

## **THE STORY OF GEN GEORGE S. PATTON JR**

**"OLD BLOOD AND GUTS"**

**HISTORY TELLS US MUCH ABOUT HIS LIFE – BUT WHAT ABOUT HIS DEATH?**

**THE STORY STARTS WITH HIS DEATH**

**SO MANY UNANSWERED QUESTIONS**

**191**



**U.S. ARMY GENERAL GEORGE S. PATTON**

**(NOVEMBER 11, 1885 – DECEMBER 21, 1945)**

### **10 THINGS YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT GEORGE PATTON**

George S. Patton made his mark in World War I as the first officer assigned to the new U.S. Army Tank Corps before becoming one of **the most prominent military commanders in World War II.** Learn 10 surprising facts about the outspoken American general nicknamed "Old Blood and Guts."

#### **1. PATTON WAS AN OLYMPIC ATHLETE**

As a 26-year-old Army cavalry officer; Patton was selected as the sole American competitor in the first-ever Olympic modern pentathlon at the 1912 Summer Games in Stockholm. Of the 42 competitors, he finished in fifth place, although he might have medaled if not for a controversy in the pistol-shooting event. While the judges believed Patton missed the target with one of his shots, he argued that he was so fine a marksman that one of his bullets traveled through a bullet hole he had already made. Patton was also selected to the 1916 Olympic team, but the Games were canceled due to World War 1.

#### **2. HE BELIEVED IN REINCARNATION**

Patton claimed he had seen combat many times before in previous lives, including as a Roman legionnaire and as part of the 14th-century army of John the Blind of Bohemia. Before the 1943 invasion of Sicily, British General Harold Alexander told Patton, "You know, George, you would have made a great marshal for Napoleon if you had lived in the 19th century." Patton replied, "But I did." The general believed that after he died he would return to once again lead armies into battle.

#### **3. HE WAS FORCED TO REPEAT HIS FIRST YEAR AT WEST POINT**

Patton struggled academically during his initial year at the U.S. Military Academy and was required to repeat his first year after failing mathematics. The plebe began working with a tutor and redoubled his efforts to receive adequate grades for the remainder of his tenure at West Point, **eventually graduating 46th in his class of 103 cadets.**

#### **4. PATTONS FIRST EXPOSURE TO COMBAT WAS CHASING PANCHO VILLA**

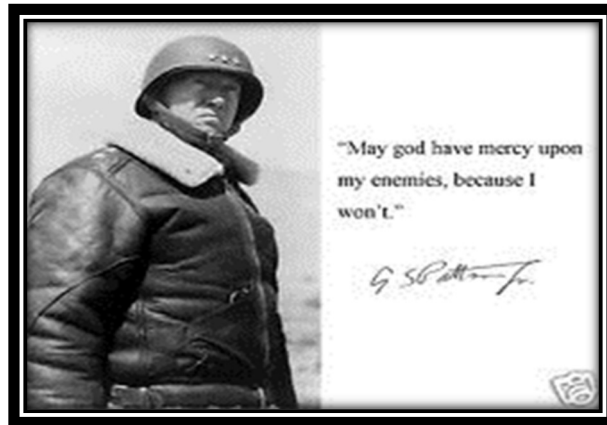
In response to a deadly 1916 raid by Pancho Villa in Columbus, New Mexico, President Woodrow Wilson ordered American troops across the Mexican border to capture or kill the Mexican revolutionary. Patton served as aide-de-camp to the mission's commander, General John J. Pershing, and participated in the first motorized attack in the history of American warfare on May 14, 1916, in which Villa's second-in-command and two of his guards were killed. **Patton garnered headlines by ordering the three corpses strapped like trophy animals to the hoods of his unit's automobiles before driving back to base.**

5. [HE CARRIED A PAIR OF PISTOLS WITH IVORY HANDLES.](#)

Patton fired a new ivory-handled Colt .45 in the deadly Mexican shootout, but after the battle, he decided to carry a second ivory-handled handgun for added firepower. The flamboyant pistols contained his hand-carved initials and became his trademarks.

6. [HE EARNED A PURPLE HEART IN WORLD WAR 1](#)

While personally leading an attack on German machine gun positions as part of the Meuse-Argonne Offensive on September 26, 1918, Patton was struck by a round that tore into his left thigh. Badly wounded, he continued to command the battle for the next hour from a shell hole and insisted on filing his report at division headquarters before being taken to the evacuation hospital. When the Purple Heart was reinstituted in 1932, Patton was awarded the honor for his combat wounds.



7. [PATTON PLAYED A PIVOTAL ROLE IN THE EVICTION OF THE BONUS MARCHERS \(AS DID MACARTHUR AND EISENHOWER\)](#)

On July 28, 1932, Patton received orders from U.S. Army Chief of Staff Douglas MacArthur to disperse the World War I veterans seeking cash payments for their veterans' bonus certificates who had occupied Washington, D.C., for two months. Charging down Pennsylvania Avenue and through the streets of the national capital, Patton led 600 cavalry troops on horseback who fired tear gas into the "Bonus Marchers," trampled civilian observers including Connecticut Senator Hiram Bingham, and beat protestors with the flats of their swords.

8. [HE WAS USED AS A DECOY IN THE LEAD-UP TO D-DAY](#)

**General Dwight Eisenhower believed Patton too undisciplined to lead the Allied invasion of Normandy,** particularly after the impulsive Patton slapped two shell-shocked soldiers under his command in an Italian field hospital in August 1943. Nazi military leaders, however, considered him the Allies' best commander and expected he would lead a cross-channel invasion. As part of the elaborate disinformation campaign leading up to D-Day, Patton was placed in charge of a phantom army, complete with plywood aircraft and inflatable rubber tanks, in southeast England to make it appear he would strike at the channel's narrowest point at Pas de Calais, France. Even weeks after D-Day, the Germans continued to amass troops at Pas de Calais expecting that Patton would still come ashore there.

9. [HIS GRANDFATHER WAS THE MAYOR OF LOS ANGELES](#)

Patton's maternal grandfather, Benjamin Davis Wilson, was a powerful southern California landowner who became the second elected mayor of Los Angeles in 1851. He also served as a county clerk, a county supervisor, and a state senator. Mount Wilson in the San Gabriel Mountains is named in his honor.

10. [HE DESIGNED HIS SWORD](#)

*Patton was one of the top swordsmen at West Point and among the foremost fencers in the United States. He redesigned the Army's saber combat doctrine for the cavalry by favoring thrusting attacks over slashing maneuvers and designed the Model 1913 Cavalry Saber, a new straight-blade weapon designed for thrusting that became known as the "Patton sword."*

## OLD BLOOD & GUTS DIES

### TO THIS DAY MANY QUESTION THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING HIS DEATH

#### THE STORY BEGINS



**DECEMBER 21, 1945**

On this day General George Patton, commander of the U.S. 3rd Army, dies from injuries suffered not in battle but in a freak car accident. **He was 60 years old.**

Descended from a long line of military men, Patton graduated from the West Point Military Academy in 1909. He represented the United States in the 1912 Olympics as the first American participant in the pentathlon. He did not win a medal. He went on to serve in the Tank Corps during World War I, an experience that made Patton a dedicated proponent of tank warfare.

During World War II, as commander of the U.S. 7th Army, he captured Palermo, Sicily, in 1943 by just such means. Patton's audacity became evident in 1944, when, during the Battle of the Bulge, he employed an unorthodox strategy that involved a 90-degree pivoting move of his 3rd Army forces, enabling him to speedily relieve the besieged Allied defenders of Bastogne, Belgium.

Along the way, Patton's mouth proved as dangerous to his career as the Germans. When he berated and slapped a hospitalized soldier diagnosed with "shell shock," but whom Patton accused of "malingering," the press turned on him, and pressure was applied to cut him down to size. He might have found himself enjoying early retirement had not General Dwight Eisenhower and General George Marshall intervened on his behalf. After several months of inactivity, he was put back to work.



*One of Gen Patton's Tanks was set at the center square in Bastogne, Belgium as a memorial to him and his troops. I have seen this display*

And work he did at the Battle of the Bulge, during which Patton once again succeeded in employing a complex and quick-witted strategy, turning the German thrust into an Allied counterthrust, driving the Germans east across the Rhine. In March 1945, Patton's army swept through southern Germany into Czechoslovakia—which he was stopped from capturing by the Allies, out of respect for the Soviets' postwar political plans for Eastern Europe.

Patton was buried at the Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial in Hamm, Luxembourg along with other members of the Third Army, **as per Patton's request to "be buried with my men."**



*Gate to the American Cemetery in Luxembourg*

*(I was fortunate to visit this cemetery during my time in service. It was beautifully kept and an honor for me and my family to view these sacred grounds.)*



*The American Cemetery in Luxembourg (I've seen this also)*

On March 19, 1947, his body was moved from the original grave site in the cemetery to its current prominent location at the head of his former troops. A cenotaph was placed at the Wilson-Patton family plot at the San Gabriel Cemetery in San Gabriel, California, adjacent to the Church of Our Saviour (Episcopal), where Patton was baptized and confirmed. In the narthex of the sanctuary of the church is a stained glass window honor that features, among other highlights of Patton's career, a picture of him riding in a tank. A statue of General Patton was placed between the church and the family plot.



*Patton's burial site, now at the head of the other troops*



Patton's car was repaired and used by other officers. The car is now on display with other Patton artifacts at the General George Patton Museum at Fort Knox, Kentucky. ([See the article below concerning the authenticity of this vehicle](#))



*General Patton's repaired car*

**NOTE:**

The following comments are taken from another website covering the death of General Patton and are quoted as follows.

The car advertised by the Patton Museum as that in which Patton was injured **turns out to be a fake**. In other words, the car that could give a modern-day investigator, like myself, scene-of-the-crime information can't. I don't think the museum was aware of this until a Cadillac specialist from Detroit examined the car and proved it was a different year model than the one Patton was injured in. **The real car has vanished, probably, I believe, as part of an effort to hide clues.**

*Read more:*

[http://www.americanthinker.com/2012/11/the\\_mysterious\\_death\\_of\\_gen\\_george\\_s\\_patton.html#ixzz3il8XNS](http://www.americanthinker.com/2012/11/the_mysterious_death_of_gen_george_s_patton.html#ixzz3il8XNS)  
[Ez](#)

**QUICK NOTE ABOUT THE EISENHOWER/PATTON RELATIONSHIP**

**Eisenhower was not in Europe when the accident occurred and never saw his old friend again.** Eisenhower never really talked about the death of his old friend, it was something personal to him and he kept it to himself. However, he did say one thing about his old friend out of respect:

He was one of those men born to be a soldier, an ideal combat leader whose gallantry and dramatic personality inspired all he commanded to do great deeds of valor. His presence gave me the certainty that the boldest plan would be even more daringly executed. It is no exaggeration to say that Patton's name struck terror at the heart of the enemy.

Patton's body was never allowed to be transferred back to America after his death, **because all men who died in Europe were to be buried in Europe. It was believed that Patton wanted to be buried in his favorite place, West Point.** Instead, his body lies in the American Army Cemetery in Hamm, Luxembourg with 5,075 American soldiers

**Bea Patton wanted her husband to be buried at West Point;** however, it was not allowed because of the rule that bodies were not shipped back overseas.

This was not to show favoritism to certain officers over others. Stanley Hirshson stated that Bea and Patton's associates "agreed that he [Patton] desired to be buried at West Point." It was also believed by Hughes, Eisenhower's assistant, that he knew Patton wanted to be buried at West Point; however, he would rest among the rest of his troops at Luxembourg.

**Eisenhower never replied to Bea after she sent cables to him, to have Patton buried at West Point, instead, Patton was buried at Hamm without Eisenhower's interference.**



**THE SLAP AND THE PRICE PATTON PAID**

Then something happened that stopped all the praising of Patton and had everyone calling for his termination. **On August 3, 1943, Patton slapped a private in his unit.** Private Paul G. Bennett was in the hospital where Patton was visiting his injured troops.

Then there lay a man without a scratch, no broken bones, blood, who sat there in tears and said he could not take it, that his nerves had gotten to him. Patton was furious; he could not believe that such a man could serve under him.

#### PATTON TOLD HIM.....

Your nerves, Hell, you are just a goddamned coward, you yellow son of a bitch. Shut up that goddamn crying. I won't have these brave men here who have been shot seeing a yellow bastard sitting here crying. You're a disgrace to the Army and you're going back to the front to fight, although that's too good for you. You ought to be lined up against a wall and shot. I ought to shoot you myself right now, GOD DAMN YOU!

Patton then slapped the soldier a couple of times, knocking off his helmet. Patton ordered that this man be released because there was nothing wrong with him. Patton then claimed after the soldier had left, "I won't have these brave boys seeing such a bastard baby."

A week later, Patton did the same thing to a soldier who complained of battlefield fatigue. These men's nerves might have been poor, but should he have been in a hospital for having bad nerves? Could there have been separate tents; one that had men who had physical injuries and another with emotional difficulties as well? These two types of injuries are two different and the atmosphere should be different.

Patton was out of line for slapping the man, he was wrong for his actions, however, he also did what he felt was right for his soldier. Patton claimed that he slapped the soldier in hopes of making him mad and putting some fight back into his heart. Then Bradley makes the same statement saying, "He [Patton] was bragging how he had treated this man to snap him out of being a coward. Thought that if he made the man mad, he would be mad enough to fight. That man was showing a yellow streak. He [Patton] didn't agree with me that every man has a breaking point. To George, everyone who doesn't want to fight is a coward."

Ike was informed of this incident on August 14, 1943, from a nurse who was present and she requested that Patton be court-martialed for striking a soldier of the United States Army.

Eisenhower had the story hushed up as long as he could because he knew going into the European campaign knowing Patton was going to be one of the combat leaders. David Eisenhower, his grandson describes how Eisenhower told his deputy about the situation, "he would do anything not to relieve him."

This does not mean that Eisenhower did not reprimand Patton for his actions. Eisenhower wrote Patton a letter telling him what changes needed to occur, Patton would still be a part of the team, however needed to learn how to control himself. Eisenhower also told Patton that this "behavior will not be tolerated in this theater no matter who the offender may be." (See copy of Ltr below)

Eisenhower also said, "No letter that I have been called upon to write in my military career has caused me the mental anguish of this one, not only because of my long and deep personal friendship for you but because of my admiration for your military qualities."

Through this, Eisenhower hoped he would remain friends with Patton since he had the opportunity to have Patton court-marshaled and did not. Eisenhower still knew what Patton could and would do with an army, and he knew what Patton would do to help the Allies win the war in Europe. He knew this from Patton's past assignments; he always completed his job, and he provided military knowledge that could not be taught. The argument was made that Patton was one of Eisenhower's best commanders.

There is no doubt about this question; however, the real question lies if he can lead an entire army without any problems. One cannot question that Patton was an excellent commander; however, he could never control his tongue. If Patton had not been the successful commander that he was, it was certain that he would have been sent home immediately.

These acts would not have been tolerated by someone else, but many times the ends justify the means. Even though Patton stepped over the line by slapping a soldier, he was successful, and at the time, it was in the best interest of Eisenhower to keep him around. Eisenhower knew Patton would be needed to help defeat the Germans.



Patton's unreliability was one of the many things that prevented him from being the leader of Operation Overlord (D-DAY). Ambrose's statement above demonstrates the central point of Eisenhower's reasoning. He knew Patton was a successful field commander, but did not know if he was equal to leading the whole campaign as Bradley.

However, Bradley did not feel the same way as Eisenhower did, he stated that "I [Bradley] would have relieved him instantly and would have nothing more to do with him." He was colorful but impetuous... His whole concept of command was opposite to mine. He was primarily a showman. The show always seemed to come first."

To Bradley, there was no reason to have the behavior of Patton because it hurt the teams more than he helped it. To him, the best thing would have been to send him home at once.



*Gen's Eisenhower, Bradley & Patton*

Eisenhower knew that Patton was a great general; however, he was not capable of leading the entire army, because it would have failed under him. After all, he was not reliable. He should be remembered for his feared Third Army, the race with Montgomery to Messina, and his aggressive attitude, not the incidents that tarnished his career. Patton was the model of how some Americans carry themselves today; we think of ourselves as winners.

John Eisenhower spoke of his father and Patton saying, "The personal relationship between Ike and Patton is unimportant compared to their contributions to the war in Europe. As the result of an earlier friendship, the two men made a formidable team.

Bradley has stated, "The war against Hitler was furthered immeasurably by the days Ike and George were young together." The friendship between Patton and Eisenhower will be forgotten; however, the advances during World War II will never be forgotten.

The two made a team, along with Bradley and others, that drove the Nazis back to Germany and ended the war.

Their friendship was never repaired, however, what was started in 1919 changed the world forever as we know it, because without these two men, WW2 could have been a completely different story.

#### EISENHOWER'S LETTER TO PATTON AFTER PATTON'S SLAPPING THE SOLDIER IN SICKBAY ON AUGUST 17, 1943

August 17, 1943

Dear General Patton:

This personal and secret letter will be delivered to you by General Blesse, Chief Surgeon, Allied Headquarters, who is coming to Sicily in connection with matters involving the health of the command.

I am attaching a report which is shocking in its allegations against your conduct. I hope you can assure me that none of them is true, but the detailed circumstances communicated to me lead to the belief that some ground for the charge must exist. I am well aware of the necessity for hardness and toughness on the battlefield. I clearly understand the firm and drastic measures are at times necessary to secure desired objectives. But this does not excuse brutality, abuse of the sick, nor exhibition of uncontrollable temper in front of subordinates.

In the two cases cited in the attached report, it is not my present intention to institute any formal investigation. Moreover, it is acutely distressing to me to have such charges as those made against you at this very moment when an American Army under your leadership has attained a success of which I am extremely proud. I feel that the personal services you have rendered the United States and the Allied cause during the past weeks are of incalculable value; nevertheless, if there is a very considerable element of truth in the allegation accompanying this letter, I must so seriously question your good judgment and your self-discipline as to raise serious doubt in my mind as to your future usefulness. I am assuming, for the moment, that the facts in the case are far less serious than appears in this report, and that whatever truth is contained in these allegations represents an act of yours when, under the stress and strain of winning a victory, you were thoughtless rather than harsh. Your leadership of the past few weeks has, in my opinion, fully vindicated to the War Department and all your associates in arms my persistence in upholding your instant and serious consideration to the end that no incident of this character can be reported to me in the future, and I may continue to count upon your assistance in military tasks.

In Allied Headquarters there is no record of the attached report or of my letter to you, except in my secret files. I will expect your answer to be sent to me personally and secretly. Moreover, I strongly advise that, provided there is any semblance of truth in the allegations in the accompanying report, you make, in the form of apology or otherwise, such personal amends to the individual concerned as may be within your power, and that you do this before submitting your letter to me.

No letter that I have been called upon to write in my military career has caused me the mental anguish of this one, not only because of my long and deep personal friendship for you but because of my admiration for your military qualities; but I assure you that conduct such as described in the accompanying report will not be tolerated in this theater no matter who the offender may be.

Sincerely,  
*Eisenhower*

#### OPINIONS OF PATTON FROM BOTH THE ALLIED AND NAZI LEADERS

Patton had many gifts, but diplomacy was not one of them. After the war, while stationed in Germany, he criticized the process of denazification, the removal of former Nazi Party members from positions of political, administrative, and governmental power.

His impolitic press statements questioning the policy caused Eisenhower to remove him as U.S. commander in Bavaria. He was transferred to the 15th Army Group, but in December of 1945, he suffered a broken neck in a car accident and died less than two weeks later.

On February 1, 1945, Eisenhower wrote a memo ranking the military capabilities of his subordinate American generals in Europe. Bradley and Army Air Force General Carl Spaatz shared the number one position, while Walter Bedell Smith was ranked number two, and Patton number three. Eisenhower revealed his reasoning in a 1946 review of the book Patton and his Third Army: "George Patton was the most brilliant commander of an army in the open field that our or any other service produced. But his army was part of a whole organization and his operations part of a great campaign", Eisenhower believed that other generals such as Bradley should be given the credit for planning the successful Allied campaigns across Europe in which Patton was mere "a brilliant executor"

Notwithstanding Eisenhower's estimation of Patton's abilities as a strategic planner, his overall view of Patton's military value in achieving Allied victory in Europe can best be seen in Eisenhower's refusal to even consider sending Patton home after the slapping incidents of 1943, after which he privately remarked, "Patton is indispensable to the war effort - one of the guarantors of our victory."

As Assistant Secretary of War John J. McCloy told Eisenhower: "Lincoln's remark after they got after Grant comes to mind when I think of Patton - 'I can't spare this man, he fights. After Patton's death, Eisenhower wrote his tribute: "He was one of those men born to be a soldier, an ideal combat leader ... It is no exaggeration to say that Patton's name struck terror at the hearts of the enemy. "





*August 1945. General Patton rode "Favory Africa," which Hitler had personally picked out to be presented to Emperor Hirohito. The horse formerly belonged to the riding school of Vienna. It was confiscated by the Germans and later returned by the Americans. US Army Photo*



*Patton's Memorial Statue at West Point*

Carlo D'Este insisted that Bradley disliked Patton both personally and professionally, but Bradley's biographer Jim DeFelice noted that the evidence indicates otherwise. President Franklin D. Roosevelt appeared to greatly esteem Patton and his abilities, stating "he is our greatest fighting general and sheer joy. On the other hand, Roosevelt's successor, Harry S. Truman, appears to have taken an instant dislike to Patton, at one point comparing both him and Douglas MacArthur to George Armstrong Custer.



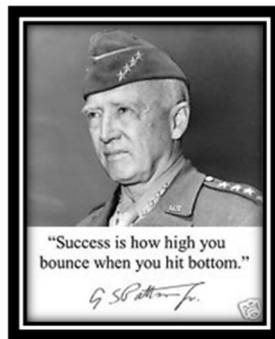
*Gen Patton on the cover of Life, January 15, 1945*

For the most part, British commanders did not hold Patton in high regard. Field Marshal Alan Brooke noted in January 1943 that "I had heard of him, but I must confess that his swashbuckling personality exceeded my expectation. I did not form any high opinion of him, nor had I any reason to alter this view at any later date. A dashing, courageous, wild, and unbalanced leader, good for operations requiring thrust and push but at a loss in any operation requiring skill and judgment."

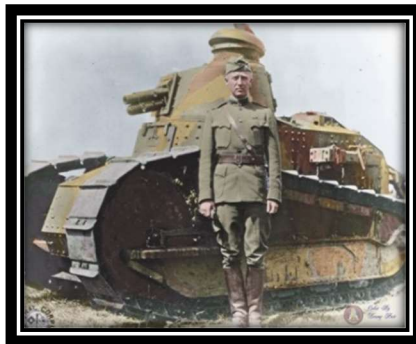
One possible exception was Montgomery. Although the latter's rivalry with Patton was well known, Montgomery appears to have admired Patton's ability to command troops in the field, if not his strategic judgment.

Other Allied commanders were more impressed, the Free French in particular.

General Henri Giraud was incredulous when he heard of Patton's dismissal by Eisenhower in late 1945, and invited him to Paris to be decorated by President Charles de Gaulle at a state banquet. At the banquet, President de Gaulle gave a speech placing Patton's achievements alongside those of Napoleon. Soviet leader Joseph Stalin was an admirer, stating that the Red Army could neither have planned nor executed Patton's rapid armored advance across France.



While Allied leaders expressed mixed feelings about Patton's capabilities, the German High Command was noted to have more respect for him than for any other Allied commander after 1943 Adolf Hitler reportedly called him "that crazy cowboy general." Many German field commanders were generous in their praise of Patton's leadership following the war and many of its highest commanders also held his abilities in high regard.



*Patton with a Renault Tank in 1918*

Erwin Rommel credited Patton with executing "the most astonishing achievement in mobile warfare."

Generaloberst Alfred Jodl, chief of staff of the German Army, stated that Patton "was the American Guderian. He was very bold and preferred large movements. He took big risks and won big successes."

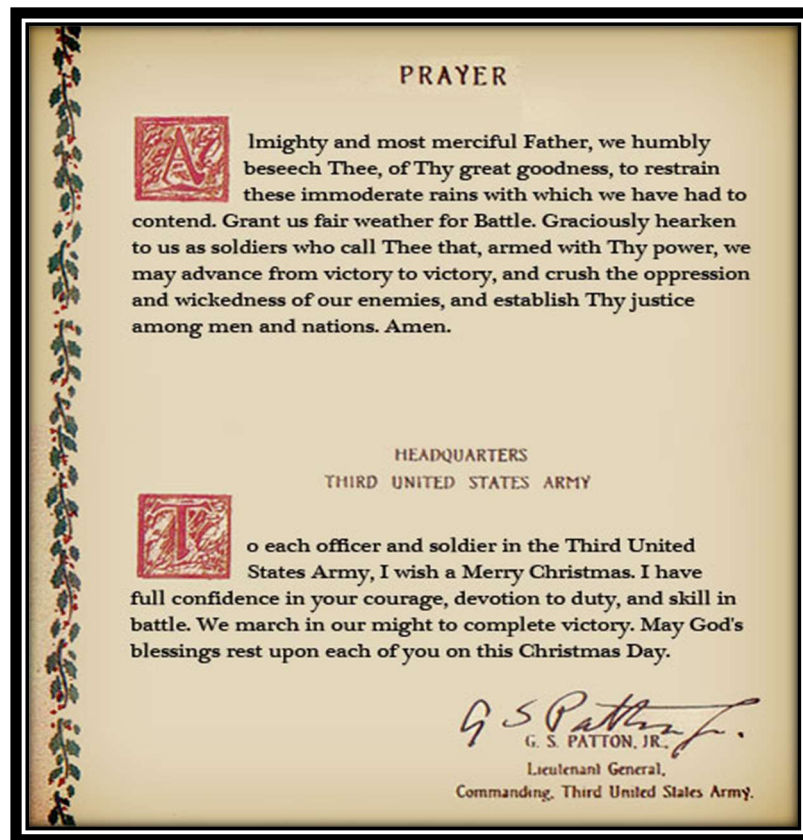
Generalfeldmarschall Albert Kesselring noted that "Patton had developed tank warfare into an art, and understood how to handle tanks brilliantly in the field. I feel compelled, therefore, to compare him with Generalfeldmarschall Rommel, who likewise had mastered the art of tank warfare. Both of them had a kind of second sight regarding this type of warfare."

Referring to the escape of the Afrika Korps after the Battle of El Alamein, Fritz Bayerlein opined "I do not think that General Patton would let us get away so easily."

In an interview conducted for Stars and Stripes just after his capture, Field Marshal Gerd von Rundstedt stated simply of Patton, "He is your best."

After the war, Patton became the military governor of Bavaria, but he was relieved of this post because of his statements on denazification

THE PATTON PRAYER AND CHRISTMAS GREETING SENT TO THE MEN OF THE THIRD ARMY ON DECEMBER 8, 1944.



**THE ACCIDENT**



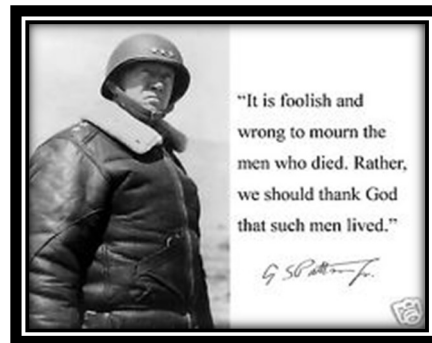
"Despite it being early on a no-work day," Mr. Wilcox writes, "a horde of military personnel, including a brigadier general, quickly arrived on the scene. Although there were facilities in Mannheim, Patton was taken to a hospital 20 miles away, when he arrived, the prognosis was bad...and, they expected him to die. But, the general rallied, vowing to go home and tell "block busting-secrets. A little over a week later, — he was healthy enough to be readied for a grueling, trans-Atlantic flight home. On the eve of the flight, he had a sudden relapse. Blood embolisms choked his breathing; and, within 24 hours", old blood and guts were dead.

"Though he was the top U.S. general in Europe (at the time), and, a guard had mysteriously been posted outside his room, (not sure placing a guard outside the highest ranking U.S. general in Europe is mysterious) and rumors were rife that the general had been murdered — yet, no autopsy was done," Mr. Wilcox notes. Perhaps even more baffling, he argues, "the driver of the truck and his passenger, or passengers disappeared — never to be heard from again."

Writing in December 2010, Mr. Wilcox noted that “all reports, and subsequent investigations of the crash – and, there were at least five – have all vanished. It’s a mystery for which even archivists have no explanation.”

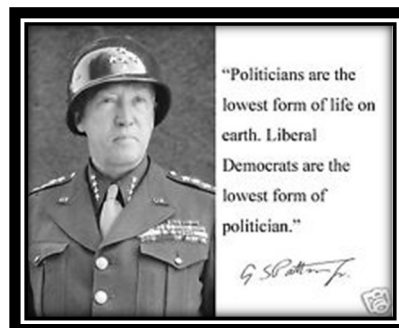
“Was Patton, who foresaw the Cold War, wanted to fight the Russians to stop it; and, was threatening to tell damaging secrets about how badly the war was run – assassinated?” Mr. Wilcox asks.

“The official cause of death was ruled an accident,” but, Mr. Wilcox wrote at the time, “Two witnesses have emerged to dispute the official story.” The first is Douglas Bazata, an Office of Strategic Services agent in WWII, the forerunner of today’s CIA.” Mr. Bazata “claimed that he, and OSS assassin, was asked to kill Patton by OSS Chief, ‘Wild’ Bill Donovan. The order was (reportedly) the culmination of a long-running plot that had started as a non-lethal “stop Patton,” plan.



“Later,” in an interview with Mr. Wilcox, before his death, “Mr. Bazata enlarged that scenario, claiming that he, along with a Russian accomplice, set up the December 9 “accident,” and that others – he believed Soviets – had finished the job in the hospital. Though it is not well-known,” Mr. Wilcox writes, “the OSS had an alliance with the NKVD, the Soviet spy network, during and after the war.”

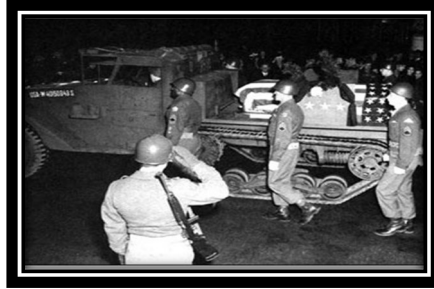
“The other witness,” Mr. Wilcox wrote, “was Stephen J. Skubik, a Counter Intelligence Corps agent attached to Patton’s armies. After the war, he continued working as a CIC agent amongst Soviet-dominated Ukrainians, whom, he said, warned that Stalin put Patton on an NKVD hit list. When he [allegedly] reported the plot to Donovan, the OSS chief jailed him. Following Patton’s death, he fled Germany in fear for his life.”



“During the war, Patton angered Roosevelt with his anti-Russian antagonism,” Mr. Wilcox writes. “FDR, believing the Soviets crucial to maintaining world peace, wanted them appeased; and, had acquiesced to their domination of Eastern Europe.” “We’ve killed the hell out of one bastard,” Patton lamented, only to “help establish a second one...more evil and more dedicated than the first.”

“By late 1945,” Mr. Wilcox notes, “with the like-minded Truman continuing FDR’s pro-Kremlin policies, Patton was the loudest voice against the Democratic administration. No longer needed for war, he’d been exiled to an almost meaningless command.

Patton was angry. And, on the eve of the accident, was vowing to tell, among other secrets, how badly General Dwight Eisenhower had conducted the war, how it could have ended much sooner – thus saving American lives – and to rally Americans against the Soviets.”



*Patton was transported to his burial site on a half-track*

“The crash outside Mannheim begs many questions,” Mr. Wilcox argues. **“What was the truck doing waiting for the Patton car?”** Why did it suddenly turn without signaling? The driver, Robert L. Thompson, was not authorized to have the vehicle; and, having passengers violated the rules/” But, how often was this order enforced/ignored? **Thompson not only wasn’t charged, he vanished.**

**Years later,” Mr. Wilcox writes, “I tracked him. He had died, but even his family said it didn’t surprise them if he’d been involved. He’d been an opportunistic black marketer in postwar Germany, where, in unknown dealings, he’d made “a suitcase of money.”**

“What if Patton had lived?” Mr. Wilcox asks. “In 1945, he was one of the most popular figures in America. If he wanted to, he could have run for office. If he’d gotten his way, — fight Russia when they were weak — who knows if the Cold War would have happened? He certainly would have besmirched Eisenhower’s reputation, **which might have cost Eisenhower the Presidency.**

Mr. Wilcox concludes, “It is clear Patton’s death has been covered up. I think there is sufficient reason to initiate an official investigation. Until the truth is revealed, the rumors will persist, critical history may be lost; and, an enormous crime may go unpunished. **Patton deserves better,” he writes.**

This sounds plausible; but, I remain skeptical. And, suggesting possible U.S. complicity in Patton’s death is especially hard to believe. As Benjamin Franklin once observed, “Three people can keep a secret and two of them are dead.” I have not yet read Mr. O’Reilly’s new book — but, it is certainly on my list of things to read. If Mr. O’Reilly can shed any light on the questions that Mr. Wilcox raised — then, perhaps we will have the justification to reopen the investigation as to how one of the most colorful, and charismatic American war generals met his demise. As for punishment, it is hard to conceive of anything being done in that realm, nearly 70 years later. But, it certainly would be interesting to know — where the real truth lies

### **PATTON’S PISTOLS**



A Colt .45 revolver once owned by General George S. Patton **sold for \$75,000** at auction in Los Angeles Thursday. Profiles in History, which conducted the auction, had expected the working firearm to fetch over \$60,000. The Colt .45 Model 1873 single-action revolver with distinctive stag horn grip was acquired by the famous World War II general around 1928.

The gun, owned by Patton until he died in 1945, is often considered to be a version of his famous ivory-handled Colt. 45, which is on display at The General George Patton Museum and Center of Leadership in Fort Knox, KY. The weapon’s \$75,000 price tag includes the buyer’s premium.





As a soldier, he carried many guns, but one of these is almost as famous as he was. His Colt .45.

He eventually gave away one of his Colt 45s to an un-named Hollywood entertainer (my guess is Bob Hope) and replaced it with a Smith & Wesson 357 Magnum Revolver which he carried in place of the Colt 45. The guns with the Ivory, not Pearl, handles are displayed below. Patton said, "Only a pimp in a New Orleans whorehouse or a tin-horn gambler would carry a pearl-handled pistol."



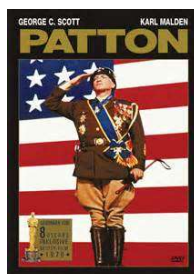
*This portrait of Gen Patton, with all Military Decorations, hangs in The Patton Museum in Louisville, KY*



*This "Official Formal Painting" of the General also hangs in The Patton Museum in Louisville, Ky*



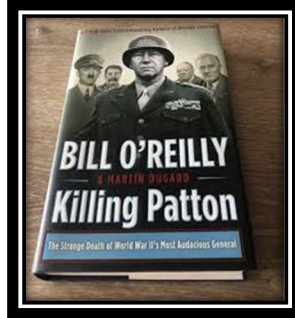
The one honor which is mine and mine alone is that of having commanded such an uncompromisable group of Americans the record of whose fortitude, audacity, and valor will endure as long as history lasts." General George S. Patton, Jr. - 9 May 1945



### ACADEMY AWARDS 1971 – PATTON

In 1970 the film Patton explored Patton's complex character, which ran the gamut from seemingly ruthless to surprisingly sentimental. The film garnered 10 nominations and 8 Academy Awards. George Scott won the Oscar but refused it. He was the first actor to refuse the Academy Award for Best Actor (for Patton in 1970), having warned the Academy that he would refuse it on philosophical grounds. To this day, Patton is considered one of the most successful field commanders in U.S. history.

### THE LATEST BOOK SUGGESTING/OUTLINING A CONSPIRACY



### A BRIEF NARRATIVE OF THE BILL O'REILLY / GLEN BECK INTERVIEW



Glenn Beck and Bill O'Reilly spoke about General George Patton on The Glenn Beck Program Wednesday, discussing the possibility that the general was killed by the Russians and sharing historical artifacts related to the military leader.

The Fox News host recently released "Killing Patton: The Strange Death of World War II's Most Audacious General," in which he makes the case that the Russians were behind Patton's death.

"They killed him because he wanted to fight the Russians after World War II, after the collapse of the Third Reich," O'Reilly stated. "He believed that Stalin and the Russian hierarchy were going to try to take over the world. They with the Reich, didn't want that to get out. So the Russians went after Patton and they got him.

O'Reilly said Patton's death in an automobile accident has been investigated several times, but the investigation was always woefully inadequate.

"Nobody can find the records. No autopsy after Patton was taken to the hospital partially paralyzed. He was talking to the nurses, drinking cognac. He goes to sleep, he winds up dead," O'Reilly said. "Nobody knows why. They put his body in the ground — they couldn't get it in the ground fast enough. So there's a lot of suspicious stuff that we lay out in the book."

O'Reilly said Patton's death in an automobile accident in Germany has always interested him.

"One day later he was supposed to go back to the United States to do a speaking tour where he was going to expose the Soviet Union and Stalin, and then all of a sudden an Army truck smashes into his vehicle in broad daylight for no reason," O'Reilly said. "And all the records disappear of the investigation of the accident. That piqued my interest."

O'Reilly said his team also investigated the plant where Soviet scientists were making a traceless poison, which they used to assassinate many people. He suggested Patton might have been exposed to the poison after he survived the accident.

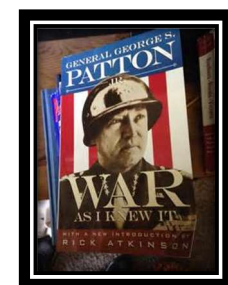
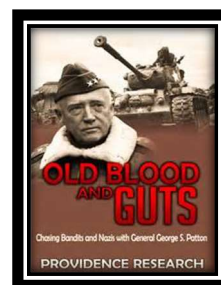
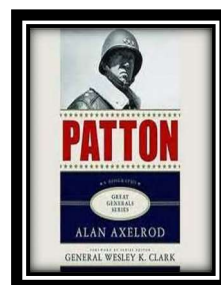
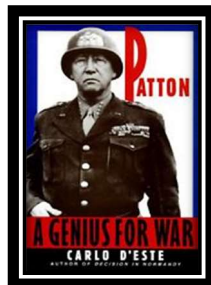
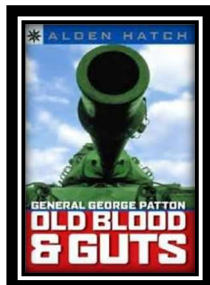
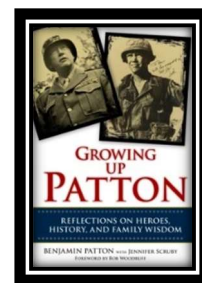
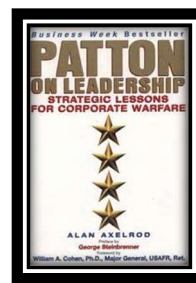
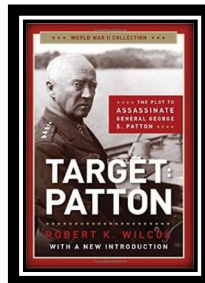
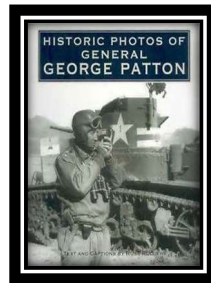
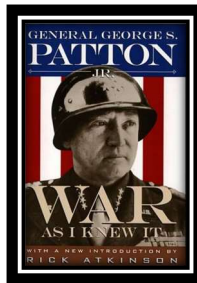
Beck asked O'Reilly whether he believed Patton's body should be exhumed for more evidence.

“We are calling for that,” O’Reilly said. “We are calling for the investigation into the death of General Patton to be re-opened because it certainly – the Army bears a tremendous responsibility for losing virtually every single document associated with that death. So we think it should be reopened, and I laid out the evidence that we compiled very vividly. And I could be wrong. I’m not saying 100 percent certainty, but there’s enough evidence in there, compelling evidence to reopen the investigation. Absolutely.”

***O’Reilly said that if Patton hadn’t died, he may have run for president.***

“He wasn’t that political, he wasn’t Eisenhower, but he was fed up,” O’Reilly said. “He didn’t feel World War II was fought the right way. He was at loggerheads with Truman; Truman didn’t like Patton at all. So absolutely, Patton could’ve come back. He was a national hero. He could’ve toured the country, and I think he would’ve had enough juice to run for president. And so did a lot of people in Washington.”

Beck proceeded to show O’Reilly several historical artifacts connected to the general, including a letter where he speculated that he might not survive the war, the buttons from Patton’s uniform, a Christmas letter the general wrote to his mother, and the flag that flew at his funeral.



BETTER TO FIGHT FOR SOMETHING  
THAN LIVE FOR NOTHING  
—GENERAL PATTON



*Gen George S Patton Museum in Ft Knox Kentucky*



*General George S. Patton Memorial Museum in Chiaroso, California*

"Now if you are going to win any battle you have to do one thing. You have to make the mind run the body. Never let the body tell the mind what to do. The body will always give up. It is always tired, morning, noon, and night. But the body is never tired if the mind is not tired. When you were younger the mind could make you dance all night, and the body was never tired. You've always got to make the mind take over and keep going." George S. Patton, U.S. Army General, 1912 Olympian

"I am a soldier, I fight where I am told, and I win where I fight." General George Patton

## **DISCLAIMER**

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