

ONCE UPON A TIME

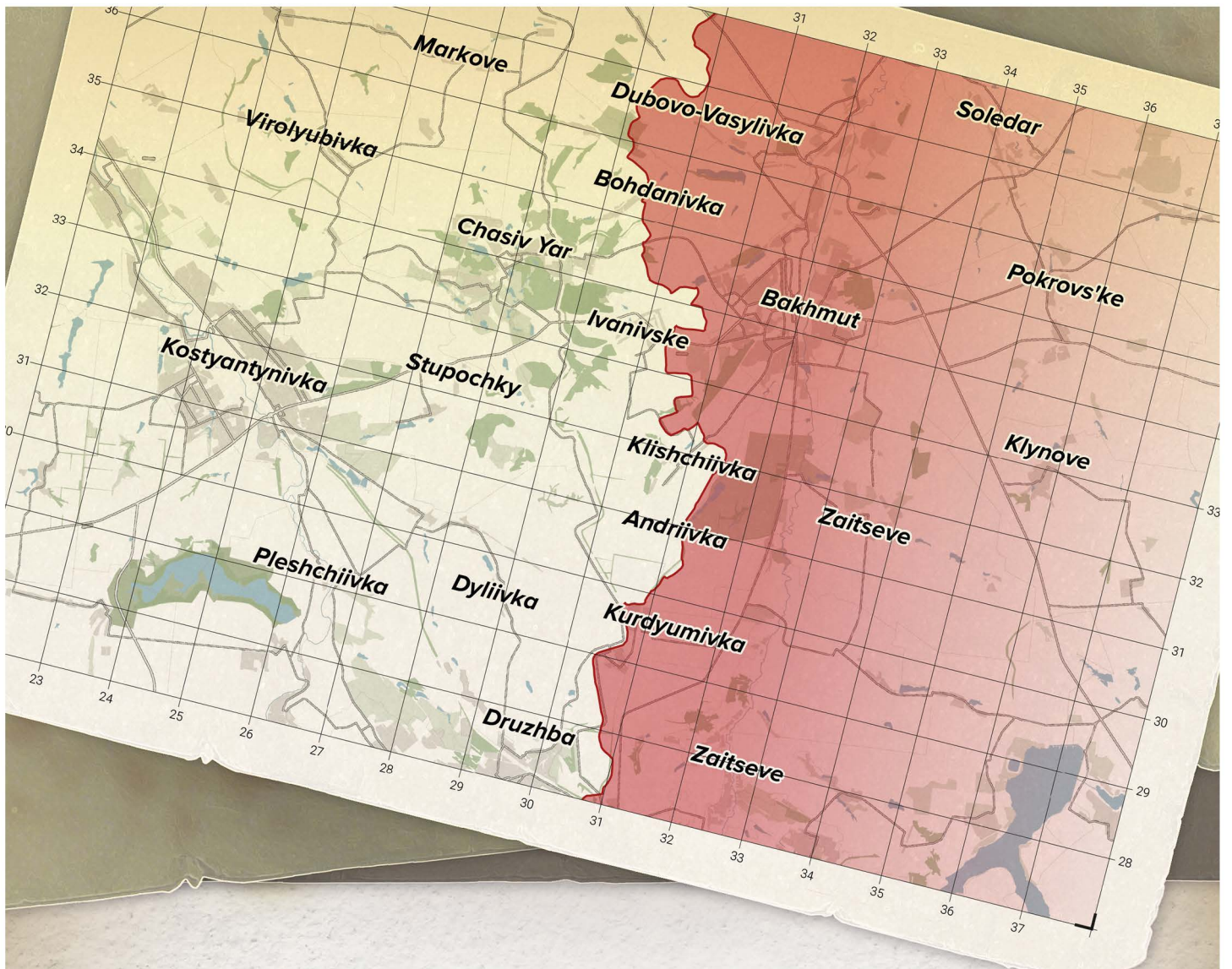
NEAR BAKHMUT

COMICS FROM
THE RYBAR TEAM
ISSUE NO. 14
FEBRUARY 2024

TALE OF AN UNSUCCESSFUL
COUNTERATTACK

 @RYBAR





**Excerpt
from the situation report**

The social circles and connections we form with people undoubtedly play a **significant role** in our lives, influencing us in ways that **are hard to underestimate**. Throughout our lives, we gain and, at times, lose those who were once our friends. The impactful events of our time also **leave a mark** on relationships, both among individuals and entire nations.

The protagonist of our comic is Ernesto, a Cuban who willingly came to help the country where he studied and lived. During his military integration, he observes the **diverse group** of Russian volunteers. They are all **ready to fight side by side**, help, and cover each other.

On the front lines, **friendship transcends its usual meaning** and becomes a true brotherhood in arms. Courage, trust, and mutual assistance often become the **keys to victory**. Every day, fate puts the soldiers to the test, challenging the best human qualities in challenging field conditions.

СОВЕРШЕННО
СЕКРЕТНО

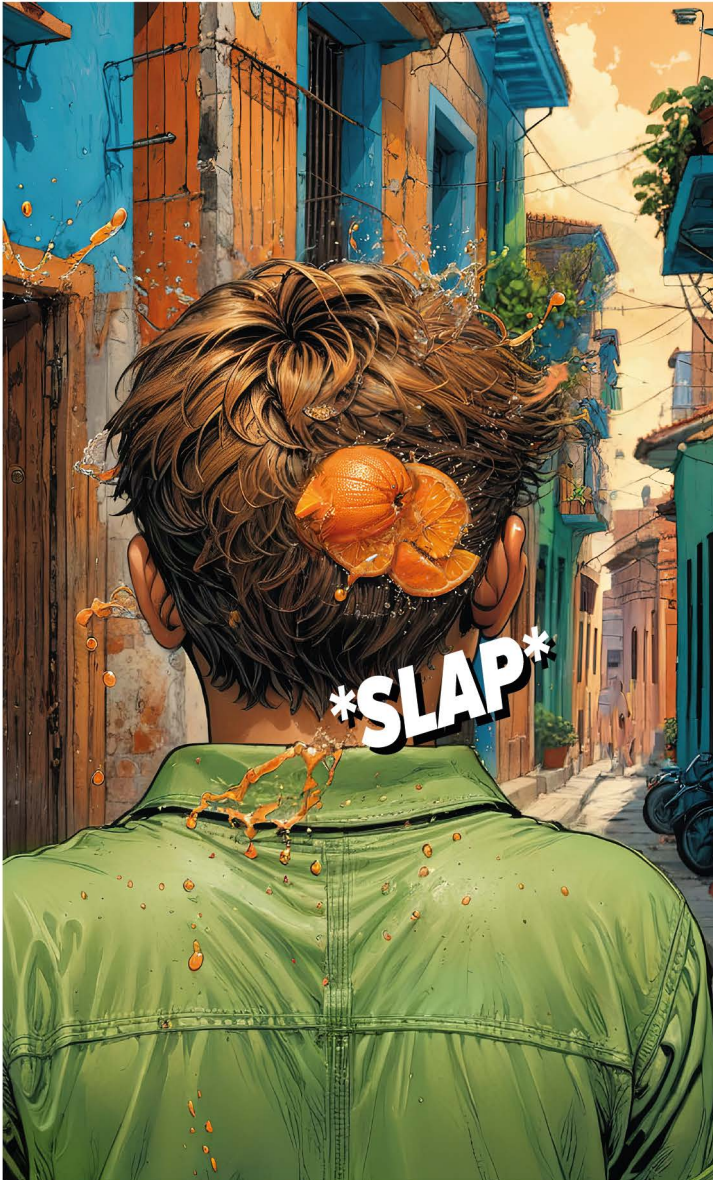
HAVANA, CUBA.
EARLY 1990S

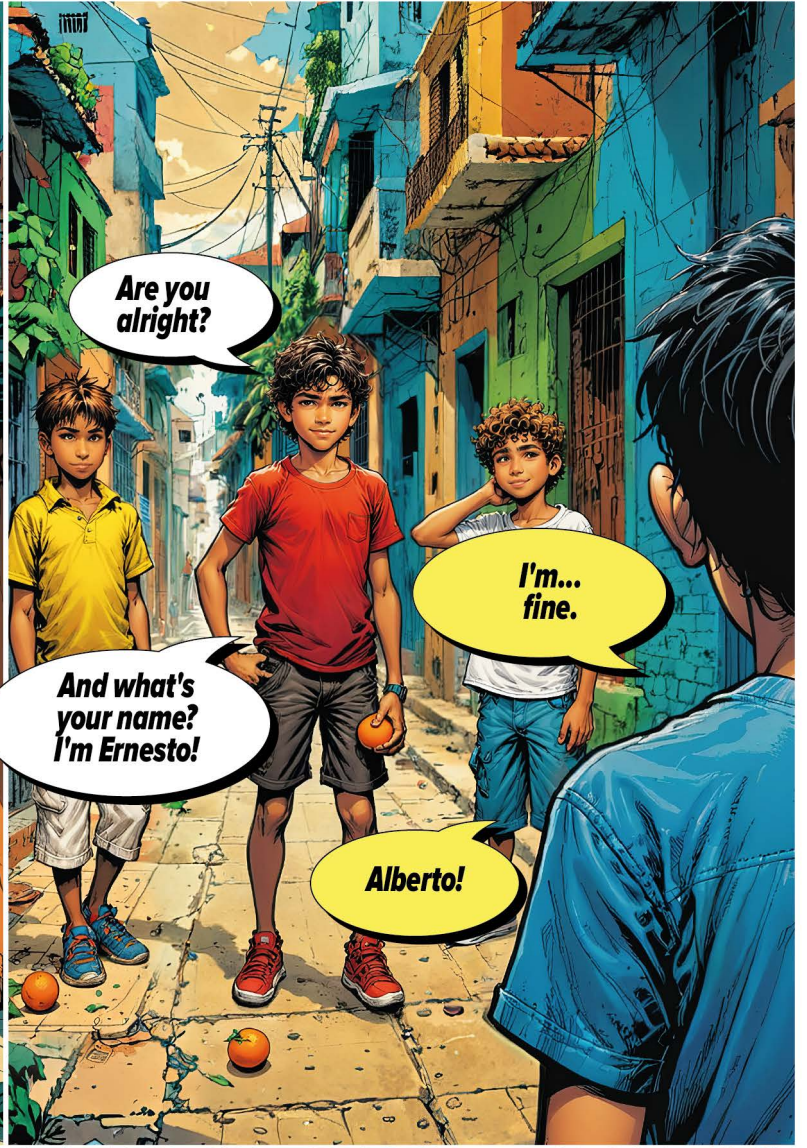


You're here again!

**We told you
not to walk down
this street!**

But... I live here!







WELL, I'M IN TROUBLE NOW. THIS IS MY WINDOW!

My mother will have a fit!



WELL, WHO DID THIS, TROUBLEMAKERS?!



VOLUNTEER TRAINING GROUND. MOSCOW REGION, RUSSIA.
SPRING 2023



So, you're a newcomer from Cuba, and they call you Ernesto.

Hasn't anyone called you Che Guevara here yet?

They have, of course, when I was studying at the medical institute here.



Guess I'm not that original after all.

I started suspecting that from my call sign!

**JORDAN,
KNOCK IT OFF!**

LATER THAT EVENING



Guys, I studied here, Cuba has longstanding relations with Russia, but why are you here?

We were once one country with Russia. Recently, they don't like to admit it.

They're promoting Western values and feeding homegrown nationalists.

This reminds me of something.



My dad is Russian, my mom is Russian too; I just happened to be born in Senegal.

TRAINING GROUND. COMBAT INTEGRATION EXERCISES.
SPRING 2023



Move to the buildings beyond the tree line. Jackson, Lis - cover us, Che Guevara and Khan - break through. If you hear a machine gun - take action!

WHIRRING

BANG



**Khan?
A strong nickname.**

**It's just a call sign.
And look at yourself, Che Guevara.**



**Ché Guevara, throw smokes,
now we'll cover Jackson
and Lis while they
come to us.**

WHIRRING



Our way out!

WHIRRING



**"A good thing - field
kitchen!"**

SOMEWHERE NEAR BAKHMUT, DONETSK PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC (DPR).
WINTER 2023-2024





***And we were. Ukrainian
idiots either ran away
or kicked the bucket.***

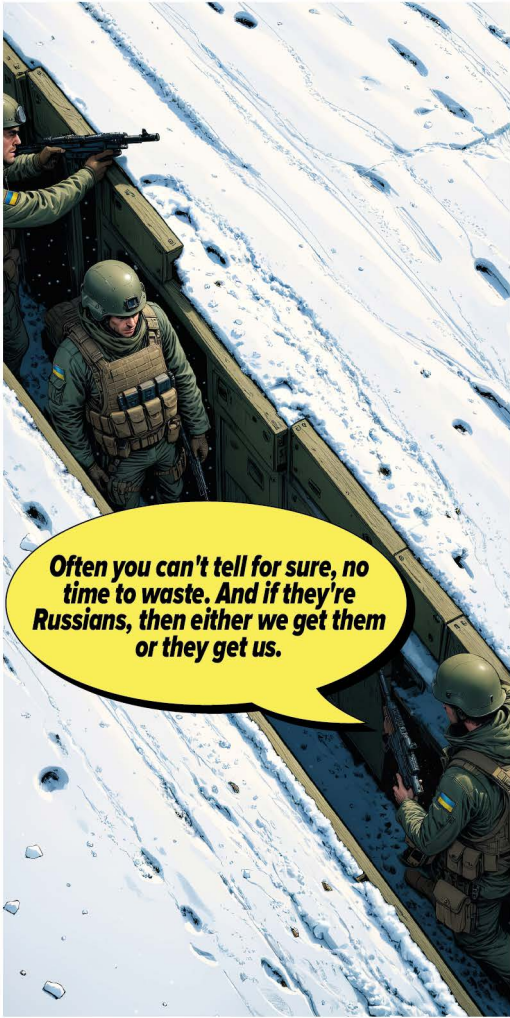


**LISTEN
TO THE COMMAND!**

**We're going forward now.
If you see anyone near
the houses - shoot to kill!**



AND IF THEY'RE OURS?!"



Often you can't tell for sure, no time to waste. And if they're Russians, then either we get them or they get us.



I'd prefer not to give them a chance, what about you?

And if they turn out to be our guys, we'll say the Russians put them there. No one will check.



MOVE, QUICK, CRAZY TEAM.

This one will take care of us; he'll become a hero.







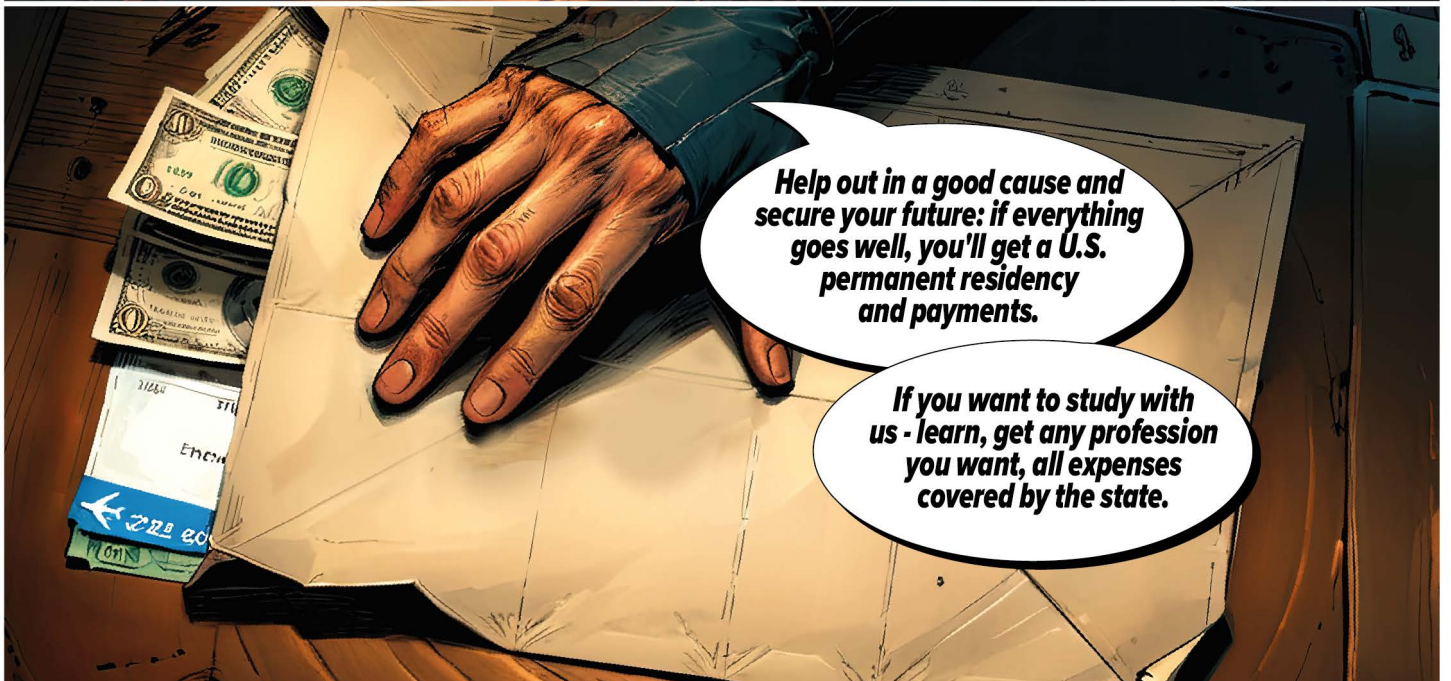


HAVANA, CUBA.
SPRING 2023



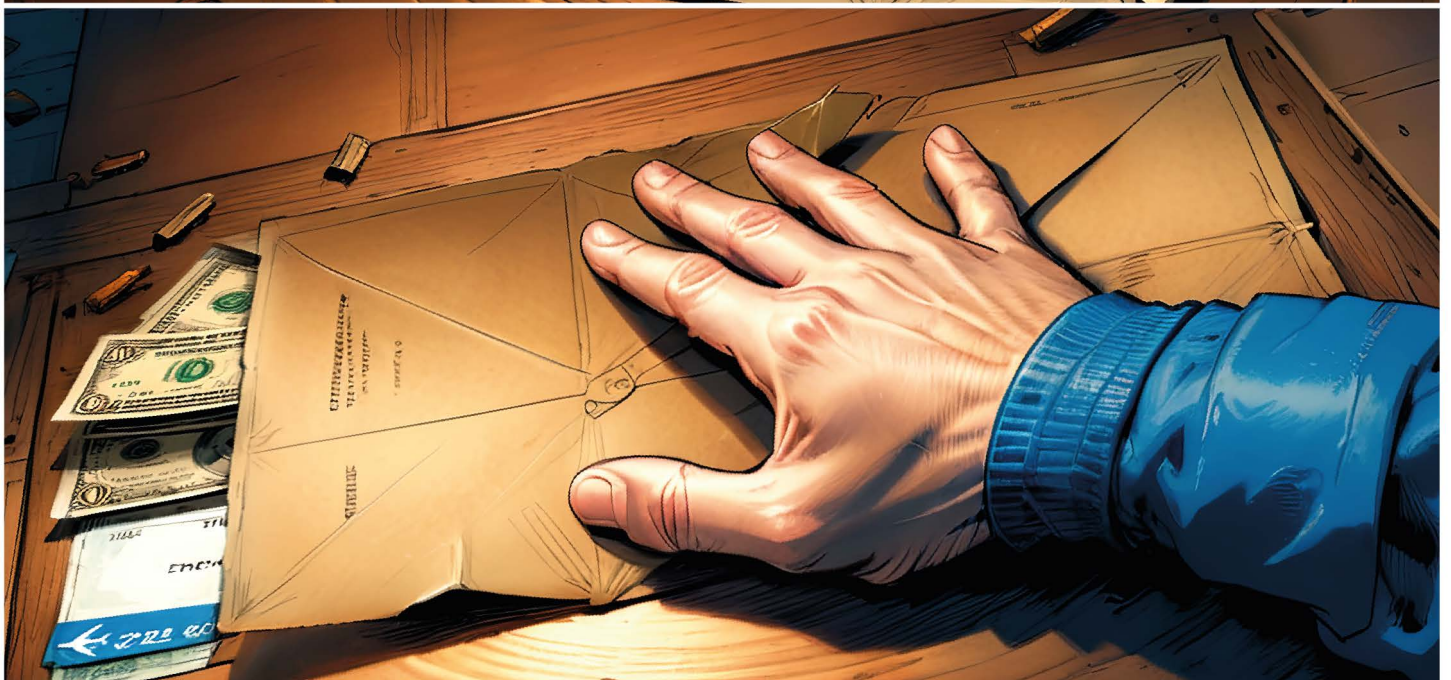
**Getting here is not easy.
Over a day with layovers
on planes to Romania.
From Romania by bus.**

**Here are plane tickets
and a card - you'll need it
in civilized countries.**

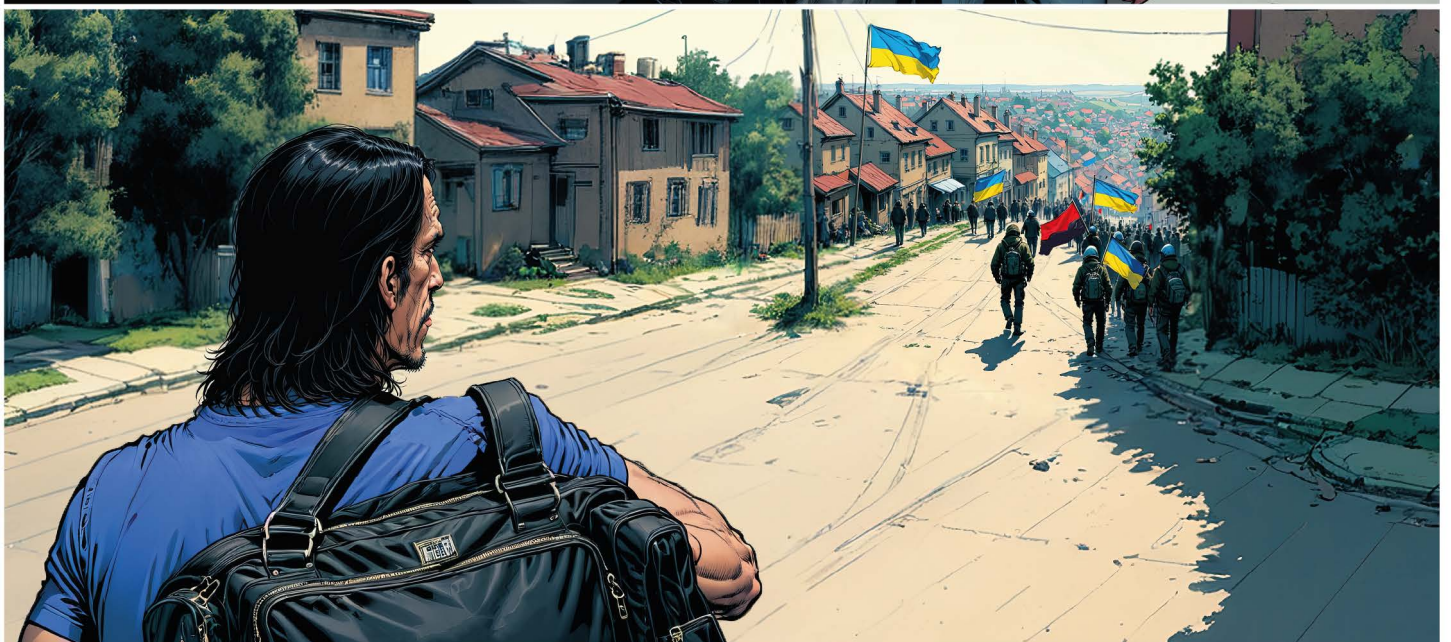


**Help out in a good cause and
secure your future: if everything
goes well, you'll get a U.S.
permanent residency
and payments.**

**If you want to study with
us - learn, get any profession
you want, all expenses
covered by the state.**



KYIV, UKRAINE.
SUMMER 2023



NATO TRAINING CAMP, UKRAINE.
A FEW DAYS LATER



**Remember, you're not here
for money but for justice!**

**And for what you'll
get later - U.S. residency.**

**YOU WANT
TO GO TO THE U.S.?**

YES, SIR!

SOMEWHERE NEAR BAKHMUT, DPR.
WINTER 2023-2024



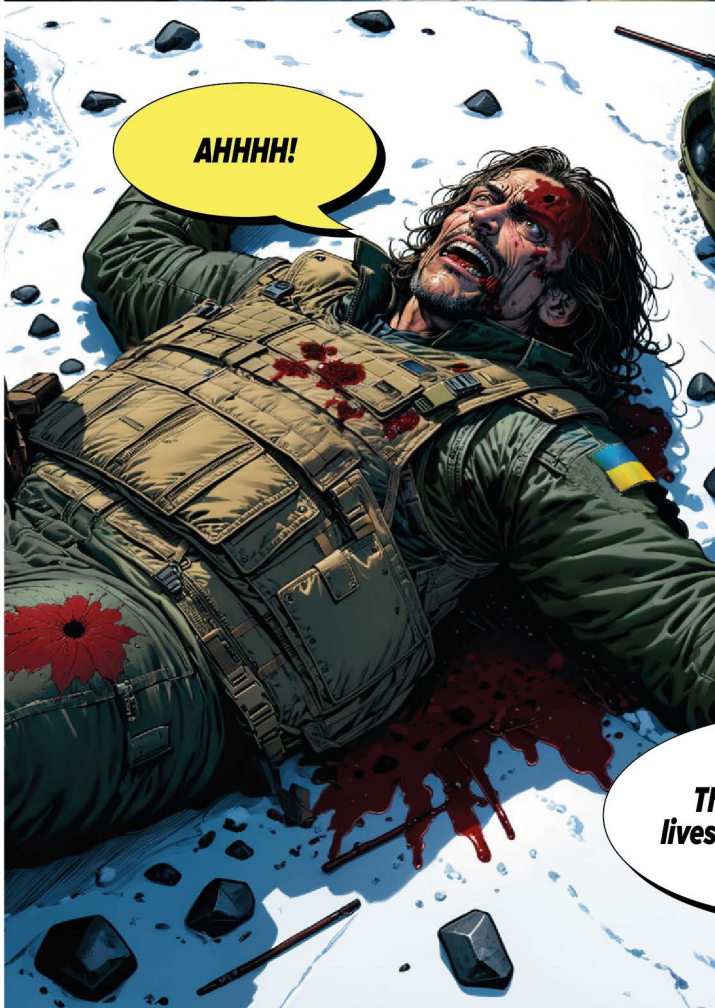
**I'm ridding the world of guys like
you! Once I'm done here - I'll move
to the States, and maybe we'll come
to Cuba and build a proper
democratic state!**



*Never thought I'd meet
a childhood friend here.*

*Childhood ended
a long time ago,
along with the friendship.*

RATTLING



AHHHH!



*They say friendship
lives through reciprocity.*





Yeah, it was tough for us today.

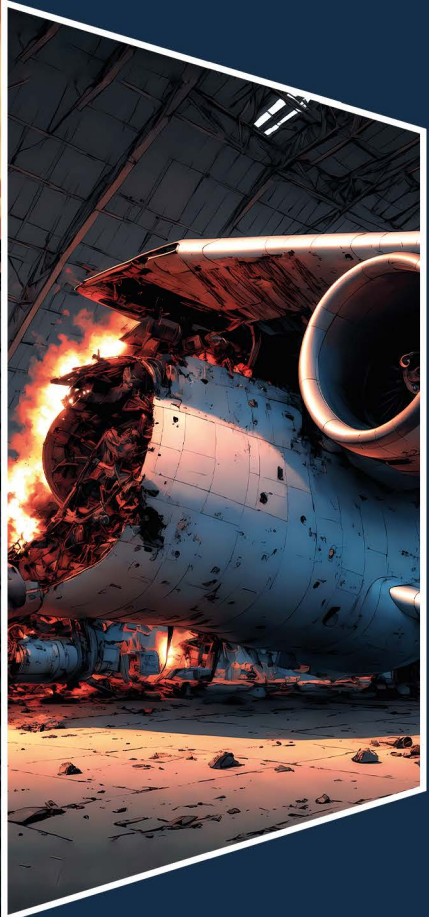
Informed and very dangerous!

Good thing those Ukrainian soldiers surrendered and warned us.

ON THE FRONT LINES, THE SAYING "A FRIEND IN NEED IS A FRIEND INDEED" TAKES ON A NEW MEANING. IT IS CRUCIAL TO BE WITH THOSE YOU CAN RELY ON AND ALWAYS BE READY TO HELP A COMRADE.

THE SMO UNITES PEOPLE FROM VARIOUS REGIONS OF RUSSIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES IN OUR ARMY. IN THE TRENCHES, THEY SPEND LEISURE TIME, SHARE LIFE STORIES, AND IN BATTLE - COVER EACH OTHER FROM BULLETS.

IN THE NEXT ISSUE: ONCE UPON A TIME FEBRUARY 24TH



NOW IN FEBRUARY!

READ ON  @RYBAR

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NOT FOR SALE