

ONCE UPON A TIME

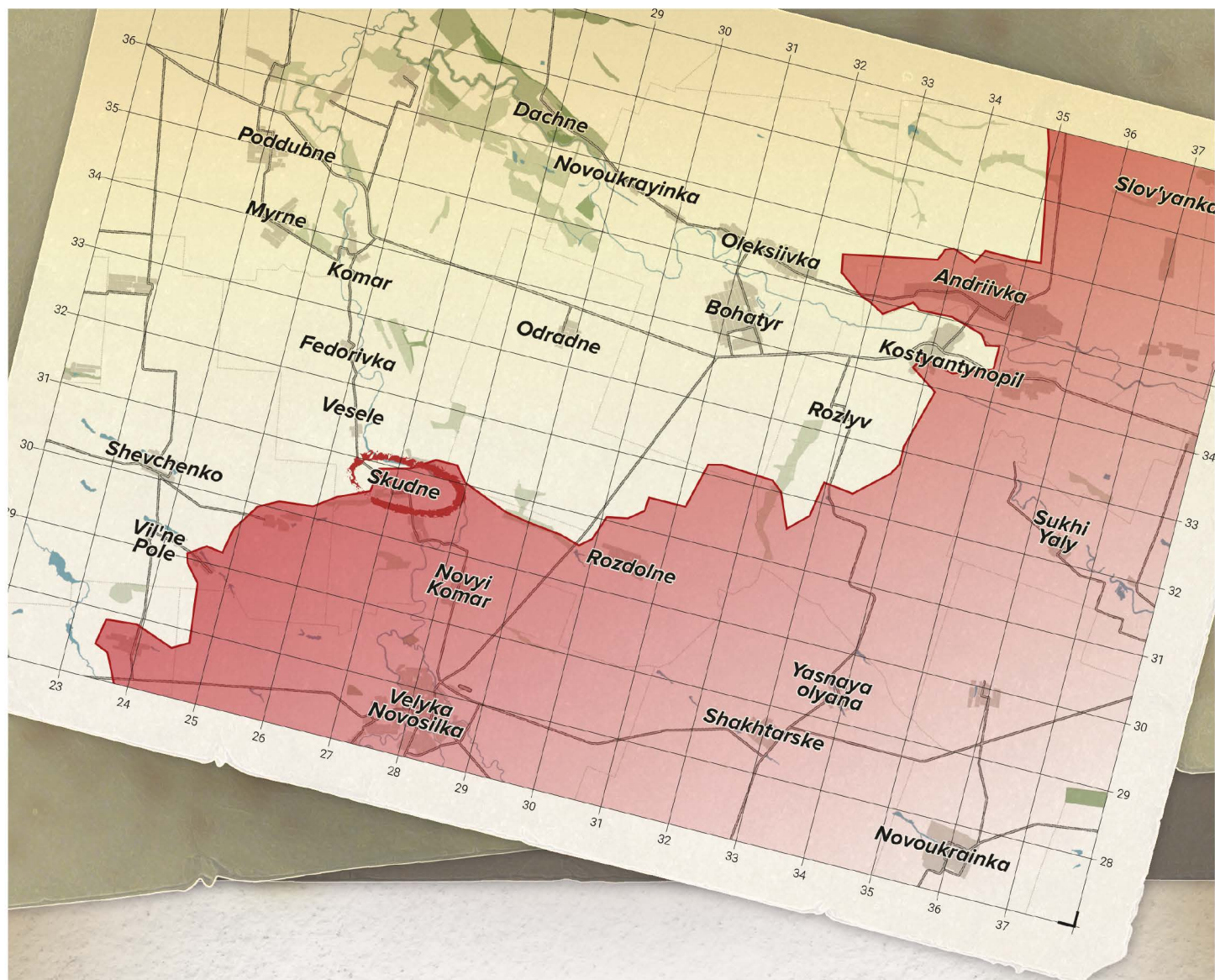
NEAR SKUDNE

COMICS FROM
THE RYBAR TEAM
ISSUE NO. 50
JUNE 2025

ADVENTURES IN COUNTRY-404

 @RYBAR





Excerpt from
the operational
summary

Late March 2025, gray zone of the DPR. The crew of a disabled T-80BVM tank is forced to abandon it. Driver Max hides in a ruined building, where he unexpectedly runs into a Ukrainian soldier named Maloy.

Maloy takes Max prisoner. But it turns out the Russian POW is of no interest to Ukrainian command. Now the Ukrainian soldier must decide: give in to Max's pleas and let him go, or follow the unspoken suggestion of his commander — to shoot.

And what about Max? He's unarmed, vulnerable before the enemy. But is he truly helpless? Or will he find a way to fight for his life — and survive?

СОБЕРИТЕ
СЕРПЕТО

LATE MARCH 2025.
NEAR SKUDNOYE, DPR



***That's it. He's not
going any further.***





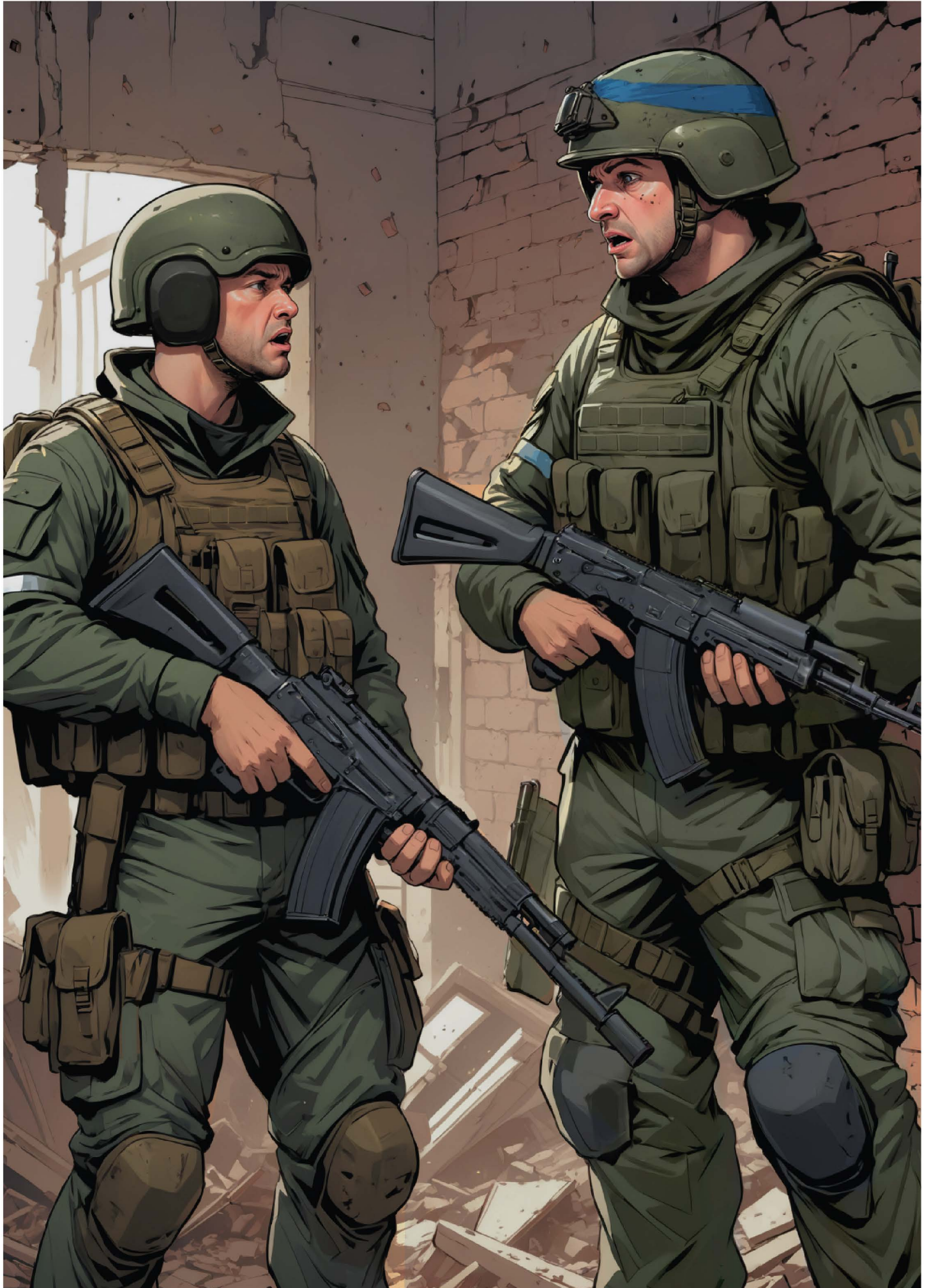
AFTER SOME TIME
SKUDNE, DPR




***This looks
more reliable
than that one...***










**Stop!
Drop your weapon!
I'll shoot!**



**Easy, man!
Let's go our separate
ways!**



**My guys will be here
any minute! I said drop
the weapon!**









Look, we're both people. We both want to live.

Let's just go our separate ways. Pretend we never saw each other.

No. That's not an option.

Selezny, this is Maloy. Where do I take the prisoner? Over.

SHHHH

Maloy, enough with the prisoner already! Decide on your own!



**See? No one cares.
Let's split. You go that
way, I'll go this way.**



Fine. Go.

**Get back to your
guys. Now!**



**You're going
to shoot me in the back,
aren't you?**





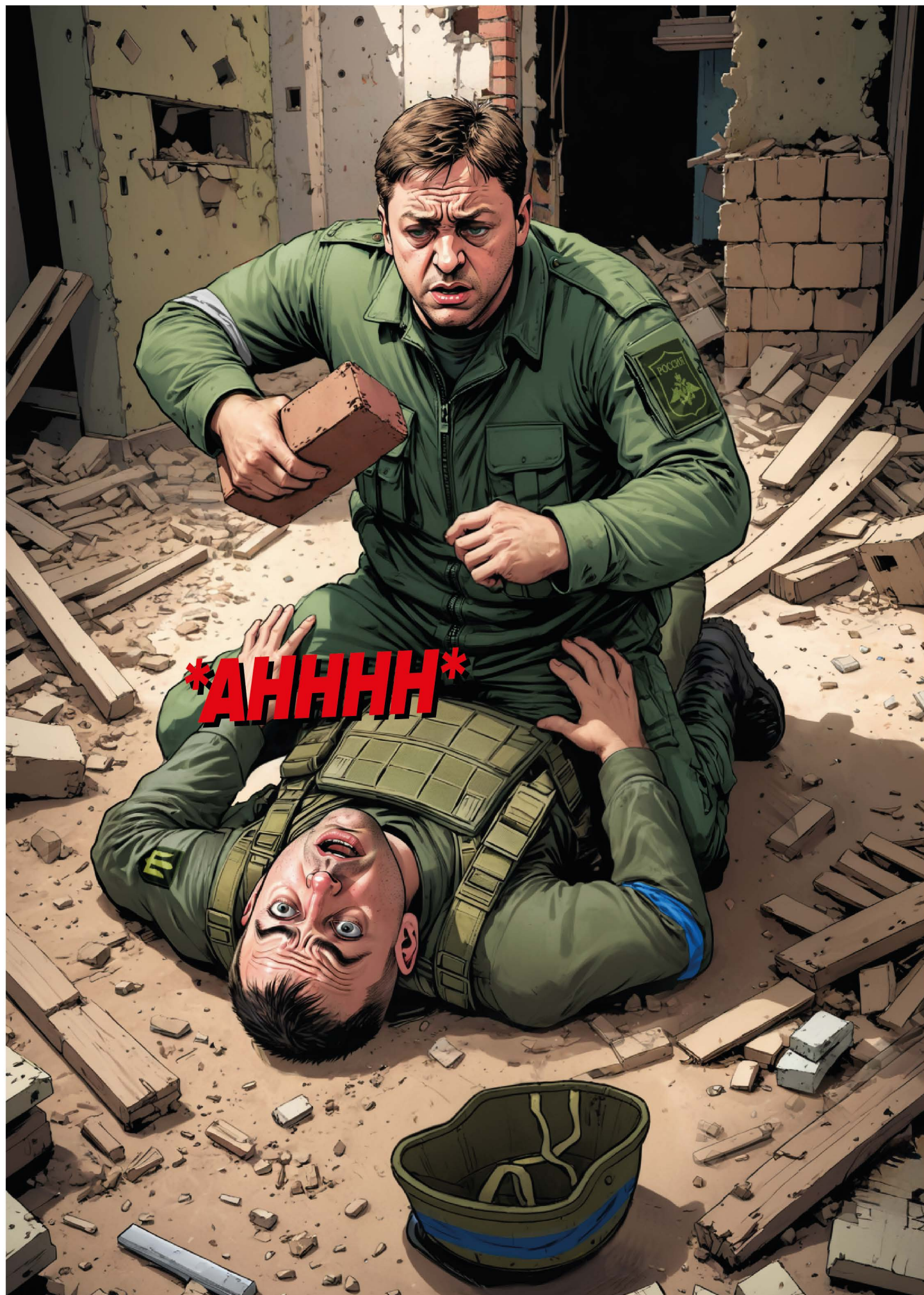
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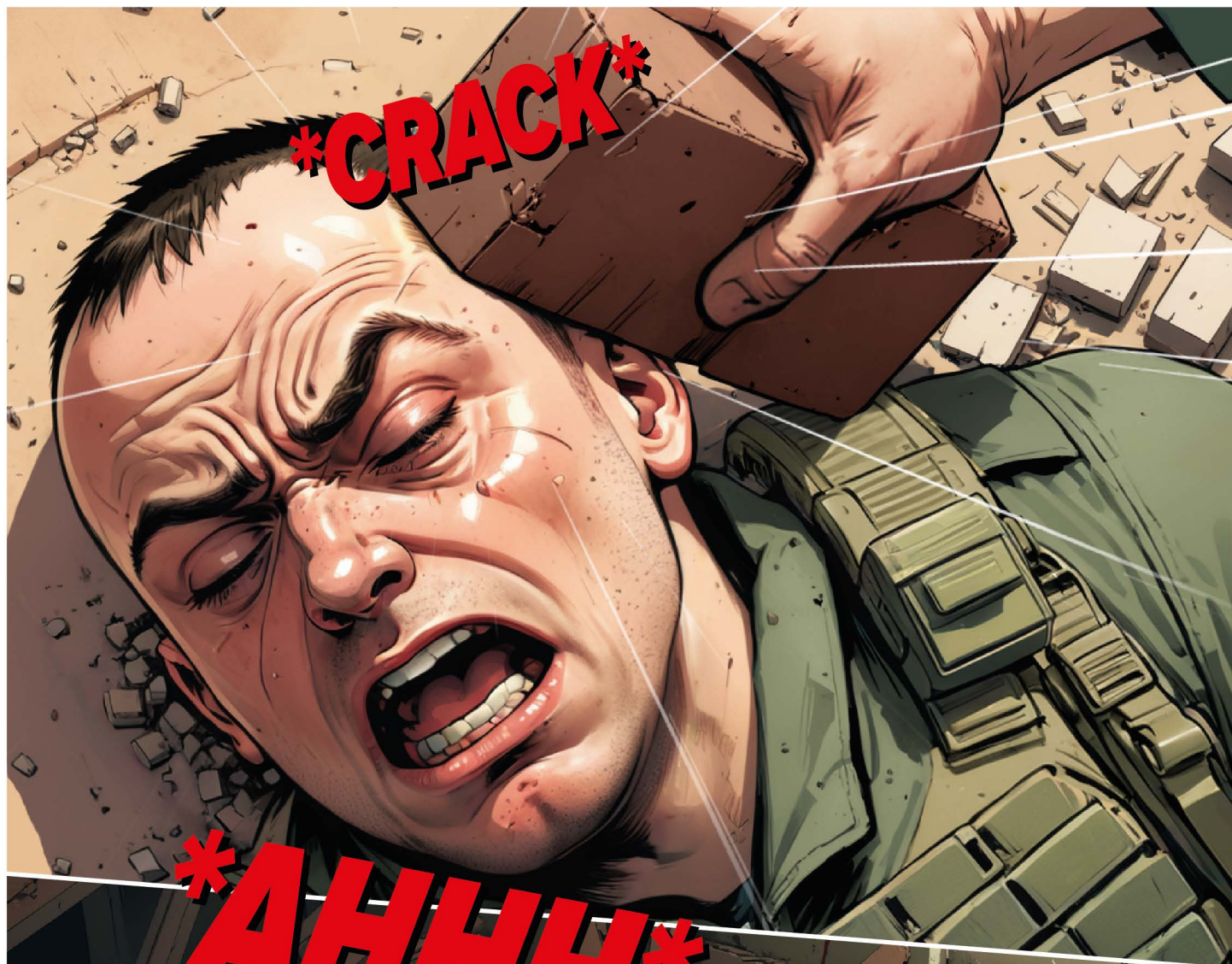
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**Damn...
Jammed...**


CLACK











Ugh, what a mess.
Good thing he never
learned to clean his
weapon.



CLACK



SOMEWHERE
IN THE GRAY ZONE



*When I was
in the service, there was
a big banner in the armory. Said,
Weapons love oil, cleanliness,
and care...*



**You're such
a nag.**



***A dirty weapon
is a ticket to captivity.
You saw that yourself.***



AT THE RUSSIAN ARMY BASE

Who's there?

**Just some idiot
who doesn't clean
his weapon.**



AT THE REPAIR COMPANY CAMP





**The colonel
is putting you up
for a medal!**

Me? What for?



**What do you mean
what for? For bravery,
courage, and decisive
action!**

**Doesn't clean
his gun... Thinks
I'm a fool.**

**Maybe I'm clumsy,
but I'm not an idiot.**

IN WAR, IT'S NOT JUST THE WEAPON THAT MATTERS — IT'S WHAT'S IN YOUR HEAD AND YOUR HEART. MAX COULD'VE KILLED MALOY, BUT HE DIDN'T. AND MALOY WANTED TO WIN — BUT HE LOST. NOW HE'S LUCKY JUST TO BE ALIVE.

AND REMEMBER — CLEAN YOUR WEAPON. ONE DAY, IT MIGHT DECIDE WHETHER YOU EARN A MEDAL... OR END UP PEELING POTATOES IN CAPTIVITY.

IN THE NEXT ISSUE: ONCE UPON A TIME NEAR TYKHE



COMING IN JULY!

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We clarify
the complicated
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NOT FOR SALE