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1945. Two Marines armed with a bazooka inch their way up a hill two miles north of Naha during the Battle of Okinawa. By this stage of the war, the Japanese were inflicting casualties on U.S. troops at a much higher rate than in previous campaigns.

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Recognized throughout the Army Air Corps as a leader,
Van also earned a reputation as a crack pilot and aerial gunner.

— FROM *BATTLEFIELD LEADER*, "IKE'S EAGLE"

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