

Patton's Diaries

By the People Transcription Campaign

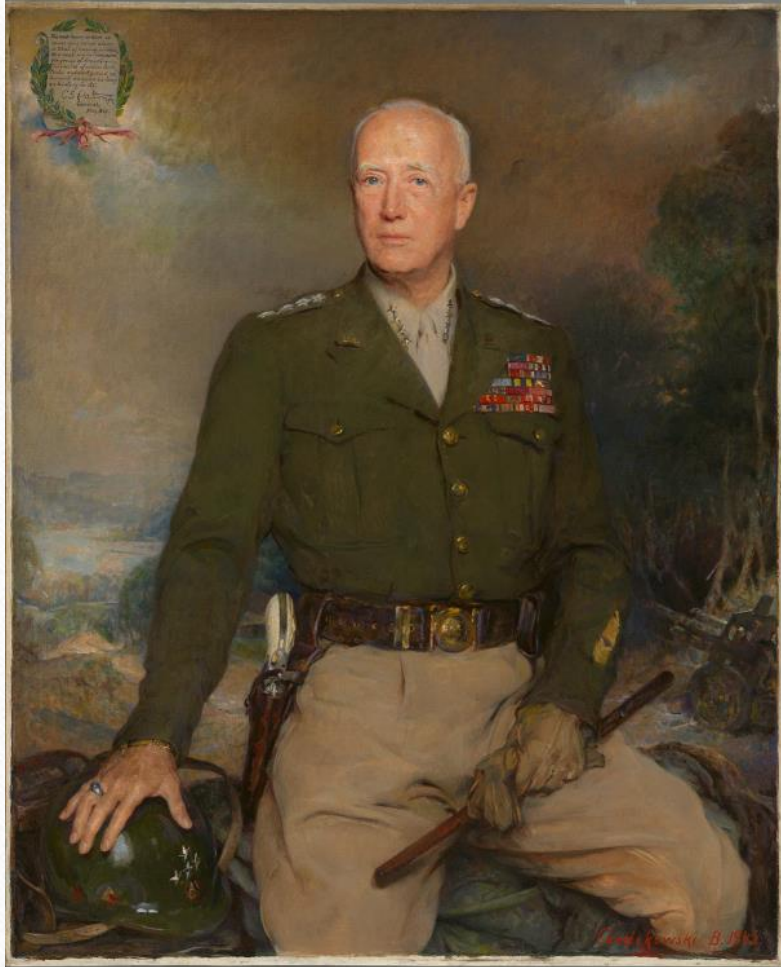
Library of Congress

crowd.loc.gov



George Smith Patton (1885-1945)

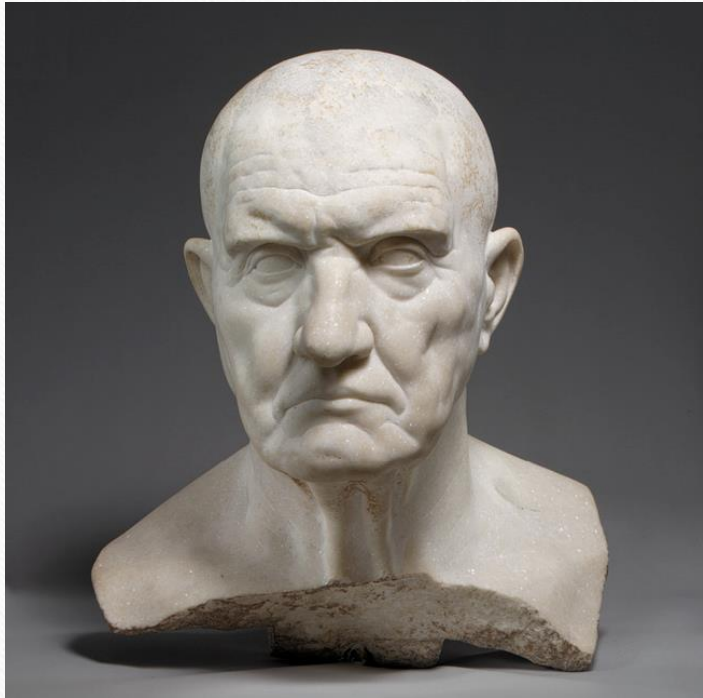
Soldier



Brief Biography



Arete / Vir fortis



George S. Patton Papers

MANUSCRIPT DIVISION,
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

CATALOG RECORD:

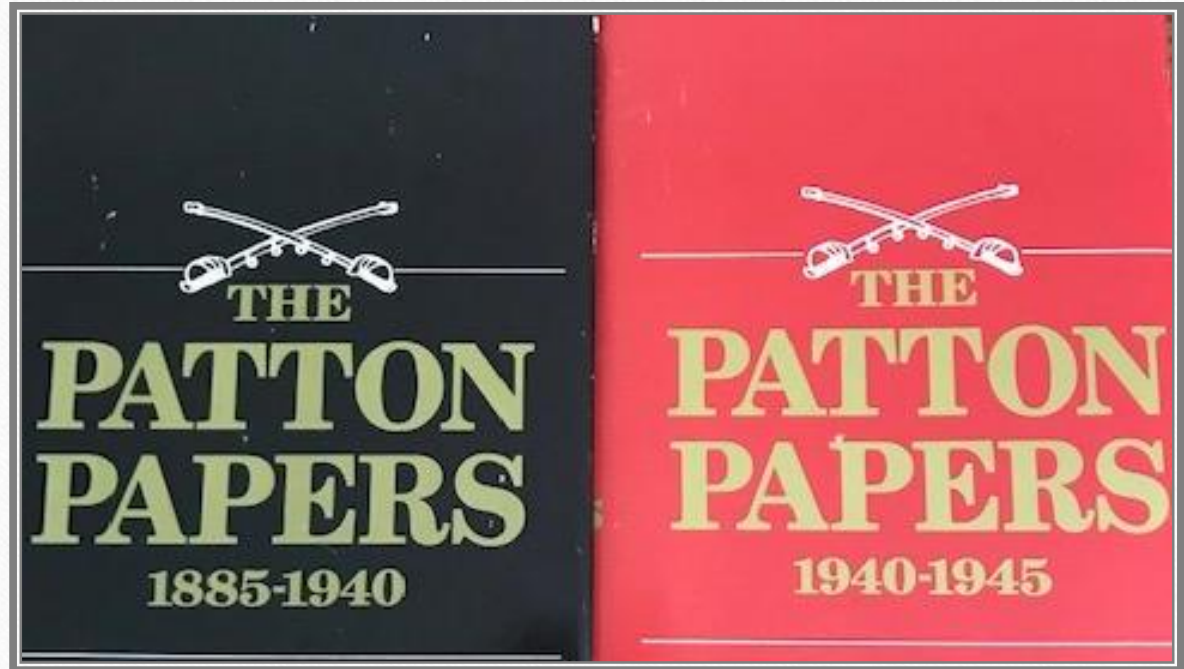
<https://lcn.loc.gov/mm83035634>

FINDING AID:

<https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms000001>

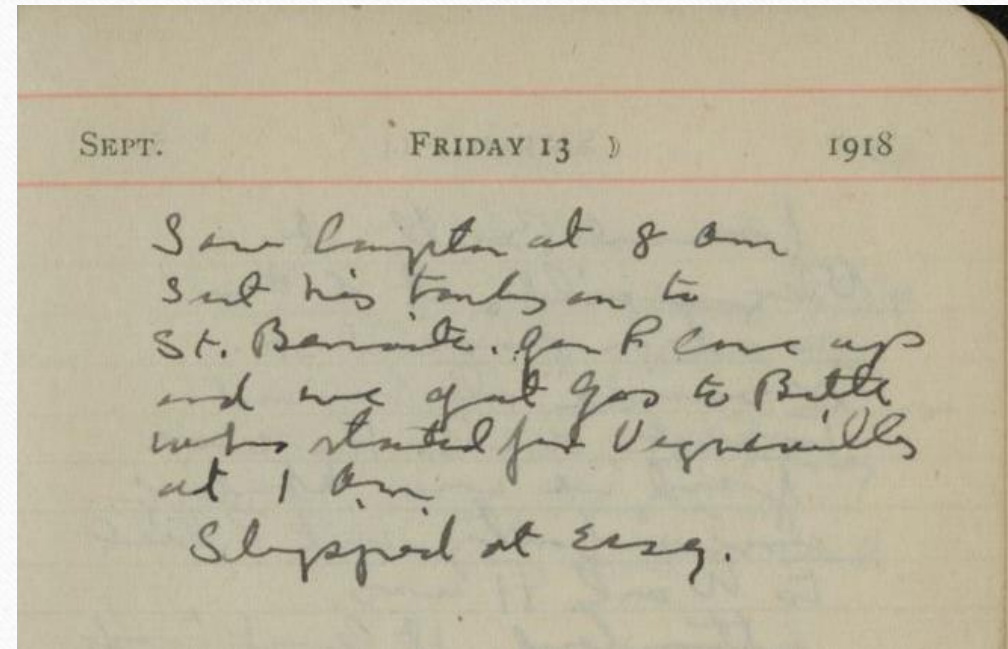


Excerpted and
published
selectively in 2
volumes by
Martin
Blumenson in
1974



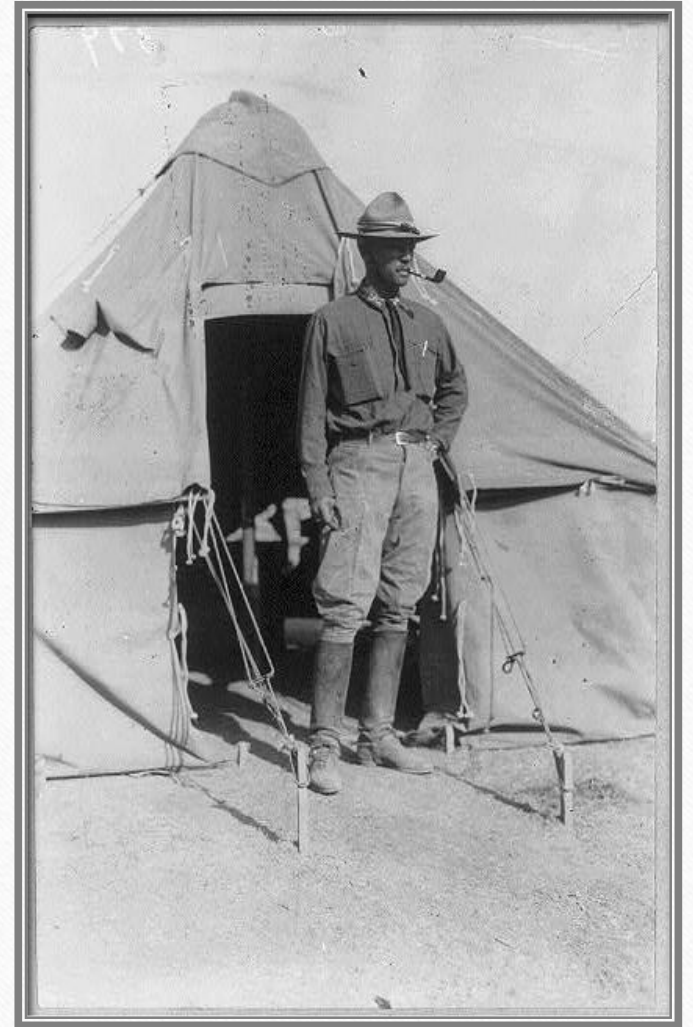
War Diaries

- Mexican Punitive Expedition, 1916
- World War I, 1917-1919
- World War II, 1942-1945



Mexican Punitive Expedition, 1916

- Followed Francisco (“Pancho”) Villa’s attack on Columbus, New Mexico
- Led by General John J. Pershing
- First combat experience for Patton, aide to Pershing





World War I, 1917-1919



World War II

- North Africa
- Sicily
- France
- Battle of the Bulge

Two additional diaries

1910
Honeymoon

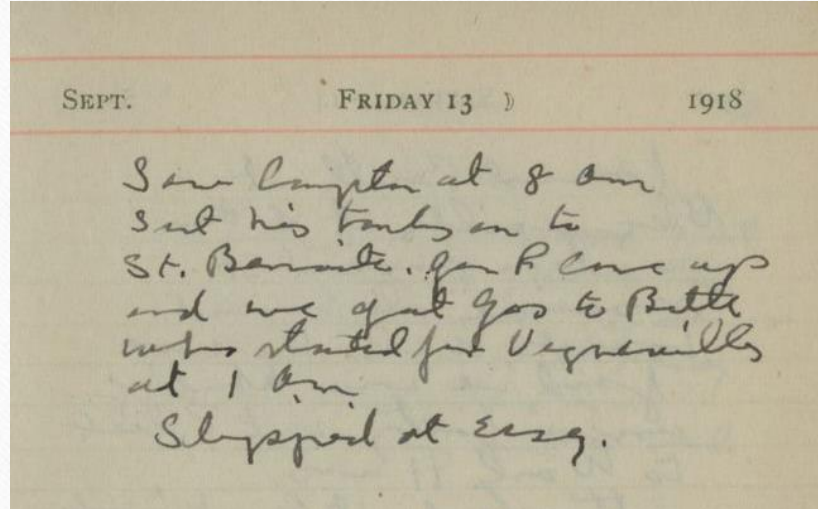


Fox hunting in Fauquier Co., Virginia,
1932-1935



Crowdsourcing Options

Original diaries



Annotated typed transcripts

July 22, 1943 (cont'd p.2)

Only killing stops good troops - defenses sap the vitality of those who make them. I feel that future students of the Command and General Staff School will study the campaign of Palermo as a classic example of the use of tanks. I held them back far enough so that the enemy could not tell where they were to be used; then when the infantry had found the hole, the tanks went through and in large numbers and fast. Such methods assure victory and reduce losses, but it takes fine leadership to insure the execution. General Keyes provided perfect leadership and great drive. The praise should be his.

Annotated Typed Transcripts

- Were prepared after the fact
- Differ from the original diary entries: Abbreviations are spelled out, nicknames are converted to full names, misspelled words are corrected, contexts are embellished, and the candidness of Patton's observations is made more diplomatic.
- Are occasionally annotated and hand-corrected. Your transcriptions will capture these annotations and make the full transcripts word searchable
- Note: There is no typed transcript of the 1910 honeymoon diary. Patton's WWII diary from May to December 1945 exists only as a transcript. The original diary pages are not in the collection.

Original Diaries

I he said to me: "Every time I
get a new store I get attached"
I said and I put you and
Dennis to X X X and told
Walsh to X X X and told
me to X X X with him. To day was
there too. 12-10-44

20
Dennis to X X X. arriving at
0900. Bradley had called
to see me at X X X and said we
could not X X X with out X X X

The importance of transcribing Patton's original diaries: Capturing Patton's observations as he wrote them.

The next slide shows one example of an important difference between the original diaries and typed transcripts.

Chenogne, Belgium, massacre of German prisoners, January 1, 1945

Original diary entry

“The Div is very green and took unnecessary losses to no effect. Also murdered 50 odd German med. I hope we can conceal this.”

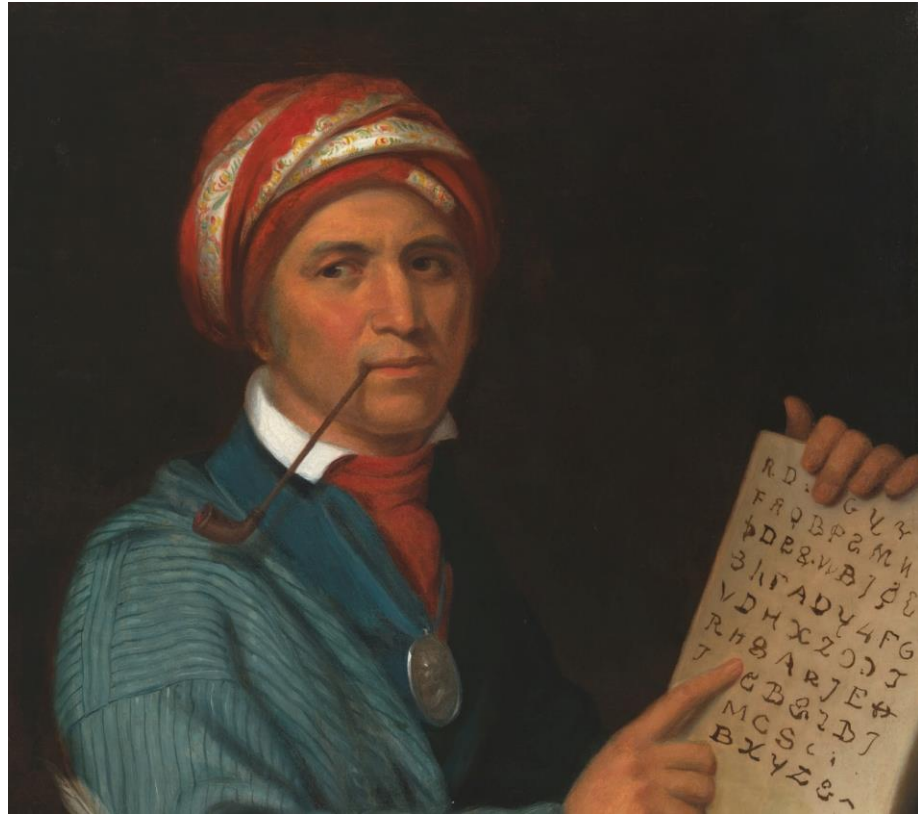
(Jan. 4, 1945, entry)

Annotated transcript version

" The division is very green and took unnecessary losses to no effect. There were also some unfortunate incidents in the shooting of prisoners. (I hope we can conceal this.)"

Reveal podcast, “Take No Prisoners: Inside a WWII American War Crime,” July 28, 2018





Suggestions for coping
with Patton's
challenging
handwriting

Use the typed transcripts as a guide

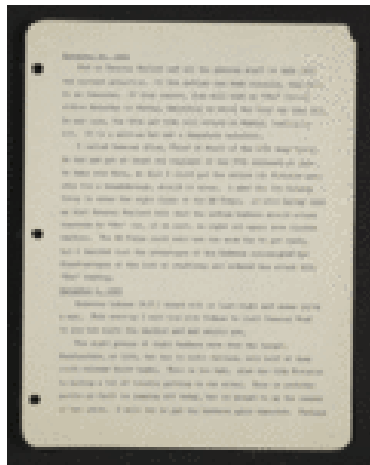
- Find a page in the original diary to transcribe. Note the date.
 - Some daily entries are several pages long. You may need to go back several pages to find the date
- Locate the typed transcript for that entry. Read it to get a sense of what is going on.
- Go back to the original and begin transcribing. Refer back to the typed transcript for any words you can't decipher.

Be certain, however, to transcribe the original diary entry as Patton wrote it!

Abbreviate what he abbreviated, misspell what he misspelled, retain the nicknames he used.

Use the typed transcript only as a guide

Locating the relevant transcription



MANUSCRIPT/MIXED MATERIAL

George S. Patton Papers: Diaries, 1910-1945; Annotated transcripts; 1943-1945; 1944, Nov. 30-1945, Mar. 22 (1 of 2)

Contributor: Patton, George S. (George Smith)

Date: 1944-11-30

Resource:

[View 68 Images](#)

Downloadable month-by-month listing of transcripts

An aid to transcribing Patton's original diaries

This list, with links by month to the annotated typed transcripts of Patton's diaries, has been prepared as an aid to those who are transcribing Patton's original diaries. As you may have discovered, Patton's handwriting is challenging, making both common words and proper names difficult to read. In addition, he also abbreviated many military terms. After all, he was writing in war zones and needed to capture his thoughts quickly.

After you find a page in the original diary to transcribe, we suggest that you read the typed transcript of that diary entry to gain a sense of its content. This list, which is more finely broken down than the online display, will help you quickly locate the relevant passages. You may want to download the list and keep it open as you work through the original diaries.

Important reminder: you should transcribe the original diaries exactly as Patton wrote them! The transcripts often vary from the original entries, sometimes in important ways. Abbreviations are spelled out, nicknames are converted to full names, misspelled words are correct, contexts are embellished, and the candidness of Patton's observations is made more diplomatic. Use the transcript only as a guide for words you can't read. **Make certain that you transcribe the original entries exactly as Patton wrote them.**

One additional note: There is no typed transcript of the 1910 diary Patton kept on his honeymoon. We will have to help each other to decipher it. That is the benefit of crowdsourcing!

Mexican Punitive Expedition diary, 1916: Links to typed transcripts

1916	March
	April
	May
	June

World War II diaries, 1942-1945: Links to typed transcripts

1942	August
	September
	October
	November
	December
1943	January 1-25
	January 26-31
	February
	March
	April
	May
	June
	July 1
	July 1-23
	July 24-31
	August 1-26
	August 26-31
	September

A warning about the unfiltered nature of Patton's diaries

This transcription campaign may not be suitable for all groups of volunteers, particularly those at the K-12 level

The diaries contain . . .

- Objectionable statements that reflect the callousness of war
- Anti-Semitic comments
- Possibly additional socially and racially intolerant views about other groups
- Likely use of obscenities and vulgar language