

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

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

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

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And registered with the state of Kentucky

Patton Battalion - USABOT

Total: 93 paid members

24 Lifetime Members

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2 Associate Member

438 on Battalion Facebook Page

PATTON BATTALION - USABOT

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September has like all the months been flying by already. So lets dive in!

I recently came across a post on the West Point Museum and they have a Renault FT-17 at their museum. I never knew this. Makes me want to go to the museum even more now.

I was recently talking to someone about the value of the staff and officers that served in WWI and their leadership contributions in WWII. So I took down some thoughts I have about the officers that served in WWI and how they changed WWII. I know that there are those who won't see this as I do.

I also don't think that officers today view working on the staff as an honor or as the high regard it got among the officers in the past. There was a distinct honor among officers as being a staff officer. That this was as important or in the same regard as being a commander. I also don't think that there has been enough research into the staff work of officers and research into the men who held these positions.

Queen Elizabeth II passed away on September 8, 2022. She had been the Queen longer than any other Monarch as her term was 70 years. I found it interesting and sort of eye opening that she was talked about as significant ending of the last of the WWII generation that are passing on each day. Mentioned as a last major celebration of the generation. Having joined the British service in 1945. Since I was a baby she has been the Queen. I heard it talked about in the funeral services that all of the services were like a final recognition for that entire generation for their service.

I will tell you that the final piper playing the final lament and walking away down the hallway really struck me emotionally. I was not prepared for the emotions I had. I felt that this was something that I saw as a final salute to the all of the people I had known of that generation. Not only for a salute for the Queen but for the ending of an era.

Women have been allowed into the combat arms now for a few years. I find this funny that so many men seem to feel that this is wrong and these men have no idea the role women played in WWII in the special services of WWII. Women who met a fate as cruel and horrible of any man who served. The book *Mission France* will tell you about some of the bravest women you may read about. Women who volunteered in WWII and saw evil as close and face to face as anyone in WWII. Women who served in the British Special Operations Executive and American Office of Strategic Services. I find it important that we know more about these women and learn about their service.

Exercise Tiger is a book that I picked up as part of some research I was doing. Having never really heard about it or studied it. After having a conversation with a historian who really down played the importance of this operation and the sort of cover up for the events I feel its is worth more reading into. This is a book that came out in 1991 just a few years after the story received some attention in 1984.

If the British Special Operations Executive and American Office of Strategic Services are not on your radar or something you have read about then I suggest the book *No Moon as Witness*. I read the book after *Mission France* so I would suggest *No Moon as Witness* as the first book you should read.

KP Morris
Patton 6

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WWW.USABOT.ORG
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FT-17 Renault at West Point Museum



I was able to find a photo of the FT-17 Renault at the West Point Museum on their Facebook page. I have messaged them about obtaining some more information on the tank but so far I have not received a response.

I found another photo in the Internet and there appears to be a small plaque on the left side of the tank. I have not found a photo of the plaque or any other information.



FT-17 Renault at West Point Museum - Cont.



Knowledge About the Past

I wonder today if leaders and soldiers in the Army realize how much WWI impacted WWII and how WWII leaders impacted the Vietnam and post Vietnam era of the US Army? I say this because when I share what I have learned in my researching MG Holmes Ely Dager I am dumbfounded by the responses I get from what I tell them I learned.

Back when I first met BG Albin F. Irzyk he expressed his admiration for MG John S Wood and BG Holes Dager. He taught me what those two leaders meant to him. What he learned from them. Over the past twenty some odd years I have done a lot of research on both men. But I have learned so much more about the Army and leadership from doing this.

I started doing research on MG Dager back in the late 1990's when the Internet was born. My first searches on him on came up with a little information. But I did learn that he had earned a Silver Star in WWI. At the time I had no idea that the Silver Star then was not the award we know of today. Many of the sources I use today in research I had not yet learned about and were not available then.

My early research was writing to state archives in an effort to learn or by calling places. In my early research I learned that Dager was in the New Jersey National Guard before WWI. Now this is where I thought I knew about the National Guard until you do research. In the 1910 to 1917 National Guard officers were elected. Yes, that's right, elected by their peers. And Dager had been elected an officer. The other thing I found out is that before WWI there were, in most of the original thirteen states, units that were the 1st or 2nd of brigade, regiments and so forth. Each state had the 1st! Well when WWI rolled around and we started creating the "Modern" American Army not everyone could be 1st or 2nd.

This was a moment that I had never really thought about or had seen in history books. Units felt that they were loosing their heritage when the Modern divisions were being created. So from the Civil War until WWI the peace time Army was nothing more than regiments. There were no divisions. And who did we model our new modern Army after? The French. We modeled our force much like the French not the British. In my early research I purchased a great book *A Fraternity of Arms* by Robert B. Bruce. This was a fabulous book that taught me how the US Army had worked so much with the French Army in WWI.

Through my research I began to learn about units in WWI and where these units were located. Dager was part of the 51st Infantry Regiment, 6th Division. In the early stages of the war with the US Army his unit was located in the Vosges Mountains. Here they were in trench warfare. There were trench raids, assaults and of course artillery. They would later join the Meuse-Argonne Offensive.

So in the 1940 issue of Military Review LTC Dager wrote the article "Modern Infantry." Dager gave away a secret about WWI. In the article he was talking about service in WWI. "The four year's of World War furnished infantry tacticians with a proving ground for their ideas. Massed formations, special-weapon groups, individual and small group infiltration, battering-ram formations in narrow zones; these were ideas which resulted in heavy infantry casualties."

"Infantry failed to come up to the expectations in the last World War. And, because it was the principal arm with the principle role of taking and holding ground its supporting arms and services were also a disappointment." "Why did infantry fail? Mainly because the support given to it was not an integrated part of the basic unit – the infantry battalion. With the exception of rifles and automatic rifles and grenades, the battalion had nothing of its own with which to overcome resistance within and behind the main hostile lines of resistance."

"The typical scheme of maneuver provided for a combination of fire and movement. It was a good scheme; it still is, and it probably always will be. Why did it all fail in the last World War? Simply because, in application, fire failed to keep up with maneuver."

"Infantry was tied down to a time-schedule of fires without which it lacked the power to advance. On the objective infantry halted, reorganized, marked time, and was finally ejected by hostile reserves who promptly took advantage of the lull in the attacker's protecting fires to do so. Maneuver, in its proper sense, was almost unknown. *A true envelopment occurred only when a section, squad, or individual soldier became thoroughly disgusted with the constant failure and casualties incident to frontal attacks and "stalked" a machine-gun nest. Such action drew well deserved commendation. But it failed to indicate to the high command that a few infantrymen with simple weapons plus maneuver space and leadership, could accomplish what the impressive mass could not do.*"

Since I have not been able to get his paper from the Infantry School from he was a student. So all of these young officers in WWI were on the end of the spear of long detailed orders with strict timelines and where the leader was never seen. These officers fought the war differently in WWII. So in all of the post war or between the Wars period we created the command & general staff school. The War College saw more graduations and the national guard received more training. In WWII all of these men who had been at the tip were now the leaders. And they didn't want their front edge to fight like it had in WWI.

One of the things I find so interesting is Gen Wood and Gen Dager in the opening weeks of Operation Cobra both had earned a Distinguished Service Cross for action in the heat of battle, by being out front, and showing the troops what action is all about. Wood and his driver sneaking up on a sniper in a church tower. Capturing him and sending word for the troops to follow.

Dager when he his command post was attacked, fighting from his light tank, firing the cannon and calling artillery. They both demonstrated that action can and would win battles. They were at the tip of the spear. Not in the rear, out of touch with what was happening.

So Dager in his article in 1940 asks "How does the new element of speed affect command and staff procedure? Experimentation has, then, been aimed at what? We believe the true objective of it all – no matter what the weapon, or type or size unit – has been the restoration of battlefield mobility and, as a proper prelude in preparation for battle, there has been extensive and successful experimentation in the field of strategic mobility – the movement of arms and troops to the battlefield."

Knowledge About the Past - Cont.

He continues... "Many of us can remember the days during the World War when we wrote a several page order for a battalion attack. And we find battalion commanders today whose pencils are the important item of their equipment. We must now discard one of two things – either the pencil, or the commander. This new battalion is also built for speed – speed of entry into battle and velocity during battle."

"The idea we set forth here is, that now, more than ever before, will these new mobile units require the actual presence of active directing minds with them, not behind them; to provide control, advice, support, assistance, and that virile direction which is the only thing that works beyond the line of departure."

"We must provide air and mechanical reconnaissance, maintain superiority of both in the zone of movement, and perfect the details of standing operating procedures to the point where units moved from covered bivouac to assembly position for attack are able to load, travel, de-truck, clear road, receive attack orders, and launch an attack with machine like precision."

"Office procedure, written estimate, order annex, and march-table are fast becoming obsolete. Commanders and staff must now think, move and produce action in terms that smell strongly of gasoline and its resultant speeds. It means that having a fixed process of moving into battle, we must have permanency of combat-teams to enter battle. It means that an astounding amount of decentralization of control must exist while at the same time the high command has its hand resting constantly, though lightly, on the bridles of its "combat teams" – ready at all times to apply the directing aides to coordinated action."

Wood and Dager used the Mission Type orders to keep their forces on the move, in the enemies face. Gen Irzyk described this as if you were to catch someone off balance and continued to push them until they fell. That's what they were doing, keeping the pressure on the enemy, keeping them from getting their feet under themselves. A break. They pushed the enemy, a. to force the enemy to react *to* them, b. to make enemy stop them. These two events require great effort and slow you down, if you are the enemy, it disrupts your own plans.

Gen Wood selected Dager as his #2 when he took command of the 4th Armored Division. I firmly believe that it was the article he wrote in 1940 and something he may have said or noted in the 1941 maneuvers where he was an umpire. Dager was thinking much like Wood about speed of battle and support by the staff.

Patton's Third Army issued orders on 1 page of paper. The order on the front and an overlay on the back. Think about that! An Army order. The use of radios were used at night to issue the next days missions. In the case of Gen Irzyk as the BN s-3, he would take the COs orders back to CCB HQs and brief Gen Dager on the next days plan.

Since I have not found any information or stories from the CCB Command Post I assume that the staffs would work the plan of the next day based off what was briefed. In other words the staff would take the battalion plan and work all the issues of what they would need for the next day. Making sure fires were on standby, supplies were trailing the units. Trouble spots and looking at the *SUPPORT* of the combat units at the front.

This where I always felt there was a lack of in my time in the service. Both as a member of a line unit and even at battalion. The role of the battalion is to *SUPPORT* the line units. Many times we, the line unit, were supporting the battalion. And at the battalion level we were always planning operations and using the line companies to support our efforts. This is wrong, but we didn't train any other way. I think that what I am reading in the Army today is a shift to correct this mentality. This shift along with Mission Command is the way to create the maneuver capability to match the speed of battle.

I reference the time in 2008/2009 while I was working at battalion that I mentioned that we were in a WWI era. The OPORD was detailed but there was way more emphasis on the way the OPORD *looked* on paper than what was *in* the OPORD. See the 4th paragraph above. If you have ever read the OPORD for Operation Overlord it is worth reading. But as you read it think about what happened and what the units on the ground did.

So lets take a look at the section in paragraph 4. "Combat-teams" is what Dager mentions in his article in 1940. I would like to look at this and I will point you towards the article then Major Irzyk wrote for Military Review, *Galloping Juggernaut* and appeared in the April 1945 Issue. This article talks about something that I have not seen mentioned in any of the books on armored warfare. Gen Dager in his Combat Command B broke up his battalions into small combined arms teams.

From the article, "To move faster and to accomplish twice as much, the column was now divided into two columns. Both columns were potent forces all their own. Each had its own objectives, and although both were controlled by the same headquarters, one worked separately from the other.

In one column was a portion of a cavalry troop, the tank battalion with a company of armored infantry attached, one field artillery battalion and often more, a platoon of engineers, a platoon of tank destroyers, and units from the service elements, all under the command of tank battalion commander.

The other column, commanded by the armored infantry battalion commander, consisted of the remainder of the cavalry reconnaissance troop, the infantry battalion, at least one battalion field artillery, a company less a platoon of tank destroyers, a company of tanks, a platoon of engineers, and service elements. Both columns were kept generally abreast, and in the course of their operations were often brought together into assembly areas for reorganization prior to embarking on new missions."

Continuing, "An advance guard must have a light force as its point, and, in my opinion, this should consist of a cavalry troop or a platoon. Such a unit carefully checks and follows the designated route and modifies it in the event the one selected proves impractical. Because of its mobility and speed, the cavalry is able to move swiftly when fired upon and at the same time report the nature,

strength, and location of the opposition.

Immediately behind must be a striking force consisting of light tanks, tank destroyers, and often better yet, medium tanks; or a combination of all three. If opposition is weak, the armored vehicles can wipe it out without unduly delaying the progress of the column. If heavy, the armor is able to pin down the enemy by fire and test its strength and dispositions while other elements in the column are deploying.

In the advance guard, an infantry unit, preferably a company, is needed to follow the tanks closely on the road and especially in close action when the infantry is then dismounted. Infantry behind tanks is vitally needed to mop up and dispose of stragglers missed by the tanks, to search and clear buildings, to protect tanks from the rear, and to collect and handle prisoners.

An engineer platoon and an artillery battery must be included in the advance guard. Having the engineer platoon near the front of the column makes them available for quick mine-probing, for demolishing road blocks, and for rebuilding small bridges. The artillery is needed near the front so as to be able to go into position rapidly and to register on the enemy immediately. Thus, by the time the artillery battalion has left the road and moved into position, the advance guard battery will be able to furnish the data necessary to fire the battalion without delay.

The order of march of the above elements is debatable. No hard and fast rule can be laid down. Rather, the order must be adjusted often to suit the terrain over which the column is to move, and the nature of the obstacles and opposition anticipated.

There will be instances when the infantry will lead the main body, and occasions will arise when the tanks will go ahead. As in the case of the order of march of the advance guard, the existing situation will be the deciding factor. In all cases, however, the artillery will follow immediately behind the leading unit. When artillery is called for, it can be assumed that a grim situation lurks ahead. It is vital that the artillery be up in front where it can do some good and in a hurry!

It goes without saying that, when called for, the artillery has road priority. Everything moving or stopped gets out of the way. The roads must be opened and cleared so that nothing will delay the passing of the artillery vehicles.

In any discussion of the make-up of a column, the rear guard must not be neglected, especially when the column has no other elements following directly behind. If vehicles packing a good wallop tail the column, it is sure to be in good hands. Small units of tanks and tank destroyers are suggested for the job.

In a marching column, whether in an approach march when contact is imminent or with contact already made, the very same principles and lessons learned in training and on maneuvers apply more strongly than ever. It might be well to discuss briefly a few of those most abused.

The prime objective of the column commander is to get a column to the designated place in sufficient strength, in good enough condition, and in the proper order to fight it immediately. Success in this matter will be ever out of reach unless everyone in the column practices strict road discipline.”

“As before, the column commanded by the tank battalion commander was led by a cavalry reconnaissance troop. It was followed closely by the light tank company of the tank battalion, and attached to the light tanks was a platoon of tank destroyers. Immediately behind the light tanks and tank destroyers came a platoon of medium tanks, the tank battalion assault-gun platoon, and an artillery battery. The remainder of the fighting elements of the tank battalion followed, and were in turn closely followed by an artillery battalion. Behind came more artillery, headquarters elements, and service units of all types. Attached to the tank battalion was a company of armored infantry, or when the going was expected to be especially arduous, a battalion of infantry from a nearby infantry division.

The setup, as just described, was again able, to make excellent progress. An artillery liaison pilot in the cub plane assisted immeasurably by staying always well in front of the column and reporting accurately on what lay ahead. Information from the plane was supplemented by pertinent observations by the cavalry.

Before the attack to establish the bridgehead had been made, the tank battalion commander in his orders had divided his battalion attachments into task forces. The units so organized were usually three in number, built around the medium tank companies and commanded by the medium tank company commanders. To alleviate the added burden upon the company commanders, it was more satisfactory when possible to put a responsible staff officer in charge of each force. Each company had a portion of the infantry attached to it. The battalion assault-gun platoon was assigned to one company, the battalion mortar platoon to a second, and the advance guard artillery battery to a third. The light tank company with attached tank destroyers and cavalry sometimes constituted a fourth task force. Often, however, they were divided up among the other three groups of forces to strengthen and balance them. The battalion reconnaissance platoon together with the battalion command post were usually near or at the most centrally located position.”

As I have mentioned before, if you research every armored division in WWII you will see that each commander “played” with task organization. I refer to the 6th Armored Division in the Battle of the Bulge. If you follow that in January 1945 you will see that each day the task organization changed. Each day there were shifts of platoons to companies. Very interesting.

So you can see that in Dager’s Combat Command B he was experimenting with task organization. I hope you caught the part where staff officers commanding some of these task forces. This is the use of the staff that is missing in any documented history of these units in WWII. This use of battalion and combat command staff is the part that needs much more research and evaluation.

These two examples are from the early phases of the push across France. And this is not how Combat Command A operated either. They had their own set up and way of operating.

Knowledge About the Past - Cont.

Another example of the task organization is what was done in another phase and I think more around the Battle of the Bulge. Each letter company was combined into small task forces. So here is what I mean.

“A” Team

- A Company 25th Cavalry
- A Company 8th Tank Battalion
- A Company 51st Armored Infantry Battalion
- A Company 22nd Armored Field Artillery Battalion
- A Company 24th Armored Engineer Battalion

So this was done with A, B, C and D companies. 4 small combined arms task forces. Now how these were lead and commanded on the battlefield is another thing to look at. How did CCB maintain control and or support these task forces? And this would all change depending on the situation and the terrain. This was probably the best use of plug and play units as any other time in the US Army history. And these units were use to this happening. From all levels of the unit from command to the troops at the bottom. The flexibility of the staff is again the element that needs more research and documentation.

The other thing you see here is how commanders use the organization to adapt to the situation on the ground. Many of these decisions were probably based on the junior commander pushing these ideas up to Dager. Gen Irzyk always said that Dager was a great delegator. “He always let me work my plan.” When you read his book *He Rode Up Front for Patton* he talks about traveling back to the CCB HQ’s and briefing Dager. It took me several years to realize that Dager’s staff was probably surrounded them and listening to the plan and taking their slice out of it and then using that to support the line units the following day. I wonder what the staff meeting was after Irzyk had briefed where the staff took their plan and ensured it was reinforced from higher.

Think about how many staff officers you know from WWII. Who are they? For me the most famous staff officer I know is Col Oscar Koch the G-2 for Third Army. The second one I know of is Col John Evans the G-3 of VIII Corps. Both of these officers were in these positions all through the campaigns in Europe. It fascinates me that these men did not get promoted out of these positions. And if you look at post war these men on staff were highly regarded. It was a significant mark on your career to be a staff officer.

In my time of service being a staff officer seemed to be a low point among officers. It wasn't command and being a S-2 was highly looked down upon.

Matthew Shea on Twitter replied Major General Sir George (Mudguts) Frederick Wooten, KBE, CB, DSO & Bar, ED (1 May 1893 – 31 March 1970). Never trust a skinny loggie or General! Their staff are just not brilliant at the basics! #loggiemagic

Trey Guy replied with Walter Bedell Smith. What he saw managing both campaign plans and personalities is enough in itself.

So staffs in WWII were more orchestrators than just desk jockeys. Think about staff officers out making the plan execute. Staffs like the one at CCR 9th AD, who, during the Bulge tracked and rounded up stragglers, found them food and tanks to replace loses and sent them to Bastogne. Can your staff do that with little to no warning? Plan the movement of 3 divisions with routes, fuel and maintenance items to cover some 150 miles to strike a counter-attack?

As we move into a period where the talk of amphibious warfare ask yourself, can we plan an amphibious operation? Have we studied the operations in WWII enough and looked at the new and upcoming equipment there is.



Queen Elizabeth II 1926-2022



Princess Elizabeth changes the wheel of a truck, April 1945.

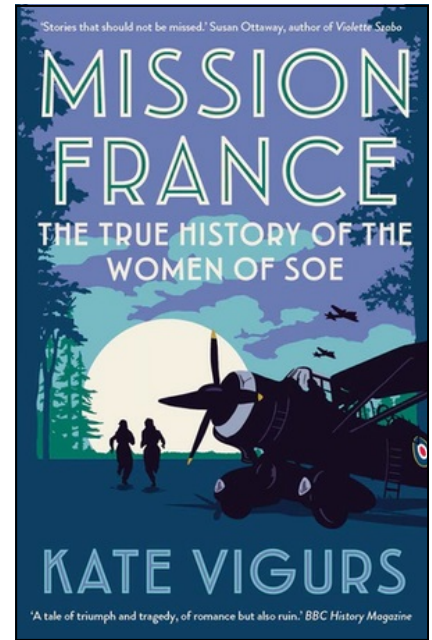
The princess is attending a vehicle maintenance class during her time in the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS).

By June 1945, the ATS had around 200,000 members, who were drawn from across the British Empire. In total, 335 women who served in the ATS lost their lives during the war.

Princess Elizabeth taking out the plugs of a vehicle, 10 April 1945

The princess was treated the same as the rest of her company during their ATS training. Photographers captured her, dressed in overalls, working on the engines and changing tyres. The press dubbed her 'Princess Auto Mechanic.' She told a friend, 'I never worked so hard in my life. But I enjoyed it very much.'

Mission France by Kate Vigurs



Mission France by Kate Vigurs

Imprint: Yale University Press

336 Pages, 5.00 x 7.75 in, 22 b-w illus. + 1 map

Paperback – 9780300264814

Description

The full story of the thirty-nine female SOE agents who went undercover in France “The freshness and honesty of *Mission France* make it an ideal book for taking a new look at the secret war, at a time when knowledge of these brave women’s exploits is fading from living memory.”—Vin Arthey, *The Scotsman*

Formed in 1940, Special Operations Executive was to coordinate Resistance work overseas. The organization’s F section sent more than four hundred agents into France, thirty-nine of whom were women. But while some are widely known—Violette Szabo, Odette Sansom, Noor Inayat Khan—others have had their stories largely overlooked.

Kate Vigurs interweaves for the first time the stories of all thirty-nine female agents. Tracing their journeys from early recruitment to work undertaken in the field, to evasion from, or capture by, the Gestapo, Vigurs shows just how greatly missions varied. Some agents were more adept at parachuting. Some agents’ missions lasted for years, others’ less than a few hours.

Some survived, others were murdered. By placing the women in the context of their work with the SOE and the wider war, this history reveals the true extent of the differences in their abilities and attitudes while underlining how they nonetheless shared a common mission and, ultimately, deserve recognition.

Author

Kate Vigurs is a freelance historian, author, and academic advisor. She is a frequent contributor for TV, radio, and the press.

<https://yalebooks.yale.edu/book/9780300264814/mission-france/>

My Review

Wow! I was looking for books about women that served in WWII. For women that did more than just work in factories and fly airplanes. And I found it. The women of Special Operations Executive (SOE) in the British Army were some incredible ladies that did incredible things.

Volunteers all, they used their skills at language to go back into occupied France and work with the Resistance to slow, confuse and end up defeat the Germans in France and in WWII. But for some that came with the ultimate sacrifice. Some of these women parachuted into France while others were flown or boated into France. Once there they operated as either teletype radio operators, couriers or some even lead groups of SOE teams.

They had to be sure not to use any things that would identify them as English if they were from England. The way they made their tea, clothes they wore, way they walked, or did their hair. So many little things that could “give you away.”

All while the Gestapo was hunting them down. Under the nose of the German Army. Sometimes riding on trains with them. Avoiding checkpoints or known areas.

These women found and used landing zones or found temporary air strips to be used. Received air drops, orchestrated the dispersion of these air drops. Rode bicycles for hundreds of kilometers at a time to ensure messages or information reached key people. And for fourteen ladies the price was with their life. And their life would come at a violent and tortuous end by the Gestapo. They were captured, arrested, sentenced to death by Hitler. They would meet their end by a system designed to make it appear that they had never existed. To make them simply disappear and no way of knowing how or what happened to them. The problem, there were witnesses, and they would be caught at the end of the war and tried for their crimes. Some committed suicide. For some it was death by firing squad or hanging.

Some women were tortured in the way that they were imprisoned. Locked in solitary confinement with no light for over nine months. With no bed, no blanket, very little food or water. Some had medical experiments performed on them. All of these situations would effect the women after the war. Many with premature deaths from the treatment they received. Some with their mental health after the war. Some just locked it all away and didn’t speak about it until near death or only after their children learned of their experience.

Exercise Tiger by Nigel Lewis

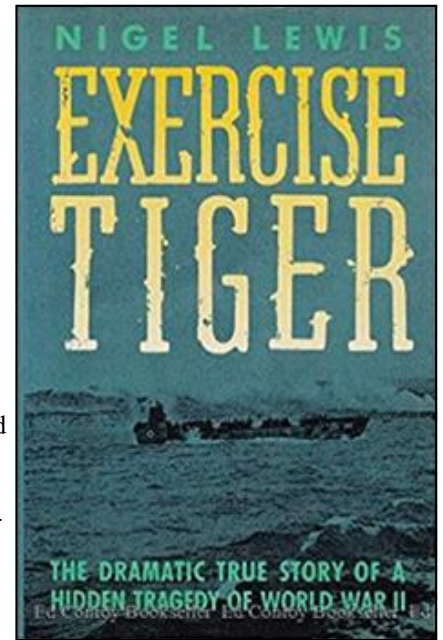
Exercise Tiger by Nigel Lewis

Publisher : Prentice Hall Direct; 1st edition (July 1, 1990)
 Language : English
 Hardcover : 307 pages
 ISBN-10 : 0131277960
 ISBN-13 : 978-0131277960
 Item Weight : 1.4 pounds

From Library Journal

"Exercise Tiger" was a pre-invasion training mission to prepare U.S. soldiers and sailors for the Normandy landings in 1944. Ships were to ferry troops out into the English Channel and then simulate a landing on the south coast of England. Unfortunately, the ships were exposed to a night attack by German torpedo boats based on the French side of the Channel, and some 700 Americans perished. Lewis uses eyewitness accounts to flesh out his narrative of the exercise that turned into real battle. He also discusses the legends, lore, and controversy that have shrouded the event. The well-informed reader may be put off by some of the allegations and conclusions of the author, e.g., the "hidden" aspect of the tragedy, especially since Lewis quotes from a number of U.S. published sources. Still, this provocative account should be a popular addition to most collections.

George F. Scheck, Naval Underwater Systems Lib., Newport, R.I.



The Author

Nigel Lewis is author of *Paperchase*, an account of his research in Poland and Berlin for priceless music manuscripts lost during, and one novel, *The Cold Chain*. He has worked for the BBC African and World Services, BBC Radio 4 and Radio 3, and as a reporter for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. He has written for the *Guardian*, the *Sunday Times*, the *Spectator*, and as a columnist for the *New Statesman*.

My Review

There are so many things to take away from this book. So many things I never knew. The numerous exercises before D-Day, German "E" Boats, and Secret disasters that had been revealed when I was young.

So a recent research project had pushed me to jump on this book in an effort to learn more about Exercise Tiger. This book may not have answered all the questions I have but it appears that there are many questions still not answered for those who were even there!

Before I dig into this there is something that needs to be understood about this book. This book was written or published in 1990. That is just six years after all of the exposure to the secret in 1984. It is just two years after the first reunion that was held for the men of Exercise Tiger. There were at that time still people coming forward and research being done. This is what I would call an early book on the incident. There have been many books since this one has come out.

There is enormous talk about LST's and the sailors aboard those ships but there is only some talk about units aboard the ships. I find it hard to believe that these ships did not have manifests like nearly every other ship of the time. And that it's not so important to find a list of units involved.

Work or research done by mere civilians seemed to be what brought this incident to light. By British civilians who finally caught the ear of the press and then made contact with US Soldiers and sailors. So much cover up and silence on the events. The book ends with mention of the units that were on the beach during the naval bombardment and that there were casualties. This is where this book fades out as this, at the time, had not been fully detailed or researched.

Interesting was the mention of Herbert Cannon of the 893rd TD BN who married a lady from Chudleigh, England. He was killed in the Battle of the Bulge. He was buried in England looking toward the Holman's Woods where he trained.

In my copy of the book on photo page 9, an image of LST 289, it is signed "To my good friend John, Brad Evans Survivor LST 289 28 Apr 1944. It also has a check list of events on Omaha Beach. There are marks in the book around the descriptions of the safety belts which when inflated was what lead to many drowning.

No Moon As Witness by James Stejskal

No Moon As Witness by James Stejskal

Date Published : June 2021

Publisher : Casemate

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ISBN : 9781612009520

Pages : 208

Dimensions : 9 X 6 inches

Overview

Complete with rare photographs, diagrams and glossary, follow author James Stejskal as he covers the establishment of these agencies and their intense training regimens leading into World War II.

Winston Churchill famously instructed the head of the Special Operations Executive to “Set Europe ablaze!” Agents of both the British Special Operations Executive and the American Office of Strategic Services underwent rigorous training before making their way, undetected, into Occupied Europe. Working alone or in small cells, often cooperating with local resistance groups, agents undertook missions behind enemy lines involving sabotage, subversion, organizing resistance groups and intelligence-gathering.

The SOE’s notable successes included the destruction of a power station in France, the assassination of Himmler’s deputy Reinhard Heyrich, and ending the Nazi atomic bomb program by destroying the heavy water plant at Vemork, Norway. OSS operatives established anti-Nazi resistance groups across Europe, and managed to smuggle operatives into Nazi Germany, including running one of the war’s most important spies, German diplomat Fritz Kolbe.

All of their missions were incredibly dangerous and many agents were captured, tortured, and ultimately killed – the life expectancy of an SOE wireless operator in occupied France was just six weeks.

In *No Moon as Witness*, historian James Stejskal examines why these agencies were established, the training regimen and ingenious tools developed to enable agents to undertake their missions, their operational successes, and their legacy.

Author

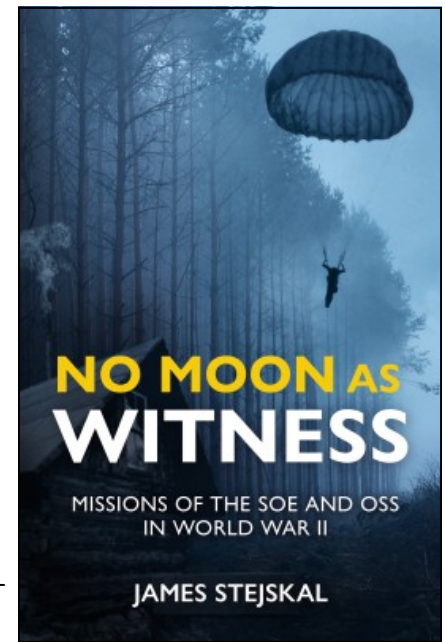
James Stejskal, after 35 years of service with US Army Special Forces and the Central Intelligence Agency, is a uniquely qualified historian and novelist. He is the author of the definitive history: *Special Forces Berlin Clandestine Cold War Operations of the US Army’s Elite, 1956–1990* and *Masters of Mayhem: Lawrence of Arabia and the British Military Mission to the Hejaz*. *Direct Legacy* is his third novel.

<https://www.casematepublishers.com/subject-categories/general-military-history/special-forces/no-moon-as-witness.html#.YryyQBXMk70>

My Review

This should be the first book you read on the Special Operations Executive or Office of Strategic Services. It’s really about how they came about and just a cover for all that they did. Some stories were told in some detail but not the full account. There are other books that cover specific areas and operations but this is a great general overview of what they did in WWII.

I guess I may be the only person who didn’t know that there was intelligence in the late 1930’s that the British thought that the Germans were creating atomic weapons. There is a story about an operation to keep the Germans from getting heavy water. So many operations to keep the Germans from getting items needed to continue the war. So much thought into keeping the enemy from maintaining their war effort.



Patton Monument Report for 2021

As of September 2022, the Monument fund has \$26,396.00.

Total in Monument Account: \$26,396.00.

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 September, has 438 members on our battalion Facebook page. Out of those 451 members we are currently at 93 paid members. The Patton Battalion has \$0.70 in funds in the PayPal account. We have \$416.51 in the Patton Operating account. Battalions funds are \$416.51. 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.

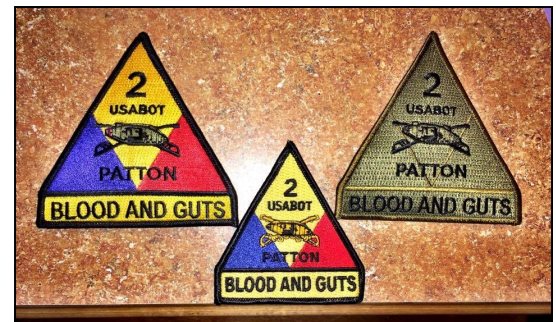
Both patches are also available for \$5 EA.

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 Battalion - USABOT

Board of Directors

- Matthias Martinez
- Karlen P Morris
- Nathan Snyder
- William Starks
- Dion Walker, Sr.
- Phillip Wilburn



Be sure to check us out on
Twitter @pattonbattalion

EXERCISE TIGER - The Sherman tank at Devon, England was brought up from the seabed and is now a memorial for Exercise Tiger. The tank belonged to the 70th Tank Battalion.



Coming up in the October Issue - Homecoming at Gettysburg!

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
Vietnam Appreciation Day - October 15.

Eleventh Annual Tanker Homecoming -

Gainey Cup - 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*

