

## LADY OF THE ARMY: THE LIFE OF MRS. GEORGE S. PATTON

### SUGGESTED INTERVIEW QUESTIONS AND TOPICS

- How did you choose Beatrice Ayer Patton to be the subject of your first biography?
- What research went into the writing of *Lady of the Army*?
- Is there a deeper meaning behind the title?
- How did Beatrice's background and upbringing prepare her for life in the army—which was completely alien to her—and for life with a man who fervently believed he was destined to be a great battlefield commander?
- People were always knocking on Mrs. Patton's door for advice. What is the most important advice she gave that is still relevant today?
- How did Beatrice's character influence her ability to see her husband off to three wars, and what did she contribute to the war effort in his absence?
- General Patton was often mired in controversy, both during his lifetime and in death. How did Beatrice deal with those controversial moments?
- Described as a steel hand in a velvet glove, how did Beatrice balance maintaining her own identity with being the rock her husband leaned on?
- Beatrice dedicated her life to her husband, yet she was also fiercely independent. What accomplishments did she have outside the realm of the army?
- How important was Beatrice to the success of General Patton and the creation of his legend after his death?
- Suggested topics: Beatrice's close bond with the people of Hawaii; her remarkable sense of adventure; the unknown story of her father, Frederick Ayer, who made his fortune in patent medicine and textile; the harrowing trip across the Atlantic Ocean to be at her husband's bedside in his final days; and her relationship with the press and her husband's closest associates.