

Larry Laswell

Where Military Fiction and Leadership Books Collide

Susan Young for Marshall Publishing

As we have mentioned in previous blog posts and news stories, the Larry Laswell novel *The Marathon Watch - Second Edition* will go on sale on Amazon.com Friday, May 15 (in paperback and also in the Kindle store and for the kindleunlimited program). One feature of the second edition is the inclusion of a new leadership discussion guide.

Wait, you say. *The Marathon Watch* is a military fiction novel. What does this book have to do with leadership and business?

Well, after reading the book myself, I also noticed that many of the characters in *The Marathon Watch* had distinct leadership styles, which brought a different dynamic to the ship. These styles of leadership affected the relationships between the officers and their men. Apparently, many of Larry's readers have thought the same thing. I asked Larry about the leadership topic and why he chose to include a leadership discussion guide for his second release of *The Marathon Watch*. Here's what he said:

*"Many of my readers have recommended I take *The Marathon Watch* to the business community as a study in leadership. Some of my military readers have said it should be required reading for young officers. Indeed, the characters in *The Marathon Watch* face both moral and leadership dilemmas, and at their urging, I have included a leadership discussion guide in the second edition." – Larry Laswell*

Larry has included, as discussion talking points, many of the common issues that leaders face today, including:

- Training and preparation
- Dilemmas and decision-making
- Duty to a higher cause
- Risk and sacrifice
- Responsibilities of a leader
- The burden of command
- Qualities of a true leader
- Guilt, grief and other emotions

The discussion guide on leadership will include thought-provoking questions for individual readers, as well as talking points for group discussions and book clubs reading *The Marathon Watch*.

As many of you may know, Larry Laswell served as a business executive and consultant for many years, prior to his life as a published author. Larry referred to his own leadership style as that of a teacher and coach – encouraging his team to solve its own problems and face decisions through careful analysis of the problems and alternatives. And some of his leadership style might even be found within the pages of *The Marathon Watch*.

"If you follow the character O'Toole in my book, he is my alter ego: a tough SOB who doesn't take anything except the best performance he can get." – Larry Laswell

I can't wait to hear the feedback from readers who might enjoy engaging in a good discussion on leadership after reading this book. When you do, we'd love to hear from you!