

Weapons of Tank Battalions Illustrations

Chapter 7: Tank Crew



111-M-1001_2: Commander and staff, 2/13th Armored Regiment (left), brief probably company and detachment commanders on the day's plan in North Africa. A map rests against the side of the command halftrack. (NARA, Signal Corps film) [color photo]



SC-195635: Tankers drove their home around with them. Often, sleeping quarters were no more than a shallow trench with the tank parked on top; tankers crawled in and out through the belly escape hatch. This assault gun crew from the 191st Tank Battalion is enjoying relatively luxurious digs. (NARA, Signal Corps photo)



SC-129817: The leather tank helmet introduced in late 1941 had adjustable clamps to hold the earphones in place; a separate throat mike plugged into the intercom system. These coveralls have large pockets (not all did), a feature that annoyed some tankers because they snagged on protruding equipment in the tank. (NARA, Signal Corps photo)



1a35215u: Tankers sport herringbone twill coveralls in blue and tan. (Library of Congress, Prints & Photographs Division, FSA-OWI Collection) [color photo]



C-4633: A crew in olive drab coveralls and tanker jackets loads 75mm ammunition into an M4. The black-tipped shells are AP, and the silver-tipped ones are HE. (NARA, Signal Corps photo) [color photo]



SC-337945: The soldier foremost to the left is wearing the tanker jacket, which was a prize target for liberation by other troops. The man foremost to the right is wearing the insulated bib-style overall. (NARA, Signal Corps photo)



111-ADC-4025_7: This tanker is wearing the insulated winter helmet and has on an infantry field jacket for extra warmth. He is sharing a smoke with a just-liberated POW in April 1945. (NARA, Signal Corps film)



SC-185348: Crewman with a Tommy gun dismounts from his M5A1. (NARA, Signal Corps photo)



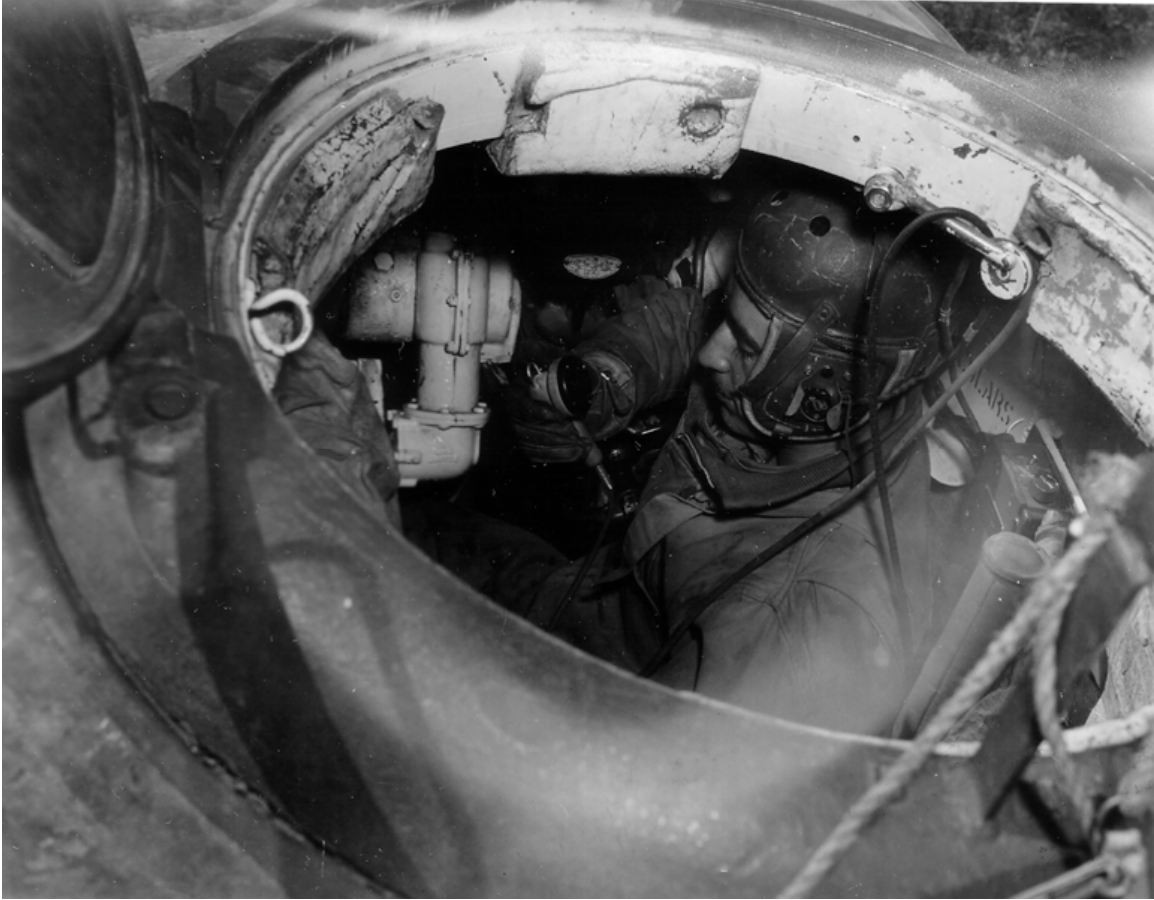
SC-172717: The M3 grease gun replaced the Tommy gun for tank crews late in the war. (NARA, Signal Corps photo)



SC-337932: A camouflaged "armored Frigidaire" of the 750th Tank Battalion guards roads over which 75th Division infantrymen are advancing in the St. Vith area in January 1945. The cold kept fogging periscopes, so the tankers ran with their hatches open, and snow falling off the trees became so deep inside that the men could not reach the lower ammunition racks. (NARA, Signal Corps photo)



SC-197284-S: Begrimed from days of front line combat, a tanker arrives at a rest area behind the lines after his outfit is relieved in December 1944. (NARA, Signal Corps photo)



SC-243453: An experienced gunner, this one deep in the turret of an M4, knew the drill without the commands taught in training. This man is holding the radio microphone. (NARA, Signal Corps photo)



111-ADC-4025_6: Tankers preferred captured German binoculars to their Army-issued ones. (NARA, Signal Corps film)