

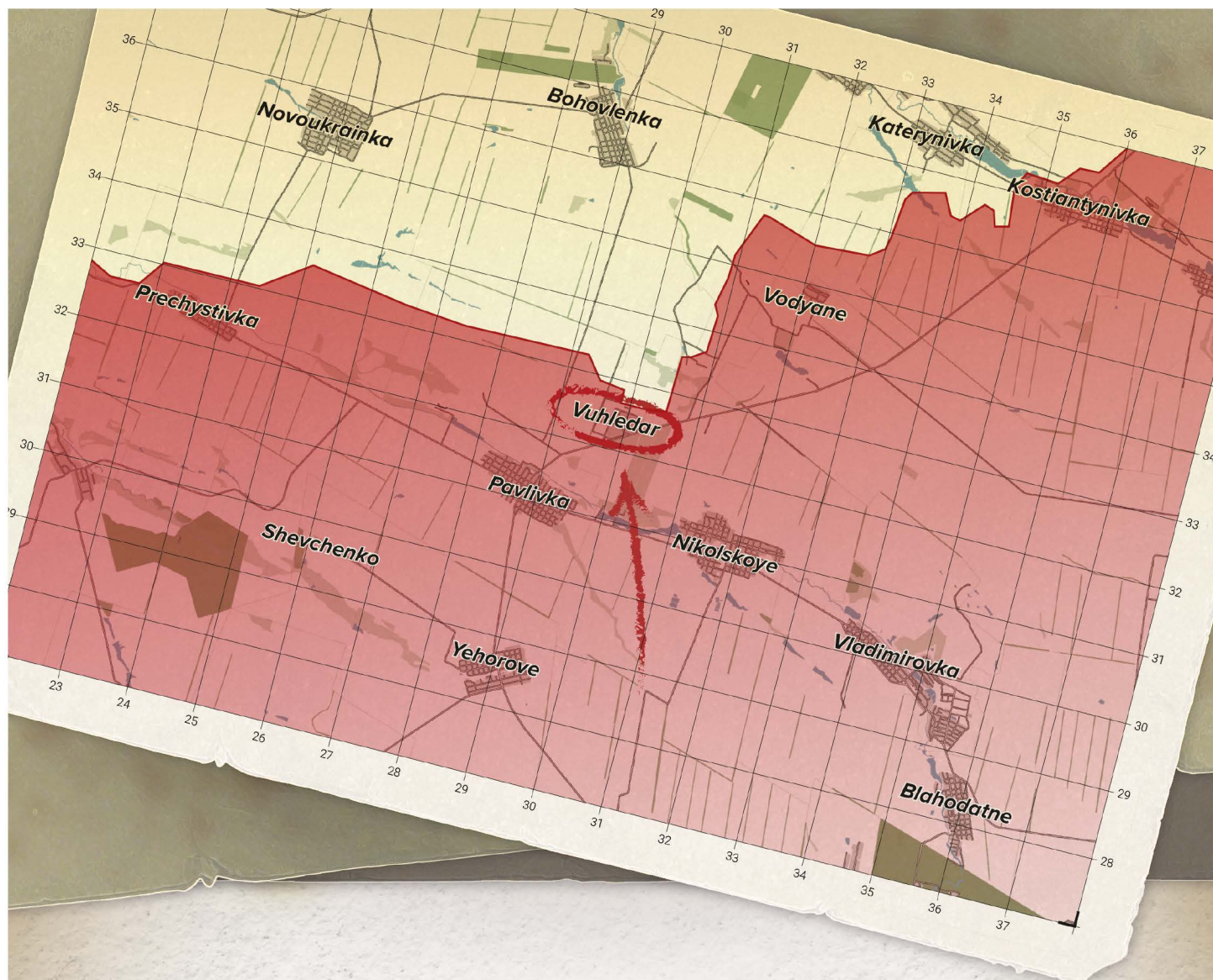
ONCE UPON A TIME IN A TANK BRIGADE

COMICS FROM
THE RYBAR TEAM
ISSUE NO. 53
JULY 2025

ADVENTURES IN COUNTRY-404

 @RYBAR





Excerpt from
the operational
summary

Every soldier has their own **talisman**. A modest item **carefully kept in a pocket** or under armor: a worn photo, a tiny icon, a child's drawing — or even a bullet once “gifted” by the enemy.

These items aren't just charms. **They remind soldiers what they're fighting for. Sometimes, they literally save lives:** there are cases where a medallion stopped shrapnel, or a thick stack of letters in a chest pocket absorbed a stray bullet.

The hero of our comic **believes his talisman protects him**. But he also knows that fate favors the persistent and hardworking...

СОБЕРИТЕ
СЕРПЕТНО

ROSTOV-ON-DON,
TRAIN STATION, JULY 2024

**Bro, look, I bought this
for you and had it engraved.
Take it. It has the coat of arms
of our region, our mountains
and steppe.**

**May they protect you
and give you strength to fight.
And your call sign — so that
the lighter always finds its way
back to you!**


Thanks!

**Take care, brother.
Fight well.**

**Come back
a hero!**



TRAINING GROUND,
AUGUST 2024



**Sasha, how did
you end up here?
You're so young!**

**I stayed on contract
after my conscription.
Then came February 24th!
I've been fighting ever
since.**

**I volunteered.
Wanted to go from
the start, but my wife
wouldn't let me.**

**Then she gave in.
Said: "Go, the war will
end soon anyway."**

**And what do you
think — will it end
soon?**

**As soon as we win,
it'll end!**



Are you
the commander?

I'm a volunteer too.
Couldn't stay on the sidelines.
Served a long time on contract,
got experience.

And in the SMO,
a lot of green, inexperienced
volunteers join. All my former
comrades — they're all
fighting.

What does your
call sign mean?

"Sakhilgan"
means "Lightning"
in Buryat.

DPR, NEAR VUHLEDAR,
SEPTEMBER 2024

**Stop! 11 o'clock,
a silhouette behind
the hill. Soldier, check
it out!**

**I see it...
Vehicle, 500 meters out.
Not moving.**

ОФЗ

БР

ПКТ

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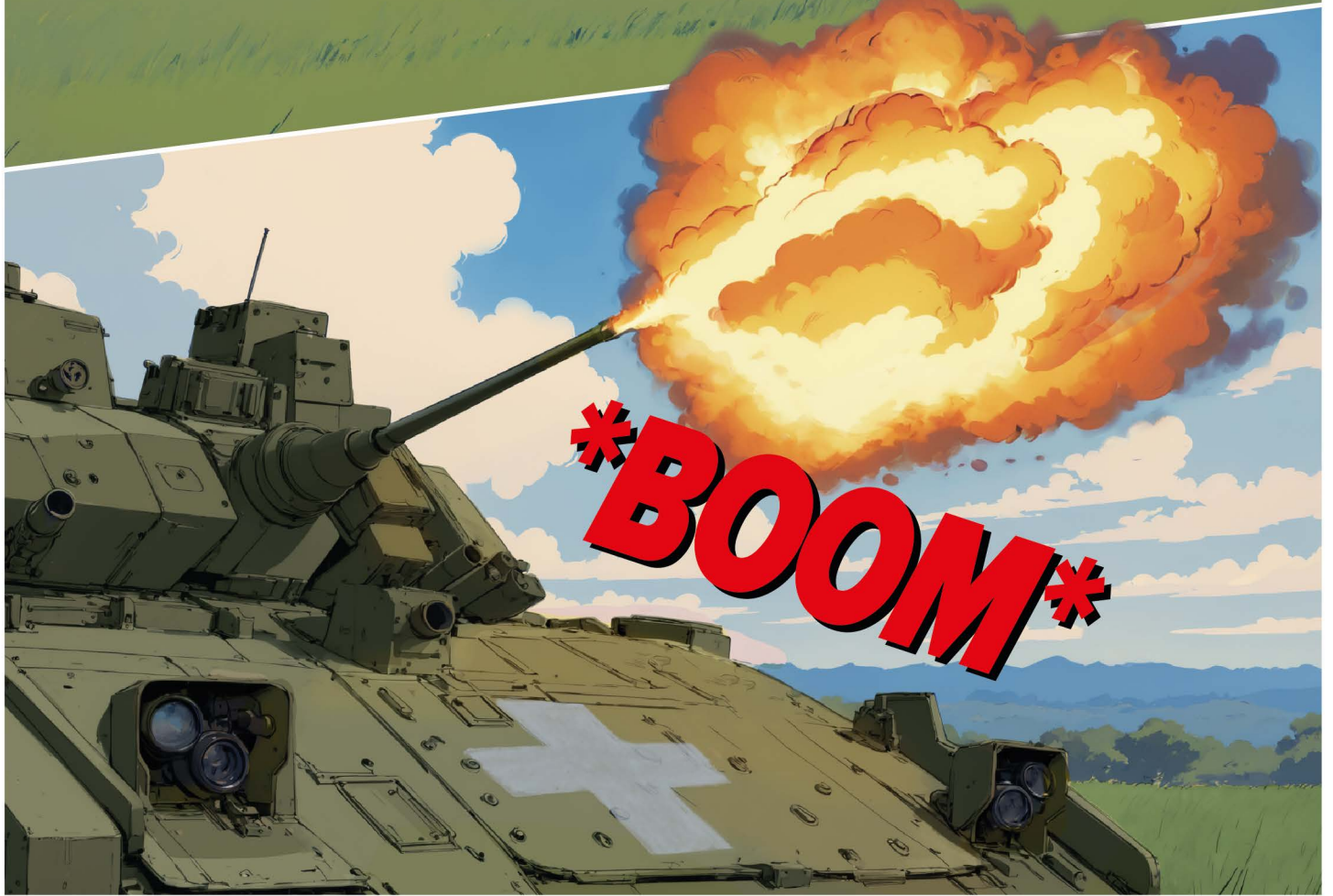
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**First mission,
and already a mess!**

**What's it doing here?
What are we doing here?
Maybe we sneak off?**

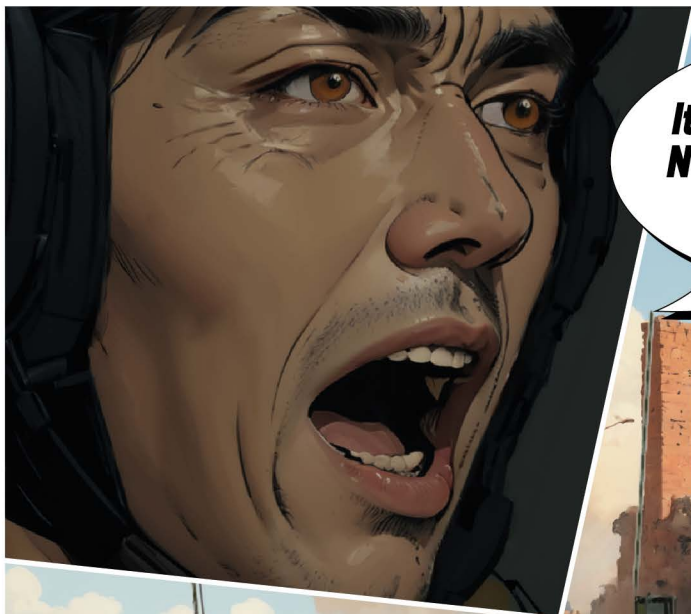


WHIRRR



BOOM





***It lost us in the smoke!
Now we hit that sucker
in the side or rear!***

***Driver,
stop!***









VRRRR

**Guys, we did it! Took
down a Bradley and got
out in one piece!**

**So that's what
the Bradley looks like!**

REGIMENTAL HQ,
RUSSIAN ARMED FORCES

**Who should we appoint
as the new armored group
commander? Any
candidates?**

**Sakhilgan!
He's proven himself.
Took out a Bradley
in his first battle!**

**You're
an ace!**






***I appoint
you commander
of the armored group.
Don't let us down!***

***I serve
Russia!***





And what do those symbols mean?



Here, this is our regional emblem.

These are our mountains, the taiga, and in the middle – the steppe. It gives me strength.

And this is our national symbol, Soyombo – it stands for eternal life, harmony with nature, and generational unity.



**Look,
this is the sun —
a symbol of strength
and luck.**

**This is the moon,
ruler of the night.**

**And here's the flame:
its three tongues represent past,
present, and future generations —
all inseparably connected.**

**Of course connected!
My great-grandfather fought
in these same places. And now
I'm here.**

**What if I am his
reincarnation? Is that possible,
commander?**

GREY ZONE, VUHLEDAR,
NOVEMBER 2024



**Looks intact.
Why didn't the enemy
take it?**

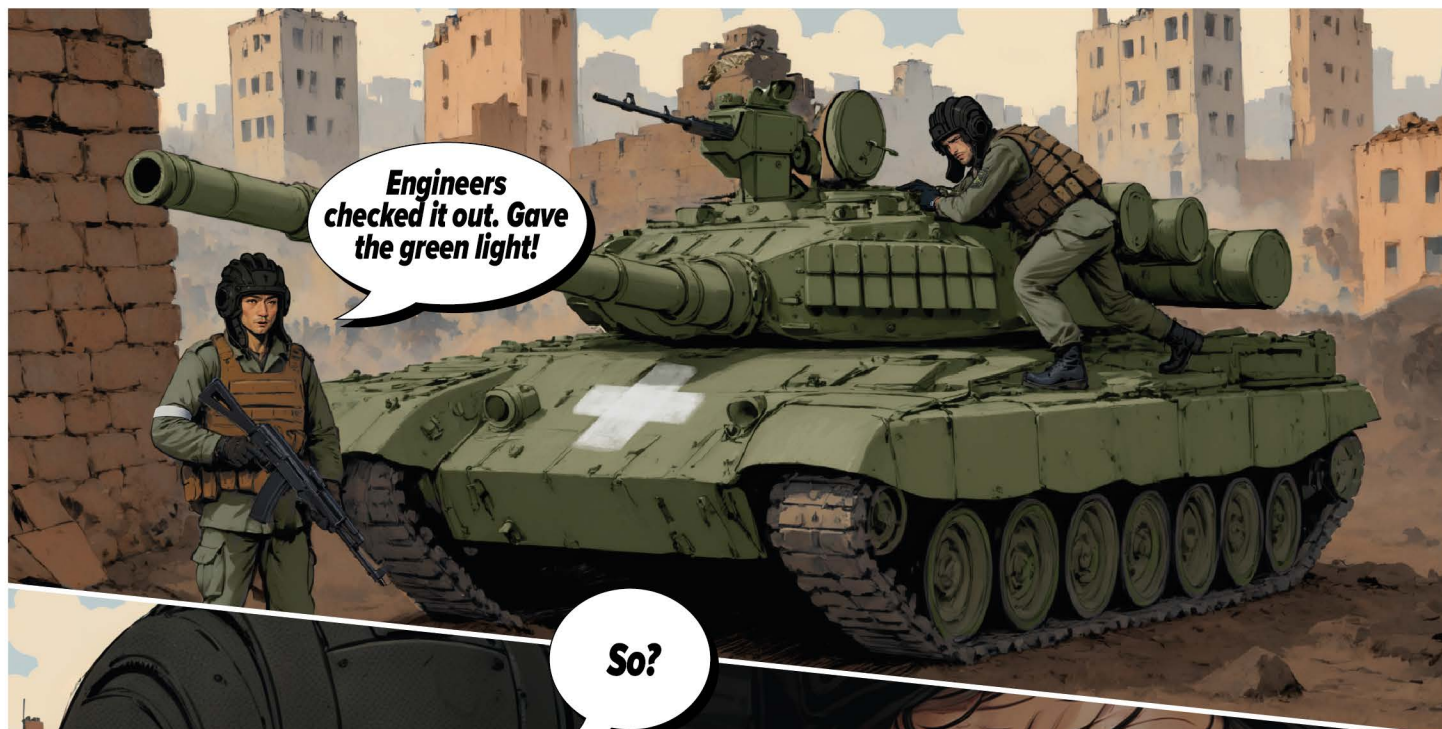
The top panel of the comic shows a green main battle tank with a long barrel and a turret-mounted machine gun. It is positioned in the center of a desolate, war-torn city. The background is filled with the skeletal remains of brick buildings, some standing tall and others reduced to rubble. The ground is covered in dirt and debris. The sky is a hazy, orange-brown color, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall atmosphere is one of a battlefield in a state of quiet observation.



**They tried
yesterday. It wouldn't
start.**

The bottom panel shows two soldiers in the foreground, looking towards the tank in the background. They are wearing dark green tactical gear, including helmets with large earflaps and body armor. The soldier on the left is holding a pair of binoculars. The background shows the same ruined city as the top panel, with a clear blue sky and some distant buildings. The scene is framed by a black border, typical of comic book panels.

**Then they failed...
We won't!**



**Engineers
checked it out. Gave
the green light!**

So?

**All good, fuel's in.
Let's warm her up,
she'll start.**



No go!

VRRRR

AFU POSITIONS,
OBSERVATION POST



GREY ZONE, VUHLEDAR,
NOVEMBER 2024

**Won't start?
Pump the fuel!
Like this!**

VRRRR

It's working!







**Commander!
Let's go!**

Hit it!

WHACK

VRRRR

VRRRR

BOOM

BA-BOOM



The colonel's
nominating you
for a medal!



You working magic,
commander?

Back to it
tomorrow?

Yep!
A few more rides
till victory!



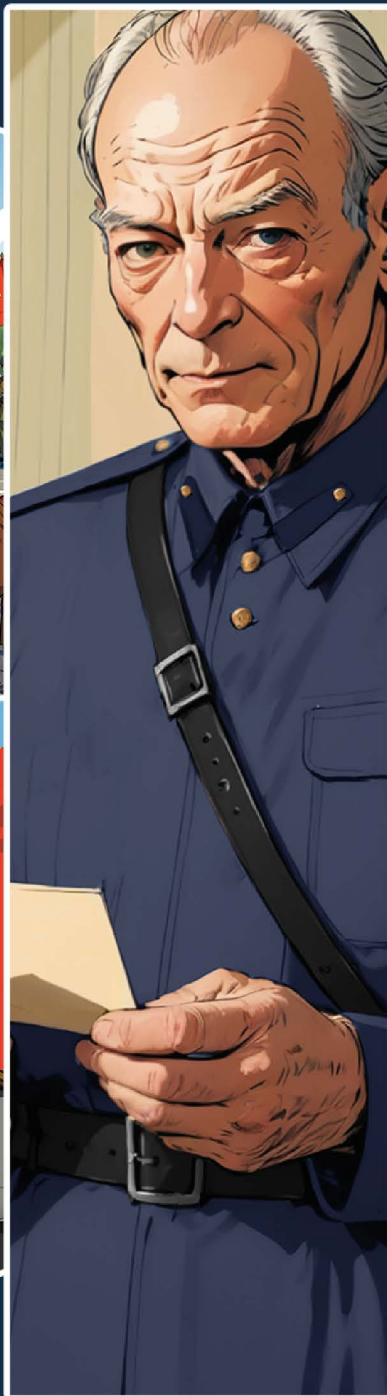
A little bit.



THE BATTLE FOR THE SMALL TOWN OF VUHLEDAR IN THE DPR LASTED FOR TWO YEARS — FROM OCTOBER 2022 TO OCTOBER 2024. IT ENDED WITH THE LIBERATION OF THE CITY FROM THE ARMED FORCES OF UKRAINE.

THE HEROIC DEEDS OF UNNAMED PARTICIPANTS IN THIS BATTLE ARE WORTH REMEMBERING. THESE WERE ACTS THAT DIDN'T MAKE THE REPORTS BUT CHANGED THE COURSE OF THE FIGHT.

IN THE NEXT ISSUE: ONCE UPON A TIME IN VORONEZH




COMING IN AUGUST!

READ ON  @RYBAR



*We clarify
the complicated
Rybar*

 @RYBAR

NOT FOR SALE

