

Gen. George Smith Patton Jr.

Profile in Leadership

*CACC Training Aid 8-T-2
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The Basics

- Gen. George S. Patton Jr. was born in 1889 in San Gabriel, CA
- Was commissioned into the Cavalry in 1909 after attending West Point, the United States Military Academy
- Represented the U.S. in the 1912 Olympics; the story is told that he was in a shooting competition and one bullet was “lost.” Patton argued that the bullet had gone through the same hole as the previous bullet
- Served under Gen. Pershing in WWI



Perhaps the most famous general of all time...



- In March 1943 he was given command of the Second U.S. Corps
- Was later given command of the Third U.S. Army
- Achieved a remarkable moment in military history by racing to Bastogne and disrupting the German counter offensive.
- In March 1945 he crossed over the Rhine and ended the war in Czechoslovakia and Austria

Highly Decorated and Controversial



- Promoted to a 4 star general in 1945.
- He was for a few months the military governor of Bavaria.
- Dozens of awards from many countries for valor and leadership
- Hit a hospitalized soldier once because he considered him a coward; forced to apologize in front of all the troops.
- Reassigned once by General Eisenhower because, among other things, he cursed in front of reporters
- He was mortally wounded in a car accident and died in December 1945

The M-47 Patton Tank

