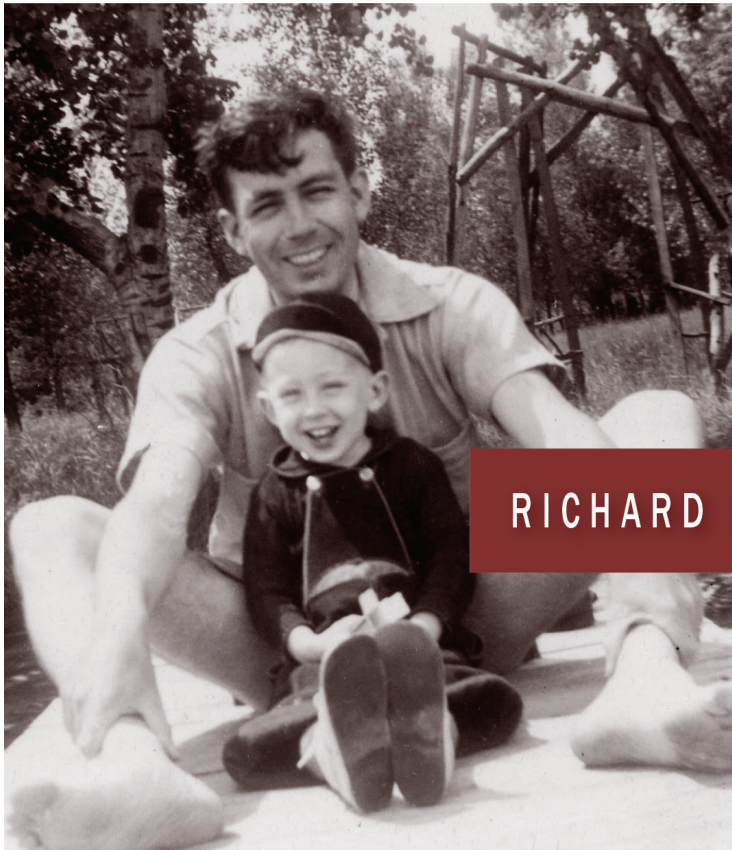


been home with you &
Mommy but we have to
make the Germans quit
first—then maybe Daddy
come home. We will have
some great times together
I do come home. Take
care of Mommy for me—
a big kiss now. Daddy has
go now so good-bye to you!



“When is Daddy coming home?”



*An American
Family
during
World War II*

RICHARD CARLTON HANEY

**DISCUSSION
QUESTIONS**



WISCONSIN
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY



“When is Daddy coming home?”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



Richard C. Haney presents the story of his own experiences as a boy during World War II, yet he is able to transcend time to create a unique and compelling memoir. What do you find to be most compelling about this work? Which passage stands out the most in your mind?

How has this book touched or affected your own life? In what ways can you draw on your own experiences and connect them to those of the author? Discuss how Clyde Haney’s death affected the relationship between Richard Haney and his mother. How were Richard and Vera able to keep the memory of Clyde Haney alive?

Vera Haney was an especially strong presence in Richard’s life. As Haney notes, “with husbands, brothers, and fathers away fighting World War II, a generation of American women learned to become more independent than their mothers had been” (**page 55**). Discuss the importance Vera played in Richard’s life, and how she was able to help him come to terms first with his father’s absence from the home while overseas, then with his death.

Haney discusses the Life Magazine photo of his father dying on the battlefield (**page 83**). Photographs appear to have played an important role in keeping the memories of Clyde alive. In what ways do the personal photos add to the meaning of the story?

How do the personal letters add to the authenticity of the memoir? How was this correspondence able to add to the memories of Clyde Haney? With changes in technology, do you feel personal letters still play a vital role in creating and preserving memories?

Vera Haney strove to maintain a “normal” life for Richard both while his father was away and after Clyde’s death. How was Richard impacted by the war as a young child? Discuss the ways children today are impacted by war. How can this book be related to events and the circumstances surrounding more recent wars?

Has constant media coverage changed the way people on the home front are impacted by war? How does this differ from coverage of World War II and the ways Richard and his mother were impacted?

At the end of the book Haney writes, “The impact of World War II upon mankind, one person at a time, cannot be measured” (**page 102**). How was civilian life on the home front affected during World War II? How did the war change people’s everyday lives? In what ways does the story add to your understanding of World War II?

