



Patton at the Battle of the Bulge: How the General's Tanks Turned the Tide at Bastogne

Leo Barron

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December 1944. For the besieged American defenders of Bastogne, time was running out....

Hitler's forces had pressed in on the small Belgian town in a desperate offensive designed to push back the Allies, starting the Battle of the Bulge. So far the U.S. soldiers had managed to repel waves of attackers and even a panzer onslaught. But as their ammunition dwindled, the weary paratroopers of the 101st Airborne could only hope for a miracle—a miracle in the form of General George S. Patton and his Third Army.

More than a hundred miles away, Patton, ordered to race his men to Bastogne, was already putting in motion the most crucial charge of his career. Tapped to spearhead his counterstrike against the Wehrmacht was the 4th Armored Division, a bloodied but experienced unit that had fought and slogged its way across France. But blazing a trail into Belgium meant going up against some of the best infantry and tank units in the German Army. Failure to reach Bastogne in time could result in the overrunning of the 101st—a catastrophic defeat that could turn the tide of the war and secure victory for the Nazis.

In *Patton at the Battle of the Bulge*, Army veteran and historian Leo Barron explores one of the most famous yet little told clashes of the war, a vitally important chapter in one of history's most legendary battles.

Patton at the Battle of the Bulge: How the General's Tanks Turned the Tide at Bastogne Details

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From Reader Review Patton at the Battle of the Bulge: How the General's Tanks Turned the Tide at Bastogne for online ebook

Jon says

Fantastic book, highly recommend.

Lewis Whitehead says

Great novel of WW2. Military history!

If don't like details, don't read this book. This book had a lot information that was very enlightening, i e was totally unaware that a soldier had to pay for each meal by deductions from his pay.

Tom says

Sorry but this time is mistitled. Patton might as well have been in London if you're depending on understanding his actions, let alone his motivations or psyche. What this is is an hour by hour description of the complex battle, carefully researched and analyzed. While there is much to be learned and Barron does a credible job, Patton is just a minor character about as important here as Rosencrantz was to the plot of Hamlet.

Albert Town says

While we are watching those who fought in this major gambit by Herr Hitler; what we may recall is from the Band of Brothers, how the Americans fought within the area of the town of Bastogne. We saw in the film Patton, that General Patton had a plan and could move his Army within 48 hours and the balance of the Generals present wanted him to take more time; yet, General Patton did it.

What the author has achieved is a balanced story from both sides; you hear from the soldiers who fought their way to relieve their fellow brothers in arm; you hear from the Germans who where trying to respond to the assault from the south.

Robert Morganbesser says

most military historians, original or amateur, know about the 101st airbornes defense of Bastogne. but this book tells of Pattons third army turned around and relieved the embattled unit. It shows how brilliant pattons staff were and how badly the Germans misunderstood how fast the US Army, the most mechanized, best communications army in the world, would react. Worth reading.

Todd Kehoe says

Solid read, blow by blow account of how Patton's army linked up to 101st Airborne in Bastogne. I also enjoyed how the author had the German side of the battle as well.

I am not one to say that Patton 'rescued' the 101st (they held out better than any other division could on their own), but his Third Army group took some of the pressure off. Together they both harassed the Germans well enough to draw the advance in the Battle of the Bulge to a halt by not taking quickly Bastogne & having to defend the advance from Third Army.

Speed was key in that battle for the Germans & the Americans slowed them down by sheer numbers in quality of force & eventually quantity of force.

Jimmy says

This is another work on the European Theatre of World War Two that I enjoyed in the fall of 2016. In this instance I listened to this book in audiobook format. This book is more operational history and is what probably many who are interested in World War Two battles want to read and hear. It tells us the story of General Patton's attempt to break the German military stronghold surrounding the US Army 101st Airborne Division in a town called Bastogne from the perspective of one of Patton's favorite outfit: The Fourth Armored Division.

I love how the author told the story not with just one unit but various kinds of units such as Armored Battalions, infantry, artillery, the intelligence shop of the Third Army and even certain squadrons and wings of the Army Air Corps. It was impressive research. When I looked up who the author was after I finished the audio book I was quite amazed at how young the author was and the fact that he's an Iraq War veteran. He has definitely mastered the historical and operational details of war from another generation. Yet with all his historical knowledge the book was never presented in a dry manner. Far from it: Barron shifts from various individual and their perspective of the fighting. You get the perspective of tank commanders, commanding officers of Battalions, pilots and the individual foot soldier. This alone made the book enjoyable but Barron manages to give blow by blow account going back and forth with the German side as well which makes this very impressive. The author focuses mainly on the German Fallschirmjäger units, which were German elite paratroopers. However by this time of the war German Fallschirmjäger were often mixed bag, some of which were composed of former Navy sailors and formerly wounded German Fallschirmjäger non-commissioned officers. One thing I learned from the book is how often the younger German recruits in these units were a lot more zealous than some of the other soldiers because they were much more impressionable by Nazi propaganda. Listening to this book the author gave readers the sense that one should respect the enemy for the fight they put up.

I really enjoyed how this book was operational history. I especially enjoyed the author's deeper analysis on the different table of organization and equipment between the US Army and the German Army. It was neat to hear the breakdown of how units were organized. It was also neat to hear how different tanks and artillery shell work. What left a deep impression for me is how the German Army might have begun with the concept of blitzkrieg with lightning combined arms strike but it was the Americans in the end of the War that perfected it. Small units in the US Army during the Battle of Bastogne were able to communicate much more effectively than their German counterpart did and were able to request artillery, tank and even air support in ways that even bigger German units were unable to during the battle and for the entire war. I think the ability to coordinate combined arms in combat is one of America's ability to succeed in pitched battles from World

War two onward. I was also struck from listening to this audio book of how the German Army was still relying heavily on horses and rails when my impression has always been that the German Army was a lot more modernized and motorized.

Again an excellent work. Very enjoyable. The audio book is about thirteen hours long and is great to listen during long trips on the road which was when I listened to this during the Holiday Season.

Jose A Castillo says

Fast paced narrative intermingled with historical facts... Good stuff

Excellent pace with concise facts that provide a moving glimpse to all the moving pieces of a historically significant moment in time...

Nestor Rychtyckyj says

This is a very well-written and researched book on those days during the Battle of the Bulge when Patton's Third Army (4th Armoured Division) broke through and relieved the siege at Bastogne. Many books have been written about Patton and the Battle of the Bulge, but this one did an excellent job in portraying how the common soldier (both American & German) fought on the ground. There is a lot of information about the weaponry and tactics of both armies and of the dogged persistence of those brave men. The civilians who lived through these battles also get their say and it gives us a small insight into the conditions that people lived in during those days.

I definitely recommend this book to anybody interested in military history and World War II.

Elaine says

This book is a bit of a minomer since Patton is only mentioned 4-5 times. I was expecting more about Patton, the General and Patton, the man, who directed the troops during the Battle of the Bulge. However, I will give it 3 stars since the book describes in detail how the 4th Armored Division fought their way across Belgium to liberate the 101st Airborne at Bastogne. If you enjoy reading details about tanks, artillery, shells, and fighting strategies then this is the book you need to read.

Jim Stewart says

Great book about the turning point in the Battle of the Bulge

Extraordinary determination and courage by many of our soldiers helped turn the tide in this key battle. The beginning of the end for Hitler's armies.

Sam says

Well, if you're not into reading about blow-by-blow descriptions of war, this would not be a good read for you. On the other hand, if you do like reading about that, and can reasonably keep up with armored divisions, brigades, infantry units, artillery, etc., you'll enjoy this book. It's a good book about how George Patton's 4th Armored Division was the first to reach the besieged 101st Airborne Division in Bastogne during the Battle of the Bulge (although surviving members of the 101st Airborne will insist that they did not need "rescuing"). It's very descriptive, a fast moving book that only discusses the 4th Armored's role in relieving Bastogne. I was a bit disappointed, though. I was expecting more about Patton himself, as the title of the book indicates. I already knew about the 4th Armored from a book that I'd read many years ago called "Patton's Best." I think Patton was mentioned, by name, less than half a dozen times in the book. Still, if you're a World War II aficionado I'm sure you'll enjoy the book. Minutely detailed and researched, the author discusses the various types of equipment that both the Germans and Americans were using and that was interesting in itself. I only give it three stars because, as I said, I was expecting more about Patton and not so much about the minutiae of the battle. The fact that the 4th Armored could do what it did, in the short time that it did it, was somewhat of a miracle and a tribute to the American soldier. My dad fought in the Battle of the Bulge, never said anything about his experiences, but, thankfully, he lived through it...many Americans did not.

Matthew Sparling says

A good account of Patton's 3rd Army drive to relieve the besieged 101st Airborne Division at Bastogne during the Battle of the Bulge.

If one wants to read a book that is a high level overview of this drive to Bastogne then stay away from this book. If one wants to read an in-depth account, down to the platoon and even tank crew level, then this is the book for you.

My only complaint is the author jump back and forth in time which made it a bit confusing.

David J. says

Expected it to be more of a strategic look at the battle, but was pleasantly surprised when this book took you to the foxhole and the interior of a tank from both sides of the battles. A fantastic read that was more like a fast paced novel than a history. I quickly found that I couldn't put it down.

Steve says

A great book on how General George S. Patton's 3rd Armored Division came to the aid of American troops who were outnumbered and surrounded by the German Army during the Battle of the Bulge in the town of Bastogne. I liked how the months and dates were divided in sections. The battle began December 19, 1944 through January 1945. Patton's tanks broke through the lines to aid those American troops who were surrounded.

