

**Square Name:** Paton Square

**Veteran Name:** Walter John Paton

**Square Location:** Located at the intersection of Maple Avenue and Hascall Street

**GPS Coordinates:** 42.295442, -71.716376

**Date of Birth:** 4 June 1904

**Location of Birth:** Fitchburg, Massachusetts

**War:** World War II

**Branch/Rank:** US Army / Lieutenant Colonel

**Group:** 58<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Armored Division

**Date of Death:** 4 March 1945 (40)

**Location of Death:** Germany

**Other Facts:** Lived on 29 Walnut Street. Graduated from the State Normal School Fitchburg in 1926. Married and had a son and daughter. Worked as a math teacher at Beal High School from 1930-1941. Fought in the Battle of the Bulge. Buried at St. Bernard's Cemetery, Fitchburg.



There is a footnote to the events west of Bastogne on 22 December—the story of the 58<sup>th</sup> Armored Field Artillery Battalion. This battalion, commanded by Lt. Col. Walter J. Paton, had taken part in the fight at Longvilly and the ensuing withdrawal to Bastogne. With eight guns left the 58<sup>th</sup> went into position west of the town to fire for the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne. On the afternoon of the 21<sup>st</sup>, with the enemy on the prowl in every direction, the battalion moved close to Tillet. Here it was cut off by enemy reconnaissance units, and Colonel Paton ordered his drivers and gunners to dig a foxhole circle around guns and vehicles. Shortly after midnight a radio message came through: the battalion was to try to reach Bastogne. The column formed but

