

Thank you, This is ATWv2_acn (306. Jim and Ellen fly home to Minnesota for Jane's funeral).

Below is your **strict military-historical, institutional, and continuity validation** for **ATWv2_acn (Chapter 306: Jim and Ellen fly home to Minnesota for Jane's funeral)**. As always, I am **not** evaluating your prose, themes, or narrative choices — only the **accuracy, realism, and internal consistency** of the military, psychological, and historical details.



OVERALL ASSESSMENT

This chapter is entirely plausible and historically accurate. There are no military errors, no rank or protocol issues, no anachronisms, and no continuity contradictions.

Everything aligns with:

- USAF culture in 1971
- The psychological state of a returning POW
- The social and political climate of mid-1971
- The geography and Catholic funeral practices of St. Paul
- The timeline of the Pentagon Papers release
- The family dynamics typical of the era

This chapter is historically solid.



1. TRAVEL AND TIMING — ACCURATE

✓ July 18, 1971

This date fits perfectly with:

- Morris's earlier April 1971 visit to his mother
- Her declining health
- His emotional deterioration
- The timeline of the Pentagon Papers (June 1971)

✓ Flying from Las Vegas to Minnesota

Completely normal for a USAF Major and his wife.

✓ Staying with the Kass family

This is realistic for:

- A grieving son
- A couple with marital strain
- A family with strong ties to Minnesota

No issues.



2. FUNERAL AND CATHOLIC DETAILS — ACCURATE

Everything about the funeral is correct:

- St. Patrick's Catholic Church on the West Side of St. Paul
- A priest delivering the only eulogy
- The liturgy references
- The Latin sequence *Dies Irae*
- The candles around the casket
- The burial immediately after the Mass

These details are historically and liturgically accurate for a 1971 Catholic funeral.



3. PSYCHOLOGICAL REALISM — EXTREMELY ACCURATE

Morris's emotional state is consistent with:

- Post-combat emotional numbing
- Survivor guilt
- Moral injury
- Derealization
- Persistent war imagery
- Disconnection from loved ones
- Flattened affect
- Difficulty reconnecting with pre-war identity

His inability to feel the expected emotions at his mother's funeral is **common among returning POWs**.

His sense of physical distance from Ellen is also accurate.

4. MILITARY AND INSTITUTIONAL ACCURACY

✓ **Morris seeking non-combat duties**

This is realistic. Returning POWs were often:

- Allowed to choose low-pressure assignments
- Encouraged to avoid flying if they were not ready
- Given administrative or support roles

✓ **His commander's earlier offers**

This chapter remains consistent with the commander's tone in Chapters 288–289.

✓ **Morris's reluctance to commit**

This is psychologically and institutionally plausible.

5. THE PENTAGON PAPERS — PERFECTLY TIMED

The New York Times began publishing the Pentagon Papers on **June 13, 1971** — exactly the date on the newspaper Morris picks up.

Your quoted material is historically accurate.

✓ **Morris's reaction**

His reaction is consistent with:

- A returning POW
- A man already struggling with guilt
- A veteran who believed in the mission
- Someone who now sees contradictions in the official narrative

This is historically grounded.

6. CONTINUITY WITH EARLIER CHAPTERS

Everything aligns with:

- Morris's April visit to his mother
- His emotional decline
- His marital strain
- His unresolved guilt
- His inability to reconnect with Ellen
- His memories of O'Rourke, Sardo, and others
- His earlier reflections on the Paris Peace Talks
- His earlier exposure to Xuan Than's historical perspective

There are **no continuity errors**.

7. EDWARD KASS'S WORLD WAR II STORY — PLAUSIBLE

✓ A WWII veteran of D-Day and the Bulge

This is historically consistent with a man in his mid-50s in 1971.

✓ His anecdote

The story about a soldier suffering battle shock and later recovering is plausible and typical of WWII veterans' narratives.

✓ His advice

His generational perspective — “routine helps,” “shake it off,” “we defeated Hitler” — is historically accurate and reflects the cultural gap between WWII and Vietnam veterans.

✓ Morris's internal reaction

His sense that WWII veterans “believed in their war” is consistent with the historical divide.

8. THE FAMILY HOUSE AND DOCUMENTS — ACCURATE

✓ His mother preparing the house

This is realistic for a terminally ill parent.

✓ Saving newspapers

This is plausible and consistent with her character.

✓ Real estate arrangements

Correct for the era.

FINAL VALIDATION SUMMARY

ATWv2_acn (Chapter 306) is historically, psychologically, geographically, and institutionally accurate. There are no military errors, no rank issues, no procedural inaccuracies, and no anachronisms.

The chapter accurately reflects:

- USAF culture in 1971
- The psychological aftermath of captivity
- Catholic funeral practices
- The social climate of the early 1970s
- The impact of the Pentagon Papers
- The generational divide between WWII and Vietnam veterans
- The emotional dynamics of returning POWs and their families

You can proceed with this chapter exactly as written.