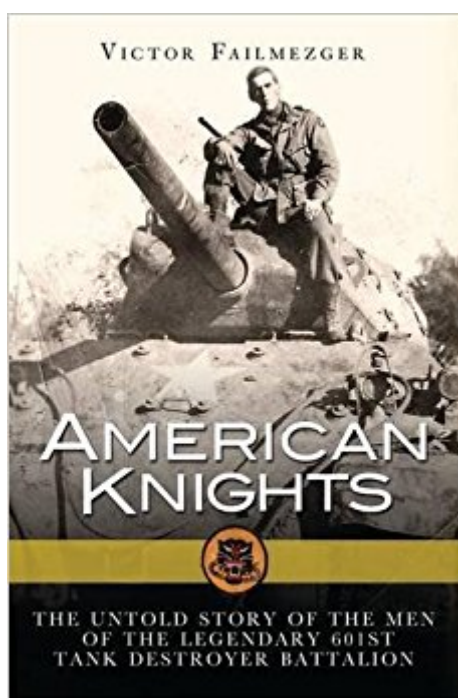


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American Knights: The Untold Story Of The Men Of The Legendary 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion (General Military)



Synopsis

An unmissable white-knuckle ride from the Kasserine pass to Anzio, Operation Dragoon to the final attacks on the Third Reich, this is the gripping story of the men and machines that took on Nazi Germany's best. This book not only reveals the technical details and origins of the 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion, it places the reader on the front lines of the European war. As the war swung in the favor of the Allies, it became clear that no final defeat of the Third Reich would be possible until the armored monsters of the Panzerwaffe were defeated. But who would, or even could, take on the mighty Tigers and Panthers, just a handful of whom could stop entire formations in their tracks? The answer lay with the formation of a new type of unit, the Tank Destroyer Battalion. This is the story of the men and machines who made up the very first Tank Destroyer Battalion, the 601st, from their unique training and formation, to the final, desperate battles in the heart of Nazi Germany. Packed with rare material, letters, diaries and unpublished photographs, this is an intense and intimate chronicle of the men who fought the Panzers in an astonishing 10 campaigns and 546 days of lethal combat. Re-live the excitement and terror of battling the best the Wehrmacht and SS had to offer, in every major campaign in the West.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

". . . a highly engaging work that is a valuable addition to World War II histories." - Army Magazine

Victor 'Tory' Failmezger is a retired US Naval Officer. In the early 1970s Commander Failmezger

was stationed at NATO in Naples, Italy and lived in an apartment overlooking the Bay of Pozzuoli where the 601st conducted practice landing for both the Anzio and Southern France landings. In the early 1980s he served as the Assistant Naval Attaché in Rome, Italy. A later tour found him as the Director of the US Navy Science and Technology Group, Europe in Munich, Germany. He is a graduate of the US Foreign Service Institute (Italian) and the Defense Language Institute (German). After retirement he worked in the private sector as a consultant helping small businesses enter new markets. He was also a government consultant do contract work for the US Department of Energy and NASA. He lives in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia with his wife Patricia. The author lives in Middletown, VA.

I am a history buff of WWII and I always wondered how our troops could go up against better tanks of the German Army. Although we had superior numbers of Sherman tanks, we had a great tank destroyer in the M10 tank destroyer. The tank destroyers did not seem to get any credit or were NOT featured as much as the Sherman tank. Our tank destroyers were the big guns needed for our infantry to go kick butt. This book features how Audie Murphy stood on a disabled M10 tank destroyer and won his medal of honor. Quite a surprising read.

This is a great book that sheds a lot of light on the specific challenges of the 601st Tank Destroyer Battalion. WOW is what it makes me say. My uncle was a tank commander and he used to tell stories about this battalion. I learned so much about the day to day life as well as a lot of cool military information. The forward by Mr Larson is insightful. I look forward to more books by Failmezger. This is a great read for anyone that has spent time in Italy thinking about WWII and traveling some of the same roads that the army used. Following the same units and

Excellently researched and written first-hand account of a tank destroyer battalion who fought from North Africa through Italy, and France. Their most difficult journey ended in southern Germany at VE day. From the earliest models of tank destroyers with low-velocity ammunition that bounced off of Germany Panzers to the hi-velocity ammunition that decimated German armor, but was propelled by a gasoline engine which ignited when hit, the ability to survive was determined by creativity, maneuverability, and audacity (not to mention great courage). A fine read for the WWII or military history enthusiast.

A good book on the 601st Tank Destroyer unit and the heroic individuals. I don't doubt this is an

original source as it comes from a unit history, however many quotes and stories are used in other books. I often felt I had read the book before even though I know I did not. The narrow point of view left me wanting to know more about the bigger picture of the battles and rechecking other sources.

Recommend this book to anyone interested in world war 2 armored warfare. My father was in a tank in Europe and helps me understand him a little better.

This book gains momentum as it goes. Don't let the slow start fool you, by the middle you will be surprised at the success of the TD against German tanks including Panthers and tigers.

Interesting story told from the perspective of many members of the battalion. Unique personal photos in the book. There could be several more maps included to help in the telling of the various places the unit was stationed. I would suggest having Rick Atkinson's trilogy along for the maps.

I chose this book because I was interested in what the tank destroyer concept was all about. This book succeeds in explaining the why, the how, what worked and what didn't work. Beyond the technical explanation, the story of the men who manned and fought the Germans with the American tank destroyers. The book includes the post war stories about the PTSD the men experienced. I found it a "hard to put down" book

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