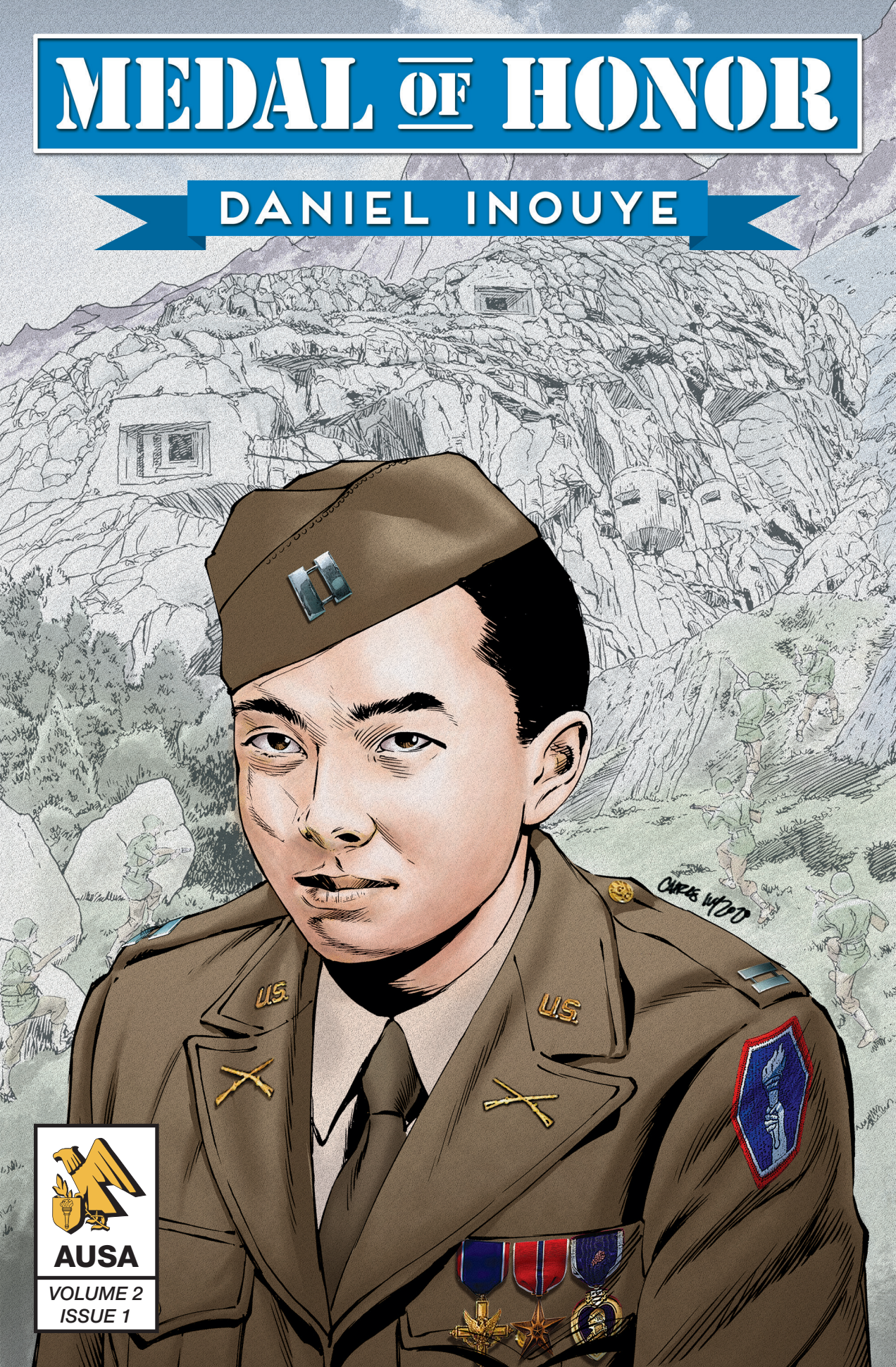


MEDAL OF HONOR

DANIEL INOUE



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DANIEL KEN INOUE WAS BORN INTO A JAPANESE AMERICAN FAMILY IN HONOLULU, HAWAII.

INITIALLY SPURNED BY THE COUNTRY OF HIS BIRTH, INOUE WOULD GO TO EXTRAORDINARY LENGTHS TO PROVE HIS LOVE OF AMERICA.

DANIEL INOUE

DANIEL WAS TAUGHT BY HIS PARENTS FROM A YOUNG AGE THE VALUE OF HONOR AND LOYALTY.

I OWE SO MUCH TO THE PEOPLE OF HAWAII. I EXPECT YOU TO REPAY THAT DEBT.

TAKING THIS RESPONSIBILITY TO HEART, DANIEL VOLUNTEERED WITH THE RED CROSS.

ON THE DAY IMPERIAL JAPAN ATTACKED PEARL HARBOR, HE RUSHED TO HELP TREAT THE WOUNDED.



WHEN HE TURNED EIGHTEEN A FEW MONTHS LATER, DANIEL TRIED TO JOIN THE ARMY TO FIGHT FOR HIS COUNTRY.

WE'RE NOT TAKING ENEMY ALIENS INTO THE SERVICE.

HELL, SON, WE'RE AT *WAR* WITH YOUR KIND.



THIS BAN WAS REVERSED BY EXECUTIVE ORDER BY THE START OF THE FOLLOWING YEAR.

AMERICANISM IS A MATTER OF THE MIND AND HEART. AMERICANISM IS *NOT*, AND NEVER *WAS*, A MATTER OF RACE OR ANCESTRY.



A BRAND-NEW COMBAT UNIT WAS FORMED.

THE 442ND REGIMENTAL COMBAT TEAM.

WAIT'LL THE GERMANS GET A LOAD'A *YOU*.



THEY PROVED THEIR LOYALTY AGAIN AND AGAIN IN COMBAT.

IN ITALY, IN SOUTHERN FRANCE, AND BACK AGAIN IN ITALY.



THE 442ND REGIMENT, IN ITS SHORT EXISTENCE, WOULD BECOME ONE OF THE MOST DECORATED UNITS IN AMERICAN MILITARY HISTORY.

AS WELL AS A UNIT THE GERMAN ARMY WOULD SOON COME TO FEAR.

APRIL 1945.
SAN TERENCE, ITALY.

THE WEHRMACHT
WAS EVERY BIT
AS DANGEROUS IN
RETREAT AS ON
THE ATTACK.

IN A DESPERATE REARGUARD
ACTION, THE GERMANS WERE
DETERMINED TO SLOW THE
ALLIED ADVANCE UP THE
ITALIAN PENINSULA.

INTO THE TEETH OF THIS
DEFENSE MARCHED THE
SOLDIERS OF THE 442ND.

THEIR TASK
WAS TO SWEEP
THE GERMANS
OFF THIS
MOUNTAINSIDE.

C'MON,
GO FOR
BROKE!

THANKS TO A BATTLEFIELD
COMMISSION, INOUE WAS
NOW A SECOND
LIEUTENANT IN COMMAND
OF HIS OWN PLATOON.

IT WAS A CHARGE HE
TOOK VERY SERIOUSLY.



FULLY EXPOSED TO ENEMY FIRE, HE WAS STRUCK BY A SNIPER'S BULLET.

LIEUTENANT!



THE ROUND PUNCHED INTO HIS ABDOMEN AND RIBS FOLLOWED HIS RIBS AROUND TO EXIT FROM HIS BACK.

YOU'VE BEEN HIT, SIR.

YOU NEED A MEDIC.



HE WAS IN PAIN BUT COULD WALK. FOR INUYE, THAT WAS ENOUGH.

WHAT I NEED IS TO CLEAR THIS HILL.



INUYE AND HIS UNIT FOUND THEMSELVES PINNED DOWN BY THREE MACHINE GUNS.

IT WAS APRIL 21, THE DAY AFTER ADOLF HITLER'S BIRTHDAY.



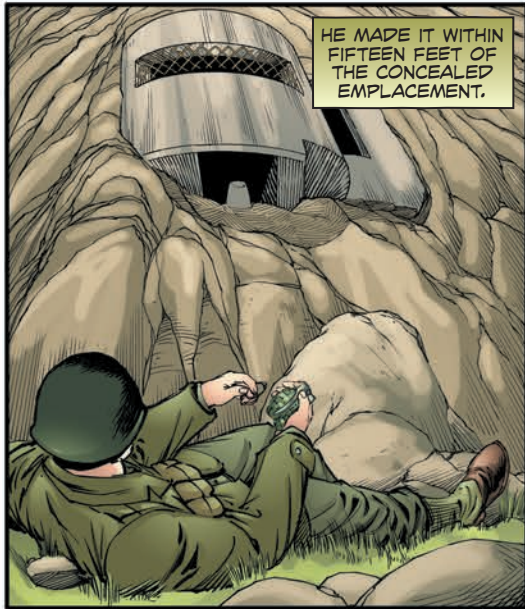
STAY DOWN. WE'RE IN A CROSSFIRE.

WHAT DO WE DO NOW, SIR?

LET ME HANDLE IT.



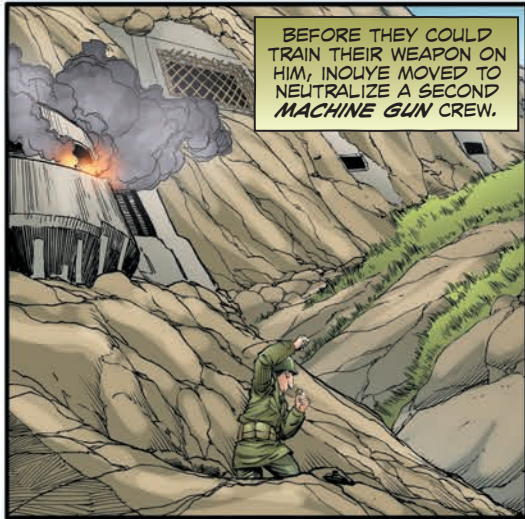
ALONE, INUYE CRAWLED TO THE NEAREST MACHINE GUN NEST.



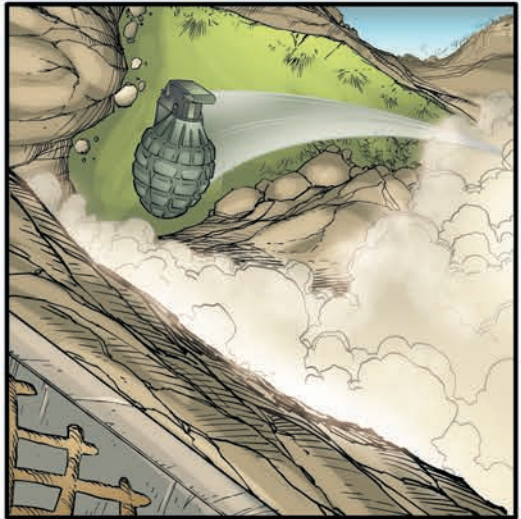
HE MADE IT WITHIN FIFTEEN FEET OF THE CONCEALED EMPLACEMENT.



WITH TWO HAND GRENADES HE TOOK THE GERMAN POSITION OUT.



BEFORE THEY COULD TRAIN THEIR WEAPON ON HIM, INOLYE MOVED TO NEUTRALIZE A SECOND MACHINE GUN CREW.



GUN EMPLACEMENT NUMBER TWO WAS DESTROYED.



FROM THE THIRD MG NEST, A SOLDIER FIRED A RIFLE GRENADE AT INOLYE.



THE EXPLOSION
CREATED A
CRIPPLING BLOW.



THOUGH THERE WAS NO SENSATION
IN HIS NOW-RUINED ARM, THE LIVE
GRENADE REMAINED CLUTCHED
IN HIS FINGERS.

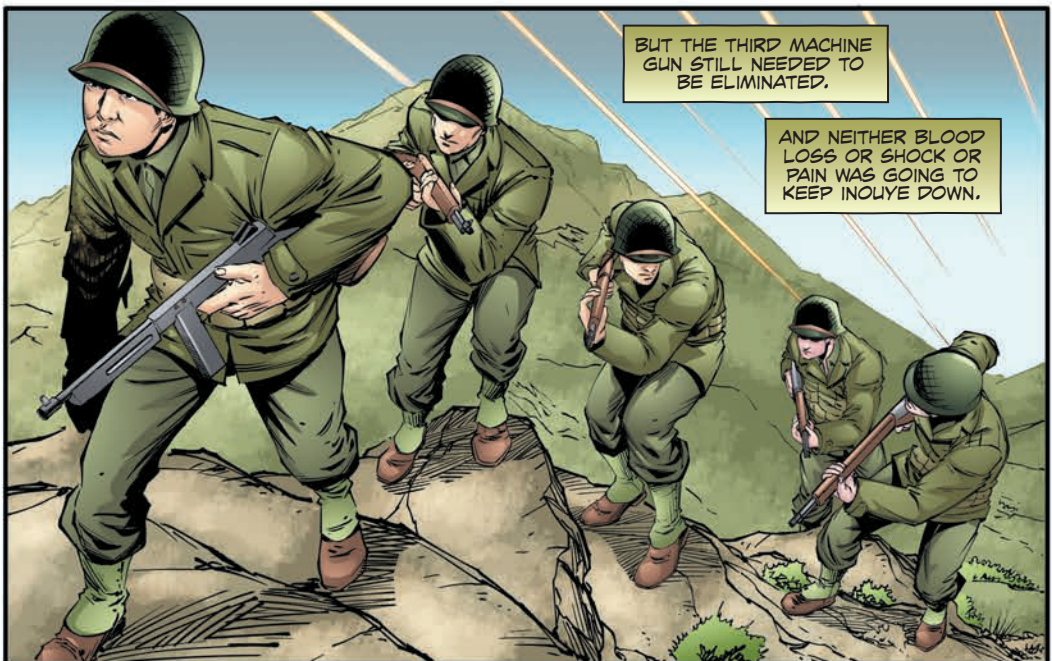


FIGHTING TO REMAIN
CONSCIOUS, INOYE
TOOK THE GRENADE
IN HIS LEFT HAND.

GRENADE!
GET DOWN!



A SOUTHPAW
TOSS LANDED
CLOSE TO THE
THIRD NEST.



BUT THE THIRD MACHINE
GUN STILL NEEDED TO
BE ELIMINATED.

AND NEITHER BLOOD
LOSS OR SHOCK OR
PAIN WAS GOING TO
KEEP INOYE DOWN.



HIS OWN SAFETY WAS NOT TO BE CONSIDERED.

HIS ONLY THOUGHTS WERE FOR THE DEBT HE OWED TO THE PLACE HE CALLED HOME.

A COUNTRY THAT HAD NOT ALWAYS RETURNED HIS DEVOTION.



HE WAS STRUCK ONCE MORE.

A ROUND FRACTURED HIS RIGHT LEG.



HIS MEN CAUGHT UP WITH HIM, ASTONDED TO FIND INOUIYE ALIVE.

SIR, ARE YOU--?

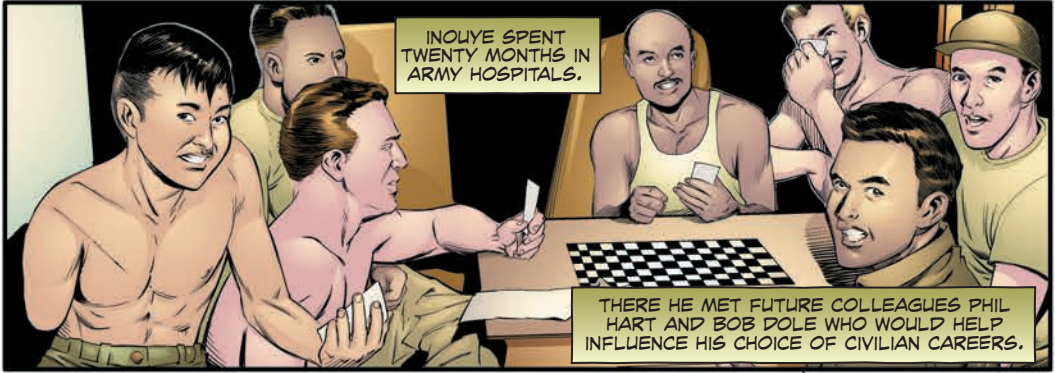
HELP ME UP.



INOUIYE REFUSED EVACUATION UNTIL THE JOB WAS DONE.

HIS PLATOON TOOK THE THIRD MACHINE GUN-- AND THE RIDGE.

KEEP GOING, MEN! NOBODY CALLED OFF THE WAR.



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