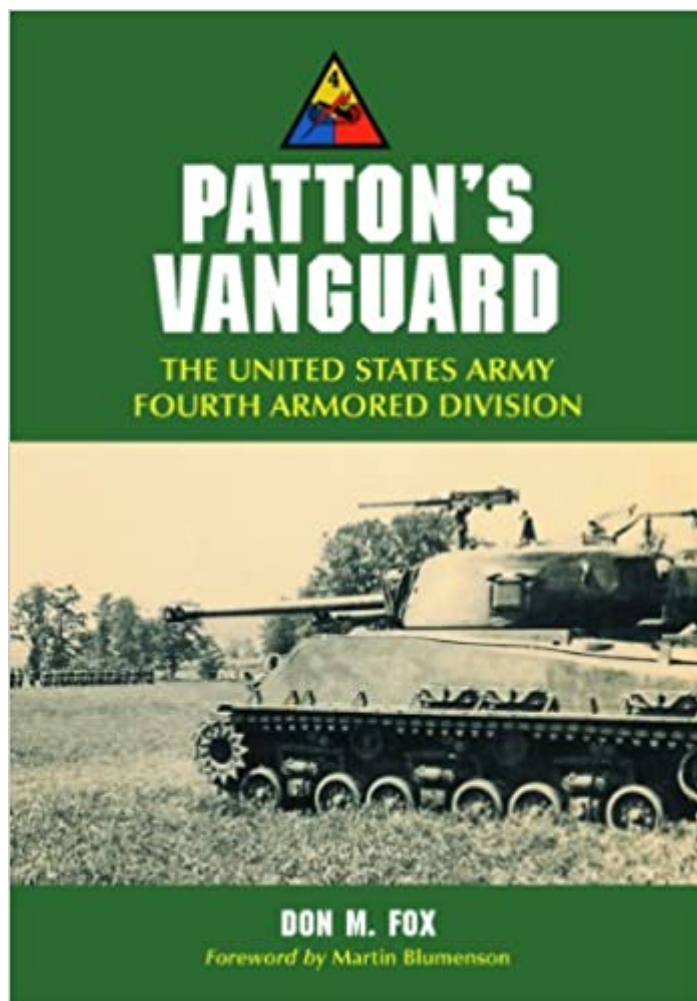


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# Patton's Vanguard: The United States Army Fourth Armored Division



## Synopsis

Stirring accounts of the almost legendary campaigns of the United States Fourth Armored Division, universally recognized as "Patton's Best," from its pre-World War II origins up through its famous relief of the 101st Airborne Division during the Battle of the Bulge are presented in this book. The break out of Normandy at Avranches, the isolation of the Brittany peninsula, the armored thrust across France, the tank battles at Arracourt that cemented the reputation of the Fourth Armored, the brutal struggle in Lorraine, and, ultimately, the legendary drive to Bastogne are among the topics. The accounts were assembled through the use of original unit combat diaries and after-action reports, memoirs of key historical figures and abundant supplementary documents and correspondences. But the essence of the book are the first-hand recollections from members of the division gathered by the author. With maps, drawings and photographs.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"a unit history worthy of the 4th's exploits...highly readable...informative...an excellent job of describing the 4th's victories...unflinching about its defeats...the action is conveyed well...larger, more detailed...well told" --Army

Writer and researcher Don M. Fox lives in Jacksonville, Florida.

Don M. Fox has written a absorbing volume about the 4th Armored Division in World War II. He covers the span of time from their activation shortly before the war through the relief of Bastogne,

Belgium in December 1944. Although the book is filled with much of the division's official history, it is complimented by many personal accounts from the men that served in the division. The author concludes that the 4th Armored Division was the best United States Army armored division and possibly best overall division in World War II. His assessment comes from many factual pieces of information along with citing the caliber of its men and their beloved commander, Major General John S. Wood. A second volume by Mr. Fox covering the remainder of the division's history is highly anticipated.

My father was a WWII Army Combat Engineer. He was in Belgium when the Battle of the Bulge started in December 1944. Dad frequently told the family how glad he was to see General Patton and his Army pass through the Engineering company's roadblock. Dad was manning a 50 cal. machine gun when General Patton went by.. Dad always pointed out that a 50 cal. mg did not stop German tanks like Patton's tanks. The book is not a great read in terms of style. The book does give the reader insight into the difficulties of any war and the high cost in men and equipment in late 1944 and early 1945. The German tanks were far superior than U.S. Sherman tank. It is amazing how Hitler was able to gather enough troops to accomplish what he did in the Battle of the Bulge. One improvement should make is a link that will allow a reader to have access to enlarged maps. The maps on my Kindle Fire are not readable by my eyes of 62 years. Many other books I have ordered on my Kindle Fire also suffer from this problem.

Every few years a book comes along that is truly impressive and this book is one of them. The author has written an excellent account of an armored division at war. It is very easy to read and understand and he is very descriptive of the battles and movement of the 4th Armored Division. The author talks about the big picture to help the reader understand why the division attacked in certain directions. He also peppers each chapter with small unit actions that conveys the terror and triumphs the men of the division experienced. The chapter on the relief of General Wood was well written and thought out. The author avoids trying to lay blame at one person's feet, but tries to show how certain factors (from COL Withers incompetent handling of CCA to Wood's arguments with his corps commander, Eddy) may have lead to Wood's dismissal from command of his beloved division. The only "flaw" if you can call it that is at the beginning of each section he includes a map of the area of operations the chapter is describing. What would have been helpful would have been if the author showed the routes of CCA, CCB and CCR along with what units were on the flanks. It would have helped follow the action a little better. Nonetheless this book is worth every penny and If

the author decides to write another book on "Patton's Best" I will be first in line to buy it.

I bought this kindle version to research the place where my uncle was killed 12/25/1944. 2nd. LT Ignatius B. Keyser, 51st. AIB, 4th. Armor Patton's 3rd. I now know within a few miles where he was killed.

For the most part, I liked the book, it did a great job of detailing the division's activities from Normandy to the Ardennes. It was well detailed and the descriptions were well carried out. The big problems if there were any was that the writing style seemed to switch mid-book. The early part of the book was written a bit more "rah-rah" than the latter half, and the book suffered a little for it. Also, I feel the maps could have been better, and should have had the division sub-units movements marked. In any case, I found it a solid work that did its intended job well.

nice job!

Excellent, informative read. So much so that I reached out to the author and received a warm response. I cannot recommend this book enough.

Excellent Book! Covers the exploits of the 4th armored division in all aspects in Europe during WWII

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