

★ M27 MEDIUM TANK

DEVELOPMENT

The M27 medium tank was born out of the T20 programme. After the M4 series of tanks went into production, consideration immediately turned to its successor. The US Army Ordnance Department was given the go-ahead to start work on an improved medium tank in May 1942. Broad outlines called for a 32-ton tank armed with an automatic 75mm gun with HVSS suspension and capable of a speed of 25mph.

The T20 was developed first, but transmission problems led to the tank being cancelled and the best ideas transferred to the T22. This was essentially a T20 with the five-speed transmission from the M4 Sherman. The solutions proved unsatisfactory and this led to the project being cancelled as well.

At the same time as the T22 was authorised, work began on the T23. It was essentially a T20 fitted with the tried and tested vertical volute suspension (VVSS) as used on the M4 Sherman, and an electric transmission from General Electric. It was initially to have 75mm automatic, 3-inch and 76mm gun versions, but the 75mm automatic and 3-inch versions were cancelled before prototypes were built.

In its final form, the T23 has a turret fitted with an all-round vision cupola for the commander and a rotating hatch for the loader. The hull has a new single-piece, flat plate at a 47-degree angle.

Many of these design improvements were incorporated into late-production M4 Sherman tanks which had a 47-degree hull front and mounted the T23 turret with minor changes.

A limited procurement order of 250 T23 medium tanks were ordered and were produced between November 1943 and December 1944 by Detroit Arsenal. These were to be standardised as the M27 medium tank when production started in earnest.

COMBAT SERVICE

With the landing at Salerno, the fighting for Italy was about to intensify. To bolster the armoured forces at the beachhead, Army Ground Forces shipped a battalion of the new M27 medium tank to take part in the push out of the landing zone up the coast to the German Winter Line.

DESIGN FEATURES

The M27 is as advanced in concept now as the M4 Sherman medium was a year ago. Its armour is effective against most German guns, while its gun is more than adequate to knock out anything they can field.

The M27 is a medium tank with the front armour of a heavy tank and the gun to match.

Front 7, Anti-tank 12, Stabiliser



T23E3 with torsion-bar suspension.

M27 TANK PLATOON

American tankers are well trained and learning their trade in the hard fighting of Italy.

M27 Tank Platoons are rated as:

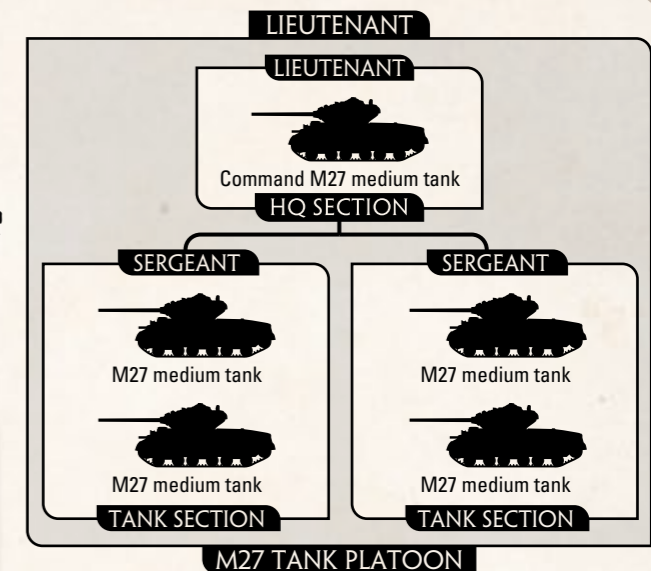
Confident Trained

REPLACING STANDARD EQUIPMENT

Any US company may replace all of its Tank Platoons with M27 Tank Platoons. If it is a Tank Company, it must also purchase the tanks in the Company HQ as M27 medium tanks for 290 points.

PLATOON

- 5 M27 medium tanks 710 points
- 4 M27 medium tanks 570 points
- 3 M27 medium tanks 430 points



This tank is the next evolutionary step for medium tanks with thicker armour and a bigger gun.

There is no need to devise new tactics for this tank, it undertakes the mission of the medium tank better than existing models. Simply pin the enemy from the front, and use your stabilisers as you move towards their flanks. Close and destroy the enemy before initiating a pursuit to run them into the ground and finish them off.

| Name | Mobility | Armour | | | Equipment and Notes |
|-----------------|---------------|--------|-----------|-----------|---|
| | | Front | Side | Top | |
| M27 medium tank | Standard Tank | 7 | 4 | 1 | Co-ax MG, Hull MG, .50 cal AA MG, Overloaded, Unreliable. |
| Weapon | Range | ROF | Anti-tank | Firepower | |
| M1 76mm gun | 32"/80cm | 2 | 12 | 3+ | Stabiliser. |

M27 SPECIFICATIONS



Designation: Tank, Medium, M27
 Crew: 5 (cdr, gnr, ldr, dvr, co-dvr)
 Weight: 77,500lb/35,153kg
 Length: 23'2"/7.07m
 Height: 8'4"/2.52m Width: 9'10"/3.01m
 Armament: 1x M1A1 76mm tank gun,
 2x Browning .30 cal machine-gun
 1x Browning .50 cal machine-gun
 Armour Thickness: 12mm to 87mm
 Engine: Ford GAN V-8 petrol,
 1100cu in./18 litre, 470 hp
 Transmission: Electric
 Maximum Speed: 35mph/56km/h
 Cross-country Speed: 20mph/32km/h
 Road Radius: 100 miles/160km
 Vertical Obstacle: 2'/0.61m
 Trench Crossing: 8'/2.4m

