



## Chapter 4 by Kay Hively

# Three Generals

**E**ddie did not need anyone to knock on his bedroom door on Saturday morning.

All night long he had either laid awake and thought about the trip his family would take the next morning, or he slept and dreamed about it.

He was so eager to go and not be late, that he had actually laid a clean pair of jeans on the big trunk in his room. He pulled his favorite blue shirt from his closet and hung it on the doorknob. From his dresser he took out the red and white sweater his mother had gotten him for Christmas last year.

Jumping out of bed he was dressed and ready to go in no time at all.

In the kitchen, Eddie saw a picnic basket, the old ice chest, and a folded blanket by the back door. His first thought was that a picnic basket meant lunch would be in a park or along the roadside.

Michael was hoping to eat in a restaurant, but there was no time to think about that now.

Eddie filled his cereal bowl all the way to the top and then poured milk until the cornflakes nearly flowed over the top of the bowl.

Through the kitchen window Eddie could see that his

father had backed the car out of the garage and was cleaning the windshield.

As he ate cereal and watched, Eddie remembered how proud

his father had been last year when he came home with a brand new Chevrolet. It was white and had four doors so everyone could get in and out by themselves — and there was a roomy back seat.

This was the first new car the family ever had, and Mr. Barnes took very good care of it. He said it would last a long time, maybe even long enough for Eddie to drive.

Finished with his cereal, Eddie carried his bowl to the kitchen

sink where he rinsed it and left it to be washed later.

At that moment, Mr. Barnes came through the back door and gathered up the ice chest, blanket and picnic basket. Eddie hurried after his father and watched as the basket and ice chest were nestled into the big trunk. Mr. Barnes then spread the blanket over what they were taking and smartly tucked the blanket's corners around everything.

As Eddie closed the trunk of the car, his mother came outside asking if anyone had seen Michael.

They both shook their heads. But before anyone could speak, Eddie heard someone running hard and fast down the street. He knew right away it was Michael.

With everyone ready, the four travelers climbed into the big white car and Mr. Barnes eased it down the driveway to the street. Soon they were on the outskirts of town, and Mr. Barnes turned the wheel and off they headed west.

Eddie watched closely to see which way his father would turn. If the car had turned east, Eddie thought they might be going to Hannibal for the day, but the direction was west. Could it possibly be they were going to Kansas City?

The two boys settled down in the back seat, whispering about where they were going. But after only a few minutes, they watched in surprise as the car turned again.

Eddie and Michael could only stare at each other. Things were not going the way they planned.



### Next Chapter: Omar Bradley

#### Things to Think About and Do

- Eddie's family has a new car. Look in the newspaper for advertisements for new cars. Pick one you would like or draw your own picture of your dream car.
- Do you lay your clothes out every night? Try doing that tonight.
- From grocery store ads in your newspaper, pick items that would make a great picnic. If you don't find grocery ads, look for a restaurant that would prepare a great meal.

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