

— GEORGE —  
**PATTON**

A LIFE FROM BEGINNING TO END



# **GEORGE PATTON**

*A Life From Beginning to End*

*Series Information: World War 2 Biographies Book 2*

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# Introduction

A figure of both pride and controversy, General George S. Patton is frequently looked at as someone who was both crude and eloquent; heroic and outrageous. How did someone so iconic develop such a duality in common perception?

In truth, the strange dichotomy of General Patton seemed to begin when he was a small child. His duality of spirit was something that seemed to evolve as he listened to the nightly tales of his father and his war veteran friends. Hearing their stories of infantry charges and gallant bravery in the field, the young Patton began to dream and fantasize about himself filling their big shoes.

The power of his own imagination was so great that he could picture himself right there, fighting alongside his ancestors. This visual exercise would lead him to embrace the idea of reincarnation, beginning a lifelong belief that perhaps he had lived before, fighting on battlefields in the remote past.

In later years he was famously known for regaling his friends with suggestions of potential past lives he may have lived fighting for Rome's Legions, or as a trooper in Napoleon's artillery. However, regardless of his mystical leanings, whether he lived one life, or indeed a billion, his spirit was certainly larger than them all.

# Chapter One

## A Patent for Patton

*“May God have mercy on my enemies, because I won’t.”*

—General George S. Patton

The day that the great American General George S. Patton was born was not a day of particular significance. He arrived at the home of his already well-enshrined military family on November 11<sup>th</sup>, 1885 in San Gabriel, California. Twenty full years had passed since the close of the American Civil War, a conflict that had many of Patton’s Virginia ancestors fighting for the losing side.

With this most deadly and disastrous of American wars two decades behind it, the country seemed to be relishing its newfound peace. Instead of fighting bloody wars and tearing the country apart, most American sentiment at this time was more focused on consolidating and conserving what they already had.

It was in 1885 that the Washington Monument was first dedicated, and it was also during this year that Niagara Falls State Park was established. In contrast to the severe discord the nation faced in 1865, in the year of Patton’s birth, most Americans could perceive a general contentment and appreciation of what resources this nation—a little over a century old at this point—had to offer them.

But even though the world he was born into was at peace, it wasn’t long before a young “Georgie,” as his parents called him, began to look toward the devices of war. Growing up on ranches in Southern California, Patton’s favorite pastime was to ride horses across the range, imagining himself leading brave cavalry charges against his enemies.

By the time Patton was 18, he would leave the ranches of California behind for the auspices of the Virginia Military Institute, which his forefathers had attended. His stay at VMI would be brief, however, and with the help of a letter of recommendation from Senator T.G. Bard of California, he would head straight to the most prestigious military training ground of all: West Point.