



Helen Patton, granddaughter of General Patton.

Rob: ..And I'm with Helen Patton, the granddaughter of General Patton, who is here presenting a book called 'Victory'

Helen: Yes, it's 'Victory' It's, it was written in honour of the 70th Anniversary and there are very few copies left so..

Rob: It's certainly very popular this afternoon..

Helen: Yes- we took the opportunity to, um, to see if people wanted to, you know, to see if they wanted to have this as their memory and, uh it takes us through the entire voie de liberté from, from my grandfather's first beginnings all the way to unfortunately the camps and there's some very nice artistic compilations of, of drawings sketches and original photographs. Its very, very swiftly done and...

Rob: And you're responsible for the preface I understand?

Helen: I did the preface and it was quite a lot of consideration because I was asked to really, kind of, introduce this book so that meant a lot to me because I mean, I'll just read to you- I say 'liberty consciousness still calls out the best of us. It's a consciousness lived not only by a general in spurs who road in an open jeep on the front lines, or by the soldiers taken beyond themselves into their larger mission but this road map now belongs to us to be prolonged in their name' So that's part of the preface but, um that's really from the heart also to shed light on the fact that this liberty road had a, I think of a more.. less of a straight trajectory after it was completed because in many ways as I point out we sped to the finish. My grandfather would have probably put it differently but and maybe we needed to perhaps take more time in considering how the World was going to be divided up after the victories were in hand. Did I say that diplomatically? I did not use the 'R' word.

Rob: Did you have to.... did you know your Grandfather?

Helen: No. He died in 1945 and I was born in 1962

Rob: But you and your family talks about him

Helen: Yes. And I feel as if I know him I'm really pleased to be here in Saint-Michel-en-Grève commemorating the.... where the supply lines were coming in..

Rob: Because he was responsible..

Helen: He was. He wasn't actually here but he was very much aware of what was going on. I think he wished that he could have divided himself in pieces and been everywhere at once. But this was certainly and probably foremost on his mind was his supplies and he was also known to send the 'Red Ball Express' out for looking more gas and holding other vehicles up and hostage, stealing others' gas and supplies in order to get his army rolling as quickly as possible.



Rob: My knowledge of General Patton is having watched a film with George C Scott. How close do you think that picture is of him?

Helen: Actually very close. Mr Scott made sure of that. He wrote a, a, a, a very important letter though after the film was made saying that he had so much more he wanted to say about my grandfather so we're working on that right now. We're, we're developing a mini-series based on my grandfather's entire life, but that movie launched a lot of people's interests and George C Scott also saved the film because he insisted on accuracy. It's very well done. It's stylistically interesting, at the beginning with him standing in front of the flag. But that speech was pretty much as it, as it was spoken..

Rob: Can I ask you about yourself? You're a French speaker do you live in France?

Helen: Well, I have a pied-de-terre in Vence. I'm originally from America. I spend a lot of time in England I studied acting at RADA so I've got a lot of friends there and a lot of good feeling for your country..

Rob: There's a queue of people waiting for a dedication..

Helen: Oh, well we better get going now ..

Rob: Helen Patton, Thank you

Helen: Thank you, bye.