



**NEWSLETTER  
SEPTEMBER 2018  
VOLUME 6 - NO. 9**

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Patton Battalion - USABOT is a chapter of the US Army Brotherhood of Tankers and is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit.

Patton Battalion - USABOT covers Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky & Tennessee.

The Blood and Guts Newsletter covers events and activities within our area and USABOT National.

EIN:  
And registered with the state of Kentucky

**Patton Battalion - USABOT**

**Total: 93 paid members**

**24 Lifetime Members**

**53 Annual Members**

**2 Associate Member**

**451 on Battalion Facebook Page**

**PATTON BATTALION - USABOT  
ILLINOIS - INDIANA - KENTUCKY - TENNESSEE**

Well it is September and I am afraid that I am going to have to report that the Patton and the US Tank Corps monument will NOT be in place by November. We are currently at the \$14,000.00 mark but this is still way short of the needed \$30,000.00 to get the monument. This will not deter us from continuing the push the effort. As we move through the 100th anniversary we will continue to promote our project in every way that we can. What I need is your help to make sure that when a WWI event or something going on I need you to contact me and make sure we get our project mention or highlighted.

You will read about a little project I have been working on for a few months. As I was looking into all the burials on the American Battle Monuments Commission website I came across several listed on the tablets of the missing. One was Corporal Morton Atchison. I will let you know that the records of Corporal Atchison have been donated to the Daviess County Public Library and their Kentucky Room for genealogy in Owensboro, KY.

I have had a up and down summer. I was able to find a unique item traced to General Rockenbach of the US Tank Corps. I hope you enjoy the story!

An email arrived at lunch on September 11, that I was not wanting to get. BG Albin F Irzyk's son sent me an email to tell me of the passing of the general. Even though I was prepared I was not ready. It is hard to imagine how someone can impact your life. I have had to time to reflect on my time as a friend of Gen Irzyk. What type of person would I be today if it wasn't for the *Scholar's Bookshelf* book catalog that I got in the winter of 1998. It was there I came across the book *He Rode Up Front for Patton*. Having just finished reading *Thunderbolt* by Lewis Sorley I was intrigued by the book that said "leading the 4th Armored Division during WWII." I purchased the book and began reading it right before my AT in 1998 at Ft Stewart, GA.

It was the best book I had ever read on WWII and the life of a tanker. I would spend another year reading the book cover to cover multiple times. And in 1999 there was an article in *World War II Magazine* by Gen Irzyk. The August issue had an article titled "Firsthand Account 4th Armored Division Spearhead to Bastogne." I read the article and sent an email to the magazine with questions I had about the article. I received an email that they would be getting back to me with answers. When I came home from Thanksgiving in November of 1999 I found in my mailbox a letter from Gen Irzyk. When I first opened it I expected a form letter. To my surprise I found a letter answering all of my questions. He told me that WWII Magazine sent him the questions and he took the time to answer them!

Some other projects I been working on is with my hometown of Island, KY and McLean County with identifying World War I casualties. Starting with a list of names we have nothing more than a name. After a few weeks we have turned up a lot of good information including the fact that we have 4 soldiers from the county still buried overseas. One soldier from Island is buried at the Aisne-Marne American Cemetery and three others from McLean County are buried in the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery. One earned a Distinguished Service Cross with the 16th Infantry of the 1st Division.

On Saturday September 22nd I went to the Patton Museum to see it after reopening. The outside is vastly different. There is no longer a flagpole out front. The brick pavers now line the sidewalk leading from the parking lot. Which is now covered! Inside the museum there was very little change. There is a new small movie theater right when you walk in now. One item I did see which has not been out for a while is the large German flag captured in North Africa. It is claimed to be the first such captured flag by U.S. forces. The Abrams auditorium is still closed.

We are in the midst of the WWI Centennial. I hope everyone spends some time looking into their family history to see if they any family that served in WWI and takes the time to research it and talk about it.

Please be sure to spread the word about our monument project.

KP Morris  
Patton 6

**WWW.WORLDWARICENTENNIAL.ORG**

## CPL Morton W. Atchison - US Tank Corps

A little project I have been working on is to look up all the members of the US Tank Corps who were killed in WW1 off of the American Battlefield Monuments Commission website. As I was pulling up the names I came across one listed on the Tablets of the Missing. After a little digging I found out that Corporal Morton W. Atchison was from Owensboro, KY. So from there I went to the History of Owensboro Facebook page and posted to see what I could find out. There were three quick newspaper articles that listed him as dying from disease and possibly being buried at sea. So I contacted ABMC to see why someone buried at sea would be listed on the tablet of the missing.

The ABMC told me to contact National Personnel Records in St. Louis to see if I could obtain a burial file so that we could in fact determine where CPL Atchison is buried. So on July 24, 2018 I emailed the NPRC to see if we could obtain the burial record. George Fuller, Archives Technician, responded that they would see what they could find. On July 25, 2018 they found the burial file. So I was sent a print request form to send payment for the copies. That request arrived on Thursday August 16, 2018. I sent out a check the following day. Two days later I received the print request for CPL Atchison's personal records as they had been found. So I sent the print request in for that also. Below is one of the newspaper articles that talked about CPL Atchison. This is from the Owensboro Messenger-Inquirer, November 1, 1918.

***Morton Atchison Dies At Sea While On Way To France  
Mother Receives Letter From Officer Notifying Her of Son's Death  
WAS WITH TANK CORPS***

Corporal Morton W. Atchison, one of the best known young men of Owensboro, died at sea on Friday, October 4, while en route to France with the 378<sup>th</sup> company, tank corps, of the United States Army.

This information was received on Thursday in a letter to his mother, Mrs. J. D. Atchison, from his commanding officer, Lieut. Charles Langham. The letter was as follows:

***Letter To Mother***

On Board American Transport

My dear Mrs. Atchison: I presume before this letter reaches you that our government has notified you of the death of your son, Morton. Morton passed away the evening of Friday, Oct. 4. I was with him during the afternoon and evening and can assure you that all medical attention possible was given to him.

At this time, which is probably one of the most difficult that a mother ever has to go through, it must be a comfort to you to know that your boy lived and passed as only a true soldier and gentleman. He was a good soldier, did his duty and did it well. This to me is the highest compliment that can be paid a man during these trying times. He had won the respect and affection of his comrades and officers.

On August 27th the burial file arrived. I took photos of the documents and sent them the ABMC so that would verify his burial location. The file contained 3 documents which all reported that CPL Atchison had been buried at sea. Below is the response from ABMC: "Thanks for sharing what the burial file contains. Now it is clearer - Corporal Atchinson is listed on Suresnes American Cemetery Walls of the Missing which comprise names of both missing soldiers and soldiers buried at sea, which is the case of Cpl Atchinson according to the burial file. It is not clearly specified on our website though. I will follow-up on this internally to see if we could make this information clearer. However, we would not place a rosette next to his name as rosettes are traditionally placed next to a missing soldier's name to show that their body has been recovered, identified and reburied. This is not the case for Cpl Atchinson. Thanks for investigating!"

So at least we have now corrected the website to indicate that CPL Morton W. Atchison died of disease and was buried at sea.

The papers of Corporal Atchison I received were donated to the Daviess County Public Library and their Kentucky Room for genealogy department.

IN MEMORY OF  
★★★★★  
MORTON W. ATCHISON

RANK  
CORPORAL, U.S. ARMY

UNIT  
TANK CORPS

DATE OF DEATH  
OCTOBER 4, 1918

COMMEMORATED IN PERPETUITY AT  
SURESNES AMERICAN CEMETERY  
SURESNES, FRANCE



*"Time will not dim the glory of their deeds."*

— GENERAL JOHN J. PERSHING

## Gen S D Rockenbach Sons of the American Revolution WW1 Service Medal



On Sunday August 19th I won an item off eBay that I find very interesting. When it first popped up I “watched” it until the final day. Opening bid was \$2.35. On the final day I watched as it climbed to \$15.50 and then it just fell silent. So with 20 seconds left I put in a pretty good bid in an effort to secure. As luck would have it, I WON!

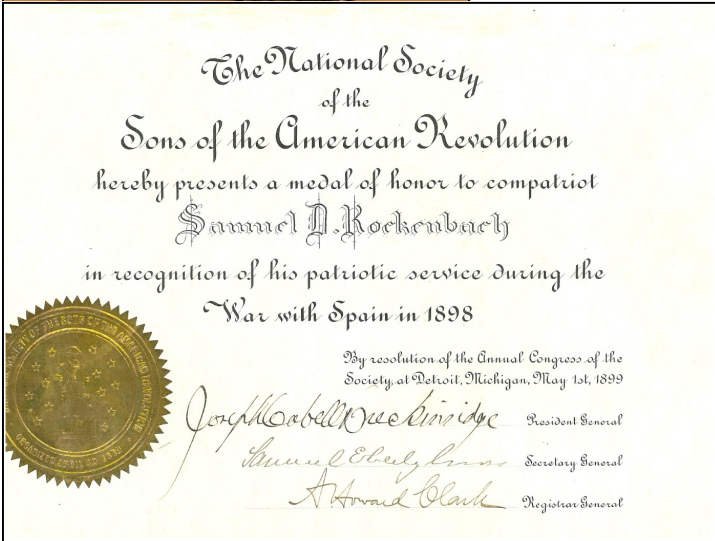
Now when I first saw this I figured it to be a copy or counterfeit. When the package arrived on August 22nd I began to look at it closely and figured I would reach out to some places to see what I could find. My first email was to the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) as this is where the paper of General Samuel D Rockenbach are located. Diane Jacob, of VMI, responded on August 23 2018, “There is no mention of the SAR WW1 medal in the papers. However, I have attached a scan indicating that he received a similar award for the Spanish American War.” (photo bottom left)

My next email was to the SAR library and archives. The response from Rea Ann Sauer was “The World War I medal was given to SAR members who served during that war. It was typically given by a local chapter to the individual, therefore there is no record here at National about who was given each medal or when it was given. I can confirm that there was a member named Samuel D. Rockenbach (#1791) who joined the SAR in 1911.” When I sent her the image of the Spanish American War certificate she replied: “That is very cool that they have a copy of his certificate from the Spanish-American War! According to our records, when he joined he was a member of the Virginia Society but was stationed at Ft. Assinniboine, MT. Actually, after looking a bit closer it looks like he joined the SAR in 1896 and became a dual member with the Philippines Society in 1911 (the SAR used to have a chapter there).”

Rea Ann Sauer then suggested that I reach out to the chapter that covers Camp Meade, MD as that is where Gen Rockenbach was located after World War I. So on August 28, 2018 I began reaching out to the Maryland SAR Society.

So as of September 24th I have not received any new information on the SAR Medal.

I am going to get the medal repaired and will purchase the replacement ribbon. So this will be updated in a future issue



From the 1900 National Register of the Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Samuel Dickerson Rockenbach, U.S.A., (1791). Son of Frank J. and Jeanie (Nicolson) Rockenbach; grandson of Robert and Ann E. (Hannah) Nicolson; great-grandson of William C. and Jane Clack (Thornton) Hannah; great<sup>2</sup>-grandson of Peter Presley and Mary (McCulloch) Thornton; great<sup>3</sup>-grandson of *Roderick McCulloch*, private Virginia troops, subscriber to Patriotic Fund of Amherst County.

The National Yearbook of 1901 lists General Rockenbach as a First Lieutenant with the Tenth U.S. Cavalry.

## Brigadier General Albin F. Irzyk 1917 - 2018



Below is Dad's obituary.

Brigadier General Albin F. Irzyk USA (Retired), son of Felix and Sophie Irzyk, died September 10, 2018. He was born in Salem, MA on January 2, 1917 and was educated in the Salem Public School system where as a high school senior he was voted most likely to succeed. He graduated from Massachusetts State College in Amherst with a BA in English in 1940. While in College Irzyk was a three time letterman in baseball and football, and was awarded the Allan Leon Pond Memorial Medal for his outstanding play on the football team. Years later, in 1964, Sports Illustrated Magazine would select Albin Irzyk to receive their Silver Anniversary All America Award. Academically, Irzyk was President of his college honor society, a member of the student government body, President of his fraternity and upon graduation was selected as "Man of the Year." While at college Irzyk was a member of the Reserve Officer's Training Program (ROTC).

General Irzyk began his military career on July 1, 1940 with the 3rd United States Cavalry (Horse) Regiment at Fort Ethan Allen, VT. His Regimental Commander was Colonel George S. Patton, Jr. General Irzyk fought World War II as a twenty seven year old Tank Battalion Commander in the famed 4th Armored Division, which spearheaded General Patton's Third Army all across Europe. He commanded the 14th Armored Cavalry Regiment along the "Iron Curtain" at maximum alert during the Berlin Crisis of 1961. General Irzyk was the Commanding General of Headquarters Area Command (HAC) in Saigon during the TET Offensive of 1968. His next assignment was as Assistant Division Commander of the 4th Infantry Division in the Central Highlands of Viet Nam. General Irzyk's last assignment, prior to his retirement from active duty in 1971, was Commanding General of Fort Devens, MA.

His decorations for valor include the Distinguish Service Cross for extraordinary heroism, two Silver Stars, four Bronze Stars and two Purple Hearts. His other decorations include the Distinguish Service Medal, three Legions of Merit, and eleven Air Medals. General Irzyk's foreign decorations include the French Croix de Guerre, the French Legion of Honor, the Czech War Cross and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry. On February 18, 2017 he was awarded the Officer in the Order of the Crown of Belgium for his exploits in 1944 during the Battle of the Bulge.

General Irzyk's accomplishments outside the service are noteworthy. He served as General Manager and Headmaster of a private secondary school. He sat on boards as a Director for such organizations as Rotary and the American Red Cross in addition to being the President of the European Council of Catholic Men, for which he received the Sir Thomas Moore Award. The United States Armor Association awarded him the prestigious Gold medallion, Order of St. George.

General Irzyk has been a frequent guest speaker at Veteran's meetings, ceremonies, parades and dedications. He was a founding member and continues as the Vice Chair of the South Florida Chapter of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge. In addition he has made numerous talks at schools of all levels to discuss the holocaust and what he encountered in April of 1945 when his battalion liberated the first concentration camp in Germany.

General Irzyk is the author of six books, four about World War II, the TET Offensive in Saigon, Vietnam in 1968, and the 14th Armored Cavalry Regiment. His most recent book was published the year he celebrated his 100th birthday.

General Irzyk has been a guest on the Weather Channel's program "When Weather Changed History," On Oliver North's program "War Stories – the Remarkable Life and Mysterious Death of General George S. Patton, Jr.," two programs on the History Channel series Great Tank Battles – "The Battle of the Bulge" and "The Arracourt Tank Battle," and the Military Channel Series "Patton 360."

General Irzyk is survived by his wife of 72 years Evelyn, three children, a nephew, five grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. He will be buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

Karlen,

Dad died Monday at 4:10pm. He was peaceful and in no pain. While it is a sad occasion we are thankful for his 101+ years, relieved that dad was able to go out on his own terms and that he called the shots until the end.

He will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery but final arrangements are pending.

All of us in the Irzyk family very much appreciate all of the prayers, thoughts and kind words.

Mom is doing well despite losing her soulmate of 72 years. We prepared her for this eventuality and she has accepted it in her usual graceful manner.

We are still not ready to receive calls at the house and no need to reply to this message. - Al Jr.

## This month 100 years ago

### Today in Tank Corps 100:

#### ST. MIHIEL, 12-16 SEPTEMBER 1918

By Donald A. Carter

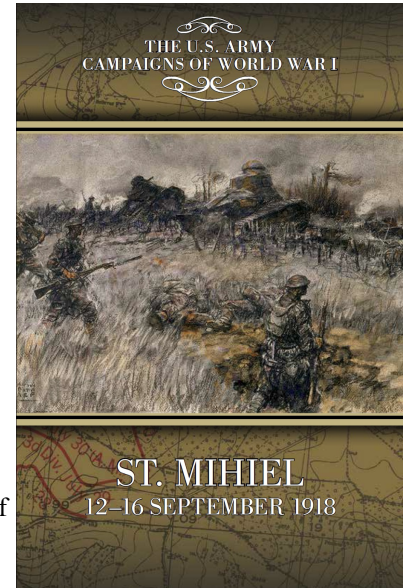
*U.S. Army Campaigns of World War I*

CMH Pub 77-7, Paper

2018; 61 pages, illustrations, maps, further readings

GPO S/N: 008-029-00635-9

St. Mihiel, 12-16 September 1918 is the seventh installment of the U.S. Army Campaigns of World War I series, covering the American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) participation in the St. Mihiel Offensive in September 1918. The St. Mihiel salient, created during the initial German invasion in 1914, had withstood multiple French efforts to regain the territory. Yet even though the Germans had established strong defensive positions around St. Mihiel and its neighboring villages and towns, the salient was highly vulnerable to attack and was an optimal target for a potential American operation. Until this point in the war, members of the AEF had not fought in a formation larger than a corps, and then only under French or British leadership. Now, as part of the American First Army under General John J. Pershing, they prepared to launch an offensive that would demonstrate to the Allies and the Germans alike that the Americans were capable of operating as an independent command. The AEF's successful efforts in the St. Mihiel Offensive, and the hard-won operational and tactical lessons that it learned during the battle, helped set the stage for the grand Allied offensive that would seize the initiative on the Western Front and blaze a path toward ultimate victory in the war.



This book can be downloaded from the CMH at: <https://history.army.mil/catalog/pubs/77/77-7.html>

After turning over command of the tank center to Viner on Tuesday, August 20, Patton, accompanied by Lieutenant Maurice K Knowles, drove to Chaumont, picked up Rockenbach, and continued to Neufchateau, where the headquarters of the First U. S. Army was located. On the way, Rockenbach briefed Patton on a proposed operation in which the tanks might take part. The St. Mihiel offensive, as it would be called, was tentatively scheduled for September 5 or 7. It would involve several American Corps under First Army, commanded by Pershing, who would retain also his position as Commander in Chief, AEF.

*Letter, GSP, Jr., to Beatrice, September 1, 1918.*

I was out on patrol in No mans land last week. It was most interesting and not at all exciting. We went along with the "burglars crawl" for about a mile and a half till we came to the Bosch wire. This we examined and the Bosch whistled at us and we whistled back and having seen what we wanted went home. No one shot at us but we saw some Bosch walking along about 100m. Both sides were anxious not to disturb the others. Coming back we came through a village from house to another by holes in the walls. The village had been destroyed a long time and looked like a skeleton in Texas. (*Patton Papers Vol I, p568*)

Patton most of Friday writing a terrain report and a suggested plan for employing tanks. The corps staff members were most helpful; Burt, Farman, Cotton, and Russell were old friends. That evening Patton returned to Neufchateau.

Early Saturday morning, he and Rockenbach, brought each other up to date. Rockenbach, on temporary duty with First Army, had studied the operational plans issued by the Army, the corps, and the divisions. A large number of tanks would take part in the attack -- three U.S. heavy battalions coming from England with 150 British tanks, three French battalions with 225 light tanks, and two U.S. battalions, both Patton's, with 144 French light tanks. As a matter of fact, the first of Patton's new tanks were beginning to arrive at Bourg that day.

Telling what he had done, Patton said that his reconnaissance "showed the absolute necessity for a tank officer to personally see the ground." All the intelligence reports indicated that the ground to be used by the tanks was an impassable swamp further blocked by dreadful barbed wire; and his observations from OP's confirmed these reports. But his participation in a raid convinced him that the ground and the wire were neither impassable or dreadful. An attack could be made. (*Patton Papers Vol I, p569*)

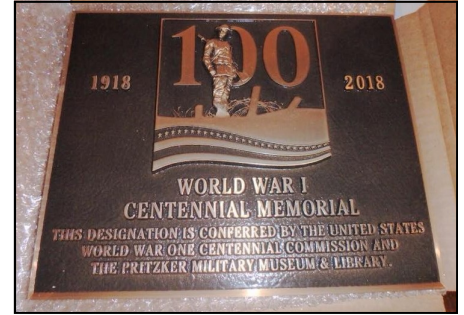
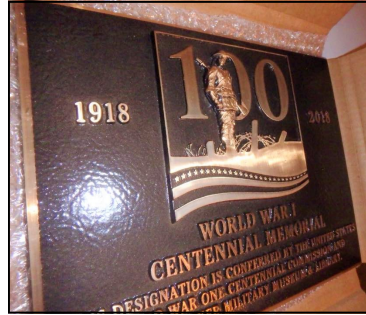
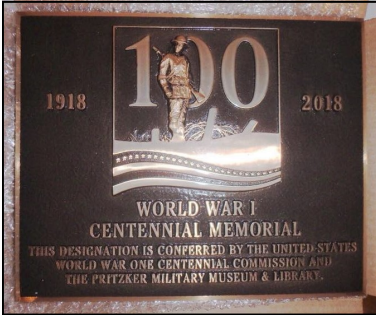
With the men at the tank center - officially designated the 302nd Tank Center - working feverishly under Viner's direction to tune up the new tanks and get them ready for combat, Patton put Viner in charge of the school and training facility. He placed Brett in command of the 1st (326th) Tank battalion, gave Captain Ranulf Compton command of the 2nd (327th) Battalion. These two battalions would operate in battle under Patton's headquarters, called the 304th Brigade, Tank Corps. (later simply 1st Tank Brigade) (*Patton Papers Vol I, p571*)

### Patton Monument Report for 2017

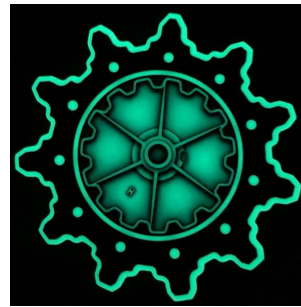
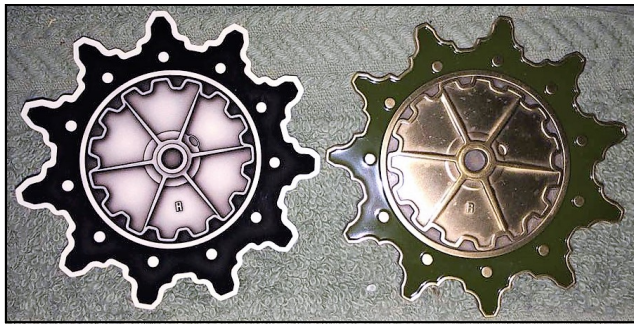
All shirts have been shipped out but 2 pending payment.

As of September 25, 2018, the Monument fund has \$13,995.00. On September 5th, I received the WW1 Commission memorial plaque. On September 6th we were billed for the \$411.00.

Total in Monument Account: \$13,995.00



We are SOLD OUT of the Sprocket stickers and currently have but 15 left. We are asking \$4 each for these.



#### Patton Battalion Funds / Memberships / Dues

The Patton Battalion, as of September 25, has 451 members on our battalion Facebook page. Out of those 451 members we are currently at 93 paid members. The Patton Battalion has \$79.15 in funds in the PayPal account. We have \$456.03 in the Patton Operating account.

In order to be a paid member of the battalion you must be a paid member of USABOT National. Again, a paid first year membership of \$15.00 which gets you a free battalion patch. Since we now have the battalion patch in the larger size both in color and subdued you have a choice as to which one you want free with your paid membership.

Both patches are also available for \$5 EA.

Your annual membership renewal will be \$10.00 every year after that. **Annual dues for the battalion are now due in June of each year!**

You can pay for your battalion membership through Paypal at: **pattonbattalion@outlook.com** or **patton.battalion@usabot.org**.

If you don't have a Paypal account you can send a check or Money Order to:

**Patton Battalion - USABOT**  
1432 Flood Road  
Shelbyville, KY 40065



#### ATTENTION

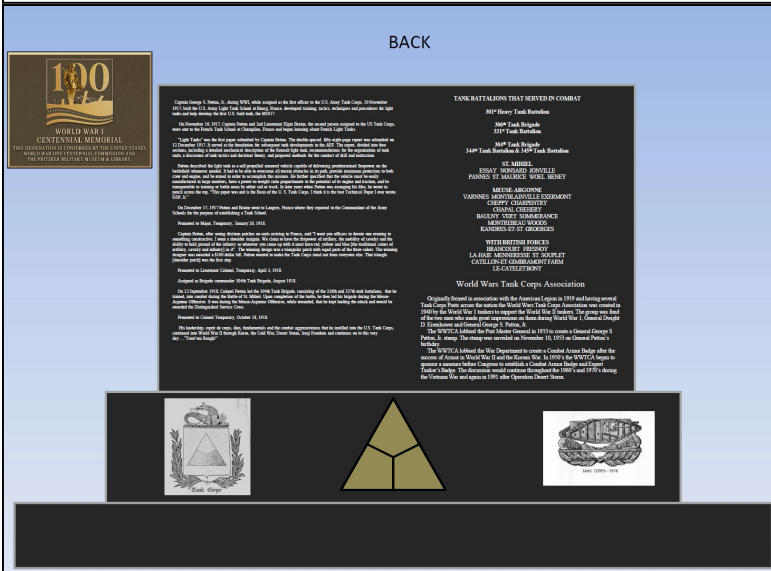
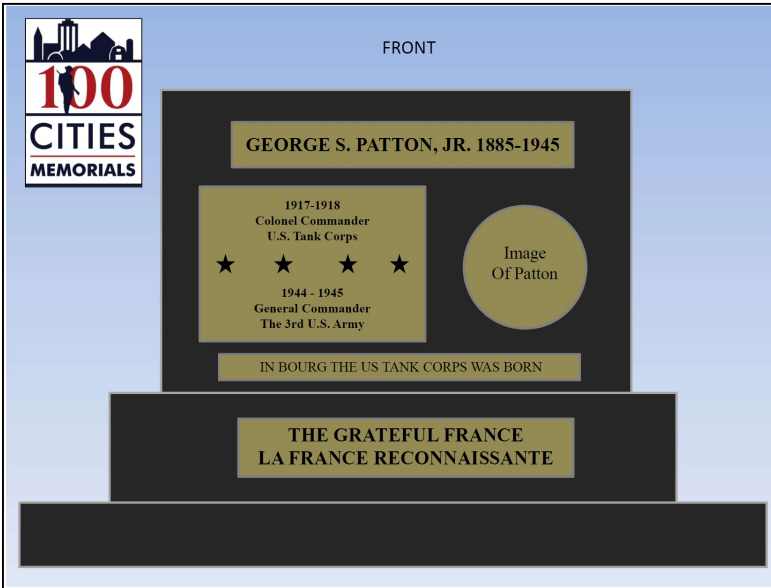
**USABOT Memberships can be renewed and purchased By mail at**

**USABOT**  
68 West Marion ST  
Doylestown, OH 44230

**Make checks payable to USABOT**  
**If at all possible try to go the USABOT Store Online and register there so that the G4 can track.**

**WWW.USABOT.ORG**

# Patton Joins the US Tank Corps Monument

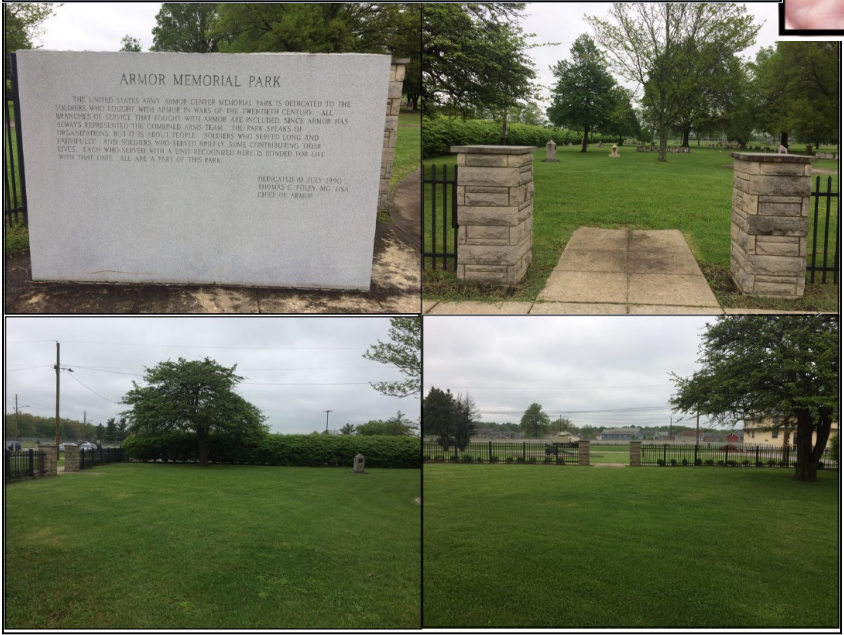


**We have some Green Tee Shirts On hand**



We are currently suspending the Tan and OD green tee shirts for the time being. Looking at some different options. I do have some OD Green tee shirts on hand from the last printing mistake. The sale of these will be split between the Monument fund and shipping for future items. I have Small – 1, Large – 5, XL – 3, 2XL – 3, 3XL - 1.

The Coins I still have: 339-341, 346-349, 359, 361-362, 370-376, 378-389, 391-394.



## Patton Monument Report for 2017

### *Proposed wording for back of monument - Left Side*

Captain George S. Patton, Jr., during WWI, while assigned as the first officer to the U.S. Army Tank Corps, 10 November 1917, built the U.S. Army Light Tank School at Bourg, France, developed training, tactics, techniques and procedures for light tanks and help develop the first U.S. built tank, the M1917.

Letter from Captain Patton to Commander-in-Chief A.E.F, Subject: Command in the Tank Service. October 3, 1917.

1. I understand that there is to be a new service of "Tanks" organized and request that my name be considered for a command in that service.
2. I think myself qualified for this service for the following reasons.
  - A. The duty of "Tanks" and more especially of "Light Tanks" is analogous to the duty performed by cavalry in normal wars. I am a cavalryman.
  - B. I have commanded a Machine Gun Troop and know something of the mechanism of Machine Guns. I have always had a Troop which shot well so think that I am a good instructor in fire. It is stated that accurate fire is very necessary to good use of tanks.
  - C. I have run Gas Engines since 1917 and have used and repaired Gas Automobiles since 1905.
  - D. I speak and read French better than 95% of American Officers so could get information from the French Direct. I have also been to school in France and have always gotten on well with Frenchmen.
  - E. I believe that I have quick judgment and that I am willing to take chances. Also I have always believed in getting close to the enemy and have taught this for two years at the Mounted Services School where I had success in arousing the aggressive spirit in the students.
  - F. I believe that I am the only American who has ever made an attack in a motor vehicle.
3. This request is not made because I dislike my present duty or am desirous of evading it but because I believe that when we get "Tanks" I would be able to do good service in them.

November 10, 1917: Order for tanks approved by GHQ AEF General Order 153, Paragraph 37.

On November 16, 1917, Captain Patton and 2nd Lieutenant Elgin Braine, the second person assigned to the US Tank Corps, were sent to the French Tank School at Champlieu, France and began learning about French Light Tanks.

"Light Tanks" was the first paper submitted by Captain Patton. The double-spaced, fifty-eight-page report was submitted on 12 December 1917. It served as the foundation for subsequent tank developments in the AEF. The report, divided into four sections, including a detailed mechanical description of the Renault light tank, recommendations for the organization of tank units, a discussion of tank tactics and doctrinal theory, and proposed methods for the conduct of drill and instruction.

Patton described the light tank as a self-propelled armored vehicle capable of delivering predetermined firepower on the battlefield whenever needed. It had to be able to overcome all terrain obstacles in its path, provide maximum protection to both crew and engine, and be armed in order to accomplish this mission. He further specified that the vehicle must be easily manufactured in large numbers, have a power-to-weight ratio proportionate to the potential of its engine and traction, and be transportable to training or battle areas by either rail or truck. In later years when Patton was arranging his files, he wrote in pencil across the top, "This paper was and is the Basis of the U. S. Tank Corps. I think it is the best Technical Paper I ever wrote. GSP, Jr."

On December 17, 1917 Patton and Braine went to Langres, France where they reported to the Commandant of the Army Schools for the purpose of establishing a Tank School.

In late December Patton and Braine reconnoitered land that would be suitable for the tank School. They found and looked over ground near Bourg and decided that it was exactly what was needed for a school, tank park and maneuver ground. At Bourg, five miles south of Langres on the road to Dijon, the land was in the Bois d'Amour, a rising piece of ground crowned by a wood and flanked by two good roads and a railroad. Bourg, with nearby villages of St. Geosmes and Brennes, as well as Langres, were conveniently located for billets.

Promoted to Major, Temporary, January 26, 1918.

Assigned formally as the Commandant of the 1<sup>st</sup> Light Tank School, February 14, 1918.

Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, Temporary, April 3, 1918.

Organized 1<sup>st</sup> Light Tank Battalion with himself commanding, April 28, 1918.

Organized 2<sup>nd</sup> Light Tank Battalion, with himself in command of the Regiment, June 6, 1918.

Captain Patton, after seeing division patches on units arriving in France, said "I want you officers to devote one evening to something constructive. I want a shoulder insignia. We claim to have the firepower of artillery, the mobility of cavalry and the ability to hold ground of the infantry so whatever you come up with it must have red, yellow and blue [the traditional colors of artillery, cavalry and infantry] in it". The winning design was a triangular patch with equal parts of the three colors. The winning designer was awarded a \$100 dollar bill. Patton wanted to make the Tank Corps stand out from everyone else. That triangle [shoulder patch] was the first step.

Student, General Staff College, Langres, France, August 20, 1918.

Organized and assigned himself Brigade commander 304th Tank Brigade, August 24, 1918.

On 12 September 1918, Colonel Patton led the 304th Tank Brigade, consisting of the 326th and 327th tank battalions, that he trained, into combat during the Battle of St. Mihiel.

Led the 304<sup>th</sup> Tank Brigade during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. The Distinguished Service Cross Citation reads: for extraordinary heroism in action while serving with the Tank Corps, A.E.F., near Cheppy, France, 26 September 1918. Colonel Patton displayed conspicuous courage, coolness, energy, and intelligence in directing the advance of his brigade down the valley of the Aire. Later he rallied a force of disorganized infantry and led it forward, behind the tanks, under heavy machine-gun and artillery fire until he was wounded. Unable to advance further, Colonel Patton continued to direct the operations of his units until all arrangements for turning over the command were complete. General Order No. 113 (1918)

Promoted to Colonel Temporary, October 18, 1918.

His leadership, esprit de corps, élan, fundamentals and the combat aggressiveness that he instilled into the U.S. Tank Corps, continued into World War II through Korea, the Cold War, Desert Storm, Iraqi Freedom and continues on to this very day...."Treat'em Rough!"



## Patton Monument Report for 2017

*Proposed wording for backside of Monument (Right Side Rear)*

### TANK BATTALIONS THAT SERVED IN COMBAT

**301<sup>st</sup> Heavy Tank Battalion  
306<sup>th</sup> Tank Brigade  
331<sup>st</sup> Tank Battalion**

**304<sup>th</sup> Tank Brigade  
344<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion & 345<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion**

#### ST. MIHIEL

● ESSAY ● NONSARD ● JONVILLE ● PANNES ● ST. MAURICE ● WOEL ● BENEY ●

#### MEUSE-ARGONNE

● VARNNES ● MONTBLAINVILLE ● EXERMONT ● CHEPPY ● CHARPENTRY ● CHAPAL CHEHERY ●  
● BAULNY ● VERY ● SOMMERANCE ● MONTREBEAU WOODS ● KANDRES-ET-ST. GROERGES ●

#### WITH BRITISH FORCES

● BRANCOURT ● FRESNOY ● LA-HAIE MENNERESSE ● ST. SOUplet ●  
● CATILLON-ET-GIMBRAMONT FARM ● LE-CATELET BONY ●

#### MEDAL OF HONOR

2

#### DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

50



### WORLD WARS TANK CORPS ASSOCIATION

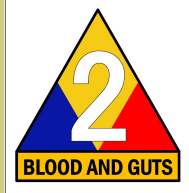
In 1919 the movement began to create Tank Corps Posts as a part of the newly formed American Legion. The purpose of the organization was to promote and maintain public interest in tanks as an arm of the service and to form a bond between its members by means of social and fraternal activities. These tankers created Tank Corps Posts formed in Chicago, New York, St Louis, Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. just to name a few. The group was fond of the two men who made great impressions on them during World War 1, General Dwight D. Eisenhower and General George S. Patton, Jr.

The WWTCA lobbied the Post Master General in 1953 to create a General George S Patton, Jr. stamp. The stamp was unveiled on November 10, 1953 on General Patton's birthday.

The official combat badge of the American fighting tankmen was approved and released by the World Wars Tank Corps Association in April, 1957. Centered on the badge is a replica of the British Mark V tank running over the flaming sword symbolic of battle and in particular of Chateau Thierry. The background is blue and the inscription "World Wars Tank Corps." All armored combat men of both World Wars were eligible for the badge which was issued only through the World Wars Tank Corps Association. President Eisenhower received the first combat badge on July 7, 1958, at the White House.

The WWTCA lobbied the War Department to create a Combat Armor Badge after the success of Armor in World War II and the Korean War. In 1950's the WWTCA began to sponsor a measure before Congress to establish a Combat Armor Badge and Expert Tanker's Badge. The discussion would continue throughout the 1960's and 1970's during the Vietnam War and again in 1991 after Operation Desert Storm.

One of the last contributions made by this group was the Armored Force Monument located in Arlington National Cemetery.



Patton Battalion - USABOT

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A photo from the Museum of Missouri Military History FB page, posted August 25, 2018. French Renault FT-17 stuck in the mud. This one was part of a unit attached to the 35<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, Missouri National Guard

This is actually a US FT-17. It's B Co 345<sup>th</sup> TK BN. It could also possibly be 327<sup>th</sup> before it was renumbered the 345<sup>th</sup>. French tanks carried their markings on the lower rear hull. US tank on the turret. Only the 327<sup>th</sup>/345<sup>th</sup> carried white numbers 1-5 on the turret. From Glen Broman on the National Armor and Cavalry Museum FB page.

Coming up in the October Issue - The Meuse-Argonne Offensive 100 years later!

Upcoming Events

**Patton and the US Tank Corps Monument - Fort Knox - *Spring 2018 (If we reach the \$30,000)***

Candlelight Vigil at the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery (series post #5):

A moving and emotional commemoration as candles are placed on thousands of headstones Sept. 23, 2018 in Meuse, France The ceremony commemorates America's deadliest battle ever that cost 26,000 lives but helped bring an end to World War I. (Julien de Rosa/AP Images for WW1 Centennial) [#WWI100](#) [#ww1](#) [#WWI](#)  
[ww1cc.org/international](http://ww1cc.org/international)

