

# ONCE UPON A TIME

## IN NOVOHRYHORIVKA

COMICS FROM  
THE RYBAR TEAM  
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ADVENTURES IN COUNTRY-404

 @RYBAR





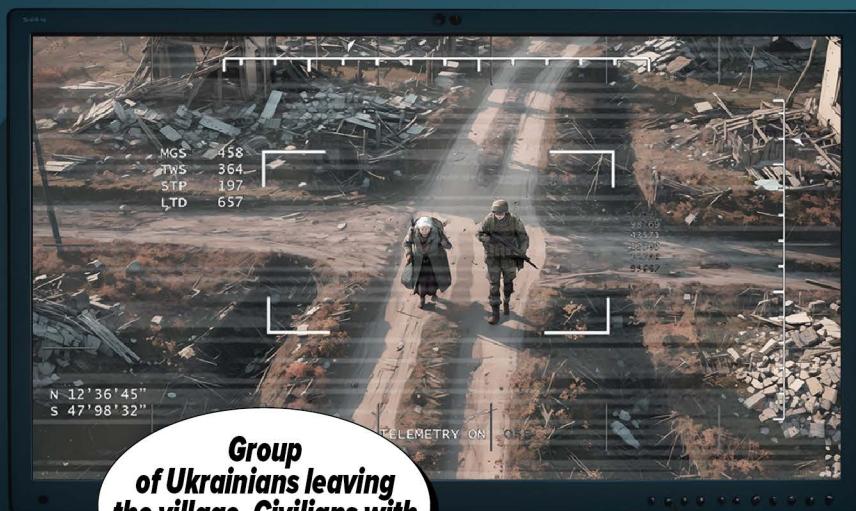
**In early October, Russian forces liberated the village of Novohryhorivka — a key position guarding the fortified area of the Ukrainian troops near Uspenivka. Despite fierce resistance, the battle was short. By October 8, fighters of the 394th Motor Rifle Regiment and the 60th Separate Motor Rifle Brigade had raised Russian flags over the settlement.**

**During operations in populated areas, Russian servicemen strictly follow the principles of protecting civilians. Unlike the enemy, who uses locals as human shields, our troops take every civilian into account — even when it makes the mission harder.**

**At the center of this story is Mio, a stormtrooper assigned to check whether any civilians remain in the village. Alone against five enemy soldiers, he must show both courage and cunning — the success of the entire operation depends on his choices.**

СОБЕРИТЕ  
СЕРПЕТНО

UAV CONTROL POST,  
RUSSIAN FORCES



**Group of Ukrainians leaving the village. Civilians with them.**

**They're walking... calmly.**

**\*PSH-SH\***

**Safari, keep observing. Check if there are any civilians left in the house.**

**Roger that. Continuing observation.**



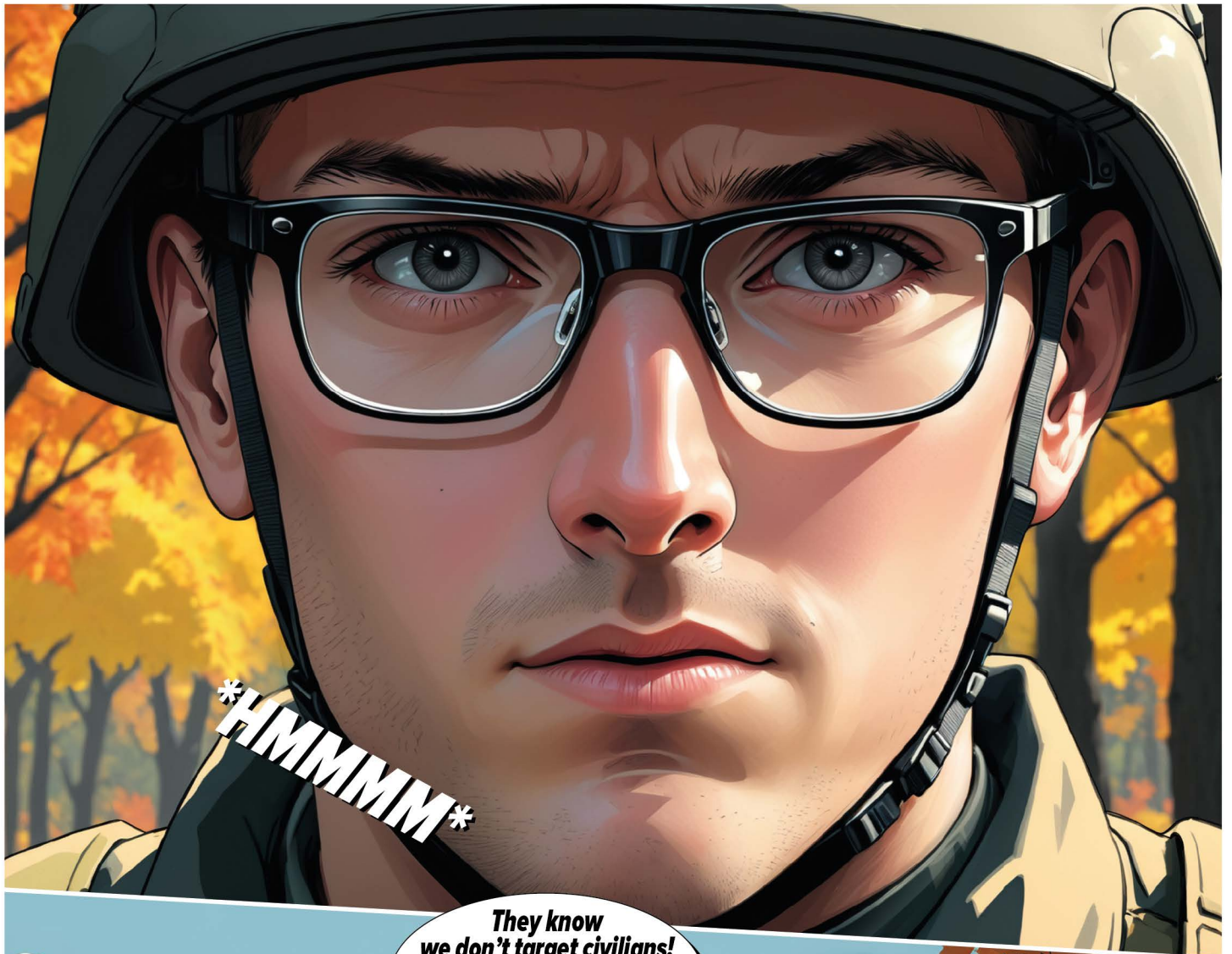
APPROACHES TO NOVOHRYHORIVKA,  
RUSSIAN POSITIONS



**Damn bastards...  
They're reporting a civilian  
group leaving the village  
under cover.**

**Marching  
like on parade. Not even  
trying to hide.**

**When  
we evacuate  
civilians, their drones strike  
our groups as if they were combat  
units. They know we don't shoot  
at civilians. Using them  
as shields. Cynical  
bastards.**



**\*HMMMM\***

**They know  
we don't target civilians!  
Using them as a human  
shield. And their drone  
operators...**



RUSSIAN HQ

**They've taken two out. But how many remain? We need the village, but can't storm it blind.**

**We need a volunteer for recon. Check if there are civilians in the houses.**

**Then act accordingly.**

**That's suicide...**

**I'll go.**

**Bold!**



**Why?**



**So we know  
for sure – to shoot or not.  
Better me alone than the  
whole company later.**



**Good.  
You'll have Safari  
watching from above. Come  
back alive.**

GRAY ZONE,  
APPROACHES TO NOVOHRYHORIVKA



NOVOHRYHORIVKA VILLAGE

*Here I am...*

*\*PSH-SH\**

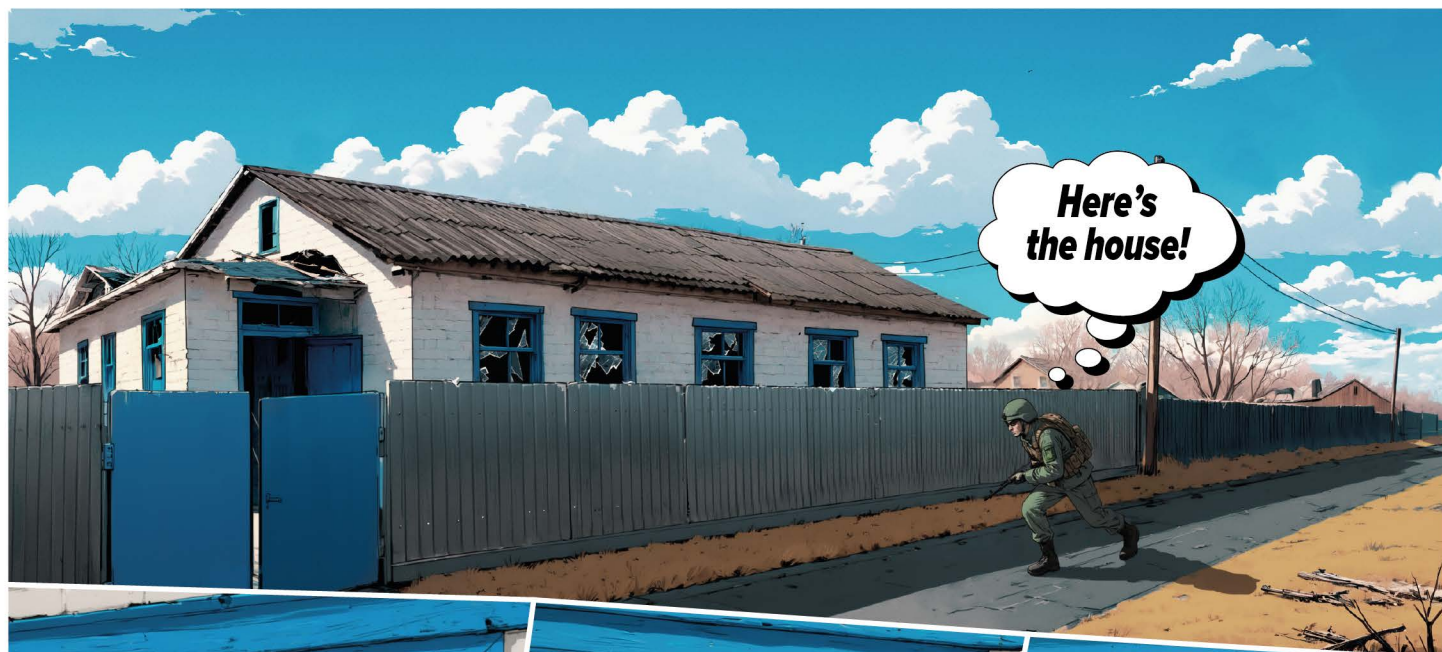
*Mio,  
Safari on comms.  
I see you. Welcome  
to hell.*

*Good to hear  
a voice. Been walking  
alone in silence.*

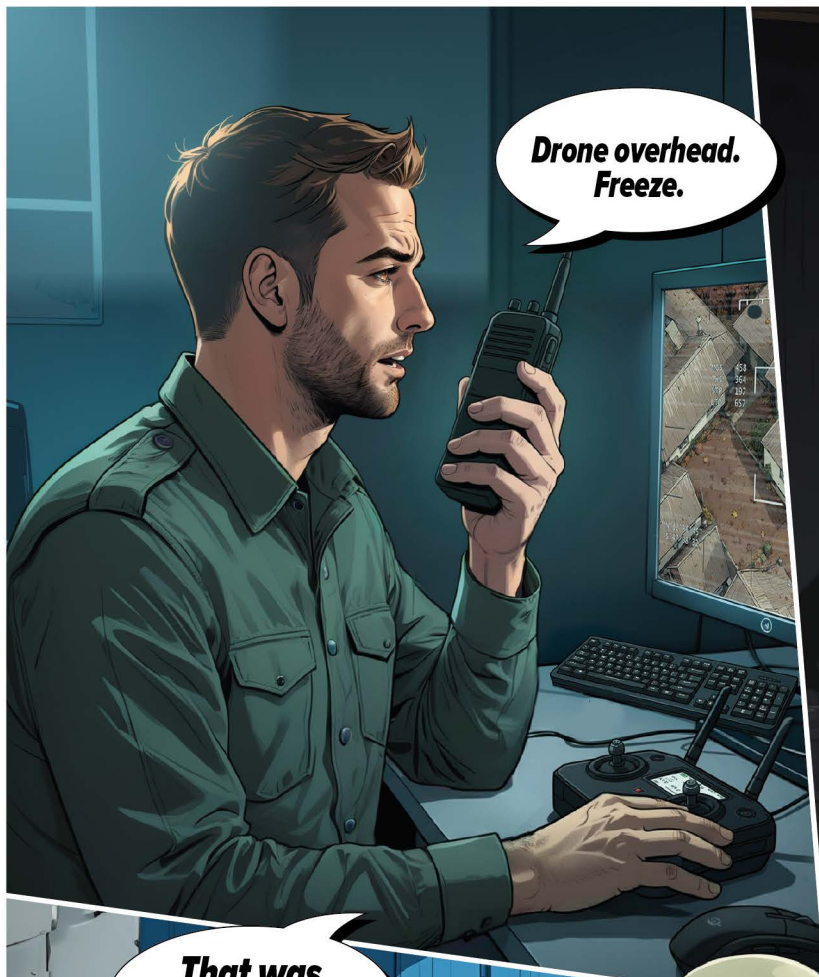


**Left side  
is clear. Move to the house  
with blue gates. Be careful —  
could be observers.**









**Drone overhead.  
Freeze.**



**\*VZHHHH\***



**That was  
close. All clear.**

**\*RUSTLE\***



Something interesting could be here. Or someone...



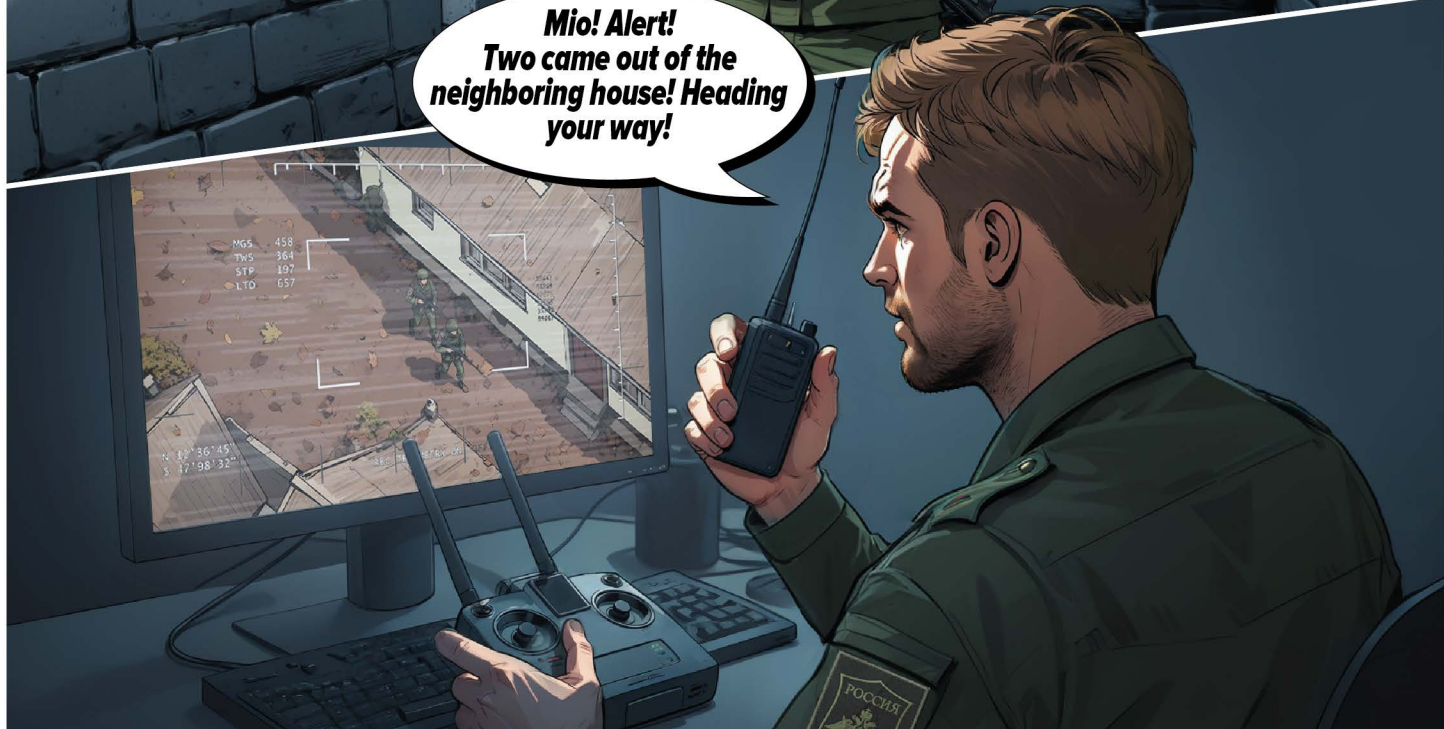
**\*STEP-STEP\***



**Basement empty. No civilians.**

**Moving to next house.**

**Mio! Alert! Two came out of the neighboring house! Heading your way!**



MGS 458  
TWS 364  
STP 197  
LTD 657

N 83° 36' 45"  
S 17° 08' 32"

8760-00

**\*STEP-STEP\***

Three  
in the courtyard. Two more  
from the alley. Total of five  
on site. Two moving towards  
the cellar.

Stay low,  
yard is empty.

**\*CREEEEAK\***

Need  
to check.



Although  
we were just  
here...

**\*CREEEEAK\***

Nobody.  
Dark as a grave.





**Attention.  
Sentry entering the house.  
All five inside.**





**\*BA-BOOM\***

**\*AAAHH\***

**\*BOOM\***





**Hit!  
Chaos inside! Get out,  
Mio!**

**They'll  
head through the gardens.  
I'll wait.**



**Hurry,  
to the gardens!**



**Three  
survivors... coming  
out of the house...  
heading to you.**



**I see them.**



**\*RATATATA\***




LATER



**Well done!**



**Without you...  
I wouldn't have  
managed**



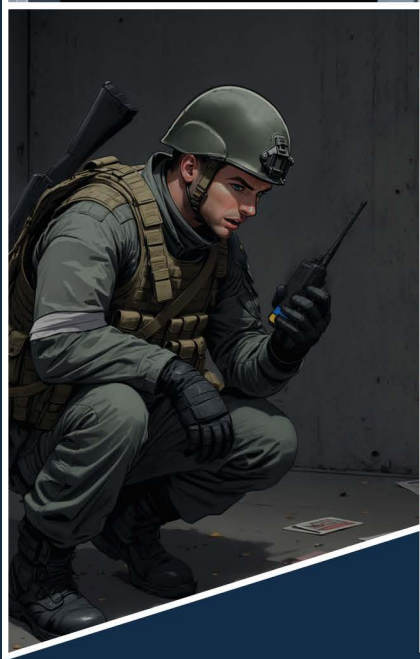
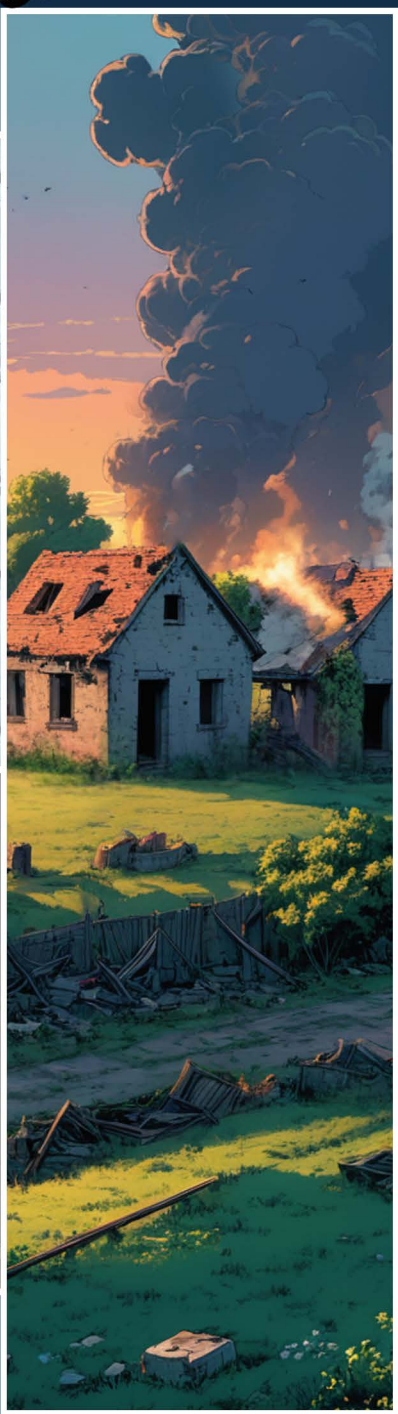
**Mutual.  
You are my eyes on the  
ground. Come back — I've  
made some tea.**



MIO SHOWED CUNNING IN THE BATTLE FOR NOVOHRYHORIVKA. HE REALIZED THE ENEMIES WOULD RUN THROUGH THE GARDENS AFTER THE EXPLOSION AND TOOK THE PERFECT POSITION IN ADVANCE. WHEN THREE SURVIVING ENEMY SOLDIERS RAN RIGHT UNDER HIS AIM, HE ELIMINATED THEM AND STAYED UNHARMED.

FOR THIS BATTLE, WHERE ONE SOLDIER OUTPLAYED FIVE ENEMIES, MIO OF THE 60TH BRIGADE IS NOMINATED FOR THE TITLE OF HERO OF RUSSIA. THIS PROVES THAT ON THE BATTLEFIELD, COURAGE ALONE IS NOT ENOUGH — THINKING AHEAD MATTERS JUST AS MUCH.

# IN THE NEXT ISSUE: ONCE UPON A TIME IN OLEKSANDRO-KALYNOVE



COMING IN NOVEMBER

READ ON  @RYBAR



*We clarify  
the complicated  
Rybar*

 @RYBAR

NOT FOR SALE

