



The Button Box: A Daughter's Loving Memoir of Mrs. George S. Patton

By Ruth Ellen Patton Totten

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"There was never a moment in our lives that we were not reminded that our father was the finest, bravest, most gallant, and best-looking man who ever lived and that he was destined for unimaginable glory. This we took for granted. Being our father's children was a special influence in all our lives, but the greatest, most pervasive, and most interesting influence in my life was Ma."

The Button Box is the loving memoir of Beatrice Ayer Patton (1886–1953), the wife of one of the greatest military figures in history, General George S. Patton, Jr. Written by the Pattons' daughter, Ruth Ellen, the book covers Beatrice's life from her youth in a wealthy New England family until her death, with an emphasis on her years of marriage to George Patton. A supportive and loving wife, Beatrice was accomplished in her own right as an equestrian, musician, lecturer, sailor, and internationally published author. Courageous and adventurous, Beatrice played a significant role in her husband's life. Without her, General Patton might never have reached his own level of success.

Although there have been numerous books written on George S. Patton, *The Button Box* provides a unique perspective on the general's complex personality as well as a rare and intimate look inside his famous American family, a glimpse of the "Old Army" that formed the cadre of the army of World War II, and a detailed description of life "between the wars" in a society not to be seen again. Most important, though, it is the story of a truly fascinating woman, told with love and a rowdy sense of humor by her daughter.

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Editorial Review

Review

“[*The Button Box*] is, by turns, passionate, insightful, clever, and hilarious. . . . Beatrice was a complex person who was just as tough as her famous husband, but whose role in Patton’s life has never been fully appreciated or even explored. . . . [This book] will serve as a lasting testament to a very unique woman, to a bygone era, and as a portrait of some characters more interesting than one could invent for an E. L. Doctorow novel.”—**Carlo W. D’Este, author of *Patton: A Genius for War***

About the Author

Ruth Ellen Patton Totten (1915–1993) was the daughter of General George S. Patton and Beatrice Ayer Patton. She was the author of *The Rolling Kitchen*.

A decorated Vietnam veteran, James Patton Totten is the son of Ruth Ellen Patton Totten. A retired U.S. Army Reserve Colonel and textile plant manager, he lives in Hendersonville, Tennessee.

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