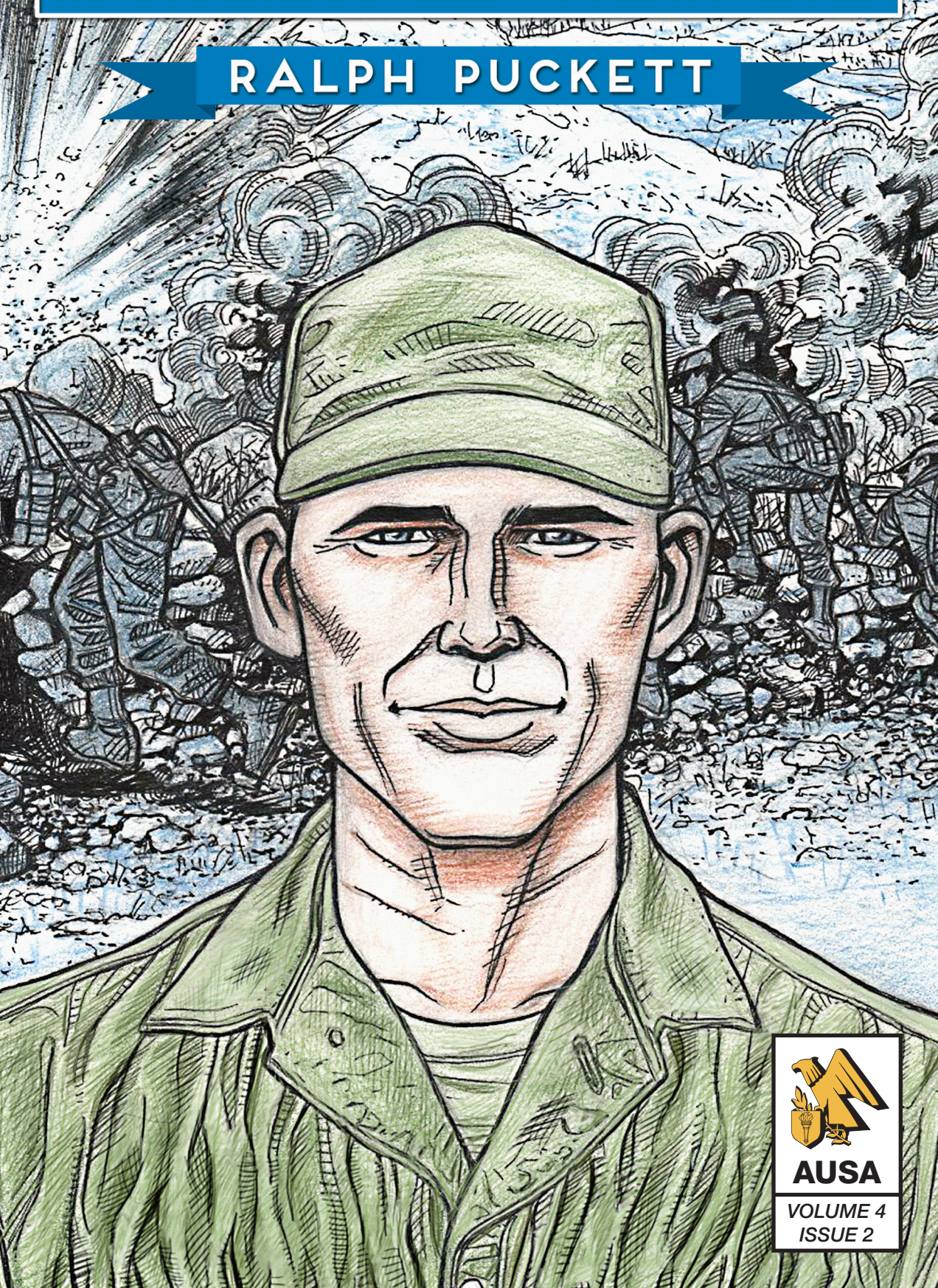


MEDAL OF HONOR

RALPH PUCKETT



AUSA

VOLUME 4
ISSUE 2

MEDAL OF HONOR

RALPH PUCKETT

SCRIPT
CHUCK DIXON

PENCILS & INKS
CHRIS BATISTA

COLORS
PETER PANTAZIS

LETTERING
TROY PETERI

COVER
CHRIS BATISTA

PRODUCER & EDITOR
JOSEPH CRAIG

DESIGNER
KEVIN IRWIN

Special thanks to Matthew J. Seelinger, J.D. Lock, Robert D. Seals, D.K.R. Crosswell, William M. Donnelly, Laura Jowdy, Tim Frank, and Jim McLaughlin.

Medal of Honor: Ralph Puckett, May 2022. 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, Education: LTG Guy C. Swan III, 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.

© 2022 Association of the United States Army
All rights reserved.



**ASSOCIATION OF THE
UNITED STATES ARMY**

The Association of the United States Army (AUSA) is the Army's professional association. If you have a connection with the Army—professionally or personally—AUSA is your resource for educational resources, business opportunities, local and national support, philanthropy initiatives, scholarships, family programs, influential representation, and genuine relationships with a supportive Army community.

Become a member today at www.ausa.org/join.

The Medal of Honor graphic novel series is brought
to you through the generous sponsorship of

GENERAL DYNAMICS



A FROZEN HILL IN KOREA WOULD SEVERELY TEST THE EIGHTH ARMY RANGER COMPANY LED BY THE MAN WHO READIED THEM FOR COMBAT:

RALPH PUCKETT

RALPH PUCKETT JR. OF TIFTON, GEORGIA, GRADUATED FROM WEST POINT IN 1949.

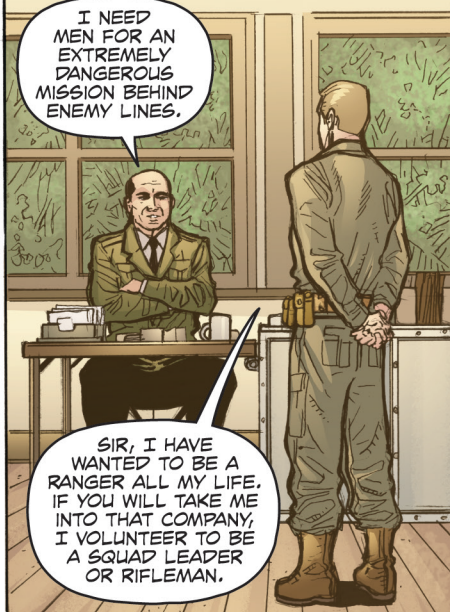
HE WAS COMMISSIONED AS A SECOND LIEUTENANT AND VOLUNTEERED TO BE SENT TO KOREA.



HE WAS CALLED TO THE POST HEADQUARTERS IN JAPAN AS HE AWAITED ASSIGNMENT.

I NEED MEN FOR AN EXTREMELY DANGEROUS MISSION BEHIND ENEMY LINES.

SIR, I HAVE WANTED TO BE A RANGER ALL MY LIFE. IF YOU WILL TAKE ME INTO THAT COMPANY, I VOLUNTEER TO BE A SQUAD LEADER OR RIFLEMAN.



HE WAS SELECTED NOT JUST TO JOIN THE COMPANY-- HE WOULD COMMAND IT.

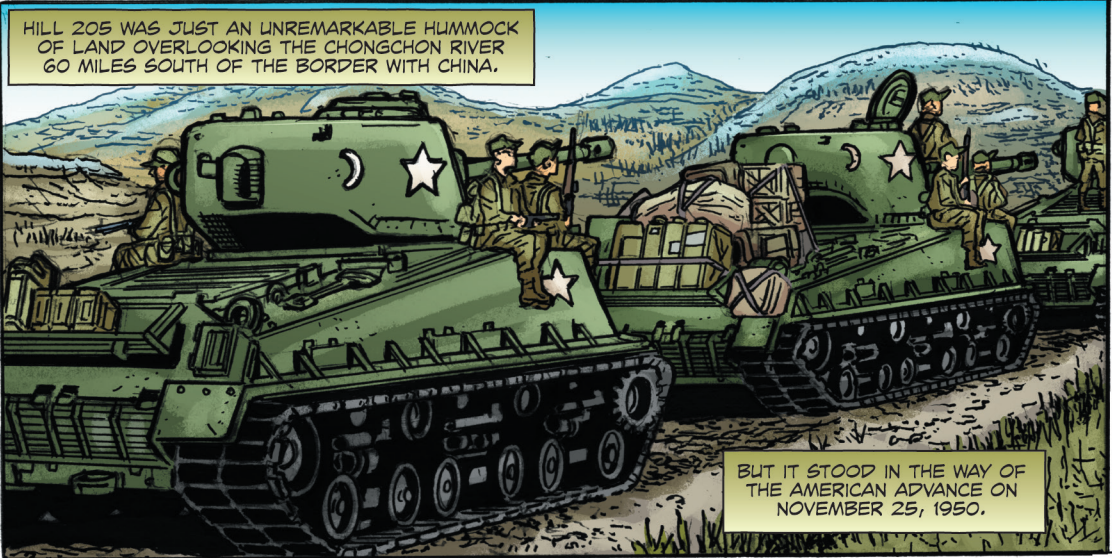
DEAR GOD, DON'T LET ME GET A BUNCH OF GOOD GUYS KILLED.





INFANTRYMEN WERE IN SHORT SUPPLY, SO PUCKETT HAD TO SELECT MEN FROM SERVICE AND SUPPLY UNITS AND TRAIN THEM HARD.

PUCKETT WOULD LEAD THE NEW EIGHTH ARMY RANGER COMPANY IN ACTIONS AGAINST NORTH KOREAN AND CHINESE FORCES.



HILL 205 WAS JUST AN UNREMARKABLE HUMMOCK OF LAND OVERLOOKING THE CHONGCHON RIVER 60 MILES SOUTH OF THE BORDER WITH CHINA.

BUT IT STOOD IN THE WAY OF THE AMERICAN ADVANCE ON NOVEMBER 25, 1950.



FIFTY-ONE RANGERS AND NINE KATUSAS* WERE TASKED WITH TAKING AND HOLDING THE HILL.



SIXTY MEN TO TAKE THE HIGH GROUND.

I NEED YOU TO PROVIDE A BASE OF FIRE.



WITH RALPH PUCKETT LEADING THE WAY,

LET'S GO, RANGERS!

*KOREAN AUGMENTATION TO THE UNITED STATES ARMY.



LIEUTENANT!
WE CAN'T SEE
THE MACHINE
GUN!

I'LL DRAW
THEIR FIRE,
YOU TAKE IT
OUT!

PUCKETT BROKE COVER THREE TIMES
TO REVEAL THE HIDDEN POSITION.

BY THE END OF THE DAY, AT THE COST
OF SIX RANGERS AND THREE KATUSAS,
HILL 205 WAS IN THEIR HANDS.

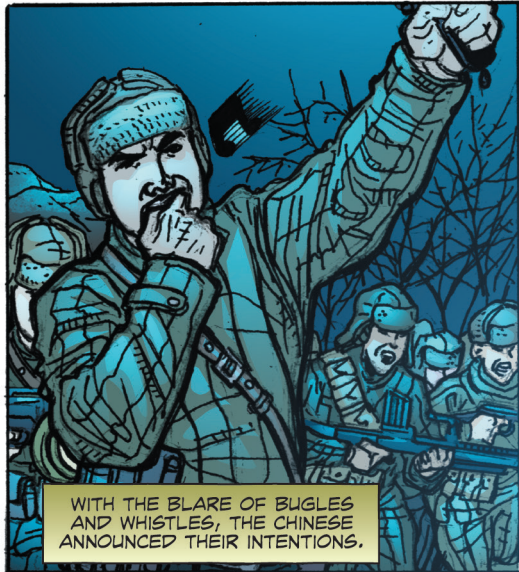


NOW CAME THE JOB
OF HOLDING IT.

THE
COMMANDER
WANTS A FULL
360 PERIMETER.
NEAREST FRIENDLY
UNIT'S OVER A
MILE AWAY.



REPORTS CAME IN THAT OTHER
UNITS WERE ALREADY UNDER
ATTACK. THE RANGERS KNEW
WHAT WAS COMING.



WITH THE BLARE OF BUGLES
AND WHISTLES, THE CHINESE
ANNOUNCED THEIR INTENTIONS.



LIEUTENANT PUCKETT DIRECTED ARTILLERY FIRE AS WELL AS TAKING A DIRECT HAND IN THE FIGHTING.



THE RANGERS WERE OUTNUMBERED TEN TO ONE AS THE CHINESE PUSHED UP THE HILL.



PUCKETT SUFFERED THE FIRST OF MANY WOUNDS HE WOULD RECEIVE THAT NIGHT.

UNNH!



IT WOULDN'T STOP HIM FROM SEEING TO HIS COMMAND.

HOW YOU FELLAS HOLDIN' UP?

SIR, YOU'RE WOUNDED.

JUST A LITTLE SHRAPNEL, IS ALL.



HE CONTINUED TO CALL IN ILLUMINATION AND FIRE MISSIONS.

YOU GOT THOSE COORDINATES? FIRE FOR EFFECT.

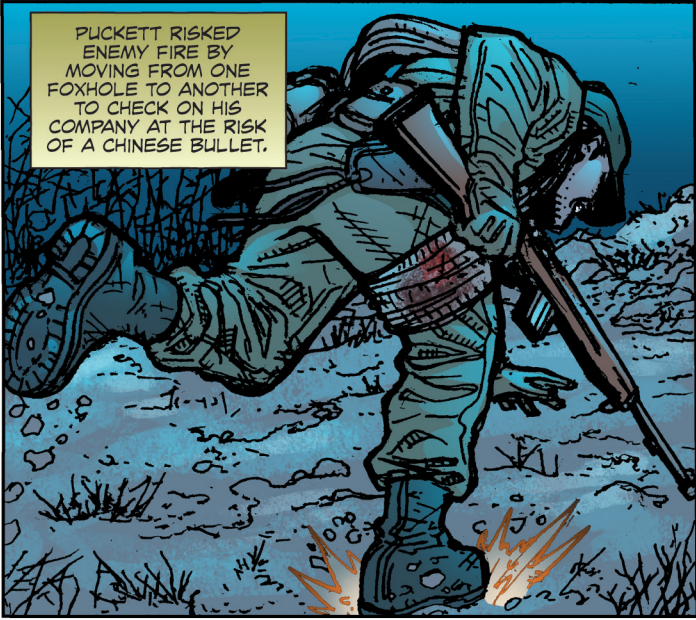
ROGER. HEADS DOWN.



PUCKETT HAD TO CALL IN MANY OF THE ARTILLERY ROUNDS 'DANGER CLOSE.'

THE FIRST ASSAULT WAS REPELLED.

MORE WOULD FOLLOW.



PUCKETT RISKED ENEMY FIRE BY MOVING FROM ONE FOXHOLE TO ANOTHER TO CHECK ON HIS COMPANY AT THE RISK OF A CHINESE BULLET.



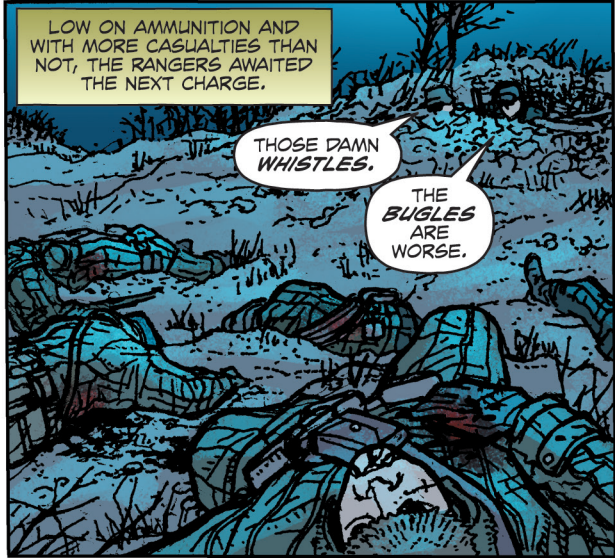
THE ODDS CAUGHT UP WITH HIM.

HE STILL REFUSED TO BE EVACUATED.



HE WAS EVERYWHERE AT ONCE, DESPITE HIS WOUNDS.

THEY'LL BE COMING AGAIN, FELLAS. YOU'RE GONNA NEED EVERY ROUND.



LOW ON AMMUNITION AND WITH MORE CASUALTIES THAN NOT, THE RANGERS AWAITED THE NEXT CHARGE.

THOSE DAMN WHISTLES.

THE BUGLES ARE WORSE.



WE'VE GOT TO HAVE THAT ARTILLERY.

I'VE GOT NOTHING TO SPARE NOW. WE'RE GETTING HIT ALL ALONG THE LINE.



THE NEXT ATTACK, THE SIXTH THAT NIGHT, BEGAN AT 2:35 AM.



FIX BAYONETS!



THE RANGERS STEELED THEMSELVES FOR THE WORST.



THE ENEMY CAME IN A DENSE WAVE.

WITHOUT ARTILLERY SUPPORT THE HUMAN TIDE COULD NOT BE STOPPED.



THE RANGERS WERE OVERWHELMED BY SHEER NUMBERS.



TWO MORTAR ROUNDS LANDED DIRECTLY IN PUCKETT'S FOXHOLE.



HE WAS SEVERELY WOUNDED FROM SHRAPNEL AND CONCUSSION.

WE NEED TO EVACUATE YOU, SIR.

NO TIME. GET THE MEN OFF THE HILL. LEAVE ME HERE.



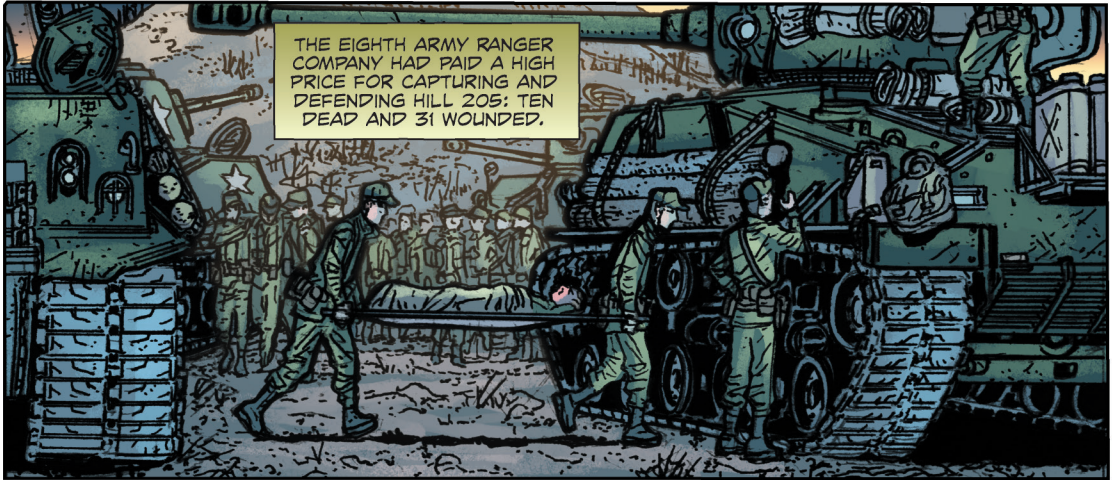
AGAINST HIS DIRECT ORDERS, TWO OF HIS RANGERS RISKED THEIR LIVES TO FIND THEIR COMMANDER AND CARRY HIM TO SAFETY.

SIR, YOU'RE TOO HEAVY. WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO DRAG YOU. CAN YOU HANG IN THERE?

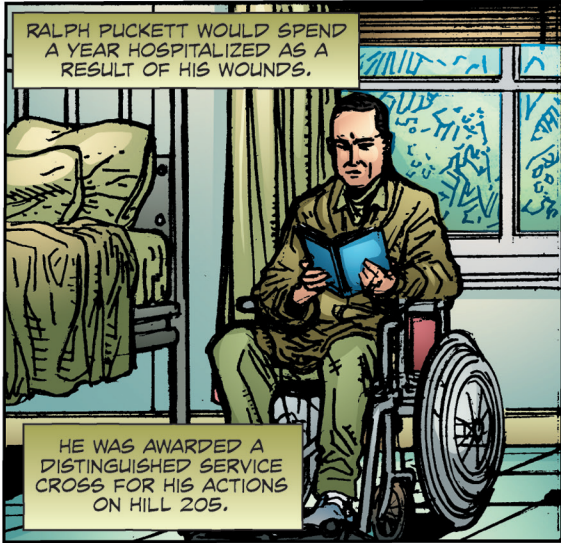
I'M A RANGER.



PUCKETT CALLED IN A FINAL BARRAGE OF "WILLIE PETE"--WHITE PHOSPHOROUS--ON THE ENEMY.



THE EIGHTH ARMY RANGER COMPANY HAD PAID A HIGH PRICE FOR CAPTURING AND DEFENDING HILL 205: TEN DEAD AND 31 WOUNDED.



RALPH PUCKETT WOULD SPEND A YEAR HOSPITALIZED AS A RESULT OF HIS WOUNDS.

HE WAS AWARDED A DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS FOR HIS ACTIONS ON HILL 205.



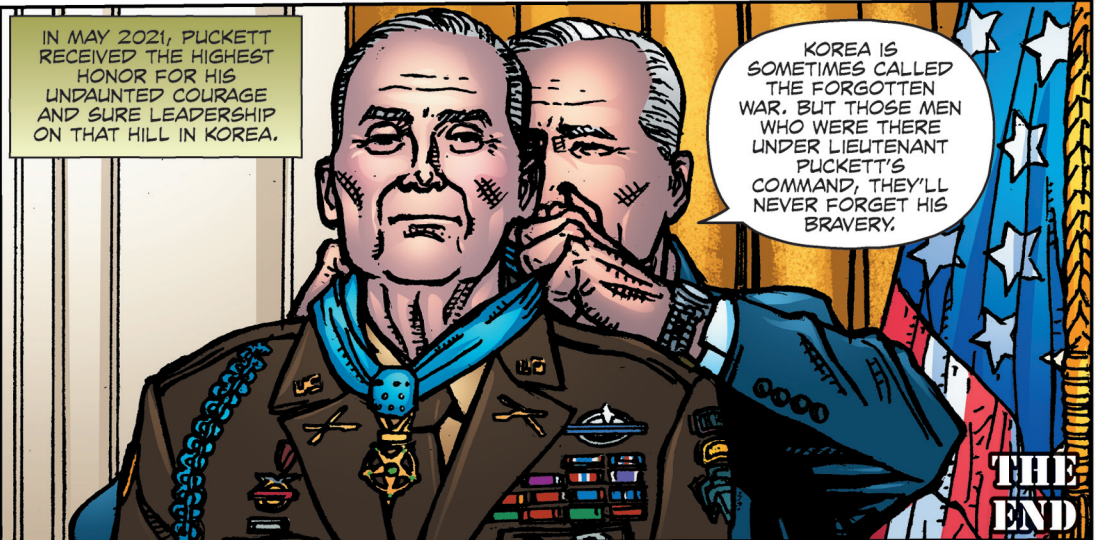
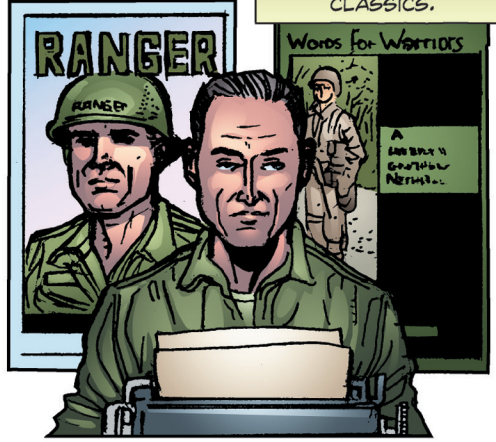
UPON HIS RECOVERY HE WOULD CONTINUE TO SERVE THE ARMY AS A RANGER INSTRUCTOR BOTH AT HOME AND ABROAD.



PUCKETT VOLUNTEERED FOR COMBAT AGAIN IN VIETNAM AND SERVED AS A BATTALION COMMANDER IN THE 101ST AIRBORNE.

HE RETIRED AS A COLONEL IN 1971 AFTER 22 YEARS IN UNIFORM.

HE STILL SERVED AS HONORARY COLONEL OF THE 75TH RANGER REGIMENT AND WENT ON TO WRITE TWO BOOKS CONSIDERED LEADERSHIP CLASSICS.



IN MAY 2021, PUCKETT RECEIVED THE HIGHEST HONOR FOR HIS UNDAUNTED COURAGE AND SURE LEADERSHIP ON THAT HILL IN KOREA.

KOREA IS SOMETIMES CALLED THE FORGOTTEN WAR. BUT THOSE MEN WHO WERE THERE UNDER LIEUTENANT PUCKETT'S COMMAND, THEY'LL NEVER FORGET HIS BRAVERY.

THE END

The Medal of Honor graphic novel series is brought
to you through the generous sponsorship of

GENERAL DYNAMICS

For information on the AUSA Book Program
and to see other issues in the **Medal of Honor**
series, visit www.ausa.org/moh.



**ASSOCIATION OF THE
UNITED STATES ARMY**

Become a member today at www.ausa.org/join.