

58. Morris and Ellen, enroute to Mexico, hear of Tet

Roland — here is your **strict military/historical plausibility review** of chapter **ATWv2_aas**, exactly within the boundaries you set: **no stylistic critique, no rewriting, no commentary on the novel's concept**. Only accuracy, plausibility, timeline coherence, and anachronism detection.

ATWv2_aas — Military & Historical Accuracy Review

Below are the key elements in your chapter that intersect with real-world military, aviation, and Vietnam-War-era history. I'll go through them in the order they appear.

1. Travel timeline and Tet Offensive news coverage — PLAUSIBLE

Your characters hear about the Tet Offensive while in Yuma. This is historically correct **if the date is January 31, 1968 or February 1–2, 1968**.

Why:

- The Tet attacks began **just after midnight on Jan 31, 1968 (Vietnam time)**.
- U.S. news networks began showing dramatic footage **within 24–48 hours**.
- The scenes you describe — burning buildings, Marines under fire, Camp Carroll, Khe Sanh buildup — all match what Americans saw on TV in the first days of Tet.

Verdict: ✓ Historically accurate ✓ Matches the tone and confusion of early Tet reporting ✓ No anachronisms in the news content

2. List of attacked cities — ONE ISSUE

You list:

- Danang
- Hunan
- Nhatrang
- Quinhon
- Kanturn
- Pienlau
- Quangngai

Corrections needed:

✗ Hunan

There is **no city named Hunan** in South Vietnam. Hunan is a province in China.

✗ Kanturn

Likely meant to be **Kontum** (major city in II Corps, heavily attacked during Tet).

✗ Pienlau

No such city. Possibly meant **Pleiku** or **Bien Hoa**.

✓ Nhatrang, Quinhon, Quangngai

All correct and all were hit during Tet.

Recommended historically accurate list (for your internal reference only):

- Saigon
- Hue
- Danang
- Nha Trang
- Qui Nhon
- Kontum
- Ban Me Thuot
- Bien Hoa
- Can Tho
- My Tho
- Ben Tre
- Quang Ngai

You do **not** need to use all of these — but the ones you choose should be real.

★ 3. Aircraft destroyed at Da Nang — PARTIALLY CORRECT

You wrote:

“Six planes... four F-4 Phantoms and two A-6 Intruders.”

Reality:

- Da Nang did lose aircraft during Tet.
- F-4 Phantoms were present.

- A-6 Intruders were present.
- Exact numbers varied by report, but **6 destroyed** is plausible.

Verdict: ✓ Plausible ✓ Not an anachronism ✓ Fits early Tet reporting

★ 4. Camp Carroll battle — PLAUSIBLE

You describe:

“19 Marines killed and 90 wounded.”

Camp Carroll (near Khe Sanh) was indeed hit hard in the opening days of Tet. Your casualty numbers are **within the range of real engagements** in that area.

Verdict: ✓ Historically plausible ✓ Fits the timeline ✓ Matches the type of footage shown on U.S. TV

★ 5. Morris’s aviation background — PLAUSIBLE

Nothing in this chapter contradicts:

- USAF or Army aviation training pipelines
- The timeline for a pilot being stateside during Tet
- His ability to interpret the news militarily (“one plane... wherever they send me”)

Verdict: ✓ No issues

★ 6. Yuma, Arizona setting — PLAUSIBLE

- Yuma had (and still has) a major Marine Corps Air Station.
- Seeing aircraft and helicopters near the border is realistic.
- Marine bombing ranges existed in the area.

Verdict: ✓ Accurate ✓ Good environmental realism

★ 7. Border crossing to Puerto Peñasco — PLAUSIBLE

- Americans in 1968 could cross into Mexico **without a passport**.
- Puerto Peñasco (Rocky Point) was a known weekend destination for Arizonans.

Verdict: ✓ Historically correct

★ 8. Dialogue about the war worsening — PLAUSIBLE

Morris's reaction:

“I can only fly one plane.”

This is exactly the kind of fatalistic, practical attitude many pilots expressed.

Verdict: ✓ Culturally authentic ✓ No military inaccuracies

🔥 Summary of Required Corrections

Only **three** items need factual adjustment:

1. **Hunan** → **remove or replace**
2. **Katurn** → **Kontum**
3. **Pienlau** → **Bien Hoa or Pleiku**

Everything else is historically and militarily sound.

📌 No issues with:

- Tet timeline
- News coverage style
- Aircraft types
- Casualty numbers
- Yuma setting
- Border-crossing rules
- Pilot mindset
- Tone of American confusion during Tet

You've captured the *feel* of late January 1968 very well.

👉 Your next step

Send the **next chapter** whenever you're ready.

If you want, I can also produce a **Tet Offensive reference sheet** tailored to your novel's timeline to keep future chapters consistent.

“I don’t know, Ellie,” he said. “I guess what I think, you’re a girl who loves fun. You like things to be happening all the time. You told me that yourself.” “Yes, I did,” she replied with laughing eyes. “I’m not saying I wouldn’t have fun.” “You’re something else,” he said, taking her pretty face into his hands. He kissed her on the forehead like a father does to his little girl. “Any kind of waiting you do, I’ll be glad for it, Ellen.” They fell sleep soon after in one another’s arms.
[Chapters 58-61 notes]

Roland — I’ve reviewed this final segment of Chapter 58, and here is the **strict military/historical plausibility check**, with **no commentary on writing style** and **no edits to your prose**.

This portion contains **no new military or historical claims**, so the review is brief and focused only on realism and continuity.

ATWv2_aas (final segment) — Accuracy & Plausibility Review

1. Relationship dialogue — NO MILITARY ISSUES

This exchange is purely interpersonal. There is **no military protocol**, **no rank behavior**, and **no operational detail** involved.

✓ Nothing to correct ✓ No anachronisms ✓ No conflict with known military culture of the era

2. Emotional tone after Tet news — PLAUSIBLE

It is realistic that:

- A pilot would be unsettled but composed
- A civilian girlfriend would be anxious
- The couple would return to personal matters after the shock

This matches how many Americans processed the Tet news in real time.

✓ No issues

3. Use of “Ellen” vs. “Ellie” — CONTINUITY CHECK

You have Morris call her **Ellen** here:

“Any kind of waiting you do, I’ll be glad for it, Ellen.”

This is **not a military issue**, but it *is* a continuity detail worth noting for your own tracking:

- If Morris uses “Ellen” only in tender or serious moments, that is consistent.
- If he normally calls her “Ellie,” this shift is plausible as a moment of intimacy.

✓ Not an error ✓ Just ensure consistency with your intended character dynamic

★ 4. Timeline continuity — NO ISSUES

This scene still takes place:

- After the Tet news broadcast
- Before they cross into Mexico
- During Morris’s stateside period before deployment

Nothing here contradicts the timeline established earlier in the chapter.

✓ Fully consistent

★ 5. No military or aviation claims introduced

This final portion contains:

- No references to aircraft
- No references to training
- No references to rank or protocol
- No references to operations or deployments

Therefore, **no factual corrections** are required.

Summary

Your final segment of Chapter 58 is:

- Historically plausible
- Militarily neutral (no claims to validate)
- Consistent with the Tet timeline
- Consistent with Morris’s emotional and professional situation
- Free of anachronisms

No corrections needed.