

Dedicated to

3159 Private James William Bowen
45th Battalion AIF
Killed in action, Belgium, 29 September 1917.

917 Private Norman Arthur Jorgensen
37th Battalion AIF
Killed in action, France, 7–9 June 1917.

1007 2nd Corporal William Argyle Campbell
5th Company Australian Engineers
Died Northampton Military Hospital, 11 November 1918.

And to Nell,
who helped me understand that they were not just names on dusty
old records, but all real people.

NHJ

2nd Lieutenant George Victor Harrison, Military Cross
1st Kings Liverpool Regiment
Died of wounds aged 23 years, France, 1918.

Private Walter Henry Harrison, Military Medal
Grenadier Guards
Enlisted 1914 aged 26 years, survived.

Private Charles Beresford
Manchester Regiment
Enlisted 1918 aged 18 years, wounded at the Somme, survived.

And to Annie,
who taught me to care.

BHL

IN FLANDERS FIELDS

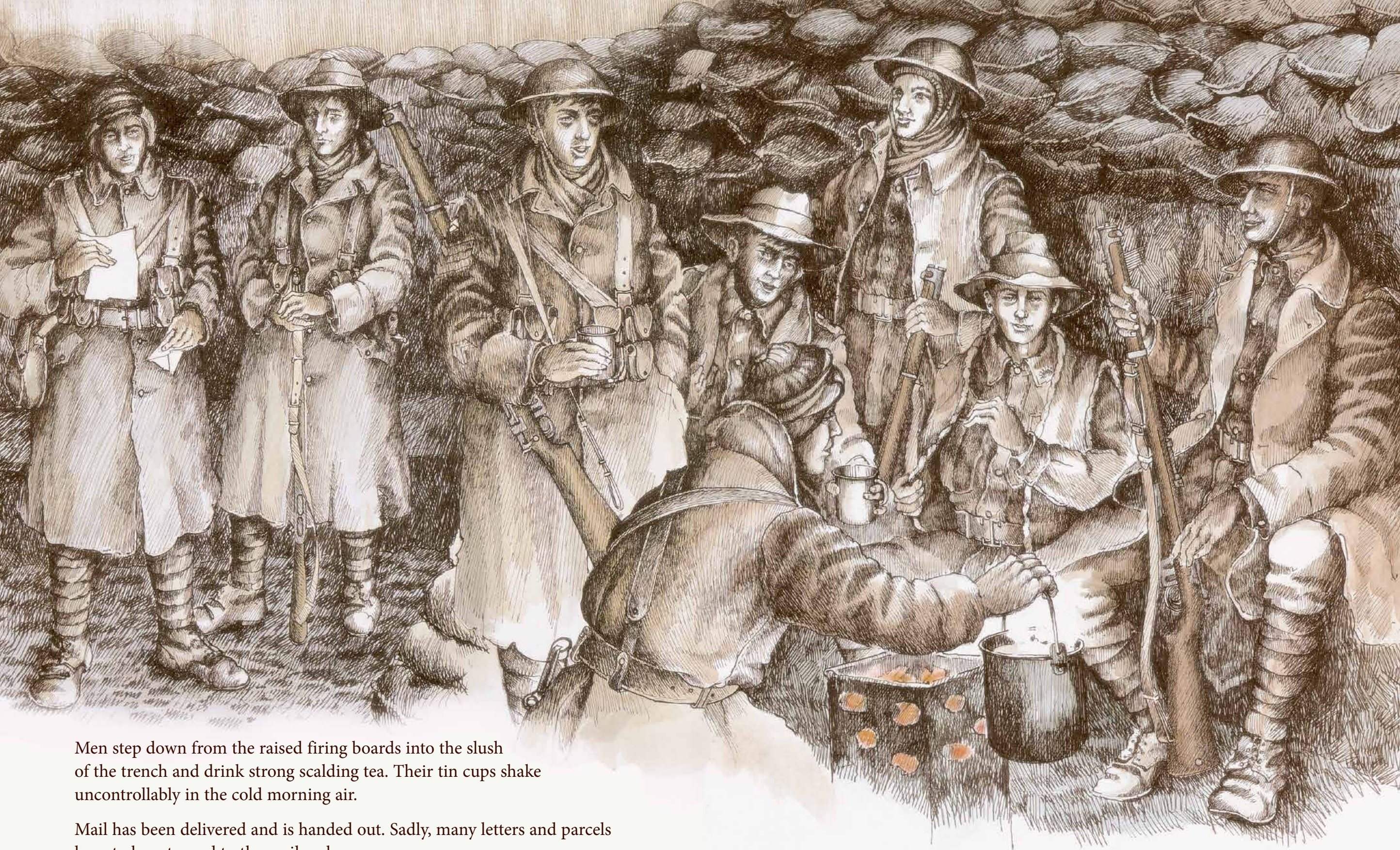


Norman Jorgensen & Brian Harrison-Lever



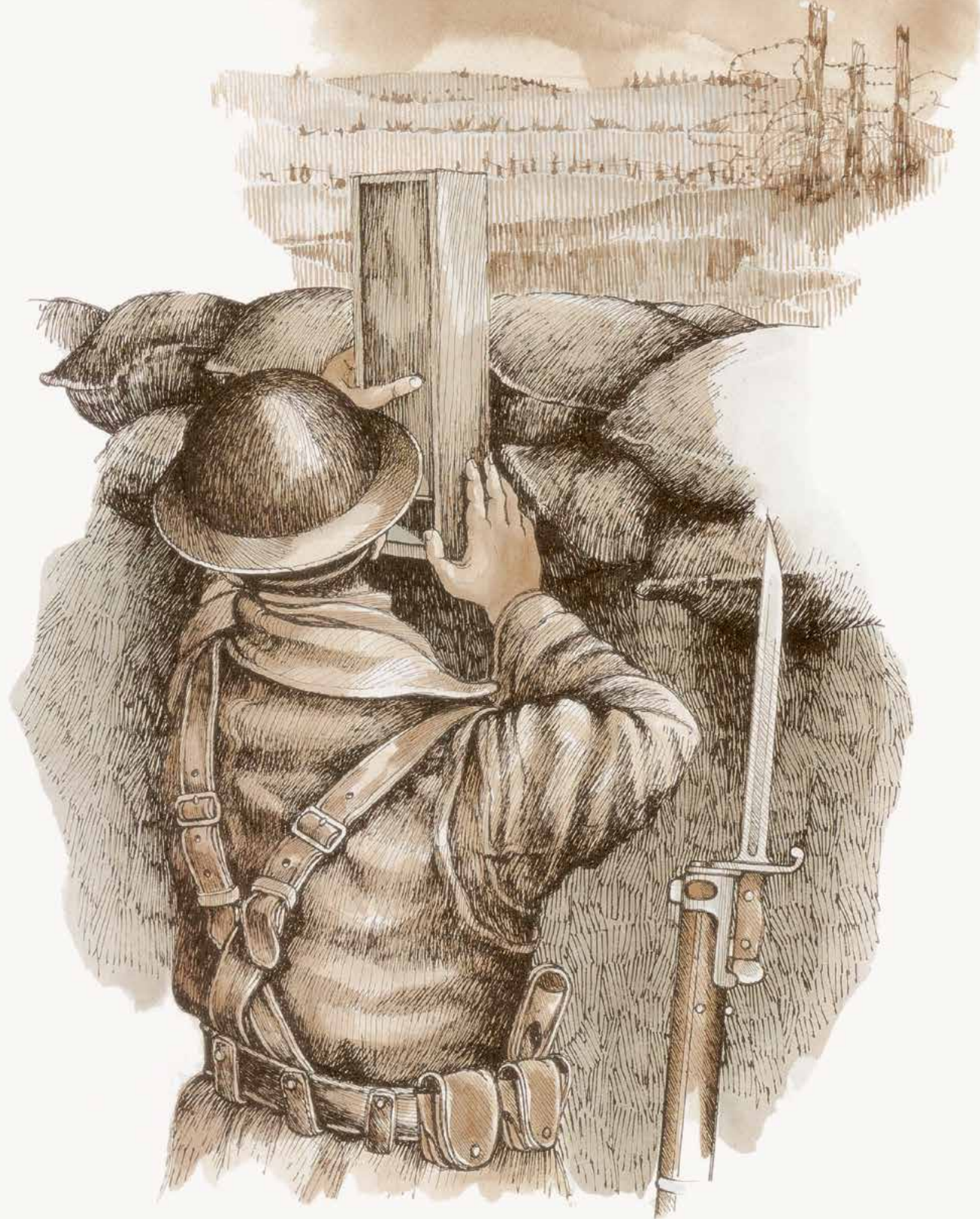
Early on Christmas morning the guns stop firing. A deathly silence creeps over the pitted and ruined landscape.

For many soldiers the sound of exploding shells and the chatter of machine-guns continues in their heads; their minds damaged by the weeks of deafening noise.



Men step down from the raised firing boards into the slush of the trench and drink strong scalding tea. Their tin cups shake uncontrollably in the cold morning air.

Mail has been delivered and is handed out. Sadly, many letters and parcels have to be returned to the mail sack.



But one young soldier remains peering through a periscope over the top of the trench. Way out in no-man's-land, he sees a small red shape moving on the barbed wire.



A brightly coloured robin is trapped. One wing is flapping helplessly. The bird is unable to free itself from the tangle of deadly barbs.