



6 September 1977

Dear Mr. Cavanaugh:

Do not reproduce the documents as yet. At a later date, perhaps six months from now, you do have authority to reproduce those documents and send them to the Library of Congress, Dr. Broderick. Many thanks. I know you will look forward to receiving the 10,000 volume research library of Colonel Icks. It is a great library.

Faithfully,

GEORGE S. PATTON
Major General, USA

Mr. Philip M. Cavanaugh
Patton Museum
Post Office Box 208
Fort Knox, KY 40121



6 September 1977

Dear John: *AB*

Here's some more stuff from World War I. This is a recent article made up by Joe Angelo who saved my father's life. It should be filed with the DSC memorabilia.

Faithfully,

George S. Patton
GEORGE S. PATTON
Major General, USA

Major General John W. McEnery
U. S. Armor School
Fort Knox, KY 40121

1st Ind.

Hdgrs. 1st Army, Amer. E.F., 6th Oct. 1918 -TO: C-in-C., G.H.Q., A.E.F.

Forwarded recommending that Lieut. Col. G.S. Patton, Tank Corps be awarded the Distinguished Service Cross with the following citation:

"Lieut. Colonel G.S. Patton, Tank Corps, on the morning of September 26th, 1918, on the line Varennes-Cheppy, showed conspicuous courage, coolness, energy and intelligence in directing checking and reorganizing an Infantry force and leading it in heavy machine gun and artillery fire until he himself was wounded. Despite his wounds he refused to permit those who desired to assist him to gather around him and continued to direct his unit until all arrangements for turning over the command were completed when he was evacuated to the rear".

encl

Received

[8 - OCT 1918]

G.H.Q.

H. A. DRUM,
Chief of Staff.

In absence of Army Commander. PERSONNEL
BUREAU

Received

10 OCT 1918

Pers.

RECORDS

HEADQUARTERS FIRST ARMY.
AMERICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES.

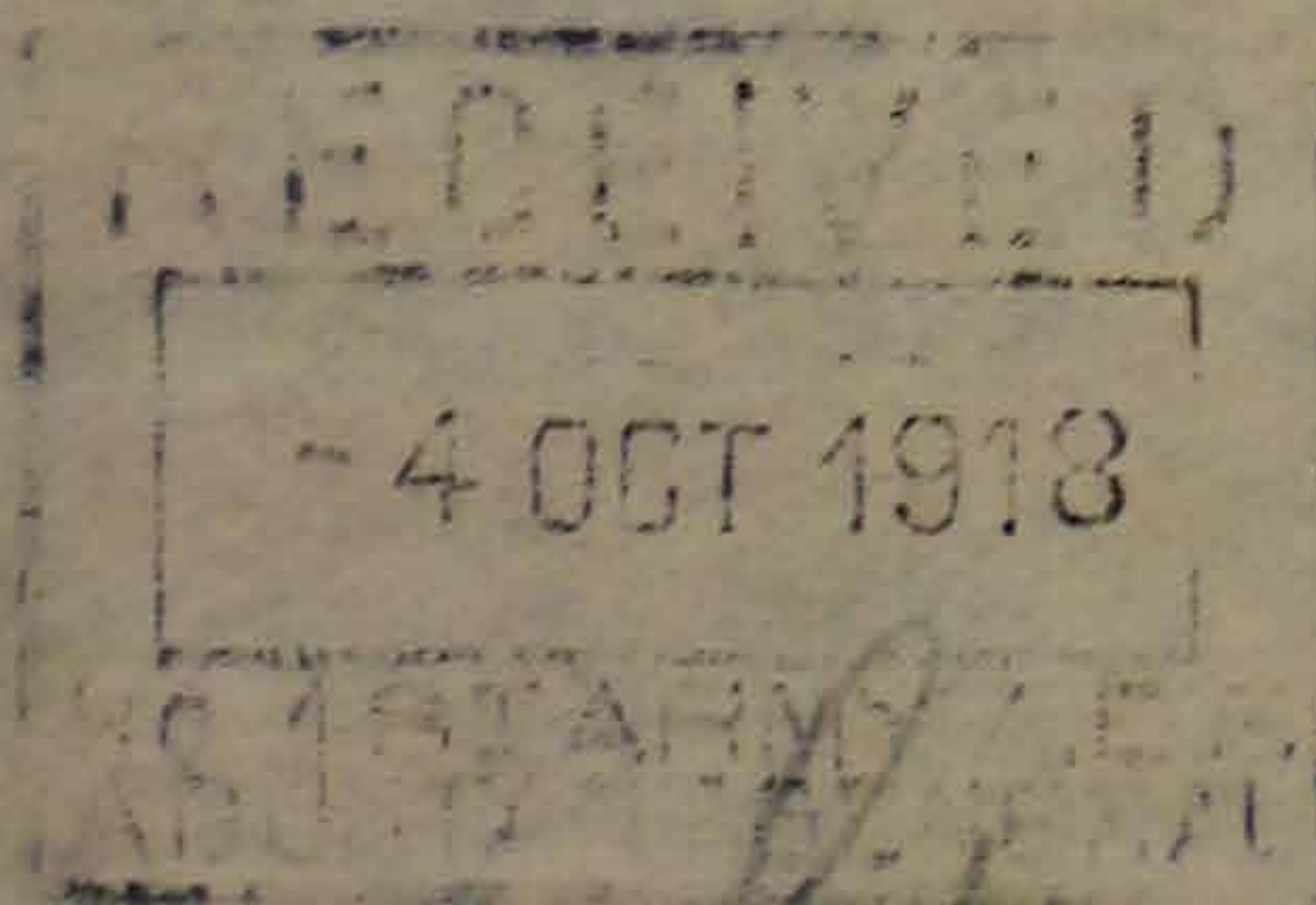
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF TANK CORPS.

2 October, 1918.

From: Chief of Tank Corps, 1st Army.
To: Commanding General, 1st Army.
Subject: Recommendation of Lieut. Colonel G.S. Patton, Tank Corps.

1. I invite attention to the accompanying certificates and affidavits as to the action of Lieut. Colonel G. S. Patton, Tank Corps on the morning of 26th September 1918. I recommend that the Distinguished Service Cross be awarded him for conspicuous courage, coolness, energy and intelligence in directing the advances of his Brigade down the valley of the Aire, then in checking, organizing and leading the Infantry forces under heavy machine gun and artillery fire until he was wounded. This, on the line VARENNES-CHEPPY, on the 26th September, 1918.

8 Encls.
SDR/CB.



S. D. Rockenbach,
S. D. Rockenbach,
Brigadier General, U.S.A.

4 - OCT 1918
81-1074

Emc
10/10/18

THIS PAPER WILL BE
FILES OF FORWARDED
SECTION, G.H.Q. A.

14790-A-286 (PF)

CHQ AEF, 16 October 1918. - To Chief of Tank Corps, 1st Army. Returned.

1. Recommendation for Lieutenant Colonel G.S. Patton, Tank Corps, for the award of the Distinguished Service Cross disapproved.

By Command of General Pershing:

W. H. L. L. L.
Adjutant General

8 ind

3rd Ind.

SDR/CB.

Headquarters, Tank Corps, 1st Army. 24 October, 1918. To:
Commanding General, 1st Army.

1. Inviting attention to 2nd Indorsement, in view of which and to the gallant conduct which should in my opinion receive some special recognition, I request that such recognition be given.



S. D. Rockenbach,
S. D. Rockenbach,
Brigadier General, U.S.A.
A.G.O. FIRST ARMY A.E.F. Tank Corps.

DATE REC'D

29 OCT 1918

4th Ind.

AG

Headquarters First Army, American E.F., 29 October 1918.- To
Chief of Tank Corps, First Army, American E.F.

1. Returned. In view of the fact that this recommendation has been disapproved by the Commander-in-Chief, no further action will be taken in the premises.

By Command of Major General Liggett:

H. K. Loughry
H.K. LOUGHRY,
Adjutant General.

WS

General Headquarters, Tank Corps.

G.H.Q. American ~~at~~ E.F. France.
A.P.O. 707.

November -- 1918.

From: The Chief of the Tank Corps.

To: -----

Subject: Recommendation for the Distinguished Service Cross.
Colonel G.S. Patton, Jr., Tank Corps, U.S. Army.

I. Colonel George S. Patton, Jr., Tank Corps, U.S. Army is recommended for the award of the distinguished Service Cross in view of his conduct during the following military operations.

A. September 26th. 1918, about 10:15 A.M.

B. Near CHEPPY, France, 04.7-72.7 VERDUN (a) 1:20000.

C. The attack of the 1st. Corps on the Valley of the AIRE (ARGONNE-MEUSE attack) Sept. 26 1918 whose mission it was to advance to objectives stated in F.O. 57 1st Army Corps.

D. The operation was the attack on CHEPPY.

E. During the course of this operation the progress of the Tanks was stopped by three lines of trenches. Colonel Patton reconnoitered a passage across these trenches. He then supervised the work of digging a passage through them and during the course of this work encouraged the men first by starting to dig him self when the men showed fear at exposing them selves and and later by mounting on the top of the parapet the better to give directions. While here it was necessary to get more shovels and as the men hesitated to leave the trenches ~~Col. Patton~~ in order to get the tools from the tanks against which the bullets could be plainly heard striking Col. Patton made three trips to the tanks each time bringing back shovels.

During the whole course of this work he was exposed to rifle and machine gun fire which was effective as some twenty men who were

work were hit. His actions and encouragement to

CS2
11/23/18

In the Field)
American)
E.F.)

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned authority for administering oaths, one Joseph T. Angelo, 243496, Private, Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade, Tank Corps, who, being duly sworn, deposes and says: that on September 26, 1918 Lt. Colonel George S. Patton, Jr., 1st Brigade Tank Corps, 1st Lt. Maurice H. Knowles 1st Brigade Tank Corps and 1st Lt. Paul S. Edwards, Signal Corps with about 12 runners including myself, started from the P.C. 1st Brigade Tank Corps, then situated in a dugout on the southern edge of woods at Les Cotes de Forimont, about 6:30 a.m. to follow up the advance. We walked on till we reached a cluster of either barracks or buildings, where we saw 5 or 6 French tanks on the side of the road. These tanks went forward, and Col. Patton ordered me to take shelter in some weeds to see if I could see anyone going along the road. Two infantrymen came along and I asked them where they were going. They said they were moppers up. They went into the buildings and shortly after I saw the buildings blown up. Then the machine guns opened up on us. We went back over the hill on the line VARENNES-CHEPPY. About 14 support tanks, French and American, were just on the other side, some of them stuck and under heavy shell fire. Col. Patton ordered me to tell the tanks to spread out, and I did so. Captain Math L. English, 1st Brigade Tank Corps, who was commanding these tanks, could not get his machines over a trench, so the Engineers and runners made a road over it, and the tanks were able to proceed, but seemed to stop on the right. There was no infantry support. A few tanks were behind and about 100 infantry came on, but they were without officers. They asked the Colonel what they should do, and he asked them if they would go forward with him, and they said they would. Then we went forward up the hill. Colonel Patton, two other privates beside myself and one tank were about 50 yards from the slope of the hill. The infantry did not follow. Then the machine guns opened up on us. Two privates were wounded. Then I said to the Colonel 'we are alone'. Just then Colonel Patton was struck in the leg by a machine gun bullet. He went forward about 40 yards, but could go no further on account of his wound. We got into a shell hole to escape the machine gun fire, where I tied up the Colonel's leg, which was bleeding freely. Then I saw a tank and I pointed out a machine gun to it, which it put out of action, afterwards going forward with no infantry support. The machine guns then me French and American tanks in a still. A runner came towards us and tell these tanks to spread out. He all the tanks pulled away except one and dropped a signal right over this

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Property Patton Museum
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Folder 11

F 1

THIS PAPER WITHDRAWN
FROM THE PATTON COLLECTION
SEP 10 1964

No. 2 cont'd.

tank, and directly afterwards it was blown up. Then the machine guns opened up on us again, so we had to keep down in the shell hole. After a little while Captain Ranulf Compton, 1st Brigade Tank Corps, came along in a tank. I hailed him and showed him where a machine gun was located, which he put out of action. After that we got out of the shell-hole as the machine gun fire had stopped, and two sergeants of the Tank Corps, whose names I do not know, carried the Colonel to the rear, and I accompanied them with his equipment.

Further deponent sayeth not.

✓ JOSEPH T. ANGELO
Private, Hq. Co., 1st
Brigade, Tank Corps.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 29th day of September, 1918.

✓ E. N. HEBERT
Captain, Tank Corps,
1st Brigade.

Memo To Gen.Rockenbach.

Heading, Par 1 -a-b-c-d. are the same as in the other letter par.E.
shouls read as follows.

E. During the course of this opperation five tanks having crossed the trenches moved forward to the attack of CHEPPY. About 300 men of the 35th division who were on the reverse slope of a hill at this point failed to accompany the tanks. Col. Patton urged them forward to the crest of the hill but here as the fire increassed the men halted again Col. Patton asked "Who will come with me" or words to that effect and started forward Six men accompanied him .After advancing about fifty yards all the men were hit except Col. Patton and his orderly ~~Pat.~~.
~~An.~~ At this time Col. Patton was shot through the upper part of the left thigh but continued to advance until his leg failed him and he fell about forty yards from the German position. ~~After=being=dragged=to=a=sh~~
~~shell=hole=by=his=orderly=he.~~ And was dragged to a shell hole by his orderly.

F. These facts were ascertained by Brigadier General S.D. ROCKENBACH Chief of the Tank Corps. U.S. Army. from statements of Capt. M.H. Knowles, Tank Corps, U.S. Army. Ist. Lt. P.S. Edwards, Signal Corps, U.S.A. Sgt. R.B. Schmeitz (109932) Hq. Section 304 Brigade Tank Corps U.S.A. Pvt. J.T. Angelo (243496) Hq. Section 304 Brigade Tank Corps U.S.A.

All eye witnesses of various parts of the affair.

G. Same as other letter.

I certify that at 6:30 A.M. (H plus 1 hour) Col. G. S. Patton, Jr., the Brigade Reconnaissance Officer, the Signal Officer and a group of enlisted men who acted as runners and signal men, left the advance Brigade P.C. At Les Cote de Forimont and followed the tanks northward from their position of readiness.

The morning was particularly foggy and the visibility remained very low until about 10:00 A.M. when the fog started to lift.

Our support tanks (two companies 34th Bn. and the two groups of French tanks) were met and passed half way between Boureilles and Varennes on the east side of the River Aire.

Arriving at point 04.7-72.7 reference map Verdun-A 1-20,000 we sat down at the junction of the roads and Colonel Patton sent a pigeon message. There was practically no action in this vicinity at this time. The barrage was north and to our front some considerable distance probably at least one kilometer. Front line tanks and front line Infantry were not seen during the morning. A few French tanks came along, stopped for a few minutes and then went on. After they had passed a few shells started to drop in our immediate vicinity with a few machine gun bullets passing near so we took cover in the light R.R. cut. As the intensity of the fire increased we fell back about 100 feet to the reverse slope of the hill. We had just reached this cover when M.G. fire started to sweep the area from every direction. Our support tanks were held up at a wide deep trench about 125 yards south of our position, by a French Schneider tank which was stuck and could not cross.

Colonel G. S. Patton, Jr. sent me back with a message ordering the tanks across immediately and put out the machine guns to our front. I delivered the message to Captain Compton (Battalion Commander) and Captain Williams. Time passed and the tanks did not move as no concerted and organized effort was made in the digging out of the French tanks. Having sent Lt. Edwards and Pvt. Angelo with similar messages Colonel G. S. Patton went himself. In the mean time an enemy plane had flown over and the artillery fire was not only increasing in intensity but the tanks became their targets. Machine gun fire swept the area. Colonel G. S. Patton immediately rallied Infantry, tank men and engineers from their positions of cover and they worked with great energy and the tanks started to move across in about ten minutes time. During this time I saw several men drop to the ground wounded but Colonel Patton directed the work standing on the surface, the men following his example and directions. The action not only showed extreme courage and bravery but was highly effective in getting the tanks forward to meet the source of the enemy resistance.

As the tanks came forward and a tank had passed the crest of the hill 04.7-72.7 Colonel Patton leaped up and shouted "Lets go get them" "Who is coming with me?" or words to that effect. All on the hill started with the exception of a few runners without arms. The number on the right flank of the hill was about $\frac{1}{2}$ platoon. In a few minutes Sergeant Shemitz ran back stating Colonel G. S. Patton was wounded and ordered no one to come to him as it would attract fire. Private Angelo and Sgt. Shemmitz attended to the wound and carried Col. Patton back to a dressing station.

W. A. Knowles
Captain, Tank Corps, USA

Boulogne, France, November 29, 1918

I certify that on the morning of September 26, 1918 at HR plus one, Colonel George S. Patton, Jr., Tank Corps, attached to the First Army Corps, proceeded from his P. C., Cotes de Forimont, accompanied by Captain M. H. Knowles, myself and twelve enlisted men, following the tank tracks on the right of the Neuville-Varennes road and in the course of the general direction of Cheppy. The visibility was very poor due to a very heavy fog which rendered visibility for more than two or three hundred yards impossible. We overtook the reserve group of French and American tanks, which were about half way between Boureilles and Varennes. Groups of infantry in artillery formation and comprising a part of the support of the 35th Division were also passed at this point. Continuing our advance we commenced to meet several groups of dis-organized and retreating infantry. Upon being questioned by Colonel Patton it seemed that due to the fog and some machine-gun fire they were separated from their command and the Colonel ordered them to advance with our detachment. There was considerable confusion among the troops and apparently none of them were able to give any definite information of where or how far the forward troops had advanced. We advanced to a point about 04.7-72.7 reference map Verdun A 1/20000 near a small narrow gauge track where Colonel Patton decided to send a message. While sending this message some French tanks came up and passed us and about the same time machine-gun fire began to come from our front. Colonel Patton ordered us into the railroad cut. The fire became very intense and we retreated to the reverse side of the slope about 100 yards back. The machine-gun fire became very intense and the troops ahead of us were retreating. Colonel Patton ordered these men to spread out and lie down. He then dispatched a runner to tell Captain Compton in command of the reserve tanks to come forward. After several minutes wait Captain Knowles was sent for the tanks. Shortly afterwards several American tanks were grouped at the base of the slope in command of Captain English, Tank Corps. The Colonel then sent me to tell him to have five tanks come up over the hill and attack the machine-guns in front. I went to the bottom of the slope and found that the tanks were being held up on account of two trenches which they were unable to cross. A group of French tank men were sitting in the trench with shovels, but doing no digging. About this time the Colonel came down. He immediately set the French to work, went over to the tanks which were being splattered with machine-gun fire, removed some shovels and picks, and put a number of men to work digging down the sides of the trenches. All during this operation in addition to the very heavy machine-gun fire the enemy artillery was firing on this area, being directed by a plane which flew over at intervals. In spite of repeated requests that he step down in the trench of his exposed position, the Colonel steadfastly refused to do so saying "to hell with them, they can't hit me". There were quite a number of casualties among the men who were tearing down the sides of the trenches and helping the tanks to get over the crossing, but the Colonel refused to budge. Just as the last tank had gotten over the trenches the Colonel ordered the men to spread out and follow him and we again advanced to our former position around the slope. Just as the last tank had gone over the crest of the slope, the Colonel, waving his cane over his head shouted "let's go get them, who is with me" and he moved forward followed by some of the troops, whom he had gathered, machine-gun fire. They had gone but a few yards when he was killed. Sergeant Shemitz came running back and said the Colonel had been killed and to notify Major Brett to take command of the Brigade, and to inform him. Shemitz went searching for a stretcher. The

machine-gun fire began to cease due to the work of the tanks. I afterwards learned from one of the lieutenants with the tanks that there were 25 machine-guns in the area. The enemy artillery was continuing an erratic and intermittent fire but it was chiefly directed at the tanks moving ahead of us. The Colonel was moved to the rear on a stretcher and I went in search of Major Brett.

I certify that the above statement is true and that I was an eye-witness to the events above described.

Paul S. Edwards
1st Lieut., Signal Corps, USA