



PATTON BATTALION - USABOT

ILLINOIS - INDIANA - KENTUCKY - TENNESSEE

**NEWSLETTER
SEPTEMBER 2018
VOLUME 6 - NO. 11**

IN THIS ISSUE

- ◆ Veteran's Day
- ◆ CPT Kit Varney
- ◆ Patton and the US Tank Corps Monument Update
- ◆ Battalion Information

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

As you can tell this is the November issue of the battalion newsletter. For the first time in nearly two years I have skipped a monthly issue. Here is what happened. I have been busy working to identify the World War I soldiers from my hometown, Island, KY, and the men of McLean County who died during the Great War. This was done by working with the people of McLean County and using three different newspaper articles to identify the men. With nearly three weeks of very heavy researching and looking at records we not only identified them but found all but ones grave. The original list with twelve men turned into twenty-three names. I have again learned a lot about the men from my town and county but also about the units that they served in.

Ten of the 23 died of disease while the others were either killed in action or died of their wounds. One soldier earned the Distinguished Service Cross and another earned the Silver Star and Purple Heart. You may say they all earned a Purple Heart but this award did not originate until after WWI. And if the families have never requested the records these have not been issued. Of the twenty-three 9 are still buried in France at three different cemeteries. This project took me away from the Patton and the US Tank Corps monument project but I did learn about two men who served in the US Tank Corps from McLean County.

Forest Girvin was wounded severely in WWI with the Tank Corps. He would die in 1969 from a heart attack resulting from an automobile accident. The other gentleman, Roy R, Hancock, served with the 301st Tank Battalion. After the war he was elected the first commander of the local American Legion in 1930. I am working to try and find more information on both men.

On November 10, Papaw Mike and I presented Lloyd Heller with his donation certificate. See page 7 for a photo. Lloyd is only the second 100 year old tanker to donate \$100 to the Patton and the US Tank Corps monument. BG Irzyk was the other 100 year old tanker to donate \$100. These two Centennial Tankers have donated to the project and both really liked the coin when it was presented. Lloyd really liked the certificate. He told us some stories from WWII also.

I hope everyone used their Bells of Peace app to toll the bells on November 11th. I did. I would rather have been at Fort Knox dedicating our monument but we will continue to push for donations and work to get the monument in place in the near future.

I will continue to look for ways to get the word out on this project and keep thinking of ways we can get donations.

KP Morris
Patton 6

WWW.WORLDWAR1CENTENNIAL.ORG



TO HONOR & REMEMBER

Recognizing the Contributions Across the United States of America in Honoring the Centennial of World War One





On November 11, 2018 I got up and drove to town in Shelbyville and thought I would hang out at the Veteran's Memorial in downtown. I wasn't sure if anyone else would be there but I thought it would be a good spot to sit.

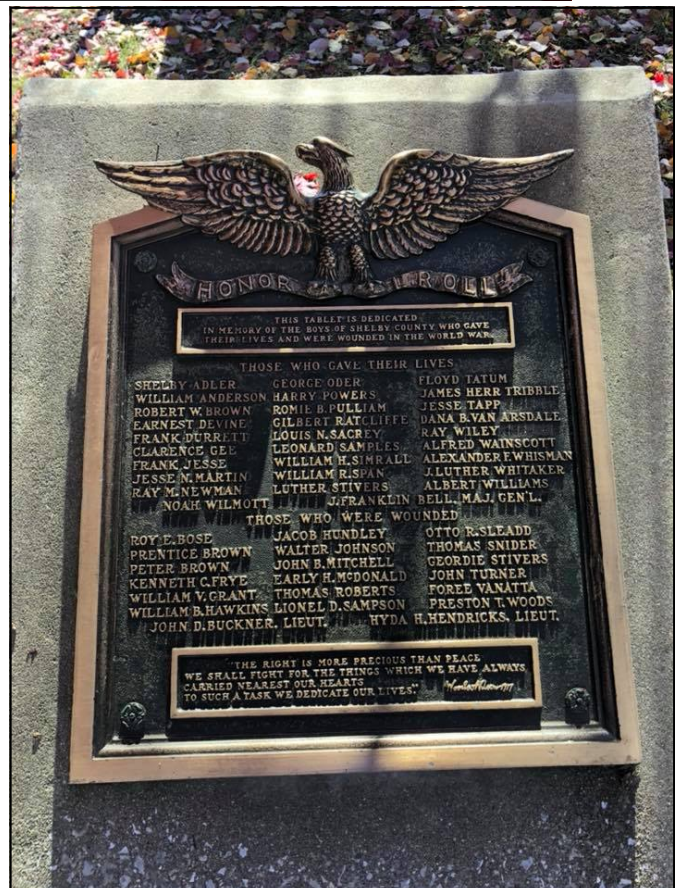
When I got there I was surprised to see no one around. So I walked around and took some photos and uploaded them to the Bells of Peace App.

At 1100 my app started ringing the bell. I took video of the Honor Roll monument as the bells chimed. It was quiet other than the traffic that never slowed down. No one came around for the nearly 40 minutes I sat next to the memorials.

It made me wonder what these men would think today. How we spend the day on November 11.

I want to point out the name J. Franklin Bell, Maj. Gen'l. Franklin Bell was the Chief of Staff of the US Army from 1906 to 1910. He was born near Shelbyville, KY. Attended West Point in 1874. He was a Cavalry officer.

There is a link on the WW1 Centennial page for photos and videos from the app. <https://www.worldwar1centennial.org/commemorate/event-map-system/ace-events-sharing.html>



Captain Kit Robert Varney

Captain Kit Robert Varney was killed in action September 29, 1918. He was with the 301st Tank Battalion US Tank Corps. Kit was the son of John and Calista Varney born in January 1878. He was born in Virginia City, Nevada. He was child number six of the seven children John and Calista had. John W. Varney was born February 1840 in Maine. His mother, Calista, was born December 1841 in Vermont. The children were:
 Martha, born about 1860, in Illinois.
 Harry, born about 1861, in Vermont.
 Chester, born December 1869, in California.
 Frank H., born in September 1873, in California.
 John W., born February 1876, in Nevada.
 Kit Robert, born January 1878, in Nevada.
 Madeleine, born October 1880, in California.

Of the 5 brothers three served in the Army. Harry, John and Kit all three served in the Army. Harry and John both served with the California National Guard and John served in the Spanish-American War.

There appears to be a mix up in the career path of Kit Varney. It is mentioned that he worked for the San Francisco Gas Company before WWI. From the research we have conducted Kit was a machinist, listed on the 1900 Census. He was working at a sugar refinery based on the 1910 Census. His brother Frank was an electrician and John was the civil engineer. John is the one who worked for the San Francisco Gas Company for nearly 37 years.

Harry was a Captain when he resigned his commission February 24, 1916. His brother John was a Corporal during his time in the service. John was also the commander of the Spanish American War Veterans.

Kit was a Captain in 1918 when he shipped out for England on February 8, 1918 on the S.S. New York. His Order No. was 0.20 W.D. Jan 24, 1918. They disembarked at Liverpool on February 17, 1918.

It is here that I want to point something out. Kit Varney, as in the photo above, is wearing U.S.R. on his collar with the US Tank Corps insignia. His orders for travel to England has E.R.C. on them. That stands for Enlisted Reserve Corps. I believe he was in the California National Guard but I cannot find anything on him serving in the Guard.



The 301st Tank Battalion, commanded by Major Roger Harrison, was assigned to the division for the attack of September 29th. It consisted of three companies: Company A, with fifteen tanks, commanded by Captain Kit Varney, who was killed on September 29th; Company B, consisting of ten tanks, commanded by Captain Victor L. Ralli; and Company C, commanded by Captain Ralph Clark, consisting of fifteen tanks. The seven remaining tanks were held in reserve. The signal tank was in charge of Captain C. Reynolds. Company A was assigned to the 108th Infantry on the right, Company B to the 105th Infantry in support, and Company C to the 107th Infantry on the left. The tanks were guided to their positions with the various companies of the attacking battalions by guides furnished by the infantry companies.

Each tank commander took into action with him necessary maps showing roads to be followed, obstacles to be encountered, barrage table The "Ausies" come forward with objective drawn upon it, and a number of oblique photographs of the relevant terrain. Opportunity had been afforded tank officers for several days prior to the attack to reconnoiter the approaches to their start positions and to study the maps and data available.

There were eight men who would receive the Distinguished Service Cross for actions on September 29, 1918 with the US Tank Corps. Captain Kit Varney was one of those men.

PLACE OF BIRTH: *Virginia City, Nevada*

HOME OF RECORD: *San Francisco, California*

AWARDS BY DATE OF ACTION: *Distinguished Service Cross*

AWARDED FOR ACTIONS DURING: *World War I*

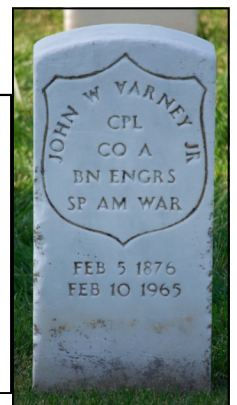
Service: *Army*

Rank: *Captain*

Battalion: *301st Tank Battalion*

Division: *Tank Corps, American Expeditionary Forces*

CPL John W. Varney, Jr. the brother to Kit. Buried at Golden Gate National Cemetery in San Francisco, CA Section: M Site: 961



Captain Kit Robert Varney

GENERAL ORDERS:

War Department, General Orders No. 32 (1919)

CITATION:

The President of the United States of America, authorized by Act of Congress, July 9, 1918, takes pride in presenting the Distinguished Service Cross (Posthumously) to Captain (Armor) Kit R. Varney, United States Army, for extraordinary heroism in action while serving with 301st Tank Battalion, Tank Corps, A.E.F., near Ronssoy, France, 29 September 1918. When a dense fog and a smoke barrage had made visibility so poor that it was difficult to get his tanks into action, Captain Varney personally led his machines on foot several hundred yards in advance of the first wave of infantry, in the face of deadly artillery and machine-gun fire. He thus enabled his tanks to maintain their direction and cleared a path for the infantry, but in accomplishing this heroic task he was killed.

Kit Roberts Varney was used to leading men in arduous conditions. Before America entered World War I, Varney had been a prospector on the Alaska frontier and eventually became a mine boss. He became the first company commander of A Company, 301st Tank Battalion while the unit was being formed at Camp Meade, Maryland. As the unit prepared to ship overseas to England to begin training, he acquired a puppy to serve as the company mascot. Captain Varney quickly gained a reputation for not only training his men hard, but training with them and taking care of them as well.

On 29 September 1918, as the 301st went into battle for the first time, Captain Varney led from the front. A Company was tasked to lead the 108th Infantry Regiment in an assault on the infamous Hindenburg Line. So thick was the combination of morning fog and artillery smoke that the tanks could not find their way. Realizing that delays in the dreaded "No Man's Land" would only mean further casualties, Captain Varney moved ahead of his tanks alone and lead A Company several hundred yards into the unknown on foot. While A Company and the 108th Infantry were able to continue the assault, Captain Kit Varney was killed by enemy fire.

After the war, Soldiers from A Company returned Captain Varney's pup, now a dog, to his family. A Company, 301st Tank Battalion, would later dedicate their unit history book to "our Dearest Friend...We cherish and treasure our thoughts of him-our leader-in that our Great Adventure". *From the US Cavalry and Armor Museum.*

Captain Kit Robert Varney was 40 years old at the time of his death.

Captain Kit Robert Varney would return home aboard the U.S.A.T. Cambrai. The ship sailed on March 21, 1921 from Antwerp, Belgium and arrived at Hoboken, NJ on April 3, 1921.

Captain Varney would be buried at Arlington National Cemetery on April 21, 1921. He is located in Section 3, Grave 4375. Originally buried in Grave # 174, Row 7, Plot H, #636 American Cemetery, Bony, Aisne, France.

Legion to Dedicate Memorial Window

San Francisco, Nov 16. - In memory of Captain Kit Roberts Varney, San Franciscan, member of the 301 Tank Corps, killed in action in 1917 overseas, a window will be dedicated in the memorial hall of Golden Gate Post No. 40, American Legion, 68 Haight Street, Sunday evening. The window is the gift of Mrs. Calista Varney, his mother, who lives at 3232 Laguna Street. At the same time consecration services will be held over soil from the graves of San Francisco soldiers buried in France, and a memorial plaque, the gift of Mrs. Doris Hayes in memory of her son, will be dedicated. (This was in 1918)

Robert Nathan Varney is the nephew of Kit Varney. He was born on November 7, 1910 in San Francisco, California, United States. Son of Frank Hastings Senior and Emily Patricia (Rhine) Varney.

His education included a Bachelor of Arts in Physics with highest honors, University California, Berkeley, 1931. Master of Arts, University California, Berkeley, 1932. Doctor of Philosophy, University California, Berkeley, 1935. Doctor of Science (honorary), Leopold Franzens University, Innsbruck, Austria, 1983.

Commander United States Naval Reserve, 1931-1957. Fellow American Physical Society; member American Association Physics Teachers, Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi, Tau Beta Pi, Omicron Delta Kappa.

His career included Instructor New York University, 1936-1938. Assistant professor, associate professor, professor Washington University, St. Louis, 1938-1964. Member research laboratory Bell Laboratories, Murray Hill, New Jersey, 1951-1952. Senior member research laboratory, senior science consultant Lockheed Missiles & Space Company, Palo Alto, California, 1964-1975. Retired, 1975. Member Missouri Governor's Science Advisory Committee, St. Louis, 1960-1964. Guest professor Leopold Franzens University, 1977-1978.

It was as a senior member research laboratory, senior science consultant Lockheed Missiles & Space Company, Palo Alto, California, 1964-1975 that he met COL(R) Edwin Todd Wheatley, Jr..

Captain Kit Robert Varney

EDWIN TODD WHEATLEY, JR. July 7, 1924 - May 29, 2004

Todd Wheatley was an extraordinary man who began his collecting quest in 1932 as an "army brat" in the Philippines where his father was stationed. He will be remembered for his on-going efforts to expand the knowledge of medal collectors. He was a frequent contributor to the Journal and had received five Literary Awards. He served as a Director from 1983 - 1987 and worked on several convention committees in the Bay Area. As an incentive and motivator to other members, in the 1980's he anonymously donated prize money for the best articles on United States medals and decorations.

As a writer, Todd enjoyed and vigorously pursued background research. He was the first to discover the existence of the Army Medal Rolls at the National Archives in Washington. One of his best-known works was a definitive monograph dealing with the history of army infantry crossed rifles and modifications to the basic insignia. During that time he was a member of the American Society of Military Insignia Collectors, and also served two years as editor of the Trading Post. He was a charter member of the Northern California Orders and Medals Society and served as secretary for a number of years.

Todd was born July 7, 1924 at the station hospital at Fort Totten, Long Island, NY. He entered military service on June 1, 1943, and fought as an infantry rifleman with the 34th Division in the Rome-Arno Campaign. He was wounded during the reduction of Pisa, Italy and evacuated to the U.S. In 1949 he graduated from the Infantry Officer Candidate School at Fort Riley, Kansas. He was also a graduate of the Command and General Staff College. In addition he attained a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business Administration from the University of New Mexico.

In 1992 he was inducted into the U.S. Army Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame at Fort Benning, Georgia. He was an active member of the American Legion and the Military Order of the Carabao. In September of 1979 he retired as a full colonel from the Sixth Army after a 36-year career covering full time active and reserve duty. He received the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal and the Commendation Medal. The award he was most proud of was the Combat Infantry Badge.

Todd leaves his wife Patricia, four children and eight grandchildren. He was buried with full military honors at Arlington Cemetery. He is in Court: 5, Section: MM, Column: 9, Niche: 4.

From the Journal of the Orders and Medals Society of America, July-August 2004, Vol. 55, No. 4. Submitted by Nic Wood and Doug Boyce

While working for Lockheed each year COL Wheatley would set up displays in the lobby display cases for Veteran's Day. One day Robert approached Todd and talked to him about what he does with the medals. Todd explained what they did as collectors and through the organization OMSA. Todd asked Robert if he was interested in joining OMSA but Robert said no. Robert told Todd that he had something that he might be interested in. Later Todd arrived at his desk one Monday morning to find the DSC of Kit Varney on his desk. Todd met with Robert and asked him about the medal and the story. Robert said that his aunt, I would assume to be Madeleine Varney Morris, handed down the medal to him. Robert told Todd that the medal had been in his dresser drawer for several years.

Todd kept the medal for several years until he was diagnosed with cancer. Todd contacted his friend Joe Canole, who was a member of OMSA, and who had a DSC for a WWII Officer that commanded an Armored Division. Todd asked Joe if he was interested in the DSC for CPT Varney and acquired the medal around 1998.

Joe has had the medal ever since then.

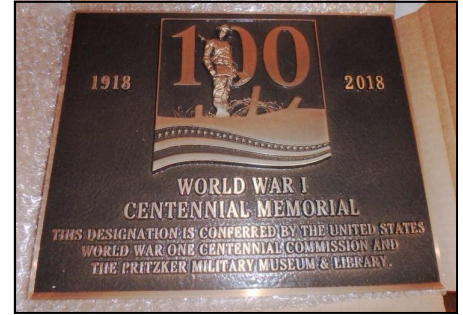
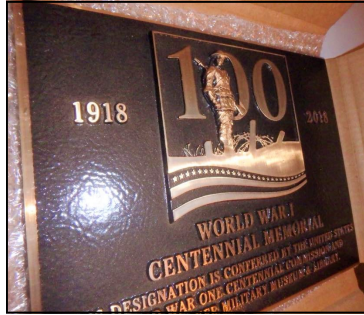
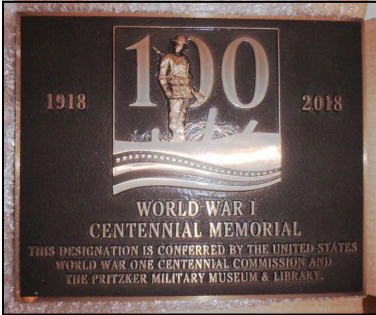
File No. 69806	Last Name VARNEY	Army Serial No.	First name and Initials Kit Roberts	Cablegram No. 382			
Rank Capt.	Organization Co. A, 301st Tank Corps		Cause of death K/A	Date of Death 9/29/18			
Date of Burial 10/4/18	Place of Burial—Unconfirmed		Cemetery Commune	No.			
Authority File No. D 645	Place of Burial—Confirmed Grave #30, Plot A, Row 2, Guillemont Farm Military Cty., Bony, (Aisne)		Cemetery Commune	641			
Authority File No. D 11227	Disinterred and Reburied: Date 5/31/19 In: Grave #174, Plot H, Row 7, Amer. Cty., Flanders Field Bony, Aisne		Cemetery	636			
Emergency Address: Mrs. C. R. Varney (Mother) 3232 Laguna St., San Francisco, Cal.			Notified Emergency Address 1/6/19 12/3/19 - F-107				
R. B. Sketch No. 5122	Photograph No. B-12328						
Grave Marker	Name Peg	Cross	Idea. Board	Bottle	Ident. Tags	Buried with body	On grave marker
		Yes				Yes	Yes
REMARKS:					2	EPR	
OVER							

Patton Monument Report for 2017

All shirts have been shipped out but 1 pending payment.

As of November 26, 2018, the Monument fund has \$14,103.00. On September 5th, I received the WW1 Commission memorial plaque. On September 6th we were billed for the \$411.00.

Total in Monument Account: \$14,103.00



I have over 50 of the Treat'em Rough stickers again! We are asking \$5 each, which includes shipping. If you want some please contact me!

We have a design for a lapel pin. Waiting on the cash from donations that Glen Searcy and Tom Salo got for us at the 37th Tank Regiment reunion in Nashville, TN.



Patton Battalion Funds / Memberships / Dues

The Patton Battalion, as of November 1, has 451 members on our battalion Facebook page. Out of those 451 members we are currently at 93 paid members. The Patton Battalion has \$187.38 in funds in the PayPal account. We have \$376.97 in the Patton Operating account. \$754.00 in cash.

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.

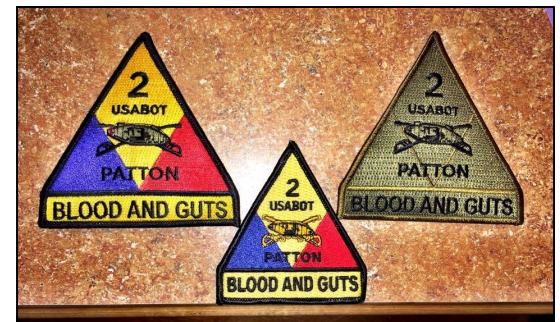
Both patches are also available for \$5 EA.

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 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 1st Light Tank School, February 14, 1918.

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

Organized 1st Light Tank Battalion with himself commanding, April 28, 1918.

Organized 2nd 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 304th 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

**301st Heavy Tank Battalion
306th Tank Brigade
331st Tank Battalion**

**304th Tank Brigade
344th Tank Battalion & 345th 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

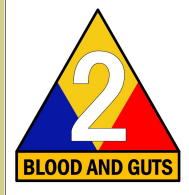
In 1919 the movement began to create Tank Corps Posts as a part of the newly formed American Legion. The purpose of the organization was to promote and maintain public interest in tanks as an arm of the service and to form a bond between its members by means of social and fraternal activities. These 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

Board of Directors

Karlen P Morris
Dion Walker, Sr.
Phillip Wilburn
Matthias Martinez

Patton Battalion Commander

KP Morris

Executive Officer

Dion Walker, Sr.

Battalion Sergeant Major

Steven Vaughn

I am pleased to announce that Captain Kit Varney will be getting a new headstone. The request was put in and the headstone should be in place by the end of the year depending on weather.

This is something I was trying to do for some time and after speaking with Rob Cogan at the US Cavalry and Armor Museum something they were trying to do also.

Captain Varney was buried in Arlington in 1921. This was his original headstone as far as we can tell. When I was there in July you could barely read the name on the stone.

The new headstone should also have DSC listed on it when it is placed.



Coming up in the December Issue -

Upcoming Events

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