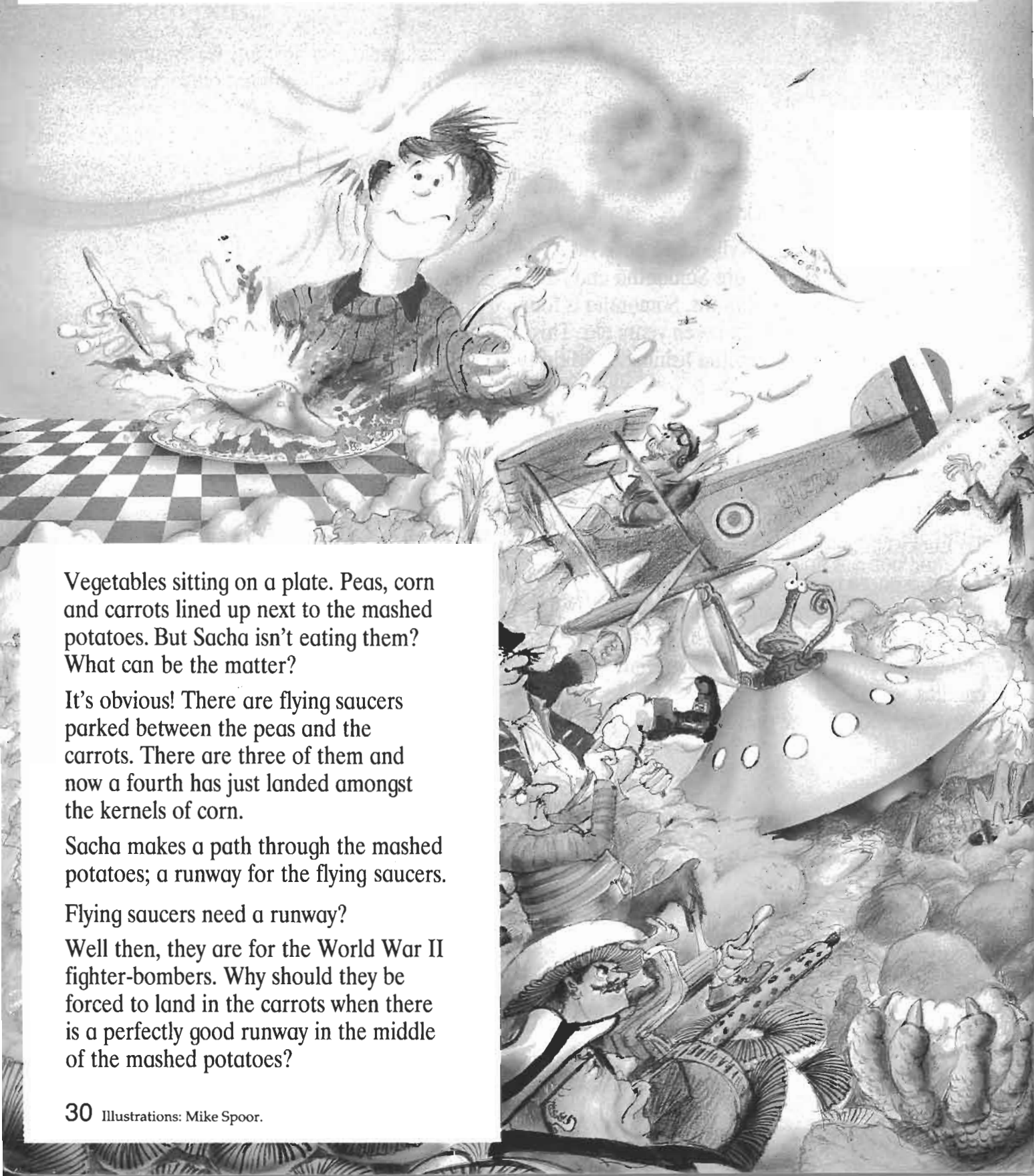


Vegie fighters

by Terrell Neuage



Vegetables sitting on a plate. Peas, corn and carrots lined up next to the mashed potatoes. But Sacha isn't eating them? What can be the matter?

It's obvious! There are flying saucers parked between the peas and the carrots. There are three of them and now a fourth has just landed amongst the kernels of corn.

Sacha makes a path through the mashed potatoes; a runway for the flying saucers.

Flying saucers need a runway?

Well then, they are for the World War II fighter-bombers. Why should they be forced to land in the carrots when there is a perfectly good runway in the middle of the mashed potatoes?

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For three days in a row Sacha refuses to eat his vegetables as long as the planes and saucers are there.

Sacha's father doesn't see them. He sees only the vegetables. But Sacha knows that they are there. He watches them land and fly away.

He doesn't have a clue why World War II fighter-bombers and flying saucers have shrunk down to the size of peas and carrots, or why they are invisible to everyone except him. They are there. He can't eat his vegies. That's just the way it is.

His father cooks up a new plateful of vegetables: this time in the microwave oven. Sacha sees more fighter-bombers and flying saucers landing. His dad cooks up spinach in a pot of water, but now Sacha says there are World War I fighter pilots in the spinach.

His dad tries every vegetable available.

In the pumpkin, there is King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table. In the tomatoes, there is a team of slam-dunking mutant basketball players.

In the lettuce, pirates.

In the squash, Ninja fighters.

In the cabbage, dinosaur centurions.

Gangsters in the mushrooms.

BMX bandits on top of the cauliflower.

Landing on top of the asparagus there is a fire-breathing dragon.

There are spies in the string beans.

Cowboys hiding behind the parsnips.

Ned Kelly and his gang in the turnips.

Satellites amongst the zucchini.

From artichokes to zucchini, there are battles going on!

Sacha's dad takes him to a doctor. But he can't find anything wrong with him. His dad takes the vegetables to show the doctor, who listens to them with his stethoscope. He takes X-rays of them. He puts them under an electron microscope, then calls Sacha's dad in for a talk.

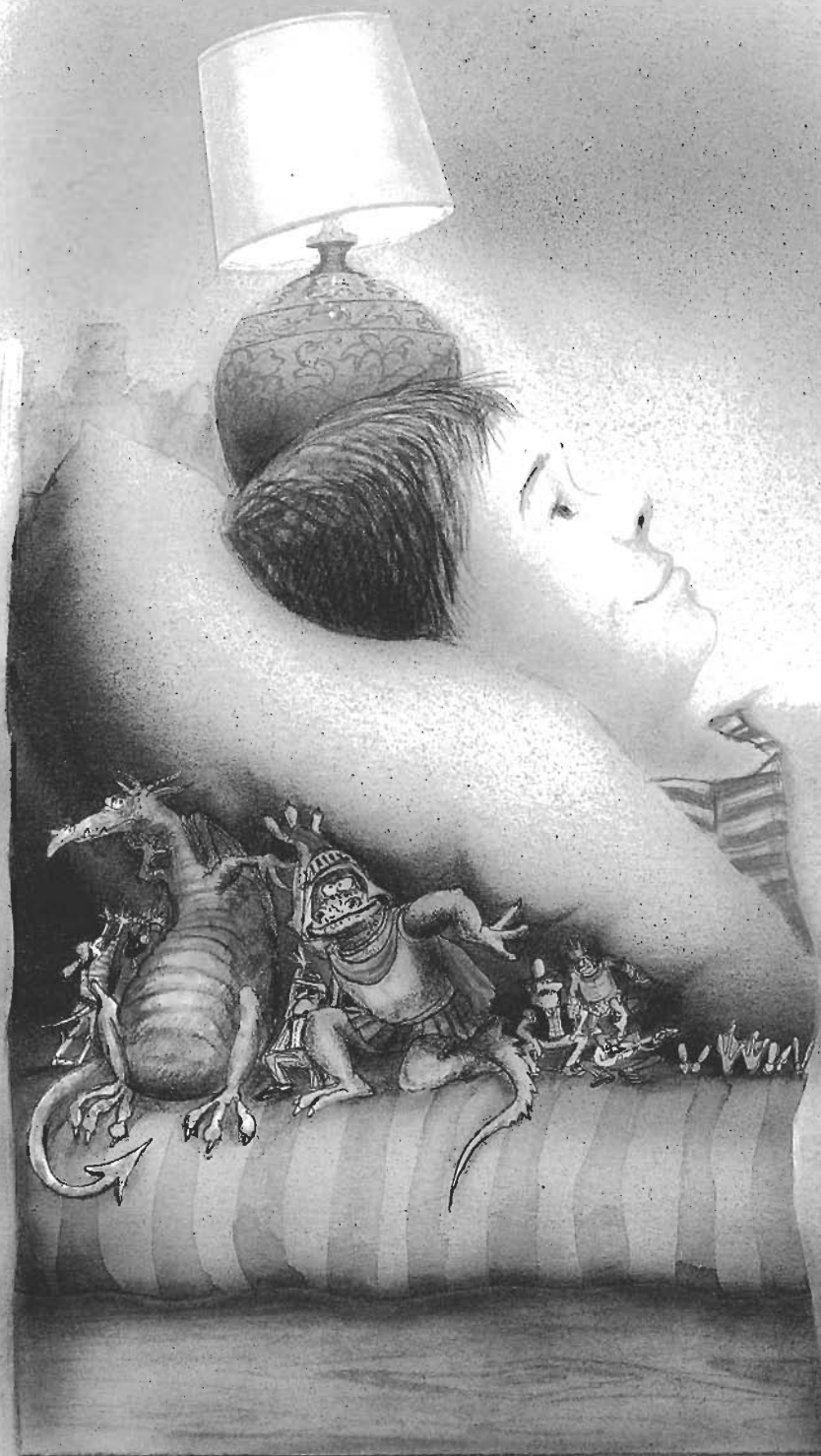
'He can't eat those vegetables,' says the doctor. 'There are World War I fighter pilots in them.'

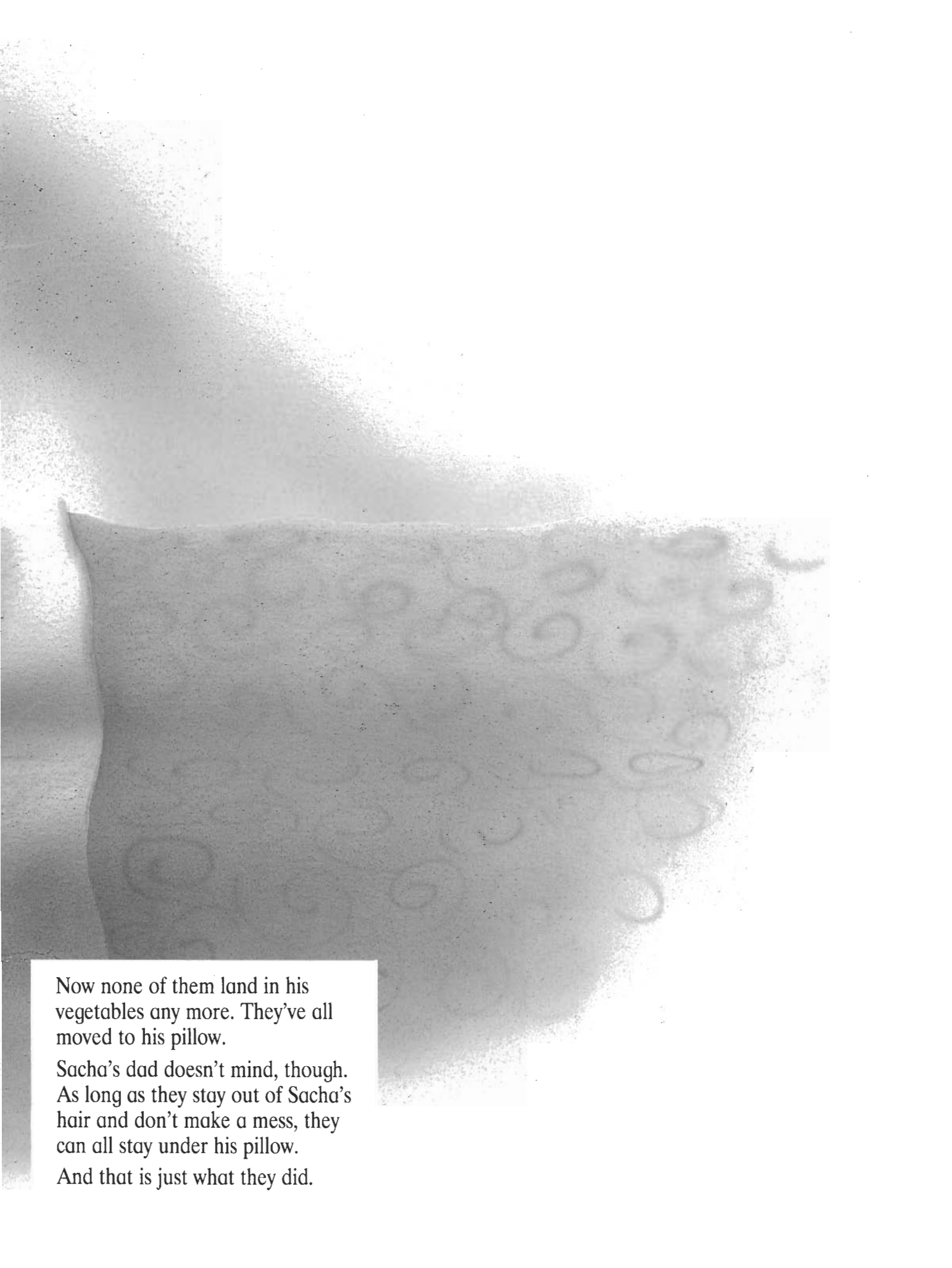
The doctor suggests that Sacha's dad makes him vegetable soup with garlic in it. Nothing wants to live or land in vegetable soup with garlic in it. But Sacha doesn't like soup. He especially doesn't like vegetable soup with garlic.

Sacha asks his dad to cook up all the different vegetables. He tells the cowboys, BMX bandits, spies, Ninja warriors, dragons and everyone else who is assembled on his plate that they can no longer land amongst his vegies. He tells the World War I and the World War II bomber pilots that they can no longer land on the runway in his mashed potatoes. There is a lot of grumbling and complaining. They all want to know why.

Sacha tells them that he'll have them all cooked up in a pot of soup with garlic if they don't stop hanging around in his vegetables.

The vegie fighters are not too keen about that.





Now none of them land in his vegetables any more. They've all moved to his pillow.

Sacha's dad doesn't mind, though. As long as they stay out of Sacha's hair and don't make a mess, they can all stay under his pillow.

And that is just what they did.