



Volume 5, Issue 6

PATTON BATTALION - USABOT

June 2017 / Volume 5 – No 6



June 2017

Special points of interest:

- Cobra King
- Corporal Lloyd Heller 101st B-day!!
- Patton Joins the US Tank Corps Monument (Update)
- Battalion Fund Update

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: 89 paid members

24 Lifetime Members

51 Annual Members

2 Associate Member

431 on Battalion Facebook Page

After sitting through a briefing by Don Moriarty about Cobra King I was able to talk Don in to sharing some of the details in the newsletter. I hope that everyone will enjoy the short history of this historic tank and its crew.

Corporal Lloyd Heller and his family had his 101st birthday celebration at a Louisville Bats baseball game on June 4th. Lloyd also threw out the opening pitch. Looking good for 101!

On our Patton Monument I would like to clarify something. I got a message asking if we had considered placing the monument at Ft Benning. The answer is, no. We never considered the monument being at Ft Benning as the Patton Museum of Leadership is at Ft Knox. The Armor Memorial Park is at Ft Knox. We had heard that Ft Benning was looking into the history of the US Tank Corps and the combat actions during World War I. Our original plan was for a plaque. When we were told we could not donate a plaque the museum is who suggested a monument. It was talked about and we decided that since there is nothing about Bourg and the US Tank School in the museum we would dedicate the monument to covering what is not well known about Patton and his service with the US Tank Corps in World War 1.

As mentioned to those asking about Ft Benning, it would be nice to see a follow on or continuation monument go at Ft Benning. It would be nice to have a monument dedicated to the combat action of the US Tank Corps. Something to go into more detail about the combat actions and the men who were decorated for distinguished service. Maybe even reach out to the mayors in France of the towns with significant tank battles.

I was able to contact the American Legion and put our information on the Legion Town page. I was informed that there is a large influx of WW1 events and plans so it will take a little while to be put on the page and shared on Facebook.

I also contacted the World War One Commission public affairs and they have expressed interest and are in the same boat. So hopefully before long we will be getting some National coverage on the project.

Remember June 29, 2017 is Patton Day in the Battalion. It was on that day in 2013 that we met for the very first time! We are 4 years old!

KP Morris
Patton 6



COBRA KING



This is probably the most iconic tank of World War II next to Thunderbolt, the tank that General Creighton Abrams used. Cobra King is the lead tank that reached the Battling Bastards of the 101st Airborne Division in Bastogne. The photo above is what made this tank legendary. The story you are about the read is the most detailed history of one tank in the entire Army inventory. This research comes to you from the dedicated volunteers of the National Cavalry & Armor Museum and one dedicated volunteer, Don Moriarty.

COBRA KING - Assault Tank, Medium
M4A3E2(75) wet w VVSS

Produced at Fisher Tank Plant, Grand Blanc, Michigan
Produced in June 1944
162nd of 254 produced
Serial Number: 50487
Registration Number: 3083084

Crew over the lifetime of Cobra King

TC - Lamison, Richard - C CO Commander (July 1944-23 Nov 1944)
TC - Trover, Charles - C CO Commander (23 Nov 1944-23 Dec 1944) KIA
TC - Boggess, Charles P. - C CO Commander (23 Dec 1944-12 Jan 1945)
TC - Tieggs, George - C CO Commander (12 Jan 1945- ???)
TC - Nutto, William - C CO Commander (??? -28 Mar 1945)
GNR - Dickerman, Milton B. - Gunner Dec 1944 - WIA & Evacuated while crewed on different tank - 19 March 1945
GNR - ??? - Mar 1945??
LDR - Murphy, James G. - Loader Dec 1944 - KIA while crewed on different tank - 19 March 1945
LDR - ??? - Mar 1945??
DVR - Smith, Hubert J. J. - Driver Dec 1944 - POW TF Baum 27 March 1945
BOG - Hafner, Harold O. - Bow Gunner Dec 1944 - Status during TF Baum undetermined

The story of Cobra King has long since passed away much like her crew. The true story probably only told at 4th Armored Reunions or with local members of the American Legion or VFW. The documented story does not exist. So this is where the researchers come in and do the digging and fill in the gaps.

COBRA KING cont.



Signal Corps photo 203178 (dated 20 March 1945) In this single photo is the only known late war image of Cobra King (upgunned to 76mm) AND a rare photo of "Thunderbolt VII" (in the background) Two of the most Iconic tanks of WWII, in a single photo!!

26 March 1945: 1900 hrs, C Co is selected to participate in Task Force Baum.

Approximately 2100 hrs, following Leaders Briefing, the 10 tanks of C Co prepare for extended operations.

Task Force Baum reaches OB-FLAG XIII-B, discovers over 2,000 American POW's

Cobra King is hit by a Panzerfaust & disabled (28 March)

Task Force Baum is surrounded and destroyed. All personnel are Missing/Captured/Killed.

Cobra King is lost in combat and to history.



Cobra King's "Travels":

28 March 1945-1950(?) Lager-Hammelberg, Germany

1952 - 1958(?) Harvey Barracks, Kitzingen Germany

1958(?) - 1969(?) McKee Barracks, Crailsheim Germany

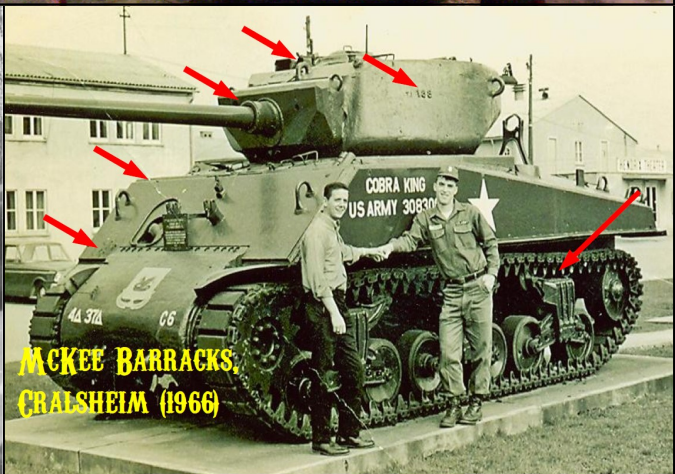
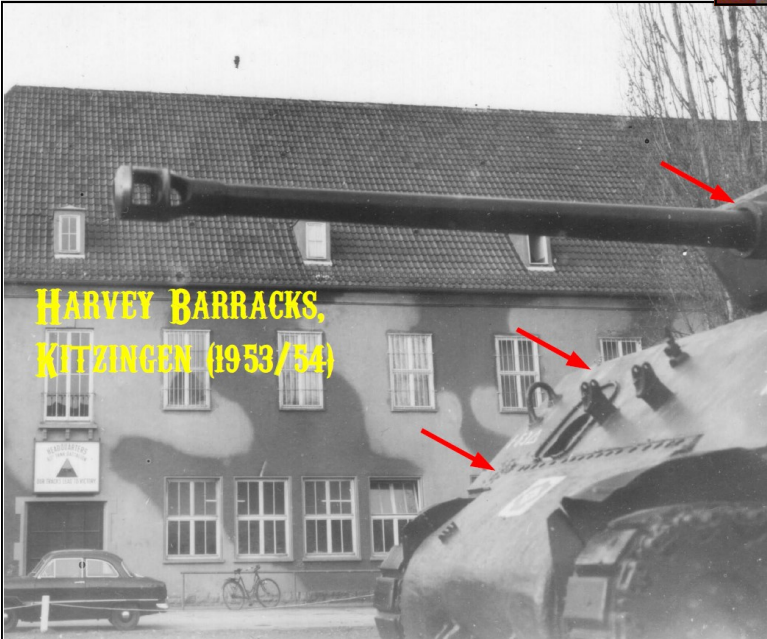
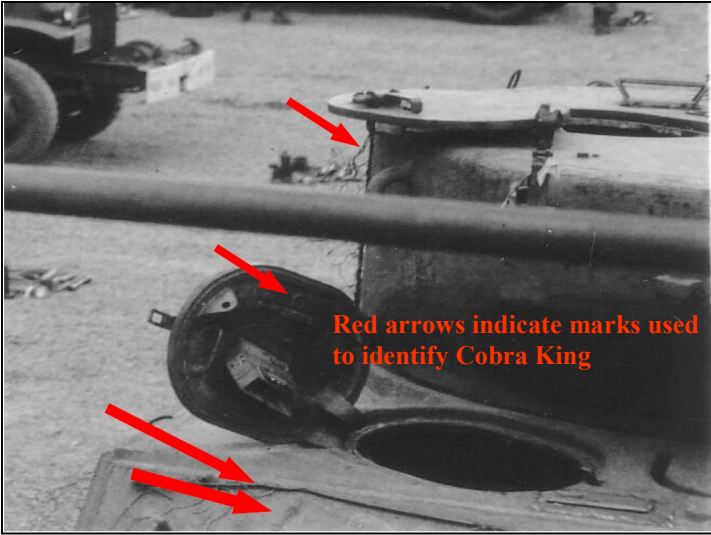
1970 - 1992/93(?) Ferris Barracks, Erlangen Germany

1993(?) - June 2009 Rose Barracks, Vilseck Germany

July 15 2009 - May 28 2011 Ft Knox Kentucky

May 2011 - (??) Ft Benning, Georgia

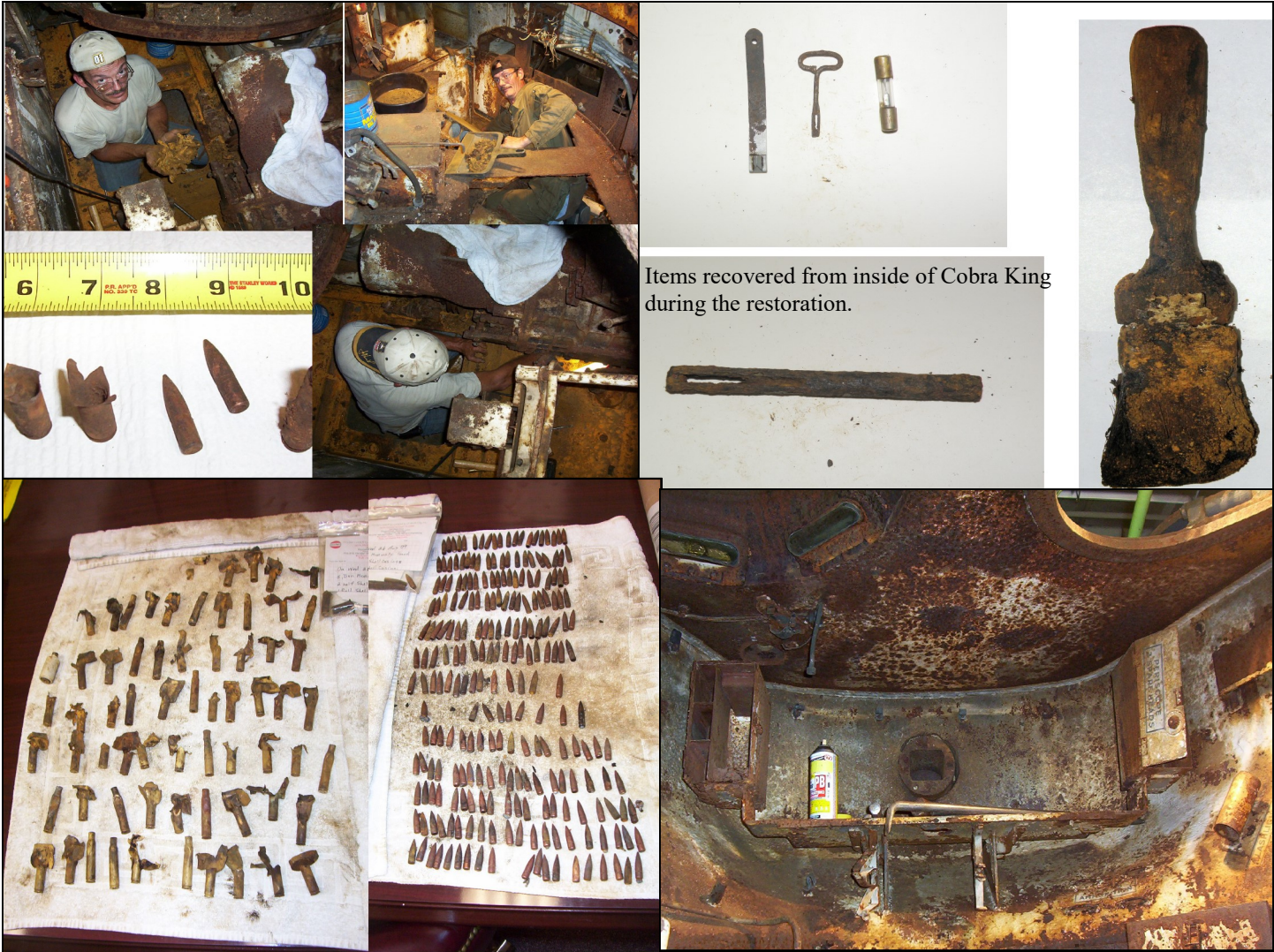
Cobra King cont.



Don Moriarty and the guys who restored Cobra King are interested in any photos any one may have from any of the locations where Cobra King was on display. This will help them in the documentation of Cobra King. You can contact me if you have any photos to share.



Cobra King cont.



Items recovered from inside of Cobra King during the restoration.

Armor for the Ages page on the Internet has a great gallery of photos on the restoration of Cobra King.

<http://armorfortheages.com/MilitaryVehicles/CobraKing/CobraKing.html>





Don Moriarty inside Cobra King



Robert Decker
(TC Hatch)

Don Moriarty
(BOG)



Garry Redmon
(Back Deck)

Paul Corea
(Loaders Hatch)

Chun Hsu
(Driver)



Corporal Lloyd Heller with family and friends threw out the opening pitch at the Louisville Bats game on June 4th.

Lloyd celebrated his 101st birthday on May 22nd.

There is video on the Louisville Bats Facebook page



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From Mayor Dominique Thiébaud of Bourg, France

Dear Karlen Morris,

I'm the mayor of Bourg, I received your letter very documented,
I'm very happy to collaborate with you for this event

I have some documents also from the time of the inauguration of the monument in May 1973

We see Mr. De Vaux in front of the stele, unfortunately he died but his daughter will be with us during the ceremonies unless unforeseen, Helen will also present (email attachment to Helen Patton)

I enclose some documents on our project (sorry it's in French, I must translate it soon)

document into another email
the schema with size of monument tomorrow

Hoping to see you in Bourg
We can stay in touch for further information

Best regards,

Dominique Thiébaud
Maire de Bourg 52200
Vice-Président Communautés de Communes du Grand Langres





PATTON JOIN'S THE US TANK CORPS

Our proposal of placing a plaque in the Patton Museum was denied. So as it was turned down we sent a proposal to place a monument in Memorial Park next to the Patton Museum.

On April 28, 2017 we were granted approval on our proposed monument by the Commanding General of Ft Knox. The battalion has submitted our Articles of Incorporation to the state of Kentucky so that we can obtain a bank account for the monument fund. The USABOT Store has already set up a donation link on the store website. It is under the *Donations* tab, *Patton Monument*, there are options as the amount you would like to donate. You can also send donations to me at:

Patton Battalion - USABOT
1432 Flood Road
Shelbyville, KY 40065

We have \$1,600 in the Patton Monument Fund. The monument estimate is for \$31,000.

The vision of this monument is to be a replica of the monument in Bourg, France. The front would look just like the original but in English. From our initial contact with the monument company they have suggested a black marble for the monument. We can do plaques on the front and it was suggested to have the back etched. This is why I have changed up the images of the proposed monument. This will give you a better idea of the end result.

On the back of the monument we will etch the information on Patton in the US Tank Corps. There will be information on the tank units of the US Tank Corps with the names of the towns in which they fought in. And finally, I would like to recognize the World Wars Tank Corps Association and what they have done for the Armor Branch because of Patton and Eisenhower for nearly 75 years.

We have been granted approval to place the monument in the spot vacated by the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment monument. This would put it up front in the Memorial Park and close to the other Armor monuments.

Things that I am working on:

The National Archives located the original order dated November 10, 1917. We are currently working on obtaining a copy of US Tank Corps Order #2 formally assigning Patton as Commandant of the 1st Light Tank School. The National Archives has not been able to locate this order.

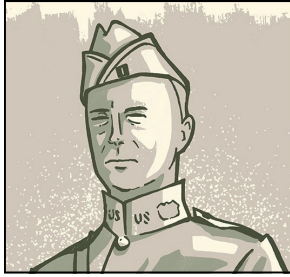
I am in contact with the American Legion Magazine and posted the information to the Legion Town page.

Mayor Dominique Thiebaud has also provided us with the dimensions of the original monument also.

I have the contact information for the French Embassy in Washington, D.C.

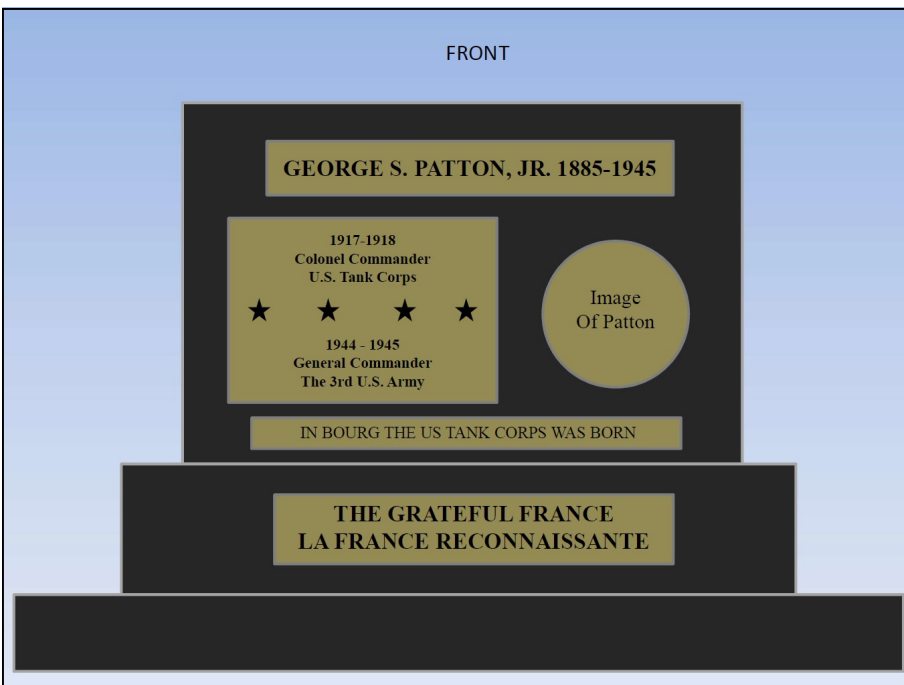
I sent our information to the Public Affairs office of the World War One Commission.

George Patton Waters and Helen Ayer Patton have both asked to be kept informed on the progress of this monument. Helen Ayers Patton has been invited to a celebration in Bourg, France in November of this year.



On the west side of D974. Plaque A monument inaugurated on 20 May 1973. The monument is dedicated to the memory of General Patton, Commander of the First US Tank Corps in 1917-1918, and Commander of the 3rd US Army in WWII.

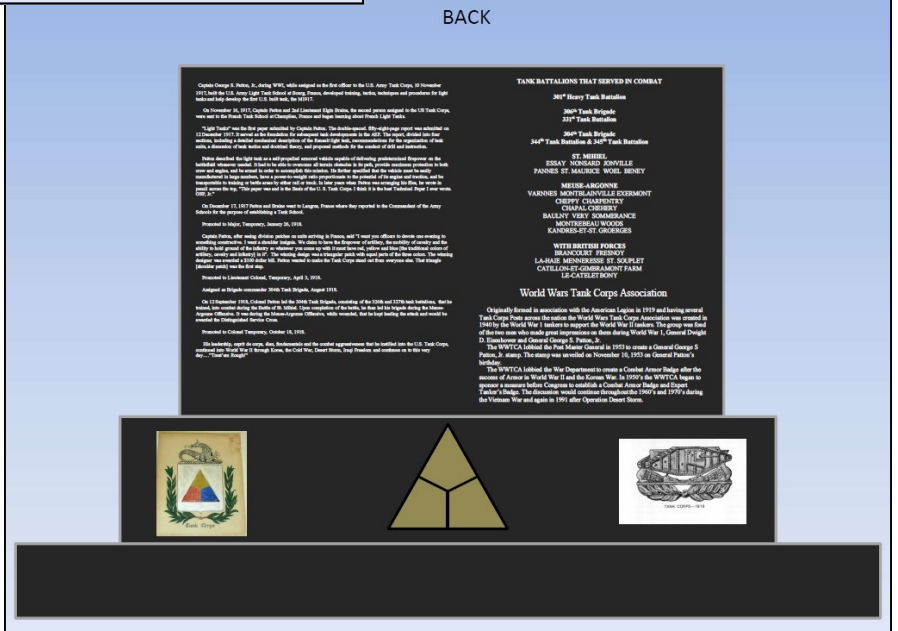
Patton—First Armor School



The above image is the image that I have requested to use for the monument. This is Colonel Patton at the end of WW1.

I have changed the bottom plaque on the front lower. This is what I am wanting to verify from the Mayor of Bourg and the French Ambassador .

I believe that everything else should be pretty much finished unless anyone see anything that I have missed or any mistakes.



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.

On November 16, 1917, Captain Patton and 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.

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.

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

Assigned as Brigade commander 304th Tank Brigade, August 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. Upon completion of the battle, he then led his brigade during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. It was during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, while wounded, that he kept leading the attack and would be awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

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!"

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 CHARPEN-
TRY • CHAPAL CHEHERY • BAULNY • VERY • SOMMERANCE •
MONTREBEAU WOODS
KANDRES-ET-ST. GROERGES

WITH BRITISH FORCES

BRANCOURT • FRESNOY • LA-HAIE MENNERESSE
ST. SOUPLÉ • CATILLON-ET-GIMBRAMONT FARM
LE-CATELET BONY



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 I, General Dwight D. Eisenhower and General George S. Patton, Jr.

The WWCA 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.

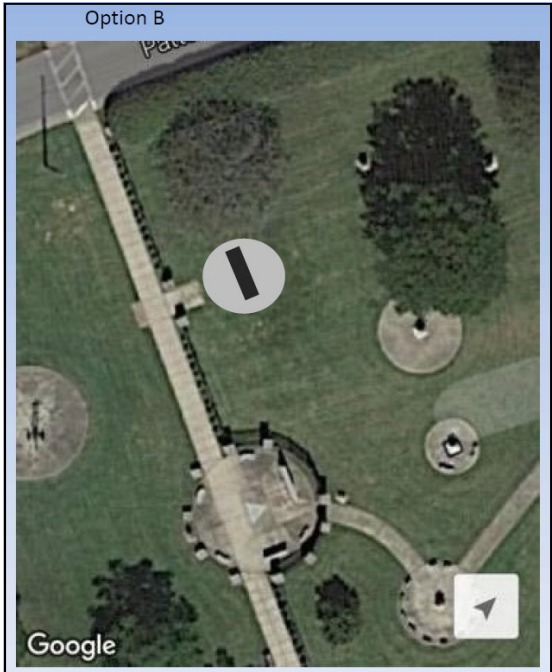
The WWCA lobbied the War Department to create a Combat Armor Badge after the success of Armor in World War II and the Korean War. In 1950's the WWCA began to sponsor a measure before Congress to establish a Combat Armor Badge and Expert Tanker's Badge. The discussion would continue throughout the 1960's 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.



Above is the current area we have been granted for the monument, it is the location of the 11th Cavalry Regiment Monument location. When their monument was moved the entire base had to be dug up and made to look like there was never a monument there.

Option A & Option B are foundation ideas for the monument. We will be discussing the these and I have asked what the guidelines are for the Memorial Park.



As we have mentioned, we have shifted gears from acquiring a plaque to building a monument. The cost of this project has greatly increased. So in an effort to increase our funds we have a couple of things we are offering at a flat donation.



The Bourg Tee shirt has been very popular and we are bringing it back. We are offering both colors this time. The tee shirt will include shipping for a donation of \$30 each.

You can get either a tan or OD or you can get two of the same color or one of each.

As always with the Grunt Style shirts I must remind everyone that these are athletic cut. They do tend to run small if you are in doubt.

These are 100% cotton and made in the USA by a veteran run company with veteran employees.

You note that this is the revised tee shirt with the US Tank Corps Crest on the left sleeve.

MEN'S SIZING CHART

SIZE	CHEST WIDTH	BODY LENGTH	SLEEVE LENGTH
S	38"	28"	8"
M	41"	29"	8.5"
L	44"	30"	9"
XL	48"	31"	9.5"
XXL	52"	32"	10"
XXXL	56"	33"	10.5"

We also have the Born in Bourg coin. This coin is 3" in size. We have the M1A2 sprocket on the outside with the FT-17 sprocket on the inside.

On the back we have Captain Patton. These coins will be numbered.



So if there is a particular number you have in mind you need to let me know what number you want. With that being said, Numbers 1-5 will be reserved. If we get into the 300's select numbers in the 300's will be reserved.

The coin is available for a \$20 donation and includes shipping also.

If you want two tees and two coins you will have to contact me so that I can see what we can do about a donation like that.

19 Series Clothing has the coins and tees on their Website: <https://19seriesclothing.com/>

Patton Battalion Funds / Memberships / Dues

The Patton Battalion, as of June 27, has 431 members on our battalion Facebook page. Out of those 432 members we are currently at 89 paid members. The Patton Battalion has \$148.94 in funds in the PayPal account. We have \$1,600 in the Patton Monument Account. We have \$659.00 in the Patton Operating account. This is after purchasing coins 201-300.

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.

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

RENEWALS ARE COMING UP FOR MANY!!
Get those in and if you want either of the new patches just let me know!



ATTENTION

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

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

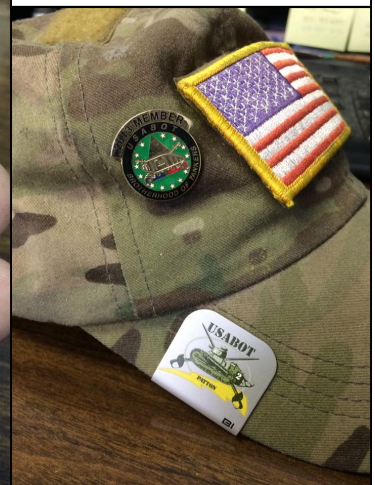
**Make checks payable to USABOT
If at all possible try to go the USABOT Store Online
and register there so that the G4 can track.**

New for this year a Patton Battalion hat/molle clip!!
I thought that this would be a great item for battalion
members as we all seem to have or wear hats!

This clip attaches to the front or side of the cap.

The hat clip is \$7 each, with shipping it is \$10.

I have plenty so if interested please contact me.



**PATTON BATTALION - USABOT
PATTON BATTALION**

Battalion Commander
KP Morris
502-724-4281

Battalion Sergeant Major
Steve Vaughn

Battalion Executive Officer
Dion Walker, Sr.

Battalion Comptroller
Karlen Morris

Battalion Chaplin
Steve Vaughn



In the July Issue — Eggcup was the Call Sign by Colonel Roger J. Browne - Infantry Journal July 1948

Upcoming Events

Indiana Military Museum - 10th Annual salute to the veterans of WWII - September 2nd & 3rd 2017

6th Annual Tanker Homecoming — Fort Riley, Kansas - October 12-14 2017

Patton Joins the US Tank Corps Monument - Fort Knox - November 10, 2017