

The Tank Killers: Images, 1945 Part 2



SC-279978: Waving white flags and guarded by doughs, German crews drive mammoth Jagdtiger tank killers—which packed a 128mm gun—into Iserlohn, Germany, after the surrender of the Ruhr Pocket in April 1945. This photo offers some size comparison to the Sherman and hence the M36. (National Archives, Signal Corps photo)



SC-201967: The results of a single round from a 776th Tank Destroyer Battalion M36 against a Jagdtiger near Rimling, France, on 28 February 1945. This may have been the first Jagdtiger encountered on the Western Front. (National Archives, Signal Corps photo)



SC-329837: A 701st Tank Destroyer Battalion M10 advances through Querceta, Italy, to support the 92d Infantry Division in February 1945. (National Archives, Signal Corps photo)



SC-202835: A tank destroyer fires an artillery mission in Italy in February 1945. (National Archives, Signal Corps photo)



SC-329838: This 701st Tank Destroyer Battalion M10 near M. Terminale, Italy, in March 1945 offers a good look at how exposed the crewmen in the turrets were to enemy fire and the elements. (National Archives, Signal Corps photo)



SC-334981: A TD and Sherman team up to cover a main street through Krefeld, Germany, on 3 March 1945. (National Archives, Signal Corps photo)



SC-333087: First Army troops clear Cologne on the Rhine River, 6 March 1945. (National Archives, Signal Corps photo)



SC-202207: A Hellcat with the 9th Armored Division slogs through German mud in early March 1945. But an M36 might well have bogged down entirely. (National Archives, Signal Corps photo)



111-ADC-1957_1: A recon M8 crewman fires his .50-caliber machine gun at a factory complex near Düsseldorf in March as the vehicle crawls slowly toward the objective across a field. (National Archives, Signal Corps film)



ADC-1957_2: A recon peep gunner adds suppressing fire from his .30-caliber. The flame from the barrel is visible. (National Archives, Signal Corps film)



111-ADC-1957_3: Finally, recon men, many with Tommy guns, move in to clear the buildings on foot. They have a civilian "volunteer" with them as a guide. (National Archives, Signal Corps film)



111-ADC-1957_4: An M10 enters the nearby village of Grevenbroich-Neuenhausen. The figure beside the vehicle is probably the platoon leader or TD commander guiding the M10 into position. (National Archives, Signal Corps film)



111-ADC-1957_5: The crew does its part to eliminate resistance. (National Archives, Signal Corps film)



111- ADC-1957_6: The town cleared, the outfit moves out the other side toward the Rhine River. (National Archives, Signal Corps film)



SC-202394: This M36 crew has taken advantage of a hull defilade position as they outpost part of the 44th Infantry Division line

in Rimling, France, on 12 March 1945. (National Archives, Signal Corps photo)



SC-335265: 827th Tank Destroyer Battalion gun crew stands ready at the last outpost in Ludweiler, Germany, 13 March 1945. (National Archives, Signal Corps photo)



SC-202212: The business end of the rare M36B1—with an M36 turret mounted on a Sherman chassis—in March 1945. In addition to the hull machine gun, the turret .50-caliber has been remounted facing forward. The M36B1 variant all but erased the distinction between a tank and a tank destroyer. This crew had been credited with destroying two Mark IVs and two Tigers. (National Archives, Signal Corps photo)



SC-202606: A knocked-out M36 tank destroyer sits almost touching a KO'd Jagdpanther tank hunter at Kaimig, Germany, in March 1945. The American models were built for speed, and the German types for slugging matches. (National Archives, Signal Corps photo)



SC-203291: The 803d Tank Destroyer Battalion crosses the Rhine River On 23 March 1945 at Oppenheim to support the 5th Infantry Division, which Lt. Gen. George S. Patton Jr. sent across before Monty could launch his assault further north. (National Archives, Signal Corps photo)



SC-392731: A 602d Tank Destroyer Battalion M18 fires at German strongpoints on the east bank of the Rhine River to cover doughs making an assault crossing at St. Goar on 26 March 1945. (National Archives, Signal Corps photo)



111-ADC-3873_1: Across the Rhine at last, an M18 heads for the heart of the Third Reich at the start of the dash through

Germany in late March 1945. (National Archives, Signal Corps film)



111-ADC-3745_1: An M36 conducting a road march toward the front in Germany in late March 1945 has its turret locked to the rear. (National Archives, Signal Corps film)



SC-279965: A crewman crouches behind a forward mounted machine gun during fighting to clear Odingen, Germany, in April 1945. Note the grousers on the M10's tracks used to improve mobility in mud and snow; many have snapped off, which was a major weakness of the grousers. (National Archives, Signal Corps photo)



111-ADC-3991_1: A 603d Tank Destroyer Battalion M36 operating with the 6th Armored Division near Zeitz, Germany, in mid-April 1945. (National Archives, Signal Corps film)



111-ADC-3991_2: The type of periscope used by the driver and assistant driver is visible on the lower surface of the open hatch cover. (National Archives, Signal Corps film)



111-ADC-3991_3: Armored doughs, their feet caked with mud, climb aboard to ride for a while. (National Archives, Signal Corps film)



111-ADC-3991_4: And one more advance begins. (National Archives, Signal Corps film)



111-ADC-4009_2: 104th Infantry Division doughs get ready to leap from the deck of an 817th Tank Destroyer Battalion M18 in Halle, Germany, in mid-April 1945. The battalion's history recorded, "'Onward! Onward!' was the cry, and the 817th rolled onward, sometimes carrying the doughboys with them. Soon, perhaps, it would be 'finis la guerre.'" (National Archives, Signal Corps film)



111-ADC-4009_3: An M8 covers riflemen during street fighting in Steuden, Germany, in April 1945. (National Archives, Signal Corps film)



SC-203798: An M10 from the 823d Tank Destroyer Battalion rolls down a street in Magdeburg—about as far toward Berlin as any TD would go—on 18 April 1945. (National Archives, Signal Corps photo)



111-ADC-4025_1: An M18 crew watches over one stream in the growing river of Germans entering the prisoner of war cages in April 1945. (National Archives, Signal Corps film)



111-ADC-4123_1: The 645th Tank Destroyer Battalion enters Munich on 30 April 1945. Hitler is dead, and the city that gave birth to his Nazi Party is prostrate. (National Archives, Signal Corps film)



SC-329842: The 701st Tank Destroyer Battalion, veterans of the first American amphibious landings in North Africa, spent the last days of the war providing fire support for 10th Mountain Division amphibious operations along Lake Garda, Italy. (National Archives, Signal Corps photo)



111-ADC-4222_1: M36 tank destroyers pass in review amidst the ruins of the Third Reich. (National Archives, Signal Corps film)