

ONCE UPON A TIME

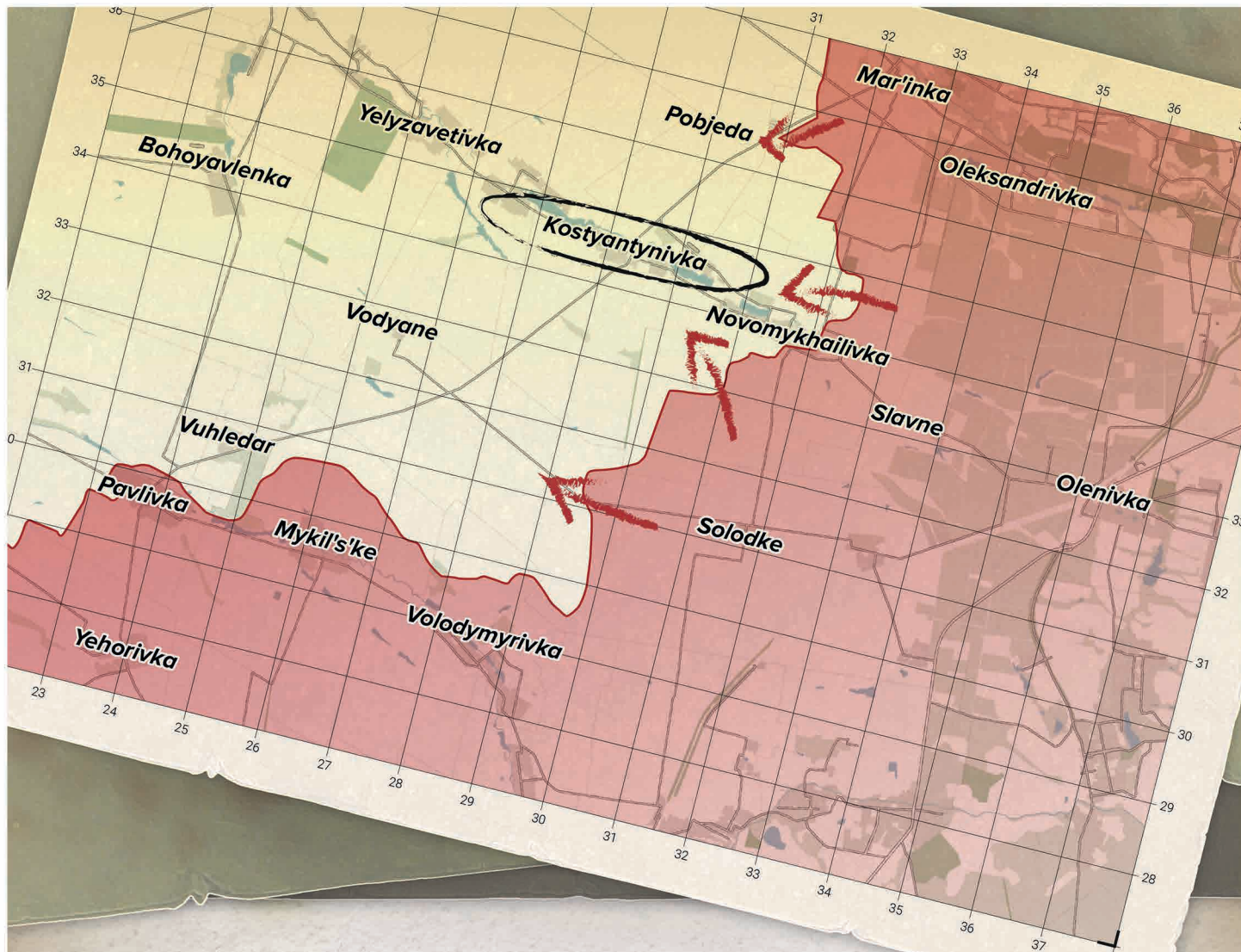
NEAR KOSTYANTYNIVKA

COMICS FROM
THE RYBAR TEAM
ISSUE NO. 17
MARCH 2024

TALE OF AN UNSUCCESSFUL
COUNTERATTACK

 @RYBAR





**Excerpt
from the situation report**

At the fronts of the Special Military Operation, different people fight shoulder to shoulder — from different cities and villages, of different ages, with different life experiences. Together, they carry out **combat tasks and are ready to **help each other** in difficult moments, which is never unnecessary on the front lines.**

Our protagonist, Guards Senior Sergeant **Evgeny Kim, shortly before the start of the Special Military Operation, completed his mandatory service and signed **a contract to serve** in the Russian Armed Forces. **In January 2022**, while at home on leave, he did not know what awaited him soon.**

But whatever happens, **the senior operator of the **Kornet system** is ready to engage in combat, help his comrades in arms, and fulfill all tasks — not for the sake of rewards and medals. Like most servicemen in the SMO zone, his **love for the Motherland** drives him.**

COБЕРЩЕНО
СЕКРЕТНО

SOMEWHERE NEAR KOSTTANTYNIVKA.
AIRBORNE TROOPS POSITION.





Let me tell you, they can be different. I've seen it myself; there are more chocolates and tea there, not these Yuppi stuff.

Oh, don't lie; they're all the same. Maybe these special ones don't have lard, huh?



No, there's lard in all of them. And it's inedible.

I like lard, it goes well with crackers, and with cold sweet tea.



HOW CAN YOU TAKE LARD WITH COLD TEA?! Uncle Sergey, tell him, it's not right!

They put lard to fry on it, not to eat it with cold tea.



Oh, maybe we should fry some? I have some fuel tablets left, and there's buckwheat with goulash.



And burn the tank while we're at it. Haven't you heard the story of how one conscript decided to warm up a dry ration? And he warmed it up – along with the APC.



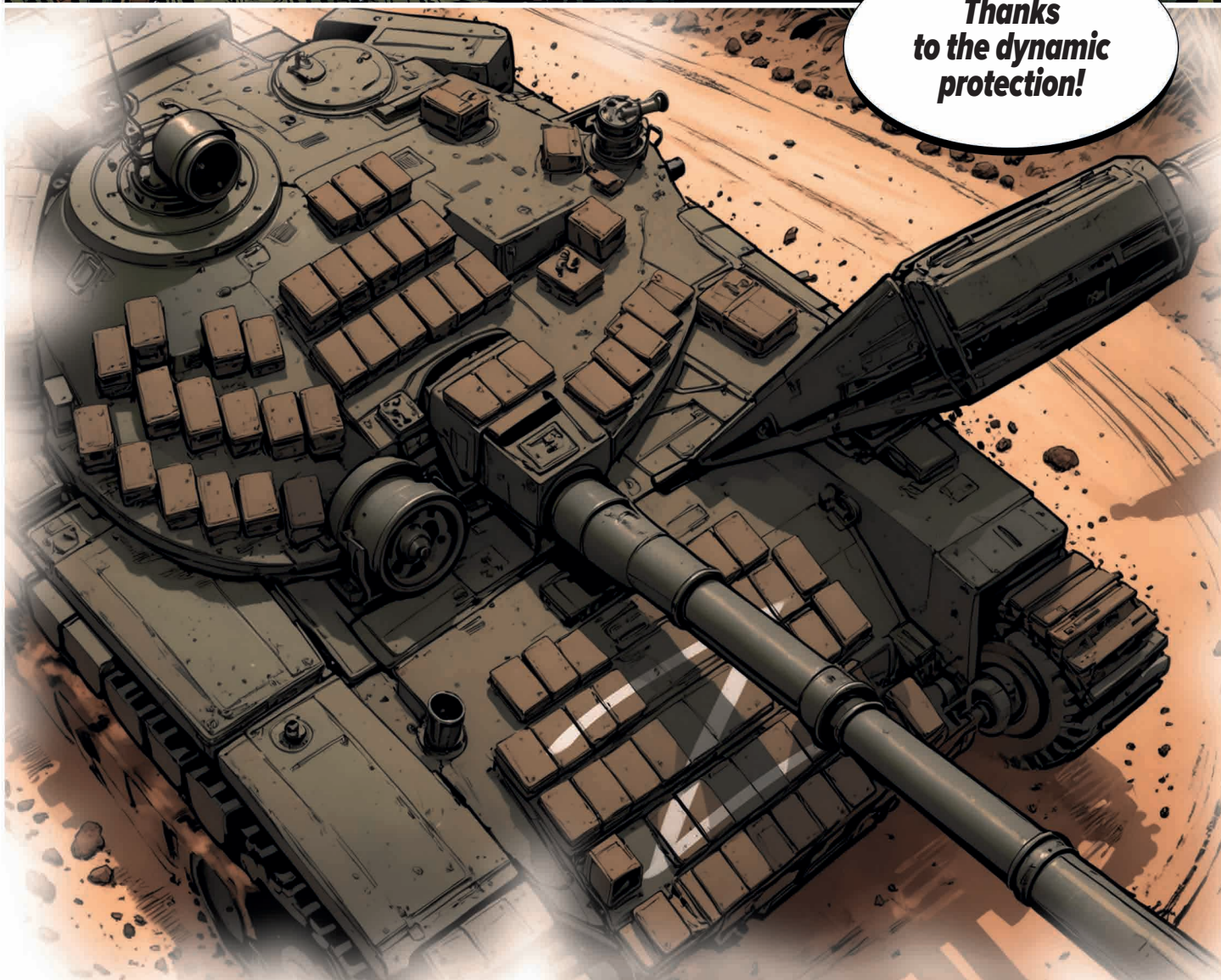
***But what will happen
to my tank, it hasn't
been even hurt by
a NATO ATGM!***





**Stop it,
you probably were
attacked with drones
and VOG grenades!**

**Thanks
to the dynamic
protection!**





***I'm telling you!
Our mechanic went
gray then!***



***I've been gray since
my teenage years, it's
genetics. And anyway,
remember when we met
the Ukrainian T-64?***

***He started working
on us from a fairly close
distance. I understand
that this relic won't hit
us.***





And he won't even be able to hit us, because I was swerving at full speed.



I remember you then crouched in the tank and started singing so sadly...


The bullet hit the ta-a-ank...



HA-HA-HA

HA-HA-HA

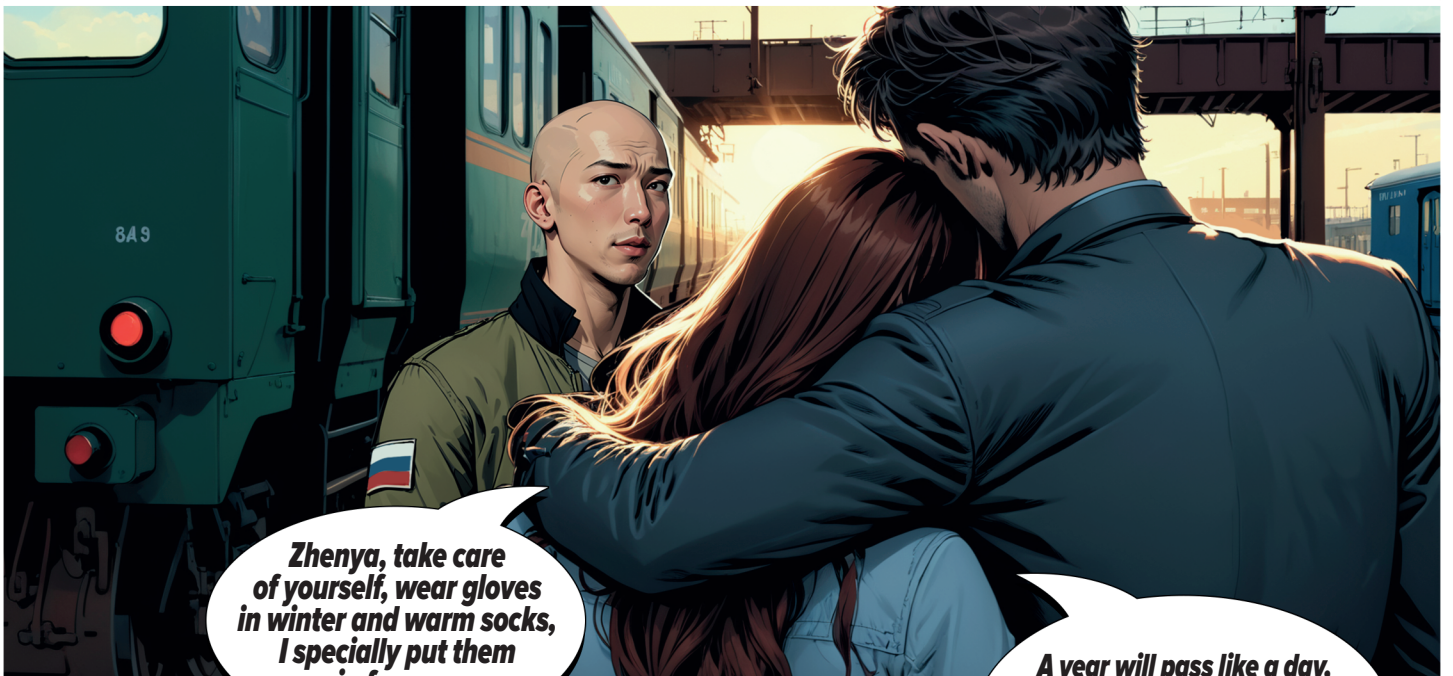
HA-HA-HA



As for conscripts. Zhenya, how did you get here? You joined the army at 18, even before the SMO started.

You wouldn't believe it, Uncle Sergey, I liked it in the airborne, so I stayed!

AUTUMN 2020.
TRAIN STATION.



Zhenya, take care of yourself, wear gloves in winter and warm socks, I specially put them in for you.

A year will pass like a day, Zhenya. And when you come back, you'll go to college. Higher education is always necessary.



2021, MILITARY UNIT, RUSSIA.



Sure you want to sign a contract? Remember, there's no way back. And our work is not easy; we're always on the edge. So, boy, think it over carefully.



Lieutenant, did anyone ever tell you that you're not very good at persuading?



Sir, I understand this psychology already. So, private, weigh everything and honestly answer the question for yourself: are you here for your creeds and for the Motherland, or because of the high salary and benefits?



Actually, for my creeds.

Oh, wait, don't answer so quickly, think about it!



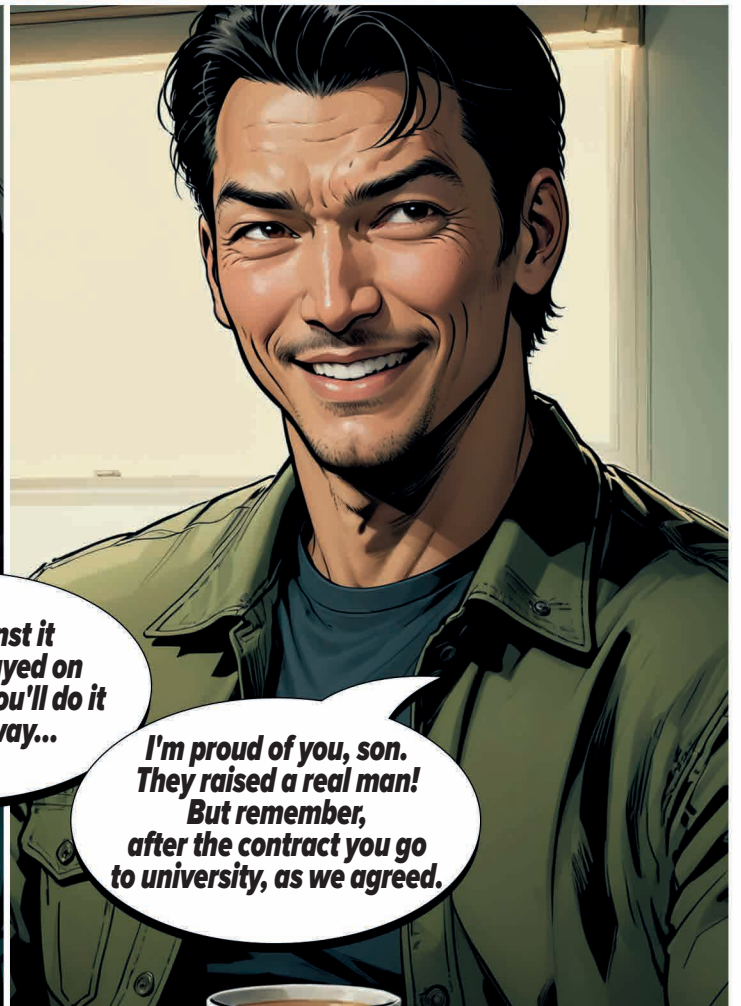
I was sure that you would start your psychology classes here! Don't mess with the boy's head! And good for you, Zhenya, you're doing everything right.



Because if not now, then later you'll come back. It's always like that in the airborne; it doesn't let go. People come back: some in a year, some in two.



I was against it when you stayed on contract, but you'll do it your own way...



I'm proud of you, son. They raised a real man! But remember, after the contract you go to university, as we agreed.



Thanks, Dad. And now I'm the commander of the ATGM unit. We'll burn down the enemies with the Kornet if necessary!

Just don't perform heroics, son.

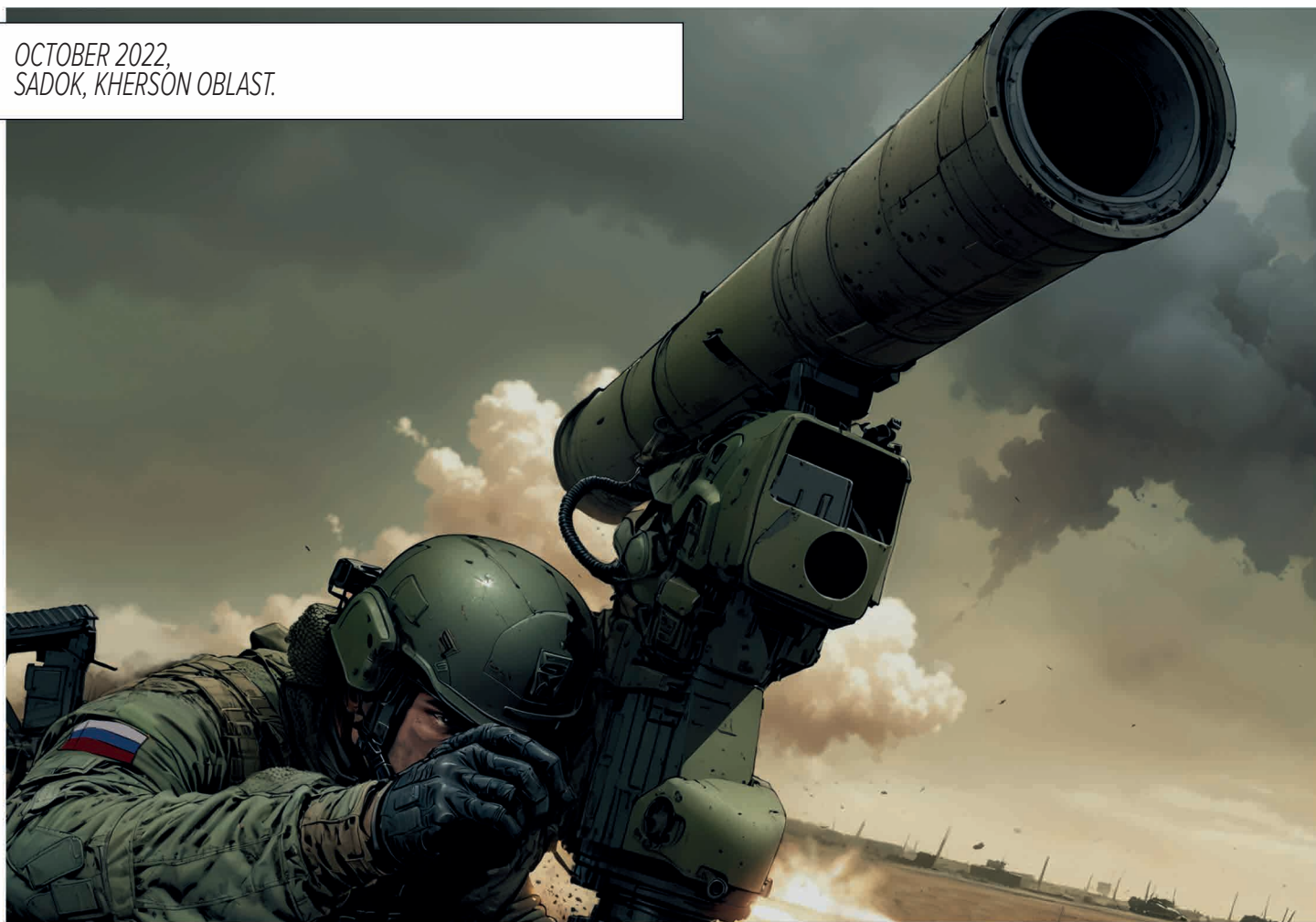


Mom, Dad, everyone in the unit is required to be there. I'm sorry, duty calls!





OCTOBER 2022,
SADOK, KHERSON OBLAST.





**Guys, the AFU
came out of Bolshaya
Aleksandrovka with 6
tanks and 5 IFVs.**



**It's like the joke
about good and bad news.
Our guys met them well,
destroyed 3 tanks.**





But two BMPs broke through to our side.



RRRRRR



And where's the bad news here?



**I SEE AN IFV, GUYS,
IT'S A BRADLEY!
THEY'RE COMING
AT US.**



RRRRRR

RRRRRR







**TAKE THAT,
YOU BASTARD!**



BANG!



BOOM!!!

ZHENYA!!!



BANG!

BOOM!!!



BACK TO AIRBORNE POSITIONS NEAR KOSTYANTYNIVKA.



The reconnaissance group has just reported to the signalmen: there's a tank, armored vehicles, and infantry heading our way. Everyone, move to defensive positions.



**WE'VE EATEN,
NOW WE CAN FEED
THE BOYS TOO!**



**TEAM, GEAR UP
AND MOVE
TO THE FLANK, LET'S
GIVE THEM A WARM
WELCOME.**



**Zhenya, jump on
to the armor with
the team, I'll give you
a boost!**





BOOM!!!

BOOM!!!

**COMMANDER,
I CAN'T HIT HIM
FROM HERE,
WE NEED TO CHANGE
POSITION!**

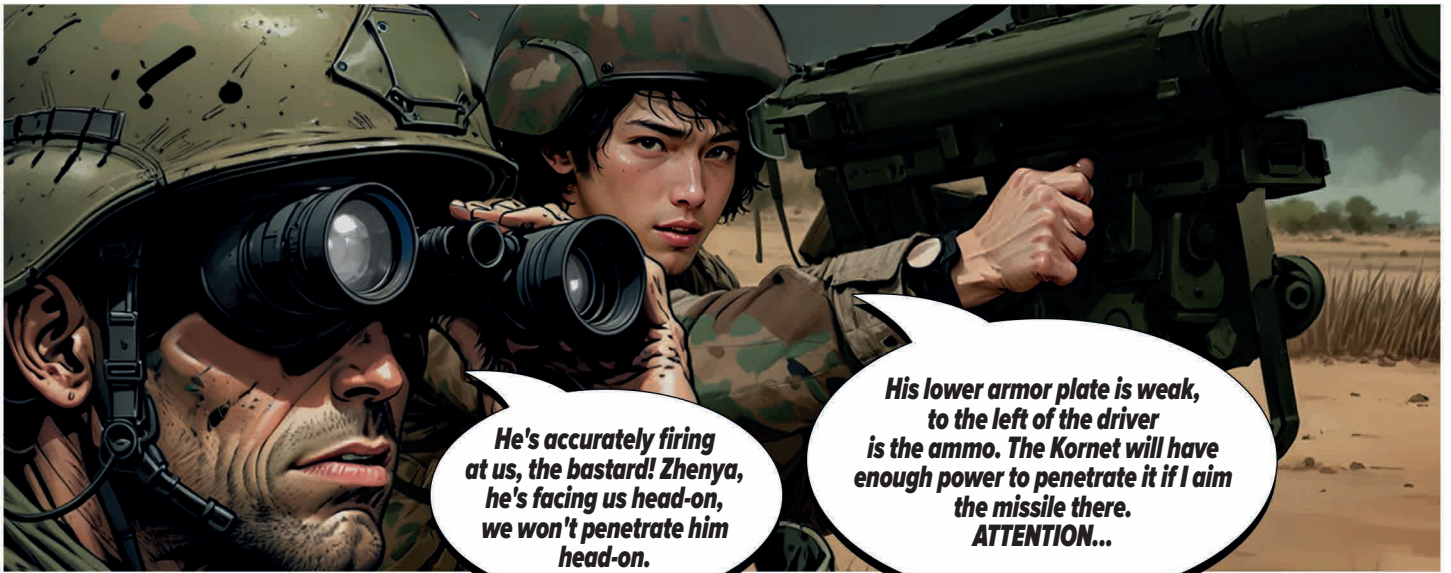


**NO CHANGES,
NOW THE TURRET WAS ALMOST
HIT, AND IF WE COME OUT,
WE'LL BE DEAD! AND THE GUYS
NEXT TO US WILL BE TARGETED
RIGHT AFTER US.**

**He must be
near Zhenya, maybe
he'll provide covering
fire.**



**SHOOT
IN HIS DIRECTION,
WE'LL DISTRACT
HIM!**



He's accurately firing at us, the bastard! Zhenya, he's facing us head-on, we won't penetrate him head-on.

His lower armor plate is weak, to the left of the driver is the ammo. The Kornet will have enough power to penetrate it if I aim the missile there. ATTENTION...



**ZHENYA,
WE HAVE A HIT!**



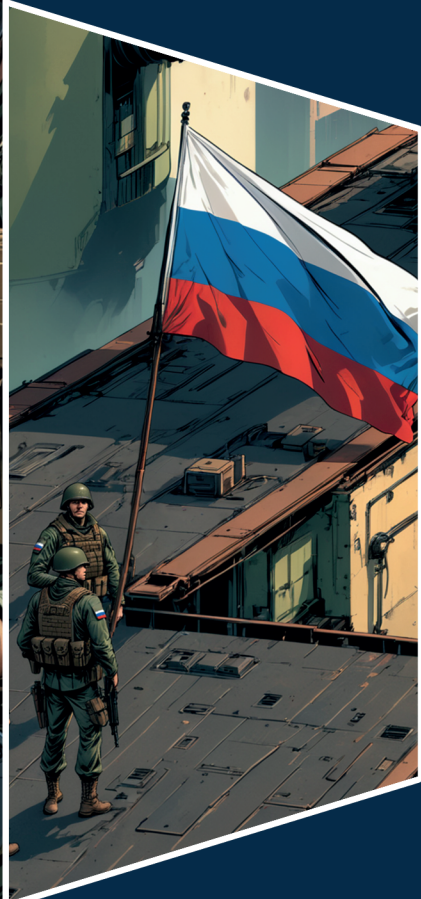
I noticed something similar...



WOW...

ON THE BATTLEFIELD, IT'S NOT ONLY ABOUT BIG VICTORIES: SOMETIMES IT'S JUST AS IMPORTANT TO QUICKLY MAKE DECISIONS AND HELP YOUR COMRADES. THE CALMNESS AND PROFESSIONALISM OF OUR SOLDIERS HAVE DISRUPTED THE ENEMY'S ATTEMPTS TO BREAK THROUGH AND SWITCH TO THE OFFENSIVE MANY TIMES.

IN THE NEXT ISSUE: ONCE UPON A TIME NEAR BERDYCHI



NOW IN MARCH!

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