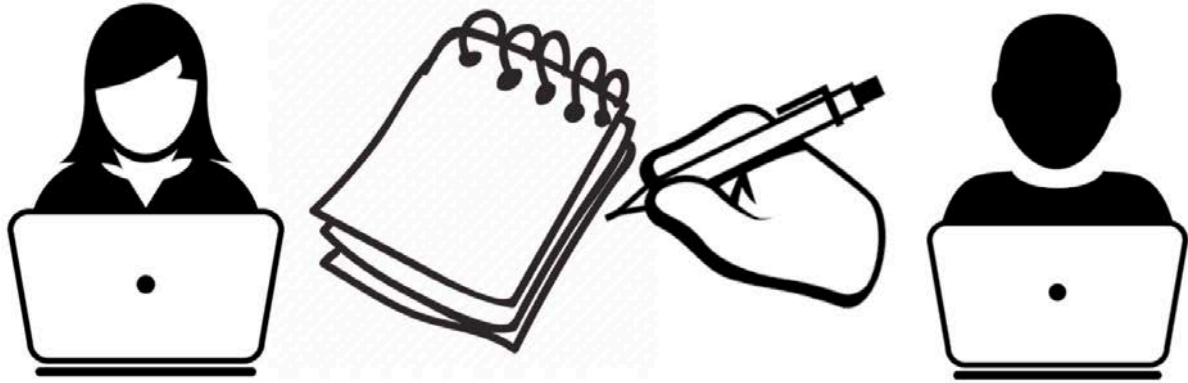


Holy Family Writes...



Issue 4 - November

Welcome to a very special Holy Family Writes for 2022.

This issue will showcase a completed story written by one of the student's at Holy Family Catholic School and published where it is now a permanent fixture in our inspiring library.

Please take your time to go on a journey with our story creator Samurai from 5/6 LF.

Enjoy.

Samurai 56 LF

(This story is graphic) Hi I'm Michael. I'm in the Australian Army and this is my World War 1 story. It was a nice day I was cleaning dishes after some lunch until a knock on the door. I answer the door and they tell me to join the army or I'd be arrested! And so I agreed. I arrive at the place where I train. 4 months later, I finally finished my training and we head to War. I knew how to ride horses and I decide to be a mounted infantry. Soon enough we all charge into battle with our horses. Some of the horses get shot but we just keep charging until we are dead. I see an enemy and shoot him. We get to all the enemies and shoot them all but this is just the beginning of this war.

The next attack needs to be on ground so 3 days later we arrive at the trenches. We are just waiting until something happens. There is nothing to do which makes this so boring. Except tell jokes and stories. Sometimes clean our guns and sometimes people fight each other. Suddenly bullets whizz over our heads and someone shouts "Get down!" A bullet hit the back of my helmet when I was looking down so my head wouldn't get blown off. We see a bunch of Germans charging across the field and there's only just more gun shots. I aim at the horde of Germans and shoot. The machine gun shot down most of them but now they are in the trench and it's now hand to hand combat. I hit one with my bayonet and he dies but then someone from behind pushes me and starts to punch me while I'm on the ground. I block his punches and hit him in the face and he goes down, I grab my gun and stab him in the heart. I charge at another German soldier and I stab him but he dodges it and hits me I try blocking and then I knee him in the face and he gets knocked out. I grab another German soldier and I choke him out and stab him to make sure he is dead. A grenade was thrown near me but it wasn't close enough to kill me or hurt me but it sure

was enough to make me get blown back. I wake up in a bed with a ration next to me I quickly look out of the bed too see if we won that fight against the germans, I was still in the friendly trench so I assumed we won. I eat the rations that was next to me and after that I have a drink of water. It gets really cold so I go down to the fire (Its snowing which is why its so cold) and find a lot of Aussies hanging out at the fire so I sit down with them. One of the them starts singing a song. I didn't know what song it is, so I just sat there drinking coffee. Then someones head gets blown off by a bullet! We all dive for cover. Some people start returning fire including me. Artillery starts hitting the trench and the trench is destroyed. With no other choice. We charge at the Germans that are charging us with our bayonets. I get shot and fall to the ground. Someone drags me into cover and helps me. He drags me back to the reserve trench, By the time we get there I passed out. I wake up 7 hours later but I'm in a different trench. I didn't hear any germans so it can't be a German trench.

I hear a bunch of people talking, But it sounds like English men. I say hello and the English men said "He's awake!" One of them gives me rations and me being so hungry I eat the rations. I ask them what I'm doing in an English trench and they respond with "You were sent here by two Australians because your trench was destroyed" and I respond with "Those who sent me here must've been my friends then..." 3 hours later it starts to snow and get really cold. I put my coat on and I get more warm. I pour some hot coffee to warm me up even more. Then the brits asked me

"Come on Michael don't you know this song?"

“No...”

me the lyrics to the song so when I learnt the lyrics I started singing. An officer called me over to tell me I'm being sent some where. They didn't tell me where I was going, They only told me I was going some where. While I was in the truck with a bunch of other fellas I was thinking I was going home. I also thought the others knew where we were actually going, I thought I was the only one that didn't know so I asked them where we are going but they said they didn't know a thing about where we are going. Sooner or later we arrive at the place. But it didn't seem like home.. The soldiers including me get escorted by two officers to an English trench, again. I ask one of the soldiers that had looked like he's been there for awhile what this place was. He said it was the Somme and I ask

“What's your name?”

He says “Jack Marston, What's yours?”

“I'm Michael Duffy, Nice to meet you Mr. Marston” He also didn't seem or sound like an English man so I asked him where he's from,

He says “I'm from America, You?”

“I'm from Australia”

Suddenly the officer tells us to get ready to go up, We both ran to the ladders and we are both the first ones to go up.

"I'll see you in the field Jack"

"You too"

The officer blows the whistle and we charge from the trenches. Few minutes later we are half way to the trench, Then Jack gets shot two times! I go back for him to check on him but he's already dead.. I get up from the ground and also picking up my gun charging with the rest of the people. As I'm going to get in the trench aiming at me, I kick his gun and shoot him I see another and I hit him with the back of my gun. I see the person that killed my friend. I throw my gun at him and beat him to death. Another person comes at me from behind and I punch him reaching for my knife and stabbing him in the heart so it is quick and not as painful.

Hello... Unfortunately Michael died in combat so I will be carrying on his story and also tell what happened in the battle. I didn't wanna see him die like this... I can still hear his screams to this day... But I guess I should tell you what happened. So what happened next Michael got shot in the head from a sniper... Then we killed the sniper and took the rest of the Germans as POWs (Prisoners of War) we also went back to our trench because we saw a whole lotta germans coming toward this trench, We we're not prepared nor did we have enough Soldiers to fight them. There was way more Soldiers waiting at the other trench. I told the other men

about Michael and how he died, They said

“That’s crazy innit mate...”

“Yeah”

“Would be great if we had some rations aye”

“Yes I’m pretty hungry right now..”

“Aye what do you know, the ration guy”

He gives rations out to everyone in the trenches and of course we all eat. Couple hours later it starts snowing and I can tell you right now that it is COLD! I put on my Scarf, Mittens, And something that covers my whole face (I don’t know what its called) I forgot to say my name... I’m. I returned to frontlines and sat there waiting for something to happen.. But nothing did. But until there was something coming over head making a loud sound as it fell from the sky. It was artillery! “Get cover!” “Artillery!” “Ahhhh!” “We are all gonna die!” Finally, The artillery hit the trench and a few people died.. A few hours later my friend had died to a sniper. It’s common for that to happen as he was young and just wanted to see the battlefield. Well until he saw it.. He did not wanna see it no longer... But as he was going to duck down a sniper shot him. That’s what I told him never to do and he thought if he just looked there for a split second he would not get shot. We have all lost a lot of friends in this battle.

Hi I’m Oliver. I’m 15 and my wish is to be an Australian Soldier when I grow up. I found this book laying around in France when I

went there. I decided to take it and it was really old and found out it was from world war 1. It's really sad of how these people lost all their friends.. I never expected to find this. You may be asking where I actually found this book. I found it in a field in France it was all covered in grass and stuff. I assume it was the battle field these gentlemen we're on. I also can't wait to show this to my teacher today! (That means you Mr. Flanigan) - Loving it so far, Samurai! It reminded me of a book about a pair of pants that travelled across a friendship group and they would each tell their own respective stories from their time with the pants.

Thanks Mr. Flanigan.

A few years later, I forgot I had this book and I'm deciding to finally join the army! I'm 23 now and I decided to join the army when I'm 23 instead of 18 cause I thought that would be way too young. Anyway I got in the army and it was hard training. I also met some pretty nice people there too! And the instructor was making me really scared and nervous because he's yelling but I'm sure he's nicer when he's not training recruits right? I also started doing push ups cause you have to train as I was told by the instructor. Oh I almost forgot about sit ups. It starts getting dark and we have to sleep. I woke up the next morning and I found out we we're getting ready to go to war. I was nervous and scared but I was trying to be brave. We got on a huge plane and I sat down ready for the trip to Ukraine. After 16 hours we got to Ukraine and I was ready for anything. A few hours later we arrive at a base with a lot of other

people including Ukrainian Soldiers. There weren't many Ukrainian Soldiers that spoke English but some of them did. We start moving out for a mission because there was Russian Soldiers reported in the area, And some Jets. Soon we arrive at the area and it's quiet, Too quiet.

Hi I'm Ivan (This is another persons point of view so Oliver isn't dead) I found this book and I'm deciding to write in it and also I'm from Ukraine. I heard there are some Australian Soldiers helping us. I really appreciate it. We are also in a trench and across the field is a few enemies and we are going to ambush them but they have not arrived yet.

(Back to Oliver's point of view) I see a bunch of enemies in a field and I try to shoot at them but a Russian Soldier tackles me and starts choking me. Then a Ukrainian Soldier shoots him.

(Back to Ivan's point of view) I saw an Australian Soldier being choked out by a Russian Soldier so I shot him and I made sure the Soldier was okay. I'm able to talk English as he did not know how to speak Ukrainian.

(Back to Oliver) He helped me and made sure I was okay before going to his trench and the rest of his friends. We also start firing at the enemies and it was very loud. One of the Ukrainian Soldiers got hit and I went to help him but he already passed...

(Back to Ivan) I heard one of our men had died during the battle I shoot at this person that is shooting at me. I ducked down not

knowing if I hit the other person or not. "I'm throwing a Grenade!" "Ahhhhh!" "Help me!" Voices and screams filled the battlefield. (Back to Oliver) A bullet hit right next to me and I ran to a different position while their bullets are missing me by an inch. I prone down into a small hole also firing at the enemies. The next thing I know I get shot once while running, I try to get up but get shot again, And then again.. I pass out and I wake up 7 hours later. I was in a hospital and I realised what happened. I only move my head trying not to hurt my body. 9 weeks later I'm back in combat. And also with my friend Ivan. Suddenly a bomb goes off near us and we all run to cover. Three Soldiers come up behind me and I shoot them. I miss most of my shots but kill two of them. I ran out of ammo so I quickly switch to my sidearm and I shot him. I then holstered my pistol. Then I reloaded my primary weapon and continued shooting the enemies that are across the field. (Back to Ivan) I saw Oliver about to die but he pulled his pistol out and shot him so I decided to keep shooting. Then the Machine Gunner dies and I quickly run to the Machine Gun and shoot the enemies trying to prevent them from shooting friends. Something from the air came down making a loud noise.. And it was... Artillery! Everyone ducks in the MG spot (Because there's a roof there) and I kept shooting regardless if the artillery hit right near me. Then the Russians start charging toward the trench! I shoot them all down because they were all bunched up as soon as they charged out of the woods that they were in. After I shot them all down I went to go

check for wounded soldiers. After that there was one wounded and zero dead. (Back to Oliver) I get up and regroup with my squad (I forgot what rank Oliver is so I'm just gonna make him Corporal) and then we moved across a river and it started to get dark. We are in the forest at this time and try to make a fire and we started to get hungry. I told the other Corporal to get food. 1 hour later he brought back a deer so we cooked it and it was good it was just plain because we had nothing to season it with. We finish eating and then I grab the tent from my back pack and set it up then we sleep. But we hear a language which sounds like Ukrainians I open the tent to see who it is and it was just the Ukrainians. They sat down and ate our left overs but I didn't mind because they were probably hungry. The Ukrainians knew it was us since some of our gear had the Australian flag on it so they did not worry if we were the enemy or not. In the morning they left a note but it wasn't English so I had one of the Privates going by the name of Daniel translate it and he said " Please be careful Russians will try to flood this area with enemies so please get out of there when you can otherwise it will be to late before you can get out! We also left you something to help you if Russians ever catch you bye now and thank you for protecting Ukraine" I picked up a book and it was a Russian dictionary, I read it to my squad and we learned how to speak their language so now we don't have to leave it will just be more risky. Suddenly Russians say "Get down get down on the floor now or we will shoot" "Whoa whoa whoa! We are spies don't shoot!"

the Russians let their guard down and there was only 5 of them (because the 5 people are just scouts) and in my squad there was thirteen. So we distract them with the plans of Ukraine but before they can read it we shoot them. We quickly move out of the area and start heading toward other Ukrainians for a mission to give them reinforcements. Sooner or later we arrive and all we hear is gun shots. As soon as me and Ivan start shooting everyone else gets shot and they die and its only me and Ivan. (Ivan was already with the Ukrainians) I try to shoot the Russians and I hit two or more. We had to run so we decided to run into the forest and try to hide until reinforcements get here. I hear a rocket and I look above my head I see a helicopter falling toward me and Ivan. We tried to run but we realised too late but it was fine because the helicopter landed next to us. And it had a Ukrainian flag on it which means it was reinforcements! Me and Ivan looked inside and everyone wasn't hurt just a little bit of scratches is all. Anyway everyone got out and started helping us fight the Russians. But then they all died... we retreated back and we got knocked out by Russians. I wake up and I realised I got captured. I see Ivan next to me and the Russians talking outside. They come in and try to get information out of us. Then suddenly a bang goes off in the building. Glass breaks and Russians are dead everywhere. But who was doing this? The SASR. They cut us out the chair and we got out of there. They chased us and we tried to get out of there. Then just when we think everything's fine.. we hear a whistle from behind us and

everything goes dark.. then I wake up on the ground and I look around to see Ivan and he's on the ground passed out but everyone else is dead.. I pick up Ivan and try to run away but then once again Russians see us and I have to put Ivan down and act like I'm dead. But Ivan is still breathing so they would shoot him if they saw him breathing I put my hand over his face so he doesn't breathe and then I hold my breath. 50 seconds later the Russians had walked away. I let go of my hand from Ivans face and I breathe. I shake Ivan saying "Ivan! Ivan we have to go cmon.. Ivan!" He wakes up slowly and I give him his AK-74. As I'm about to get up a Russian punches me and I tackle him into a tree branch on the ground and he dies instantly I get up and we walk to find others. While we are walking I talk to Ivan.

"Why are these soldiers after us? What have we done?"

"I don't know but we just have to survive this some how."

"I know but just think about it... why do they want us so much? "They even tried to keep us trapped."

"Now that you mention it, it does seem weird why they would-"

"Hey! Over here quick!" Someone said in a Aussie accent. We walked over and it was an Aussie Soldier and then he told us that we have almost won. Then I asked where everyone else was. "There at one of the small cities waiting for reinforcements, that's us"

"But there's only three of us" "Yeah but you guys were supposed to be with everyone else hours ago"

“What about you then?”

“I was sent to come look for you, oh and by the way my name is Jayden”

“Well its nice to meet you Jayden, I’m Oliver and this is Ivan”

“Nice to meet you guys, I think we should get to the city now before the General gets annoyed”

“Alright- wait you got any food or water?”

“Oh yeah here”

“Thanks” I drank the water that he gave me and I pass it to Ivan and then we just continue walking to the small city. 20 Minutes later we arrive at the small city that Jayden was talking about. We walk around the city trying to find anyone but all we found was a big camp that was empty. We look around the camp and there are footsteps that look fresh and the MGs barrel was still hot so we leave the camp and follow the footsteps. And then we found another camp that was still being set up which everyone else was there. I wonder why not a single Soldier was at the other camp... Maybe they were outnumbered and went here? We entered the camp and ate pasta, I enjoyed it a lot. After everyone ate we went to sleep and tried to ignore the sounds of bombings, civilians dying, and trucks constantly entering the camp so they can restock our

ammo and stuff. We woke up to a huge bomb going off and in the distance as we see is a big wave of bombs hitting us. A bomb landed close enough to me for me get blown back and get knocked out when I land on the floor. 14 Minutes later, I can see all the Soldiers in the distance fighting and some Soldiers are still being treated by the Medic. Ivan and I get woken up by a German Shepherd. I looked at the dog and I realised it was a dog of the Australian Military. I sat up and pat the dog and then I realised what I have to do. I get up and start running to the battle and with the dog as well including Ivan.

When I got to the battle I started to look around for some sandbags to take cover behind. I told the dog to go comfort wounded Soldiers but it stayed with me and whined when I told it to go comfort wounded Soldiers. I decided to give the dog a name after the battle, his name was Zeus because every time I saw him he'd brighten up my day. The chef made some food, and the chef's cooking is amazing! I also asked if he can make something for Zeus. He cut some pieces of meat and gave it to Zeus, Zeus looked so happy

whenever I am around him. I still have him to this day, anyways the dog was pretty much mine to look after. Zeus is so fluffy and cute he always puts a smile on my face. After a couple hours it was time for dinner so for dinner we had rice and curry and it was very good. After dinner some people had made a camp pre-made so we all went there and went to sleep right as we got there. We woke up and ate breakfast like always then our squad leader was told to go to the edge of the city to see if any Russians are attempting to get in. We arrived at the edge of the city and then saw like 500 soldiers heading towards us including five tanks and 3 Jets. I got really nervous and grabbed the radio then said Oliver: "We need every Soldier to the edge of the city now! There is like 500 Russians Soldiers heading towards us get here now!" Every single soldier fires their weapon at the Russians that are only about 100 meters away from us now. So basically we had to flank them causing them to panic and try to focus on both enemies so I had to flank with the rest of the Soldiers. The plan worked because like I said they panicked and they were stressed and had no more morale left in them (confidence) so everyone pushed towards the Russians cause

we had them fully surrounded. 2 Minutes later we had gotten really close to them as we were about to get into the trench they dug out while we didn't even know about until now they pulled out a Machine Gun. As soon as I saw the Machine Gun I ran down the hill to get back to cover. Many of us died as soon as they pulled out the Machine gun. They started shooting at my squad so I couldn't do anything because we had to find cover. I found a hole from the grenades that they threw earlier so I jumped in there but then I realised that Zeus isn't here so I looked around for him but then I saw him sneaking up to the person with the Machine Gun then I saw him about to look at Zeus so I shot my gun as an attempt to try and get his attention and it worked. Then my dog jumped on him and attacked his neck, and after that everyone started pushing toward the trench. I got into the trench then looked at my dog was about to get shot so I quickly shot the Russian Soldier then ran toward Zeus to save him but I start getting choked out but then I elbow the person when I see that someone shot my dog and good thing my dog was smart enough to play dead. So good at it I actually thought he died but I'm glad he didn't but then at this

point I'm wrestling with the Russian Soldier that tried to choke me out, I grab his leg then lift it up in an attempt to trip him and it worked so I pulled my sidearm out then shot him in the head then ran toward my dog to see if he was alive. I picked him up and took him to a tent with doctors vets surgeons and all that. The vet took the bullet out then quickly put a bandage around him so then after that he let my dog rest for a bit. The next day I went to check on him and he was fine but he was hungry so I walked to the chef. He asked me if I can taste the soup that he was making to see if it was good. It was very good so then I asked for some meat then he put it on a plate so as I walked away I said

"Thanks."

"No problem, make sure Zeus eats all that."

"I will." I got back to the tent and went to Zeus then fed him the meat that I got from the chef earlier. He looked thirsty so I went to get water for him. I put it in his cage then closed it and walked out of the tent. I headed to my tent to go to sleep. (Ivans POV) The next day I went to check on Olivers dog with him. He was okay but now I have to do a mission with my squad. As were are walking in a place

point I'm wrestling with the Russian Soldier that tried to choke me out, I grab his leg then lift it up in an attempt to trip him and it worked so I pulled my sidearm out then shot him in the head then ran toward my dog to see if he was alive. I picked him up and took him to a tent with doctors vets surgeons and all that. The vet took the bullet out then quickly put a bandage around him so then after that he let my dog rest for a bit. The next day I went to check on him and he was fine but he was hungry so I walked to the chef. He asked me if I can taste the soup that he was making to see if it was good. It was very good so then I asked for some meat then he put it on a plate so as I walked away I said

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with lots of trees and stuff and the trees match our uniform Green camouflage uniform so that's nice suddenly we get ambushed by some Russians and I dive for cover behind a small hill we run away and scatter then trying to kill them with stealth but we fail. Hello if you are reading this Ivan has died. If you're wondering how he was in a truck going to raid a Russian base but he got shot while trying to get an Allie to cover while he was shot and passed out but while doing that he got shot and died. Olivers POV: I heard that Ivan was shot when he was raiding a Russian base... But I don't know if he's dead or not so I started asking people from the raid but they were to shocked to talk... I think something really bad went down at the raid... Eventually I stop asking people but I still wanna know what happened cause this is more serious then you think I can't even see people from the raid with a single happy look on their face everyday. Saturday I've decided to check on Zeus and he was okay and I'm glad about that. Zeus was looking around my belt for a canteen (water bottle for the military) so I know he's thirsty so I pour my the water from my canteen on his bowl and then put it inside his cage and some food then decided to go have some food

my self. The chef made the Soldiers some chicken wings, burgers, and fried rice. I ate everything cause I was so hungry. As it was getting dark more I heard there was US airborne Soldiers coming to help Ukraine including Australian, Ukrainian, and Ex Military Soldiers. I checked on Zeus for a bit and went to bed and in the morning I did the same again. He also seemed pretty good he was very happy and didn't seem like his body was hurting anymore so I took him out of his cage to test if he was hurt or not and he was fine so I told the vets and they said it was okay to take him out so I did that. We were also told that a platoon of Russians are coming toward our base and we have to go out and stop them before they get here so our platoon goes to stop them in their path. As we are walking we hear crunching leaves to our left and we all look and its the Russian platoon that was spotted earlier. We stop and get ready to fire upon them. As we are getting into our positions they start to notice us and as everything goes quiet... Our platoon leader gives the order to fire at will. (Fire whenever you want) I manage to shoot a lot of them but I only killed 16. Some of our guys get hurt but it is not fatal injuries. As more of our soldiers get shot I try to

cover the medics so they can help the wounded men. 20 minutes later they were almost down but a Russian tackles me and I did not expect it so I kind of panic. He pulls his knife from his vest and tries to stab me in the heart but I try to push the knife away with all my strength while he's doing the same thing just pushing it down and I'm pushing it up. As it gets closer and closer my adrenaline builds up like crazy and I can't think properly and as soon as its about to go into my chest Zeus jumps and bites leg also causing him to scream and jump off of me then I grab his knife and stick it into his jugular and blood sprayed everywhere. I stood up and went into a hole that was created by artillery that hit the area just before we got here and the Russians do the same. Everyone kept shooting and shooting but they just kept coming but why? Our squad leader told us it was only a platoon. (platoons only have 28 or less people) We fall back and call for reinforcements cause this was getting out of hand... we had to sprint to base otherwise we would die. We got to a trench that was near our base and we had to stay there otherwise they would get to our base again. As I'm firing I slightly hear Russian voices and try to spot where they are but I

can't see them. As soon as I did see them I panic and look to my platoon leader and I asked him what to do

"Sir what do we do!?"

"We gotta run to the right and draw them away from the base!"

"Okay!" I hear this and I do what he says also throwing a grenade to slow them down from getting to close to us. At this point we are surrounded by Russians and can't move from our spot all we can do is keep shooting. More and more of our Soldiers die and I really think this is where I die but another platoon leader happens to notice our platoon fighting the Russians with his binoculars and they called a whole battalion over. We tried to hold them off of us for as long as we can and then eventually the reinforcements get here and we are saved and then we headed back to base. If you are reading this Oliver has died while defending the base. Even though he died. There is no need to be sad because in the end he never gave up and tried his best to do everything he could to defend this base and he is the only reason I am writing this right now. His dog Zeus also died. Oliver was great in everything he did including Zeus. Oliver was born in 1999 October 28th and died in 2023 April

13th. Zeus was born in 2020 December 22nd and died in 2023 April 13th. Both did everything they could to save many other people. Zeus and Oliver was always funny and made our day when we were down and Zeus. Zeus was fluffy and always made sure all of us were doing okay. I will never forget what they did for me and others. I will make sure everyday they are remembered. Not only them but also Ivan, a great friend of Oliver. Ivan was born 2000 August 22nd and died 2023 April 2nd.

The end

By Samurai Yordkaew