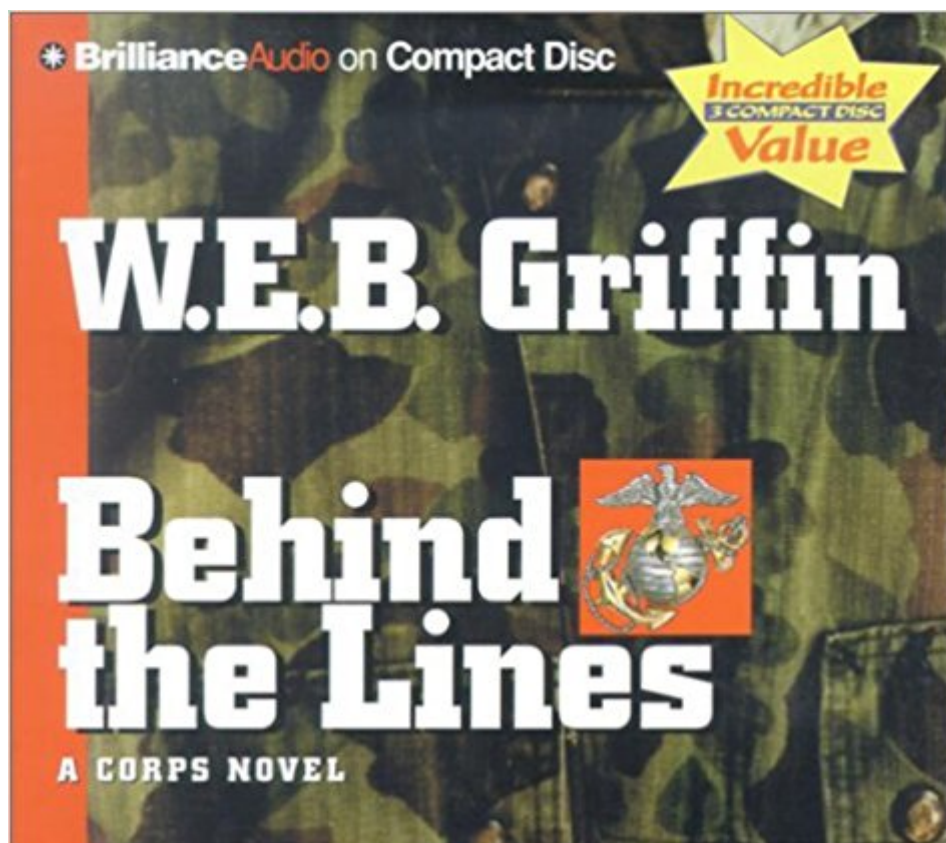


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Behind The Lines (The Corps Series)



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 he's for real. With him is a motley group put together as a compromise between the warring factions of Douglas MacArthur and the OSS chief Bill Donovan. Together, these men will 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.](#) #835 in [Books > Books on CD > General](#) #1494

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Customer Reviews

Griffin's seventh novel in The Corps series (after Close Combat) continues the author's breezy look at the Marine Corps during WWII. Here, he uses guerrilla action behind the lines in the Philippines as foreground to tell the behind-the-lines tale of the power struggle among Marine General Fleming Pickering, General Douglas MacArthur and Bill Donovan of the fledgling OSS, all of whom are galvanized into action by a radio message from a self-proclaimed general named Wendell Fertig, who has established himself as a guerrilla leader against the Japanese. As far as the Marines are concerned, once the message is verified, a team of men with supplies will be sent in to evacuate

any sick or wounded and evaluate Fertig as a potential leader. Complicating matters, however, are MacArthur's public declaration that guerrilla activity on the Philippines is impossible, and therefore nonexistent, and Bill Donovan's desire to get the operation under OSS control. Focusing on a variety of characters involved in the proposed mission, Griffin tells an absorbing story with his usual attention to dialogue rather than description, relying frequently on his favored device of moving the plot along through copies of memos, radio messages and telegrams. The boy's club aura of Griffin's primarily male world, where everything—even death—seems clear, sunny, bright and uncomplicated, is in full force here; and that should please his fans just fine. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

In Griffin's latest, a bunch of mismatched World War II grunts search for a missing colonel who may be launching guerrilla raids on Japan. Sounds like a cross between *The Guns of Navarone* and *Apocalypse Now*. Copyright 1995 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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.[...]

this book deals with the guerrilla forces of the Philipinos and Americans who "deserted" rather than surrender when the Phillipines fell in 1942. The first chapters emphasise the tangle of competition for power within the various military and intelligence agencies as regarding the events that occurred on the Philippines during the early months in the Pacific theatre; the hard choices each soldier was forced to make, and the difficulties of getting where they would be most useful. The first developments involve the moral decisions regarding following orders, desertion/fleeing in the face of danger and a soldier's responsibility to not be captured and thus to be able to continue fighting the bad guys. A young 1st Lt- an aviator under orders to "locate generator spare parts", & a "tough, old breed Marine" who was with the 4th in Shanghai and knew both Zimmerman and McCoy team up

together in an effort to make Mandingo and find other Americans who refused to surrender to die needlessly. Obviously they will form a part of the Guerillas operating on the islands. The powers that be understand that OSS is the logical choice to assist after General Pickering determines that they are in fact elements of a guerilla force on Mindingo, but MacArthur is adamant about refusing to cooperate with Donovan-enter the forces of Pickering as the go-between, assisted by McCoy, Col Stecker, Koffler and Macklin- Macklin!?!- yep, wormed his way into OSS. Its a fun ride, enjoy.

This is one of my favorite installments in Griffin's "The Corps" series. In this one we are fully introduced to Brigadier General Wendel Fertig, an authentic American hero who single-handedly and with remarkable (and uniquely American) initiative, creates a 30,000 man force in the Philippines to fight the occupying Japanese. Of course, General Pickering's people are assisting in this story, and this all makes for an engrossing and hard-to-put-down story. Although this series generally paints a fairly favorable picture of Gen. MacArthur, it is obvious that the author does not believe that MacArthur and his "Bataan Gang" acted with integrity regarding their lack of support for General Fertig. This kind of political interplay is what Griffin does best, and here it is done particularly well. This one is an excellent installment in this superb series. RJB.

I have read and re-read this series of books by WEB Griffin. I love the characters and the plot is engaging and believable. My only complaint is what they would call in a movie "continuity". In the book that introduces Billy Dunn as a fighter pilot at Midway he shoots down 2 Japanese planes, in this book it is three. Pick Pickering is described in a previous book as shooting down 8 enemy planes at Guadalcanal, but in this book it is just 6. When McCoy and Zimmerman et al came ashore on Mindanao they told "General" Fertig that they had brought a supply of .30-06 and .45 ammunition, yet just before the end of the book as they were preparing for an attack on a Japanese convoy, they had to scramble to get some old .30-06 armor piercing ammunition. These are just some examples, there are others. I don't know if this is through a lack of thoroughness in record keeping about events and characters, sloppy writing or poor editing, but it is distracting for those of us who actually remember the previous page or book we read.

after reading most of the other books in the series. was fairly prepared for what happened in this book. I don't feel like it is predictable or full of surprises but I did enjoy the read.

The Corps series isn't all that bad a read, once you get beyond all the inconsistencies Griffin makes

in the story line from previous novels. (Name changes, unit designations become different, "Albatross" becomes "Magic" etc.) I don't know if these obvious and numerous errors are just the bad job of creating the Kindle versions or just bad editing from an author that seems to have pumped out enough of these to not bother much anymore; but they are distracting and irritating - especially considering the premium price for what is essentially a downloaded file. The worst part however, is the fact that in a 552 page novel how many pages are essentially just copied and pasted from previous novels? A different person delivering this same message we read two books ago - the same descriptions, over and over and over... By now we know who Killer McCoy is, or Major Banning, or Jack (NMI) Stecker. This repetitious nonsense actually makes me wonder if Bill Butterworth (W.E.G. Griffin's real name) is getting paid by the page or what? Again, it's not a bad read... but ends up coming across like some rag you would find in the supermarket checkout aisle - not the "WONDERFUL TALE" that commands the price of these books.

Another W.E.B Griffin winner before his son co-authors with him. Great book about WWII USMC. Fiction.

WEB Griffin as always is a great read. If your a war buff, this is a great series.

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Behind the Lines (The Corps Series) W.E.B. Griffin Series Reading Order: Series List - In Order: Presidential Agent series, Badge of Honor series, The Corps series, Honor Bound series, Brotherhood ... (Listastik Series Reading Order Book 14) Camping With the Corps of Engineers: The Complete Guide to Campgrounds Built and Operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Wright Guides) Drum Corps Replay - 1983: Everyone else is just corps Hal Jordan and the Green Lantern Corps Vol. 3: Quest for Hope (Rebirth) (Green Lantern - Hal Jordan and the Green Lantern Corps (Rebi) The Old Corps (The Old Corps & No Better Way to Die Book 1) Steve's Adventure with the Peace Corps: Stories from the Kingdom of Tonga and the United States Peace Corps RV Camping in Corps of Engineers Parks: Guide to over 600 Corps-managed campgrounds on nearly 200 lakes around the country The Wright Guide to Camping With the Corps of Engineers: The Complete Guide to Campgrounds Built and Operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Wright Guides) From Microsoft to Malawi: Learning on the Front Lines as a Peace Corps Volunteer Ron Carter: Building Jazz Bass Lines: A compendium of techniques for great jazz bass lines including play-along CD featuring Ron Carter (Bass Builders) Easy Pop Bass Lines: Play the Bass Lines of 20 Pop and Rock Songs (Bass Method) More Easy Pop Bass Lines: Play the Bass Lines of 20 Pop

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