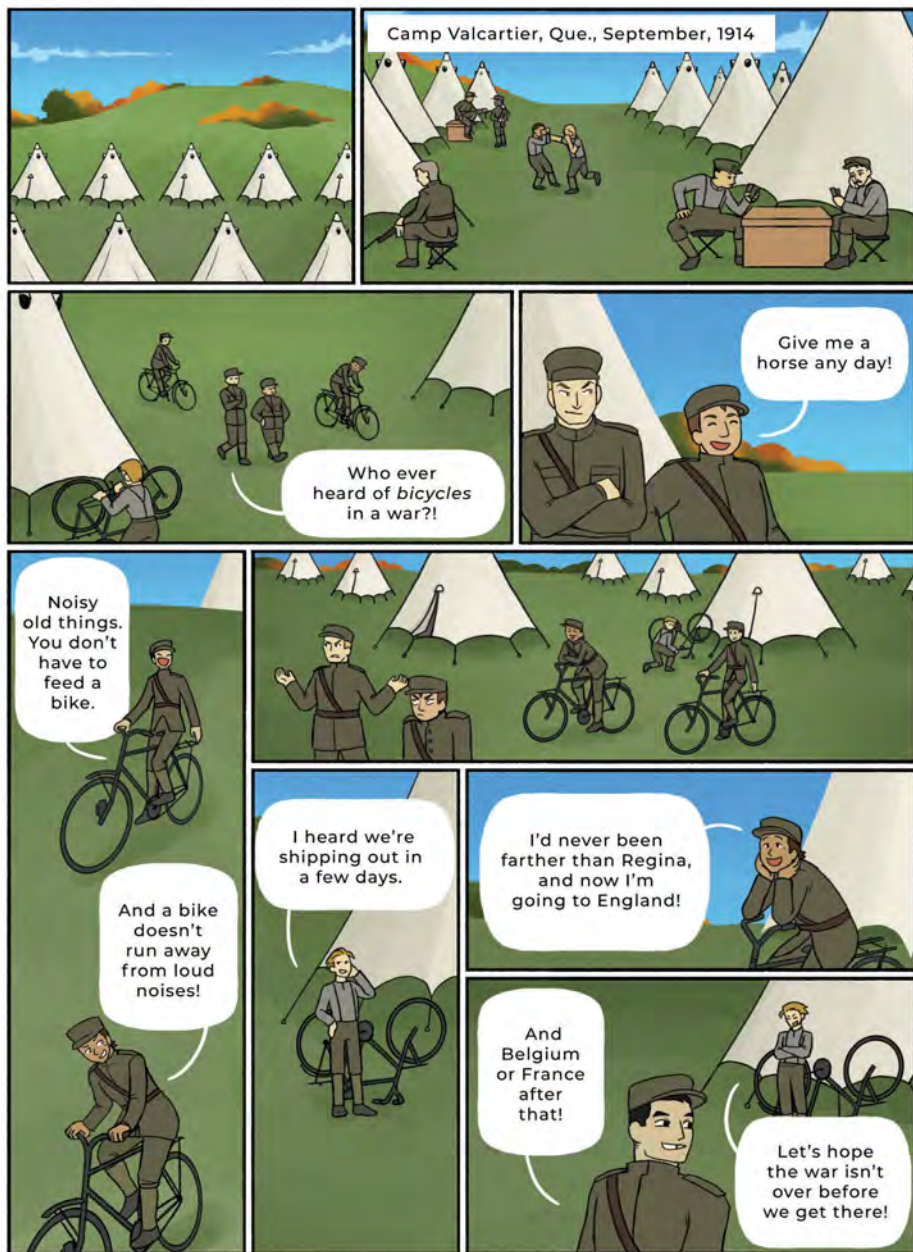


CYCLING TO WAR

TEXT BY NANCY PAYNE
ILLUSTRATIONS BY NICKIA MCIVOR



Military training grounds on Salisbury Plain, England, October 1914



Maybe they should be teaching us to swim instead!

How are we supposed to train in this?

I just hope my bike doesn't rust clear through.



Somewhere near the battlefields of Europe, July 1915

Glorified messenger boys. That's all we are!

I took a load of bandages to the hospital tent yesterday.



All that training in England and you know what I've been doing? Digging holes to set up machine guns.



We're just not making good use of the cyclists we've trained.



For starters, we can't keep track of them. They're spread out among all the divisions.

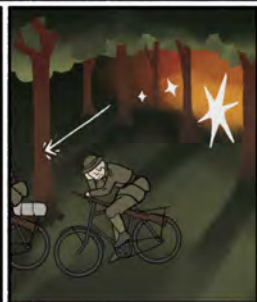




It's time for a big push, boys.
It'll be dangerous work,
but we trust it will end
in victory. The enemy is weak.
We're counting on you.



Amiens, France, August 9, 1918



The period
that started on
Aug. 8, 1918,
came to be
known as
the Hundred
Days campaign.

Canadians, including
the Cyclist Battalion,
were an important
part of this final
effort to defeat
the German army.





Mons, Belgium, November 11, 1918



Cyclist Battalion Association reunion, 1937



We invented the characters in this story except for Billy Richardson and Dick Ellis, but the events (including the champagne) are true. Of the 1,138 men who served in the Cyclist Battalion, 261 were killed or wounded. The Cyclists War Memorial in England honours First World War cyclists from the British Commonwealth, but there is no monument in Canada for members of the battalion.