



"IN DEFIANCE"

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2021

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

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

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

EIN:
And registered with the state of Kentucky

Patton Battalion - USABOT

Total: 93 paid members

24 Lifetime Members

53 Annual Members

2 Associate Member

438 on Battalion Facebook Page

PATTON BATTALION - USABOT ILLINOIS - INDIANA - KENTUCKY - TENNESSEE

I want to take a second to give a shout out to Darlene Humphrey Bailey. She was the person who volunteered to help me research the WWI KIA for McLean County about two years ago. She then created a McLean County Veterans page on Facebook. I act as a military advisor to her but she is an assistant to me when it comes to research I am conducting.

The reason I want to point her out is that this months newsletter has a lot to do with her efforts. She is the one who told me about SGT Lee Robertson. You will read more about him later. She also helped me with the rest of the stories in this issue. SO when you see newspaper articles or Census data that's all work done by her. Thank you Darlene!

I would also like to thank the following people who helped in this issue of the newsletter.

Vicente Lim IV (Vincci), Interpretive Guide, American Battle Monuments Commission, Manila American Cemetery and Memorial.

Carly M. Mathieu, Superintendent, American Battle Monuments Commission, Henri Chapelle American Cemetery.

Hubert Caloud, Superintendent, American Battle Monuments Commission, Oise-Aisne American Cemetery.

Parks Schmidt, Curator, Military Curator, on Instagram.

Mike Keane with information about an uncle, PVT Dominick A. Russo, 52nd Armored Infantry, 9th Armored Division, that was part of Task Force Rose/Harper that was killed during the bulge. This story on PVT Russo has really taken a turn. While preparing this for the newsletter something has been found that makes this very interesting. Take time to visit the Kelly Woytasik - Page 1 (octavian.net) website and get a day by day for CCR 9th AD. I hope you enjoy the story!

An item that I came across was the 716th Tank Battalion After Action Reports. The 716th TB was commanded by LTC Carroll Wood, son of MG John S Wood from the 4th AD. The battalion commander before LTC Wood was killed in action. I have researched about LTC Lorwyn Peterson and have a little of his story in the newsletter.

Another battalion commander that was killed in the Pacific was the commander of the 44th Tank Battalion, LTC Tom H. Ross. Although I was not able to find the citation for his Silver Star I have shared his story as well.

And then there is SGT Lee Robertson, Co C, 44th Tank Battalion, who fought in the Pacific. He is now an Honorary Lifetime Member of USABOT. The Patton Battalion has paid for Lee a subscription to the Cavalry and Armor Association and will something to present to him when we can meet in person.

An interesting note is that as we have made contact with Lee the Army University Press has a new film coming out.

Army University Press, Coming Soon! On 9 January 1945, the U.S. Army returned to the island of Luzon in the Philippines. Landing on the beaches along Lingayen Gulf, Sixth Army sought to undo the Imperial Japanese Army's conquest of 1942. To that end, between 3 February and 3 March, elements of Sixth Army participated in a month-long block by block, building by building battle to liberate the Philippine capital of Manila from its Imperial Japanese occupiers. AUP Films upcoming film, "Liberation of Manila," will recount the U.S. Army's most difficult experience with urban warfare during the Second World War, and the only one in the Pacific Theater.

This will be available on YouTube.com where you can watch it. I will provide links when available.

KP Morris
Patton 6

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WWW.USABOT.ORG
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PVT Dominick A. Russo

On January 4, 2021 I received an email from Mike Keane telling me that he had seen my information on the website for Kelly Woytasik. He was emailing me to share information on his uncle, PVT Dominick A. Russo that was killed on December 18, 1944 with the 52nd Armored Infantry Battalion of the 9th Armored Division. He wanted to share this information and he had some questions about the events in the Bulge.

PVT Russo was reported missing in a report dated 15 February 1945. His last known whereabouts was near Vicinity of Oberwampach, Luxembourg on December 18, 1944. SGT Clifford G. Thompson of Co B, 52nd Armd Inf Bn stated the Russo was a member of his convoy when it was attacked while trying to break through German lines in the vicinity of Oberwampach, Russo had not been seen since.

PVT Russo was originally an "Unknown" Soldier in a grave with four other soldiers. They were buried in a back yard of Mr. M. Leclire in Villeroux, Belgium. The five soldiers were identified as:

1. Donald L. Axtell, 37320248, Private, 52nd Armored Infantry, 9th Armored Division, from Minneapolis, Minnesota.
2. Arthur Hendricks, 34554496, Private First Class, 969th Field Artillery Battalion (Negro), from Birmingham, Alabama.
3. Clarence F. Woytasik, 36271631, 2nd Tank Battalion, 9th Armored Division, from Wisconsin.
4. *Unknown X-52* (Otto G. Solberg, O-1173465, Captain), 969th Field Artillery Battalion, from Minnesota.
5. *Unknown X-53* (Dominick Russo) Private, 52nd Armored Infantry Battalion, 9th Armored Division, from New York



A letter dated 4 April 1945 was sent to the Commander of the 9th Armored Division seeking to find a soldier "E. Noto, 38317256." Soldier X-53 was wearing a undershirt with that name and serial number. PFC Noto was also listed as missing on December 18, 1944.

On 27 April, 1945, a document from the 52nd Armd Inf Bn indicates that the name and serial number on the undershirt could have belonged to PFC Noto but that his build was much smaller than that of the indentified soldier. So PFC Noto was ruled out as the soldier in question.

In a letter dated 25 May 1945, PFC Noto was reported RMC 2 April, 1945. The 52nd Armd Inf Bn still carried 293 individuals, enlisted men and officers, as MIA in this general area. Practically all of them were reported as MIA 18 December 1944 in Luxembourg. Since remnants of the battalion moved from Luxembourg toward Bastogne and were in the vicinity of Villeroux and Senochamps on 23 and 24 December, there would be nothing improbable about any one of these individuals having been found in that area.

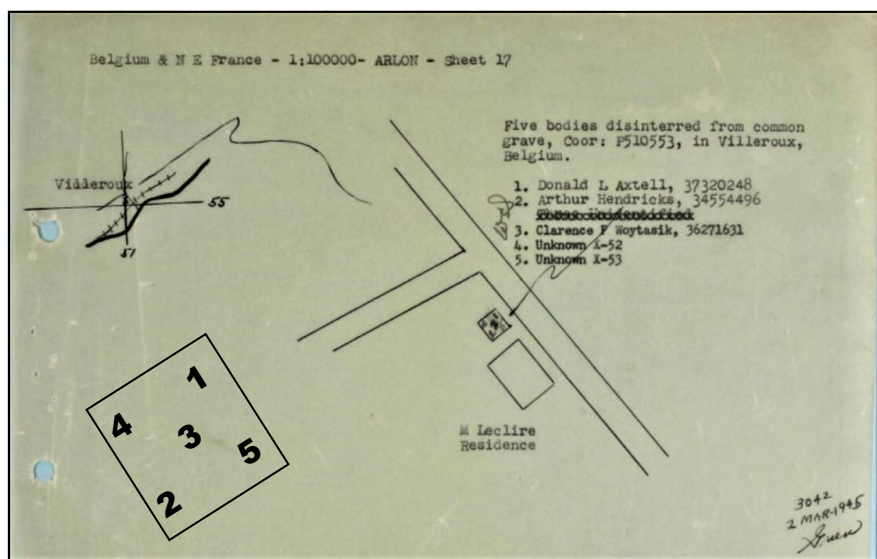
On 4 April, 1945 a letter to 9th Armored Division indicated that after careful examination disclosed markings on a belt of X-53 to be "D-0447." This marking may have been used by PVT Dominic Russo, 41230447.

On 24 July, 1945 another letter was sent to B Co, 52nd Armd Inf Bn seeking help to identify articles or descriptions of PVT Russo. Although none could identify any of his articles there was mention that "All men in PVT Russo's squad were either killed or missing in action, therefore personal items could not be positively identified."

11 October 1946, letter, from HQs American Graves Registration Command, identifies X-53 as PVT Dominick A. Russo. Personal effects used to identify him were Metal Ring (Cut Design), Souvenir Coin (Belgen 5-Franc, dated 1941), Large Plastic Ring (No Marking).

I did notice in the file that PFC Woytasik was buried to the left of Russo before he was returned to the US. CPL Nick G. Landowski was on his right. CPL Landowski, 2nd Tank Battalion, is now buried in Plot H, Row 5, Grave 12, Henri-Chapelle.

PVT Dominick A. Russo is buried at Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery and Memorial at Henri-Chapelle, Liege, Belgium. Plot H, Row 12, Grave 27.



PVT Russo - Cont.

Donald L. Axtell

52nd Armored Infantry Battalion, 9th Armored Division
 Birth: 4 Apr 1909
 Death: 18 Dec 1944 (aged 35)
 Burial: Fort Snelling National Cemetery, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA
 Plot: Section C-24, Site 13948
 Find A Grave Memorial ID: 306548

Arthur Hendricks

969th Field Artillery Battalion

1940 Census.

Name: Arthur Hendricks [Arther Hendricks] *Age:* 19 *Estimated Birth Year:* abt 1921 *Gender:* Male *Race:* Negro (Black)
Birthplace: Alabama *Marital Status:* Single
 Adam Hendricks 40 Head
 Mandy Hendricks 37 Wife
 Arthur Hendricks 19 Son
 Malenda Hendricks 18 Daughter
 Willie Hendricks 17 Son - Served in WWII also, PFC. Died in 1986.
 Nellie Hendricks 16 Daughter
 Tellie Hendricks 11 Daughter

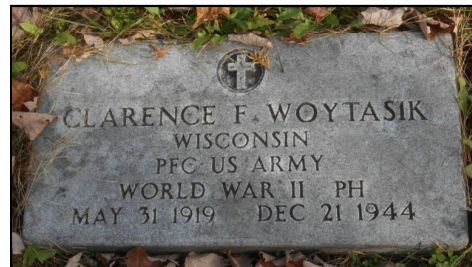
Enlistment Records.

Name: Arthur Hendricks *Race:* Negro (Black) *Marital status:* Single, without dependents (Single)
Rank: Private *Birth Year:* 1917 *Nativity State or Country:* Alabama *Citizenship:* Citizen *Residence:* Jefferson, Alabama
Education: 4 years of high school *Civil Occupation:* Decorators and window dressers
Enlistment Date: 10 Nov 1942 *Enlistment Place:* Fort Benning, Georgia *Service Number:* 34554496 *Branch:* Branch Immaterial *Component:* Selectees (Enlisted Men) *Source:* Civil Life
Height: 68 *Weight:* 145

Death: 21 Dec 1944
 Burial: Henri-Chapelle American Cemetery and Memorial
 Henri-Chapelle, Arrondissement de Verviers, Liège, Belgium
 Plot G, Row 9, Grave 32
 Find A Grave Memorial ID: 56281983

Clarence F. Woytasik

2nd Tank Battalion, 9th Armored Division
 Birth: 31 May 1919
 Death: 21 Dec 1944 (aged 25)
 Burial: Saint Ladislaus Cemetery, Bevent, Wisconsin.
 Find A Grave Memorial ID: 175271436
 More information on Woytasik, TF Rose/Harper/Booth and the 9th Armored Division can be found on the website by his nephew,
 Kelly Woytasik - Page 1 (octavian.net)

Otto G. Solberg

969th Field Artillery Battalion
 Birth: 3 Jan 1917
 Death: 21 Dec 1944 (aged 27)
 Burial: Forest Hill Cemetery Milaca, Minnesota
 Find A Grave Memorial ID: 52530331

I spoke with Gerald McClure the son of CPT Solberg on 3-5-2021. He has his fathers burial file also and plans to share information.



Memorial services for **Capt. Otto Solberg**, 28, Milaca, Minn., who was killed in action in Belgium Dec. 21, will be held 2:30 p.m. Sunday at Trinity Lutheran church, Milaca.

Graduate of Milaca high school, Solberg entered the service in March, 1942, was commissioned at Ft. Sill, Okla., in November, 1942, and went overseas last February. He formerly worked as a salesman in southwestern Minnesota.

Survivors include his wife and son and his mother, Mrs. Anna Solberg, all of Milaca.



PVT Russo - Cont.

As I look into the information that Mike presented me there are many things that I have of interest. In the burial file there are letters to the division from 3rd Army Hqs trying to verify the identity of the soldier in question. As mentioned back in 2019 when I wrote about the 9th AD it is obvious that the division commander had many feelings about the service of his division in WWII. His collection at the Eisenhower Library is dedicated to the division and its service in WWII. And probably why this seemed to be the only place you could find information on events in December 1944.

After having attended one of the Defense POW/MIA Family Update briefings it is amazing to read the detail and research that went into identifying remains even in WWII. They tracked down to veterans who had been returned stateside and asked them about clothing they had and who they may have loaned it to.

In the case of the one soldier he said that the crew on a halftrack regularly shared items so it could have been any number of people. PVT Russo was wearing a Mackinaw Jacket with a soldier name embossed inside. That soldier wrote back saying that the last time he remembered the jacket was before the Germans had attached them back in Luxembourg. It was in a jeep and anyone who got it he hoped that it kept them warm and that they needed it. He never saw the jeep or the jacket after the attack.

Some 293 members of the 52nd Armored Infantry Battalion were missing after December 1944. Many were probably captured in the opening attack with TF Rose. Many would be scattered all across the Bulge front as members fought all around Bastogne. It was mentioned that no one from his squad has survived or were with the unit after December. Its hard to identify items when there is no one left from the squad.

Mike asked me what my thoughts were after reading the file. The one thing that jumped out at me immediately is that PVT Russo was listed as Missing on December 18, 1944. This is also the date he listed as Killed in Action. But as you can see the other 4 soldiers all have a date after December 18.

The men of the 9th AD, Russo, Woytasik, and Axtell were part of Team SNAFU. The group collected at Neufchateau, Belgium. I would suggest looking at the website that Robert Kasten has for PVT Woytasik for a day to day on the events. This team was all of the walking soldiers. Those without tanks and those rounded up. They were all used as regular infantry. On 20 December Team SNAFU with some 200 to 300 soldiers moved to Bastogne. This is the movement that is the one that John Terral told me about. It was when he and SNAFU passed TF Ezell returning to Vaux-le-Rosieres.

So I suspect that Russo probably died sometime around December 21, 1944 much like the others. So without seeing the other burial files and the records there it would seem that the date of death is listed as the day reported Missing.

I have found at the Eisenhower Library information on the 333rd Field Artillery Group and the 969th FA Bn. I have requested to see how much information is on hand but due to COVID the library is currently closed.

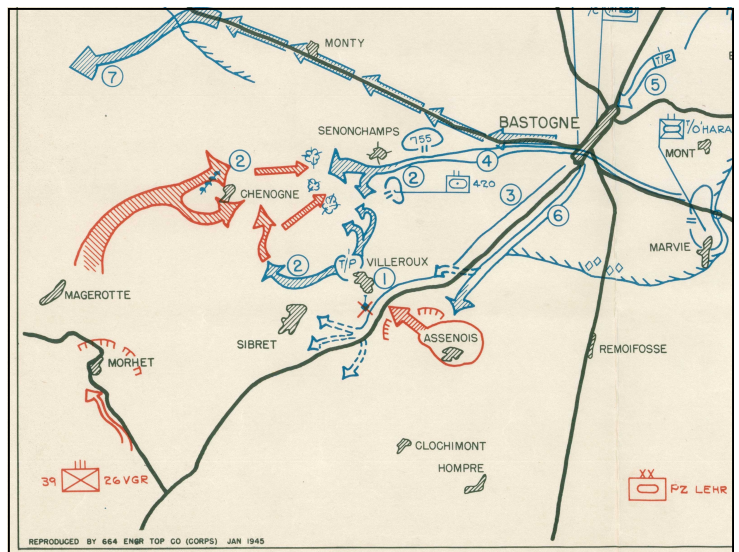
Based off what we know on December 20, 1944 Task Force Ezell, CCB, 4th AD moves into Bastogne and shortly afterwards is pulled back. As TF Ezell is on its way back to Vaux-le-Rosieres it passes Team SNAFU and the elements of CCR, 9th AD on their way back into Bastogne.

Based off what I have been reading the 969th FA with 333rd FA Group along with the field artillery from CCR, 9th AD artillery are placed on the western ring of Bastogne near Villeroux and Senochamps. Elements of Team SNAFU/Watts become the security for the artillery. On December 21, 1944 and after the footprint of the 101st shrinks each day.

These men could have been killed on the 21st as the German were pushing the artillery into Bastogne. Or that is what I suspect is the case. If we had the burial file for each of these men you could probably see that each one had a report of missing. This along with other information in file may indicate some document that may list someone seeing them on one day and not the following day.

The confusion that was taking place during the first eight days of the Bulge is on a scale unimaginable. With soldiers, units and leadership killed, missing or just lost it is very hard to document an accurate picture of what happened. As I have said here and with other historians, the only people who know where the ones there, we are at the mercy of what they saw, what they documented and what they remember, the rest of us are but spectators looking through a window. All we can do is guess or speculate.

To see two men who were with the 969th FA BN is of great interest to me. It is the question I had about the artillery picked up by TF Ezell that prompted me to send my questions to WWII Magazine which is what put me in contact with Gen Irzyk! Which is what lead me to reach to John Terral of TF Rose! To verify that the 969th was in the area is one thing but to also see PVT Hendricks, a black man, buried, with four white men, that's unusual for the time. And today the five men who shared a common grave are now scattered across the seas.



LTC Lorwyn Peterson - LTC Tom Ross

So while doing research on the 44th Tank Battalion I came across the After Action Reports for the 716th Tank Battalion. I was looking for these last year as it pertains to MG John S. Wood. About a year ago I discovered that Gen Wood had a son that was a battalion commander of the 716th Tank Battalion in WWII. His son was Carroll David Wood, USMA Class of 1937.

The 716th Tk Bn fought in the Pacific. On January 23, 1945 the battalion commander, LTC Lorwyn E. Peterson was killed in action. Major Carroll Wood replaced him as the battalion commander and remained with the battalion until the end of the war. I want to share the citation for the Silver Star for LTC Peterson.

Headquarters 43d Infantry Division, 1 February 1945,
General Order No. 16.

A Silver Star Medal is awarded (posthumously) by the Commanding General, 43d Infantry Division to the following officer:

LTC Lorwyn E. Peterson, O-262875, Cavalry, U.S. Army, for gallantry in action against the enemy on 19 January 1945 at Sison, Luzon, Philippine Islands. Tanks in support of infantry were subject to heavy concentrations of artillery and mortar fire from high ground. Although Colonel Peterson's tank had suffered several direct hits, he dismounted from his tank under fire to go to the aid of a tank crew whose tank was in flames and whose communications were knocked out. His courage and heroic action under withering fire to supervise and direct evacuation of his wounded men and damage tank was exemplary. Colonel Peterson was seriously wounded by mortar fragment and later died. Next of kin: Mrs. Nela P. Peterson (wife), 14861 Ilene Avenue, Detroit, Michigan.

LTC Peterson was in the ROTC program at Michigan State University. His college yearbook states, Lorwyn Peterson - Union Literary, Scabbard and Blade, Officer's Club, Varsity Club, Varsity Track.

Detroit Free Press, Sunday, April 29, 1945.
Detroiters' Widow Get Silver Star He Earned.

A Posthumous award of a Silver Star to Lieutenant Colonel Lorwyn E. Peterson for gallantry in action against the Japs in the Philippines was received by his wife, Mrs. Nola F. Peterson.

The division citation disclosed that Col. Peterson's tank received several direct hits. He left his tank to aid another crew whose tank was in flames and was wounded by mortar fragments.

Col. Peterson was born 38 years ago in Brooklyn, Michigan. He was buried in the 43rd Division cemetery on Luzon.

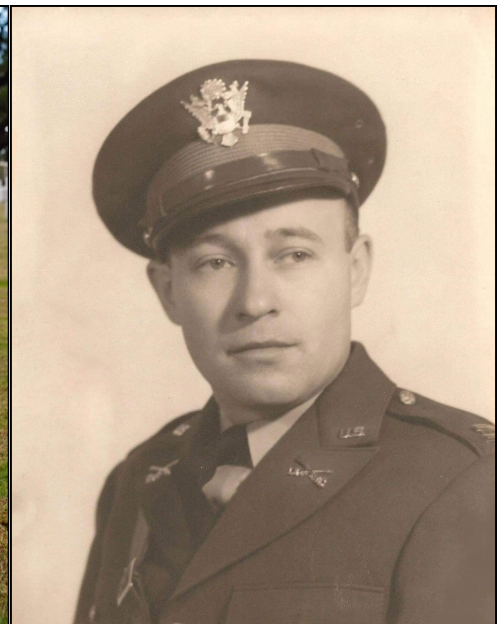
He was a graduate of Michigan State College.

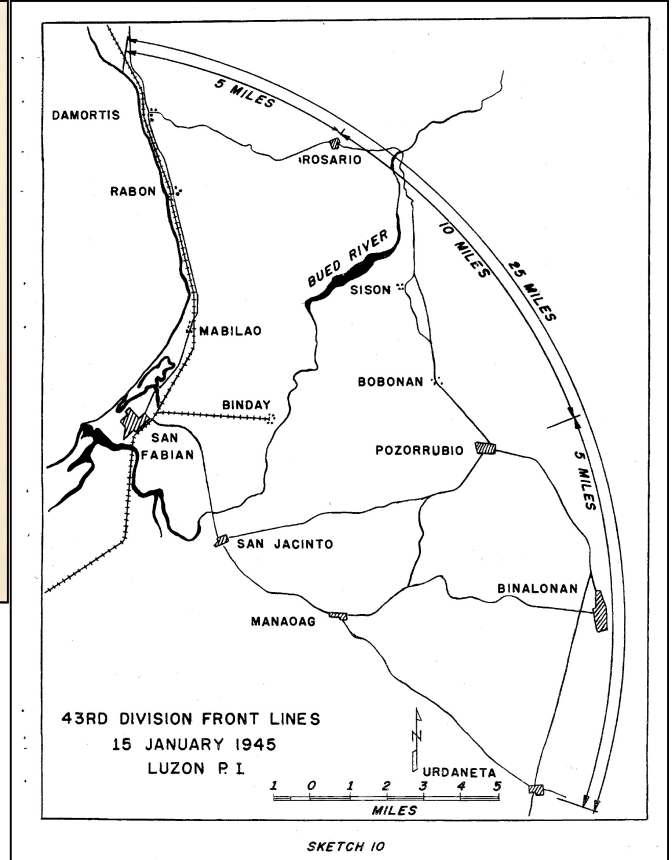
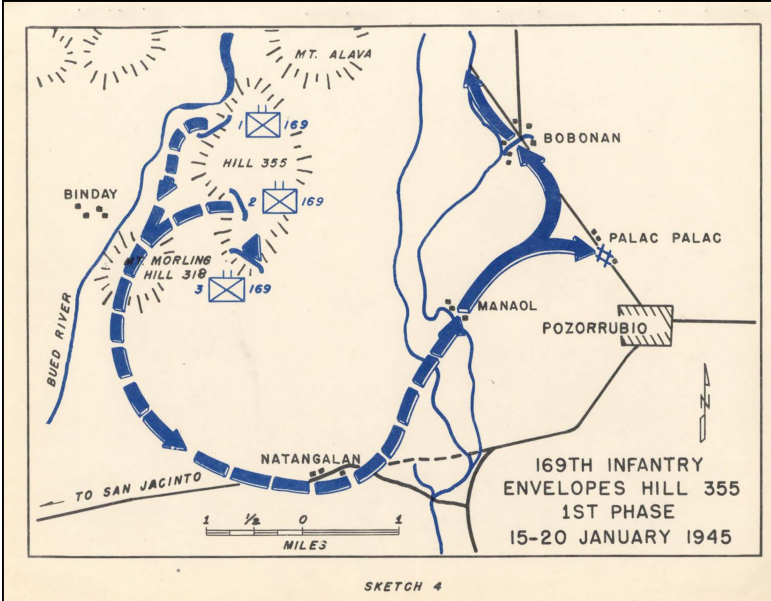
Besides his wife, he leaves a daughter, Judith, 8, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Elwyn Peterson, of Brooklyn.

He is buried at the Manila American Cemetery, Plot D, Row 16, Grave 109

At daylight, 19 January, elements of the 169th Infantry repelled an enemy counter-attack by an estimated battalion in vicinity of BOBONAM Crossroad; and then attacked, supported by elements of the 716th Tank Battalion, seizing positions in the vicinity of SI801-I where a heavy engagement took place; a total of 954 Japanese were killed, while six M-4 tanks were lost to enemy action. Later our forces, weakened by nearly 400 casualties, including the Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Sellers, killed in action, were forced to withdraw under heavy artillery fire to BOBONAN where a road block was established. The 158th RCT and 63d RCT advanced slightly against stubborn opposition. The 172nd Infantry assisted the advance of the 63d RCT on its left while continuing to mop up enemy resistance in the vicinity of CONCEPCION. The 103d Infantry attacked and gained a foothold on HILL 600, driving the enemy from organized positions which he defended with automatic weapons, mortars and artillery. Howitzer positions of the 181st E.A. Battalion (attached) were infiltrated by a Japanese raiding party, revealed by a captured document to consist of 200 men, led by a Major of Infantry. This raid was repulsed with heavy loss to the enemy and no howitzers were damaged. The other artillery battalions received infiltration attempts on a smaller scale throughout the period. (From the 43rd Infantry Division History)

(Photo of area on next page)





As I was researching the 44th Tank battalion I was reading through the battalion history and saw that the battalion commander, LTC Tom H. Ross was killed in action and received a Silver Star.

I was surprised at the death of two tank battalion commanders in the Pacific. These two were killed pretty close together. LTC Ross was attached to the 1st Cavalry Division in January 1945.

The 1st Cavalry Division was assigned to MG Oscar Griswold's XIV Corps on January 30, 1945. Gen MacArthur told Gen Griswold to "Go to Manila. Go around, bounce off of, but take Manila. Free the internees at Santo Thomas, take Malacan Palace and the Legislative Building."

Without chance for preliminary reconnaissance of routes, with vague information concerning the enemy, but indestructible optimism and supreme faith the troops readied themselves for renewed combat. Mobile units to spearhead the 100 mile drive into Japanese held territory were organized with the following:

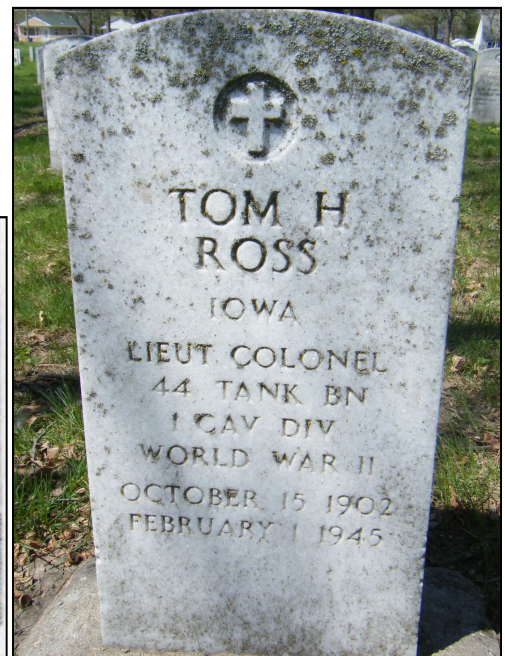
1st Serial: LTC William E. Lobit, commanding - 2nd Squadron, Reconnaissance Platoon, anti-tank platoon, and medical detachment, all from the 5th Cavalry; Battery "A", 82nd Field Artillery Battalion, Company "A", 44th Tank Battalion; 3d Platoon, Troop "A", 8th Engineers; and 1st Platoon, Troop "A", 1st Medical Squadron.

2nd Serial: LTC Haskett L. Conner, Jr., commanding - 2nd Squadron Reconnaissance Platoon, Anti-Tank Platoon, one section of .50 caliber machine guns, and Maintenance Section, all from 8th Cavalry; Company "B", 44th Tank Battalion; Battery "B", 61st Field Artillery Battalion; 1st Platoon, Troop "C", 8th Engineers; and 1st Platoon, Troop "B", 1st Medical Squadron.

3rd Serial: LTC Tom Ross, commanding - 44th Tank Battalion less companies "A" and "B", and the 302nd Reconnaissance Troop.

Setting forth in the darkness at one minute after midnight on the February 1st, the lead off troops rolled off in three columns over primitive roads. Moving under complete blackout the columns reached Cabanataun, their first major objective on the road to Manila.

COL Ross's tanks had crossed the Pampanga River still further south after a skirmish and had captured the highway leading into Gapan. In leading his unit through this battle, Colonel Ross won the Silver Star for the vigor of his attack, but he lost his life during the action.



LTC Lorwyn Peterson - LTC Tom Ross

Lt. Col. Tom Ross Killed In Action on Luzon Island; Was Clothing Store Official Here

Lt. Col. Tom Ross, 42, of Des Moines, commander of a tank battalion assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division in the Philippines, was killed in action Feb 1 on Luzon, the war department has informed his wife who lives at 716 Twenty-fifth St.

Colonel Ross, jovial, dark eyed manager of the New Utica clothing department before he left Des Moines with the 113th Cavalry of the Iowa National Guard in 1941, was in command of a tank battalion assigned to advance reconnaissance as the Yanks started their push to capture Manila.

Widely Known. The colonel, who started his military career in the National Guard in 1921, was widely known in Iowa. He had served with the Guard when troops were called out for "the cow war" in western Iowa and the "washing machine war" at Newton.

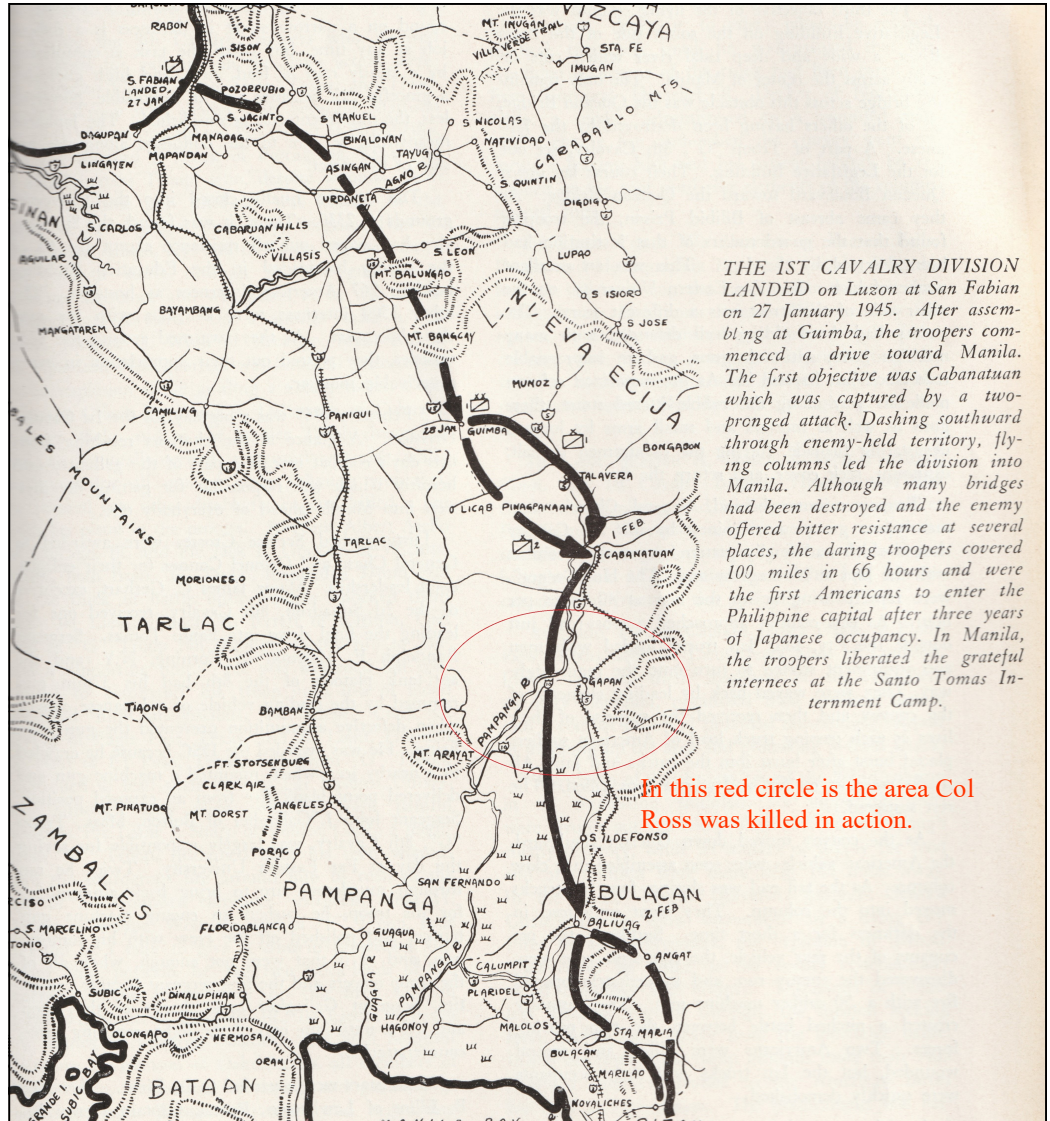
Going with the 113th Cavalry to Camp Bowie, Brownwood, Texas, in 1941 as a captain, Ross was transferred in March, 1942, to an armored division at Camp Polk, La.

Assigned to an armored division at Camp Campbell, KY., later in 1942 as a major, he took his unit to Camp Barkley, Tex., in November 1943, for further training.

He took his tank battalion early in 1944 to the South Pacific, where for many months he served in New Guinea. The battalion was assigned to the 6th Army in its invasion of Leyte Island, the first attack on the Philippines.

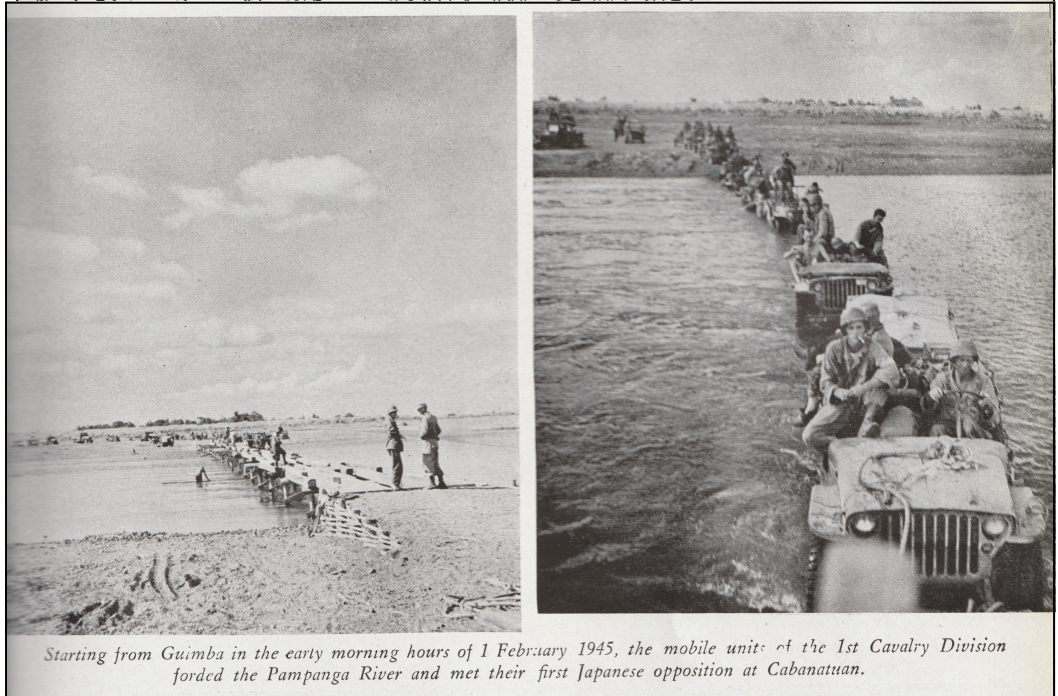
Then his battalion was assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division for the invasion of Luzon. From there Mrs. Ross had her last letter from the colonel, dated January 31, the day before he was killed.

He was born in Hamilton, Ohio, and came to Des Moines with his parents as a child. He attended McKinley School. For many years Ross was a member of the Hyperion Field Club.



THE 1ST CAVALRY DIVISION LANDED on Luzon at San Fabian on 27 January 1945. After assembling at Guimba, the troopers commenced a drive toward Manila. The first objective was Cabanatuan which was captured by a two-pronged attack. Dashing southward through enemy-held territory, flying columns led the division into Manila. Although many bridges had been destroyed and the enemy offered bitter resistance at several places, the daring troopers covered 100 miles in 66 hours and were the first Americans to enter the Philippine capital after three years of Japanese occupancy. In Manila, the troopers liberated the grateful internees at the Santo Tomas Internment Camp.

In this red circle is the area Col Ross was killed in action.



Starting from Guimba in the early morning hours of 1 February 1945, the mobile units of the 1st Cavalry Division forded the Pampanga River and met their first Japanese opposition at Cabanatuan.

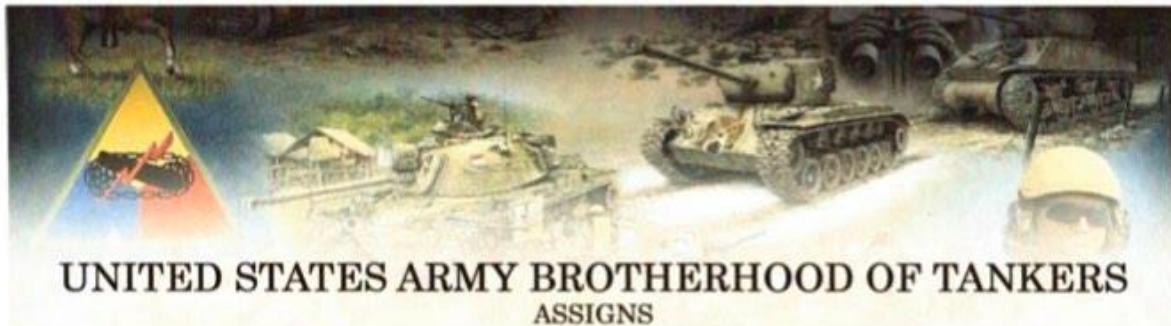
Honorary Lifetime Member - SGT Lee Robertson

Please welcome the newest Honorary Lifetime Member of USABOT, SGT Tech 4 Lee Robertson! It was through my friend Darlene Humphrey who brought Lee to my attention. And when she said that she had a Pacific War Tanker I was super excited! Lee Robertson is a very interesting person besides being a Pacific War Tanker.

SGT Lee Robertson was born on 16 June 1922, drafted into the US Army on August 1942. He was sent to Fort Campbell, KY for basic training assigned to 2nd Platoon, D Company, of the 44th Tank Battalion as a driver. The 44th Tank Battalion was originally part of the 12th Armored Division when it pulled to go to the Pacific. The 44th Tank Battalion was attached to the 31st Infantry Division, the 32th Infantry Division, the 1st Cavalry Division, and the 11th Airborne Division. He saw action in New Guinea, Morotai, Bismark Archipelago, Netherlands East Indies, Leyte, Luzon, Manila and Tokyo, Japan. SGT Robertson was discharged on December 22, 1945. Having spent 21 months overseas.

Lee Robertson post war served as a principal and educator. Lee ('50, '57) began his professional career at WKU in 1960 as Director of Alumni Affairs and Placement Services. Robertson remained as alumni director until 1985, when he retired. But Robertson soon returned from Florida and served as Director of the WKU-Glasgow Campus, followed by a six-year stint as Men's Golf Coach. Robertson now serves as Special Assistant to the Vice President for Philanthropy & Alumni Engagement.

In August 2002, Robertson received the first Spirit of Western Award, which recognizes an individual who represents enthusiasm for Western, loyalty to the institution and principles of the WKU experience and its motto "The Spirit Makes the Master." In 2005, he was named to WKU's Hall of Distinguished Alumni, and in 2013 the WKU Alumni Association named one of two ballrooms in the new Augenstein Alumni Center in his honor. He is Lifetime Member of the WKU



SERGEANT TECH 4 JUNE LEE ROBERTSON

THE STATUS OF

LIFETIME HONORARY MEMBER

SGT ROBERTSON WAS BORN ON 16 JUNE 1922. HE WAS DRAFTED INTO THE US ARMY IN AUGUST 1942. HE WAS SENT TO FORT CAMPBELL, KY FOR BASIC TRAINING ASSIGNED TO THE 44TH TANK BATTALION AS A DRIVER. HE SAW ACTION IN NEW GUINEA, BISMARCK ARCHIPELAGO, NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES, LUZON, MANILA AND TOKYO, JAPAN. SGT ROBERTSON WAS DISCHARGED ON DECEMBER 22, 1945, HAVING SPENT 21 MONTHS OVERSEAS. HIS AWARDS AND DECORATIONS INCLUDE THE ARMY GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL, AMERICAN CAMPAIGN RIBBON, ASIATIC-PACIFIC CAMPAIGN MEDAL WITH 3 BRONZE STARS AND BRONZE ARROWHEAD DEVICE, WWII VICTORY MEDAL AND PHILIPPINE LIBERATION MEDAL WITH 2 BRONZE STARS.

IT IS TRULY AN HONOR TO RECOGNIZE SGT ROBERTSON AND WELCOME HIM TO THE US ARMY BROTHERHOOD OF TANKERS.

"STAY ON THE TANK"

Bob Thurman

BOB THURMAN
CSM, USABOT
SGT US ARMY



Larry Levasseur

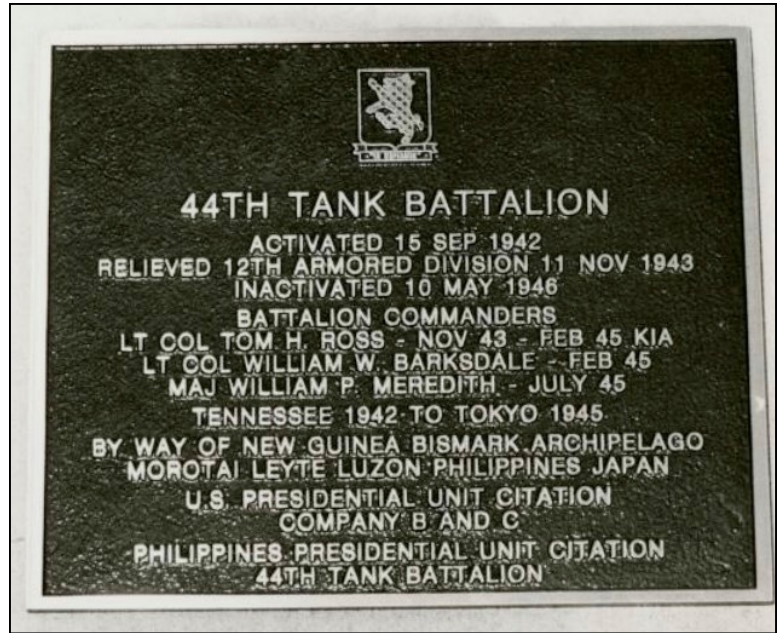
LARRY LEVASSEUR
PRESIDENT, USABOT
MSG, RETIRED

Honorary Lifetime Member - SGT Lee Robertson

Lee is known as “Mr. WKU” and is from McLean County Kentucky which s where I am from. Since working with Darlene and the McLean County Veterans page on Facebook we were able to find out about him.

I have spoken with Lee on the phone twice so far. I had to think about the questions I would be asking him as most of historical knowledge is on the European Theater not the Pacific. So here are some of the questions I was able to think of.

So I asked Lee about the tank battalion organization to see if there were any differences in the Pacific and there were none. He said that they were on the M4A3 Sherman with the 75mm gun. I asked about his thoughts on the Sherman tank as to performance and reliability and he said it was a good tank. His tank was named “Dumb Dora.” he said that the tank commander had a girl named Dorothy that dumped him. He didn’t mention any special tactics or techniques that they used but he did say that they were there to support the infantry when they ran into trouble. Artillery was the main thing that they had to worry about and he did loose a TC, Loader and Bow Gunner to an artillery burst.



On the following page I have a photo of Lee with the statue of him at Western Kentucky University. There are also several photos of tanks from the 44th Tk Bn. Based on the photos the 44th had very unique names for the tanks and varied identifiers per company. I sent him photos of the tanks with the large sergeant stripes on them and he said that they never used those. I have also seen some with flag images, and some with other symbols. The names are very odd considering what was used in Europe.

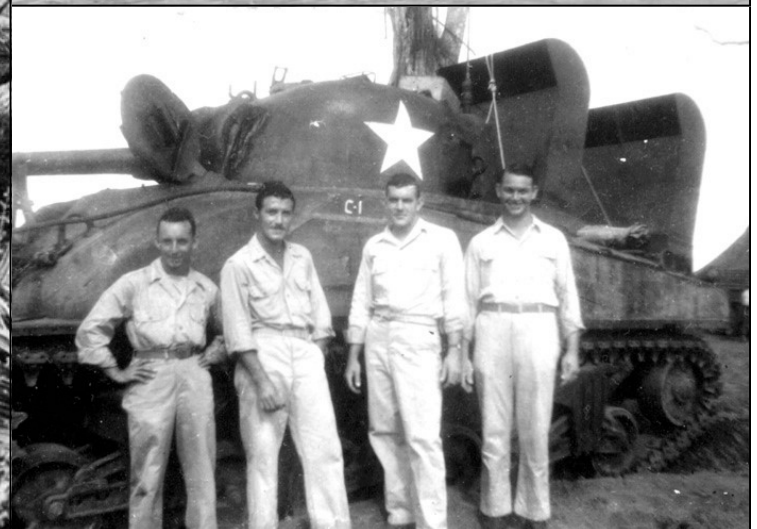
Battlin Basic, Dumb Dora, Pistol Packin Momma, Ole Miss, Old Fitzgerald, Powerhouse Pepper, APO Manila, APO Tokyo.

Something else I noticed in these photos is most of the tanks don't have any white stars painted on them. I also did not see and Lee did not mention any special add on items to the tanks. No spare track attached to the outside, logs or sandbags. Nor any of the other things I have seen before on Marine tanks.

Lee Robertson awards and Decorations include the Presidential Unit Citation, the Army Good Conduct Medal, American Campaign Ribbon, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with 3 Bronze Stars and Bronze Arrowhead Device, WWII Victory Medal and Philippine Liberation Medal with 2 Bronze Stars, Philippine Presidential Unit Citation.



Honorary Lifetime Member - SGT Lee Robertson



Tank Corps Monument Items

NEW ITEM!!!!



NEW ITEM!!!!

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

These will be up on the website soon!

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 March 12, 2021, the Monument fund has \$15,631.00. After paying for another run of lapel pins, new item for December and moving funds over to cover shipping costs. With a \$100 donation from the Mayor of Bourg, France!

Total in Monument Account: \$15,631.00.

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.

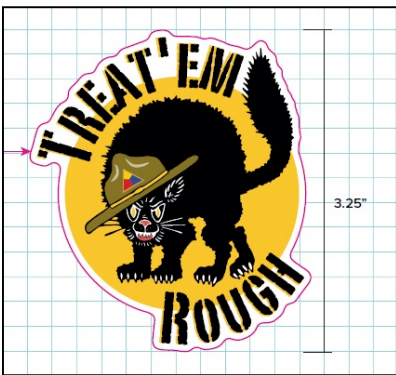
M4 Tee Shirt

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 March 12, has 438 members on our battalion Facebook page. Out of those 451 members we are currently at 93 paid members. The Patton Battalion has \$0.97 in funds in the PayPal account. We have \$474.41 in the Patton Operating account. Battalions funds are \$471.41. 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.

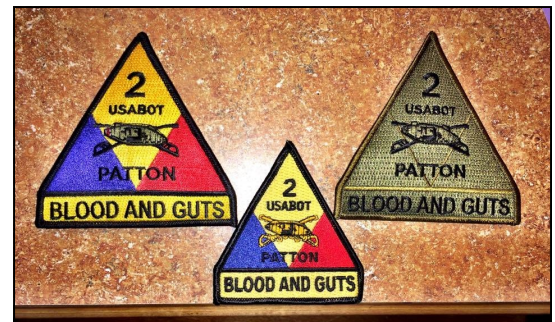
Both patches are also available for \$5 EA.

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

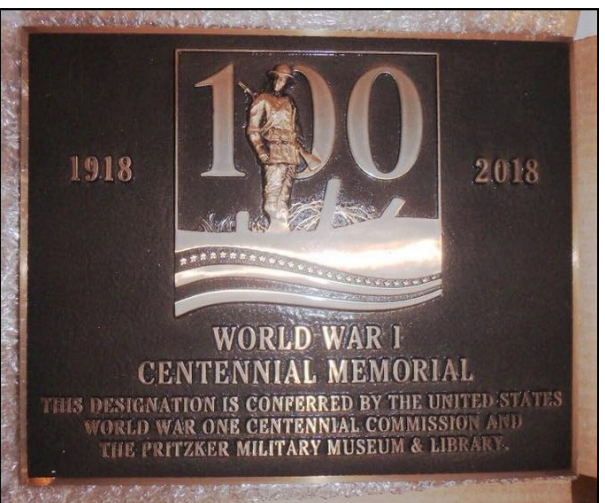
Make checks payable to USABOT
If at all possible try to go the USABOT Store Online and register there so that the G4 can track.

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
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Phillip Wilburn



Be sure to check us out on
Twitter @pattonbattalion



A color illustration of Battlin Basic, of the 44th Tank Battalion.

Coming up in the April Issue - New Items! More on SGT Robertson.

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**

