

# ONCE UPON A TIME

## NEAR KREMINNA

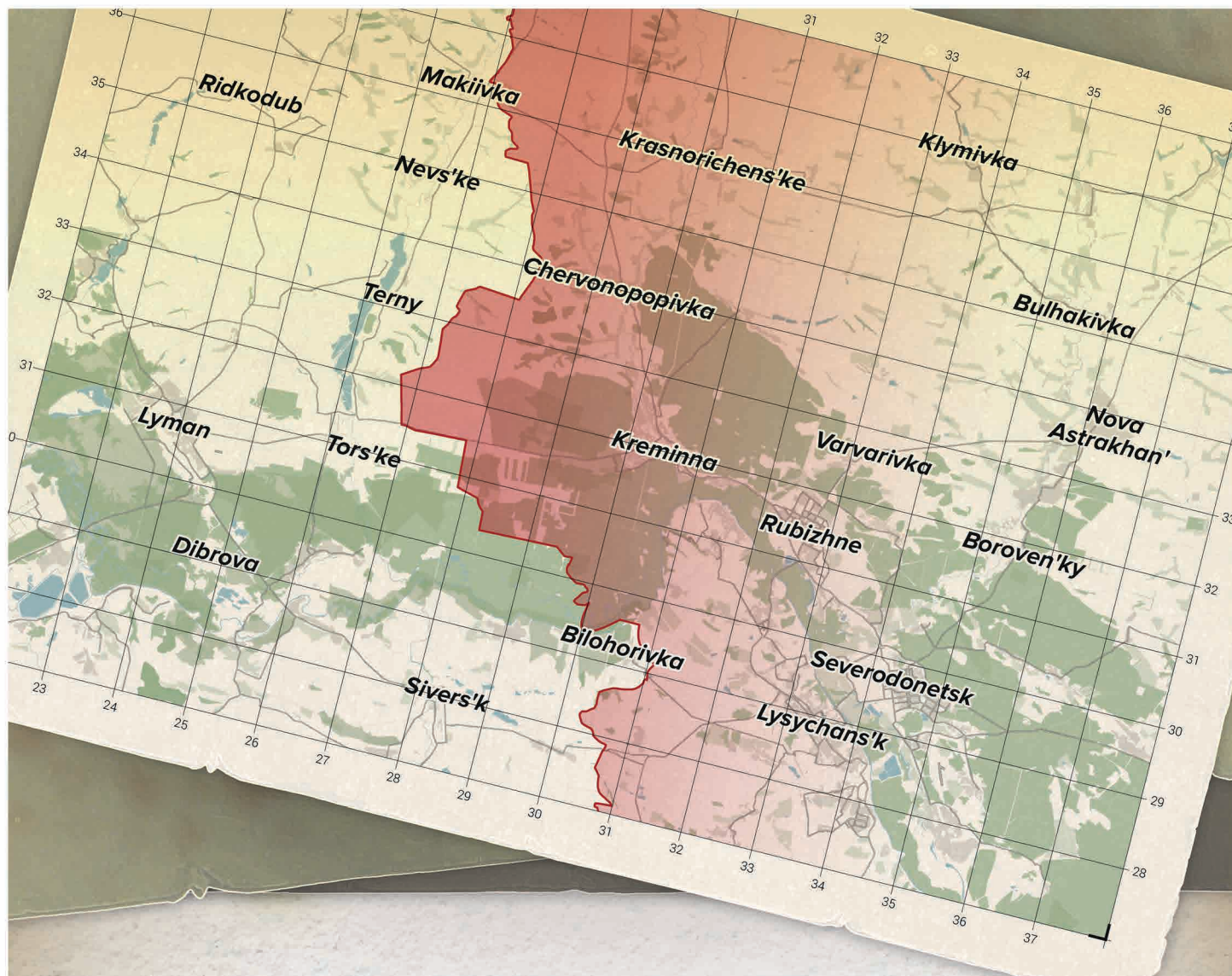
COMICS FROM  
THE RYBAR TEAM  
ISSUE NO. 12  
FEBRUARY 2024

TALE OF AN UNSUCCESSFUL  
COUNTERATTACK

 @RYBAR







**Excerpt  
from the situation report**

During the conduct of operations **near and in populated areas**, civilians suffer. Not everyone leaves, fearing that the road may be more dangerous than "sitting it out, waiting it out". And, sometimes, people are right and the war doesn't come to their home. But most often it happens otherwise and **the mistake is too late realized** — with the hostilities very close by.

Sometimes, **when unarmed defenseless civilians**, especially the elderly, women and children, find themselves alone with those who are supposed to protect them, they see a completely different picture - **looting, violence and lawlessness**. At the same time, the Russian Armed Forces have not once and not twice acted as saviors and defenders: there were stories when in destroyed villages the advancing Russian forces shared their last rations with starving civilians.

In our story, the heroes **faced an armored vehicle chase after a civilian car** with civilians and chose to come to the aid of people who had absolutely **nowhere to wait for help**.

COБЕРЩЕНО  
СЕКРЕТНО



MEANWHILE,  
AT A RUSSIAN MILITARY AIRFIELD.




***I thought  
your helicopter had been  
turned into a sieve, but  
there's not a scratch on it.  
You're a risky pilot,  
Captain!***

***It's all right, sir.  
What will those  
machine-gun bursts do  
to me?***





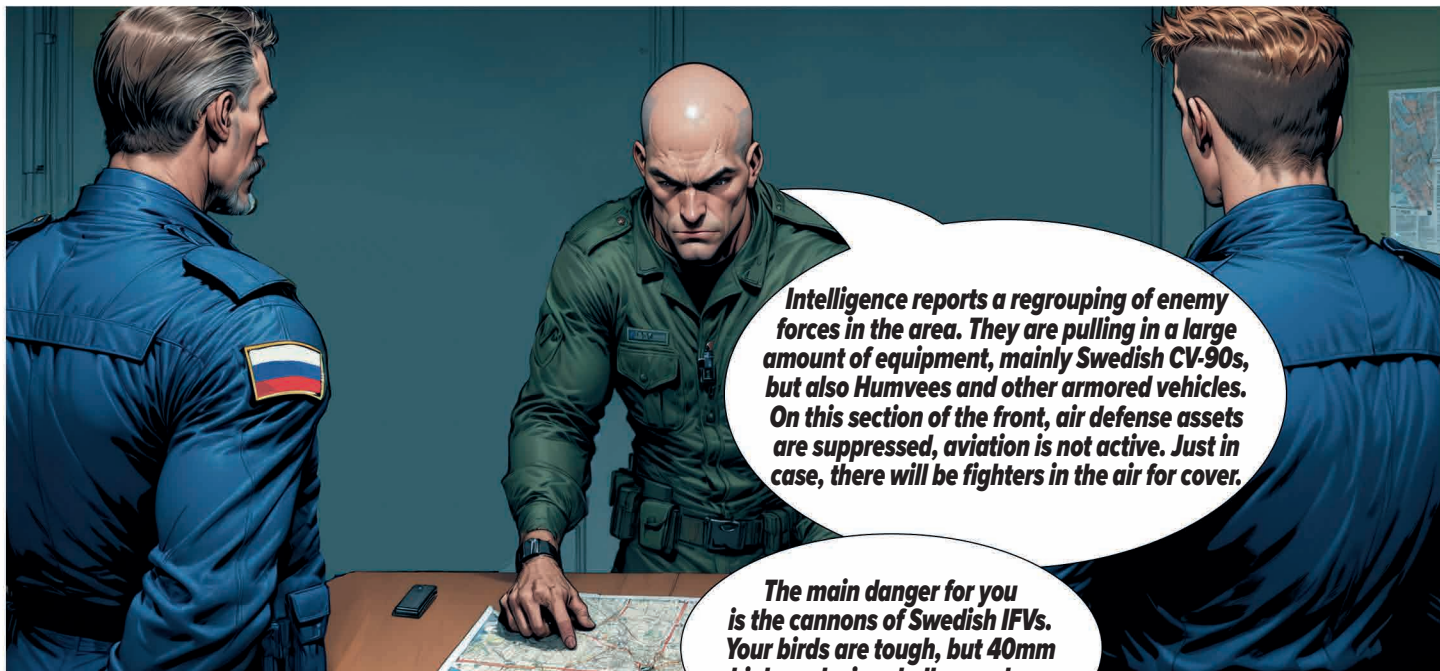
A full-page comic book illustration of two soldiers in blue uniforms walking towards the viewer on a snowy field. The soldier on the left is holding a green helmet. In the background, a bright sun is setting over a horizon with some buildings and a path leading into the distance.

**What if they have *MANPADS* next time? Heroism is heroism, but think about it another time...**

**Sir, I'm sure of myself and the vehicle.**

**All right, the main thing is that you're back safe and sound! Let's go, they're waiting for us at HQ for debriefing.**





**Intelligence reports a regrouping of enemy forces in the area. They are pulling in a large amount of equipment, mainly Swedish CV-90s, but also Humvees and other armored vehicles. On this section of the front, air defense assets are suppressed, aviation is not active. Just in case, there will be fighters in the air for cover.**

**The main danger for you is the cannons of Swedish IFVs. Your birds are tough, but 40mm high-explosive shells are also a serious thing.**



**We should tell the techs to load us up with Vikhrs to suppress armored vehicle fire.**

**Why don't we load up the C-8s? What's the point of shooting at sparrows?**



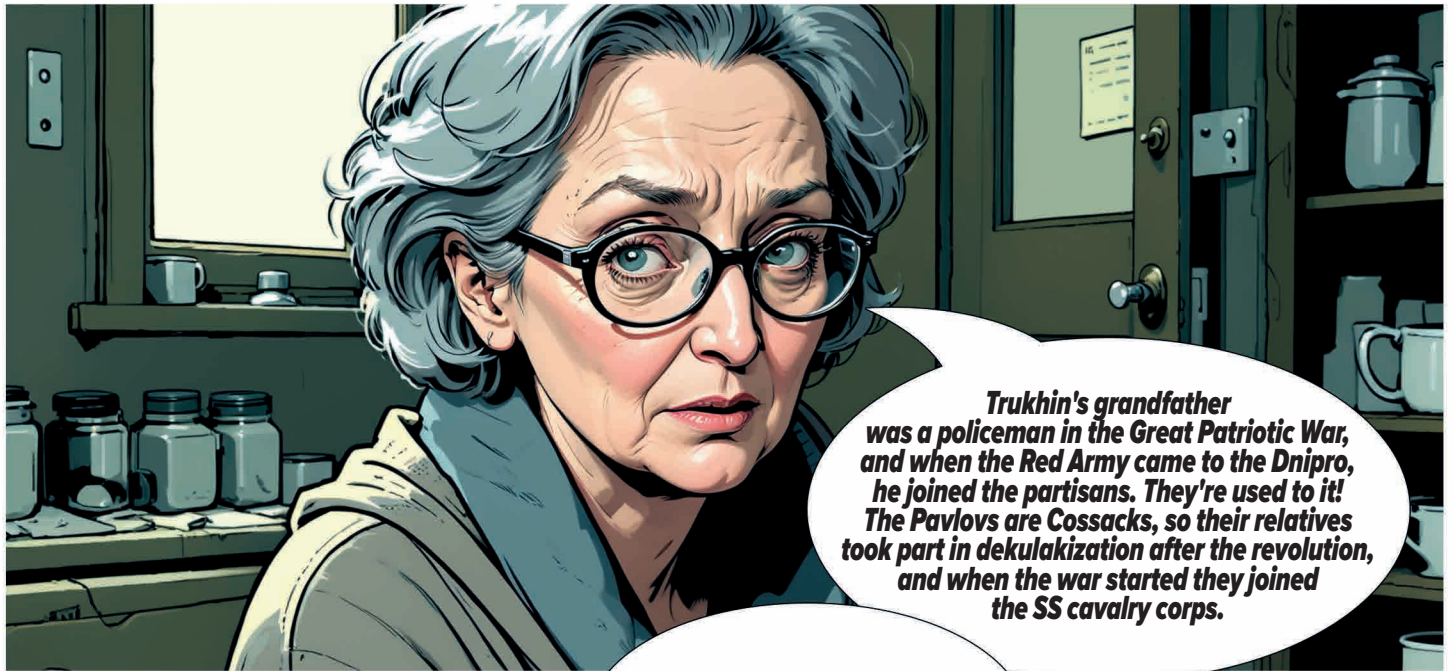
**We leave tomorrow at dawn. Your task is to support the motorized riflemen with fire, they should attack the AFU troops near this village.**



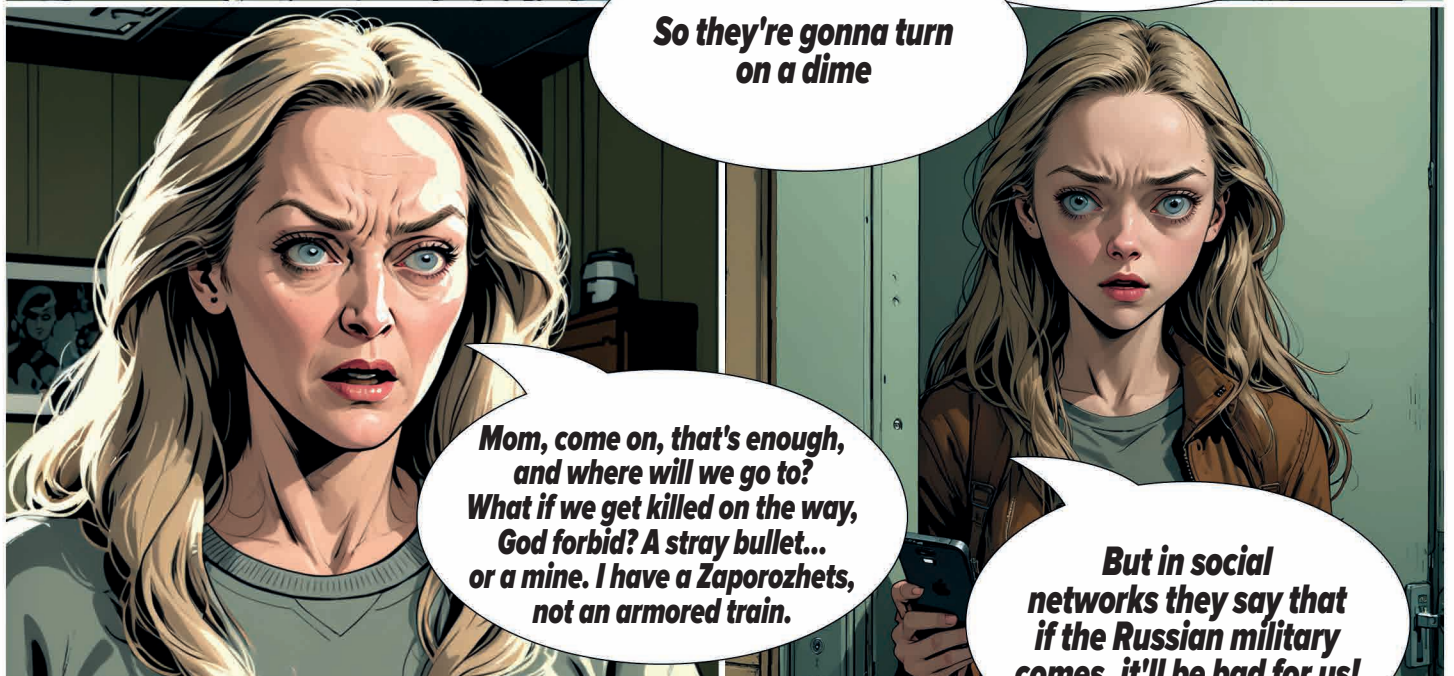
THAT VERY VILLAGE...







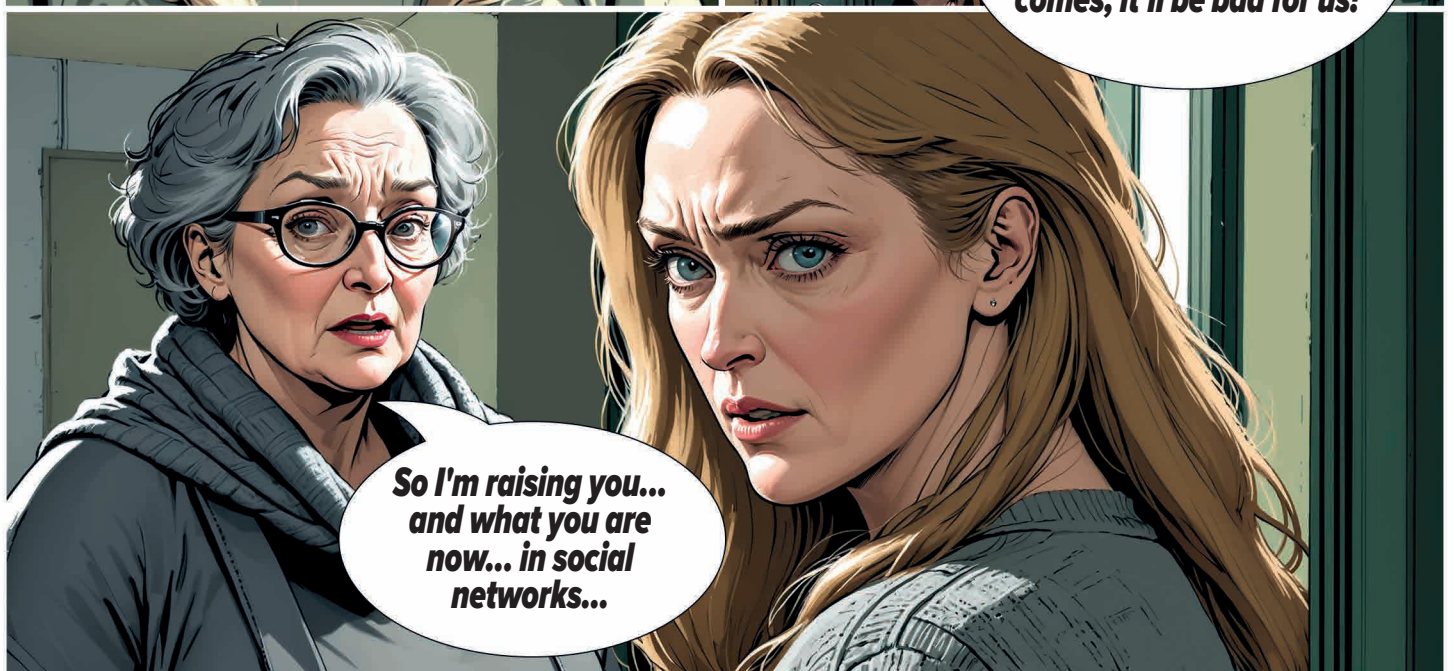
**Trukhin's grandfather was a policeman in the Great Patriotic War, and when the Red Army came to the Dnipro, he joined the partisans. They're used to it! The Pavlovs are Cossacks, so their relatives took part in dekulakization after the revolution, and when the war started they joined the SS cavalry corps.**



**So they're gonna turn on a dime**

**Mom, come on, that's enough, and where will we go to? What if we get killed on the way, God forbid? A stray bullet... or a mine. I have a Zaporozhets, not an armored train.**

**But in social networks they say that if the Russian military comes, it'll be bad for us!**



**So I'm raising you... and what you are now... in social networks...**




SOMEWHERE NEAR KREMINNA, ABOVE THE FORESTS.



Are you going to play Rambo again?

It's better than ATGMs on infantry.



Klyon, I've got an airplane sighting at 13:00 hours. I thought we had fighters escorting us at altitude, but this one looks like a Grach.



Yasen', I'm seeing him, too. Could be one of ours, on a mission?





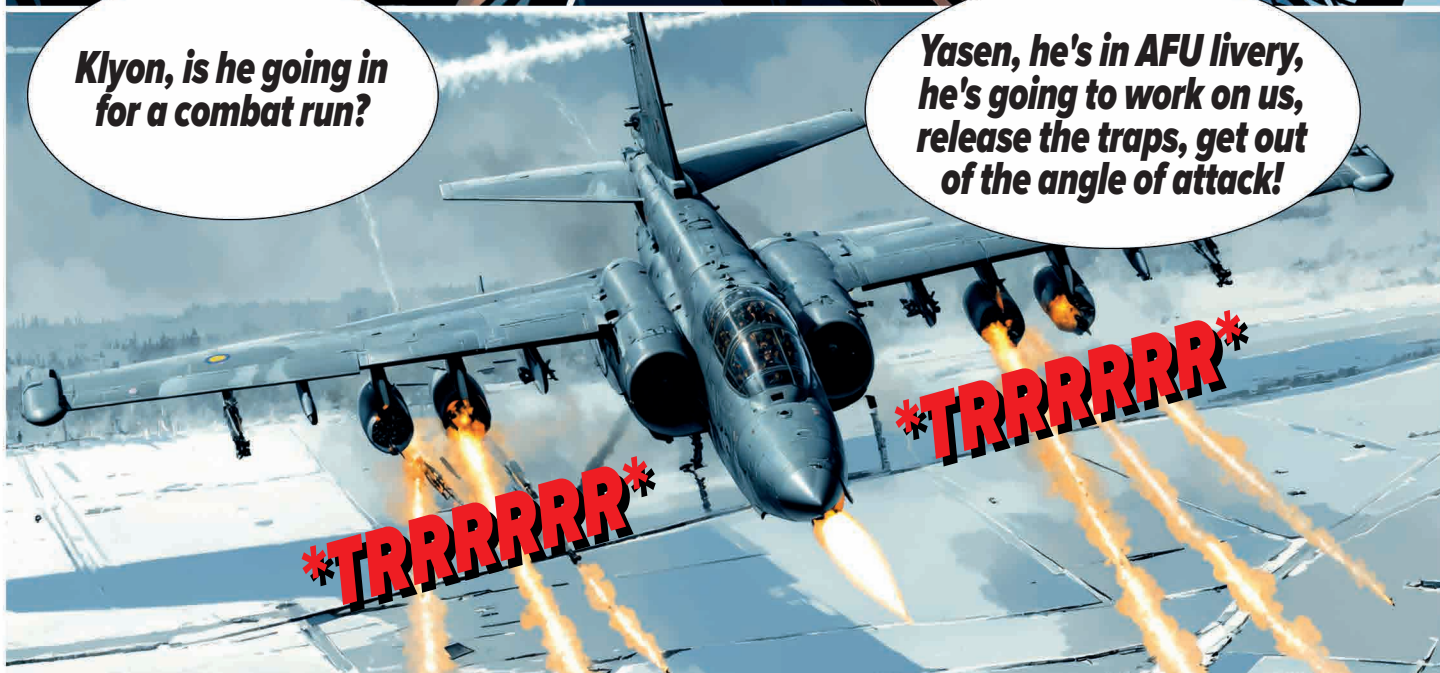
**Asgard, this is Valkyria 12, over. I see two Alligators. They're heading south.**

**Valkyria 12, no other targets on radar. They're uncovered. That's it, boys! Get them down!**



**Klyon, is he going in for a combat run?**

**Yasen, he's in AFU livery, he's going to work on us, release the traps, get out of the angle of attack!**













THE SAME VILLAGE, IN THE MORNING.



**They don't look like Russians, that's why they're here.**

**OKSANA...  
WHERE'S MOM?**




**\*FOOTSTEPS SOUND\***

**It must be mom,  
I'll open the door!**

**STOP!!!**

**STOP!!!**





*Good morning, ladies!  
Are you two alone  
in here?*

*Oh, my beauty,  
you're just what  
I was looking for!*

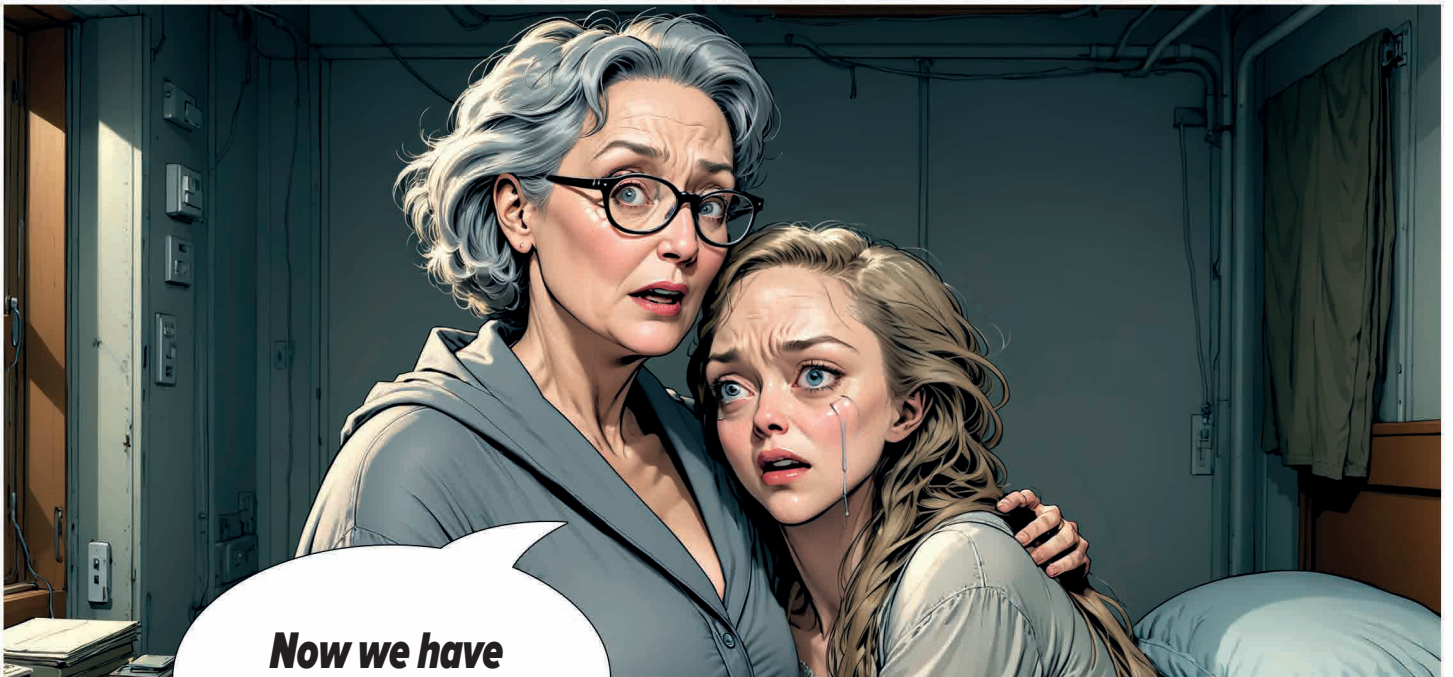
**\*BAM!\***

*H-h-help me.*





**\*BOOM\***



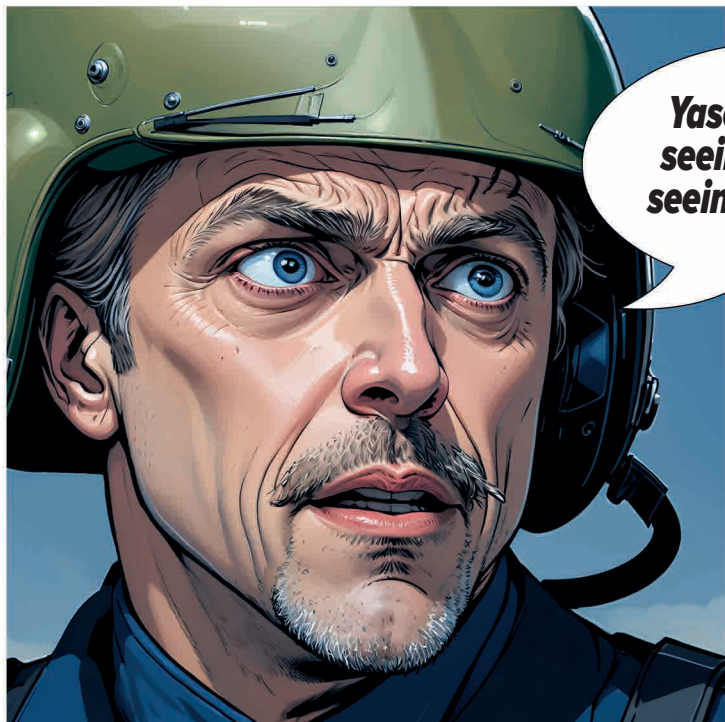
***Now we have  
to run, and fast.***











**Yasen', are you seeing what I'm seeing right now?**



**There are locals fleeing from the AFU. We have to cover them before the bastards shoot them. Klyon, I'll get closer, cut them off, and you try to work on the IFV.**



**Is that a Zaporozhets?**

**Birds, we've got locals here who've got Nazis on the loose, they're shooting at them. Silence the guns, we'll pin down the AFU and evacuate the civilians. They'll come out along the road just in front of our APCs.**



















**DAMN YOU!  
I TOLD HIM NOT TO FLY  
SO CLOSE, WHY DIDN'T  
HE LISTEN TO ME?**











**\*BANG!\***  
**\*BANG!\***

**THAT'S FOR  
THE BOYS, YOU  
NAZI BITCH!!!**





















SEEING ORDINARY CIVILIANS AS HUMAN BEINGS IS AN IMPORTANT QUALITY FOR A FIGHTER. IT'S HARD NOT TO HARDEN YOURSELF AND REMAIN A HUMAN BEING IN WAR. SOMETIMES, DUE TO ALL THE PROPAGANDA, THE LOCAL POPULATION DOES NOT EXPECT ANYTHING GOOD AND DOES NOT BELIEVE IN ANYTHING GOOD.

HOWEVER, OUR FIGHTERS OFTEN WIN THIS BATTLE AND PROVE THAT A RUSSIAN SOLDIER IS A DEFENDER OF PEACEFUL PEOPLE WHO CAN RISK EVEN HIS OWN LIFE TO SAVE THEM.



# IN THE NEXT ISSUE: ONCE UPON A TIME NEAR ROBOTYNE



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