



FIGHTING VEHICLES of the PATTON MUSEUM



A Patton Museum Guide Book

Fighting Vehicles of the Patton Museum by Gordon A. Blaker, Privately Printed, 1995. About \$10.

About ten years ago, when he was an Advance Course student at Fort Knox, Gordon Blaker began a project that is only now coming to fruition, the publication of a guide book listing and describing the major vehicles in the Patton Museum collection.

The book is scheduled to be off the press in early July, and will be available at the Museum bookstore, according to John Purdy, museum director. The author, who has published the book himself, said it will also be available by mail and may be added by several book outlets for sales by mail.

Blaker said he first conceived the project on his initial visit to the museum. Working on and off through several drafts, the final result is about 100 pages. Ninety vehicles are covered, each with a large photograph, a descriptive paragraph, and a chart listing specifications like engine type, armament, weight, speed, range, and exterior dimensions. In some

cases, there is also fascinating information on how the museum acquired the vehicle.

The book's "chapters" are divided into time periods, beginning with the Museum's World War I holdings and continuing through the vehicles acquired during Desert Storm. One interesting section describes U.S. prototype tanks, like the heavies built but never used for World War II, including the turtle-like T-28 "super heavy tank" designed to smash the Siegfried Line. It was the heaviest U.S. tank ever built at 95 tons. This tank currently is on display at the front of the museum.

There is also a useful bibliography for those who want to go further.

Nominally priced, the guide book should help enrich the experience of visitors and will be a useful reference for scholars, modelers, and military vehicle collectors. It will be available from the author by mail at 1504 N Avenue, LaGrande, OR 97850, or phone (503) 963-6823.

— ARMOR Staff