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**Patton's Comeback Trail Leaves Broken Nazi Armies In Its Wake**

Note—Few men are as well qualified to present a close-up picture of Gen. George S. Patton Jr. as Lt. Gen. Jack Poisie, former San Francisco newspaperman who has been his correspondent for Stars and Stripes in the Mediterranean theater operations. He accompanied "Old Blood and Guts" through the Tunisian and Sicilian campaigns, and watched General Patton in action on many occasions. Here he presents a clear and colorful picture of the tank warfare expert who leads the Third Army.

**By SGT. JACK POISIE**

**LONDON**—Whatever his troops may personally think of Lt. Gen. George S. Patton Jr., he has their confidence, for the fiery "Old Blood and Guts," as he will be called in his quiet days, radiates personal fearlessness and ability to command, two very important qualities for a general to show in the presence of his men and junior officers.

At the same time it appears that it is not going to be easy for the general to live down "what happened in Sicily," when the temperamental three-star West Pointer struck and cussed out a veteran who was being hospitalized for "battle fatigue" and malaria. The hawk-eyed watch of the press is also upon this old man of bombastic words and actions. A brief speech of welcome to a general to show in the presence of a Red Cross club in England, spoken with his usual directness, made the headlines because of the inference therein that England and America were out to rule the world in most reported versions of the text he left out mention of Russia.

**HEADS THIRD ARMY**

When the storm broke the War Department said the general's thoughts were strictly his own. Patton again dropped out of sight so far as the public was concerned, although the Germans have been hitting all along that he headed an armored corps in France. General Eisenhower has now announced that he is leading the Third Army in six spectacular drives in Italy.

In addition to the "sensational World War II" story, a factor which always made the general's greatest asset is his flair for colorful language. Thus, when Maj. Gen. George Ketter, a corps commander, asked for permission to continue his advance on Palermo, Sicily, Patton rumbled back in the chair. "Go ahead and make the touchdown." This was as good as any order. Some of his language is more explosive than colorful.

**SAVAGELY EFFICIENT**

In the current article, Patton (named and commanded the 2nd Armored Division, led it and other forces of the Western Task Force in the landings in French Morocco.

His reorganization and battle-winning of the American Second Corps following the Kasernen debacle, was a victory over the American two-pronged advance south to El Golef and west to Damascus, was under Patton's leadership. He also made a suggestion with the British Eighth Army and by a large part of the Western force in southern Tunisia. The junction was made but the fray was not closed.

Credit for the swift shift of the



**LT. GEN. GEORGE S. PATTON JR.**... fiery, fearless, able

Second Corps to northern Tunisia, where it shared in the final kill at Bizerte and Tunis, has often mistakenly come to "Old Blood and Guts." Instead of Lt. Gen. Omar Bradley, who succeeded Patton when he was moved up to command the American Seventh Army. It was Patton who dashed ashore in Sicily with his troops, not too far behind the first wave, to hit the beaches at Gela. It was Patton who overtook his armor in the mud march for Palermo.

Patton personally inspired the two amphibious landings behind the enemy lines as the American forces advanced along the northern coast of Sicily. Both operations, within an invasion, were spectacular and well-timed. Both were militarily successful in that they paved the way for the final drive in Sicily. The American sector was never wide enough to permit any "army-wide" Patton-style operations. It was Gen. Bradley and the Second Corps which carried the final drive.

**CLOSE CALL**

One of Patton's memorable close calls came when, with his 1st Army group, he was ordered to take the city of Messina in a few hours after the city had been taken by the British. Patton's two-mile dash across the straits of Messina had remained quiet. Patton's general advanced in the direction of the city. One of the British units was an Army commander who was photographing the scene.

Patton has been written of the Patton incident. What direct credit he should receive is not known. How he reacted in the heat of the moment is hard to say. Patton's own story is that he had ordered a "kill."

This was when the general was still in command of the Second Army. The original Seventh Army was formed and with the expeditionary force and the pending reorganization of France. From the end of August, 1943, until the official announcement of the Seventh Army's formation, Patton was in command of the Seventh Army. One of the first assignments was to lead the Seventh Army in its Palermo campaign, with occasional trips to Cairo and Algiers.

The incident is cited as far as the Army's general staff is concerned. A Maj. Henry Stinson was the liaison officer between Patton and the British commander.

**Pastors Plan Study Meeting**  
The multi-month study meeting of the Baptist Pastors' conference of the Mecklenburg Association will be held at the First Baptist Church Monday morning at 10:30 o'clock. After devotional Scriptures exposition will be given by the Rev. E. T. Parkman, retiring pastor of the Southern Church, and the message will be brought by Dr. C. C. Burris, president of the Wingate Junior College of Winston-Salem.

**Guest Ministers To Fill Pulpit**  
Dr. A. B. Wood, pastor of the North Avenue Baptist Church, is one of the guest ministers who will fill the pulpit this month. His pulpit will be supplied Sunday morning by the Rev. E. B. Frazer, who for over 30 years was pastor of the North Avenue Church, and in the evening, Dr. C. Burris, president of Wingate Junior College, will be the speaker. Dr. Burris will preach at the Myers Park Church Sunday morning.

**Elks Will Open New Home Sept. 22**  
The new home of the Charlotte Elks Lodge at 25 Tryon and E. Stonewall Sts. will be formally opened and dedicated on Friday, Sept. 22. The building, which was once the O'Dowd School building, is now being extensively remodelled. Elks leaders from Virginia, Florida and Pennsylvania will be here for the dedication program. Elks judges all over South Carolina and North Carolina are to be entertained at the reception. Gov. J. M. Broughton of North Carolina and Gov. Otto D. Johnston of South Carolina are to be invited.

A pre-dedication housewarming is to be held in the new home tonight. Dinner is to be served at 7 P. M. and a class of candidates is to be initiated at 8.

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