

## TANK DOZERS, WWII

The Corps of Engineers, which had been developing the tankdozer concept since 1940, successfully tested a model in Jun 1943. Production of the resultant kits for modifying M4 tanks began Dec 1943, with the standardized equipment distributed to field troops in time for the spring 1944 offensive in Italy and the cross-channel invasion of France.

See: Coll, Blanche D., et al. The Corps of Engineers: Troops and Equipment. In series SAWWII. Wash, DC: OCMH, 1958. pp. 470-75 & 481-82. D769A533v6pt6v1. Military Engineer 36 (Oct 1944): p. 341. Per. Includes photo of test model.

Meanwhile in Italy, within the confines of the Anzio beachhead, ordnance troops of VI Corps devised their own tankdozer for fire-fighting duty in burning ammunition dumps. They adapted bulldozer blades to M4 tanks and T2 tank recovery vehicles, Apr 1944.

Sources: Army Ordnance 28 (Jan-Feb 1945): p. 101. Per.

Mayo, Lida. The Ordnance Department: On Beachhead and Battlefront. In series USAWWII. Wash, DC: OCMH, 1968. pp. 196-99. D769A533v6pt3v3.

Also in Italy but preceding the Anzio expedient, the 16th Armored Engineer Battalion, 1st Arm Div, created its own versions of the tankdozer in Dec 1943. Later, tanks of the 1st Arm Div were equipped with the standard modification kits supplied by the Corps of Engineers.

See: Howe, George F. The Battle History of the 1st Armored Division. Wash, DC: Combat Forces, 1954. 471 p. #05-1AR-1954. Captioned photo of tankdozer appears between pp. 248-49.

U.S. Army. 16th Arm Engr Bn. "History of the 16th Armored Engineer Battalion." Typescript, 15 Nov 1944. pp. 27, 30-32. 1st Arm Div, WWII box, UH Coll/Microfilm

"Tank-Dozer Tips." Cav Jrnl 54 (Mar/Apr 1945): pp. 73-75. Per. Cartoons of tankdozers.

## OTHER SOURCES:

Chamberlain, Peter, and Ellis, Chris. British and American Tanks of World War II. NY: Arco, 1969. pp. 119-120. UG446.5C44.

Gordon, Martin K. "The Tank Dozer." Builders and Fighters. Ft Belvoir: Hist Off, CE, 1992. pp. 171-80. D769.33B85.

U.S. Army. The Engineer Board. "The Engineer Tank-Dozer." Report No 774, Ft Belvoir, VA, 6 Oct 1943. 44 p. UD570.172T36E44.

U.S. Army Ground Forces. Observer Board, Pacific Ocean Areas. "Use of Tank Dozer to Remove Anti-Personnel Mines." Report No 41, 22 Aug 1944. 4 p. D767U5.1942-45.v.5.

U.S. Dept of Army. Tank Mounting Bulldozer, M1 and M1A1. Technical Manual 9-719, dated Aug 1948. 106 p. AuthPub-TM.

U.S. War Dept. Bulldozer, Tank-Mounting, Hydraulic-Operated, LaPlant-Choate, Model BM 4, for M4A1-A2 and -A3, Medium Model Tanks: Technical Manual 5-1310, dated 15 Apr 1944. AuthPub-TM. And Change 1 (27 Jun 45), 11 p., is on file.