

MEDAL OF HONOR

FLO GROBERG



GROBERG

ISAF

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RANGER



AUSA

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MEDAL OF HONOR

FLO GROBERG

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GENERAL DYNAMICS

SOMETIMES YEARS OF TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE ARE TESTED IN A MATTER OF SECONDS WHEN LIVES ARE ON THE LINE.

FOR ONE MAN THAT TIME CAME AT A BRIDGE IN KUNAR PROVINCE.

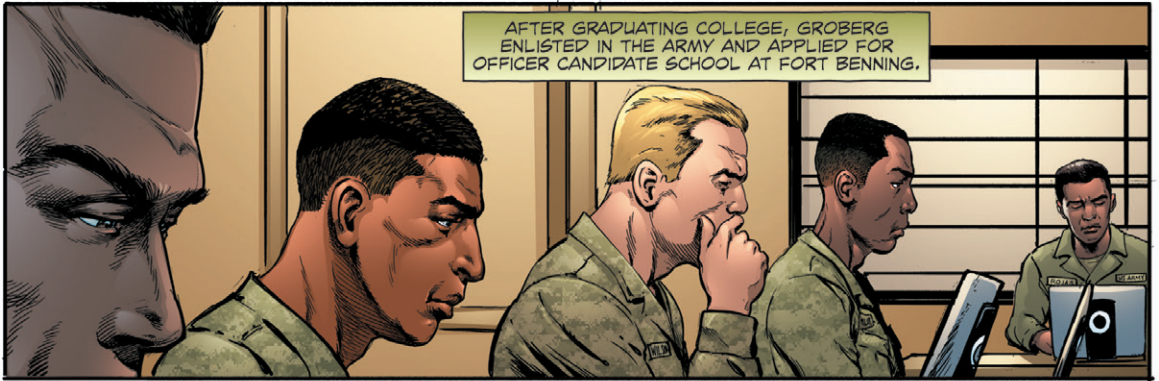
FLO GROBERG

FLO WAS BORN IN FRANCE TO A FRENCH-ALGERIAN MOTHER. HIS AMERICAN STEPFATHER MOVED THE FAMILY TO THE U.S. WHEN FLO WAS ELEVEN.

ALLONS-Y!

HE LEARNED TO SPEAK ENGLISH AND BECAME AN AMERICAN CITIZEN.

HE ENROLLED AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND WHERE HE RAN TRACK AND CROSS COUNTRY.



AFTER GRADUATING COLLEGE, GROBERG ENLISTED IN THE ARMY AND APPLIED FOR OFFICER CANDIDATE SCHOOL AT FORT BENNING.



HE COMMISSIONED AS AN INFANTRY OFFICER AND PUSHED THROUGH THE RIGOROUS TRAINING OF ARMY AIRBORNE AND RANGER SCHOOLS.

DO YOU WANT TO QUIT, RANGER? YOU CAN GO HOME ANY TIME.



ASSIGNED TO THE 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION, GROBERG LED HIS PLATOON IN THE HOT ZONE OF AFGHANISTAN'S PECH RIVER VALLEY.

LET'S GO, GENTLEMEN! DON'T WANT TO KEEP THE BAD GUYS WAITING!



HIS TIME ON DEPLOYMENT GAVE HIM AN AWARENESS OF THE PEOPLE AND TERRAIN.

HE DEVELOPED A COMBAT SENSE THAT WOULD PROVE INVALUABLE.



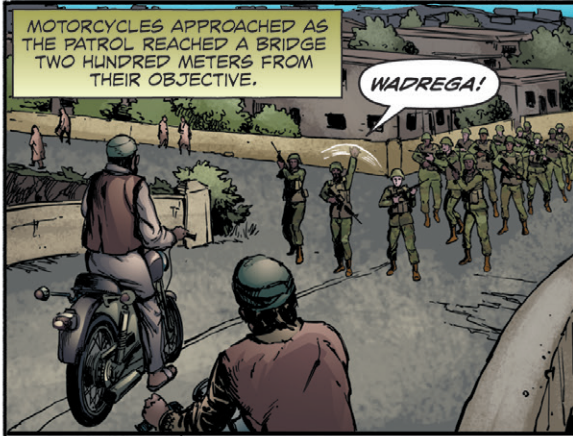
DEDICATED TO BEING THE BEST HE COULD BE, GROBERG WAS ALWAYS TRAINING, ALWAYS LEARNING, IN ORDER TO BE THE LEADER HIS MEN DESERVED.





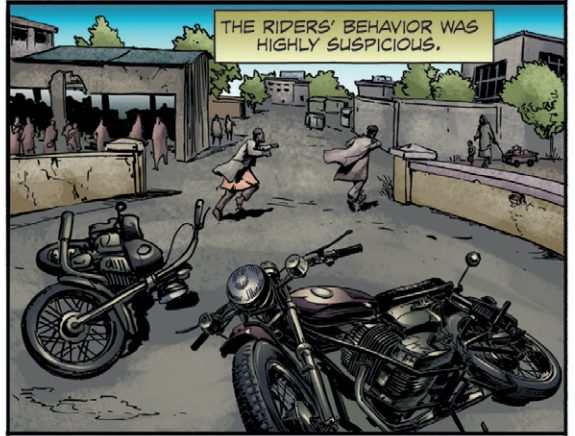
HEADS ON A SWIVEL. EYES ON ANYTHING THAT MOVES.

ROGER THAT, SIR.



MOTORCYCLES APPROACHED AS THE PATROL REACHED A BRIDGE TWO HUNDRED METERS FROM THEIR OBJECTIVE.

WADREGA!



THE RIDERS' BEHAVIOR WAS HIGHLY SUSPICIOUS.



GROBERG'S TRAINING AND INSTINCTS KICKED IN.

GUNS UP!

SOMETHING'S ABOUT TO BREAK OUT!



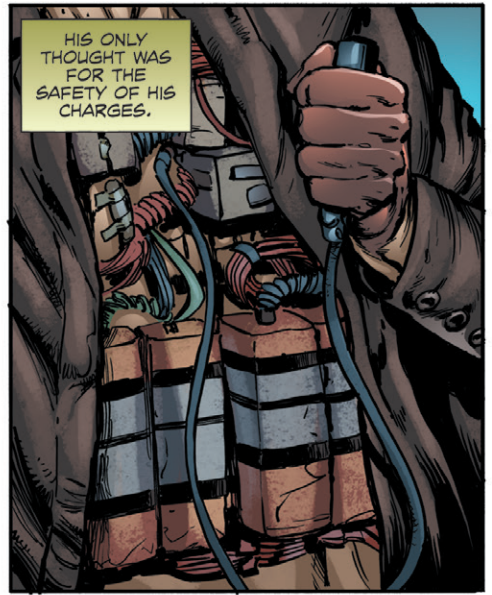
GROBERG SAW A MAN, WHO HAD ODDLY BEEN WALKING BACKWARD, SUDDENLY TURN TOWARD THE FORMATION.

HEY! STOP!



THE NEXT EIGHT SECONDS WOULD CHANGE FLORENT GROBERG'S LIFE FOREVER.

BACK! GET BACK!



HIS ONLY THOUGHT WAS FOR THE SAFETY OF HIS CHARGES.



HE HAD TO PROTECT THE OFFICERS IN THE DIPLOMATIC MISSION.

BOMB!



UNSEEN BY THE SECURITY TEAM, A SECOND SUICIDE BOMBER WAS CONCEALED BY THE ROAD.



WITH NO REGARD FOR HIS OWN LIFE, GROBERG SHOVED THE SUICIDE BOMBER AWAY FROM THE MEN ON THE ROAD.

THE FIRST BOMB DETONATED,
EXPENDING MOST OF ITS
FORCE INTO THE GROUND.

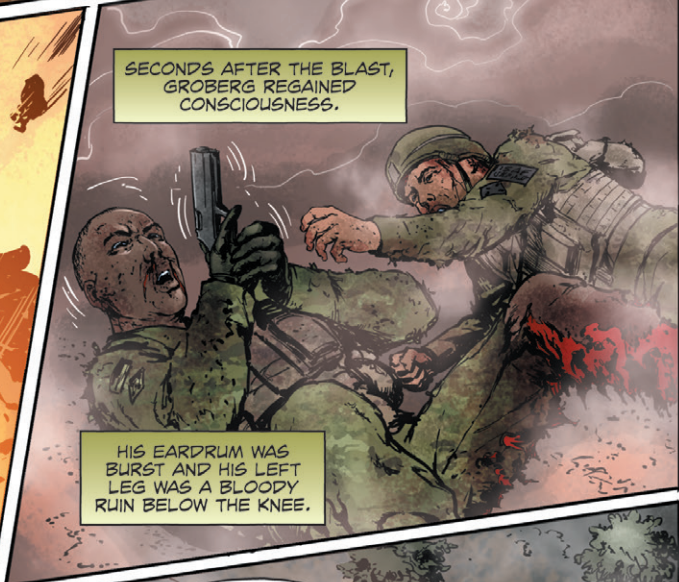
MOST, BUT NOT ALL.
A SHOWER OF SHRAPNEL
STILL SPRAYED OUT IN
A DEADLY ARC.



THE FORCE OF THE
BLAST CAUSED
THE SECOND BOMBER
TO DETONATE
PREMATURELY.



SECONDS AFTER THE BLAST,
GROBERG REGAINED
CONSCIOUSNESS.



HIS EARDRUM WAS
BURST AND HIS LEFT
LEG WAS A BLOODY
RUIN BELOW THE KNEE.

WE'VE GOT
TO GET YOU
OUT OF HERE,
SIR!

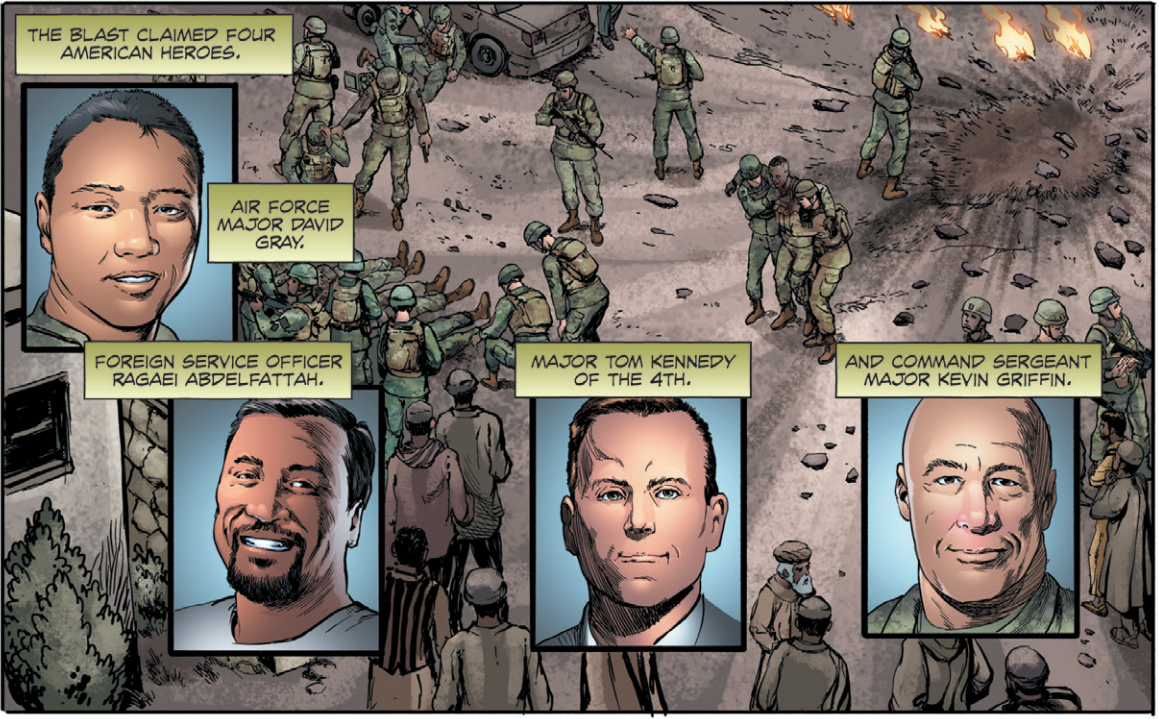




DID HE GET THE BOSS?



THE COLONEL'S OK. MAYBE A CONCUSSION.





GROBERG WOULD SURVIVE, HIS LEG PERMANENTLY DAMAGED AND DEAF IN HIS LEFT EAR.

BUT SOME WOUNDS RUN DEEPER.



HE STRUGGLED WITH SURVIVOR'S GUILT AND THE SENSE THAT HE HAD NOT DONE HIS DUTY THAT DAY IN AFGHANISTAN.



AFTER ALMOST THREE YEARS AND 33 SURGERIES AT WALTER REED, GROBERG MEDICALLY RETIRED IN JULY 2015.

HE WAS READY TO TAKE THE NEXT STEPS IN LIFE.



NOVEMBER 12, 2015.

IN ADDITION TO NUMEROUS COMMENDATIONS FOR HIS SACRIFICE AND VALOR, CAPTAIN FLORENT GROBERG WAS AWARDED HIS NATION'S HIGHEST HONOR.

THAT'S PRECISELY WHY WE HONOR HEROES LIKE FLO--BECAUSE ON HIS VERY WORST DAY, HE MANAGED TO SUMMON HIS VERY BEST.



GROBERG ALWAYS REMEMBERS HIS COMRADES' SERVICE IN PUBLIC APPEARANCES.



THIS BELONGS TO THEM. IT IS A REPRESENTATION OF THEIR SACRIFICE FOR ALL OF US, FOR OUR WAY OF LIFE, FOR OUR FREEDOMS.



I AM JUST A COURIER FOR IT.

THE END

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