



PATTON BATTALION - USABOT ILLINOIS - INDIANA - KENTUCKY - TENNESSEE

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2020

VOLUME 8 - NO. 5

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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

453 on Battalion Facebook Page

It is the middle of May already and we are starting to see some light at the end of the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the past few weeks I have been doing a Facebook Live video on the battalion Facebook page and mentioned my first time as a tank commander. I thought I would share that story in the newsletter this month since we don't have much to talk about.

But before we do that I wanted to share some photos that came up on the World War I Tank Hunter page. These photos kind of give you a visual for the Tank Corps formation in WWI. I had never seen these before and I am surprised that these are not in books when talking about the Tank Corps in WWI.

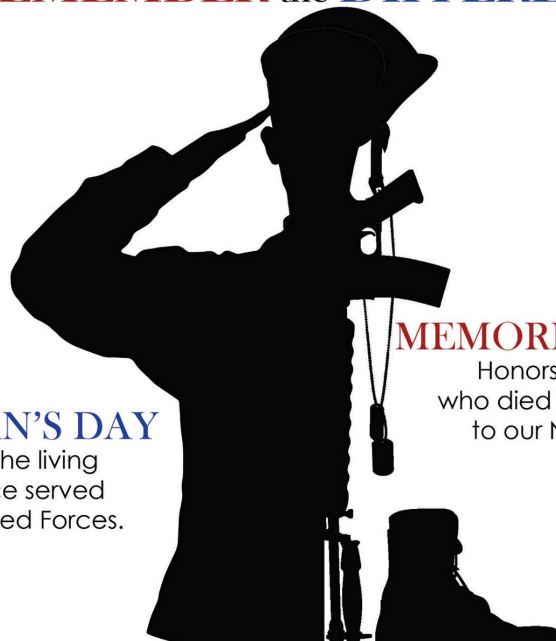
On page 5 there is a photo that I don't think that I have seen too often. When I first saw the photo it really didn't hit me as anything but when I opened the photo on the desktop I was really taken aback as to the detail. I point out some things on page 5 so I hope you take the time to really look at the photo.

As we approach Memorial Day I think I can say that this will be a very unusual Memorial Day in 2020. I don't think there will be the racing on television as we are always use to. The travel for the holiday will be down as best I can tell. Many of the events will be available in a virtual format. So with all things that have been taken for granted I hope to see more interest in the true spirit of the purpose of Memorial Day.

KP Morris
Patton 6

WWW.WORLDWARICENTENNIAL.ORG
WWW.USABOT.ORG
[HTTPS://19SERIESCLOTHING.COM](https://19SERIESCLOTHING.COM)

REMEMBER the DIFFERENCE



VETERAN'S DAY

Honors the living who once served in the Armed Forces.

MEMORIAL DAY

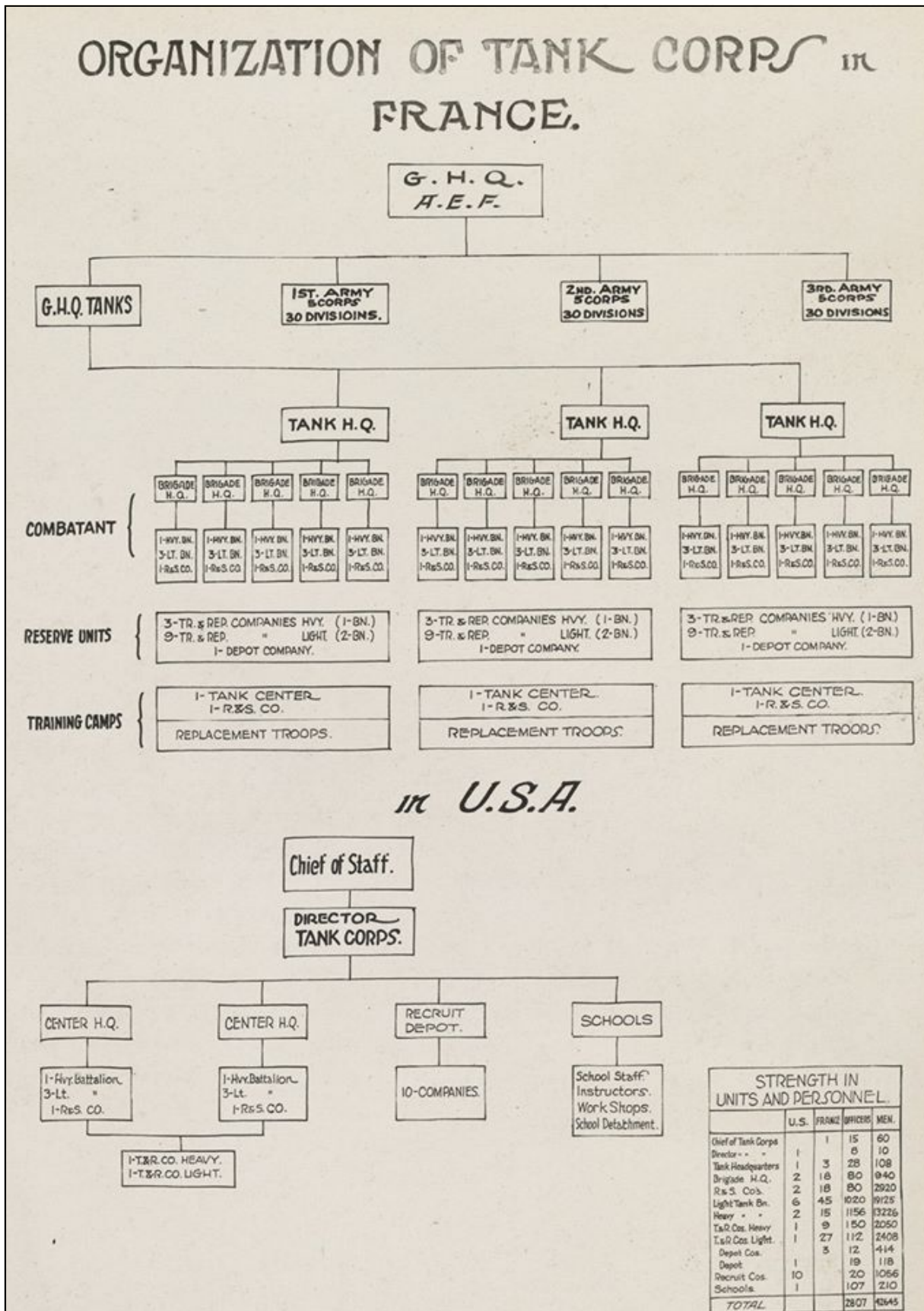
Honors those who died in service to our Nation.

ARMED FORCES DAY

Honors those currently serving in the Armed Forces.

The US Tank Corps in World War 1

These Tank Corps photos on the following pages appeared on the *Craig Moore/WWI Tank Hunter FB Page* (Army Signal Corps photos, US National Archives – johnsmilitaryhistory. com + Ed Webster)



ORGANIZATION OF A LIGHT TANK COMPANY. TANK CORPS - U.S.A.

PERSONNEL

1 Captain
Commanding
1-1st Lieutenant
Reconnaissance Officer
3-2nd Lieutenants
Platoon Commanders
Total Commissioned 5

2 Sergeants-1st Class
1-1st Sergeant
1-Signal Sergeant.

17 Sergeants
1 Mess
1 Supply
12 Tank Commanders
3 Mechanics

27 Corporals
1-Driver C.O. Tank
1-Driver Signal Tank
15-Driver Fighting Tanks
8-Reserve Tank
Commanders
2-Clerks

29 Privates-1st Cl.
8-Driver Reserve Tanks
2-Driver Motorcycles
19-Driver Trucks & Cars

30 Privates
2 Cooks

Total Enlisted 107

Aggregate 112

Tanks Fighting 15
Tanks Reserve 8
Tank C.O. 1
Tank Signal 1
TOTAL 25

MATERIEL

1 Captain
(Commanding Officer)

1 Corp. Driver

1 Serg. Signalman
1 Corp. Driver

1-2nd Lieutenant
(Commanding 1st Platoon)

Sgt. Sgt. Sgt. Sgt. Sgt.
5 Corp. Drivers

1-2nd Lieutenant
(Commanding 2nd Platoon)

Sgt. Sgt. Sgt. Sgt. Sgt.
5 Corp. Drivers

1-2nd Lieutenant
(Commanding 3rd Platoon)

Sgt. Sgt. Sgt. Sgt. Sgt.
5 Corp. Drivers

8 Corp. Tank Commanders
8 Pvt. 1st Class Drivers

18 Pvt. 1st Class Drivers

1-1st class Pvt. Driver

2-1st Cl. Pvt. Drivers

2 Cooks

1 Tank

1 Signal Tank

1st Platoon
5 Fighting Tanks

2nd Platoon
5 Fighting Tanks

3rd Platoon
5 Fighting Tanks

8 Training & Reserve Tanks

18-3 Ton Trucks
9 Trailers

4-53 Gal. Water tanks

1-5 Pass. Automobile

2-Motorcycles

1 Kitchen Trailmobile

ORGANIZATION OF A HEAVY TANK CO. TANK CORPS U.S.A.

PERSONNEL

- 1 Captain
- 4 1st Lieutenants
 - 1 Reconnaissance Officer *
 - 3 Platoon Commanders
- 16 2nd Lieutenants
 - 1 Supply Officer *
 - 15 Tank Commanders
- Total Commissioned 21

2 Sergeants - 1st Class

- 1 1st Sergeant *
- 1 Signal Sergeant

43 Sergeants

- 15 Tank Drivers
- 15 Mechanics in Tanks
- 1 Driver C.O. Tank
- 1 Driver Signal Tank
- 1 Supply *
- 1 Mess *
- 9 Mechanics

43 Corporals

- 30 6 Pr. Gunners in Tanks
- 2 " " " " "CO "
- 2 " " " " "Sig "
- 7 Drivers Reserve Tanks *
- 2 Clerks

82 Privates - 1st Cl.

- 60 Mech. Gunners in Tanks
- 4 " " " " "CO "
- 4 " " " " "Sig "
- 3 Motorcycle Drivers
- 10 Chauffeurs
- 1 Signalman

60 Privates

- 30 Asst. to 6 Pr. Gun in Tank
- 2 " " " " "C.O. Tank
- 2 " " " " "Sig "
- 14 " in Reserve Tank *
- 4 Orderlies *
- 2 Telephone Operators *
- 6 Signalmen *

5 Cooks

Total Enlisted - 235

Aggregate - 256

* Surplus to go in Reserve Tanks.

1 Captain (Co. Comdr)

- 1 Serg. Driver
- 2 Corp. 6 Pr. Gun
- 4 In. Cl. M. Mech. Gunners
- 2 Pvt. Asst. to 6 Pr. Gun.

MATERIEL

1 Co. Com. Tank

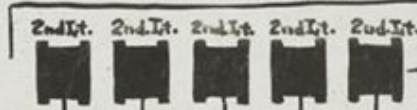
1 1st Lt. (Platoon Comdr)

- 2 Corp. 6 Pr. Gun
- 4 1st Cl. M. Mech. Gunner
- 1 1st Cl. Pvt. Signalman
- 2 Pvt. Asst. to 6 Pr. Gunner

1 Signal Tank

- 1 Signal Serg.
- 1 Serg. Driver

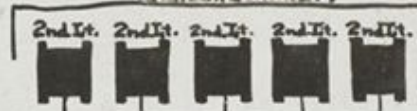
1 1st Lieutenant (Platoon Comdr)



1st Platoon
5 Fighting Tanks

- In Each Tank - 1 Officer - 10 Men
- 1 Serg. Driver - 1 Serg. Mech. 2 Corp. 6 Pr. Gunner
- 4 Pvt. 1st Cl. Mech. Gunners - 2 Asst. 6 Pr. Gunner

1 1st Lieutenant (Platoon Comdr)



2nd Platoon
5 Fighting Tanks

- In Each Tank - 1 Officer - 10 Men
- 1 Serg. Driver - 1 Serg. Mech. 2 Corp. 6 Pr. Gunner
- 4 Pvt. 1st Cl. Mech. Gunners - 2 Asst. 6 Pr. Gunner

1st Lieut. (Platoon Comdr)



3rd Platoon
5 Fighting Tanks

- In Each Tank - 1 Officer - 10 Men
- 1 Serg. Driver - 1 Serg. Mech. 2 Corp. 6 Pr. Gunner
- 4 Pvt. 1st Cl. Mech. Gunners - 2 Pvt. Asst. to 6 Pr.



7 Reserve & Training Tanks

In Each Tank

- 1 Corp. Driver
- 2 Pvt. Asst.
- Tank Crew - 3 Men
- 1 Pvt. 1st Cl. Chauffeur

1 Motor Car



9 53 Ton Tractors
7 3 Ton Trailers

- 1 Pvt. 1st Cl. Chauffeur in each Tank

1 Kitchen Trailer

5 Cooks

3 Motorcycles

- 3 Pvt. 1st Cl. Motorcycle Drivers

Tank Corps Photo

There are so many great things about this photo. From the National Archives.

This is a great example of the markings on the tanks in WWI. As you can see from left to right, we have a White Diamond, with a Diamond inside and the number 2 on the upper left corner.

The next tank has the White Diamond and a Heart in the diamond with a number 2 in the upper left corner.

Then there is the tank in the center of the photo with a White Circle and a Heart in the circle with a 5 on the upper left corner.

3 tanks from 3 separate platoons.

I would also like to point out what looks like rounds laying on the left track by the drivers hatch.

SUBJECT: 29504		NUMBER: 29
Pvt. Arthur A. Furst, S. C. PHOTOGRAPHER		
Dec. 5, 1918 REC'D	Oct. 12, 1918 TAKEN	
P.N. 29504 DESCRIPTION:		
FRENCH RENAULT TANK EQUIPPED with 37 mm guns, used by the 1st tank brigade, U.S.A. Driver, Sergeant O.F. Johnson and gunner, Sergeant W.C. Allan. Varennes-en-Argonne, Meuse, France.		
<i>29th Div area</i>		
<i>2T</i>		
Passed by A.E.F. censor, date not given.		
ISSUED: G	NOTES:	7-4014



First Time As A Tank Commander

In April 1998 I was going to Annual Training (AT) at Fort Stewart, GA. Our platoon was going to drive down and be the OPFOR for the 278th Cavalry Regiment out of the Tennessee National Guard. I don't exactly remember how I ended up in the platoon I was in but I seem to recall some issue with the Lieutenant and his work school and the dates. But I do remember the LT we went with and the acting platoon sergeant.

The LT was Trent Meyers and the PLT SGT was SSG William "Wild Bill" Fredrickson. LT Meyers had been our XO the year before on Yano and took over when the CO had to leave due to the birth of his child. He did an awesome job. SSG Fred, as we called him, was a veteran of Desert Storm, TC of a mine plow tank as part of the 3rd ID Bde that was in DS. I remember the first time I saw him at drill wearing his 3rd ID combat patch. I immediately met him and started looking to him for training and advice. These two would put on a learning clinic while we were at AT that year.

I was the gunner for LT Meyers that AT. So most of my time was in the gunners seat. The plan was our platoon while attached to another company was to defend a section from the 278th ACR. As I write this I have been searching over the Ft Stewart area trying to locate where we may have been but I just cannot pinpoint where it was. I think I have an idea based on certain memories but it is vague. I do remember passing the area back in 2001 when we were doing our road march back to post. (attached is a photo of the rough area and a photo of our terrain board we made)

The plan was for us to be in a defensive position and hold the 278th from passing through us. We were the left flank of the OPFOR front. I do remember that there was a boundary close by. We spent the first few days out in the area looking at and preparing our plan. We then went out and started preparing the engagement area. Sometime during this period is when we had a huge rain storm hit. It rained for almost 12 hours straight and the wind and lightning was crazy. The following day



Photo of SSG Fredrickson in Desert Storm



the roads were classified as Black and we had to stay in the Assembly Area. Maintenance day. SSG Fred held a bitch plate installation competition.

Soon we were back out in the training area preparing it for the training event. It was here that an accident and injury lead to me becoming the D22 tank commander. One of our TCs dropped a rear deck hatch on his foot and was sent to the rear. I was selected to take his position. We also ran into a delay as the 278th was still going through their gunnery and had hit snags. SO we had a free day for training.

LT Meyers and Fred took us over to an open area and we were preparing to take on another platoon from the OPFOR just to get some training. We set up in a defense while they attacked. This first training event I don't remember much from other than me and the LT got hit and SSG Fred was still fighting. And when it came to fighting his tank he did just that!

First Time As A Tank Commander - cont.

I have a photo that I took as SSG Fred was maneuvering around. We were watching him, his tank was in tac idle, it was ripping back and forth, and he backed into a huge tree but never slowed down. He was constantly moving and never sitting still. It was amazing to watch. He was using every bit of terrain and the tanks abilities to its max.

After that scenario we did an AAR and was going to do it again but something came up and the other platoon had to leave. So after some discussion it was decided we should got team on team, A team vs B team.

So LT and I were going to go against SSG Fred and his wingman. So we let them go set up in the defense and we would assault them. There are some great moments that happened here. As we were preparing our assault the LT went through a huge ditch. When he came up the other side he stopped and hopped off his tank. I had my driver stop as I thought there might be something wrong. The LT ran in front of the tank and ran his arm up his gun tube to get the mud out! He had buried his gun tube!! (*That cost him*)

So we made our way to the enemy. SSG Fred had his wingman moving back and forth along a woodline using his smoke generator. So as we moved along the woodline it looked like both tanks were off to our left. The LT started picking up steam and rolling along the woodline and pulling away from it. I was tailing him and off his right rear fender. Just as the LT bolted I caught a glimpse up a cut through the woodline of SSG Fred sitting dead ahead of me looking straight at the LT off his right fender.

I turned my tank and guns blazing attacked this tank! I was rolling along Hoffman's going off, smoke blowing in my face and rolled up to within ten feet in front of him with my arms crossed. And I was stunned when out of the TC hatch popped SSG Fred! I HAD TAKEN OUT SSG FRED!!!! LT Meyers took out his wingman and we rolled together for our AAR. As we talked it through SSG Fred's driver had been screaming in the radio "tank dead ahead!" Fred thought he was talking about the LT's tank. When were done I told SSG Fred that this was greatest moment I will ever have as a tank commander by taking him out. I will never forget his words to me. "Savor it, for it will not happen next time and you better train harder than me if you want to win again."

So with a confidence boost I was ready now for our wargame with the 278th. Or so I thought.

Our first day out we never saw them. We waited through the morning as the times for an attack were shifted. So we were given an all clear before noon. The 278th were not in position to start the training. So we took the after noon to practice our battle drills.

This is when we had the LT get his tank stuck in a large water hole. It had been a BP before and so he thought that he could push the water out with the tank. We had shifted down on to right flank as part of a drill and I noticed the LT's tank high up in the rear with the tracks spinning. I asked the crew "you all ever recovered a tank before?"

When we got down there he was just digging himself deeper into the mud. We got the tow straps off a couple of tanks and hooked him up to pull him out. I was able to get a few photos of the tank stuck before we pulled him out.

This was the second incident for the LT. First he buried his gun tube and now he had gotten stuck and required to be pulled out. This was going to cost him again. Photos of "Mud Puppy" are the back cover of this issue. We lost skirt #7 in that hole.



First Time As A Tank Commander - cont.



So I was the 2 tank over on the left flank close to the road intersection. The BP had been picked out by the previous TC and I had little time to modify the choice. We were sitting just behind and under a huge tree. One limitation I had was a hole or obstacle like item off my right rear. I also had a Bore-sight spaghetti cord for my CVC. I was glad I had that, will explain later.

So as we were sitting there we expected the enemy to make a frontal assault. So as you can see in the photo out focus was the red triangle to our direct front. There was a small trail running through the center of our engagement area. So that was our main focus. I was in a position that I could see down the road on my left if they came down that road. There was also a very old trail down the right boundary for our platoon.

As we waited in the hot Georgia morning for the attack to happen we just keep waiting....and waiting....and waiting. All of a sudden we could hear noise and see dust billowing up from behind the red triangle. After a while a lone tan M1A1 popped his little head up on the ridge and was sitting there scanning our sector. ALL EYES WERE ON HIM!!

I did not have the nice Bose CVC with the external mic back in 1998 so I was hearing what sounded like the whole 278th coming down the left flank. I was looking for them to come down the road to my left. I was in the protected open position with the TC hatch. I did not have a loader as we were 3 man crewing the tank and I was going to be loading. So I was hopping back and forth between the TC hatch and the loaders hatch trying to see where they were. Finally, I opened my TC hatch fully. As I was turned around doing so I see a Bradley moving down the road behind me (the red triangle right behind the 2 tank). I yelled "TANK" so loud that the driver of the Bradley that was open hatch heard me yell, looked at me and threw on the brakes! As I was trying to get the tank backed up to get on him he slammed into reverse and at full speed backed down the road before I could get on him.

I was screaming in the radio "Contact, contact, contact" but the rest of the platoon thought I meant the tank dead ahead. As I maneuvered to get on the Bradley I finally got into a position where I could look through the sight. I could make out 5 Bradley dog-houses.

One of the AAR comments I had for myself after this AT was I needed to work on my spot reports. My spot reports were "Contact APCs left flank." (The Blue arrow) The rest of the platoon still thought that I was talking about the tank dead ahead. As I was watching the rest of the platoon ignore me and I was certain that I was about to be overrun I finally called White 1 and said "look at me!" When he made eye contact with me I said "I have APCs to my front!" He immediately backed out his BP and began to move to my position.

At this time the tanks started showing up and maneuvering through the Bradley's. As we began to fight the tanks the LT got waxed and I pulled in behind him and started using him for cover. I lasted just a few more minutes but was waxed shortly after words. I was down on the ground talking to the LT when the OC wagon rolled up. A CPT jumped out and immediately asked me what happened. As I was telling him he was writing it down and said that I had done the right thing but why didn't the rest of the platoon come to your aid. I told him that I was a new TC and that my spot report sucked! He laughed and said that the scouts had performed a textbook move. As we were talking SSG Fred was in a fight with a hornets nest. We watched as he had backed across the road into the alternate position and was fighting the tanks. His wingman had bought it and he was backed up the post boundary in a hide position.

The tanks rolled up onto our position and immediately formed a coil and the crews all got out and started eating their MREs. The OC told the LT to follow him. I was to remain where I was. The OC told the LT to make contact with SSG Fred and link up with him. When he made contact the OC said "I am going to reset you and your 4 tank. I want you to counterattack these guys." So off they went. After about five minutes the LT and SSG Fred came roaring into the area with guns blazing. The tankers were all on their back decks in lawn chairs waving and laughing say "we already killed you but good effort." the OC was standing there lighting them up as our two tanks roared around them with guns blazing.

The OC ran up to the commander yelling "your whole squadron is destroyed! You did not follow through like in the order. You have failed to meet the objective!" As those two were hashing it out we rallied across the road and had a good laugh. We did sit there and do our AAR. We talked about my spot reports for a long time. And we worked through several ways to make sure that didn't happen again.

"APC, south of my position" "APC south of route 1" "5 APC's west of route 3, north of route 1" Later I would learn from SSG Fred how to quick read a grid by looking at a map. Had I trained to do that I could have quickly narrowed down the location. We as a platoon were focused in a funnel and not for the entire battlespace. I talked about me requesting the LT to look at me and make eye contact. Which I think is what I finally said to the SSG Fred to get his attention.

First Time As A Tank Commander cont.

When I came home from that AT I did an AAR for myself and my AT. I sat down and came up with a list of things I did well and a list of things to work on. Some of these I remember vividly others not so much.

1. *Tank maintenance and the 2404.* My first time as a TC I finally understood why all that maintenance is important. The day we spent in the assembly area SSG Fred took us out and showed us the Troubleshooting section of the -10. He went over typical things that happen and how to quickly fix them.

2. *Map reading, grids, coordinates.* SSG Fred showed us the abbreviated grid class by finding the grid without using the protractor. This requires some practice. By looking at the map you move across the map like using the protractor and recite the grid. I spent many evenings at home with a map practicing this. Once you get it down and becomes very easy. (When I was teaching this to the TOC folks at battalion many years later my Ops SGT told me that you need more than a 6-digit grid for call for fire and that it would not be accurate. By using the app Tactical Nav, one of my soldiers typed in my grids I called as the Ops SGT pointed on the map. The pin fell right on each point he pointed out with my grids. He was blown away.)

3. *Spot reports, all for reports for that matter.* Reporting as a TC is something that I found to be a major downfall that first time as a TC. My spot reports that AT were not very good. I would practice again each night to work on this. Getting my hands on a copy of the Tank Platoon SOP was the first item I pressed for.

4. *Knowledge of fire control system and weapons, .50 .cal.* One of the things we did in our defensive was conduct a boresight out in the field and it was agreed that we would boresight out to 2,000 meters. Might have been less than that, I can't remember. We did not boresight at the normal 1200m. This is another item that I think prevented me in killing anyone that was as close as they were when we made contact. I do remember us talking about this in our AAR in the field.

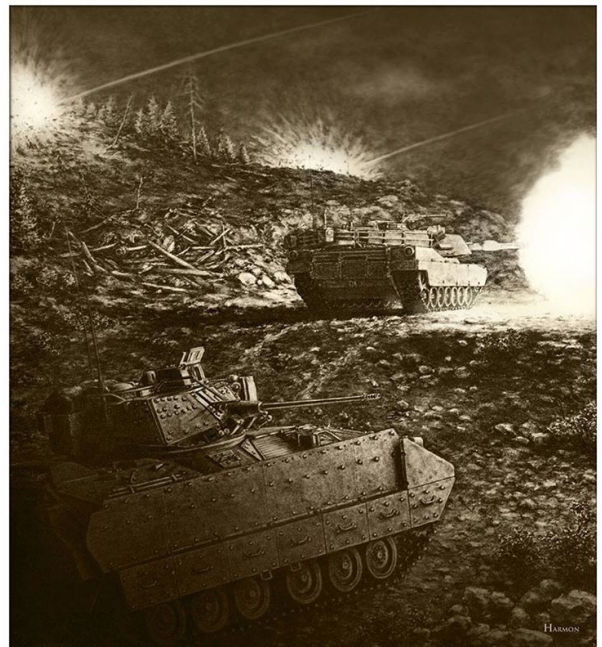
5. *Being a netter NCO.* Many things fall under this. As a first time TC and being on another TC's tank I learned a lot. One of the things I hated about the tank I had commandeered was that the TC took all the items out of the sponson boxes and dumped it into the turret floor. When I was looking for tools I could not find anything I was looking for. The crew wanted their gear in the sponson boxes and didn't care about the BII. That and tank crews are creatures of habit. Some have good habits and some have bad habits. I knew after that AT how I wanted my crew to act. And in order for that happen they would have to be trained. I created a plan to train my next crew and I am glad that I did that.

6. *Tactical knowledge.* When I got to AT that year I had just begun the book "He Rode Up Front for Patton" by Gen Irzyk. So I had only read a few chapters and was just getting to the good stuff about tactics. What I learned at that AT was I needed to learn a lot about how a tank platoon fights. I had fought my own tank and should have been doing a better job. I took a new look at Armor Magazine differently after that and I was beginning to look at how I would do things. I dug out the FM's and started really reading and studying those.

Of all the things above the one thing I really took away from this AT was the mentorship that I had from other NCOs and officers.

One of the things I learned when looking back is the 278th ACR conducted an attack on us and it was a textbook example of "Conduct of the Assault" featured in Armor Magazine in July-August 1995. This article was referenced to in future doctrine that came out. When I re-read the article I was blown away as to how the 278th conducted this to the letter. I have fought that scenario in my head at least a thousand times. What I would have differently and that was also something that I used for my AAR. What do I need to learn that would make the difference next time.

In 2001 when we were going to go against the 278th again I pulled the article out, re-read it and made a list of what it would take to defeat the conduct of the assault. I think that there are 5 keys to the conduct of the assault. My list was how to defeat each of the five items. I tried to express this to the Task Force commander while we were there but he did not believe me. I told him exactly what the "enemy" was going to do.



ONCE MORE UNTO THE BREACH

The Cover of the July-August issue of Armor Magazine 1995.

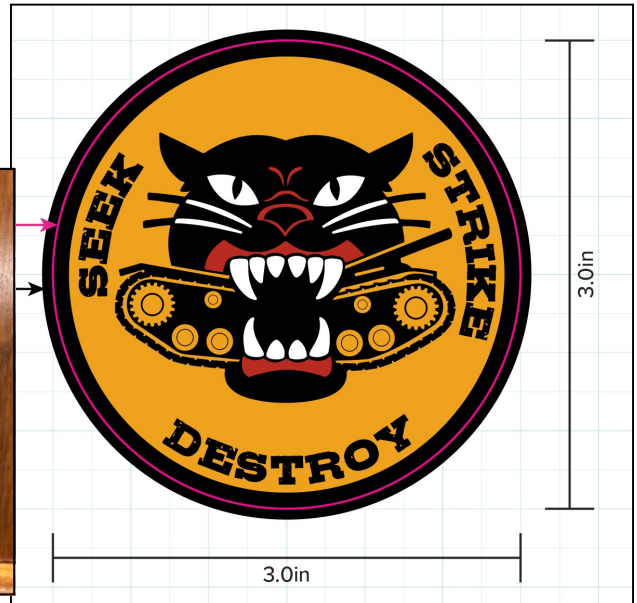
New Patton and the US Tank Corps Monument Items

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 Bour 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 ITEM!!!!!!

They have finally arrived! These are the Tank Destroyer Mugs to go with the TD Stickers we have now. I ordered these back in January. Of course, as soon as they were to hit production the COVID-19 strikes. At first when other orders were put aside do to production costs I was notified that our order was being pushed to the front. Soon after there was the Stay at Home orders issued and the plant had to close.

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 **41** of these mugs on hand and ready to ship.

I will be boxing these up while masked, wearing gloves and do all that I can do to be safe for me and you.



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.



Patton Monument Report for 2020

As of May 21, 2020, the Monument fund has \$15,100.40. After paying for the second run of mugs and moving funds over to cover shipping costs.

Total in Monument Account: \$15,100.40.

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.

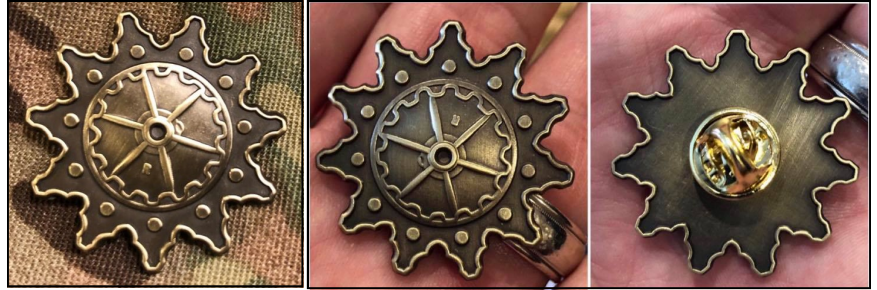
M4 Tee Shirt

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 May 21, has 451 members on our battalion Facebook page. Out of those 451 members we are currently at 93 paid members. The Patton Battalion has \$0.44 in funds in the PayPal account. We have \$535.94 in the Patton Operating account. Battalions funds are \$535.94. 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

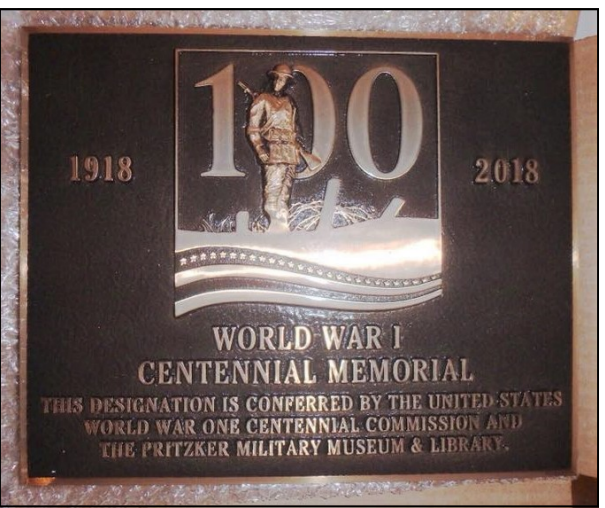
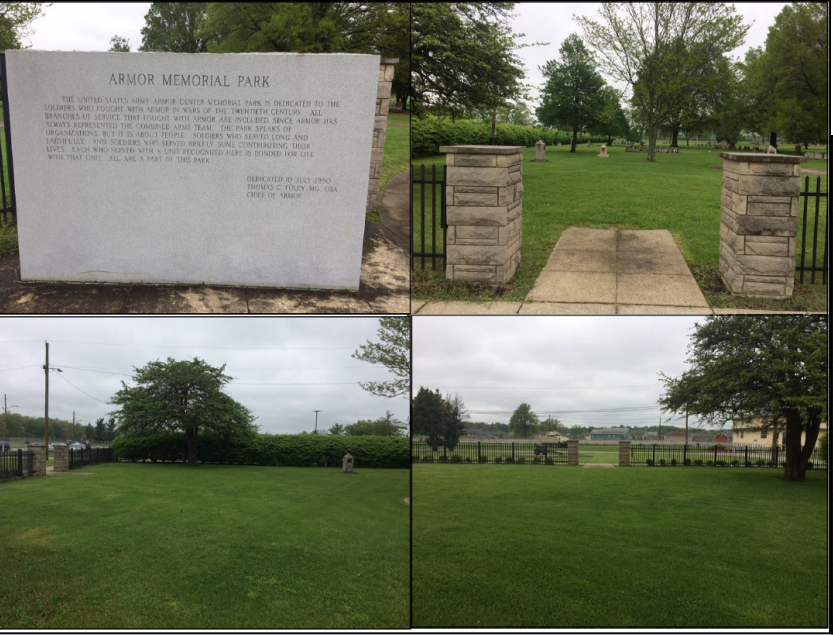
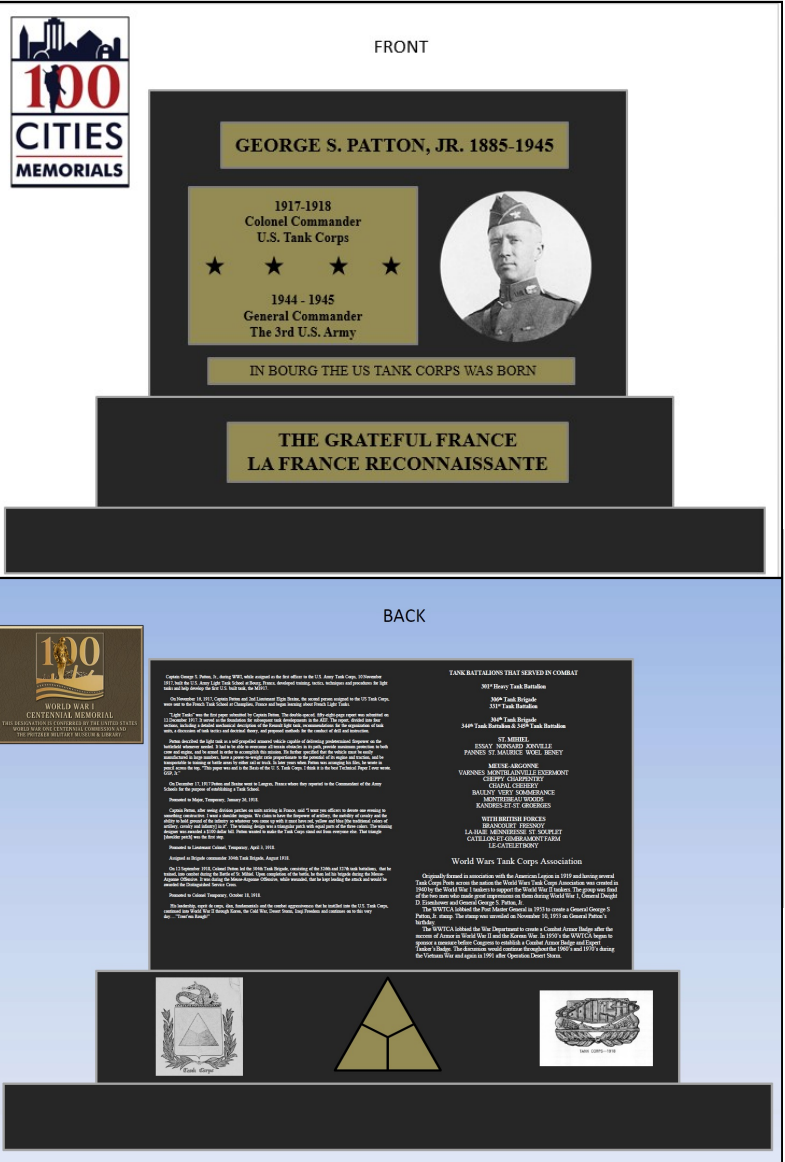
Make checks payable to USABOT
If at all possible try to go the USABOT Store Online
and register there so that the G4 can track.

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 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
- Karlen P Morris
- Nathan Snyder
- William Starks
- Dion Walker, Sr.
- Phillip Wilburn



Be sure to check us out on Twitter @pattonbattalion



MUD PUPPY - From the story "First Time As A Tank Commander"
LT Meyers tank at Ft Stewart 1998

Coming in the June Issue - Mission Command

Upcoming Events

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

Sullivan Cup - Best Tank Crew Competition - Fort Benning, GA, . (POSTPONED)

22 Challenge 10K Ruck March - Jeffersonville, IN, (PENDING)

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

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!!!

THE EVENT HAS BEEN POSTPONED DUE TO THE COVID-19

