

# MEDAL OF HONOR

ROGER DONLON



**AUSA**

VOLUME 3  
ISSUE 4

**U.S. ARMY**

# MEDAL OF HONOR

ROGER DONLON

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, James H. Willbanks,  
Robert D. Seals, Laura Jowdy, Tim Frank, and Jim McLaughlin.

**Medal of Honor: Roger Donlon**, September 2021. Published by the Association of the United States Army, 2425 Wilson Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22201. President and Chief Executive Officer: GEN Carter F. Ham, USA Ret.; Executive Vice President: 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.

© 2021 Association of the United States Army  
All rights reserved.

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.

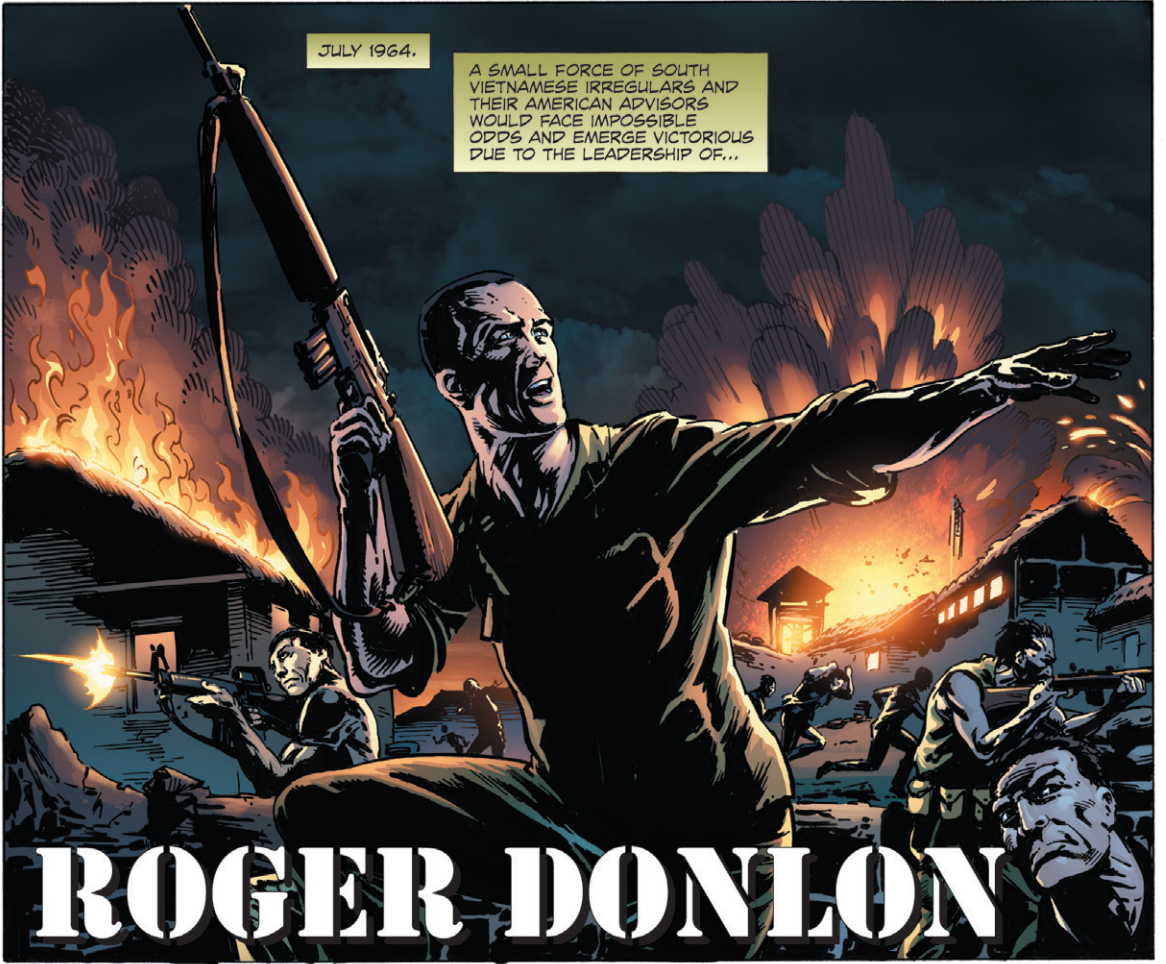
Become a member today at [www.ausa.org/join](http://www.ausa.org/join).

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

**GENERAL DYNAMICS**

JULY 1964.

A SMALL FORCE OF SOUTH VIETNAMESE IRREGULARS AND THEIR AMERICAN ADVISORS WOULD FACE IMPOSSIBLE ODDS AND EMERGE VICTORIOUS DUE TO THE LEADERSHIP OF...



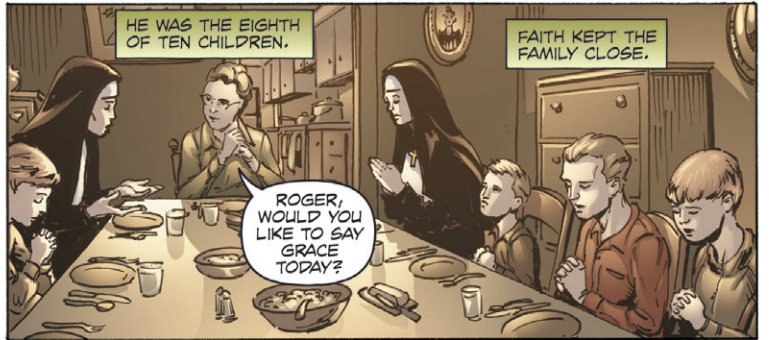
# ROGER DONLON

ROGER HUGH CHARLES DONLON WAS BORN AT HOME, DURING THE DEPRESSION, IN THE SMALL TOWN OF SAUGERTIES, NEW YORK.



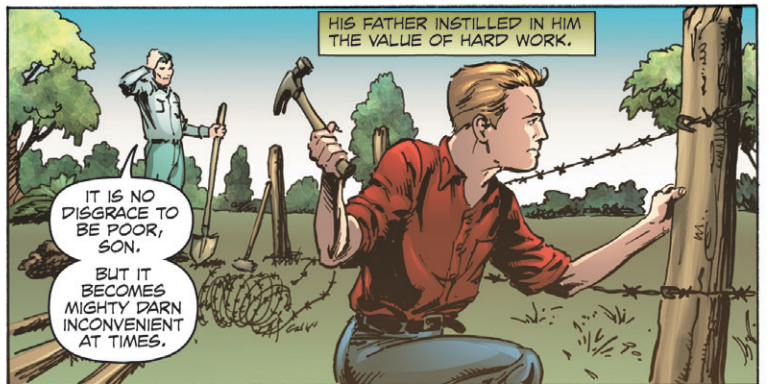
HE WAS THE EIGHTH OF TEN CHILDREN.

FAITH KEPT THE FAMILY CLOSE.



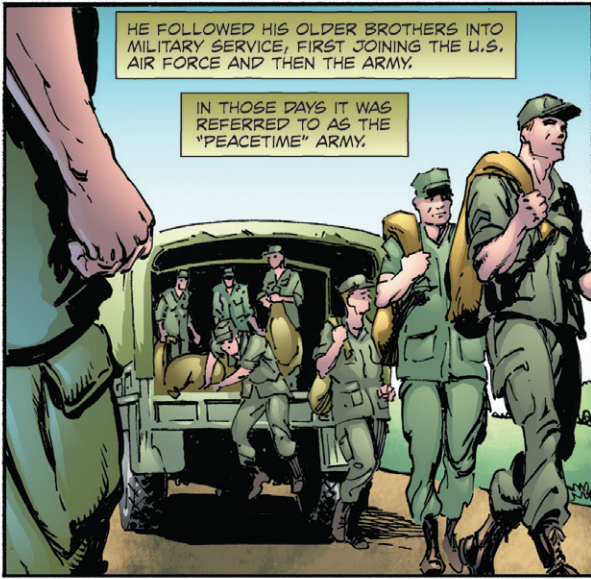
ROGER, WOULD YOU LIKE TO SAY GRACE TODAY?

HIS FATHER INSTILLED IN HIM THE VALUE OF HARD WORK.



IT IS NO DISGRACE TO BE POOR, SON.

BUT IT BECOMES MIGHTY DARN INCONVENIENT AT TIMES.



HE FOLLOWED HIS OLDER BROTHERS INTO MILITARY SERVICE, FIRST JOINING THE U.S. AIR FORCE AND THEN THE ARMY.

IN THOSE DAYS IT WAS REFERRED TO AS THE "PEACETIME" ARMY.



IN 1963 HE JOINED THE U.S. ARMY SPECIAL FORCES--THE GREEN BERETS.

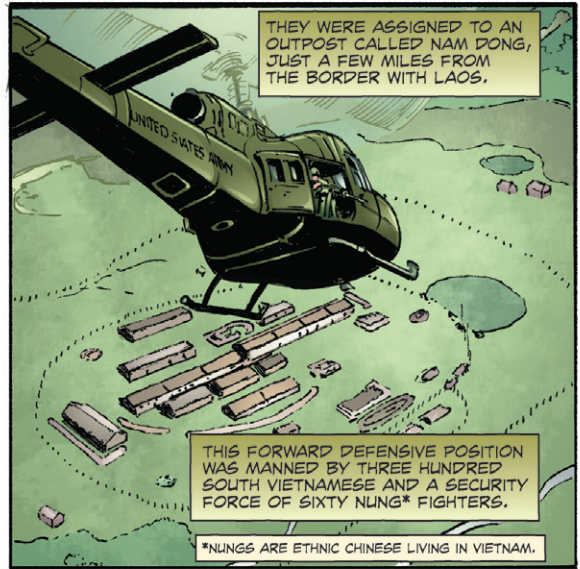
HIS PEACETIME WAS OVER.

DE OPPRESSO LIBER.



SPECIAL FORCES IN VIETNAM WERE TASKED WITH HELPING TO TRAIN AND ORGANIZE THE CIVILIAN IRREGULAR DEFENSE GROUP, SOUTH VIETNAMESE PARAMILITARIES, TO FIGHT THE INSURGENT VIET CONG.

CAPTAIN DONLON LED THE TWELVE MEN OF TEAM A-726.



THEY WERE ASSIGNED TO AN OUTPOST CALLED NAM DONG, JUST A FEW MILES FROM THE BORDER WITH LAOS.

THIS FORWARD DEFENSIVE POSITION WAS MANNED BY THREE HUNDRED SOUTH VIETNAMESE AND A SECURITY FORCE OF SIXTY NUNG\* FIGHTERS.

\*NUNGS ARE ETHNIC CHINESE LIVING IN VIETNAM.



IT WAS 2:30 IN THE MORNING WHEN DONLON FINISHED HIS WALK AROUND THE BASE'S PERIMETER.

SOMETHING'S COMING OUR WAY, I CAN FEEL IT.



HE WAS CHECKING THE DUTY ROSTER WHEN HE HEARD A FAMILIAR, UNWELCOME SOUND.

MORTAR!



A WILLY PETER ROUND DROPPED RIGHT ON THE MESS HUT.

THE WHITE PHOSPHORUS SOON HAD THE ENTIRE STRUCTURE ABLAZE.



A FURIOUS RAIN OF MORTAR ROUNDS AND GRENADES COVERED THE CAMP.

ENEMY SNIPERS PICKED OUT TARGETS BACKLIT BY THE FLAMES.



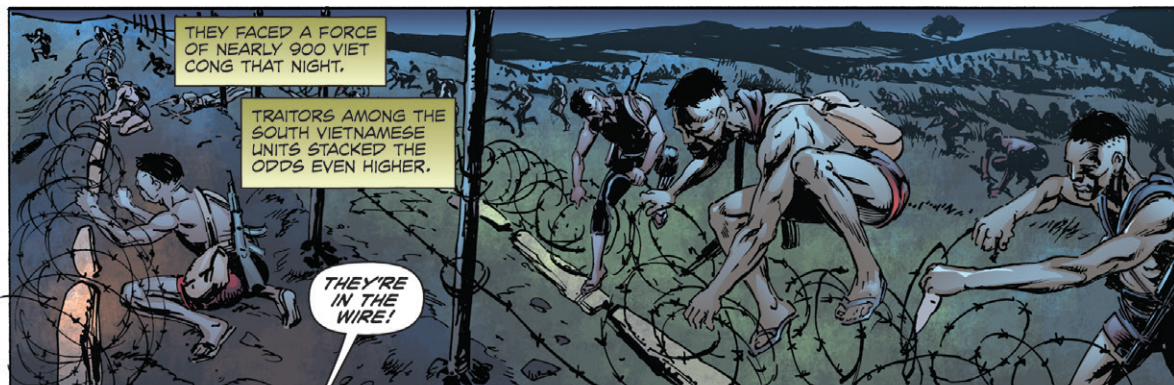
GRAB AS MUCH AMMO AS YOU CAN.

I'LL CALL DA NANG.



EXPOSED TO A STORM OF SHRAPNEL AND FIRE, DONLON DIRECTED MEN TO THEIR DEFENSIVE POSITIONS.

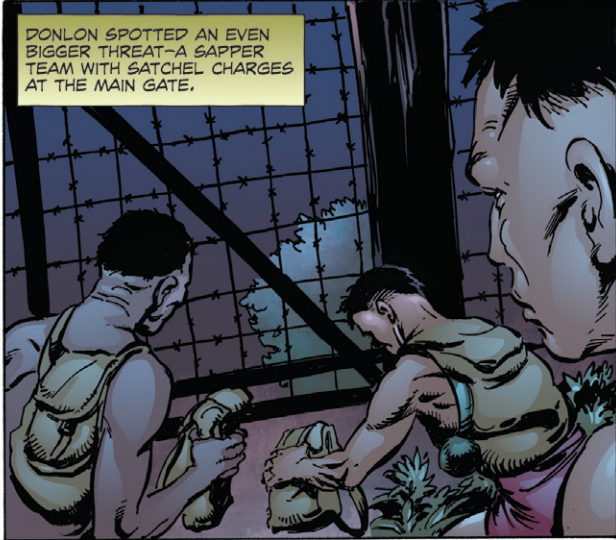
GET TO YOUR POSTS!  
LAY DOWN FIRE!  
WE NEED ILLUMINATION ROUNDS!



THEY FACED A FORCE OF NEARLY 900 VIET CONG THAT NIGHT.

TRAITORS AMONG THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE UNITS STACKED THE ODDS EVEN HIGHER.

THEY'RE IN THE WIRE!





COME ON, POP! TIME TO GO.



A MORTAR BLAST STRUCK AS DONLON TRIED TO DRAG MASTER SGT. GABRIEL "POP" ALAMO TO ANOTHER DEFENSIVE POSITION.



DONLON WAS KNOCKED UNCONSCIOUS. HE SUFFERED A CONCUSSION AND SERIOUS WOUNDS TO HIS LEFT SHOULDER.

POP ALAMO WAS KILLED.



DONLON DRAGGED THE MORTAR TO A NEW POSITION.

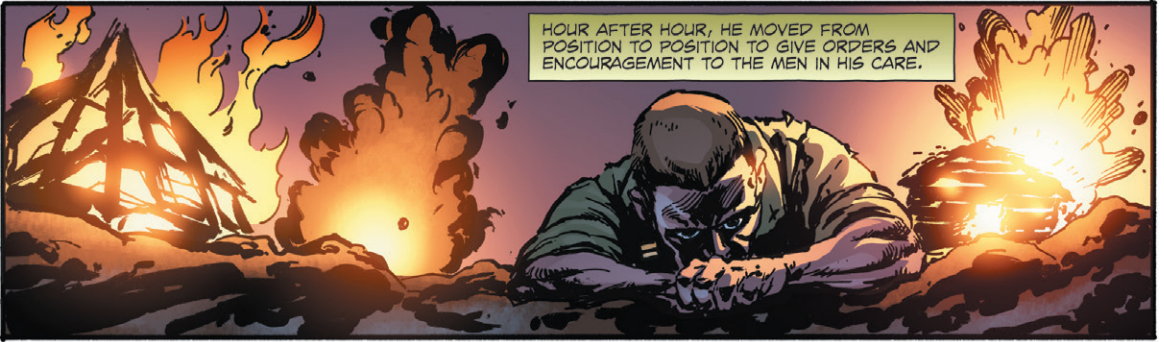
HE USED HIS T-SHIRT TO MAKE BANDAGES FOR THE WOUNDED.



SAVING THE LAST PIECE TO STEM HIS OWN BLEEDING.



YOU FELLOWS ARE GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT. YOU CAN STILL FIGHT.



HOURLY HE MOVED FROM POSITION TO POSITION TO GIVE ORDERS AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE MEN IN HIS CARE.



FIRE H.E.\* TO THE EAST!

\*HIGH-EXPLOSIVE ROUNDS



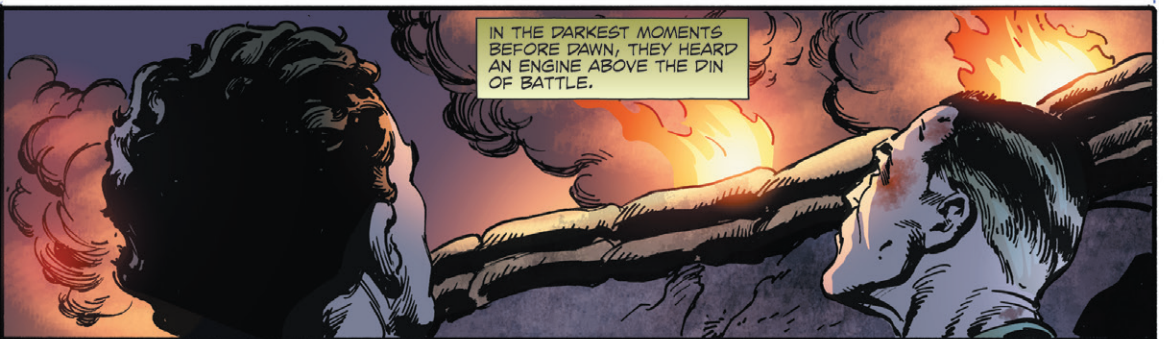
WHEN IS HELP COMING?

JUST HOLD ON. IT'S SPICY OUT THERE, BUT WE'LL MAKE IT.



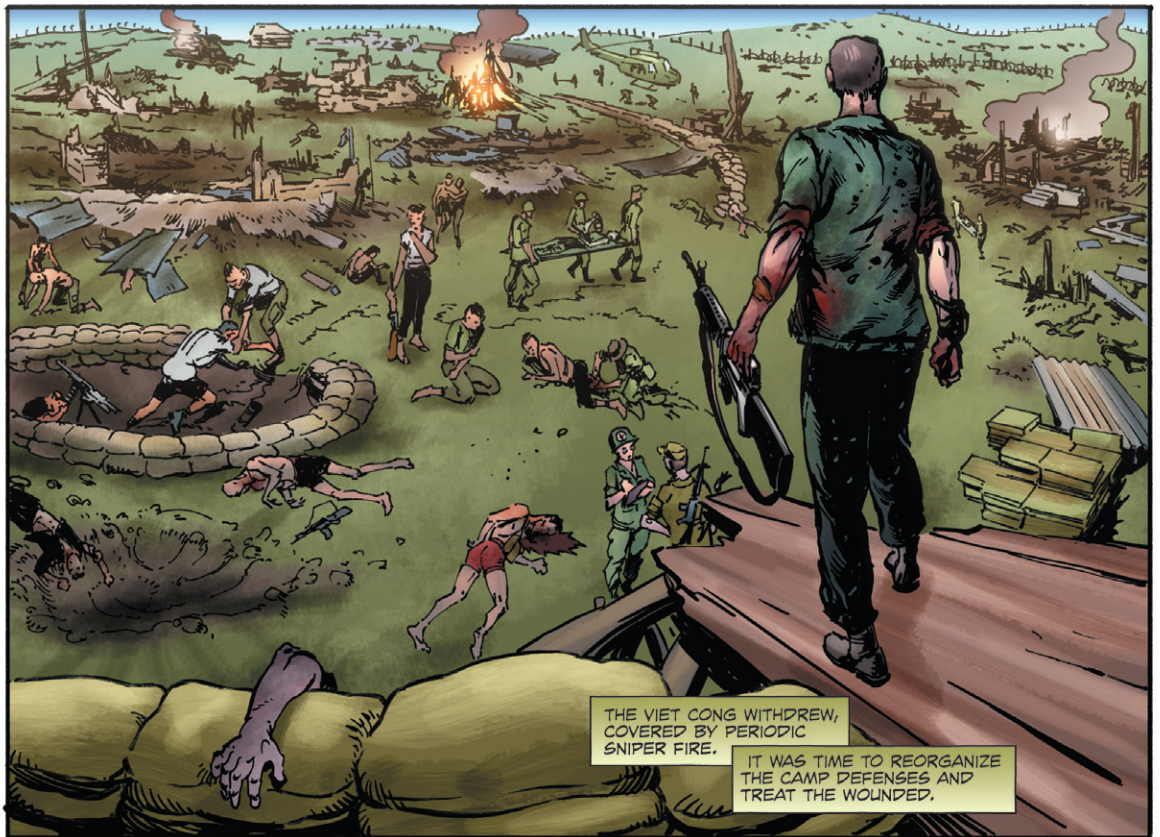
YOU'RE ALL SHOT UP. HOLD STILL AND I'LL FIX YOU UP.

IT WAS JUST A TWINGE. THERE ARE MORE SERIOUSLY WOUNDED, ATTEND TO THEM.

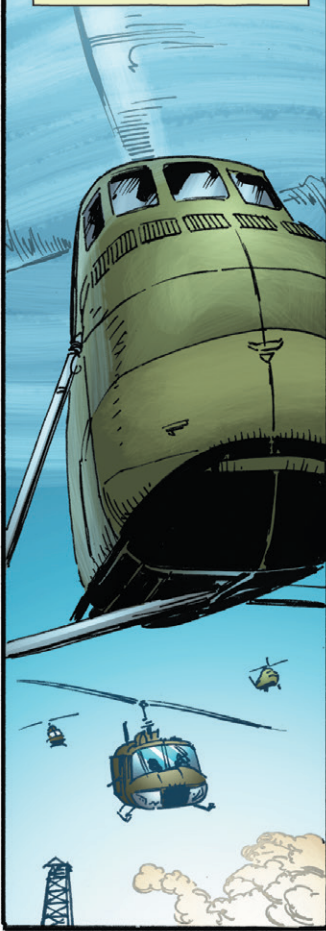


IN THE DARKEST MOMENTS BEFORE DAWN, THEY HEARD AN ENGINE ABOVE THE DIN OF BATTLE.





RELIEF STARTED TO ARRIVE THE NEXT MORNING. IT HAD BEEN SEVEN HOURS SINCE THE ATTACK STARTED.



CAPTAIN DONLON LOST GOOD FRIENDS THAT NIGHT, INCLUDING AUSTRALIAN WARRANT OFFICER KEVIN CONWAY.

FOR THE AMERICANS, BOTH POP ALAMO AND SGT. JOHN HOUSTON LEFT PREGNANT WIVES AS WIDOWS.



ALAMO AND HOUSTON WERE POSTHUMOUSLY AWARDED THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS.

EVERYONE ELSE ON THE TEAM RECEIVED SILVER STARS OR BRONZE STARS WITH "V" DEVICES FOR VALOR.



GENERAL WESTMORELAND PRESENTED DONLON WITH A PURPLE HEART IN VIETNAM.



ALL THE SURVIVING MEMBERS OF TEAM A-726 WERE AT THE WHITE HOUSE WHEN PRESIDENT LYNDON B. JOHNSON BESTOWED THE NATION'S HIGHEST MILITARY AWARD.



**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,  
please visit [www.ausa.org/moh](http://www.ausa.org/moh).



**Association of the United States Army**

2425 Wilson Boulevard

Arlington, VA 22201

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

---

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