

**NEWSLETTER
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IN THIS ISSUE

- ◆ Master Gunner Program History Part 4
- ◆ Daughter of the Air By Rob Simbeck
- ◆ Patton and the US Tank Corps Monument Update
- ◆ Battalion Information

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

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

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February is quickly coming to a close. That means its time for the Show of Shows event in Louisville! Always a good time to walk through and see what you can find in Military Collecting.

I have the fourth and final installment of the Master Gunner History. This isn't the way I was hoping to wrap it up but information about the program kind of dries up once the first class begins in 1976. So we have gone from the 1973 Arab-Israeli War, the After Action Reports and through the process of creating the Master Gunner Program.

My hope is that some Master Gunner will pick up from here and take a look at the Master Gunner Program over its upcoming 50 years. How the program has evolved since it beginning. Changes through the years. And as we are seeing another war in Europe how are we going to adapt.

My dad was at the Armor Officers Advanced Course in 1973 during the war. He saw immediately the shift as it was happening. And to quote him "Everything changed after 1973." From his time as a Major on training, planning, and the warfighting mindset was shifted. I still remember the morning I came downstairs and saw my dad watching the news that the wall had come down. The other quote from my dad I will always remember "Now what?"

If you ever have the chance to sit down with NCOs from the first few years of the Master Gunner Program, whether it is with students or instructors, these folks *know* tanks and fire control systems. Trying to listen to them talk is like a lesson in everything you were never taught about tanks.

My final comment goes to my dad again, when he talks about the Master Gunner Program his response is this "Without the Master Gunner Program there would be no Battle of 73 Eastings."

The book I was able to finish this month was *Daughter of the Air; The Brief Soaring Life of Cornelia Fort* by Rob Simbeck. If you don't know who she is you should Google her and if you really want to learn about her check out this book. The book is a great tribute to her life.

I was also contacted this month by a grandson of a tanker from the 2nd Tank Battalion, CCR 9th Armored Division. He had come across the newsletter and the stories we shared on the CCR 9th AD from the 2019 issues. I have been sharing with him much more about the unit and what they were doing in the Battle of the Bulge. His grandfather CPT Robert W. Linder was awarded a Silver Star Medal for actions around Villeroux, Belgium on December 23, 1944. Hopefully we can add his story with the others we have on CCR 9th AD in the Bulge.

KP Morris
Patton 6

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The History of the Master Gunner Program - Part 4

Since the letters and documents for the Master Gunner Program have pretty much stopped by 1976 I thought I would look at the year in *Armor Magazine*. So as I looked back through the year of 1976 there were some things I found.

So in February 1976 the first official class of the Master Gunner program was begun. This is what would become class 01. There was not anything mention of the Master Gunner until later in the year. So here is what I found.

Under *Forging the Thunderbolt*.

Gunnery Tips

A previous *Forging the Thunderbolt*, (November-December 1975), article presented tips on several problem area in M-60A1 tank gunnery. This article will discuss the almost forgotten art of range determination.

With the advent of tank-mounted rangefinders (coincidence and laser), tank crews have depended on this equipment almost exclusively to determine range. However, when the rangefinder is not operational, the crew must accurately estimate range to insure a high probability of first round hits. Additionally, the TC must be able, at all times, to determine whether the target is within battlesight range for a battlesight engagement or beyond that range for a precision engagement. Range determination can be broken into two methods; *immediate methods* to be used with battlesight gunnery, and when time permits, use of the most accurate *deliberate methods*.

Immediate Range Determination Methods

Recognition method. Range determination by recognition is simple and amazingly accurate. This method is based on target visibility. It involves use of the naked eye or sighting through a magnifying instrument. With the naked eye, or sighting instruments with 7-8 power magnification, the following targets are recognizable out to the ranges indicated.

Target	Range (in meters)	
	Naked Eye	Magnification 7-8 Power
Troops, Machinegun, Mortar, Antitank Gun, Antitank Missile Launchers	500	2,000
Tank, Armored Personnel Carrier, Truck, by model	1,000	4,000
Tank, Howitzer, APC, Truck	1,500	5,000
Armored Vehicle, Wheel Vehicle	2,000	6,000

It must be remembered, however, that certain light and terrain considerations may make the target appear larger or clearer than it actually is. The target will seem closer if it is at a higher elevation; is seen in bright light; contrasts with background; is seen across an open area such as a ravine, or river; or it is significantly larger than the other features around it. The target will seem further away if it is at a lower elevation; camouflaged; is small in comparison to other features; is between the observer and the sun; is a dark color; or if visibility is poor.

Coax Method. Because the similarities of superelevation angles for the 7.62-mm, 105-mm HEP, and 152-mm HEAT-MP, the coax can be effectively employed as a ranging gun to 900 meters (tracer burnout).

SIMILARITIES IN SUPERELEVATION ANGLES

	RANGE (m)				
	200	400	600	800	900
7.62-mm	1.6	3.7	6.5	10.5	13.3
105-mm HEP	1.9	4.1	6.4	8.9	10.3
152-mm HEAT-MP	2.2	4.6	7.1	9.8	11.2

In other words, if the coax is hitting the target, using the coax sight picture and firing HEP or HEAT-MP you should hit or be very close to the target. Using the computer to change superelevation, data will also enable the gunner to fire HEAT or APDS on the M-60A1.

Cupola-mounted Machinegun Method. On tanks so equipped, the .50 caliber machinegun can be used as a ranging gun to 1,600 meters. The tank commander using the M-36 ballistic reticle fires the .50 caliber machinegun observing the range on the reticle to hit the target. The tank commander then announces this range.

History of the Master Gunner Program - Cont.

Deliberate Range Determination Methods

Mil Relation. The mil relation formula is an accurate method of range determination, providing the observer knows the actual size of the target, can accurately determine the mil angle of the target, and use the formula $W/m = R$: that is width (W) or size of actual target in meters divided by the apparent mil angle (m) of the target (using binoculars as mil relation in a sight reticle equals range (R) to the target in thousands of meters. In the absence of knowing the actual size of the target it should be remembered that threat tanks are approximately 3.5 meters wide, 2.5 meters high, and 6.5 meters long.

For example: the crew must engage an advancing threat tank which is 3.5 meters wide. Through a sight, the tank appears to be 2 mils wide; 3.5 meters (W) divided by 2 mils (m) equals 1.75 thousand meters or 1,750 meters range (R) to target. A simple chart would simplify the mathematics. An example chart is:

Mil Angle Measurement			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
R A N G E	Threat Medium Tank	Length 6.5m	6500	3300	2200	1600	1300	1100	900	800	700	700
		Width 3.5m	3500	1800	1200	900	700	600	500	400	400	400
	Threat Heavy Tank	Length 7.5m	7500	3800	2500	1900	1500	1300	1100	900	800	800
		Width 3.5m	3500	1800	1200	900	700	600	500	400	400	400

- Notes.
1. Range figures on chart are rounded off to the nearest hundred. Tank measurements are rounded off to nearest half-meter.
 2. The above chart shows how to use the mil relation to:
 - a. Measure mil angle of target with binocular or sight reticle.
 - b. Find length or width of target in the chart.
 - c. Find range to target by reading to the right to the range under the mil angle measured with a binocular.

Flash Bang. In this technique, range is determined by measuring the time between the flash and the gun report. Sound travels through the air at a fairly constant speed, 330 meters per second. Comparatively, light travels in no time at all. Range can be determined if you can see *and hear* the action. For example, when you see the flash or smoke of a weapon, of the dust it raises, immediately start counting seconds. When you hear the weapon fire, stop, and multiply the number of seconds by the constant 330 meters. But remember, if the enemy is shooting at you, you may feel the impact of his round penetrating your tank before you hear the sound of his firing gun. (Remember sound travels at 330 meters per second. A T-62 tank round travels at 1,500 meters per second.)

Miscellaneous Equipment Readily Available. By knowing the mil value at arm's length of various pieces of equipment and actual size of targets, you can determine range rather quickly with a reasonable degree of accuracy. Some figures worthy of remembering are: the hole of a dogtag is 7 mils wide. Width of a flaceted pencil – 10 mils, 7.62-mm brass casing – 15 mils, a 13-grain flechette – 3.5 mils, an 11-grain flechette – 3 mils. For example, if you see the entire length of a tank through the hole of your dogtag,

$$\frac{W}{m} = R \quad \frac{6.5}{7} = .93 \text{ or } 930 \text{ meters}$$

The tank is 930 meters or greater in range.

Range determination is most certainly important to the firing crew since range data is the key to first round hits. Crews should be well aware of the above methods and practice them frequently to insure greater proficiency and speed of determining range.

This article was a follow up to the one I shared in the January Newsletter.

Armor Magazine, January-February, 1976, Vol LXXXV, No. 1, page 12-13.

In February of 1976 MG Donn A. Starry is promoted to Lieutenant General and is commander of V Corps in Europe. He would command V Corps from 1976-1977 before taking command of TRADOC.

MG John W. McHenry replaces Gen Starry as the Armor Commandant. Under the *Commander's Hatch* in the first two issues Armor Magazine Gen Starry's articles are still appearing. It is mentioned that some of his articles had ran longer than planned.



by LTG Donn A. Starry
Former Commandant
U.S. Army Armor School

History of the Master Gunner Program - Cont.

There was one article in the issue that month that talked about tank gunnery.

“*We Didn’t Come Just to Qualify*” by CPT Robert E. Harry pages 30-34.

Armor Magazine, March-April, 1976, Vol LXXXV, No. 2,

In the *Letters* section,

Dear Sir,

This is in reply to “Tank Gunnery Under Fire,” by LTC Charles E. Honoré (*Armor*, Sep-Oct, 1975).

You bet your commission everyday as a commander, and can think of no better reason than tank gunnery.

In 1961-2, people in other USAERUR divisions said TT VIII was too hard and unrealistic, but General Abrams’ 3rd Armored did well, in particular 2-13 Cav and 2-32 Armor of CCA, commanded by COL Michael S. Davison.

In 1972-5, the 4-69 Armor of the 1st Brigade, 8th Infantry Division shot well because they planned, trained, and maintained to do the job. That covers the old and new tables under two commanders.

Tank gunnery is a science and an art; a *science* to many techniques and procedures, and an *art* to get crews to follow them faithfully and accurately.

General Abrams stated that the Table VIII TCQC was the best and most challenging test outside of combat. He also required each and every TC to shoot and qualify his tank. I still buy that and I am for improving tank gunnery, but anyone who wants to take the pressure and competition away from tank gunnery, to make it into just an enlarged pistol range, doesn’t understand what useful competition and pressure mean. The fact that each tank crew in the battalion, commanded by a LTC, MAJ, CPT, LT, E-7 or E-6, must undergo annual training and qualifications gives armor units an advantage no other combat arm has. Armor commanders keep close to the fundamentals and prove by example.

You get paid in tank units to shoot tanks and hit targets. If a commander, be the tank commander, platoon leader, company commander, or battalion commander, after sufficient training cannot do this, then he is *not* qualified for the job and should find other employment. There may be some exception to this for abnormal situations, but for the norm, it is train and train, then produce-produce-produce. Our division shot all of its tanks and crews for 3 years. As a commander, you were not graded on how many tanks you qualified, but on the effectiveness of your entire program.

Home station and Tables I-VII are for *training*. Table VIII is for *producing*. That was my philosophy as a company and battalion commander, as well as that of my successor, LTC David Schlieper. We produced the results because the soldier-tankers understood the goal and worked to achieve results. We trained ourselves at home, at Baumholder, and on Tables I-VII at Graf. We were happy to have an outside division source grade our tankers for qualification. It was fair, firm and honest. A limited number of tanks had to shoot twice to qualify on Table VIII.

To be successful in such a tank gunnery program, you have to have everything together – *discipline, training, maintenance and administration*.

The only excuse for having armor units is to shoot and hit targets. That means qualification in peacetime and success in battle at war.

Tank gunnery incorporates all the basic missions of armor units – *move, shoot, communicate, and maintain*.

Bruce Clark’s philosophy was “Are you willing to risk relief for producing mediocre results?” *Your* unit *won’t* produce mediocre results if proper attention is given to planning, organizing, and supervising of *all* the tasks of tank gunnery.

Dale K. Brudvig
LTC, Armor
Page 5.

Under the *Commander’s Hatch*

The first article for Gen McHenry is titled *Changes in Tank Gunnery*.

He begins with, “One of the first questions asked of me as I took over the Armor Center was whether I would write an opening article for *Armor* and, if so, what would it be called. The answer was yes and that I would continue the tradition of the Commander’s Hatch as established by LTG Donn Starry who has done so much to vitalize the entire Armor community and to make the Armor School the most progressive in the Army.”

Under *Forge the Thunderbolt*

History of the Master Gunner Program - Cont.

The Master Gunner

The Master Gunner program has been approved and courses will be conducted at the US Army Armor School on a regular basis. The first regular course on the M-60A1 began on 27 February 1976.

Over the next two years, USAARMS will train and graduate a Master Gunner of appropriate skill for each company/troop and battalion/squadron of Armor and ground Cavalry in the US Army. Quotas for these courses will be allocated through major command headquarters (FORSCOM, USAREUR, etc.)

The concept of the Master Gunner was developed as a result of increased complexity of fire control, and the lack of advance gunnery knowledge in Armor units. Commanders frequently cannot personally afford the amount of time required to develop and implement their detailed year-round gunnery program because of their many other pressing requirements. Therefore, if every armored battalion/cavalry squadron and eventually every tank company/cavalry troop were provided a Master Gunner, the commander would then have a knowledgeable man to assist with the gunnery program. This would result in more proficient and capable tank crews. This is not an original concept; the British have used the Master Gunner concept with a great deal of success for a number of years.

Initially, USAARMS developed abbreviated prototype course and tried it out locally. Based on the success of this trial course, approval was given to conduct three pilot courses (M-60A1, M-551, and M-60A2) during 1975 for further evaluation. Based on the favorable comments by field commanders, approval was given to conduct Master Gunner courses on a regular basis.

The course is designed to train highly skilled NCO's as Master Gunners who will return to their units and assist the commander in preparing and implementing a year-round gunnery training program. In addition, the Master Gunner will be capable of assisting in supervising the program, setting up ranges, and teaching other leaders gunnery and advance gunnery techniques. By no means is the intent for the Master Gunner to replace leaders in the chain of command in training their crews, platoons or troops, but rather to assist the leaders in this important task.

At present, the Master Gunner will be assigned by the MTOE to positions at battalion/squadron and company/troop level. At the battalion/squadron level the Master Gunner is authorized an E-8 slot as either the S-3, Assistant Operations Sergeant or the S-2, Intelligence Sergeant. At the company/troop level, the Master Gunner will be one of the E-7 platoon sergeants. Upon graduation from the course, the Master Gunner will be awarded an Additional Skill Identifier (ASI) to aid in personnel management.

The ASI for the M-60A1 Master Gunner is C6; for the M551, C5; and for the M60-A2, C7. The individual selected to attend the course must have two years retainability at the completion of the course. However, attendance at the course does not in itself guarantee a two-year assignment retention; therefore, personnel who are selected for the course should be selected relatively early in their tour. In the case of a short tour area, the man to attend the Master Gunner Course is selected by MILPERCEN and attends the course prior to reporting to the short tour area.

The M-60A1 and M-551 master Gunner Courses are 12 weeks in length and M-60A2 Course continues for 14 weeks. The POI calls for about 35 % of the total time for gunnery, emphasizing advance gunnery techniques. During this time the student will fire all tank tables. About 35% of the course is dedicated to turret maintenance, since many of the gunnery problems are associated with malfunctions in the turret. This is not designed to make the Master Gunner a turret mechanic, but rather to insure that unit turret mechanics, and other maintenance personnel that basically have an automotive background, give the turret the attention it requires. The Master Gunner for example, should be able to tell the commander if turret mechanics know how to diagnose wiring circuit problems or if the PLL clerk is spending enough of the PLL funds for turret parts. The remaining 30% of the course will be on how-to-train tank gunnery, such as designing a tank gunnery program and laying out ranges. During much of the instruction the student will be tasked to teach the other students, using training aids that he can expect to find in his unit. He will be provided with his own tank gunnery library to help him instruct leaders when he returns to his unit. In addition, he will be on the USAARMS distribution list for updated materials related to tank gunnery so that he can keep his library current.

The Master Gunner Course is expensive. The M-60A1 and M-551 Course have only 15 students and the M-60A2 Courses only 6 students. The student to instructor ratio will be three to one and two to one, respectively. The success of this program, in terms of how well the Master Gunner is able to serve his unit, depends much on the high motivation and quality of the student that enters the course. Certainly he will have to possess a good knowledge of basic gunnery. He will be tested on his knowledge shortly after he arrives at the course. He should be able to brief, instruct, and influence his superiors and peers. Upon return to his unit after the course, and from time to time thereafter, commanders will be asked to evaluate their Master Gunners as to how effective they have been in helping the unit's gunnery program.

Pages 11-12.

Armor Magazine, May-June, 1976, Vol LXXXV, No. 3.

History of the Master Gunner Program - Cont.

Gen McHenry would write about **Our New Light Tank** talking about the Attack Helicopters.

In the *Forging the Thunderbolt* there is an article on a **New Subcaliber Device** and another article on the **Magee Device**.

Armor Magazine, July-August, 1976, Vol LXXXV, No. 4.

Gen McHenry's Commander's Hatch is titled **Is Armor Best Organized To Win The First Battle of The Next War?**

Page 4.

Forging the Thunderbolt

Telfare Device

Page 7.

Tank Crew Proficiency Testing by LTC Eric L. Prall.

Pages 13-15.

Revive the Telescope by CPT Everette L. Roper, Jr.

Pages 23-24.

Armor Magazine, September-October, 1976, Vol LXXXV, No. 5,

Gen McHenry's Commander's Hatch was titled **Shoot First – and Win!**

Page 5.

Under *Forging the Thunderbolt*,

Keys to Success

In the Sep-Oct 1974 *Armor Magazine*, MAJ Edward Y. Hall of the Automotive Department, US Army Armor School, stated in an open letter to the employers of tracked vehicle mechanics (TVMs) the importance of the TVM. He included a brief summary about the program of instruction for the TVM course available in the Automotive Department. This article will familiarize you with another "Key Man" in your unit the *turret mechanic*.

Before outlining the Programs of Instruction (POIs) for organizational turret maintenance courses presented by the Maintenance Division of the Weapons Department, let's discuss some of the systems which must be maintained by your unit mechanics. That rotating object on the top of the hull is more than just a bonnet. Like communications and automotive components, the turret is comprised of several systems. First, and most familiar, are the weapons. The main gun and the coaxially and cupola mounted machine-guns present few maintenance problems. Operators, crew, and mechanics understand functioning and maintenance requirements. But the electrical, hydraulic, stabilization, fire control, range finder, and gas particulate systems, which are more complicated and sophisticated in design and operation, offer a greater challenge to both operator and mechanic. Tank crews are well trained in the use of these systems, and do a good job with the equipment when it functions properly. The problem has been, and still is in far too many units, failure to insure that adequate organizational maintenance is being performed. Organizational maintenance of turrets is a continuous proposition. Scheduled maintenance includes mandatory services which must be performed on periodic basis, or equipment becomes faulty.

Quarterly maintenance services have been geared toward accomplishing the automotive portion of the "Q" service. The organizational maintenance system has always been oriented toward the automotive components and is understandable when you consider the key maintenance personnel, ie., battalion maintenance technician, battalion and company motor sergeants, probably have not been trained in turret operations and repair. Too often turret systems are ignored until time for annual tank gunnery qualification. Worse yet, turrets may not be maintained in a combat ready status. Unit repair parts prescribed load lists (PLL) are from 80 to 90% filled with automotive items. Supervisors are not anticipating, nor planning for, breakdowns which are likely to occur to the turret during training. Additionally, money is not available, and the supply system cannot support repairs parts demands which are rushed upon the system when breakdowns occur. Supervisors must plan ahead, perform detailed maintenance, and get the demands for PLL items into the supply system on a regular basis. Don't wait. You have got to emphasize turret maintenance to ensure it receives an equal priority. Your maintenance personnel, not being familiar with turret systems, are apt to overlook it in favor of the system they are familiar with.

Before the advent of the Master Gunner Course at the Armor School, there were few, if any, school-trained personnel available to supervise the turret mechanic. The unit turret mechanic has literally been on his own in organizational motor pools. His effectiveness has been based on self-pride in job accomplishment and rarity of having a senior turret mechanic in his unit who could provide advice and assistance. The army has recognized the problem and has authorized an E-6, turret maintenance supervisor, in each battalion and squadron maintenance section. A Master Gunner, thoroughly trained in turret maintenance, has also been added to armor and cavalry units. The turret maintenance supervisors and Master Gunnery will help eliminate some of the shortcomings in turret

History of the Master Gunner Program - Cont.

maintenance. Yet, even with the addition of the supervisors and Master Gunners, unit officers and noncommissioned officers must become more involved in turret maintenance. The Armor School has also recognized the problem and has redesigned programs of instruction (POIs) which are intended to familiarize officers and NCOs with turret mechanic's duties and responsibilities.

Training in turret maintenance which is presented by the Armor School includes three turret maintenance courses. Students attending the MOS 45N course receive training on the turret systems of the M-60 and M-60A1 tank and are taught limited functions of the Combat Engineer Vehicle, M-728. Students attending the MOS 45P course receive training on the M-551 and M-551A1. A third course offers students training on the M-60A2 tank and graduates are awarded a MOS 45R after course completion.

Some duties of each turret mechanic are common. For instance, all of them know when and how to exercise the recoil mechanism, purge sights with nitrogen, check synchronization and alignment of the sighting systems, and service the hydraulic and stabilization systems. All must be capable of employing test equipment and diagnosing malfunctions. Turret mechanics receive intensified training in the use of technical manuals, basic theory of electricity, troubleshooting procedures, use of special tools, test equipment, replacement of components, adjustments, and quarterly checks and services of the turret systems. Completing a course produces a well trained turret mechanic. OJT under the guidance of an experienced turret mechanic or qualified supervisor (Turret Maintenance Supervisor) will result in an even better trained mechanic. Until that time, unit officers and noncommissioned officers must become technically familiar enough with the systems to effectively supervise the performance of organizational turret maintenance.

The Master Gunner course is similar to the turret mechanic course, with the nuts and bolts (simple component removal and installation) operations deleted. The primary course objectives deal with turret systems theory, troubleshooting, identifications of malfunctions, adjustments, and repair at the organizational level as directed by the technical manual maintenance allocation chart. While graduates of the Master Gunner course are not trained to be motor pool maintenance personnel, they are fully capable of assisting unit commanders by evaluating turret maintenance practices and equipment status and in training other personnel in the area of turret maintenance.

Another course that includes training in turret maintenance is the one for motor officers. This course includes organizational maintenance for the M-60, M-60A1, M-551, and M-551A1 turret systems. For motor officers assigned to units equipped with M-60A2 tanks, instruction on the A2 is presented in lieu of the M-60 and M-60A1 tank. Motor officer training includes duties and responsibilities of the turret mechanic, preventive maintenance indicators, quarterly maintenance checks and services, and the use of selected DA forms. A motor Sergeants course, similar to the MO course is being developed. Also included in turret maintenance familiarization are the Armor Officers Advanced and Armor Officers Basic Courses.

Unit personnel are being trained at the Armor School to treat mechanics as a *must*. With this training in mind, officers and NCOs need to be aware of maintenance personnel duties and should familiarize themselves with the technical terms and functions of the different systems.

Well trained *do'ers* and *supervisors* are your "Keys to Success."

Pages 8-9.

Mini Ranges Pay Big Dividends, By SPC5 Jeffery Stark.

Page 24.

Armor Magazine, November-December, 1976, Vol LXXXV, No. 6.

I continued to look for information on the Master Gunner Program for 1976 and I was not able to find much for the year other than what is presented. I did speak to MSG Tillman at the US Army Master Gunner School and as we were talking about the first ten years of the Master Gunner Program he told me what platforms were trained the first ten years.

1975-1985.

M-551 Sheridan

M-60A1

M-60A2

M-60A3

M-1

M1A1 Conversion

That's a huge jump from the M60 series to M1A1 in ten years. 1985 would also be when the National Training Center would start training for units to rotate through. All of the things that we know today for training, standards and development would all start to take shape from 1975 on.

History of the Master Gunner Program - Cont.

I will share the final comments from CSM (R) Jim Benham.

Some parting comments: I believe one of the biggest things that I saw happening, and I credit Gen Starry and maybe others I don't know, was the open critical discussion on tank gunnery that prior had been somewhat taboo. I am sure many NCOs knew, as I knew, there were issues such as range finder operation. But as that colonel said, it was bet your stripes when it came to crew qualification.

As a Master Gunner I was often confronted by "*that's not the way we did it in Germany*". To me it was simple, just teach the TM for the tank and the FM for conduct of fire and introduce "lessons learned". In addition to advising the commander on all things related to tank firing, my job was to devise evaluation methods and training programs for tank crews, "*by the book*". To combine firing and movement where possible, so gunnery and maneuver were not separate issues. To design training programs that conserved assets like time, ammunition, and vehicle operational costs, while producing highly functional tank crews who could maximize the full capabilities of the tank we have and the crews we have.

We were free to experiment, to think outside the box, the term "*train as we will fight*" became our goal. The good thing is, it went over well with the tankers and they ran with it! The desert wars are the proof! I believe, my opinion only now, that tankers from the Vietnam War were fully aware of a lot of issues that suddenly became the talk, like pre-indexed ranges before we knew about battle-sight, working with a three man crew, training non-tankers to fill crew positions, not having perfect conditions to set up and bore-sight, to figure out ourselves how to fight the tank under the conditions we were in, and experiment with things that we could do anywhere else. There was no training for tankers for Vietnam. Thus, "*fight the tank*" and "*train as we will fight*" was kind of our rule of thumb.

CSM (R) Jim Benham

If you have any stories or want to share your Master Gunner information on please reach out to me at Karlen.morris@outlook.com. Be sure to put Master Gunner History in the subject line.



Daughter of the Air; The Brief Soaring Life of Cornelia Fort by Rob Simbeck

Daughter of the Air; The Brief Soaring Life of Cornelia Fort by Rob Simbeck

Publisher : Routledge (September 17, 2013)

Paperback : 241 pages

ISBN-10 : 1560004614

ISBN-13 : 978-1560004615

Dimensions : 7.01 x 0.54 x 10 inches

In *Daughter of the Air*, Rob Simbeck paints a vivid portrait of Army pilot Cornelia Fort—a passionate, brave, intelligent, and charming woman—and provides insight into the political and social atmosphere of her era. He cites Fort's letters and diaries, various historical documents, and interviews of people who knew her personally and also flew with her.

Cornelia Fort's (1919-1943) barrier-breaking life included membership in the first trained women's flight squadron, the WAFS. In a remarkable coincidence of fate, she was flying over Oahu on the morning of December 7, 1941, and was one of the few to witness the bombing of Pearl Harbor from the air. Her brief career was marked by the prejudices of the era toward women pilots.

Raised on her parent's Nashville estate and educated at a prestigious finishing school, Fort cast off her role as a member of Southern aristocracy to become a pilot. She persevered in her courageous career despite rampant prejudice toward women, noting "because there were and are so many disbelievers in women pilots, especially in their place in the Army, all of us realized what a spot we were in. We had to deliver the goods or else." Tragically, it was a male pilot's practical joke that clipped her wing and sent Fort into a fatal spin. This biography is a must read for historians, military specialists, or those interested in the role of women in the military.

About the Author

Rob Simbeck was born in St. Marys, Pennsylvania. He worked for The Bradford (PA) Era and spent three years as managing editor of Music Connection magazine in Los Angeles. He has ghostwritten books for former Dollar General CEO Cal Turner, Jr., and for former Ohio State/Tennessee Titans great Eddie George and his wife, Sisters With Voices member Taj George. His own books include "Tennessee State Symbols," "Daughter of the Air," and "The Southern Wildlife Watcher: Notes of a Naturalist." He has written for The Washington Post, Guideposts, Field & Stream, Free Inquiry, and many others.

Review

I came across this book as it was mentioned in another book and it may be one of my favorites. The author does an incredible job of story telling that can allow you to actually see the story as it unfolds. Why this book is not a movie is sad.

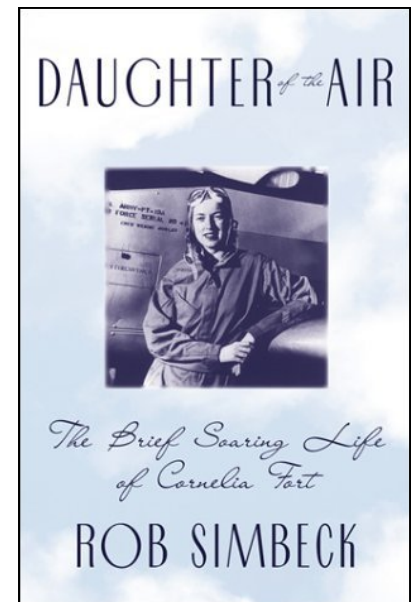
A young girl from a very well to do family who just can't seem to find her niche and she goes with a friend and is taken up in a plane in the 1930s. The moment is of a discovery of a destiny. Cornelia ever so an independent women pursues flying as a passion when women are not encouraged to have a passion outside of the home.

The experience of aviation in the period before World War II and what it took to travel during that period is fascinating. Can you imagine flying on your own in the time before flight was as common as it is today. Flying about the country enjoying a lunch at one town, supper in another and staying overnight somewhere else.

Being in the air during the Japanese attack on December 7, 1941 and seeing Japanese planes flying around her and her student. To volunteer to be a pilot for the military and then tested twice as hard as the men. Flying planes as a shuttle service and performing with higher standards and with better records and not even listed as being with the military.

It was also interesting to see that many of the women who had volunteered were women of high society families and those who were very wealthy. Something you don't see much of any more.

Cornelia Fort is a name worth knowing and her story should be made into a movie.



Patton Monument Report for 2023

As of February 21, 2023, the Monument fund has \$26,637.00.

Total in Monument Account: \$26,637.00.

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

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

M4 Tee Shirt

Large: Tan - 1.

2XL: Tan - 1

New Mugs!!!

We now have the 15oz Red Ball Express mug and the new 15oz Treat'em Rough Mug!

Lapel Pins

We are looking at \$12 each for these.



Patton Battalion Funds / Memberships / Dues

The Patton Battalion, as of February 21, has 438 members on our battalion Facebook page. Out of those 451 members we are currently at 93 paid members. The Patton Battalion has \$0.43 in funds in the PayPal account. We have \$434.86 in the Patton Operating account. Battalions funds are \$434.86. 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

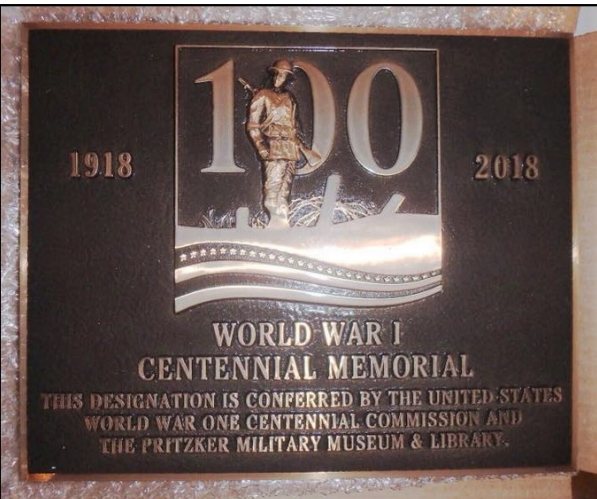
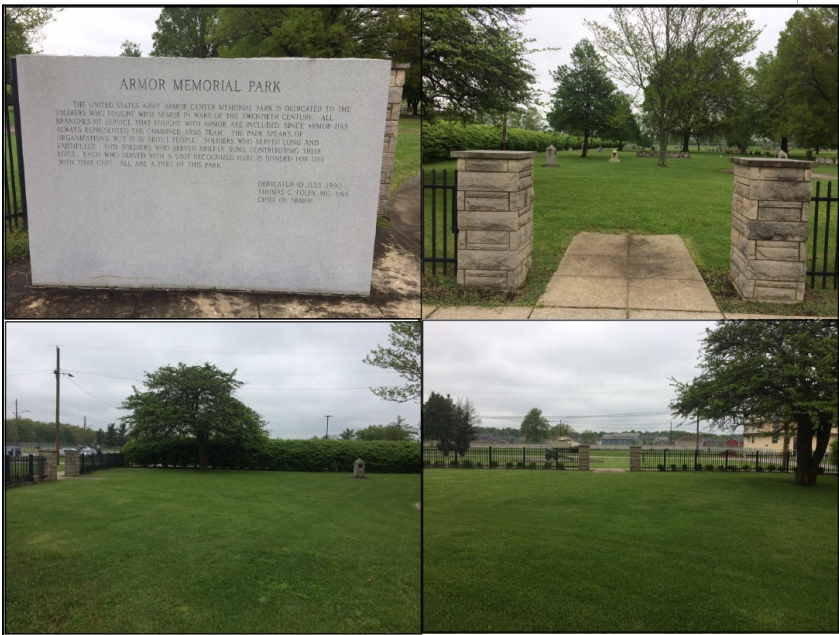
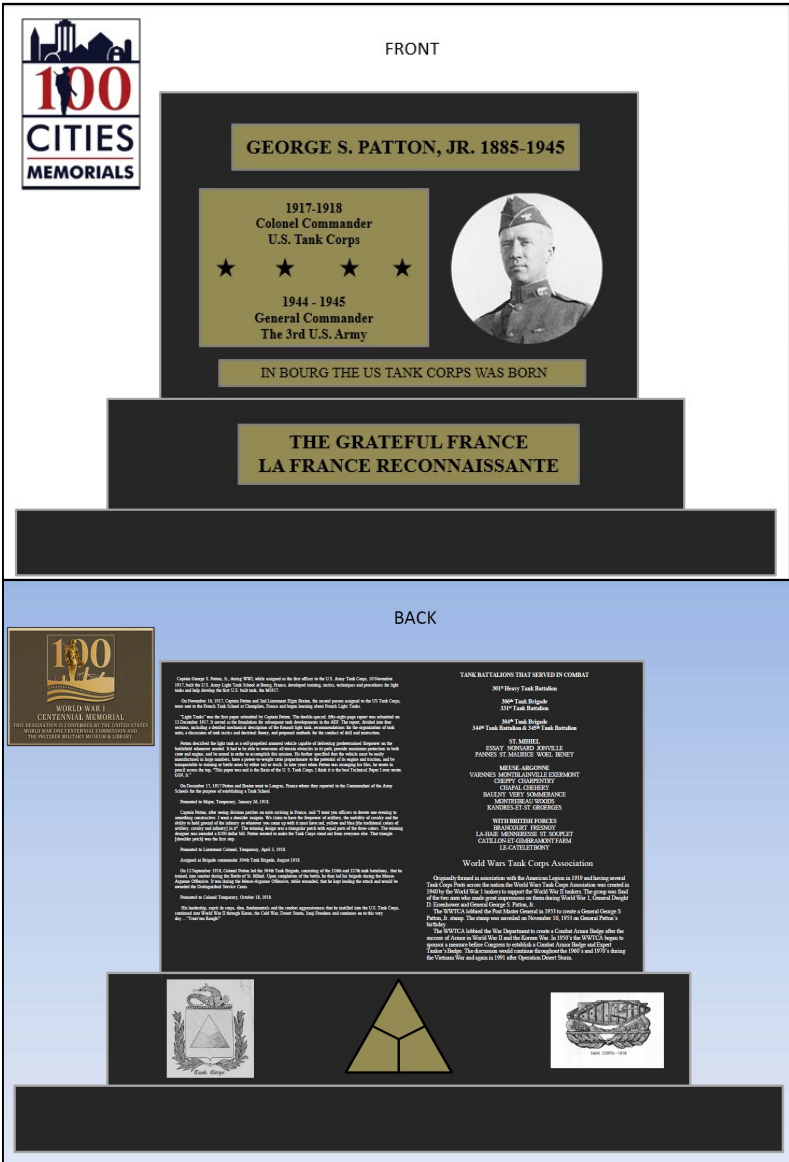
Make checks payable to USABOT
If at all possible try to go the USABOT Store Online and register there so that the G4 can track.

WWW.USABOT.ORG

Patton Joins the US Tank Corps Monument

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

<https://19seriesclothing.com/>





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



Coming in the March Issue - Show of Shows, Louisville, KY!

Upcoming Events

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

Indiana Military Museum Schedule 2023

- The Great War Event, April 1-2, 2023
- WWII Event Spring - TBD
- WWII Event Fall - TBD
- Vietnam War Event - TBD

Eleventh Annual Tanker Homecoming - Tucson, AZ. Dates TBD.

Gainey Cup - Ft Benning, GA, 1-5 May 2023.

Operation Anvil - Battle for Southern France 1944- Phil Moore Park, Bowling Green, KY.

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

