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Opening extract from
Tony Robinson's Weird World of Wonders: World War I and World War II

Written by
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INTRODUCTION

Ever since the
olden days . . .

. . . the handsome
prince raised his
mighty sword . . .

Oooh!



. . . people have loved hearing stories about war.

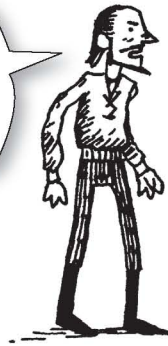
. . . 'CHARGE'
roared the evil
emperor . . .

Aaaah!



Admittedly most of them had never actually been to war ...

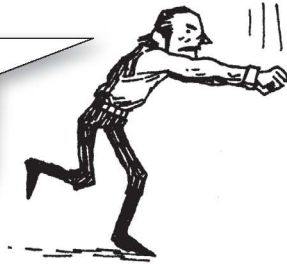
... but the bravest of the knights stood his ground ...



Eeeeeeh!

... and didn't have a clue what it was really like.

... he sliced through the emperor's armour, sending his severed head flying through the air!



But it all sounded exciting, heroic and full of glory!

Ahem!

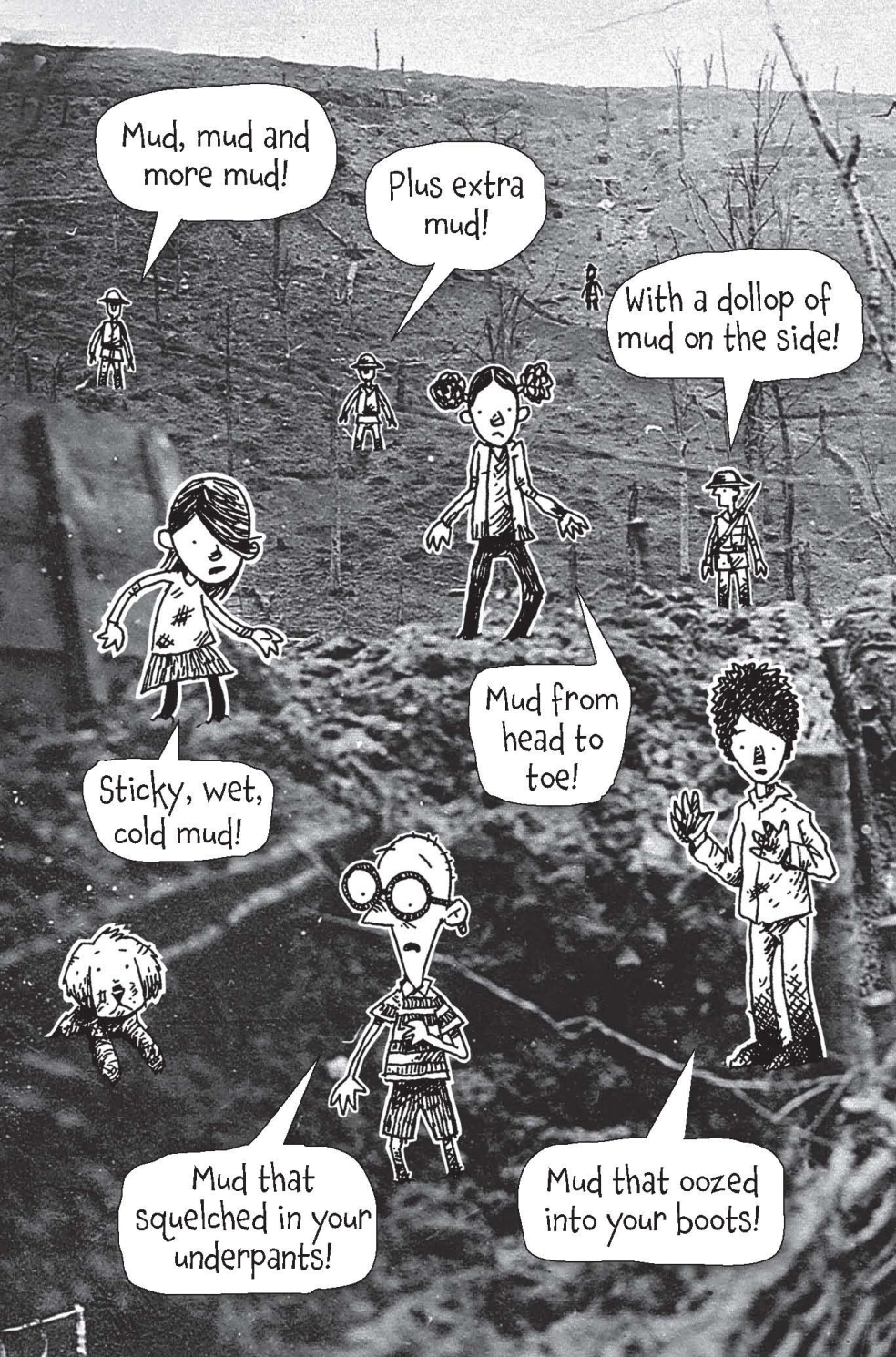




But in 1914 World War One began, and that changed everything.

Suddenly hundreds of thousands of young men had to go to war, and they didn't like what they found when they got there. No excitement, no heroics and definitely no glory; instead . . .





Mud, mud and
more mud!

Plus extra
mud!

With a dollop of
mud on the side!

Sticky, wet,
cold mud!

Mud from
head to
toe!

Mud that
squelched in your
underpants!

Mud that oozed
into your boots!

And just to make things even more gruesome, a load of horrible machines and chemicals specially designed to kill people.



So, mixed up in all the mud were lots of bits of dead bodies and gallons of blood.



It was horrific. Some people called it the 'Great War'; others said it was . . .



**The
War
To End
All Wars!**

But how did it start? How many people died? And who won?

If you'd like to know, turn the page . . .