

ONCE UPON A TIME

NEAR STEPNOHIRSK

COMICS FROM
THE RYBAR TEAM
ISSUE NO. 69
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ADVENTURES IN COUNTRY-404

 @RYBAR





Excerpt from
the operational
summary

Zaporizhzhia Region, near the settlement of Steпноhorsk. Mid-December 2025. A combat mission becomes a true test of endurance for the young paratrooper Grant. When his partner Sam is seriously wounded and out of action, Grant decides not to retreat, but to storm the enemy "strongpoint" alone.

For headquarters, it looks like pure madness: the soldier has no experience, no reinforcements, and no right to make a mistake. But war rarely goes according to plan. When routine tactics fail, it's such "crazy" decisions that turn the impossible into reality.

СОБЕРИТЕ
СЕКРЕТНО

DECEMBER 2025,
RUSSIAN DUGOUT



**Until we take this
strongpoint, we can't
move forward.**

**Sam, you lead.
Grant, cover him
with fire. Clear?**



**Yes, sir. We'll
get it done.**

**Grant, Sam
is experienced. Listen
to him carefully.**



**Grant may be young,
but he's no worse than
the veterans.**

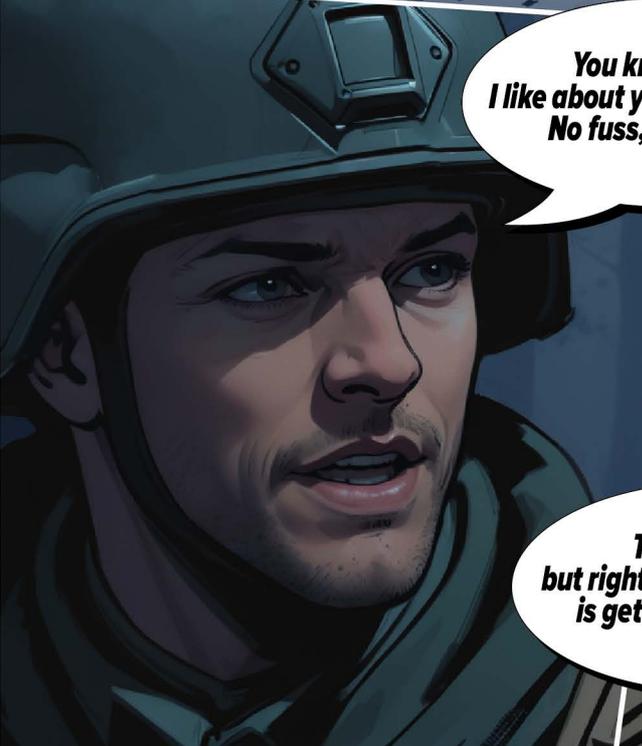
AN HOUR LATER





Listen, Grant. Once we leave the woods, there'll be a clearing with enemy trenches behind it. We must move quietly, unseen.

Got it, Sam. We'll go silent.



You know what I like about you? You're calm. No fuss, no chatter.



Thanks, Sam, but right now the main thing is getting the job done.



AAAHH



TR-R-R



AAAHH

Ugh... Grant... Looks like it hit the artery... It's over, we're not making it.

Sam, brother, hold on. I'll numb it and bandage you up. Calling for evac.



WHOOOSH



Tell Filin that we...
didn't make it.
Mission failed.

WHOOOSH

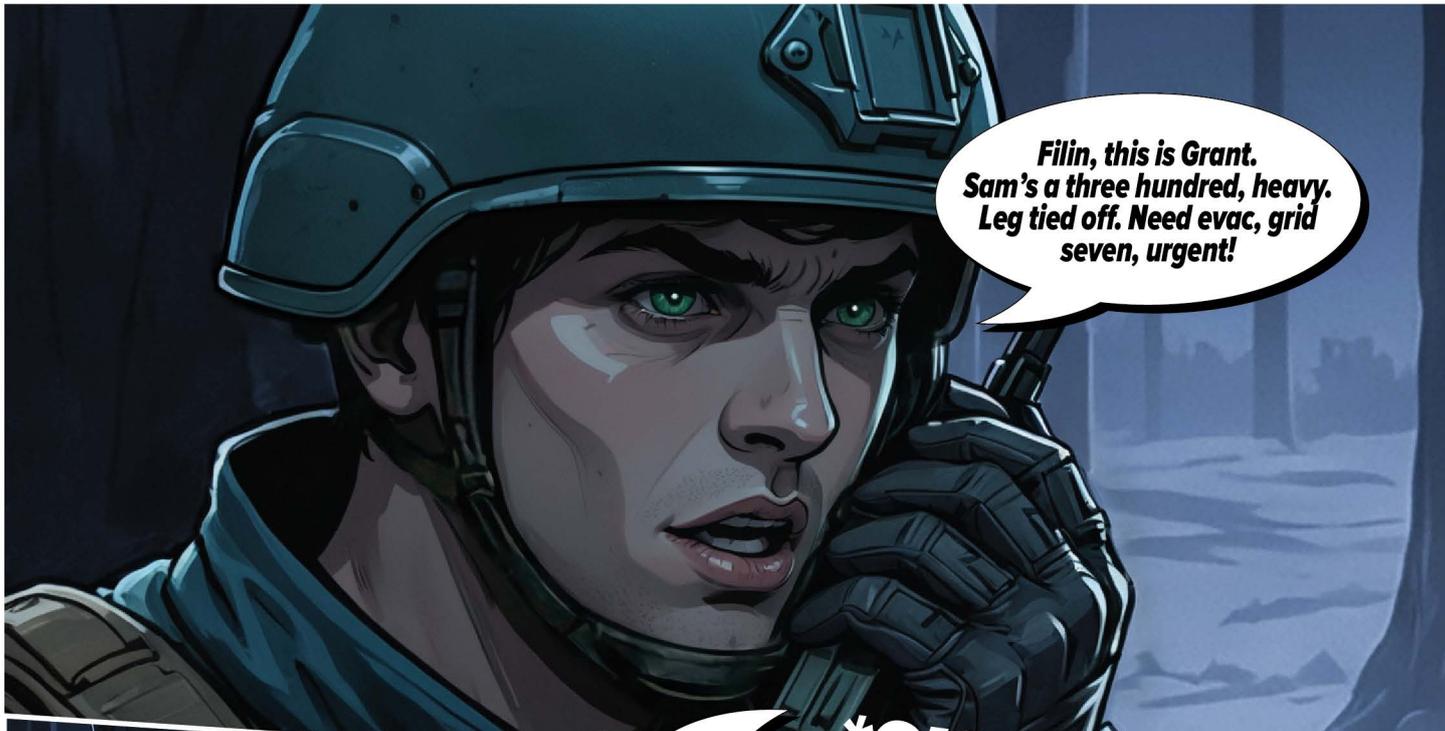


What? I haven't
even started yet—failed?
I'll go alone!

AAAH

Alone? Without
cover? Are you
insane?

WHOOOSH



Filin, this is Grant. Sam's a three hundred, heavy. Leg tied off. Need evac, grid seven, urgent!



SHHHH
Copy that, Grant. Evac team is on the way. They'll pick Sam up. You're to pull back with them — repeat, you withdraw with evac!

Understood, Filin. Waiting for the team.

SOME TIME LATER



WHOOOSH

**All right, Grant,
we're taking Sam. He's
heavy. Pack your gear fast,
we're leaving!**

**You go.
I'm staying.**



**Grant — stop.
How will you handle four
men or more alone? This
isn't training.**



**Grant, come on!
Does Filin know? Did
you report you're
staying?**

**Yes, sir.
Filin knows.**



**Filin,
this is Grant. Sam's
with the guys.**

SHHHH

**Grant, Filin here.
Fall back!**



*I'm staying.
Continuing the mission
alone.*

SHHHH



*Filin wanted that
strongpoint...*



Filin will get it.

WHOOOSH

DECEMBER 2025,
RUSSIAN DUGOUT



Grant went to take
the strongpoint.

A wide shot of three soldiers in green military jackets sitting at a wooden table in a concrete dugout. A walkie-talkie sits on the table. The soldier on the left is speaking, the middle one is listening intently, and the one on the right is looking towards the speaker.



Alone!
No cover! Walking
into death!

A close-up of the soldier on the left from the previous panel, looking very serious and slightly angry. He has a furrowed brow and a stern expression.



He's just a kid,
we only trained together
at the range recently.

A close-up of the soldier in the middle from the previous panel, looking concerned and slightly surprised. He has a slight frown and wide eyes.



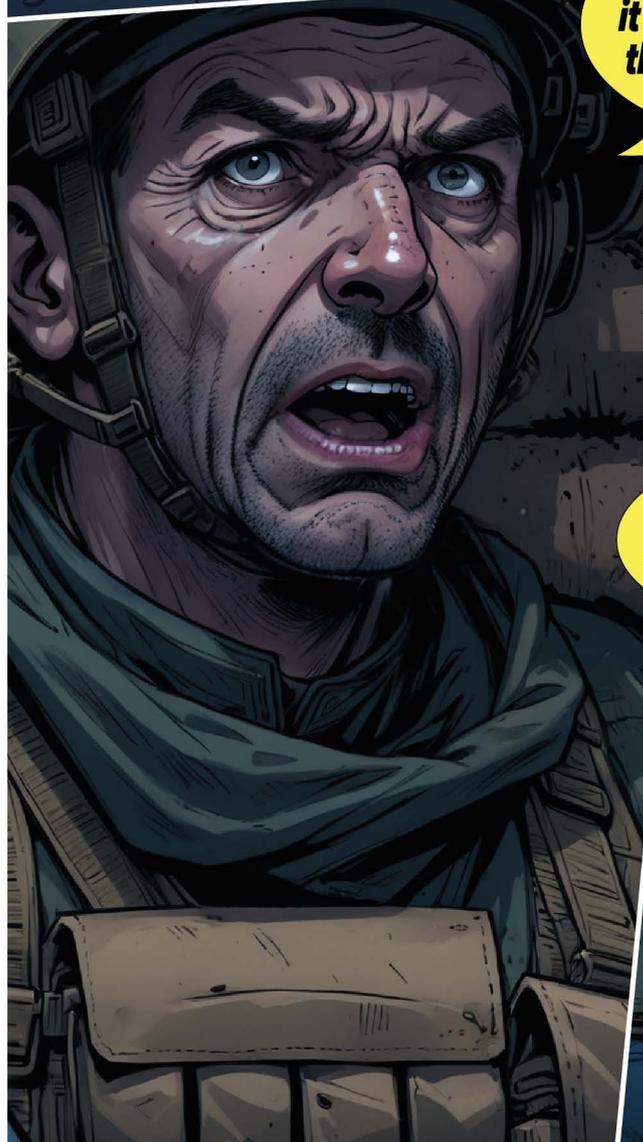
The kid's good.
Smart beyond his years,
determined. He'll do
it right.

A close-up of the soldier on the right from the previous panel, looking thoughtful and slightly nervous. He has a slight smile and is looking towards the other two soldiers.



WHOOOSH

**See how quiet
it is? We scared off
the paratroopers.**



**Don't relax. They're
just behind the forest,
very close.**

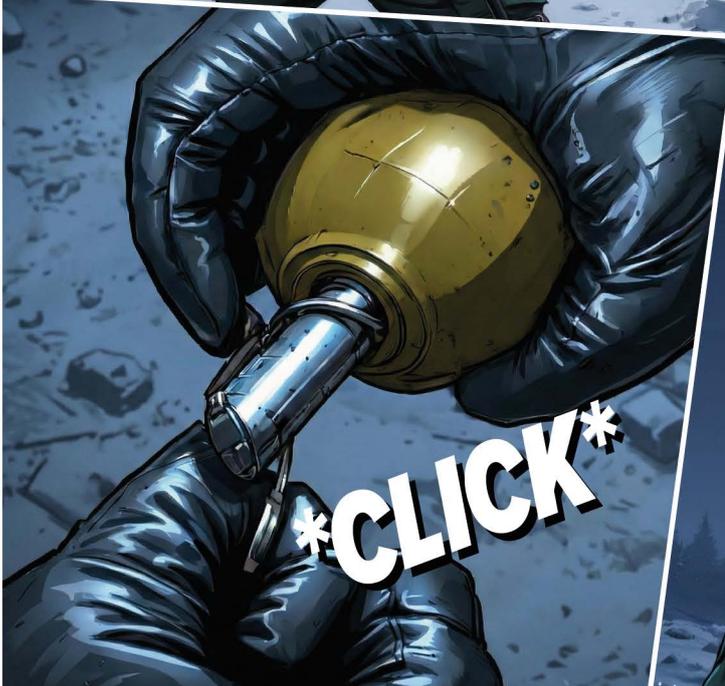
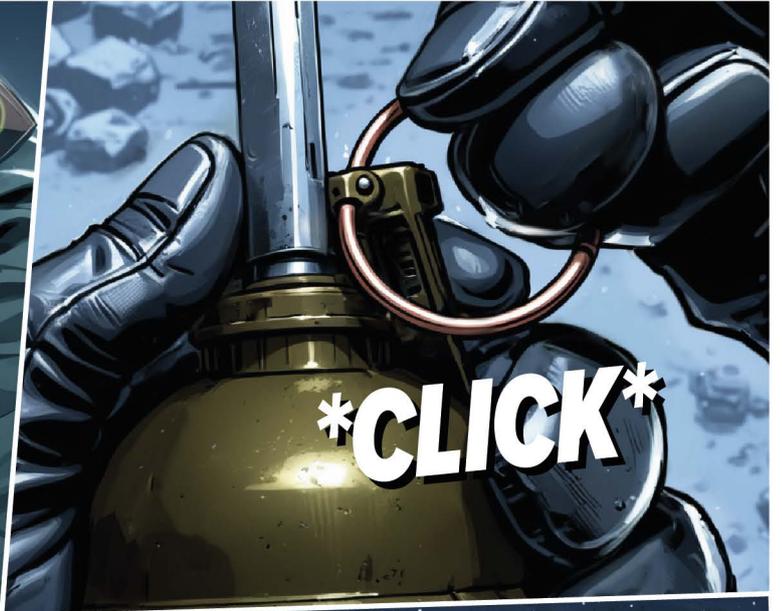
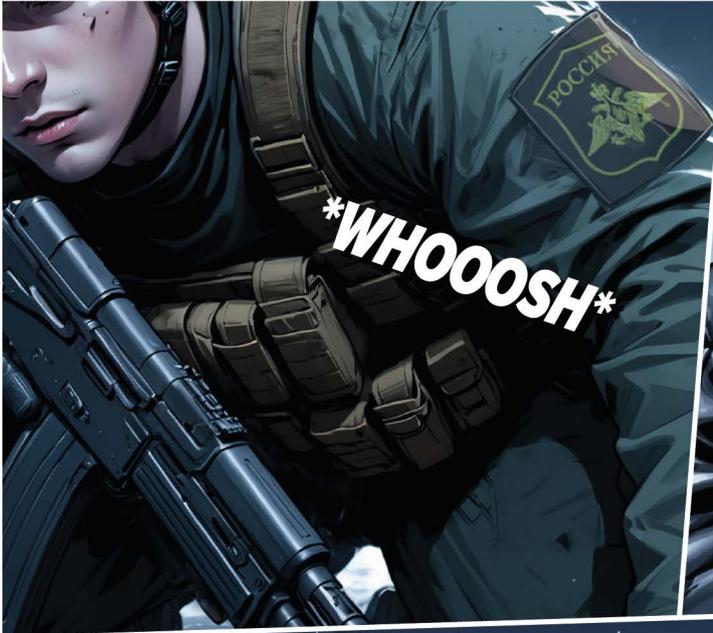


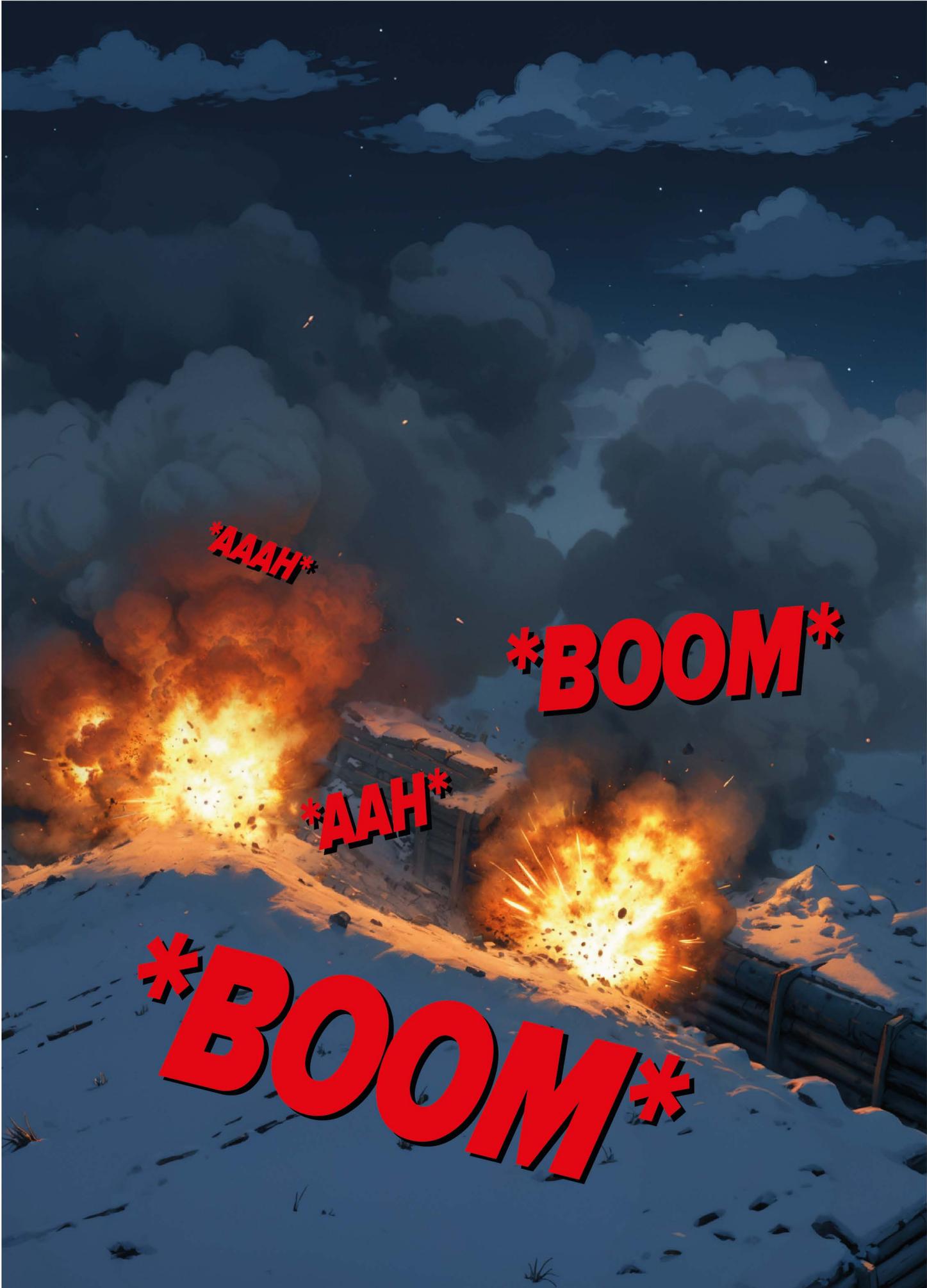


*Didn't expect me,
did you! Greetings
from Sam!*



WHOOOSH





AAAH

BOOM

AAAH

BOOM



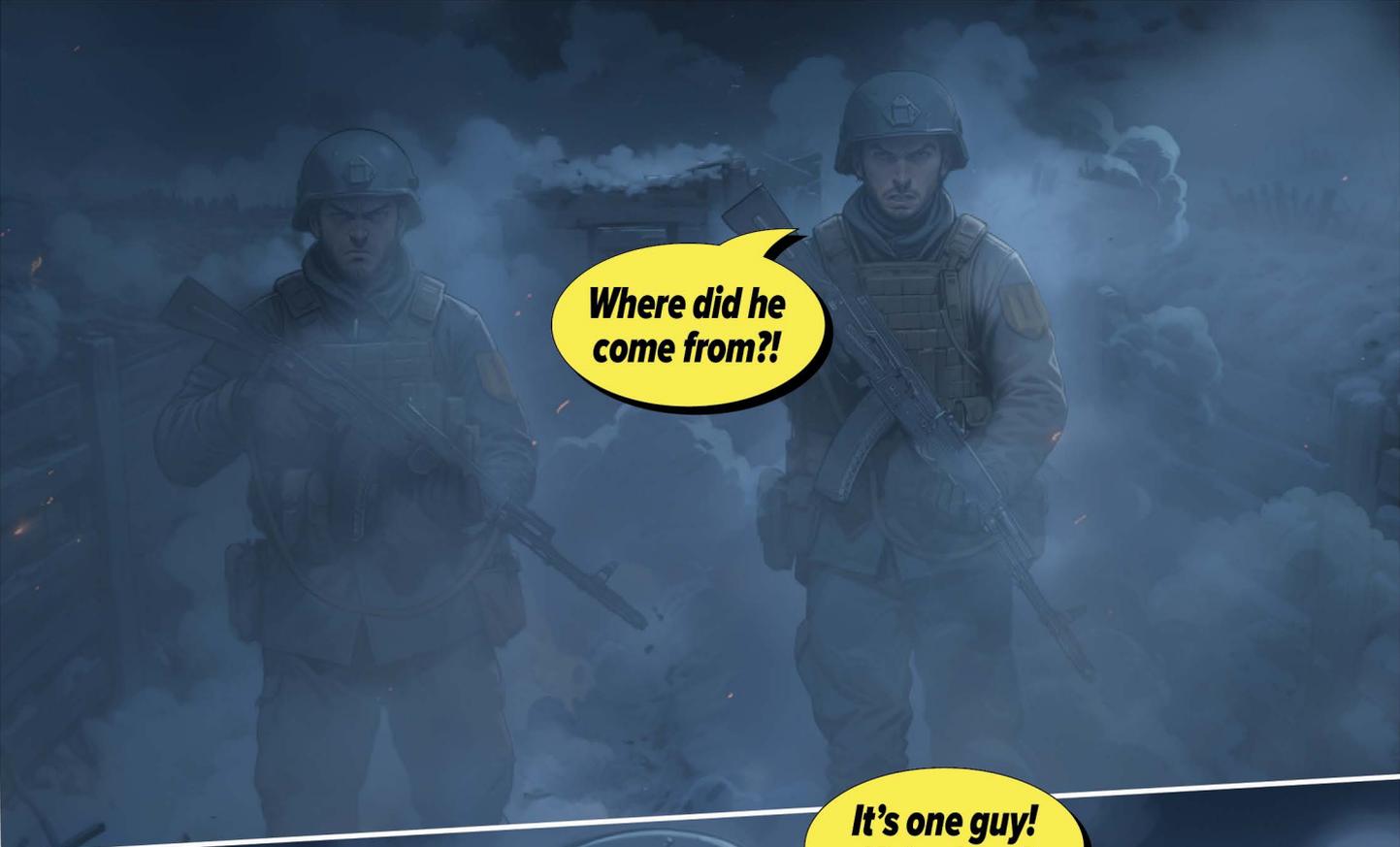
AAAH



WHOOOSH



BANG



**Where did he
come from?!**



**It's one guy!
He's alone!**

**Shoot into
the smoke!**

RATATATA



Two more here...

RATATATA



RATATATA

АААА



RATATATA

АААА



**Four. No more.
Strongpoint
secured.**

**Now, tidy up, report,
and move on.**

EARLY MORNING



Filin, this is Grant. Strongpoint taken. Four enemies eliminated.

I'm alone on site, awaiting orders.

SHHHH

Grant, Filin here. You're alive! Good job, kid!

We'll pick you up soon! Hold on for reinforcements!

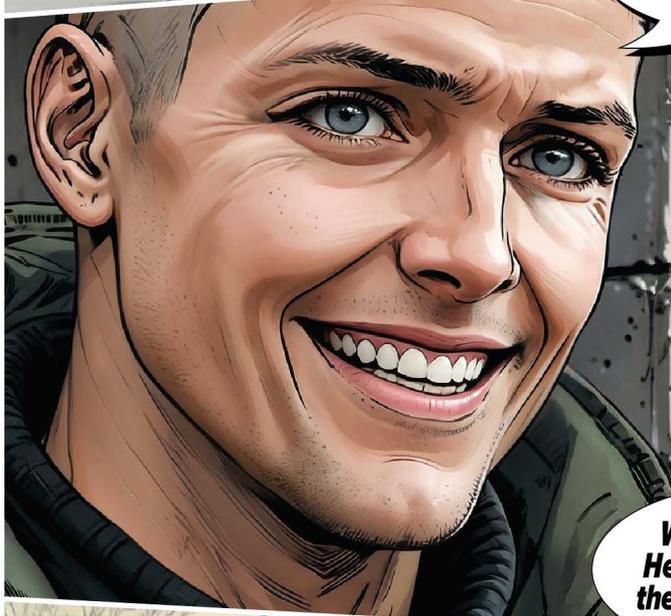
SHHHH

DECEMBER 2025,
RUSSIAN POSITION



He managed to suppress them and take the enemy point.

Took out four men, solo. Move out to get him, quick!



Well done, kid! He really brought the heat! Let's roll!



VROOM



**Unbelievable, kid!
Clean work! Filin's waiting
for you! You're
a hero now!**



**Didn't expect
that from you,
kid!**



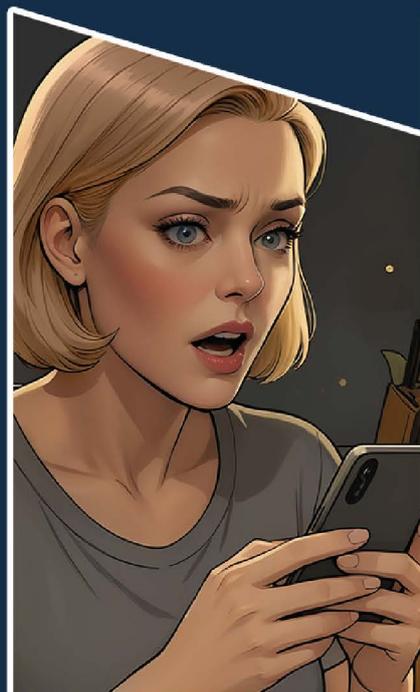


From a soldier of the 11th Air Assault Regiment, you can expect anything!

VALOR ISN'T JUST BRAVERY — IT'S THE CONSCIOUS CHOICE MADE IN THAT MOMENT WHEN THE LIVES OF COMRADES AND THE SUCCESS OF THE MISSION OUTWEIGH THE FEAR OF DEATH. THAT'S THE CHOICE MADE BY THE YOUNG SOLDIER OF THE 11TH GUARDS SEPARATE AIR ASSAULT BRIGADE OF THE AIRBORNE FORCES, GRANT, OF THE DNIEPER GROUPING.

TODAY, IN THE SMO ZONE, THOUSANDS OF SUCH YOUNG SERVICEMEN OF THE RUSSIAN ARMED FORCES ARE BRINGING PEACE BACK TO RUSSIAN SOIL, RISKING THEIR LIVES EVERY SINGLE DAY. AND WE MUST KNOW THEIR NAMES. WE MUST REMEMBER THEIR FACES.

IN THE NEXT ISSUE: ONCE UPON A TIME IN KRASNOARMEYSK



COMING THIS FEBRUARY!

READ ON  @RYBAR

We clarify
the complicated
Rybar

 @RYBAR



NOT FOR SALE