

# ABBOTT and HOLDER Ltd Est: 1936

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## **Fortunino Matania R.I. (1881-1963)**

Snow ball fight behind the Front.

Pen, brush, ink and grey wash. Signed. Inscribed verso: 'Feb.1917. No.44.'

On label: 'Sph.3/2/1917 p.85'. 'Stamped: 'The Sphere No.889'.

Illustrated: *The Sphere*, London, 3rd February, 1917.

Lit: Lucinda Gosling, *Goodbye, Old Man: Matania's Vision of the First World War*,  
History Press, 2014, Ill. p.130. 14x10.75 inches.

**£2,500.**

'Our army on the Western front is feeling the iron grip of winter, and it is enduring it as it has endured everything during the war, "with a stiff upper lip and no moan". Yet, despite the hardship, the health of the army is good. The men are now war-hardened veterans. In the trenches and on "No Man's Land" what was long slush and water is now ice. Naturally it is in the trenches that the times are hardest. Behind the front the men are cheerful, indulging in all sorts of fun and frolic in their leisure time, and express not the least envy of the blue-nosed, wrapped-up chilliness of the exalted staff officers, who freeze in their cars while the men on foot can keep their blood in circulation...' (Extract from *The Sphere*).