

# ONCE UPON A TIME

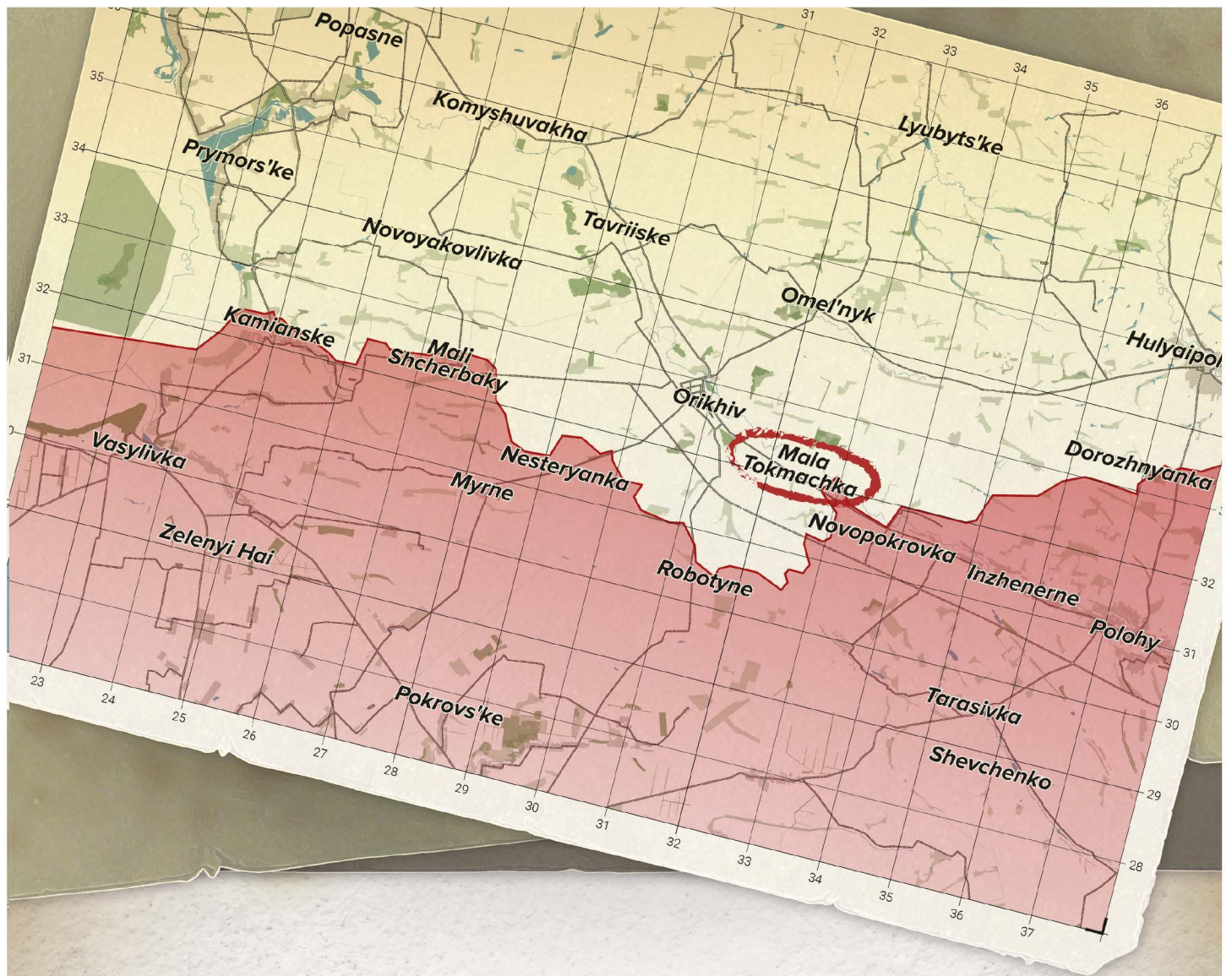
## IN MALA TOKMACHKA

COMICS FROM  
THE RYBAR TEAM  
ISSUE NO. 61  
OCTOBER 2025

ADVENTURES IN COUNTRY-404

 @RYBAR





**Near Zaporozhye, heavy fighting** has raged for months. Russian forces push forward — slowly, stubbornly. The enemy fights back just as fiercely.

**For soldiers to advance, they need constant supplies** — ammo, food, medicine. That's the job of **supply groups**. Their work isn't seen on the front line, but without them, victory wouldn't move an inch.

**Among those soldiers — Toyota.** Not long ago, he was a taxi driver who loved books. Now he's here, at war. Can an ordinary cabbie become a soldier? **Can an ordinary cabbie become a soldier?**

СОБЕРШЕНО  
СЕКРЕТНО

ZAPOROZHYE REGION,  
RUSSIA. JUNE 2025

**Told you  
not to haul extra  
stuff.**

**Took us forever  
to get those rounds  
to the line — barely  
made it back.**

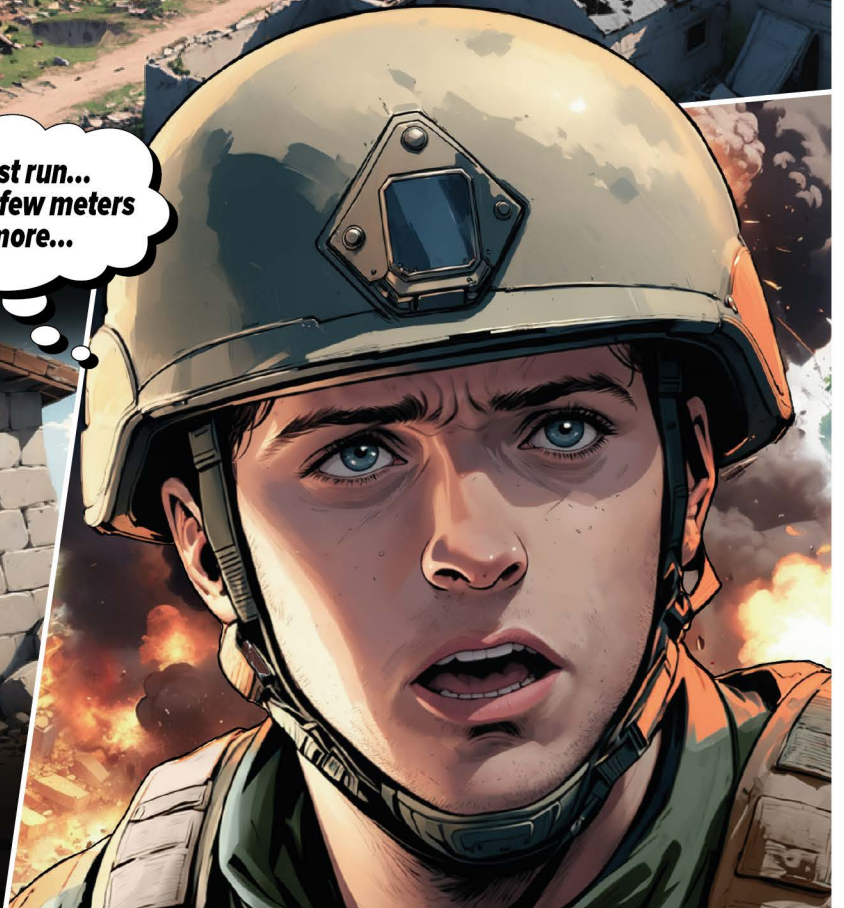
**At least now  
they've got ammo to shoot.  
Let's just reach the garage —  
then we're safe.**

**Quiet.  
"Birds" are nasty today.  
Run by turns. I'll go first —  
check the path.**





*Just run...  
just a few meters  
more...*



IN THE SHELTER,  
INSIDE THE GARAGE

**Made it...**

**You hit?  
Where?**

**Help me get  
his armor off!**

**No holes!  
Armor's intact! Arms,  
legs – all there!**

**I...  
I'm not hit?**

**Scared?  
First time under  
a "bird" – happens  
to everyone.**

**Rating  
4.98...**

**Doesn't  
matter now.  
Different ratings  
here.**

**Good job,  
you made it.**

**Delivered.  
On time. Like  
always.**



YEKATERINBURG,  
SIX MONTHS EARLIER

...like Nekrasov  
said: "You may  
not be a poet..."



YEKATERINBURG, LATER THAT EVENING

**Mom,  
don't try to stop me.  
They need me there.**

**Yes,  
I can't stop the war,  
but I can bring our  
victory closer!**

**\*HMM\***

EYEKATERINBURG,  
SIX MONTHS EARLIER



ZAPOROZHYE REGION, RUSSIA  
THREE MONTHS LATER

**\*BOOM\***

**\*CRASH\***

**Nekrasov...  
Tolstoy... can't hide from  
you even here.**

**Alright...  
Until next time.**

ZAPOROZHYE REGION,  
MIRNOYE VILLAGE, JULY 2025



**\*VRR-HHH\***

**Out of gas! Great...  
always happens on the way  
back. Check for a fuel tank  
or canisters. Let's look  
in garages and  
sheds.**

**So quiet  
here... Haven't felt  
calm like this  
in ages.**



ZAPORIZHIA REGION,  
IN A RUINED HOUSE



**Toyota,  
look – a Tolstoy lying  
around. Don't touch  
it – might be  
booby-trapped!**



**Wasn't  
planning to.**



**Haven't seen  
you with a book  
in a while. Got tired  
of Tolstoy?**



**No, Bolgarin.  
My life's no less vivid now  
than Tolstoy's, Astafiev's,  
or Simonov's. Just as full.**

**I'll compare  
it with the books later.  
If I feel like it.**



**Hey, guys!  
I've been stuck here for  
too long already.**



**Hey, our guys!  
What unit you  
from?**

**The 110th.  
You?**

**Same.  
Don't recognize your  
face – another battalion  
maybe...**



**And why  
are you wearing NATO  
boots?**



**Hands up!  
Bolgarin, if he  
twitches – shoot  
through me!**



**Guys,  
I was just looking  
for someone to  
surrender to...**



**Four radio  
batteries! Saboteur,  
for sure!**



**We'll hand  
him over. Let command  
decide.**



ZAPOROZHYE REGION,  
RUSSIAN FORCES' POSITIONS

We'll drive  
to the ravine — then  
go on foot.

**\*SHRRK\***

"Ant hill" is two  
hundred meters ahead,  
but no road — all  
under fire.

ZAPOROZHYE REGION,  
NEAR MALA TOKMACHKA

**Run to those  
ruins! Then move  
in bursts.**

**\*WHIRRR\***

**Do you hear?**

**Last time,  
no drones here...**

**Quiet. Hole  
in the fence to the right —  
that's our way.**





ON THE WAY BACK





**Omega, this is Sokol.  
Attacked a supply group. One  
escaped, the other's wounded —  
crawled into bushes near the crater,  
grid 7-5. Losing visual.**

**Possible still  
alive — waiting for  
evac.**

**\*PSHHH\***

**Falcon,  
keep eyes on the grid.  
If he's alive — they'll send  
a rescue team.**

**Hold the area  
in your sights. The moment  
they show — strike. Cut their  
logistics.**



**Where are you...  
come on, show  
yourself...**

ZAPOROZHYE REGION,  
NEAR MALA TOKMACHKA

**I see him...  
not moving. Two  
drones above.**

**Smoke  
cover?**

**Smoke won't  
blind them – just  
gives us away. Need  
a distraction.**

**Look, there's  
a wrecked APC. We'll  
torch the fuel left in it –  
blind their optics for  
five minutes.**

**If the strike  
drone bites, I'll move –  
300 meters crawling.  
Just cover me so they  
don't hear.**







**Driver,  
veer right! We'll hide  
in the smoke!**

**\*SHHHHH\***



**\*SHHHHH\***



**Omega,  
target's in smoke!  
Losing visual!**



ROSTOV-ON-DON,  
MILITARY HOSPITAL, SEPTEMBER 2025

How do  
you feel?

Alive.  
Legs healing.

The guys  
sent you treats. They're  
all waiting.

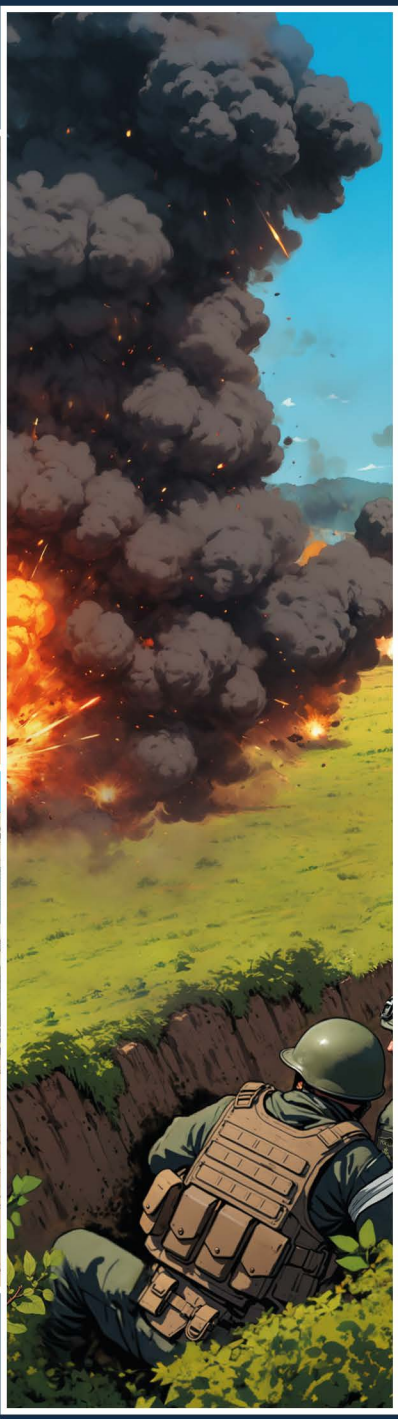
Thanks...  
for not leaving  
me there.

You'd have  
done the same.

TOYOTA CAME TO WAR TO FIND OUT WHAT HE WAS MADE OF. AND HE DID — BECAME A REAL SOLDIER. WOUNDS AND DANGER DIDN'T BREAK HIM — THEY MADE HIM STRONGER. HE FOUND WHAT HE WAS LOOKING FOR: MEANING, BROTHERHOOD, RESPECT.

HIS STORY REMINDS US — YOU CAN'T FIND YOURSELF BY RUNNING FROM HARDSHIP. YOU FIND YOUR WORTH ONLY WHEN YOU'RE READY TO ANSWER NOT JUST FOR YOURSELF, BUT FOR THOSE WHO STAND BESIDE YOU. IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO YOU WERE BEFORE. WHAT MATTERS IS WHAT YOU'RE WILLING TO DO FOR OTHERS.

# IN THE NEXT ISSUE: ONCE UPON A TIME IN HNATIVKA



COMING IN OCTOBER

READ ON  @RYBAR



*We clarify  
the complicated  
Rybar*

 @RYBAR

NOT FOR SALE

