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Behind The Lines (The Corps Series)



Synopsis

World War II. On the island of Mindanao, the Philippines, a man calling himself "General" Fertig has set himself up as a guerrilla leader to harass the Japanese. Army records show that the only officer named Fertig in the Philippines is a reserve lieutenant colonel of the Corps of Engineers, reported MIA on Luzon. Still, the reports filtering out are interesting, and it's Marine Lieutenant Ken McCoy's mission to sneak behind the lines and find out if Fertig is for real. With McCoy is a motley group put together as a compromise between the warring factions of Douglas MacArthur and the OSS chief Bill Donovan. Together, McCoy and his men steal into the heart of enemy territory and there, amid firefights and jungle camps, encounter more than they had bargained for. Before they're done, each will undergo a test of his own personal mettle with results that will surprise even the most hardened of them.

Book Information

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[Authors, A-Z > \(G \) > Griffin, W. E. B.](#) #3918 in [Books > Books on CD > General](#) #4632

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Customer Reviews

This book got me back into reading books after a being severely burned out post college (it took four years to pick-up a book and actually read it and it would have been longer had I not listened to this book on tape.) I can't say enough about "Behind the Lines." After listening to this book I read straight through the series and could not put one of them down while I was reading. In fact, like one of the other posters stated, finishing them nearly brought me to tears. I will mourn when "The Corps" series ends. If you are a military history buff and like action-adventure novels, then this would also be the most entertaining novel you have ever read. I promise. Thank you for the experience W.E.B.

Although this book is now several years old I felt it was worth the time to comment on it since WEB just had another installment of The Brotherhood of War published. The new book had it's usual effect on me and I went into a "Griffin feeding frenzy" and re-read the last two books in The Corps" series. I rated this book "5-Stars" solely on the basis of the main plot--the support of guerrilla warfare activities in the Phillippines and the story of Wendell Fertig. I happen to like Ken McCoy and Ernie Zimmerman as central characters in all of The Corps novels. It is too bad that Griffin has elevated Fleming Pickering to such prominence in the more recent episodes; I prefer a more action-dominated story line and some of the "fluff" involving the O.S.S. involvement leaves me cold. My biggest criticism of the book is the relatively slow pace of the action. Too much time spent on wrangles with Bill Donovan and the O.S.S. hierarchy and Fleming Pickering swilling scotch. Some of these other criticisms might make the book less compelling for other readers, but I decided to overlook a few warts in my rating. I am tired of only one book in The Corps every 2-3 years. It is by FAR the best series the author has going. I can't abide the Cop series and I am thoroughly tired of Argentina. Stick to the Marines--forget the rest.

Marine veteran, 1st Marine Division. WEB Griffin has the best understanding of any author of how the military in general, and Marines in particular, operate. This was a super story, and does a great job of depicting how some REAL JERKS (Lt/Capt Macklin) get into positions of authority; and how some incredibly good enlisted guys, mustangs and regulars (Stecker, McCoy, Pick, Banning, Lt (USN) Lewis) make it work. I have book # 8 (In Danger's Path) on order, but was distressed to see how many negative comments there are about it. That's why I came back to read the readers' views of Book 7. I'm glad that we share enthusiasm for book # 7, and hope that # 8 isn't really as bad as the consensus seems to be. A friend has loaned me a copy of the "un-numbered" book of The Corps series (Under Fire), and I am almost dreading reading it, due to comments about poor proofreading, confusing changes in the histories of the characters, etc. I have also read the whole Brotherhood of War series, and thought it to be the definitive work of its kind on the Army. Griffin has been so great for so long; I really hope he isn't going downhill...God bless, JLG, Cpl USMC, 1953 - 56

The Corp series is my first W.E.B. Griffin series, but it definitely won't be my last. This author is a storyteller extraordinaire, and this series is wonderful. Griffin's characterizations are incredibly good, and I will be sorry to reach the end of the series and see the end of General Pickering, Killer McCoy,

Pick Pickering and all the other wonderful characters in these books. In this book, we have Ken (Killer) McCoy being sent behind enemy lines in the Phillipines to lend aid and supplies to a guerrilla army led by General Fertig. It is an incredibly dangerous mission, and we need to wait until the very end of the book to see whether or not Ken McCoy can get out. The time is set around the end of the year in 1942, and the beginning of 1943. At that time the War in the Pacific was going full steam, and the Americans were running into some surprising difficulties with the Japanese. As far as I'm concerned, this series gets better and better, and I have two books left to read before I'm done.

I've been a Griffin fan for about seven years. I've read all of Griffin's books at least once; the Corp's series books twice, except for "Behind the Lines", which I just finished for the fourth time. All of Griffin's books are very vivid in detail and make you feel as if you're actually there. In some cases, I wish I were. I have recommended many of his books to my friends who are now loyal fans. One of them read the Corp series in ten days. He said they were the best he's ever read, and agreed with me that "Behind the Lines" was his favorite, too. Like many other fans of the Corp series, Griffin needs to finish this series of books. The only fault he has is that the Corp series books are too far between each other. Many other fans will agree to get on with the Corps and write less about the other series.

The Marine Corps series has maintained the level of character and story lines all along the series. Behind the Lines is an excellent example of WEB Griffin at his best. This story has been referred to in several other novels in the series. The fall of the Philippines left a group of US service members stranded and some of them, rather than surrender to the Japanese, went into the hills where they allied with Filipinos who were willing to fight the Japanese occupiers. The story is about one of those Americans, named Wendell Fertig, who organized an effective force and gave the Japanese problems right to the end of the war. It is well done and I recommend it. The true story of Wendell Fertig is at Wikipedia and closely resembles the details in the novel.[...]

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