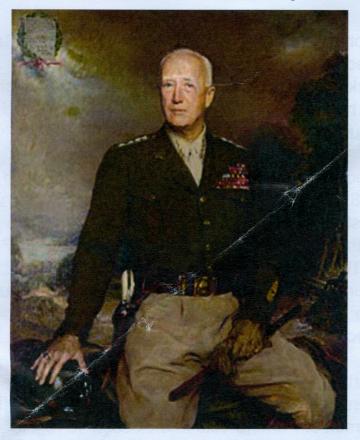
# General George S. Patton, Jr. Memorial Ceremony



22 December 2009
General Patton Display Case
1st floor, Building 3613
U.S. Army Medical Activity,
Heidelberg

General Patton received his greatest notoriety during World War II. "Old Blood and Guts" was labeled one of the "most colorful" American generals for his dramatic manner and outspoken comments. His actions brought both applause and criticism; he was definitely a man who stood up for his beliefs. As a testament to his worldwide impact in his 35 years of military service, Patton received numerous decorations and medals from Luxembourg, Belgium, Great Britain and the Soviet Union.

In October 1945, Patton assumed command of the Fifteenth Army in American-occupied Germany. On December 9, he suffered injuries as the result of an automobile accident. He died 12 days later, on December 21, 1945 and is buried at the Third Army Cemetery, among the soldiers who died in the Battle of the Bulge in Hamm, Luxembourg.

He once wrote in his diary, "Duty is but discipline carried to its highest degree." Whatever one may believe about this controversial leader, he was certainly a dedicated soldier. A captured German officer said Patton was the "most feared general on all fronts." Remembered for his fierce determination and ability to lead soldiers, Patton is now considered one of the greatest military figures in history.

#### **General Patton Timeline**

- 1885 Born in San Gabriel, CA, on November 11
- 1909 Graduates West Point; Becomes Cavalry officer
- 1910 Marries Beatrice Ayer
- 1911 Beatrice Patton, Jr. is born
- 1912 Places fifth in Olympics' Military Pentathlon
- 1913 Becomes the Army's 1st "Master of the Sword"
- 1915 Buys the Ivory-handled Colt .45 "Peacemaker"; Ruth Ellen Patton is born
- 1916 Serves as aide to General Pershing in Mexico
- 1918 In WWI, leads 304th tank brigade in combat
- 1923 George Smith Patton III is born
- 1935 Wrote a prophetic paper on the possibility of Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor
- 1940 Promoted to Brigadier General
- 1941 Promoted to Major General; Commands 2<sup>nd</sup> Armored Division
- 1942 Assumes command of 1st Armored Corps at the Desert Training Center he created; Commands Western Task Force during Allied invasion of North Africa
- 1943 Assumes command of and rejuvenates II Corps; Promoted to temporary rank of LTG, Assumes command of 7<sup>th</sup> Army; Invades and captures Sicily
- 1944 Assumes command of 3<sup>rd</sup> Army and produces the most impressive advance of the war; Relieves Bastogne in Battle of the Bulge on 26 December
- 1945 Promoted to temporary rank of General in April; Germany surrenders 8 May; Begins duties as Military Governor of Bavaria; December 21 – Dies from embolism at 130<sup>th</sup> Station Hospital, Heidelberg; December 23 – Buried in American Military Cemetery at Hamm, Luxembourg

#### **Patton Quotes**

"Never tell people how to do things. Tell them what to do and they will surprise you with their ingenuity."

"A good plan executed today is better than a perfect plan executed at some indefinite point in the future."

"It is the unconquerable nature of man and not the nature of the weapon he uses that ensures victory."

"By perseverance, study, and eternal desire, any man can become great."

"A pint of sweat will save a gallon of blood."

"Anyone in any walk of life who is content with mediocrity is untrue to himself and to American tradition."

"Lead me, follow me, or get out of my way. "

"Moral courage is the most valuable and usually the most absent characteristic in men."

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

## A Soldier's Burial by George S. Patton, Jr.

Not midst the chanting of the Requiem Hymn,
Nor with the solemn ritual of prayer,
Neath misty shadows from the oriel glass,
And dreamy perfume of the incensed air
Was he interred;

But the subtle stillness after fight, And the half light between the night and the day, We dragged his body all besmeared with mud. And dropped if, clod-like, bock into the clay. Yet who shall say that he was not content. Or missed the prayers, or drone of chanting choir. He who had heard all day the Battle Hymn Sung on all sides by a thousand throats of fire. What pointed glass can lovelier shadows cost Than those the evening skies shall ever shed. While, mingled with their light, Red Battle's Sun Completes in magic colors o'er our dead The flag for which they died.

General Patton received his greatest notoriety during World War II. "Old Blood and Guts" was labeled one of the "most colorful" American generals for his dramatic manner and outspoken comments. His actions brought both applause and criticism; he was definitely a man who stood up for his beliefs. As a testament to his worldwide impact in his 35 years of military service, Patton received numerous decorations and medals from Luxembourg, Belgium, Great Britain and the Soviet Union.

In October 1945, Patton assumed command of the Fifteenth Army in American-occupied Germany. On December 9, he suffered injuries as the result of an automobile accident. He died 12 days later, on December 21, 1945 and is buried at the Third Army Cemetery, among the soldiers who died in the Battle of the Bulge in Hamm, Luxembourg.

He once wrote in his diary, "Duty is but discipline carried to its highest degree." Whatever one may believe about this controversial leader, he was certainly a dedicated soldier. A captured German officer said Patton was the "most feared general on all fronts." Remembered for his fierce determination and ability to lead soldiers, Patton is now considered one of the greatest military figures in history.

### Sequence of Events

- Invocation
- · Opening remarks
- Wreath laying by HMEDDAC Color Guard
- Movement to Dining Facility
- Remarks by Mr. Denny Hair
- Guest Speaker: Ms. Patton-Plusczyk
- Closing remarks
- Benediction
- Refreshments



GENERAL GEORGE S. PATTON, JR. 11 NOV 1885 – 21 DEC 1945