

GO TO MASTER INDEX OF WARFARE

## GENERAL GEORGE SMITH PATTON, JR.



"War, stress or conflict is to the man what maternity is to the woman. I do not believe in perpetual peace; not only do I not believe in it but I find it depressing and a negation of all the fundamental virtues of man."

— [Benito Mussolini](#)



**“NARRATIVE HISTORY” AMOUNTS TO FABULATION,  
THE REAL STUFF BEING MERE CHRONOLOGY**



**GENERAL PATTON**

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**1885**

November 11, Wednesday: [George Smith Patton, Jr.](#) was born in San Gabriel, [California](#).

**NOBODY COULD GUESS WHAT WOULD HAPPEN NEXT**





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**1897**

[George Smith Patton, Jr.](#) was enrolled in Stephen Cutter Clark's Classical School in Pasadena, [California](#).

**LIFE IS LIVED FORWARD BUT UNDERSTOOD BACKWARD?  
— NO, THAT'S GIVING TOO MUCH TO THE HISTORIAN'S STORIES.  
LIFE ISN'T TO BE UNDERSTOOD EITHER FORWARD OR BACKWARD.**



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1904

[George Smith Patton, Jr.](#) attended the Virginia Military Institute, and then enrolled at the United States Military Academy – West Point.



In about this period, he wrote a typically belligerent poem:

### A Toast

Oh! here's to the snarl of the striving steel  
When eye met eye on the foughten field  
And the life went out with the entering steel  
In the days when war was war.

And here's to the men who fought and strove  
And parried and hacked and thrust and clove  
Who fought for honor and fought for love  
In the days when war was war.

Oh! here's to the maids for whom they fought  
For whom they strove, of whom they thought  
The maids whose love they nobly sought  
In the days when war was war.

(Clearly, like de Sade, here is an author who writes with one hand on his pen and the other on his penis.)



"War, stress or conflict is to the man what maternity is to the woman. I do not believe in perpetual peace; not only do I not believe in it but I find it depressing and a negation of all the fundamental virtues of man."

– [Benito Mussolini](#)





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**1905**

Due to deficiencies in mathematics, [George Smith Patton, Jr.](#) was granted a do-over for his Plebe year at West Point. (Go figure, George.)

[Harry S Truman](#) moved to a rooming house at 1314 Troost Avenue in Kansas City, Missouri. He was working as a bookkeeper for the Union National Bank. He enlisted as a private in Battery B of the Missouri National Guard (he would soon be promoted to corporal).

**THE FUTURE IS MOST READILY PREDICTED IN RETROSPECT**





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1909

[George Smith Patton, Jr.](#) attained the post of Cadet Adjutant at the United States Military Academy – West Point and graduated 46th out of a class of 103. He was commissioned as a 2d Lieutenant in the Cavalry. He reported to the 15th Cavalry at Fort Sheridan, [Illinois](#).



Heaven help us! —He was still writing with pen in one hand and penis in the other:

The brave went down  
Without disgrace they leaped to ruin's red embrace  
They only heard fame's thunder wake  
And saw the dazzling sun burst break  
In smiles on glory's bloody face.

**THE FUTURE CAN BE EASILY PREDICTED IN RETROSPECT**





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**1910**

[George Smith Patton, Jr.](#) and Beatrice Ayer were wed (as we have been informed, only the brave deserve the fair).

**Do I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION? GOOD.**



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**1911**

March 19, Sunday: Beatrice "Bee" Smith Patton was born.

**NO-ONE'S LIFE IS EVER NOT DRIVEN PRIMARILY BY HAPPENSTANCE**





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**1912**

[George Smith Patton, Jr.](#) placed 5th in the Olympics' Military Pentathlon at Stockholm, Sweden.



**CHANGE IS ETERNITY, STASIS A FIGMENT**



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### 1913

2d Lieutenant [George Smith Patton, Jr.](#) attended the French Cavalry School and studied French sword drill, becoming the US Army’s first “Master of the Sword.” He placed a paper about the proper form and use of the cavalry saber in the [Journal of the U.S. Cavalry Association](#). He designed the US Army’s M1913 saber. He graduated from the Mounted Service School at Fort Riley, Kansas.



Skilled Swordsmen	
Saint Ignatius Loyola	President Harry S Truman
Michel Angelo	General George Patton
Sir Walter Raleigh	Heinrich Himmler
René Descartes	Hermann Göring
John Milton	Juan Péron
George Frederick Handel	Francisco Franco
Johann Wolfgang von Goethe	Benito Mussolini
Karl Marx	Oswald Mosley
Sir Richard Burton	Reinhard Heydrich
Aleksandr Pushkin	

One gathers that he was already insane. But, in a useful way.



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1914

[George Smith Patton, Jr.](#) graduated from the Advanced Course at the Cavalry School at Fort Riley, Kansas. He wrote the US Army Saber Regulations of 1914. Boo hoo, the War Department would refuse him permission to serve with the French Cavalry in the WWI fighting in Europe.



WHAT I'M WRITING IS TRUE BUT NEVER MIND  
YOU CAN ALWAYS LIE TO YOURSELF



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1915

[George Smith Patton, Jr.](#) purchased his famous Ivory-Handled Colt .45 “Peacemaker” revolver. He reported for duty at Fort Bliss, [Texas](#) where he encountered General Pershing. Ruth Ellen Patton was born.



February 28, Sunday: Ruth Ellen Patton was born.



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1916

To protect their positions from German aerial spotters, British and French artillerists begin covering their firing pits with burlap-festooned fishnets. Thus the beginning of modern military camouflage.

[Harry S Truman](#) joined the Grandview Baptist Church in Grandview, Missouri. He helped organize an oil-drilling company that would be named the Morgan Oil and Refining Company, investing \$10,000 and becoming its treasurer and managing perhaps to recover his investment before the company was dissolved in 1919.

2d Lieutenant [George Smith Patton, Jr.](#) served as aide to General Pershing in the [Mexican](#) Punitive Expedition. Riding along was Peggy Hull of the El Paso [Times](#), who is usually regarded as our initial female war correspondent (actually, Margaret Fuller had reported on the Italian Revolution for the New York [Herald Tribune](#), although nobody pays any attention to this). As part of this, Patton commanded the first use of mechanical vehicles in combat (his mechanized vehicles being a couple of Dodge touring cars). He got to use his new Colt .45 pistol to kill “General” Cardenas, head of Villa’s bodyguard — that must have been a real thrill. He carved two notches into the ivory grips of his weapon.



He was promoted to 1st Lieutenant. He wrote some more one-handed poetry:

### Valor

When all the hearts are opened  
And all the secrets known  
When guile and lies are banished  
And subterfuge is gone

When God rolls up the curtain  
And hidden truths appear  
When the ghastly light of Judgement Day  
Brings past and present near...

Then shall we know what once we knew  
Before wealth dimmed our sight  
That of all the sins, the blackest is



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The pride which will not fight.

The meek and pious have a place  
And necessary are,  
But valor pales their puny rays  
As does the sun a star.

What race of man since time began  
Has ever yet remained  
Who trusted not its own right hand  
Or from brave deeds refrained?

Yet, spite the fact for ages known  
And by all lands displayed  
We still have those who prate of peace  
And say that war is dead.

Yes, vandals rise who seek to snatch  
The laurels from the brave  
And dare defame heroic dead  
Now filling hero graves.

They speak of those whose love,  
Like Christ's, exceeds the lust of life  
As murderers slain to no avail  
A useless sacrifice.

With infamy without a name  
They mock our fighting youth  
And dare decry great hearts who die  
Battling for right and truth.

Woe to the land which, heeding them,  
Lets avarice gain the day  
And trusting gold its rights to hold  
Lets manly might decay.

Let us, while willing yet for peace,  
Still keep our valor high  
So when our time of battle comes  
We shall not fear to die.

Make love of life and ease be less  
Make love of country more  
So shall our patriotism be  
More than an empty roar.

For death is nothing, comfort less  
Valor is all in all  
Base nations who depart from it  
Shall sure and justly fall.

### L'Envoi

When the last great battle is finished  
And the last great general shall fall,  
When the roar of the mighty guns is dumb  
As the kiss of the nicked ball,  
When the screams of the dying that mixed  
With the shout that the living give out  
As they rush on the foe,  
When the mixed noise of an army in flight  
The gasp and the curse and the shouting are low,  
When soldiers have ceased to struggle,



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When war is raged with the tongue,  
When men are praised for cowardice  
    And men for bravery hung,  
When honor and virtue and courage  
    Are fled like departing day  
As the cursed shape of eternal peace  
    Comes up on the evening gray,  
When money is God and Lord of all  
    And liars alone have weight,  
When the road to heaven is barred with gold  
    And wide yawns Hell's black gate --  
Then those who live in servile chains  
    To filthy lucre slaves  
Ah, how they will yearn for the soldier's life  
    And for the hero's grave,  
And will say as they sadly think of it:  
    War was a priceless benefit  
    Although a sacrifice.



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1917

Captain [George Smith Patton, Jr.](#) was promoted twice to the temporary rank of Lieutenant Colonel.



He scribbled down some more of his trademark one-handed poetry:

### The Curse Of Kant

The papers publish sob-stuff  
And drool of the horrors of strife  
They speak of the fallen as murdered  
And lie about us and our life.

But we who are in it know better  
There still is a glory to war  
The death which one dies for Country  
Is nobler than ever before.

The wolf which fights not for her litter  
The man who resents not a blow  
The nation which makes mock of glory  
Shall perish in limitless woe.

Men who have struggled as heroes  
Men who have suffered and bled  
Men who have frozen and hungered  
Should be honored, living or dead.

But ours who have prated of ethics  
And cringed at the sufferings of strife  
Dishonor their land and their women  
And the pains which have given them life.

The youth who dies for his country  
But follows the teachings of God  
Giving life that others may prosper  
He treads as his Savior trod.

Then seek not in maudlin pity  
To regret those nobly slain



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Who die in their land's service  
Have never lived in vain.

For those whose lives are spent in lust  
Of ease or wealth or food  
Whose souls have rotted e'er they died  
Whose deaths have done no good.

For such set up your woeful howls  
For such pour forth your prayers  
The brave who dies needs not your sighs  
Nor for your pity cares.

Let papers cease to mourn the lost  
Mourn fights we do not gain  
Instead of mulling o'er the dead  
Enlist! Replace the slain.

**The Bronco Pass**

We crouched on the rocky hilltop  
The key to the Bronco Pass;  
While the heat waves rose up, wiggling  
Where the wounded lay in the grass.

They lay there in the blistering heat  
Of early afternoon;  
We couldn't even quench their thirst,  
For all our water was gone,

The dark blood dried in tricklets.  
For punctured bellies came  
Bubbles, the stinkingness of which  
Has never found a name.

Yet still we held to the boulders,  
Hoping supports would come;  
And still, on every side of us,  
Crawled ever closer-doom.

The grit from smitten granite  
Flew blinding in our eyes;  
The bullets, screaming overhead  
Drowned out our wounded's cries.

Now, only five of us were left  
And three of them were hit;  
Yet still we fought, despairing,  
Like trapped rats in a pit.

The man beside me shuddered,  
His brains shut out my sight.  
I tried to wipe the goo away,  
And when I woke 'twas night.

You say they found me when they came,  
Laying amongst the dead;  
Hugging my empty rifle  
With a bullet in my head?

No I haven't any parents  
And I haven't any folks;  
I'm just a poor goddamned recruit,  
And this is where I croaks.



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The soldier ceased from speaking,  
The room was very still;  
The doctor, stooping, closed the eyes  
Of him who held the hill.

**A Code Of Action**

I didn't begin with askings  
I took my job and stuck  
I took the chances they wouldn't  
And now they are calling it luck.

In wondrous catlike ability  
For grasping all things which go by  
To land on my feet with agility  
No one is greater than I.

In doing the things others will not  
In standing the blows others shirk  
In grasping the chance that returns not  
And never yet shirking my work.

For these gifts, Oh! God, I thank Thee  
Pray let me continue the same  
Since, by doing things well which are nearest  
Perhaps I shall yet rise to fame.

It is not in intricate planning  
Nor yet in regretting the past  
That great men whose lives we are watching  
Have gained to their greatness at last.

Hence praise we the just mead of striving  
Which foolish make light of as luck  
There never was yet luck in shirking  
While much is accomplished through pluck.

So seize I the things which are nearest  
And studious fall on my feet  
Do ever in all things my damndest  
And never, Oh, never retreat!

Senator Hiram Johnson commented that "The first casualty when war comes is truth." (Had he been aware of the above one-handed poems by the temporary lieutenant-colonel, he might have opined instead that "The first casualty when war comes is poetry.")

May 28, Monday: The American Psychological Association's Committee on Psychological Examination of Recruits met at Vineland, New Jersey to devise personnel classification methods for the US military. Robert M. Yerkes was chair while other participants were Edgar A. Doll, Henry H. Goddard, Thomas H. Haines, Lewis M. Terman, Frederick L. Wells, and Guy M. Whipple, and the committee would develop the Army Alpha and Army Beta Tests.

Captain [George Smith Patton, Jr.](#) boarded ship to France as General Pershing's aide. He would be transferred from the Cavalry to the fledgling Tank Corps and would organize the American Tank School at Langres in France. He would train the 304th Tank Brigade, the soldiers of which would constitute the first 500 soldiers in the US Tank Corps.



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**1918**

[George Smith Patton, Jr.](#) was still writing his trademark one-handed war poetry. The guy was simply shameless. Why was no-one alerted by this to have him locked up in a loonie bin for observation, before it was too late?

### **The Precious Babies**

Up and down the roadways,  
Through the German ranks,  
Nosing out machine guns,  
Come the baby tanks.  
Scrambling through the crater,  
Splashing through the pool,  
Like the Usher's happy boys,  
Bounding out of school.

Fritz is great on wirefields,  
Trust the Boche for that,  
But his choicest efforts  
Fall extremely flat.  
Wasted in the weaving  
Of laborious days,  
When the merry infant class  
Scampers through the maze.

Cheerful little children  
Of an American brain,  
Winning ravished country  
Back to France again.  
On thru town and village  
Shepherded by Yanks  
Romping, blithe and rollicking,  
Roll the baby tanks.

### **To Our First Dead**

They died for France, like countless thousands more  
Who, in this war, have faltered not to go  
At duty's bidding, even unto death.  
And yet no deaths which history record  
Were fraught with greater consequence than theirs.  
A nation shuddered as their spirits passed'  
And unborn babies trembled in the womb  
In sympathetic anguish at their fate.

Far from their homes and in ungainful strife  
They gave their all, in that they gave their life;  
While their young blood, shed in this distant land  
Shall be more potent than the dragon's teeth  
To raise up soldiers to avenge their fall.

Men talked of sacrifice, but there was none.  
Death found them unafraid and free to come  
Before their God. In righteous battle slain,  
A joyous privilege theirs the first to go  
In that their going doomed to certain wrath  
A thousand foeman for each drop they gave  
Of sacramental crimson to the cause.



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And so their youthful forms all dank and still  
All stained with tramlings in unlovely mud,  
We laid to rest beneath the soil of France  
So often honored with the hero slain  
-Yet never greater so than on this day  
When we interred our first dead in her heart.

There let them rest, wrapped in her verdant arms  
Their task well done. Now from the smoke-veiled sky  
They watch our khaki legions press to certain victory  
Because of them who showed us how to die.

### In Memoriam

The war is over and we pass  
To pleasure after pain  
Except those few who ne'er shall see  
Their native land again.

To one of these my memory turns  
Noblest of the noble slain  
To Captain English of the Tanks  
Who never shall return.

Yet should some future war exact  
Of me the final debt  
My fondest hope would be to tread  
The path which he has set.

For faithful unto God and man  
And to his country true  
He died to live forever  
In the hearts of those he knew.

Death found in him no faltering  
But faithful to the last  
He smiled into the face of Fate  
And mocked it as he passed.

No, death to him was not defeat  
But victory sublime  
The grave promoted him to be  
A hero for all time.

September 12, Thursday: New Zealanders breached the outer defenses of the Hindenburg Line at Havrincourt, southeast of Cambrai.

The American forces (2d Division, including the Marine Brigade) and French forces attacked the [Germans](#) in the Saint Mihiel salient, near Verdun. The salient would be reduced in four days. Three American officers saw action: [Colonel Douglas MacArthur](#), [Colonel George Smith Patton, Jr.](#) (only temporarily a colonel, as a battlefield expedient), and Captain George C. Marshall.



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September 26, Thursday: In the midst of an epidemic, 160 citizens of Boston died of influenza or pneumonia on this day.

American and French forces attacked the [Germans](#) in the Meuse-Argonne region while the French attacked simultaneously in Champagne.



[George Smith Patton, Jr.](#) led the 304th Tank Brigade in combat at St. Mihiel. He received a temporary battlefield promotion to the rank of Colonel. He would be severely wounded in action, by machine-gun fire, during this offensive and would receive the DSM, DSC, and the Silver Star, as well as his Purple Heart. It would all be over, over there, before his wounds could heal.



In actuality these severe wounds may have saved his life as they kept him in a French hospital and thus off of our convoys, on which such a high %age of our returning troops would succumb in an [influenza](#) epidemic.



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September 27, Friday: British troops take Irbid while Australians capture Er Ramtha, south of Der'a.

Arabs defeat a Turkish force at Sheikh Saad.

British forces attacked the [Germans](#) between Péronne and Lens, reaching Cambrai.



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**1919**

Still recovering from his wounds, with the war over and the influenza epidemic over, [George Smith Patton, Jr.](#) was able to return to the USA.



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1920

[Harry S Truman](#) was appointed as a major of Field Artillery in the Officers Reserve Corps.

When his Tank Corps was dissolved and his tanks assigned to the infantry, [George Smith Patton, Jr.](#) was remanded to his pre-war permanent rank of Captain. However, the day after reverting to his pre-war status he received a promotion to the permanent rank of Major and immediately joined the Cavalry. In the peacetime army this fearsome poet was going to play polo with a vengeance.



### Fear

I am that dreadful, blighting thing  
Like rat-holes to the flood  
Like rust that gnaws the faultless blade  
Like microbes to the blood.

I know no mercy and no truth  
The young I blight, the old I slay  
Regret stalks darkly in my wake  
And Ignominy dogs my way.

Sometimes in virtuous garb I rove  
With facile talk of easier way  
Seducing, where I dare not rape  
Young manhood from its honor's sway.

Again in awesome guise I rush  
Stupendous, through the ranks of war  
Turning to water with my gaze  
Hearts that before no foe could awe.

The maiden who has strayed from right  
To me must pay the mead of shame  
The patriot who betrayed his trust  
To me must own his tarnished name.

I spare no class, or cult, or creed  
My course is endless through the year



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I bow all heads and break all hearts  
All owe me homage-I am FEAR!

**"Fear of Fear" Trope**



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**1923**

December 24, Monday: [George Smith Patton IV](#) was born.

**GEORGE SMITH PATTON, JR.**



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1924

[George Smith Patton, Jr.](#) graduated from the US Army's Command and General Staff School.





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1926

September 8, Wednesday: [Germany](#), the reformed aggressor nation, was admitted to the League of Nations. World war was over, over, over.

In the interwar period, as part of a peacetime army, [George Smith Patton, Jr.](#) would be playing one hell of a lot of Polo. He would be experiencing a couple of tours of duty in Hawaii, a tour in the Office of the Chief of Cavalry at the War Department in Washington DC, and three tours of duty with the 3d Cavalry at Fort Myer, Virginia.



And he would get to kill absolutely nobody. He was like a mama in between babies. Ho-hum. Is peace going



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to last just forever?



Fortunately, our warrior had allies:



"War, stress or conflict is to the man what maternity is to the woman. I do not believe in perpetual peace; not only do I not believe in it but I find it depressing and a negation of all the fundamental virtues of man."

— [Benito Mussolini](#)





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1932

[George Smith Patton, Jr.](#) graduated from the US Army War College.



[Harry S Truman](#) was promoted to colonel in the Field Artillery Reserve.



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1935

[George Smith Patton, Jr.](#) was promoted to permanent rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He studied the feasibility of a [Japanese](#) attack on Pearl Harbor.<sup>1</sup>



WORLD WAR II

[Joseph R. McCarthy](#) received a degree in law at Marquette University (a Jesuit school) and was admitted to the Wisconsin bar. In college he had boxed as a heavyweight. During his years as a practicing attorney, he would make money on the side like Richard Nixon, in all-night poker games.

1. He concluded that “During a period of profound peace,” shielded by darkness and preceded by submarines, a sneak air attack would be a distinct possibility, that this would be entirely in accordance not only with Japan’s capabilities but also with its likely objectives, and commented that “It is the duty of the military to foresee and prepare against the worst possible eventuality.”



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**1939**

Lieutenant Colonel [George Smith Patton, Jr.](#) was promoted to permanent rank of Colonel. With nothing much going on, not being allowed to kill anybody, he considered retiring from the US Army. Jesus H. Christ, this peace stuff is so fucking boring!

### **Pourvou Que Ca Doure<sup>2</sup>**

Life grows, life is not made; you can make death.  
Neither were the sun nor the stars created,  
But grew from what grew before. Without the corruption of plants and corpses  
life could not grow.  
Look around you at civilization decaying and sick:  
look at science, corrupted  
To be death's bawd; and art — painting and sculpture,  
that had some dignity —  
Corrupted into the show-off antics of an imbecile child;  
and statecraft  
Into the antic gestures of a gin-muddled butcher-boy:  
look all around you,  
And praise the solitary hawk-flights of God, and say,  
what a stinking of famous corpses  
To fertilize the fields of the human future ... if man's back holds.

— [Robinson Jeffers](#)

2. This poem was entirely suppressed by the publisher, Random House — even after the war had been over for several years. (The title “Pourvou Que Ca Doure” refers to the final clause “if man’s back holds” and translates as “Provided That It Lasts.”)



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**1940**

July: On [St. Helena](#), the Friendly Societies Union met for the initial time. The Union had two representatives on the new Advisory Council.

Colonel [George Smith Patton, Jr.](#), an excellent swordsman, was promoted to Brigadier General and assumed command of the 2d Brigade, 2d Armored Division stationed at Fort Benning, Georgia (I have it on good authority that it didn't occur to anyone at the time that what we needed to do was deport this guy to [St. Helena](#).)



## Skilled Swordsmen

<a href="#">Saint Ignatius Loyola</a>	<a href="#">President Harry S Truman</a>
<a href="#">Michel Angelo</a>	<a href="#">General George Patton</a>
<a href="#">Sir Walter Raleigh</a>	<a href="#">Heinrich Himmler</a>
<a href="#">René Descartes</a>	<a href="#">Hermann Göring</a>
<a href="#">John Milton</a>	<a href="#">Juan Péron</a>
<a href="#">George Frederick Handel</a>	<a href="#">Francisco Franco</a>
<a href="#">Johann Wolfgang von Goethe</a>	<a href="#">Benito Mussolini</a>
<a href="#">Karl Marx</a>	<a href="#">Oswald Mosley</a>
<a href="#">Sir Richard Burton</a>	<a href="#">Reinhard Heydrich</a>
<a href="#">Aleksandr Pushkin</a>	



## GENERAL PATTON

## GENERAL GEORGE SMITH PATTON, JR.

GO TO MASTER INDEX OF WARFARE

1941

April: Brigadier General [George Smith Patton, Jr.](#) was promoted to Major General and assumed command of the 2d Armored Division stationed at Fort Benning, Georgia.

WORLD WAR II



The [Japanese](#) army<sup>3</sup> initiated a program for the construction of a uranium fission device, the initial step being the production of quantities of enriched <sup>235</sup>[Uranium](#) using the method of thermal diffusion. The program would be named “Ni-Go” and does not seem to have involved any concept of the construction of a dirty bomb. Uranium yellow-cake ore would be obtained from the hills of Fukushima Prefecture, Japan, using school students for field labor in the absence of adult males all of whom would be serving in the military.<sup>4</sup>

3. The Japanese navy would independently begin a similar program, named “F-Go.”

4. A number of the student laborers are still alive, such as [Kiwamu Ariga and Kuniteru Maeda](#), and remember being told, most impressively, that they were involved in the building of a bomb the size of a matchbox that would be capable of destroying the entire city of New York. Mr. Ariga comments that “I have no doubt Japan would have used it if it succeeded.” He adds, reflecting on the current Fukushima disaster, “We were brainwashed during the war, and we were brainwashed again after the war. Maybe we will get wise the third time.”



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1942

April 1, Wednesday: Fantasia on a Gregorian Theme for violin and piano by Norman Dello Joio was performed for the initial time, in the Town Hall of New York City.

The [Japanese](#) occupied Buka Island in the Solomons and Sorong and Hollandia in Netherlands New Guinea.

Over the last month some 15,000 Jews from Lvov had been sent to Belzec death camp.

ANTISEMITISM

The Naval Air Transport Service Squadron, VR-2, was commissioned at Alameda, [California](#), for operations in the Pacific area.

Major General [George Smith Patton, Jr.](#) was appointed to create the Desert Training Center near Indio, [California](#). At the Desert Training Center he would be assuming command of the 1st Armored Corps. There he would play a leading role in the planning of Operation Torch. Then he would command the Western Task Force during the Allied invasion of North Africa, enter Casablanca, and occupy French Morocco.



WORLD WAR II



## GENERAL PATTON

## GENERAL GEORGE SMITH PATTON, JR.

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1943

[George Smith Patton, Jr.](#) would be given command of II Corps following its disastrous defeat at Kasserine Pass. He would rejuvenate II Corps and lead us to victories at Gafsa and El Guettar. He would be promoted to a temporary battlefield rank of Lieutenant General. He would be given the command of Seventh Army and with it would invade Sicily, capturing Palermo and then beating the British general Montgomery to Messina. His triumph in Sicily would then be spoiled by the revelation that he had been slapping wounded soldiers, but only for their own good.



### God of Battles

From pride and foolish confidence  
From every weakening creed  
From the dread fear of fearing  
Protect us, Lord, and lead.

Great God, who through the ages  
Hast braced the bloodstained hand,  
As Saturn, Jove or Woden  
Hast led our warrior band.

Again we seek Thy counsel,  
But not in cringing guise.  
We whine not for Thy mercy --  
To slay: God make us wise.

For slaves who shun the issue  
We do not ask Thy aid.  
To Thee we trust our spirits,  
Our bodies unafraid.

From doubt and fearsome 'boding  
Still Thou our spirits guard,  
Make strong our souls to conquer,  
Give us the victory, Lord.

[WORLD WAR II](#)

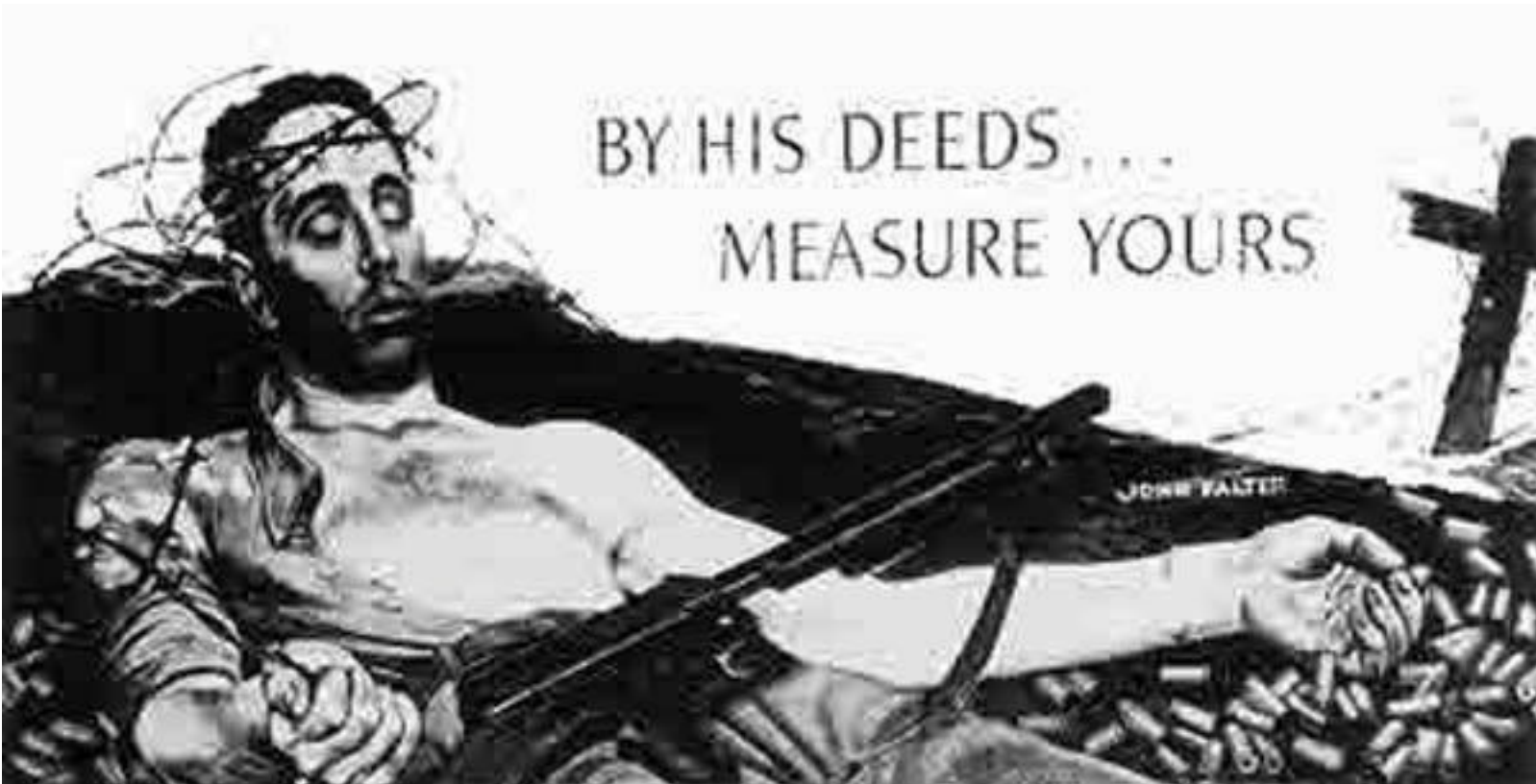
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## GENERAL PATTON

## GENERAL GEORGE SMITH PATTON, JR.

### GO TO MASTER INDEX OF WARFARE

In this year LIFE Magazine, on behalf of The Magazine Publishers of America, published a obscene sketch by John Philip Falter equating the sacrifice of Jesus Christ the Prince of Peace on the cross with the sacrifice of an American warrior dying in battle with barbed wire circling his forehead like a Crown of Thorns or perhaps a holy halo, with his gun suggestively across his crotch, atop a hill on which there is a cross all entangled in barbed wire:



(If General [George Smith Patton, Jr.](#) had seen this obscene illustration, would it be too much to suggest, that perhaps he might even –oh, dare I suggest this– have been able to employ it as a masturbation aid? BY HIS DEEDS ... MEASURE YOURS)<sup>5</sup>

March 4, Thursday: Three Choruses from *Alice in Wonderland* by Irving Fine was performed for the initial time, in the Sanders Theater at Harvard University.

A [Japanese](#) attempt to reinforce Lae and Salamaua, New Guinea was beaten back by Australians and Americans in the Bismarck Sea. 12 ships were sunk, 3,500 people killed.

A new [German](#) offensive began near Poltava and Izyum, south of Kharkov.

[George Smith Patton, Jr.](#) assumed command of II Corps following its disastrous defeat at Kasserine Pass on February 19th. He would rejuvenate II Corps and lead it to victories at Gafsa and El Guettar.

[WORLD WAR II](#)

5. Please pardon me. Looking at this obscene depiction of the holiness of death has deprived me temporarily of my senses.



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March 12, Friday: Stephen Vincent Benét died in New York at the age of 44.

The 16th of 18 patriotic fanfares for brass and percussion commissioned by Eugene Goossens and the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra, Fanfare for the Common Man by Aaron Copland, was performed for the initial time, in Cincinnati.

[George Smith Patton, Jr.](#) was promoted to a temporary battlefield rank of Lieutenant General. He would be given the command of 7th Army and with it he would conquer Sicily.<sup>6</sup>

Soviet troops occupied Vyazma, 220 kilometers west of Moscow, without a fight.

100,000 workers in Turin and Genoa, [Italy](#) went on strike, halting war production.

[German](#) Submarine U-130 was sunk by the destroyer *Champlin* (DD-601) in the North Atlantic, at 37 degrees 10 minutes North, 40 degrees 21 minutes West.

WORLD WAR II

June 10, Thursday: The Primavera Quintet for flute, violin, viola, cello and harp op.156 by Charles Koechlin was performed for the initial time, privately, in Paris.

Hungarian native Laszlo Biro patented the ball point pen in Argentina (Biro had gone to Argentina fleeing the Nazis).

Issuance of the “pointblank” directive to improve Allied bombing accuracy.

[Germans](#) wounded and almost captured Yugoslav resistance leader Josip Broz “Tito.”

[George Smith Patton, Jr.](#), promoted to a temporary battlefield rank of Lieutenant General, was given the command of Seventh Army. On this day his soldiers landed along the southern coast of Sicily.

[Japanese](#) submarine I-9 was sunk by submarine chaser PC-487 in the vicinity of the Aleutian Islands area, 53 degrees 16 minutes North, 174 degrees 24 minutes East.

WORLD WAR II

July 14, Wednesday: Americans captured Biscani airfield and Niscemi, Sicily while the British captured Vizzini. At Buttera airfield in Sicily, US Captain John Travers Compton lined up dozens of [Italian](#) prisoners against a wall and machine-gunned them (Compton would plead that he was only obeying orders and be acquitted of murder, and would then go to the front and die in action). On the same day, US Sergeant Horace T. West used his Thompson submachine gun to mow down dozens of [Italian](#) and [German](#) prisoners he was guarding near Gela in Sicily (West would be convicted of murder, stripped of rank, and sentenced to life in military prison; after a year he would be dishonorably discharged at the rank of private, and would live to the age of 84 years and die in Arizona on September 24, 1994).

General [George Smith Patton, Jr.](#)'s criminal impulse had been to cover this up “as it would make a stink in the

6. Having lived on that benighted triangle of real estate, I wonder who in their right minds would want to kill someone in order to be in Sicily.



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press and also would make the civilians mad. Anyhow, they are dead, so nothing can be done about it.” His subordinate General Omar Bradley had to his great credit refused, however, to obey that unlawful order to create a coverup story, that the prisoners had been shot while trying to run away or something like that. The first Soviet war crimes trial opened in Krasnodar with Allied reporters in attendance. As the facts of the [German](#) occupation of the USSR become known, the western public began to learn the scale of Nazi atrocities.

Free-French administrations took over in Guadeloupe, Martinique, Saint-Martin and Saint Barthelemy.

US destroyers bombarded Kiska in the Aleutian Islands (bombardment would be repeated on July 15th). Naval Operating Base, Adak, Aleutian Islands, was established.

United States Light Cruiser *Brooklyn* (CL-40) was damaged by a mine near Sicily, at 36 degrees 57 minutes North, 14 degrees 6 minutes East.

[German](#) Submarine U-160 was sunk by aircraft (VC-29) from escort carrier *Santee* (CVE-29) south of the Azores Islands, at 33 degrees 45 minutes North, 27 degrees 13 minutes West.

WORLD WAR II

July 22, Thursday: Cutting off 50,000 [Italian](#) soldiers, the American forces under acting Lieutenant General [George Smith Patton, Jr.](#) captured Palermo, Sicily.

A naval task force consisting of 2 battleships, 5 cruisers, and 9 destroyers under Rear Admirals R.C. Giffen and R.M. Griffin bombarded the Kiska area in the Aleutian Islands.

The [Japanese](#) seaplane tender *Nisshin* was sunk by naval land-based aircraft off the island of New Georgia in the Solomon Islands, 6 degrees 33 minutes South, 156 degrees 10 minutes East.

WORLD WAR II

August 16, Monday: Soviet troops captured Zhidra, northeast of Bryansk.

The aircraft carrier *Intrepid* (CV-11) was commissioned at Newport News, Virginia.

At 2AM, the Gestapo surrounded the Bialystok ghetto. At 3AM, the S.S. troops entered the ghetto, occupying important buildings. 31,000 Bialystok Jews were sent to Treblinka and Majdanek despite exhortations by some to attempt escape. These young resistors burned enclosing walls and returned fire on the [Germans](#). They would hold out until August 20th, with some escaping. The city was emptied of Jews.

While 16 miles off Bone, Algeria, the US freighter *Benjamin Contee* received an aerial torpedo which fell among its cargo of 1,800 Italian POWs. 264 of the Italians died and 142 were injured. None of the ship's crew or British guards, however, were lost, and the ship would not sink. The ship would be able to reach port and still offload most of its cargo of prisoners, and then it would be repaired and would be able to return to service



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— an incident of at least relative innocence, in the middle of a war not marked by a whole lot of innocence.

[WORLD WAR II](#)

Acting Lieutenant General [George Smith Patton, Jr.](#) led his American troops into Messina before the British general, Montgomery, had a chance to participate — how's that, you feckless Limey girly-girls? Patton would then be precluded from higher command upon the recognition of what he had been up to — that he had been slapping the wounded but only for their own good. Henceforward the Allied high command would be able to “use” him only by way of his extreme reputation, as a “secret weapon” (our intent was to deceive the German high command into supposing that this extreme warrior had dropped out of sight not due to personal disgrace, but because he was preparing an aggressive armored spearhead aimed directly at the Pas de Calais area of France, and thus induce them to mis-position defensive divisions).





# GENERAL PATTON

# GENERAL GEORGE SMITH PATTON, JR.

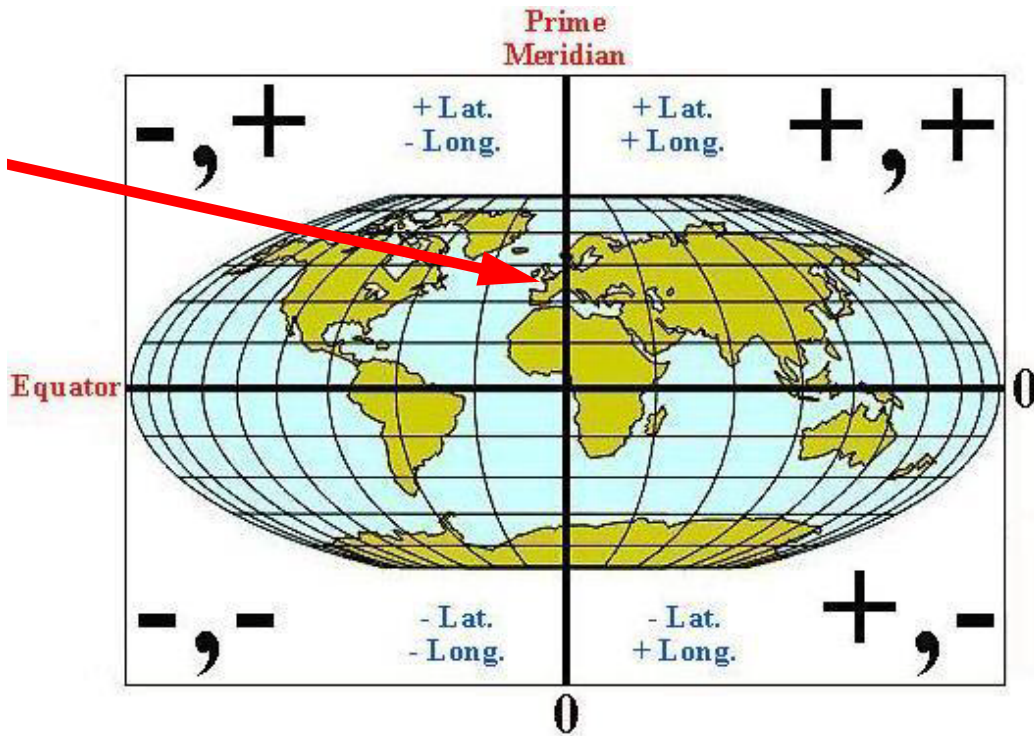
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1944

June 5, Monday: Submarine *Nautilus* (SS-168) lands supplies at Tucuran, Mindanao, Philippine Islands.

WORLD WAR II

The United States minesweeper *Osprey* (AM-56) was sunk by a mine off the Normandy peninsula of France at 50 degrees 12 minutes North, 1 degree 20 minutes West, and the United States naval vessel LST981 was damaged by a mine in approximately the same location, 50 degrees 45 minutes North, 0 degrees 43 minutes East.





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Keeping up appearances, [George Smith Patton, Jr.](#), despite his personal disgrace in Sicily, was allowed to make an obscene address to the 3rd Army, and address which we reproduce in full here because it may be regarded as representative of his general ethos:



Be Seated.

Men, this stuff we hear about America wanting to stay out of the war, not wanting to fight, is a lot of bullshit. Americans love to fight - traditionally. All real Americans love the sting and clash of battle. When you were kids, you all admired the champion marble player; the fastest runner; the big league ball players; the toughest boxers. Americans love a winner and will not tolerate a loser. Americans despise cowards. Americans play to win - all the time. I wouldn't give a hoot in hell for a man who lost and laughed. That's why Americans have never lost, not ever will lose a war, for the very thought of losing is hateful to an American. You are not all going to die. Only two percent of you here today would die in a major battle. Death must not be feared. Every man is frightened at first in battle. If he says he isn't, he's a goddamn liar. Some men are cowards, yes! But



**GENERAL PATTON**

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they fight just the same, or get the hell shamed out of them watching men who do fight who are just as scared. The real hero is the man who fights even though he is scared. Some get over their fright in a minute under fire, some take an hour. For some it takes days. But the real man never lets fear of death overpower his honor, his sense of duty to this country and his innate manhood. All through your army career you men have bitched about "This chickenshit drilling." That is all for a purpose. Drilling and discipline must be maintained in any army if for only one reason - INSTANT OBEDIENCE TO ORDERS AND TO CREATE CONSTANT ALERTNESS. I don't give a damn for a man who is not always on his toes. You men are veterans or you wouldn't be here. You are ready. A man to continue breathing must be alert at all times. If not, sometime a [German](#) son-of-a-bitch will sneak up behind him and beat him to death with a sock full of shit. There are 400 neatly marked graves somewhere in Sicily all because one man went to sleep on his job - but they were German graves for we caught the bastard asleep before his officers did. An Army is a team. Lives, sleeps, eats, fights as a team. This individual heroic stuff is a lot of crap. The bilious bastards who wrote that kind of stuff for the Saturday Evening Post don't know any more about real fighting, under fire, than they do about fucking. We have the best food, the finest equipment, the best spirit and the best fighting men in the world. Why, by God, I actually pity these poor sons-of-bitches we are going up against. By God, I do! My men don't surrender. I don't want to hear of any soldier under my command being captured unless he is hit. Even if you are hit, you can still fight. That's not just bullshit, either. The kind of man I want under me is like the lieutenant in Libya, who, with a Lugar against his chest, jerked off his helmet, swept the gun aside with one hand and busted hell out of the Boche with the helmet. Then he jumped on the gun and went out and killed another German: All this with a bullet through his lung. That's a man for you. All real heroes are not story book combat fighters either. Every man in the army plays a vital part. Every little job is essential. Don't ever let down, thinking your role is unimportant. Every man has a job to do. Every man is a link in the great chain. What if every truck driver decided that he didn't like the whine of the shells overhead, turned yellow and jumped headlong into the ditch? He could say to himself, "They won't miss me - just one in thousands." What if every man said that? Where in hell would we be now? No, thank God, Americans don't say that! Every man does his job; every man serves the whole. Every department, every unit, is important to the vast scheme of things. The Ordnance men are needed to supply the guns, the Quartermaster to bring up the food and clothes to us - for where we're going there isn't a hell of a lot to steal. Every last man in the mess hall, even the one who heats the water to keep us from getting the GI shits has a job to do. Even the chaplain is important, for if we get killed and if he is not there to bury us we'd all go to hell. Each man must not only think of himself, but of his buddy fighting beside him. We don't want yellow cowards in this army.



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They should all be killed off like flies. If not they will go back home after the war and breed more cowards. The brave men will breed brave men. Kill off the goddamn cowards and we'll have a nation of brave men. One of the bravest men I ever saw in the African campaign was the fellow I saw on top of a telegraph pole in the midst of furious fire while we were plowing toward Tunis. I stopped and asked what the hell he was doing up there at that time. He answered, "Fixing the wire, sir." "Isn't it a little unhealthy right now?" I asked. "Yes sir, but this goddamn wire's got to be fixed." There was a real soldier. There was a man who devoted all he had to his duty, no matter how great the odds, no matter how seemingly insignificant his duty might appear at the time. You should have seen those trucks on the road to Gabes. The drivers were magnificent. All day and all night they rolled over those son-of-a-bitching roads, never stopping, never faltering from their course, with shells bursting around them all the time. We got through on good old American guts. Many of these men drove over forty consecutive hours. These weren't combat men. But they were soldiers with a job to do. They did it - and in a whale of a way they did it. They were part of a team. Without them the fight would have been lost. All the links in the chain pulled together and that chain became unbreakable. Don't forget, you don't know I'm here. No word of the fact is to be mentioned in any letters. The world is not supposed to know what the hell became of me. I'm not supposed to be commanding this Army. I'm not even supposed to be in England. Let the first bastards to find out be the goddamn Germans. Someday I want them to raise up on their hind legs and howl, "Jesus Christ, it's the goddamn Third Army and that son-of-a-bitch Patton again." We want to get the hell over there. We want to get over there and clear the goddamn thing up. You can't win a war lying down. The quicker we clean up this goddamn mess, the quicker we can take a jaunt against the purple pissing Japs and clean their nest out too, before the Marines get all the goddamn credit. Sure, we all want to be home. We want this thing over with. The quickest way to get it over is to get the bastards. The quicker they are whipped, the quicker we go home. The shortest way home is through Berlin. When a man is lying in a shell hole, if he just stays there all day, a Boche will get him eventually, and the hell with that idea. The hell with taking it. My men don't dig foxholes. I don't want them to. Foxholes only slow up an offensive. Keep moving. And don't give the enemy time to dig one. We'll win this war but we'll win it only by fighting and by showing the Germans we've got more guts than they have. There is one great thing you men will all be able to say when you go home. You may thank God for it. Thank God, that at least, thirty years from now, when you are sitting around the fireside with your grandson on your knees, and he asks you what you did in the great war, you won't have to cough and say, "I shoveled shit in Louisiana."



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"War, stress or conflict is to the man what maternity is to the woman. I do not believe in perpetual peace; not only do I not believe in it but I find it depressing and a negation of all the fundamental virtues of man."

– [Benito Mussolini](#)



June 6, Tuesday: D-Day, Operation Neptune/Overlord — the Allied invasion of Normandy from England. The Allied Expeditionary Force under the supreme command of General Dwight David Eisenhower, USA, invaded Western Europe. Landings were made on beaches of northern France, following pre-invasion minesweeping and bombardment by Allied warships, and under the cover of Allied aircraft and naval gunfire. The invasion fleet of thousands of naval vessels, merchant ships, and landing craft under the command of Admiral Sir Bertram H. Ramsay, RN, was divided into a Western (American) Task Force and an Eastern (British) Task Force. The Western Task Force, commanded by Rear Admiral A.G. Kirk, USN, and composed of two assault forces, "O" under the command of Rear Admiral J.L. Hall, USN, and "U" under the command of Rear Admiral D.P. Moon, USN, landed the First United States Army commanded by Lieutenant General O.N. Bradley, USA on "Omaha" and "Utah" beaches. Naval gunfire support groups commanded by Rear Admiral M.L. Deyo, USN, and Rear Admiral C.F. Bryant, USN effectively prevented the [German](#) army from moving up reinforcements and covered the troops advancing inland. After beachheads were established, their primary naval responsibility was the landing of men and supplies.

United States naval vessels sunk, Normandy invasion:

- Destroyer *Corry* (DD-463) by mine, 49 degrees 31 minutes North, 1 degree 12 minutes West
- Submarine chaser PC-1261, by mine, 49 degrees 30 minutes North, 1 degree 10 minutes West

United States naval vessel damaged, Normandy invasion:

- LST375, by collision, 42 degrees 31 minutes North, 0 degrees 50 minutes West

[NOTE: These official lists of United States naval vessels sunk or damaged in the Normandy invasion neglect to include any of the amphibious types less important than the LST.]

[Japanese](#) naval vessels sunk:

- Destroyer *Minazuki*, by submarine *Harder* (SS-257), Celebes Sea, 4 degrees 5 minutes North, 119 degrees 30 minutes East
- Coastal defense vessel #15, by submarine *Raton* (SS-270), South China Sea, 8 degrees 58 minutes North, 109 degrees 30 minutes East

General [George Smith Patton, Jr.](#) sent the following to his 20-year-old son, George Jr., a cadet at West Point:

APO 403, N.Y.

"D-Day"

Dear George:

At 0700 this morning the BBC announced that the German Radio had just come out with an announcement of the landing of Allied Paratroops and of large numbers of assault craft near shore. So





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that is it.

This group of unconquerable heroes whom I command are not in yet but we will be soon – I wish I was there now as it is a lovely sunny day for a battle and I am fed up with just sitting.

I have no immediate idea of being killed but one can never tell and none of us can live forever, so if I should go don't worry but set yourself to do better than I have.

All men are timid on entering any fight; whether it is the first fight or the last fight all of us are timid. Cowards are those who let their timidity get the better of their manhood. You will never do that because of your blood lines on both sides. I think I have told you the story of Marshall Touraine who fought under Louis XIV. On the morning of one of his last battles – he had been fighting for forty years – he was mounting his horse when a young ADC [aide-de-camp] who had just come from the court and had never missed a meal or heard a hostile shot said: "M. de Touraine it amazes me that a man of your supposed courage should permit his knees to tremble as he walks out to mount." Touraine replied "My lord duke I admit that my knees do tremble but should they know where I shall this day take them they would shake even more." That is it. Your knees may shake but they will always take you towards the enemy. Well so much for that.

There are apparently two types of successful soldiers. Those who get on by being unobtrusive and those who get on by being obtrusive. I am of the latter type and seem to be rare and unpopular: but it is my method. One has to choose a system and stick to it; people who are not themselves are nobody.

To be a successful soldier you must know history. Read it objectively – dates and even the minute details of tactics are useless. What you must know is how man reacts. Weapons change but man who uses them changes not at all. To win battles you do not beat weapons – you beat the soul of man of the enemy man. To do that you have to destroy his weapons, but that is only incidental. You must read biography and especially autobiography. If you will do it you will find that war is simple. Decide what will hurt the enemy most within the limits of your capabilities to harm him and then do it. TAKE CALCULATED RISKS. That is quite different from being rash. My personal belief is that if you have a 50% chance take it because the superior fighting qualities of American soldiers lead by me will surely give you the extra 1% necessary.

In Sicily I decided as a result of my information, observations and a sixth sense that I have that the enemy did not have another large scale attack in his system. I bet my shirt on that and I was right. You cannot make war safely but no dead general has ever been criticised so you have that way out always.

I am sure that if every leader who goes into battle will promise himself that he will come out either a conqueror or a corpse he is sure to win. There is no doubt of that. Defeat is not due to losses but to the destruction of the soul of the leaders. The



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"Live to fight another day" doctrine.

The most vital quality a soldier can possess is SELF CONFIDENCE – utter, complete and bumptious. You can have doubts about your good looks, about your intelligence, about your self control but to win in war you must have NO doubts about your ability as a soldier.

What success I have had results from the fact that I have always been certain that my military reactions were correct. Many people do not agree with me; they are wrong. The unerring jury of history written long after both of us are dead will prove me correct.

Note that I speak of "Military reactions" – no one is borne with them any more than anyone is borne with muscles. You can be born with the soul capable of correct military reactions or the body capable of having big muscles, but both qualities must be developed by hard work.

The intensity of your desire to acquire any special ability depends on character, on ambition. I think that your decision to study this summer instead of enjoying yourself shows that you have character and ambition – they are wonderful possessions.

Soldiers, all men in fact, are natural hero worshipers. Officers with a flare for command realise this and emphasize in their conduct, dress and deportment the qualities they seek to produce in their men. When I was a second lieutenant I had a captain who was very sloppy and usually late yet he got after the men for just those faults; he was a failure.

The troops I have commanded have always been well dressed, been smart saluters, been prompt and bold in action because I have personally set the example in these qualities. The influence one man can have on thousands is a never-ending source of wonder to me. You are always on parade. Officers who through laziness or a foolish desire to be popular fail to enforce discipline and the proper wearing of uniforms and equipment not in the presence of the enemy will also fail in battle, and if they fail in battle they are potential murderers. There is no such thing as: "A good field soldier:" you are either a good soldier or a bad soldier.

Well this has been quite a sermon but don't get the idea that it is my swan song because it is not – I have not finished my job yet.

Your affectionate father.

**WORLD WAR II**



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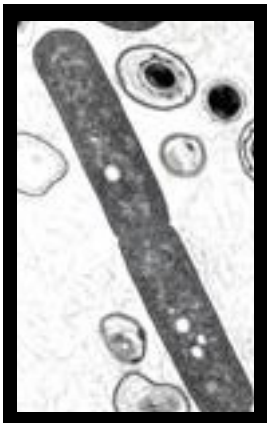
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July: [George Smith Patton, Jr.](#), son-of-a-bitch of the hour, was allowed to assume command of the US 3d Army in Normandy, and proceeded to initiate the amazing “breakout” operation in which his troops attacked in four directions at the same time.



Napalm (recently invented at Harvard) was first used in the form of a bomb on a fuel depot near St Lô.

Having manufactured 5,000,000 linseed-oil cattle fodder cakes laced with [anthrax](#) earlier during [World War II](#), the British had been planning to have the RAF drop these lethal devices over the pastures of [Germany](#).



The anthrax cakes had been tested on Gruinard Island off Wester Ross, an area that would not be finally cleared of contamination until 1990. The operation was under the overall control of Dr. Paul Fildes, who was then the



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director of the biology department at Porton Down near Salisbury in Wiltshire but had previously been in charge of the Medical Research Council's bacterial chemistry unit at Middlesex Hospital. This operation, to wipe out the German beef and dairy herds and have the bacterium as a secondary effect then spread to a starving human population that had no way to protect itself with antibiotics, was with maximum irony being termed "Operation Vegetarian."

Operation Vegetarian had been ready to go since the beginning of the year. However, because the Normandy landings of the Allies were progressing smoothly thanks to fierce warriors such as General Patton, it became feasible to postpone and then abandon this devastating European germ-warfare operation so reminiscent of the germ warfare operations that were being carried out by [Japanese](#) forces on the [Chinese](#) mainland.

[GERM WARFARE](#)



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August 1, Tuesday: During the “Zigeunernacht,” to control an outbreak of communicable disease and, one supposes, in order to save food, in a single action at Auschwitz, the [Germans](#) sent 40,000 Gypsies to the “showers” to be gassed.

[Anne Frank](#) to her diary: “[F]inally I twist my heart round again, so that the bad is on the outside and the good is on the inside, and keep on trying to find a way of becoming what I would so like to be, and what I could be, if... there weren’t any other people living in the world.”



The [Japanese](#) military administration was withdrawn from Rangoon as officials proclaimed a Burmese “Independence.”



On the island of Tinian in the Marianas, organized resistance ended and United States Naval Air Base, Tinian was established.<sup>7</sup>

### WORLD WAR II

7. By our calculation B-29 bombers taking off from Tinian would be able to reach the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, with probably enough aviation fuel left to complete a return to the island airstrip.



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In Warsaw, the Polish Home Army began an uprising against the [Germans](#) in Warsaw (until October 2d).

US troops under the command of [George Smith Patton, Jr.](#) reached Avranches.

August 8, Tuesday: US troops under the command of [George Smith Patton, Jr.](#) captured Le Mans and reached Avranches.

Destroyers and land-based Marine aircraft from Majuro in the Marshall Islands bombarded and bombed [Japanese](#) positions on the island of Taro at Maloelap Atoll.

WORLD WAR II

August 13, Sunday: [George Smith Patton, Jr.](#) directed his troops north toward Nancy and Metz, the most heavily fortified part of the [German](#) army's "West Wall." He would, however, be kept from destroying a surrounded German army at the "Falais Gap" when his British counterpart, Montgomery, would be so slow as to allow much of the German army to make an escape.

The US submarine *Flier* (SS-250) was sunk by external explosion in Balabac Strait, North Borneo. [Japanese](#) submarine chaser #12 was sunk by US submarine *Bluegill* (SS-242) in the area of the Philippine Islands at 6 degrees 17 minutes North, 126 degrees 9 minutes East.

WORLD WAR II

August 19, Saturday: [George Smith Patton, Jr.](#) reached the Seine River at Mantes.

US submarine *Redfin* (SS-272) laid mines off Sarawak, Borneo.

There was a Resistance uprising in Paris.

WORLD WAR II

August 23, Wednesday: The French 2d Armored (attached to [George Smith Patton, Jr.](#)'s 3d Army) entered [Paris](#), where they discovered explosive charges placed by the SS at the base of the Eiffel Tower.<sup>8</sup>

Destroyer and smaller naval vessels bombard enemy installations and positions on Aguijan Island, Marianas Islands; bombardment was repeated daily until 26 August.

US naval vessel PT-555 was damaged by a mine near the Mediterranean coast of France, 43 degrees 19 minutes North, 5 degrees 30 minutes East. Two [Japanese](#) naval vessels were sunk, the destroyer *Asakaze* by submarine *Haddo* (SS-255) in the vicinity of the Philippines, 16 degrees 6 minutes North, 119 degrees 44 minutes East, and minesweeper #22 by submarine *Batfish* (SS-310) near the Palau Islands, 8 degrees 9 minutes North, 134 degrees 38 minutes East.

WORLD WAR II

8. The American general Patton and the 3d Army were not allowed to enter the city due to politics. Then it would be allowed to run out of gasoline and other essential supplies near the Meuse River because the majority of supplies had to be diverted to Field Marshall Montgomery for his unsuccessful "Operation Market-Garden" in Holland — and despite that Patton would begin the Lorraine Offensive.



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**1945**

March 3, Saturday: [George Smith Patton, Jr.](#)'s 3d Army reached the Rhine River near Coblenz.

Army troops landed on Masbate, Burias, and Ticao Islands, Philippine Islands; landings were supported by naval gunfire and Marine aircraft.

- Submarine *Tuna* (SS-203) landed supplies on northeast coast of Borneo

United States naval vessel damaged, Iwo Jima area:

- Attack transport *Bolivar* (APA-34), by coastal defense gun, 24 degrees 46 minutes North, 141 degrees 19 minutes East

[Japanese](#) naval vessel sunk:

- Oiler *Hario*, by mine, off French Indochina, 18 degrees 10 minutes North, 109 degrees 40 minutes East

[WORLD WAR II](#)

March 22, Thursday: United States naval vessel damaged: LST727, by grounding, Iwo Jima area, 24 degrees 46 minutes North, 141 degrees 19 minutes East.

Pact of the League of Arab States.

[READ THE FULL TEXT](#)

[George Smith Patton, Jr.](#)'s 3d Army crossed the Rhine River between Mainz and Mannheim a day before the British troops could come up.

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March 24, Saturday: [George Smith Patton, Jr.](#) had his driver stop in the middle of the military pontoon bridge across the Rhine — so the general, always a showman, could have himself photographed taking a contemptuous leak into that famous [German](#) river.



A group of battleships under the command of Vice Admiral W.A. Lee bombarded the island of Okinawa in the Ryukyu chain. Two small [Japanese](#) vessels were sunk, coast defense vessel #68 and the torpedo boat *Tomozuru*, by US carrier-based aircraft in the South China Sea, 28 degrees 25 minutes North, 124 degrees 32 minutes East.

[WORLD WAR II](#)

Back stateside, on this eventful day, a 55-year-old black truck driver, Ebb Cade, was involved in a very severe car accident. He was taken comatose to the US Army Manhattan Engineer District Hospital in Oakridge,



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Tennessee, with injuries apparently so severe that he would not survive. Comatose, severely injured, ignorant, poor and, when all is said and done, black, he would have no way whatever to defend himself against the government doctors of the Atomic Energy Commission. What a wonderful opportunity for them to conduct ghoulish experiments with [radiation](#)!

[TIMELINE OF ACCIDENTS](#)

[SECRET MEDICAL EXPERIMENTS](#)

April: [George Smith Patton, Jr.](#) had been doing so well that at this point they let him paint four stars on his helmet (his usefulness would soon be over and this “4-star-general” stuff would of course vanish). He continued his drive across southern Germany and into Czechoslovakia.

[WORLD WAR II](#)

April 29, morning: At the hamlet of Webling near München, about ten kilometers from Dachau, which consisted of about half a dozen farmhouses and barns mostly run by German women with the help of French POWs, a Waffen-SS unit had dug trenches and created a defensive position to delay the advance of American tanks and infantry of the 7th US Army in their approach to Dachau. When the farms came under fire all the civilians sought safety in their cellars. One soldier of the US 222nd Infantry Regiment of the 42nd Rainbow Division was killed by fire from this Waffen-SS unit. First to emerge from the cellars was a farm owner, Herr Furtmayer, whom the Americans instantly shot down. Informed by French POWs that only civilians were in these cellars, the GIs proceeded to round up the men of the SS unit. First to surrender was a Waffen-SS officer and his detachment of 17 soldiers. The head of the officer, Freiherr von Truchsess, was immediately split open with a trenching tool. The 17 men were then lined up and gunned down. On a slight rise behind the hamlet another group of eight SS bodies would be found. Since these corpses were also found in a straight line, with all weapons and ammunition belts neatly laid out on the ground nearby, the men had also presumably been gunned down after their surrender. Altogether, 42 SS lay dead as this infantry regiment proceeded toward Dachau. The next day the local people, with the help of French POWs, would bury the corpses in a field from which later they would be exhumed by the German War Graves Commission.

The US Army liberated the Dachau concentration camp near München. During the liberation of this camp, units of the 45th “Thunderbird” Division that had committed the atrocities against German and Italian prisoners of war in Sicily during June 1943 would commit even further atrocities. First to enter the camp was Private 1st Class John Degro, lead scout of I Company, 3rd Battalion, 157th Infantry Regiment, 45th Division, 7th Army. Prior to entering the camp the troops had come upon a train made up of 39 cattlecars that was arriving from Auschwitz in Poland after a journey of 30 days. The cars contained 2,310 Hungarian and Polish Jews, and all were dead of hunger and thirst and neglect. Enraged, the Americans rounded up most of the remaining SS guard complement of 560 men, hundreds of whom had already deserted. Included in the round-up was a detachment from the 5th SS Panzer “Viking” Division that had been sent to Dachau earlier to maintain security and replace those who were deserting. They were lined up against a wall to await the appearance of their commander, SS Obersturmführer Kodzensky. When he appeared, dressed immaculately with polished boots, he gave a military salute which was ignored by the US company commander, Lieutenant William Jackson. The officer simply ordered “Line this piece of shit up with the rest of ’em over there.” The GIs sent up a shout “Kill em, kill em.” A soldier of the 15th Infantry Regiment, US 45th Division, opened fire with his machine-gun. Soon 122 SS men lay dead or dying along the base of the wall.<sup>9</sup> A few of the camp inmates, dressed in the familiar striped clothing and armed with .45 caliber pistols, then walked along the line

9. Other reports are to the effect that only 17 Germans were lined up and gunned down in front of that particular wall, by distraught US military personnel. What we do know for certain is that when the perps were taken before their commanding General, [George Smith Patton, Jr.](#), he simply told them to go back home to their families and try to forget about it. He totally understood the excesses of the moment (or, this general participated in the cover-up of a war crime — depending on how you want to consider the event).



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of dead and dying guards to administer the *coup de grace* to those still alive. Vengeful inmates also killed 40 other guards, some by ripping off arms and legs. Near the SS hospital, 346 German guards were machine-gunned on the command of 1st Lieutenant Bushyhead, the Executive Officer of I Company, 3rd Battalion. All told, 520 persons acting as camp guards, including many Hungarians in German uniforms recently returned from the Eastern Front who actually had taken no part in the history of the camp, were executed.

GERMANY

On the island of Texel just off the coast of Holland, there were 800 Soviet soldiers from Georgia who after being drafted into the Red Army and being taken prisoner by the Germans had elected to join the German Army. They had been formed into an 822nd Infantry Battalion and were officered by German officers and NCOs. During this month they had decided upon a mutiny and on a night near the end of the month, under the leadership of a Lieutenant Loladze, they crept into the quarters of the slumbering Germans and managed to kill 250 out of about 400. German battalions would be sent from the mainland, and these Georgians and 117 other residents of the island would be disposed of by tying them together in groups of four or five and placing grenades inside each group. When the Canadians would come to occupy the island in May, only 235 of the 800 Georgians would be still alive.

WORLD WAR II

September 15, Saturday: Four-star General [George Smith Patton, Jr.](#), who had liberated the surviving inmates of the Nazi concentration camps, characterized the people for whom his soldiers were presently caring:

[Earl] Harrison and his ilk believe that the Displaced Person is a human being, which he is not, and this applies particularly to the Jews who are lower than animals ... a subhuman species without any of the cultural or social refinements of our time.

ANTISEMITISM





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It is indeed unfortunate that our General Patton neglected on this occasion to compose one of his poems. On the basis of other surviving examples of his compositions, we can fairly well imagine how **utterly fascinating** a poem which he, with his attitude, might have composed on this topic, would have been! If he had bothered to compose one, it could have been, for instance, an effort more or less along these lines, which he would compose late in life:

WORLD WAR II

#### Duty

Duty that armed Abraham's hand  
And nerved the blade of Antony  
Thy lambent light n'er brighter burned  
Than in this bloody war today.

It steadies in its darkest hour  
The wavering heart of woman-hood  
It makes the boy to sacrifice  
His life, his all for country's good.

Oh! mighty soul, uplifting thought  
That did inspire the great of yore  
Thou hast returned into our midst  
Pray God thou ne'er shall leave us more.

Or, it could have been something more or less along these lines, which he had composed early in life:

#### In Memoriam

The war is over and we pass  
To pleasure after pain  
Except those few who ne'er shall see  
Their native land again.

To one of these my memory turns  
Noblest of the noble slain  
To Captain English of the Tanks  
Who never shall return.

Yet should some future war exact  
Of me the final debt  
My fondest hope would be to tread  
The path which he has set.

For faithful unto God and man  
And to his country true  
He died to live forever  
In the hearts of those he knew.

Death found in him no faltering  
But faithful to the last  
He smiled into the face of Fate  
And mocked it as he passed.

No, death to him was not defeat  
But victory sublime  
The grave promoted him to be  
A hero for all time.

September 17, Monday: Five-star General Dwight David Eisenhower attempted to salvage four-star General [George Smith Patton, Jr.](#) by obliging this [Antisemite](#) to come along with him to a Jewish religious service. Afterward the liberator of the surviving inmates of the Nazi concentration camps wrote in his diary:



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This happened to be the feast of Yom Kippur, so they were all collected in a large, wooden building, which they called a synagogue. It behooved General Eisenhower to make a speech to them. We entered the synagogue, which was packed with the greatest stinking bunch of humanity I have ever seen. When we got about halfway up, the head rabbi, who was dressed in a fur hat similar to that worn by Henry VIII of England and in a surplice heavily embroidered and very filthy, came down and met the General.... The smell was so terrible that I almost fainted and actually about three hours later lost my lunch as the result of remembering it.

October: After the German surrender, [George Smith Patton, Jr.](#) had begun to agitate for a combined campaign of Allied-German forces to push the Communist Russians back to their pre-war borders, arguing that the Allies have simply swapped Nazis for Communists in Eastern Europe, and that therefore the job hadn't been completed. He began his postwar duties as Military Governor of Bavaria, but then returned to the US for a bond drive and delivered public speeches from Boston to Los Angeles. Returning to Germany at the end of this bond drive, he was relieved of his command of 3d Army when he became vocal in criticism of the "de-nazification" policies. The war was over and we didn't need him anymore, so we didn't have to put up with any more of his shit. He would be consigned to the command of the "15th Army" (the nasty little secret being that this military force existed on paper only).

December 9, Sunday: The International Organizations Immunities Act.

[George Smith Patton, Jr.](#) suffered a neck injury in an automobile accident near Mannheim, [Germany](#).

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December 21, Friday: While [George Smith Patton, Jr.](#) was being driven around Germany, his military chauffeur got in an accident. Here is his command car — except that it has now been repaired, and all restored and cherried out and polished:

#### TIMELINE OF ACCIDENTS



Unfortunately, after the accident Patton died from an embolism at the 130th Station Hospital in Heidelberg.

#### WORLD WAR II

The Kingdom of Iraq and the Republic of Ecuador ratified the United Nations Charter.

Back from Fascist Italy in Washington DC, a district court, considering him unfit to stand trial for treason, committed the 60-year-old [Ezra Pound](#) to the Howard Hall of Saint Elizabeth's Hospital for the Criminally Insane.<sup>10</sup>



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December 23, Sunday: [George Smith Patton, Jr.](#) was buried in the American Military Cemetery at Hamm, Luxembourg. Here is a poem which he had composed, probably during this last year of his life:

### Duty

Duty that armed Abraham's hand  
And nerved the blade of Antony  
Thy lambent light n'er brighter burned  
Than in this bloody war today.

It steadies in its darkest hour  
The wavering heart of woman-hood  
It makes the boy to sacrifice  
His life, his all for country's good.

Oh! mighty soul, uplifting thought  
That did inspire the great of yore  
Thou hast returned into our midst  
Pray God thou ne'er shall leave us more.

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10. Following protests by influential figures, he would be transferred to the hospital's more humane Chestnut Ward facility. Pound's wife Dorothy would take a room nearby and his visitors would include a number of longtime friends, including the literary figures T.S. Eliot, e.e. cummings, Robert Lowell, and William Carlos Williams. During his dozen years under commitment the poet would produce some of his most personal and powerful work, including ROCK DRILL, LXXXV-ICV, and THRONES, ICVI-CIX. A few more fragments of cantos would appear over the following decade but by 1962 such work would be abandoned, so that the CANTOS remain unfinished. Pound would comment to Allen Ginsberg that nothing made sense to him anymore and that the worst mistake he'd made was "that stupid suburban prejudice of anti-Semitism."

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2001

September 1, Saturday: From the magazine [The Priest](#): “The Story of the Chaplain Corps,” by Father Daniel Mode:<sup>11</sup>

Therefore take the whole armor of God that you may be able to withstand in the evil day.... Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the equipment of the Gospel of peace; above all taking the shield of faith, with which you can quench all the flaming darts of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the word of the Spirit, which is the Word of God (EPHESIANS 6:13-17).

11. I am just so terribly perturbed when I read something like this! –It is so wrong on so many levels. I think first of my father, Captain Benjamin Bearl Smith during [World War II](#), and how as a Protestant chaplain in the US Army in San Diego, California, he had been such a cocksman, such an unfaithful husband and inattentive father, and how he had sought to profit from the enlisted men by selling them at a very considerable markup little steel-plated New Testaments, that they were to carry in their shirt pocket over their heart to prevent those atheistic Japs from being able to kill them. I think of hypocrisy. I think then of the general offensiveness of a religion of salvation being offered basically in order to seduce young men who are being sent off with the objective of killing other young men whom they do not know. This also makes me think of hypocrisy. –So I wonder, “Is there anything, anywhere in this world, but hypocrisy?” and I answer myself, that yes, there is something in this world other than hypocrisy, something rather worse even than hypocrisy: I think of General [George Smith Patton, Jr.](#), he of “Even the chaplain is important, for if we get killed and if he is not there to bury us we’d all go to hell.” I think that worse than hypocrisy is cold-blooded murderousness and associated patriotism.

BY HIS DEEDS . . .  
MEASURE YOURS

JOHN VALTIER





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Boom! Another F-14 Tomcat was just launched off the 1,000 foot deck of the USS John F. Kennedy. Boom! The steam-driven catapult shakes the ship again. It is 5:30 a.m. and a ship that never sleeps is starting another 12-hour shift. The alarm clock does not need to ring I have the Boom of a continuous flow of Tomcats to get my day started aboard my home for the next two weeks an aircraft carrier. As a reserve Navy chaplain for the past 12 years, I have spent my time serving the Navy family in a variety of assignments. From ships, hospitals, bases and in the field, I have found a powerful way to serve God and my country. I am a Catholic priest and a chaplain.

I grew up in the Navy. My father, a Navy Captain, spent 30 years serving our country, and his dedication inspired my brother and me to seek the same sense of commitment and service. My call to the priesthood and my desire to serve my country go hand in hand. The first priest I talked to about my vocation was a Navy chaplain. I was 13 years old, and my only knowledge of the priesthood came from the witness of military priests. Eight years later at the Shrine of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton in Emmitsburg, Maryland, I was commissioned as a Naval officer at a Mass celebrated by Archbishop Joseph T. Ryan, who was then the Archbishop of the Military Services. Every year the Archdiocese offers a Mass for the Sea Services at the Shrine to commemorate that Mother Seton's two sons served as midshipmen in the Navy. The day I raised my hand to swear my oath and receive my commission, I knew I was continuing a long tradition of priests serving the needs of the military.

The Church has recognized this union of serving God and country. The Second Vatican Council stated:

All those who enter the military services in loyalty to their country should look upon themselves as the custodians of the security and freedom of their fellow countrymen and when they carry out their duty properly, they are contributing to the maintenance of peace [CHURCH IN THE MODERN WORLD, no. 79].

Noting mankind's need for spiritual comfort during periods of conflict, [General Douglas MacArthur](#) maintained, "History teaches us that religion and patriotism have always gone hand in hand."

Ancient civilizations acknowledged that the presence of Gods representatives in battle was vital; the Old Testament refers to priests accompanying troops in various campaigns.

The word "chaplain" evolves from the fourth century when St. Martin of Tours, an officer in the Roman Army, encountered a freezing beggar. Dividing his cloak, Martin shared it with the beggar. Later that evening Martin experienced a vision of Christ wearing the cloak which inspired him to convert to Christianity and to dedicate the remainder of his life to the Church.

The cloak itself, called in Latin a "cappa," became a holy relic, carried by French kings into battle. The caretaker priest, "the cappellanus," carried the relics portable shrine, the "cappella." Eventually all clergy serving with the military were



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called "cappellini" and ultimately chaplain.

In 742AD the Council of Ratisbon authorized for the first time the use of chaplains, yet prohibited these "servants of God" from bearing arms or fighting.

In the United States the Chaplain Corps traces its origins back to the Revolutionary War, when in 1775 the Continental Congress adopted a Navy regulation citing the provision for "divine service." The regulation read, "The commanders of the ships of the thirteen United Colonies are to take care that divine service be performed twice a day on board, and a sermon preached on Sundays, unless bad weather or other extraordinary accidents prevent."

It wasn't until 1824 that Father Adam Marshal became the first priest to serve as a naval officer; another Jesuit chaplain, Father Anthony Rey, was the first priest to die in action during the Mexican War. The Civil War witnessed for the first time many Catholic chaplains in the field who served with distinction on both sides.

In subsequent wars and conflicts, Catholic chaplains have continued to serve as Christ's representatives in their witness of patriotism, courage, service and faith.

On March 25, 1985, the Holy See created the Archdiocese for the Military Services; its chaplains serve military installations, three military academies, VA hospitals, and those U.S. government employees serving overseas.

Boom! Another catapult launches yet another flight. It is noon, and 17 sailors gather in a small chapel, which holds no more than 40 people. I offer Mass for the 15 men and two women who are so far from home and family, but they have found a "home" and a place of daily comfort in the reassuring celebration of the Eucharist. After Mass, one of the sailors asks me to hear his confession and to bless a rosary his mom just sent. If I were not surrounded by gray paint and uniforms, I could almost imagine that I am back at St. Mary of Sorrows Parish in Fairfax, Virginia, celebrating the daily 9:00AM Mass. The same needs that are found in a parish are found in the midst of a 5,000-man ship. In the course of a year the three full-time chaplains, one Catholic and two Protestant, on the USS Kennedy will counsel 2,000 sailors, will hold 40 religious services per week, will perform burials at sea for military veterans and will deliver approximately 13 messages usually informing sailors of family crises, deaths, divorces or financial problems that arrive each day via the Red Cross or the Navy Relief. One in seven crewmembers will have a financial or medical emergency during a six-month cruise. The chaplain's role is to break the news to the men and provide whatever help is possible from arranging for an emergency trip home to lending a friendly ear. The day-to-day mission of caring for a diverse flock where up to one-fourth of the personnel is Catholic is always tempered by the knowledge that this ship and her crew could be called into battle or be attacked at any time. Although the closest I have ever been to battle was the live fire training I received with the Marines at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, I am well aware that the history



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of the Chaplain Corps is filled with the stories of men of God in the midst of the hell of war.

In commending the role of the chaplain, Admiral Chester W. Nimitz stated: "By their patient, sympathetic labor day in and day out and through many a night, every chaplain I know contributed immeasurably to the moral courage of our fighting men."

The chaplain's mission can be somewhat paradoxical. As Christ's representative, he must bring the Gospel of Peace to the battlefield reminding the troops that God has not forgotten them. Some chaplains have not only exemplified strength and inspiration but have demonstrated a true love in action by their willingness to sacrifice their lives for their fellow soldiers. One such hero and the only chaplain recipient of the Medal of Honor during World War II was Lt. Cmdr. Joseph T. O'Callahan. Father O'Callahan was on board the USS *Franklin*, in March 1945 when it was hit by a Japanese kamikaze attack during the battle for Okinawa. In the ensuing inferno caused by the ignition of munitions on board the aircraft carrier, O'Callahan seemed to be everywhere consoling the wounded and administering last rites to the dying, jettisoning live bombs and organizing rescue parties for those sailors trapped below deck. The *Franklin's* casualties were significant: 724 killed and 265 wounded, but many of the men attributed their survival to the heroism of their chaplain and attested, "He was the bravest man I ever saw."

During the Korean Conflict as a soldier on the battlefield and later as a prisoner of war Father Emil Kapaun of the 1st Cavalry Division risked his life attending to the wounded in the camp, sharing his own meager rations, leading his fellow prisoners in prayer, and burying the dead. Awarded the Bronze Star prior to his capture, Father Kapaun died of pneumonia in captivity and posthumously received the Distinguished Service Cross.

Another priest whose heroic passion to serve God was Father Vincent Capodanno, The Grunt Padre. Ordained for Maryknoll in 1958 and assigned as a missionary to Formosa, Father Capodanno heeded a second vocational call in 1965 when he sought permission and joined the Navy Chaplain Corps for duty in the [Vietnam](#) War. When asked why he had chosen such a dangerous assignment, Father Capodanno responded characteristically "...I think I am needed here as are many more chaplains. I'm glad to help in the way I can." His first assignment, a Marine battalion, initiated him in the service of the Grunts, the enlisted infantry troops. He later was transferred to a medical unit, and in all of his responsibilities Father Capodanno chose to be more than a priest ministering within the horrific arena of war. He became a constant companion to the Marines, living, eating, sleeping, with the men; he established libraries, gathered and distributed gifts and organized outreach programs for the local villagers. He spent hours reassuring the weary and disillusioned, consoling the grieving, hearing confessions, instructing converts and distributing St. Christopher medals. Such commitment to his work "energized" him and he requested an extension to remain with the Marines. It was during his second



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tour on September 4, 1967, that Father Vincent Capodanno made the ultimate sacrifice. After hours of heavy fighting from a North Vietnamese ambush, Father Capodanno sighted a wounded corpsman pinned down by an enemy machine gunner. Although seriously wounded himself, Father Capodanno ran to the Marine and administered medical and spiritual attention. Despite the chaplains being unarmed, the enemy opened fire and Father Capodanno, the victim of 27 bullet wounds, died faithfully performing his duty as priest and soldier. He is one of three Catholic chaplains who received the Medal of Honor for their heroic service in Vietnam.

Boom! Once again the sound of another launched plane is overwhelmingly close. This time I'm on board the COD (Carrier On Board Delivery), an airplane that carries mail, supplies and people who need to get back to land. I have finished my two weeks of active duty at sea, and it is time to return to my civilian parish. The ship will continue to head toward the Mediterranean with her assigned Catholic chaplain. During my relief of his responsibilities, he attended the annual retreat for the priests of his diocese.

As I head back to port, I wonder whether the personnel on these ships, the Army and the Marines in the field, the Air Force and Coast Guard who serve on military bases will have a Catholic priest to care for their spiritual needs in the near future. As priest and chaplain I have a three-fold responsibility: my primary mission is to God, then to represent His Church, followed by my service to our country. In the 12 years of my chaplain experience, the military personnel and their families have greatly impressed me by their many sacrifices and sincere awareness of their significant roles. As makers and preservers of peace, Catholic military members deserve all the spiritual and sacramental elements of the faith and the reminder of the universality of the Church no matter where their assignment. I have enjoyed ministering to this predominantly younger segment of society and the opportunity to influence and assist in their growth of faith. As counselor, intermediary and catechist I have experienced numerous challenges but the opportunity to evangelize, educate and participate in ecumenical settings has enlightened for me an even greater awareness of my priesthood. When a two-star admiral sits across my desk in tears over a marriage problem, he identifies me as not just another person in uniform. I am a priest, I am his chaplain. Or the joy I have experienced when instructing 15 young enlisted Marines on duty at Camp LeJeune, many of them seeking to become Catholic because of the inspirational witness of their chaplain. The needs are great, and the opportunity to serve souls is endless.

I have witnessed in action the well-known phrase, "There are no atheists in foxholes." I have seen sailors who have no faith come to God, and Marines who have a faith come closer to God. Father William Cummings, M.M., who originated the phrase, personally observed the horror of war. Serving as a Maryknoll missionary in the Philippines, he chose to become an Army chaplain when World War II broke out, and even after enduring



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serious wounds during a hospital bombing, he courageously offered to join the front lines. His subsequent capture there led to his enduring the Bataan Death March and eventual death as a prisoner of war on board a ship to Japan.

Sadly, current statistics reveal that the number of active duty Catholic chaplains is quickly dwindling. In recognizing the increased responsibilities resulting from this shortage, the head of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien, has reiterated the duties of the Catholic chaplain emphasizing that the needs of the service personnel and their families must supersede all military obligations of the officer chaplain.

In all the military services the decreasing numbers of Catholic chaplains is evident. Many more priests are needed to minister to the needs of those in uniform and to their families.

The call that motivates a man into a life of priestly service in the Church is the same call that motivates him to consider becoming a military chaplain. Missionary zeal, service, the spread of the Gospel message and bringing the sacraments to the people are all found within a civilian ministry, yet the military chaplain experiences, often dramatically, these vital ministries.

Buzzzz! The alarm is going off. Time to get up and open St. Marys parish for the 6:15AM Mass. My thoughts turn back to the sea and the men and women I have had the joy to serve.

Father Mode, a reserve Navy chaplain, writes from Fairfax, Virginia.

**“NARRATIVE HISTORY” IS FABULATION: HISTORY IS CHRONOLOGY**



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"It's all now you see. Yesterday won't be over until tomorrow and tomorrow began ten thousand years ago."

- Remark by character "Garin Stevens"  
in William Faulkner's INTRUDER IN THE DUST



**Prepared: February 9, 2015**



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**ARRGH AUTOMATED RESearch REPORT**

**GENERATION HOTLINE**



This stuff presumably looks to you as if it were generated by a human. Such is not the case. Instead, someone has requested that we pull it out of the hat of a pirate who has grown out of the shoulder of our pet parrot "Laura" (as above). What these chronological lists are: they are research reports compiled by ARRGH algorithms out of a database of modules which we term the Kouroo Contexture (this is data mining). To respond to such a request for information we merely push a button.



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Commonly, the first output of the algorithm has obvious deficiencies and we need to go back into the modules stored in the contexture and do a minor amount of tweaking, and then we need to punch that button again and recompile the chronology – but there is nothing here that remotely resembles the ordinary “writerly” process you know and love. As the contents of this originating contexture improve, and as the programming improves, and as funding becomes available (to date no funding whatever has been needed in the creation of this facility, the entire operation being run out of pocket change) we expect a diminished need to do such tweaking and recompiling, and we fully expect to achieve a simulation of a generous and untiring robotic research librarian. Onward and upward in this brave new world.

First come first serve. There is no charge.

Place requests with <Kouroo@kouroo.info>. Arrgh.



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