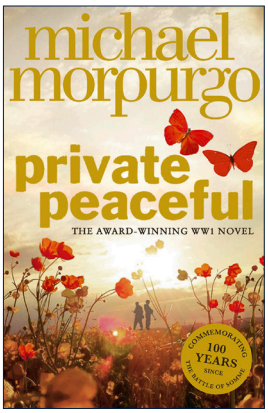
michael morpurgo

COMMEMORATING 100 YEARS SINCE THE BATTLE OF THE SOMME



Private Peaceful

A fine time!

"My dear Son,

I hope this letter finds you in good health…You can imagine our surprise and joy when I answered a knock on the door less than a week later to find your brother Charlie standing in the porch. He looks thinner than I remember him and much older too…He says that in spite of everything we read in the papers here you have been having a fine time together over in Belgium…

Your loving mother."

…"So that's what we're having, is it?" said Pete suddenly and angrily. "A fine time. Why does he tell them that? Why doesn't he say what it's really like out here, what a hopeless bloody mess it all is, how there's good men, thousands of them, dying for nothing – for nothing!"

(*Private Peaceful*, Nearly Four O'Clock)

Charlie wants to keep the two parts of his life separate – home is home, and war is war. He protects his mother from the realities he and Tommo are facing each day.

Based on the descriptions of Tommo and Charlie's time in the trenches in the book *Private Peaceful*, and from research about WW1, write a diary entry from Tommo written in the dugout. What was life in the trenches really like?

Harper Collins

michael morpurgo

Private Peaceful

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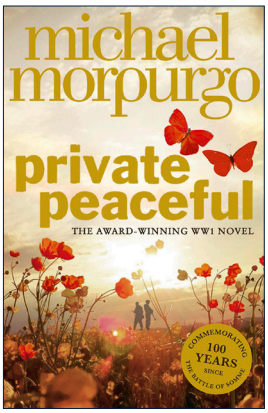

Harper Collins