

A Higher Call by Adam Makos

Characters

Charlie Brown- 21 year old West Virginia farm boy; captain of B-17 Flying Fortress

Col. "Mighty Mo" Preston- Commander

Al "Doc" Sadok- helped shy buddies learn to pick up girls

Sam Blackford- ball turret gunner

Dale Killion- farm boy; B-17 captain

Marjorie Ketcham- female pilot who could out-fly Charlie

Eva- young actress; Franz' first wife

Franz Stigler- pilot from Bavaria

Father Josef- catholic father

Hans Marseille- 22 yr old virtuoso of fighter pilots, known as the "Stars of Africa"

Adolf Galland- 31 yr old general; ace who painted Mickey Mouse on his planes

Johannes Steinoff- "professor-like" fighter pilot; severely burned

Gerhard Barkhorn- pilot; 301 victory ace

Walter Krupinski- ace

Hiya- Franz's second wife

Discussion:

1. Through the book the author asks us to question the person we call the enemy. Discuss his question: "Can good men be found on both sides of a bad war?"
2. Discuss perspectives and information about World War II that you learned from this book.
3. Men on both sides had a religious faith and prayed to the same God. How can this be? Does it call into question either side in a disagreement or confrontation using God as their mantra?
4. What do you feel motivated Franz in his decision not to shoot down the American B-12?
5. In later interviews Franz refers to fate, more than skill or right, as a determiner of outcome. Why do you think that is; can his view be justified?
6. What incidences or characters were most impressive to you?
7. Charlie Brown: "We flew under different flags, with different uniforms, but the code was there." What was the code? Discuss other places where it is evident or lacking.