



## Fighting Patton: George S. Patton Jr. Through the Eyes of His Enemies

By Harry Yeide

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**Fighting Patton: George S. Patton Jr. Through the Eyes of His Enemies** By Harry Yeide

He is remembered as an officer with few equals. A leader who attained legendary status while commanding corps and armies as a general during World War II. He was also well known for his eccentricity and controversial outspokenness. But no matter the opinion or label attached to his name, few can argue George S. Patton's place as a truly legendary figure in the annals of military history.

George S. Patton Jr. was only five years old when he informed his parents he intended to become "a great general." When he learned to read, the first book he bought was a history of decisive battles. In school he was always organizing sham battles. On his honeymoon in France, he took his young bride to historic battlefields and fortresses. Waging war was Patton's passion and all his life he trained himself to fight. Nothing else really mattered to him.

Many books have been written about Patton. *Fighting Patton: George S. Patton Jr. Through the Eyes of His Enemies* is the first to examine the legendary general through the eyes of his enemies, the opposing German commanders. During his extensive research through German wartime records, noted historian and author Harry Yeide has uncovered hundreds of unpublished unit reports, officer accounts, and telephone transcripts to illuminate the German perspective on how and why they lost their battles with Patton's forces.

This truly unique study follows Patton's rise through the ranks in the Mexican Expedition and World War I, as well as his many campaigns throughout World War II, from Tunisia, Sicily and Normandy to Lorraine, the Bulge, and into the heart of Germany. The result is a fresh take on one of the most storied figures of twentieth-century warfare.

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### Editorial Review

Review

#### ***Publishers Weekly*, July 25, 2011**

Known for his work on American armored units in WWII, Yeide combines extensive research in published and archival materials to render a unique sketch of General Patton as seen through the eyes of his enemies. Save a brief encounter with the Vichy French in 1942, Patton primarily tangled with the Germans, who, due to their renown in Patton's own fortè--armored and mobile operations--served as his most qualified judges. Without debunking Patton's achievements, Yeide shows that the German command regarded the general as a formidable adversary on the battlefield, but they did not view him as "the key to Allied intentions." Rather, such accolades went to strategists Bernard Montgomery and Omar Bradley. Still, it was Patton's gumption on the battlefield that set him aside from his more conservative peers. Following Patton's struggles and victories throughout the war, Yeide unveils a man far more complicated than the mythologized military hero; Patton "was a leader whom some adored and some loathed," a man simultaneously imperious and humble. Yeide adds new depth to our picture of Patton. Considered and evaluated in the specific context of armored commanders, he stood among the greats. In Yeide's words, "It is enough."

#### ***The News-Review* (Eugene, OR), April 16, 2011**

Dozens of books have profiled the charismatic, outspoken American general, George S. Patton Jr. What makes Harry Yeide's 528-page *Fighting Patton* a different story is that Yeide, a military historian, has written the book from the perspective of his enemies, a unique twist that provides the reader a new historic viewpoint...

#### **New York Journal of Books**

"For students of the German armed forces, the publication of *Fighting Patton* is especially significant, because of the depth and breadth of the German material utilized by Mr. Yeide. Suffice it to say that there are many professional historians writing in the same general field of investigation who would profit from learning and utilizing Harry Yeide's research methods. The particular German documents that make *Fighting Patton* such a useful and interesting book are the personnel files of the general officers who are "actors" in Mr. Yeide's story, the fitness reports that they wrote regarding their subordinates (including the officers commanding the German armies, corps and divisions that fought Patton's troops), and their communications between each other during the battles leading up to Germany's defeat. The result is that the reader gains a comprehensive insight into the personalities and battlefield experiences of Patton's principal enemies."

Brian M. Sobel, author of *The Fighting Pattons*

"Harry Yeide has written a powerful book that looks at General George S. Patton, Jr. from the enemy's perspective. This truly unique view of one of America's greatest military leaders benefits from superb research and previously unpublished material from enemy archives and is all woven together by a compelling narrative."

### *Library Journal*

"This book offers a detailed perspective on the German and Italian armies as they worked with smaller forces and crippling shortages to counter Patton. Yeide (*The Tank Killers: A History of America's World War II Tank Destroyer Force*) deepens the story by describing the military background of the commanders, e.g., in World War I and the interwar years, as well as their actions early in the war before facing Patton. VERDICT: Well documented from official reports and personal accounts and with extensive endnotes. Useful for its perspective from the other side, for both interested general readers and specialists. (Index and photos not seen.)"

### *WWII History magazine*

"...Harry Yeide has written an absorbing account of Patton and the adversaries he faced during both conflicts."

### **Stone & Stone World War II Books**

"During the last seven or eight years, Harry Yeide has emerged as a prolific and increasingly important author of WWII-related books. With this title, his most recent, the author takes his work to a new level, producing a big, solid, serious book that transcends all his earlier output. Strictly speaking, he writes far less about Patton, or even the enemy perspective of Patton, and much more about the commanders and operations of units opposing Patton, so that this proves mostly a history of campaigns rather than any kind of biography. Nevertheless, Yeide includes a few chapters about Patton's youth and early years, including WWI. By far the majority of the book, however, deals with WWII, and almost half the pages cover the campaign in western Europe during 1944-1945. It would have been easy to manufacture a superficial, derivative account of those campaigns from the plethora of existing books on the topic, but Yeide seems to have done some significant digging into original sources to produce a praise-worthy exposition about what was happening on the Axis side of the front in Northwest Africa, Sicily, France, and Germany while Patton was trying to win the war with his ivory-handled pistols. Good stuff, without wasting time on old news such as the slapping incident. Quite a nice addition to anyone's library."

### *Bowling Green Daily News*

"Carefully researched and filled with interesting biographical detail about Patton's opponents, "Fighting Patton" provides a view of Patton that has been largely ignored by his biographers. It also corrects some of the myths about the Germans' reaction to his generalship. It is well worth reading for anyone interested in the Second World War and shows how biographers can sometimes accept stories just because they have been published, without checking if they are true."

### *Tucson Citizen*

"There have been dozens of books written about George S. Patton but none from the point of view of the enemies he fought, namely the German commanders....During his research for this book, Harry Yeide sifted

through German wartime records where he uncovered hundreds of unpublished unit reports, officer accounts, and telephone transcripts that illuminate German thinking on how and why they lost their battles with Patton's forces. This is a fresh look at one of the U.S. military's most colorful characters."

### **Bookviews by Alan Caruba**

"General George S. Patton, Jr. was one of WWII's greatest generals and one in whom the Germans took a great interest. *Fighting Patton* by Harry Yeide is a thick history and biography of a man who Hollywood immortalized in film. His real life equaled and surpassed that drama. At the age of five he told his parents he intended to be "a great general" and he did. He studied war like others study music or architecture. It was his passion. This book is the first to examine the legendary general through the eyes of his opposing generals, the Germans who devoted time and effort to know as much as possible about him and, during the conflict, where he was and where he was headed. They had good reason because he was instrumental in their defeat. This book is a wonderful piece of history on many levels by an author who understands the story of the mechanized cavalry—tanks—and the men who drove them into historic battles."

### ***IPMS***

". . . it is very well researched and written and puts an end to some of the myths surrounding George Patton. It is recommended to those who enjoy reading about tactics of the German army during WWII."

### **From the Inside Flap**

Seeing the battle through the opponent's eyes is the most dramatic way of seeing it. It is different in one important respect from "looking at it through the opposite end of the telescope." For instead of being minimized, the picture is magnified—with startling vividness.—B. H. Liddell Hart

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Follow Patton's rise through the ranks in the Mexican Expedition and World War I as well as his many campaigns throughout World War II:

- \* Tunisia
- \* Sicily
- \* Normandy
- \* Breakthrough and the race across France
- \* Lorraine
- \* The Bulge
- \* Into Germany and Victory

From Patton's formative military service to his highs, lows, and ultimate victories in World War II, Yeide

has created a fresh take on one of the most storied figures of twentieth-century warfare.

From the Back Cover

Stripping away the unverifiable anecdotes that grew around the bold and outspoken Gen. George S. Patton Jr., *Fighting Patton* illuminates his successes and failures from the point of view of the German officers who faced him on the battlefield:

“The American breakthrough at St. Lô-Avranches, led by General Patton, was carried out with operational genius and unprecedented dash.”—*Oberst* Rudolf von Gersdorff

“Within my zone, the Americans never once exploited a success. Often Mellenthin, my chief of staff, and I would stand in front of the map and say, ‘Patton is helping us; he failed to exploit another success.’”—*Obersteutnant* Hermann Balck

“[Patton was] a commander who could think on big lines, and who thoroughly understood the character of armored warfare.”—*Generalmajor* Friedrich-Wilhelm von Mellenthin

“Most surprisingly, [Patton] allowed the night of 15 March to pass without following up his successes, so that the troops of [LXXXII] Corps had the opportunity of retiring to a new line of defense.”—*Oberst* Ludwig von Ingelheim

Many books have been written about Patton. This is the book that hasn't: Patton as seen through the eyes of his enemies.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Todd Jacobs:**

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#### **Mary Andrade:**

As people who live in often the modest era should be upgrade about what going on or information even knowledge to make these individuals keep up with the era that is always change and move ahead. Some of you maybe will update themselves by looking at books. It is a good choice for you but the problems coming to a person is you don't know what kind you should start with. This *Fighting Patton: George S. Patton Jr. Through the Eyes of His Enemies* is our recommendation so you keep up with the world. Why, as this book serves what you want and need in this era.



**Adeline Norris:**

Do you have something that you enjoy such as book? The publication lovers usually prefer to select book like comic, brief story and the biggest some may be novel. Now, why not seeking Fighting Patton: George S. Patton Jr. Through the Eyes of His Enemies that give your fun preference will be satisfied simply by reading this book. Reading behavior all over the world can be said as the means for people to know world considerably better then how they react when it comes to the world. It can't be claimed constantly that reading routine only for the geeky individual but for all of you who wants to become success person. So , for all of you who want to start looking at as your good habit, it is possible to pick Fighting Patton: George S. Patton Jr. Through the Eyes of His Enemies become your own starter.

**Evelyn Broderick:**

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