



**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

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453 on Battalion Facebook Page

PATTON BATTALION - USABOT

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As February is soon to pass us by so did one of our WWII Tankers. CPL David Obernuefemann passed away peacefully with his family at his side on February 6, 2020. We did not know David very long but we were able to get him Knighted with the Black Medallion of the Order of St. George and Honorary Lifetime Membership into USABOT. I had been working with the family to submit David for the French Legion of Honor but sadly David passed away before we could make that happen. I will do a follow up story on David in a special issue just on him at a later time. Rest In Peace David.

So I was asking for tanker tales on the battalion Facebook page. Boy did I get some. In this issue I have shared some of the Tanker Tales that were submitted. Last month I spoke about the book Why We Write. Well I asked for these stories in an effort to get some of you to submit your tales. Some pretty good stories. I think I may do this from time to time just to keep our newsletter interesting. I hope you enjoy the Tanker Tales!

Next is the article Maneuvers and the Umpire System by LTC John S. Wood. As many of you will note this is MG John S Wood later commander of the 4th Armored Division. Mentioned as the "American Rommel" for his Armor leadership in WWII. I have added this article for many reasons. One is to see how that leaders at the time were looking at the maneuvers which were being conducted. Secondly, while looking through the General Dager papers I came across an order where Dager was placed as an umpire for the 1940 maneuvers. Gen Wood was in charge of the umpires for that maneuver.

Now one of the things that I had always been trying to verify or find is how Gen Wood got to know Gen Dager. When Wood became commander of the 4th AD he requested Gen Dager. When I found this article written by then LTC Wood. So apparently the Army put him in charge of the Umpires later. So this would seem to be the way Gen Wood met Gen Dager. I wish that I could find some of the papers by the umpires for the maneuvers in 1940.

So we have some new items. After several requests for Tank Destroyer related items I have broke down and have us a TD design. I have started with the stickers and we shall see how they go over. The Treat'em Rough mugs are still doing good. We will try and have the Bourg and Tank Nerd stickers in some larger sizes. The 75th Anniversary Bulge tee shirts are still taking in orders.

The 2020 OVMS Show of Shows was pretty good this year. I ran into Glen Searcy and Steve Fixler there. I did see about 6 Tank Corps uniforms. Most were just the jacket but I did see a set, jacket and pants for a man from Vermont. There was a jacket there with moth holes in the TC patch. I did chat with the volunteers for the Patton Museum. I can't wait till next year!

KP Morris
Patton 6

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Tanker Tales

In an effort to get the members of Patton Battalion to share their stories I asked for stories of their Tanker Tales. I hope you enjoy and you may even learn something. Maybe.....

Typical LT Behavior

As a young LT, I was the platoon leader for 1st Platoon, A/1-32 Armor in Friedberg, FRG, an M60A2 unit. One day during a Q service, we stopped activity for lunch. After lunch, the platoon members went back to the Q line but I needed to go take care of some Supply Officer duties in the company supply room. When I finished with that, I headed back to the motor pool to supervise and assist with the Q service.

Prior to lunch, we had been working on lubricating the suspension systems on the tanks, so when I got back to the motor pool, I judiciously inspected all the tanks to ensure it had been done, getting to my tank (A-16) last. Of course, as a smartass young LT, I had my "Graf" hat shielding my eyes. Having been looking down at suspensions, I went to get up on the front slope of A-16 and quickly hit my head smack into the gun tube. (Gun tubes had all been over the right side of the tanks before lunch and I did not notice the A-16 tube had been moved to the front!)

Obviously, it hurt when I hit my head, so I proceeded to release a few expletives, along with questioning who had moved the gun tube. One of the crew members asked "Why, did you hit your head?" I replied that I had, and he noticed that it was bleeding.

The end of the story is that it took 8 stitched to close up my scalp and I never failed to check the position of the gun tube again!

Jeff Cockran

So, there we were...

October '73, on a TruckX (Too cheap to send tanks. We always had before. Go to sector in truck and walk west, terrain study) on border in sector close to Bad Hersfeld. Nixon had taken away our maneuver money so our tanks 60 klicks West back on the Rock. The Yom Kippur War going on in Middle East a week or so. Intel thinks Russians delivering nuclear weapons to theater. Executive Staff, (think Kissinger) calls the status change as word is Nixon was drunk.

We can see Warsaw Pact vehicles moving on their side (Only time I saw them). My young 'cruit ass is a bit scared. We finally mounted 5 ton and went back to Ayers Kaserne at Kirch-Göns, got tanks, drew weapons and hauled ass back to border.

No war of course but as close as it got while I served.

I decided then I needed to know my job better.

I studied FMs & TMs hard and that experience made me a better tanker and soldier.

We got our maneuver money back after that..

Richard LaLoge

How I REALLY met CSM Jim Benham....

Ft Polk. Early Autumn 1985. Plt STX lanes. The three platoons of C/3/77 AR had just gone through a humiliating and painfully disappointing day of failure. LTC George Ingersoll (Tall Cotton himself) wanted the leadership of Charlie Co at his AO for some AAR-ing and to built back up the newbie Lts confidences. Don't get me wrong, LTC Tall Cotton was a hell of a motivator and leader, but me myself had trouble getting anything from what he said that I could use to make a difference. As we broke, this gravelly voice asked if he could see the Plt ldrs over to the side. It was CSM Benham; top NCO of 3/77AR and who I had only a couple of very brief encounters. With a cigarette on one hand and a thermos cup top full of coffee in the other, under a canopy of pine trees, he talked about how a tank platoon needs to operate, how the leadership in the platoon needs to work. Draw on the cigarette, a cough, a sip of coffee from the thermos cap, words of advice to new Lts. Repeat. Then some "how we worked it in Nam" stories. HOLY SHIT!? CSM tanked in Vietnam??! Oh Jeezus!! His main points were that as Lts you can't do it all on your own, to use that vast amount of NCO knowledge and trust your NCOs/tank commanders to do their jobs, and that they wanted the platoon to succeed as much as we did. Learned much from that session under the pines that evening.

...and there was that time he showed up with two M88s to pull my tank off of an escarpment...but that's another story...

Gregory A. Smith

I'll tell you a story...

Many years ago when I was a young, yes, very young captain I was the assistant S3 of a Cav Squadron...The CO, XO, S3 and almost everyone else were gone from the TOC...in comes a Colonel from G3 known for his "ass chewing" ability...but never fear, I was prepared to give him the "TOC Brief"...and I proceeded to do so...apparently I didn't do as well as I thought I did cause he proceeded to chew me up one side and down the other and then ask where everyone else was that might properly brief him...I looked around for my OPs SGM and he was nowhere to be seen...I told him I guess I am the best you get...he said a few more words and stomped off, got back in his jeep and left...fast forward a few hours...and suddenly right outside the TOC appears a circle of engineer tape on the

Tanker Tales - cont.

ground...said engineer tape cause everyone to ask why it was there and the SGM answered every time "Don't walk there it is holy ground" as various inquiries were made as to why that particular spot was holy he replied "Cause that's where CPT Pippin lost his ass earlier today"...He was such a great SGM...and made an even better CSM!

James Pippin

This Happened in July 1983

Not sure of year but around 1975 or 76 I was going to be the tank commander at gunnery at Graff for the first time I was an E5 Sgt. Well the company was short on crew members so the company clerk was also an E5 Sgt who had not been on tanks for a while. But he had me as far as time in grade so he became the TC. Yes I was not happy. He did not do anything on the tank other then give orders. We did not get along. Well we made it through gunnery and were going down our PBR on Range 81. Well we were going to get in position and we hit a ditch pretty hard and I got on the driver for hitting the ditch to hard. Well we had our target and went through the fire command. We shot Heat Tpt . Well it turned out that it was not the Drivers fault the TC forgot to raise the gun tube and scooped up the mud in the tube. We blew off about a foot of the gun tube. Well that ended our PBR and they said it was bad ammo so everybody had to unload the bad lot of that ammo. When we got back to our home station in Augsburg Germany he was there long enough for after Ops maintenance and was gone. Then an E6 came in and took over the tank.

Earl Weisbrodt

Just an Armorer ordering parts....

In 1985, I was 'voluntold' to become the new Company Armorer, having just made SP4. I was enrolled and completed the Ft Hood Unit Armorer's Course. Following 'graduation', I was officially made the Armorer.

Taking over, I realized there was only one set of Headspace & Timing gages. The Company had 17 M-2 .50 cal Machine guns. When I reported to the CO of the shortages, he instructed me to order whatever was needed to ensure there was one set per weapon.

In those days, you had to fill out a request, including AMDEF information, including unit of issue, NSN, and price per unit. A problem arose as the price was blank on the microfiche.

I filled out the necessary paperwork (in triplicate) and processed the request. The Clerk noticed the missing info, but told me he'd fill it out, after checking an updated microfiche.

Several days later, while organizing Weapons Cards and other paperwork, 1SG poked his head into the Arms Room. "SPC Moriarty, I don't know what the hell you did, but the CO is seriously blown a gasket, and wants to see you ASAP."

Clueless, I locked up the Arms Room and followed the 1SG into the CO's Office.

"Come in and shut the door" The CO motioned to me, entering his office. The CO & XO were sitting behind the desk, looking at some documents, not looking up, at first.

Standing at 'Parade Rest' in front of the CO's desk, the silence was deafening.

The XO motioned at some figures on the paperwork and looked up, he wasn't amused.

"SPC Moriarty" The CO began, flipping a document over, so I could see it. "What the hell is this?"

"Sir that's my request for the needed Headspace & Timing gages." Recognizing my hand writing and the request I had processed. It was covered in several large red inked "REJECTED" stamps.

"Okay, so what did you actually order?" The XO paused "Because there is NO WAY, 16 headsphere & Timing gages cost \$25,000..!!"

"HUH!?" was my only response.

"Exactly!!" The CO blurted out. "We just spent a real unpleasant meeting with the Bn Cmdr and Bn XO, trying to explain how the Company was attempting to spend the Bn's total supply budget for the remainder of the fiscal year."

"Needless to say, the request was rejected." The XO added.

The conversation lightened up as we investigated the latest updated microfiche. Sure enough the price per unit of a Headspace & Timing gage was \$1400.

Not sure if that was a legitimate price or a misprint, but it took almost a year to 'beg, borrow, & trade" to obtain more gages for the Company.

Tanker Tales - Cont.

Gas & Go....Blind

In Jan 1986 I 'met & experienced' my first NTC rotation as the A Co 1SG's Jeep driver.

In those days, we ran without roofs and even with the windshields down. We constructed 'half-doors' out of plywood. During this rotation it was cold and even snowed one night.

Being afflicted with poor vision (20/500 in the left eye, 20/300 in the right) I wore contacts in garrison but wore my glasses in the field. In my 'Pro-Mask' I had these silly-ass grey rubberized glasses which fit in my Mask.

Out in the Box, we were always on the go. Running Logpac, finding 'lost' tanks, keeping in touch with the Company, and running the Company Trains.

One day, while searching for a broke down tank, we were running along a tank trail when all the sudden my eyes and nose started tingling & burning. Almost simultaneously me & the 1SG yelled 'GAS!!'

Going approximately 30mph, I grabbed my mask and began the donning procedures. I shifted the jeep into neutral and let it roll as I took off my glasses and donned my mask. After clearing, I was satisfied I hadn't inhaled any of the GAS dust, but my eyes were still a little blurry.

It seems the OPFOR had scattered CS powder on some of the tank trails, so driving over them spread clouds of dust & CS powder, without igniting grenades or any sort of signature.

1SG had masked, began directing me off the tank trail, around some uneven terrain. I followed his direction, but realized my inserts had become dislodged within my mask, and I was bouncing around, cross country, not able to see any detail beyond the hood of my jeep.

The jeep lurched up into the air as I hit an unseen rock outcropping. I became the focus of the 1SG's anger as he began shouting thru his mask.. "What the F**K is wrong with you! Didn't you see those rocks..!!"

"NEGATIVE 1SG, I can't see shit..!!!"

"Stop the Jeep, take off your mask and put your glasses back on!!"

Although hesitant, I did as directed. I was REAL happy we had moved out of the contaminated area, as I unmasked & put my glasses on. Holding my breath, I began driving. When satisfied it was clear, I began breathing normally...

Welcome to NTC...

But CSM, The LTC said.....

It was one of those Mid-1980's 'boring' payday activities, Battalion level Formations.

Usually the Bn Cmdr has his 'Hoorah' speech, The CSM then steps up and has his 'Hoorah' speech...then we got dismissed for the rest of the day.

On one such occasion, the BN Cmdr had spent the morning dealing UCMJ actions due to some individuals being caught smoking pot & several DUI's, so he chose this occasion to really hammer the point home not to do dope....

So began one of the more memorable (& confusing) Safety Briefs I ever witnessed....

"If you go out to have a good time, use the buddy system and make sure someone is the designated driver. If you don't have a sober driver, then take a cab. If you find you are broke by the nights end...DO NOT DRIVE DRUNK.

If you have to walk home, DO IT. I don't care if you get a P.I., DON'T DRINK & DRIVE!!

For any of you dopers....you've heard about this AIDS stuff, so if you use a needle and 'shoot up', you will catch AIDS and DIE. Don't DO IT!! You might as well smoke POT cause it can't kill you!!

(HUH???)

After addressing a few more issues, the Bn CMDR turned the formation over to the CSM.

"In case you are confused....The LTC DID NOT JUST AUTHORIZE YOU TO SMOKE POT!!!!"

I heard from within the formation.... "DAMN CSM....you're no fun.." LOL!!!

Dog & Pony Demo: Graf 1987 for the Secretary of the Army

While at Grafenwoehr, on a normal gunnery rotation, we were notified that we would be firing a section gunnery for a VIP visitation of the Secretary of the Army.

Tanker Tales - Cont.

We sat on the ready line on Range 117 for several hours waiting. A 'convoy' of Civilian vehicles arrived in the parking area. About this time we were ordered forward to occupy the first battle position, however we were ordered to remain "Cleared & Elevated".

As the loader on the left most tank, my tank was in the battle position (lane 1, BP-1) immediately in front of the Range Tower. After reporting set, we were given the 'Stand by' response.

I watched as the 'brief case Uzi' toting Secret Service agents set up a perimeter around the tower, and then watched a second convoy of civilian & military vehicles arrive. With the VIP was several tiers of Commanders from Bn, Bde, Division, & Corps, so we had a full house in the tower.

All the security seemed a bit ridiculous, since we were on a live fire tank gunnery range....

We were given the WARNO & commenced to shoot the tank section gunnery.

Following the run we were directed to the debrief area & then informed that we would be eating lunch with the VIP's (!!?!)

HELL YEAH!! We get real food for lunch!! (Instead of the typical brown bag MRE)

Following the Debrief, we were paraded into a DFAC behind the range. Walked up to the Cooks behind the steam tables and couldn't believe what we saw.... The Cooks had a look of utter disgust on their faces and a bit of an apologetic look also.

In all the water filled pans were MRE individual meal pouches, floating in hot water...!! (WTF!?)

As it turns out, the Sec of the Army wanted to experience chow with the soldiers, during a regular meal...so we got hot MRE's... (Gee thanks...LOL!!)

'Tagging' the 11th ACR CMDRs Bird

I was in the 3rd AD's CAT 89 competition team. We spent many rotations to Bergen-Hohne & Graf to do live fire training in preparation to the Competition in June 89.

In Jan, we were in the midst of a rotation to Graf, but the Division was out of training ammunition for us to us, so we continued to use range time with 'sub-cal' training, using the Talfare system. Mounting the M-2 .50cal over the gun tube, we began firing through our scenarios. This became obviously useless for target accuracy as the .50 cal super elevation had us firing high angle shots which more simulated artillery fire, and there was no chance of observing any sort of target hits due to the small round at extended target ranges....

The runs became frustrating to the crews with little training benefit for the effort.

During a cease fire, while sitting in our battle positions on Range 301, a Huey circled and landed a few hundred meters behind the tank line. the occupants loaded up in awaiting HumVee's and went back to the large range tower complex.

We dismounted our tanks and gathered behind the tank line, and were informed that the chopper was the 11th ACR's Regimental Commander, Col John Abrams ('Son of Tank')

Out of boredom, we walked back to check out the chopper. It was obviously 11th ACR's as it was marked up with the Regiments 'Black Horse' insignia.

'Someone' in the platoon, jokingly suggested we add to the chopper by tagging it with our CAT team sticker. 'Someone' else, produced a sticker and a volunteer was chosen to sneak up on the chopper, while the crew was distracted with the rest of the platoon, asking all kinds of useless questions.

Our plan worked flawlessly, the sticker was placed on the tail near a 'Black Horse' logo, without the crew being the wiser...

A short time later, the chopper cranked up, the personnel returned from the tower, and it took off. As it ascended over our tank line, we had to laugh as the CAT sticker was plainly visible.....

CAT TEAM RULES!!

Don Moriarty

What is a plan?

I was a young corporal shooting for the Platoon leader at Ft. Hood. I learned what the definition of a plan is. We finished up a great tank table 8, I think we shot superior. Then we moved onto table 12. The defense went great, the offense not so much. My lieutenant put our tank in a very deep hole sinking most of the right side of the tank. We were not getting out of this by ourselves. So the lieutenant calls up the Battalion commander and asks for permission to jump tanks. I remember thinking, really? Really? Then he was nicely told NOPE! Let your platoon execute your plan. He was pissed, throwing his CVC a handful of select words. So now we fast forward to the AAR. The Battalion commander started by asking my lieutenant a simple question, the answer of which has stuck with me for over 20 years. The lieutenant was asked "what is a plan?"

Tanker Tales - Cont.

Well the lieutenant was quick to start rattling off what the platoon plan was for our table 12. The Battalion commander stopped him and said not your plan. "Again what is a plan?" This time the lieutenant gave it some thought and pulled out what sounded like a great dictionary definition of a plan.

Again the Battalion commander stopped him. He then gave us all the answer to his question. "What is a plan? A foundation for change."

That's where I learned if you don't have a plan you have nothing to change.

David Bardwell

Listen to NCO's

In 1969 the tank company I commanded attended Annual Training at Camp Pickett VA. Just prior to AT my motor Sgt had a family emergency that prevented him attending AT. My 1SG suggested I try to recruit a former Guardsman who had been on Active Duty but left the Army before retirement. I was successful in recruiting the NCO. He grew up on a farm and had a keen sense of equipment maintenance.

We drew 15 M48 tanks and moved to our field bivouac area. He came to me shortly and stated the Equipment Pool had just replaced all the tracks on the tanks and each had a full track. With that full track the compensating idler arm was fully extended. At Pickett most ditches from the tank trail to a training area were deep enough they needed to be crossed straight on. He said we will break every compensating idler arm in two days. At the objections of my TCs I agreed to break track and remove two pads on each track and shortening the compensating idler.

On Thurs night of the first week I was called to a meeting with the Battalion Commander. He demanded to know why so many tanks were deadlines. He asked each commander how many tanks they had down. Each company had drawn 15 Tanks. I stated I had none deadlined, B Co had 7 down and C Co had 8 down. I asked what was the biggest problem and the other commanders said broken compensating idler arms. He asked why I didn't have the problem and I explained we had broke track the first day and removed two pads per track. He said why did you know to do this and they didn't. I explained I didn't but I had an E6 Motor Sgt that did.

Having good NCOs and listening to them made company command a good four years. Oh and we won the battalion maintenance award that AT.

Otis P. Morris

MISFIRE, MISFIRE, MISFIRE...

The first time as a TC we rolled up in the BP and were starting our run. The excitement of the first time down is range is crazy. So we go hot and REDCON 1 and then the fun starts. We roll up to the top of the berm, tanks, Fire! Misfire! Misfire! I yell "Master Blaster" BOOM! We finish the engagement and start movement to the range road. I am looking over the main gun and see the firing wire cut. I quickly pull out my knife and peel the plastic back and splice the line together. Next engagement Fire! Boom! next target Fire! Misfire! Misfire! Master Blaster! Boom! I look down and the wire is apart again. When the main gun recoiled the wire was breaking. The maint tech had the wire pulled tight not accounting for the gun to recoil. So the rest of my Day run was me holding the wire together to make the main gun fire. When I showed it to maint the tech looked at me and tied the wire together and said FIXED! When I demonstrated the gun recoil and pulled it apart he said "Oh." We had to loosen the wire harness back under the gun the get enough slack to finish that AT.

KP Morris

First gunnery, Fort Polk. Co AA 400 meters + forward of first BP but 100 meters outside range fan. Didn't sleep a wink until 04ish when last tank went down range. Fast forward 21 months and loader is waking me up, saying "XO, tower wants to know if we're ready." I said ask SGT Garrett. And SGT Garrett says "Wind up the range fans, I got the LT his box of reticles..."

Gregory A. Smith

Quick hitter

My loader, not too sharp, loaded 105 HEP, yelled up. OD scarf had stuck in breechblock, he yelled UP with face next to cannon. I was gunner and saw it. CEASE FIRE. We untangled him and shot round. Burned scarf some.

Richard LaLoge

Maneuvers and the Umpire System - LTC JSW

Maneuvers and the Umpire System
By LTC John S. Wood, Field Artillery

Peace time maneuvers, if properly staged, provide an occasion for the assembly and movement of troops, for their upkeep under field conditions, for the collection and dissemination of military information, and for the issue, transmission, and execution of orders. These maneuvers must have a well-considered and clearly defined tactical object, but it must be understood that the tactical lessons to be learned can relate only to the possibilities listed above and not to actual combat, for the simple reason that fire is absent. No matter how many reams of umpire instructions are turned out, the effects of fire assessed as losses in maneuvers are highly imaginary. The decisions as to the outcome of any local contact are pure guesswork and no real tactical conclusions can be based on them. The only useful tactical information obtained during maneuvers is comprised in the answer to the following questions:

Was there a definite combat mission?

Was it understood by the troops?

Were they in position and ready to begin its execution?

Actual contacts between combat units lend an air of reality to the exercise but mean nothing in so far as real combat is concerned. In army maneuvers, particularly, the small local decisions are of little concern to the army or corps commanders, and there is no need of maintaining an elaborate system of umpire communications to indicate the exact situation of small units at each moment of the action. In any case, these small decisions should be governed by general umpire instructions as to phases of action and not by some umpires guesswork as to possibilities of fire.

With this understanding of the real purpose and possibilities of maneuvers in general, plans for umpiring and control can be relatively simple and much more practical in execution than the unwieldy system developed in our recent army maneuvers. The burdensome and largely useless complexities of this so-called Umpire System were first encountered during the First Army Maneuvres at Pine Camp, New York, in 1935. Hundreds of miles of umpire wire were laid by a signal battalion, telephones for umpire use were hung on trees and bushes at every turn, imposing umpire headquarters were set up with a special staff and giant situation maps, and a horde of about two hundred umpires, equipped with flags, cow bells, klaxons, blank forms, and an arm load of umpire instructions, descending on troops involved in three or four little division engagements. The system was awe-inspiring and stupefying in its results. Notes made at the time by one of the umpires concerned, together with similar notes made during the Second Army Maneuvres at Fort Knox, Allegan, Michigan, in 1936 read as follows:

1935

"About one hundred and fifty senior officers were assembled at Pine Camp two weeks prior to the maneuvers for the purpose of instruction and reconnaissance. A sort of umpire's school was held in the mornings, leaving the afternoon free for reconnaissance. The school periods, in the manner of most of our Army Schools, were devoted to an elaborate elucidation of the obvious, the instructors reading from mimeographed instructions for umpires or from the exercise problems – in my opinion a sheer waste of time. These gatherings offered a pleasant renewal of acquaintance and a reunion of old friends but little else. The military work involved could have been accomplished in a fourth of the time. In the future, Old Home weeks of this sort should be cut down from a fortnight to a minimum of four days.

"The exercises were two-sided maneuvers covering about a week's time, together with a motorized march exercise for the First Division. Considering the limitations of ground and state of training, the problems were well conceived in that they provided a logical meeting of opposite forces, which is all that is required in a two-sided maneuver. In their execution, however, so many arbitrary rulings were made to limit initiative that much of the purpose of the maneuvers was defeated. As announced, that purpose was, aside from the mobilization and supply problems involved, the combined tactical training of troops and commanders. I am afraid that the conduct of the exercises presented a picture of Indian fighting rather than a demonstration of modern combat. The assumption that air forces were not present, prohibition of the use of advanced motorized reconnaissance elements, our antiquated advance guard formations, the lack of tanks, and the slowness of transmission of umpires' decisions were factors in this."

* * *

1936

"The umpire system which has been built up at the last two army maneuvers is becoming more of a burden than a help. There might be some excuse for it in a stabilized situation, but it does not conform in any way to the requirements of modern war of movement. The present scheme of installing an umpire wire net, involving hundreds of miles of wire and whole companies of operators, is too burdensome and complicated in any situation.

The separate umpire net and operations map are artificial and meaningless. Special umpire information may be received at times through a short-wave radio net for umpires, but I believe that the army commander, as chief umpire, should control the maneuvers mainly according to the information received from his two forces through tactical agencies. This will force insistence on such information. Things must be so controlled in war, why not in peace? The unit umpires can be given the general plan for the development of the maneuver and can force events accordingly at given point of contact, the main moves being controlled by the army commander (chief umpire) as part of his command of both forces. Eliminate the area umpires and use unit umpires only – their function being strictly limited to determining the probable effect of fire and tactical dispositions at any given point. They will consult together and the senior umpire on the defensive side will make the final decision in accordance with the general plan of the army commander.

Maneuvers and the Umpire System - Cont.

Conferences at the end of each phase and the general orientation for the next phase will be directed by the army commander himself."

* * *

As happens so often in our army, the rather simple instructions contained in the small provisional Manual for Umpires of Field Maneuvers have been enlarged, obscured by a flood of mimeographs, and erected into a system requiring specialists for its installation. The sad part of the whole thing is that some of these self-elected specialists have been allowed to continue the development of the system until even small scale maneuvers can not be staged now without the whole complex and cumbersome set-up. The umpiring of small problems involving only reinforced brigades now requires the service of hundreds of umpires and whole signal companies for the communication involved. In sharp contrast, the umpire staff of the Italian maneuvers of 1938, involving two corps of two or three actual divisions each, comprised of only 68 officers.

The farther spread and aggrandizement of the umpire system should be resisted throughout our army by all of who are concerned with the conduct of maneuvers. Let us get down to reality in this as well as in the purposes for which maneuvers are staged.

The umpiring should be as direct and unobtrusive as possible. The suggestion of the Manual that umpires be detailed among the qualified senior officers of the troops participating in the maneuver, their commands being taken over by juniors, is particularly sound and should be the general rule. With this arrangement and with a small directing group, using short-wave radio and fast motor transportation, maneuvers can be umpired quietly and effectively by a surprisingly small number of officers. Signal units can be released for their proper uses, as demanded by the tactical situations of the exercise; and commanders can function freely, unhampered by the mass of useless and artificial restrictions so often imposed during our recent maneuvers.

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My Haul from the 2020 OVMS Show of Shows in Louisville, KY. A M60-A2 training aid, a 33rd Armor Regiment with the Mark V on top, a 246th Tank Battalion insignia, and a large "unofficial" Vietnam era Tanker combat badge.



Corporal David Obernuefemann

It is my sad duty to report that CPL David Obernuefemann passed away on February 6, 2020. David was surrounded by family and went peacefully. Although we only knew him for a short time he really was proud to be a member of USABOT! He also loved the tankers jacket we presented to him as family and friends have commented about how proud he was of it and by wearing it constantly.

David E Obernuefemann Jr

February 28, 1925 ~ February 6, 2020 (age 94)

Obituary: David E. Obernuefemann, Jr. (February 28, 1925- February 6, 2020)

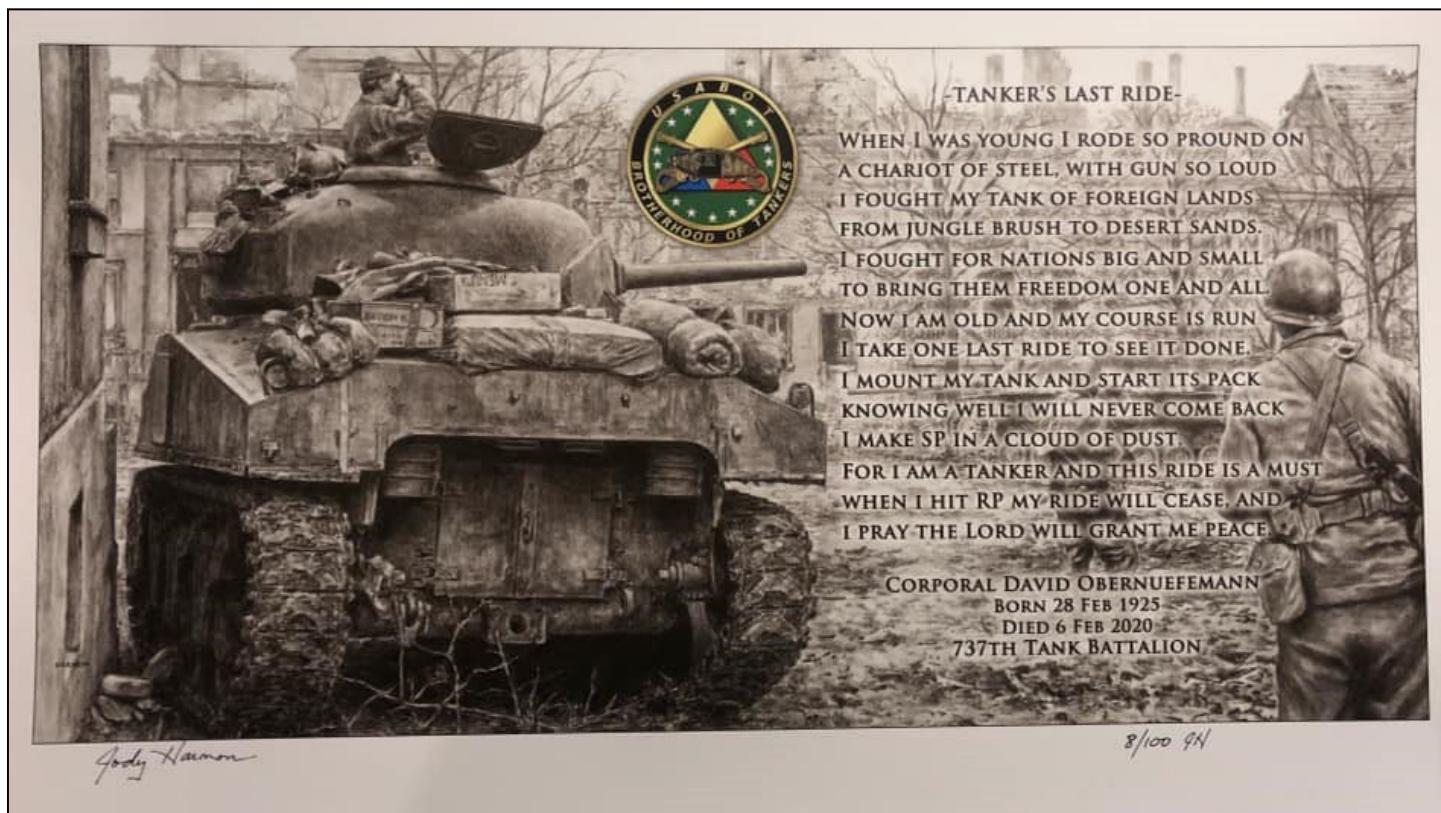
David E. Obernuefemann, Jr., age 94, formerly of Troy, IL passed peacefully at his home in Crestwood, KY surrounded by loved ones on February 6 2020. He was born on February 28, 1925 to David and Ida (nee Bugger) Obernuefemann. He married Mildred Fohne on January 22, 1946. She preceded him in death on August 24, 1996 after 50 years of marriage. He married Imajune Hanser (nee Klein) on May 8, 1999. She preceded him in death on January 2, 2016.In addition to his wives, he was preceded in death by his parents, brothers; Tony, Henry, Earl, and Bernard, sisters; Odelia Ellison and Elanora Gavin, and daughter Shirley Walker. He is survived by daughter Cindy (Art) Waterman, sons; Dan (Terry), Bob (Karen), and Dave (Kay), stepdaughters Shauna Boad and Sharon (Greg) Streif, grandchildren, great grandchildren, great great grandchildren, and a step grand daughter.

He was a member of St. Jerome Catholic Church in Troy, IL and attended Crestwood Christian Church in Crestwood, KY. He was a member of the Troy VFW and the USA Brotherhood of Tankers.

He was a dairy farmer and a mechanic. He proudly fought for his country in WW II in 5 theaters: Northern France, Normandy, Ardennes, Central Europe, and Rhineland. He entered the war on D-Day+4 on Omaha Beach as a tanker. He trained at Ft. Knox, KY. Later he became part of the 737 tank battalion under General Patton. He was one of the tankers who broke through enemy lines in the Battle of the Bulge in Bastogne, Belgium. He was awarded 5 bronze stars and the Good Conduct Medal. He was knighted by the USA Brotherhood of Tankers in 2019 and presented with the Black Medallion of the Order of St. George. He was very active in WW II veteran activities and ceremonies in KY. He never refused a request to speak at schools and tell the students about WW II. He was honored to be on stage at the Normandy Cemetery on June 6, 2019, the 75th anniversary of D-Day, where he met President Trump and President Macron (President of the French Republic).

Memorial donations may be made to Hosparus Health Development Office, 3532 Ephraim McDowell Drive, Louisville, KY 40205.

Visitation: Friends may call from 2-7 pm on Monday February 10th , 2020 at Stoess Funeral Home, 6534 West Highway 22, Crestwood, KY. The funeral will be at Crestwood Christian Church on Tuesday, February 11th, at 11am with viewing prior to service. Burial will be in Shiloh, IL.



New Patton and the US Tank Corps Monument Items

So we have some new items on top of the tees and the mugs. I have decals/stickers that we have had made. The first is the Bourg oval decal/sticker. These are just like the Treat'em Rough decals. They are made for indoor and outdoor use. These are small but I wanted to see how these would do before diving head first. These are 2" tall and 4" long. I have 10 of these on hand.

The other item is the Tank Nerds Armor in History decal/sticker. These are slightly larger than the Bourg decal. These are 3" tall and 5" long. It is a clear decal with the image on it. I made the mistake of selecting Option II, black ink, for the first set. We can always get white ink but I will have order those. I have 20 on these on hand.

Another new item is the Tank Destroyer sticker. After some asking if this is something we would do I finally broke down and had Cricket Press make us a design that we could use. As always, they did a great job. I have 25 of these Tank Destroyer stickers.

All of these stickers we are offering at \$5.00 each.



New Tank Corps Monument Item



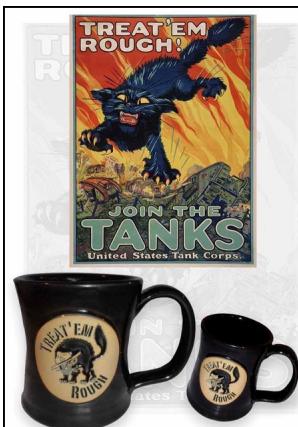
The 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Bulge tee shirt. These are on a run like the shirts we did before. Colors are White, Grey, and OD Green. Sizes will run from Small through 3XL. These shirts are athletic cut and do run small in size.

These are \$30 each, 3XL shirts are \$35 each. Shipping can be included. These shirts are printed as ordered.

On Hand - 1 - Grey - XL

Patton Battalion has a new item for the Patton US Tank Corps Monument Project.

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 (17) and Black (24) on hand. So they are going quick. Contact me or look for them on the 19Series Website. <https://19seriesclothing.com/>



Patton Monument Report for 2020

As of February 20, 2020, the Monument fund has \$15,203.40. After paying for the second run of mugs and moving funds over to cover shipping costs.

Total in Monument Account: \$15,203.40.

The Bourg Tee Shirts we have on hand.

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

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 February 20, has 451 members on our battalion Facebook page. Out of those 451 members we are currently at 93 paid members.

The Patton Battalion has \$78.58 in funds in the PayPal account. We have \$333.83 in the Patton Operating account. Battalions funds are \$313.22.

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

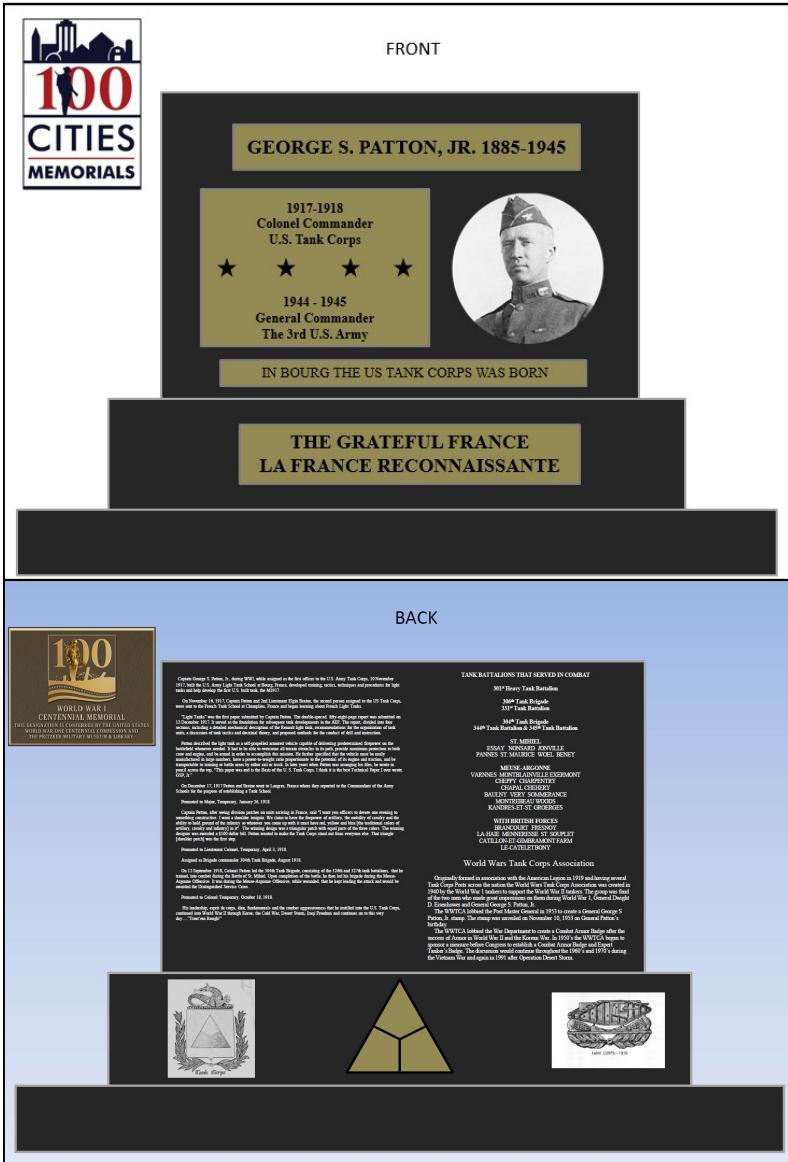
USABOT Memberships can be renewed and purchased By mail at

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.

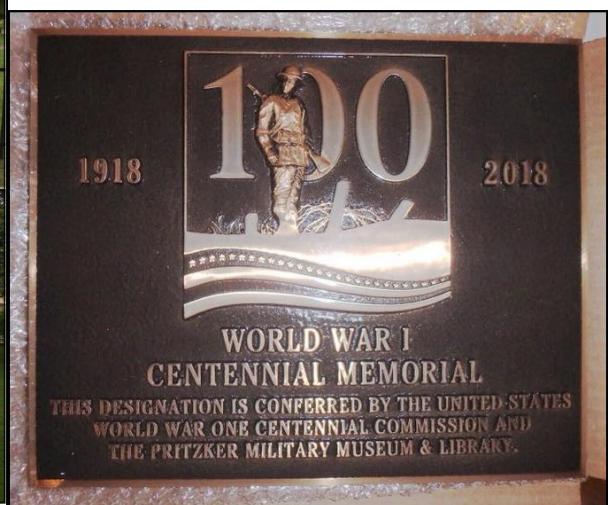
WWW.USABOT.ORG

Patton Joins the US Tank Corps Monument



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

<https://19seriesclothing.com/>



Patton Monument Layout

Proposed wording for back of monument - Left Side

Captain George S. Patton, Jr., during WWI, while assigned as the first officer to the U.S. Army Tank Corps, 10 November 1917, built the U.S. Army Light Tank School at Bourg, France, developed training, tactics, techniques and procedures for light tanks and help develop the first U.S. built tank, the M1917.

Letter from Captain Patton to Commander-in-Chief A.E.F. Subject: Command in the Tank Service. October 3, 1917.

1. I understand that there is to be a new service of "Tanks" organized and request that my name be considered for a command in that service.
2. I think myself qualified for this service for the following reasons.
 - A. The duty of "Tanks" and more especially of "Light Tanks" is analogous to the duty performed by cavalry in normal wars. I am a cavalryman.
 - B. I have commanded a Machine Gun Troop and know something of the mechanism of Machine Guns. I have always had a Troop which shot well so think that I am a good instructor in fire. It is stated that accurate fire is very necessary to good use of tanks.
 - C. I have run Gas Engines since 1917 and have used and repaired Gas Automobiles since 1905.
 - D. I speak and read French better than 95% of American Officers so could get information from the French Direct. I have also been to school in France and have always gotten on well with Frenchmen.
 - E. I believe that I have quick judgment and that I am willing to take chances. Also I have always believed in getting close to the enemy and have taught this for two years at the Mounted Services School where I had success in arousing the aggressive spirit in the students.
 - F. I believe that I am the only American who has ever made an attack in a motor vehicle.
3. This request is not made because I dislike my present duty or am desirous of evading it but because I believe that when we get "Tanks" I would be able to do good service in them.

November 10, 1917: Order for tanks approved by GHQ AEF General Order 153, Paragraph 37.

On November 16, 1917, Captain Patton and 2nd Lieutenant Elgin Braine, the second person assigned to the US Tank Corps, were sent to the French Tank School at Champlieu, France and began learning about French Light Tanks.

"Light Tanks" was the first paper submitted by Captain Patton. The double-spaced, fifty-eight-page report was submitted on 12 December 1917 to the new Chief of Tanks, B.G. Samuel D. Rockenbach. It served as the foundation for subsequent tank developments in the AEF. The report, divided into four sections, including a detailed mechanical description of the Renault light tank, recommendations for the organization of tank units, a discussion of tank tactics and doctrinal theory, and proposed methods for the conduct of drill and instruction.

Patton described the light tank as a self-propelled armored vehicle capable of delivering predetermined firepower on the battlefield whenever needed. It had to be able to overcome all terrain obstacles in its path, provide maximum protection to both crew and engine, and be armed in order to accomplish this mission. He further specified that the vehicle must be easily manufactured in large numbers, have a power-to-weight ratio proportionate to the potential of its engine and traction, and be transportable to training or battle areas by either rail or truck. In later years when Patton was arranging his files, he wrote in pencil across the top, "This paper was and is the Basis of the U. S. Tank Corps. I think it is the best Technical Paper I ever wrote. GSP, Jr."

On December 17, 1917 Patton and Braine went to Langres, France where they reported to the Commandant of the Army Schools for the purpose of establishing a Tank School.

In late December Patton and Braine reconnoitered land that would be suitable for the tank School. They found and looked over ground near Bourg and decided that it was exactly what was needed for a school, tank park and maneuver ground. At Bourg, five miles south of Langres on the road to Dijon, the land was in the Bois d'Amour, a rising piece of ground crowned by a wood and flanked by two good roads and a railroad. Bourg, with nearby villages of St. Geosmes and Brennes, as well as Langres, were conveniently located for billets.

Promoted to Major, Temporary, January 26, 1918.

Assigned formally as the Commandant of the 1st Light Tank School, February 14, 1918.

Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, Temporary, April 3, 1918.

Organized 1st Light Tank Battalion with himself commanding, April 28, 1918.

Organized 2nd Light Tank Battalion, with himself in command of the Regiment, June 6, 1918.

Captain Patton, after seeing division patches on units arriving in France, said "I want you officers to devote one evening to something constructive. I want a shoulder insignia. We claim to have the firepower of artillery, the mobility of cavalry and the ability to hold ground of the infantry so whatever you come up with it must have red, yellow and blue [the traditional colors of artillery, cavalry and infantry] in it". The winning design was a triangular patch with equal parts of the three colors. The winning designer was awarded a \$100 dollar bill. Patton wanted to make the Tank Corps stand out from everyone else. That triangle [shoulder patch] was the first step.

Student, General Staff College, Langres, France, August 20, 1918.

Organized and assigned himself Brigade commander 304th Tank Brigade, August 24, 1918.

On 12 September 1918, Colonel Patton led the 304th Tank Brigade, consisting of the 326th and 327th tank battalions, that he trained, into combat during the Battle of St. Mihiel.

Led the 304th Tank Brigade during the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. The Distinguished Service Cross Citation reads: for extraordinary heroism in action while serving with the Tank Corps, A.E.F., near Cheppy, France, 26 September 1918. Colonel Patton displayed conspicuous courage, coolness, energy, and intelligence in directing the advance of his brigade down the valley of the Aire. Later he rallied a force of disorganized infantry and led it forward, behind the tanks, under heavy machine-gun and artillery fire until he was wounded. Unable to advance further, Colonel Patton continued to direct the operations of his units until all arrangements for turning over the command were complete. General Order No. 113 (1918)

Promoted to Colonel Temporary, October 18, 1918.

His leadership, esprit de corps, élan, fundamentals and the combat aggressiveness that he instilled into the U.S. Tank Corps, continued into World War II through Korea, the Cold War, Desert Storm, Iraqi Freedom and continues on to this very day...."Treat'em Rough!"

Patton Monument Layout

Proposed wording for backside of Monument (Right Side Rear)

TANK BATTALIONS THAT SERVED IN COMBAT

301st Heavy Tank Battalion
306th Tank Brigade
331st Tank Battalion

304th Tank Brigade
344th Tank Battalion & 345th Tank Battalion

ST. MIHIEL

• ESSAY • NONSARD • JONVILLE • PANNES • ST. MAURICE • WOEL • BENEY •

MEUSE-ARGONNE

• VARNNES • MONTBLAINVILLE • EXERMONT • CHEPPY • CHARPENTRY • CHAPAL CHEHERY •
• BAULNY • VERY • SOMMERANCE • MONTREBEAU WOODS • KANDRES-ET-ST. GROERGES •

WITH BRITISH FORCES

• BRANCOURT • FRESNOY • LA-HAIE MENNERESSE • ST. SOUPLET •
• CATILLON-ET-GIMBRAMONT FARM • LE-CATELET BONY •

MEDAL OF HONOR

2

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CROSS

50



WORLD WARS TANK CORPS ASSOCIATION

In 1919 the movement began to create Tank Corps Posts as a part of the newly formed American Legion. The purpose of the organization was to promote and maintain public interest in tanks as an arm of the service and to form a bond between its members by means of social and fraternal activities. These tankers created Tank Corps Posts formed in Chicago, New York, St Louis, Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. just to name a few. The group was fond of the two men who made great impressions on them during World War 1, General Dwight D. Eisenhower and General George S. Patton, Jr.

The WWTCA lobbied the Post Master General in 1953 to create a General George S Patton, Jr. stamp. The stamp was unveiled on November 10, 1953 on General Patton's birthday.

The official combat badge of the American fighting tankmen was approved and released by the World Wars Tank Corps Association in April, 1957. Centered on the badge is a replica of the British Mark V tank running over the flaming sword symbolic of battle and in particular of Chateau Thierry. The background is blue and the inscription "World Wars Tank Corps." All armored combat men of both World Wars were eligible for the badge which was issued only through the World Wars Tank Corps Association. President Eisenhower received the first combat badge on July 7, 1958, at the White House.

The WWTCA lobbied the War Department to create a Combat Armor Badge after the success of Armor in World War II and the Korean War. In 1950's the WWTCA began to sponsor a measure before Congress to establish a Combat Armor Badge and Expert Tanker's Badge. The discussion would continue throughout the 1960's and 1970's during the Vietnam War and again in 1991 after Operation Desert Storm.

One of the last contributions made by this group was the Armored Force Monument located in Arlington National Cemetery.



Patton Battalion - USABOT

Board of Directors

Matthias Martinez

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Be sure to check us out on
Twitter @pattonbattalion



JMRCHohenfels@HohenfelsJMR - Things at #combinedresolve are getting exciting as Blackjack Brigade defends their front lines.

<https://dvidshub.net/news/361076/blackjack-brigade-defends-their-front-lines-during-training-exercise-combined-resolve-xiii...>

#StrongEurope #TrainToWin

Coming up in the March Issue - Proposed changes to the Patton and the WWI Tank Corps Monument.

Upcoming Events

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

World War I Event - Indiana Military Museum, Vincennes, IN, March 21-22, 2020.

Sullivan Cup - Best Tank Crew Competition - Fort Benning, GA, 4-8 May 2020.

22 Challenge 10K Ruck March - Jeffersonville, IN, May 16, 2020.

Ninth Annual Tanker Homecoming - Fort Carson, CO - September 23-26, 2020.

World War II Event - Indiana Military Museum, Vincennes, IN, 2020.

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

From the US Army Armor School

Are you ready for Sullivan Cup 2020!?

The events will be held 4-8 May 2020 here at Fort Benning!

Official invites and further details to follow, but let's start getting excited about seeing who the best tank crew of 2020 will be!!!

