



# The Military Order of the World Wars

**The Association of All Military Officers  
Chapter 131, West Valley, Arizona  
P. O. Box 7938, Surprise, AZ 85374  
WEB SITE-[www.moww131.org](http://www.moww131.org)**



Bulletin No. 6

March 2024

## The Preamble

- To cherish the memories and associations of the World Wars waged for humanity;
- To inculcate and stimulate love of our Country and the Flag;
- To promote and further patriotic education in our nation;
- Ever to maintain law and order, and to defend the honor, integrity and supremacy of our National Government and the Constitution of the United States;
- To foster fraternal relations among all branches of the armed forces;
- To promote the cultivation of Military, Naval and Air Science and the adoption of a consistent and suitable policy of national security for the United States of America;
- To acquire and preserve records of individual services;
- To encourage and assist in the holding of commemorations and the establishment of Memorials of the World Wars;
- And to transmit all these ideals to posterity; under God and for our Country, we unite to establish

**THE MILITARY ORDER  
OF THE WORLD WARS.**

## *SPECIAL FEATURE* (Page 7)

### **U.S. Armor Developments: World War II and After**



## Commander's Message



**Linda Howry  
Commander**

Our MOWW, Chapter 131 hosted the Massing of the Colors (MOC) and Service of Remembrance on February 20<sup>th</sup>, at 11:15 am at the Palm Ridge Recreational Center, Sun City West. This event was attended by approximately 337 people. Thirty-four flags from veterans and other patriotic organizations participated in our MOC. There were eight JROTC cadet units from the various schools we support. We had an excellent performance of Patriotic music by the Desert Brass Band. Winona Fritz spoke on Life in the US and Jordan Military, Memories, Lessons and Gifts. The Peoria High School JROTC provided the Ceremonial Honor Guard and performed the Missing Man Table Ceremony. These cadets were precise with polished military bearing. My sincere thanks to all the members of MOWW and the Festival Veterans who participated in this endeavor. It would not have happened without you. A special thanks goes to Jerry Wojtas the coordinator, Buz Isban for the programs, flyers and the awards and to Fred

## Breakfast Meeting

An in-person meeting is planned for **March 9th, 2024 at 0900 at Kimble's Kitchen.**

**Address:** 7300 N Sun Village Pkwy Unit D, Surprise, AZ 85374.

Garnett for coordination of the massing of the flags. Well done.

Four applications are being reviewed by the essay committee with three essays from the ROTC units at Embry-Riddle college and one from a JROTC high school. The winners will be announced before the schools' awards ceremonies.

Remember Chapter dues for operational year July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024 are due and checks are payable to "MOWW Chapter 131".

More information on the AZYLC tax credit can be found on our website [moww131.org](http://moww131.org). This credit helps send students to the AZYLC summer conference.

Our next meeting will be on Saturday, March 9, 2024. Please note the time change 9:00 am to 11:30 am. Staff meeting will be from 8 am to 9 am. We will meet at Kimble's Kitchen, 7300 N Sun Village Pkwy Unit D, Surprise, AZ 85374

Directions: Turn North off of Bell at N Sun Village Parkway. There is a gate guard on the drive-in off Bell, but just let them know you're going to the Kimble's Kitchen, and you will get a window pass. The restaurant is located 0.3 mile on your right in the Sun Valley Center community center. There is a sign in front to guide you to the restaurant. We meet in the room on the left.

Linda Howry, Commander 2023-2024

Email: [lindahowry@aol.com](mailto:lindahowry@aol.com) or call 928-252-6340

## Surgeon's Note

Surgeon's Note  
By Chris W. Schmidt, MD

Significant Contributions by Military Physicians, #4  
William Hammond

BG William Hammond was a daunting individual. He had a low tolerance for disagreement and used both his rank and imposing physical size to intimidate his opponents. This enabled him to



achieve lasting change in medical care during the Civil War, but would ultimately be the source of his downfall.

Hammond was born in Annapolis, Maryland in 1828. He graduated with an MD degree from the University of the

City of New York (now New York University) in 1848 and joined the US Army as an assistant-surgeon in 1849. He served in remote posts in Kansas and New Mexico. His antebellum service was distinguished by national recognition for research and scholarly writings on physiology and botanicals. He made a tour of European military hospitals and observed their methods. He resigned from the Army in 1860 to accept an appointment to the faculty of the University of Maryland School of Medicine.

There must have been some residual animosity toward Hammond among the leadership of the Medical Department when Hammond rejoined the Army in 1861. He received no credit for prior service and was reappointed as an entry level assistant-surgeon. He was posted to western Virginia (now West Virginia) under the Command of General William Rosecrans. There he impressed Rosecrans with his work to develop a pilot program for the new ambulance corps developed by Dr. Jonathan Letterman. Likewise, his administrative and organizational skills were noted by General George McClellan. When the position of Surgeon General became vacant, Generals Rosecrans and McClellan advocated for Hammond's appointment against the opposition of Secretary of War Edwin Stanton. President Lincoln appointed William Hammond the 11<sup>th</sup> US Army Surgeon General with the rank of

Brigadier General at the age of 33 on April 25, 1862.

Hammond drew upon his prior service on the frontier and knowledge of foreign medical systems. He initiated then state-of-the-art reforms to improve sanitation and hospital design. The number of hospitals was increased and properly equipped. He established a military medical laboratory and the Army Medical Museum. Field hospitals were regularly inspected and incompetent physicians were dismissed. Letterman's ambulance corps was fully field tested and then deployed. Medications were central dispensed and the approved medication list revised. He directed the collection of records, photos, and reports from physicians and hospitals that would later become the *Medical and Surgical History of the War of the Rebellion*.

Hammond's accomplishments as Surgeon General are quite impressive. Unfortunately, as an individual Hammond was difficult to work with. He stood 6'2" with a barrel chest and booming voice. He was described by contemporaries as arrogant, boastful, and insensitive. He did not abide opposition and could resort to bullying. Ultimately, his supporters became disgusted with his behavior and abandoned him. Secretary of War Stanton had never been a supporter and took advantage of the opportunity to be rid of him. He appointed a committee to investigate charges of impropriety within the Medical Department. The committee was loyal to Stanton and returned dubious findings of malfeasance. Hammond demanded a court-martial and was found guilty on the trumped-up charges. He was dismissed from the service August 18, 1864. As personally unpopular as Hammond had become, his successor as Surgeon General left his improvements in place.

Bitter but unrepentant, Hammond moved to New York City and established one of the first medical practices in the United States limited exclusively to neurological disorders. The practice flourished and within ten years he was one of the highest paid physicians in the nation. He published the first US textbook on neurology and continued to contribute scientific research and papers. He co-founded the American

Neurological Association and is considered to be the father of US neurology.

In 1878 Congress passed a bill, signed by President Rutherford B. Hayes, that annulled the court-martial proceedings and sentence. Hammond was restored to the rank of brigadier general and placed on the retired list of the Army.

William Hammond, MD died in 1900 at the age of 71. Dr. Hammond's reforms as Surgeon General dramatically reduced deaths due to disease and improved survival of the wounded due to improved sanitation, hospital care, and evacuation of the wounded.

### Treasurer's Report

Buz Isban  
Treasurer



### Financial Report

As of 19 Feb 2024

<b>General Fund</b>	\$9,377.52
Petty Cash	\$50.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$9,427.52</b>
<b>Patriotic Savings Account</b>	<b>\$4,680.10</b>
Endowment Fund	\$15,563.91
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$29,671.53</b>

**Chapter Dues Are Due.** Thank you to those who have already paid. Please make checks payable to "**MOWW Chapter 131**" and mail your payment to our treasurer Michael Isban at 8980 W. Runion Drive, Peoria, AZ 85382.

### AZ Tax Credit to Support AZYLC Delegates.

We are still awaiting details on the Arizona Youth Leadership Conference (AZYLC) date, location, length and price per attendee. When this is made available, you will receive an email with the details. Then you will find additional information located on our website ([moww131.org](http://moww131.org)). Please consider making a donation to support our sponsored delegates this summer. The tax

credit is limited to \$400 filing jointly or \$200 filing separately. As you make your tax credit donation, please let Companion Buz Isban know ahead of time, so that he can track the use of funds in 2024. His contact information is [buzisban@cox.net](mailto:buzisban@cox.net) or phone 623- 512-.0765. You have until April 15, 2024 to take advantage of the tax credit for calendar year 2023.

**February Meeting**



Commander Linda Howry leading the meeting.

**Happy Birthdays - March**

- 4 March      Sheri Jenson
- 6 March      Linda Bjerkaas
- 8 March      Robert Peake
- 11 March     Laurel Coffman
- 24 March     Bill Fedor
- 24 March     Ken Williams
- 31 March     John Merson

**Happy Anniversaries - March**

- 39 Years     Carlton Bjerkaas
- 30 Years     John Merson
- 20 Years     Jerry Wojtas
- 20 Years     Pam Wojtas



***Heads Up  
MOWW National Convention  
5-11 August 2024  
Valley Forge, PA***

## Future Events

**9 March 2024** – Chapter Meeting

**13 April 2024** – Chapter Meeting

**11 May 2024** – Chapter Meeting

## Massing of the Colors 2024 – A First Look

West Valley Chapter 131 of the Military Order of the World Wars' (MOWW's) 2024 Massing of the Colors (MOC) and Service of Remembrance had the largest attendance of its 53-year history on February 20th at the Palm Ridge Recreation Center in Sun City West. Three hundred and thirty-eight souls witnessed a patriotic assembly of Colors from the United States and Arizona flag to the flags of the three Arizona Chapters of the MOWW, led by the West Valley Chapter 131 flag. There were also 10 Units of the Northwest Valley Veterans Association, 7 JROTC Units from the West Valley and 12 other veteran support units in Arizona. Chapters of the MOWW, across the Nation, have been conducting the MOC Ceremony since 1927 when they took over the Ceremony duties from the Massing of the Colors Society.



Once again, the Peoria High School Air Force JROTC was the Color Guard and the Ceremonial Honor Guard. Their precision as Color Guard served as an outstanding example of all JROTC programs and the MOC audience. The Ceremonial Honor Guard performed an outstanding Missing Man Table Ceremony with great attention to detail. The Service of Remembrance that shows the 1,000 plus still missing from Vietnam and the countless others missing

from our wars from the Revolution to today are Not Forgotten.



The Desert Brass Band and Director Charles Musgrave have performed the Massing for the West Valley Chapter of the MOWW for a number of years now and once again performed a magnificent Musical Prelude to the MOC ceremony as well as Patriotic Musical Tribute during the Ceremony and the Stars and Stripes Forever at the conclusion of the Ceremony. Dan Reed and the Desert Brass Band played a Marine Corps rendition of Taps for the first time at the West Valley Massing. It was a moving performance.



Chaplain Colonel Tom Troxell praised God with his Invocation and asked for God's Blessing of the Colors and gave the Benediction which shows that In God We Trust.

Captain Linda Howry, United States Army (Former), the West Valley Chapter Commander welcomed the public with her opening remarks and

introduced the Ceremony Speaker, Wanona (Winnie) Fritz. The title of her speech was Life in the U.S. and Jordan Military – Memories, Lessons Learned and Gifts.



Captain Fritz, USA (Former) gave an inspiring talk about her service as a nurse during the Vietnam War and lessons learned that can, should and will be taken to heart by all those who heard her message. She started her talk with how she, as troop leader, took her “boys” to Vietnam and how she earned their title as “Mom” when she was 22 and they were 19 to 20 years old. She talked about the sacrifices our military personnel made and how she watched some die while she comforted them in their last minutes. She also delved into how her service as a nurse led to being on the nursing staff at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and treating His Majesty King Hussein of Jordan. The King was so impressed with her that he offered her a job working for his Kingdom. She accepted and spent 17 years in his service where she was awarded the VIP Award and the Jordanian equivalent of the Medal of Honor. Again, lessons learned in working for the King and serving the Bedouin tribe and all of his subjects were a great example of leading a life of service and humility.

After her talk, one member of the public rolled his wheel chair to the front asked for the mic and asked all in attendance to cheer Captain Fritz as he exclaimed Hip Hip and we all responded Hurrah. At the end of the ceremony, Captain Fritz signed books and visited with 20 to 30 others who came forward to talk to her and hear a final thought from her and offer her their sincere appreciation for her speech. Thank you, Captain

Winnie Fritz for your inspiring talk. It was truly a Gift.



Well done Captain Linda Howry for an outstanding Massing of the Colors.

### MOWW National Information

**MOWW News and Information**

**Want to Become a MOWW Companion?**

MOWW chapters provide opportunities to support veterans of all ranks and service, youth patriotic education, college ROTC and high school JROTC, Scouting, monuments and memorials, public safety/law & order, national and homeland security programs, and stimulate love of our country and flag.

[Click for More Information](#)

**“It is nobler to serve than to be served.”**

### Bulletin

The deadline for submission of articles for the April 2024 Bulletin is the 21<sup>th</sup> of March. Email articles to [carltonbjerkaas@gmail.com](mailto:carltonbjerkaas@gmail.com)

## *SPECIAL FEATURE*

# U.S. Armor Developments: World War II and After

## Part 1 of U.S. armor developments

BY [J.R. WILSON](#) - JANUARY 18, 2022



An M4 Sherman tank during training at Fort Knox, Ky., ca. June, 1942. The twin .30 caliber hull machine guns for the driver distinguish this as a very early Sherman model. The Sherman, despite its faults, became a workhorse for the U.S. Army during World War II. Army Library of Congress photo

Armor first appeared on the battlefield thousands of years ago, typically using layers of leather, wood – even silk – to deflect, slow or stop arrows and spears. As offensive weapons advanced, from Greek fire and boulder-launching trebuchets to the English longbow and

Mongol composite bow to early firearms, armor-makers had to advance their defensive craft to counter it.



Afrika Korps Panzer III tanks drive through the desert. Field Marshall Erwin Rommel's Afrika Korps used these relatively light tanks with great success in North Africa. Bundesarchiv photo

The Greeks and Romans used armor on their chariots and siege weapons. Leonardo da Vinci designed what may have been the first mobile armored tank – a cone-shaped war wagon with a full 360-degree complement of cannon. It was never used by his 15<sup>th</sup> century patrons, [but a working model recently was built](#), using materials available to da Vinci and following his precise instructions, demonstrating it was more than a flight of imagination.

**The heavy Tiger would have been more evenly matched against the American M26 Pershing, but the U.S. had slowed production of its heavy tanks in order to mass produce the more agile Sherman and tank destroyers such as the M10, M36, and the M18 Hellcat.**





**A British Sherman Firefly patrolling the Meuse at Namur in 1944. The Firefly was a British attempt to give the Sherman a better chance against German Panthers and Tigers by upgunning it with a 17-pounder instead of the typical 75 mm low velocity gun. The assortment of road wheels, lengths of track, sandbags and wooden planks often piled on the exteriors of M4s reflects the degree of the crews' confidence in their armor protection. Photo courtesy of the U.S. Army Center of Military History**

The first serious use of tanks came during World War I, but the vehicles were cumbersome, limited in battlefield mobility and often more dangerous than protective to their crews. By World War II, however, tank technology had advanced at a level similar to the evolution of military aircraft between the two wars. Nazi Germany held the technological advantage, but the British, Russians, Japanese and Americans were not far behind.

German Field Marshall Erwin Rommel, U.S. Gen. George S. Patton and British Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery earned permanent places in military history for their World War II use of massive tank forces – not only in tank-on-tank encounters, but to overrun infantry, crush enemy defenses and capture cities. Rommel's Afrika Korps and other commands were predominantly equipped with comparatively light Panzers; Patton's Third Army with medium-weight M4 Shermans; and Montgomery's Eighth Army with the well-armed but

underarmed Matilda, a series of “cruiser” tanks, and U.S.-built medium M3 Grants/Lees and Shermans.



Soviet T-34s advance on German forces during World War II. T-34s shocked German forces during World War II and gave U.S. forces trouble at the beginning of the Korean War. RIA Novosti photo

Germany also fielded the heaviest tank to that point – the Tiger – primarily as a counter to the unexpectedly formidable Soviet T-34 and KV-1 tanks the Nazis encountered during Operation Barbarossa, the June 1941 invasion of their former ally, the Soviet Union. The heavy Tiger would have been more evenly matched against the American M26 Pershing, but the U.S. had slowed production of its heavy tanks in order to mass produce the more agile Sherman and tank destroyers such as the M10, M36, and the M18 Hellcat.

**And when the Cold War turned hot in Korea, the United States found itself facing the same kind of Soviet-built heavy armor that had led the Germans to introduce the massive Tiger a few years earlier.**

“Once the Cold War began, the U.S. believed there was a ‘tank gap’ – looking at the heavily mechanized status of the Warsaw Pact, we found the Soviets had far more and better tanks than we could field in the late 1940s and early ‘50s,” noted Dr. Robert S. Cameron, Armor Branch historian at the Army Armor Center at Fort Benning, Ga.



**A Panzerkampfwagen VI Tiger I of the 1st SS Panzer Division Leibstandarte Adolf Hitler in France, March 1944. Bundesarchive photo**

And when the Cold War turned hot in Korea, the United States found itself facing the same kind of Soviet-built heavy armor that had led the Germans to introduce the massive Tiger a few years earlier.

“When the Korean War broke out, the direction of armor issue became critical. The U.S. did not see Korea as an isolated regional conflict; our concept then was that the Kremlin was at the center of all global Communist efforts,” Cameron said. “So, war breaking out on the Korean peninsula was seen as a potential prelude to the outbreak of World War III, with a center point in Central Europe. And the U.S. was not ready to wage a major tank war in Central Europe – or Asia.”

A 1949 government advisory panel on armor found the U.S. Army not only had no tanks in production, but none in development capable of defeating the Soviet platforms, which the

USSR had provided to its allies around the globe. Calling the situation critical, the panel warned the United States had to immediately ramp up both development and production of new tanks or face the possibility of spending the first two and one-half years of any major future war without enough tanks to support its ground forces.



The crew of an M24 Chaffee tank along the Naktong River front during the Korean War, Aug. 17, 1950. The Chaffee was not intended for tank-to-tank fighting and struggled against North Korean T-34s. DoD photo

“We went into conflict with the North Koreans with the same tank mix we had at the end of World War II,” Cameron continued. “The enemy invasion of the south was spearheaded by a mix of Soviet-built tanks – primarily the T34/85 – and infantry. The M24 Chaffee light tank was the basic tank the U.S. had in Korea – and it was not intended for tank-to-tank fighting. In the course of that first year, there was a focused effort to get more and heavier tanks into Korea – Shermans and Pershings. Gradually, the balance began to swing in favor of the U.S. and its UN allies.”

**Realizing it would be difficult to match the Soviet threat tank-for-tank, the U.S. turned to the technological multiplier in the mid-1950s.**

Because the United States saw Korea as a microcosm of what could happen in Europe, the government scrambled to overcome the perceived “tank gap” that heavily favored the USSR and Warsaw Pact.

Much military strategy at the time incorporated a series of equations developed by English mathematician and engineer Frederick Lanchester at the height of World War I regarding the power relationships between opposing forces. Lanchester’s Square Law for long-range modern combat contended that, all other factors being equal, the power of a single combat unit relative to the combat power of an enemy of a given size is the square of the number of members of that unit; that is:

One tank has the combat power of one tank –  $1^2 = 1$

Two tanks have four times the relative combat power of a single tank –  $2^2 = 4$

Lanchester’s formula did not apply to technological force, however, only numerical. Thus it could take up to five Sherman tanks to knock out a single German Tiger. Realizing it would be difficult to match the Soviet threat tank-for-tank, the U.S. turned to the technological multiplier in the mid-1950s.



**An M46 Patton fires on enemy positions during the Korean War, Jan. 10, 1952. The lack of an enemy armored threat by that stage of the war meant that armored units were deployed mainly in support of the infantry. DoD photo**

In Korea, the North's tank force had been nearly destroyed by 1950 and America's growing – and increasingly heavy – armor took on the role of infantry support, casualty evacuation and even logistics carrier. In heavier, often spread out, fighting against the Chinese, they were used as strong points around which infantry could rally if in danger of being overrun.

“It was quite a different employment of armor than what folks had thought of coming out of World War II,” Cameron said. “There also was an accelerated pace to get new tanks into the field, not just because of Korea, but due to a fear of an outbreak of conflict in Central Europe. So, the M48 Patton underwent a rapid development and fielding pace, going from raw engineering concept to fielding in less than three years. It never saw service in Korea, but was shipped straight to Central Europe.

“Coming out of World War II and into Korea, the Army thought it needed three types of tanks – light, medium and heavy. At the end of World War II, the M24 was considered medium, but during Korea was reclassified as light. The problem for light tank design – indeed, all light armor – is if you want a light armor system capable of taking on enemy armor with upgraded ballistic protection, you need a bigger gun, which translates into a heavier vehicle. But it’s also nice to have something stealthier and more mobile. Throughout the Cold War, the Soviets kept upgrading their armor and armament and light tanks had a hard time keeping up.”



**U.S. Army soldiers assigned to the 9th Infantry Regiment ride an M26 Pershing tank as it moves forward to await an enemy attempt to cross the Naktong River, Sept. 3, 1950. U.S. Army photo by Cpl. Thomas Marotta**

Korea also saw the introduction of a new light tank – the M41 Walker Bulldog – as a replacement for the M24. By the end of the Korean War, the U.S. had a large number of M48s in the field, along with the M41 and the M103 Heavy Tank – a variant of the M48 with a six-man crew, 120mm gun and two-piece cartridge that was the heaviest and most heavily armed U.S. tank until development of the M1A1 Abrams in the mid-1980s.

“These were to be grouped into heavy tank battalions to counter a major Soviet tank assault. It was similar to how the Germans used Tigers in WWII, but as we went through the 1950s, not many 103s were built (most were turned over to the Marines),” Cameron said. “But for the Army, the nature of the threat that led to the Heavy Tank design was found to be overrated. There had been exaggerated concepts of what Soviet tanks could do and, as people took a more realistic look at Soviet capabilities, the need for a heavy tank diminished. And the M48 became more versatile as the main battle tank (MBT) concept emerged.

“There also was a new look at the trend to light tanks. The M5 [Stuart, the Army’s standard light tank at the beginning of World War II], then the M24, then the M41 – the trend was the same as any other tank: Increasing gun caliber, heavier weight, heavier armament, heavier armor. As you moved through the 1950s, then, the Army began looking at a single platform instead of the light-medium-heavy triad.”



**U.S. soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, fire an M120 mortar out of an M113 armored personal carrier (APC) on Forward Operating base Taji, Baghdad, Iraq, April 25, 2009. The venerable M113 has to be considered a success story for the family of vehicles concept, with an estimated 80,000 produced for service in more than 50 countries. U.S. Army photo by Spc. Joshua E. Powell**



Perhaps the single biggest change in tank structure was how armor was incorporated.

“The big advance came in the change from a cast hull, which had its own problems because, when hit, even if you did not penetrate, the back side of the hull would splinter off and throw fragments into the interior,” according to Dr. Douglas Templeton, deputy associate director for ballistic protection at the Army’s Tank Automotive Research, Development & Engineering Center (TARDEC). “The M60 still used cast iron. The big change came in what evolved into the Abrams, with welded armor plate instead of cast.

“In addition, we moved into using aluminum as the availability became greater. Probably the world’s best armored vehicle is the U.S. M113 armored personnel carrier, introduced in the 1960s but still seen around the world. It’s an all-aluminum vehicle, basically a box on tracks, not as heavily armored as a tank, but still well-protected and extremely versatile.”

*Editor’s note: This article was first printed in The Year in Defense: Review Edition in an abridged version as “Armor: Three Decades of Advances.” It is now appearing online in its original form, in four parts. This article first appeared online on **November 10, 2014***

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**TO:**