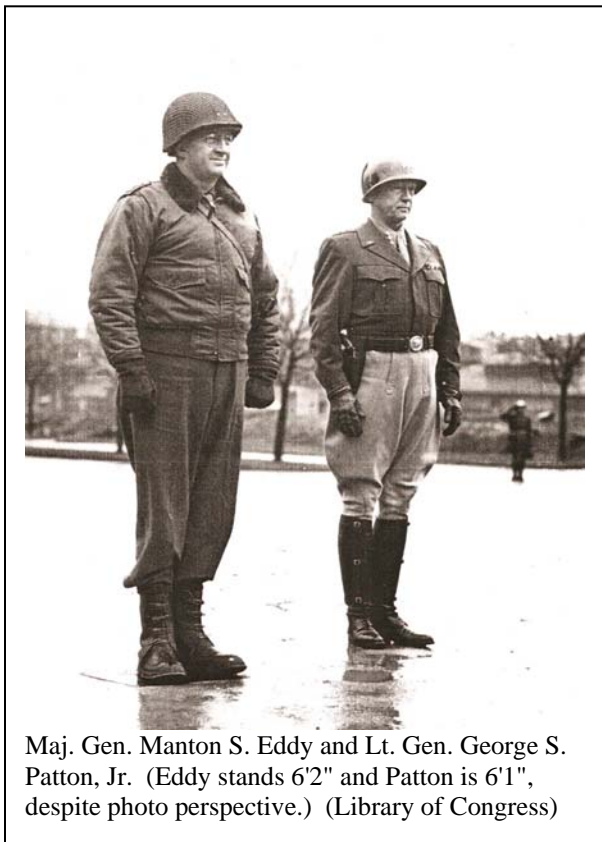


# Lt. Gen. Manton S. Eddy, '13 -- Patton's Right Hand Man

by Jim Sudmeier, '55

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Leadership has always been an important ideal in a Shattuck/St. Mary's education. Of all Shattuck's illustrious military alumni, none has risen higher in the ranks of military leaders or had a more distinguished career than Lt. Gen. (three-star General) Manton S. Eddy, a student from Chicago, for whom Crack Squad Captain and Battalion Commander in 1913 were just the beginning. Yet the important role played by this highly professional, decent, unassuming General in winning World War II in Europe has been little recognized or publicized.<sup>1</sup>



Maj. Gen. Manton S. Eddy and Lt. Gen. George S. Patton, Jr. (Eddy stands 6'2" and Patton is 6'1", despite photo perspective.) (Library of Congress)

Many Americans today have heard of the profane, flamboyant, six-gun totin', Gen. George S. Patton, Jr., in large part because of George C. Scott's portrayal in the 1970 movie, "Patton", which won seven Oscars, including Best Actor and Best Picture.

Few people, however, know of "Matt" Eddy, or that he served as the right hand of the American icon, Patton, throughout the US role in WWII, from its beginning in No. Africa and Sicily in 1942, to France in 1944, to the bitter end in the European theater in 1945. In his memoir, "War As I Knew It", Gen Patton mentions Gen. Eddy by name 70 times, more than any other subordinate, plus many references to him as unit commander.

First in 1942 as Commander of the much decorated Ninth Infantry Division, then in 1944 as Commander of the XII Corps, the spearhead of Patton's legendary Third Army, Gen. Eddy had a stormy and complex relationship with the temperamental Patton. Gen. Patton, together with his wife, being worth about \$45 million in today's dollars, was the wealthiest General ever to serve in the U.S. Army. Unmatched as an aggressive battlefield commander in highly uncertain, fast-moving situations, a master of coordinated air/armored warfare, morale booster, motivator, image builder, and a beneficial force in inter-army politics, Patton was driven by one basic need -- to cover himself with military glory.

Serving under Patton was a formidable task. Eddy was part confidant, part "whipping boy," but above all, the voice of reason to the mercurial Patton, whom Gen. Eisenhower once

<sup>1</sup> For an excellent biography of Eddy, see "The Making of a Professional," by decorated Ninth Div. veteran Lt. Col. (ret'd) Henry G. Phillips, Greenwood Press, Westport, CN, 2000.

reported as "mentally unbalanced."<sup>2</sup> Gen. Patton often blamed Gen. Eddy, among other subordinates, for his own failures, took credit



Maj. Gen. Manton S. Eddy (seated left) rides with President Franklin D. Roosevelt inspecting the Ninth Inf. Div. Jan. 22, 1943 in North Africa. (Nat'l Inf. Museum)

for his successes, belittled him for such things as not being a West Pointer, and threatened him with firing. Some of Matt Eddy's main contributions and stories are outlined below.

**1943 - Baptism by Fire in Tunisia, Sicily.** Eddy's Ninth Infantry Division arrived in No. Africa in late 1942. After many fits and starts, Eddy and his men, like the entire U.S. Army<sup>3</sup>, gained valuable experience. The 9th engaged in costly battles during spring '43 in places with names like El Guettar, Sedjenane, and Bizerte, mostly under Patton's II Corps command. At El Guettar, Patton, with inadequate maps and virtually no military intelligence, sent the 9th into a hornet's nest of German and Italian troop emplacements dug into solid rock on hilltops overlooking a labyrinth of wadis and arroyos<sup>4</sup>. The division took 10% casualties in a week, with one regiment suffering 25%.

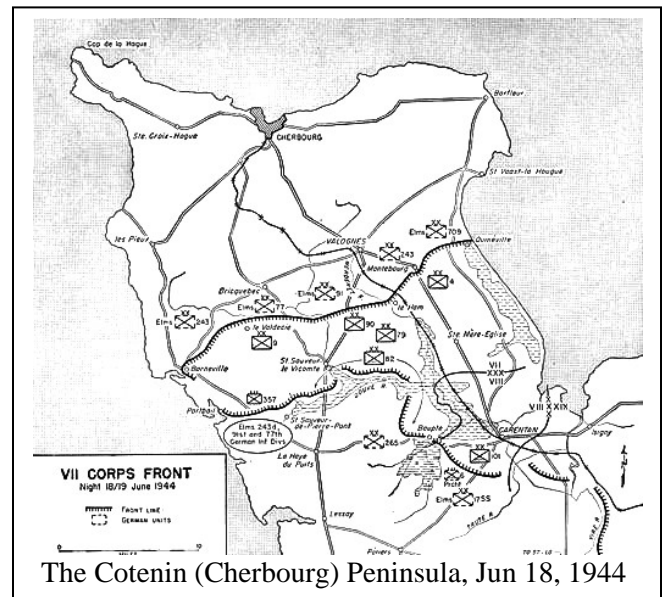
Eddy was visibly shaken after a visit from Patton. He confided to a fellow officer that he had been thoroughly chewed out and threatened

with relief of command<sup>5</sup>. At such times, Eddy might well have thought that fighting the Nazis was the easiest part of his job.

A promising young artilleryman named Lt. Col. William Westmoreland, a future leader of U.S. forces in So. Vietnam and Army Chief of Staff, cut his teeth in Tunisia with Eddy's Ninth.

In Jul-Aug., '43, the 9th Infantry Division was part of Patton's Seventh Army, and played a key role in the capture of Troina on the island of Sicily, cited by some as the toughest battle fought by US forces to that point in WWII<sup>6</sup>.

**Jun 26, 1944 - Liberation of Cherbourg.** One of the first objectives after the Allied landing at Normandy in Jun, '44, was to capture the deep-water port of Cherbourg in order to supply the



mammoth drive inland. The 4th and 90th U.S. Infantry Divisions were ordered to take the port. Eddy's 9th Inf. Div. was held in reserve. This action took place without the capable leadership of Gen. Patton, who had been stripped of command after the famous "slapping"<sup>7</sup> incident in Sicily, and was being held in reserve in England as a decoy.

<sup>2</sup> "A Genius for War", Carlos d'Este, Harper Collins, New York, p. 751.

<sup>3</sup> "An Army at Dawn," Rick Atkinson, Henry Holt, New York, 2002.

<sup>4</sup> "El Guettar", Henry G. Phillips, Penn Valley, CA, 1991.

<sup>5</sup> Ref. 1, p. 96.

<sup>6</sup> "The Day of Battle," Rick Atkinson, Henry Holt, New York, 2007, p. 158.

<sup>7</sup> Several incidents where Patton slapped, kicked, and accused of cowardice several soldiers almost certainly suffering from what is today widely recognized as PTSD.

Most of the Allies' Normandy objectives



The Ninth Inf. Div.'s "Octafoil" shoulder patch can be seen on a shield in Morgan Refectory.

bogged down severely for the first six weeks, due in part to the difficulty of attacking in the bocage or "hedgerows". A happy exception was Eddy's 9th Infantry Division, which performed brilliantly, slicing within days of their June 10 landing on Utah Beach across the hedgerows of the Cotentin

Peninsula, and trapping tens of thousands of German forces. On the 26th of June, the Ninth was in the streets of Cherbourg, blasting point blank with a tank destroyer at the steel doors of the subterranean German Headquarters fortress. Out poured more than 800 soldiers carrying white flags plus the highest ranking German Navy and Army officers, Admiral Hennecke and a haughty Lt. Gen. Von Schlieben, both of whom surrendered to Eddy.<sup>8</sup>

For their actions on the Cotentin, the Ninth Inf. Division was awarded several Distinguished Unit Citations, and Gen. Eddy was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, second only to the Medal of Honor (added to other medals earned as a machine gunner wounded in WWI, a commissioned officer right out of Shattuck).

Wrote Lt. Col. Dyer<sup>9</sup>, "The citation for this award speaks of his "repeated acts" of "extraordinary heroism" from 14 Jun to 26 Jun 44, of almost continuous "presence in the forward elements of his division". On the latter date, notices taken in this citation that his activities were exposed "to enemy machine gun fire only fifty yards away", and to heavy artillery fire. This combination of audacity and

<sup>8</sup> After Eddy's death in 1962 his widow received a letter of consolation from Von Schlieben calling Eddy "a wonderful and chivalrous adversary", with whom he had become good friends after the war.

<sup>9</sup> "XII Corps, Spearhead of Patton's Third Army", Lt. Col. George Dyer, Military Press, Baton Rouge, LA, 1947, p 180.

expertness in the art of war contributed immensely to the fall of the well-fortified and stoutly-defended port." No wonder, said the Saturday Evening Post: "After Cherbourg they called "Matt" Eddy the country's most brilliant division commander."<sup>10</sup>

The popular war correspondent Ernie Pyle spent time with Gen. Eddy during this period and wrote: " We liked him because he was absolutely honest with us, because he was sort of old-shoe and easy to talk with, and because he was a mighty good general."<sup>11</sup>

"One day I rode around with him on one of his tours. We stopped at a command post and were sitting on the grass under a tree, looking at maps, with a group of officers around us. Our own artillery was banging nearby, but nothing was coming our way. Then, like a flash of lightning, there came a shell just over our heads, so low it went right through the treetops, it seemed. It didn't whine, it swished. Everybody, including full colonels, flopped over and began grabbing grass. The shell exploded in the next orchard. General Eddy didn't move. He just said, 'Why, that was one of our shells!'

### **July 25, '44 - Breakout: Operation Cobra.**

Eight weeks after the Normandy invasion, the Allies were pinned down by Axis forces along a 60 mile front on a narrow strip of France no more than 20 miles inland from Omaha Beach. The top secret Operation Cobra was to destroy all German resistance in an area just south of the St. Lo-Perrier road 4 miles wide by 2 miles deep through saturation bombing by 3,000 Air Force bombers plus heavy artillery. Then with the enemy reeling from the shock, Eddy's 9th Infantry Division was to pour through the devastated area on the West, likewise the 30th Infantry on the East, followed by more infantry divisions and the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Armored.

<sup>10</sup> "The Avenging Ghosts of the 9th", Thomas R. Henry, Saturday Evening Post, July 6, 1946.

<sup>11</sup> "Brave Men", Ernie Pyle, Henry Holt & Co., New York, 1943, 1944, pp 394-396.

The 9th and 30th fought to gain positions close to the east-west road. However, the Air Force, instead of following the plan to fly parallel to the road over the target, chose to cross the road from the north, requiring split-second timing of 60,000 bombs dropped from 8,000 feet elevation in order to avoid bombing the GIs just north of the road. The bombing was very effective. It also caused 600 U.S. casualties due to "friendly fire," including the death of Lt. Gen. McNair, in charge of US war planning.

The 9th Division fought its way through determined resistance from remnants of the once-feared Panzer Lehr Division, while picking up its own dead and wounded. Nevertheless the 9th reached its scheduled destination on time. Thus began the breakout from the Normandy beachhead. and the pursuit of the Germans across France with dizzying speed in which Gen. Eddy played a leading role.

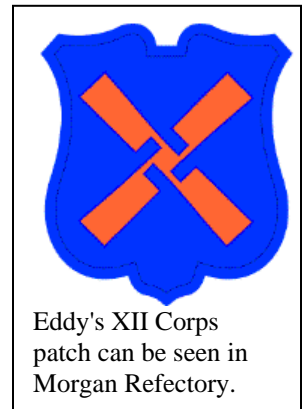
**Aug. 19, 1944 - XII Corps Commander.** On the first day of August, Patton's confinement to the doghouse ended with the activation of his Third Army. Within 2-1/2 weeks Patton had 4 Corps and twelve divisions under his command plus a private tactical air force attacking south to the Loire, west to Brest, and eastward towards Germany. The commander of his XII Corps became seriously ill, a common fate of wartime generals, and was replaced on the 19th by Gen. Eddy. Starting with only two divisions, the 35th Infantry and the soon famous 4th Armored (which he retained for most of the war), Eddy's XII Corps grew at times to five divisions, charging him with command of more than 100,000 men and far more complex duties.

Now the Germans were in disarray, and the Allies were racing eastward with four Armies abreast, from north to south the Canadian First, the British Second, and the U.S. First and Third Armies. On the extreme southern, right flank was Eddy's XII Corps.

As an instructor in Tactics for some 4 years at the Command and General Staff School in Fort

Leavenworth, KS, Gen. Eddy was well aware of the problems of a flank completely exposed to the enemy. Indeed on Aug. 7, the Germans had mounted a strong counterattack into the Allied east flank which threatened to split the British from the U.S. at Mortain.

Meeting Patton on Aug. 20, Eddy asked "How much shall I have to worry about my flank?" As Patton boasted in a letter to his wife, "I told him that depended on how nervous he was. He has been thinking that a mile a day was good going. I told him to go fifty and he turned pale..." Eddy's diary said nothing about the exchange. In later interviews he said he just thanked Patton and walked out. "Do you think I would let George Patton know that I was more scared than him?"<sup>12</sup>



Patton's posturing obscured the simple truth that his right flank and rear would be nicely covered using the new playbook -- close support from the XIX Tactical Air Force. It took Eddy no time to master this new kind of blitzkrieg, American-style. Later Eddy would tell Gen. Omar Bradley, "Hell's bells, Brad, you guys have been holding out on me...running a corps is a cinch." On his first day he took 72 miles.<sup>13</sup> The XII Corps got out in front and stayed there -- the spearhead of the Third Army.

In five weeks, the Third Army swept some 300 miles eastward across France -- a rate unequaled in warfare at that time. Outrunning his supplies at a frantic pace, Patton reached the Moselle river on Sept. 6 before his fuel was seriously depleted.

<sup>12</sup> "Dedication Address, Eddy Jr. High School," Lt. Gen. Reuben E. Jenkins, May 19, 1963, p. 3.

<sup>13</sup> "A Soldier's Story," Omar Bradley, The Modern Library, New York, p. 298.

**Sept. 15, Liberation of Nancy.** With barely enough gasoline, Eddy conducted a brilliant ten day campaign to capture Nancy, population 200,000, the capital city of Lorraine, bisected north and south by the Meurthe river. With his 35th Infantry and 4th Armored on the south, and his 80th Infantry on the north, Eddy executed a daring double envelopment of the city, snapping shut the pincer east of the river and entering the streets on Sept. 15.

Gen. Eddy visited his far-flung divisions virtually every day, sometimes by light aircraft, but mostly in his fast-moving jeep sporting a 50 cal machine gun, and driven since the early days in No. Africa by the trusty Cpl. Perry. The machine gun was normally manned by the general's aide-de-camp since taking over the XII Corps, Capt. Ben H. Hardaway III, a sportsman, VMI graduate, and nephew of his wife, Mamie.



Maj. Gen. Manton Eddy, Capt. Ben Hardaway III

Driving the back roads in combat situations sometimes got them into trouble.

As Hardaway tells it <sup>14</sup>, one day Gen. Eddy's jeep, with Patton's jeep right behind, came screeching to a halt as a train pulled out in front

of them and stopped, blocking the way. "Hardaway, *shoot the son of a bitch!*" yelled Patton. Climbing onto the locomotive with .45 drawn, Hardaway's point was soon grasped by the ashen-faced civilian engineer, who quickly threw the engine into reverse.

**Silver Star.** Both Eddy and Hardaway were awarded the Silver Star for gallantry during the Nancy campaign, manifested in repeated visits to front lines along the Moselle, where they were often subjected to severe bombardment from German artillery and sniper fire.

**Sept. 19-29. Defeating German Armor.** After the fall of Nancy, the Germans wasted little time with powerful counterattacks by the Fifth Panzer Army in the rolling hills east of Nancy, perfect for tank warfare. Due to superior guns and thicker armor, German tanks could knock out our Shermans from over a mile, whereas a Sherman had to close within half a mile to kill a medium German tank frontally. However, through superior mobility, numbers, and tactics field improvised by Eddy's 4th and 6th Armored Divisions, the Germans were sent packing.

The 4th in particular distinguished itself in classic tank battles at places like Arracourt and Juvelize, led by the dashing, popular Maj. Gen. John "P." Wood. This is also where the cigar-chomping, baby-faced Lt. Col. Creighton Abrams became legend. The Battalion Commander who led from the front had seven Sherman tanks, all named "Thunderbolt," shot out from under him during the war. Later he became leader of U.S. forces in Vietnam and Army Chief of Staff. After his death the Army's main battle tank was named in his honor.

**Sept. 30. Another close call.** Gen. Eddy was meeting his various regimental commanders in the front room of a village house. A volley of German artillery came in, and one shell landed about 15 feet from the door, killing his longtime driver and bodyguard, Cpl. Perry, and a staff photographer. The meeting moved to the basement. Did this event cloud Eddy's

<sup>14</sup> "Never Outfoxed", Ben H. Hardaway III, 1997.

judgment, as first suggested by Patton, when he ordered a pullback of his troops? Eddy quickly reversed his orders, admitted the mistake, for which Patton praised him, and vowed in his diary not to repeat such an error.

**Nov. 8. The November Offensive.** Most of October was spent by the Allies resupplying for one final push before winter set in. Patton was itching to begin the race to Berlin, especially so as to beat his despised British counterpart, Field Marshall Sir Bernard Law Montgomery.

Weeks of rainy weather in Lorraine had turned worse. The ground was a sea of mud and the Seille River on the night of Nov. 7 was at 100 year flood stage. With air support impossible, and rivers too wide to bridge, Gens. Eddy and Grow (commander of his 6th Armored) came to see Patton in the pouring rain seeking a 24 hour postponement. Patton, who was praying, and too nervous to sleep, told them the attack would go ahead as scheduled, according to his diary<sup>15</sup>, and Eddy's too, which said "the General was very nice and said I was well justified..".

In his memoir written just before his death in a freak, low-speed auto crash in late 1945, Patton changes the story for self-aggrandizement at Eddy's expense: "...Generals Eddy and Grow came to the house and argued with me to hold off the attack ... *I asked them whom they wished to name as their successors ...* They immediately assented and , as usual, did great work.<sup>16</sup>" Patton had sometimes used the *name your successor* treatment on subordinates, eg. the veteran Maj. Gen. Lucian Truscott in Sicily, but not on Eddy on this occasion.<sup>17</sup>

**Dec. 2. Firing of P. Wood.** Gen. P. Wood was one of Patton's oldest friends, West Pointers

from '09 and '12 respectively. Wood had performed brilliantly as Commander of the 4th Armored (the only Armored Div. which would receive a Distinguished Unit Citation), but he was opinionated, temperamental, overprotective of his men, and sometimes insubordinate, especially to Gen. Eddy whom he viewed as an old style infantry doughboy, not expert enough on armored warfare to command the elite tankers.

Largely due to the muddy ground, where tanks were primarily confined to the highways, and thus lost all maneuverability and surprise (the very conditions Gen. Eddy had argued to forestall), by Nov. 18 the 4th had suffered 1,063 battle casualties, including 202 KIA. Wood was non-functional and close to a nervous breakdown. Patton wanted him out, but despite the bluster, seldom fired anybody. The job of firing P. Wood fell to Eddy, who had to endure the resentment of many of his tankers. Under new leadership, however, the 4th soon sprang back to life. By Dec. 19 the XII Corps had breached the Maginot Line and was knocking on Germany's door in the Saar Basin.

**Dec. 20-Jan. 17. Diversion to Bastogne.** Spoiling the Allied march to Berlin was Hitler's untimely counterattack of Dec. 16 through the Ardennes Forest with 36 divisions in what would become the largest land battle ever fought by the US Army, the "Battle of the Bulge". The speedy redeployment by the Third Army of most of its divisions some 100 miles northward in 2 to 3 days was nothing short of spectacular. Gen. Eddy contributed significantly to the contingency planning, and had already repositioned his forces when the order arrived<sup>18</sup>. On Dec. 26 it was Eddy's veteran 4th Armored, although temporarily in another Corps, that broke through the snowy landscape to the surrounded 101st Airborne division in Bastogne. Eddy's XII Corps with 3 infantry divisions held firm the southern shoulder of the Bulge, protecting Luxembourg City.

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<sup>15</sup> "The Patton Papers, 1940-45", M. Blumenson, Da Capo Press, New York, 1996, p. 570.

<sup>16</sup> "War As I Knew It", G.S. Patton, Houghton-Mifflin, Boston, 1947, p. 163 (also "Earning my Pay", p. 386).

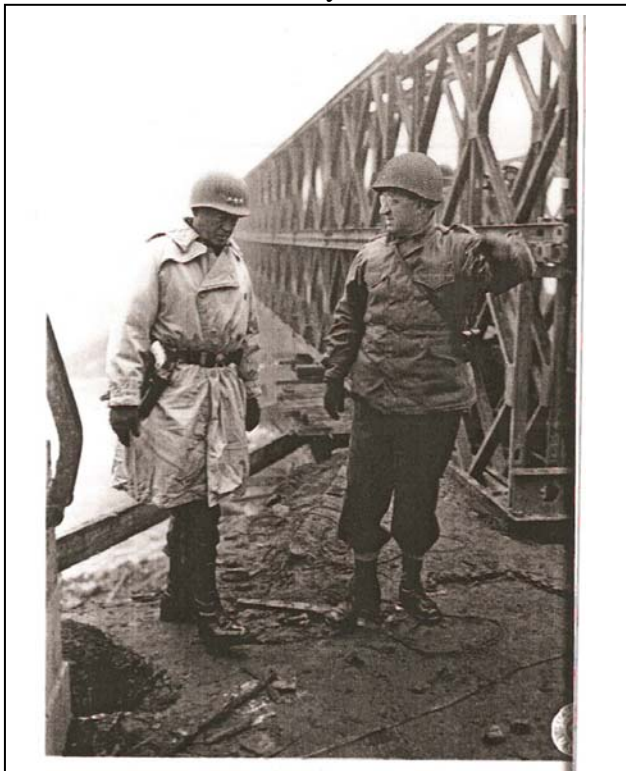
<sup>17</sup> Regrettably, this fictitious firing threat was the only mention of Gen. Eddy's role in WWII by the popular storyteller, Stephen Ambrose in his "Citizen Soldiers", Simon & Schuster, New York, 1997, p. 162.

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<sup>18</sup> ref. 12

**Jan. 18-Feb. 21. Siegfried Line.** Crossing into the German homeland at the Luxembourg border, the XII Corps met stiffening German resistance. A landscape full of hundreds of hidden concrete pillboxes and furrowed with deep river valleys, each crossing requiring new bridge construction under enemy fire, and freezing weather made advancing here extremely tough and logistically complex. Combat engineers worked tirelessly to make multiple bridges across the rivers Our, Sauer, Nims, Prum, and Kyll. Eddy's 5th Infantry, commanded by Maj. Gen. "Red" Irwin had become masters of combat river crossings.

**Feb. 22-28. Puttin' on the Ritz.** Patton sent Eddy with Hardaway off to London and Paris for some R&R. They visited Winchester,



Patton and Eddy, Feb. 20, '45, Sauer bridge from Luxemb. to Bollendorf, Germany. (Libr. of Congress)

England, where Eddy's 9th Div. had been stationed in Spring '44, and where Eddy was to be awarded the Freedom of the City. At the Ritz Hotel in Paris, Ben arranged a party, and watched while General Eddy danced with singer/movie star Marlene Dietrich till 3 AM.

**Mar. 1-21. Palatinate campaign.** On Mar. 1, Trier, the ancient city from Roman times at the head of Germany's scenic grape-growing Moselle Valley fell to the Third Army. On Mar. 7, the 4th Armored, back in Eddy's XII Corps reached the Rhine just north of Coblenz. Starting with Eddy's southward crossing of the Moselle on Mar. 14, the reduction of the Moselle-Rhine-Saar triangle by the Third Army was considered by many the most brilliant campaign of WWII, bagging some 500,000 German prisoners. Supreme Allied Commander Eisenhower later wrote, "...the Germans were completely suprised when the XII Corps leaped straight southward in one of the war's most dramatic advances, to strike deeply into the heart of the Saar defenses."<sup>19</sup>

According to personnel officer Col. Frank R. Veale, who was with Eddy throughout WWII, "Sparking the General throughout his campaigns was a constant demand, almost a mania, for mobility. In combat particularly he displayed the most conspicuous aversion to allowing either his own person or the persons of his troops to remain in any location longer than it took to prepare the next move. Immobility was his dread. He was at his happiest, his most buoyant and confident, when the situation was moving rapidly."<sup>20</sup>

**Mar. 22. Sneak Across the Rhine.** While his rival, the British general Montgomery put the finishing touches on Operation Plunder, his typical, elaborate set piece, scheduled to cross the Rhine further north on Mar. 24 with hundreds of bombers, 26 divisions, thousands of paratroopers, and massive artillery, gobbling up scarce resources, Gen. Patton once again showed his audacity by sneaking a division across the Rhine on the night of Mar. 22 in rowboats. The XII Corps approached the Rhine near Oppenheim, and Irwin's 5th Infantry paddled across with little opposition, suffering

<sup>19</sup> "Crusade in Europe", D.D. Eisenhower, Doubleday, New York, 1947, p. 384.

<sup>20</sup> Ref. 9, p. 176.

only 28 casualties. The next day Patton called Gen. Bradley to announce, "Brad, I'm across."

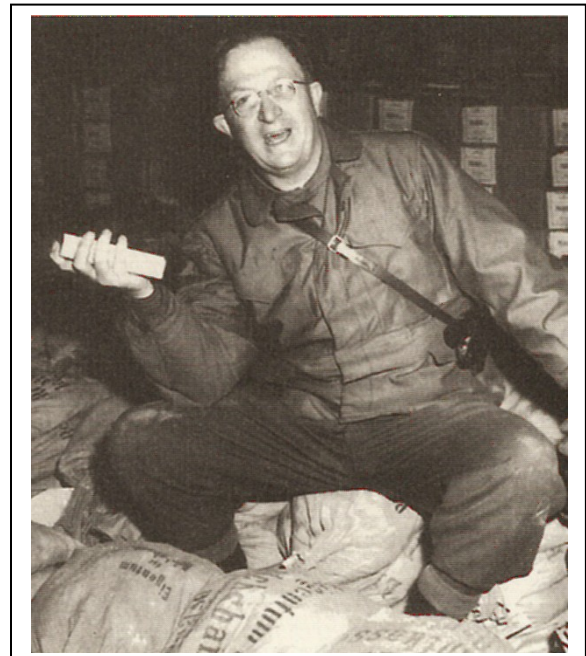
Says Patton in his memoir of the first assault crossing of the Rhine since Napoleon, "The execution of this *coup* was magnificently planned by General Eddy and gloriously executed by General Irwin." On the 24th when Eddy brought Patton to inspect the new pontoon bridge over the Rhine, Patton stopped midway to urinate in the river for the benefit of the assembled world's press and the history books.

**Mar. 26-28. Hammelburg Raid.** General Patton's son-in-law, Lt. Col. John K. Waters had been captured by the Germans two years earlier in North Africa, and Patton had good reason to believe that Waters was in OFLAG XIIIb, an officer's prison camp in Hammelburg, Germany, about 80 miles east of Frankfurt. Gen. Douglas MacArthur, whom Patton regarded as a rival, had recently made big headlines by liberating US prisoners on a daring raid in the Phillipines. In what is usually called his biggest mistake, Patton soon started making plans for an even more heroic rescue.

When XII Corps got within 50 miles of Hammelburg, Patton tried to get Eddy to send a Combat Command, i.e. a 3,000 man armored force on an unauthorized mission to Hammelburg to rescue prisoners, not revealing that the business was personal. Because 1) Eddy knew his men were urgently needed as the southern half of a pincer to surround Germany's industrial Ruhr valley, 2) they would be illegally crossing southward into the zone of the Seventh Army (who would certainly rescue the prisoners within a week), 3) his 4th Armored commander, Gen. Hoge objected, and 4) probably finding Patton's motives to be suspicious, he refused.

A compromise armored raiding party of two companies, i.e. 314 men and 57 vehicles was sent on the night of Mar. 26, led by Capt. Abe Baum<sup>21</sup>. Task Force Baum managed to find

<sup>21</sup> see [www.taskforcebaum.de](http://www.taskforcebaum.de); also "Raid!", R. Baron, A. Baum, R. Goldhurst, Dell Publishing, New York, 1981.



April 12, 1945. General Eddy hefts a gold bar.

Waters and briefly liberate OFLAG XIIIb, but with unexpectedly strong resistance, losing the element of surprise, many bizarre twists and turns, and with Patton inexplicably failing to order air support, was doomed to failure. Patton never took full responsibility for the fiasco, instead blaming those who talked him out of a larger force, especially Gen. Eddy.<sup>22</sup>

**Apr. 12. Nazi Gold.** As the Third Army advanced towards Czechoslovakia against diminishing German resistance, Eddy's 90th Inf. Div. stumbled onto something interesting. 2,000 feet underground in an abandoned salt mine at Merkers was a vault storing more than \$500 million worth of Nazi treasure -- bank notes, gold bars, gold bullion, dental gold, silver, and stolen art treasures. Eddy had gotten permission from Patton to blow the doors to the main vault. The entire reserve of the Berlin Reichsbank was revealed, valued in today's dollars in excess of \$5 billion, whose loss, it was hoped, might speed German surrender.

On Apr. 12, Gen. Eddy hosted an inspection of the vault by Gens. Eisenhower, Bradley, and Patton, lowered together via a dark, rickety old

<sup>22</sup> Patton memoir (ref. 16), p. 275.



elevator operated by a German. Later the visiting generals toured the concentration camp at Ohrdruf, newly liberated by the XII Corps. (Days later the XII took Buchenwald.) Around midnight of this fateful day, they all received the news of Pres. Roosevelt's death.

**Apr. 20. Eddy resigns due to hypertension.** Gen. Eddy had been feeling increasingly tired. On Apr. 17 he suffered an unusually severe headache and consulted a doctor, who found his blood pressure at 200/150 alarmingly high, putting him at risk of a stroke. A few days of bed rest helped, but not enough. After further tests, an array of doctors recommended rest and treatment back in the U.S. Reluctantly, Gen. Eddy packed his bags. He was 52. German resistance was fading, Hitler would be dead by suicide within 10 days, and WWII would be over in 3 weeks.

**Post-WWII activities.** After rest in the U.S. and several surgeries, in early 1946 Gen. Eddy's blood pressure was low enough to resume command near Washington, D.C., and later in the Pentagon, working for Gen. Bradley. Tasked with modernizing the curriculum for army officers, Eddy became Commandant of the Command and General Staff College in Fort Leavenworth, and gained a third star in the bargain. In 1950, the now *Lt. Gen.* Eddy went to Europe as Deputy Commander-in-Chief of U.S. Forces in Europe, then Commander of the Seventh Army, and finally as Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Army in Europe. The seventh Army Command should have qualified Eddy for a fourth star had promotions not been frozen.

After retirement from the Army in 1953, Eddy, lived in Columbus, GA, and worked there in construction and banking, became a civic leader, church elder, and an honorary Trustee of Shattuck School. Following a series of heart and prostate problems, and a mild stroke, Gen. Eddy died on April 10, 1962 of a heart attack, and was buried at Arlington National Cemetery. Fourteen generals were present as honorary pallbearers, including Omar Bradley. A school

was named after him, a bridge at his beloved Fort Benning, and today, thanks in part to the generosity of Ben Hardaway, there is a Gen. Eddy exhibit in the all new \$90 million National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center at Patriot Park, GA.

**Epilogue.** At the dedication of Eddy Junior High School, Lt. Gen. Jenkins said of Lt. Gen. Eddy, in part: "He was a Master of the art of employing efficiently every piece of equipment . . . regardless of complexity. . . the art of molding different personalities and this equipment into an instrument of armed conflict, capable of performing any combat task assigned to him . . . Lastly, he possessed the personal habits and traits of character required to sell him promptly to his subordinates and superiors as a leader."

In his memoir Patton stated about Eddy's resignation, "He had been a very fine Corps Commander and I hated to see him go. Also, he had been with me almost since the initial landing in Africa and had probably commanded larger units of combat troops longer than any other general."<sup>23</sup>

As he had been trained to do as a Shattuck student, basketball and football player, and the school record-breaking mile runner, General Manton Sprague Eddy had given his all.

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About the author: Dr. James L. Sudmeier, '55 served as Alumni Editor of the Shattuck Spectator, '53-'55. He is a researcher at Tufts Medical School in Boston, MA. His interest in Gen. Eddy led to research on the Hammelburg raid and the writing of "Patton's Secret Mission," which won the Platinum REMI, the highest award for screenwriting, at the 2006 Houston Film Festival.

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<sup>23</sup> Patton memoir, p. 304.