

**NEWSLETTER  
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Patton Battalion - USABOT is a chapter of the US Army Brotherhood of Tankers and is a 501(c)3 Non-Profit.

Patton Battalion - USABOT covers Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky & Tennessee.

The Blood and Guts Newsletter covers events and activities within our area and USABOT National.

EIN:  
And registered with the state of Kentucky

**Patton Battalion - USABOT**

**Total: 93 paid members**

**24 Lifetime Members**

**53 Annual Members**

**2 Associate Member**

**438 on Battalion Facebook Page**

# PATTON BATTALION - USABOT

## ILLINOIS - INDIANA - KENTUCKY - TENNESSEE

There were so many exciting things coming in May but as the month has started it has been very sad. I was notified on Monday morning May 3rd that one of the founding USABOT members and founders of the Patton Battalion had passed away suddenly. Don Moriarty passed away on May 3, 2021. Just days before he had been at the Tank Restoration Yard at Fort Benning, GA working to move tanks into the new facilities. I had been planning to check in with him to get his comments on what was going on. I never got to ask.

Don was a one of kind individual. Always with a great story, funny tale, jokester and great friend. I talked to Don on messenger very regular. We would talk about all things armor. If I saw photos of a "Jumbo" tank on FB I would always tag him. He would usually reply "already seen it." Last year there were photos that someone shared that had two or three good photos with the serial numbers. Don was all over it. Telling the story of the tanks production. That was Don.

Before Don was in USABOT he was a volunteer with the Patton Museum. He had worked on many of the vehicles in the museum and the armor collection at Ft Knox. He could tell you stories on all of them. He was also involved in the restoration of the Patton Van. I always told Don that there should be a display of the 3rd Army HQs as described in the book Lucky Forward. He will be greatly missed.

So when I started studying up on the actions of the 44th Tank Battalion and the 716th TB I bought a book to help learn more. The book has some great details about all of the US Army tank battles in the Pacific. Many years ago I learned about an Indiana Congressman who had served in WWII as a tanker, earned a Silver Star and was a member of the World Wars Tank Corps Association. He was also the one who pushed to get the General Patton stamp in 1953. He was William G. Bray. In WWII he was the battalion commander of the 767th Tank Battalion. He commanded the battalion during the assault on the Kwajalein Atoll in January 1944. After the operation was over LTC Bray was sent to the Armor School. I am still trying to get more information on this and a copy of a report that he wrote about the operations on Kwajalein.

Since meeting Lee Robertson I have learned more about US Army tank battalions and battles in the Pacific. I have learned more than I did my reading about Marine tankers in two books I have. Both fought them differently than the other. Plus the whole Amphibious Operations are talked about more when it comes to the Army campaigns.

We had five members at the 22 Challenge 10K Ruck March this year. More to com on that in the June Newsletter.

KP Morris  
Patton 6

**[HTTPS://DOUGHBOY.ORG](https://doughboy.org)  
[WWW.USABOT.ORG](http://www.usabot.org)  
[HTTPS://19SERIESCLOTHING.COM](https://19seriesclothing.com)**

# Kwajalein Atoll - Marshall Islands - Operation Flintlock

*The Defenses of Kwajalein Atoll, January 1944*

Kwajalein Atoll had been the hub of Japanese military activity in the Marshalls since August 1941. As headquarters of the *6th Base Force*, it was the nerve center of the surrounding bases. Reinforcements coming into the Marshalls almost invariably passed through Kwajalein, to be parceled out from there. Supplies were usually distributed from this atoll, which was the closest major base to Truk and to the supply lines from the homeland. Branches of various departments of the *4th Fleet* were located there to supervise supply, transportation, and the more technical aspects of construction. Kwajalein was the center of communications not only for all other bases in the Marshalls, but for the Gilberts, Nauru, and Ocean as well. The air base on Roi commanded all Japanese air forces in the Marshalls and Gilberts.

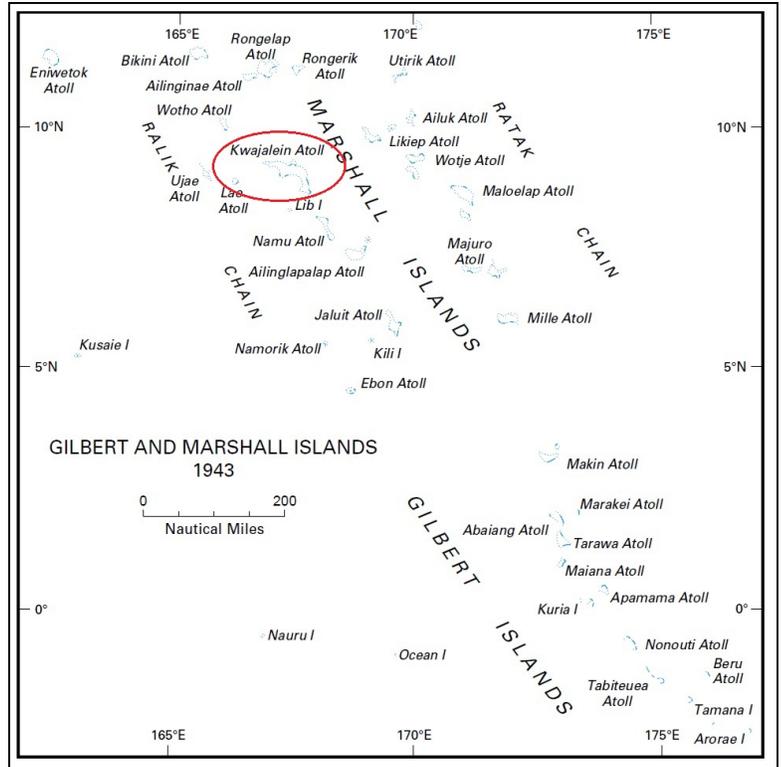
All this gave Kwajalein some of the characteristics of a rear area, with more red tape than bullets, far from the front-line outposts on the periphery of the Marshalls. As a matter of fact, an American amphibious landing on Kwajalein was discounted by most Japanese as only a remote possibility, and it was fortified accordingly. As one Japanese naval commander put it, speaking of the Japanese estimate of American intentions after the Gilberts campaign: "There was divided opinion as to whether you would land at Jaluit or Mille. Some thought you would land on Wotje but there were few who thought you would go right to the heart of the Marshalls and take Kwajalein."

CMH Pub 5-6-1, Page 212.

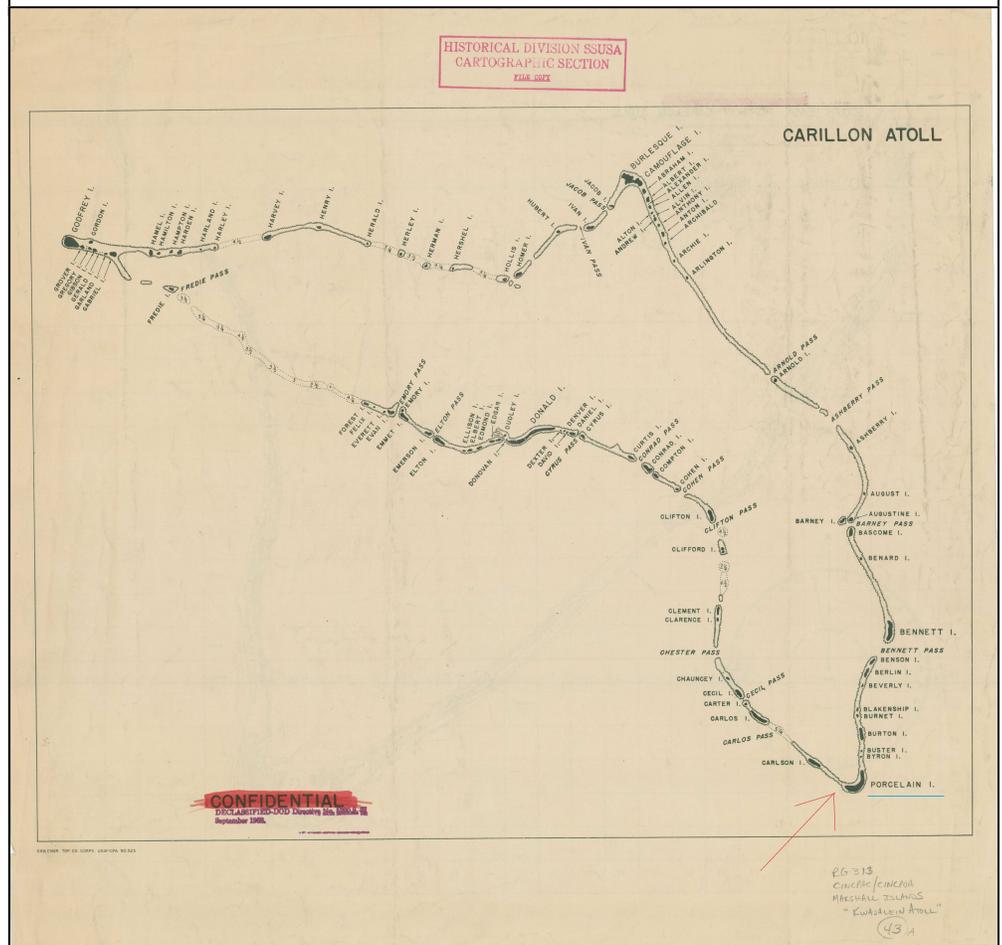
After the operations to take Tarawa and Makin Islands it was recommended that Infantry and Tanks work together more before conducting operations together. So in November 1943 the 767th Tank Battalion is attached to the 7th Infantry Division in preparation for the assault on Kwajalein.

This is also where they started working on the telephone on the rear of the tank for the Infantry to talk directly to the tank crew. So while in Hawaii these units trained together until boarding ships and heading out.

While reading about this operation I was really amazed at the load plan or assault plan. The following troop list is the way the units were arranged for beach landing. They are listed as BLT or Beach Landing Team. Take a look at how this tank battalion is piecemealed into the Infantry Division and all of the other assets that are attached with each team.



This map from the National Archives website shows the code names for all the Islands in the Kwajalein Atoll. Kwajalein Island (Porcelain) is in the lower right corner.



## Kwajalein Atoll - Marshall Islands - Operation Flintlock

Following are the tactical groupings for this amphibious, operation:

	<u>Off</u>	<u>EM</u>	
Hq, 7 <sup>th</sup> Inf Div and Div Special Troops.			
Hq Co, 7 <sup>th</sup> Inf Div	26	48	
Hq, Special Troops Bn		3	7
MP Platoon		1	7
7 <sup>th</sup> QM Co, less Dets, (Ship Plat)		1	88
707 <sup>th</sup> Ord Co, less Dets		2	30
7 <sup>th</sup> Signal Co, less Dets	10	156	
7 <sup>th</sup> Reconnaissance Troop, Co B, 111 <sup>th</sup> Inf. Plus Sect. Med Det	6	151	
<b>767<sup>th</sup> Tank Bn, less Cos A, B, D, &amp; Med Det</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>LTC W G Bray</b>
93 <sup>rd</sup> Bomb Disposal Squad		1	6
7 <sup>th</sup> Med Bn, less Cos A, B, C, & Med Det		8	28
13 <sup>th</sup> Engr Bn, less Cos A, B, C, & Med Det		4	22
708 <sup>th</sup> Prov Amph Tractor Bn	42	847	
Hq and Hq service' Co, 708 <sup>th</sup> Amph Tank Bn		6	65
Co A, 708 <sup>th</sup> Amph Tank Bn		5	150
LVT Group Able (AT Co, 17 <sup>th</sup> Inf)		7	158
LVT Group Baker (AT Co, 32 <sup>nd</sup> Inf)		7	158
LVT Group Charlie (AT Co, 184 <sup>th</sup> Inf)		7	158
LVT Group Dog (Prov Co, 708 <sup>th</sup> Am Tk Bn)		7	140
Med Det, 708 <sup>th</sup> Amph Tank Bn		3	18
Hq, Defense Bn#4		7	14
Btry A, 753 <sup>rd</sup> AAA Bn		4	112
Btry B, 753 <sup>rd</sup> AAA Bn		4	112
Btry A, 96 <sup>th</sup> AAA Bn		4	112
Graves Registration Team, Def Bn #4		4	36
2 Dets, ASSRON (Burial)		4	200
Air Support Command Party		6	14
Communication Det, ASSRON		<u>5</u>	<u>18</u>
TOTAL	164	2461	

### RCT 17

RCT Hq and Special Troops			
Hq & Hq Co, 17 <sup>th</sup> Inf	13	95	
Serv Co, less 3 Bn Dets, 17 <sup>th</sup> Inf	8	73	
Med Det, led 3 Bn Sect, 17 <sup>th</sup> Inf	3	9	
Co A, less 3 plats, 13 <sup>th</sup> Engr Bn	2	39	
Naval Lia Party #1, 75 <sup>th</sup> Sig Co	1	6	
<b>Tank Lia Party, 767<sup>th</sup> Tank Bn</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	
FA Lia Party	1	5	
AGL Party #13, 75 <sup>th</sup> Sig Co	1	5	
Det, 7 <sup>th</sup> Sig Co		12	
Hq, Hq & Serv Co, 50 <sup>th</sup> Engr B	10	15	
Det, Hq 13 <sup>th</sup> Engr Bn		1	
Det, 7 <sup>th</sup> QM Co	1	1	
Co B, 736 <sup>th</sup> Port Bn, less			
Det (AKA ship Plat)	<u>2</u>	<u>121</u>	
TOTAL	44	385	

### BLT 17-1.

1 <sup>st</sup> Bn, 17 <sup>th</sup> Inf	35	831	
1 <sup>st</sup> Prov Plat, Cn Co, 17 <sup>th</sup> Inf	2	42	
1 <sup>st</sup> Bn Sect, Trans Plat, Serv Co, 17 <sup>th</sup> Inf	1	9	
1 <sup>st</sup> Bn Sect, Med Det, 17 <sup>th</sup> Inf	2	39	
1 <sup>st</sup> Plat, Co A, 13 <sup>th</sup> Engr Bn	1	51	
SFC Spotter Party #1, 75 <sup>th</sup> Sig Co	2	8	
AGL Party #1, 75 <sup>th</sup> Sig Co	1	5	
<b>Tank Lia Party, 767<sup>th</sup> Tank Bn</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	
FA Lia & Obs Parties	2	10	

As you will see over the next few pages the tank battalion is split up of different ships and broke down into liaison teams. Which these each look to be a single tank and its crew. You will also note that some companies were separated and that the entire D Co, light tanks, were all together.

The breakout and configuration of these groups is very much like the building of Task Forces in Europe. These are small combined arms teams. Providing what was hopefully needed in the landing on the beach and to provide the support needed.

## Kwajalein Atoll - Marshall Islands - Operation Flintlock

<b>Det, Co D, 767<sup>th</sup> Tank Bn</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>
Co A, less 2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Plat, 7 <sup>th</sup> Med Bn	2	34
Co B, 50 <sup>th</sup> Engr Bn	5	200
SP Com Team #1, 75 <sup>th</sup> Sig Co	1	19
Det, 7 <sup>th</sup> Qm Co	1	10
Det, MP Platoon		7
Det, 163rd Sig Photo Co		2
Btry C, 98 <sup>th</sup> AAA Bn(Ship Plat)	<u>4</u>	<u>112</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>1391</b>

## BLT 17-2.

2 <sup>nd</sup> Bn, 17 <sup>th</sup> Inf	35	831
Co Hq & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Prov Plat, Cn Co, 17 <sup>th</sup> Inf	3	71
2 <sup>nd</sup> Bn, Sect, Trans Plat, Serv. Co, 17 <sup>th</sup> Inf	1	9
2 <sup>nd</sup> Bn Sect, Med Det, 17 <sup>th</sup> Inf	2	39
2 <sup>nd</sup> Plat, Co A, 13 <sup>th</sup> Engr Bn	1	51
SFC Spotter Party #2, 75 <sup>th</sup> Sig Co	2	8
AGL Party #2, 75 <sup>th</sup> Sig Co	1	5
<b>Tank Lia Party, 767<sup>th</sup> Tank Bn</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>
FA Lia & Obs Parties	2	10
<b>Co Hq &amp; Det Co D, 767<sup>th</sup> Tank Bn</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>17</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Plat, Co A, 7 <sup>th</sup> Med Bn	2	31
Co A, 50 <sup>th</sup> Engr Bn	5	200
SP Comm Team #2, 75 <sup>th</sup> Sig Co	1	19
Det, 7 <sup>th</sup> QM Co		10
Det, MP Platoon		7
Platoon Plat B, 31 <sup>st</sup> Field Hospital	6	60
Btry A, 98 <sup>th</sup> AAA Bn(Ship Plat)	<u>4</u>	<u>112</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>1484</b>

## BLT 17-3.

3 <sup>rd</sup> Bn, 17 <sup>th</sup> Inf	35	831
3 <sup>rd</sup> Bn Sect, Trans Plat, Serv Co, 17 <sup>th</sup> Inf	1	9
3 <sup>rd</sup> Bn Sect, Med Det, 17 <sup>th</sup> Inf	2	39
3 <sup>rd</sup> Plat, Co A, 13 <sup>th</sup> Engr Bn	1	51
SFC Spotter Party #3, 75 <sup>th</sup> Sig Co	2	8
AGL Party #3, 75 <sup>th</sup> Sig Co	1	5
<b>Tank Lia Party, 767<sup>th</sup> Tank Bn</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>
FA Lia & Obs Parties	2	10
3 <sup>rd</sup> Plat, Co A, 7 <sup>th</sup> Med Bn	1	31
Co C, 50 <sup>th</sup> Engr Bn	5	200
SP Comm Team #3, 75 <sup>th</sup> Sig Co	1	19
Det, 7 <sup>th</sup> QM Co	1	10
Det, MP Platoon		7
Det, 87 <sup>th</sup> ASSRON (Ship Plat)	<u>2</u>	<u>100</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>1324</b>

## RCT 32

## (1) RCT Hq and Special Troops

Hq & Hq Co, 32nd Inf	13	95
Serv Co (reinf), less 3 Bn Sects, 32 <sup>nd</sup> Inf	9	111
Cn Co, less 3 plats, 32 <sup>nd</sup> Inf	3	29
Med Det, less 3 Bn Sects, 32 <sup>nd</sup> Inf	3	9
Co P, less 3 plats, 13 <sup>th</sup> Engr Bn	2	38
Naval Lia Party #2, 75 <sup>th</sup> Sig Co	1	6
AGL Par #11, 75 <sup>th</sup> Sig Co	1	5
<b>Tank Lia Party, 767<sup>th</sup> Tank Bn</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Co A, 767<sup>th</sup> Tank Bn plus Det, Med Det</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>115</b>
<b>Det, Hq Co, 767<sup>th</sup> Tank Bn</b>		<b>10</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Prov Plat, 91 <sup>st</sup> Chemical Co	3	90



INFANTRYMEN, supported by a medium tank M4A1, move forward to wipe out the remaining enemy on the island. The fire raging in the background is the result of preinvasion bombing and shelling.

## Capture of PORCELAIN ISLAND.

At 0930, February 1, the 32nd and the 184th RCT's landed abreast in battalion columns at the western end of PORCELAIN ISLAND. The landing was not opposed. Opposition was slight for the first 300 yards of advance. Our troops pushed forward 1300 yards the first day. By nightfall of February 1st, about 11,600 troops had been landed across the reef at the western end of PORCELAIN ISLAND, landings being effected at all stages of the tide. The LVT's and DUKW's on this and succeeding days conclusively proved their worth for landings made across coral reefs. On this day all transports, plus destroyer screen and small craft, anchored in the lagoon. Patrol of all passes into the lagoon was established.

During the following days our troops made steady and methodical progress against a desperate defense by the enemy. Considerable called gunfire and bombing was employed, together with much shore artillery fire. The defense works were formidable and well organized. Our troops used all available arms to advantage, and in a very business-like manner, mopping up as they moved forward. Our own losses were small. The capture of PORCELAIN ISLAND was completed at 1525 February 4, though for several more days a few snipers were killed each day.

## Kwajalein Atoll - Marshall Islands - Operation Flintlock

Det. 7 <sup>th</sup> Sig Co	12
FA Lia Party	1 5
Engr Group Hq, Defense Bn #4	5 60
Det, 7 <sup>th</sup> QM Co	1 1
Co Hq, Cn Co, 111 <sup>th</sup> Inf	2 29
Det, Co B, 376 <sup>th</sup> Port Bn(AKA ship Pl)	2 100
TOTAL	52 719

(2) BLT 32-1	
1 <sup>st</sup> Bn 32 <sup>nd</sup> Inf	35 831
1 <sup>st</sup> Plat, Cn Co, 32 <sup>nd</sup> Inf	1 28
1 <sup>st</sup> Bn Sect, Trans Plat, Serv Co, 32 <sup>nd</sup> Inf	1 9
1 <sup>st</sup> Bn Sect, Med Det, 32 <sup>nd</sup> Inf	2 39
1 <sup>st</sup> Plat, Co B, 13 <sup>th</sup> Engr Bn	1 51
SFC Spotter, Party #4, 75 <sup>th</sup> Sig Co	2 8
AGL Party #4, 75 <sup>th</sup> Sig Co	1 5
<b>Tank Lia Party, 767<sup>th</sup> Tank Bn</b>	<b>1 4</b>
FA Lia & Obs Parties	3 15
<b>Det, Co D, 767<sup>th</sup> Tank Bn</b>	<b>1 7</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Plat, Co B, 7 <sup>th</sup> Med Bn	2 31
Det, Army Defn Bn #4, (Shore Party Hq)	4 5
Co C, 47 <sup>th</sup> Engr	5 175
Btry A, 55 <sup>th</sup> CA	5 108
1 <sup>st</sup> Plat, Cn Co, 111 <sup>th</sup> Inf	1 28
SP Comm. Team #4, 75 <sup>th</sup> Sig Co	1 19
1 <sup>st</sup> Plat, Btry A, 867 <sup>th</sup> CA	2 57
Det, 7 <sup>th</sup> QM Co	1 10
Det, 707 <sup>th</sup> Ord Co	1 14
Det, MP Platoon	1 7
Co D, less 1 <sup>st</sup> Plat, 7 <sup>th</sup> Med Bn	7 54
Det, 163 <sup>rd</sup> Sig Photo Co	2
Det, Med Sect, 4 <sup>th</sup> Defense Bn	2 29
Btry D, 96 <sup>th</sup> AAA Bn (Ship Plat)	4 112
TOTAL	84 1628

(3) BLT 32-2	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Bn, 32 <sup>nd</sup> Inf	35 831
2 <sup>nd</sup> Plat, Cn Co, 32 <sup>nd</sup> Inf	1 28
2 <sup>nd</sup> Bn Sect, Trans Plat, Serv Co, 32 <sup>nd</sup> Inf	1 9
2 <sup>nd</sup> Bn, Sect, Med Det, 32 <sup>nd</sup> Inf	2 39
2 <sup>nd</sup> Plat, Co B, 13 <sup>th</sup> Engr Bn	1 51
SFC Spotter Party #5, 75 <sup>th</sup> Sig Co	2 8
AGL Party #5, 75 <sup>th</sup> Sig Co	1 5
<b>Tank Lia Party, 767<sup>th</sup> Tank Bn</b>	<b>1 4</b>
FA Lia & Obs Parties	3 15
<b>Det, Co D, 767<sup>th</sup> Tank Bn</b>	<b>8</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Plat, Co B, 7 <sup>th</sup> Med Bn	1 31
Det, Army Defense Bn #4, (Shore Party Hq)	4 5
Co B, 47 <sup>th</sup> Engr	5 175
2 <sup>nd</sup> Plat, Cn Co, 111 <sup>th</sup> Inf	1 28
SP Comm Team #5, 75 <sup>th</sup> Sig	1 19
2 <sup>nd</sup> Plat, Btry A, 867 <sup>th</sup> CA	2 57
Det, 7 <sup>th</sup> QM Co	1 10
Det, 707 <sup>th</sup> Ord Co	1 14
Det, MP Platoon	7
1st Plat, Co D, 7 <sup>th</sup> Med Bn	6 47
Med Det, 50 <sup>th</sup> Engr Bn	2 9
Btry B, 96 <sup>th</sup> AAA Bn (Ship Plat)	4 112
TOTAL	75 1512



GUN MOTOR CARRIAGE M10, used to blast pillboxes on Kwajalein. This weapon, called a tank destroyer, was mounted on the medium tank chassis and had a 3-inch gun M17 in a semiopen turret, and a .50-caliber machine gun at the rear of the turret for protection against low flying planes. Six days after the main landings had taken place, Kwajalein was in U.S. hands.

Medium tanks were landed in LCM's, most of them at about half tide. Most of the light tanks were landed just after high tide. All of these vehicles were carefully waterproofed and a large percentage of them got ashore successfully, in some cases even where the water was from four to four and one-half feet deep.

Several of the tanks drowned on the edge of the reef; others drowned in large depressions in the reef caused by explosions of heavy caliber projectiles and large bombs. However, practically all of this equipment was salvaged and placed in use before the end of the fighting on PORCELAIN.

Reembarkation of the tanks into LCM's was carried out at practically all steps of the tide; inside the lagoon.

## Kwajalein Atoll - Marshall Islands - Operation Flintlock

(4) BLT 32-3		
3 <sup>rd</sup> Bn, 32 <sup>nd</sup> Inf	35	831
3 <sup>rd</sup> Plat, Cn Co, 32 <sup>nd</sup> Inf	1	28
3 <sup>rd</sup> Bn Sect, Trans Plat, Serv Co, 32 <sup>nd</sup> Inf	1	9
3 <sup>rd</sup> Plat, Co B, 13 <sup>th</sup> Engr Bn	1	51
SFC Spotter Party #6, 75 <sup>th</sup> Sig Co	2	6
AGL Party #6, 75 <sup>th</sup> Sig Co	1	5
<b>Tank Lia Party, 767<sup>th</sup> Tank Bn</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>
FA Lia & Obs Parties	3	15
<b>Det, Co D 767<sup>th</sup> Tank En</b>		<b>11</b>
Co B, less 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Plats, 7 <sup>th</sup> Med Bn	2	34
Det, Array Defn Bn #4 (Shore Party Hq)	4	5
Co A, 47 <sup>th</sup> Engr	5	175
3 <sup>rd</sup> Plat, Cn Co 111 <sup>th</sup> Inf	1	28
SP Comi Team #6, 75 <sup>th</sup> Sig Co	1	19
Det, 7 <sup>th</sup> QM Co		10
Det, 707 <sup>th</sup> Ord Co	1	14
Det, MP Platoon		7
Btry C, 96 <sup>th</sup> AAA Bn(Ship Plat)	4	112
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>1405</b>

## RCT 184.

(1) RCT Hq and Special Troops			
Hq & Hq Co, 134 <sup>th</sup> Inf	13	95	
Serv Co (reinf), less 3 Bn Sect, 184 <sup>th</sup> Inf	9	111	
Cn Co, less 3 plats, 134 <sup>th</sup> Inf	3	29	
Med Det, less 3 Bn Sects, 184 <sup>th</sup> Inf	3	9	
Co, C, less 3 Plats, 13 <sup>th</sup> Engr Bn	2	38	
Naval Lia Party #3, 75 <sup>th</sup> Sig Co	1	6	
AGL Party #12, 75 <sup>th</sup> Sig Co	1		
FA Lia Party	1	5	
<b>Tank Lia Party, 767<sup>th</sup> Tank Bn</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	
<b>Co B, 767<sup>th</sup> Tank Bn plus Det, Med Det</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>Capt M C Scott</b>
<b>Det, Hq Co, 767<sup>th</sup> Tank Bn</b>		<b>15</b>	
Det, 7 <sup>th</sup> Sig Co		12	
Co C, less 3 Plats, 7 <sup>th</sup> Med Bn	1	3	
2nd Prov Plat, 91 <sup>st</sup> Chemical Co	3	90	
Det, Hq 3 <sup>rd</sup> Defense Bn	4	12	
Det, 7 <sup>th</sup> QM Co	1	1	
Det, 87 <sup>th</sup> ASSRON (Ship Plat)	2	100	
Btry Hq. Btry D, 667 <sup>th</sup> AAA Bn	2	20	
Hq Co, less A&P Plat, At Plat, 1 <sup>st</sup> Bn 111 <sup>th</sup> Inf	7	59	
Det, 87 <sup>th</sup> ASSRON (AKA Ship Plat)	2	100	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>829</b>	

## BLT 184-1.

1st Bn, 184 <sup>th</sup> Inf	35	831
1st Plat, Cn Co, 184 <sup>th</sup> Inf	1	28
1st Bn Sect, Trans Plat, Serv Co, 184 <sup>th</sup> Inf	1	9
1 <sup>st</sup> Bn Sect, Med Det, 184 <sup>th</sup> Inf	2	39
1 <sup>st</sup> Plat, Co C, 13 <sup>th</sup> Engr Bn	1	51
SFC Spotter Party #7, 75 <sup>th</sup> Sig Co	2	8
AGL Party #7, 75 <sup>th</sup> Sig Co	1	5
<b>Tank Lia Party, 767<sup>th</sup> Tank Bn</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>
FA Lia & Obs Parties	3	15
<b>Det, Co D, 767<sup>th</sup> Tank Bn</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Plat, Co C 7 <sup>th</sup> Med Bn	1	31
Co A, plus 2nd Plat, Co, D 111 <sup>th</sup> Inf	7	227
SP Comm Team #7, 75 <sup>th</sup> Sig Co	1	19
Det, 7 <sup>th</sup> QM Co		10

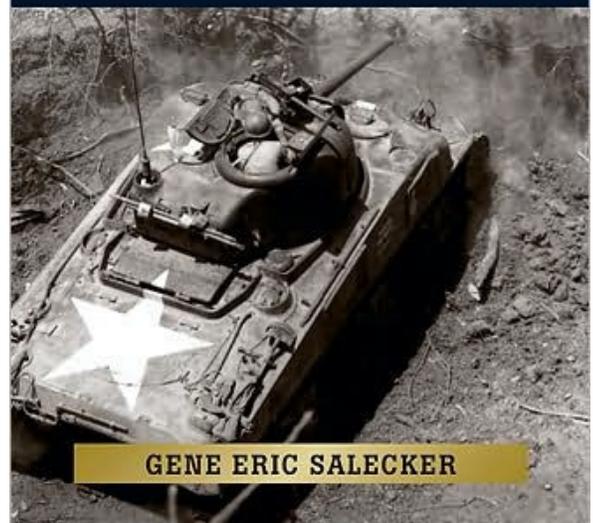


MACHINE GUNS AND AUTOMATIC RIFLES cover advancing infantrymen as a tank and tank destroyer, in background, move forward. The machine gun in foreground is a .30-caliber M1919A4. Tanks helped cover the advance of the foot soldier and clear roadways for vehicles.

# ROLLING THUNDER

## AGAINST THE RISING SUN

The Combat History of U.S. Army  
Tank Battalions in the Pacific in World War II



GENE ERIC SALECKER

## LTC Carroll D. Wood - 716th Tank Battalion

Det, 707 <sup>th</sup> Ord Co	1	14
Det. MP Platoon		7
AT Plat, Hq Co, 1 <sup>st</sup> Bn, 111 <sup>th</sup> Inf	1	32
Btry E, 57 <sup>th</sup> CA (Ship Plat)	<u>4</u>	<u>108</u>
TOTAL	63	1448

## BLT 184-2.

2nd Bn, 184th Inf 2nd Plat, Cn Co, 184th Inf	35	831
2nd Bn Sect, Trans Plat, Serv Co, 184th Inf	1	28
2nd Bn Sect, Med Det, 184th Inf	1	9
2nd Plat, Co c, 13th Engr Bn	2	39
SFC Spotter Party #8, 75 <sup>th</sup> Sig CO	2	8
AGL Party #8, 75 <sup>th</sup> Sig Co	1	5
<b>Tank Lia Party, 76<sup>th</sup> Tank Bn</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>
FA Lia & Obs Parties	3	15
<b>Det, Co D, 76<sup>th</sup> Tank Bn</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Plat, Co C, 7 <sup>th</sup> Med Bn	1	31
Co D, 34 <sup>th</sup> Engr	5	176
SP Comm Team #8, 75 <sup>th</sup> Sig Co	1	19
2 <sup>nd</sup> Plat, Btry D, 867 <sup>th</sup> AAA Bn	2	57
Det, 7th QK Co	1	12
Det, 707 <sup>th</sup> Ord Co	1	14
Det, MP Platoon		7
31 <sup>st</sup> Field Hospital, less Platoons B & C	8	70
Det, Med Sect, Defense Bn #3	1	11
1 <sup>st</sup> Plat, Btry A, 296 <sup>th</sup> AAA Bn (Ship Plat)	1	50
Hq Btry, 867 <sup>th</sup> AAA Bn (Ship Plat)	<u>1</u>	<u>40</u>
TOTAL	69	1485

## BLT,184-3.

3 <sup>rd</sup> Bn. 184 <sup>th</sup> Inf	35	831
3 <sup>rd</sup> Plat, Cn Co, 184 <sup>th</sup> Inf	1	28
3 <sup>rd</sup> Bn Sect, Trans Plat, Serv Co, 184 <sup>th</sup> Inf	1	9
3 <sup>rd</sup> Bn Sect, Med Det, 184 <sup>th</sup> Inf	2	39
3 <sup>rd</sup> Plat, Co C, 13 <sup>th</sup> Engr Bn	1	51
SFC Spotter Party #9, 75 <sup>th</sup> Sig Co	2	8
AGL Party #9, 75 <sup>th</sup> Sig Co	1	5
<b>Tank Lia Party, 76<sup>th</sup> Tank Bn</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>
FA Lia & Obs Parties	3	15
<b>Det, Co D, 76<sup>th</sup> Tank Bn</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Plat, Co C, 7 <sup>th</sup> Med Bn	2	31
Co D, less 2 <sup>nd</sup> Plat, Plus 1 A&P Plat, 111 <sup>th</sup> Inf	6	173
SP Comm Team #9, 75 <sup>th</sup> Sig Co	1	19
1 <sup>st</sup> Plat, Btry D, 867 <sup>th</sup> AAA. Bn	2	57
Det, 7 <sup>th</sup> QM Co	1	10
Det, 707 <sup>th</sup> Ord Co	1	14
Det, MP Platoon	1	7
Det, 163 <sup>rd</sup> Sig Photo Co		2
Plat C, 31 <sup>st</sup> Field Hospital	6	60
Btry F, 57 <sup>th</sup> CA (Ship Plat)	4	108
Det, Med Sect, Defense Bn #3	<u>1</u>	<u>11</u>
TOTAL	73	1489



MEDIUM TANK M4A1, modified, firing on an enemy position in the hills east of Manila, 10 March. After the fall of Manila the U.S. forces reorganized and moved east to a line extending from Antipolo to Mount Oro. For two days artillery and aircraft attacked enemy positions and then ground forces attacked the hill masses approaching Antipolo. After the fall of that city on 12 March, the advance continued eastward over a series of mountain ridges which ascended to Sierra Madre. While this attack progressed, another drive to clear southern Luzon began.

On the previous page is the book that sparked more interest in the Kwajalein Atoll tank battles. This is a good book with lots of information on tank battalions fighting in the Pacific.

Another book I picked up is "Island Victory" by LTC SLA Marshall. Published by the Infantry Journal. It is the first book that LTC Marshall used in his interview process soon after combat. The book never mentions the tank battalion and only refers to them as tanks.

This is a small book, about 117 pages. He does go into the details of how these interviews should be conducted.

In the book *Island Victory* on page 21, *After the landings neither regiment had any real hard fighting during the greater part of the first day. That was doubly fortunate since our tanks got away to a bad start.* The book seems to always point out the issues with the tanks and very little covers any success of the tanks.

The opening day many tanks were victim to shell holes in the water, some were dropped in deeper water than expected, and some ran into swampy conditions on the beach.

Another issue during the second day was coordination with the infantry. It is noted that the tanks went to one rendezvous point and the infantry went to another. Each waited for hours for the other and they were only 200 yards apart.

One thing that was learned was that the tanks went through ammunition quickly. Which resulted in them returning to the beach for both fuel and ammo. This left the infantry without any type of support. Without the tanks the infantry did not move. (NEXT PAGE)

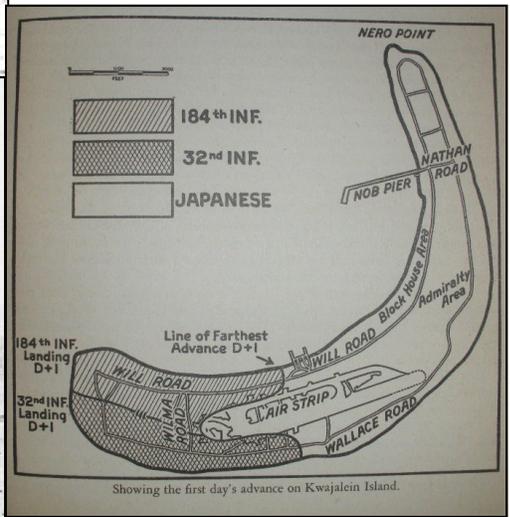
### Kwajalein Atoll - Marshall Islands - Operation Flintlock



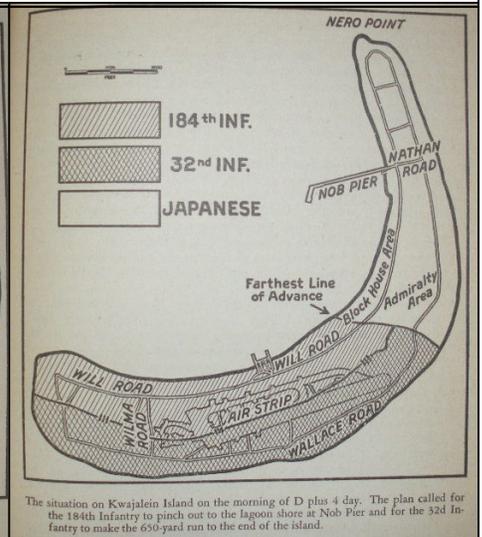
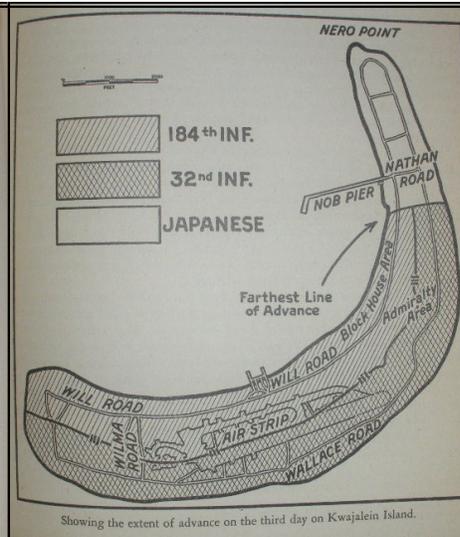
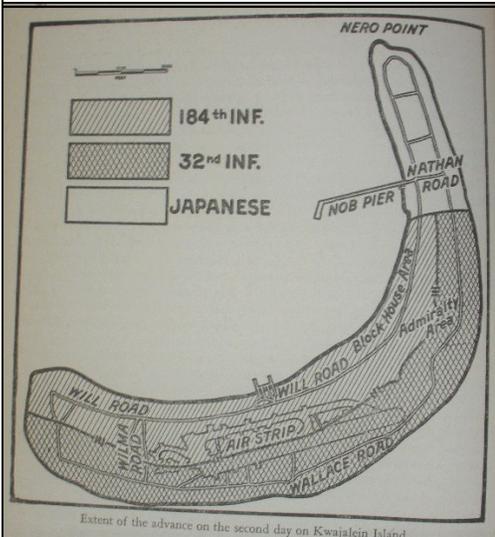
One of the things that are unique about the Kwajalein tanks are what are grouzers. You will note that these are paddle-like strips made in the track. (This is one of the things we will miss about Don Moriarty. As each issue of the newsletter would come out he would always point out some feature that we did not know. I was really hoping to get his insight on this one.)

I wonder of the track extensions used in Europe later in WWII would have been effective on these beaches.

Both the Shermans and the M-10's had these track paddles.



Although this was the first use of the telephone on the rear of tanks there are many mentions of communication issues with the tanks. Some of the tanks when beaching had the telephones shorted out. One funny story was the tanks firing their 75s so close to the infantry that the infantry could feel themselves lifted off the ground when they fired. Another item of interest is weapons jamming. It happened to the infantry and the tanks. As I mentioned before, the tanks battalions seemed to be controlled by Army, 6th Army. Some confusion came when LTs on the ground tried to tell them what to do.



## Kwajalein Atoll - Marshall Islands - Operation Flintlock

Subject: Report of Amphibious Operations for the capture of the MARSHALL ISLANDS (FLINTLOCK and CATCHPOLE Operations).

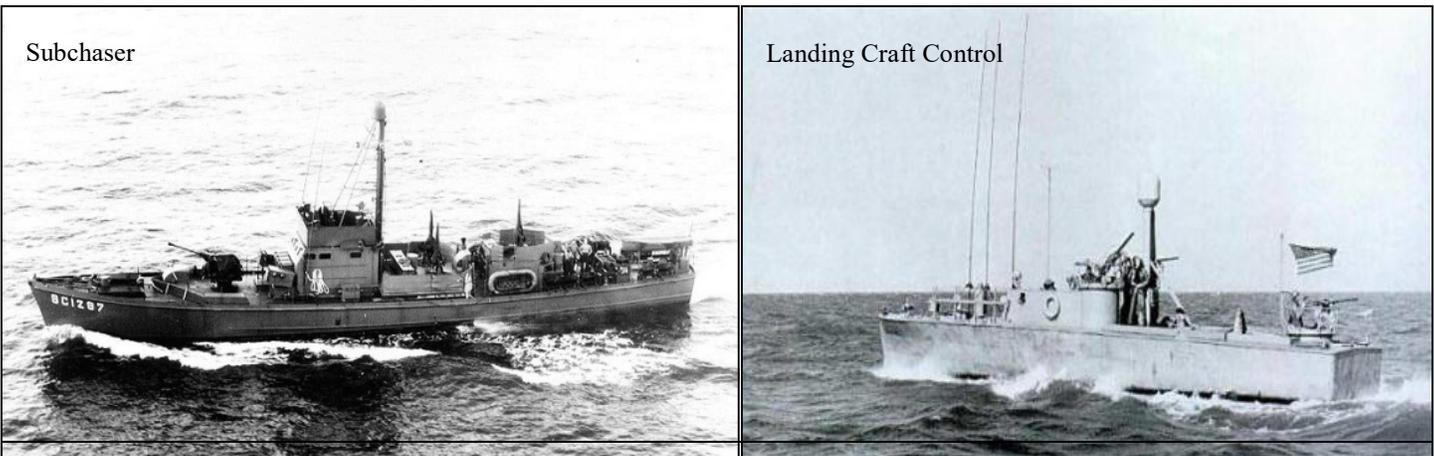
Three SC's (Subchaser) and four LCC's (Landing Craft Control) were fitted out with communications, radar, rangefinders, and loudspeakers for each of Task Forces 52 and 53, and the control parties trained in coordination with ships, boats, troop commanders, and beach parties. One SC acted as the senior control officer's vessel. On this vessel were embarked representatives of the G-3 and G-4 sections of the staff of the Commander of the Landing Force. This SC marked one end of the Line of Departure; a second SC marked the other end of the Line of Departure and had on board the Assistant Control Officer and representatives of the Commander of the Landing Force. The third SC was placed at the disposal of troop commanders; on it were embarked the commanders of the assault regiments, together with certain members of their staffs. These regimental commanders thus were able, from the beginning, to maintain their Command Posts in close touch with the boat waves remaining near the Line of Departure, and in visual and radio touch with the battalion commanders of the assault waves that had already landed.

Regimental Commanders moved ashore as soon as they could function effectively there; the SC was then turned over to the Commanding General-of the Division. The LCC's were employed as guide and command boats for the first two pairs of assault waves and later formed a second close-in Line of Departure at which later waves of troops embarked in landing boats were reembarked in LVT's for ferrying to the beach.

The control officer also was the senior beachmaster, the assistant beachmaster on shore being under his direct command. With radar, rangefinders, and communication facilities that were installed on the SC's and LCC's, extremely accurate control and timing of the landing waves became possible. Every thousand yards the boat waves were informed by voice radio as to how much, ahead, or behind schedule they were, and thus were able to correct their positions before arrival at the next one thousand. It seems incredible, but it is a fact that, of six assault landings made by the landing forces of TF 52, three of three of the leading waves struck the beaches at exactly the time scheduled; one was one minute late, one was two minutes late, and one was three minutes late.

Succeeding waves were as accurately controlled as the leading waves. With slight modifications, the control system used in the FLINTLOCK Operation can be considered as standard for the future in this force. Recommendations will be submitted separately for an increased number of SC's and LCC's adequately fitted for controlling boat waves of the landing force.

*Commander Fifth Amphibious Force, Report of Flintlock Operation, Page 25*



One of the only mentions of an award for actions in the book happens on page 86. Private Edward L. Rice of Company M jumped onto a tank that had thrown its track and used the .50 caliber machine gun to fend off the enemy all night. Pouring fire into charging enemy groups. He was awarded a DSC.

The tanks after going back to the beachhead for fuel and ammo returned on day four to make the final push to capture the island. The tanks were vital to keeping the infantry moving. There needed to be a better resupply effort for the tanks after this battle. This is in the early stages of fighting tanks with infantry on islands. But you can see that the tanks were effective in seizing victory.

I am going to continue this Pacific war series on tanks in Island campaigns. This is an important topic even today as the Marine Corps has shed itself of tank battalions. And the US Army may be called upon to support efforts in the Pacific. There are no Army units that I know of that conduct beach landings with M1A2 tanks. If you know of any, any of you readers know of any please contact me so that we can continue with more of this discussion.

The 767th Tk Bn ended the war with only two battle campaigns. Eastern Mandates (Ground) and Leyte noted as an Assault Landing. They did receive the Philippine Liberation Medal and are noted as Occupation Duty in Japan, 5 Oct 1945 - 5 Oct 1946.

## Kwajalein Atoll - Marshall Islands - Operation Flintlock

During rehabilitation of the vehicles a special effort was made to insure a minimum amount of damage from the harmful effects of salt water. In spite of this, turret races, traversing mechanisms, and electrical systems were damaged by rust and corrosion. In many instances entire electrical systems had to be replaced. However all but one of the tank units were completely rehabilitated within 30 days after their return to Oahu. The rehabilitation of this unit was delayed an additional 30 days due to temporary shortage of motor replacement parts for damaged tanks.

### Lessons Learned and Corrective Action

1. Flame throwers converted for installation on armored vehicles did not prove satisfactory. Experiments for increase in range and capacity of this armament are being conducted by CPA chemical warfare officer for future operations.
2. The improvised tank-infantry telephone was found unsatisfactory. Failure of this telephone due to waterproofing difficulties or shorting from other causes destroyed vital inter-communication net among the tank crew members in some instances. Basically requiring that vehicle and infantrymen halt to accomplish communication over the telephone with resultant exposure to all concerned, reduced the value of the instrument to the status of an emergency expedient only. The CPA tank officer has directed redesign of the telephone to make it available in the future on the basis of alternate means for tank-infantry communication. If experiments prove successful, the SCR-536 radio may become the primary communication medium.
3. Further specialized training was proven advisable during the operation. Such training has been instituted with one of the goals being greater familiarization among officers and men as to unit organization in both armor and infantry. For further involvement of liaison every tank battalion will have specially trained liaison teams. To meet another deficiency, crews of LVT's are now training in Naval terms, nomenclature, and flag signals. Mopping up rear areas is a battle technique found deserving of greater attention and now receiving emphasis at the Unit Jungle Training Center.
4. Equipping tanks with grousers or herringbone tracks was found to be essential during this operation. Experiments by the CPA tank officer have insured that for the future, tanks without herringbone tracks will be provided with grousers.
5. Improvement is planned in tank waterproofing to eliminate damage that occurred in this operation to auxiliary generators, electrical controls, junction boxes, turret races, and traversing mechanisms. Much of this problem of protection against salt water will be met with use of non-oxide grease.
6. Control of tank battalion supplies and equipment by the battalion S-4 throughout loading, transporting, and distribution phases appears desirable as a safeguard in maintenance. Such a recommendation from the CPA tank officer to future task force commanders is anticipated.
7. Armored recovery vehicles needed during this operation will be provided by shipment to the 4<sup>th</sup> Armored Group in July 1944.
8. Using the same LST's to carry LVT's and also as a base of supply for assault troops created a dual mission, seriously complicating armored unit problems whenever the LST's had to be shifted for benefit of the assault troops. This was brought to the attention of the V Amphibious Corps during the preparation for the Marianas operation.
9. Some means of "rendezvousing" LVT's other than by traveling in a circle should be devised to prevent wear on the tractor type controlled differentials. This recommendation has been submitted to the V Amphibious Corps by the CPA tank officer.

*Participation in the Kwajalein and Eniwetok Operations by the US Army Forces in the Central Pacific Area, by LTG Robert C. Richardson, Jr. Commanding, page 177 and 178.*

**William Gilmer Bray** (June 17, 1903 – June 4, 1979) was a Republican member of the United States House of Representatives from Indiana. Bray was elected as a Republican to the Eighty-second and to the eleven succeeding Congresses (January 3, 1951 – January 3, 1975). Named to be a commissioner to the American Battle Monuments Commission by President Gerald Ford from 1975 to 1978.

During WWII Bray was a Lieutenant Colonel commanding the 767th Tank Battalion. As soon as the battle for Kwajalein Atoll was over, March 7, 1944, he was sent to the Armored Command School at Fort Knox, KY. He would end the war as a Colonel.

He was from Martinsville, IN which is southwest of Indianapolis.

He was a member of the World Wars Tank Corps Association and the Congressman who worked to get the General George S. Patton stamp.



## Don Moriarty - The Armor Archaeologist

Don Moriarty passed away suddenly but peacefully on May 3, 2021 at his home in Vine Grove, KY. Don was born in El Paso, TX, the son of Donald Peter Moriarty II and Fleurette Aucoin.

He grew up as an Army brat, enlisted in the Army in 1985 and spent his military career in such far-flung places as Korea, Germany, Bosnia, Oak Harbor, WA, and Fort Hood, TX. Retiring after a final tour at Fort Knox, KY, he settled and raised his family in Vine Grove.

Don was known as an avid tanker, armor historian, and enthusiastic armor restorer. His collection of armor photos and memorabilia made him a go-to source for authors and publishers. He was arguably the world's foremost authority on an obscure Vietnam-era light-armor anti-tank vehicle known as the "Ontos", which friends sometimes referred to affectionately as the "Dontos". Don had just returned from his annual tank restoration pilgrimage to Fort Benning, Georgia, home of the U.S. Army Armor and Cavalry Collection.

During football season, Don pivoted to his second passion, the LSU Tigers.

Don is survived by and will be missed beyond measure by wife Danielle, children Johnna and Donald IV, and sister Erin.

May 9, 1960 - May 3, 2021

Don was buried in Section 2 of the Kentucky Veterans Cemetery at Radcliff, KY.



### More New Items!

#### NEWLY ARRIVED!!!!

The Treat'em Rough and Tank Destroyer soft PVC Vinyl patches! These patches come with the Hook and Loop backing so they can be sewn onto anything.

The Tank Destroyer patch is the exact same size as the TD sticker. 3".

The Treat'em Rough patch is slightly larger than the decal. 4" x 3".



These are both on the website! These are \$10 each!



We finally have artwork for the 100 Years of Armor sprocket design. I had Cricket Press in Lexington do the work. As always they nailed it!

I have 100 of these and as soon as we get them up on the website we will have them available.

These will run the same as the other stickers which are \$5.

This design of 100 Years of Armor starts with the sprocket of the FT-17 Renault, centered, with a sprocket of an M1A2 on the outside. 100 years of driving track!

These stickers are made the same as the Treat'em Rough and TD stickers.

#### UV PROTECTED LAMINATE

Every sticker we produce comes with a Satin, Glossy or Matte UV layer to protect your stickers against fading, cracking or peeling. This layer is also scratch resistant.

#### INK LAYER

We use Greenguard Gold-Certified Eco-Solvent inks in our printers that produce rich and vibrant colors.

#### PRINTABLE VINYL

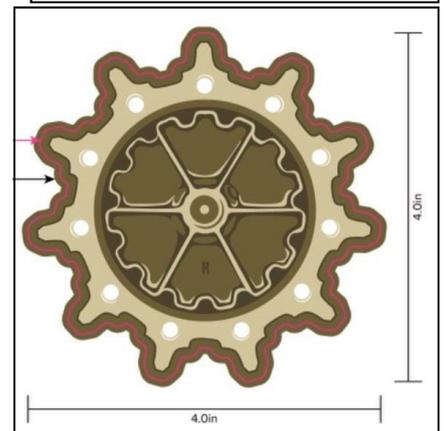
The 5 year durability of our pure white vinyl keeps your stickers looking sharp for years. Our vinyl can be stretched slightly to help adhere to curves.

#### WATERPROOF ADHESIVE

Your sticker won't come off in the rain, snow or the side of a boat! They can even be run through the dishwasher.

#### REMOVABLE BACKING PAPER

Easy to peel silicon coated backing paper protects the adhesive until you're ready to put your sticker on something.



### Tank Corps Monument Items



Finally arrived! This is the Lumberjack Tank Destroyer Mug!  
This is the larger 15oz mug.

These are on the website!

These are the same 11oz Diner mug. Cost will be the same as the Treat'em Rough mug, \$25.

I originally ordered the minimum of these as we were not sure of how well these will go over. So I had 47 of these to start with but I am down to 41 as of this time.

So I have **25** of these mugs on hand and ready to ship.



Patton Battalion has restocked the favorite Treat'em Rough mugs!!!

Its an 11oz Diner Mug made here in the USA by Deneen Pottery. These are available for \$25 each and shipping if needed is between \$8 and \$10 depending on quantity and distance.



We now have Gloss/White (**16**) and Black (**40**) on hand. So they are going quick. Contact me or look for them on the 19Series Website.



### Patton Monument Report for 2021

As of April 22, 2021, the Monument fund has \$15,680.00.

Total in Monument Account: \$15,680.00.

The Bourg Tee Shirts we have on hand. **(UPDATED)**

**Large:** Yellow - 2, **2XL:** Yellow - 3, Tan - 3, OD - 4, **3XL:** Yellow - 2, Tan - 2, OD - 1, **4XL:** Yellow - 1.

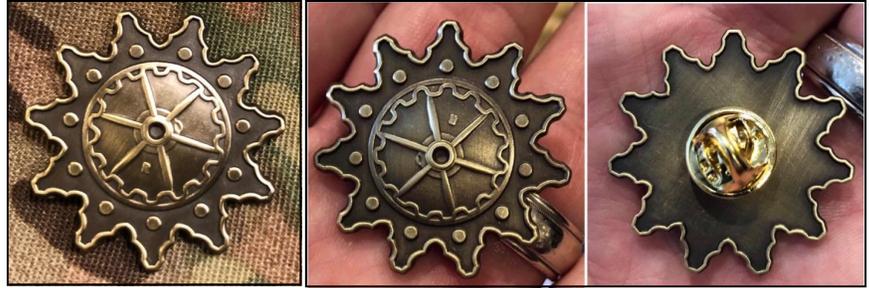
M4 Tee Shirt

**Large:** Tan - 1, OD -1.

**2XL:** Tan - 1

#### Lapel Pins

We are looking at \$12 each for these.



I have over 40 of the Treat'em Rough stickers again! We are asking \$5 each, which includes shipping. If you want some please contact me!

#### Patton Battalion Funds / Memberships / Dues

The Patton Battalion, as of April 22, has 438 members on our battalion Facebook page. Out of those 451 members we are currently at 93 paid members. The Patton Battalion has \$119.10 in funds in the PayPal account. We have \$430.22 in the Patton Operating account. Battalions funds are \$430.22. There are no Monument funds in the Battalion account as of this time.

In order to be a paid member of the battalion you must be a paid member of USABOT National. Again, a paid first year membership of \$15.00 which gets you a free battalion patch. Since we now have the battalion patch in the larger size both in color and subdued you have a choice as to which one you want free with your paid membership.

Both patches are also available for \$5 EA.

Your annual membership renewal will be \$10.00 every year after that. **Annual dues for the battalion are now due in June of each year!**

You can pay for your battalion membership through Paypal at: **pattonbattalion@outlook.com** or **patton.battalion@usabot.org**.

If you don't have a Paypal account you can send a check or Money Order to:

**Patton Battalion - USABOT**  
1432 Flood Road  
Shelbyville, KY 40065



#### ATTENTION

**USABOT Memberships can be renewed and purchased By mail at**

**USABOT**  
68 West Marion ST  
Doylestown, OH 44230

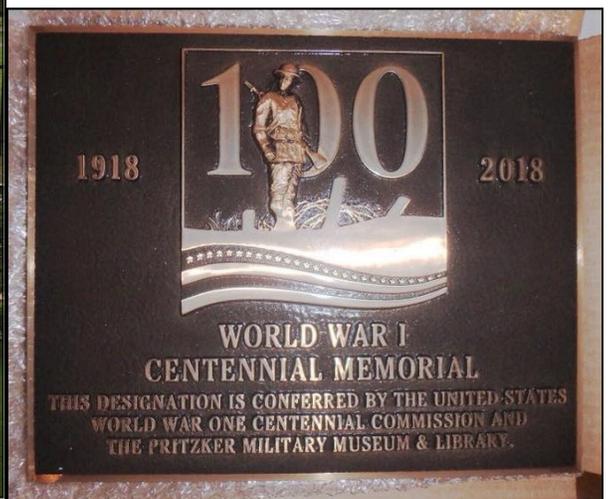
**Make checks payable to USABOT**  
**If at all possible try to go the USABOT Store Online and register there so that the G4 can track.**

**WWW.USABOT.ORG**

# Patton Joins the US Tank Corps Monument

The US Tank Corps shirts we still have few tees left!

<https://19seriesclothing.com/>





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Be sure to check us out on  
Twitter @pattonbattalion



Coming up in the June Issue - Don Moriarty tribute. Tank Warfare in Pacific. 22 Challenge 10K Ruck March.

Upcoming Events

**US Cavalry & Armor Association Chapter Fort Knox** - Stable Call monthly meeting, 3rd Thursday of every month, Location TBD - Fort Knox, KY.

**Ninth Annual Tanker Homecoming** - Fort Carson, CO - October 14-17, 2021.

**Sullivan Cup** - Fort Benning, GA - Early in 2021, we will begin planning for the 2022 Sullivan Cup – Best Tank Crew Competition, likely to be executed in 2nd Quarter, Fiscal Year '22, and plans for the Gainey Cup to return around the same time in 2023.

**Patton and the US Tank Corps Monument** - Fort Knox - *TBD*

