. Jamie was knocked out for at least two minutes now. Suddenly, I heard a dog barking, Louie came running over to me. He licked me in excitement but then ran over to Stanley and licked him too. Louie realised Stanley was gone. At once Jamie awoke, took out his pocket knife and threw it at Louie. I went over to Jamie and choked him to death. It was hard, but I finally finished the nemesis of mine off. I rushed over to Louie. He was still alive, but he was alive for twenty seconds more, so I said goodbye.

Twelve years passed, Michael has a beautiful wife and two children, a son and a daughter. They are wealthy and have a beautiful house. Michael has a few scars from the war, but it doesn't matter. Michael's son said he will go to war when he is older, so Michael gave his son a big talk, but his son will still be going. Michael's son is named after his dog Louie and Michael does not regret that for definite.

Twenty years have passed, Louie is going to war in one hour, so everybody is saying goodbye. Louie is going Michael is worried and sad that Louie might not come back....., Three days have passed Michael should have gotten a call, but he didn't. Just then the phone rang Michael answered it, it was a man calling to say Louie will not be coming home.

Coming Home continued
by Ava Tracey, Fifth Class, St. Brigid's NS, Clonegal

Their horses reared up as a plane flew low over their heads. Michael's horse reared again sending him flying off.

"Run Louis, run", he ordered.

The same words he'd used when the tank had attacked.

Louis ran as fast as he could into the woods. Michael lay there motionless but suddenly a voice in his head said "Is this really the way you want to die?"

The answer of course was no; the Germans were catching up. Out of nowhere he sprang into life filled with energy. He looked around for Stanley but he was nowhere to be seen. He started to run into the woods like Louis.

Praying he'd find him he looked back. The Germans were now on foot. They weren't that fast as there was now a good gap between them. "Louis", Michael shouted, filled with hope, but there was no response. He kept on running.

It was getting dark. He had been running for what seemed like forever. The Germans were gone. Michael rested his head on a tree stump. It wasn't comfortable but he was so tired that he fell asleep instantly. He dreamed about his dad. He was in the woods, this exact woods and he was talking with Stanley. Louis was there as well. He knew where in the woods they were.

He awoke. He knew what he had to do. He knew that that dream was supposed to help; he knew that it was a sign.

He set off, not running but walking at a pretty fast pace. He was praying that they would still be there. he heard talking. he crouched behind a bush and peeped his head up. It was Jamie.

He really wanted to go and punch him in his big ugly face, but there were too many Germans. He would be dead straight away.

Someone touched his shoulder He jumped. His heart was jumping out of his chest. He turned around. It was Stanley. A wave of relief washed over Michael.

"Where's Louis?" Michael whispered, [raying he was still alive

"Over here. Come." Stanley said, a bit too loud.

"Who's there?" shouted one of the Germans.

"Follow me quickly", Stanley said pointing at a cave.

They went in. It was dull and dark. There was a table covered in guns and knives.

"Grab some", said Stanley. Michael grabbed two guns and four knives.

"Louis's in there", said Stanley, pointing to a door. "He has food and water and a bed all fixed up. I think we should leave him in there while we go fight". Michael nodded. "Let's go".

Michael went to hide in a bush. Stanley was going to fight the other Germans while Michael got Jamie. Michael spotted Jamie. He was alone. This was his chance. He jumped up from behind Jamie and pulled the trigger. Jamie let out a scream and fell to the ground. Dead. Michael wanted to scream with joy, but he knew he had to go find Stanley.

He ran over to where Stanley was, gun in hand, ready to shoot. But luckily only found Stanley.

"Did you kill him?" said Stanley.

"Yeah", Michael replied.

From that day forward, Michal, Jamie and Louis lived happily ever after.

Coming Home continued
by Adam Warren, Sixth Class, Carrigduff NS

Michael was not badly hurt when he fell, but as Louie ran away his heart was breaking. Even though Michael only knew Louie a short while, they had grown very close. A gunshot changed his emotions as he saw Stanley falling.

Louie's legs were starting to tire but his determination was not. Michael was his owner and best friend, he would do what Michael had said. Louie found a ditch big enough to hide in beside an orchard. There were a few apples on the ground which Louie ate gratefully. The apples were ripe and very juicy so they kept Louie hydrated. Louie picked up an apple in his mouth and brought it on his journey.

Michael ran over to Stanley, took his rifle, said a quick prayer and stayed silent for a moment. He looked for the plane that killed Stanley. He saw that the plane was turning back so he grabbed his rifle and started to shoot at the plane repeatedly until it began to land. When the plane was grounded Michael grabbed his knife, put the edge of it to the pilot's neck and said "Bring me to the German base or you know what I will do!" The pilot answered "No way!" Michael said "Last chance" tightening his grip. "Okay okay" the pilot finally said.

Louie woke up, startled because of a noise. Louie decided he was going to follow this noise because it could only be Michael. So, Louie grabbed his apple, saw headlights and began to follow. The vehicle parked beside a dense forest. There was a bunker by the edge of the roadway. A man got out and covered the car with twigs and leaves. The man also lifted up the bunker lid. Louie barked and the apple fell out of his mouth. The man got such a fright he dropped the lid on his toe and screamed. In the distance Michael heard the scream.

Michael said to the pilot "You're free" as he ran in the direction of the scream. Michael started to feel traces of blood in his mouth. Michael found an apple on the ground which he ate greedily. In the distance he saw the outline of the dog walking, it was Louie! Michael felt tranquil for a moment until he realised that the man who had screamed was Jamie attempting to enter the bunker. Jamie turned and said "Your father was weak, but you are weaker!" Michael was watching Jamie who was laughing, he took the only opportunity he would ever get and shot Jamie and said to Louie "Well done best friend."

Coming Home continued
by Emma Warren, Sixth Class, Carrigduff NS

Chapter 4

The rain poured down and splashed off his face. He could only think about what was happening back home, "Was Mam ok? Does she know I'm ok" The pain in his hip was intolerable. He forced himself to sit up, knowing that it was a terrible idea. The ground shook as the plane landed, causing Michael to fall back on his hip. "It's useless, I can't go any further" Michael thought to himself as he slowly closed his eyes.

Michael was awoken by the sound of men talking "He has to go to the battlefield, either that or home; so must Stanley." Michael slowly opened his eyes to see Stanley sitting beside him. "Where are we?" he whispered across to Stanley. "Base twenty six, tent fifty four, the lads were saying we'll have to go to war, or home" Stanley said, worried. Just then Michael's mind went blank and all he could think about was Louie "Where's Louie?" Michael asked. Stanley looked at the other two men standing at the end of the bed. "What's wrong?" he asked. A short man nodded at Stanley. Michael's heart was in his mouth. "We tried, we really did." "What are you talking about?"

"Jamie took Louie. I'm so sorry." Stanley said ashamed. "No" Michael said quietly as he lowered his head onto the pillow. "Michael ..." the short man said. "We need you on the battlefield" "When?" Michael questioned. "Tomorrow evening," Michael scoffed "Well you can forget about that idea".

The next day, Michael was forced to go on to the battlefield. The pain in his hip wasn't as bad as the previous day. Everyone huddled around the canteen table as if they were going to get some sort of Christmas dinner. "Eat it!" the woman behind the counter said, as she dropped the soup on his tray causing some soup to splatter up in his face. Michael walked down to a spare table. "Ugh! This is disgusting" Michael said as the whole room went quiet. Just then the woman that served Michael stormed down and stood behind him. "Excuse me?" the woman said, as she raised her hand to Michael.

Chapter 5

The sun was at its highest. Michael could only think about what Jamie was doing to poor, little Louie. "You ready?" a voice called from behind him. "Yeah suppose I am" he answered back. "You know it's not all that bad being on the battlefield." "What do you mean?" Michael said, as he looked up to the man standing above him. "You find out who your real friends are." the man said as he walked away.

Michael thought about what the man said later on that day but it didn't seem to sink in. Moments after the man left, he found himself standing in the battlefield charging towards the Germans. He moved to the outline of the battlefield, just then, he saw an outline of a dog running towards him. Michael ran to meet the dog. Suddenly, he felt a bullet going straight through his leg "Aaaah" he yelled, as he fell to the ground. "Michael!" Stanley called as he ran over to him. Stanley picked Michael up and brought him to a nearby barn and placed him down on a bale of straw. "I'll be back soon" Stanley said as he ran back out onto the battlefield.

As Michael opened his eyes he could see the dog running towards him. "Louie" he said in pain. Louie ran towards him and lay down beside him. Michael's eyes closed and his chest stopped pumping. "Noooo" Stanley yelled as he ran down to the barn. "Run Louie, run" and they were Michael's last words.