

***Killing Patton: The Strange Death of World War II's Most Audacious General*** by Bill O'Reilly & Martin Dugard, Henry Holt and Company, New York (2014). (52 Quotes selected by Doug Nichols)

## **1. Explanation of Aryan Ethnicity**

Top level members of the SS had to prove their racial purity by providing records of their family lineage dating back to 1750. This practice of achieving racial superiority was based on something known as “scientific racism,” which stated that some races were more advanced than others. Beginning on April 7, 1933, German law required that obtaining a certificate known as the *ariernachweis* was mandatory for any individual wishing to hold public office in Germany or to gain membership in the Nazi Party. This “Aryan Certificate” was attained by showing a complete record of family lineage (through birth and marriage certificated) that passed racial purity. It was believed that the Caucasian race was divided into three sectors: Semitic (descendants of Noah’s son Shem, most often associated with Jewish ethnicity). Hamitic (descendants of Noah’s son Ham. often associated with North African and Middle Eastern ethnicity); and Aryan, construed by the Nazis to be Nordic and Germanic ethnicity. The defining characteristic were blue eyes, blond hair, a statuesque physique, and Caucasian skin pigment. The Aryan bloodline was thought to be purer because it had not intermingled with that of other ethnicities. The extermination of Jews, Gypsies, homosexuals, and mentally and physically handicapped individuals was a way of cleans Europe of people with non-German impurities. Scientific racism was discredited after World War II. It’s worth noting that members of the SS were German at the beginning of the war. By its end, combat deaths has seen its ranks so depleted that soldiers of foreign birth, such as Czechs, Poles, and Norwegians, were conscripted into the Aryan brigades. (Page 95 foot note).

## **2. Mark IV Panzer & Soviet T-34 Tank & Tiger I & II Tank**

The Mark IV panzer formed the backbone of the German army’s tank corps, with more than seventeen thousand seeing service during the war. But when the invasion of Russia revealed that the Soviet T-34 had thicker armor and more powerful armament, the Panther tank was designed and built. Its 75 mm gun and sloped armor (to deflect shells) proved highly effective on the Russian front and was considered the best German tank of the war. The Tiger, designed in 1942 was originally supposed to be named the Panzer VI, but Adolf Hitler ordered that a new name be used. Both the Tiger I and the Tiger II were formidable heavy tanks, easily the equal of any other armored weapon on the battlefield. But the Panzer II, in particular, was rushed into

service, and suffered from mechanical issues that limited its effectiveness. (Page 112 foot note)

### **3. Patton's Confidence to Win**

“I had all my staff, except for VIII Corps, in for conference. As usual on the verge of an attack, they were full of doubt. I seemed always to be the ray of sunshine and by God, I always am. We can and will win, God helping.” (Page 116)

### **4. Patton's Prayer for Four Days**

The last words of Patton's prayer are for the ages.

“Sir, I can't fight shadows. Without Your cooperation from a weather standpoint, I am deprived of accurate disposition of the German armies and how in the hell can I be intelligent in my attack? All of this probably sounds unreasonable to You, but I have lost all patience with Your chaplains who insist that this is a typical Ardennes winter, and that I must have faith.

“Faith and patience be gone! You have just got to make up Your mind whose side You are on. You must come to my assistance, so that I may dispatch the entire German Army as a birthday present to you Prince of Peace.

“Sir, I have never been an unreasonable man, I am not going to ask You to do the impossible. I do not insist on a miracle, for all I request is four days of clear weather.

“Give me four days so that my planes can fly, so that my fighter-bombers can bomb and strafe, so that my reconnaissance may pick out targets for my magnificent artillery. Give me four days of sunshine to dry this blasted mud, so that my tanks roll, so that ammunition and rations may be taken to my hungry, ill-equipped infantry. I need these four days to send von Rundstedt and his godless army to their Valhalla. I am sick of this unnecessary butchering of American youth, and in exchange for four days of fighting weather, I will deliver You enough Krauts to keep Your book-keepers months behind in their work.

“Amen.” (Page 130-131)

### **5. The P-47 Fighter-Bomber**

Among the many Allied fighter-bombers patrolling the skies over Europe, the single-engine P-47 stood out for its size (ten tons fully loaded, with two-thousand--pound bombs) and ability to provide close support for ground troops. Thanks to the four 50-

caliber machine guns in each wing. Patten considered coordinated attacks by the P-47, Sherman tank, and infantry a vital part of his tactics. (Page 136 foot note).

## **6. Adolf Hitler's Parents & Family**

Hitler was raised Catholic. His parents, Alois and Klara, were devout. The father's father died in 1903, at the age of sixty-five, and his mother from breast cancer four years later, at forty-seven. Of Hitler's five siblings, only his younger sister, Paula, lived to adulthood. She was taken into U.S. custody at the end of the war, but released when it became clear that she had not been a party to her brother's actions. She relocated from Austria to Germany after the war where she lived in seclusion. Paula Hitler died in 1960 at the age of sixty-four. Like her brother, she had no children. Her death ended the Hitler bloodline. (Page 139 foot note).

## **7. Patton & Eisenhower Disagree on Tactics**

But privately Patton seethed at Eisenhower's poor tactical choices. The Seventeenth Airborne, Eleventh Armored, and Eighty-Seventh Infantry have all been moved one hundred miles back to the French city of Reims as reserves, just in case the Germans breakthrough goes even deeper into the American lines. "We should attack," he complains to his staff. Patton could sorely use the additional firepower those units would bring to the relief of Bastogne. Instead, they sat in the patient defensive mode that Patton deploras.

"We should attack." (Page 148)

## **8. George Patton Loves War**

George S. Patton relishes war. He finds it glorious, and thinks there is no finer test of a man's courage. He accepts the fact that honorable death can happen to any man, at any time.

Yet he is not immune to human suffering, and the Battle of the Bulge is taking a hard toll on him. It is within his power to ease the pain and hardship of those embattled men of the 101st Airborne. His failure to do so haunts him. (Page 150)

## **9. Rivalry between Montgomery & Patton Gets Worse**

Now he spends the 26th, Boxing Day, having heard that some of his tanks are within a half dozen miles of Bastogne. But today as with yesterday and the day before hardly seems likely. Reports filter back to his headquarters state that his tank divisions continue to take heavy casualties.

Making matters worse—far worse—is that rather than helping Patton by pushing his own army south toward Bastogne, British field marshal Bernard Law Montgomery refuses to attack. He says his army is not ready. And instead of encouraging Patton’s audacious plan to relieve, Montgomery is deepening their professional rivalry by predicting that Patton and his Third Army will fail.

When Montgomery goes so far as actually, to insist to Eisenhower that Patton return to Metz, claiming that Patton’s army is too small to take Bastogne, Patton severs all pretense of friendship with his British counterpart. He calls the idea of a retreat to Metz “disgusting.”

But Montgomery’s behavior only adds to the pressure on Patton, because a simple look at the current battlefield situation map shows that one thing is becoming ever clearer: no one can save the Battered Bastards of Bastogne except for Patton and his Third Army. In fact, no one else is even making the effort.

No one. (Page 151)

### **10. The Medal of Honor for Pvt. James R. Hendrix**

Through the dust and smoke, Pvt. James R. Hendrix, the son of an Arkansas sharecropper, spots two concealed German 88 mm guns. Next to them, hiding in a foxhole, are two Wehrmacht soldiers. Hendrix crouches low and moves toward them through a hedgerow, then presses his body flat in a shell crater as he creeps up on the enemy. Hendrix is just five foot six, and weighs only 125 pounds, but he shows no fear as he prepares to attack the Germans foxhole alone.

“A fellow just figures if it’s his time, it’s his time, and that’s all there is to it,” is how he later explained his courage.

Screaming, “Kommen Heraus!”—“Come out!” in German—Hendrix runs up to the foxhole with his M-1 aimed squarely at the enemy soldiers.

They don’t surrender. Hendrix is forced to shoot one soldier in the head and then smash in the skull of the other with his rifle butt.

“I got their guns and got back in my shell hole and started hollering, ‘Kommen heraus’ again and sure enough, them Germans began coming out from around the different foxholes, and 13 gave up,” he will later recall, describing the action that will earn him the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Later that night, in fierce, pitch-black fighting that will see few prisoners taken on either side, Hendrix will add to his legacy by personally knocking out two German Machine-gun nests and also braving sniper fire to pull a wounded American from a burning halftrack.” (Page 157-158).

### **11. The Relief of Bastogne**

The German advance stalled on Christmas Eve 1944. Basically, the Germans overran their supply lines. And without ammunition and gasoline, they were unable to wage an offensive campaign. The continued progress of Patton and his Third Army eventually spelled doom for Operation Watch on the Rhine. By January 25, 1945, the Germans had retreated back to the same position they held at the start of the offensive six weeks earlier. Thus ended the last great German attack on the Western Front. “The relief of Bastogne is the most brilliant operation we have thus far performed, and is in my opinion the outstanding achievement of this war.” Patton writes home to his wife, Beatrice.

“Now the enemy must dance to our tune, not we to his. (Page 159-160)

### **12. A Group of First’s During Roosevelt’s Fourth Term**

We are never far from the minds of Americans, even on a unique day in the nation’s history.

Hope that the Second World War would end by New Year’s Day has long been abandoned. Wounded soldiers, many on crutches, are among the seven thousand guests tromping through harsh weather to witness Franklin Delano Roosevelt’s swearing-in as president of the United States. This will be the first address during war-time since Abraham Lincoln spoke eighty years ago, in 1865. Also, this is the first inaugural to be held at the White House, in “the president’s backyard,” as the South Lawn is known. Finally, this is the first and only time an American president will be sworn in for a fourth term. (Page 161)

### **13. How H.S. Truman Aced His Vision Exam**

Harry S. Truman, the sixty-year-old senator from Missouri, steps to the lectern to be sworn in as vice president. This is a time of austerity in America and around the world, so Truman and Roosevelt have chosen to forgo formal dress, preferring instead to wear dark business suits.

The new vice president places his left hand on a family Bible and raises his right to take the oath of office. He is a small, wiry man with an infectious grin, a man unafraid to cry

in public but able to control his emotions when a situation turns competitive. Those unlucky enough to sit across the poker table from Harry S. Truman know this all too well. The S does not stand for anything; that single letter is his actual middle name. It was once Truman's dream to attend West Point, but poor eyesight ended that ambition, making necessary the glasses he now wears. Truman, however, fought as an officer in the First World War. He aced the vision exam before his induction into the military by memorizing the eye chart. (Page 163)

#### **14. FDR Gift to America**

But Franklin Roosevelt's biggest love is reserved for the American People, whom he has led through twelve daunting years of depression and warfare. Roosevelt was first elected president just five weeks before Adolf Hitler became chancellor of Germany, but while Hitler has pursued a course of evil that is destroying his nation, Roosevelt has lifted America up from the lowest point in U.S. history to make it the most powerful nation on earth. He has done the people of America one final great favor by ensuring that his successor will not be an ideological extremist, but a man of the people who will do his best to heal the nation when the war inevitably ends. In this way FDR does not repeat the mistake of Abraham Lincoln, who selected Andrew Johnson as his second vice president. Johnson's bumbling presidency deepened the rifts and division after the Civil War ended and Lincoln was assassinated. As FDR well knows, some of the problems Johnson created exist to this day. (Page 166)

#### **15. Andrew Johnson's Presidency & Troubles in It**

Andrew Johnson was the senator and governor of Tennessee chosen by Lincoln to serve as vice president during his second term. Johnson showed up severely hung-over for his inaugural on March 4, 1865—and then proceeded to take two stiff shots of whisky before delivering a rambling address to the Senate. On the day Lincoln was assassinated, Johnson was also targeted for murder but was spared when his killer lost his nerve. Upon his ascension to the presidency, Johnson was divisive and inept. Many of the so-called red states and blue states that exist in American politics today can trace their roots back to Johnson's lack of leadership at a time in the country's history when healing instead of settling scores should have been foremost. He was impeached by the House of Representatives but avoided conviction by the Senate by just one vote. He was charged with now repealed Tenure of Office Act, which was passed the previous year specifically to restrict the powers of his presidency. Johnson managed to fight the charges over the ensuing three-month trial and served out the rest of his term. He actually tried to run the presidency once again that summer, but his

lack of popularity made that impossible. Johnson was so bitter about not getting the chance to serve four more years that he refused to attend the inaugural of his successor, Gen. Ulysses S, Grant. (Page 166 foot note)

## **16. Patton Ignored by Eisenhower Again**

Once again, Dwight Eisenhower is ignoring Patton. Having done the impossible, Patton is once again benched. Rather than having his top general lead the drive into Germany, Eisenhower is putting his strategic weight behind British field marshal Bernard Law Montgomery, who has remanded that he lead the decisive Allied push to the Rhine River. Montgomery cleverly planned for the next combat by withholding most British troops from the Battle of the Bulge. While Patton's Third Army was taking casualties and losing scores of tanks and halftracks. Montgomery was husbanding his resources. Now, fresh and unscathed, the British army and those American units under Montgomery's command are the new tip of the Allied spear. Meanwhile, as the inaugural takes place in Washington, Patton and the Third Army are relegated to rooting out the last pockets of German resistance in the Bulge. (Page 167)

## **17. Mao Tse-tung Led China in 1949 Onward**

The fifty-one-year-old Mao Tse-tung led China's revolutionary Communist regime. After the Japanese surrendered in August 1945, the Chinese Communist overthrew the ruling Nationalist party government led by Chiang-Kai-shek. From 1949 onward, Mao Tse-tung ruled China with a despotic grasp that rivaled that of Hitler and Stalin. Mao died in 1976 at age eighty-two. (Page 169 footnote)

## **18. Patton's Popularity Must be Deemphasized**

But Donovan was weary of the general, due to Paton's notorious mistrust of the Russians. There is a growing sentiment in Washington that Patton's soaring popularity must be brought back down to earth. It was no secret in American G-2 (intelligence) circles or the military press that certain politicians and generals did not want George Patton to garner more laurels, a war correspondent who traveled with the Third Army will write after the war. (Page 170)

## **19. Gestapo Headquarters in Berlin**

The Gestapo was Nazi Germany's official secret police. Under the supervision of Heinrich Himmler, this branch of the SS terrorized and murdered anyone who might represent a threat to the Nazi Party. Even law-abiding Germans lived in fear of a visit from the Gestapo, who were often in civilian clothing. The Gestapo headquarters, on

Prinz-Albrecht Strasse in Berlin, featured underground cells where prisoners were held and tortured. The remains of these cells can be seen today at the Topography of Terror Museum in Berlin, which is built upon the large city block that was once home to the Gestapo. The buildings comprising Himmler's headquarters have all been demolished. All traces of that awful legacy have been replaced by a stark landscape of gray stones, and no vegetation. The entire city block will never again be developed. (Page 170 footnote)

## **20. The Concentration Camps**

While the term concentration camp is widely used to describe the many places where the Nazis tortured and killed their enemies, real or imagined, six facilities (Chelmno, Belzec, Sobibor, Treblinka, Majdanek, and Auschwitz-Birkenau) also carried the term extermination camp, because most prisoners were murdered immediately upon their arrival. Auschwitz-Birkenau served the dual purpose of forced labor/extermination camp. (Page 173 foot note)

## **21. Auschwitz, Gassing & Burning the Bodies**

Each of the five crematoria at Auschwitz featured a room for gassing victims and ovens for burning the bodies. When the number bodies became too much for the ovens to handle—as with the deportation of Hungarian Jews from March to November of 1944 following the success of Otto Skorzeny's Operation Mick Mouse—the bodies were burned outdoors. A large pit behind Crema V served this purpose. (Page 174 foot note)

## **22. The SS Cannot Stop Killing**

The SS guards who have been ordered to destroy the crematoria are eager to move on, or they will soon become Russian prisoners—a certain death sentence for them.

But even now, when their thoughts are filled with plans to escape, the SS cannot stop themselves from killing. It has become a way of life for them over the past few years, as routine as eating breakfast. They have shot thousands by lining them up against the notorious "Black Wall," as the firing squad barrier next to the medical experiments barracks is known. Now, as the SS men prod the prisoners through the snow, moving to another section of the concentration camp on a road lined with electrified barbed wire fences, those child prisoners unwilling or unable to walk the mile from the Birkenau section of the death camp to the main section of Auschwitz are immediately shot dead.

Those who bend down to quench their thirst by scooping snow into their mouths are shot dead.

Many of the children now marching through the snow are twins who have been subject of cruel experiments by a madman Dr. Josef Mengele. Those who stop to help their twin are also shot dead. (Page 175)

### **23. Josef Mengele Medical Experiments On Children**

Among the experiments were injecting dye into a child's eyes to see if the iris's color could be changed, injecting the bodies with germs and disease to study the physical reaction, and performing operations without anesthetic. On one occasion, (Josef) Mengele attempted to create a Siamese twin by sewing the bodies of identical Gypsy children to one another, back to back, and connecting their veins and internal organs. The two girls died a few days later when gangrene set in. (Page 175 foot note)

### **24. Concentration Camp Life for SS Guards**

Each concentration camp was administered by an SS-Totenkopfverband, or "Death's Head Unit." These units, usually clad in black from head to toe, were divided into two groups, one overseeing daily life in the camp and the other responsible for perimeter security. A commandment oversaw the unit and camps. Guards had complete discretion regarding punishment and brutality, and many of them had come to their new calling after a prewar life of crime. Wounded SS soldiers on the front were often transferred to concentration camp duty to recover from their injuries. Also, the inverse was often true, with SS guards ordered to leave the camp and serve on the front lines if they showed themselves to be soft or unwilling to commit atrocities. Life as an Auschwitz guard was relatively easy, with steady supplies of liquor, illicit sexual relationships with prisoners, and a social life which soldiers on the front could only dream. For this reason, SS guards were more than willing to follow orders, no matter how brutal or morally questionable they might have been. In the chilling words of SS guard Oskar Gronig, "The main camp of Auschwitz was like a small town, with its gossiping and chatting. There was a grocery, a canteen, a cinema. There was a theatre with regular performances. And there was a sports club of which I was a member. It was all fun and entertainment, just like a small town." (Page 176 foot note)

### **25. Auschwitz-Birkenau Camp**

Auschwitz-Birkenau was built on top of a swamp, so conditions in the cramped barracks are always damp. A railway spur has run through the heart of the camp since spring of 1944, delivering new prisoners several times each day. Once the cattle cars

stopped at the unloading ramp, prisoners were ordered to leave their belongings behind and to line up for processing. The elderly and women with children were designated for immediate extermination. Anyone under fourteen was also sent directly to the gas chambers, which made Eva and Miriam very lucky to be alive.

In all, 80 percent of those who survived the horrible journey from their home to Auschwitz were sent straight to the gas chambers; only those deemed capable of working as slave labor were allowed to live. (Page 171)

## **26. 144 Escapes from Auschwitz**

There were 144 successful escapes from Auschwitz, including that of four prisoners who dressed in SS uniforms and drove out through the main gate in Commandant Rudolf Hoss's personal automobile. The four were never caught. Hoss, on the other hand, was hanged in 1947 for war crimes. A special gallows was constructed in the heart of Auschwitz for the occasion. it stands to this day. (Page 179 foot note)

## **27. Holocaust Guilty Will Be Punished**

Roosevelt's radio address was very specific informing Americans about the reality of the Holocaust: "In one of the blackest crimes of all history—begun by the Nazis in the days of peace and multiplied by them a hundred in time of war—the wholesale systematic murder of the Jews of Europe goes on unabashed every hour. As a result of the events of the last few days hundreds of thousands of Jews who, while living under persecution, have at least found haven from death in Hungary and the Balkans, are now threatened with annihilation as Hitler's forces descend more heavily upon these lands. That these innocent people, who have already survived a decade of Hitler's fury, should perish on the very eve of triumph over the barbarism which their persecution symbolizes, would be a major tragedy. It is therefore fitting that we should again proclaim our determination that none who participated in these acts of savagery shall go unpunished. The United Nations have made it clear that they will pursue the guilty and deliver them up in order that justice be done. That warning applies not only to the leaders but also to their functionaries and subordinates in Germany and in the satellite countries. All who knowing take part in the deportation of Jews to their death in Poland or Norwegians and French to their death in Germany are equally guilty with the executioner. All who share the guilt shall share the punishment.

In the end, while there was great awareness at the highest levels of government on the Allied side of the murder of the Jews, the actual horror of what was taking place was beyond what any rational person could conceive. "The things I saw," Gen. Dwight

Eisenhower said after an April 12, 1945, visit in a former concentration camp, “beggar description.” (Page 182 foot note)

## **28. Soviet Soldiers Were Kind to the Prisoners**

Despite their brutal reputation the Soviet soldiers are kind to the prisoners, who stare back at them “with gratitude in their eyes.” But the Russians have seen so much in this time of war that many are numb, to the horrors before them. “I had seen towns destroyed. I had seen the destruction of villages. I had seen such suffering of our own people. I had seen small children maimed—there was not one village that had not experienced the horror, this tragedy, these suffering,” one Soviet soldier will note wearily.

And yet the Soviets see that Auschwitz is different. “We ran up to them,” Eva Mozes and her sister, Miriam, will later recall. “They gave us hugs, cookies, and chocolates. Being so alone, a hug meant more than anybody could imagine, because that replaced the human worth we were starving for. We were not only starved for worth, we were starved for human kindness, and the Soviet Army did provide some of that. (Page 184)

## **29. The Diary of Anne Frank**

In one of the most famous stories to come out of the Holocaust, Anne Frank was given a blank diary for her thirteenth birthday, which fell just weeks before her family went into hiding in 1942. She went on to chronicle, in great detail, what it was like to mature from childhood into adolescence in such claustrophobic circumstances. The last entry is August 1, 1945, three days before her arrest. Upon his return to Amsterdam after the war, Otto Frank was amazed to discover that the journal had survived. Anne’s insightful comments on her and her personal relationships were so profound that he sought to have the diary made public. This came to pass in 1950, when it was published in German and French, and then in English in 1952. Through marginally successful at first, *Anne Frank: The diary of a Young Girl* has since become a classic work on life in Nazi-occupied Germany and the Netherlands, and has spawned a film and stage play, *Time* magazine included Anne Frank in its *TIME 100: The most Important People of the Century* list. (Page 185 foot note)

## **30. Russian Mass Rape in Their Conquered Territories**

Joseph Stalin specifically condoned rape as a reward for his soldiers. “People should understand it if a soldier who has crossed thousands of kilometers of blood and death has fun with a woman.” The brutality will become systematic in the final days of the

war. In the German city of Dresden, the Russians will gang-rape women in the streets, forcing husbands and fathers to watch. Afterward, the man will be shot. The Russians, will claim that the rapes were retribution for atrocities committed during German invasion of Russia, which does not explain the estimate one hundred thousand rapes in Austria, two hundred thousand in Hungary, and tens of thousands of others in Bulgaria, Poland, and Czechoslovakia. To this day, the Putin government in Russia denies that the Russian army committed mass rape, but the evidence contained in various eyewitness accounts is overwhelming. (Page 192 foot note)

### **31. Montgomery Lied about Stopping the Germans at the Battle of the Bulge**

Even more galling, not just to Patton but also to American soldiers, is that Montgomery has publicly taken credit for the Allied victory at the Battle of the Bulge. Monty insists that it is his British forces of the Twenty-First Army Corp, not American GIs, who stopped the German advance.

“As soon as I saw what was happening,” Montgomery stated at a press conference, at which he wore an outlandish purple beret, “I took steps to ensure that the Germans would never get over the Meuse. I carried out certain movements to meet the threatened danger. I employed the whole power of the British group of armies.”

What Montgomery neglected to mention was that just three British divisions were made available for the battle. Of the 650,000 Allied soldiers who fought in the battle of the Bulge, 600,000 were American. Once again, Barnard Law Montgomery used dishonest spin in an attempt to ensure his place in history.

Montgomery’s stunning January 7 press conference did considerable damage to Anglo-American relations. To Patton, it seemed outrageous that Montgomery should be rewarded for such deceptive behavior. (Page 195 & 197)

### **32. Eisenhower’s Great Strength & Weakness, Compromise**

Dwight Eisenhower is quite confident that George Patton will never ask to be relieved. Yet he immediately follows up his February 10 order with a second command, allowing Patton to place his army on “aggressive defense.” Ike knows that Patton will interpret this order as permission to launch a series of low-profile attacks.

Such dithering is an example of Eisenhower’s greatest strength and his greatest weakness: compromise. He wants to make everyone happy, and believes that “public opinion wins wars.” Very often it seems Eisenhower would rather make the popular

decision than the right one. This is the manner in which he has behaved throughout his entire army career, and it has served him well. At the start of the war he was a cornel, leading training exercises at Fort Sam Houston, Texas. Now his penchant for compromise and diplomacy has allowed him to rise to prominence and power despite the glaring fact that he has never fought in battle, or even command troops in combat. (Page 202)

### **33. Praise for Patton by German Officers**

Meanwhile, Patton attacks. His Palatinate campaign will go down in history as one of the greatest strategies of the war. Even the Germans will say so. And their praise for Patton is evidence of their enormous respect for the General. “The greatest threat,” a captured German officer revealed during his interrogation, “was the whereabouts of the feared U.S. Army.” George Patton is always the topic of military discussion. “Where is he? When will he attack? Where? How? With what?”

Lt. Col. Freiherr von Gagenhein will go on to add, General Patton is the most feared general on all fronts . . . “The tactics of General Patton are daring and unpredictable . . . He the most modern general and the best commander of armored and infantry troops combined.” (Page 205)

### **34. Life in Berlin as Bombs Fall Day & Night**

Aboveground, the Allies are bombing around the clock; The American Army Air Corps in the daylight and the British Royal Air Force by night. Berlin is a city in ruins. Of its 1,562,000 homes and apartments, one third have been completely destroyed. Almost 50,000 citizens have died, repaying the butcher’s bill of the German bombing of London five times over. The people sleep most nights in cellars or subways. Still, despite the mayhem, there is an amazing sense of routine to life on the streets of Berlin: mail is delivered each day, the Berlin Philharmonic performs at night, and the subway runs on time. Bakeries open their doors each morning, ensuring that the beleaguered populace can purchase their daily brot. And despite the drown of RAF Lancaster bombers, the bar are jammed each night with Nazi bigwigs and those businessman wealthy enough, and lucky enough, to have escaped military service. The gossip, as always, centers on the bombing: who died, who lost their homes, whose job no longer exists because their place of business was has been reduced to rubble. (Page 212)

### **35. The Turning Point at Stalingrad**

The turning point of the war between the Russians and Germans took place in the city of Stalingrad. The fierce battle lasted for five and a half months, and saw the death of

1.2 million Russians soldiers and civilians and 850,000 Germans dead or wounded. The fighting was often in close quarters, within the houses and buildings of the city itself. The Germans were ruthless in their treatment of the Russian populace, murdering and raping with impunity. (Page 212-213)

### **36. Winston Churchill's History**

Standing five foot eight and weighing nearly three hundred pounds, Winston Churchill is already a mythic figure in England. He is the son of the legendary Randolph Churchill, a dynamic British statesman who died at the age of forty-five never having fulfilled his goal of becoming prime minister. It would be left to the eccentric Winston to fill that position, although the journey was neither short nor easy. Winston was in a self-described political wilderness for much of his career, and was considered out of touch with political reality, thanks to his criticism of Nazi Germany in the 1930s, a time when few British politicians were bothered by the rise of Adolf Hitler. Once Churchill became prime minister in May 1940, at the height of the Nazi threat, he inspired the British people with fearless radio speeches that offered them hope at a time when they had none. When the Luftwaffe bombed London, Churchill was often seen in public, visiting bomb sites at great threat to his own life. Throughout his career, the one steadfast presence has been his wife, Clementine. They have been married for thirty-six years and have five children. (Page 225-225)

### **37. Churchill's Daily Routine**

The seventy-one-year-old Churchill is a creature of habit, rising each morning at 7:30 in his official residence at 10 Downing Street, just a half mile up the road from the House of Parliament. He works in bed until 11:00, whereupon he bathes, pours a weak Jonnie Walker Red scotch and water, and then works some more. He sips Pol Roger champagne with lunch at 1:00 p.m. Whenever possible, this is followed by a game of backgammon with Clementine at 3:30. He takes a ninety-minute nap at 5:00 p.m. Arising, Churchill bathes a second time, works for an hour, eats a sumptuous dinner at 8:00 p.m. and smokes a post-dinner cigar with a vintage Hine brandy. After that, he goes back to his study for more work until well past midnight. (Page 226-227)

### **38. Churchill's Encounter with Bessie Braddock**

Churchill was a close friend of the distiller Sir Alexander Walker. The prime minister favored hard alcohol, with beer being his least favorite beverage. However, he abhorred drunkenness, and was rarely known to drink to excess. Churchill's most famous drinking incident occurred just after the war, when the British Labor politician

Bessie Braddock accosted him one night as he left the House of Commons. “Winston, you are drunk. What’s more you are disgustingly drunk,” she told him. To which Churchill replied, “Bessie, my dear, you are ugly. What’s more, you are disgustingly ugly. But tomorrow I shall be sober, and you shall still be disgustingly ugly.” Churchill borrowed the quote from the 1934 W. C. Fields movie *It’s a Gift*. It’s worth noting that despite exercising very little, if at all, and drinking so copiously, Churchill inherited a sturdy constitution. Well past his eightieth birthday, he could still boast of a very healthy blood pressure of 140 over 80. (Page 226 foot note)

### **39. FDR & Churchill & Grand Alliance**

One and all knew that Churchill and Roosevelt were exceptionally close. What they did not know is that Roosevelt behaved very badly toward Churchill and England in the weeks leading up to his death. FDR was ineffectual in dealing with Joseph Stalin when the three met in the Black Sea resort of Yalta two months ago, allowing the Russians to dictate the future of postwar Europe at the expense of the British. It was Churchill who, during the early days of the war, relentlessly sought to build what he called the “Grand Alliance” between the three powers. To defeat Nazi Germany, he needed the industrial strength of the United States and the strategic power of Russia. But as time passed, Churchill was edged out of the alliance like an unwanted suitor.

Thus, the British Empire, which has ruled the globe since the voyage of Capitan James Cook in the 1770s, is no more. Much of the world will soon be ruled by the United States and Russia. (Page 227-228)

### **40. British Denied Victory in Berlin**

The British people will be denied that symbolic moment when Monty and his Tommies march into Berlin. There will be no victorious poses in front of Hitler’s bombed-out Reichstag, allowing all of England to rejoice that their plucky island nation persevered in the face of long odds, and finally conquering the Fuhrer’s capital. (Page 229)

### **41. Churchill Ignored by Truman & Rejected by His Nation**

Yet in America that now commits the unconscionable act of deferring to Russia at the expense of Berlin—in effect, killing England.

Winston Churchill is sad. Sad for his lost friend, sad for FDR’s betrayals, and sad for his nation, and, in the end, sad for the uncertainty that is to come. Churchill has already exchanged a number of cables with Harry Truman, and has yet to get a clear read on him.

After so many years of being wary of Nazi Germany, Churchill now sees the Russians as the world's threat. The divide between the Communist worldview and that of Britain's is so great that Churchill will compare it to an "iron curtain," a phrase that will go down in history.

Churchill has been prime minister for five years. But unbeknownst to him, he will be voted out of office in just three months—rejected by the nation he loved, just as he was pushed aside by Stalin and FDR. (Page 229)

#### **42. Stalin's Future Plans For Germany**

At that very moment, eleven hundred miles east of Moscow, Joseph Stalin has already foreseen the fall of Berlin. He now signs a directive known as Stavka 11074, dictating that the First Belorussian and First Ukrainian armies divide the city between them. Of his top generals, it will be Marshal George K. Zhukov, the shaven-headed hero of Stalingrad and the Battle of Moscow, who will get the honors of hoisting the Soviet flag atop the German Reichstag.

Stalin's power is at its pinnacle. He is thinking far beyond the last days of the Third Reich. The Soviet dictator is sure that a new war will soon begin, and equally sure of Communist victory.

But, for now, he has ordered that no brutality be spared the Germans. He wants maximum suffering inflicted. With that thought in mind, he prepares for sleep. (Page 249)

#### **43. Casualties in The Battle of Berlin**

An estimated eighty-thousand Russians died in the battle of Berlin. Civilian casualties are difficult to place, but it is estimated that between eighty thousand and one hundred thousand citizens were killed. (Page 252 foot note)

#### **44. Russian Atrocities in Berlin & Aftermath**

But even if General Wenck had succeeded in reaching Central Berlin, there would be no stopping the Russians. Berlin is a city with 248 bridges, and only 120 have been destroyed as the Soviets penetrate closer and closer to the Fuhrerbunker. With every new block they capture, the Russians pause to take what they believe to be theirs. The stories of their savagery will become legendary: the two Russian soldiers who rip a nursing infant from his mother's breast, calmly place the child in his carriage, and then take turns raping the mother, the soldiers who silence an eighty-year-old woman by stuffing a stick of butter in her mouth before violating her. Incredibly, countless

women in maternity wards throughout Berlin, some about to go into labor and some who had just given birth, are raped. Horrified screams echo up and down hospital corridors as heartless Russians have their way.

Everywhere, there are suicides: the mothers so ashamed by her rape that she ties two shopping satchels full of bricks to her arms, hugs her two infant children, and jumps into the Havel River with them clutched in her grasp, the woman gang-raped all night long staggers home in the morning to find her own mother has hanged her three children to protect them, and then hanged herself; the distraught woman sees no other choice but to slash her own wrists.

“The Germans were worse than this in Russia,” a German woman is told when she complains about the atrocities to a Russian officer. “This is simply revenge.” (Page 253)

#### **45. Patton Wants American Troops Strong in Europe**

When Undersecretary of War Robert Patterson visited the Third Army, Patton openly lobbied for at least 30 percent of all American troops to remain in Europe. “Keeping our forces intact. Let’s keep our boots polished, bayonets sharpened, and present a picture of force and strength to these people. This is the only language they understand and respect. If you fail to do this, then I would like to say to you that we have had a victory over the Germans but have lost the war.” (Page 260)

#### **46. Truman Could Tell When a Man Was Lying**

Truman possessed one presidential trait that Franklin Roosevelt lacked, and that is the poker player’s ability to tell when another man is lying to him. FDR’s administration was filled with men such as Wild Bill Donovan, who gained access to the president through flattery and self-promotion. Harry Truman has no time for panderers who put their own interests before those of the American people. When one of Roosevelt’s most powerful advisers, Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau Jr. threatened to resign if he wasn’t allowed to attend the Potsdam Conference, Truman immediately called his bluff.

Morgenthau stepped down three days ago. His plan will not be implemented. (Page 265)

#### **47. Cold War Started**

The outcome of the Potsdam Conference is harsh: in keeping with an earlier agreement at Yalta, Germany will be divided into occupation zones governed by the Allies.

Truman also secures a firm commitment from Stalin to join the war against Japan. But after meeting Stalin in person, Truman realizes that the dictator is not the friend to America that FDR believed him to be. Thus begins Truman's policy of taking a hard line against the Russians, and the start of the Cold War that George S. Patton has long predicted. (Page 268\_)

#### **48. American and British Soldiers Died in Russian Captivity**

The Russians denied the American and British access to many of the POW camps they had liberated, and also denied that they held any Allied POW's. Truman, and Roosevelt before him, allegedly knew otherwise, but did not want to create strife with Stalin. Thus it is believed that many American and British soldiers died in Russian captivity because their release was not demanded. (Page 276 foot note)

#### **49. One of The greatest Fighting Forces in War History**

The humiliation slowly sinks in: Patton's beloved Third Army has been wrenched from his grasp. One of the greatest fighting forces in the history of war will now be commanded by another man. Under Patton's leadership, that spectacular assemblage of men, tanks, and big guns led the liberation of France, rescued Bastogne, crossed the Rhine, and would have freed all of Eastern Europe if Eisenhower had not halted Patton's advance. (Page 284)

#### **50. Secret Poisons Developed & Tested on Russian Prisoners**

The research was done at a top secret laboratory known as the Kamera ("the Chamber"), where poisons of all kinds were tested on Russian political prisoners. The goal of the scientists working at the Kamera was to concoct an odorless, tasteless poison that would go undiscovered in case of an autopsy.

"We set ourselves to the task of developing in the laboratory poisons so that they could be consumed using wine, drinks and food without modifying the taste or color of the food and drink," one Russian would testify at Yezhov's secret trial in 1940. "It was also proposed that we invent fast-acting and slow-acting poisons but to have no visible impact on the body so that the autopsy on someone who had been poisoned would be unable to detect that person had been poisoned." (Page 289)

#### **51. Stalin Signs Death Warrants for 40,000 People**

The dacha in which Joseph Stalin now rests was built in 1934. Since then, he has personally signed the death warrants of forty thousand people—among them, political rivals, military officials, troublesome intellectuals, and personal enemies. Anyone who

dares cross Joseph Stalin soon finds himself dead. All it takes is the stroke of a pen— and perhaps a lethal dose of untraceable poison. (Page 290)

## **52. Nuremberg Trials of Third Reich Leaders**

In all, twenty-four political and military leaders of the Third Reich were tried at Nuremberg. Martin Bormann was tried in absentia. Twelve will be sentenced to death by hanging seven will be given time in prison, three will be acquitted, one will commit suicide four days after the trial begins, and one will be declared medically unfit for trial. (Page 291 foot note)