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Club-A-Rama v2.0

WEEK 5

THE GENERAL SHERMAN

1963



The M4 **SHERMAN TANK** (M4 for 'medium') was the backbone of the World War II Allied armor offensive, and went on to see action in the Korean War. It was relatively inexpensive, easy-to-maintain and easy-to-produce combat system that pretty much won the ground war for the Allies by its sheer numbers. It was became outclassed in combat-related categories against the later-stage German Panzer tank, but the **SHERMAN TANK** had an advantage in her speed, battlefield reliability and sheer number. Crew accommodations included five personnel, including the driver, assistant driver/bow gunner, ammunition loader, gunner and tank commander.

The driver was situated at the forward left, and operated two steering levers and floor pedals and instrument panel to their left. The driver originally had access to a direct-vision slot, but that was done away with in favor of a fixed periscope when the vision slots proved to be a ballistics weakness.

The original Sherman 75mm main gun proved to be somewhat useless against a full-on frontal assault by later-generation German Panzer tanks (reports describe incidents of the 75mm rounds seemingly 'bouncing off' the Panzers).

Some 50,000 **SHERMAN TANKS** are believed to have been produced, and used by the United States, Britain, the Soviet Union and Israeli service. It was also utilized at one point or another by Australia, Brazil, France, India, Pakistan, Poland, Egypt and New Zealand army forces. The **SHERMAN TANK** was in service in the United States from 1942 through 1955.



The **SHERMAN TANK** is engraved on both sides **"THE GENERAL SHERMAN"**.

This is the point where I usually explain what is known about the origins of the week's reissued souvenir - but I haven't found anyone yet who knows where the SHERMAN TANK was originally used! The best information we at MOLDVILLE have heard comes from one of our most seasoned collectors who has been collecting Mold-A-Rama (MAR) souvenirs for many decades. He indicates that the SHERMAN TANK is a mystery to him as well. As far as he knows, the only vintage example(s) is/are in pink and came out of CALIFORNIA. Because of the timing of the origins of the SHERMAN TANK moldset, his and my suspicions is that the SHERMAN TANK may have been used at the 1964-65 New York World's Fair in some capacity, but neither of us have any idea where, or why.

In California there IS the giant sequoia that by volume is the largest (and nearly the oldest) living thing on earth called "THE GENERAL SHERMAN TREE". That WOULD correspond to the engraving on both sides of the mold: **"THE GENERAL SHERMAN"**... The General Sherman is shown at right in 1962:





Is this mold be somehow tied to The General Sherman Tree? Doesn't LOOK like it, being a TANK and all, but it IS engraved "The General Sherman" and not "Sherman Tank", "M4 Sherman" or the like. And when I do a Google search for "The General Sherman" it doesn't really get hits about the tank. In fact, that search mostly turns up hits for General William Tecumseh Sherman (the namesake for both the Sherman Tank AND The General Sherman Tree.)

Or is it somehow tied to one of the 140 pavilions at the 1964-65 New York World's Fair like so many other early mold designs? There are a good number of these moldsets in existence (at least four), which is typical of the moldsets made for the New York World's Fair.

If you have ANY information in this regard, please, PLEASE email me at MoldvilleMachine@gmail.com!!



Numbered 1053 by the original Mold-A-Rama, Inc., the **SHERMAN TANK** moldset was made in 1963.

Disclaimers: The color and/or exact condition of the MOLD you get in the CLUB-A-RAMA may or may not be as shown. Not for children under 3.

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