

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2021 VOLUME 10 - NO. 4

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Patton Battalion - USABOT is a chapter of the US Army Brother-hood 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

We are continuing the story on SGT Lee Robertson as we Knighted him with the Order of St George Black Medallion last month. Enclosed is the story of the day we finally got to meet him, his wife, Joyce, and his son, Steven. It was like all visits with the Greatest Generation something to remember.

There is so much more to learn from Lee. As I was thinking about his story as liberating the prison camp at Santo Tomas I remembered that there was a lady, Aileen Riley Minnich, from McLean County that volunteered as a nurse in WWI and was sent to the Pacific. She stayed in the Philippines and married another American there, David Minnich. When war broke out she became a prisoner and he fled to the hills to become a guerilla fighter. His whereabouts during the war were unknown. Assumed to have been killed. She was one of the prisoners freed by Lee. When I called and began to tell him this information Lee stated that after the war he ran into a lady in McLean County that had been in Santo Tomas. They sat down and had a conversation. Turns out it was the same lady.

I have also added some information on the 44th Tank Battalion to include the Campaign credits and the names of nine men still buried in the Manila American Cemetery. There are two men listed on the Tablets of the Missing.

I believe that I jumped the gun on the Colonel Carroll Wood and the 716th Tank Battalion. I thought that I had told the story of Carroll Wood in an earlier issue but I had not. So to back up I am now telling the story about one of the sons of MG John S Wood who commanded the 4th Armored Division.

If you have noticed the photo in the upper left hand corner that's the 100 Years of Armor image. You may recognize it as the lapel pin that we have. We now have this in a 4" sticker.

The next few issues of the newsletter will have more on US Army tank battalions in the Pacific. Being a student of the war in Europe and tank warfare there this is all new to me. Every time we meet one of these WWII veterans it is always a new lesson in history. New units to learn about. Their combat trail in the war. As one WWII tanker from the 767th TB stated. "The goal was to get to the beach, get on the beach, get off the beach and drive inland, stay in contact with the beach. The beach was key to all the operations." So prepare to get your feet wet, sand in your hair and salt air in your lungs.

KP Morris Patton 6

> HTTPS://DOUGHBOY.ORG WWW.USABOT.ORG HTTPS://19SERIESCLOTHING.COM

SGT Lee Robertson - Knighted

On Saturday March 27, 2021 after waiting for everyone to get their COVID-19 vaccinations and waiting the two weeks necessary we were finally able to meet at Lee Robertson house and Knight him with the Order of St. George Black Medallion. He was presented with membership into the US Cavalry and Armor Association, an Honorary Lifetime Membership into the USA Brotherhood of Tankers (USABOT), and then the nominated for the Order of St. George Black Medallion.

When we arrived Lee and his wife, Joyce, greeted us all and invited us into the sun room. There we found many items spread around the room. We were invited to sit down and that's when the fun began. Now in the COVID era I would like to note that before this visit we were to understand that everyone would need their vaccination and wait the allotted time before could get together. We

were also all wearing masks and keeping the required distance. Except for the photos of everyone together in a group photo.

After Lee questioned all of us on who we were and how we knew each other he began to talk.

He then held up a newspaper with the headline Manila Freed! A copy of The Chicago Sun dated February 5, 1945. The newspaper saved by his mother is one item he keeps today. He did not know at the time if they had heard the news.

He began to try to answer some questions I had asked weeks before. Reading from the Company C, 44th Tank Battalion History Book he started naming the tanks in the company.

1st Platoon: Grim Reaper

Death Dealer (Little Anne)

Tanker Raider Sad Sack

Rambling Wreck (Viking)

2nd Platoon: Jane

Dumb Dora (Lee's tank)

Tomcats Lady Godiva Jungle Cobra

3rd Platoon: Bertie

Jungle Queen Hellcat Dark Eyes Snafu

HQs Platoon: Bright Eyes

Old Faithful El Toro

The crew of Dumb Doro was: SGT Ryer – TC

CPL Norberg – Gunner PFC Boucher – (KIA) Loader

PFC Cooper – Bow Gunner/Asst Driver

SGT Tec 4 Robertson – Driver

Lee then showed us a photo of the 44th Tank Battalion Basketball Team. "Now this is important today that I talk about our team. Back in 1943 we played local colleges while we were down in Texas. One of the teams we beat was Abilene Christian University. It's significant because they beat Texas in the first round of the Men's Basketball Tournament." Abilene Christian University, 14 seed, played Texas, a 3 seed, in the first round. Abilene won by a score of 53 to 52. Abilene was then beat by UCLA, an 11 seed, by a score of 67 to 47. Then Lee said that in 1943 most of the valuable players in sports were all in the military so their victory was not that big a deal. (Photo on top of next page)

Top Row, Left to Right: CPL Miller, CPL Weiss, LT Hunt, SGT Viverette Front Row: PFC Lipps, SGT Luckheart, SGT Robertson, LT Coyle, CPL Brewer.

SGT Lee Robertson - Knighted



He talked about when they arrived in Tokyo and began collecting weapons from people's homes his thoughts on that. "You know at the time I didn't think about it very much but today I can't believe we did that. When I think about someone coming into my house and taking my guns it makes me wonder how we never got shot!" When they enetered Japanese military locations he talked about the Japanese soldiers lining up and bowing as they came in. "It was really something to see after what we had been through."

One Japanese soldier he got to know told Lee that he wasn't that bad of a person since he got to know him. Lee told him "Yeah, you're not so bad either now that you don't have that red star on your helmet."

There was a large bag of photos and some newsletters from the 44th TB reunions. As we were going though the photos we came across some of Lee and his crew. Lee picked it up and named off each member. He talked about his loader, PFC Kenneth Boucher, from OHIO that was killed by a tree burst artillery shell. Lee told us that when they left Cali-

fornia and were going under the Golden Gate Bridge Boucher told them that he would never see that bridge again. He said there were other times that he would say "I will never see that again." "I never understood how people could see things like that. I never had any thoughts like that. I never thought that I wasn't going to make it."

He also told us about each of the crew member's religious backgrounds and where they were from. I laughed as he told us the diverse background of each of them. I commented "How did you all ever agree on anything?" Lee stated that they were all in this together and it was easy to agree on things.

PFC Boucher is one of 11 members of the 44th Tank Battalion buried in the Manila American Cemetery in the Philippines.





SGT Lee Robertson - Cont.



44th Tank Battalion - WWII

Department of the Army Pamphlet 672-1

Unit Citation and Campaign Participation Credit Register – Dated July 1961 Page 103

44th Tank Battalion

Campaigns

3 – Bismark Archipelago

13 – Leyte

14 – Luzon

15 – New Guinea



Presidential Unit Citation

3-7 February 1945, DA GO 60-48, Company C only

31 January – 3 February 1945, WD GO 38-46, Company B only

Remarks

A - Leyte. 20-22 October 1944, WD GO 109-46

A - Lingayen Gulf, PI, 9 January 1945, WD GO 109-46, Company C only

F – 56, (Philippine Presidential Unit Citation) 17 October 1944- 4 July 1945, DA GO 47-40

A – Assault Landing

F – Foreign Unit Awards

There are 11 men listed with the American Battle Monument Commission at the Manila American Cemetery.

Boucher, Kenneth L. - Private First Class - 15324069 - Manila American Cemetery - Ohio (Lee's loader)

April 7, 1945

Plot: L, Row: 17, Grave: 107

Purple Heart

Brewer, Clifton S. - Private First Class - 38393743 - Manila American Cemetery - Oklahoma

April 7, 1945

Plot: N, Row: 7, Grave: 92

Purple Heart

Busta, Edward F. – Private – 36684212 – Manila American Cemetery – Illinois

November 9, 1944

Plot: A, Row: 8, Grave: 74

Purple Heart

Candler, Arthur A. – Technician Fifth Grade – 37444131 – Manila American Cemetery – Iowa

February 7, 1945

Plot: D, Row: 14, Grave: 153

Purple Heart

Fisher, Raymond – Private First Class – 36610997 – Manila American Cemetery – Missouri

March 1, 1945

Plot: A, Row: 15, Grave: 135

Griffin, Daniel - Staff Sergeant - 32119789 - Manila American Cemetery - New York

March 10, 1945

Plot: D, Row: 13, Grave: 25

Howard, Burton E. – First Lieutenant – 1018194 – Manila American Cemetery – Texas

February 19, 1945

Missing in Action – Walls of the Missing

Silver Star (Headquarters, 1st Cavalry Division, General Orders No. 38 (1945)

Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster

Hummel, Raymond H. - Technician Fourth Grade - 39613682 - Manila American Cemetery - Montana

February 8, 1946

Missing in Action - Walls of the Missing

Purple Heart





44th Tank Battalion - Cont.

King, John L., Jr. - Sergeant - 38132420 - Manila American Cemetery - Texas

February 23, 1945 Plot: G, Row: 8, Grave: 1

Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster

<u>Lipps, Clair J.</u> – Sergeant – 33569179 – Manila American Cemetery – Pennsylvania (Member of Lee's Basketball Team)

April 8, 1845

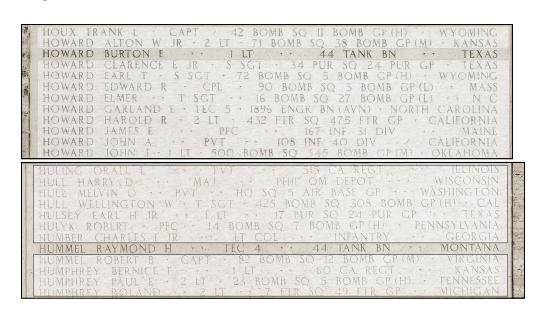
Plot: N, Row: 13, Grave: 26

Muklewicz, James J. - Private First Class - 36764271 - Manila American Cemetery - Illinois

February 8, 1945

Plot: D, Row: 11, Grave: 138

Purple Heart



The Patton Battalion has also sent Lee a new set of ribbons for his uniform from Marlow White. He did not have either of the Presidential Unit Citations on his uniform.



LTC Carroll D. Wood - 716th Tank Battalion

CARROLL D. WOOD - 1937

Cullum No. 10975-1937 | May 17, 1955 | Died in Reno, NV

Burial: Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery, San Diego, California,

Plot: P, 1481

Find a Grave Memorial ID: 3440159

Devoted son, loving brother and steadfast friend—Carroll David Wood will remain forever in our hearts. His passing came unexpectedly to us, but along the steady road of life he trod, his quiet sense of humor, calm efficiency, and dependability marked him as a great and unfailing man.

Born at Fort Casey, Washington, on November 17, 1913, Carroll was the eldest son of John Shirley and Marguerite Little Wood. His father was then a Major of Coast Artillery and Carroll's childhood years followed the pattern of Army life—frequent moves, strange lands, different schools, foreign tongues—a way of life that developed his strong self-reliant character.



Carroll followed his parents to many different Army posts and stations—Madison, Wisconsin; Fort Leavenworth; Schofield Barracks; Fort Bragg; and Paris, France. It was while attending the American High School in Paris that Carroll first realized his ambition to attend the United States Military Academy and he was finally admitted to West Point in 1933 as a member of the Class of 1937.

As a member of Company C at the United States Military Academy, Carroll was known as one who had "qualities which do not shine or make him conspicuous, but which make him capable, reliable and a man to depend upon when the going is tough". Carroll was active in gymnasium, tennis and squash. He was on the gymnasium team for three years, winning his Numerals and Monogram for the rope climb. It was at West Point that Carroll's classmates first noticed a quality that characterized him for all of the years that followed—his vast wealth of knowledge on almost any subject one might pick. Widely read and deeply studious, Carroll delved into the mysteries of many varied subjects.

After graduation from West Point as a Second Lieutenant of Infantry, Carroll was first posted to the 19th Infantry Regiment at Schofield Barracks until April of 1940. The early war years saw him at the Infantry School at Fort Benning, with the 13th Infantry at Fort Jackson, and with the 434th Infantry Regiment on the Island of Santa Lucia. He was promoted to First Lieutenant in June and to Captain In September of 1940. In July of 1942 he was assigned to the 8th Armored Division at Fort Knox, Kentucky, in the G-3 Section being promoted to Major in November 1942. While with the 8th Armored Division he commanded the First Battalion, 80th Armored Regiment, and attended Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth.

In July of 1944, Carroll was posted to the Pacific and was given command of the 716th Tank Battalion, participating in the campaigns of Luzon, Southern Philippines, and Leyte. (Major Wood is listed as the 716th Tank Bn XO before the death of LTC Ross, the battalion commander.)

During the campaigns in the Southern Philippines Carroll was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious achievement in connection with military operations against the enemy in Mindanao from April 20 to June 20, 1945. This citation reads "As the Commanding Officer of a Tank Battalion, his untiring efforts toward the employment of his battalion with the Infantry units to which attached contributed materially to the successful conduct of the operation. Under the severest operational difficulties, he maintained and operated his battalion at an unusually high level of efficiency. His loyalty and devotion to duty throughout this arduous period was exemplary". Carroll was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel on June 3, 1945 while commanding the 716th and he later served with Xth Corps and Headquarters, AFPAC.

Returning to Washington, D.C., in 1947 he served on the Army Personnel Reassignment Board and then in G-3, Reserve Components Branch.

In February of 1953 he was assigned to Headquarters, IXth Corps, FEC, as Corps Armor Officer. He was cited on several occasions for meritorious service against the enemy in Korea. Part of one of his citations reads: "Colonel Wood's superior performance of duty in exercising supervision over armor units in IXth Corps, and a number of extraordinary assignments, his faculty for carrying out difficult projects from the inception to their successful completion, and the high standards of achievement he required of himself and his subordinates contributed in a large measure to the noteworthy success of the IXth Corps. The meritorious service rendered by Colonel Wood throughout this period reflects great credit on himself and the military service".

In December of 1953 Carroll was posted from the Far East to Camp Irwin, California, and then to Headquarters, Nevada Military District, where he served as Executive Officer until the time of his death when a completely unexpected attack of Coronary Thrombosis took him from us. Carroll's body was laid to rest with the solemn respect of a military funeral in beautiful Fort Rosecrans National Military Cemetery, overlooking San Diego Bay. He is survived by his parents. Major General and Mrs. John S. Wood; his sister, Miss Shirley Wood; and his brother, Lieutenant Colonel John S. Wood, Jr.

Behind this record of long and faithful service in the United States Army are the many facets that made him known and admired by all with whom he came into contact. Carroll was the type of man that you would never notice at first, but, you would gradually find that his judgment and depth of knowledge were infallible. It was this rocklike stability that characterized his life. He was never

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

known as a man who publicized himself in any way. He was, on the contrary, extremely self-effacing and sought only to do his duty in the most efficient way possible. Yet, behind this strictly businesslike facade lay a warm and understanding heart and an extremely humorous sense of fun. Carroll loved the intricacies of the stock market and spent many years in developing some very successful investment techniques. His hobbies were wide and varied—stamp and coin collecting, short-wave radio and ancient weapons. Carroll's sports program was as well planned and ordered as his professional life, and his assiduous attention to various sports made him outstanding in tennis, squash, swimming, skiing and surf-boarding.

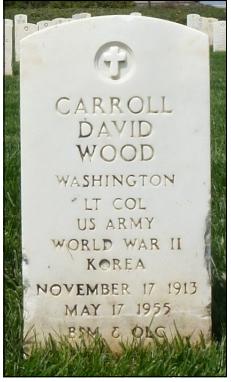
Such is the brief life story of my brother.

I am sure that Carroll would not want us to grieve over his departure, because, in his quiet way, he would like us to know he has merely passed along to another world where he will await our coming, as he did in this one, with anticipation of helping us all wherever and however he may.

-John S. Wood, Jr.

From the West Point Association of Graduates, Be Thou at Peace & Memorial Page https://www.westpointaog.org/memorial-article





Nevada State Journal - Friday - November 19, 1954

Department of the Army Pamphlet 672-1 Unit Citation and Campaign Participation Credit Register – Dated July 1961 Page 358

716th Tank Battalion

Campaigns

13 – Leyte

14 – Luzon

15 - New Guinea

20 – South Philippines

Q X A A A

Remarks

A - Lingayen Gulf, 9 January 1945, WD GO 109-46

A – Jolo Island, 9 April 1945, WD GO 109-46, Company A only

A – Zamboanga, 10 May 1945, WD GO, Detachment only

F – 56, (Philippine Presidential Unit Citation) 17 October 1944- 4 July 1945, DA GO 47-50

A – Assault Landing

F – Foreign Unit Awards

More New Items!

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!

S we now have the 4" stickers in hand. 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

INK LAYER

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

PRINTABLE VINYL

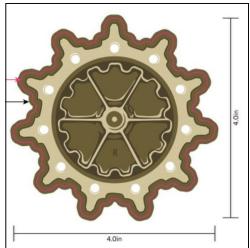
The 5 year durability of our pure white vinyl keeps your stickers looking sharp for years. Our vinyl can be stretched slightly to help adhere to curves.

WATERPROOF ADHESIVE

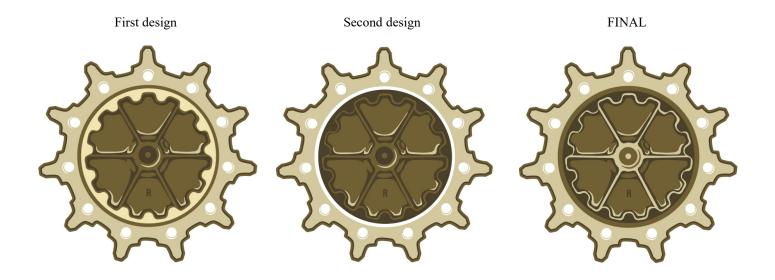
Your sticker won't come off in the rain, snow or the side of a boat! They can even be run through the dishwasher.

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





NEW ITEM!!!!!

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.

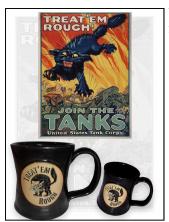
I originally ordered the minimum of these as we were not sure of how well these will go over. So I had 47 of these to start with but I am down to 41 as of this time.

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.

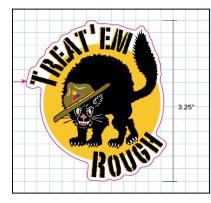
M4 Tee Shirt

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





Patton Battalion - USABOT

Board of Directors Matthias Martinez Karlen P Morris Nathan Snyder William Starks Dion Walker, Sr. Phillip Wilburn



Be sure to check us out on Twitter @pattonbattalion



Lee had this photo of Company C from December 1945. One thing I noted form the photo is the variety of patches. Some are wearing the Armor triangle on their left arms, some have the 1st Cavalry patch, some have the 6th Army patch. They all appear to have the 6th Army patch on their right arm.

Coming up in the May Issue - Kwajalein Atoll, Marshall Islands and the 767th Tank Battalion. More to come on the 716th and 44th Tank Battalions as well!

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 - September 23-26, 2020. (CANCELLED)

Gainey Cup - Fort Benning, GA - Due to the ongoing COVID-19 challenges facing our Nation and keeping the health of our Force at large in mind, Army senior leaders made the decision to forego the 2021 Gainey Cup - Best Scout Squad Competition.

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*

