

# PATTON BATTALION - USABOT

## ILLINOIS - INDIANA - KENTUCKY - TENNESSEE



### NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2019 VOLUME 7 - NO. 2

#### IN THIS ISSUE

- ◆ BG Irzyk Funeral
- ◆ Caisson Platoon
- ◆ Arlington National Cemetery
- ◆ Show of Shows 2019
- ◆ 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

Jandi and I had the honor to attend the funeral for BG Albin F Irzyk at Arlington National Cemetery on January 29, 2019. There were some other members of USABOT there. Robert S Vail attended from Florida, Matthew Kristoff from the Washington, D.C. area and Larry Levasseur from Maryland and the USABOT National Commander.

The one thing that I wanted to do was to be able to walk behind the caisson to the gravesite. Luckily we were able to do this despite the mix of rain and snow. The roads were wet and we were told that we must be able to keep up with the caisson. The weather was better at the beginning of the funeral than later.

One event was something that doesn't happen very often. The Belgian Military Attache came and placed a wreath at Gen Irzyk's graveside. After all of the other events were finished he came up and placed the wreath and saluted the General.

Jandi and I were really impressed with the Chaplain that performed the graveside services also. I was able to find some information on him. Chaplain (Capt.) Matthew Whitehead, an Arlington Cemetery chaplain, who entered the military in 2002, and has served as an Army chaplain since 2010. His duties include ministry and accommodating the families of the fallen and of veterans who have passed away.

Some other friends and leaders that Gen Irzyk served with that rest at Arlington with him...

MG Holmes E Dager - Section 4 - Grave 24

GEN Creighton Abrams - Section 21 - Grave S-33

MG Delk Oden - Section 30 - Grave 739-LH

COL Bert Ezell - Section 64 - Grave 7135

BG Edmund Gruber - Section 2 - Grave 4886-SS (Commander he reported to with 3rd Cavalry)

COL Hayden Sears - Section 3 - Grave 2061-E-1 (Officer he reported to with 4th Armored Division)

The Bourg tee shirts have been ordered. We will have some on hand when the order arrives. As soon as they arrive they will be shipped out and I will send a tracking number.

The M1-M4-M60 shirts are still running. Once we reach a certain point we will place the order. I will let you know when the order goes in and again a tracking number will be sent to you when the order ships.

We are looking to have a battalion meeting in March. We don't have a date nailed down yet or a location either. I am thinking either Saturday March 9 or 16. We will be looking at battalion elections. Remember you must be a member of USABOT to hold a position with the battalion.

Currently these are the names of those who have tossed their name in hat.

William Starks, Nathan Snyder, Tom Salo. Positions that are open are Executive Officer, Battalion Sergeant Major, a Position on the Battalion Board. So Patton Battalion members be on the lookout for call, email or post about the election. If someone is interested in the battalion commander position please let me know.

If you not paid up as a member go to [www.usabot.org](http://www.usabot.org) and renew or purchase your membership via the PX on the website. Or there is information on page 8 of this newsletter.

KP Morris

Patton 6

[WWW.WORLDWAR1CENTENNIAL.ORG](http://WWW.WORLDWAR1CENTENNIAL.ORG)

## Funeral Services for BG Albin F Irzyk - Arlington National Cemetery

The weather forecast for Tuesday January 29, 2019 in Washington, D.C. was a mix of rain and snow changing to snow, followed by falling temperatures. Total snowfall accumulation of up to 1 inch is expected. General Irzyk, as was mentioned by several, was reminding us of the Battle of the Bulge on this day. The funeral services were scheduled at 1pm and as soon as we stepped out of the Administration Building the rain began right on schedule. There was a caravan of cars following the hearse to the caisson meeting spot. A designated area where the casket would be placed on the caisson and move to the graveside. Jandi and I rode with Robert Vail who attended along with Matthew Kristoff and Larry Levasseur, the USABOT National Commander.

It was an amazing sight to see as there was the caisson, the caparisoned horse, a small band, two platoons of escorts and full color guard. Everything was dress right dress, polished, and perfectly placed as we rounded the bend. It was something to see in person. Here we all exited the cars as Gen Irzyk's casket was taken from the hearse and placed on the caisson after the General's March was played. All of the operations clicking with precession timed perfection. Those who wished to follow the caisson were allowed to follow as the others followed with their cars. It was about three quarters of a mile to the graveside service. Here we were all brought together as he was moved from the caisson.

The immediate family was seated as everyone else gathered around. For a general officer there was a cannon salute of 11 shots with five seconds between shots and then the 21 gun salute. The band played America the Beautiful as his flag was folded. It was brought to our attention that where the service was conducted would not be the final location. There was a spot in Section 60 that he would be placed. Below are some photos that I or Robert Vail took while there.



The equipment a caparisoned horse bears differs according to its color: if black, the horse carries saddle blanket, saddle and bridle. The saddle blanket extends from the withers to the flank. There is a white border 1 1/2 inches in width completely encircling the blanket. Stars are placed on the rear corners of the blanket (four inches from the bottom) for generals.



## Funeral Services for BG Albin F Irzyk - Arlington National Cemetery



**SADDLE:** A pair of spurred boots is placed backwards in the stirrups of the saddle, the tops of which are fastened to the stirrup strap. The officer's field saber and carrier is placed on the "off side" of the horse. The carrier is fastened to the saddle, and at the bottom there is a strap going under the horse's abdomen fastening on the "near side" to the cantle (the forward-curving rear part of the saddle) by straps and a D-ring. This keeps the saber vertical.

**BRIDLE:** The bridle consists of a snaffle bit (light and jointed, attached to the bridle and having no curve) and a French halter. It is worn in the regular manner, with one rein. This rein is secured to the pommel (the rounded, upward-projecting front part) of the saddle. The horse is led from the "near side" with the ring hand grasping the reins, six inches from the bit.





## Funeral Services for BG Albin F Irzyk - Arlington National Cemetery

Ladies and gentlemen I am Father Matthew Whitehead, US Army Chaplain, it is my honor to be your family's priest and to lay to rest your beloved and our brother in arms Brigadier General Albin Felix Irzyk. I want to welcome you to Arlington National Cemetery, where for over 150 years our nation has honored her nations fallen warriors and patriots. These hallowed grounds are a lasting memorial to these men and women who have honorably and faithfully serviced our country. And BG Albin Irzyk has earned his place in these hallowed grounds. Today we honor him with a cannon salute. Ladies and gentlemen please rise....



Chaplain Matthew Whitehead



### -TANKER'S LAST RIDE-

WHEN I WAS YOUNG, I RODE SO PROUD ON A CHARIOT OF STEEL. WITH GUN SO LOUD I FOUGHT MY TANK ON FOREIGN LANDS FROM JUNGLE BRUSH TO DESERT SANDS. I FOUGHT FOR NATIONS BIG AND SMALL, TO BRING THEM FREEDOM ONE AND ALL. NOW I AM OLD AND MY COURSE HAS RUN- I TAKE ONE LAST RIDE TO SEE IT DONE. I MOUNT MY TANK AND START IT'S PACK, KNOWING WELL I WILL NEVER COME BACK. I MAKE SP IN A CLOUD OF DUST, FOR I AM A TANKER AND THIS RIDE IS A MUST. WHEN I HIT RP MY RIDE WILL CEASE, AND I PRAY THE LORD WILL GRANT ME PEACE.

KENNETH E. MARKHAM

**Brigadier General Albin F Irzyk**  
8th Tank Battalion, 4th Armored Division  
14th Cavalry Regiment  
Commandant US Armor School

HARMON



## Caisson Platoon, HHC 1st Battalion, 3d U. S. Infantry Regiment

The silence of the procession is broken only by the rhythmic clip-clop of the seven handsome horses. Astride four of the horses, Soldiers sit ramrod straight. The horses, head erect, bodies taut and controlled, seem to imitate the solemn military bearing of the men and women who sit quietly in the saddles.

Six of the horses pull a flag draped casket on a black artillery caisson. Both Soldiers and horses are conscious that this is no ordinary ride through a cool, shady country lane. They have the honor of carrying a comrade for his last ride to Arlington National Cemetery, where he will rest in peace with other honored dead.

The solemn dignity which the riders and horses lend to this ceremony is neither accidental nor instinctive. Soldiers and horses train constantly for this duty. They are members of the Caisson platoon of the 3d United States Infantry "The Old Guard."

Most of these men and women come to Ft. Myer, Virginia not as expert horseman, but as trained infantrymen, skilled in their individual fields and tactically proficient. A new Soldier on this team must undergo rigorous training on a riding style



the Army hasn't used anywhere else since 1948. In addition to caring for the horses, the Soldiers must learn to ride in the erect posture of solemn military attention and sitting in a McClellan saddle. In addition to maintaining the ceremonial uniform of an Old Guard Soldier, the Caisson Soldiers must learn to use, clean and maintain ceremonial tack and harness that is unique to their mission in Arlington National Cemetery. Because of this extensive equine training and experience, the Army has labeled the Caisson Soldiers with the Additional Skill Identifier D2 - Army Horseman.

The horses come to the Old Guard primarily from Illinois, Virginia, Texas and Maryland, as well as other states.

Although they are normally "saddle broken" before their arrival at Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, they require extensive additional training to work with the caisson. Consequently, horse and rider drill, train and live together until both are deemed qualified to accomplish their mission.

The caissons were built in 1918, and used for 75mm cannons. They were originally equipped with ammunition chests, spare wheels, and tools used for the cannons. Today these have been removed and replaced with the flat deck on which the casket rests.

The six horses which pull the caisson through the quiet lanes of Arlington National Cemetery are matched gray or black. They are paired into three teams – the lead team is in front, the swing team follows, and nearest the caisson is the wheel team. Although all six animals are saddled, only those on the left have mounted riders. This is a tradition which began in the early horse-drawn artillery days when one horse of each team was mounted while the other carried provisions and feed.

In addition to their duties in military funerals, the Caisson Platoon participates in numerous historic pageants performed by the Old Guard, among these are "Spirit of America," and "Twilight Tattoo." The Caisson Platoon has been honored by inclusion in Presidential Inaugural Parades, and has participated in various other historic events in the greater Military District of Washington, D.C.

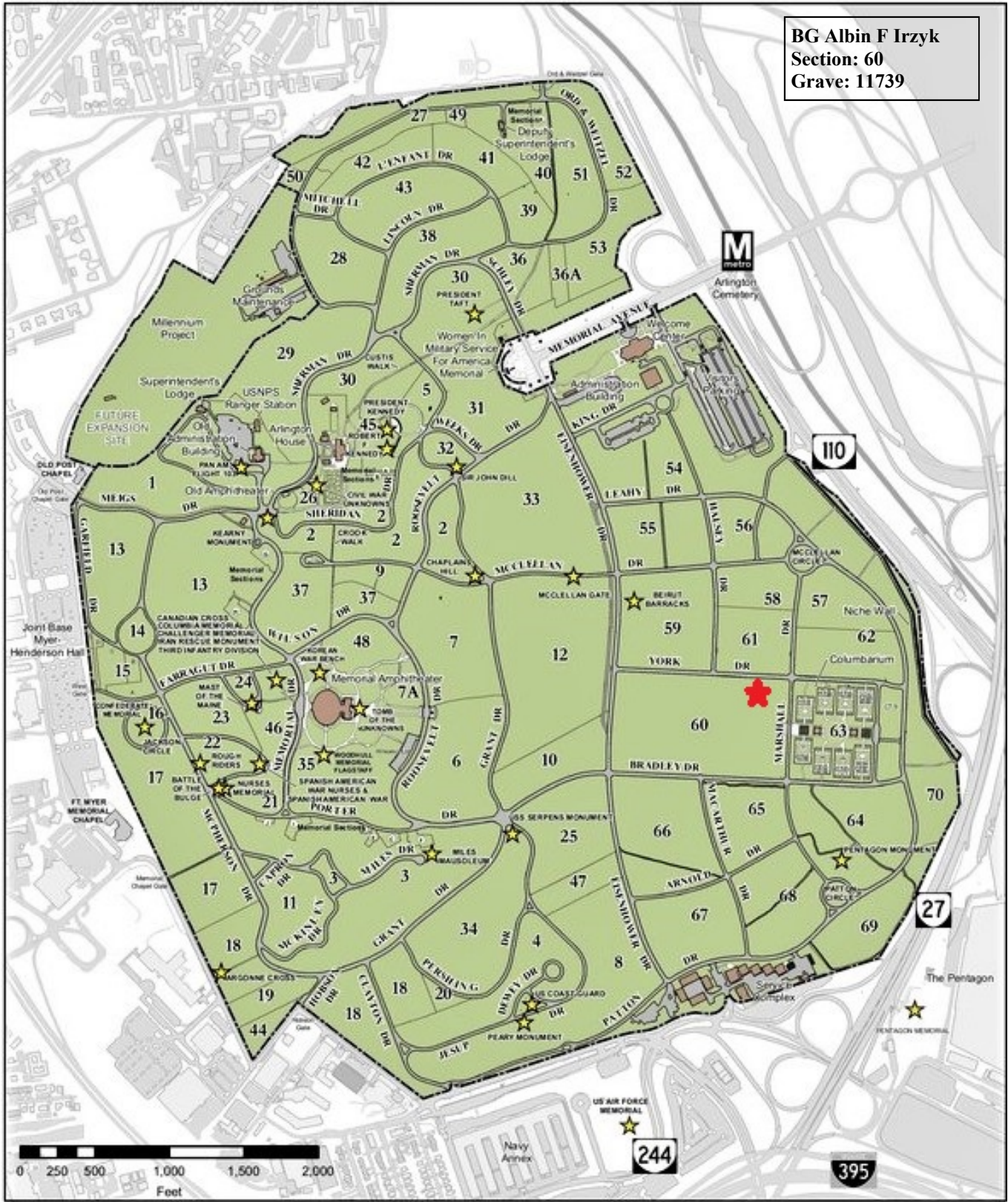
<https://www.oldguard.mdw.army.mil/specialty-platoons/caisson>



# Arlington National Cemetery

Honor - Remember - Explore

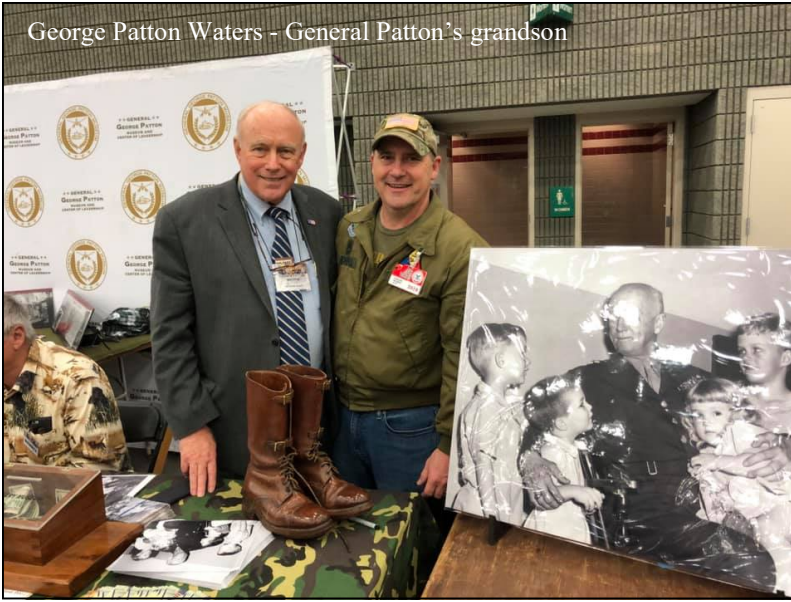
BG Albin F Irzyk  
Section: 60  
Grave: 11739





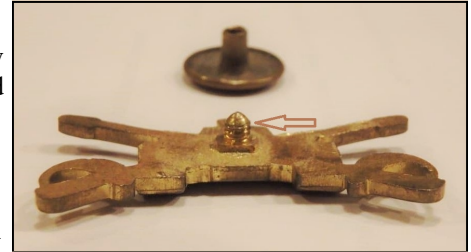
### Ohio Valley Military Society - Show of Shows

George Patton Waters - General Patton's grandson



At the Show of Shows I ran into George Patton Waters and updated him on the Patton Monument Project. He is pleased with the status of the project and thanked us again for all the efforts. You will notice that he brought the Patton Boots with him.

While browsing around the show I found a second Armor Branch Insignia with a screw-back. I have one that I bought off Ebay a few years ago.



This photo to the left shows them side by side.



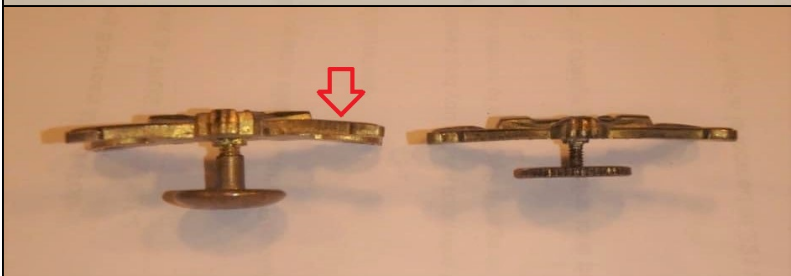
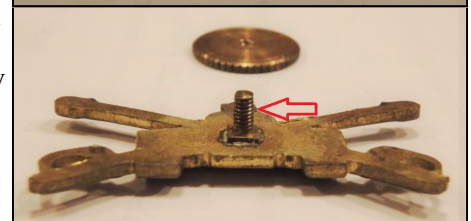
To the Right I have the First one on TOP and the Second is on the bottom.



Take a look at these closely as they differ a lot.



I posted them on a Medals page on Facebook and one person mentioned that they could have been produced in Germany and by different manufacturers.



Things I noticed were the size of the screw, the thickness of the insignia, tank tanks, saber handles, the tank itself, the Second one is slightly smaller in size than the First one. I have only seen two of these and I bought both when I saw them. I figure that they are from 1948-1950 as this is when the redesigned Armor Insignia came out. My dad being an Armor Officer from 1966 on only ever had pin back Armor Insignia.

There was a very nice Captain's uniform from the US Tank Corps but the owner would not allow me to take photos, he claims that the uniform was the Tank Battalion under Compton. It had a very nice bullion patch on it. Tailor made uniform with tags. \$1,200.00.

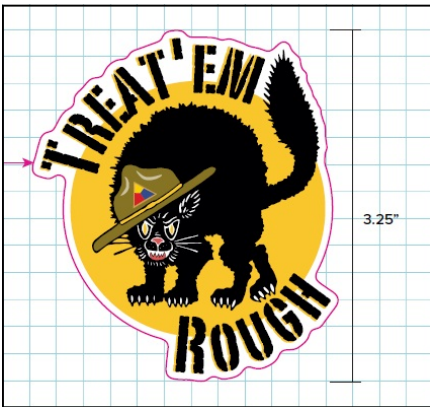
### Patton Monument Report for 2019

As of February 26, 2019, the Monument fund has \$14,606.00. I took \$150.00 from the monument fund to cover shipping for monument items. Of the \$150 moved there is still \$106.23 in the Patton account.

Total in Monument Account: \$14,606.00.

Lapel Pins

We are looking at \$12 each for these.



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!

#### Patton Battalion Funds / Memberships / Dues

The Patton Battalion, as of February 26, has 451 members on our battalion Facebook page. Out of those 451 members we are currently at 93 paid members. The Patton Battalion has \$1,898.98 in funds in the PayPal account. We have \$453.28 in the Patton Operating account. With \$347.05 as Patton Funds and with \$106.23 for shipping.

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.**

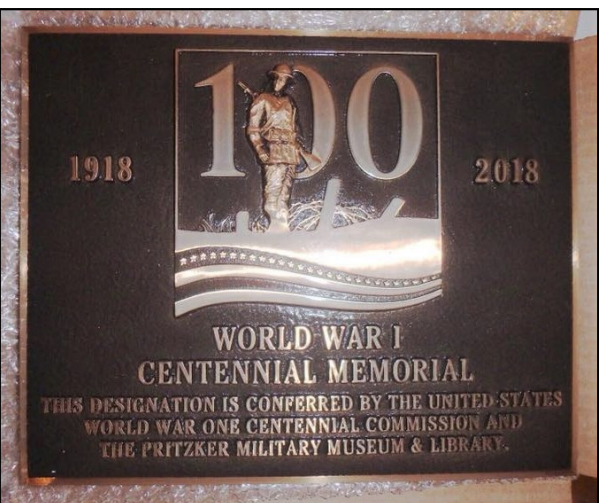
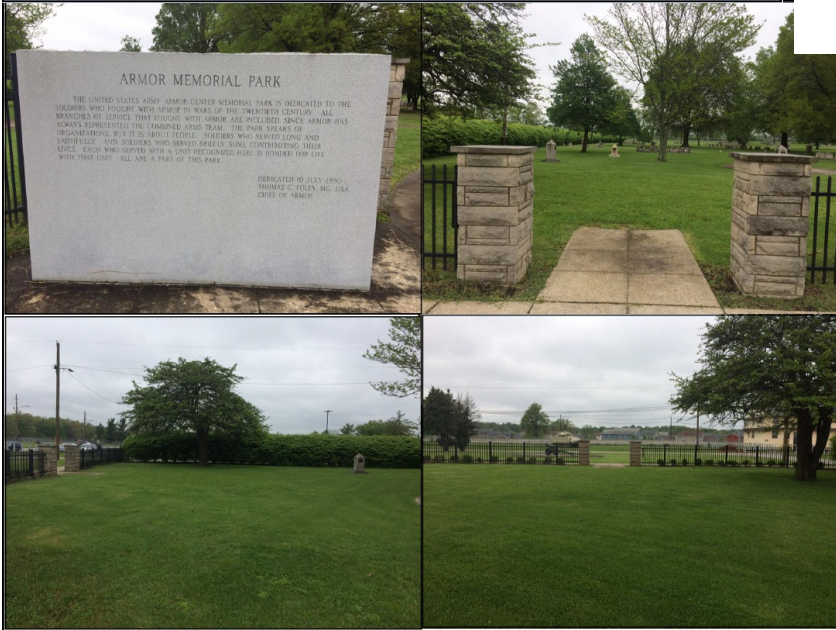
**WWW.USABOT.ORG**



# Patton Joins the US Tank Corps Monument

We still have the tee shirts on a run. All of these are available in Tan, OD, & Yellow. Please go to the 19 Series website to order. Or call me.

<https://19seriesclothing.com/>





## 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.

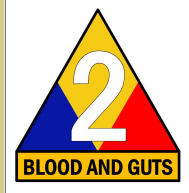
The WWTCA lobbied the Post Master General in 1953 to create a General George S Patton, Jr. stamp. The stamp was unveiled on November 10, 1953 on General Patton's birthday.

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

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

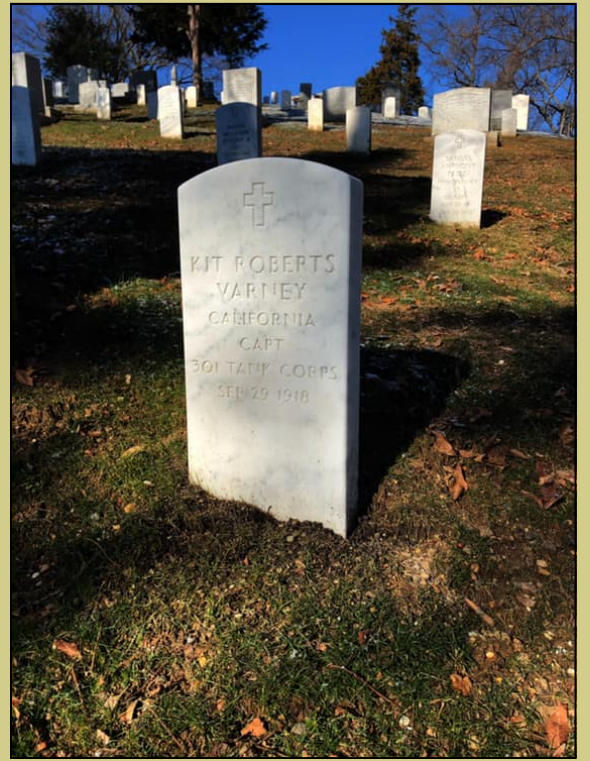
Steven Vaughn

Jandi and I were able to come back to Arlington National Cemetery on Wednesday January 30th and see the new headstone for Captain Kit Varney.

It is much easier to read and spot now.

We were not able to get his DSC listed on the headstone when replaced but I have been told where to write and we may still be able to get this done.

Section: 3  
Grave: 4375



Coming up in the March Issue -

**Upcoming Events**

**The Indiana Military Museum - Vincennes, IN - 2019 WW1 Event - March 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> .**

**The 22 Challenge 10K Ruck March - Jeffersonville, IN - May 18, 2019**

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



Photo Courtesy of  
Ivan Steenkiste from Alan Bot.