

The Generals: Brotherhood of War 06 Study Guide

**The Generals: Brotherhood of War 06 by W. E. B.
Griffin**

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Plot Summary

The Generals - The Brotherhood of War by W.E.B. Griffin is the story of the people who make the decisions. The fate of many men and women was in their hands in the jungles and swamps of Southeast Asia. It is a different kind of war than others, but they must be prepared to make the decisions, and prepared they are.

This book focuses on the lives of people in the Army, particularly the Green Berets. The book covers mostly the officers like Felter, Hanrahan, Jiggs, Bellmon, etc. These are the men in command and the book looks at how they make their decisions and why. It reveals the rivalry between the services and that between Airborne and Armor within the Army. The overlap of duties sometimes leaves them squabbling over who should be in charge of what.

The book opens and closes in Vietnam. In between is the Cuban missile crisis and a look at how the Army was preparing for an invasion of Cuba. Lowell is charged with helping Fort Hood transport its tanks on extremely short notice, a problem he solves for them, even though he circumvents regulations. While the tanks are in route, the Russians agree to remove their missiles from Cuba so the tanks and equipment are returned.

Griffin allows the reader to follow certain characters from assignment to assignment; one of these characters is Craig Lowell. Lowell and his cousin Geoff Craig are from a wealthy family. Geoff wants out of the Army as soon as possible from the beginning while Lowell is intent on making a career in the Army. Lowell is assigned to the John F. Kennedy Center for Warfare at Fort Bragg, which is the headquarters for the Green Berets. They soon begin planning and training for the super secret Operation, Monte Christo, which is to rescue prisoners from the Hanoi Hilton.

Griffin writes a very interesting book that is quick and easy reading and guaranteed to hold the reader's interest, from the first to the last page. The different assignments take the characters to various places as they serve their country. The Generals - Brotherhood of War is recommended for people who like a good suspense-filled novel.

While training for the mission, Lowell becomes romantically involved with Dorothy Simms, the wife of a POW who is being held at the Hanoi Hilton. This results in the moral condemnation of many people. People in the military who keep their eyes open become aware of various things without being told and began to suspect that a rescue mission is being planned. Lowell finds out about the mission from his cousin Geoff who has put certain facts together and asks to be a part of the rescue mission. A few hours later, he finds that Dorothy has also made an accurate guess. In addition, the wife of the commander of Fort Bragg overhears two Air Force wives discussing the situation. Is the mission compromised? Will it have to be aborted?



Chapter 1

Chapter 1 Summary

The Generals -The Brotherhood of War by W.E.B. Griffin is the story of the people who make the decisions. The fate of many men and women is in their hands in the jungles and swamps of Southeast Asia. It is a different kind of war than the others the military has fought, but they must be prepared to make the decisions, and prepared they are.

The book opens with a communique to the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Washington. It is the daily list of injuries and losses of life from Vietnam.

Camp 7 at Nui Ba Den was known as Dien Bien Phu II or "Foo Two." Lieutenant Willis is writing a report stating that Master Sergeant Petrofski, who is Russian Orthodox, needs the guidance of a Russian Orthodox priest. They figure he will be given leave to go to Saigon where he could trade some of the captured loot for things they wanted, like Scotch, bourbon and maybe a stereo. This whole idea came from Staff Sergeant Craig.

Hanoi believed the American base at Nui Ba Den had to be eliminated. The Americans were causing problems in the the area, and Hanoi knew there were plans for more bases. The attack began just as Lieutenant Willis was finishing his report on Petrofski. The attack was well planned.

When Craig arrives at the bunker, he finds that Willis is dead and that he is in charge. The antenna are down so they can't use the radio to let headquarters know they are under attack. They set up a defense around the bunker, known as Bunker Hill.

Major Philip Sheridan Parker, flying in a Mohawk in the area, tries to reach Foo Two since he promised his friend, Lieutenant Colonel Craig W. Lowell, he would say hello to his cousin, Staff Sergeant Craig. Parker reports that the base is under attack. A Navy plane responds and napalms the approaches to the base. Other air support arrive and the Mohawk heads to Dan Nang to refuel.

Three Hueys landed at Nui Ba Den to bring in replacements and to take out the wounded. Petrofski was taken prisoner.

Craig is hoping his injury will get him out, but Colonel Mennen, who came in on a Huey says they need to hold Foo Two. Mennen says he has the authority to commission Craig, who doesn't want more time in the Army. Mennen says he can resign when he returns to Fort Bragg. Craig accepts the commission and is now a Second Lieutenant.

Chapter 1 Analysis

The base at Nui Ba Den is a Green Beret base on a mountain top, totally surrounded by the enemy. They always knew that it would be attacked, which is why it was nicknamed



Dien Bien Phu II. The attack, when it came, was a surprise and was well planned. The only thing that saved Foo Two was a pilot flying in the area promised Lowell he would say hello to his cousin, Craig. When Parker couldn't raise the base, he sent for help.

Craig was injured in the attack and was hoping the injury would get him out of Foo Two. He wants out of the Army and made no secret of the fact. But Foo Two was strategic to the Army and Craig's injury wasn't that serious. He accepts a commission from Colonel Mennan to Second Lieutenant with the understanding that the commission would not lengthen the amount of time he will have to spend in the Army. He is recently married and from a wealthy family, and the Army is not where he wants to spend his time, but he would rather serve the rest of his time as a Second Lieutenant in a command position than as a staff sergeant.



Chapter 2

Chapter 2 Summary

John Denn works for the Continental Illinois Bank in Chicago. He is at the airport in Sioux Falls, South Dakota where the bank has a farm where important customers and business associate are entertained. Denn is a part of the public relations part of the bank's operations and is waiting for the arrival of a group of investment bankers who will go pheasant shooting at the farm. The list of arriving hunters are mostly military people, including Lowell, which surprises Denn.

Denn finds another man is waiting for the plane, Colonel Parker. When the plane arrives, the men drive out to meet it. General Hanrahan and Lieutenant Colonel Lowell ride with Colonel Parker; the rest ride with Denn. The men talk about the possible invasion of Cuba while dining at a local restaurant. The talk then turns to Lowell's cousin and his commission. This is the first Lowell has heard of the events at Nui Ba CDen, and he says he will tell Craig's father.

The men hunt in the afternoon and talk during the evenings. They had expensive hunting rifle and were careful not to go over the legal limit. One the way back to the lodge, they learn about the missiles in Cuba and the naval blockade. Lowell calls as soon as they reach the house and is told to go to MacDill Air Force Base. They fly to MacDill where they are denied permission to land. They declare an emergency and land. They were technically a civilian plane and were surrounded by military police when the plane stopped on the runway. Hanrahan dons his Green Beret cap before opening the door to the plane.

Chapter 2 Analysis

Continental Illinois Bank's South Dakota farm is the site of a hunting party for an investment banker who has invited high ranking military men—Hanrahan, Parker, Lowell, MacMillan and Wood—to hunt. They shoot in the afternoon and Denn, from the bank, is surprised to learn that there is as much politics involved in the military as there is in banking.

While the military men are there, the Cuban missile crisis begins and Lowell is ordered to report to MacDill Air Force base in Tampa, Florida. Hanrahan and the others go with him in the private Aero Commander. Where they reach MacDill, they find it closed to civilian traffic, which they technically are and are told to land at Tampa. Rather than do this, they declare an emergency and land at MacDill. On the ground, they cancel the emergency and hope their rank will keep them out of trouble. They circumvented the rules.



Chapter 3

Chapter 3 Summary

Hanrahan is not dressed in regulation uniform. He is wearing an aviation jacket with his four stars on it and is taken to General Boone, who is in charge of the forces should they invade Cuba. When asked to explain his behavior, he says he takes full responsibility, then says he was asleep and Lowell made the decision, but he supports him. Lowell was ordered to report to MacDill and the others came because there was only one plane. The base accepts his apology.

Lowell is also spoken to about the incident. He must write a letter explaining the incident, but his priority will be working with the 2nd Armored. He is appointed Deputy Inspector General, Headquarters, U.S. Joint Assault Force (Provisional) and will go to Fort Hood in Texas.

Jiggs and Boone discuss the situation after Lowell departs. They blame the lack of communication on Major General Kenneth Harke and not on Hanrahan. There is rivalry between the Special Forces and the Airborne forces and Hanrahan is caught in the middle of the rivalry. They also discuss whether or not they think an invasion will be necessary.

Lowell borrows a typewriter and types the orders for some personnel changes in his new command. He and Hanrahan make other personnel decisions, like sending Wojinski with Lowell. Lowell and others fly to Fort Hood, Texas and report to General Lemper. Lowell explains to Lemper that he is there to help in anyway he can and not to find fault with the command. While they are talking, they are interrupted by Chief Warrant Officer Prince T. Wallace; Wallace and Lowell warmly acknowledge each other, as they had served together in Pusan and Yalu. This impressed Lemper and changed his attitude toward Lowell. He tells Lowell of the problem with rail transport and assigned Wallace to work with them.

At Fort Bragg in North Carolina, first Sergeant Tom Spencer calls Master Sergeant Crowley to tell him that he is going to Camp McCall, a Special Forces Training camp. Crowley calls the next two people in the chain with the orders. Crowley and the others were prepared for the call. This was the Fifth Special Forces Group who are being sent to MacDill Air Force Base.

Chapter 3 Analysis

Hanrahan and Lowell make a bad impression on the brass at MacDill with their landing tactic. Boone lets Lowell know he doesn't trust him with the assignment to Fort Hood but does trust General Jiggs who made the decisions.



The conversation between Jiggs and Boone reveals the rivalry between the Airborne military and the Special Forces, not to mention the other branches in the military. Each branch tries to protect their own interests.

Lowell is definitely a risk taker who bends the rules when it is convenient. While flying to Fort Hood, he leaves Wojinski at the controls of the plane while he gets a few hours of needed sleep. He told Wojinski which dials to watch. Since the plane was not equipped to fly over water, they didn't file a flight plan until they reached Houston. Complying with the rules would have meant a few extra hours of flying time which Lowell did not want to waste.

The suspicions and insecurity of military personnel are evident in Lemper's greeting of Lowell. He thinks Lowell was sent to find fault with his command, not matter what Lowell tells him. He doesn't warm up and cooperate until Prince Wallace tells Lemper he knows Lowell.



Chapter 4

Chapter 4 Summary

Lowell meets with Captain Dwayne Smitherman who is in charge of the Engineering Light Equipment Company. They talk about Smitherman's group's ability to move things, no matter how big or heavy and how long it takes. Smitherman answers Lowell's questions, explaining their technique. Lowell tells him that they will begin to load tanks on rail flat cars, and Smitherman tells Lowell the regulations forbid it because it is too easy for the cables to break. He has to follow regulations. Wallace tells Smitherman that Lowell has General Lemper's authority.

At Fort Bragg, Major General Harke is the acting commander of the XVIII Airborne Corps, which includes the 82nd Airborne Division, which will figure prominently in any invasion of Cuba. Harke views this as a way of attaining a third star. He learns that Colonel Roland Minor has been relieved of his duties and that Lieutenant General Hoard has returned and wants to see him. Harke explains the plans for the Cuban invasion. He sees the weak points as Lemper's problems with transport and the fact that not enough equipment has been authorized for the task. Harke blames their problems on the Joint Assault Force. Howard criticizes Harke for not calling him immediately when he first became aware of the problem. Harke is reprimanded by Howard who was returned to Fort Bragg because of Harke's behavior. Howard would relieve Harke if he had someone else available during the Cuban crisis. Howard tells Harke to leave headquarters and take Colonel Minor with him as they are relieved of their duties by Howard. Howard would like Lowell for the Chief of Staff position.

Lemper at Fort Hood learns about Lowell's activities, as he receives reports from various sources. A considerable number of tanks were being moved. Lemper decides to talk to Lowell and goes to the rail marshaling yards and sees the loading operation in progress. He looks at the different aspects of the operation and tells Lowell to carry on.

Lemper calls Jiggs and says he should have been able to solve the loading problems on his own and feels embarrassed. He asks Jiggs if he can have Lowell assigned to him if they go into Cuba. Jiggs says he will cut the orders.

Chapter 4 Analysis

The rivalry between and within services surfaces again in Harke's discussion with Howard. Harke blames their problems on the fact that Lowell, although he doesn't mention the name, has been placed in charge instead of someone from Airborne. He feels there is no need for a special Joint Assault Force which Lowell commands and views it as the result of the rivalry between Airborne and Armor.

Harke has been caught in what he tried to do. He allowed Hanrahan to go on a hunting trip without telling him about the Cuban situation. He didn't notify Hoard of what was



happening and Howard was still the commanding general of Fort Bragg. Because of Harke's sneaky behavior, both Harke and Colonel Minor are relieved of their posts.

At Fort Hood, Lemper is impressed with Lowell's work, even though he's breaking regulations. He tells Jiggs he feels embarrassed that he didn't work out the loading problem himself. Jiggs tells him not to worry. He only sent Lowell to help; Jiggs honors Lemper's request to have Lowell assigned to him for the Cuba invasion.



Chapter 5

Chapter 5 Summary

Brockley Air Force Base is located near Mobile, Alabama and is considered by many to be the most ideally situated supply facility in the world. It has waterfront exposure, is connected to the rail freight system, and is located on a major Interstate. Lowell is piloting his Aero Commander and receives permission to land. Upon landing, Lowell is taken to deputy base commander Winston. He tells him about the trains and makes arrangements for the men to have a hot meal.

As the train troops begin arriving, word comes from Jiggs that the Russians agreed to remove their missiles from Cuba. The trains were ordered back to Fort Hood on October 28, 1962.

Two weeks later, the Army chiefs meet at Fortress Monroe in Virginia to discuss the problems that had occurred in the operation so they could avoid these problems in the future. After the meeting, Lemper, Jiggs, Boone, Howard go for drinks at the Officer's Club. Boone says he thought Howard's treatment of Harke was harsh and is told that it is none of his business.

The Army wants Lowell to go into the Boot Strap Program where he is sent on TDY for a year to complete the requirements needed to be commissioned. Howard said that the request was officially denied. He wants Lowell to work on his Howard Board study of the transportation problem in Vietnam. Howard has taken the issue to the Secretary of Defense. They feel Lowell can resign from the Army and work for DOD as a civilian. The Army won't allow any specials consideration for Lowell. He must complete the academic requirements if he wants to be an officer.

Chapter 5 Analysis

Lowell is somewhat relieved when he finds that the Russians agreed to pull their missiles out of Cuba. Even though he personally feels they should remove Castro from power, he feels it isn't his place to comment on politics. He is relieved for the sake of the men that he is watching eat their steak and eggs. His own estimate was that one fifth of them would be maimed or killed in the invasion.

Lowell does not know that people like Howard and Lemper are requesting his services. He is used to bending the rules to get the job done and doesn't yet know he can't keep his commission as an officer without fulfilling the required academic requirements. Howard and others are requesting Lowell be assigned to them, but the Army won't bend the rules.



Chapter 6

Chapter 6 Summary

On February 19, 1963, the Marines are patrolling in the rain at Soc Trang, in the Mekong Delta and preparing for a mission to an island where the Vietcong have supplies. During the fueling of the Mohawk, a Vietnamese drilled holes in the hydraulic lines before it began its mission to Island 237 in the Mekong Delta.

The Marines invaded Island 237 with the Mohawk in support, transmitting information to headquarters. The pilot of the Mohawk was not aware of the damage to its hydraulic system when the Hydraulic Failure lights began to blink and then stayed on. Major Parker was strafing the enemy, buying time for the Marines until their air support arrived. Parker and the co-pilot were forced to eject. Parker's chute deployed, but his co-pilot's did not.

Lowell's plane arrives at Fort Riley, Kansas carrying the family of Major Philip Parker. They ride to the Parker farm to notify Colonel Parker that his son is a prisoner in Vietnam. The Marines had found his deployed parachute and indications that he had been captured. Colonel Felter has sent word that they are trying to locate Philip.

Lowell at this time is an undergraduate at Norwich.

Chapter 6 Analysis

Lowell flies Parker's wife and children to Kansas to notify Colonel Parker that the Army believes his son has been captured in Vietnam. They tell him the details they know; Colonel Felter says they are doing everything possible to locate him. The news is hard on the family as it is on any family when they receive this kind of notification.

It is also revealed that Lowell is attending the Army school at Norwich to fulfill the academic requirements required for a commission. He had opted not to resign from the Army and work for DOD as a civilian.



Chapter 7

Chapter 7 Summary

First Lieutenant Geoffrey Craig is being out-processed from duty in Vietnam and is claiming his belongings in Okinawa. He didn't see any point in buying a uniform commiserate with his rank when he planned to resign from the Army as soon as he is back in the United States. He doctored his old uniform, thinking he could get away with it but found he couldn't. He purchased the new uniform and left for San Francisco the next day for his parents' Park Avenue apartment in New York City.

His mother and the butler greet him. He learns that his wife, Ursula, has an apartment in Greenwich Village in a building belonging to his cousin Craig. His mother gives him the key and he goes there. Ursula isn't home but he finds hard liquor, melted ice cubes and cigars. He finds her working at the Gasthaus Bavaria.

Back at the apartment, Ursula's friends begin to arrive. Many are from East Germany as is Ursula. He finds that Cousin Craig's bedroom has a safe, three phones, dictating equipment, a typewriter and its own alarm system. Cousin Craig is Craig Lowell, who also appears. Lowell knew Geoffrey was in route but didn't tell Ursula. He explains that he has the alarm system because he often works on classified material.

Craig and Lowell have words about the wisdom of remaining in the Army. Geoffrey wants to start a family and doesn't think military life is fair to Ursula. Later that night, they talk about Parker and Geoff learns that Toni, Parker's wife, is at Fort Bragg.

Geoffrey goes to Fort Bragg to talk to General Hanrahan and to resign, as Colonel Mennen told him he could do when he accepted his commission. Geoffrey doesn't qualify to resign under the rules according to Colonel Felter. They decide he will go to flight school and serve under Hanrahan.

Chapter 7 Analysis

When Geoffrey Craig accepted his commission as an officer at Nui Ba Den, he was told the commission wouldn't extend his length of service. He would be able to resign when he finished his tour of duty in Vietnam. Back in the States he finds this isn't true. He and his cousin, Craig Lowell, talk to General Hanrahan and decide Geoffrey will attend flight school and serve under Hanrahan.

Geoffrey and his cousin have different views about military service. Their family is quite wealthy. Lowell chooses the military over working in the family business. Geoffrey doesn't. He has a wife, Ursula, and wants to start a family. He doesn't think that serving in combat situation is fair to her and there is some truth to this.

Chapter 8

Chapter 8 Summary

In this short chapter, there is a meeting at the Pentagon concerning the staffing of the 11th Air Assault Division. There are many charts showing the staffing with changes to become effective July 1, 1965. Most of the positions had already been decided but not all of them. They discuss the assignment of Colonel Lowell who is slotted to be Deputy Assistant G-3. Howard disagrees with the assignment and wants Lowell assigned to the 11th Air Assault Division. If they didn't appoint Lowell, Howard would do it himself.

Chapter 8 Analysis

Howard's work on transport produced the new Airmobile division. There was a meeting of the brass on the staffing of the 11th Air Assault Division, since it was no longer a test program. Howard disagrees with the assignment that Lowell is slated for and appoints him to a command position in the new division.



Chapter 9

Chapter 9 Summary

Colonel Sanford Felter and his family live on Kildar Street in Alexandria, Virginia. Felter's wife, Sharon, finds out that Sandy is going to Fort Bragg. Then three kids are old enough to stay home and Craig Lowell will be at Fort Bragg. Sandy Felter is the President's liaison to the intelligence community. Sharon drives him to the airport.

The Headquarters of the XVIII Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg is located in what was once a hospital. The base and XVIII Airborne Corps are commanded by Lieutenant General Robert Bellmon, but the John F. Kennedy Center for Special Warfare, located at Fort Bragg, is commanded by Hanrahan, who is working on Operation Monte Christo. Hanrahan arrives for a meeting with Bellmon about the Operation.

Operation Monte Christo involves an attack on a prisoner of war camp near Hanoi to liberate the prisoners. Headquarters for the Operation is to be at Fort Bragg. Felter sits with Dorothy Simms on the flight to Atlanta. Sharon had met her in the lounge and her husband was in the Air Force and a POW in Vietnam. Lowell meets Felter at the Atlanta Airport and tells them the flight to Fayetteville has been canceled. They offer Mrs. Simms a ride in their plane. She doesn't like Lowell but accepts the offer. They decide to spend the night with the MacMillan's and learn that Dorothy Simms knows Roxy. They land at Pope Air Force Base.

Chapter 9 Analysis

The military is like a family that helps each other. When Sharon Felter is in the lounge at the Washington National Airport, she meets Dorothy Simms and her sick friend, Karen. Both were wives of POWs. Sharon tells Dorothy to go on her flight and she will see that Karen gets home safely. Dorothy sits with Sandy Felter on the flight to Atlanta. When they find her flight to Fayetteville has been canceled, Felter offers to take her there in Lowell's plane. Lowell's attitude toward her changes when he finds that her husband is a POW. They all help one another.

The preparation for Operation Monte Christo is underway with its headquarters to be at Fort Bragg. Bellmon is upset with Hanrahan because he knows Hanrahan isn't telling him everything he knows; they have to wait and see.



Chapter 10

Chapter 10 Summary

Felter goes to Headquarters at Fort Bragg where he requests a classified Documents Officer to sign for his documents. He calls the MacMillan's home. Mac comes and picks him up, but Felter still has the briefcase of classified documents with him since there was no CDO available. The CDO arrives a few minutes later, and Felter signs the briefcase over to him. The CDO says he has orders to notify General Bellmon. Bellmon is happy to talk to Felter and says they will meet in the morning.

Lowell takes the plane to Fayetteville and leaves it there. Dorothy Simms meets her two children and they drive Lowell to Mac's house. They start to work out the logistics of cars, and Lowell gives Roxy a credit card and tells her to rent a car. She will have to pick up Sharon when she arrives.

The next morning, Felter, MacMillan and Lowell met Hanrahan at the JFK Center for Special Warfare headquarters. The building has been swept for eavesdropping devices. In addition to Bellmon, an Air Force colonel and an Air Commando will be attending the meeting. A document from the briefcase reveals that the White House has approved Operation Monte Christo, and Felter is named as the action officer. The operation is to be a Special Forces operation.

They discuss who will play what role in Operation Monte Christo. The details of the Operation are to be limited to themselves. No one else is to be told anything. Their families are to join them at Fort Bragg knowing only that they have been transferred.

While shooting skeets, Lowell tells Bellmon he needs some people to fly to various places. The Air Force will supply the planes and Bellmon says he will supply the personnel. Lowell tells Bellmon the plan about the three Air Force C5A cargo planes that will land on a carrier in Vietnam. One of the planes will be empty for the prisoners. Felter will arrive two days ahead of them with orders to the Navy ship.

Roxy calls Dorothy and talks her into coming to her party. Sharon is arriving and Dorothy will pick her up.

Chapter 10 Analysis

The White House has authorized Operation Monte Christo, and Felter goes to Fort Bragg to work on the details of the Operation. With the exception of the two men from the Air Force, all the men involved have worked together and been friends for years, as have their wives. Felter is assigning all of them to Fort Bragg for more than 180 days of TDY (temporary duty), so their families will be able to move with them. The Operation is so super secret they don't want anything to give it away.



Dorothy Simms is the wife of a POW and has been playing the role. She comments that if her husband hadn't been captured, they'd have been divorced six months after he returned home. When Roxy invites her to the party, she at first declines, then accepts. She seems to resent her POW husband for the position she is in. She can't see other men. She decides to go to Roxy's party to get out of the house for awhile.



Chapter 11

Chapter 11 Summary

Dorothy meets Sharon at the airport and finds she has her daughter with her. Dorothy explains that she is a friend of Roxy. They arrive at the house just before the guests begin to arrive for the party. Dorothy realizes that Lowell is wealthy. She is also from a wealthy family and Lowell begins to view her in a different way when he finds out who her brother is and that he has played tennis with him. They begin to talk, each now more interested in the other. All the men explain how they met.

During the party, three C5As fly over and land at Pope. C5As are uncommon at Pope and Dorothy wonders what is going on. After the party she wakes up from a dream and goes out on the patio. She sees the three C5As leave Pope. She decides to have her hair done and then go shopping where she bumps into Lowell. Dorothy helps him select a barbecue grill for the MacMillans, and he invites her to lunch. She learns he has rented an apartment nearby for his assignment.

They have drinks while waiting for their food. Lowell learns that Dorothy is a tax lawyer and does work for a POW organization. She wants her husband home so she can divorce him and tells Lowell the story, as she keeps drinking cocktails. There was never anyone else until she met Lowell. He realizes the problems of being caught in a relationship with a POW's wife.

Dorothy and Lowell find the phone installer at his apartment. He had just moved in and was not unpacked. Afterward, he dresses for an appointment on the base and tells her she can have the spare set of keys. She takes the keys when she leaves. At Camp McCall, Lowell and the others are undergoing training. There is mock-up of the POW camp. Lowell repeated the rappelling exercise several times until he felt comfortable with it. They then practiced lowering themselves from a Huey to the roof of the mock-up. Lowell hurts his knee on the first attempt.

Chapter 11 Analysis

Dorothy Simms and Lowell are becoming more attracted to each other. Lowell has a reputation with the ladies as Dorothy knows. When they go for lunch after meeting in the department store, Dorothy drinks quite a few martinis and talks freely. She is a lawyer who is active for a POW organization. She doesn't love her husband and just wants him home so she can divorce him, which she can't do while he is a POW. Dorothy basically resents the whole situation that she is in because of Tom, her husband being in the "Hanoi Hilton." Her life is in a holding pattern like the lives of other POW wives. She breaks out of the holding pattern with Lowell. Lowell realizes the problems of becoming involved with a POW wife. He warns himself to be careful, but it does no good. He is

attracted to Dorothy and likes her, and abstinence has been a part of his life for so many years.

Lowell, Felter and MacMillan begin training at Camp McCall. Lowell realizes they will probably not take part in the actual operation at the Pow camp but will be sitting on the ship. They know too much information if they are captured.



Chapter 12

Chapter 12 Summary

The group involved in the Monte Cristo operation has spent hours in the conference room. They have been training in various exercises all week long. The first practice assault on the mock-up is scheduled for the following week after which the troops will be kept sequestered so there is no danger of their talking. The group discusses the possibility of using tanks in the operation. Anything they do before the actual operation will tip the North Vietnamese that something big is happening.

Dorothy sent the kids to their grandparents and was waiting for Lowell at the airport. He picks her up in a Cessna 310, which is his new plane. They decide to go to Atlanta.

A few days later Lowell is in Alabama and finds his cousin Geoffrey Craig flying the helicopter he requested. Geoff is fishing for information and says that there are Chinooks missing from various bases as well as their experienced pilots. He saw them training for some kind of assault and a friend of theirs, Major Bill Franklin, says a mock-up of the Pow camp exists at Fort Bragg. Geoff says he and Franklin want to be part of the operation. Lowell tells him that he and Franklin are under arrest and are to report to Colonel Felter at Fort Bragg. Lowell is worried about damage control.

Lowell goes on to the resort where he is meeting Dorothy. He calls Felter to report on Geoff and Franklin. Felter orders Lowell back to Fort Bragg the next day. Lowell and Dorothy talk, and he slips and says that Toni's husband is in the same camp as Tom. Dorothy starts to ask questions, guessing that they have an operation to rescue the prisoners. He tells her to shut-up because he just turned in two men who were making wild guesses.

Chapter 12 Analysis

The Monte Cristo operation is cloaked in secrecy, yet people are beginning to make intelligent guesses. On the way to meet Dorothy, Lowell flies with his cousin Geoff, who along with Major Bill Franklin, have put together the pieces. Geoff says they want to be a part of the operation. Lowell tells him they are under arrest and to report to Colonel Felter. He then calls Felter who tells him to return to the base the next day.

Dorothy has also put together the pieces, especially when Lowell slips and tells her that Toni Parker's husband is in the same camp as Tom. Dorothy seems to be feeling a little guilty about their relationship. She has sent her children to stay with their grandparents so she could meet Lowell. Since Lowell is late, she has time to think and feels her children and family would not understand.



Chapter 13

Chapter 13 Summary

Lowell and Dorothy are in the lounge at the Grand Hotel in Alabama. It is raining, which continues into the next morning. Lowell and Dorothy fly to Fayetteville together. MacMillan unexpectedly meet Lowell and tells him Bellmon is waiting for him. Bellmon wants to know where Dorothy Simms is. When Lowell says his personal life is none of their business, Hanrahan says they may have to abort Operation Monte Christo because of Lowell's personal life. Apparently two Air Force wives were overheard discussing the situation at Pope the night before. He tells them where Dorothy is and they tell him to call her and have her return immediately.

Bellmon is in a snit because of Lowell's affair with Dorothy. He is morally outraged and says he plans to bring charges against Lowell. MacMillan, too is upset, especially because Dorothy is the wife of a POW. The men have words and Lowell reveals MacMillan's trysts with enlisted women. They finally settle down and the discussion turns to the security of the mission. Whatever they think of Dorothy, it wasn't her that talked. Lowell tells Bellmon that his wife, Barbara, would not have repeated gossip to him that she heard from the Air Force wives if she thought it was harmless gossip.

When Dorothy arrives, she sits next to Lowell and they question her. Lowell is upset to find out how much CIC, the base intelligence officer, knows about their relationship. Dorothy agrees to stay at the detention center at Camp McCall. Lowell is also confined there along with Bill Franklin and Geoff Craig. Felter arrives and takes Lowell, Geoff and Bill to another room where Peter-Paul von Grieffenberg, Lowell's son, is. They caught him trying to break in with a camera and tape recorder. He has been filming them for six days and they want the film. Peter-Paul won't tell them where it is.

Chapter 13 Analysis

When Lowell arrives back at the base, he finds there is a lot of trouble. They tracked his plane and Macmillan meets him at the airport. Bellmon and Hanrahan are waiting for him in the conference room and want to know where Dorothy Simms is. Apparently their affair and speculation about the rescue mission are known among the Air Force wives. There is a strong possibility that the mission will be aborted because its secrecy is compromised.

Bellmon is morally outraged about Lowell's relationship with Dorothy Simms. After they settle down, Lowell says that Dorothy isn't the one who talked. The real danger is the gossip from the Air Force wives which Barbara Bellmon wouldn't have repeated to her husband if she thought it was just harmless gossip. They should think about what they say to Felter because once he hears the world compromise, he will error on the side of



caution and abort the mission. Hanrahan says that no matter what happens, Lowell's career is finished.

They question Dorothy and Lowell is outraged that he has been under the surveillance of intelligence and that it was approved by Felter. Dorothy agrees to stay in detention at Camp McCall because she doesn't want them to cancel the mission.

The plot thickens when they find Lowell's son at the detention camp. He works for a left-wing German magazine and had been filming the training operations for six days. He won't tell them where the rest of the film is. Relations between Lowell and his son have not been good and it is obvious here.



Chapter 14

Chapter 14 Summary

Bill Franklin and Geoff Craig question Peter-Paul and rough him up a bit. They call the Green Berets in and tie up Peter-Paul and put him in a harness. There was talk of something called Aerial Reconnaissance. While they are wrapping him in adhesive tape, one of the Green Berets keeps asking what they will do if they kill him. They throw him in an ambulance and take him somewhere. He is lifted into the air by the hook, dangling from a helicopter. The helicopter flies around with Peter-Paul dangling on the rope which was connected to a winch. They periodically hauled him into the helicopter to see if he would tell them where the film was. When he refused, they cut him free saying they were going to throw him from the helicopter without the rope. He tells them that the film is in a locker at the men's shower at the Pinehurst golf club.

Before going to the Center for Warfare headquarters, Lowell tells Dorothy that his son is next door. He doesn't know what they did to him but asks her to tell Peter-Paul that there was no other way; then Lowell leaves for a conference where Felter is supposed to make an announcement. Operation Monte Christo is still on and Lowell is the tactical commander. They will load the C5As and leave soon. Dorothy hears the planes take off and wakens Peter-Paul.

Chapter 14 Analysis

Peter-Paul's films endanger Operation Monte Christo and the men want to know where the films are. They rough him up and subject him to a terror technique called aerial reconnaissance. At each stage, Peter-Paul thinks they won't go any further and that there will be a full-blown diplomatic incident. He finally tells them where the film is hidden when they are preparing to throw him out of the chopper without a rope. Peter-Paul won the admiration of one of the Green Berets for holding out so long. Even though it was important for them to obtain the tapes, does the end justify the means?

Felter does not cancel Operation Monte Christo, Lowell is named tactical commander, as he knew he would be. The C5As are loaded and take off on their mission. Dorothy is left with Peter-Paul. When she hears the planes departing, she wakes him and tells him that his father is on one of those planes. They will talk later, she tells him.

Chapter 15 and Epilogue

Chapter 15 and Epilogue Summary

A message is sent to the USS Forrestal that they will prepare to receive the action officer for Operation Monte Christo, an operation that has top priority. No one is to go ashore and all mail is to be held. A Grumman lands and the admiral greets the two men, Felter and Lowell. They tell the admiral that Operation Monte Christo is to rescue the prisoners from Hanoi Hilton.

The Grumman was followed by two Chinooks and then more. After the soldiers emptied from the Chinooks, they are pushed to elevators and stored beneath the flight deck. A total of nine helicopters arrive.

The attack on the POW camp begins. Wojinski and Lowell are the first to land on the roof. They lost a Jolly Green Giant and three Green Berets in the landing. When they entered the building, they couldn't find keys for the cell padlocks so they began using thermite charges. The POWs began to identify themselves and are led out, including Major Parker, as the North Vietnamese tanks begin to arrive. Geoff reports the they have loaded all the prisoners that they can find but can't find Petrofski. Macmillan is killed, but they don't know how. They lift off, having successfully completed their mission.

Chapter 15 and Epilogue Analysis

Operation Monte Christo goes off as planned with the POWs being rescued from the Hanoi Hilton. MacMillan was one of the casualties and Lowell saw that the wounded and dead were returned to Fort Bragg. Dorothy's husband was one of the men rescued and quickly sued for divorce, obtaining custody of the children. Dorothy and Lowell married since Lowell was retired from the Army as soon as he returned from Operation Monte Christo. Cousin Geoff remained in the Army and rose to the rank of Brigadier General Designate.



Characters

Craig W. Lowell

Lowell is a Lieutenant Colonel who is from a wealthy background and is in the military. His cousin is Geoffrey Craig, who is also in the military. Lowell is well known and liked by most of his superiors. He is at a hunting trip in South Dakota when the Cuban missile crisis begins and is ordered to report to MacDill Air Force Base in Florida where he receives the assignment as Deputy Inspector General, Headquarters, U.S. Joint Assault Force (Provisional). He will be working with the 2nd Armored Division at Fort Hood, Texas. He is known as a man who gets things done. Lowell is willing to circumvent regulations to get the job done. He does this at Fort Hood and succeeds in moving the equipment in case it is needed for an invasion of Cuba.

Lowell is committed to a career in the military but cannot be commissioned without fulfilling the necessary academic requirements. The Army won't bend the rules for him no matter how many of his superiors try. He becomes an undergraduate while working for Board. Craig allows his cousin's wife to live at his New York apartment which is where he meets Geoffrey again. Lowell is eventually assigned to work on Operation Monte Christo.

Lowell is a widower. His wife was Ilse von Greiffenberg whose father had been a prisoner of war in Russia. He has a son, Peter Paul Lowell. The boy was raised by the von Grieffenbergs and lived in Europe. Relations between the two men are not very good. Lowell becomes romantically involved with Dorothy Simms and is retired after Operation Monte Christo. His superiors were not happy about his relationship with Dorothy or about the fact that the rescue attempt became known. He marries Dorothy after her divorce is finalized and the two travel a lot.

Staff Sergeant Geoffrey Craig

Geoffrey Craig is a staff sergeant stationed at Nui Ba Den when the base is attacked by the North Vietnamese. He manages to survive the attack even though he is slightly injured. He hopes it means he will be leaving. Instead he accepts a commission and becomes a Second Lieutenant. He figures if he has to finish out his tour of duty, he might as well do it as a Second Lieutenant.

Geoffrey is a distant cousin of Lieutenant Craig W. Lowell and as such, is known to others in the Army. At the end of his tour of duty, he finds he can't resign. He finds his wife living in his cousin Craig's apartment, and they talk about the military versus working in the family business. Geoffrey wants out of the military. He feels it is dangerous and is not fair to his wife. Craig feels the military is preferable to working for the family. Cousin Lowell helps him get into flight school and assigned to Hanrahan. Geoffrey becomes a helicopter pilot and meets Craig in different parts of the country.



While Craig is at Fort Bragg training and planning for Operation Monte Christo, he flies to a resort for a weekend with Dorothy. He meets his cousin Geoffrey who flies him. Geoffrey tells him that he and their friend have noticed some strange things happening, like helicopters and crews missing, training missions and a mock up of the Hanoi Hilton at Fort Bragg. He guesses there is a rescue mission underway and wants to be a part of it. Craig tells him that he is under arrest and to report to Fort Bragg. He takes part in Operation Monte Christo and remains in the Army, rising to the rank of Brigadier General Designate. He becomes a career military officer.

General Paul Hanrahan

Hanrahan is an Army Brigadier General. He is on the hunting trip with Lowell and others in South Dakota when the Cuban missile crisis begins. There were only two generals that outranked him. Hanrahan is the commander of the John F. Kennedy Center for Special Warfare. He was one of the planners of Operation Monte Christo and retired from the service in 1974 to teach at Utica Junior College in New York.

Colonel Sanford T. Felter

Sandy Felter, nicknamed Mouse, is married to Sharon and they have three children. They live on Kildare Street in Alexandria, Virginia. Sandy is the President's liaison to the intelligence community. In June 1969, he leaves for a several week stay in Fort Bragg. He is fluent in Russian, Polish and German as well as French and is now working on Operation Monte Christo.

Major Philip S. Parker, IV

Parker is an Army pilot from a distinguished military family. He had promised Lowell he would say hello to his cousin, Godfrey Craig, and notified headquarters of the attack of Foo Two, saving the situation. While attacking Island 237 with the Marines, he is forced to eject from his sabotaged Mohawk. He is captured and rescued during Operation Monte Christo.

Stefan T. Wojinski

Wojinski, nicknamed, Ski, was a Chief Warrant Officer who had also been at the hunting lodge in South Dakota and flew to MacDill with Lowell and Hanrahan. He goes to Fort Hood with Lowell and takes part in Operation Monte Christo. After he is out of the service, he becomes a Cadillac-Oldsmobile dealer in Pennsylvania.



Lieutenant General H. H. Howard

Howard, known as "Triple H" is the commanding general of the XVIII Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg. He had been away on a special assignment to improve the transport of equipment for the troops in Vietnam and returned to Fort Bragg for the impending possible invasion of Cuba. He relieves Harke and Minor of their duties.

Major General Kenneth L. Harke

Harke is Chief of Staff, XVIII Airborne Corps, and in the absence of Lieutenant General Howard, is the acting commander of the XVIII Airborne Corps at Fort Bragg. To his surprise, Howard has returned to Fort Bragg and relieved him of his command for his behavior and for not notifying Hanrahan of the problems in Cuba.

General James G. Boone

Boone is a Brigadier General and one of the two people senior to Hanrahan. Boone had established an army of irregulars when he refused to surrender in the Philippines during World War II. He became a Major General during Korea and was now deputy commander of CONARC.

Colonel Rudolph G. MacMillan

MacMillan is known as Mac to his friends. He is stationed at Fort Bragg and married to Roxy. He had been a POW in Germany in World War II. He had also been the commander of the First Special Forces Group in Vietnam. He dies during Operation Monte Christo.

Lieutenant General Robert F. Bellmon

Bellmon was the commander of Fort Bragg and the XVIII Airborne Corps. He had served in North Africa in World War II and in Korea and commanded a division in Vietnam. He is married to Barbara. He dies of cancer in 1976 after retiring from the Army.

Major General Stuart Lemper

Lemper is the commanding general at Fort Hood in Texas. His insecurity is evident when he first meets Lowell until Prince Wallace greets Lowell. He thinks Lowell is sent there to find fault with him.



Chief Warrant Officer Prince T. Wallace

Wallace is stationed at Fort Hood and warmly greets Lowell, whom he had served with at Pusan and Yalu. He is assigned to work with Lowell and Wojinski.

Major General Paul T. Jiggs

Jiggs is in charge of the Joint Assault Force and is the one who ordered Lowell to Fort Hood.



Objects/Places

Foo Two

Foo Two was the name given to Camp 7 at Nui Ba Den in South Vietnam. It was known as Dien Bien Phu II.

Sioux Falls

Sioux Falls is in South Dakota and is the site of a farm owned by Continental Illinois Bank for entertainment purposes.

MacDill Air Force Base

MacDill Air Force Base is located in Florida, near Tampa.

Fort Hood

Fort Hood is a United States Army base in Texas.

Fort Bragg

Fort Bragg is a United States Army base in North Carolina and is the site of the John F. Kennedy Center for Warfare.

Brockley Air Force Base

Brockley is an Air Force base located near Mobile, Alabama.

Fortress Monroe

Fortress Monroe is in Virginia and is the site of the Headquarters of the Continental Army Command.

Soc Trang

Soc Trang is a Marine camp in the Mekong Delta in Vietnam,



Fort Riley

Fort Riley is an Army base in Kansas.

Camp Buckner

Camp Buckner is a Marine base in Okinawa.

New York City

New York City is where the Craig family lives and has extensive real estate holdings.

Washington, D.C.

Washington D.C. is the nation's capitol.



Themes

Rivalry

One of the dominant themes of the book is the rivalry between the services and within the Army between Airborne and Armor. This is especially evident during the missile crisis. Hanrahan believes that Special Forces should be involved and that they should be the pathfinders. The XVIII Airborne Corps believes their own pathfinders were capable and that they did not need the Special Forces. There was also dissatisfaction when Lowell was named Deputy Inspector General, Headquarters, U.S. Joint Assault Force (Provisional). He was sent to Fort Hood, Texas to solve the logistics problem of quickly moving the tanks and the equipment, or, as Hanrahan told him it would be an Airborne operation. Lowell solved the logistics and transportation problems even though he broke many regulations.

The rivalry between the branches is also evident when Dorothy Simms first meets Craig Lowell. Her husband was an Air Force aviator who was now a prisoner of war. She notices Lowell's Army Senior Aviator wings and remembers her husband telling her that the wings from the Army meant that the person could tell the difference between an altimeter and a propeller. He had told her that the Air Force didn't think highly of Army aviators.

At the hunting lodge in South Dakota where a handful of military personnel are on a hunting trip at the Continental Illinois Bank farm, John Denn, from the bank's public relations department, listens to the stories of the men and says that he is surprised at the amount of politics and rivalry in the military. This theme recurs on and off throughout the book.

Relationships

Another recurring theme throughout the book are the relationships of some of the main characters, particularly Craig Lowell. Lowell's wife had been killed in an accident many years ago. He basically became known as a lady's man, even though his life was based on abstinence for many years. He and Dorothy Simms did not like one another when they first met, but that quickly changed, and they soon became lovers. Lowell had warned himself about becoming involved with the wife of a POW because if it became known, the news would not be favorably received, and it wasn't. Dorothy had planned to divorce her POW husband before he was captured and now couldn't because he was a POW. The two became more and more involved. When Dorothy's husband is rescued from the Hanoi Hilton, they divorce and she marries Lowell.

The other relationship of interest is that between Lowell and his son, Peter-Paul. The young man had been raised by his maternal grandparents in Germany and was now a correspondent for a left-wing magazine. Relations between Peter-Paul and his father



are very strained, complicated by Peter-Paul being arrested and roughed up at Camp McCall when he was caught filming the training for Operation Monte Christo and wouldn't tell them where the film was hidden. The incident resulted in Peter-Paul renouncing his American citizenship and dropping Lowell from his name. He has no contact with his father for ten years until Dorothy brokered a reconciliation.

Dedication and Hard Work

The book reveals the dedication of the characters to their service. One of the characters that exemplified this dedication was Craig T. Lowell. He had a reputation as a hard worker who paid attention to details. He was known to always get the job done which was why he was sent to Fort Hood to help solve the transportation problem during the Cuban missile crisis. Lowell would always get the job done even if he broke the rules as at Fort Hood. His tactics damaged some of the equipment, but he accomplished the goal of figuring out how to move the equipment in the required time.

Because of his ability to perform, Lowell's services were highly sought after. He also had mentors, like Hanrahan, who went to bat for him to have him assigned to their command. Hanrahan wanted Lowell for Operation Monte Christo because he recognized his dedication and ability to perform. Lowell was not afraid to go back to Vietnam to lead the mission to rescue the prisoners at the Hanoi Hilton, even though he knew it could cost him his life. Neither were the other men like Geoff Craig who at one time wanted out of the Army at any cost and didn't want to risk his life. The same is true of all the men who volunteered for the operation. Their dedication plus the planning and attention to detail made the operation a success.

Style

Point of View

The *Generals - Brotherhood of War* is written from the third person point of view. The narrator is obviously the author, W.E.B. Griffin, who is able to direct the story and fill in the necessary background information and details as needed. The use of the third person overcomes the limitations of the first person point of view in which the reader is confined to events that occur in the presence of the narrator. First person point of view would definitely not work for this kind of book and would limit the knowledge of the reader. The use of the third person allows the author to supply the information the reader requires.

There is plenty of dialogue in the novel and many of the characters tell their own story. The dialogues reveal the personality of the characters, and the reader is able to come to know some of them well. The dialogue adds to the realism of the characters and the story and is also a way of providing the reader with the necessary information.

The use of the third person is the proper approach for a novel of this kind. It complements Griffin's writing style in which both the author and the characters tell the story of the novel. This makes it more interesting and realistic for the reader.

Setting

There are numerous settings for the action of the novel as the characters and action move from place to place. The action begins at Nui Ba Den, an Army camp in Vietnam referred to as Foo Two because it is totally surrounded by the enemy. The Americans stationed there know it is only a matter of time before Hanoi tries to eliminate the camp. Other scenes in Vietnam take place at Soc Trang, the Marine base that is under attack when Parker's sabotaged Mohawk goes down leaving Parker a prisoner of war at the Hanoi Hilton. The action returns to Vietnam again at the end of the book with the rescue of the prisoners at the Hanoi Hilton.

Much of the action takes place at Fort Bragg where the John F. Kennedy Center for Warfare is located. The North Carolina setting is where the planning and training for the rescue mission takes place. Another major setting is Fort Hood in Texas where tanks and equipment are being transported for a possible invasion of Cuba. Other settings are MacDill Air Force Base in Florida, Brockley Air Force Base in Alabama, Fort Riley in Kansas and Fortress Monroe which is the location of the Continental Army Command in Virginia. Camp Bruckner, the Marine base in Okinawa is the site of out processing of soldiers from Vietnam.

There are also a variety of settings that are not on military bases. A farm owned by Continental Illinois Bank is near Sioux Falls, South Dakota and is the site of a hunting trip for a group of military personnel when the Cuban missile crisis begins. New York



City is where Craig Lowell and cousin Geoffrey Craig live. Other settings are aboard the USS Forrestal and various planes and helicopters as well as several resorts where Lowell and Dorothy meet.

Language and Meaning

For the most part, *The Generals - Brotherhood of War* is written in a clear manner that results in quick and easy reading. The book is about the military so there are military terms, jargon and abbreviations throughout the book. These terms are all defined for the reader, either through the dialogue of the characters or in footnotes at the bottom of the page. Griffin does a very good job with the definitions and does not leave the reader hanging as to the meaning of these terms. The use of these terms add realism to the story, even though the reader must keep track of the terms.

The language and the style of writing adds to the ease of reading the book. The use of the jargon slows the reader down a little but not enough to affect the pace of the novel. The reader not familiar with the military will appreciate the definitions because they make it easier to follow what the author is talking about. The reader doesn't not have to hunt down the meaning of any of these terms.

Structure

The structure of the novel is very simple. There are fifteen chapters and an Epilogue. Griffin's usual style is used in this novel with each chapter and the different sections of the chapter having the date, time and place of the scene. The reader always knows when and where the action is taking place, since the action moves around from place to place. The reader who loses track just has to look at the section head.

There are no titles to the chapters, just numbers, but this is all that is required. There is no Table of Contents or Foreword, but none is really needed. There is an Epilogue that tells what happened to some of the main characters.

This structure works very well for this kind of novel. The structure is simple and doesn't detract from the action of the story in any way. It leaves the reader free to concentrate on the story and adds to the readability of the novel. This helps to hold the reader's interest since there is not much to detract from the reader's interest.



Quotes

"Camp 7 was, however, known to its American garrison as Dien Bien Phu II, and there was a nearly painted sign to that effect. Even more informally, it was known as 'Foo Two'" (Chapter 1m pg. 5)

"John H. Denn had never served in a uniform, and had up until now little regard for the military; yet he found the nightly conversations fascinating. There was apparently much more to the Army than he'd been aware of. And he was more than a little surprised to learn that there was just as much politics in the Army as there was in the corporate corridors of CONTBANK. The difference seems to be that their political battles were punctuated from time to time with genuine battles" (Chapter 2, pg. 51)

"Harke had one priority, the advancement of the career of Major General Kenneth Harke. Since his career was tied to Airborne, Harke regarded the 'threat' Special Forces posed to conventional parachute troops as a threat to him personally, and would do anything he could to reduce that threat. If he felt he needed to stab Paul Hanrahan in the back, then he would stab Paul Hanrahan in the back. Harke was a prick. Worse, Jiggs thought - an intelligent prick" (Chapter 3, pg. 70)

"I also presumed that you knew what is expected of a chief of staff. He is to do only those things in the name of his commander that he knows, without any question, the commander would do himself. And that when he doesn't know what to do, he is to ask the commanded, not to confuse being left in charge with assuming command" (Chapter 4, pg. 109)

"So he was of course pleased that that had been avoided. In a week, they would be back at Hood, all alive and in one piece. On the other hand, since they had not taken Castro out when the odds were in American favor, it was very likely that the confrontation had only been delayed, and that when it became necessary later to mount an invasion of Cuba, the casualties would be even higher" (Chapter 5, pg. 129)

"'He told me,' Toni blurted, 'that he'd rather be killed than captured.' The men looked at each other, but none of them could think of anything to say in reply" (Chapter 6, pg. 147)

"'I won't argue the point,' Lowell said, but then argued it: 'Death is inevitable. You can get mugged on Washington Mews as well as shot in the service. When your number is up, it's up. Any my experience has been that if you're going to get blown away, it happens in the first thirty days of combat. If you can get through that first month, it has been my experience you'll get through it all'" Chapter 7, pg. 162)

"'Bullshit!' General Howard repeated. 'I don't know what is the source of your animosity toward this officer, General, but I have had enough of it. The tank company which Lower commanded was, in fact - and you could have learned this from General Jiggs - of battalion strength. And he commanded it with such skill that it is now being taught on the



sand tables at the Point and at Leavenworth. He is a senior aviator as well. For the good of the service, not to mention in simple decency toward him, it is my desire that he be given a command within the 11th Air Assault Division. You have exactly one hundred and twenty seconds to make a recommendation, failing which, or in case I disagree with your recommendation, I will make the appointment myself" (Chapter 8, pg. 172)

"The operation envisions a heliborne assault by Army and/or Air Force rotary-wing aircraft operating from a U.S. Navy aircraft carrier upon a Prisoner of War camp near Hanoi, North Vietnam, to liberate officer and enlisted personnel of U.S. Military Forces held by the North Vietnamese" (Chapter 9, pg. 197)

"And that's wasted, too. Oh, you bastard, why did you get shot down! If you had gotten through your tour, you'd have been home eighteen months ago, and we would have been divorced six months later. If you hadn't got yourself shot down, I would be free of you, and I could flirt with this dangerous Lowell character" (Chapter 10, pg. 238)

"He was surprised MacMillan hadn't figured out yet that he was not going to get the actual command, time in grade or not time in grade. There was a sop to his ego on the final operations order. He was to be 'commander of ground troops'" (Chapter 11, pg. 270)

"'For Christ's sake, Dorothy,' he said. 'Shut up. I just turned in my cousin Craig, who is a young captain of whom I'm extraordinarily fond, and a major, who is one of my best friends, for making guesses about what's going on. I don't want to turn you in, but I will'" (Chapter 12, pg. 306)

"'The facts are, Colonel,' Bellmon said, 'that in addition to blatantly violating the security of an important operation, you have been committing open and notorious adultery with the wife of a brother officer, who just happens to be in a POW camp. I can think of nothing more contemptible. Be advised that it is my intention to bring charges against you'" (Chapter 13, pg. 317)

"Peter-Paul decided these people had the art of psychological terror down pretty good. If he didn't have the experience to know that there was only so far they dared go, he might be a little frightened himself" (Chapter 14, pg. 341)

"'May I inquire, Colonel,' the captain asked, 'the nature of Operation Monte Christo?' 'We're going to go get the guys out of the Hanoi Hilton, Captain,'" Craig Lowell said (Chapter 15, pg. 356)



Topics for Discussion

What indications are there of rivalry and politics within each branch of the military and between the branches?

Explain the sequence of events leading up to Hark and Minor being relieved of their duties by Howard. What were they caught doing?

Geoffrey Craig and Craig Lowell are cousins and both are from a wealthy family. How do they both differ on their views of the military? Why? How does this change as time goes on?

What is Operation Monte Christo? Why is there so much secrecy surrounding the project?

How is the Monte Christo operation endangered? Who finds out about it and how?

Lowell's relationship with Dorothy Simms results in a lot of problems and many people are angry with him. Explain why? Was their anger justified?

Lowell and his son Peter-Paul are estranged. What happens at Fort Bragg that compounds this estrangement?