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Opening extract from

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

Written by

Tony Robinson

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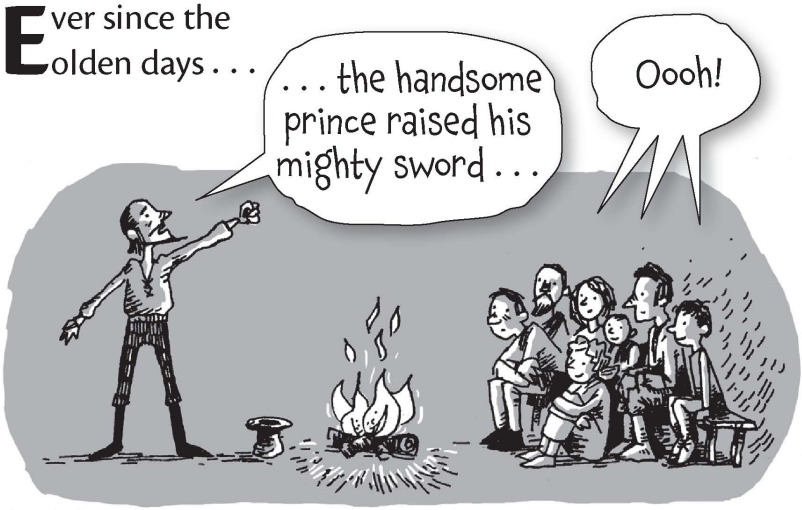
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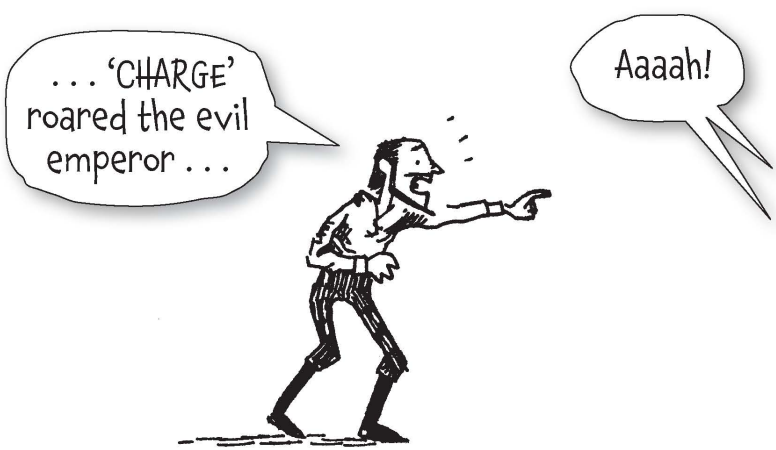
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INTRODUCTION

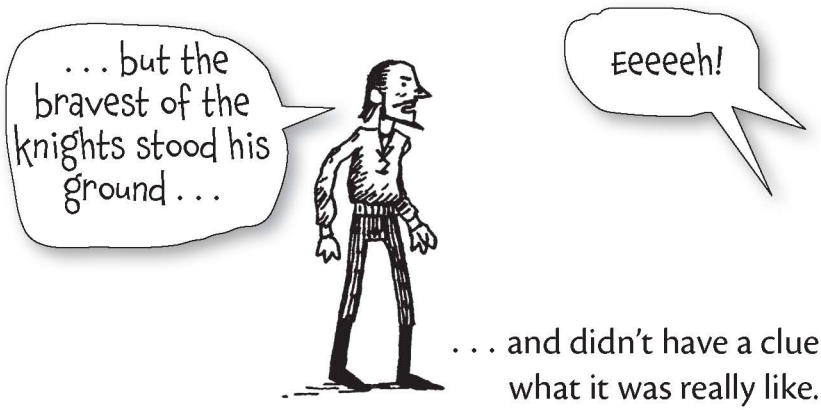
Ever since the olden days . . .



. . . people have loved hearing stories about war.



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



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



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

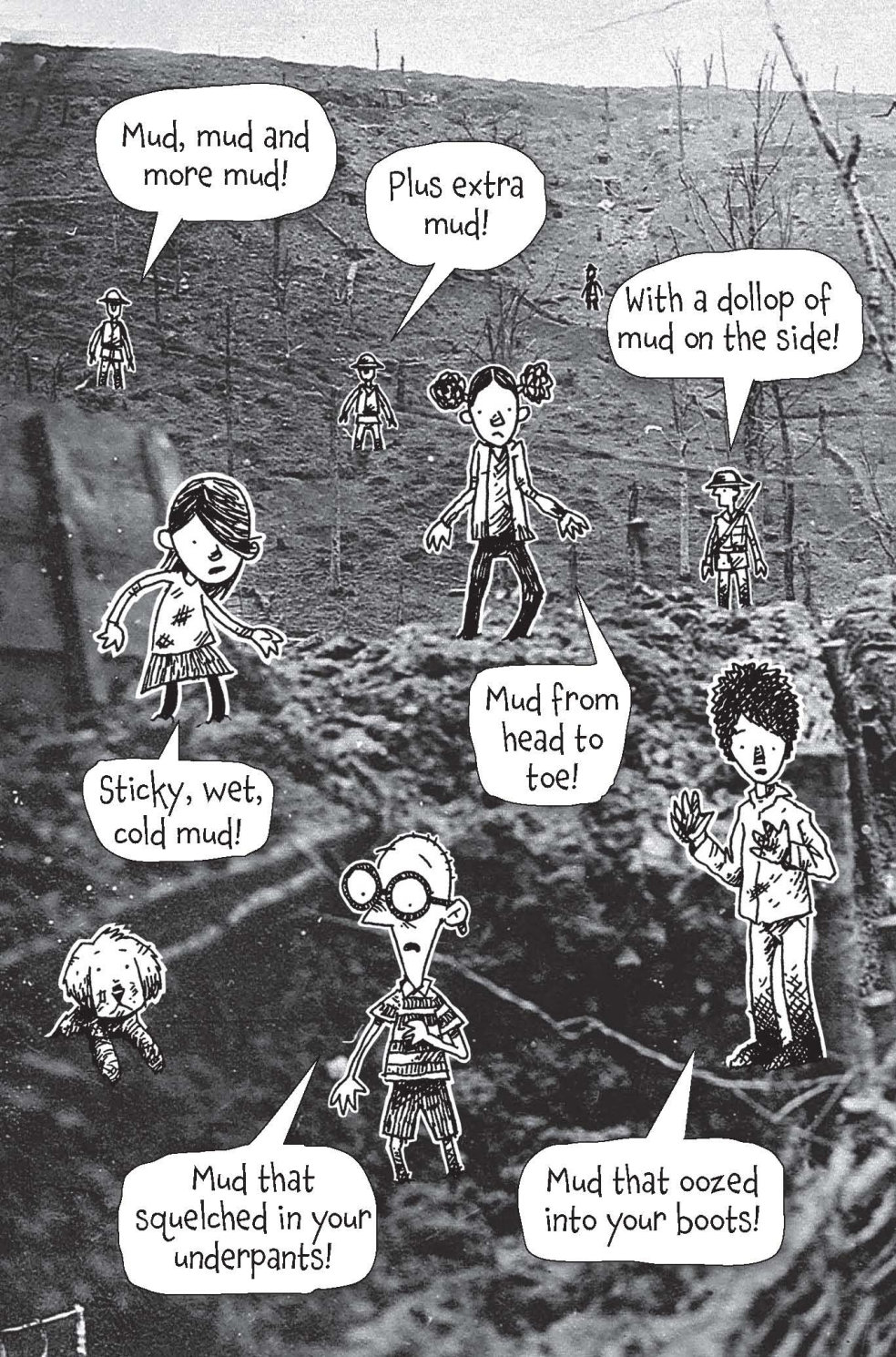




But in 1914 World War One began, and that changed everything.

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 . . .



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

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