

# ONCE UPON A TIME NEAR STAROMAYORSKE

COMICS FROM  
THE RYBAR TEAM  
ISSUE NO. 49  
JUNE 2025

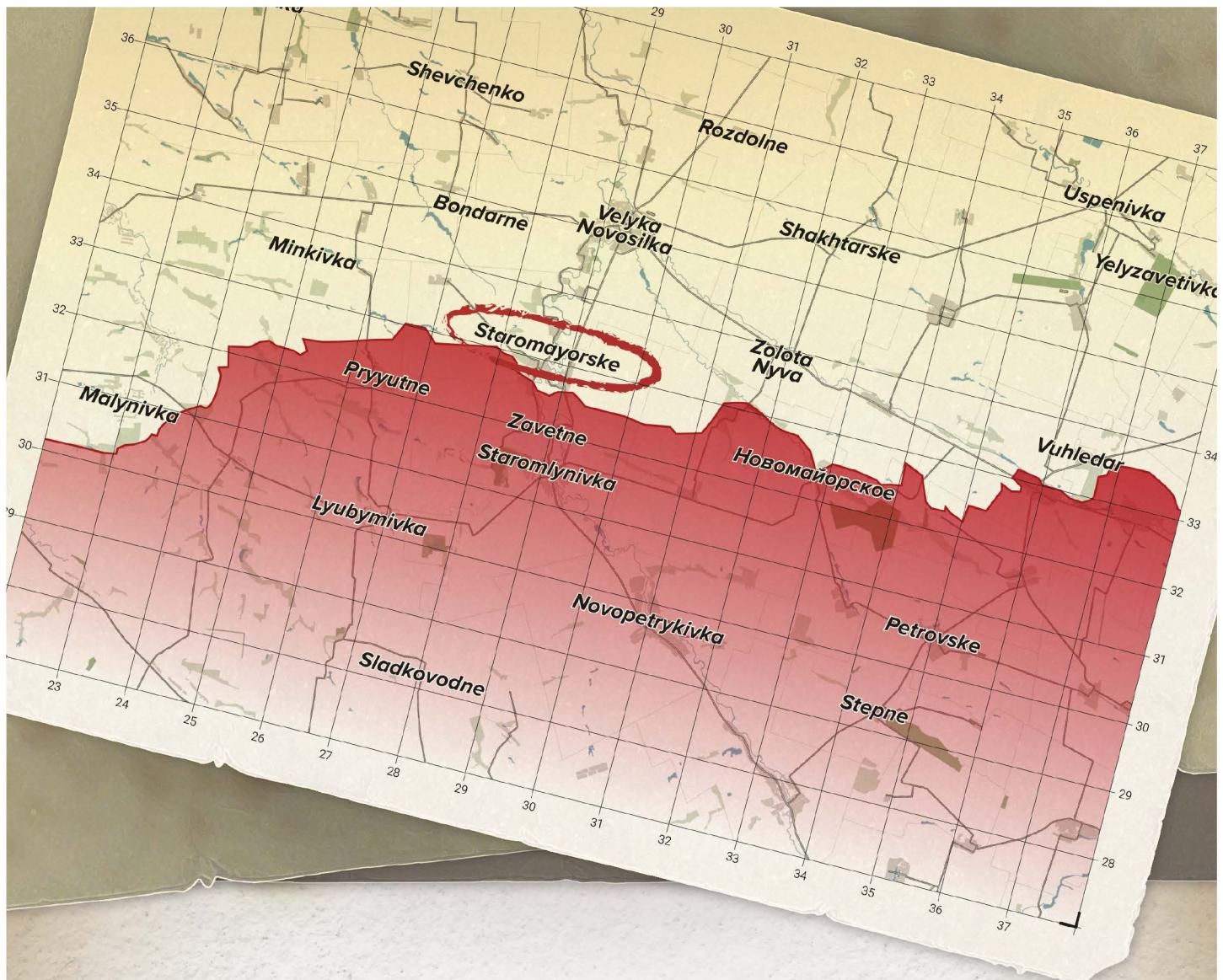


ADVENTURES IN COUNTRY-404



 @RYBAR





### Excerpt from the operational report

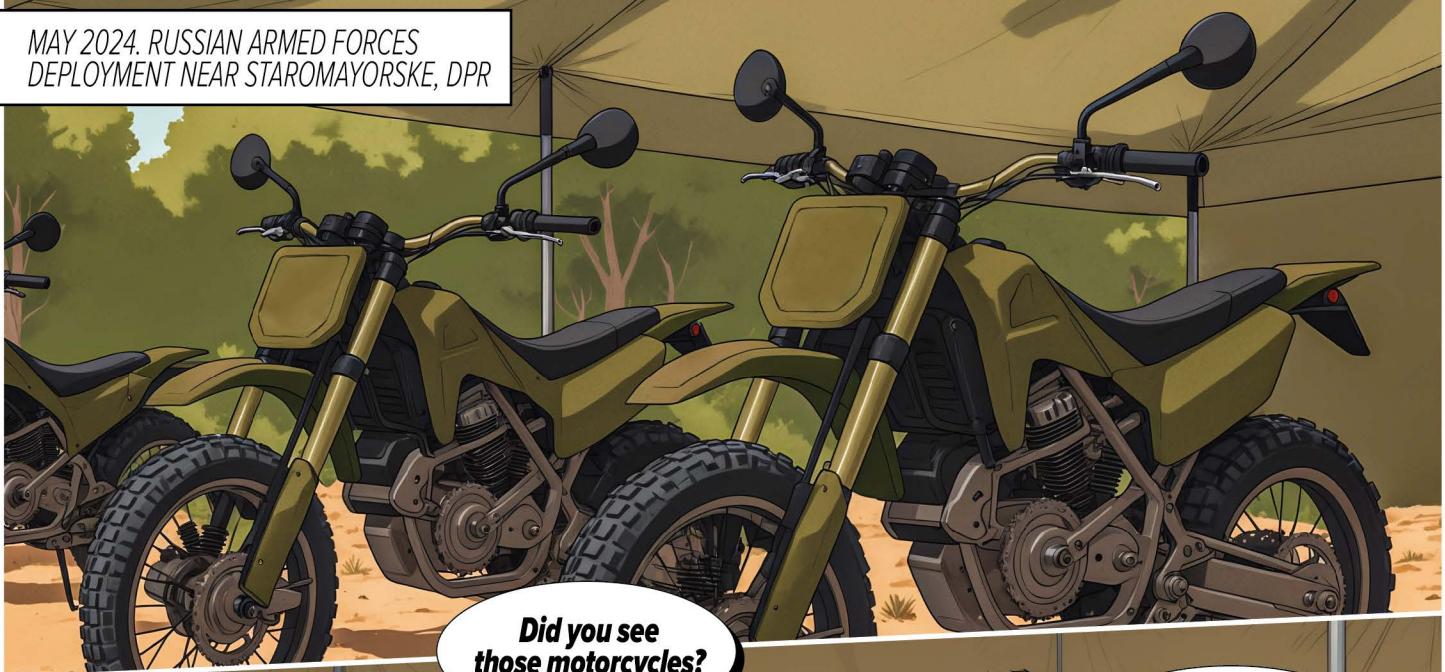
**May 2024, DPR. The Russian army storms the village of Staromayorske. Fighters Dobry (Kind) and Samara join the motorcycle battalion. Dobry, cheerful and eager, is excited to get on a bike; the grim Samara agrees to come just to keep him company. On the training ground, Dobry struggles with the controls, while Samara unexpectedly reveals a talent for riding. After training, the command gives them a real mission: distract enemy artillery while the main group maneuvers around.**

**During the raid, explosions separate the friends. Dobry breaks through an enemy strongpoint but loses radio contact with Samara, calling out to him all night. The next day, their comrades assume Samara is dead. Meanwhile, Samara, thrown by the blast into the bushes, regains consciousness—without water, with a dead radio. Concussed and on the verge of despair, he musters his strength and starts moving toward friendly lines.**

**A week later, Dobry returns to the unit, mourning deeply. Samara's dog refuses to eat, as if grieving too. And then, a shout: "Samara's back!" He returns alive and tells the story of his survival, amazing the unit with the incredible luck of this grumpy, perpetually disgruntled soldier.**

СОВЕРШЕННО  
СЕКРЕТНО

MAY 2024. RUSSIAN ARMED FORCES  
DEPLOYMENT NEAR STAROMAYORSKE, DPR



Did you see  
those motorcycles?



Yeah.  
Look kinda flimsy.

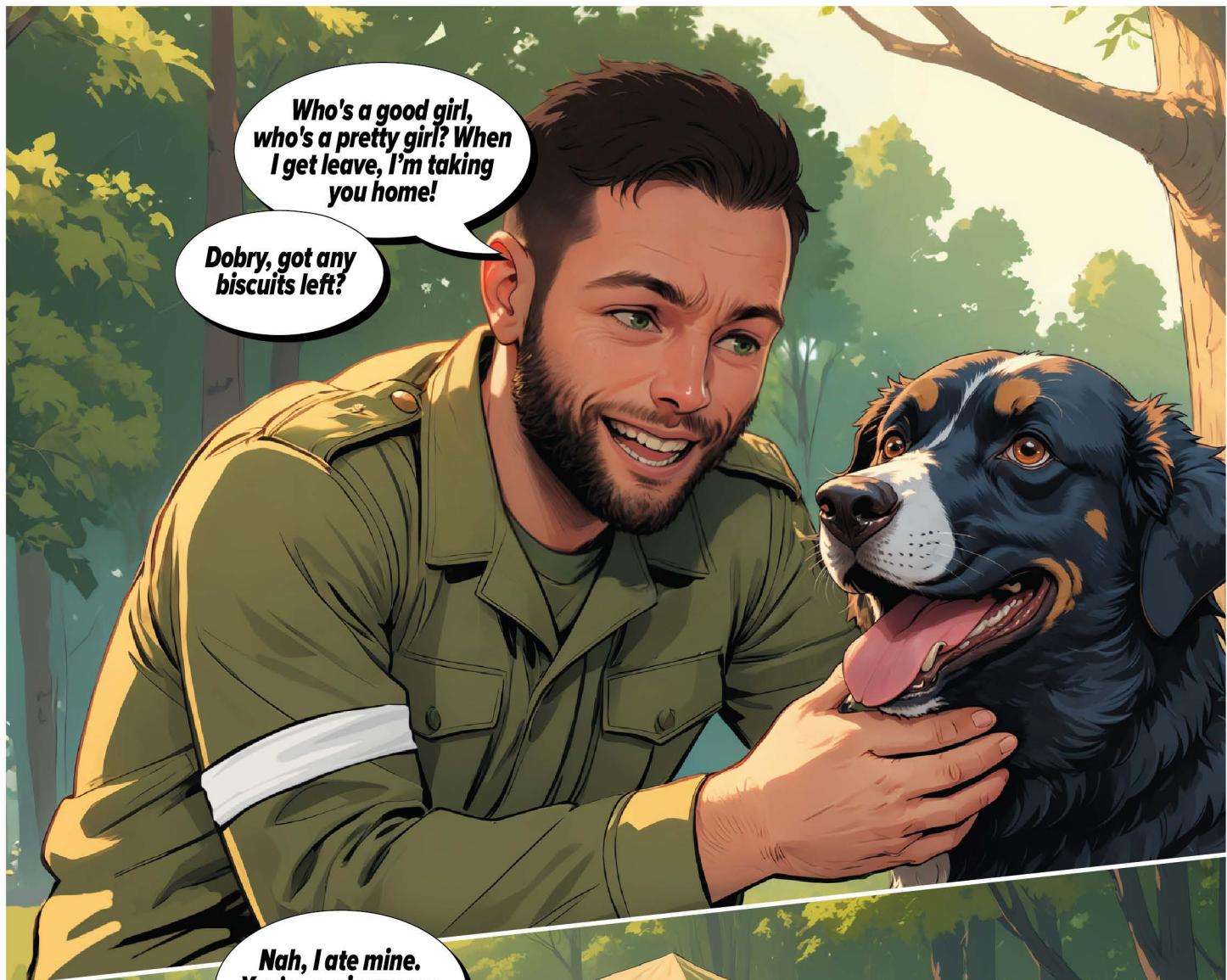
They're  
awesome...  
motocross ones.

You know  
about bikes?

Knew a bit as a kid...  
but can't ride at all.

Look, Dobry,  
she's doing "please"!







We're forming a motor group, who's up for riding bikes? Volunteers??

Me!

Why's he always  
rushing in, everything  
was fine!

Samara,  
you joining your  
buddy in the moto  
unit?

Fine,  
me too.



Guys, you're not just  
motor riflemen now, you're  
moto-motor riflemen!

Riflemen  
squared! Ha! Time to hit  
the training grounds!

Would've been  
better in a buggy –  
at least it has a roof.

We'll roast  
those "unbrothers"  
anyway!

MAY 2024, SOMEWHERE IN DPR.  
RUSSIAN MOD TRAINING GROUND

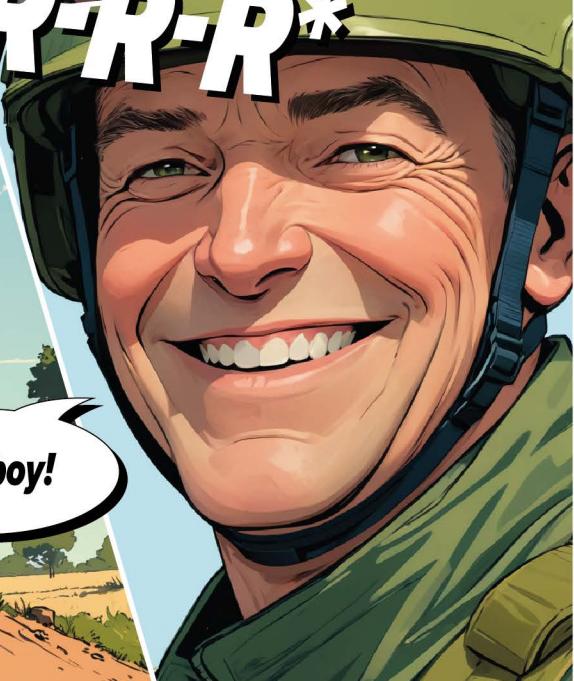
\*VR-R-R-R\*

\*VR-R-R-R\*

Clutch,  
clutch!

I'm a racer!





EARLY JUNE 2024, RUSSIAN ARMED FORCES  
DEPLOYMENT NEAR STAROMAYORSKE

**Dobry and Samara  
go here to draw  
their artillery.**

**The rest flank  
through the tree line. We hit  
the trench with full  
surprise.**



GRAY ZONE NEAR STAROMAYORSKE











NEXT DAY.  
CAPTURED ENEMY STRONGPOINT

\*VZHHHH\*

You hear the drones  
outside? That's for you!  
Your own folks don't even  
spare you!

Want to wipe  
you out instead  
of being glad you  
made it!

Samara,  
Samara, it's Dobry,  
respond!

\*SHHHH\*



*Samara's  
radio's been dead  
for a while...*

**\*SHHHH\***

A WEEK LATER. RUSSIAN FORCES  
DEPLOYMENT NEAR STAROMAYORSKE

How could this  
happen, girl... how?

Wanna come  
with me?









A WEEK AGO.  
SAMARA'S MEMORY



***I saw bottles  
hanging on bushes!***

***I'd reach out,  
but couldn't grab  
them!***



***If it hadn't rained,  
I'd have died. Drank  
rainwater.***

***Radio died.  
No one would ever  
find me.***



**Then I thought,  
am I just gonna lie  
here and grumble till  
I die?**

**Really? I've still  
got arms and legs.  
Gotta move.**



*Then I figured where you guys would be — and started walking. Didn't care about drones, mines...*

*My head was spinning, legs wobbling.*



*I made it to allied troops. They didn't believe it — said, "How'd you cross a minefield?"*

*Then they brought me here.*

NOW



Eh, I'm a rifleman,  
but always took  
the No. 11 bus.

What's  
the 11 bus?

This!





IN THIS STORY, A MIRACLE HAPPENED: A SOLDIER SURVIVED A DIRECT HIT, MADE IT THROUGH A MINEFIELD. SUCH MIRACLES ARE BEYOND HUMAN WILL.

BUT WHAT IS UP TO A PERSON IS WHERE TO DIRECT THEIR WILL. IT'S UP TO THEM WHETHER THEY CAN STEEL THEIR RESOLVE AND DO SOMETHING HARD — RETURN FROM THE EDGE OF DEATH. OR, IN MEMORY OF A FRIEND, ADOPT HIS DOG.

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



COMING IN JUNE!

READ ON  @RYBAR



We clarify  
the complicated

 @RYBAR

NOT FOR SALE

