

MEDAL OF HONOR

FOOTSIE BRITT



VOLUME 8
ISSUE 1

MEDAL OF HONOR

FOOTSIE BRITT

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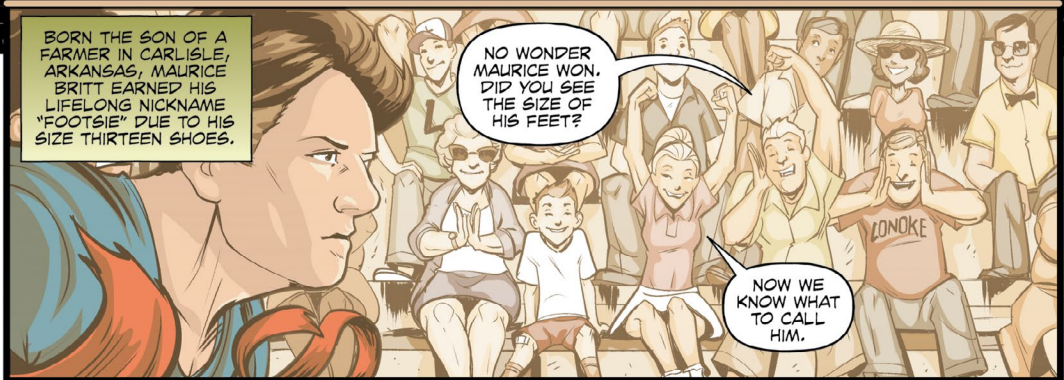
GENERAL DYNAMICS



FIGHTING IN WORLD WAR II, HE INSPIRED AND LED A SMALL HANDFUL OF SOLDIERS AGAINST OVERWHELMING ODDS TO REPEL A COUNTERATTACK OF 100 GERMANS.

HE BECAME THE FIRST SOLDIER TO RECEIVE ALL OF THE ARMY'S TOP COMBAT DECORATIONS FOR VALOR IN A SINGLE WAR.

FOOTSIE BRITT



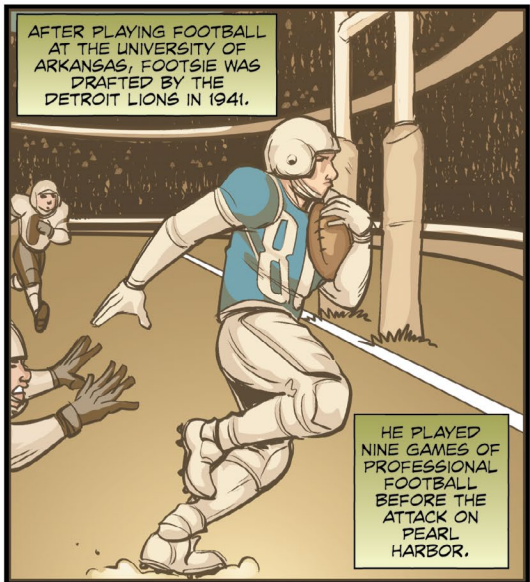
BORN THE SON OF A FARMER IN CARLISLE, ARKANSAS, MAURICE BRITT EARNED HIS LIFELONG NICKNAME "FOOTSIE" DUE TO HIS SIZE THIRTEEN SHOES.

NO WONDER MAURICE WON. DID YOU SEE THE SIZE OF HIS FEET?

NOW WE KNOW WHAT TO CALL HIM.

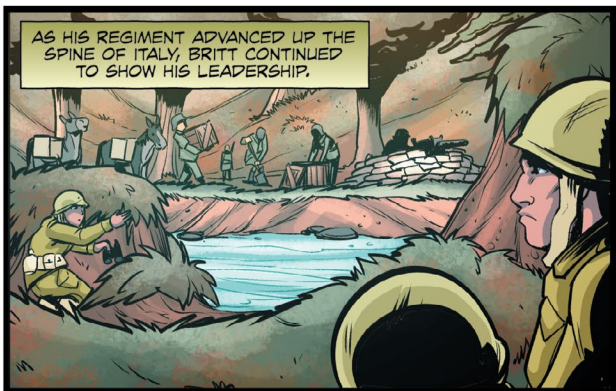
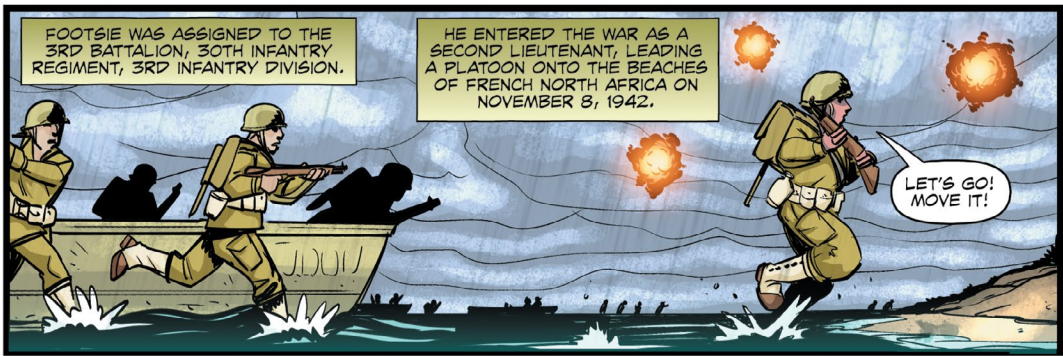


IN ADDITION TO BEING A STAR ATHLETE, FOOTSIE WAS CLASS VALEPDICTORIAN WHEN HE GRADUATED FROM LONOKE HIGH IN JUNE 1937.



AFTER PLAYING FOOTBALL AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS, FOOTSIE WAS DRAFTED BY THE DETROIT LIONS IN 1941.

HE PLAYED NINE GAMES OF PROFESSIONAL FOOTBALL BEFORE THE ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR.



NOVEMBER 10, 1943.
MOUNT ROTONDO, ITALY.



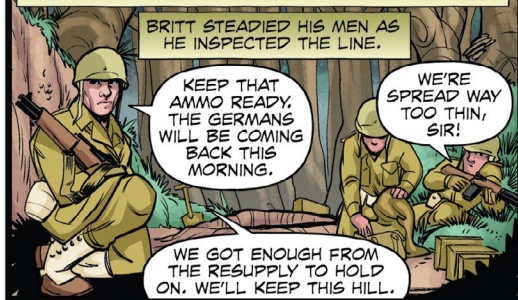
COMPANY L, DOWN TO QUARTER STRENGTH AFTER SEVERE CASUALTIES, PREPARED TO DEFEND A HARD-WON POSITION ALONGSIDE THE MIGNANO GAP.

BRITT STEADIED HIS MEN AS HE INSPECTED THE LINE.

KEEP THAT AMMO READY. THE GERMANS WILL BE COMING BACK THIS MORNING.

WE'RE SPREAD WAY TOO THIN, SIR!

WE GOT ENOUGH FROM THE RESUPPLY TO HOLD ON. WE'LL KEEP THIS HILL.



0830 HOURS.

SCORES OF GERMANS READIED A COUNTERATTACK. THEY DROVE CAPTURED AMERICAN SOLDIERS BEFORE THEM AS A HUMAN SHIELD.



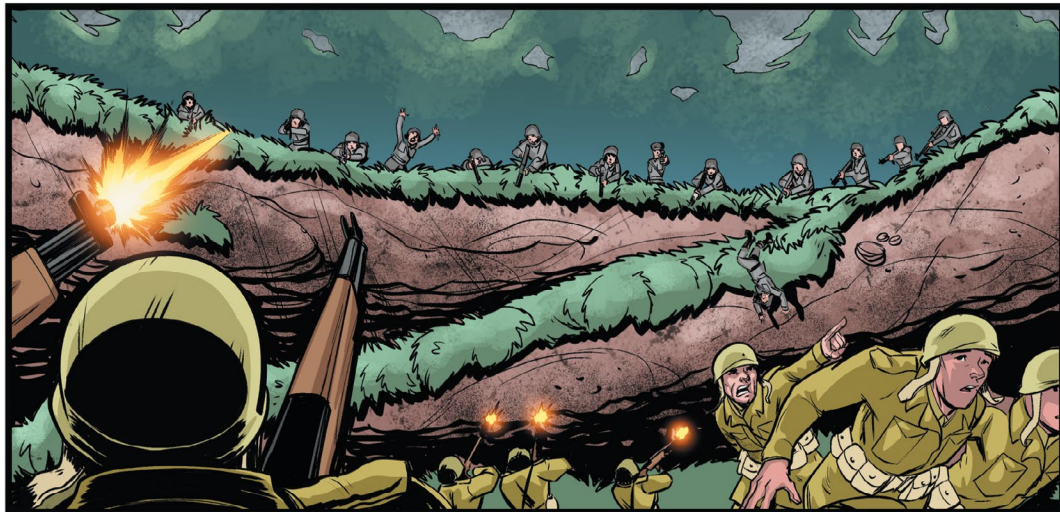
DON'T SHOOT! WE'RE AMERICANS!

THE GERMANS GOT US LAST NIGHT. THEY'RE EVERYWHERE!

TAKE OFF! THEY CAN'T HURT YOU!



WE'RE GOING TO FIRE ANYWAY!





WITH HIS SHOULDER ON FIRE AND A STINGING SENSATION IN HIS SIDE, BRITT PUSHED THROUGH THE PAIN.



BRITT KNEW THAT HE WAS LUCKY TO BE ALIVE.



HE DASHED AROUND THE BATTLEFIELD, RALLYING THE MEN AND KEEPING PRESSURE ON THE ENEMY.

FIVE MAGS ALREADY?!



I'LL NEED TO BORROW THIS, SOLDIER.



BRITT WAS ABLE TO THROW BACK SEVERAL INCOMING GERMAN GRENADES--BUT NOT ALL OF THEM.

INCREDIBLY, HE WAS HIT BY ONLY A FEW FRAGMENTS.



HEY, LIEUTENANT. I HAVE A COUPLE OF BAGS OF GRENADES I THINK WE SHOULD SHARE WITH THE GERMANS.

FOLLOW ME. LET'S GO!



BRITT AND HIS MEN FOUGHT THE COUNTERATTACK FOR HOURS.



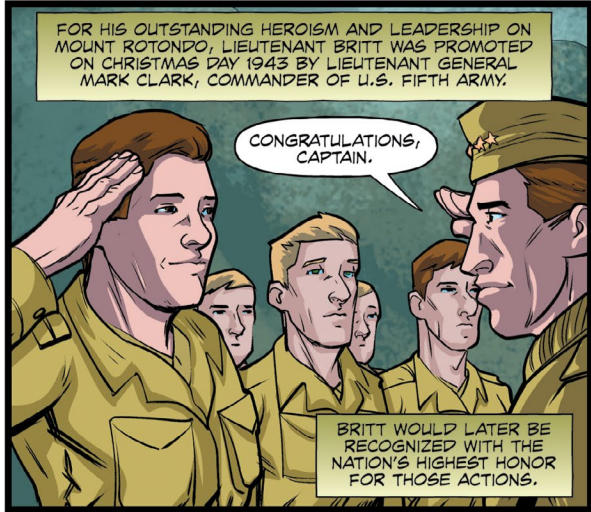
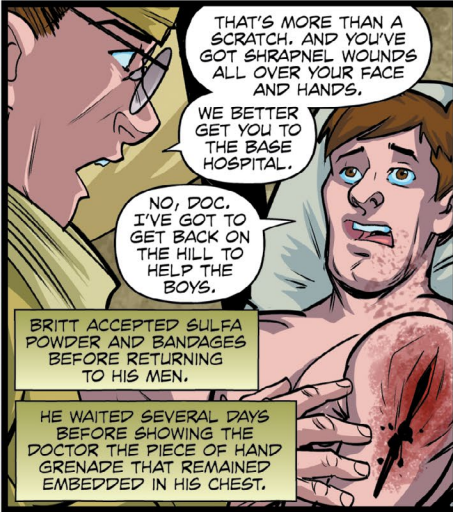
A FINAL FORAY CONVINCED THE GERMANS TO WITHDRAW.

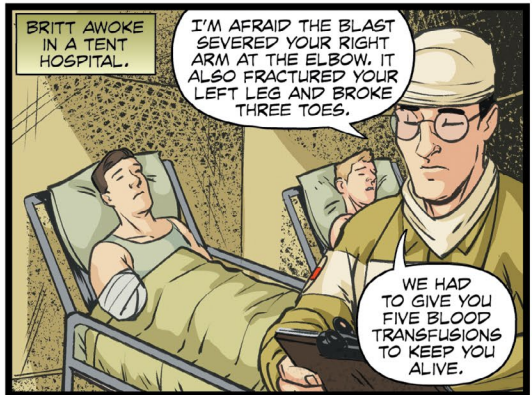
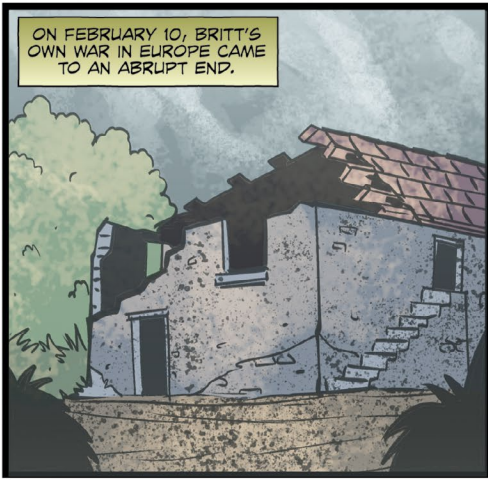


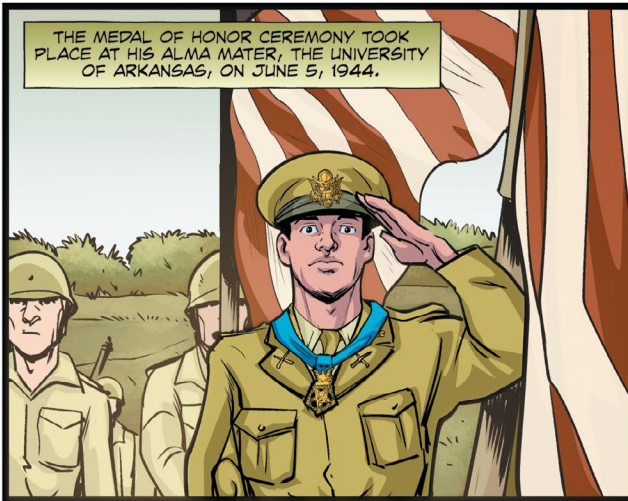
WE'VE RECOVERED THIRTY-FIVE ENEMY KIA AND FOUR WOUNDED. THE POWS SAY THERE WERE A HUNDRED IN THE ATTACK.

WHAT ARE YOU STILL DOING UP HERE?

GO DOWN TO THE AID STATION. THAT'S AN ORDER.





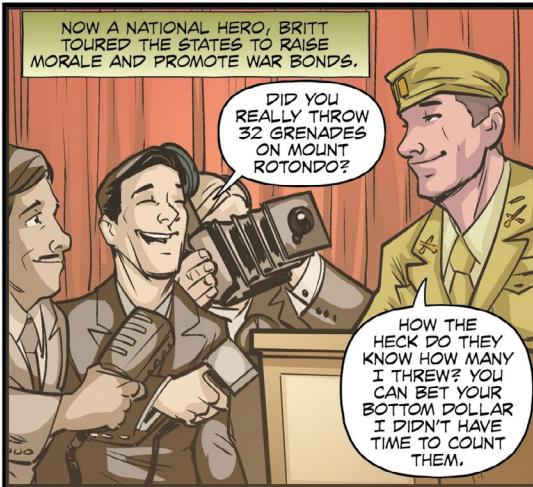


THE MEDAL OF HONOR CEREMONY TOOK PLACE AT HIS ALMA MATER, THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS, ON JUNE 5, 1944.



THOSE MEN WHO HAVE DIED AND THOSE MEN WHO ARE STILL CARRYING ON THE FIGHT ARE THE REAL HEROES.

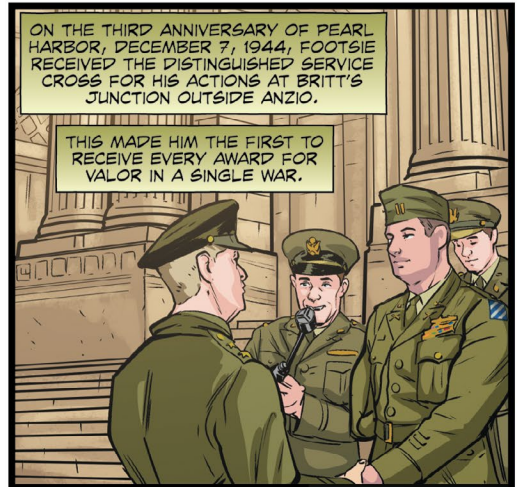
ON BEHALF OF THOSE MEN, I ACCEPT THIS HONOR.



NOW A NATIONAL HERO, BRITT TOURED THE STATES TO RAISE MORALE AND PROMOTE WAR BONDS.

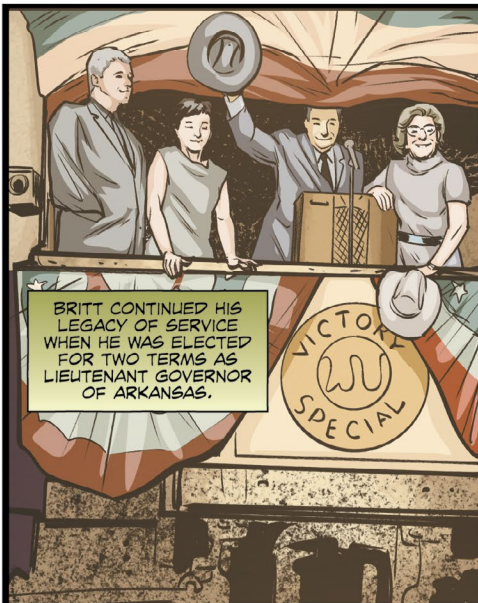
DID YOU REALLY THROW 32 GRENADES ON MOUNT ROTONDO?

HOW THE HECK DO THEY KNOW HOW MANY I THREW? YOU CAN BET YOUR BOTTOM DOLLAR I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO COUNT THEM.



ON THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF PEARL HARBOR, DECEMBER 7, 1944, FOOTSIE RECEIVED THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS FOR HIS ACTIONS AT BRITT'S JUNCTION OUTSIDE ANZIO.

THIS MADE HIM THE FIRST TO RECEIVE EVERY AWARD FOR VALOR IN A SINGLE WAR.



BRITT CONTINUED HIS LEGACY OF SERVICE WHEN HE WAS ELECTED FOR TWO TERMS AS LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF ARKANSAS.



MAURICE "FOOTSIE" BRITT DIED OF HEART FAILURE ON NOVEMBER 26, 1995, IN LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS.

HE EXEMPLIFIED THE MOTTO OF THE 30TH INFANTRY REGIMENT: OUR COUNTRY; NOT OURSELVES.

MAURICE L. "FOOTSIE" BRITT
WAR: WORLD WAR II

DATE OF BIRTH: JUNE 29, 1919

PLACE OF BIRTH: CARLISLE, LONOKE COUNTY, ARKANSAS

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