

Reading and discussion notes *The Young Lions*, Chapters 16-29 (245 - 516)

Chapter 16

Chapter on the Germans falling apart in Northern Africa. Christian has malaria.

p. 246 War to the men on the line: **the smell**

247: Experience of a major attack.

Escape with Hardenburg on the motorcycle.

Does Hardenburg act as an emblem for the who Nazi enterprise?

Chapter 17

Christian and Lt. Hardenburg in the hospital: Hardenburg's face; Hardenburg's philosophy pounding on Christian.

275 Hardenburg on women—especially his wife Gretchen

277 More of the Nazi gospel according to H.

281: The bayonet/

***** Chapter 18 285-386**

Michael and Noah in basic training. One of the best chapters: Michael **and** Noah point-of-view: anti-Semitism in army; in small town. Hope comes to visit. Noah's crazy taking on of the 10 biggest men in the unit to fight.

287-288 Old fashioned anti-Semitism versus Noah

@289: Noah's letter to Hope being written as the anti-Semitism goes on in the room.

293 More of the same

295: What's beautiful in the Army: Michael notices.

(Chapter 18 continued)

308 and ff: Noah's ten fights.

315: The other Jew

316: Fein says he really doesn't understand "little guys."

Noah deserts.

329 Noah's letter.

**** Chapter 19**

Noah gives himself up, writes a letter. Sees Hope in jail.

Chapter 20

Very short. Noah back with the unit; Donnelly and others threaten; he has a knife.

P. 337 and following: other soldiers not so bad?

Chapter 21

Back in Europe: In Italy

343, also 347 Christian takes on persona of Lt. Hardenburg.

350 and ff.: **Christian blows up a bridge.** Good scene.

Chapter 22

Michael gets a transfer—Michael in London:

- 362 Random sex and sexism. I don't like Michael much.
385 Nice— one of Michael's lists of what is happening to whom in London— another of the passages of general observation, trying to give an overview.

Chapter 23

Noah at war, before engagement. Training in England.

- 400 Noah visits Dover; hears a pacifist sermon

**** Chapter 24**

Very short chapter—Christian's leave.

Gretchen Hardenburg

More deterioration— she hardly remembers him. Seems to have a girlfriend.

407: The end of Hardenburg.

Is Shaw homophobic? He has a couple of passing scenes with implied negativity toward Lesbians, in particular. He's certainly sexist.

Chapter 25

Christian is recruited for a revolt against the Nazis

French partisans stop the possibility—kill his friend.

Christian's nasty participation in revenge with an SS officer.

Chapter 26

Christian back at war; American paratroopers landing

- 435 Paratrooper in a tree scene

Christian kills a paratrooper, but feels more for his bravery than for the Germans who don't want to fight. Excellent scene— US patriotic, respect among warriors.

Chapter 27

Michael gets another transfer.

***** Chapter 28**

Possibly the most important chapter about war?

Opens with omniscient POV, author's voice.

D-Day on the beach. Opens with general observations about war.

444 what a casualty means to a soldier; what a casualty means to the generals.

Noah's experience.

Cpt. Colclough is in the hold. (He was the cruel captain from basic training)

447 flashback to Colclough's speech to the men

448-453 Colclough begins to fall apart: won't get off boat

452 Noah imagines peace.

457 - 488 The farmhouse. Noah's war. Colclough completely decompensates; Lt. Green, who has appeared weak, takes over. Noah fights— Crazy mean Rickett accepts N. temporarily as they kill Germans.

462: The tank! Vivid writing, espec. Rickett, who seems to love war.

At night, they sneak away, Noah becomes a leader. Tries to save one of his comrades.

486: 486: Noah publishes a poem! – thanks to Hope. Rickett is still an anti-Semite!

Chapter 29

Michael as a driver for Colonel Pavone. Survey of situation, a kind of general chapter.