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# A Legend In His Own Mind: The Olympic Experience of General George S. Patton, Jr.

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“Hot tempered, sentimental, profane, humble before God, he was an exhibitionist who played to the gallery with his pistols and polished appearance props,” and so biographer Martin Blumenson introduces us to George Smith Patton, Jr.<sup>1</sup> Patton was this and more. The supreme egotist, everything in his life was towards one end - to become the greatest military commander of all time. One event that helped catapult him on his way to immortality was his participation in the Games of the Vth Olympiad in Stockholm, Sweden, in 1912.

Many scholars are familiar with Patton’s participation in the modern pentathlon and, after continued repetition by a myriad of noted historians, Patton’s report on his Olympic endeavors has become a part of conventional wisdom. However, even a cursory examination of the most basic document on the Games, the *Official Report*, shows that Patton deliberately exaggerated his performances to enhance his position with his superiors. Exploiting the ignorance of his commanding officers paid large dividends when, within months after his return from Europe, Patton was appointed to the U.S. Army Chief of Staff office and served as an aide to the Army Chief of Staff Major General Leonard Wood and the Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson. As Patton biographer Carlo D’Este points out, “. . . the Olympics presented a splendid opportunity for him to show what he could do on a world stage.”<sup>2</sup>

This study examines Patton’s Olympic participation and the extent of his deception to improve his lot in the military. It also examines to what lengths he would go to gain an edge over the competition, both in his chosen profession and in the Olympic competitions in which he participated. Some of these would have near fatal consequences. Tangentially, it is also an example of how the lack of diligent research can literally change history.

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General George Smith Patton, Jr.

George S. Patton's life was one of affluence and class consciousness. During his formative years he was fascinated with stories of his ancestors. He absorbed recitations by family members about great military leaders and historical events because he suffered from dyslexia, an unknown reading disorder at the time. These frequent lessons in military history, both from an ancestral and scholarly perspective, instilled in Patton a belief in *déjà vu*, telepathy and reincarnation that continued throughout his life. He believed "that he had lived before in other historical periods, always as a soldier - a Greek hoplite, a Roman legionnaire, a cavalryman with Belisarius, a highlander with the House of Stuart, a trooper with Napoleon and Murat."<sup>3</sup> He expressed his feelings on the subject in a rambling poem entitled "Through a Glass, Darkly," written in 1922 when he was 37-years old. The first stanza encapsulates his personal belief in reincarnation.

Through the travail of the ages,  
Midst the pomp and toil of war  
Have I fought and strove and perished  
Countless times upon this star.<sup>4</sup>

Weaned on such classics as Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, and Thucydides' *The Peloponnesian War*, an older Patton realized the historic significance and importance of participating in the Olympic Games. "For Patton," wrote D'Este, "who had been raised from childhood on the purity and ethics of the ancient warriors, the 1912 Olympic Games were perhaps the closest approximation in his lifetime to that heroic ideal that he had fantasized about. Like himself, men who lived up to that model of perfection were to be admired, even venerated."<sup>5</sup>

Athletics played an important role in Patton's life. Proper young men of his upbringing were expected to pursue pastimes such as hunting, riding, and polo. Patton did more than participate, he excelled. He proved himself an accomplished rider, fencer and shooter. After a short stint at the Virginia Military Institute, Patton was appointed to the United States Military Academy at West Point. There he tried out for football but broke both arms and was not allowed on the team his second year. He also participated in both track and broadsword in a quest for his varsity letter. Finally, during his last year at West Point (1909), Patton won his prized letter by setting a school record in the hurdles and displaying exceptional prowess in fencing and sharpshooting (rifle and pistol).

Following West Point, Patton served at a number of military bases while maintaining a stable of polo ponies, at his own expense, and participated in riding, football, fencing and polo. Always accident prone he suffered a number of injuries. Foremost among these were kicks and butts to the head from riding accidents. Blumenson speculates that the cumulative effect of these accidents "may have eventually produced a permanent condition, perhaps a subdural hematoma, a pool of blood around his brain." This condition, continued Blumenson, "could sometimes have made it difficult for Patton to stifle his aggressions and his emotions, his temper as well as his tears."<sup>6</sup>

Before World War I promotions were rare and it was not uncommon that officers would stay at the same rank throughout most of their military careers. Patton became increasingly more impatient with the situation and devised plans to hasten his promotions and enhance his prestige. He orchestrated a transfer to Fort Myer, near Washington, where he felt any officer worthy of his stature should be stationed. There he hobnobbed with the influential and powerful, and was a frequent participant in polo matches and hunts. As a result of his networking efforts, Patton established a name for himself among the elite of Washington society.

"Patton's now unquenchable thirst for fame," wrote Roger Nye, "found new expression when he learned he was being considered as an American Army challenger in the Modern Pentathlon competition in the 1912 Olympics in Stockholm."<sup>7</sup> The event, designed to test abilities of the modern military man with competitions in riding, running, swimming, pistol and fencing had been created by the Games' founder, Pierre de Coubertin. As Patton saw it, the modern pentathlon was "the revival . . . of . . . the most important event of the early Hellenic Games. . . [and is] intended to test the fitness of a perfect man-at-arms of the present day."<sup>8</sup>

The Stockholm Olympics afforded the sporting world a number of colorful characters including the native American who was arguably the most gifted athlete in history, Jim Thorpe, the future leader of the Olympic Movement, Avery Brundage, as well as the father of the modern Games himself. Coubertin, competing under a pseudonym, won a gold medal for a poem he entered in the arts competition.<sup>9</sup>

Although there is no evidence that Coubertin met Patton, it seems reasonable to assume that he followed the competition in his newly created event. Since Patton's heroic efforts were the talk of this first modern pentathlon it is hard to imagine that Coubertin did not notice the efforts of the only American competitor, a person who possessed many of the characteristics Coubertin admired. Patton was well-to-do, a military man, a poet, and a gentleman. All of these qualities, to a greater or lesser degree, touched Coubertin's life. He came from a wealthy aristocratic family, attempted a military career by attending St. Cyr, the French military academy, and was also an accomplished poet. He also admired man's heroic struggle against the odds, so Patton's exhaustive attempts to do his best must have held some appeal for Coubertin.



Patton in training for the 1912 Stockholm Olympic Games

Immediately after receiving orders on 10 May 1912 that he would be competing in Stockholm, Patton began a punishing training regiment. As mentioned earlier, Patton was not blessed with natural athletic ability, but he compensated for this shortcoming with hard work. He practiced his target shooting daily, gaining greater confidence until he felt that this event would be his best. His riding background left him self-assured of success in the equestrian event. He also “drank as little liquid as possible as [he] believed it [had] a bad effect on the wind in running and swimming.”<sup>10</sup> Patton also abstained from tobacco and alcohol. His stringent training regi-

ment took its toll on his personal life. His daughter, Ruth Ellen, remembered ““It was hard on everyone. He went on a diet of raw steak and salad and was, according to Ma, unfit for human companionship. But he had to push himself as he had such a short time in which to get into shape.””<sup>11</sup>

The S.S. Finland left New York on 14 June bound for Stockholm. Among the passengers were Patton and the rest of the United States Olympic Team, his wife Bea, and his parents. Patton and his family traveled at their own expense. During the voyage, he devoted a majority of his time to training. The day started at 6 a.m. with a two mile run around the deck with members of the track team. From 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. he practiced with the pistol team, and from 3 to 5 p.m. he fenced with the fencing team. He concluded his day with swimming.<sup>12</sup> Patton described his swimming regimen on board the Finland.

A canvas tank, 20 x 8 x 4 ft. deep was rigged on deck. The swimmer was placed in it with a belt attached to which was a rope around his body. The rope was made fast and the swimmer worked against the rope remaining in one place but getting the full muscular exercise. In fact, it was much more distressing than ordinary swimming and we had to cut down the length of time we worked.<sup>13</sup>

The “distress” which Patton alluded to were severe blisters from the restraining rope.<sup>14</sup>

During an eight-hour layover in Antwerp, Belgium, Patton’s wife and mother hoped that he would take a break in training and enjoy some sightseeing. However, Patton made it clear that he had no time for such frivolity. After he walked off the gang plank in his track suit he immediately took off for a jog through the Belgian countryside for several hours.<sup>15</sup>

After the Finland docked in Stockholm Patton took a room at the Grand Hotel with his family, while the other U.S. athletes roomed aboard the Finland. However, the move turned out to be more of a hindrance. “On the 6th (of July), the day before the start (of the pentathlon competition), I did nothing and I now believe that this was a mistake,” wrote Patton. “I should have done a little light work for I had been under a strain so long that the rest worried me. Also in Sweden at this time of year there is only one hour of darkness so that for the first week all the athletes felt intense nervousness due to ineffectual attempts to sleep by daylight.”<sup>16</sup> Patton could not acknowledge that he had any weaknesses, especially to his superiors to whom he had to report. Whereas Patton could very well have been affected by the lack of darkness, it is more likely he had some self doubts about his ability. “Throughout his lifetime,” wrote Blumenson, “he suffered qualms and doubts before important events and decisions.”<sup>17</sup>

Due to Patton’s status as a military officer, he was required to write a report on his Olympic experiences for his commanding officer. All accounts of his Olympic participation by historians and biographers are based on this report. However, Patton’s report fully exaggerated his performances. Since these errors have been repeated countless times by competent historians, Patton’s version of events have been raised to the level of accepted fact. They trusted Patton to be faithful to the truth, even though they also wrote extensively of his predilection for self-promotion.

It is evident from the number of errors in Patton's report that they were intentional, and that there was a method to his deception. His motivation for misrepresenting his performances was almost certainly to facilitate his rise through the ranks. To Patton the ends justified the means, and since he believed it was his destiny to be the greatest military leader of his generation he was excused, in his own eyes, for misrepresenting himself.<sup>18</sup>

Patton's first event, pistol shooting, began at on the morning of 7 July. Patton was extremely confident as a result of a solid practice round in which he set a new record. The type of pistol used was left to each competitor's preference. Patton, who saw the competition as a pure military one, spurned a small bore revolver, mostly .22 calibers, that the majority of his opponents selected in favor of the standard U.S. Army issue .38 Colt Special.<sup>19</sup> According to Patton his scores were excellent with 11 bullseyes (10s), four 9s, two 8s and one seven. Those scores would have placed him third in the competition, but he surprisingly had two misses in the second round which placed him 21st overall.<sup>20</sup> The only explanation for the misses offered by those present, including his competitors, was that by using a large caliber bullet, such as a .38, Patton completely ripped out the center of the target thus making it impossible to score bullseyes.<sup>21</sup>

The shooting results in the *Official Report* tell a much different story. Patton actually scored only four perfect 10s eight 9s, three 8s, two 7s and three complete misses rather than two. Patton reported a total score of 169 rather than the 150 recorded in the *Official Report*. Whereas Patton did not misrepresent his overall finish (21st), his report made him appear far more competitive than he was.<sup>22</sup>

Patton's effort in the next event, the 300 meter swim, contested the following morning, left him totally exhausted. At the end of the race he had to be rescued from the pool with the aid of a boat hook.<sup>23</sup> Like everything in his life, Patton knew only one way to attack any challenge, all out. Patton's report had him finishing in sixth place<sup>24</sup> while the official results had him in seventh position.<sup>25</sup>

In fencing Patton claimed to have finished third overall. After defeating Jolver of Denmark in his first match Patton faced France's Brule, whom he said was the eventual winner of the event, and gave the Frenchman his only defeat.<sup>26</sup> In actuality, Brule was defeated ten times and placed eighth. The competition was won by Ake Gronhagen (Sweden) with Patton finishing in fourth place, not third as he had claimed.<sup>27</sup>

Why did Patton so distort the results of the fencing competition, and his own performance? It remains speculative, but Patton prided himself on his swordsmanship and considered, as did his superiors, the French to be the best swordsmen in the world. A year earlier Patton attempted to be assigned to West Point as an instructor. In reply to his request his commanding officer, Capt. F. C. Marshall, wrote to Patton "that it was War Department policy not to assign any officer to West Point who had not attended the French Cavalry School at Saumur."<sup>28</sup>

Following the Olympics, Patton had his opportunity to fulfill this requirement when he and his wife traveled through France so he could study at Saumur. For six weeks he studied with the most acclaimed swordsmen in France and on his return to the U.S., he published a number of articles on the French style of swordsmanship and its practical adaptation for the U.S. military. He also developed a new cavalry sword

for the Army that was standard issue until the service no longer mandated training in swordsmanship. While stationed at the Mounted Service School, Fort Riley, Kansas, Patton was named Master of the Sword (1913), in recognition of being the foremost swordsman in the Army.<sup>29</sup> In his report on his Stockholm experience, Patton reported that he had defeated France's best in Stockholm, Brule, the ultimate winner. This false report, combined with his work at Saumur, seemed dedicated towards enhancing his image.

Day five of the Pentathlon (11 July) saw competition in the steeplechase. Patton was to have ridden Fencing Girl, a mount from Fort Riley, but the horse suffered a slight injury forcing Patton to accept a troop horse furnished by the Swedish life guards. Patton considered the replacement horse a fine animal and an excellent jumper and felt no impediment by not being able to ride his own mount.<sup>30</sup> Both riders and horses found the course a difficult challenge with a Danish competitor breaking most of his ribs while an English horse was badly lacerated in a fall. Patton reported that he and two Swedish competitors made clean rides without penalties, but that he had to settle for third due to his slower time.<sup>31</sup> Patton did, indeed, complete a perfect ride, but he neglected to note that twelve other riders accomplished the same feat, and five completed the course with faster times. Patton was relegated to sixth place behind four Swedes and a Russian, not third as he had claimed.<sup>32</sup>



Patton sprinting near the start of the Modern Pentathlon 4,000 meter run

The final event, the 4,000 meter run, was contested on 12 July, one of the hottest days of the Swedish summer. Runners started at one minute intervals with the final standings based on elapsed time. While the race started and finished in the Olympic Stadium, the majority of the course covered some rather rough terrain in the Swedish

countryside. Patton's report on his performance in this event coincided with the *Official Report* for the first and only time. This is most likely because Patton was involved in a dramatic finish which was widely publicized, one that would have been difficult for even Patton to embellish. Patton started the race like a sprinter, at a pace that was impossible to maintain for the whole length of the course. Many of the runners withdrew, or passed out, during the event on account of the blazing heat. One competitor even died during the race. The *Official Report* paints a dramatic picture of Patton's finish:

After a moment's waiting came Patton (U.S.A.), who started like a 100 yards sprinter, but it was only by the employment of an incredible degree of energy that he managed to stagger past the tape, beaten by half a metre at that point by Asbrink (Sweden), who made a brilliant final spurt and thus won the first place in cross-country running.<sup>33</sup>

Patton passed out in front of the Royal Box just after crossing the finish line. He had finished third behind Asbrink and Haeggstrom from Sweden.<sup>34</sup>

Patton's collapse after crossing the finish line was as much a result of a near fatal dose of "hop," or pure opium, administered from the team trainer just before the race, as it was from his all-out running style. At the time the use of performance enhancing drugs, such as hop, was not banned, but at times the results were tragic. Patton later recounted his "brush with death:"

In the 4,000 meter cross country race Mike Murphy the trainer gave me some hop before the start. I fainted after finishing the race and was out for some hours. Once I came to but could not move or open my eyes and felt them give me a shot of more hop. I feared that it would be an overdose and kill me. Then I heard papa say in a calm voice. "Will the boy live?" and Murphy reply "I think he will but can[']t tell."<sup>35</sup>

Patton's motivation in participating in the Stockholm Games, and other extracurricular activities, becomes apparent in a letter to his father-in-law shortly after his return from Europe. "I am working myself pretty hard," he wrote, "but it is not done in a thoughtless way nor without good reason. . . . What I am doing looks like play to you but in my business it is the best sort of advertising. It makes people talk and that is a sign they are noticing. . . . The notice of others has been the start of many successful men."<sup>36</sup>

Patton was also intent on promoting his accomplishments directly to his superiors. A dinner invitation from Army Chief of Staff Major General Leonard Wood, with old friend Secretary of War Henry Stimson, afforded Patton the opportunity to "recount both his Olympic experience and his training [at Saumur] to sympathetic and important ears."<sup>37</sup> Patton's self-promotion paid off shortly thereafter when, in December of 1912, he was appointed to the chief of staffs office as a staff officer and occasional aide to Gen. Wood and Stimson.<sup>38</sup> Historian Carlo D'Este believes that Patton's Olympic participation signaled the beginning of a significant period in Patton's young career.

In less than two years he had represented the army and his country in the 1912

Olympics; gained the attention and respect of the army's top officials and the secretary of war; had been acknowledged as the army's foremost expert on swordsmanship; and, as a result of his five weeks at Saumur, the prized title of master of the sword in the U.S. Army was bestowed on him. It was quite an achievement for a mere second lieutenant.<sup>39</sup>

Two years later, in June 1914, the American Olympic Committee met at the New York Athletic Club in New York City. At the meeting Patton was elected to the 1916 U.S. Olympic Team that would be competing in Berlin. Patton eagerly, but ironically, accepted the appointment.<sup>40</sup> His acceptance was ironic because it was Patton who suggested, in his report on the 1912 Olympics, that "if in 1916 the War Department elects to send a team to Berlin; elimination contests should be instituted. . . and that the final choice of a team should be the result of [a] complete contest; one in every detail like the final test [in] Berlin."<sup>41</sup> But it was also like Patton to seize any opportunity to showcase his talents, at any cost.

## Epilogue

George S. Patton's military career is well documented. He served with honor in World War I and then proved to be one of the most successful, though controversial, Allied commanders in World War II. After leading American forces through North Africa and Sicily, the respect shown for him by the German high command allowed the Allies to pull off an important ruse that allowed the D-Day invasion to be a success. Convinced that Patton, who had been assigned a "phoney army" in England, would lead the inevitable invasion of Europe at Calais, the Germans committed substantial forces to that region leaving the primary invasion sites in Normandy sorely under protected. Following the invasion Patton led the Third Army through Europe in the one of the most famous drives in military history. Then, during the fall of 1945, after a number of public embarrassments, usually of his own making, Patton was relieved of his command and placed in charge of the 15th Army, an army on paper only. It was the darkest hour of his life.

Following this change in command Patton found some solace in the past. He lost himself in his first loves - hunting, riding, and shooting. He also surrounded himself with people that he felt he had shared interests that would understand him. Even this stage of his life did not evade controversy. One of the people with whom he established a close relationship was his groom, and riding companion, Baron Konrad Freiherr von Wagenheim, gold medalist in the equestrian three-day team event for Germany at the 1936 Berlin Games and member of the Nazi Party.<sup>42</sup> Biographer Ladislav Farago noted that von Wagenheim's presence in the region was not coincidental and that the Nazi security force (the Sicherheitsdienst) planted von Wagenheim for two reasons: 1) to observe Patton's activities; and 2) "stimulate" Patton's known anti-Soviet feelings.<sup>43</sup>

On November 28, 1945 Patton, as a replacement for Gen. Eisenhower, arrived in Stockholm as a guest of King Gustavus Aldolphus V.<sup>44</sup> During his stay Patton's spirits were raised when the king recalled Patton's participation in the 1912 Olympic Games, and entertained his guest with a number of festivities. Patton was a guest at a special ice skating demonstration and hockey game staged in his honor at the Olympic Stadium. Following this event, Patton met with eight of his former competitors

from the 1912 Games for an impromptu re-enactment of their pistol competition. Patton scored better than he did in the Games and finished second.<sup>45</sup> Within a month Patton would die from injuries sustained in an automobile accident while on a hunting expedition.

## Conclusion

To Patton the most important thing in the Olympic Games was not to take part, but to win, just as the most important thing in life was the triumph. Although Patton, in essence, used the Games for his own personal gain he surely felt pride in representing his country and his service, and appreciated the ties of Olympic tradition with antiquity. He engaged in self-promotion, and exaggerated his results in the Games, in order to expedite his rise through the military hierarchy.



A Legend In His Own Mind

During his formative years, and later during his years of command, George S. Patton, Jr., was driven to be a heroic figure, one in whom his family would take unquestionable pride. "I wake up at night in a cold sweat imagining that I have lived

and done nothing,” wrote a 24 year-old Patton to his parents.<sup>46</sup> He refused to acknowledge any personal deficiency that might tarnish a perfect image. Tests of his character and bravery were also an important part of his personality. He constantly felt that he had to prove his bravery. Patton believed that a leader’s “superior qualifications had to be perceived and appreciated, even acclaimed.”<sup>47</sup> Patton considered the Olympic arena as a place to display his “superior qualifications.” His energetic performance, in which he attempted to compensate for a lack of skill and finesse with an all-out effort, confirms this conclusion. But there seemed to be conflict in his commitment to character. On the one hand Patton felt that a man was as good as his word and that a good soldier always followed orders, but yet he felt justified in lying to his superiors about the results of his Olympic participation in order to fulfill his destiny. Even at this early stage in his career Patton felt he was the one who decided what was morally right and wrong. As George M. Hall points out in his study of military commanders, “Some of the most effective leaders in history had notoriously lax moral standards. . . . But if character is a singular entity, then it follows that a lack of integrity will eventually seep into the encompassing character like a slow-acting poison.”<sup>48</sup> Taking into account Patton’s abuse of power in his later years, from using his rank in order to continue a 12-year extramarital affair with his wife’s niece during wartime, to other notorious Patton incidents, it is easy to speculate that Patton’s lying in 1912 was just a preview of things to come.

Another question raised by the study of Patton’s Olympic participation is the state of historical research today and the respect given the field of sport history. Karl Lennartz raised this question in a recent article when he called for more diligence in research methods so that we will not become “purveyors of nonsense.”<sup>49</sup> By blindly following where others had gone before, noted historians have made Patton’s report the most widely quoted record of his participation in the Stockholm Olympic Games. All that was needed to correct this was to have consulted the most basic of primary sources, the Official Report of the Games of the Vth Olympiad, which is readily available. Many of Patton’s biographers cite the voluminous papers of George S. Patton, Jr., held in the Library of Congress. Knowing of Patton’s propensity for self-promotion it is interesting that none was curious enough to investigate the one volume, located only a few stacks away, that would shed more light on this admittedly significant aspect of Patton’s life.

One can imagine that Patton felt his report, like countless other papers, would serve its purpose and then be lost in the archives or forgotten. Instead, with the unwitting and careless collusion of historians, he has succeeded in doing what many noted figures have attempted to do, re-write history in their favor.

## Endnotes

1. Martin Blumenson, *Patton: The Man Behind The Legend, 1885-1945*, Berkeley Books, New York, 1987, p. 13.
2. Carlo D’Este, *Patton: A Genius For War*, Harper Collins, New York, 1995, p. 132.
3. Blumenson, p. 29.

4. Roger H. Nye, *The Patton Mind: The Professional Development of an Extraordinary Leader*, Avery Publishing Group, Inc., Garden City, NY, 1993, p. 65.
5. D'Este, p. 135.
6. Blumenson, p. 76.
7. Nye, p. 31.
8. George Smith Patton, 2nd Lieutenant, 15th Cavalry, Fort Myer, Va., *Report on Modern Pentathlon*, To the Adjutant General, U.S. Army, Washington, D.C., September 19, 1912, p. 1.
9. John J. MacAloon, *This Great Symbol: Pierre de Coubertin and the Origins of the Modern Olympic Games*, The University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1981, p. 129.
10. George S. Patton, p. 3.
11. Ruth Ellen (Patton) Trotten Ms. ("MA: A Button Box Biography") as quoted in Carlo D'Este, p. 131.
12. George S. Patton, p. 3.
13. George S. Patton, p. 3.
14. William Bancroft Mellor, *Patton: Fighting Man*, G.P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 1946, p. 66.
15. Mellor, p. 66.
16. George S. Patton, p. 4.
17. Blumenson, p. 43.
18. There are countless reports of Patton acting either unethically or illegally in order to expedite his promotions. In fact, in a book written on the Patton family by George S. Patton's grandson, Robert Patton (*The Pattons: A Personal History of an American Family*, Crown Publishers, Inc., New York, 1994) a number of these incidents are recounted. As Patton told his wife Bea on one occasion, "The real thing about law is knowing when to break it." (p. 168).
19. What was purported to be Patton's Olympic revolver, along with his Olympic team sweater, competition swimming trunks and participation medal, were on display at the memorabilia exhibit at the Games of the XXVIth Olympiad in Atlanta in 1996. The exhibitor was an anonymous collector.
20. George S. Patton, p. 4.
21. Charles M. Province, *The Unknown Patton*, Bonanza Books, New York, 1983, p.

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22. Erik Bergvall, ed., *The Fifth Olympiad, The Official Report of the Olympic Games of Stockholm 1912*, Wahlstrom & Widstrand, Stockholm, 1913, p. 647.
23. The Editors of Army Times, *Warrior: The Story of General G. S. Patton*, G.P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 1967, p. 35.
24. George S. Patton, p. 5.
25. Bergvall, p. 651.
26. George S. Patton, p. 6.
27. Bergvall, pp. 652-653.
28. D'Este, p. 126.
29. Blumenson, p. 75.
30. George S. Patton, p. 7.
31. George S. Patton, p. 7.
32. Bergvall, pp. 652-653.
33. Bergvall, p. 655.
34. Bergvall, p. 656.
35. Martin Blumenson, *The Patton Papers: 1885-1940, vol.1*, Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, 1972, p. 231.
36. Blumenson, *Patton: The Man Behind The Legend*, p. 71.
37. D'Este, p. 136.
38. D'Este, p. 138.
39. D'Este, p. 142.
40. Blumenson, *The Patton Papers: 1885-1940, vol. 1*, p. 278 (also D'Este, p. 148.).
41. George S. Patton, p. 9.
42. "Lieutenant Konrad Freiherr von Wangenheim was one of the German heroes of the Berlin Games. During the steeplechase portion of the endurance run, his horse, Kurfurst, stumbled at the fourth obstacle, a hurdle and pond, throwing the 26-year-old von Wangenheim to the ground and breaking his collarbone. Knowing that the German team would be disqualified if he failed to finish, von Wan-

genheim remounted and negotiated the remaining 32 obstacles without a fault. The next day von Wangenheim appeared in the stadium with his arm in a sling. Just before he mounted Kurfurst, the sling was removed and his arm was tightly bound. However, at one of the early obstacles, a double jump, Kurfurst rushed ahead and von Wangenheim was forced to pull the reins with both hands. The horse reared up, fell backward, and landed on von Wangenheim, who managed to crawl out from underneath. Kurfurst lay still and was thought to be dead, but suddenly jumped back up. Von Wangenheim remounted and again completed the course without another fault. The stadium crowd of 100,000 gave von Wangenheim a prolonged standing ovation as Germany won the gold medal.” (David Wallechinsky, *The Complete Book of the Olympics*, Little, Brown and Company, Boston, 1991, p. 275.)

43. Ladislas Farago, *The Last Days of Patton*, McGraw Hill Company, New York, 1981, p. 133.
44. C. L. Sulzberger, “Swede Sees Flaw In War-Guilt Trial,” *New York Times*, November 21, 1945, p. 8.
45. Martin Blumenson, *The Patton Papers, 1940-1945*, vol. 2, Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, 1974, p. 811.
46. Blumenson, *The Patton Papers: 1885-1940*, vol.1, p. 161.
47. Blumenson, *Patton: The Man Behind The Legend, 1885-1945*, p. 34.
48. George M. Hall, *The Fifth Star: High Command in an Era of Global War*, Praeger, Westport, CT, 1994, p. 156.
49. Karl Lennartz, “The Genesis of Legends,” *Journal of Olympic History*, Vol. 5, No. 1, Spring 1997, p. 8-11.

## Appendix

**Table 1:**

Event	Patton Report	Official Results
Shooting (7/7/12 - 9am) 1st	10, 10, 10,9,8 (47)	10,9,9,9, 8 (45)
Shooting (7/7/12 - 9am) 2nd	10, 10, 10, X, X (30)	10, 10, 10, X, X (30)
Shooting (7/7/12 - 9am) 3rd	10, 10, 9,9,8 (46)	9,9,9,7, X (34)

**Table 1:**

Event	Patton Report	Official Results
Shooting (7/7/12 - 9am) 4th	10, 10, 10,9,7 (46)	9,9, 8, 8,7 (41)
Shooting (7/7/12) FINAL	rank = 21 (points = 169)	rank = 21 (points = 150)
Swimming (7/8/12 - 11am)	England - 1, Austria - 2, Sweden - 3, England - 4, Sweden - 5, America (Patton) -6	England - 1, Austria - 2, Sweden - 3, Sweden - 4, Sweden - 5, England - 6, America (Patton) -7
Fencing (7/9/12 - 8am)	France - 1, Sweden -2, America (Patton) - 3	Sweden - 1, France - 2, Sweden - 3, America (Patton) - 4
Steeple Chase (7/ 11/12 - 11am)	Sweden - 1, Sweden -2, America (Patton) - 3	Sweden - 1,2,3,4, Russia -5, America (Patton) - 6
Running (7/12/12)	Sweden - 1, Sweden - 2, America (Patton) - 3	Sweden -1, Sweden - 2, America (Patton) - 3
FINAL STANDINGS	Sweden - 1,2,3,4; America (Patton) - 5th Patton total points = 36 4th place = 35	Sweden - 1,2,3,4, America (Patton) - 5th Patton total points =41 4th place = 35