

MEDAL OF HONOR

ALWYN CASHE



AUSA

VOLUME 5
ISSUE 4

MEDAL OF HONOR

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Special thanks to Matthew J. Seelinger, Gregory Fontenot, Donald P. Wright, Martin Gedra, Laura Jowdy, and Jim McLaughlin.

Medal of Honor: Alwyn Cashe, September 2023. Published by the Association of the United States Army, 2425 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22201. President and Chief Executive Officer: GEN Robert B. Brown, USA Ret.; Vice President, Leadership and Education: LTG Leslie C. Smith, USA Ret.; Vice President, Membership and Meetings: BG Jack Haley, USA, Ret.; Vice President, Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier Programs: SMA Daniel A. Dailey, USA Ret.

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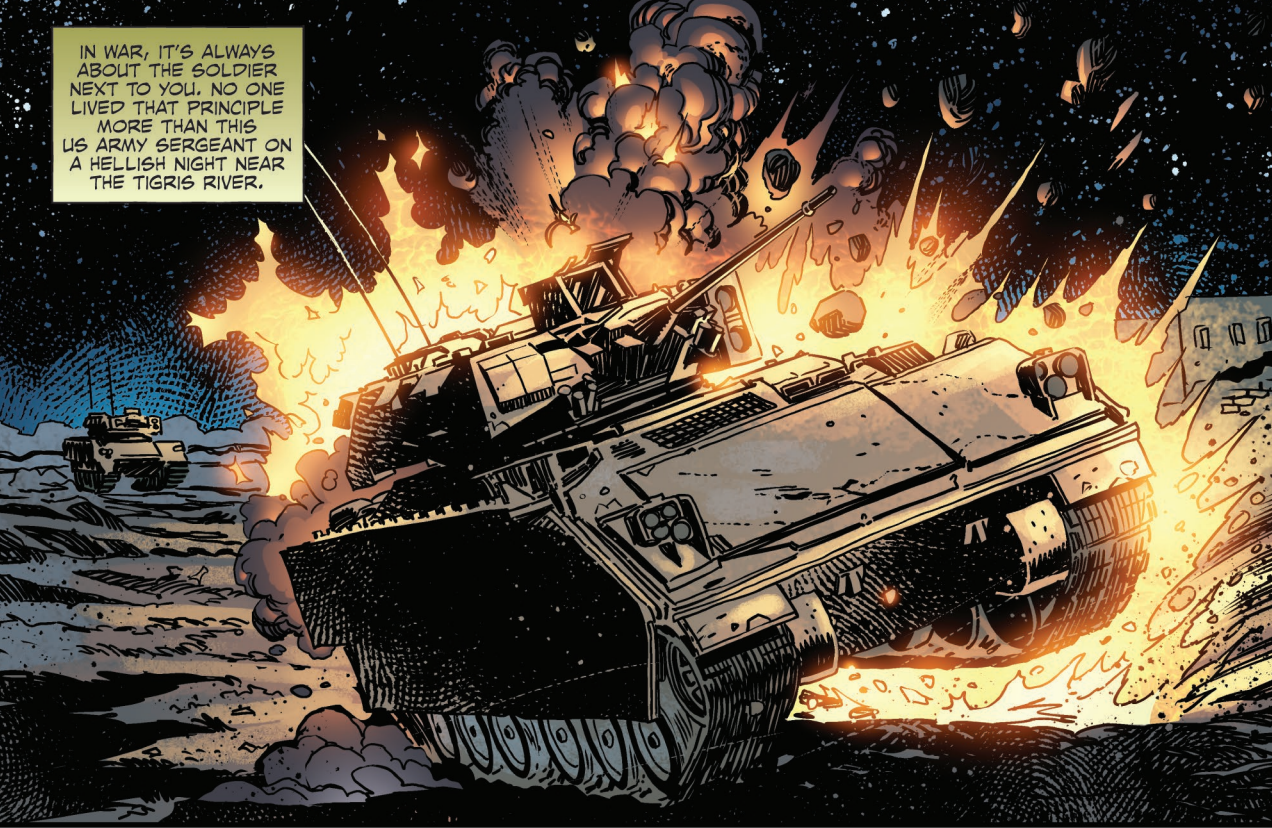
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IN WAR, IT'S ALWAYS ABOUT THE SOLDIER NEXT TO YOU. NO ONE LIVED THAT PRINCIPLE MORE THAN THIS US ARMY SERGEANT ON A HELLSH NIGHT NEAR THE TIGRIS RIVER.



ALWYN CASHE

ALWYN CRENDALL CASHE GREW UP IN OVIEDO, FLORIDA, JUST OUTSIDE ORLANDO.



HE WAS A FEARLESS KID, ALWAYS WILLING TO TAKE ON AN ADVENTURE.



IT WAS IN THIS SPIRIT THAT HE ENLISTED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY AS SOON AS HE GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL.



HIS FIRST TASTE OF COMBAT WAS BEING DEPLOYED WITH THE INFANTRY DURING DESERT STORM.



HE ALSO SERVED WITH DISTINCTION STABILIZING PEACE IN THE BALKANS.

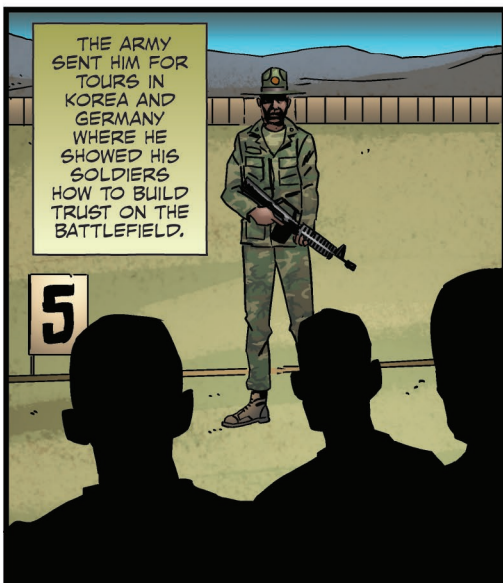


CASHE FOUND A HOME IN THE ARMY, EVENTUALLY BECOMING A DRILL SERGEANT AT FORT BENNING.

YOU TIRED?
'CAUSE I AIN'T TIRED YET!



THE ARMY SENT HIM FOR TOURS IN KOREA AND GERMANY WHERE HE SHOWED HIS SOLDIERS HOW TO BUILD TRUST ON THE BATTLEFIELD.



HE KNEW THAT TAKING CARE OF HIS MEN EXTENDED BEYOND THE WORKDAY.

IT'S LATE, SARGE. WHAT'S UP?

MAKE SURE YOU CALL YOUR LITTLE GIRL TOMORROW. YOU CAN'T MISS A BIRTHDAY.



IN 2003, THE UNITED STATES, ALONG WITH A COALITION OF NATIONS, INVADED IRAQ TO TOPPLE THE REGIME OF SADDAM HUSSEIN.



THOUGH THE COUNTRY HAD FALLEN WITHIN WEEKS, AN INSURGENCY AROSE THAT WOULD KEEP AMERICAN FORCES OCCUPIED FOR YEARS TO COME.

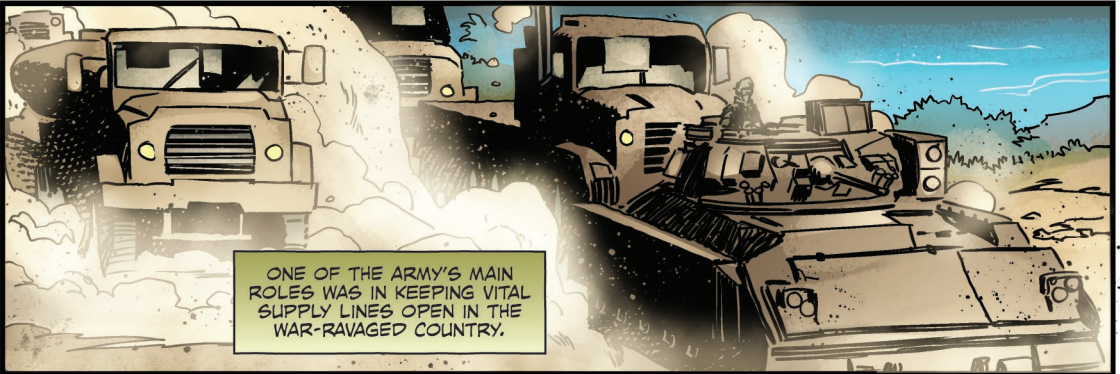


STAY ALERT, GENTLEMEN. HEADS ON A SWIVEL.

CASHE RETURNED TO THE COUNTRY AS A PLATOON SERGEANT IN 1ST BATTALION, 15TH INFANTRY REGIMENT—THE SAME UNIT AS AUDIE MURPHY AND OTHER HEROES OF THE 3RD INFANTRY DIVISION.



ONE OF THE ARMY'S MAIN ROLES WAS IN KEEPING VITAL SUPPLY LINES OPEN IN THE WAR-RAVAGED COUNTRY.



THIS MEANT THAT MECHANIZED INFANTRY HAD TO MAKE SAFE PASSAGE FOR TRUCK CONVOYS ON ROADS OFTEN RIGGED WITH IEDS.*



*IMPROVISED EXPLOSIVE DEVICES

THIS WOULD BE
A CHALLENGE
ON OCTOBER
17, 2005.

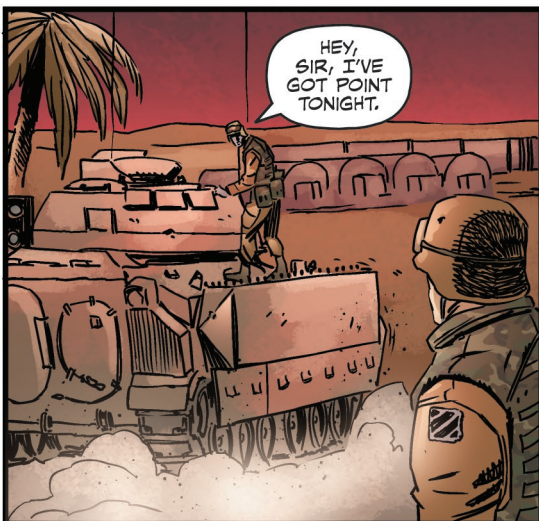


WITH ANOTHER BRADLEY DOWN FOR MAINTENANCE
AND MEDEVAC A BIG QUESTION IN THIS WEATHER,
WE MAY NEED TO DELAY THE MISSION.



WE'VE GOT TO
PROTECT THOSE
PEOPLE. WE'VE
GOT TO GO.

HEY,
SIR, I'VE
GOT POINT
TONIGHT.



CASHE WAS IN CHARGE OF
THE LEAD BRADLEY FIGHTING
VEHICLE ON THE PATROL TO
CLEAR A VITAL SUPPLY ROUTE
IN SALAH AD DIN PROVINCE.



THE SOLDIERS RELIED ON
THERMAL IMAGING TO SEE
THE ROADWAY AS THE TWO
BRADLEYS CRAWLED
FORWARD AT LESS THAN
TEN MILES AN HOUR.



THE *BRADLEY* CARRYING CASHE WAS PASSING BY A NEARBY VILLAGE WHEN IT HIT AN *IED*.



THE BLAST BURST THE VEHICLE'S FUEL CELL, INSTANTLY ENGULFING IT IN FLAMES.



CASHE ESCAPED THROUGH A FRONT HATCH.

HIS CLOTHING WAS DRENCHED IN FUEL.



THE FUEL IGNITED EVEN AS HE PULLED THE BURNING DRIVER OUT WITH THE HELP OF ANOTHER SOLDIER.

SARGE, YOU'RE ON FIRE!

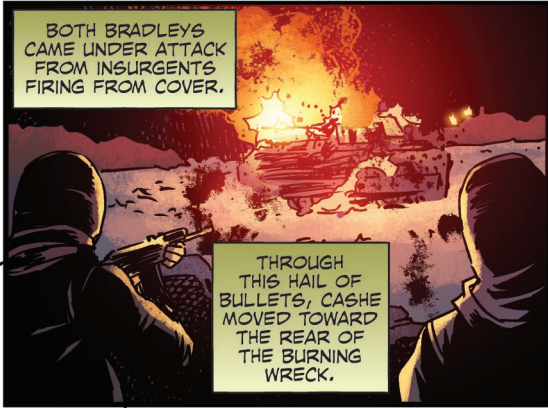
SON, EVERYONE'S ON FIRE!





THIS WAS ONLY THE BEGINNING OF THE AMBUSH.

HELP ME GET HIM CLEAR!



BOTH BRADLEYS CAME UNDER ATTACK FROM INSURGENTS FIRING FROM COVER.

THROUGH THIS HAIL OF BULLETS, CASHE MOVED TOWARD THE REAR OF THE BURNING WRECK.



OTHER MEMBERS OF THE COMPANY OFFERED SUPPRESSIVE FIRE AS HE ENTERED THE FURNACE OF THE TROOP COMPARTMENT.



WHERE ARE THE BOYS AT? WE'VE GOT TO GET THE BOYS OUT.



ALREADY SUFFERING FROM SEVERE BURNS AS HIS CLOTHING MELTED, THE PLATOON SERGEANT BEGAN PULLING HIS MEN TO SAFETY.

COME ON! YOU CAN DO THIS!



HE WOULDN'T BE SATISFIED UNTIL ALL HIS PLATOON WAS SAFE FROM HARM.

STILL... TWO MORE... INSIDE.



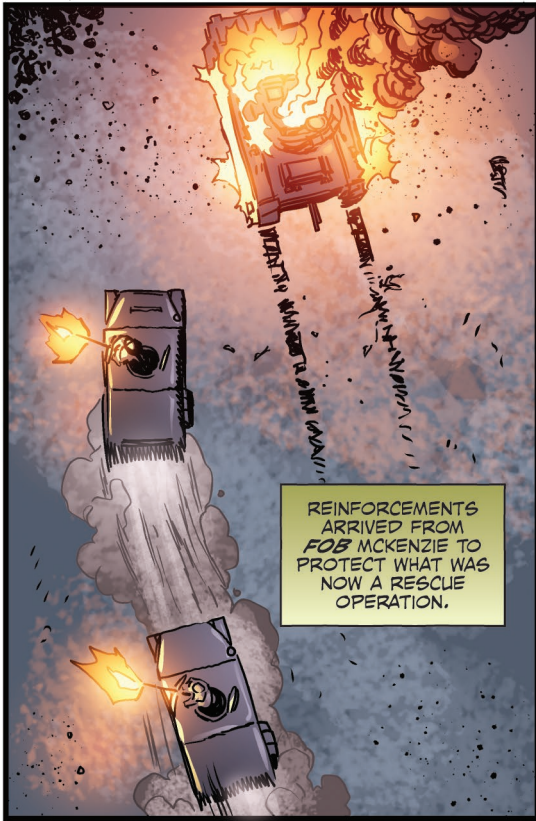
SERGEANT! YOU CAN'T GO IN THERE!

THE HELL I CAN'T!



IGNORING HIS OWN AGONIZING BURNS, HE WOULD DRAG THE REMAINING TWO SOLDIERS FREE OF THE INFERNO.

CAN'T... STAY... HERE.



REINFORCEMENTS ARRIVED FROM FOB MCKENZIE TO PROTECT WHAT WAS NOW A RESCUE OPERATION.



SERGEANT CASHE, YOU NEED TREATMENT.

MEDICAL TEAMS ARRIVED TO TREAT THE HORRIBLY BURNED SOLDIERS.

SEE TO... MY MEN.

I CAN... WAIT.



CASHE MADE SURE HE WAS THE LAST MAN LOADED FOR EVAC.

LET US USE THE LITTER.

NO, I'M WALKING OUT OF HERE.



ARMY SURGEONS WORKED IN DESPERATION FOR HOURS TRYING TO SAVE CASHE'S LIFE. HE HAD SECOND AND THIRD-DEGREE BURNS OVER 70% OF HIS BODY.

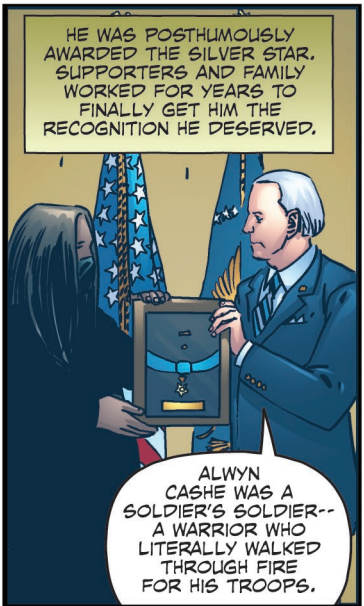
HE WAS FINALLY TAKEN TO THE BROOKS MEDICAL CENTER IN TEXAS.



HOW'RE MY BOYS?

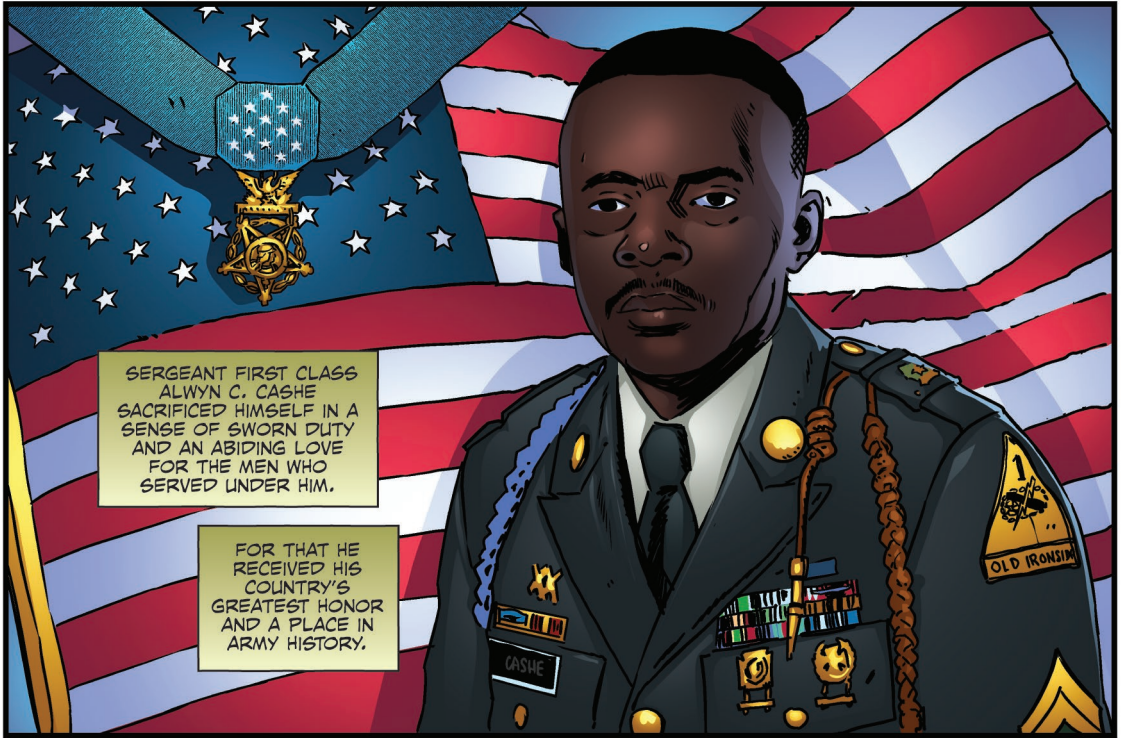
HIS FIRST THOUGHTS WERE FOR HIS SOLDIERS.

ALWYN CASHE SUCCEMBED TO HIS WOUNDS THREE WEEKS LATER ON NOVEMBER 8, 2005.



HE WAS POSTHUMOUSLY AWARDED THE SILVER STAR. SUPPORTERS AND FAMILY WORKED FOR YEARS TO FINALLY GET HIM THE RECOGNITION HE DESERVED.

ALWYN CASHE WAS A SOLDIER'S SOLDIER-- A WARRIOR WHO LITERALLY WALKED THROUGH FIRE FOR HIS TROOPS.



SERGEANT FIRST CLASS ALWYN C. CASHE SACRIFICED HIMSELF IN A SENSE OF SWORN DUTY AND AN ABIDING LOVE FOR THE MEN WHO SERVED UNDER HIM.

FOR THAT HE RECEIVED HIS COUNTRY'S GREATEST HONOR AND A PLACE IN ARMY HISTORY.

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