

## *HISTORY OF THE ORIGINE OF THE PATTON SQUARE*



Ettelbruck, also known as "Patton Town", suffered of considerable destruction during the Ardennes offensive. When General Patton led his attack on the southern flank of the Germans on 22 December 1944, Ettelbruck was at the center of the action.





On December 25, 1944, the city of Ettelbrück was finally liberated by the unit of the 80th US Infantry Division, a part of the 3rd Army of General Patton.



## *The Patton Monument*

On December 9<sup>th</sup>, 1945, General Patton became seriously injured by a banal road accident in a suburb of Mannheim. He was immediately brought to the Military hospital of Heidelberg, where he died on December 21<sup>st</sup>, 1945 due to his injuries.

On Christmas eve, on December 24<sup>th</sup>, 1945, he was buried in the presence of civil and military authorities on the Military Cemetery of Hamm.



The limousine of General Patton, a Cadillac 74 of 1939 after the road accident.



The coffin with the dead general on a caterpillar carriage on the way to Hamm.

Among the funeral guests were:

- The Prince Félix of Luxembourg
- The Hereditary Grand Duke Jean
- High American Generals (except the Generals Eisenhower and Bradley)
- The French Generals Koenig and De Lattre de Tassigny and others...





The cycling club of Ettelbruck (Union Cycliste du Nord- UCN) had the idea to put up a Memorial to the honour of General Patton and his brave soldiers. They planned to hold for the first time a cycling race on May 11<sup>th</sup>, 1947 to the honour of General Patton. Later this event should be repeated on a yearly base.

A communication of George Platt Waller says, that the American Embassy of Luxembourg is very pleased of the plan. They congratulate the responsible persons of the UCN to the initiative and encouraged them to organize such a race for the following years.

It goes without saying that Mrs. Patton, the widow of the liberator, will be deeply affected of this tribute in memory of her husband, and the legation will be very happy to announce her their plans in time. (George Platt Waller was already ambassador in Luxemburg from 1940 till the 10<sup>th</sup> of June 1941. On order of the provincial governor Gustav Simon, he had to leave the country).

Due to that, the announced race on May 11<sup>th</sup>, 1947 has got the official name “Grand Prix Général Patton”.

In addition, within the “Union Cycliste”, the idea was born to put up a memorial on the honour of the liberator of Ettelbruck.

Originally, due to the “Grand Prix General Patton” from 1947-1952, it is clearly evident that thanks to the UCN, the idea was born at first in Ettelbruck, to honour general Patton by a special cycling race.

The newspaper “Le Nord” reports in October 1950, that in the shop-window of Alex Wagner, a model worked out by the sculptor Lucien Wercollier, is issued as a photograph. A stone draught of the Memorials, from the architect J.P. Kartheiser would be also exposed.

As location they wanted to choose the bridge of the Wark, at the corner, opposite to the “Pensionnat Saint Anne”. It was reported at another place that the alternative location could be the free place in front of the state agricultural school.

Unfortunately, none of both projects could reach for the implementation due to traffic-technical reasons.



Das Denkmal-Projekt von Lucien Wercollier, das nicht zurückbehalten wurde

Photo: Michel Simon

The project of the monument of Lucien Wercollier was not kept back.

To speed up the establishment of a Patton memorial, in 1951 a committee called “Comité National pour l’Erection du Monument Patton” with headquarters in Ettelbruck was established. This committee stood under the chairmanship of the mayor Marcel Wisser at that time, while the teacher Jos Leyder had been chosen as a secretary.

On May 31<sup>st</sup>, 1951, the committee directs a bit writing to the local administration of Ettelbruck to take over the patronage of the establishment of the Patton memorial. Already on the 8th of June 1951, the aldermen gave their approval.

On November 28<sup>th</sup>, 1951, a meeting of the district council with state architect H. Schumacher, for the purpose to determinate an exact location, took place in the big hall of the town house.

By a public meeting from December 30<sup>th</sup>, 1952, the town council at that time, under mayor Wisser, the aldermen Federspiel and Stoos, town councillors Bisdorff, Gries, Hansen, Hoffmann, Mousty, Pleger, Schiltz and Schmit, approved unanimously an agreement from December 29<sup>th</sup>, 1952 according to which definitively a place near the Sauer bridge, on the territory of Ettelbruck, had to be installed. In this meeting the district engineer of the street management Mr. Willems represented the minister for public works, Victor Bodson.

Concerning the costs of 500.000 Flux the municipality of Ettelbruck participated with 100.000 Flux. Moreover, the municipality agreed to take over the expenses of the plantation of the memorial.

The Architect's urbanist H. Luja was instructed of the implementation of the plans, while the office of the road construction of Diekirch was responsible for the supervision of the works. The plot, on which the memorial would be built, was a state property and was landed to the local municipality for 99 years and for the symbolic rent of 1 Flux, with the obligation, that no change could be done without previous approval of the road construction management.

On February 26<sup>th</sup>, 1953, the road construction minister V. Bodson approved the mentioned agreement which was rechecked and finally approved on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 1953 by the Ministry of the Interior.

The construction company Theis-Vinandy of Vianden was instructed to implement the works.

On February 28<sup>th</sup>, 1953, architect's urbanist H. Luja had sent a request to the American embassy in Brussels, to get exact detailed practices of American military units fighting under General Patton during the Ardennes battle in Luxembourg.

On April 1<sup>st</sup>, 1953, the military attaché Colonel Wendell-Blanchard was able to present a list which was checked by the Historical Division in Washington on its correctness.

In the press conference hold at the hotel Herckmans on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 1954, H. Luja gave details about the layout of the monument

The monument located very near to the east and north leading of the “Sauer bridge”, fits right in a historical place of our country. Here in the railway line to the north, the American troops succeeded in the battle of the bulge,

foiling the surprising invasion of the German armed forces in direction “Alzettevalley” and so to the heart of Luxembourg.



The base of the monument shows a sword pushed in the home earth which means ceasefire and peace. It's made of weatherproof Gilsdorfer stone and tells of the irresistible will, to deviate in future never again from the peace thought.



The American eagle himself who reminds of the grievous wartime, lays down the flag of the USA, the symbol of liberty, as sign of the peace. At the same time, he sets going new swing to carry out its message of peace all over the world.

The eagle, with a span of 2.10 metres is made of "Euville" stone, of the "Département de la Meuse". He was sketched by the sign professor Pierre Droessaert and was formed by the sculptor Aurelio Sabbatini from Esch/Alzette.

The monument carries on the front the inscription:

*In Memoriam LT-Gen. G.S. Patton Jr*

At the back, the names of American divisions are mentioned which have taken part in the liberation of Luxembourg

**1944 – 1945**

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**To  
THE EVERLASTING  
REMEMBRANCE  
OF THEIR SACRIFICE**

\*

**THIRD US ARMY  
ARMY CORPS  
III VIII XII XX**

\*

**INFANTRY DIVISIONS  
4TH 5 TH 26 TH 35TH 76TH  
80TH 83RD 87TH 89 TH 90TH**

\*

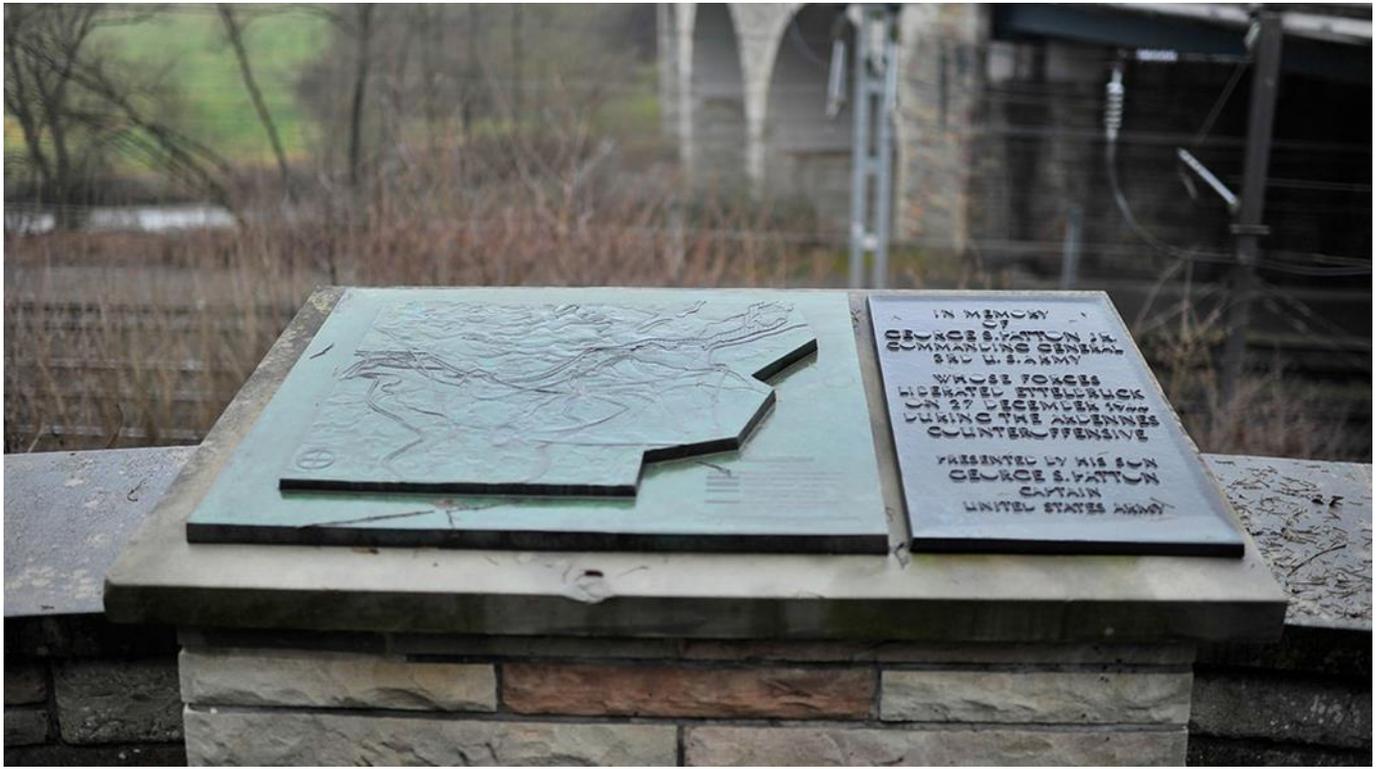
**17TH AIRBORNE DIVISION  
ARMORED DIVISIONS  
4TH 6TH 9TH 10TH 11TH**



IN MEMORY  
OF  
GEORGE S. PATTON JR.  
COMMANDING GENERAL  
3RD U. S. ARMY

WHOSE FORCES  
LIBERATED ETTTELBRUCK  
ON 27 DECEMBER 1944  
DURING THE ARDENNES  
COUNTEROFFENSIVE

PRESENTED BY HIS SON  
GEORGE S. PATTON  
CAPTAIN  
UNITED STATES ARMY



IN MEMORY  
OF  
GENERAL GEORGE S. PATTON JR.  
COMMANDING GENERAL  
3RD U.S. ARMY  
WHOSE FORCES  
LIBERATED STRASBOURG  
ON 27 DECEMBER 1944  
DURING THE ARDENNES  
COUNTER-OFFENSIVE  
PRESENTED BY HIS SON  
GEORGE S. PATTON  
CAPTAIN  
UNITED STATES ARMY



ON THE 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE  
WE RENEW OUR GRATITUDE TO  
GENERAL GEORGE S. PATTON JR.  
AND THE BRAVE MEN OF  
THE THIRD UNITED STATES ARMY  
WHO BROUGHT US BACK FREEDOM  
IN 1944-1945





LE GRAND MARÉCHAL DE LA COUR

Luxembourg, le 17 avril 1954.

M.730.

Monsieur le Bourgmestre,

J'ai l'honneur d'accuser réception de votre lettre du 16 avril 1954 et de porter à votre connaissance que Son Altesse Royale Madame la Grande-Duchesse accorde bien volontiers Son haut patronage aux cérémonies d'inauguration du monument qui sera érigé le 16 mai prochain à Ettelbruck, à la mémoire du Général G.S. Patton jr.

Je suis aussi chargé de vous informer qu'un ou plusieurs Membres de la Famille grand-ducale daigneront assister à ces cérémonies. Je vous transmettrai en temps utile les ordres que je recevrai à ces fins.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur le Bourgmestre, l'expression de mes sentiments très distingués.

Monsieur Marcel Wiser,  
Bourgmestre de la Ville d'Ettelbruck,  
E T T E L B R U C K

On May 16<sup>th</sup>, 1954, the inauguration took place on behalf of the H.R.H. Prince Félix of Luxemburg, the husband of the Grand-Duchess Charlotte and Captain George S. Patton IV, the son of the deceased General.

The wife of Captain Patton, Joanne Hollbrook, take part too to this ceremony.

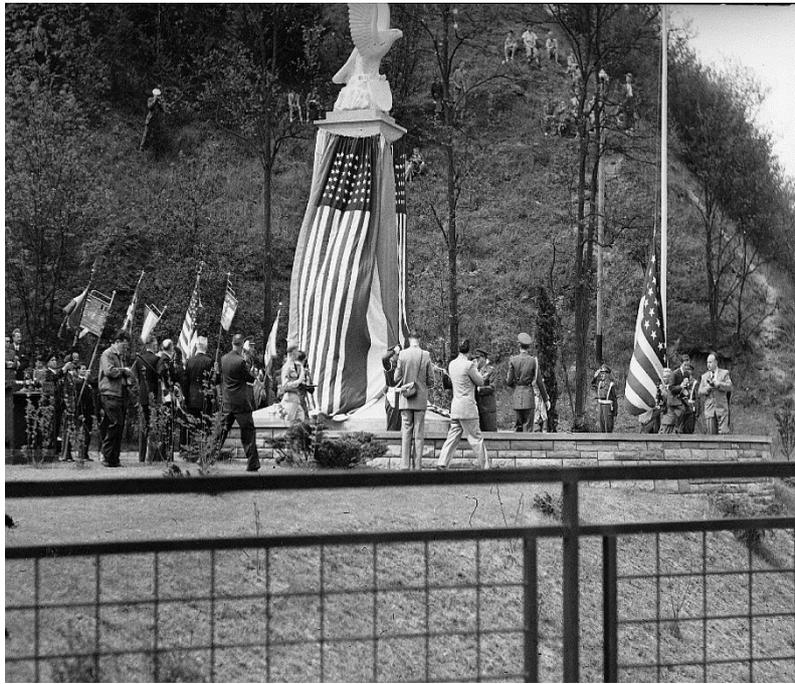


Fr.I: J.P. Schiltz, Marcel Wisser, Prince Félix, Nicolas Federspiel

Numerous guests of honour took part on the celebration as:

President of the Parliament Emil Reuter, Minister of State Joseph Bech, Minister for public works, Victor Bodson, Army minister Pierre Werner, L.L. Doan, Commander of 2. American armored divisions, Colonel Guillaume Albrecht, chief of staff of the Luxembourgian army, the diplomats of the friendly countries, many representatives and mayors as well as numerous American guests.





The church blessing occurred through general vicar Mille, representing the bishop of Luxembourg, accompanied by Chaplain Lt. Colonel Kane, Military Chaplain Jost and the priest of Ettelbruck J.-P. Hein



The national resonance of the festivity encouraged in the rows of the population the will to strengthen and deepen the American-Luxembourgian marks of friendship by an annual commemorative ceremony.

It was the birth of the annual Remembrance-Day.

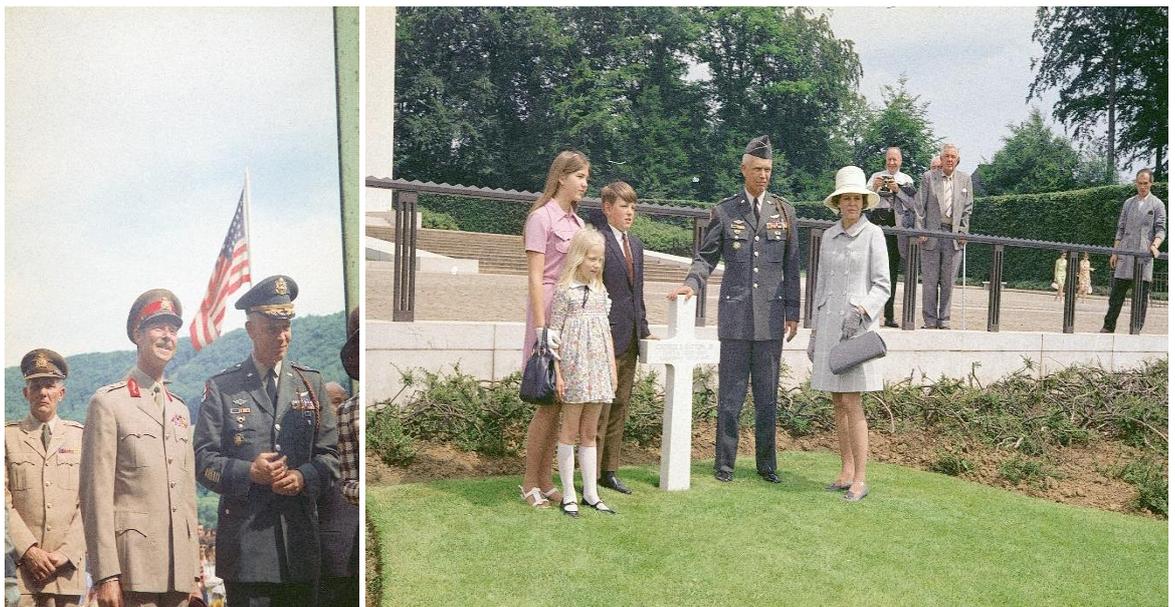


## **The inauguration of General Patton statue in the year 1970**

On June 28<sup>th</sup>, 1970, a 3-meter-high statue of general Patton was solemnly initiated on the PATTON SQUARE in Ettelbruck. The plastic was created by the American artist Earle Fraser. The first Bronze-Statue is on the area of the military academy of West Point. Through the investigation of the Patton family and the manager of the Syracuse-University of New York, who were the administrators of the reduction of the known artist, the Remembrance Day committee succeeded in acquiring the gypsum form of the piece of art on loan to let produce here in Europe, in the wax casting process, another bronze statue.



On the occasion of the Remembrance Day festivities from June 28<sup>th</sup>, 1970, the bronze statue solemnly reveals of Grand Duke Jean, in the presence of his wife, H.R.H. Grand Duchess Joséphine-Charlotte.





Also attended Brigade General George S. Patton IV, the son of the legendary general, with his wife and his three children. Moreover, attended: the American ambassador Kingdon Gould, Major general Almquist, commander of the 8th US Inf. Div., Brigade General Charles Yeager and Army minister Eugene Schaus. The former American ambassadress Perle Mesta also attended.

## SHERMANN-TANK M4A1



Since that day Patton Square is also completed by a Sherman tank model M4 A1. General Patton's armoured divisions were mainly equipped with Sherman tanks.

This tank was in use on 6 different battlefields during the Second World War.





Some information about the Sherman tank M4A1.

Crew: 5 men; Total weight: 30,3 tons

Weapons: Main weapons (gun) 7,5 cm M3 L/40

Beside weapons:

1 MG caliber .30 at the bow (7,62 mm)

1 MG caliber .50 on the top of the tank (12,7 mm)