

**NEWSLETTER  
MARCH 2022  
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**IN THIS ISSUE**

- ◆ Colonel John P. Evans
- ◆ Richard LaLoge
- ◆ Sabers Through the Reich
- ◆ Tankies
- ◆ Warriors for the Working Day
- ◆ On Operations
- ◆ 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**

**438 on Battalion Facebook Page**

# PATTON BATTALION - USABOT

## ILLINOIS - INDIANA - KENTUCKY - TENNESSEE

I hope everyone enjoyed learning about the 333rd FA Bn, 969th FA Bn and the 333rd FA Group. There was so much going on while I working on that and I will have a follow up in a month or so. I still had many emails and correspondence out trying to find things. I did make contact with some family members of officers from the 969th FA Bn.

You are in for another lesson this month as we take a look at the career of Colonel John Paul Evans. Now the name you may not be familiar with but the job he did you will be. Col Evans was the G3 for the VIII Corps from 1943-45. You are going to learn about who he was and his service before and after WWII. He was an infantry officer working as a G3 for a Corps that contained more armored divisions than infantry and they would be known for their speed in battle.

As you will see in my review of *On Operations*, I feel that there has not been enough research into the staffs of Division, Corps and Army levels during WWII. There is more that needs to be looked into as to how these staffs functioned together and the working relationship that developed throughout the war.

One other note on Col Evans. I was just notified that he had been notified that he had "witnessed nuclear bomb tests in Nevada. He spoke about being in open trenches, and walking over warm ground to approach the detonation site. Later, he was contacted by the military about his health, as many of the other people who were there had leukemia and other types of cancer. His health remained fine..."

Another founding member of the Patton Battalion has passed away. SSG Richard LaLoge was the first commander of the Patton Battalion. He oversaw the 2nd Annual Tanker Homecoming and that November passed the torch on to me. A huge supporter of USABOT and our mission. He will be missed.

I have my review of the books *Sabers Through the Reich*, *Tankies*, *Warriors for the Working Day* and *On Operations*.

Next month I will have information on the 10th Annual Tanker Homecoming scheduled for October 13-16, 2022 in Gettysburg, PA.

KP Morris  
Patton 6

**[HTTPS://DOUGHBOY.ORG](https://doughboy.org)  
[WWW.USABOT.ORG](http://www.usabot.org)  
[HTTPS://19SERIESCLOTHING.COM](https://19seriesclothing.com)**

Photo on back cover courtesy of LTC Scott Stephens, Commander, 1/64 Armor Battalion, 1st Armor Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division.

## Colonel John Evans - G3 VIII Corps

While I was conducting the research on TF Rose/Harper/Booth, CCR 9<sup>th</sup> Armored Division I came across the name of the VIII Corps G3, Colonel John Evans. I had tried to do some digging on him but the results didn't turn up much. So after posting about this again this past December I decided to be a little more aggressive. I reached out to Darlene Humphrey who has been a partner in research. Well she found the obituary for the daughter of Col Evans, Jacqueline Robinson. Jacqueline passed away on January 17, 2021. In her obituary it listed her son and daughter. So I reached out in an effort to learn more about Col Evans.

I reached out just before New Year's Eve and before the ball dropped on the New Year I had a response!

Colonel John Paul Evans, 0-15363, US Army, Infantry  
 Born: April 18, 1901 – Sterling, IL  
 Died: July 31, 1984 – Santa Monica, CA

Col Evans attended West Point Military Academy starting November 6, 1918 to 11 June, 1923. He was a member of the Class of 1923. The following is from the 1923 Howitzer Yearbook on page 137.

John Paul Evans  
 Fourth District, Iowa  
 Minneapolis – Minnesota

Picture for yourself a room in barracks, a cadet leaning back in his chair, feet on a table, magazine in his lap, and a long pipe in his teeth, from which issues a steady stream of smoke. There you have him. As a connoisseur of tobacco Corps has no equal. He can explain why a burley mixture in an Italian briar tastes sweeter than pure Cuban in a meerschaum. Never has he been known to pass a tobacco store without regarding wistfully the array of smokes displayed therein. Verily life at the Academy has held many a kick for "J.P." He has derived several from the foot of the Academic Board. However, this fact does not explain his gray temples which enhance his youthful beauty, giving him a dignified air. His friends ascribe this condition not to age or worry but to his bounteous supply of cosmetics procured as a preventative.

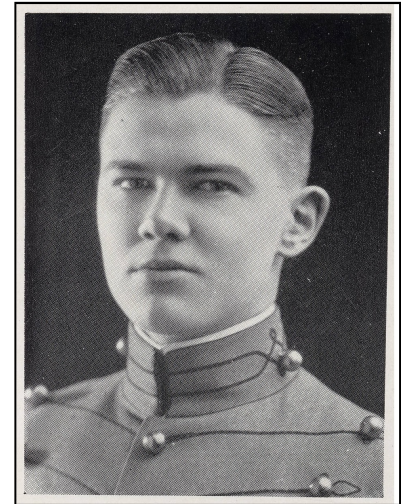
Corporal (3), Sergeant (2)  
 Football (4), (3) (Starting Center)  
 Rifle Marksman  
 Pistol Marksman

His cadet number for the West Point Register, 7207

This part of the story on Col Evans is unknown. We know that he was promoted to 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant on 12 June 1923. But as far as to where he went for his first duty station we just don't know.

What we do know is that on September 30, 1925 he is traveling to Manila, Philippines aboard the United States Transport "Thomas" from San Francisco, CA. Were not exactly sure what unit he was assigned to during this period either. While in the Philippines he marries Violet Rosalie Swift in Manila on November 24, 1926.

On July 7, 1928, Lt Evans and Violet are leaving Manila on the US Grant transport heading to Fort Brady, Michigan via San Francisco, CA. They were scheduled to arrive on July 28, 1928. We did find Lt Evans and Violet in the 1930 Census still at Fort Brady, MI when the census was conducted. The census was taken on April 21, 1930. Violet was counted on April 24, 1930.



## Colonel John Evans - G3 VIII Corps - Cont.

In September of 1930 the Evans would be at Fort Benning, Georgia. He was a student in the Captain's Course at the Infantry School. Lt Evans would be in Company "B," First Platoon. He would graduate the course in May 1931.

From here Lt Evans would be assigned to the 19<sup>th</sup> Infantry with the Hawaiian Division. While in Hawaii their daughter Jacqueline Rose would be born on July 7, 1932. We found several articles from the time at 19<sup>th</sup> Infantry. He was with C Co, 19<sup>th</sup> Infantry during the 72<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of the regiment in September 1933. In December 1933 Lt Evans was replaced as the athletic officer and made the intelligence officer of the 19<sup>th</sup> Infantry.

Sometime in 1935 or 1936 Col Evans and family moves to Fort Meade, MD. This is again another gap in the story of Col Evans. There were two newspaper articles which mention this period. The two articles mention family coming to visit. One articles is dated April and the other in December 1936.

During the summer of 1937 the family would again be on the move this to Fort Leavenworth, KS. Captain Evans would be attending Command and General Staff Course there. He is listed in Group A. The C&GSC was usually a two year course but in 1935 it was changed to a one year course. The Command and General Staff School opened September 1, 1937 for the Regular Class composed of two hundred twenty-six (226) officers of the Regular Army, two (2) officers of the United States Marine Corps, and three (3) foreign officers: Major Teng Hou and Major Chien Shih Tu, both of the Chinese Army; and Captain Filomeno B. Villaluz, Philippine Army. This information was provided in the Annual Report of The Command and General Staff School, Year 1937-1938.



After graduating from Command & General Staff Course the Evans family is again on the move, this time back to Hawaii. He would also be promoted to Major in 1938. He is seen in newspaper article as the commander of the Military Police for Fort Shafter, HI. The photo was taken in January 1941.

In March of 1941 Major Evans and family were heading to Texas and Camp Wolters. Now I have never heard of this army post before. I was able to do some digging on it and turns out it was an Infantry training base. A newspaper article for March 20, 1941 list Major Evans along with five other majors from the Hawaiian Department arriving.

Camp Wolters was officially turned over to the Army at 4:45p.m. on March 22, 1941, in a ceremony near the I.R.T.C. headquarters. Col. Fay W. Brabson, then Camp Commander, accepted nearly 5,000 keys to Wolters buildings in a ceremony broadcast by a Fort Worth radio station.

Actually, some 7,000 men were already there when the Army took over Camp Wolters. Cadremen had been there more than a month, and the 58th Battalion was filling with the first selectees. The first selectees arrived on March 13, 1941, and were assigned to Companies A and B of the 58th Battalion.

The early arrivals found warm and comfortable barracks and adequate provisions for their feeding and clothing, but their company areas were islands in a vast quagmire of mud littered by odds and ends of construction material and churned by heavy trucks and tractors.

Ground for Camp Wolters had been broken Nov. 12, 1940, but a record rainy spell kept work almost at a standstill until the beginning of 1941. During peak employment, more than 19,000 men worked at top speed to have the camp ready when the first soldiers arrived.

## Colonel John Evans - G3 VIII Corps - Cont.

When training began there were still no sidewalks and few gravel roads. Extremely heavy rains continued throughout the Spring, and the first few months of training consisted largely of wading through ankle-deep mud by day and cleaning shoes and equipment at night.

Four officers commanded Camp Wolters in its first year. Colonel Brabson was commander until Brig. Gen. William H. Simpson arrived on April 5, 1941. General Simpson was here until October 14, 1941, when Col. Henry C. McLean took over command until Brig. Gen. E.F. Reinhardt arrived November 9, 1941.

Even more impressive than these additions to the physical equipment was Camp Wolters rise to national prominence as a great reservoir of trained infantry personnel. Techniques of training developed or improved at Camp Wolters won commendation from high War Department officers, and officers and enlisted men were widely used to staff new or expanding camps.

Source: "The Camp Wolters Longhorn," p.1, Vol.1 No.18, March 19, 1942.  
[http://fortwolters.com/camp\\_wolters.html](http://fortwolters.com/camp_wolters.html)

Vol.1 No.3 - p.3, 08-21-1941, Camp Wolters one of four IRTC locations turning out 17 battalions of trainees every 13 weeks.

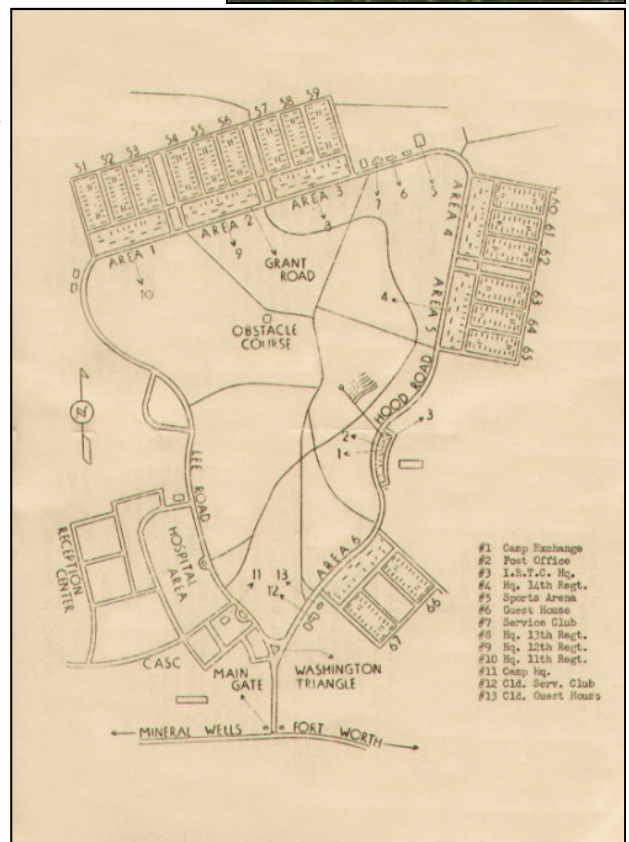
A Newspaper article for November 21, 1941 lists Major Evans as the Camp Wolters Adjutant. It also says that he was commanding officer of the 59<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion and the Executive Officer of the 55<sup>th</sup> Training Battalion. It also mentions that Major Evans will be going to Camp Crowder in Neosho, MO on January 1, 1942.

Camp Crowder was originally designated to be a triangular infantry division training center. A civilian engineer, however, in Neosho studied the Crowder maps and saw that a Shell Oil Company pipeline cut right through what was to become the artillery impact areas. As a result, the original plans for Camp Crowder were scrapped. Soldiers and equipment from the Second Army that arrived from Fort Polk and Camp Beauregard, Louisiana, were soon on their way back to Louisiana because of the pipeline problem. Camp Crowder was turned over to the Signal Corps except for space for four Engineer regiments.

<https://armyhistory.org/camp-enoch-h-crowder-missouri/>

It would seem that this movement was cancelled as in a newspaper article from 1944 Mrs. Evans is listed as living in Brownwood, Texas. This would actually be Camp Bowie, TX which was nicknamed named Krueger Hill. This was the location of the VIII Corps HQs. Major Evans would be promoted to Lieutenant Colonel on December 24, 1941. I thought that LTC Evans would have attended the War College before going to Europe in 1943 but I found that the War College was suspended during World War II.

Without any documentation it is not known when LTC Evans was ordered to VIII Corps. LTC Evans was promoted to Colonel on 29 April 1943.



VIII Corps was under several different Army commands during World War II.

US First Army – 15 June – 31 July 1944

US Third Army – 1 August – 21 October 1944

US Ninth Army – 22 October – 19 December 1944

US Third Army – 20 December – 21 April 1945

US First Army – 22 April – 5 May 1945

US Ninth Army – 6 May 1945 – VE Day

### VIII US Corps Campaigns

Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace, Central Europe

## Colonel John Evans - G3 VIII Corps - Cont.

Commanding General (CG)  
 Lt.-Gen. Troy H. Middleton

Artillery Commander  
 Brig.-Gen. William C. McMahon

Assistant Artillery Commander  
 Col. John B. Horton

Chief of Staff  
 Col. Cyrus Searcy

Deputy Chief of Staff  
 Col. Walter C. Stanton

Assistant Chief of Staff G-1  
 Col. John D. Kilgore

Assistant Chief of Staff G-2  
 Col. Andrew P. Reeves

Assistant Chief of Staff G-3  
 Col. John P. Evans

Assistant Chief of Staff G-4  
 Col. Gainer B. Jones

Quartermaster  
 Col. George A. King

Other information  
 Codename: Monarch or Century



### Sources & links:

*US Army in WWII Staff Officers provided by an enlisted man who was attached to the HQ. throughout the war. (Thru Mr. Mitchell Kaidy)*

*87th Infantry Division Association*

*Frank J. Price, Troy H. Middleton: A Biography, 1974 (ISBN 0807124672) (Thru Mr. Greg Canellis)*

*Martin Blumenson, Breakout and pursuit*

*Big Picture: The Battle of St. Vith*

[www.unithistories.com](http://www.unithistories.com)

Although Colonel Evans is not mentioned by name the VIII Corps G3 is mentioned in many of the US Army Center For Military History "Green Books" on operations in World War II.

VIII Corps, was inactivated on 15 December 1945, at Camp Gruber, Oklahoma.

The VIII Corps returned to Oklahoma after the war. I am still trying to learn about what they were doing at this time but it looks as though they were in command of the State Military District. This would also cover ROTC at colleges and universities. He would have remained in this position until 1948 when he is selected for Regimental Commander for the 16<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment.

16<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regimental Commander July 26, 1948 – October 16, 1950

The 16<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment is part of the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division. Now many of you may know about the US Constabulary Force, the Circle "C" cowboys, which were the occupation force in Post-War Germany. The US Military police force. Well, I did not know that there was a infantry division assigned as well.



## Colonel John Evans - G3 VIII Corps - Cont.

### EARLY COLD WAR

1945-1965: The 1st Infantry Division was the only American combat force in occupied Germany until 1950.

With the Army's demobilization after World War II, the 1st Infantry Division was the only American combat force in occupied Germany until 1950. It provided a stabilizing influence for the rebuilding of Germany and held the line against any possible Soviet threat to Western Europe. The Big Red One stayed in Germany until 1955, when it was the first division rotated back to the United States in Operation Gyroscope. The division made its new base at Fort Riley, Kansas. It remained there for ten years, reorganizing first as a "Pentomic" division and then a three-brigade "ROAD" division more like the "Triangular" structure of World War II.  
<https://www.fdmuseum.org/about-the-1st-infantry-division/history-of-the-first-division/>

On 17 September, EUCOM was directed by the Department of the Army to proceed with the reorganization of the 1st Infantry Division, which would have an authorized strength of 952 officers, 48 warrant officers, and 17,751 enlisted men, aggregating 18,751. The reorganization was to be effected by 10 October. Actually, as in the case of the Constabulary, provisional reorganization was already under way.

Although the official reorganization was not to be effective until 10 October 1948, by 22 July the provisional reorganization directed by EUCOM Headquarters, with Department of the Army approval, had been completed. Most of the reorganization was carried out, despite serious shortages in trained officers, prior to 1 July, and on that date, the following units, including organic elements and those for support of the 1st Infantry Division, were present with the Division in the Grafenwöhr Training Area:

#### UNIT DESIGNATION

16th Infantry Regiment (minus 3rd Battalion)  
18th Infantry Regiment  
26th Infantry Regiment  
Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st US Infantry Division Artillery  
5th Field Artillery Battalion  
7th Field Artillery Battalion  
32nd Field Artillery Battalion  
33rd Field Artillery Battalion  
Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st US Infantry Division  
1st US Infantry Division Band  
1st Signal Company  
1st Quartermaster Company  
701st Ordnance Company  
1st Medical Battalion  
1st Engineer (Combat) Battalion  
7825th Station Complement Unit (Mobile)  
11th Tank Company (Heavy)  
12th Tank Company (Heavy)  
531st Ordnance Tank Maintenance Company  
511th Quartermaster Service Company  
556th Ordnance MAM Company  
58th TC Truck Company  
63rd TC Truck Company  
425th Army Band  
7866th Headquarters and Headquarters and Service Company, Heavy Tank Battalion  
7711th Air Liaison Detachment  
7793rd Augmentation Detachment  
1st Military Police Company

Units assigned to the 1st US Infantry Division but not present in the Grafenwöhr Training Area were:

<u>UNIT DESIGNATION</u>	<u>DUTY STATION</u>
57th Field Hospital	Würzburg
3rd Battalion, 16th Inf Reg	Berlin
8591st Labor Service Platoon	Darmstadt
24th TC Truck Company	Nürnberg
59th TC Truck Company	Nürnberg
544th TC Truck Company	Nürnberg
590th TC Truck Company	Nürnberg
7931st Ordnance Evacuation Company	Kitzingen



## Colonel John Evans - G3 VIII Corps - Cont.

Just look at the size and composition of this infantry division!

During the first six months of 1948, the training of the Division was along the lines generally in use in the Theater. It consisted largely of individual training with small arms and training in the use of crews served weapons, as directed by the OPOT Division, EUCOM Headquarters plus small unit training in tactical problems. Previously, emphasis had been placed entirely upon on-the-job training for occupational tasks. The widespread adoption of tactical training, even if provided for a short number of hours each week (as was the case with most troops in the Theater unattached to a tactical organization and even with many attached to tactical units but assigned to Occupational missions) represented a significant change in Occupation policy.

Throughout the latter half of 1948, the 1st Infantry Division pursued its own training courses in addition to the combined exercises. The divisional exercises were designed to test and perfect various operational procedures. On 5 August the Division was alerted early in the morning and moved out of the Grafenwöhr area to assembly areas south of Nürnberg, spending the night there and returning to Grafenwöhr the following day. During the month of August, all infantry battalions of the Division engaged in river assault training under the direction of the 1st Engineer (Combat) Battalion. On 23 August the Division began a series of exercises called PRIME and GREEN. Exercise PRIME, held in August, was designed to test the mobility of the Division and its reaction to alerts. Various other exercises involving only the 1st Infantry Division were planned and carried out during the remainder of the year, some of them involving co-ordination between artillery and infantry, and between fighter bomber groups and ground forces.

<http://usarmygermany.com/>



*The above photos were provided by the family of Colonel Evans. These are during his time with the 16th Infantry Regiment.*

*In the above left photo is a French Lieutenant-General Marie-Louis Koëltz, who presented Colonel Evans with the Legion of Honor for his service in WWII.*



## Colonel John Evans - G3 VIII Corps - Cont.

In July 1948, the regiment was reformed in Frankfurt, Germany, and then almost immediately railed to Grafenwöhr for a series of intensive training exercises designed to bring the 16th Infantry to wartime fighting proficiency. Unlike the previous three years during which the regiment was predominantly preoccupied with what were essentially Military Police duties, the regiment was now going to focus on staving off the Red threat to central Europe. To ensure they were ready, the regiment participated with the Big Red One in numerous European Command training events such as Exercises WINTERPRIME II, HARVEST, JUNIPER, COMBINE, and FERRYBOAT. The urgency of the mission increased in July 1950 when the Korean War erupted. Fear of a second communist front caused the disbandment of the U.S. Constabulary and the reinforcement of Germany with an armored division and three more infantry divisions in 1951.



The thing I like about this photo, go back and read his story from the "Howitzer" yearbook. Late in his career and the pipe is still a part of him.

The defense of the Fulda Gap became the 1st Infantry Division's area of responsibility and also the 16th Infantry Regiment's primary focus. Given the initial restrictions placed on U.S. Army soldiers regarding fraternization with German citizens (especially females) and the consumption of alcohol, the leaders of the 1st Infantry Division, as well as the European Command as a whole, looked for ways to keep soldiers busy and out of trouble when not on duty. One of the primary ways was a vigorous sports program and the Rangers partook in every competitive sport in an aggressive way. Indeed, in 1950, the Ranger football team fought its way to the top as the European Command champions. After the 1948 Grafenwöhr training exercises, the regiment had been posted to Monteith Barracks in Furth, Germany, and surrounding communities. It was during this period that the Security Platoon (also known as the Honor Guard) provided guards for the famous Nuremberg trials. In August 1952, the 16th's headquarters was transferred to Conn Barracks in Schweinfurt, Germany, while the most of the regiment's subordinate units were assigned to Ledworth Barracks in that city.

*16thinfassn.org*

In 1950 Colonel Evans becomes the Military Liaison for the to USSR Forces in Germany until 1954. During this period he would be stationed in Berlin.

The Military Liaison Missions arose from reciprocal agreements formed immediately after the Second World War between the Western allied nations (U.S., UK and France) and the USSR. The missions were active from 1946 until 1990.

The agreements between the allied nations and the Soviet Union permitted the deployment of small numbers of military intelligence personnel — together with associated support staff — in each other's territory in Germany, ostensibly for the purposes of monitoring and furthering better relationships between the Soviet and Western occupation forces. The British, French and American missions matched the size of the counterpart Soviet missions into West Germany (the nominal post-war British, French and American zones of occupations). The MLMs also played an intelligence-gathering role. The MLM teams were based in West Berlin but started their "tours" from the national mission houses in Potsdam in matte-olive-drab heavy cars. The Mission teams on a tour frequently comprised one officer accompanied by an NCO and a driver. The missions persisted throughout the Cold War period and ended in 1990 just prior to German reunification. The missions were

- British Commanders'-in-Chief Mission to the Soviet Forces in Germany (BRIXMIS)
- La Mission Militaire Francaise de Liaison (FMLM, more properly MMFL in French)
- U.S. Military Liaison Mission (USMLM)
- and their reciprocal Soviet missions (SOXMIS/SMLM).

The British-Soviet missions were the first to be established (16 September 1946) under the terms of the Robertson-Malinin Agreement (the respective commanders-in-chief). It also had the largest contingent of personnel with 31 accredited team members. Later agreements with the US (Huebner-Malinin, March 1947) and France (April 1947) had significantly fewer permitted personnel, possibly because those Allied powers did not want large Soviet missions operating in their zones and vice versa.

<http://www.coldwarspies.com/>

After retiring from the US Army Colonel Evans worked for the Rand Corporation. During that time he war-gamed the 6-day war for Israel.

Colonel Evans awards were as follows: Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal w/OLC, Army Commendation Medal, World War I Victory Medal, American Defense Service Medal w/Bronze Star, American Campaign Medal, European Campaign Medal w/5 Bronze Stars, World War II Victory Medal, Army Occupation Medal, French Legion of Honour, French Croix de Guerre w/Palm, Belgian Croix de Guerre w/Palm.

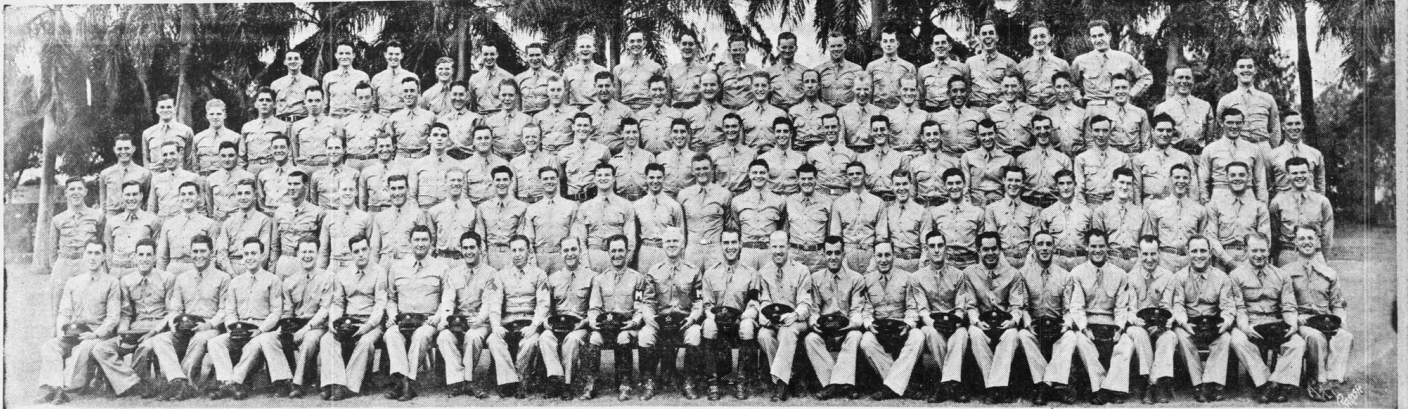


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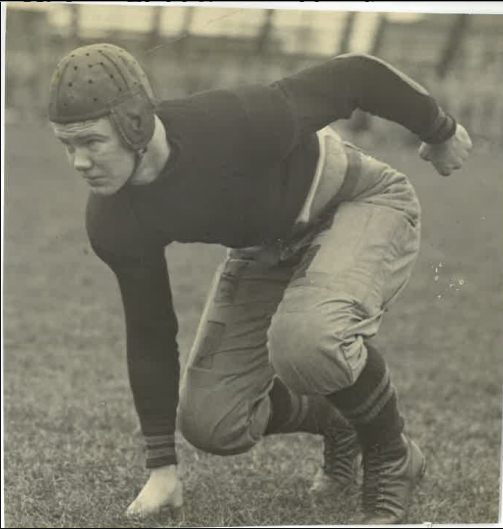
THE HONOLULU ADVERTISER, SUNDAY MORNING, JANUARY 5, 1941.

WANT AD SERVICE — CALL 2311

# Week's Parade Of The Services In Hawaii



MILITARY POLICE COMPANY—The Military Police Company at Fort Shafter is shown above. This company, which performs many important duties, is commanded by Maj. John P. Evans. Other officers of the organization are Capt. Carl S. Graybeal and Capt. Henry K. Benson. The first sergeant of the company is Frank W. Schumann. Today the Military Police in Honolulu discard their long familiar uniform of breeches, leggings and caps, for a new uniform of slacks, shirts and sun helmets.



### SSG Richard Francis LaLoge

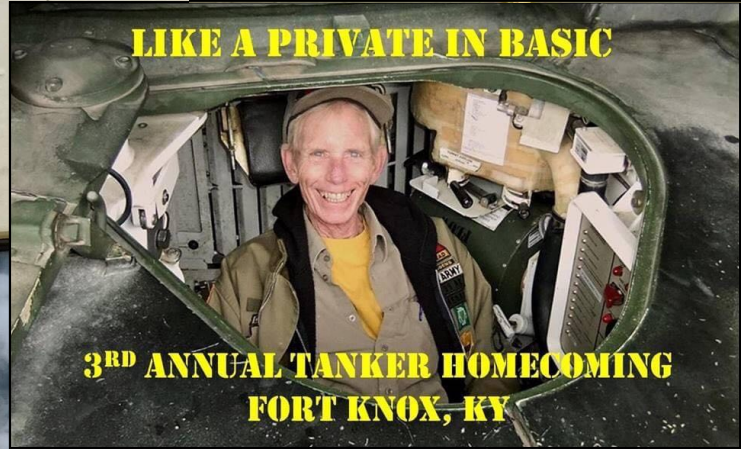
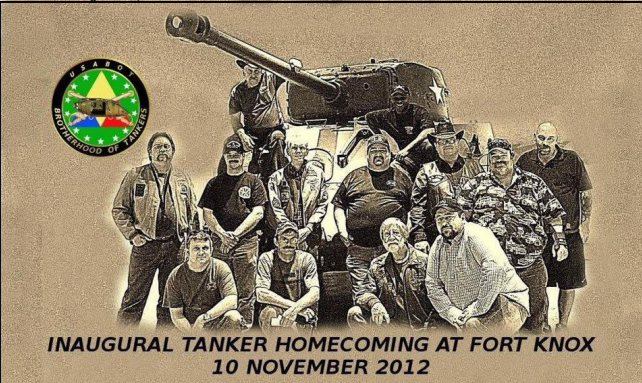
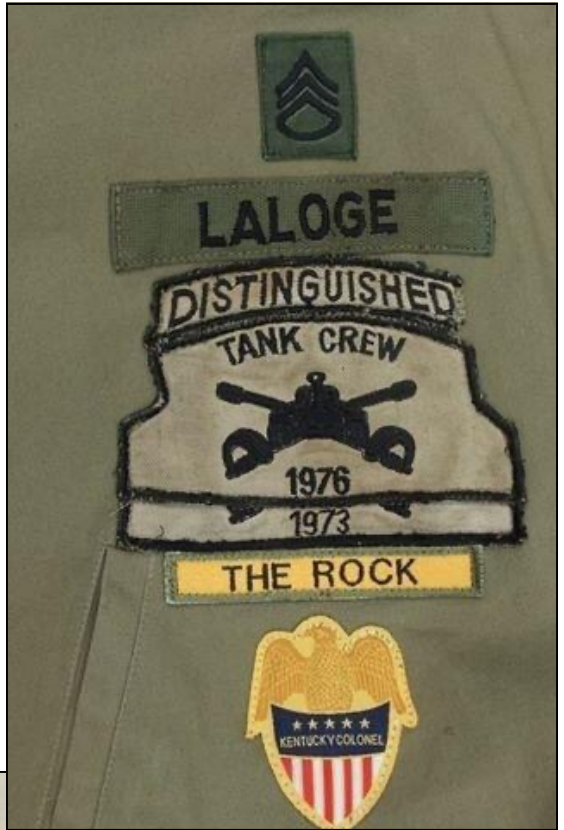
The Patton Battalion has lost another founding member. Richard LaLoge was the first battalion commander for the Patton Battalion. He was the person who was tasked with overseeing the 2nd Annual Tanker Homecoming in 2013.

Richard served his time on the M60A2 "Starship." When USABOT first formed all he talked about was wanting to see the new tanks. When we were planning the 3rd Annual Tanker Homecoming and we told him we were going to get on the Marine M1A1's he was so excited. As you can tell from the photo below, he LOVED it! Richard was also one of the members at the 1st Homecoming.

SSG Richard Francis LaLoge

December 12, 1953

February 25, 2022





—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 ITS 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. MARRHAM  
 MASTER GUNNER AND TANKER



SSG Richard Francis LaLoge  
 December 12, 1953  
 February 25, 2022

*Godly Harmon*

89/200



## Sabers Through the Reich

*Sabers through the Reich - World War II Corps Cavalry from Normandy to the Elbe*

by William Stuart Nance

Foreword by Robert M. Citino

Published by: The University Press of Kentucky

366 Pages, 6.00 x 9.00 in, 3 b&w halftones, 21 maps, 1 figure

PAPERBACK

9780813177533

PUBLISHED: MAY 2019

HARDCOVER

9780813169606

PUBLISHED: MAY 2017

### About the Author

William Stuart Nance is an active duty armor officer. He taught military history at the United States Military Academy and the United States Command and General Staff College.

### Description

In *Sabers through the Reich*, William Stuart Nance provides the first comprehensive operational history of American corps cavalry in the European Theater of Operations (ETO) during World War II. The corps cavalry had a substantive and direct impact on Allied success in almost every campaign, and served as offensive guards for armies across Europe, conducting reconnaissance, economy of force, and security missions, as well as prisoner of war rescues. From D-Day and Operation Cobra to the Battle of the Bulge and the drive to the Rhine, these groups had the mobility, flexibility, and firepower to move quickly across the battlefield, enabling them to aid communications and intelligence gathering, reducing the Clausewitzian "friction of war."

*Sabers through the Reich* - The University Press of Kentucky ([kentuckypress.com](http://kentuckypress.com))

All of you that ever wore the crossed sabers on your uniform, you're going to want to go out and get this book! My first comment I wrote when reading the book was, "*Oh, boy, all those Cavalry folks will love this book.*" It's everything Cavalry! From when the horses were loaded into rail cars and the light tanks and armored cars arrived. This book only covers the European theater of operations from D-Day to V-E Day. It would be interesting to see how or if cavalry units in the Pacific theater operated.

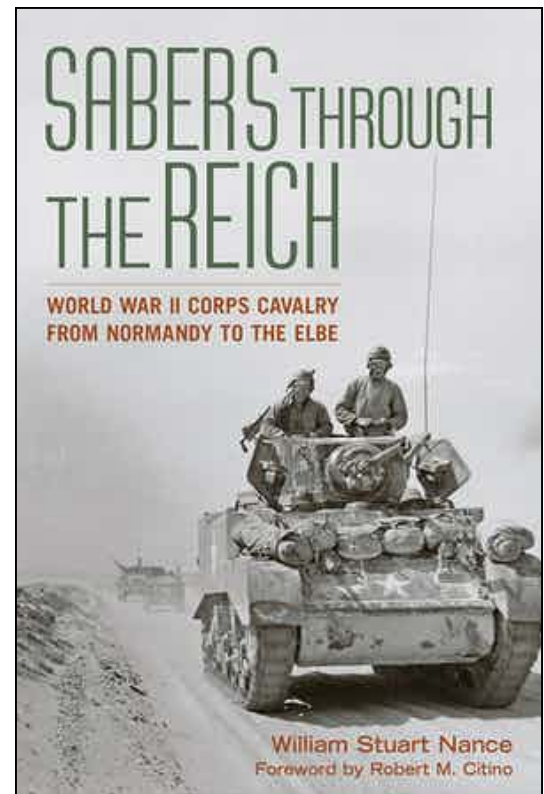
As it was leading up to the use of Cavalry in WWII there was some talk about the 7th Mechanized Cavalry. If there is not a book on the 7th covering 1933 to 1941 there damn well should be. This was the unit to be in and they were experimenting through the whole 1930's. I do know that LTC Ralph Harper, from TF Harper, was with the 7th Cavalry for while during this period. Definitely needs more written about it.

This book only covers the Corps cavalry not so much cavalry attached to divisions. There is a whole new push in the US Army today for Corps cavalry. I am not sure if this book was written as to cover the reasons why. As the US Army is focused on Large Scale Combat Operations, (LSCO pronounced *lisco*), but it seems to be the purpose behind the book.

Much like the task/organization of the armored divisions in WWII where most commanders had their own make up and how the forces were arranged in the division. It is apparent that cavalry units were done the same way. Many had attachments of tank destroyers, field artillery, engineers, and some with infantry attachments. The author points out three traditional tasks for the cavalry but you will see that like most units in combat you never know what you may be tasked with.

In the dash across France the cavalry was running loose out in front probing the enemy. But when we had the German Army up to border of Germany they really hemmed up the cavalry. This is when the Battle of the Bulge took place. I am really confused about the use of cavalry during the Bulge. It seems that VIII Corps who had used cavalry pretty revolutionary in the dash across France seems to have abandoned it after December 16, 1944. the author talks about how the Corps cavalry would talk straight to the Corps commander, had the most powerful radios, could talk over the longest distance, but during the Bulge they are not in contact reporting the status of the situation in the Corps front.

Its almost as if the commanders didn't know what to do with the cavalry if they were not out operation in the enemy rear area or in mobile exploitation. It was also interesting to see the change in operations from the dash across France, the Bulge, and then the drive into Germany.



## The Tankies - Cont.

### *The Tankies*

Written by Garth Ennis; Penciled by Carlos Ezquerra; Inked by Hector Ezquerra;  
Colored by Tony Avina; Lettered by Simon Bowland

Format: Softcover

Pages: 256 pages

Published: March 17, 2021

ISBN-10: 1682475972

ISBN-13: 9781682475973

Product Dimensions: 10.25 × 6.625 × 1 in

Product Weight: 21 oz

*The Tankies* | U.S. Naval Institute ([usni.org](http://usni.org))

### Overview

From the bloody battle for Normandy to the Nazi heartland, from war's end to the killing fields of Korea, the men of the British Army's Royal Tank Regiment fight battle after battle against terrible odds. Whether outnumbered or outgunned, the Tankies soldier on—as their motto would have it, “From Mud, Through Blood, to the Green Fields Beyond.”

After D-Day the largely untried Allied armies meet their seasoned German counterparts on the killing grounds of Bocage country. As Panzers and SS units turn the French hedgerows into a slaughterhouse, a lone British tank crew struggles to rejoin their squadron. Their only hope lies in their commander, Corporal Stiles—but does even this wily old trooper stand a chance against the infamous Tiger?

Newly promoted but just as angry, Sergeant Stiles enters the battle for Germany in command of a Sherman Firefly—capable of taking out any tank thus far encountered. Unfortunately, the enemy have a new tank of their own, the mighty “King Tiger,” with twice the firepower of the original. As Stiles and his men join the Allied advance into the Nazi homeland, they find worse horrors than Tigers lurking in the German twilight.

Six years later, as massed Chinese armies descend on UN forces defending South Korea, a British infantry brigade digs in amidst the hills of the Imjin River sector. With them are the Centurion tanks of the 8th King's Royal Irish Hussars, including WWII veteran Sergeant Stiles. But Stiles is a man haunted by the horrors of his past, and when the Communist offensive smashes into the tiny British force, he must battle his own demons along with the enemy's might.

### Authors

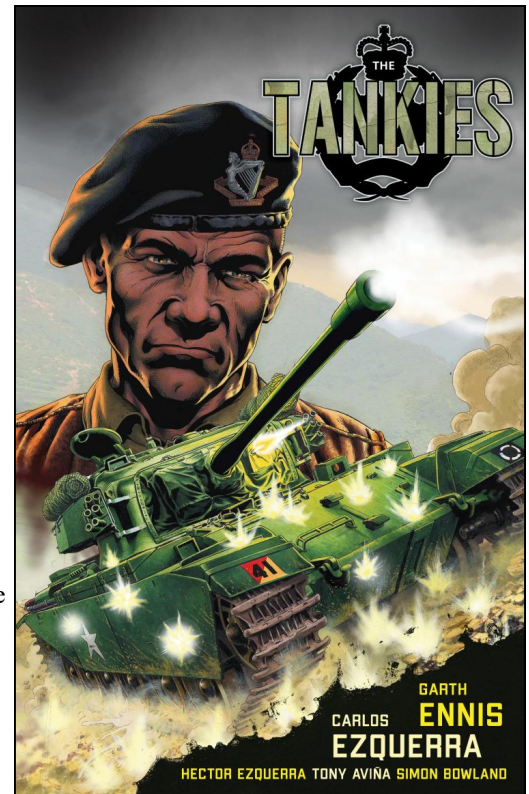
#### *Garth Ennis*

Garth Ennis has been writing comics since 1989. Credits include *Preacher*, *The Boys* (both adapted for TV), *Hitman* and successful runs on *The Punisher* and *Fury* for Marvel Comics. He is particularly known for his war comics, including *War Stories*, *Battlefields*, *Out of the Blue*, *Sara*, and a recent revival of the classic British series *Johnny Red*. Originally from Northern Ireland, Ennis now lives in New York City with his wife, Ruth.

#### *Carlos Ezquerra*

Carlos Ezquerra (1947–2018) was a titan of the comics industry. Originally from Zaragoza, Spain, he began his career as an artist in the early 1970s and is best known as co-creator of *Judge Dredd* and *Strontium Dog*. A fan favorite for his distinctive style and dynamic storytelling, he was prolifically published in the UK and was a frequent collaborator with Garth Ennis in the United States on titles like *War Stories*, *Battlefields*, and *Adventures in the Rifle Brigade*. Ezquerra was a recipient of both the Inkpot and National Comics Awards.

If you are fan of the comic book *GI Combat* or *SGT Rock* you would like this one. It has all the elements of the classic comic book filled with great artwork, violence and some humor. This one will be added to my other new comic book from Charlie Mike Comix, *Harlem Hellfighters*, Limited Edition, by Mark Baker, published last year.



## Warriors for the Working Day

Warriors for the Working Day  
By Peter Elstob

Publisher: Corgi Childrens; New Ed edition (May 24, 1974)  
Language: English  
Paperback: 320 pages  
ISBN-10: 0552095249  
ISBN-13: 978-0552095242  
Item Weight: 1.11 pounds

A classic novel that is part of our new Imperial War Museum Wartime Classic fiction series.

Warriors for the Working Day is a novel written by Peter Elstob, published in 1960, with later translations into other languages. The novel is based on events from June 1944, during the Battle of Normandy, to the invasion of Germany in the Spring of 1945. The book describes fighting by the men of a small unit of British tanks during this period, with the focus on one tank crew. The novel is highly realistic, as it is based on Elstob's experience in the war as a tank crewmember.

Peter Elstob  
Born in London, The United Kingdom December 22, 1915  
Died July 21, 2002  
Genre Fiction, Military History, Nonfiction

Peter Frederick Egerton Elstob was a British soldier, adventurer, novelist, military historian and entrepreneur. In his writing he is best known for his lightly-fictionalized novel Warriors For the Working Day (1960) and his military history of the Battle of the Bulge, Hitler's Last Offensive (1971).

He joined the Republican Army in the Spanish Civil War, and later served in the Royal Tank Regiment in World War II, in which service he was promoted to sergeant and was Mentioned in Despatches.

He joined International PEN in 1962 and served first as general secretary and later as vice-president for seven years during the 1970s, rescuing the organization from financial failure; he also secured the future of the Arts Theatre Club in London in 1946.

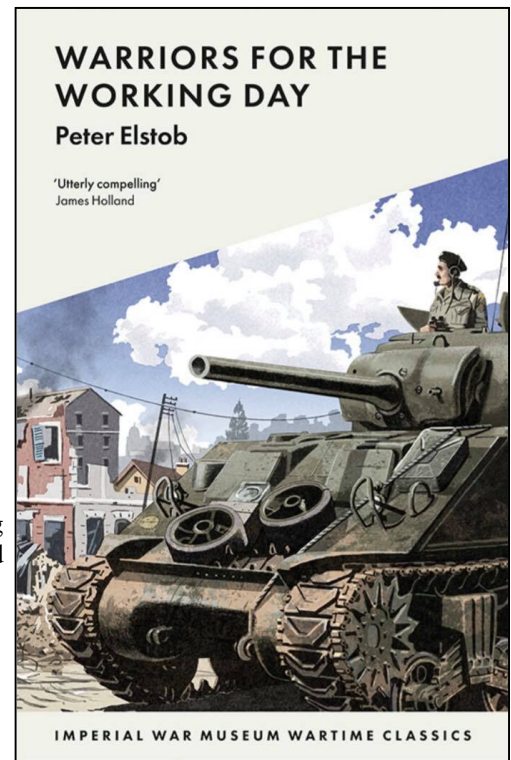
He prospered as an entrepreneur with a facial product called Yeast Pac, with several partners. In his obituary in The Guardian newspaper, Elstob was said to be:

*"...one of those people born in the wrong century. With his charm and audacity, his passion for travel, and his love of risk-taking and financial gambles, he would have been more at home in the reign of Elizabeth I."*

[https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/522247.Peter\\_Elstob](https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/522247.Peter_Elstob)

Tankies and tankers are a very similar lot. There were many things the same during WWII. Fear of 88's, German tanks, and bale out quick! Crew life is the same then as it is now. The bond of a crew, laugh living off the tank and tall tales!

This book talks about life with a Sherman but later the much better Cromwell. If you wish to read about the British Tankie in WWII this is a great book.



## On Operations: Operational Art and Military Disciplines

On Operations  
Operational Art and Military Disciplines  
By B. A. Friedman

Format: Hardcover  
Pages: 256 pages  
Illustrations: 2 b/w illustrations  
Published: October 15, 2021  
ISBN-10: 1682477061  
ISBN-13: 9781682477069  
Product Dimensions: 9 × 6 × 1 in  
Product Weight: 16 oz

<https://www.usni.org/press/books/operations>

### Brett Friedman

B. A. Friedman holds a BA in history from The Ohio State University, an MA in national security and strategic studies from the U.S. Naval War College, and is currently enrolled in King's College London, studying the early U.S. Marine Corps and naval strategy. He serves in the Marine Corps Reserve as a field artillery officer and is the author of *On Tactics: A Theory of Victory in Battle*.

### Overview

*On Operations: Operational Art and Military Disciplines* traces the history of the development of military staffs and ideas on the operational level of war and operational art from the Napoleonic Wars to today, viewing them through the lens of Prussia/Germany, the Soviet Union, and the United States. B. A. Friedman concludes that the operational level of war should be rejected as fundamentally flawed, but that operational art is an accurate description of the activities of the military staff, an organization developed to provide the brainpower necessary to manage the complexity of modern military operations. Rather than simply serve as an intercession between levels, the military staff exists as an enabler and supporting organization to tacticians and strategists alike.

*On Operations* examines the organization of military staffs, which has changed little since Napoleon's time. Historical examinations of the functions staffs provided to commanders, and the disciplines of the staff officers themselves, leads to conclusions about how best to organize staffs in the future. Friedman demonstrates these ideas through case studies of historical campaigns based on the military discipline system developed.

### Review

I started this book just a few days before the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Army. It was hard to keep reading and follow events as they were unfolding. As I was going through the book I jotted down a few notes.

Do we need to redesign the staff? Is there something missing within the current staff design?

When talking about small combined arms teams I made note that the article by then Major Albin F. Irzyk, Galloping Juggernaut. The example in the article is from CCB, 4th Armored after the breakout of the hedgerows. General Dager combined teams of all the elements of CCB into small combined arms teams with a lead that had elements of all commands up front.

Something I made up but still think is something to think about, Amphibious Guerilla Operations. What would it look like?

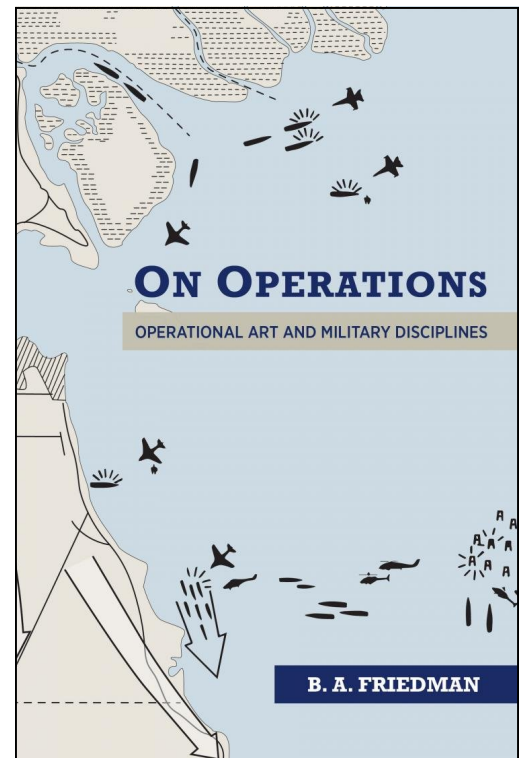
Operations, like planning & training, require staffs that use space & operations to build upon. Operations are only as good as the training put forth to create.

Chapter 11 talks about Logistics. He provides many examples of good logistical commanders but he skips one, MG John S. Wood. I am sorry but he was a logistical genius when it came to WWII. Supplies were waiting on them to be used not the other way around. With that Gen Patton and the Third Army Staff. Patton made sure that every staff officer knew the people below them. Face to face and via radio.

A fine example of this is the article about Col Evans. We just don't have any written papers that discuss how he performed his tasks in WWII as the VIII Corps G3. We don't know these staff officers by name, like we should, and we don't have enough details into how the staffs of divisions and corps let alone the Armies operated on a daily basis.

In our last war did we have campaigns like those in WWII? Or in Vietnam? Did we breakdown the steps to achieve victory and work to accomplish the steps to obtain the victory?

B.A. Friedman will sure make you think.



### Patton Monument Report for 2021

As of March 24, 2022, the Monument fund has \$26,243.00.

Total in Monument Account: \$26,24300.

The Bourg Tee Shirts we have on hand. **(UPDATED)**

**Large:** Yellow - 2, **2XL:** Yellow - 2, Tan - 2, OD - 3, **3XL:** Yellow - 2, Tan - 2, OD - 1, **4XL:** Yellow - 1.

M4 Tee Shirt

**Large:** Tan - 1.

**2XL:** Tan - 1

#### New Mugs!!!

We now have the 15oz Red Ball Express mug and the new 15oz Treat'em Rough Mug!

#### Lapel Pins

We are looking at \$12 each for these.



#### **Patton Battalion Funds / Memberships / Dues**

The Patton Battalion, as of March 24, has 438 members on our battalion Facebook page. Out of those 451 members we are currently at 93 paid members. The Patton Battalion has \$.27 in funds in the PayPal account. We have \$400.00 in the Patton Operating account. Battalions funds are \$400.00. There are no Monument funds in the Battalion account as of this time.

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.

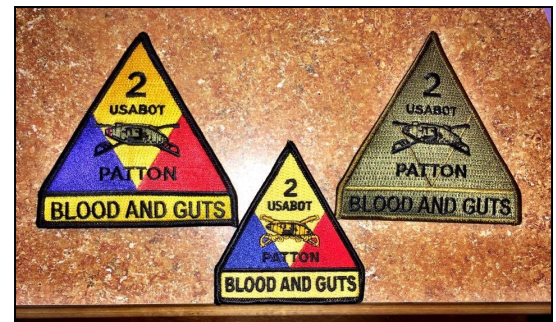
Both patches are also available for \$5 EA.

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**

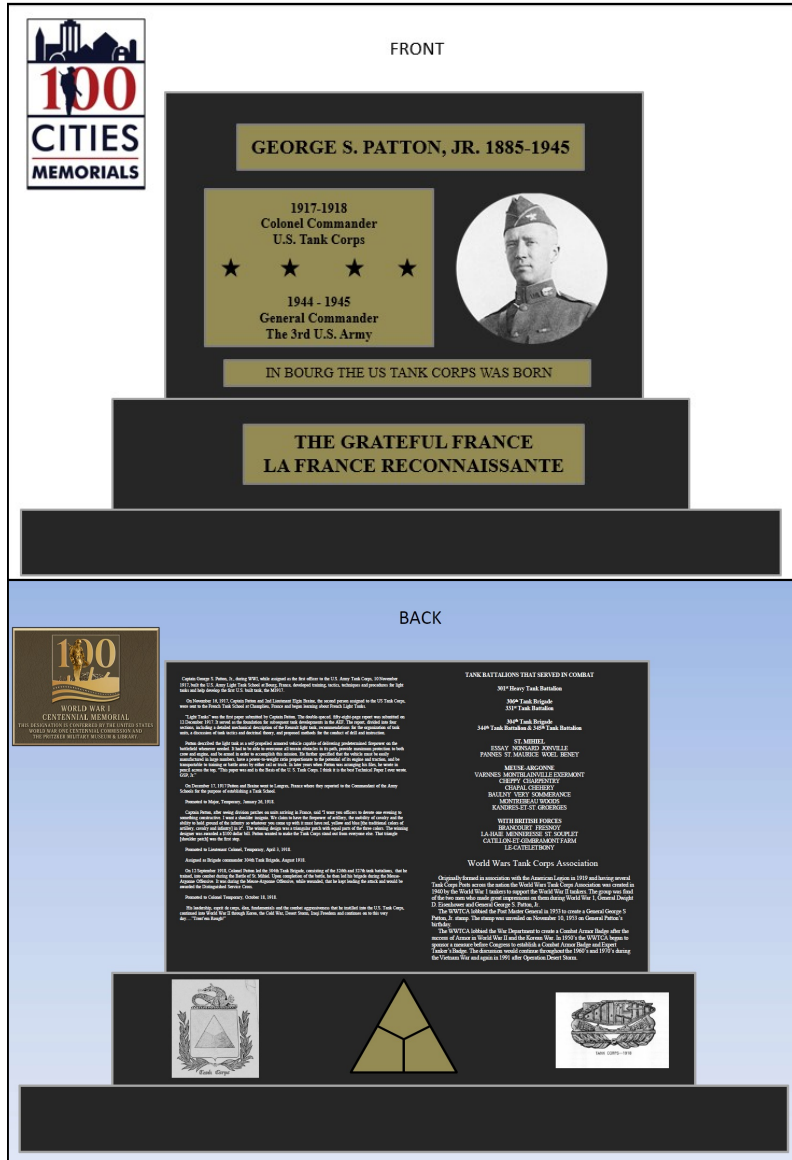
**USABOT**  
68 West Marion ST  
Doylestown, OH 44230

**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**

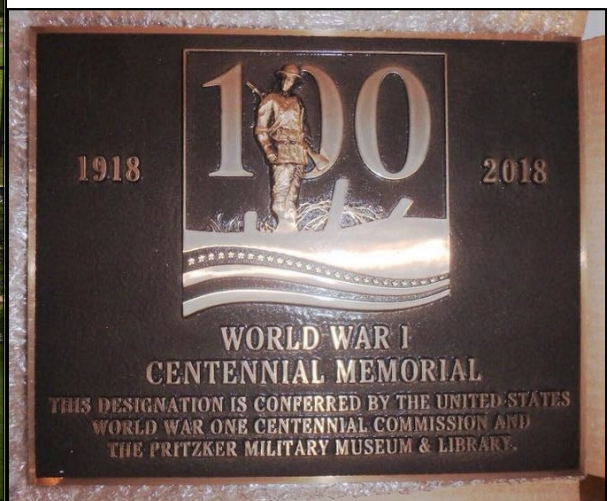


# Patton Joins the US Tank Corps Monument



The US Tank Corps shirts we still have few tees left!

<https://19seriesclothing.com/>





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Be sure to check us out on  
Twitter @pattonbattalion



Coming up in the April Issue - The Original Patton Museum.

Upcoming Events

**US Cavalry & Armor Association Chapter Fort Knox** - Stable Call monthly meeting, 3rd Thursday of every month, Location TBD - Fort Knox, KY.

**Indiana Military Museum Schedule 2021**

- WWI - April 2 & 3.
- WWII - May 7 & 8.
- Vietnam Appreciation Day - TBD
- WWII Salute to Veterans - September 2 & 3.

**Tenth Annual Tanker Homecoming** - Gettysburg, PA. - October 13-16, 2022.

**Sullivan Cup** - Fort Benning, GA - Sullivan Cup – Best Tank Crew Competition, 2-6 May, 2022

Plans for the Gainey Cup to return around the same time in 2023.

**Operation Anvil - Battle for Southern France 1944-** Phil Moore Park, Bowling Green, KY, October 1, 2022.

**Patton and the US Tank Corps Monument** - Fort Knox - *TBD*



realwarriors.net