

# MEDAL OF HONOR

SAMUEL WOODFILL



**AUSA**

VOLUME 5  
ISSUE 2

# MEDAL OF HONOR

SAMUEL WOODFILL

SCRIPT  
**CHUCK DIXON**

PENCILS & INKS  
**GEOF ISHERWOOD**

COLORS  
**PETER PANTAZIS**

LETTERING  
**TROY PETERI**

COVER  
**GEOF ISHERWOOD**

PRODUCER & EDITOR  
**JOSEPH CRAIG**

DESIGNER  
**KEVIN IRWIN**

---

Special thanks to Matthew J. Seelinger, Edward G. Lengel, Tim Frank, Martin Gedra, Laura Jowdy, and Jim McLaughlin.

**Medal of Honor: Samuel Woodfill**, May 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.

© 2023 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](http://www.ausa.org/join).

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

**GENERAL DYNAMICS**



IN 1918, IN THE WANING DAYS OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR, ONE DOUGHBOY WOULD DISTINGUISH HIMSELF ON THE FIELDS OF COMBAT WITH HIS UNWAVERING COURAGE AND EXTRAORDINARY MARKSMANSHIP.



# SAMUEL WOODFILL

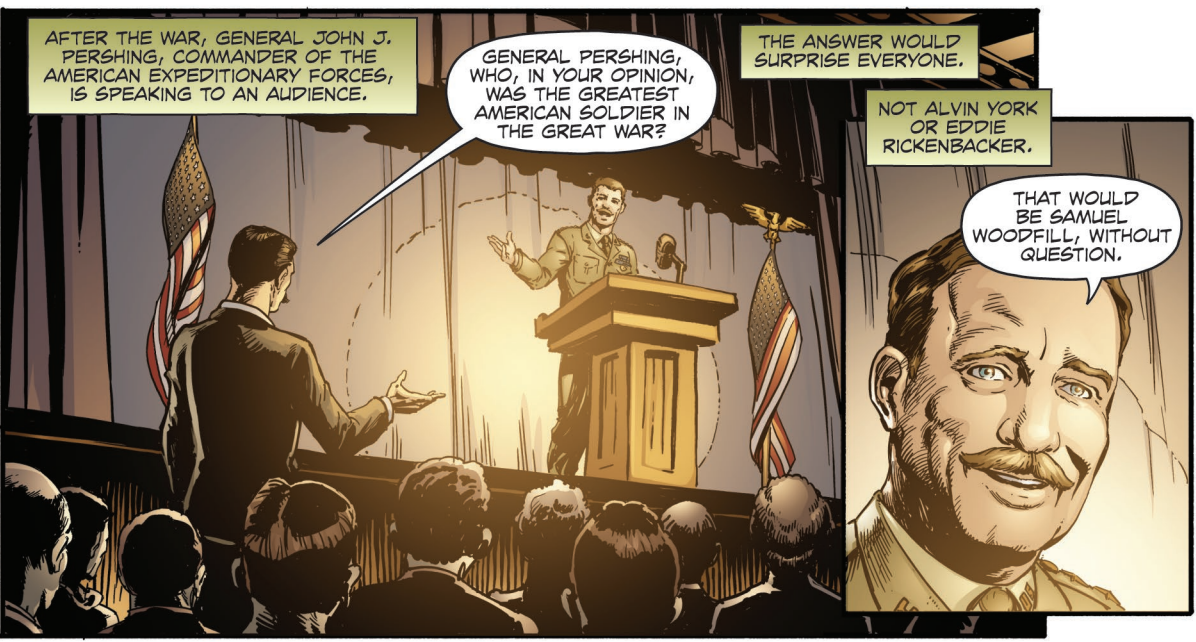
AFTER THE WAR, GENERAL JOHN J. PERSHING, COMMANDER OF THE AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES, IS SPEAKING TO AN AUDIENCE.

GENERAL PERSHING, WHO, IN YOUR OPINION, WAS THE GREATEST AMERICAN SOLDIER IN THE GREAT WAR?

THE ANSWER WOULD SURPRISE EVERYONE.

NOT ALVIN YORK OR EDDIE RICKENBACKER.

THAT WOULD BE SAMUEL WOODFILL, WITHOUT QUESTION.



SAMUEL WOODFILL, CHILD OF AN INDIANA FARM FAMILY, DREAMED OF BEING A HUNTER.

NOT YET, SON.





SO STRONG WAS SAM'S DRIVE TO HUNT, HE WOULD SNEAK AWAY WITH HIS FATHER'S RIFLE TO STALK GAME.



WHEN AMERICA ENTERED INTO A WAR WITH SPAIN, SAM WENT TO ENLIST THOUGH ONLY FIFTEEN YEARS OF AGE.



UPON REACHING HIS EIGHTEENTH YEAR, HE ENLISTED IN THE ARMY AND SERVED IN THE PHILIPPINES FOR THREE YEARS.



FROM THERE WOODFILL TRANSFERRED TO ALASKA WHERE HE HUNTED BIG GAME IN ORDER TO HONE HIS SKILLS WITH A RIFLE.



AS PART OF GENERAL PERSHING'S EXPEDITION IN 1914, WOODFILL WAS SENT TO THE MEXICAN BORDER TO PROTECT AGAINST RAIDS BY PANCHE VILLA.



WE'VE GOT TO BE READY. WHERE THERE'S A WAR, THERE'S GOING TO BE RIFLE SHOOTING.



AS WAR IN EUROPE LOOMED, HE MARRIED HIS LONGTIME GIRLFRIEND, LORENA WILTSHIRE.



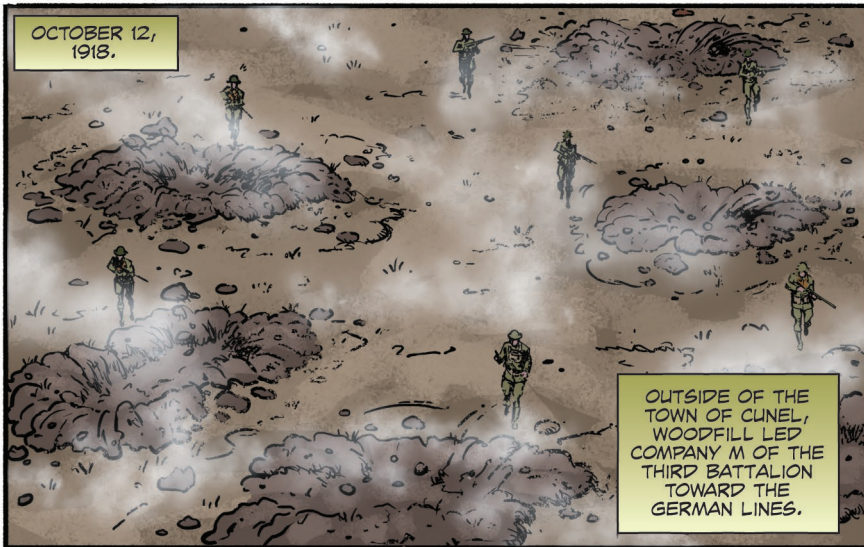


PROMOTED TO FIRST LIEUTENANT, HE ARRIVED IN FRANCE AS A MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES.

HE AND THE 60TH INFANTRY REGIMENT WOULD TAKE PART IN THE GRUELING MEUSE-ARGONNE BATTLE.



OCTOBER 12, 1918.



OUTSIDE OF THE TOWN OF CUNEL, WOODFILL LED COMPANY M OF THE THIRD BATTALION TOWARD THE GERMAN LINES.

REMEMBER, BOYS, DON'T BUNCH UP.

AND FOLLOW MY LEAD WHEN IT HEATS UP.



IT SWIFTLY HEATED UP AS MULTIPLE GERMAN MACHINE GUNS OPENED UP ON THE ADVANCING DOUGHBOYS.



EVERYONE DOWN! I NEED TWO MEN TO ADVANCE WITH ME.

AND SOMEBODY GIVE ME A RIFLE!



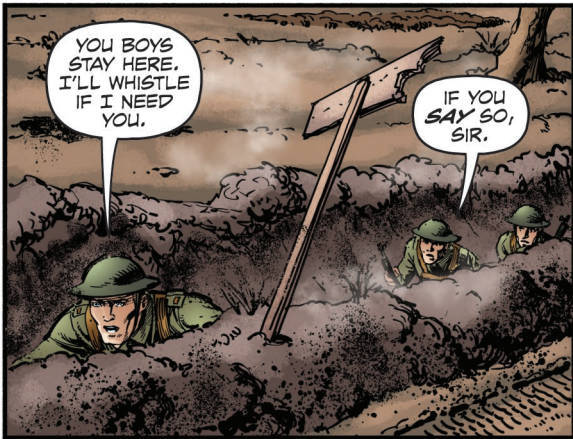




WITH HIS TWO VOLUNTEERS IN TOW, WOODFILL MOVED TOWARD THE MACHINE GUN FIRE.

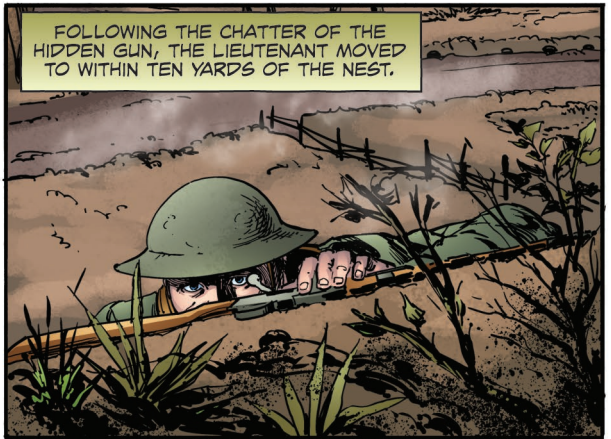
WE'RE GONNA WORK AROUND THE FLANK OF THAT GUN.

HOW CAN WE EVEN KNOW WHERE IT IS?



YOU BOYS STAY HERE. I'LL WHISTLE IF I NEED YOU.

IF YOU SAY SO, SIR.



FOLLOWING THE CHATTER OF THE HIDDEN GUN, THE LIEUTENANT MOVED TO WITHIN TEN YARDS OF THE NEST.



THE GERMAN GUN WENT SILENT AND ITS CREW CHARGED AT WOODFILL.

HE TOOK OUT THREE WITH HIS RIFLE BEFORE THEY COULD CLOSE.



HIS RIFLE EMPTY, WOODFILL USED IT AS A CLUB TO WARD OFF THEIR OFFICER.



A HAND-TO-HAND STRUGGLE ENDED WITH A ROUND FROM WOODFILL'S COLT.

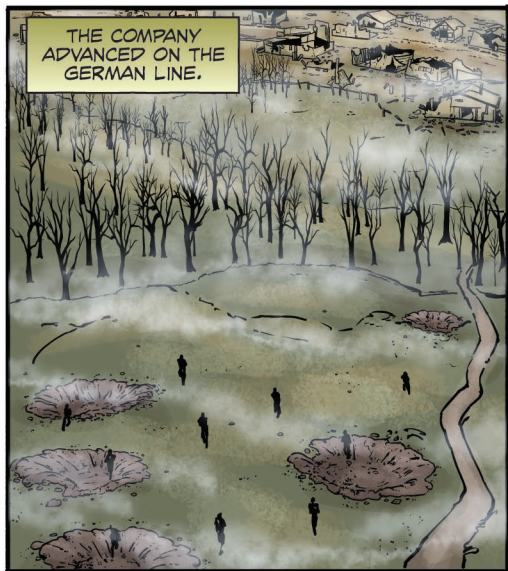




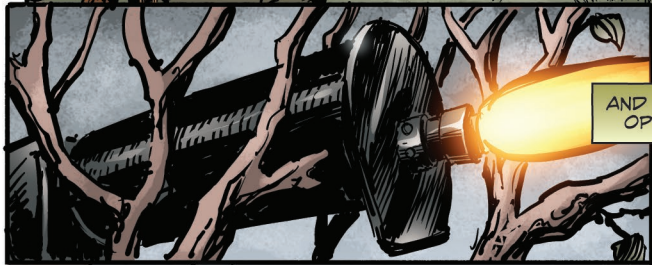
THE WAY AHEAD WAS CLEAR.

FOR THE MOMENT.

COME ON, BOYS! FOLLOW ON!



THE COMPANY ADVANCED ON THE GERMAN LINE.



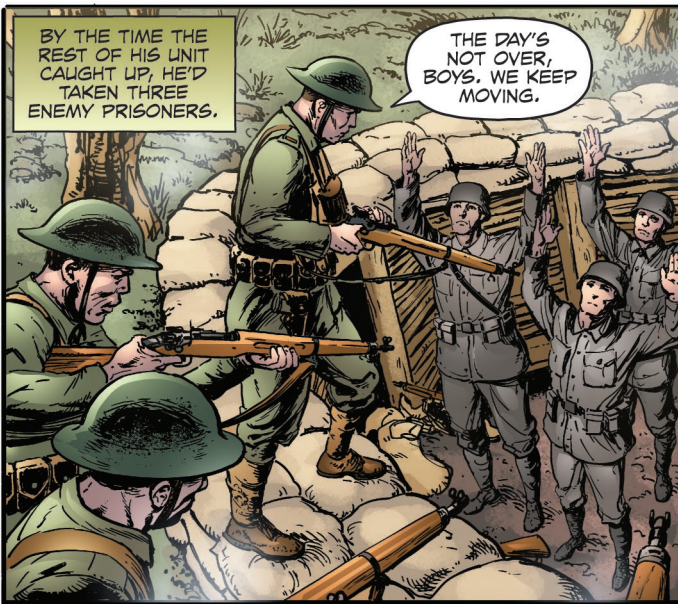
AND YET ANOTHER MAXIM OPENED UP ON THEM.

WITHOUT PAUSE, WOODFILL RUSHED AHEAD OF HIS MEN, INTO THE TEETH OF THE KILLING FIRE.



HE KILLED TWO OF THE GUNNERS, SILENCING THE MACHINE GUN.





BY THE TIME THE REST OF HIS UNIT CAUGHT UP, HE'D TAKEN THREE ENEMY PRISONERS.

THE DAY'S NOT OVER, BOYS. WE KEEP MOVING.



THE DOUGHBOYS FELL UNDER MORE RAKING FIRE FROM A CONCEALED GUN.



AND ONCE AGAIN, THEIR COMMANDING OFFICER TOOK THE LEAD.

TAKE COVER!



FIVE ROUNDS. FIVE ENEMY DEAD.



HIS RIFLE EMPTY, WOODFILL RESORTED AGAIN TO HIS REVOLVER.





TWO ENEMY SOLDIERS CAME TO AVENGE THEIR SLAIN COMRADES.

WOODFILL SPENT THE REMAINING ROUNDS FROM HIS COLT AT THEM.



WHEN THIS FAILED, THE LIEUTENANT GRASPED FOR THE NEAREST AVAILABLE WEAPON.



A TOOL FAMILIAR TO HIM FROM WORKING FIELDS BACK IN INDIANA.

IN HIS HANDS, ITS PURPOSE TURNED LETHAL THAT DAY.



ENOUGH GAWKING, MEN. WE STILL HAVE BUSINESS.



UNDER A HEAVY BARRAGE OF ARTILLERY FIRE AND CONTINUOUS RESISTANCE, COMPANY M CLEARED THE WAY FOR THE REGIMENT TO TAKE THE TOWN.





SHRAPNEL AND MUSTARD GAS CUT SHORT WOODFILL'S FIGHT THAT DAY.

HE WOULD SPEND THE NEXT TEN WEEKS IN AN ARMY HOSPITAL.



FEBRUARY 9, 1919.

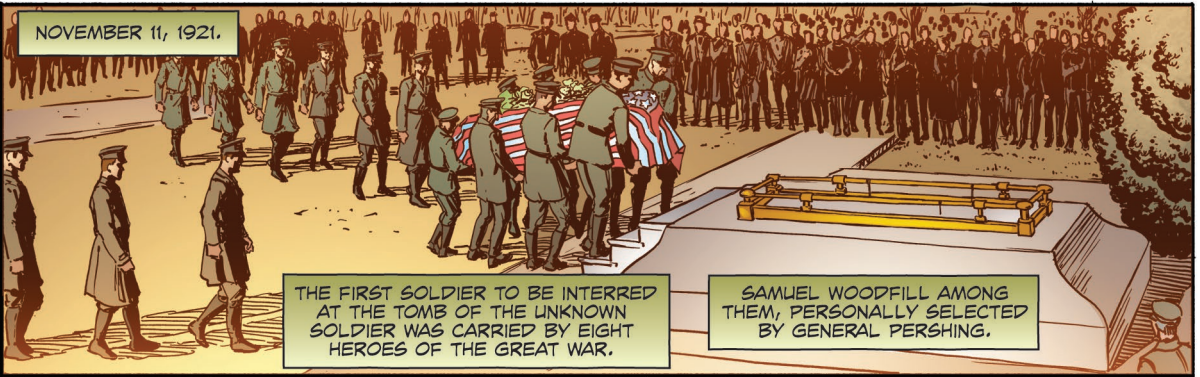
SAMUEL WOODFILL WAS AWARDED THE MEDAL OF HONOR BY GENERAL PERSHING.

THIS IS THE HIGHEST HONOR AN AMERICAN CAN RECEIVE FROM HIS GOVERNMENT.



WHEN CIVILIAN LIFE HELD LITTLE APPEAL AFTER THE WAR, WOODFILL SIGNED ON FOR ANOTHER HITCH.

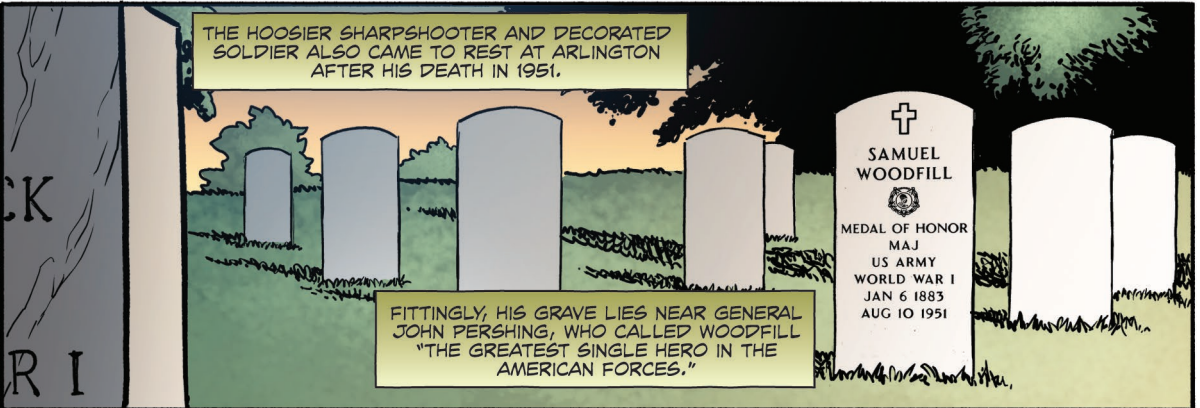
HE NEVER MINDED THAT HE HAD TO START OVER AS A SERGEANT.



NOVEMBER 11, 1921.

THE FIRST SOLDIER TO BE INTERRED AT THE TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER WAS CARRIED BY EIGHT HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR.

SAMUEL WOODFILL AMONG THEM, PERSONALLY SELECTED BY GENERAL PERSHING.



THE HOOSIER SHARPSHOOTER AND DECORATED SOLDIER ALSO CAME TO REST AT ARLINGTON AFTER HIS DEATH IN 1951.

FITTINGLY, HIS GRAVE LIES NEAR GENERAL JOHN PERSHING, WHO CALLED WOODFILL "THE GREATEST SINGLE HERO IN THE AMERICAN FORCES."

SAMUEL WOODFILL  
MEDAL OF HONOR  
MAJ  
US ARMY  
WORLD WAR I  
JAN 6 1883  
AUG 10 1951



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](http://www.ausa.org/moh).



**ASSOCIATION OF THE  
UNITED STATES ARMY**

Become a member today at [www.ausa.org/join](http://www.ausa.org/join).