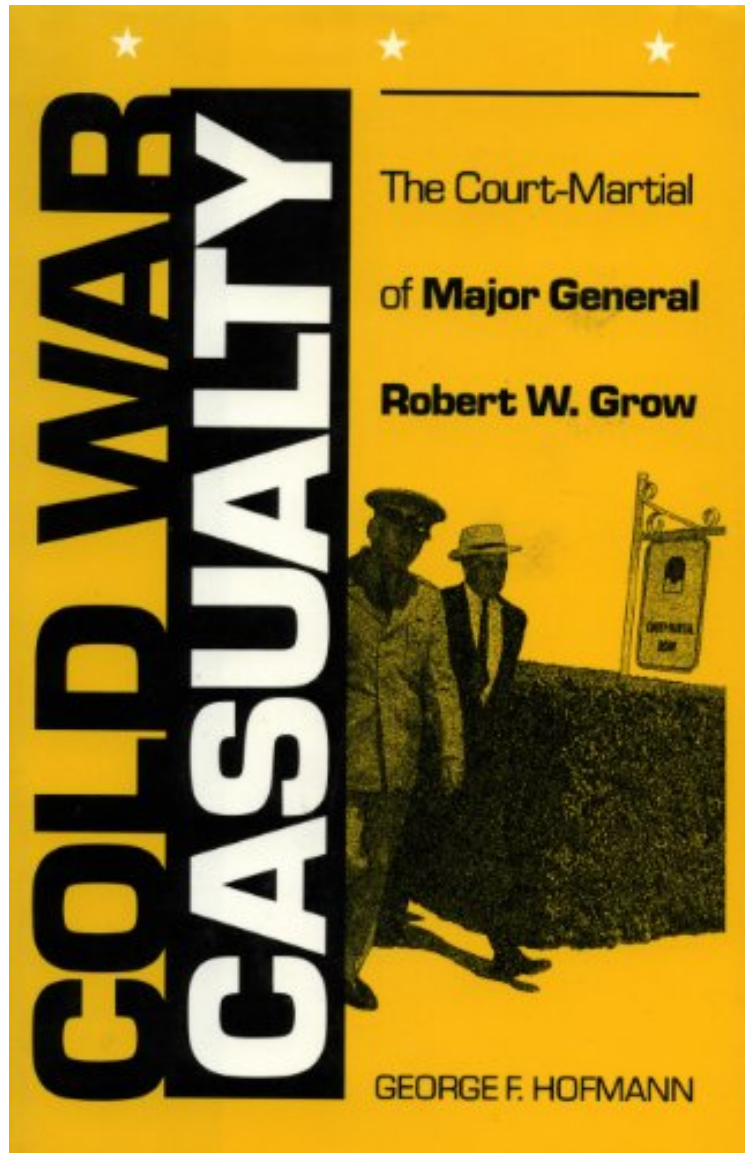


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# Cold War Casualty: Court-martial of Major General Robert W.Grow

Von George F. Hofmann

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study of an important but unknown court-martial. Von Ein Kunde Everybody knows about Gen. George Patton and his Third Army, but few people have heard of Gen. Robert Grow and his 6th Armored Division. Grow's 6th AD was one of the units that was responsible the success and fame of the Third Army. You might expect General Grow to return from World War II and enjoy accolades and well-deserved retirement. Instead, he was court-martialed and railroaded in the 50's, and at least one of his persecutors was a fellow general with whom he had a conflict during the Battle of the Bulge. Author Dr. Hofmann has produced a meticulous study of the case and the events leading up to it, and provides a disturbing look at Pentagon rivalries and politics.

Kurzbeschreibung New research data gathered through the Freedom of Information Act and the first use of the Grow files provide the framework for this absorbing account of the general court-martial of one of General George S. Patton's famous armored division commanders of World War II. The 1952 court-martial of Major General Robert W. Grow, senior U.S. military attache in Moscow during the Korean War era, involved a general officer who had used questionable judgment in recording impolitic statements in his personal diary, portions of which had been photocopied by an alleged Soviet agent in Frankfurt, West Germany. This era of Cold War tensions and McCarthyism, Western media sensationalism, and communist propaganda created a cause celebre and influenced the Army Staff in the Pentagon, led by Lieutenant General Maxwell D. Taylor, to exercise controversial command influence under the aegis of the new Uniform Code of Military Justice. While the State Department and Central Intelligence Agency recommended refuting the implications of the published diary the Army Staff decided to prosecute the unfortunate attache. Grow, a career soldier, welcomed a formal hearing in order to clear his name. The result became an exercise in army politics and an example of the corruption of the military justice system through managerial careerism and unlawful command influence. Through his analysis of the Grow incident, Hofmann traces the actual operation of military judicial process under the Uniform Code and examines the bureaucratic intrigues, influence of the media, Cold War propaganda, and resulting conflict between service and self-interest.

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