

Patton

If we are not victorious, let no one come back alive.

Cast:

George C. Scott	General George S. Patton, Jr.
Karl Malden.	General Omar N. Bradley
Stephen Young	Captain Chester B. Hansen
Michael Strong	Brigadier General Hobart Carver
Frank Latimore.	Lieutenant Colonel Henry Davenport
Karl Michael Vogler. .	Field Marshal Erwin Rommel
Patrick J. Zurica.	First Lieutenant Alexander Stiller
Lawrence Dobkin. . . .	Colonel Gaston Bell
David Bauer.	Lieutenant General Harry Buford
John Barrie.	Air Vice-Marshal Sir Arthur Coningham
Richard Münch	Colonel General Alfred Jodl
Siegfried Rauch.	Captain Oskar Steiger
Michael Bates	Field Marshal Sir Bernard Law Montgomery
Paul Stevens	Lieutenant Colonel Charles R. Codman

The speech from the beginning of the movie

‘Ruffles and Flourishes’ Be seated.

Now, I want you to remember that no bastard ever won a war by dying for his country. He won it by making the other poor dumb bastard die for his country. Men, all this stuff you’ve heard about America not wanting to fight, wanting to stay out of the war, is a lot of horse dung. Americans traditionally love to fight. All real Americans love the sting of battle. When you were kids, you all admired the champion marble shooter, the fastest runner, the big league ball player, the toughest boxer. Americans love a winner and will not tolerate a loser. Americans play to win all the time. I wouldn’t give a hoot in hell for a man who lost and laughed. That’s why Americans have never lost and will never lose a war. Because the very thought of losing is hateful to Americans.

Now, an Army is a team. It lives, eats, sleeps, fights as a team. This individuality stuff is a bunch of crap. The bilious bastards who wrote that stuff about individuality for the Saturday Evening Post don’t know anything more about real battle than they do about fornicating.

We have the finest food and equipment, the best spirit and the best men in the world. You know, by God I actually pity those poor bastards we’re going up against. By God, I do. We’re not just

going to shoot the bastards, we're going to cut out their living guts and use them to grease the treads of our tanks. We're going to murder those lousy Hun bastards by the bushel.

Now, some of you boys, I know, are wondering whether or not you'll chicken out under fire. Don't worry about it. I can assure you that you will all do your duty. The Nazis are the enemy. Wade into them. Spill their blood. Shoot them in the belly. When you put your hand into a bunch of goo that a moment before was your best friend's face, you'll know what to do.

Now there's another thing I want you to remember. I don't want to get any messages saying that we are holding our position. We're not holding anything. Let the Hun do that. We are advancing constantly and we're not interested in holding onto anything except the enemy. We're going to hold onto him by the nose and we're going to kick him in the ass. We're going to kick the hell out of him all the time and we're gonna go through him like crap through a goose.

There's one thing that you men will be able to say when you get back home. And you may thank God for it. Thirty years from now when you're sitting around your fireside with your grandson on your knee and he asks you what did you do in the great World War II, you won't have to say, "Well, I shoveled shit in Louisiana."

Alright now, you sons-of-bitches, you know how I feel. Oh, and I will be proud to lead you wonderful guys into battle – anytime, anywhere.

That's all.

(The real speech given by Patton is available at <http://www.historyinfilm.com/patton/bio.htm>)

Questions

1. After taking over, Patton makes his first change by visiting the mess hall. What point does he make with the cook and the officers?
2. What are Patton's changes in the hospital? How does this support his approach to promoting discipline amongst the troops?
3. Patton says that he hates the 20th century. What would his solution be to the battle between him and Rommel? Why is this not a 20th century solution?
4. Why does Rommel want to know about the "man" rather than Patton's resumé?
5. In the first battle against Rommel, how does Patton know his enemy?

6. Patton says that he's just a simple soldier. How does he use this stance to take the city of Palermo against the orders of his superiors? What does this show about his leadership approach?
7. Patton says, "I don't want these men to love me, I want them to fight for me." What does he do to ensure that they fight for him?
8. "Old blood and guts" was Patton's nickname. What does the one cynical soldier say to twist this nickname?
9. Patton views wounds as badges of honour. What is his view of the soldier with a bad case of "nerves"? Why must he be removed from the hospital ward?
10. How does Patton's treatment of the "coward" soldier affect his military career?
11. What is Patton's planned role in the allied invasion of Normandy? How is this a probation?
12. How does Patton reconcile God's role in the war?
13. The German soldier, Captain Steiger, states that "the absence of war will kill him." Why does Patton need a war to exist?
14. What does Patton think of the German "wonder weapons"? What is the purpose of war according to Patton?
15. "All glory is fleeting" are the final words of the movie. How does this apply to Patton's military career?
16. War produces many casualties and many leaders. What other leaders of World War II were casualties after the war was over?