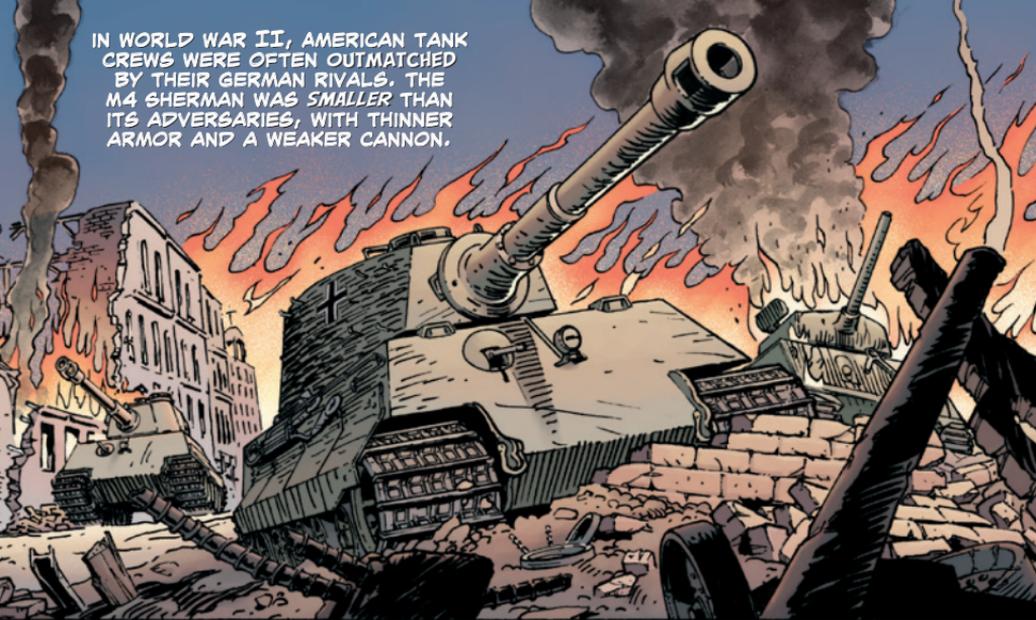


IN WORLD WAR II, AMERICAN TANK CREWS WERE OFTEN OUTMATCHED BY THEIR GERMAN RIVALS. THE M4 SHERMAN WAS SMALLER THAN ITS ADVERSARIES, WITH THINNER ARMOR AND A WEAKER CANNON.

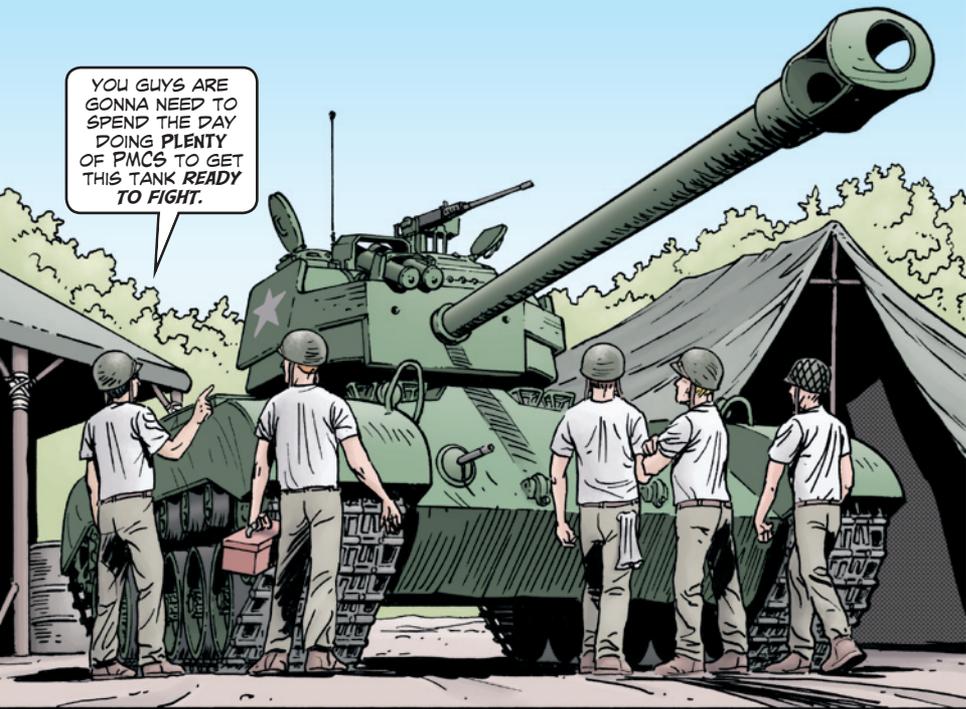


BUT IN THE FINAL DAYS OF THE WAR, THE AMERICANS SENT A **NEW** TANK TO THE BATTLEFIELD. **COULD THIS NEW TANK TAKE ANY GERMAN TANK HEAD ON?** THAT WAS THE QUESTION EVERYONE WAS ASKING. THE ANSWER WOULD BE DETERMINED AT THE...

DUEL AT DESSAU

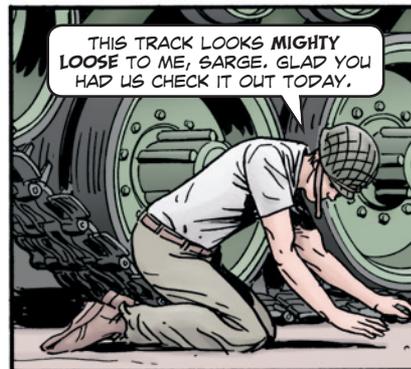
APRIL 20, 1945: 3RD ARMORED DIVISION, OUTSIDE DESSAU, GERMANY: A NEW T-26 SUPER PERSHING, ONE OF ONLY TWO SENT TO EUROPE, SITS IN AN OUTDOOR MOTOR POOL. ITS FIVE CREW MEMBERS STAND IN AWE IN FRONT OF THE TANK.



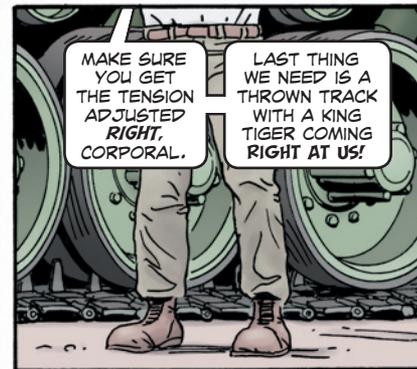


YOU GUYS ARE GONNA NEED TO SPEND THE DAY DOING PLENTY OF PMCS TO GET THIS TANK READY TO FIGHT.

IT'S THE SAME IN EVERY WAR: WINNING BATTLES STARTS WITH **PREPARATION**. NO DETAIL, NO MATTER HOW BIG OR SMALL, CAN BE OVERLOOKED.



THIS TRACK LOOKS MIGHTY LOOSE TO ME, SARGE. GLAD YOU HAD US CHECK IT OUT TODAY.



MAKE SURE YOU GET THE TENSION ADJUSTED **RIGHT**, CORPORAL.

LAST THING WE NEED IS A THROWN TRACK WITH A KING TIGER COMING RIGHT AT US!

DURING WORLD WAR II, PMCS WAS AN IMPORTANT PART OF EVERY SOLDIER'S DAY. THE ARMY'S CHANGED A LOT SINCE THEN, BUT KEEPING VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT IN WORKING ORDER HAS ALWAYS BEEN A PRIORITY!



WORD IS THERE'S A KING TIGER HIDING OUT IN DESSAU. IT'S GOTTA BE KNOCKED OUT BEFORE OUR GUYS CAN ADVANCE INTO THE TOWN.



A KING TIGER??
OH, NO! SUDDENLY, I DON'T FEEL SO GOOD.

COME ON, CORPORAL...



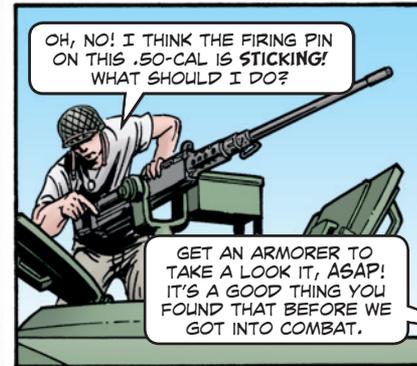
...KING TIGERS ARE SCARY, SURE. BUT WE GOT A TANK NOW THAT'S JUST AS GOOD.

MEANTIME, MAYBE DOING SOME PMCS WILL TAKE YOUR MIND OFF THINGS.



HEY, PRIVATE JONES, GET IN THE TURRET AND GIVE THE BREECH A GOOD COAT OF LUBE. I HAVE A FEELING THAT BIG GUN'S GONNA SEE A LOT OF ACTION TOMORROW!

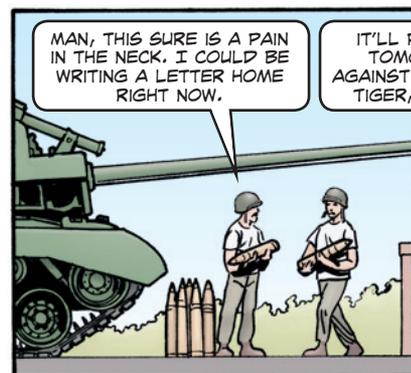
I'M ON IT!



OH, NO! I THINK THE FIRING PIN ON THIS .50-CAL IS **STICKING!** WHAT SHOULD I DO?

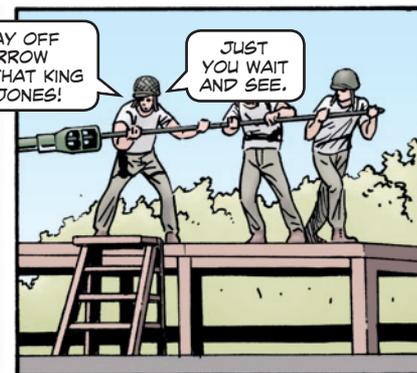
GET AN ARMORER TO TAKE A LOOK IT, ASAP! IT'S A GOOD THING YOU FOUND THAT BEFORE WE GOT INTO COMBAT.

THE QUESTION IS THE SAME NOW AS IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN: **WOULD YOU STAKE YOUR LIFE, RIGHT NOW, ON THE CONDITION OF YOUR EQUIPMENT?**



MAN, THIS SURE IS A PAIN IN THE NECK. I COULD BE WRITING A LETTER HOME RIGHT NOW.

IT'LL PAY OFF TOMORROW AGAINST THAT KING TIGER, JONES!



JUST YOU WAIT AND SEE.

THE DAY IS ENDING AND THE CREW HAS FINALLY GOTTEN THE TANK PREPARED FOR THE NEXT DAY'S BATTLE...



I THINK SHE'S READY T' FIGHT, SARGE.

I JUST HOPE WE ARE, TOO.



WE'LL DO JUST FINE, IRWIN. HALF THE BATTLE IS GOOD PMCS AND YOU GUYS'VE DONE PLENTY OF THAT TODAY!



THIS BABY IS RUNNING LIKE A FINE WATCH!



SARGE KNEW WHAT HE WAS TALKING ABOUT WHEN HE HAD US DO ALL THAT PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE.



OK, CREW. LET'S BUTTON UP! WE HAVE TO BE READY FOR ANYTHING!

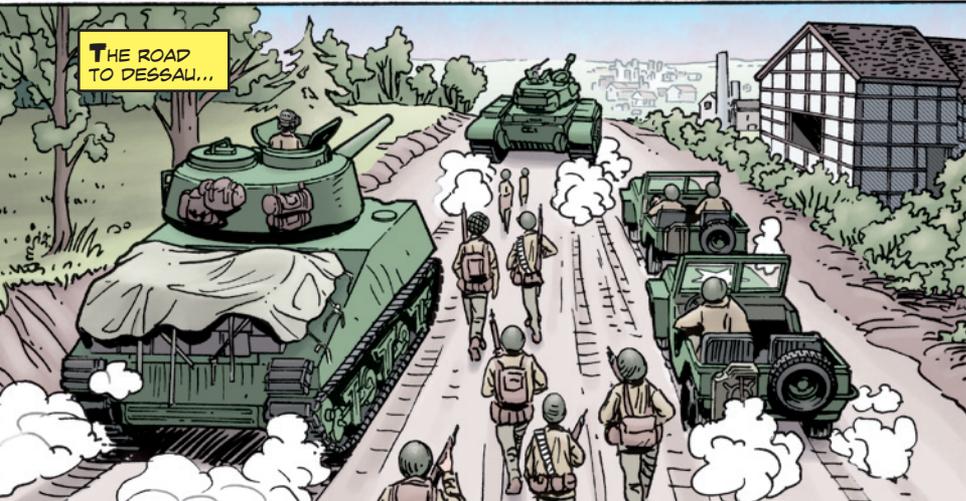
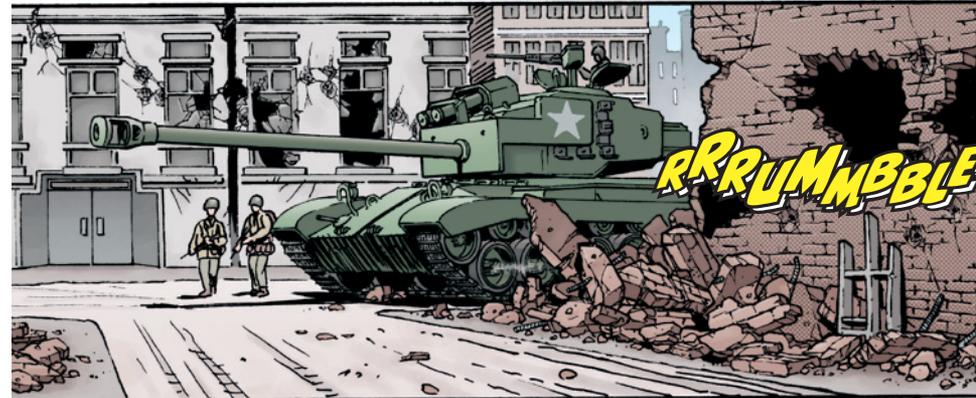
EARLY THE NEXT MORNING, APRIL 21, THE CREW GATHERS IN FRONT OF THE SUPER PERSHING.



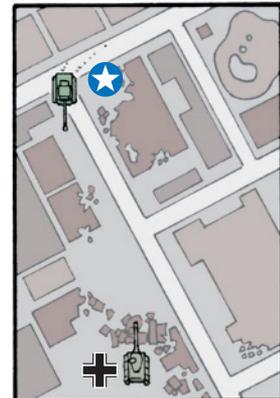
WE DID SOME FINAL PMCS CHECKS BEFORE DAWN, SARGE, SO I THINK WE'RE READY TO HUNT DOWN THAT KING TIGER!

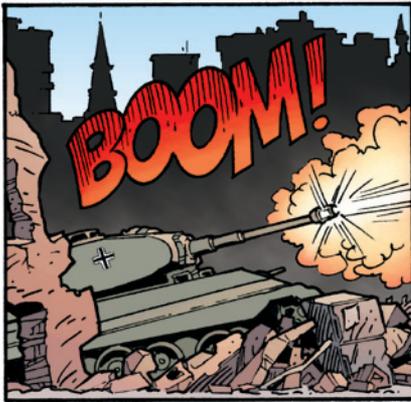


GOOD JOB, MEN. WE SHOULD BE READY FOR WHATEVER THE GERMANS CAN THROW AT US!

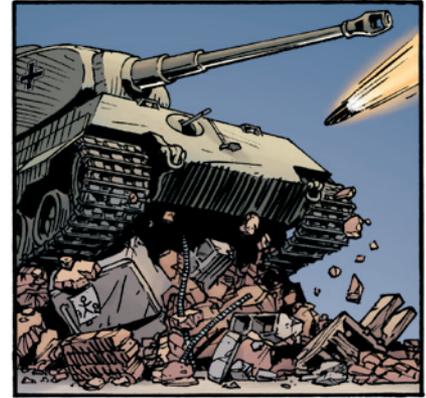
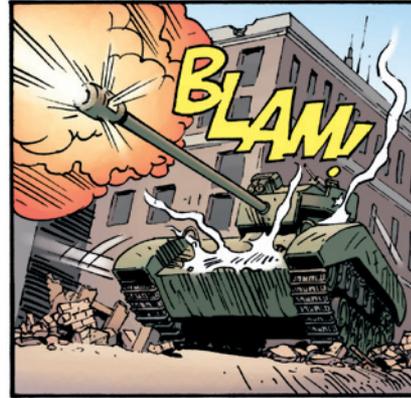
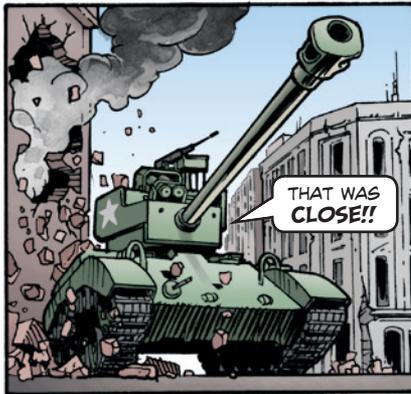


THE ROAD TO DESSAU...





JUST THEN, A SECOND ROUND FIRES FROM THE GERMAN TANK...



DEFEATING THE KING TIGER IS NOT THE END OF THE BATTLE.

THE M4 SHERMANS AND INFANTRY WORK WITH THE T-26, PRESSING THE ATTACK.



LATER IN THE DAY, THE T-26 RETURNS TO THE KING TIGER...



ALL RIGHT! HARD TRAINING AND GOOD PMCS SAVE THE DAY!



WAY TO GO, CREW! THIS T-26 IS A GREAT TANK. BUT IT WAS ONLY ABLE TO DO ITS JOB BECAUSE OF THE PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE YOU GUYS PUT INTO HER.



Y'SURE KNEW WHAT YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT, SARGE.

I WON'T BE COMPLAINING ABOUT DOING PMCS AGAIN, THAT'S FOR SURE!



OK, GUYS, LET'S GET GOING. TIME FOR SOME AFTER ACTION PMCS!



THE DUEL AT DESSAU **PROVED** THAT THE NEW AMERICAN TANK WAS JUST AS **DEADLY** AS ANY ARMOR THE GERMANS HAD. AND JUST AS IMPORTANTLY, IT SHOWED THAT GOOD MAINTENANCE IS A **CRITICAL** PART OF WINNING ANY BATTLE.