

# **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 304<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 it, clod-like, back 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.

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# 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**