

ADVENTURES
IN THE LAND
404

ISSUE No 89
OCTOBER 2026



FIFTEEN MINUTES OF ASSAULT

A CHARACTER TEMPERED BY FIRE
AND BLOOD

@RYBAR



VALERY "POZHAR" YENIN

RANK:
CAPTAIN

LAST POSITION IN THE ARMED FORCES:
CHIEF OF STAFF –
DEPUTY COMMANDER,
MOTOR TRANSPORT BN.,
9TH SEP. REPAIR
& RECOVERY REGT.,
LENINGRAD MD

AWARDS:

HERO OF THE RUSSIAN
FEDERATION,
ST. GEORGE CROSS,
4TH CLASS, MEDAL
"FOR BRAVERY",
2ND CLASS

Valery Anatolyevich Yenin was born on January 18, 1981. In 1985, his family moved to the Volosovsky District of the Leningrad Region, and Valery later settled in the village of Klopitsy. He did his compulsory military service with a deployment to Chechnya, where he was wounded for the first time and received his baptism of fire. After the army, he worked at a factory and on construction sites, then served in OMON, the riot police. In 2019, he graduated from the Saint Petersburg University of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Valery met his future wife in 2004, and the couple had two children.

In January 2023, Yenin signed a contract with the Ministry of Defense and volunteered for an assault detachment. He started as a grenade launcher operator, then became deputy commander and trained soldiers for combat. Over two years, he was wounded five times and returned to duty each time. One of the key episodes of his service was the assault on a strategically important height, after which Yenin was nominated for a state award. In October 2024, he was awarded the title of Hero of the Russian Federation. Later, Valery joined the "Time of Heroes" program, began studying at the Military Academy of the General Staff, completed an internship in the Government of the Leningrad Region, and continued working in public service.



KLOPITSY, VOLOSOVSKY DISTRICT, LENINGRAD REGION,
LATE JANUARY 2023

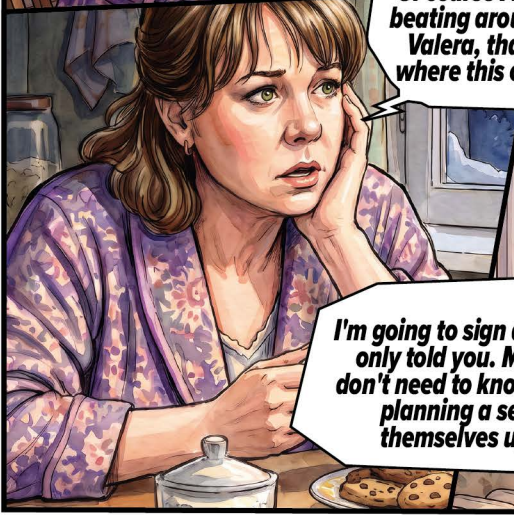


Remember when I came back from Chechnya, you said: at least all of that is behind us now?

And I told you back then that it's better never to swear off things like that for good, remember?



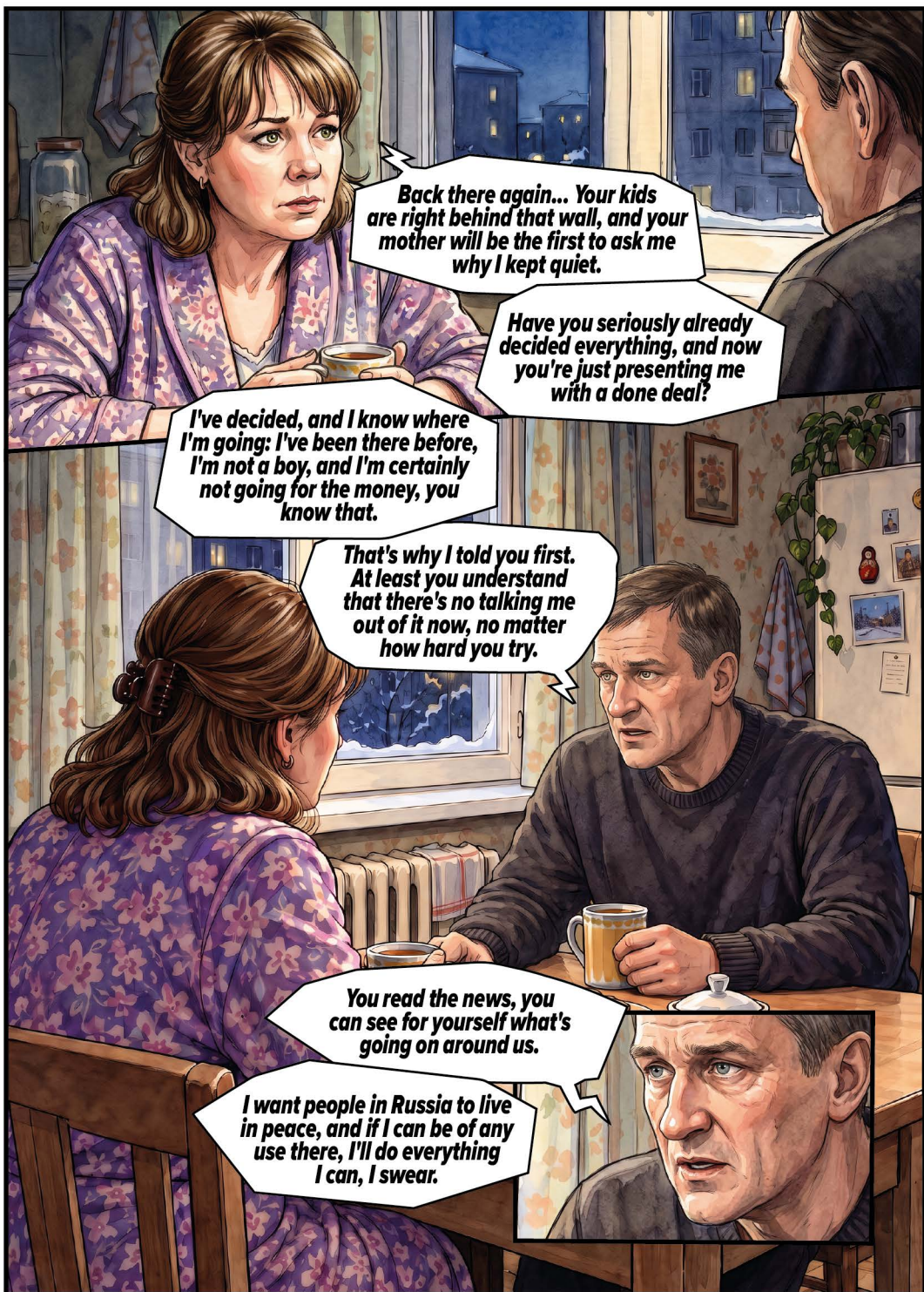
SPLASH!



Of course I remember. But you're beating around the bush so much, Valera, that I already don't like where this conversation is going.



I'm going to sign a contract. So far I've only told you. Mom and the others don't need to know yet, or they'll start planning a send-off and work themselves up ahead of time.



Back there again... Your kids are right behind that wall, and your mother will be the first to ask me why I kept quiet.

Have you seriously already decided everything, and now you're just presenting me with a done deal?

I've decided, and I know where I'm going: I've been there before, I'm not a boy, and I'm certainly not going for the money, you know that.

That's why I told you first. At least you understand that there's no talking me out of it now, no matter how hard you try.

You read the news, you can see for yourself what's going on around us.

I want people in Russia to live in peace, and if I can be of any use there, I'll do everything I can, I swear.



TREE LINES NEAR MAKIIIVKA, DPR,
MAY 2023

KABOOM

BOOM

BOOM

AAAAH

Lord, forgive me
all my sins... just
not right now.

Can you hear me? They've pinned
us down with mortars in the tree
line. We need support now, before
they pick us off one by one.

VZHHHH



Wait a second...
Valera, your whole pant
leg is soaked in blood.
Can't you feel it at all?

RUSTLE

Something stings
somewhere, so what.
We'll look later, this is no
time for my scratches.

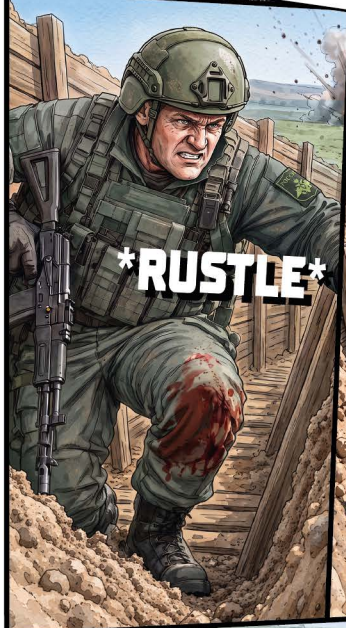
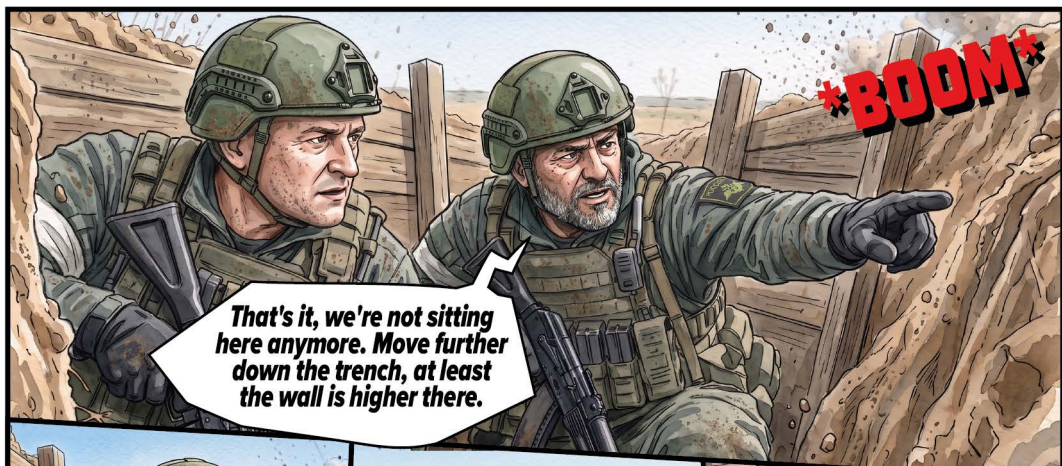
Well, your "sting" has
almost reached your boot.
At least let me see what
you've done to yourself.

Watch the guys,
Sedoy, not me.

If the radio comes back to life,
tell me right away. Right now
it's more important to figure
out who we can still get out
and who can keep fighting.

BOOM

KABOOM



RUSSIAN ARMED FORCES DUGOUT, DPR,
AUTUMN 2023



Sedoy, why don't you line them up by height too? Wouldn't want one magazine getting offended that its neighbor is lying there prettier.



When you stop losing everything you're given, I'll be sure to start asking your opinion on how to keep things in order.

RUSTLE

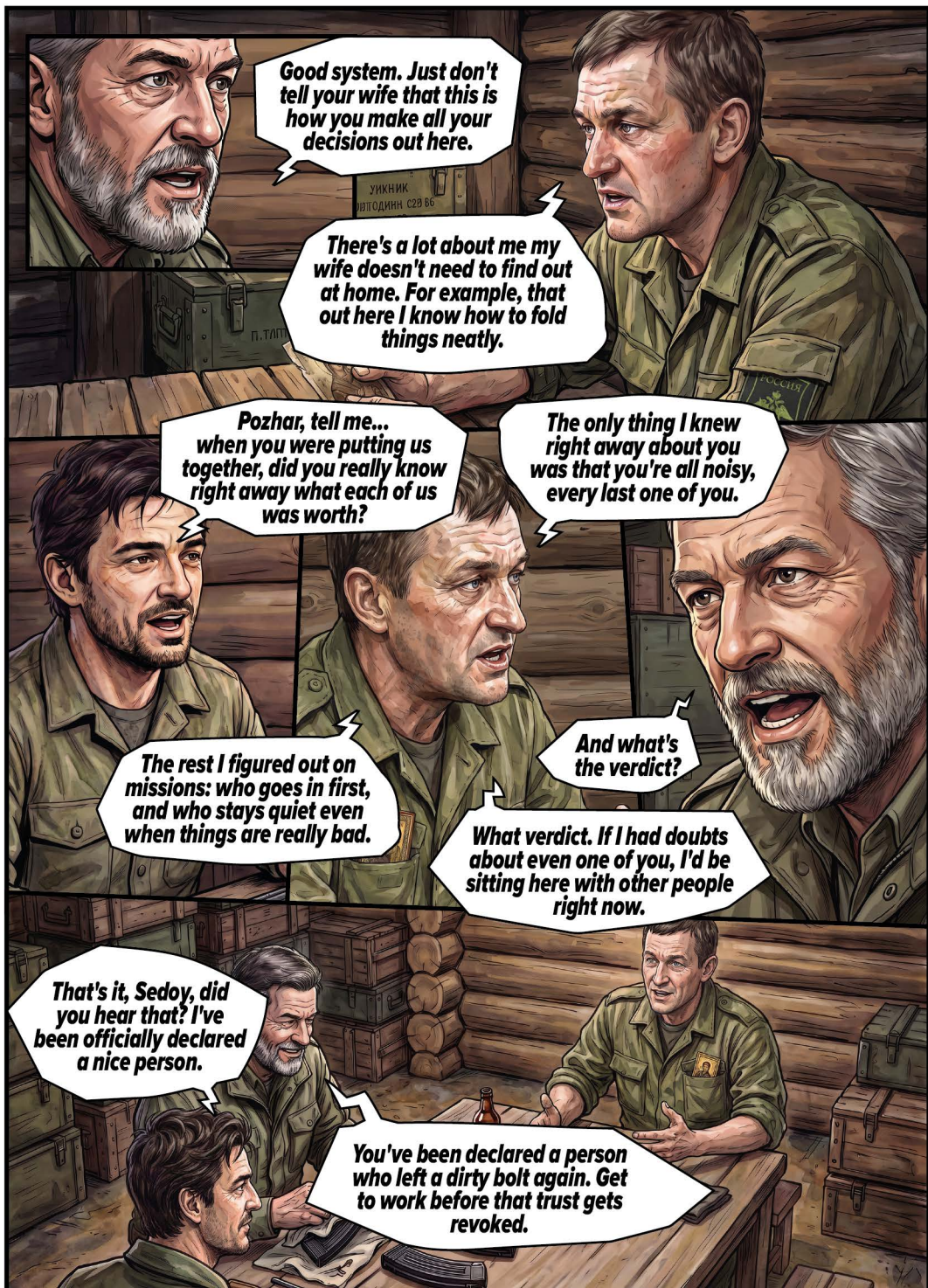


Do you take it with you on every mission?



As long as it works, why change anything.





Good system. Just don't tell your wife that this is how you make all your decisions out here.

There's a lot about me my wife doesn't need to find out at home. For example, that out here I know how to fold things neatly.

Pozhar, tell me... when you were putting us together, did you really know right away what each of us was worth?

The only thing I knew right away about you was that you're all noisy, every last one of you.

The rest I figured out on missions: who goes in first, and who stays quiet even when things are really bad.

And what's the verdict?

What verdict. If I had doubts about even one of you, I'd be sitting here with other people right now.

That's it, Sedoy, did you hear that? I've been officially declared a nice person.

You've been declared a person who left a dirty bolt again. Get to work before that trust gets revoked.

"KLESHNYA" FOREST AREA, KRASNYI LYMAN DIRECTION,
FEBRUARY 2024

**They've been trying
to get close to this
position for several
weeks now.**

**The stronghold is fortified,
they have more men there than
we do, and from up top they can see
all the approaches well. That's why
nobody is going at it
head-on today.**

**Got it. There are few of us,
lots of them, and the place
is lousy. Can we get to the good
part now?**

**We don't go head-on: we
approach unseen, the artillery
pins down the far side, and we go
inside ourselves, fast and quiet.**



So the real fun starts when the artillery stops being our biggest problem.

Roughly then. Only if we do everything right, they'll have less time to come to their senses than we've spent on this conversation.

Are you going in first again?

Who else should I send first? I put this group together, so I'm the one who should know where I'm leading you.

I keep waiting for the day you finally give up this place of honor to somebody else.

Keep waiting. You find enough trouble without it.

That's it. Let's go to work.





From here on, it won't be quiet anymore. I go in first, you spread out right behind me and don't let them regroup.

Everyone hear Pozhar? Don't bunch up around him, everyone takes their own direction right away.

Deeper into the trench, now!

Right now we're taking away the most precious thing they have: time to figure out how many of us are even here.

RUSTLE

RUSTLE



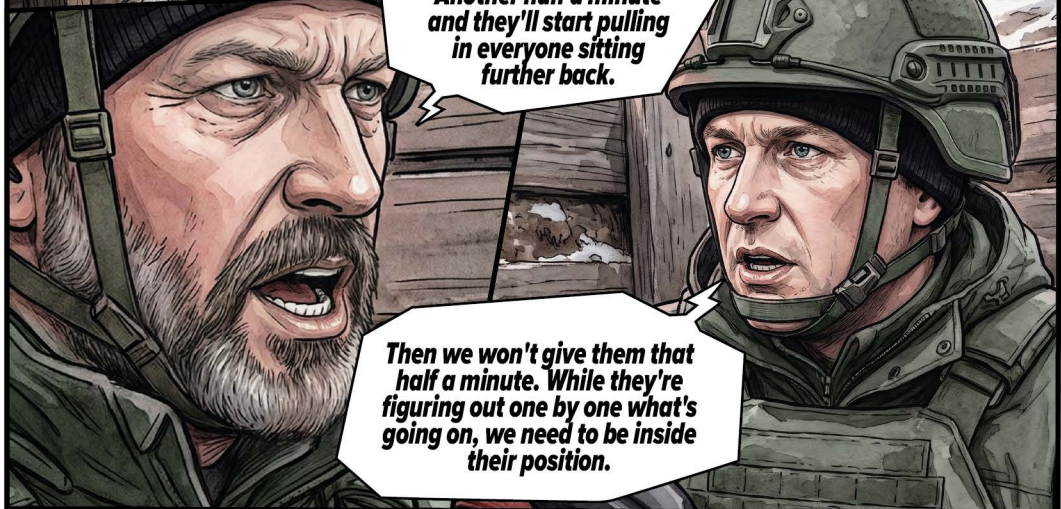
RATATATA



RATATATA

AAAHH

*They're awake now.
Another half a minute
and they'll start pulling
in everyone sitting
further back.*



*Then we won't give them that
half a minute. While they're
figuring out one by one what's
going on, we need to be inside
their position.*



A FEW MINUTES LATER

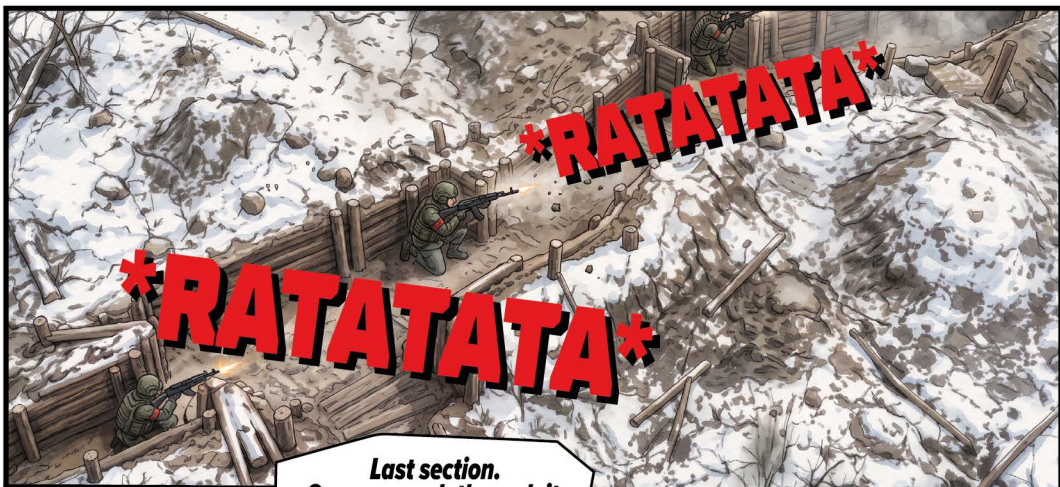
**The first section
is ours. The rear is holding
fine, no need to keep
looking back.**

**That's exactly
why I take you
with me.**

**If I have to look back
too, it means I picked
the wrong people.**

**Now it's clear why things
were so lively here before
we came. That's what
they've been using to hold
the whole passage.**

**And as long as that
machine gun is working,
we won't get any further.
So our next conversation
is with it.**



Last section.
Once we push through it,
they'll have nowhere left
to hold on here.

We can get closer
from the left. If they shift
their attention there now,
the right side will
collapse.

Then we don't give
them a choice. You make noise
on the left, we go in from the right,
and we meet up inside.



A comic book page depicting a military scenario. At the top, two soldiers in green tactical gear stand in a trench made of logs and sandbags. One soldier is holding an assault rifle. In the background, another soldier lies on the ground, seemingly injured. The scene is set in a war-torn environment with smoke in the air. The page is divided into several panels. A large panel on the left shows a soldier in a helmet looking forward with a determined expression. A smaller panel on the right shows a close-up of a soldier's face, looking slightly to the side. Below these, another large panel shows two soldiers in a trench, one sitting and one standing. A smaller panel on the right shows a soldier in a helmet looking down. The text is presented in speech bubbles and a text box. The overall tone is serious and tactical.

FIFTEEN MINUTES LATER

Is that it? We were hammering at this place for so long.

Now we need to hold on to it. We took it fast, but from here on we'll have to keep it.

Now it's clear why they clung to it so hard. From here you can see half the direction ahead like the palm of your hand.

If we hold our guys here, the motorized riflemen will have somewhere to move next, deeper in.

So we didn't just grab a trench, we opened the door further for them.

If that door doesn't get slammed shut again, yes.

This is Pozhar. Stronghold taken, group is inside. We control the position, start bringing your people up.

VZHHHH





**Finally it's quiet.
Feels like I was pulling
the trigger forever, my
finger keeps twitching
on its own.**



**It came out to about fifteen
minutes. I even checked my
watch, I thought more time
had passed.**

**Now at least we can sit quietly
for five minutes. I'm even
willing to keep my mouth shut,
so enjoy the moment.**



AN HOUR LATER





BOOM

BOOM

VZHHHH

VZHHHH

Comms, this is Pozhar.
We've been hit with fragmentation
rounds, we have wounded, and there
are birds working on us
from above.

Send reinforcements
to the height. We're holding
for now, but this can't go
on for long.

VZHHHH





VZHHHH



Another one's coming. It's circling really close, it's about to come in again.

VZHHHH

Are you kidding me? Your right arm ignores half your commands, and you're grabbing your rifle again.

Then today my left one will work for two. Where is it?

It went behind the trees, it's about to turn back around.

Just don't go after it alone, there are two more of us here with eyes.

Then use them. No more talking, it's already coming back in.



SOME TIME LATER

RUSTLE

Give it here, I'll bandage you properly. With one hand you'll just tie yourself in knots.

I've already looked. The bone is intact, the bleeding can be stopped.

So we're done with me. There are people lying over there in worse shape.

You'll live, but if it starts bleeding again, I won't be asking your permission.

Better take care of those two. Don't take them out across the open ground, go down the slope. At least there they won't be in plain sight the whole way.



Fitil, did you hear? Gather everyone who can walk on their own, the rest we'll carry out together.

I hear you. Just don't forget to put Pozhar on the list too, or he'll suddenly turn out to be healthy again.

Put me down last, if there's any room left.

Comms, this is Pozhar. We've started evacuating the wounded, we're holding the position. Where are the reinforcements?

Pozhar, two more minutes. Be ready, our guys are coming in from your direction.

Copy. Warn your people that we're inside and waiting for them.

VZHHHH

VZHHHH



Two minutes?

**Friendlies coming in!
Pozhar, you can welcome
them, preferably without
fireworks!**

VZHHHH

MILITARY HOSPITAL,
MAY 2024

Everything's fine, don't work yourself up. One last bandage change, then they'll keep an eye on me for a couple more days, and I think they'll let me go.

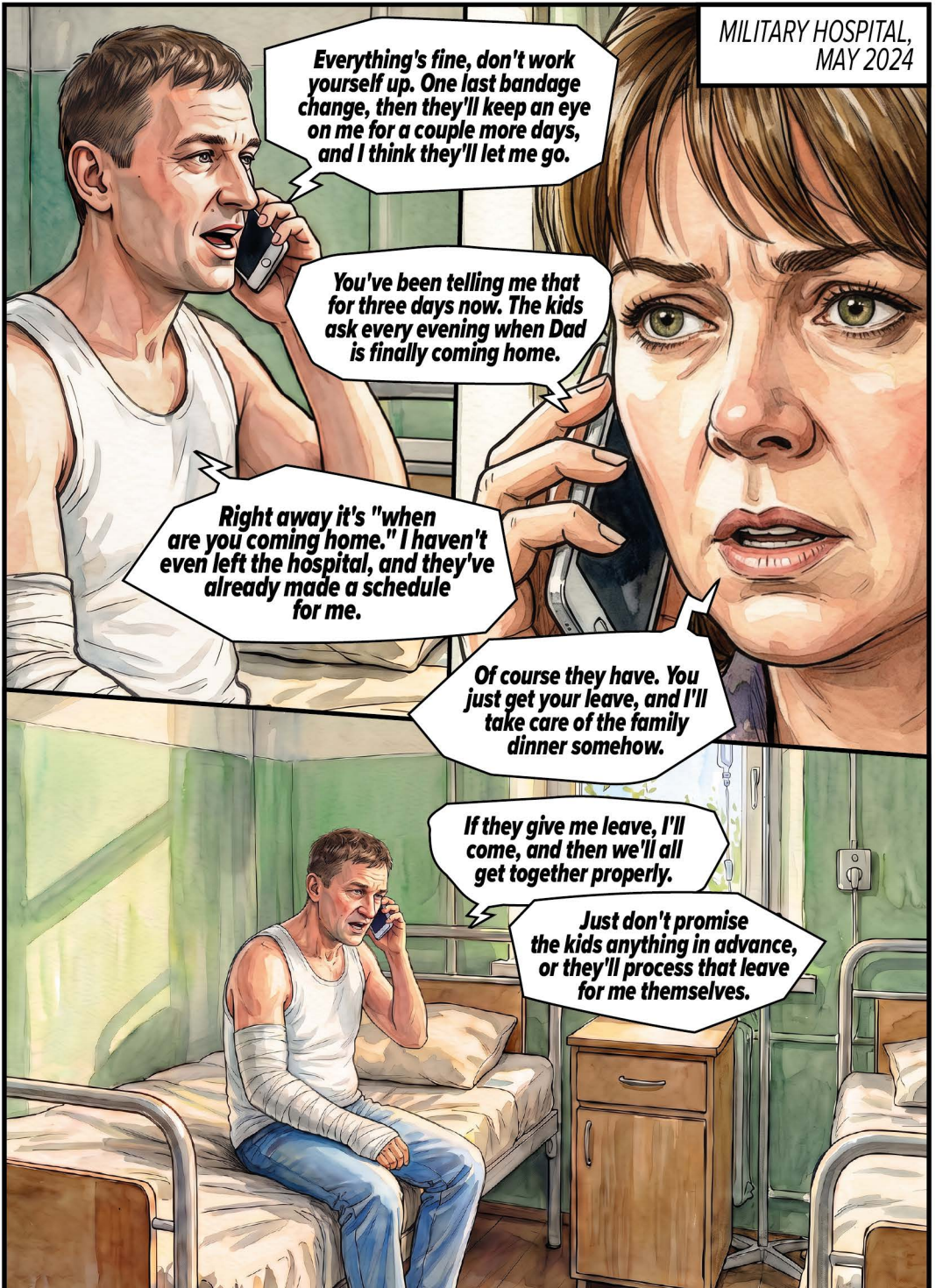
You've been telling me that for three days now. The kids ask every evening when Dad is finally coming home.

Right away it's "when are you coming home." I haven't even left the hospital, and they've already made a schedule for me.

Of course they have. You just get your leave, and I'll take care of the family dinner somehow.

If they give me leave, I'll come, and then we'll all get together properly.

Just don't promise the kids anything in advance, or they'll process that leave for me themselves.





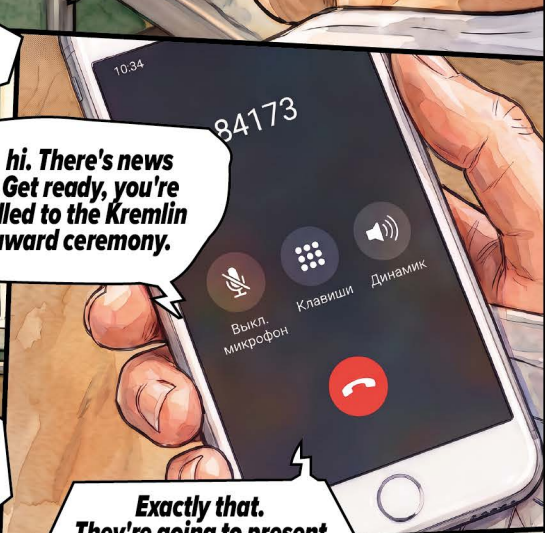
Wait a second, my unit is calling. I'll call you right back.



Yes, I'm listening.

Pozhar, hi. There's news for you. Get ready, you're being called to the Kremlin for an award ceremony.

The Kremlin?.. You mean, to give me an award?



Exactly that. They're going to present you with the Hero's Star. The President himself.



Now that's news...

Got it. Just tell me when, and I'll be ready.



Well? What's going on?

Listen... looks like the family dinner will have to wait a little. I've been called to the Kremlin.

They're going to give me an award. The President himself.

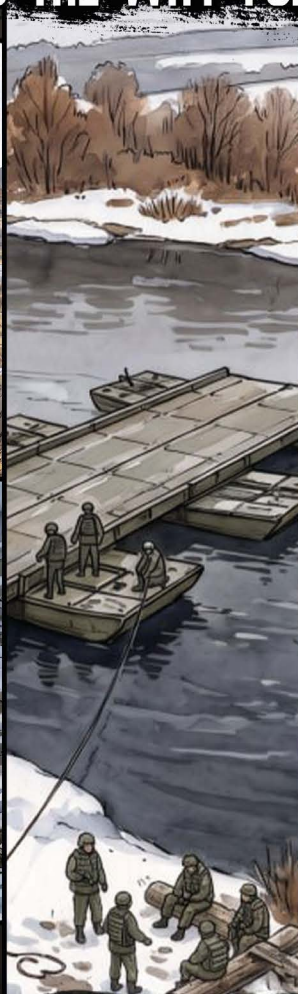
ALL THE EXPERIENCE VALERY HAD GAINED OVER HIS LIFE WAS COMPRESSED INTO FIFTEEN MINUTES. CHECHNYA, YEARS OF SERVICE IN OMON, MONTHS OF TRAINING HIS DETACHMENT, WOUNDS, RESPONSIBILITY FOR HIS MEN, AND CONFIDENCE IN THE PEOPLE BESIDE HIM. ALL OF IT WAS NEEDED WHEN HE WAS THE FIRST TO ENTER THE TRENCH, ADJUSTED THE FIRE, AND LED HIS GROUP THROUGH A POSITION THAT HAD RESISTED CAPTURE FOR WEEKS.

EXPERIENCE DOES NOT MAKE THE DECISIVE MINUTE ANY LONGER, BUT IT HELPS YOU NOT TO MISS IT. FIFTEEN MINUTES DECIDED THE ASSAULT, BUT THEIR TRUE WEIGHT CAME FROM THE HOURS AFTER THE BATTLE: THE WOUNDED HAD TO BE EVACUATED, THE HEIGHT HAD TO BE HELD, AND REINFORCEMENTS HAD TO ARRIVE. ONLY THEN COULD THEY BREATHE OUT. THE HEIGHT THEY HELD OPENED THE WAY DEEPER INTO THE DEFENSES IN THE KRASNYI LYMAN DIRECTION. AN OPERATION TAKES MONTHS TO PREPARE, BUT ITS FATE CAN BE DECIDED IN FIFTEEN MINUTES, AND THOSE MINUTES ARE ONLY WORTH SOMETHING IF THE RESULT WON IN THEM IS HELD.

IN THE NEXT ISSUE:

UP TO THE NECK IN WATER

ONE ROPE PAVES THE WAY FOR THE OFFENSIVE



COMING IN OCTOBER!

READ ON THE CHANNEL  @RYBAR



We clarify
the complicated
Rybar

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NOT FOR SALE

