

ADVENTURES
IN THE LAND
404

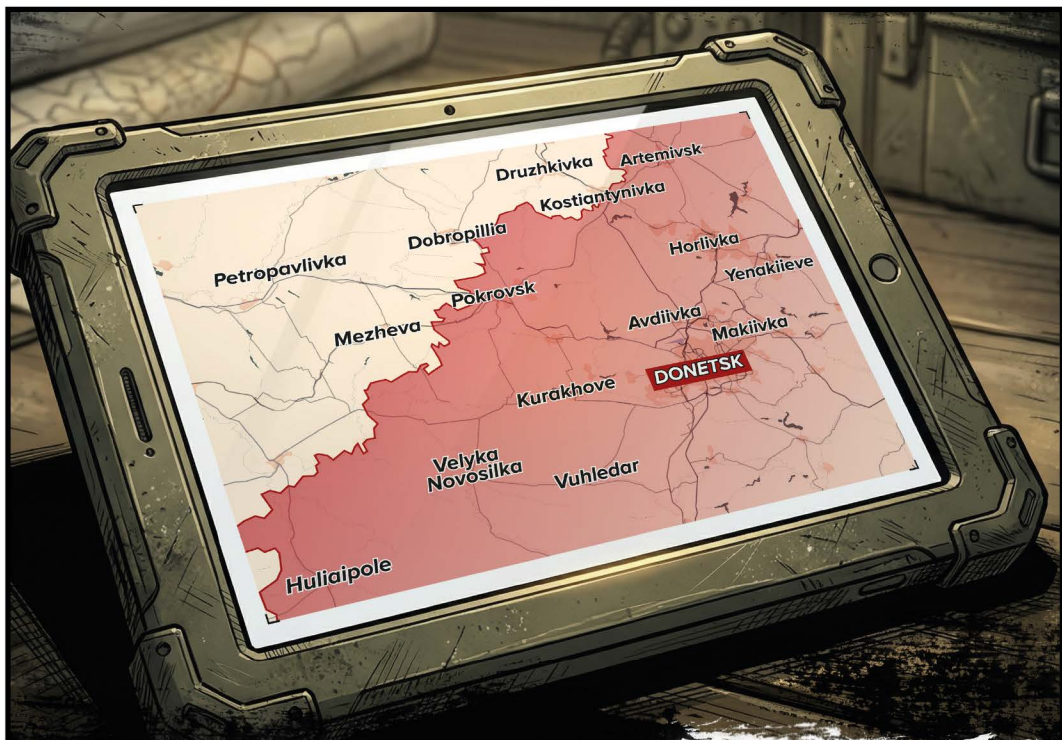
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EASTER CEASEFIRE

SILENCE REGIME OR DANGEROUS MERCY

@RYBAR




CERTIFICATE № 77

On the eve of Easter, on Saturday, when the President of Russia announces a temporary ceasefire, four Russian soldiers discuss this decision. Commander Rubin reports an “Easter truce” — a temporary pause in hostilities. The Ukrainian side responds in kind and agrees, but trust in their words is undermined: “white flags” have more than once turned into deadly danger. The senior of the evacuation group, Angel, knows the price of such agreements. Nevertheless, the fighters of his group — Zhuk and Jose — during the truce must, under white flags with red crosses, evacuate a severely wounded comrade from the gray zone.


In violation of the truce, Ukrainian forces attack the Russian evacuation group carrying out a humanitarian mission. The group comes under surveillance from enemy drones tracking every move. When a strike hexacopter “Baba Yaga” appears in the sky, Angel proposes his bold plan, requiring absolute synchronization and flawless calculation.

Will the Russian fighters be able to carry out the proposed plan — risky, almost desperate — save their severely wounded comrade, get rid of the persistent drone pursuing them, and break out of the deadly encirclement?

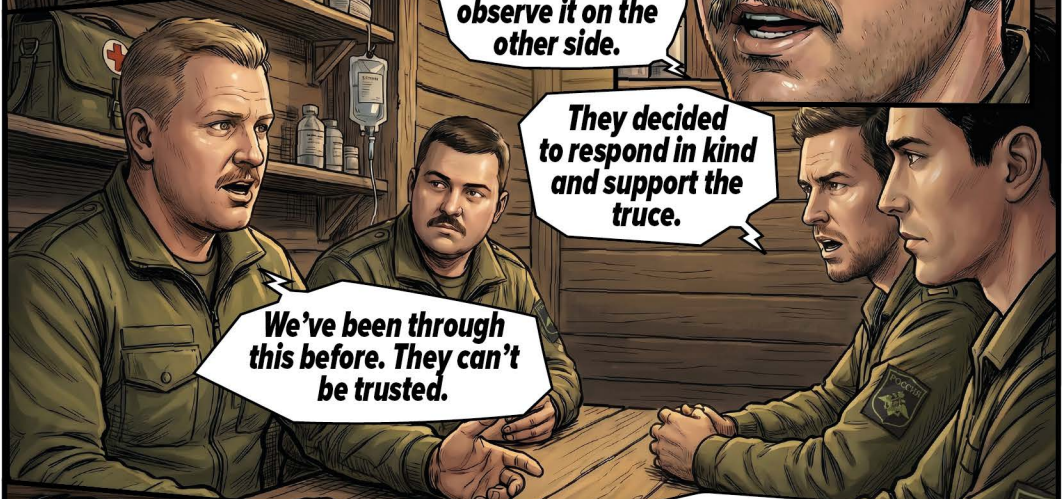
DUGOUT OF RUSSIAN ARMED FORCES POSITIONS,
APRIL 11, 2026



On the occasion of Easter, the president declared a truce. Until the end of tomorrow.



So what? As if they'll observe it on the other side.



They decided to respond in kind and support the truce.

We've been through this before. They can't be trusted.



The AFU will not observe the ceasefire terms.



**Be that as it may,
this is our chance.
We need to evacuate
ours.**

**Yes, we'll pull Wolf out.
He's been lying wounded
for several days already.**

**As I understand it,
we go without weapons and
equipment, under white
flags.**



**Yes, exactly,
without weapons and under
white flags.**

**We only take
a stretcher and
medical kit.**



NEAR THE DUGOUT OF RUSSIAN ARMED FORCES POSITIONS
NIGHT OF APRIL 12, 2026



RUSTLE

Well, Jose, almost ready. Feels like we're going to a parade, not into the gray zone.

Last time they didn't care about agreements.

You don't forget that. They fired at our group from a tank.

Those are the "agreements"...



Hey, Angel! Do you think the white flags will work?

RUSTLE

Who knows? A white flag is either a pass... or a target. Knowing the enemy, most likely the latter.

You sure know how to reassure. Alright, let's hope we pull poor Wolf out.

RUSTLE



**We will!
We move at dawn. Departure at 04:30. Everyone needs rest now.**

ANGEL, JOSE, AND ZHUK WANT TO BELIEVE IN THE BEST, OF COURSE, BUT THERE IS ALMOST NO DOUBT THAT PROVOCATIONS AND AGGRESSIVE ACTIONS FROM THE ENEMY WILL FOLLOW. AS HAS HAPPENED MANY TIMES DURING PREVIOUS TRUCES. THIS PRECEDENT FORCES THEM TO ACT WITH SPECIAL CAUTION AND PREPARE FOR ANY DEVELOPMENT OF EVENTS.

SOMEWHERE IN THE GRAY ZONE
APRIL 12, 2026



WHIRR



The weather's nasty.
Visibility is zero.

I don't even
know if that's good
or bad.

WHIRR



Yeah, drone operators don't
work in this weather. So we
won't have our eyes in the sky
either, and that's bad.



Without our eyes
it's bad, but enemy birds
won't see us either.

By morning the rain
will stop, they promised
normal weather.



**There we go!
Looks like the rain
has stopped.**

WHIRR



**This is Angel, how copy?
Moving to the designated
point. What about our drone
guys, will they watch us?**

SHHH

**Angel, this is Rubin,
loud and clear. The rain
has stopped and the bird
is ready.**

**We'll keep
an eye on you. God help
you! Return safe!**



WHIRR

A COUPLE OF HOURS LATER

RUSTLE

**Coordinates say
he should be 300 meters
north.**

**Stay together.
I go first, Zhuk
covers the rear.**

**Got it. Careful,
there may be
tripwires here.**

RUSTLE

**Yeah, watch
your step..**



**Wolf! Wolf,
where are you?
Answer!**

**Keep it down!
Don't shout, no telling
who else is in this
tree line.**

**I think I see
something... over
there, by the fallen
tree.**

**Jose, we need
to check it.**



RUSTLE

**Guys... is that you?
I believed! My prayers
were heard!**

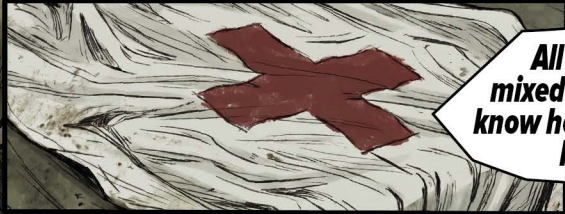
**Of course, Wolf,
it's a great holiday
today! Christ
is Risen!**

RUSTLE

**Leg wound,
bone shattered, blood
loss, hypothermia.**

**Bandage him
and into the vehicle. We'll
start an IV on the way.**

**The stretcher
is ready. Let's place
him carefully.**



**All my days got
mixed up. I don't even
know how long I've been
lying here.**





ANGEL HAD ALMOST NO DOUBT THAT PROVOCATIONS AND AGGRESSIVE ACTIONS FROM THE ENEMY WOULD FOLLOW. HOWEVER, THERE REMAINED A SMALL HOPE THAT THE UKRAINIAN SIDE WOULD SEE THE WHITE FLAG AND SHOW MERCY.

GENEVA CONVENTION

"A WHITE FLAG WITH A RED CROSS IS THE EMBLEM OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS, AS WELL AS AN INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED SYMBOL OF PROTECTION ESTABLISHED BY THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS. THE SIGN INDICATES THAT AN AMBULANCE OR PERSONNEL ARE PROVIDING MEDICAL ASSISTANCE IN COMBAT ZONES. A WHITE FLAG WITH A RED CROSS MEANS THAT THE PERSONS CARRYING IT ARE UNARMED AND NOT PARTICIPATING IN HOSTILITIES. ACCORDING TO INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW, ATTACKING PEOPLE OR OBJECTS MARKED WITH THIS SIGN IS PROHIBITED AND CONSIDERED A WAR CRIME."



RUSTLE

**See!
They've torn up all the
peace agreements. Same
as last time.**



**So what now?
We have to get out
anyway.**



BUZZ

**They waited
until we picked up the
wounded. Then decided
to hit us all at once.**



Guys...
leave me... save
yourselves...

Shut up, Wolf.
We're not leaving
anyone.

It's dangerous
to move out now.
I have a plan.



Angel, what plan?
Spill it.

BUZZZ

What's that
sound? Who else
did they send?

This is bad!
Looks like it's
"Baba Yaga."

Is your
brilliant plan still on?



Angel, Baba Yaga is hovering over you. Our drone guys will try to neutralize it.

SHHHHHH

Rubin, copy that. We'll act based on the situation.

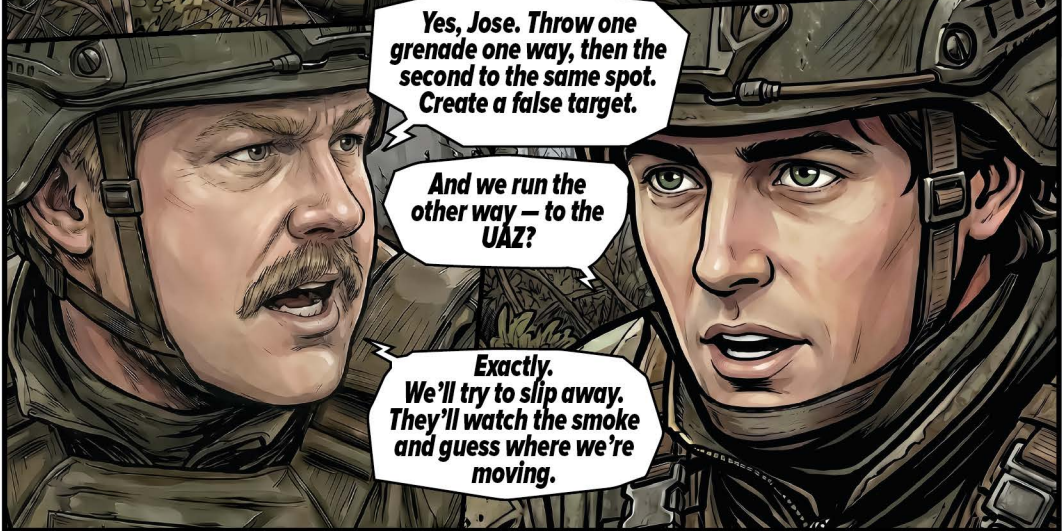
SHHHHHH



How do we hold out? It'll cover half the forest along with us!

Here, smoke grenades. I thought they might come in handy.

This is the plan you meant?



Yes, Jose. Throw one grenade one way, then the second to the same spot. Create a false target.

And we run the other way – to the UAZ?

Exactly. We'll try to slip away. They'll watch the smoke and guess where we're moving.



BUZZ

BUZZ

**Alright, we'll
do it your way.**

**Zhuk,
as soon as I throw
the second grenade,
run and start the
vehicle.**

**And you and
Wolf?**

**We'll catch up,
don't worry.**

WHY WAS THE EASTER TRUCE DECLARED? WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF THIS TEMPORARY LULL? THE RUSSIAN SIDE CLEARLY STATED THAT THE MAIN GOALS ARE TO SAVE LIVES. A CEASEFIRE ALLOWS EVACUATION OF THE WOUNDED, REMOVAL OF INJURED SOLDIERS FROM THE BATTLEFIELD WITHOUT RISK OF FIRE, TRANSFER OF THE DEAD, AND ORGANIZATION OF SEARCHES FOR THE MISSING.

BUT THE GOALS PURSUED BY THE OPPOSING SIDE WITHIN THIS TRUCE ARE FAR FROM HUMANITARIAN. ANGEL, JOSE, AND ZHUK REALIZED THAT THE UKRAINIAN SIDE HAD DISRUPTED ALL AGREEMENTS AND WAS USING THE PAUSE FOR OTHER PURPOSES UNRELATED TO MERCY.



RUSTLE

SHHHHHH

**Excellent!
First one out!
I'm ready!**

SHHHHHHHH



One, two,
three...

SHHHHHH

BUZZZ

Second one out!
The smoke is getting
thicker!

BUZZ



**AFU DUGOUT,
AT THE SAME TIME**



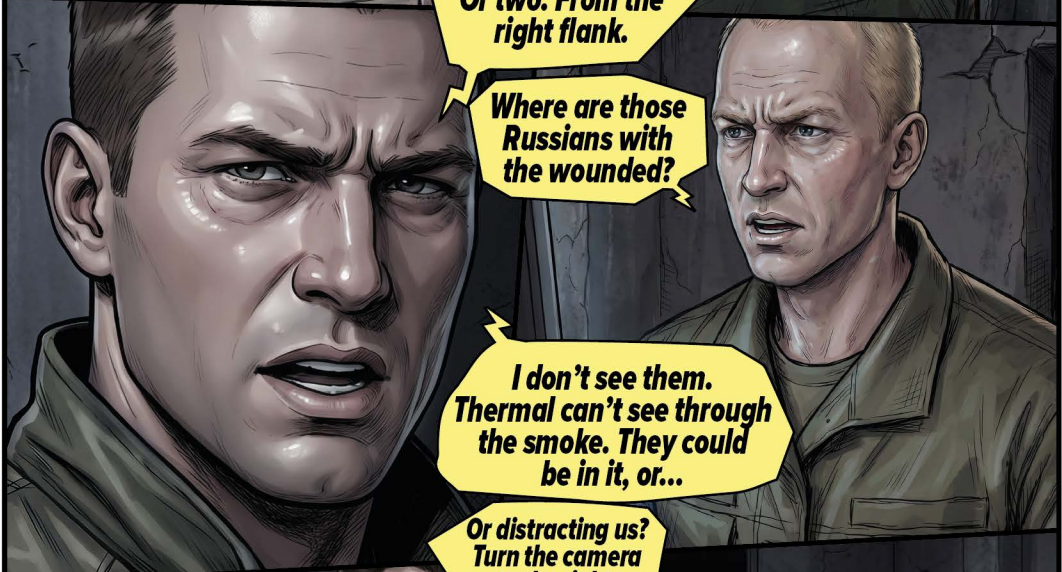
**What's that?
Smoke? Where
from?**

**Smoke grenade.
Or two. From the
right flank.**

**Where are those
Russians with
the wounded?**

**I don't see them.
Thermal can't see through
the smoke. They could
be in it, or...**

**Or distracting us?
Turn the camera
to the right.**



**No one there.
Empty. Maybe
they're really in the
smoke?**

**Or already
gone...**

FOREST STRIP IN THE GRAY ZONE

Move it!

RUSTLE

WHIRR

The plan worked.
Almost everything worked!
A couple seconds and hit
the gas!

Let's go.
Hold on.

WHIRR





Careful, please. I'm setting up an IV for Wolf.

Sorry, this isn't an autobahn.

Wolf, listen to me. I'm putting in an IV. You'll feel better.

Yeah... okay...

There. It'll start working in a couple of minutes.



**Where's that "Babka"?
Still hovering over our
smoke?**



**Probably. Hanging
there, guessing where
the Russian evacuation
group is.**

**Rubin, come in.
The group is complete.
We got Wolf. Heading back
to our position.**



SHHH

**Angel, well done. We're
waiting for you. Our
drone operators will deal
with Baba Yaga now.**

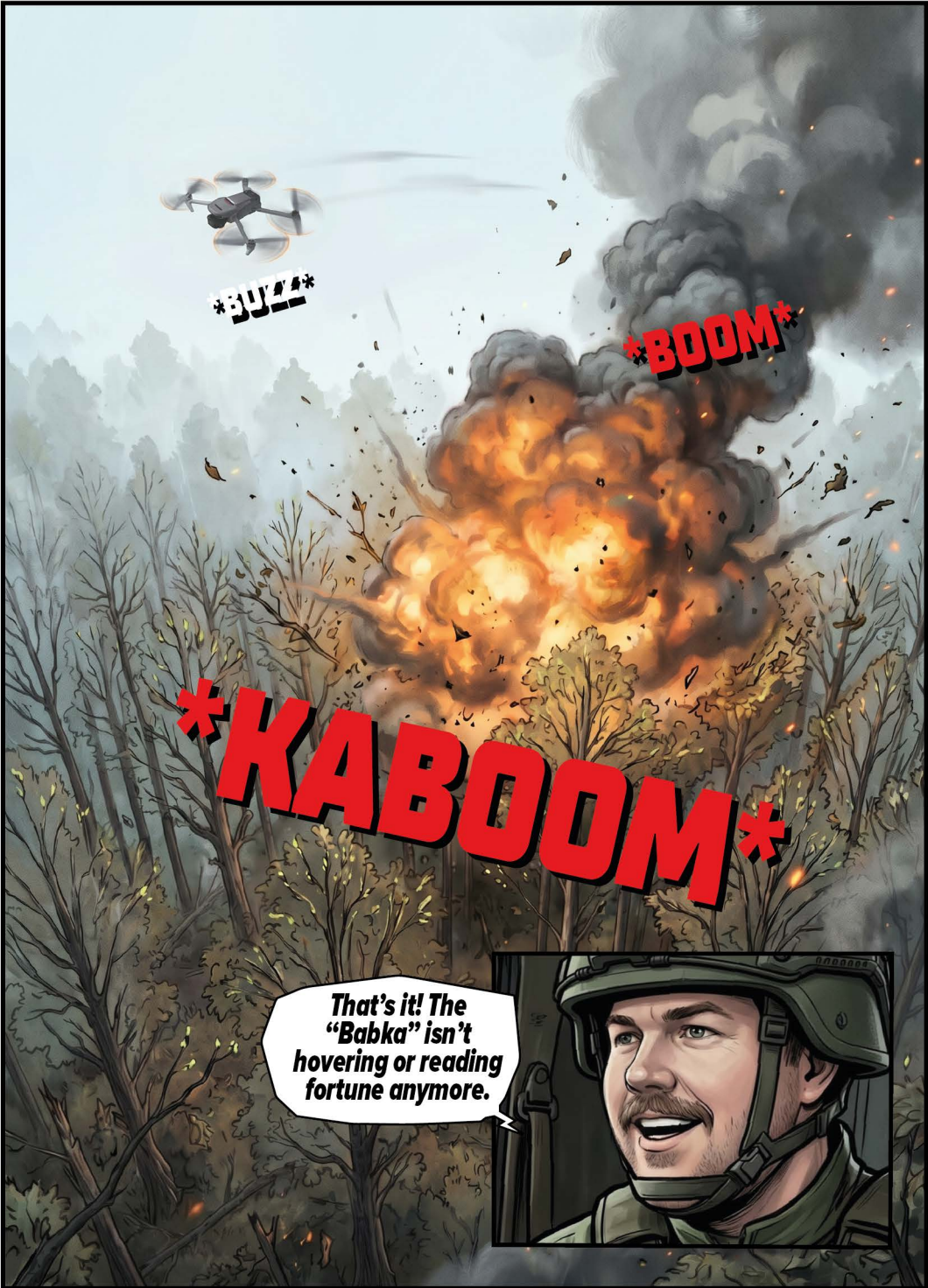
WHIRR



BUZZ

CLICK

BUZZZZ



BUZZ

BOOM

KABOOM

That's it! The "Babka" isn't hovering or reading fortune anymore.



NEAR THE DUGOUT OF RUSSIAN FORCES
APRIL 12, 2026

How's Wolf?
Poor guy's been
through a lot.
Medics will
arrive for him
soon.

I feel better
than before.

His leg
is in bad shape.

What did you give
him? He's feeling
good now.

Don't worry, Wolf.
You'll get to Palych,
the surgeon — he'll fix your
leg right.

That's
for sure!

You did great! Got out
yourselves and pulled
your comrade out.

Thanks to Angel.
He pulled off his super
plan.

With the smoke
grenades? Worked one
hundred percent.

Worked perfectly.
While the drone guys dealt with
Baba Yaga, we were already
gone.



**He told us to take only the
stretcher and medical kit.
Meanwhile he stocked
up on pyrotechnics.**

**I had a feeling they'd
come in handy.**

**We also took a white flag
with a red cross. Everything
by the book. No weapons.**

**You did everything right.
This truce showed the true
face of the enemy once
again.**



RUSTLE



**Guys, this is for you!
Christ is Risen!
Happy holiday!**

**Indeed He is Risen!
What a surprise.**

ACCORDING TO THE RUSSIAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, DURING THE EASTER TRUCE THE UKRAINIAN SIDE VIOLATED ITS TERMS MORE THAN 1,900 TIMES. ALL RUSSIAN TROOP GROUPINGS IN THE SPECIAL OPERATION ZONE STRICTLY OBSERVED THE CEASEFIRE AND REMAINED IN THEIR PREVIOUSLY OCCUPIED POSITIONS. THE UKRAINIAN SIDE CONTINUED USING DRONES AND ARTILLERY TO STRIKE RUSSIAN POSITIONS AS WELL AS CIVILIAN OBJECTS. FOR THE ENEMY, NOTHING IS SACRED, AND ANY PAUSE IS ONLY A SHORT RESPITE, TIME TO PREPARE A NEW, BARBARIC STRIKE. UNDERSTANDING THIS HARDENS THE SOLDIERS AND DRIVES THEM TO GRIP THEIR WEAPONS EVEN TIGHTER.

IN THE NEXT ISSUE:

NEVER ABANDON OUR OWN

BATTLE OF SNAKE ISLAND



COMING IN MAY!

READ ON THE CHANNEL  @RYBAR



*We clarify
the complicated*
Rybar

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NOT FOR SALE

