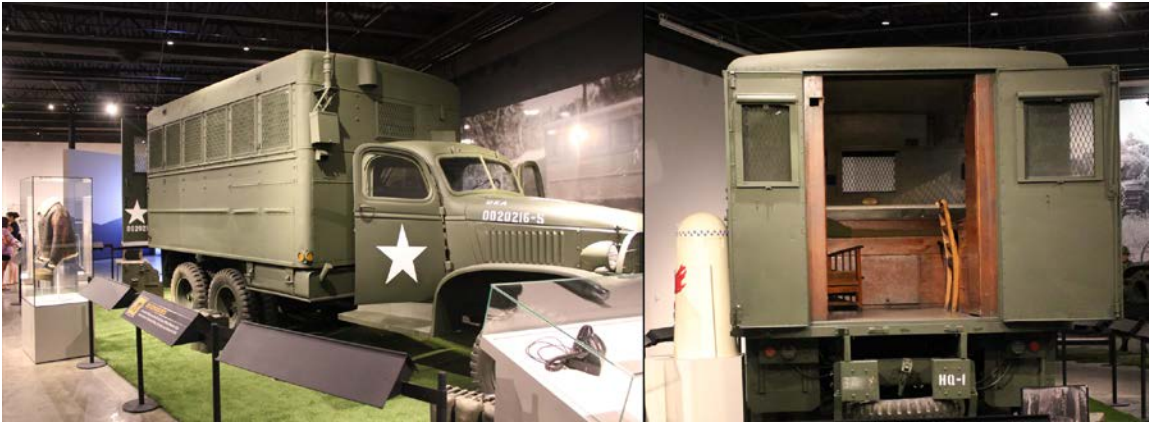


# The Third Army Historical Society

Presents  
Understanding the  
General Patton Mobile Headquarters Van  
A Docent Manual

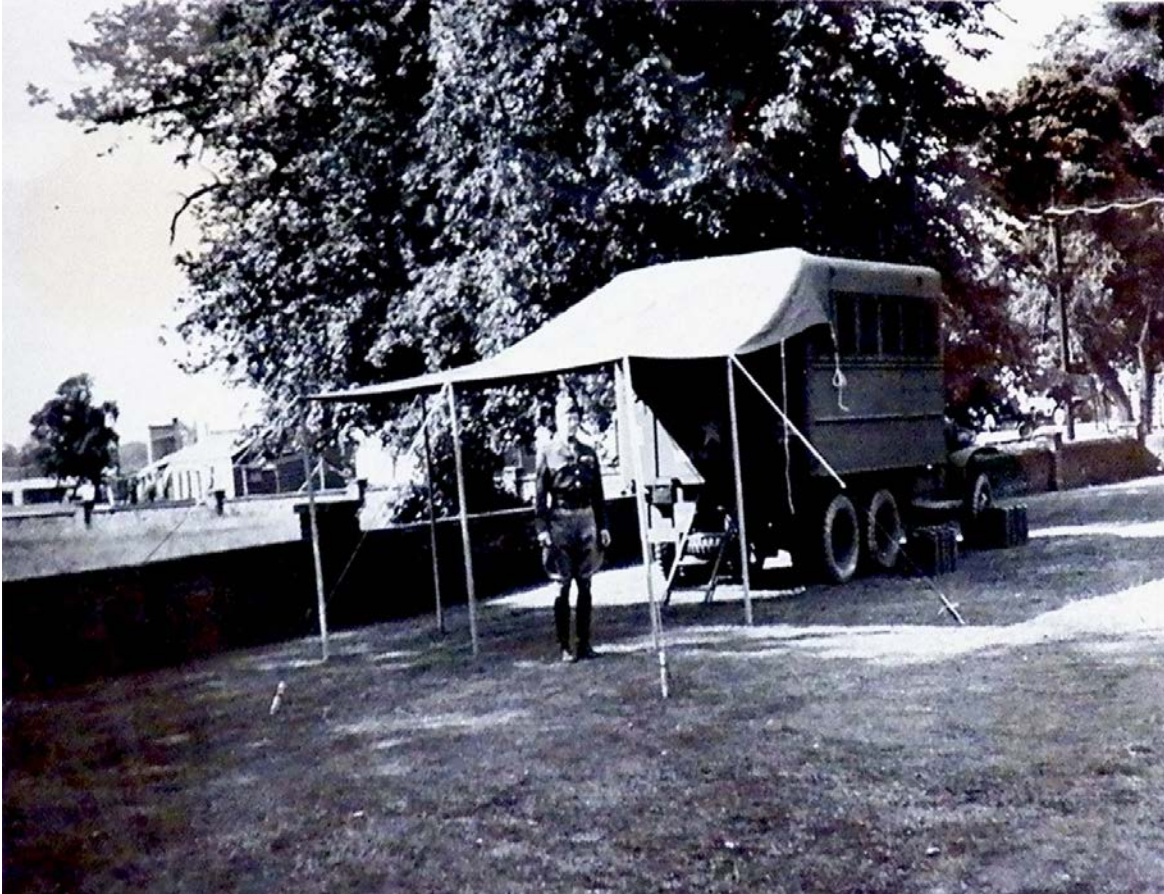


The General Patton Mobile Van Exhibit  
Patton Museum Fort Knox Kentucky



General Patton Mobile Van Recreation

**The Third Army Historical Society**  
**The “Patton Van”**  
A docent manual  
Interpreting our  
Patton Van Recreation.



General Patton took possession of his “Patton van,” as it came to be called, not long before he was to leave England to command Third Army in France. Three vans were delivered and Patton had photographs taken of them. <sup>1</sup>



The shop portion of the van was an ST6 and was originally a small arms maintenance workshop manufactured by Perley A Thomas Car works High Point North Carolina, which is known today as Thomas Buses. Sometime in March 1944 the conversions began near Patton Headquarters in Peover, England. In 1965, one of the builders of the Patton Van visited the Patton Museum located at Fort Knox.



In 1965, one of the original builders visited Fort Knox where the van came to be put on display after the war. An article that appeared in the "The Turret" newspaper stated that Technician 5th Grade Joseph E. Owczarczak "was then a "shop clerk" in charge of maintenance and repair shop of the 911th Ordnance Heavy Automotive Company. Twenty men from the company and ten French civilians actually built the vans. Mr. Joseph E. Owczarczak stated he was included because of his position in the company and his knowledge of the French language and people. He passed instructions on to the French civilians." <sup>2</sup> For weeks the Ordnance section in England converted the vans into traveling mobile caravans.

#### The "Caravans" and Living in the Field.

In the center of the Third Army Headquarters were three shop vans referred to as caravans. They were assigned to General Patton, General Hugh Gaffey, Chief of Staff and General Hobart Gay (Deputy Chief of Staff). They were heavily guarded by MP's 24 hours a day unless they were moving. Patton referred to the MPs as "sentinels." These sentinels carried .30 caliber M1 rifles with fixed bayonets and, on occasion, M1903A1 rifles with bayonets fixed. Patton believed that the fixed bayonets gave a foreboding effect and conveyed the idea that they meant business. In Patton's Headquarters, they took their assignments seriously. They were part of the 503<sup>rd</sup> MP Battalion Company A, which was assigned to provide headquarters security.



The three "caravans" were located in close proximity to each other and had a canvas tarp protruding outward from the rear of each van, supported with poles and guy ropes which formed a canvas awning.

The truck that became General Patton's Headquarters van was officially designated by the quartermaster and transportation department as a 2 ½ CCKW Shop

Van St6. They were based on a two and one half ton truck with ten wheels and 6 wheel drive. The truck weighed some 13,000 pounds. It was powered by a GMC 6-cylinder engine and had a 40-gallon gas tank. The truck measured 19 feet in length, 7 ft. 10 inches wide and 9 feet tall. It was rated to get 7.5 miles per gallon. (269.5 cubic inch displacement.) It was an ordnance repair truck converted to a mobile house trailer. General Patton described his by

saying, "It is like a cabin cruiser that you can stand up in." <sup>3</sup>



There was a 25-gallon canvas bag hanging on one side with a shower attachment to bath with. Patton was said to not be very shy about his latrine or bathing habits. From an outward

appearance these vans looked identical with one notable exception.<sup>4</sup>

There was added a metal stair rail to assist Patton coming in and out of the van, as the stairs were steep. The stairs were moved to the middle both doors could remain closed and the top secret map board, on the inside, could not be viewed from the outside.<sup>5</sup>

Patton's dog, Willie, had trouble getting up the stairs into the van because of the expanded metal mesh on the stair rungs. It would pull his nails off getting in. As a result, there were small pieces of board placed over the stairs so he would not hurt himself going up the stairs. All of this was covered by a huge array of camouflage netting that helped it blend into the countryside and not be seen from the air or distant ground observation.



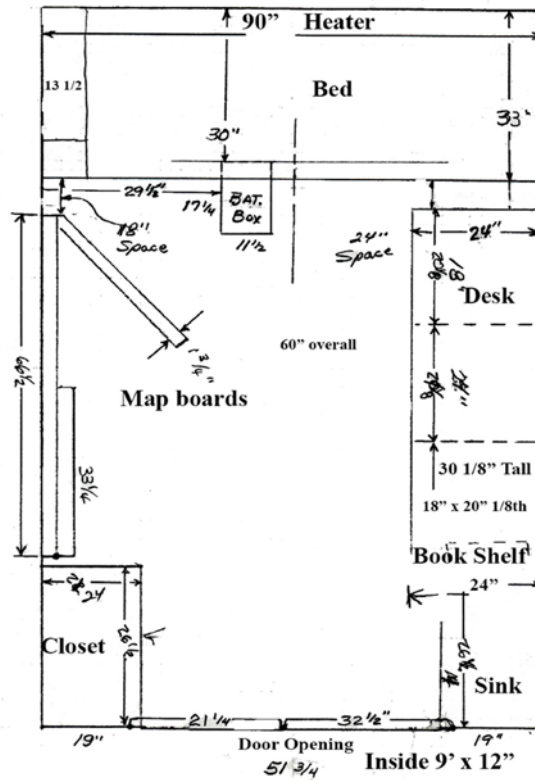
The Patton shop van cabin interior was designed and constructed in England and delivered to Patton on or about June 10, 1944.

At the entrance to Patton's "caravan" were two flags. On the right side flew his field rank flag that was red with three white stars denoting his rank of Lt. General. To the left was the Third Army flag. There was to be no doubt as to where Patton was billeted. Just outside the van were folding canvas director

chairs and folding camp tables. Below Patton leaves with Willie outside Patton Van







#### Inside the "Patton Mobile Sleeping Quarters

A drawing of the van interior helps to understand the size of the van. It is unknown what the other two vans looked like on the inside but they may have been identical.



Patton Van June 1944

2018 Recreation

The first thing a visitor sees is the bed to the rear and the map board. The bed originally had an inflatable air mattress. It was made of plywood and would have been uncomfortable without some sort of mattress or cushioning.

This is an exact duplicate of Patton's original van



Patton Van 1944

2018 Recreation

Upon entrée, there is a Map board on your left. It can be opened to display the maps.

#### Built- in Radio

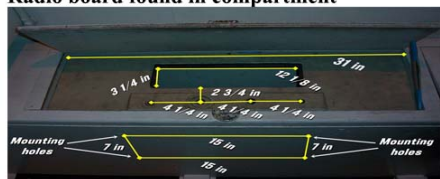
The overhead cabinets above the desk. Patton had a radio installed in the cabinets with a set of speakers. There may also have been some type of storage as well but no images of the inside of these have been found during their use in 1944-1945.

Above the bed and desk is a long cabinet located above the windows on the driver's side. It has three doors. For years this had been a mystery but a clue was visible. There appeared to be a door cut for speakers. During the 2012 restoration of the original Patton van another clue was found. It appeared the built-in radio was to the far end of the speakers. Only a board was left where it had been mounted. Careful measurements were taken were taken by the restoration team.

It took some time to find a civilian radio which matched the four holes in the board. In 2018 it was matched by a 1940's tube radio. It was restored and is now fully functional.



Original Patton Van Pr-Restoration Inventory  
Radio board found in compartment



Recreation Patton Van radio compartment  
1940's Tube Radio made by Coronado

A radio was found on-line  
and refurbished to work  
based on the dimensions of  
the original.



Dimensions of original radio board

Patton made mention of its use on April 12, 1945.



*"I went to bed rather late and noted that I had failed to wind my watch, so turned on the radio to see if I could get the time. Just as I turned it on, the announcer reported the death of the President.*

*I immediately informed General Eisenhower and General Bradley, and we had quite a discussion as to what might happen. It seems very unfortunate that in order to secure political preference, people are made Vice Presidents who were never intended neither by the Party nor by the Lord to be Presidents.*

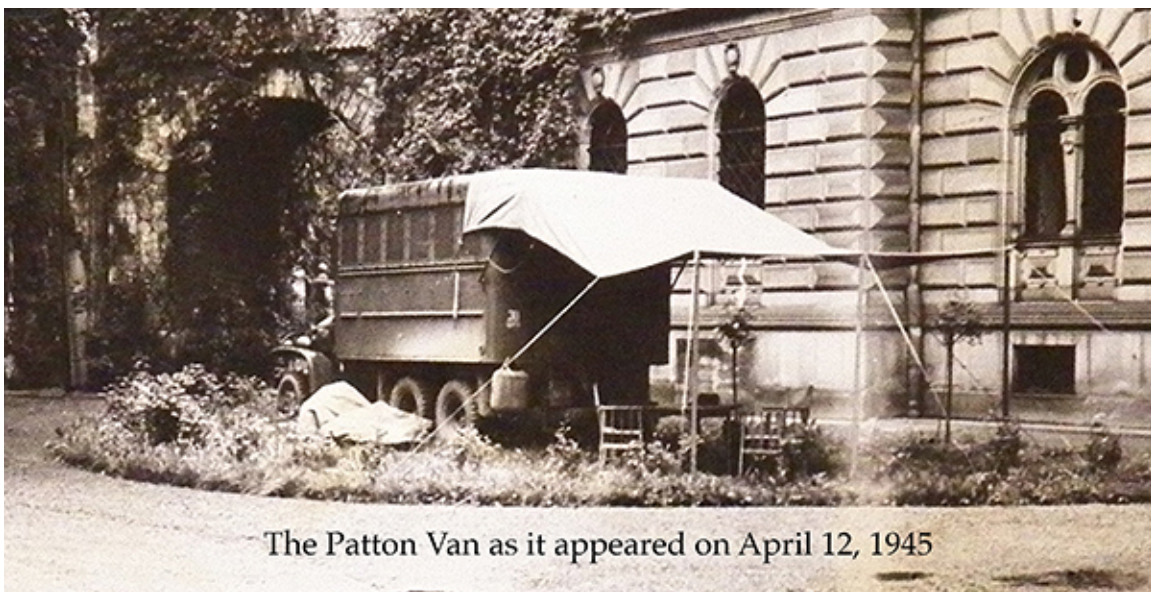
*I returned to bed and everybody called up until about 2:00 O'clock to give me official reports on the death of the President and other matters.<sup>6</sup>*

Even though Patton's headquarters at the time was, in what could only be described as a elegant luxurious mansion, he preferred to sleep in his van. It offered him privacy and he had become us to it. He felt he should be as uncomfortable as his command and did not care much for fancy suites and large mansions. He also enjoyed the solitude that his van offered.

On the evening of the 12 of April when he heard the news of President's Roosevelt's death, his day had been long and eventful. It started out early, meeting General Eisenhower's plane on the airfield. They then went to the Merkers Mine and inspected the stolen Nazi gold and art work. After lunch, they when to the Ohrdruf labor camp and saw the horror of the concentration camp. Later that evening there was a talk by Ike to his staff and the Club mobile Red Cross girls attended the formal mess and listen to Ike talk about the war with Patton's staff.

It was late when Patton went out to his van. He looked at his watch and he had forgotten to wind it. He turned on the radio to get the proper time.

Leaning of the president's death he went back indoors and informed Ike. They then stayed up most of the night talking.



The Patton Van as it appeared on April 12, 1945



**Original Patton Van sink**

Prior to an excellent restoration undertaken by the Patton Museum, the interior of the Patton Van was seen by the public.

This is how it appeared. At the moment, this portion of the Patton van sink area is not accessible to public view.



**Recreation Patton Van Sink**

Extensive research has been undertaken to recreate the sink and medicine cabinet as it once was.

Even the period light switch and brass water tank were obtained to bring the visitor as close to the way Patton saw in WWII.

### The Sink and Medicine Cabinet

To the right as you enter is a hinged door. When the door is open there is a sink about waist high. Above the sink and medicine cabinet is a water tank that gravity fed into the sink. There is a pipe leading into the brass water tank from the top of the shop van. Water had to be poured in from the outside top of the roof, where a filling cap was located. It holds about five gallons of water. There no water heater and only one faucet was installed. Above the sink is a mirror built in to the medicine cabinet. The medicine cabinet held those medicines and bandages to cover minor cuts and burns along with the toiletries normally expected in a medicine cabinet. The Patton museum displays an after shave talcum powder called Fougere Royal by Houbigant of New York. They also display a standard "Mollie" shaving cream among others.

The recreation Patton van sink and cabinet have been patterned as to the original and made fully operational. The light switch and fixtures have been meticulously recreated with the original period materials. The light is from the 1930's era and the piping has been soldered and tinned as it would have been in 1944. To recreate it exactly, the sink has been made fully functional and holds water as the original once did. All it takes is a turn of the faucet and the sink fills with water. The sink drains into a pipe which drains outside the van as the original.





To recreate the medicine cabinet as it might have been, it has been stocked with original medicines and toiletries from the 1930's and early 1940's. Our sink runs water.



#### Clothes Closet

Across from the water closet is the clothes closet. Patton kept his uniforms for the day and personal items in this closet. No original images have surfaced as to what Patton kept in it. It is obviously used for cloths. MSGT George Meeks was his orderly and was responsible for keeping Patton's wardrobe in order. Some mention has been made of a laundry and it is known that large vans were used for that purpose but little information remains as to their use in Patton's HQ.

However George Meeks did it, he was able to keep Patton's uniforms immaculate.



#### Morris Chair

This chair sits in the original Patton van and was used by Patton and Willie from 1944 to 1945



#### Morris Chair

An original Morris Chair was obtain to sit in the recreation Patton van.

#### Morris Chair

The van was furnished with two chairs. One slid under the desk. The

other was quite innovative for its design. It was a Morris chair. The Morris chair was widely thought of as being the first reclining chair. Patton apparently picked it up while he was in Peover, England. It is identical to the chair Willie became comfortable in while at the estate belonging to Lady Leese in England. She may have given it to Patton for his van. Willie slept in it quite a bit. The Morris chair was first introduced in the 1870's and had a spring-loaded reclining back. It gained popularity and is said to be the first mass-produced reclining chair. Patton's Morris chair still exists and resides in the Patton Van in the Patton Museum at Fort Knox. The Morris chair in this van is an original and has a push button to release the rear springs so it can recline. It has a pullout foot rest and was patented in 1910.



Desk Willie in front of Morris Chair in April 1944

On the  
side of the  
a custom

passenger  
Patton van is  
made desk

with sliding draws. The drawers and the desk were used for Patton's everyday duties as commanding general of Third Army. It had papers to be signed, books, phones, cigars, a phonograph, a bible, a typewriter and personal effects. At the front end of the desk was a folding leaf used to extend the surface of the desk. Patton received mail and other official correspondence and stayed up late at night and into the early morning responding and replying to correspondence received. He also wrote entries to his diary each day. To the right end above the desk and was a box referred to as Patton's library. There he kept the books that he was reading at the time.





This is the desk area of the van as it was seen for almost 60 years. The Patton van at the Patton Museum has been on display since about 1947. It was certainly taken care of and recently it has undergone a full restoration. So much time has passed that there is no one left who has direct knowledge of its use and can say they were at Patton's headquarters. The interpretation of the van has undergone a new phase and has yet to be completed. In 2010-2011 the Patton Museum Director, Christopher Kolakowski, approached Denny Hair who had restored his shop van into a recreation of Patton shop van. The collaboration between the two has lead to a learning experience that has helped bring a better understanding as to how General Patton used his van in his beloved Third Army headquarters. In 2011 through 2013 the Patton Museum volunteers did a ground-up restoration on the truck shop van and all of its mechanical running parts. They cleaned and repaired the interior but there were many unanswered questions as to its usage and various functions.



#### Wiring on the desk

Affixed to original van desktop are a number of curious objects that, when identified, tell a story of their use. Patton had two phones on his desk. There still exist the phone connections screwed to the desk. The wires can be traced down and through the underside of the desk and through the bottom of the van where they stop. There is also a board affixed to the top of the desk that may have had one of the phones secured to it. There is also evidence of some sort of wiring affixed to the window stanchions with screw type bolts still in place.<sup>7</sup>

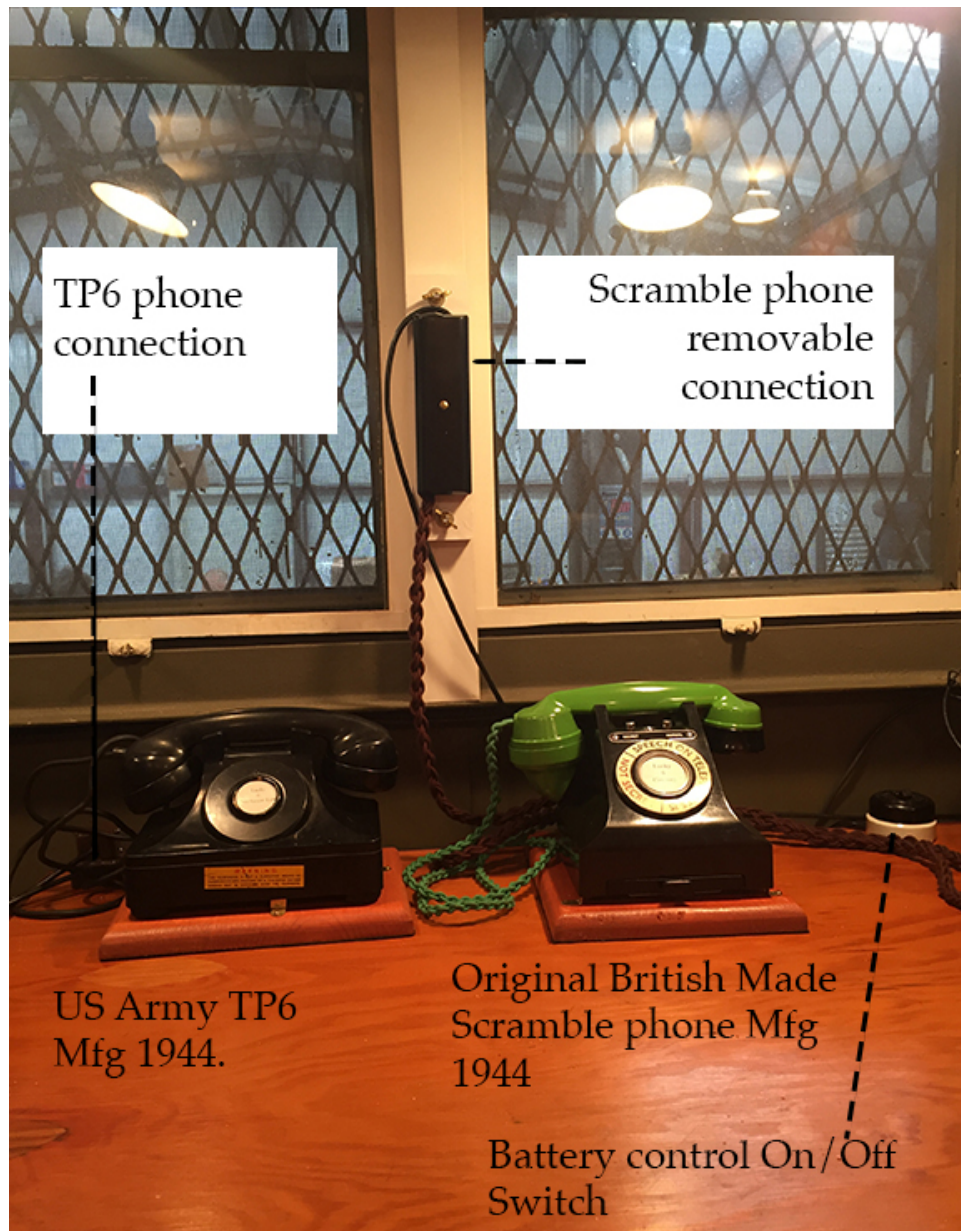
In studying the wiring, the unknown connector, made reference to by the museum during the restoration of the original van,<sup>8</sup> is a 1940's period four-prong terminal telephone connector.<sup>9</sup> In looking at the available phones to the United States Third Army, it was determined that a TP6 phone would have been the type of phone connected to the phone line and connection. There is a board screwed into the desk to secure the phone when the van is moving. It would not have had a rotary dial nor a curlicue cord as such cord was not available in 1944. More interesting the wiring above the desk that indicates that a wiring system of a different type was once in use. This would have been the secret scrambler phone.

Deputy Chief of Staff to General Patton Col. Paul Harkins wrote in a footnote to *War As I Knew It* that "Once in a while it was necessary to use radio telephone, which was handled over a regular telephone system installed in the truck. One of the two telephones - incidentally, it had a green receiver was a direct line to General Bradley and General Eisenhower. This particular telephone had a device scrambled the words as they passed over the wire and come out spoken at the other end. Most of the General's oaths [profanity] were used at this device. It seemed he could never get it in phase and complained that it scrambled his words before he uttered them."<sup>10</sup>



### Telephones in Patton Vans

In 2011 to 2013 the original Patton van was restored near as possible to its original configuration. The volunteers restoring the van carefully documented all of the electrical outlets located near the desks. These were phone related connections. <sup>11</sup>



A careful study was made of these connections by the Third Army Historical Society. <sup>12</sup> There findings were confirmed when the US Army T6 Phone and British made Scrambler phones were compared. This was matched with the outside phone line connections located on the passenger side of the van below the antenna connection. Both the phone connections entered into the van from this point. <sup>13</sup>



The TP6 phone was compatible with any switchboard and had a local battery connection located within the van. This too was also true of the scrambler phone. Neither of these phones had the (yet to be invented) curlycue headset cord. Both phones in the recreation Patton van are connected as they once were in 1944 and they both work.

Patton's personal call sign and his phone connection number was Lucky 6. His forward headquarters was called Lucky Forward.<sup>14</sup>



"SA5063/1 Scrambler phone was introduced in February 1944. The phones were not a stand alone scrambler unit. They had to have a frequency changer mainframe consisting of a wooden or metal chest containing the tube based circuitry to modulate the signal and scramble or descrambled the signal into normal speech patterns. The SA5063/1 was fitted with two push buttons and a label marked SECRET and ENGAGE FOR SECRET (later SCRAMBLE and HOLD SCRAMBLER) but the ENGAGE FOR SECRET had no function if the instrument was connected to a direct exchange line.

#### Scrambler Phone

The phones were not a stand alone scrambler unit. They had to have a frequency changer mainframe consisting of a wooden or metal chest containing the tube-based circuitry to modulate the signal and scramble or descrambled the signal into normal speech patterns. By 1944 they had introduced a unit what would run on 110 volts, which would work with most Army generators. Patton van and work trailer had such generators.<sup>15</sup>



to



Frequency Changer No 6AC.

“Introduced in January 1944, this CV1052 tube based unit had a power supply designed to run on either 100-110v/200-250v. AC or 12v DC (via a vibrator circuit) for use in instances of mains power unavailability or failure.”<sup>16</sup> It could scramble up three phones. This frequency changer is extremely rare and considered to be top secret.

The scramble phone and would have been listed under the Signal Corps inventory and removed periodically when Patton was not using of his van or his semi-trailer office trailer. It was replaced by the British type ten radio mobile set.<sup>17</sup>



Patton had little privacy during his command of the Third Army. What little he had was found in the living quarters of the cabin. Here he could relax a little, smoke a cigar and read

his many books. Based in the accounts, the recreation Patton van is an accurate representation of Patton's living quarters in the field. <sup>18</sup>



**Original**

**Fire Extinguisher**

**Recreation**

There is a fire extinguisher bracket in the original Patton van and the recreation has one of the period and the extinguisher that goes in it. This was next to Patton's bed headboard to allow quick use at night in case of fire

The van had a gasoline-fired heater in it which was located above the bed. There is a fire extinguisher bracket to the left of the bed and it can be reached from the bed. This was a safety precaution as the Evanair heaters had to be hand lit by match and caution had to be used not to cause a fire or a flash explosion.





There has been quite a study of what would have been inside the Patton van. Much of this comes from eye-witness accounts.



Library Box

Attached to the opposite side of the cabinet with the sink was a small library shelf. It contained from time to time a five volume set of “The History of the Norman Conquest of England,” published in the 1870’s, Arthur Bryant’s Years of Endurance, about the Napoleonic wars. Freeman’s Norman Conquest, The Holy Bible, Rudyard Kipling Verse, published in 1940, Rommel’s Infantry Attacks, Caesar’s Gallic War, A life of Jeb Stuart, Webster Collegiate Dictionary and Roots of Strategy by Thomas R. Phillips.<sup>19</sup>

There is a cigar box. Patton loved 9 inch 24 karat Havana gold cigars.<sup>20</sup>

Colonel Robert Allen wrote in his book Lucky Forward,” “When we landed in the Contentin, a copy of Freeman’s The Norman Conquest was in his trailer. He had carefully studied the volume to learn the roads used by William the Conqueror in his campaigns in Normandy and Brittany. Patton reasoned that in medieval times such roads had to be all weather thoroughfares and therefore could be used by tanks to bypass the enemy-mined modern highways. Patton read many other volumes on wars in Europe and pored over countless maps. He collected maps the way some men do art treasures. He knew the entire road net of France and Germany by memory.”<sup>21</sup>

## General Patton's artifacts of everyday living



Leica Camera Set

This is the Leica Camera used by General Patton throughout WWII. It was made by Ernest Leitz Company in Germany in the 1930's. The carry case is marked on the back is gold letters G.S.P. Jr.



Leica Camera set

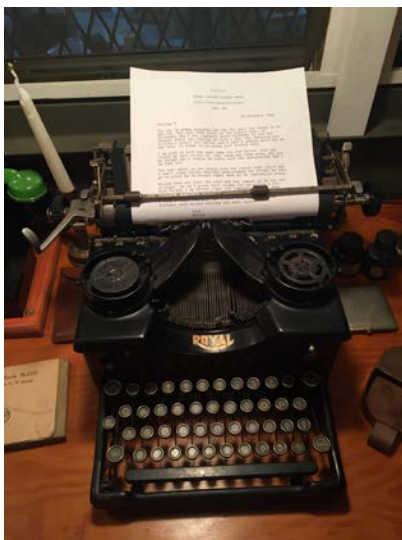
An original Leica camera was located of the exact make model and year of the original camera and placed on display in the recreation.

## Leica Camera

General Patton had his own German-made 35mm Leica camera made by Ernst Leitz Wetzlar and was fond of taking his own pictures. Patton took many photographs and had them sent home to Beatrice. She put them in scrapbooks and labeled them as to what they were. In 1986 all of the scrapbooks were donated to the Library of Congress.<sup>22</sup>

## Lighting in side the Patton van

During the conversion, the original light were utilized and or left in place. This provided overhead lights and lights for the map board. During blackout periods, the shades could be drawn and the overhead lights turned off. The cab has two 6 volt lights with red lenses and could be turned on for a short time to be able to move around in the van. They were connected directly to the 6-volt batteries located in the floor of the cabin.



## Royal Typewriter

Patton had most of his letters dictated to his private secretary, Joseph Rosevich. He did type but his spelling was not good and his handwriting was in cursive was almost unreadable. However he is known to have typed letters home when he found the time.

The typewriter on the desk is antique 1920's Royal typewriter. The Royal 10 was introduced in 1914. It had two beveled glass panels on either side of the machine. A later version only had one glass panel on either side. It is not clear at what point exactly that change was made. However, the machine presented here, with two glass panels, has a serial number that fits a production date in 1923. This is exceptional, because most of these machines with double glass panels have serial numbers from the first



production year.

The Royal 10 was marketed as being the sturdiest and strongest typewriter around. To underscore the point, the Royal company even organized stunts, where it threw typewriters (in crates) from airplanes, to show that they would even survive a fall.

Most of the personal typing was by Patton's secretary Joseph Rosevich.

Most of Patton's correspondence during WWII was typed from short hand by Sgt. Joseph Rosevich. As a Delaware native, Rosevich graduated from Wilmington High School and the University of Delaware. He took shorthand and typing at Goldey College, and later earned his master's degree at Teachers College of Columbia University. He taught at Surrattsville High School in Preston, Md., until World War II. Patton promoted Rosevich from private to master sergeant, and in Sicily, awarded him the Bronze Star for meritorious service. Patton could not endure errors -- on the battlefield or in the office. So the letter of commendation he dictated to Rosevich was something of a medal in itself: "My dear Sgt. Rosevich: You have been my personal secretary since Feb. 15, 1942, and have accompanied me in all my campaigns. Your work has been of very high class, both rapid and accurate. I am sorry that the exigencies of the service cause us to separate and I hereby commend you for the superior performance of duty. Very sincerely, G.S. Patton Jr., General."<sup>23</sup>



Phonograph Player  
Patton had a record player that he used to teach himself foreign languages. It was said he was trying to teach himself Spanish. He was fluent in French and could speak German. Patton had many personal effects in the van. Among them was a phonograph he used to teach himself different languages. He wrote home to Beatrice, "I still work with my phonograph daily," and he had a record that taught him both French and German.<sup>24</sup>

WWII Special Services US Army Crank Style Gramophone Record Player. The crank winds up the motor spring. The tone arm has a needle and it follows the grooves in the hard vinyl record. Its vibrations are transferred through the echo chamber and can be heard for some distance. There is a spare needle chamber. The crank arm, when removed from the hole in the front of the case, is stored inside the case. The crank arm winds the spring located underneath the round turn table covered with felt. The cover is hinged and has 2 hasps to secure the cover closed. There is a leather carrying handle on the left side of the case, and secured by brackets that holds it. This gramophone functions well and the turntable rotates after being cranked.



#### Sun Lamp

Lt. Col. Robert Allen wrote of Patton's health during the battle of the bulge and stated, "Patton is having the water de-chlorinated to be more palatable for him due to stomach problems. He also has use of a sun lamp to help his complexion".<sup>25</sup> It is believed Patton acquired his sun lamp in England and a lamp of this type appears in the first photographs of the inside of his new van on June 10, 1944.

A British made lamp of the period was acquired for the recreation Patton van and installed in the approximate location of the one in the first photographs. It is a fully functional heat lamp complete with a heat lamp bulb.





Patton is known to have had quite a few private purchase items he carried with him. Many were donated to the Patton Museum by his family. Some were given away by him to his fellow soldiers and friends.



1925 G.E. personal fan with six inch brass blades made in 1925. It is the smallest personal fans ever offered by G.E. It is a one speed plug in fan with a 110 volt AC/DC motor. It measures 8 inches tall, the cage is 7 inches wide and the base is 4 inches across.

Leica Camera made in 1930's by Ernest Leitz company of Germany

Private Purchase collapsible leather alarm clock

Porcelain and metal cup from Officer's mess kit

Collected Verse Rudyard Kipling Original edition book of poetry (Patton's favorite poet and book)

Leather cased private purchase Officer model Folding Knife Fork Spoon with glass WWII

Salt and Pepper shakers

VAT 69 Liquor bottled circa 1940. Stopper cork with branded paper strip seal. Royal Warrant to King George VI. 70 proof. Level base of neck

Cigar box: Patton enjoyed nine inch 24 carrot Havana cigars

## Patton Museum Artifacts

These are the artifacts donated by the Patton Family to the Patton Museum

### Patton's Private purchase Living in the field

Not everything can be requisitions through supply. Private purchase items and were used when available. Patton had quite a few.



**Welsbro Wrist Watch**  
General Patton received this as a gift from his son at Christmas. It is inscribed on the back "George S. Patton/US Army/12/24/44. He wore this watch until his accident in 1945.



**Leica Camera Set**  
This is the Leica Camera used by General Patton through out WWII. It was made by Ernest Leitz Company in Germany in the 1930's. The carry case is marked on the back is gold letters G.S.P. Jr.

Patton was an amateur photographer and filed several scrap books with his photographs. They are now located in the Library of Congress



Braces purchased at Hammacher Schiemmer, New York

Patton often wore this "Brace" as it was known then. Commonly known today as suspenders. It was adorned with half naked ladies swimming.



Patton was seldom seen wearing his gloves but carried them in one hand with his riding crop wrapped in them.

Folding cot "Komfort Kot" made by the Byer Mfg Co. Orono, Maine.



Patton carried a light weight private purchase cot that he could place in a jeep, command car or with his travel gear on an L 5. He was not always sure where he might spend the night.



Patton had a monogrammed set of silver plated shaving soap brush and hair brushes in his mobile van



**Fougere Royal**  
After Shaving Talcum  
(Royal Fern)  
Houbigant  
New York

Patton carried a riding crop with him almost everywhere. It became part of his persona among his troops.



Image of Patton Museum Artifacts are images taken by the author and appear in his book (s) <sup>26</sup>





**Original MP 48 Antenna**

Original restored Patton Van inside Patton Museum Fort Knox Kentucky. It was connected to the radio inside the van above in the upper cabinet. The radio is the original Patton van no longer exist.



**Original MP 48 Antenna**

On recreation Patton Van and is connected to an original Tube radio, of the period and does work. The radio inside the van is located in the upper cabinet where in original would have been located.

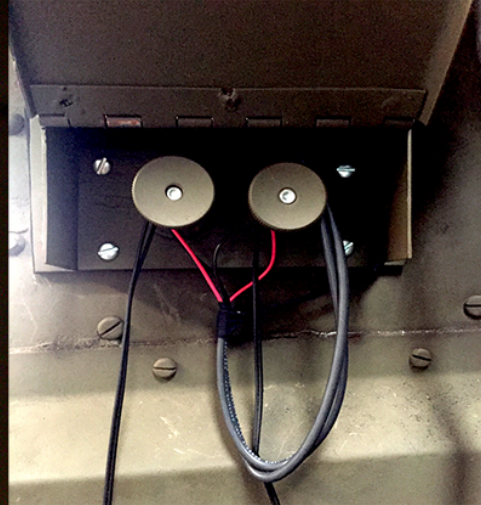
The original Patton van and the recreation Patton van can be attached to outside power generators. The original van had a generator located the rear of the front cab under the cabin. It was a gasoline generator and provided 110 power source to the cabin. <sup>27</sup>

The recreation Patton van can be hooked to an generator or plugged into a 110 volt power source.



Recreation two Line Phone terminals

These two line in terminals allow the TP6 phone and the Sc ramble phone to be connected to a switchboard or scrambler device.



Recreation two Line Phone terminals

These two line in terminals allow the TP6 phone and the Sc ramble phone to be connected to a switchboard or scrambler device.

### Communications into the Patton Van

For years there were questions as to what some of the wiring still present on the outside of the Patton van was used. Those questions can now be answered.

Below the electrical box is a smaller box with a hinged lid. This has two sets of connectors that can be hooked to external switchboards and TP6 and Scramble phone lines. In Patton headquarters there were several mobile vans full of switchboard equipment and manned by the 301<sup>st</sup> Signal Corps attached to Patton Headquarters.

The phone lines wires were ran from the 301<sup>st</sup> Signal Corps vans to Patton's van and his semi-trailer.<sup>28</sup>



Inside Mobile Communication Van

The mobile communication van that ran the wiring into the Patton van was manned 24 hours a day. This is photograph from the top secret Third Army After Action Report, Signal Section report. 1945



Indoor Communication 3rd Army Communication System

When the 3rd Army Billeted indoors the mobile communication moved indoors and operated with in the buildings provided. This photographs is from the Top secret Signal Corps Third Army After Action Report; 1945





**Major General Hugh Gaffey**

**General Patton**

**Intelligence Office Major Melvin C. Helfers**

#### **Patton's Field Office outside his Mobile Van**

Patton used the canvas strung from his mobile van as an office. At night, he would sit out, smoking his cigar. On August 10th 1944 his HQ area was under heavy bombing. An officer delivered a message to him during the bombing.

Col. Wallace stated, "When the corps officer returned to my tent and was ready to leave, I asked him what General Patton had been doing when he reached him during the heavy bombing. "He was sitting there in a deck chair" the officer replied, "in the field a little way from his trailer. He was smoking a cigar and looking up at the sky, all lit up with the Jerry's lanterns, watching the bombing. I was nervous and perspiring and jumpy, the officer went on, "but the General was cool as a cucumber. He just looked into the sky and kept saying, "those god damn bastards, those rotten sons of bitches! We'll get them! We'll get them."



**Rare image of Patton leaving his mobile HQ  
August 26, 1944**





Patton did not use his van exclusively as an official office while in the field. The volume of work required and the number of visitors he met while in the field did not give him any privacy. His work office was moved to a mobile semi-truck and trailer attached. Above the desk are a series of lights that look as if there are too many for such a small space. The reason for this is the van started out as a mobile workshop van and was designed as such.





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- <sup>1</sup> Patton Papers, Library of Congress, Letter is Beatrice Patton from George Patton June 1944
- <sup>2</sup> Inside the Turret Newspaper Fort Knox Kentucky Friday May 7, 1965
- <sup>3</sup> Hicks Body Company, Maintenance and Parts Book, Body Mobile Shop  
Truck Built for the Ordnance Department, Hicks Body Company, Inc, Lebanon Indiana, 1941
- <sup>4</sup> OV 17 Folder, Patton Papers, Library of Congress
- <sup>5</sup> Patton Museum of Armor and Cavalry, Photographic files
- <sup>6</sup> Patton, Diary entry April 12, 1945.
- <sup>7</sup> Images shared with Denny Hair, Pre-restoration image inventory, Patton Van, Patton Van, *Patton Museum of Leadership*, Fort Knox Kentucky, 2011-2012
- <sup>8</sup> <http://www.armorfortheages.com/MilitaryVehicles/PattonVan/PattonVan.html>
- <sup>9</sup> Third Army Historical Society, Restoration team, *The study of the original Patton Van images, Images provided by the Patton Museum, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2012 and on site inspection the team 2013. Team members, Denny Hair, William White, and Charles Wallace, conclusions 2018.*
- <sup>10</sup> Patton, George S. Jr., *War As I Knew It* Paperback Bantam Books New York 1947 page 291
- <sup>11</sup> Images shared with Denny Hair, *Pre-restoration image inventory by Don Moriarty*, Patton Van, Patton Museum of Leadership, Fort Knox Kentucky, 2011-2012
- <sup>12</sup> Third Army Historical Society, Restoration team, *The study of the original Patton Van images, Images provided by the Patton Museum, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2012 and on site inspection the team 2013. Team members, Denny Hair, William White, and Charles Wallace, conclusions 2018.*
- <sup>13</sup> Third Army Historical Society, Restoration team, *The study of the original Patton Van images, Images provided by the Patton Museum, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2012 and on site inspection the team 2013. Team members, Denny Hair, William White, and Charles Wallace, conclusions 2018.*
- <sup>14</sup> Third Army. "After Action Reports Vol.1 ."
- . "After Action Reports, Vol. 2." May 1945.
- <sup>15</sup> Grant, Andy. "Scrambled Everything that you need to know about scramblers but were afraid to ask." *Telecommunications Heritage Journal*, Issue Number 99, Summer 2017, ISSN 1353-0097. Pages 11-15
- <sup>16</sup> *Ibid*
- <sup>17</sup> *Ibid*
- <sup>18</sup> Third Army Historical Society, Restoration team, *The study of the original Patton Van images, Images provided by the Patton Museum, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2012 and on site inspection the team 2013. Team members, Denny Hair, William White, and Charles Wallace, conclusions 2018*
- <sup>19</sup> Nye, Roger H. *The Patton Mind: The Professional Development of an Extraordinary Leader*. Garden City: Avery Publishing Group, Inc., 1993.
- <sup>20</sup> Stowe, Leland. "Old Blood and Guts off the Record." *Esquire Magazine* October 1949. page 139-140
- <sup>21</sup> Allen, Lucky Forward: *The History of Patton's Third U.S. Army 50-52*; description from author's notes upon visiting the original Van at the Patton Museum, Fort Knox Kentucky
- <sup>22</sup> George S. Patton Papers Collection, Oversize Albums (Container 62), Box OV 19 1944-1946." Washington, D.C.: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, n.d.
- <sup>23</sup> Jocquot, Ruth, newspaper article, "Former Secretary to Patton says Toughness Mostly Legend, *Journal Every Evening Newspaper*, Wilmington Delaware, Thursday August 23, 1945 page 2
- <sup>24</sup> Wallace, , General Brenton, Patton and his Third Army
- <sup>25</sup> Robert Allen Journal November 30, 1944
- <sup>26</sup> Hair, Denny, Patton Hidden in Plain Sight series, *The Images Uncovered*, Book 6, Third Army Publishing, Houston Texas 2018
- <sup>27</sup> Patton, George S., Jr. *War As I Knew It*. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin, 1947
- <sup>28</sup> Third Army. "After Action Reports, Vol. 2. Signal Corps Section" May 1945.
- <sup>29</sup> All images, unless otherwise stated, are from the Patton Papers, Library of Congress, or are the authors collection and taken by the author. All colorizations were done by the author in photo-shop. Special thanks to Don Morority, who sent images directly to Denny Hair during the pre-restoration phase of the original Patton Van, forty Knox Kentucky. Special thanks to Christopher Kolakowski, Director of the Patton Museum at the time.



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Note: The information contained herein are excerpts from the books and their original footnotes have been added to the text. The books are

Hair, Denny, Patton Hidden in Plain Sight series, The Battle Before the War Book 1, Third Army Publishing, Houston Texas 2018

Hair, Denny, Patton Hidden in Plain Sight series, The Third Army Goes to War Book 2, Third Army Publishing, Houston Texas 2018

Hair, Denny, Patton Hidden in Plain Sight series, A prediction Ignored and a Prayer book 3, Third Army Publishing, Houston Texas 2018

Hair, Denny, Patton Hidden in Plain Sight series, Secrets Hidden, book 4, Third Army Publishing, Houston Texas 2018

Hair, Denny, Patton Hidden in Plain Sight series, A Grateful Nation, book 5, Third Army Publishing, Houston Texas 2018

Hair, Denny, Patton Hidden in Plain Sight series, The Images Uncovered, book 6, Third Army Publishing, Houston Texas 2018

Additional footnotes are included from the following sources

Images shared with Denny Hair, Pre-restoration image inventory, Patton Van, Patton Van, Patton Museum of Leadership, Fort Knox Kentucky, 2011-2012

Patton Van Display, Patton Museum of Cavalry and Armor, Fort Knox, Kentucky, 2008

<http://www.armorfortheages.com/MilitaryVehicles/PattonVan/PattonVan.html>

Third Army Historical Society, Restoration team, The study of the original Patton Van images, Images provided by the Patton Museum, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2012 and on site inspection the team 2013. Team members, Denny Hair, William White, and Charles Wallace, conclusions 2018.