

MOTOR PORT MESSENGER

the official monthly newsletter of the MILITARY TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION visit us online at www.MTAofNJ.org

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ON THE COVER...



U.S. M42A1 Duster "Iron Maiden" outfitted for combat in Vietnam. Communist troops called them **"Fire Dragons"**

WIKIPEDIA The M42 40mm Self-Propelled Anti-The Final Colonia Self-Propelled Anti-

American armored light air-defense gun built for the United States Army from 1952 until December 1960, in service until 1988. Production of this vehicle was performed by the tank division of the General Motors Corporation. It used components from the M41 light tank and was constructed of all-welded steel.

A total of 3,700 M42s were built. The vehicle has a crew of six and weighs 49,500 lb. fully loaded. Maximum speed is 45 mph with a range of 100 miles. Armament consists of fully automatic twin 40 mm M2A1 Bofors, with a rate of fire of 2×120 rounds per minute (rpm) enabling nearly 85 seconds of fire time before running out of ammo, and either a .30 caliber Browning M1919A4 or 7.62mm M60 machine gun.

The 500 horsepower, six-cylinder, Continental (or Lycoming Engines), air-cooled, gasoline engine is located in the rear of the vehicle. It was driven by a cross-drive, two-speed Allison transmission.

Although the M42 Duster was initially designed for an anti-aircraft role, it proved to be effective against unarmored ground forces in the Vietnam war.

During the course of the Korean War, the U.S. Army decided to phase out all vehicles based on the M24 Chaffee chassis, such as the M19 Multiple Gun Motor Carriage 40 mm Anti-Aircraft, in favor of designs that utilized the chassis of the M41. Since the 40 mm guns were still seen as an effective anti-aircraft weapon, a modified version of the gun mount used

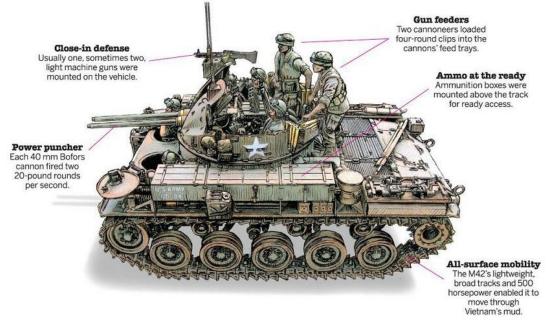
in the M19 was mounted in a redesigned turret to accommodate the larger turret ring of the M41 and designated as the M42.

Initially, the 40 mm guns were aimed with the assistance of a radar fire control system housed in a secondary vehicle of similar design but this idea was scrapped as development costs mounted.



Production of the M42 began in early 1952 at GM's Cleveland Tank Plant. It entered service in late 1953 and replaced a variety of different anti-aircraft systems in armored divisions. In 1956, the M42 received a new engine and other upgrades along with other M41 based vehicles, becoming the M42A1. Production was halted in December 1960 with 3,700 examples made during its production run.

Sometime in the late 50s, the U.S. Army reached the conclusion that anti-aircraft guns were no longer

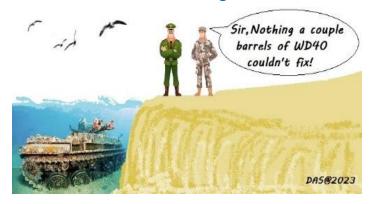


viable in the jet age and began fielding a self-propelled version of the HAWK SAM instead. Accordingly, the M42 was retired from front line service and passed to the National Guard with the last M42s leaving the regular Army by 1963, except for the 4th Battalion, 517th Air Defense Artillery Regiment in the Panama Canal Zone, which operated two batteries of M42s into the 1970s.

ATTENTION MEMBERS!

THE NEXT MTA MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, APRIL 6th 2023... MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE WHIPPANY AMERICAN LEGION IN THE MEETING ROOM IN BASEMENT

Food at 6:00PM...Meeting starts at 7:00PM



MTA Meeting Minutes

Thursday, March 2nd 2023 at the American Legion Hall in Whippany, NJ

Submitted by **Jean Swanick**

The meeting was called to order at 7:16 pm by President **John Sobotka**, who opened with the *Pledge of Allegiance* and a moment of silence. It was requested that a motion be made to approve the minutes of last month's meeting if there were no changes. **Ken Gardner** motioned to approve and **Al Mellini** seconded... *motion carried*!

The monthly financial report presented by **Al Mellini** is as follows:

Financial Report - Ending February 28, 2023

Beginning balance \$50,160.87 Income \$590.00

Expenditures \$ 5,311.10 (Swap Meet Costs)

Closing balance \$45,439.77

<u>President's Message-</u> John mentioned the passing of "Big Lou" Sliazis for those who were not aware. There will be an article on him coming out in the newsletter. A warm welcome tonight to **Michele Heusel's** aunt and uncle joining us. He is a veteran of the Korean War.

<u>Membership</u>- Reminder calls were made for membership dues, unfortunately those who have not paid by end of day tomorrow will be dropped.

Quartermaster- **Gary Schultz** will be placing an order for new t-shirts for the swap meet. These will be army green with gold decal. **Michele Heusel** has the women's cut shirts in for pick-up tonight for those who preordered. If you are interested in purchasing one, please contact her at mheusel1@gmail.com.

<u>Swap Meet-</u> Ken Gardner is looking for help in the ticket booth and with parking. Looking to make these 2-hour shifts at a time if possible. There will be sign-ups for this at the April meeting. Lawn signs will be available to pick up then also.

Does anyone have a large vehicle who is willing to support an advertising banner on the side of one of the roadways? We sure could use a few.

There are only 19 tables left for vendors in the Richards building as noted by **Tim Swanick**. One more email will go out next Wednesday after the Red Ball show to vendors who have not signed up yet. After that, future emails to vendors will be informational leading up to the Swap.

Bill McKelvey asked if our event is on the fairgrounds website and it was confirmed our event is posted. Forest Fire helicopter is confirmed to attend.

THE MTA IS ASKING ITS MEMBERSHIP TO PLEASE VOLUNTEER WITH HELPING OUT AT THE SWAP MEET. PLEASE CONTACT JIM MESCHER AT (201)-245-7521 OR igmesmescher@icloud.com IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP OUT...THANK YOU!

<u>Website News</u>- Please contact Gary Schultz at (973)-207-8955 or <u>garyschultz@gmail.com</u> if you are not on Group IO yet and he will help to get you connected.

OMS7- One month until the show, time to prep your vehicle!

By-Laws- It time to update the by-laws that were overhauled in 2020. Revisions will be noted in the newsletter for review and then voting. Only small revisions are being made such as the fact that the MVPA no longer insures us.

<u>New Business</u>- Election season will be coming up in the fall for board positions.

A member of the NJ Historical Commission came tonight and mentioned the Raritan High School band is one of 10 bands in the country who were picked to play at the 80th anniversary at Normandy in 2024. **Anita Roberts** will look into this further to see if it may be a cause the club would like to support, to help the students get to the venue.

The NJ Historical Commission has a Project Grant Program opening up and is looking for new project ideas to support.

<u>Parades-</u> Our new parade Chairwoman Andrea Antonelli reported that all the contracts have been sent out for Memorial Day. Lists will be available at next month's meeting to sign up to participate.

Old Business-Tim Swanick was contacted by Picatinny Arsenal regarding the tour that was postponed last year. Looking at the dates, base personnel is suggesting that August will be a good month to do so. The club is welcomed to participate on July 13th for the base's Community Day. If there is interest, please contact Tim in order to get an approximate count. More information will be released as we get closer to the date. If attending, a background check would be needed.

For the Good of the Club- Gary Schultz is planning the spring MTA trail ride for Saturday May 6th,...with Rain Date, Sunday May 7th... breakfast at *Taste* followed by the ride to *Hot Dog Johnny's* and a stop at 5 Acres Flea Market. More info to follow!

The tentative club picnic dates are Junes 17th and September 16th. *More info to follow!*

Tim Farrell announced that on Thursday May 4th, his brother, who is a commander of the Soldier's Recovery Unit will have the honor of presenting the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Tim also reported that the MTA's former Plymouth locomotive is scheduled to undergo a cosmetic restoration later this year. Amazingly, the original paint color was yellow. More research found that a transportation museum in Houston Texas has the original stencils. This locomotive was used in later years in Somerset County, serving as a POW camp for Italian prisoners in WWII.

Happy Birthday to **Nick Heusel**, turning 16 on Sunday! Camo cupcakes were enjoyed by all. Good luck getting your permit next week!



The New York Airshow will be held at the Orange County airport on June 24 and 25. They are looking for vehicles to attend.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 pm by **Dennis Vecchiarelli** and seconded by **William Schaum**.

NEXT MEETING -APRIL 6th - Whippany Legion Hall Food @6:00pm-----Meeting @7:00pm

Respectfully submitted, Jean Swanick Secretary



Dear Members,

As you are aware the 2023 parade season is fast approaching. We are trying to secure contracts with the 9 listed towns plus one additional for Memorial Day. As of March 27th we have 5 under contract. Please sign up with the Parade Captains as soon as possible. Our club really needs your support. Not only does it generate revenue for the club but it aids in the preservation of our military's history. Lets show our support!

Andrea Antonelli MTA Parade Coordinator 973-214-1383

	9/3-214-1303					
TOWN	DATE	LINEUP	KICK OFF	LOCATION	CAPTAIN	
Madison	TBA			31 Kings Rd	Dolan	
Midland Park	May 27th	9:00	10:00	280 Godwin Ave	Swain	
Morris Plains	May 27th	TBA	9:30	Franklin Place and Speedwell Ave	Dolan	
New Milford	ТВА			Cecchino Dr by H.S. and River Rd	Dolan	
Nutley	May 29th	10:00	11:00	The Oval on Franklin Ave	Vecchiarelli	
Parsippany	May 29th	11AM	12Noon	No Beverwick Rd Lake Hiawatha	Dolan	
Seacaucus	MAY 20th	11AM	12Noon	11 Enterprise Ave North	Swain	
West Caldwell	May 29th	8:30	9:30	Bloomfield Ave and Forest Ave	Vecchiarelli	
Wyckoff	May 29th	10:30	11:30	Cornerstone Church, 495 Wyckoff Ave	Swain	
CAPTAINS	8					
Pat Dolan 973-220-9169	Pdol461@ Hotmail.com					
Art Swain 201-916-6487	Aws1@ Optonline.net					
Dennis Vecchiarelli 973-900-1969	Dvecc907@ Gmail.com					

The Battle of the Bulge Series: Delay in the North: Blood for Time: Organizing the Defense of Bastogne Part II

By Jim Swanick

The German attack on 16 December had hit Maj. Gen. Norman "Dutch" Cota's 28th Infantry Division hard. In the north Lt. Gen. Walter Krüger's *LVIII Panzer Corps* had struck Col. Gustin Nelson's 112th Infantry, seizing a crossing over the Our



Maj. Gen. Norman D. "Dutch" Cota, 28th Division CG

River east of Heinerscheid. In the south, meanwhile, Lt. Gen. Baptist Kniess's LXXXV Corps had crashed into Lt. Col. James Earl Rudder's 109th Infantry, achieving multiple penetrations in the regimental line. It was in the center, however, where the attack had gained the most headway. Here Lt. Heinrich Freiharr von Lüttwitz's XLVII Panzer Corps had streamed through the thin outpost line of Col. Hurley Fuller's 110th Infantry, seizing the village of Marnach on the crucial hard-topped Dasburg-

Bastogne road preparatory to driving west on 17 December.

Late on the first day of the battle, Cota had returned to Fuller his 2^d Battalion, which to this point had constituted the division reserve. On the morning of 17 December, Fuller committed it with elements of the 707th Tank Battalion in a three-pronged attack to clear the enemy around Marnach. The infantry ran head-on into 2^d Panzer Division elements attacking

out of the village and promptly bogged down, leading to the recall of the southern prong, a tank-infantry attack out of Munshausen. The northern prong (D/707), meanwhile, was crushed by high-velocity AT guns outside Heinerscheid. By 1000 the counterstroke had failed.

The 2^d Panzer Division attack that blunted Fuller's counterattack had begun at 0345, when infantry had infiltrated across the Clerf River into the northern section of Clervaux. The ensuing skirmish was still ongoing at 0930 when a force of



Col. Hurley Fuller, CO of the 110th Infantry Regiment

tanks and mechanized infantry approached the town from Marnach. A platoon of A/707 was ordered to climb the heights on the eastern bank of the river to meet it, and the resulting slugfest, fought at a range of 70 yards, traded three M4's for four German tanks, temporarily blunting the armored drive.

Fuller was not the only regimental commander with his hands full. In Nelson's sector an early morning effort by the 116th Panzer Division punched through the positions of 1/112 and sent armor streaming toward the Ouren bridges in two separate thrusts. Both were turned back by the work of

stubborn cannoneers, as redlegs of Cannon Co./112 and the 229th FAB bore-sighted their howitzers to engage the tanks with direct fire, keeping the bridges in American hands. The 109th Infantry, meanwhile, continued to grapple with *LXXXV Corps*. An attempt to reinforce Hoscheid and prevent the *5th Parachute Division* from turning Rudder's northern flank failed, resulting in the garrison's withdrawal at nightfall. Attempts to relieve Co. E in Führen also failed. Both regiments remained under intense pressure as the sun went down over the Ardennes.

The 2^d Panzer Division renewed its drive on Clervaux around dusk. A tank-infantry team knocked out the AT qun



The ruins of Clervaux, Luxembourg

guarding the bridge over the Clerf on the north side of town, allowing a Mark V to cross and blast an M4 near Fuller's CP. A second Sherman was knocked out by infantry near the post office. As this effort gained steam a platoon of German tanks entered Clervaux, unmolested, from the south, where a battlegroup had been sent to secure a

secondary crossing in case the Americans continued to hold out. Organized resistance in the town collapsed, and around 1830 Fuller and his command group fled their CP. Clervaux had been lost.

At 2130 Maj. Gen. Troy Middleton, VIII Corps CG,

learned that the Germans had crossed the Clerf. He immediately committed his last mobile reserve. CCR/9th Armored Division, which he had been holding very close to his chest. Middleton had already recognized Bastogne as the target of the German drive in the 28th Division zone and understood that the loss of Clervaux meant that the hard-topped Dasburg-Bastogne highway was now open for use by the enemy. Thus CCR/9 was forward with orders rushed



the enemy. Thus CCR/9 was Maj. Gen. Troy Middleton, rushed forward with orders VIII Corps Commander identical to those of the Keystone Division: hold at all costs.

CCR/9, under Col. Joseph Gilbreth, set up roadblocks at two locations selected by Middleton. Just after midnight on 18 December Task Force (TF) Rose, comprised of one company each of tanks and armored infantry, plus a platoon of engineers, dug in northwest of Lullange at the intersection of the hard-topped Dasburg road and the N12 highway leading into Bastogne. TF Harper, similar in composition to TF Rose, settled into Allerborn three miles to the southwest. Team Booth, a smaller force centered on a company of armored infantry, took up positions on TF Harper's northern flank. Middleton also committed several engineer battalions that had been working in the corps sector. He placed the 158th Engineer Combat Battalion northeast of Bastogne, covering an arc between Foy and Neffe, while the 44th Engineer Combat

Battalion was sent east to Wiltz to reinforce the 28th Division CP.

At this point the race for Bastogne was in full swing. From the south came the 10th Armored Division, whose CCB



Brig. Gen. Anthony McAuliffe, 101st Airborne Division artillery commander.

He conducted the defense of Bastogne as acting division CG in the absence of Maj. Gen. Maxwell Taylor. had been sent toward Bastogne shortly after 0900. From the west came the "Screaming Eagles" of Brig. Gen. Anthony McAuliffe's 101st Airborne Division. Ordered to the Ardennes the night before, the division was scheduled to move out at 1400.

From the east came the enemy. At 0900 2^d Panzer Division elements began probing the positions of TF Rose. Two hours later the division attacked in strength. Up-gunned M4's duked it out with Mark IV's and V's as the German armor, aided by smokescreens, surrounded the task force on three sides to try and punch through their position. The armored infantry

withdrew. At 1405 Gilbreth asked Middleton for permission to reinforce or withdraw TF Rose. Middleton turned down both requests. The armor wriggled out of the trap and doubled back to hit the enemy as he moved south on the N12, but this

success was short-lived. By dusk the survivors of TF Rose had been driven from the crossroads for good.

It didn't take long for the German spearhead to reach Allerborn. At 2000 TF Harper was struck on three sides by tanks employing infrared night-sights. Team Booth was unable to



Remnants of the forces positioned east of Bastogne filter through the town during the early days of the fighting

assist; it had been sent north to Moinet due to reports of enemy armor in that area. The armored infantry was quickly routed, and the German tanks proceeded to wipe out two platoons of M4's. After four hours of fighting Harper ordered the task force to fall back on Longvilly.

As the 2^d Panzer Division dueled with CCR/9 a second threat approached from the east. On the morning of 18 December Maj. Gen. Fritz Bayerlein's Panzer Lehr Division had crossed the Clerf at Drauffelt, advancing westward until its point element had reached Niederwampach. The point, led by Longvilly, via a forest trail. The four-hour trek along the trail took longer than the fight to capture it, and it was 0100 on 19 December before the village was secure. Nevertheless, the seizure of Magaret placed Bayerlein and his point only four miles from Bastogne: on today's highway, a seven-minute drive.

Bayerlein paused in Magaret. A local farmer had told that an American force nearly as large as a combat command had earlier passed through the village headed for Longvilly. This apparently concerned Bayerlein sufficiently to cause him to pause, as his point element consisted of only a company of



Weary infantrymen of the 110th Infantry in Bastogne. Approximately 500 survivors of the regiment would

tanks and a battalion of infantry. To the north the 2^d Panzer Division broke contact with CCR/9 and turned to the northwest; the Meuse, not Bastogne, was its objective. And to the west, meanwhile, the 101st Airborne Division was arriving in Bastogne. The costly sacrifice of the 28th Division and CCR/9, as well as Bayerlein's

reluctance to advance with a potentially sizable armored force at his rear at Longvilly, had secured victory for the US Army in the race to the crossroads town.

McAuliffe's Screaming Eagles were not the only help that had arrived in the sector. At 1600 Col. William Roberts, CO of CCB/10, had strode into Middleton's CP in Bastogne. The corps commander hadn't minced words: Roberts was to split his command into three teams, which would take up positions in Noville, Longvilly, and Bras. For the third time in as many days, Middleton's orders came with a chilling directive: to hold at all costs.

First contact between the newly established defensive line and the enemy occurred in the northwest, where Lt. Col. Fred Warren's CCR of the 7th Armored Division had set up in Recht. Here, in the early morning hours of 18 December, CCR was attacked by *Kampfgruppe (KG) Hansen, a 1st SS Panzer Division* battlegroup with orders to secure the town. The fight was brief, as CCR lacked infantry, and Warren withdrew through Poteau. There Lt. Col. Augustine Dugan was rallying the battered 14th Cavalry Group, which surged forward at 0700 to retake Recht. The cavalry collided with *KG Hansen* outside Poteau, and, outgunned and outnumbered, fell back on the crossroads. The fight for St. Vith was on.



Paratroopers of the 101st Air Borne Division load up for movement to the Ardennes. Most made the made the journey in these open-topped trucks.

CLASSIFIEDS

To add or remove listings from the Classifieds, please email Dave Steinert at dsteinert@mtaofnj.org.or call 201-407-4035.

For Sale- M38 Jeep 1951, 27,638 miles, Engine & Transmission Rebuilt, New Parking Brake System, Drive Shafts, Chassis Cleaned & Painted, All Parts Cleaned Primed & Painted, New Radiator & Water Pump, New Belts etc. Government Rebuilt Starter & Generator, 24 Volt System, All Military Parts, All New Dorman Hardware, All Military TM Books. Some assembly required to drive. Needs Brakes & Wiring Harness To Complete. Tow Bar & Beechwood Canvas Cover Included. Good Title & QQ plates NJ approved. \$10K.

Email: robertleach59@aol.com.

For Sale- CJ5 Jeep 1965, 31,678 miles, Complete Full Body Metal Cap (Meyers), Starts, Runs, Drives As Is, New Rear Leaf Springs, & Complete Brake Rebuild Parts For All Four Corners, Plow Frame, Hydraulics & Blade, Extra Set of Metal Doors. Good Title & Current Nj Paperwork, \$8K, Bob Email robertleach59@aol.com.

For Sale-Willys Jeep 1950 CJ3A, L-Head, std 3 spd driveline, w/ Warn Overdrive, all recently rebuilt, newly recovered seats w/ OD Canvas, new Bestop 5140301 Black Tigertop (uninstalled) and full 4-wheel disc brake conversion kit (uninstalled). Spare parts include new reproduction body tub, steel rim set, roll bar, cabin heater. \$12,000. George Wagner, cell 201-274-6694, email wagnergm@verizon.net.

REAL MAGAZINES, not digital copies. Military Vehicles #1 to #176. \$500. Army Motors #2 to #156 + Supply Line (55 issues with articles) + TM (6 issues 1975-76), 216 in all, \$600. PS (preventive Maintenance Monthly) #12 to #658, a few missing, \$1,500. Offers accepted. Don't call, telephone is hard for me to use. Dave Ahl, swapmeetdave@aol.com. Can arrange pick-up or delivery.

For Sale: 1963 Dodge M43 B1 w/o winch in very good condition. Comes with a large amount of spare parts and accessories. If there is an interest, contact Michael Maglio at 973-697 9419.

For Sale- Military 500 Gallon Water Buffalo for sale; \$300 or BO. Call John Sobotka at (862)-266-6284.

Parts for Sale- 230 CI M725 motor, ran when pulled, burns oil \$200,_M725 litter racks-best offer, M725 Rear doors, some dents, no rust \$200 for the pair, M715 windshield frame, minor surface rust \$150, NOS in packing Southwind heater for M725 possible M-43 best offer, M37 windshield frame outer only \$75, M725-M715 rims with lock rings – make offer. Many more items available, too many to list.

Call for more information. Call Matt Ziegler, cell 973-445-3890, email: Mattrziegler@gmail.com





Military Transport Association P.O. Box 391

Budd Lake, NJ 07828



THE NEXT MTA MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, APRIL 6th AT THE WHIPPANY AMERICAN **LEGION POST AT 7PM**



The Military Transport Association is dedicated to the education and preservation of historic to present military vehicles. Members enjoy restoring, displaying, and operating military vehicles of all types, from bicycles to tanks.

But trucks and Jeeps aren't all we do! Join today and participate with us at our annual Toys for Tots train ride and toy drive, help at our annual Swap Meet at the Sussex County Fairgrounds, or attend our special events for veterans. Our lively, informative monthly meetings are held in Whippany, NJ.

You do not have to own a military vehicle to be part of this exciting and active hobby - you just need a desire to do your part in keeping our military history alive. All you need to join the MTA is to fill out the the form below, include your dues payment, and mail it to the address below. Alternately, you can give your form and dues to any MTA member you meet at any of our events.

for more information, visit our website at www.MTAofNJ.org

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