

# General Odysseus T. Grant - Fact Sheet

## Based on:

John Pershing, American General

## Short bio of Pershing:

Led the American Expeditionary Force (AEF) in Europe during World War I (1914-1918). He was born in Linn County, Missouri. After a period as a schoolteacher he went to West Point where he eventually became one of its military instructors. Pershing served on frontier duty against the Sioux and Apache (1886-1898) and in the Cuban War (1898). Pershing gained further military experience in the Philippines (1903) and with the Japanese Army during the Russo-Japanese War (1904-05). In 1916 Pershing headed an expedition into Mexico in pursuit of Francisco Villa (known as Pancho Villa). When the United States entered World War I in 1917, Pershing was appointed commander in chief of the AEF in France and conducted its operations with great success. In 1919 he was made General of the Armies of the United States, a rank he shares only with George Washington. Appointed chief of staff of the U.S. Army in 1921, Pershing embarked on the unprecedented task of combining into one organization the Regular Army, the National Guard, and the Permanent Reserves.

## Other information about your character:

You were driven to become an outstanding military man by a family disgrace: Your great-uncle, Roger "Red" Grant, was a captain in the Civil War. In 1863, his troops surrounded the very house where you've been invited for dinner. Even though they were in Northern territory, they did not loot the house nor harm the occupants. After holding the hill for three days, the rebel troops were defeated by the Yankees. All of the soldiers were accounted for, except for Captain Grant, who was never found. He was court-martialed in absentia for desertion, and your family has never recovered from the stigma.

Your great-grandmother kept a single daguerrotype of him in his Civil War uniform. You saw it often when you visited her as a small child. It looked like this:



You've dedicated your life to expiating his crime by surpassing him as a soldier.

You've also come to an interesting conclusion about the Confederate occupation of Hilltop House: Nothing was plundered from the house, but the Yankee inventory of the property listed no valuables. Ergo, the family fortune was hidden somewhere in or near the house.

## Helpful links:

<http://www.worldwar1.com/>

<http://www.mit.edu/afs/athena/activity/c/c12abn/www/files/pershing.html>

<http://members.aol.com/SEVEN9000/postwar.htm>