

## Weapons of Tank Battalions Illustrations

### Chapter 2: Light Tanks



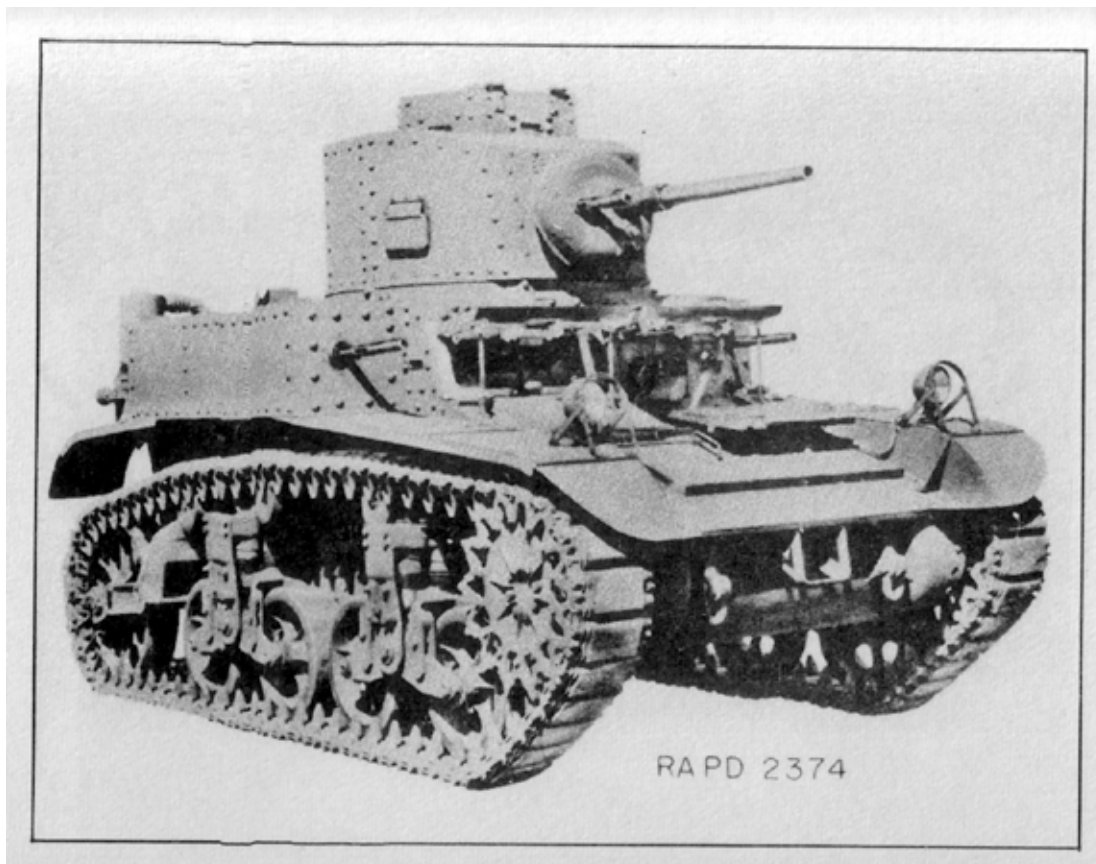
SC-117212: The Combat Car M1/Light Tank M1A2 weighed nearly ten tons and carried one .50-caliber and one .30-caliber machine gun in the turret, plus a .30-caliber in the hull. (NARA, Signal Corps photo)



SC-114166: The M2A3 had slightly thicker armor than the M1 combat car and split its upper machine guns between two turrets so that gunners could engage more targets simultaneously. These belong to the 66th Infantry Regiment (Tanks). (NARA, Signal Corps photo)



SC-114354: The M2A4 being demonstrated at Aberdeen Proving Ground in October 1939. The tank was the rough equal of the lightest German medium tank at that time. Note the commander's pre-war "donut-style" crash helmet. (NARA, Signal Corps photo)



TM 9-725\_2: The first few M3 Stuarts had riveted turrets. Note the dropped trailing idler wheel as compared with the M2A4. (NARA, records of the Government Printing Office)



8b04121u: This is an early production M3 Stuart with a welded seven-sided turret and direct vision slits in the front hatches. The hull and sponson machine guns have been temporarily removed. (Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, FSA-OWI Collection)

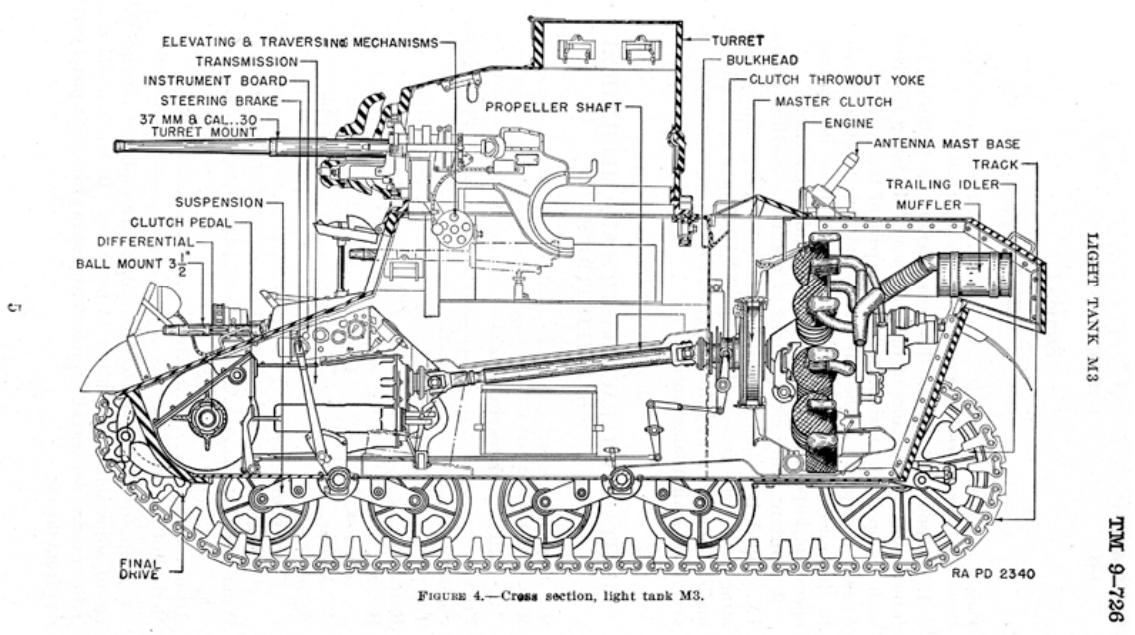




8b04114u: A closer look at the early pattern front hatches with vision slits and the welded seven-sided turret. The turret pistol ports (open here) also had vision slits. (Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, FSA-OWI Collection)



8b04116u: Rear view of the M3 Stuart. (Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, FSA-OWI Collection)



TM 9-726\_1: The internal layout of the M3 Stuart. (NARA, records of the Government Printing Office)





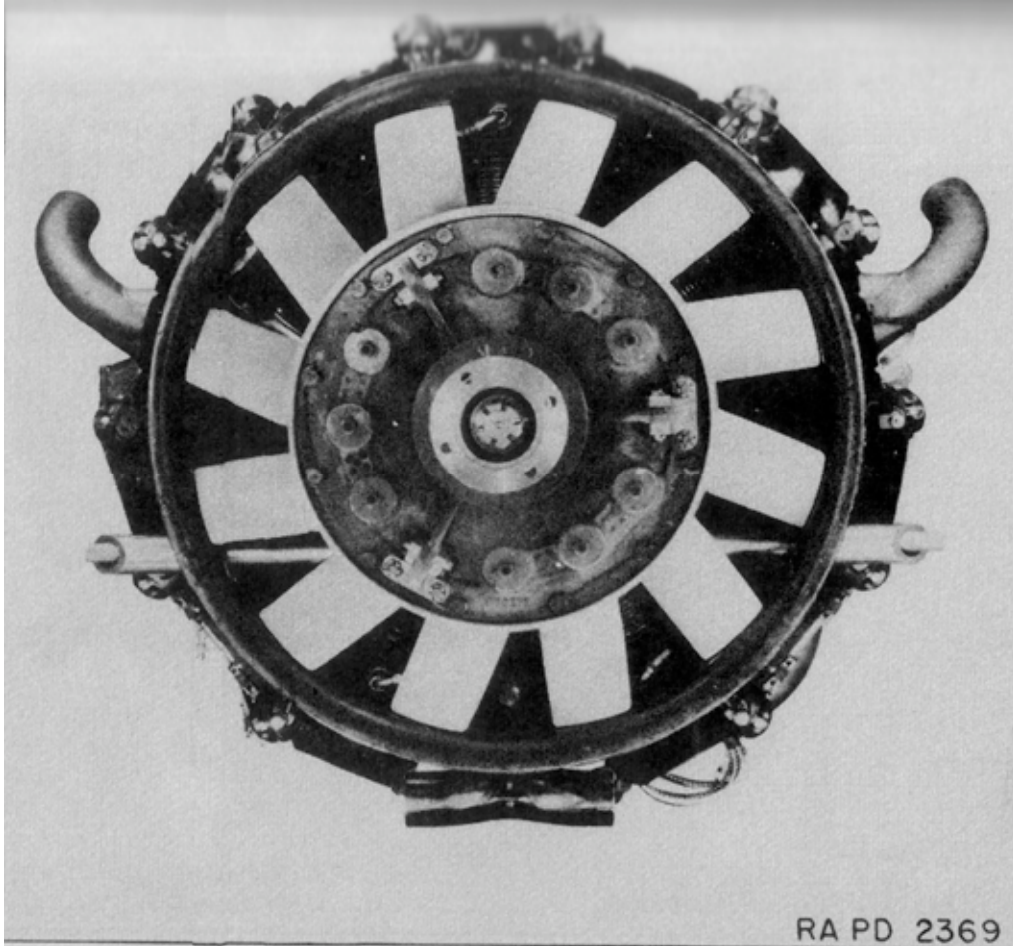
8b02792u: Evolution of the early M3 turret: Near right is the seven-sided welded turret that almost immediately replaced a similar riveted model. Near left is the successor welded homogeneous steel turret. This picture also offers a view of the M3's armored back deck, which was 3/8-inch thick. (Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, FSA-OWI Collection)



Army1: Marine Corps tanks on Guadalcanal. The foremost is an M2A4 and the second an M3. (U.S. Army)

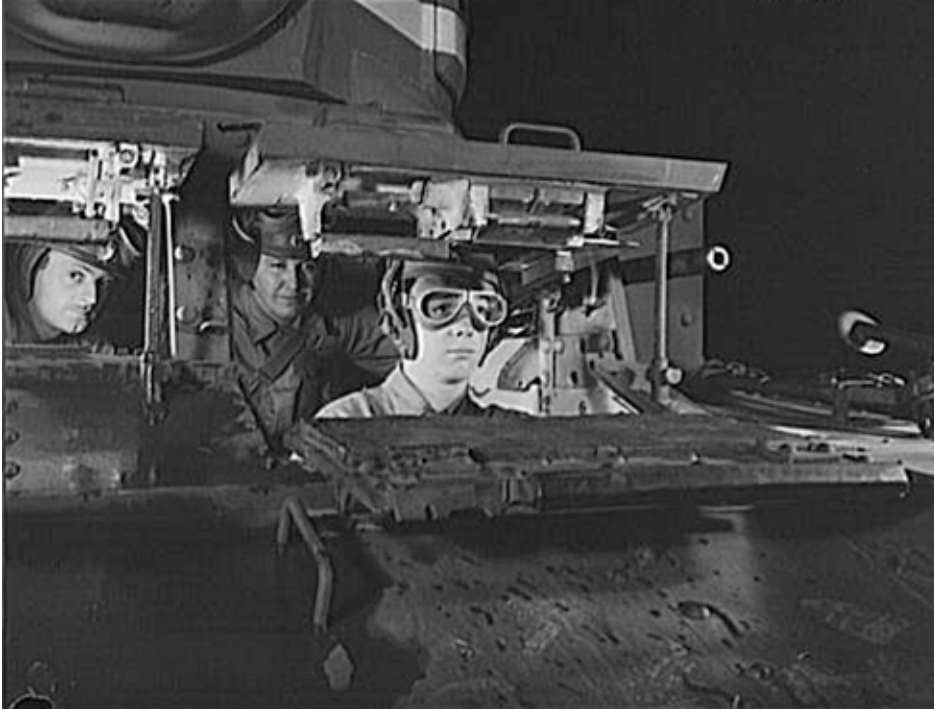


SC-133299: A tank driver learns touch signals that the vehicle commander will use to pass commands to him in his mid-production M3, which has no intercom for the crew. The commander used his foot when in the tank. The direct-vision slits in the front hatches now have armored covers (open here), and the "protectoscope" housing is slightly higher and out-board of that. (NARA, Signal Corps photo)



TM 9-725\_4: The seven-cylinder Continental W670 aircraft engine powered light tanks through the M3 series and the amphibian tank and tractor models. (NARA, records of the Government Printing Office)





8b09483r: A look into the M3 fighting compartment. The commander crouches behind the driver. The "protectoscope" is visible attached to the open driver's hatch. The driver's hatch, with its hinged lower section, provided entry and exit to both front seats. (Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, FSA-OWI Collection)





8e00123v: This late-production M3A1 has a welded hull. Note the absence of the sponson machine guns and turret cupola. (Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, FSA-OWI Collection)



SC-170751: This M3A1 is escorting a truck convoy near Maknassy, Tunisia, on 8 April 1943. This shot offers a view of the turret top, which now provides egress to both commander and loader. The tank has a typical air-recognition white star painted on the turret top. (NARA, Signal Corps photo)



SC-190051: The M3 series served on in the Pacific long after it had been retired elsewhere. These M3A1 Stuarts are still in action with the 754th Tank Battalion on 9 March 1944. They are moving forward to attack Japanese pillboxes on Bougainville's Hill 700. (NARA, Signal Corps photo)

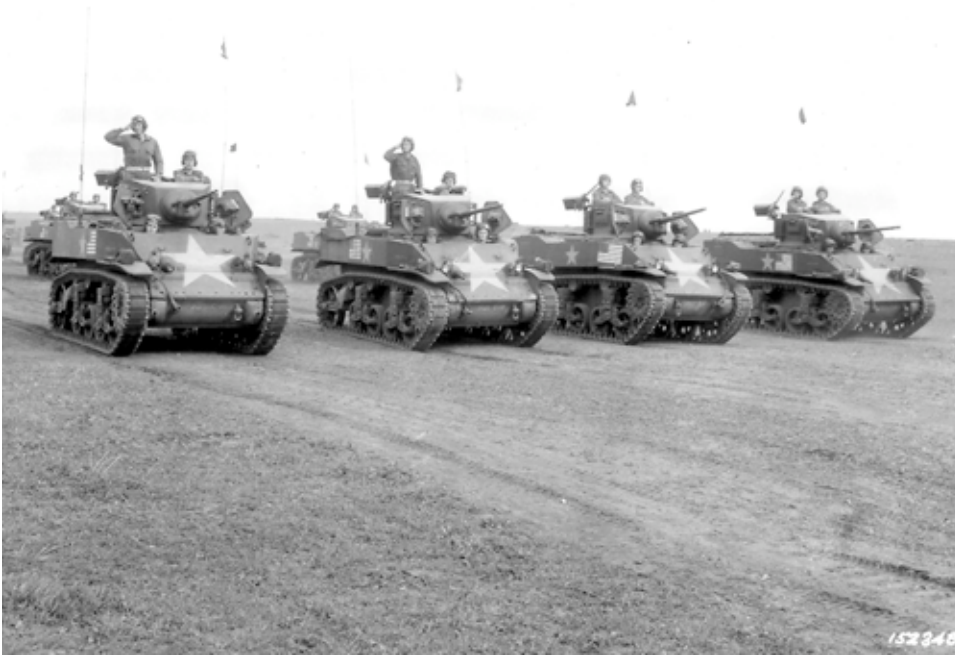


SC-137559-R: The pilot version of the M5 (M3 Experimental) had a fixed hull-mounted machine gun in addition to the one in the ball mount. The sloped front armor provided better protection than the slab-fronted M3, and the hull crew enjoyed overhead hatches with rotating periscopes. (NARA, Signal Corps photo)



SC-173963: A comparison of the new M5 (left) and several M3A1s with welded hulls. (NARA, Signal Corps photo)





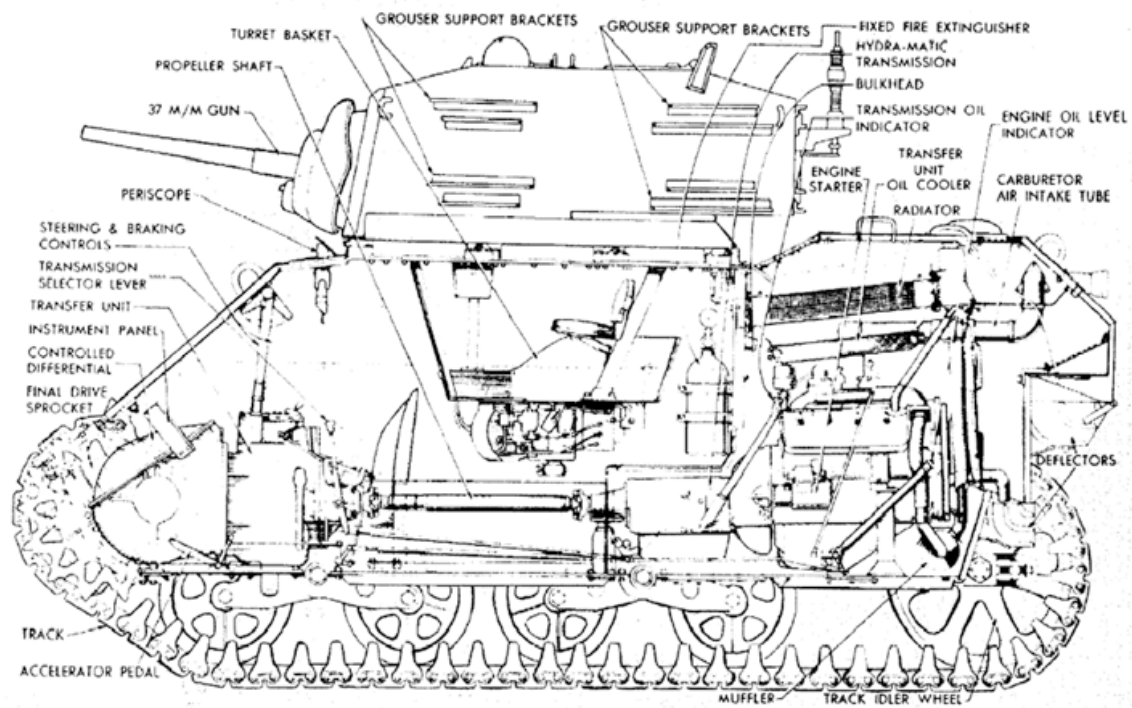
SC-152348: The first M5 light tanks fielded in action belonged to the 70th Tank Battalion, here seen parading for President Franklin Roosevelt at Casablanca in January 1943. (NARA, Signal Corps photo)



SC-178256: A look at the deck of the M5. These tanks have a triangular commander's hatch, which proved a difficult squeeze for any large man. (NARA, Signal Corps photo)



111-M-1012\_8: An M5, likely from the 1st Armored Division, fires during action in Tunisia in early 1943. (NARA, Signal Corps film)



Insert Army14: A cut-away view of the M5A1 light tank.  
 (U.S. Army)



AFB5719: The turret basket on an M5A1; the basket on the M3A1 and M5 looked about the same. (NARA, records of the Chief of Ordnance)





SC-197040: A look at the upper surfaces of the M5A1, courtesy of a German antitank mine. Note the improved hatch arrangement in the extended turret. The white line is tape marking the mined area.



SC-198206: Dog Company, 709th Tank Battalion, light tanks in Kleinhau, Germany. A late-production M5A1, recognizable by a shield covering the machine gun mount on the right turret side, is to the right; it still carries the lower wading kit assembly fitted before it crossed a beach in Normandy. The M5A1 in the center is equipped with a Culin hedgerow device, another Normandy souvenir. (NARA, Signal Corps photo)



SC-181336: A rear view of an M5A1 laden with the usual bedrolls and other personnel crew gear. This is the first tank to cross the Volturno River via "Huskie Bridge" on 13 October 1944. (NARA, Signal Corps photo)



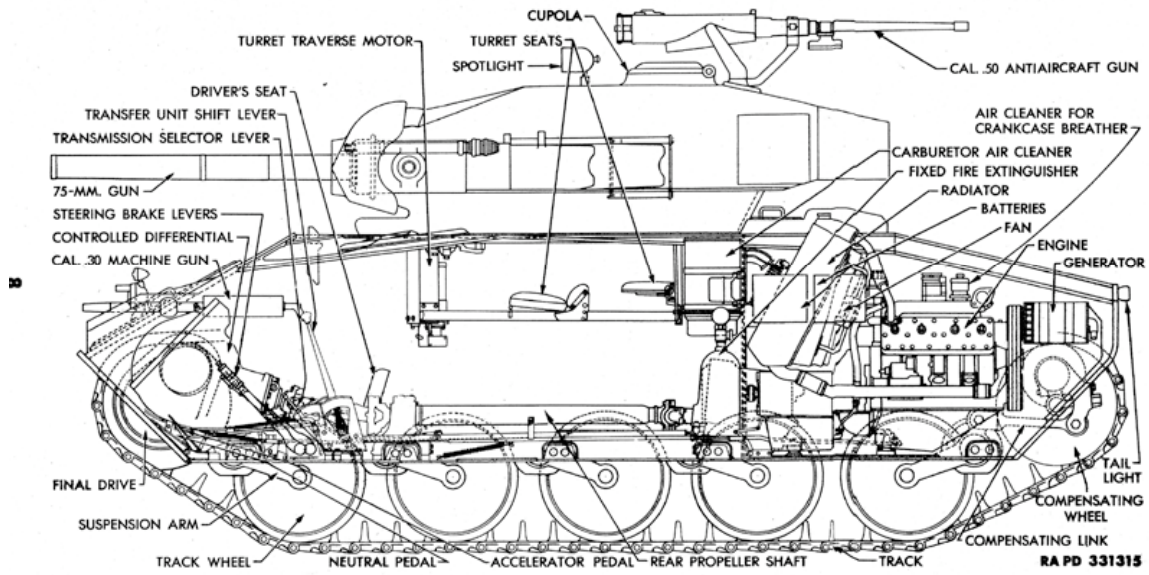
SC-200667: An M24 issued to the 743d Tank Battalion in February 1945. All four crewmembers are visible. The one to the far left is wearing the insulated winter tanker's helmet and bib-style overalls for warmth. (NARA, Signal Corps photo)





744thM24M5: The new M24 and the M5 that it replaced, both of the 744th Tank Battalion (Light). (NARA, Signal Corps photo, records of the 744th Tank Battalion)





TM 9-729\_1: The layout of the M24 Chaffee. (NARA, records of the Government Printing Office)



111-CB-39\_1: An M24 fires its 75mm main gun, which was as effective as that mounted in the M4 medium tank. (NARA, Signal Corps film)



111-CB-39\_2: A comparison of the Chaffee's 75mm round with the 37mm fired by the M5 series light tanks. (NARA, Signal Corps film)



SC-199197: The 740th Tank Battalion fielded two M24s after it equipped itself from a repair depot during the Battle of the Bulge and thereby accidentally became the first unit to use the Chaffee in battle. Here, one of those M24s supports the 82d Airborne Division on 19 January 1945. Note the collapsible driver's windshield, which most tank models had for use on road marches, and the front hull hatch, which allowed easy access to the transmission. (NARA, Signal Corps photo)



SC-203436: A 743d Tank Battalion Chaffee works under fire with 30th Infantry Division doughs near Statusforst on 25 March 1945. (NARA, Signal Corps photo)