In an interview with historian Bruce Catton, Dwight D. Eisenhower praises Ulysses S. Grant for his decision never to be frightened about the unknown and for his understanding of how to win a civil war.

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Civil War, General Ulysses S. Grant, Leadership, Personality, Criticism, President Abraham Lincoln, Military Strategies, General Robert E. Lee, General, William T. Sherman, Confederacy, Union, North, South, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Bruce Catton, Historian

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BRUCE CATTON: The General that Mr. Lincoln finally got of course was Ulysses S. Grant. What do you think were General Grant’s strong qualities?

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER: First of all, you’ll recall in his early experience in the same war, that one day they were marching up to a hill, and he was quite frightened, and it occurred to him to remember that the enemy was just about as scared as he was. He said from that time on, he just decided never to be frightened about the unknown. He was never frightened. Now the next thing was, I think he quite understood that a civil, a truly fratricidal war, was not going to be won merely by one Army in the field defeating an Army of the other side. It-- there must be an exhaustive of one before it will capitulate. So he therefore kept hammering, and I’ll say this, I don’t believe there’s a single instance where Mr. Lincoln felt he had to correct or advise this general after he once got him.

CATTON: No, I think…

EISENHOWER: He, you know, Mr. Lincoln had been criticized a great deal by some of the so-called military experts for meddling with his generals before he found Grant. But he, look, he had failure with McDowell, and with McClellan, and with Burnside, and with Hooker, and with Pope in the meantime. This is a-- he just had to talk to ‘em and tell ‘em what to do.