Task for Reg Saunders: an Indigenous War Hero

Model: analysing panels

The battle scene in the top panel, p. 15

This image shows a number of narrative processes created by a large number of vectors: the angle of the men’s legs and of their guns and bayonets; the lines of running men stretching from the middle ground to the background; the direction of the drifting smoke. The depicted participants in this image are generic fighters and the scene is very much like a still from a war movie. Only information from previous panels tells viewers that this is a battle being fought in Crete.

The illustrator here has used saturated colour to create a hyper-real battle scene. However, this is appropriate for a scene capturing the fight-to-the-death violence of soldiers trying to kill each other. There is greater detail in the foreground, even though the soldiers are more generic than individual, but the background is still sufficiently detailed (soldiers running, mortar explosions, smoke rising) to create a believable and vibrant setting.