



01 of 6

BRAVO ZULU

DONT GIVE UP THE SHIP



DEDICATED TO THE HONOR OF THOSE ALUMNI
WHO HAVE BEEN KILLED IN ACTION DEFENDING
THE IDEALS OF THEIR COUNTRY



WITH IMMORTAL VALOR AND THE PRICE OF THEIR
LIVES THESE PROVED THEIR LOVE OF COUNTRY
AND THEIR LOYALTY TO THE HIGHER TRADITIONS

DEBORAH FRANCO - RUDI LIDEN

BRAVO ZULU

Every great graphic novel begins with a compelling story that offers the reader a peek into an extraordinary world with characters who truly captivate, inspire, and beckon us into their epic lives.

But Bravo Zulu is no “pretend” world I imagined... rather, I created it to reflect a phenomenal place in our country where young people are shaped into some of our nation’s best leaders and prepared to serve their country with honor and courage. Heroes, every one...

And when I met Rudi Liden, his stunning art breathed a visual life into the story of countless young people from every part of our country who dedicate their lives to protect the freedoms Americans enjoy.

Deborah Franco

Executive Producer
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Created by
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Written by
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Special Thanks to: The United States Naval Academy Brigade Services Division, the United States Naval Academy Foundation, and Clément Nicolle.

U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND

"YOU WILL REMEMBER THIS DAY FOREVER..."

NO SKIN
GRAFTS,
MAN.

THIS AIN'T
NO BEAUTY
SPA!

WOW... I'M
EVEN SEXIER
BALD...

I REFUSE TO
REACT TO THIS
TORTURE.

SO THIS IS
WHAT "HIGH AND
TIGHT" MEANS...

...HUH

"AS COMMANDANT OF THE
UNITED STATES NAVAL
ACADEMY,, IT'S ONE OF
MY GREATEST PRIVILEGES..."

...AND HAVE
YOU RAISE YOUR
HAND TO TAKE AN
OATH TO PROTECT
OUR NATION'S
FREEDOMS...

"...TO STAND IN FRONT
OF YOU ON I-DAY..."

BABY, I'LL
SEE YOU IN THREE
MONTHS, OKAY?

DON'T HAVE
TOO MUCH FUN
WITHOUT ME.

...BY BECOMING EXTRAORDINARY
LEADERS FOR OUR COUNTRY."

IN THE NAVY WE SAY BRAVO ZULU FOR
GOOD JOB. BRAVO ZULU EVERYONE!

"I-DAY IS SHORT FOR "INDUCTION-DAY"



RISE AND SHINE BOYS AND GIRLS! IT'S ANOTHER BEAUTIFUL MORNING-- OR NOT



"YOU CALL THAT RUNNING?!"

"TWO MORE MILES! GO!"



"WHAT DID YOU WUSSIES DO FOR EXERCISE?"



"BALLET?!"

"I WOULD NOT WANT TO BE IN A FOXHOLE WITH YOU..."



"...YOU'D GET US KILLED!"

"DROP AND GIVE ME FIFTY!"



"YOU PEOPLE CAN'T EVEN FOLD YOUR CLOTHES..."



HOW DO YOU EXPECT TO LEAD MARINES?



YOU ARE SLOPPY! LINSAT!"



SO HOT... SO TIRED... YOU'RE NOT GONNA PASS OUT... YOU'RE NOT GONNA...



*LINSAT = SHORT FOR LINSATISFACTORY



SO YOU FIVE ARE THE 'CRYPT CREW' FOR THE NEXT SHIFT.



YOU'LL HAVE PLENTY OF TIME TO IMPROVE YOUR GAME.



THAT IS... IF YOU GOT GAME.

HA HA!

KLANK



THAT'S JUST GREAT! WE'VE BEEN LOCKED IN!

WHAT IS THIS PLACE?

HAVEN'T YOU HEARD, SOME ANCIENT GUY IS SITTIN' IN SOME SNARLY FLUID TO PRESERVE HIM HERE.

NO FREAKIN' WAY!

IT'S NOT JUST "SOME GUY," IT'S JOHN PAUL JONES. LIKE, THE ORIGINAL BIG TIME NAVY HERO.



JONES-SHMONES.
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT
THE REST OF YOU,

BUT I THINK I
MADE A BIG-TIME
MISTAKE COMIN' TO
THE ACADEMY...

I THOUGHT
IT WAS FOR ME...
MY BROTHER CAME
HERE... HE'S IN
IRAQ NOW.

I DON'T KNOW
EITHER... IS ANYONE
ELSE HERE HOME-
SICK? NO TEXTING,
NO CALLING. A
WHOLE LOT OF
NADA!

HOW ABOUT
SICK OF GETTING
SCREAMED AT? THE
MARCHING? SALUTING?
EVERY STINKIN'
THING IS DRIVING
ME CRAZY!

I WAS SO
SURE THIS WAS FOR
ME. I'VE WANTED TO
BE AN ASTRONAUT
SINCE FOREVER, AND
THIS PLACE HAS MORE
GRADS IN SPACE...
BUT I WORRY ABOUT
MY MOM BACK
HOME.

YEAH, WELL... MY
BRAIN WAS WIRED TO
CREATE THE FIRST BRAIN
TRANSPLANT AND
MEDICINE... HOW MANY
HOURS CAN I FOCUS
ON FOLDING A STUPID
UNIFORM?



"STUPID?"

WHAT THE-
HEY! WHO ARE
YOU?



SOMEONE
HEARING THE
FIVE OF YOU CAN'T
SEE PAST THE NEXT
FIVE MINUTES TO
YOUR FUTURE.



WHAT WOULD YOU KNOW ABOUT WHAT WE'RE GOING THROUGH, OLD MAN?



YOU SURE YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT I KNOW?



TOUCH THE CRYPT AND LOOK IF YOU DARE!



"DESTRUCTION. DESPAIR..."



"...THE WORLD IS ON THE BRINK OF CHAOS."

"IT'S STRANGE HOW THE DECISIONS OF ONE CAN AFFECT SO MANY... AND SOMETIMES THE ENTIRE PLANET."



"THERE IS A FUTURE WHERE YOU GRADUATE FIRST IN YOUR CLASS."



"THEN ONE DAY..."



"YOU SPOT A PIRATE SHIP..."



YOUR EYES CAUGHT WHAT NO ONE ELSE WOULD HAVE. AND NO ONE ELSE MIGHT.



"...WHILE ON WATCH* NAVIGATING THE SHIP..."

"IN THE CORNERSTONE OF EVIL IN THE WORLD."



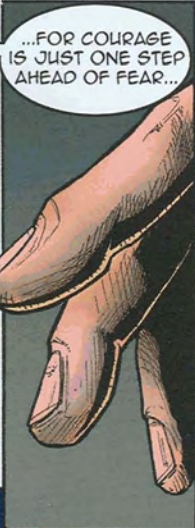
*BEING ON WATCH MEANS HAVING AN ASSIGNED RESPONSIBILITY



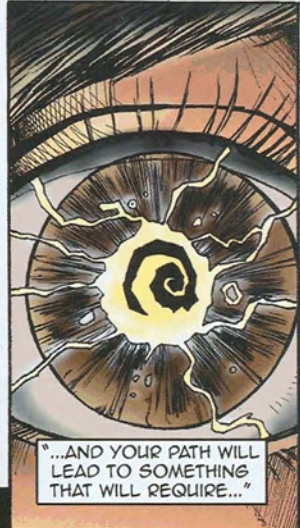
OKAY, I'M READY. I HAVE NO FEAR.



BUT YOU SHOULD...



...FOR COURAGE IS JUST ONE STEP AHEAD OF FEAR...



...AND YOUR PATH WILL LEAD TO SOMETHING THAT WILL REQUIRE...

...EVERY MOMENT OF ACADEMY TRAINING,



AND EVERY MOMENT OF SEAL TRAINING YOU WILL BE PROVIDED.

ON THAT DAY, WITHOUT COVER AND WITH TWO OTHERS FROM YOUR SEAL TEAM...



...YOUR MISSION WILL BE TO BOARD A PIRATE SHIP...

...BELIEVED TO BE BLACK MARKET ARMS DEALERS...



...YOU DISCOVER A NUCLEAR WEAPON...



...AND SOMEONE FROM YOUR PAST...



BEING HELD HOSTAGE



WHO WILL BE INSTRUMENTAL...

...IN SAVING THE WORLD FROM IMPENDING DOOM.



SO... THEN WHAT HAPPENS TO ME?



YOUR FUTURE PUSHES BEYOND YOUR EYES...



INTO THE NEXT GALAXY.



"YOU WILL SEE WHAT FEW HUMANS SEE..."



"...AND UNDERSTAND OUR PLANET MUST BE SAVED FROM TERROR AND EVIL."



"YOU COMMIT YOUR LIFE TO HELP GUARD DEMOCRACY AND PEACE AROUND THE WORLD."



"...BUT NOT WITHOUT A PRICE."



"...YOU WILL BE TORTURED TO THE POINT OF DEATH. BUT KNOWING A FRIEND WILL SAVE YOU, KEEP YOU ALIVE."



ARE YOU TREADING ON MY FUTURE ANY-TIME SOON?



"YOUR BRAIN WAS WIRED FOR MEDICINE."

"AND AS A NAVY DOCTOR YOU WILL DISCOVER GREAT BREAKTHROUGHS..."



"...AND TREAT THOUSANDS AROUND THE WORLD ON THE HUMANITARIAN SHIP USNS COMFORT..."



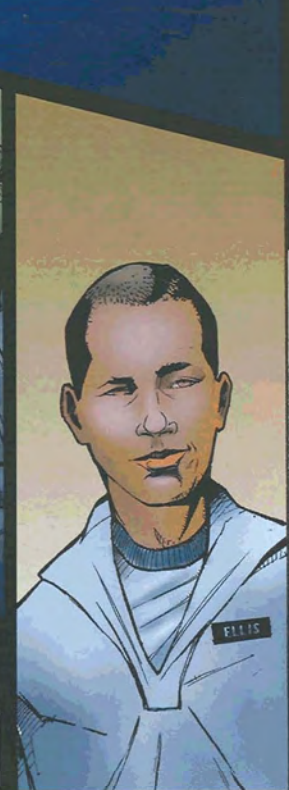
"...WHERE YOU'LL PERFORM LIFE-SAVING SURGERY..."



"...ON A FRIEND THAT'S BROUGHT TO YOU ON THAT BLEARY NIGHT AT SEA."



"AND SOMEDAY YOU'LL BE THE DOCTOR TO ONE OF THE GREATEST PRESIDENTS OF THE UNITED STATES."



IF YOU LEAVE THE ACADEMY, PEOPLE WILL SUFFER. THE WORLD WILL SUFFER

AND YOU'LL NEVER BE THE HERO YOU ARE MEANT TO BECOME.

BEFORE YOU LEAVE, REMEMBER TWO THINGS:

MISSION FIRST, SHIPMATES ALWAYS...

... AND DON'T GIVE UP THE SHIP.

MI-KREEEK

THE NEXT DAY...

IT'S CRAZY. WE'RE A TEAM IN THE FUTURE...

AND THE OLD MAN JUST... DISAPPEARED...

IF YOU SAY SO.

WELL, I KNOW WHAT I SAW, AND I AIN'T CRAZY.

I WANT TO GO CHECK OUT THE FLAG IN MEMORIAL HALL.

DUDE, NO ONE WILL EVER BELIEVE US... BUT THAT'S OKAY...

AS LONG AS WE BELIEVE US.

BRAVO ZULU, BABY B.Z.!

DONT GIVE UP THE SHIP

BRAVO ZULU... FUN FACTS

BRAVO ZULU is a naval signal, meaning "Well Done"; It is used by flaghoist as well as speech and in writing. It can be combined with the "negative" signal, spoken or written NEGAT, to say "NEGAT Bravo Zulu", or "not well done".

In the US Navy, "well done" was originally signaled as TVG, or "Tare Victor George". "Bravo Zulu" actually comes from an international naval signal code adopted after the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was created in 1949. Until then, each navy had used its own signal code and operation manuals. World War II experience had shown that it was difficult, or even impossible, for ships of different navies to operate together unless they could readily communicate, and this was the remedy.

At the time BZ was not rendered as "Bravo Zulu", but in each navy's particular radio alphabet. In the U.S. Navy, BZ was spoken as "Baker Zebra". In the meantime, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) had adopted English as the international air traffic control language. They developed a radio alphabet for international aviation use, designed to be as "pronounceable" as possible by flyers and traffic controllers speaking many different languages. The U.S. Navy adopted this ICAO alphabet in March 1956. It was then that "Baker Zebra" finally became "Bravo Zulu".

"Don't Give Up The Ship" were the dying words of James Lawrence in 1813 to his officers when his frigate USS Chesapeake was overwhelmed by a British boarding party.

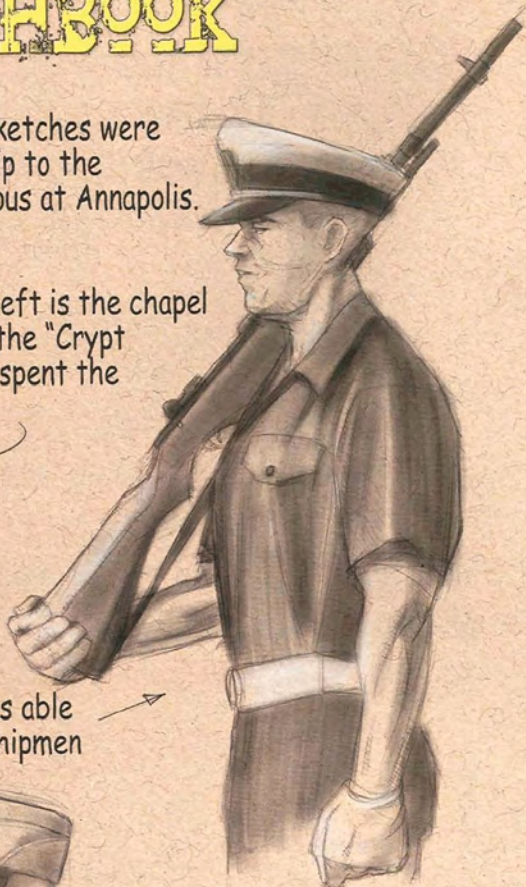
The flag depicted in Memorial Hall was actually flown by Oliver Hazard Perry on board his flagship Lawrence and again on Perry's ship Niagra when he transferred command there during battle.

SKETCHBOOK

The following sketches were done after a trip to the beautiful campus at Annapolis.



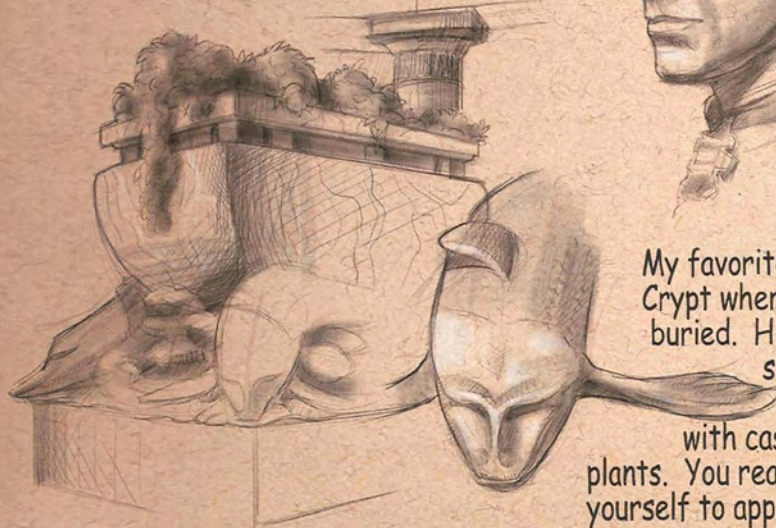
To the left is the chapel where the "Crypt Crew" spent the night.



During the "noon meal formation" I was able to capture these images and see mid-shipmen in action.



This bust of John Paul Jones served as the foundation to his appearance, though I aged him quite a bit.



My favorite spot on campus is the Crypt where John Paul Jones is buried. His sarcophagus is supported by four bronze dolphins and embellished with cast garlands of bronze sea plants. You really have to see it for yourself to appreciate it.

- R

The Adventure Begins...

Perhaps never before has our country had a greater need for young people who will have the courage and passion to lead our world with hope into the future.

Over two hundred years ago, in another very turbulent time, the second president of the United States, John Quincy Adams said, "If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, you are a leader."

Here at the United States Naval Academy, we agree with him and know that leaders come in all shapes and sizes, with a variety of talents, interests and beliefs. We hope the Bravo Zulu graphic novel and characters will ignite your curiosity about the US Naval Academy and the Navy as this exciting adventure begins.

-United States Naval Academy

NEXT ISSUE: A member of the "Crypt Crew" never suspects that danger awaits and that every ounce of USNA training will be needed to save him and the world from certain doom.



FURNISHED BY
UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY



FULFILL YOUR DESTINY

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Please enjoy this graphic novel.

As a challenge, this issue includes errors (spelling, grammatical, historical). Find all of them and claim your prize at

<http://www.usna.edu/admissions>

Bravo Zulu to those who succeed!