

The Story of Second Lieutenant

John Frederic Johnson (1896 – 1916)

As drawn by three young lady

students of Carnforth, Lancashire, England



Under the direction of Gary Potter, Teacher of History

Spring, 2018

Inspired by the web page about the three Johnson brothers who died in World War One

https://one-name.org/service_story/the-three-johnson-brothers

(Cover by Steve Spicer)

JUNE 6TH 1896:
BIRTH OF JOHN
FREDERICK JOHNSON



AUGUST 4TH 1896:
CHRISTENING



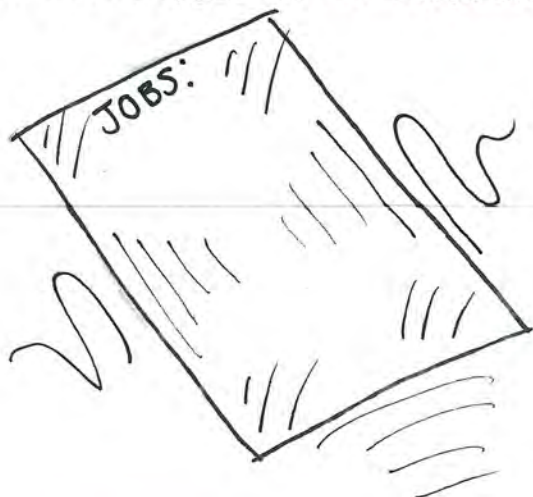
FOUR SIBLINGS



TWO OF HIS BROTHERS WERE ARMY PRIVATES.



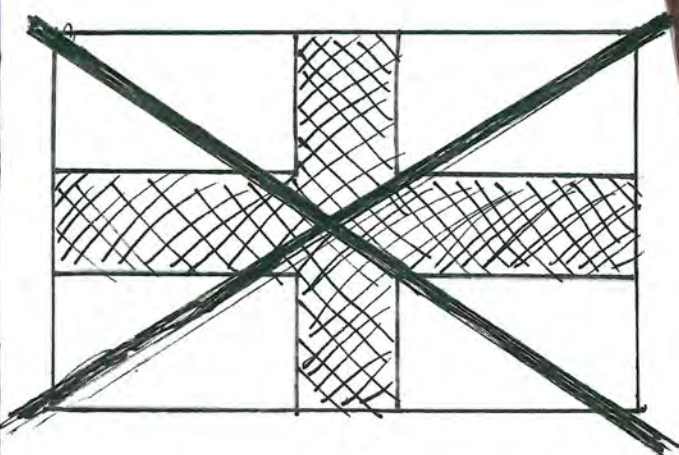
JOHNSON DID NOT HAVE A JOB AS HE GREW UP.



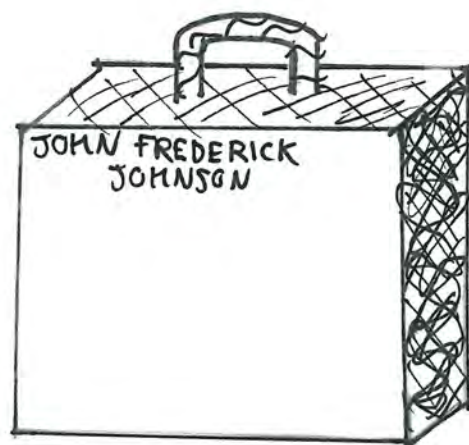
HIS FATHER
WAS A
RESPECTED
BANKER



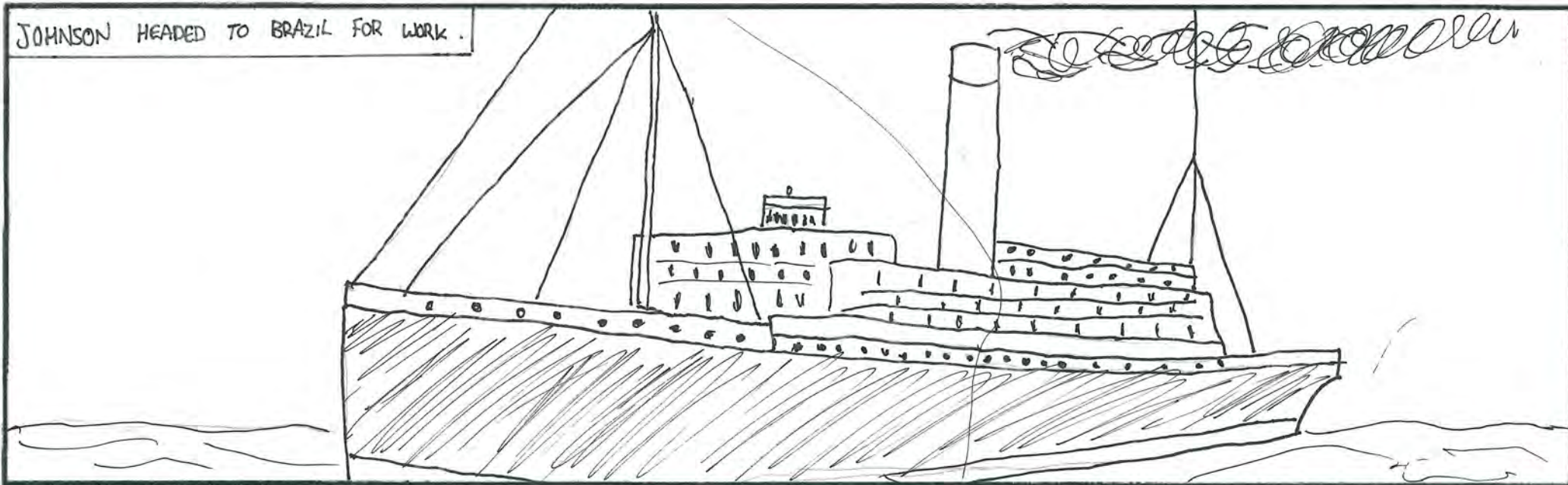
JOHNSON WANTED TO LEAVE ENGLAND.



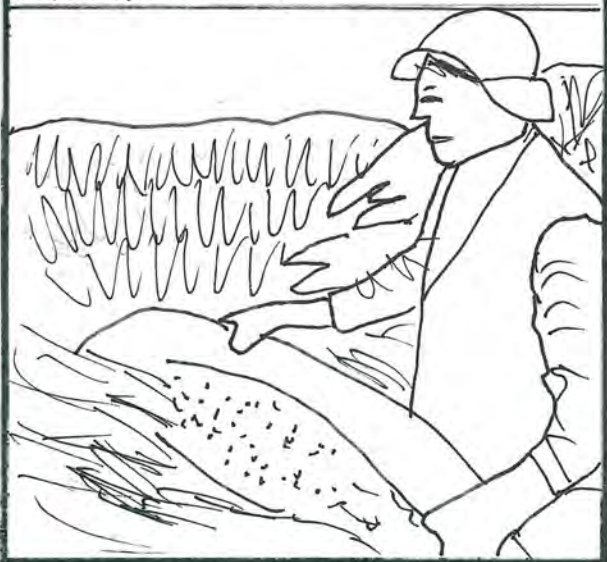
PARENTS...
I AM GOING
TO LEAVE THE
COUNTRY



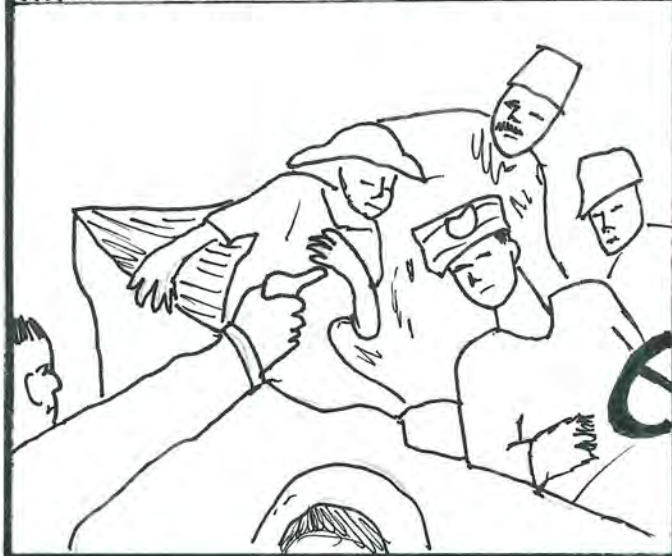
JOHNSON HEADED TO BRAZIL FOR WORK.



JOHNSON WORKED ON A BRAZILIAN COFFEE PLANTATION.



AUGUST 1914 -
FRANZ FERDINAND ASSASSINATED



WAR EXTRA! the Evening World WAR EXTRA!

GERMANY DECLARES WAR;
ALL EUROPE IS IN ARMS



WAR WAS DECLARED.

WAR EXTRA! the Evening World WAR EXTRA!
GERMANY DECLARES WAR;
ALL EUROPE IS IN ARMS



THE NEWS REACHED BRAZIL.

BRITONS



YOUR COUNTRY NEEDS
YOU

JOHNSON FOUND OUT ABOUT WAR.

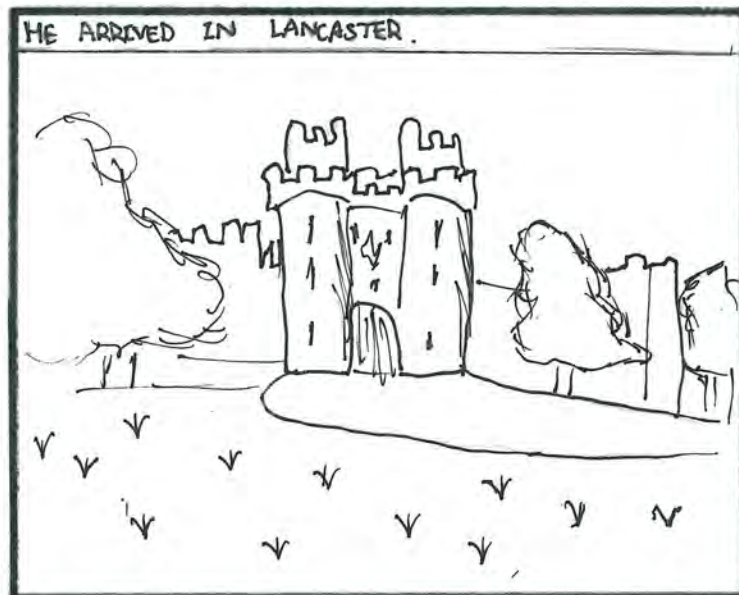
HE ASKED HIS
BOSS IF HE
COULD GO HOME.



JOHNSON HEADED
BACK HOME.

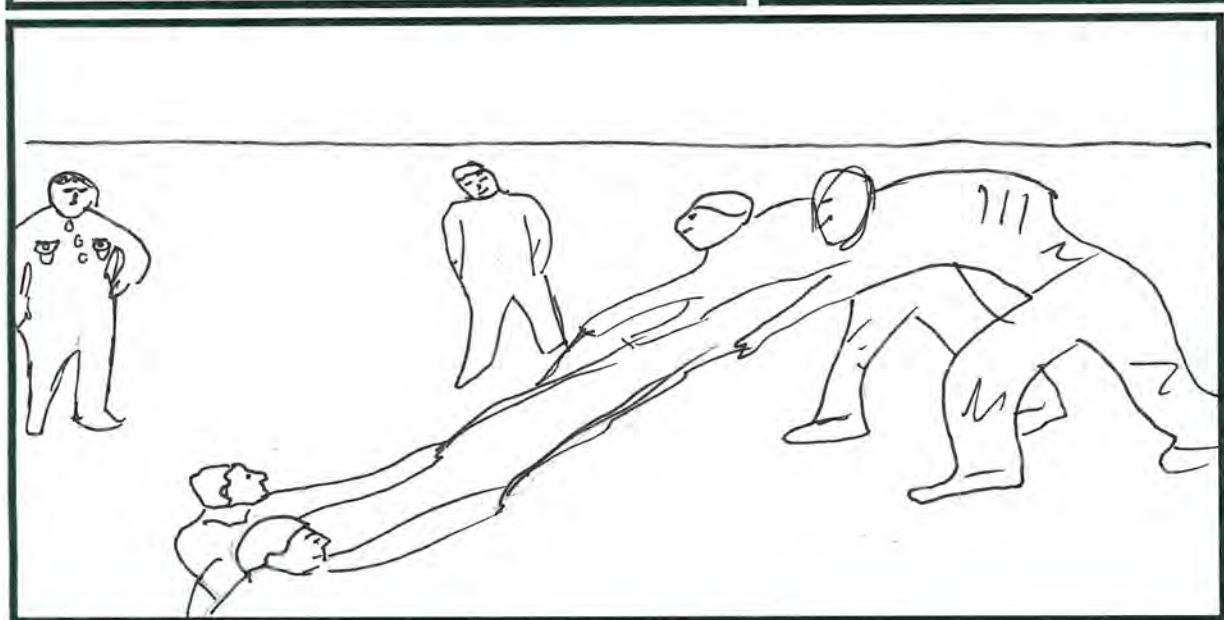
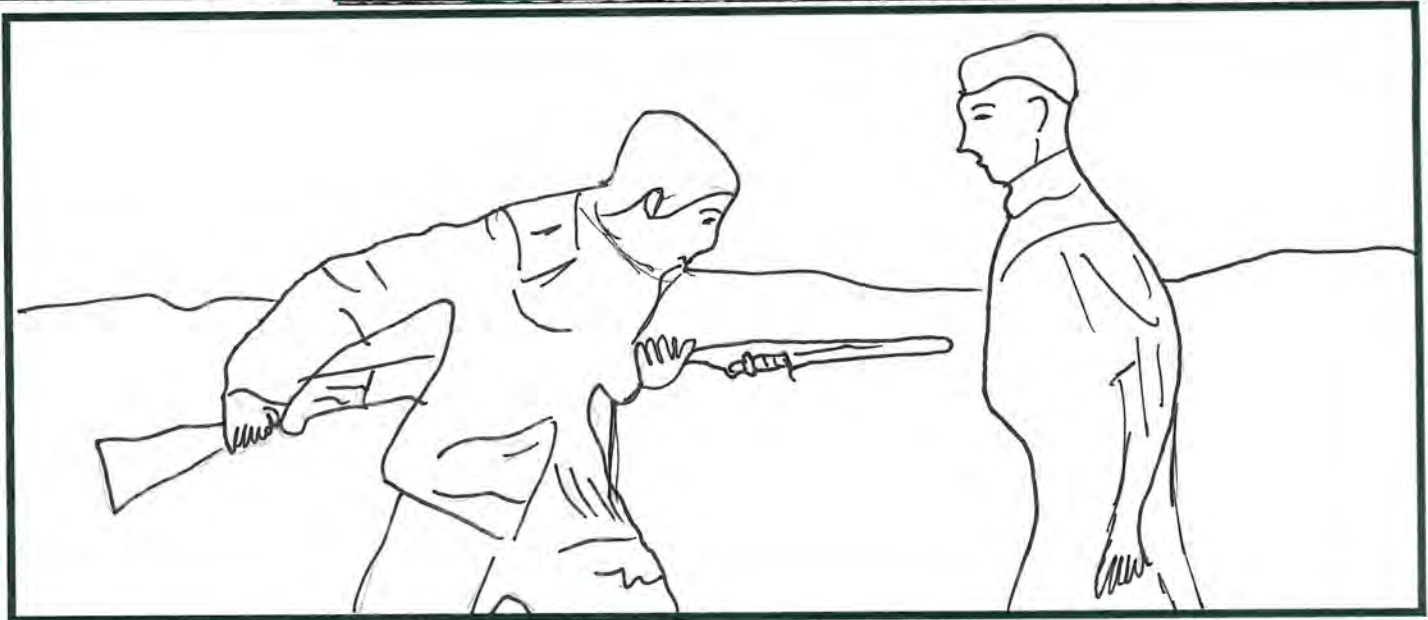
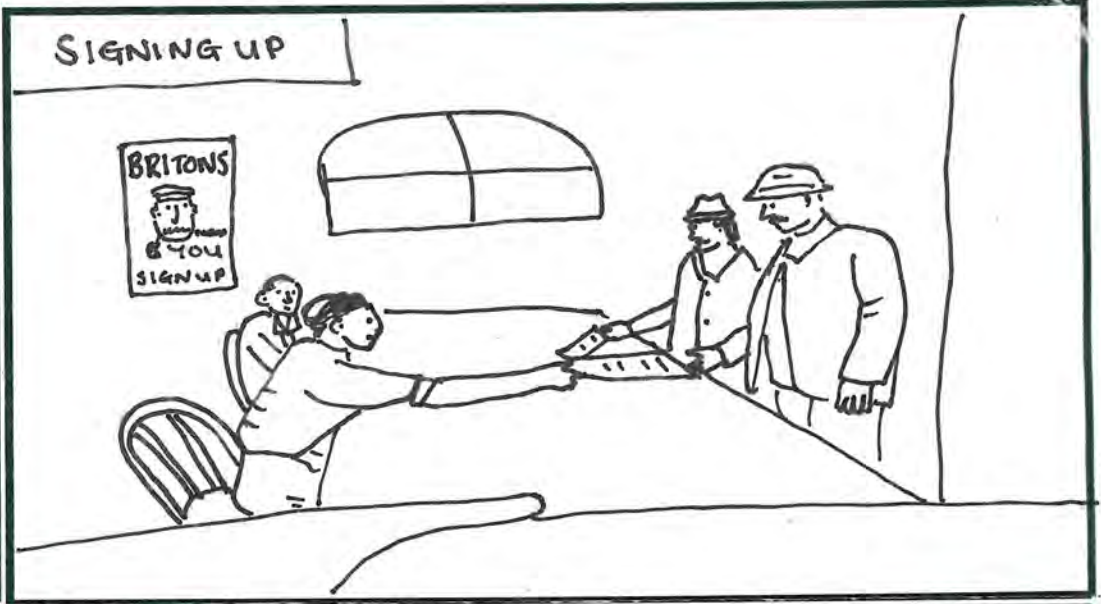


HE ARRIVED IN LANCASTER.



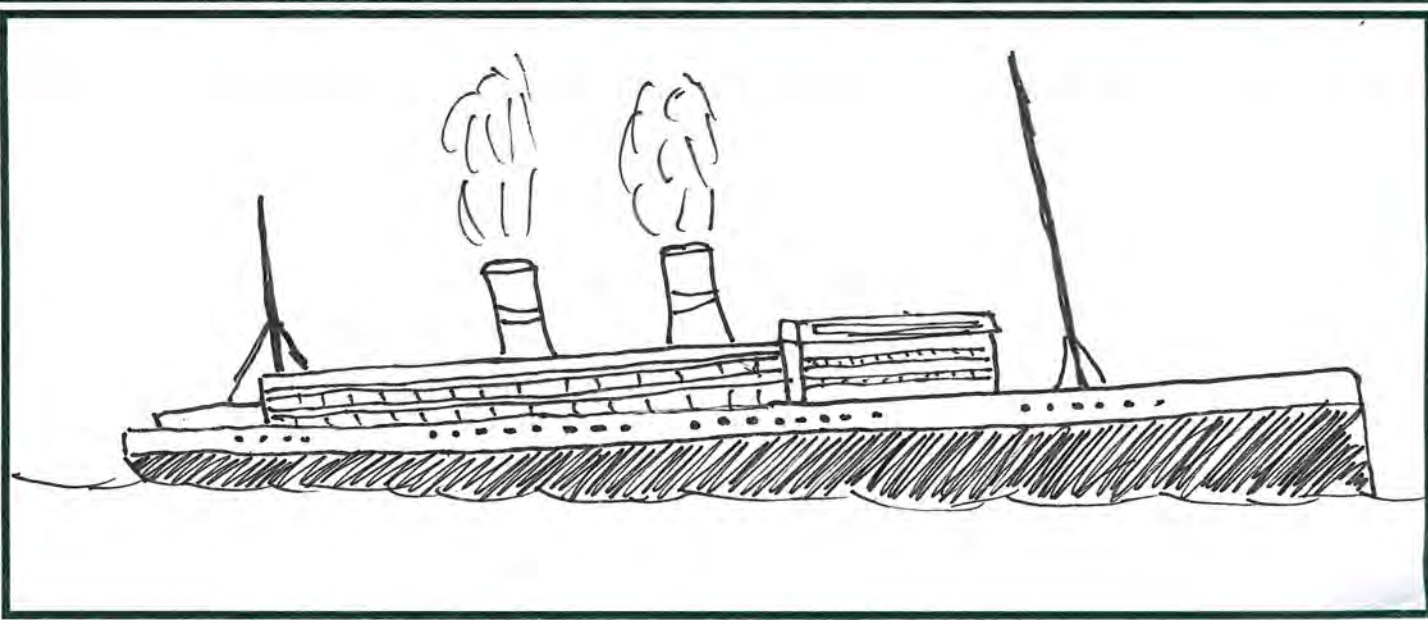
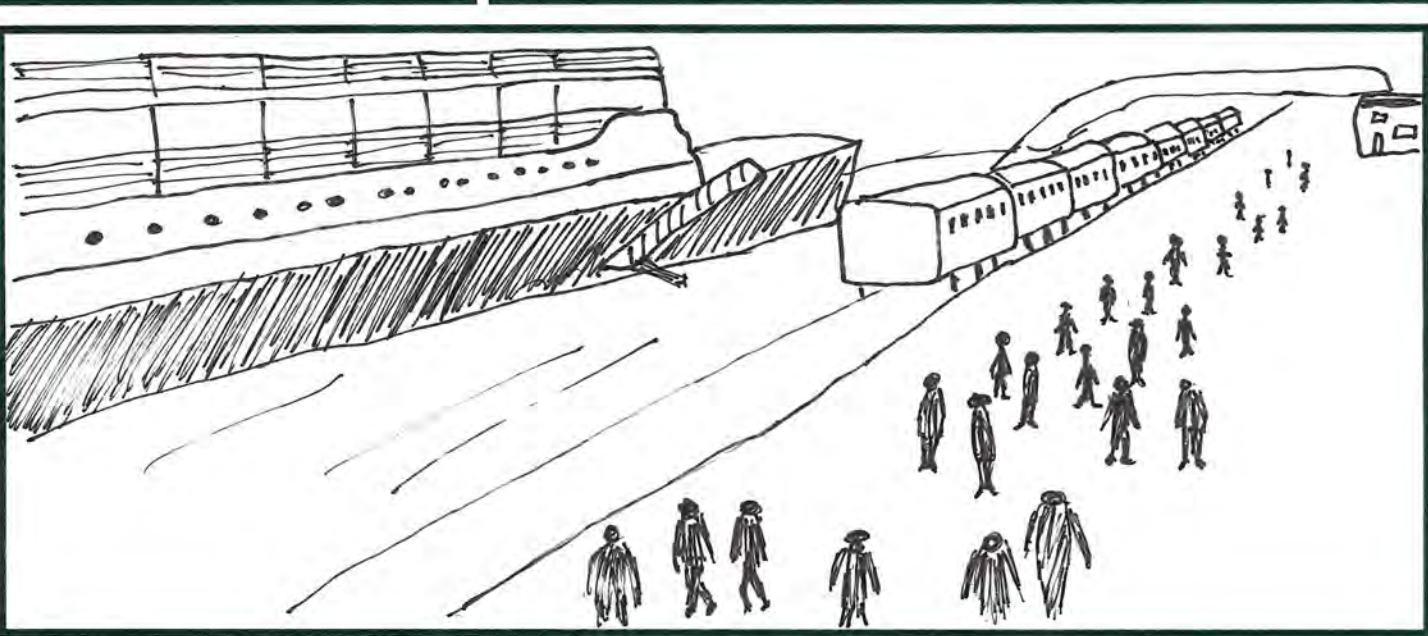


JOHN JOHNSON
SIGNS UP
AND JOINS THE
KING'S OWN
ROYAL
LANCASTER
REGIMENT



After receiving orders
from the General...

**They March to
the dock.... To
Catch the ship to
Mesopotamia**

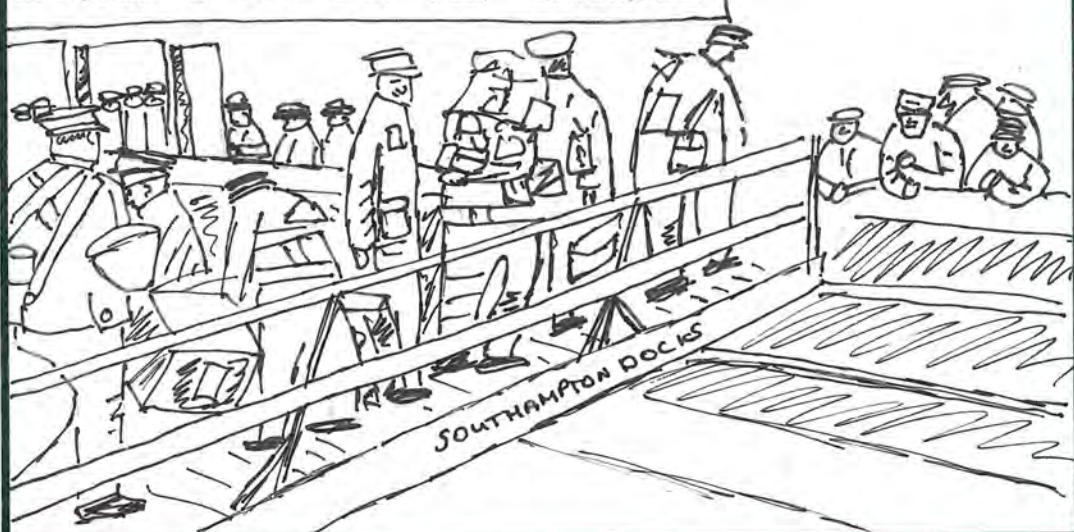


TOP SECRET

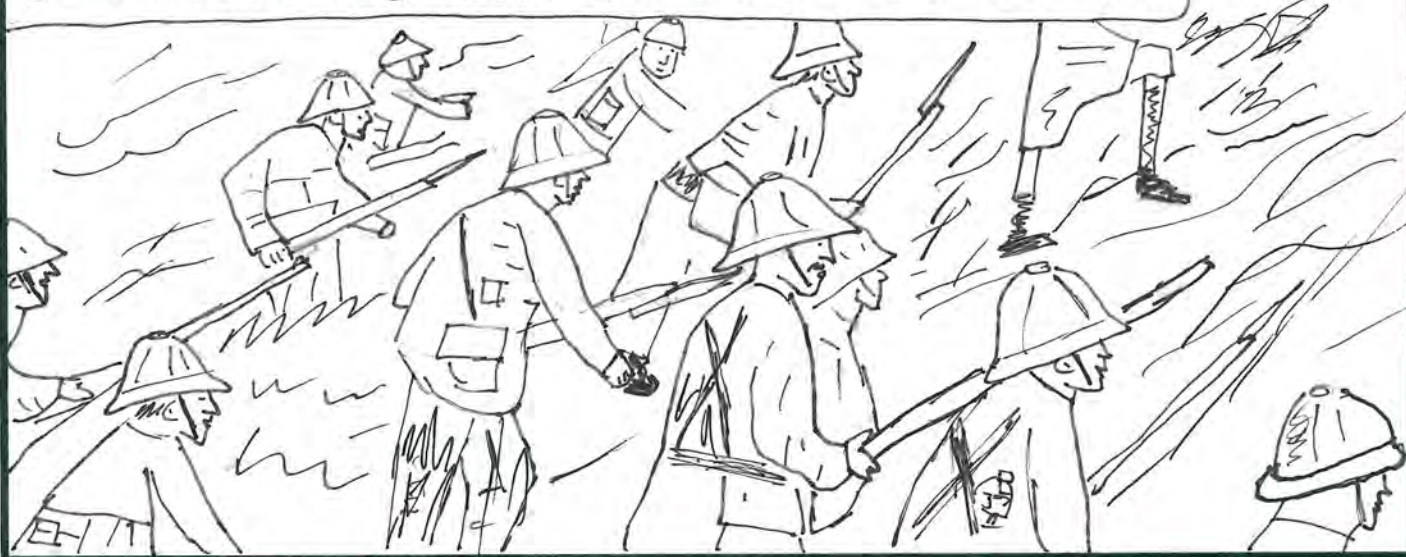
ORDERS FOR 9TH BATTALION

PROCEED TO PORT IMMEDIATELY
EMBARK ON SHIPS BOUND FOR TURKEY.
BATTALION TO TAKE PART IN
GALLI POLI CAMPAIGN.

BOARDING THE SHIP FOR GALLI POLI



6 - 11 AUGUST 1915 - FIGHTING AT THE BATTLE OF SARI BAIR



TURKISH FORCES FIGHT BACK



STALEMATE - NO FURTHER CHANGES TO FRONT



TOP SECRET

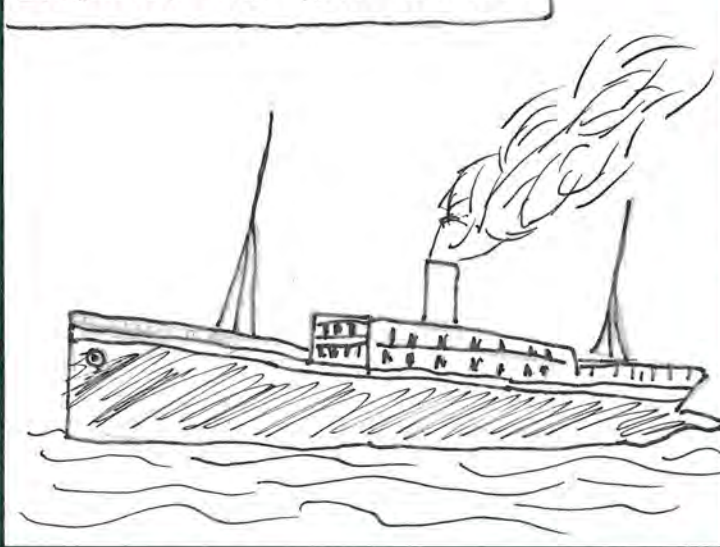
ORDERS FOR LT. JOHNSON

GOOD WORK AT BATTLE OF
SARI BAIR.

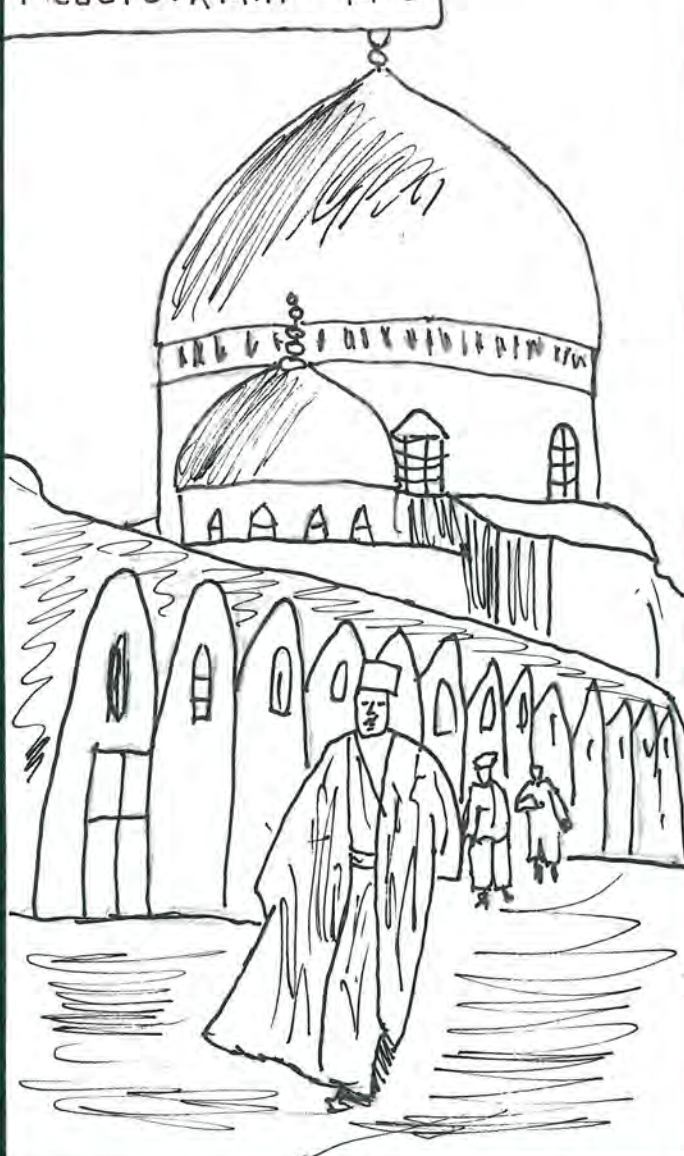
NO FURTHER
ADVANCEMENT TO TAKE
PLACE.

REPORT TO PORT FOR
TRANSFER TO 6TH
BATTALION AND CAMPAIGN
IN MESOPOTAMIA.

ONBOARD THE HMS KALYAN



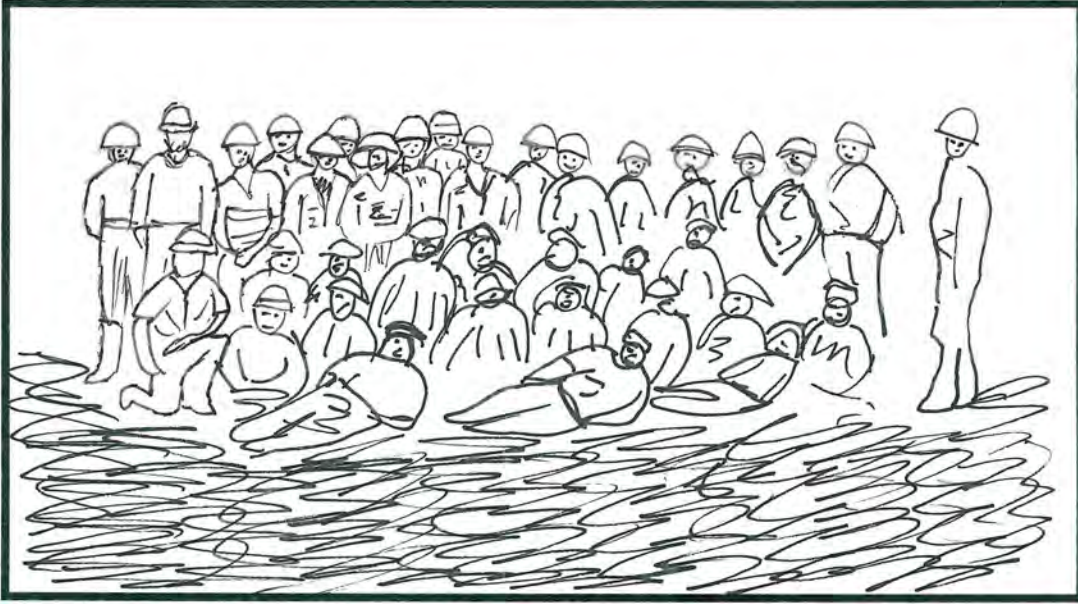
MESOPOTAMIA - 1916



27 FEBRUARY 1916



COR BLIMEY IT'S HOT, IT
WILL BE TOUGH MARCHING
AND FIGHTING IN THIS HEAT.
SO THIS IS MESOPOTAMIA
AND THE FAMOUS CITY OF
BASRA. RIGHT LADS, OFF
WE GO!



29 FEBRUARY 1916



LT. WE HAVE SOME
PROBLEMS. THE WATER
IS FOUL AND WE DON'T
HAVE ENOUGH TENTS
FOR EVERYONE. GOOD
NEWS IS WE GOT THE
TEA AND BISCUITS
UNLOADED FROM
THE SHIP!

FORTY MEN PER TENT



3 MARCH 1916



OK SERGEANT, INFORM
THE MEN THAT WE WILL
BE MOVING ON TOMORROW.
WE WILL BOARD BARGES
AND HEAD UP RIVER.

OK LIEUTENANT, THE LADS
WILL BE READY TO MOVE
ON.



TRAVELING UP THE TIGRIS BY BARGE



6 MARCH 1916: GALAT SALIH

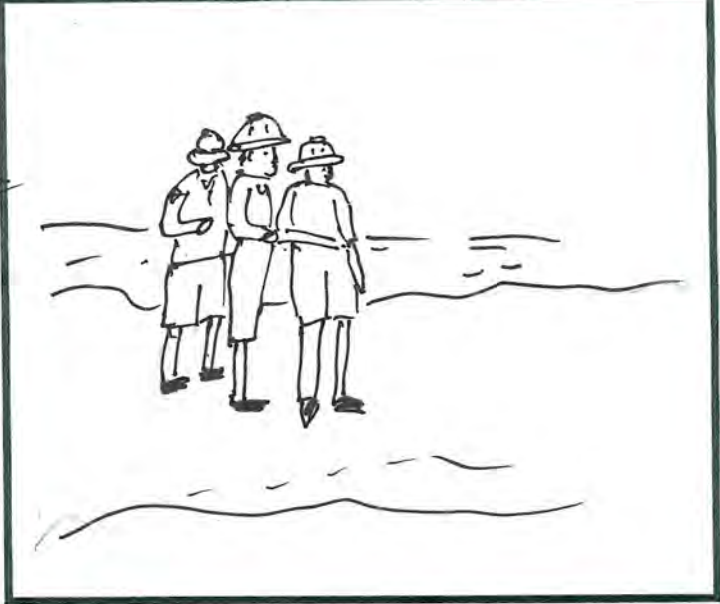
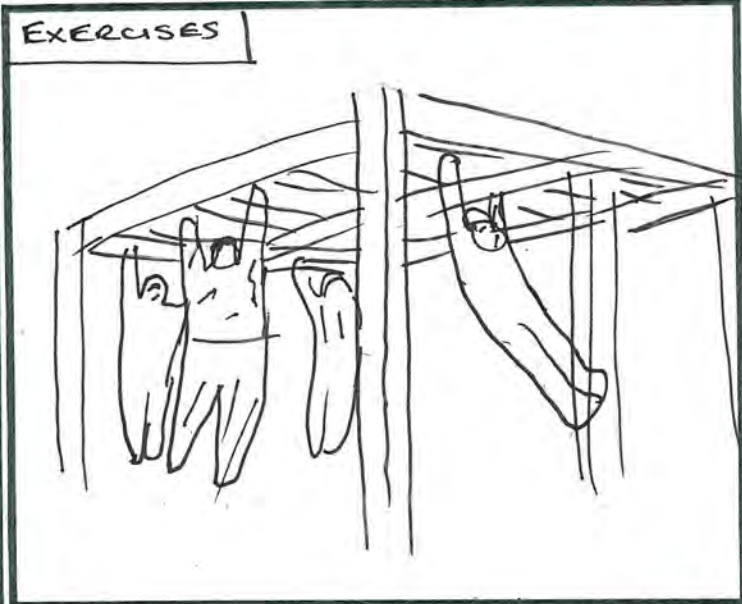


8 MARCH 1916: ALI AL GHARSI



11 MARCH 1916: WAQY SHAIKH SA'AD





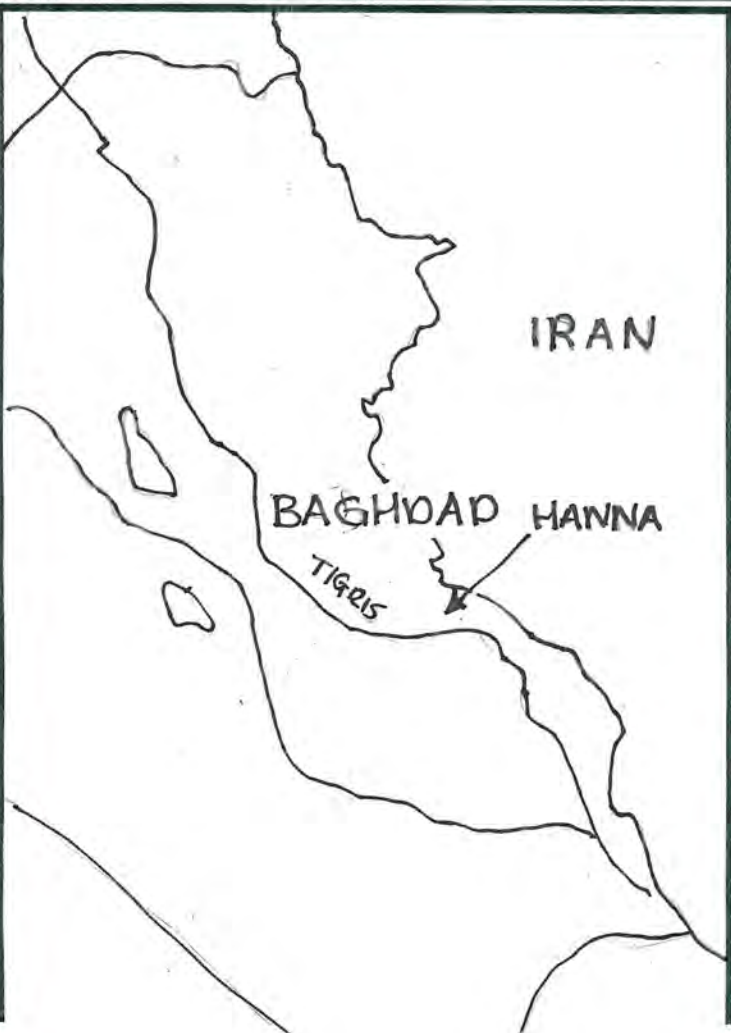
TOP SECRET

Orders for the 6th Battalion.

Proceed to trenches at Hanna, just north of the city of Kut.

Trenches there are of vital importance. The Ottomans have been laying siege to the city since December 1915 with the 6th Division of the Indian Army trapped inside.


The trenches at Hanna will be used as a launching point for an attack on Kut to relieve the siege. The men trapped in Kut are relying on you!



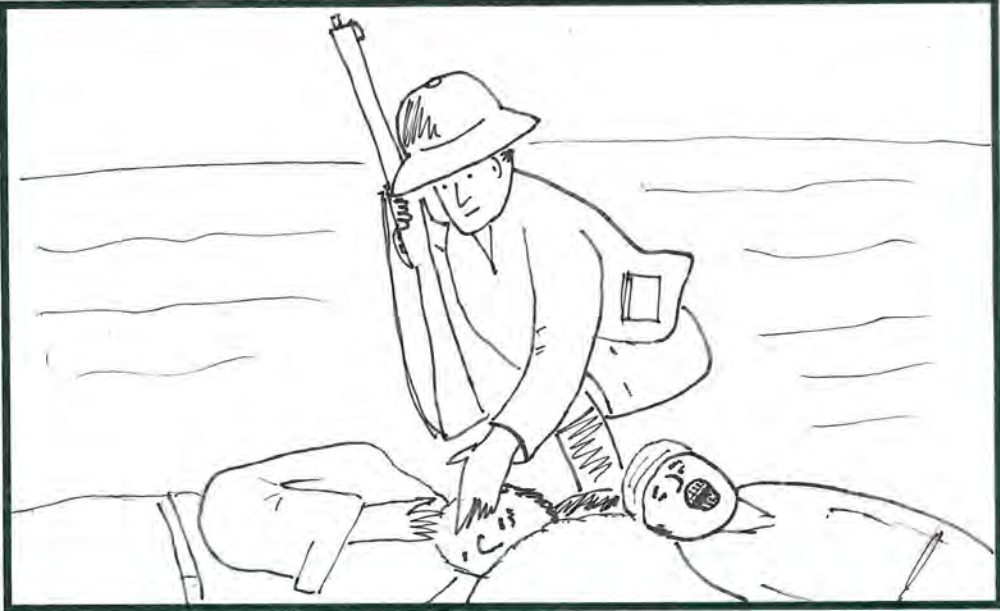


OK, HERE WE ARE LADS.
THESE TRENCHES WILL ONLY BE HOME FOR A SHORT WHILE.
THE NEXT STEP IS SANNIYAT,
WE NEED TO KEEP GOING SO
WE CAN FREE THOSE MEN
TRAPPED IN KUT.

1 APRIL 1916 - 30 OFFICERS AND 813 MEN
WAIT AT HANNA

THE LADS ARE GETTING FED UP
LIEUTENANT, WHEN WILL OUR
NEXT ORDERS COME?
IT'S DANGEROUS HERE, LAST NIGHT
LIEUTENANT WHITALL WAS
WOUNDED IN THE HEAD.




WELL SERGEANT, I
HAVE BEEN MAKING
ARRANGEMENTS. WE
LAUNCH OUR FIRST
ATTACK AGAINST ENEMY
TRENCHES TOMORROW

GREAT NEWS! I'LL
TELL THE LADS



5 APRIL 1916 - ATTACKS ON THE ENEMY FRONT LINE




GOOD NEWS LIEUTENANT, THE
ATTACKS WENT WELL - ENDED
UP BAYONETS IN TRENCHES
WITH VERY LITTLE OPPOSITION
WE CAPTURED THE FIRST
AND SECOND LINES
EASILY

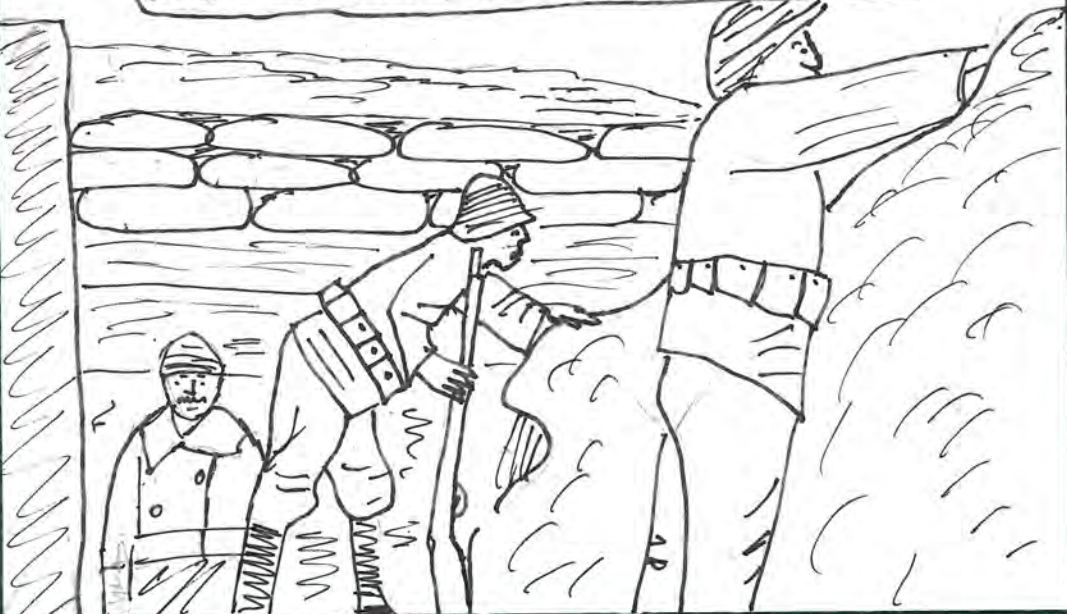
GREAT, NOW WE NEED
TO KEEP PUSHING ON TO
FALLATIEH THEN SANNIYAT



6-7 APRIL BIVOUAC AT FALLATIEH



6-8 APRIL 1916 - THE ENEMY FIGHTS BACK



NO FURTHER ADVANCEMENT
LIEUTENANT JOHNSON
JUST MORE
UNSUCCESSFUL ATTACKS
AGAINST THE ENEMY



WELL I HAVE NEWS
SERGEANT, THERE WILL
BE A BIG PUSH
TOMORROW!



9 APRIL 1916 - 4AM - EVERYONE UP, THE LIEUTENANT WANTS YOU!



MORNING ALL!

WE WILL CONTINUE THE
PUSH IN 30 MINUTES. IT
IS DARK SO WE SHOULD
TAKE THE ENEMY BY
SURPRISE. YOU ALL
NOW NEED TO BE
COMPLETELY SILENT



4.30 AM



ALL GOING WELL
LIEUTENANT JOHNSON
NO SIGN OF THE
ENEMY YET



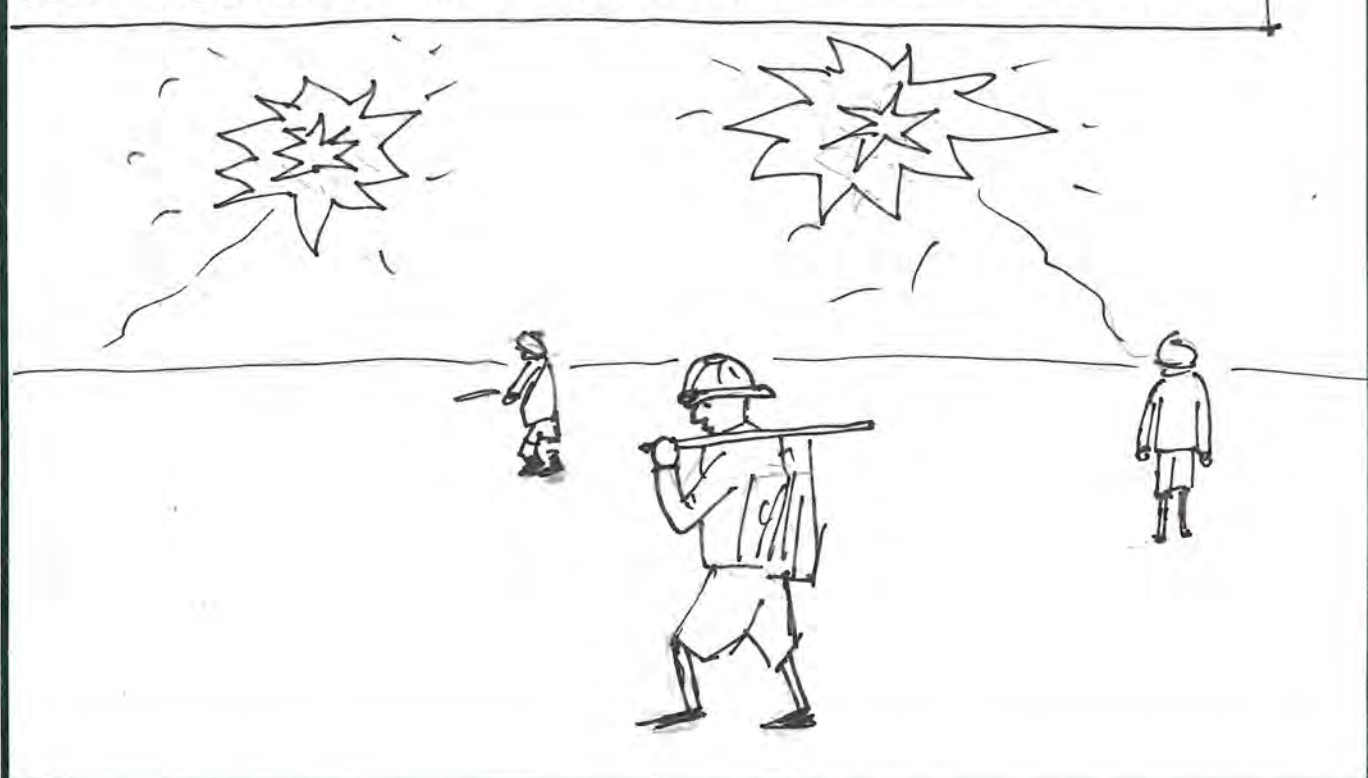
I DON'T LIKE
IT. IT'S TOO QUIET



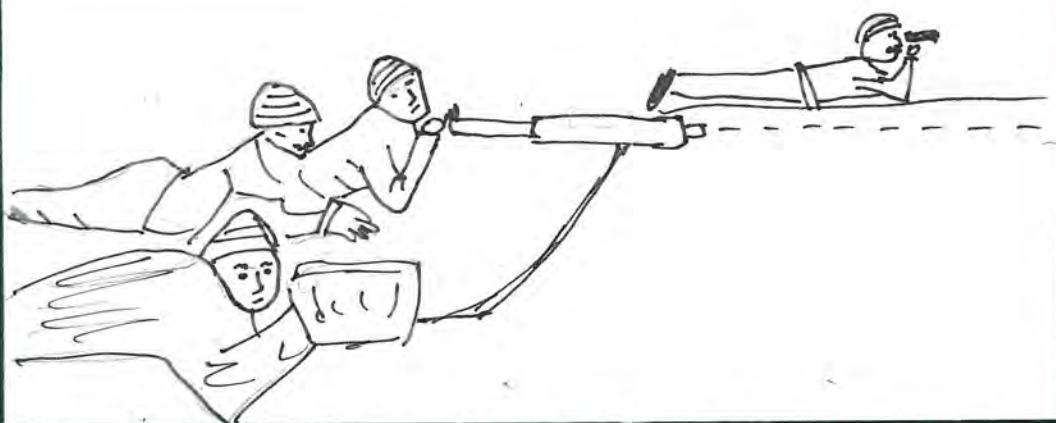
I'VE GOT
A BAD
FEELING ABOUT
THIS....



FLARES LIGHT UP THE LEFT AND THEN RIGHT OF THE MEN!



ENEMY MACHINE GUNS TO THE LEFT



ENEMY MACHINE GUNS TO THE RIGHT



OH NO!
WE'RE
TRAPPED!

TRAPPED



WHERE'S LIEUTENANT
JOHNSON?

MISSING SIR.
DOESN'T LOOK
GOOD



29 APRIL 1916

MORNING NEWS

The siege of Kut is finally over, All efforts to free Kut failed with many men dying during the attempts to free it. It is estimated that 30,000 men died trying to free Kut.

Finally General Townshend, trapped inside Kut surrendered himself and his men.

**SECOND LIEUT.
JOHNSON J.F.**

BASRA MEMORIAL - PRESENT DAY

