



West Seneca Answers the Call to Arms Residents in World War II



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: ZAHM

HAROLD

F.

Address: 3395 CLINTON STREET

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank:

Unit / Squadron:

SQUADRON 7

Medals / Citations:

Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Base Assignments:

New River Naval Hospital (Camp Lejeune, North Carolina)

Miscellaneous:



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: **ZAKES**

CARL

Address:

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Unit / Squadron:

3300TH ORDNANCE MAINTENANCE COMPANY, A.A. (ANTI-AIRCRAFT)

Medals / Citations:

EUROPEAN-AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN CAMPAIGN MEDAL

Theater of Operations / Assignment:

EUROPEAN THEATER

Service Notes:

Private First-Class

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

The U.S. Army Ordnance Corps mission was to support the development, production, acquisition, and sustainment of weapon systems, ammunition, missiles, electronics, and ground mobility material during World War II to provide combat power to the U.S. Army

With much of World War II fought in the air, anti-aircraft weapons were weapons that could specifically direct their offense against air targets / The mission of the Anti-Aircraft Artillery units were to detect hostile aircraft and destroy them / Radar aided anti-aircraft gunners by providing accurate information about the range, speed, and altitude of incoming enemy planes

The European-African-Middle Eastern (EAME) Campaign Medal was a military award of the United States Armed Forces which was first created on 6 November 1942 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt / The medal was intended to recognize those military service members who had performed military duty in the European Theater (to include North Africa and the Middle East) and was awarded for any service performed between 7 December 1941 and 2 March 1946 / The European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal was awarded as a service ribbon throughout the entire Second World War



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: ZARNIKAU

RAYMOND E.

Address:

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: F. 1/C

Unit / Squadron:

USS HECTOR (AR-7), 6TH DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

ASIATIC-PACIFIC CAMPAIGN RIBBON

Theater of Operations / Assignment:

PACIFIC THEATER

Service Notes:

Fireman First-Class Raymond E. Zarnikau served on a Repair Ship in the Philippine Islands

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

A Fireman was responsible for keeping the fires burning in the ship's boilers which were used to make steam / A Fireman would work on the ship's engines and their auxiliary machinery, ensuring they ran correctly and performed maintenance / Operated, adjusted and repaired pumps

The USS Hector (AR-7) was a repair ship that served in the United States Navy from 1944 to 1987 / Her biggest repair job of the war came to her 27 October 1944 at Ulithi (an atoll in the Caroline Islands) as the cruiser USS Houston , torpedoed twice by Japanese submarines, was towed alongside / Although hampered by a severe typhoon season which twice sent her out to sea for safety, Hector managed to repair Houston by the end of the year besides aiding many other smaller craft / Commissioned on 7 February 1944 and decommissioned on 31 March 1987

The Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Ribbon (Medal) was a military awarded to any member of the United States Military who served in the Pacific Theater from 1941 to 1945



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: ZARNIKAU

WILLIAM E.

Address: 449 MAIN STREET

Service Branch: MERCHANT MARINE **Rank:**

Unit / Squadron:

SS JAMES W. MARSHALL

Medals / Citations:

Theater of Operations / Assignment:

ATLANTIC THEATER

Service Notes:

William E. Zarnikau volunteered to move 22 disabled ships to Normandy Beach under "Operation Mulberry" to establish an artificial breakwater to permit the construction of a pier to off-load supply ships

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Operation Mulberry was the design and construction of two artificial harbors in World War II to facilitate the unloading of supply ships off the coast of Normandy, France, immediately following the invasion of Europe on D-Day, June 6, 1944 / One harbor, known as Mulberry A, was constructed off Saint-Laurent at Omaha Beach in the American sector, and the other, Mulberry B, was built off Arromanches at Gold Beach in the British sector / Each harbor, when fully operational, had the capacity to move 7,000 tons of vehicles and supplies per day from ship to shore

The SS James W. Marshall was a World War II Troopship / Troopships used during World War II included passenger liners, Liberty ships, Victory ships and foreign ships taken over by the USA / Troopships were operated by the Army Transportation Service, with "civilian" mariners; by the U.S. Navy; and the War Shipping Administration / Beginning in June 1941, the U.S. took over various foreign flag ships which were in U.S. ports for use as troopships and cargo ships / These were French, Dutch, Danish, Swedish, Norwegian, German, and Italian flag ships / In addition many British-flag troopships carried Americans overseas.



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: ZEASKA

WILLIAM J

Address: 83 OLEAN AVENUE

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PFC

Unit / Squadron:

COMPANY "E"

Medals / Citations:

ASIATIC-PACIFIC CAMPAIGN RIBBON

Theater of Operations / Assignment:

PACIFIC THEATER

Service Notes:

Private First-Class William J. Zeaska participated in combat action while serving in the Pacific theater

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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West Seneca Answers the Call to Arms Residents in World War II



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: ZEMAN

IRVING R

Address: 115 AURORA AVENUE

Service Branch: ARMY - AIR FORCE **Rank:** PVT

Unit / Squadron:

11TH BASE UNIT, SECTION "D"

Medals / Citations:

Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Private

Base Assignments:

Langley Army Air Field, Virginia - Langley Field was established on 30 December 1916 and named for aviation pioneer Samuel Pierpont Langley, an aerodynamic pioneer and a former Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution / The mission of Langley Air Field during World War II was to develop special detector equipment used in antisubmarine warfare / Langley units played a vital role in the sinking of enemy submarines off the United States coast during the war

Miscellaneous:



West Seneca Answers the Call to Arms Residents in World War II



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: ZEMAN

RICHARD C.

Address: 115 AURORA AVENUE

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: PFC

Unit / Squadron:

"B" BATTERY, SEA COAST ARTILLERY, 15TH ANTI-AIRCRAFT BATTALION (REINFORCED)

Medals / Citations:

ASIATIC-PACIFIC CAMPAIGN RIBBON

Theater of Operations / Assignment:

PACIFIC THEATER

Service Notes:

Private First-Class

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Coastal artillery is the branch of armed forces concerned with operating anti-ship artillery or fixed gun batteries in coastal fortifications

With much of World War II fought in the air, anti-aircraft weapons were weapons that could specifically direct their offense against air targets / The mission of the Anti-Aircraft Artillery units were to detect hostile aircraft and destroy them / Radar aided anti-aircraft gunners by providing accurate information about the range, speed, and altitude of incoming enemy planes

The Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Ribbon (Medal) was a military awarded to any member of the United States Military who served in the Pacific Theater from 1941 to 1945



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: ZENT

ROBERT

D.

Address: 42 ORCHARD AVENUE

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank:

Unit / Squadron:

HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS SQUADRON, 2ND SERVICE GROUP

Medals / Citations:

EUROPEAN-AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN CAMPAIGN MEDAL

Theater of Operations / Assignment:

EUROPEAN THEATER

Service Notes:

Private Robert D. Zent was stationed in Iceland, attached to the Medical Corps.

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: ZERNENTSCH

JOHN H.

Address: 50 AURORA AVENUE

Service Branch: ARMY - AIR FORCE **Rank:** CPL

Unit / Squadron:

BASE UNIT

Medals / Citations:

Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Corporal

Base Assignments:

San Angelo Army Airfield (San Angelo, Texas) - The field's mission was the training of aircraft pilots, including B-17 pilots

Miscellaneous:

The Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress was a four-engine heavy bomber aircraft primarily used in the daylight precision strategic bombing campaign of World War II against German industrial and military targets / During World War II, the B-17s dropped 640,036 tons of bombs on European targets



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: ZILKER

DANIEL

E.

Address:

Service Branch: COAST GUARD

Rank: E.T.M. 3/C

Unit / Squadron:

USS ADMIRAL H. T. MAYO (AP-125)

Medals / Citations:

ASIATIC-PACIFIC CAMPAIGN RIBBON

AMERICAN CAMPAIGN MEDAL

WORLD WAR II VICTORY MEDAL

Theater of Operations / Assignment:

PACIFIC THEATER

Service Notes:

Electronics Technician's Mate Third-Class

Base Assignments:

Manhattan Beach Coast Guard Training Station, New York - United States Coast Guard (USCG) Basic Training and Petty Officer Rating Training Facility where 43,000 sailors were trained during World War II

Groton, Connecticut - Radio and Radar Training School

Government Island (Alameda, California) - West Coast recruit center for the Coast Guard

Miscellaneous:

An Electronics Technician (ET) maintained all electronic equipment used for communications, detection ranging, recognition and countermeasures, worldwide navigational systems, computers and sonars / ET's also maintain towers and antennas

The USS Admiral H. T. Mayo (AP-125) was a Benson-class transport / In June 1945 the Mayo carried 5,819 released prisoners of war from Le Havre, France, to Boston / Commissioned in April 1945 and decommissioned in July 1971

The Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Ribbon (Medal) was a military awarded to any member of the United States Military who served in the Pacific Theater from 1941 to 1945

The American Campaign Medal/Ribbon (also known as the (ATO) American Theater of Operations Ribbon) was a military award of the United States Armed Forces which was first created on November 6, 1942 by President



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Franklin D. Roosevelt / The ribbon was intended to recognize those military service members who had performed military duty in the American Theater of Operations during World War II / The requirements for the American Campaign Ribbon were for service within the American Theater between 7 December 1941 and 2 March 1946 / The American Campaign Medal was issued as a service ribbon only for the entirety of the Second World War, and was only made a full-sized medal in 1947

The World War II Victory Medal was first issued as a service ribbon referred to as the "Victory Ribbon" / By 1946, a full medal had been established which was referred to as the World War II Victory Medal / The medal commemorates military service during World War II and is awarded to any member of the United States military, including members of the armed forces of the Government of the Philippine Islands, who served on active duty, or as a reservist, between 7 December 1941 and 31 December 1946



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: ZIMMER

MARTIN

T.

Address: 72 BURCH AVENUE

Service Branch: MARINE CORPS

Rank: PFC

Unit / Squadron:

V.M.F. 471 (FIXED WING MARINE FIGHTER SQUADRON), M.C.A.S. (MARINE CORPS AIR STATION),
M.B.D.A.G. 43

Medals / Citations:

Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Private First-Class

Base Assignments:

Marine Corps Air Station (El Centro, California) - The Marine Base Defense Air Group 43 (M.B.D.A.G.) was commissioned at El Centro on 1 January 1943 / The primary mission of the station was to train Marine pilots, copilots, navigators, radiomen, and crew chiefs / A Marine Bombardier and Gunnery School was also established that trained enlisted gunners and bombardiers / The school utilized 12 Douglas SBDs (Scout Bomber Douglas) for aerial training / MABDG 43 was re-designated MAG 43 (Marine Aircraft Group) and transferred to Ewa, Hawaii / In January 1945, El Centro had a new mission: transport training / The secondary mission became the home base for the ground echelon of fighter squadrons assigned to aircraft carriers

Miscellaneous:

The Douglas SBD Dauntless was a World War II American naval scout plane and dive bomber that was manufactured by Douglas Aircraft from 1940 through 1944 / The SBD ("Scout Bomber Douglas") was the U.S. Navy's main carrier-borne scout plane and dive bomber from mid-1940 through mid-1944 / The SBD was also flown by the U.S. Marine Corps, both from land air bases and aircraft carriers / The SBD is best remembered as the bomber that delivered the fatal blows to the Japanese carriers at the Battle of Midway in June 1942



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: ZIMMER

ROBERT

S.

Address: 72 BURCH AVENUE

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PVT

Unit / Squadron:

COMPANY "A", 22ND TANK BATTALION

Medals / Citations:

Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Private

Base Assignments:

Camp Cooke, California - Camp was activated on 5 October 1941, and named in honor of Major General Phillip St. George Cooke, who as a colonel during the Mexican War led a battalion of Mormons from Missouri to California / The route led by Colonel Cooke in 1847 opened the first wagon route to California, and today the railroad follows much of the early wagon trails / Camp Cooke was used to train anti-aircraft artillery, combat engineers, ordnance, and hospital units / German and Italian prisoners-of-war (POW) were also quartered at Camp Cooke

Miscellaneous:

The tank battalion was the main offensive striking force of an armored division

The 22nd Tank Battalion was activated on 15 August 1942 / In September 1944, the battalion was transported to Southampton, England / The 22nd Battalion participated in the Battle of the Bulge, hitting the line at Magerot and Acut where it suffered heavy casualties from mines, anti-tank guns and 120 millimeter mortar fire but the Germans were defeated / In March 1945, tanks and troops of the 22nd Battalion caught the Germans by surprise at Kelberg and drove into the outskirts of the town / The Germans fought back with small arms, mortar and artillery, but the town was cleared that night / Later in March 1945, the 22nd was ordered to seize Oberhof and Suhl, where, reportedly, Hitler and the Nazi hierarchy were in the area, having fled Berlin from advancing Soviet troops / The 22nd Battalion tankers surged forward, hoping to capture Hitler and his entourage / The top Nazi command were not in the area, but the 22nd Tank Battalion liberated 400 allied prisoners of war at Grimmenthal Hospital / The 22nd Battalion troops, reached Galneukirchen, Germany where contact was made with Soviet troops just before the war ended / The 22nd Tank Battalion lost 35 men killed in action and 181 wounded in action



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: ZIMMERMAN

DONALD

Address: 230 ORCHARD PARK ROAD

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: CPL

Unit / Squadron:

45TH MAL. SUR. UNIT

Medals / Citations:

ASIATIC-PACIFIC CAMPAIGN RIBBON

Theater of Operations / Assignment:

PACIFIC THEATER

Service Notes:

Corporal

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: ZIMMERMAN

JAMES

Address: 65 LAFAYETTE AVENUE

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PVT

Unit / Squadron:

COMPANY "B"

Medals / Citations:

Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Private

Base Assignments:

Camp Upton (Long Island, New York) - Camp Upton was named after Emory Upton, a Union general of the Civil War and was created in 1917 to house and train soldiers for the United States / The camp was used by Army in the mobilization of 1940 that preceded the American entry into World War II and later housed a convalescent and rehabilitation hospital / Camp Upton became the site of the Recruit Educational Center, an Army program that enrolled foreign-born, non-English speaking, and illiterate soldiers / Soldiers who graduated were eligible for a three year term of military service, after which they could be naturalized as American citizens

Miscellaneous:



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: ZIMMERMAN

KENNETH

Address: 320 ORCHARD PARK ROAD

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PVT

Unit / Squadron:

BATTERY "D", 519TH A.A.A. BATTALION (ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY), (S.M.)

Medals / Citations:

EUROPEAN-AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN CAMPAIGN MEDAL

Theater of Operations / Assignment:

EUROPEAN THEATER

Service Notes:

Private

Base Assignments:

Camp Upton (Long Island, New York) - Camp Upton was named after Emory Upton, a Union general of the Civil War and was created in 1917 to house and train soldiers for the United States / The camp was used by Army in the mobilization of 1940 that preceded the American entry into World War II and later housed a convalescent and rehabilitation hospital / Camp Upton became the site of the Recruit Educational Center, an Army program that enrolled foreign-born, non-English speaking, and illiterate soldiers / Soldiers who graduated were eligible for a three year term of military service, after which they could be naturalized as American citizens

Miscellaneous:

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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: ZIMNIEWICZ

VALENTINE

F.

Address: 1902 UNION ROAD

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Unit / Squadron:

BATTERY "A", 108TH F.A. BATTALION (FIELD ARTILLERY), 28TH INFANTRY DIVISION

Medals / Citations:

EUROPEAN-AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN CAMPAIGN MEDAL SILVER STAR

Theater of Operations / Assignment:

EUROPEAN THEATER

Service Notes:

On November 2, 1944, during a German attack, Sergeant Valentine F. Zimniewicz and a fellow soldier laid wire from the American command post to the forward observation post and relayed messages to bring artillery fire on defensive zones and German mortars / Remaining at their posts all through the night, Sergeant Zimniewicz and 20 Infantrymen realized by morning that they were surrounded by German forces / To avoid capture, Sergeant Zimniewicz instructed his comrades to head for the rear lines and covered their withdrawal with weapon fire, enabling them to reach a friendly unit / After his ammunition was expended, Sergeant Zimniewicz withdrew and proceeded to the rear and informed the battalion command post of the situation, permitting reinforcement of the endangered units resulting in repelling the German counterattack / The gallantry displayed by Sergeant Valentine Zimniewicz while engaged with enemy forces earned him the Silver Star

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

The 28th Infantry Division was one of the most decorated infantry divisions in the United States Army / The 28th took part in the Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace, and Central European campaigns, seeing 196 days of combat

Infantry refers to soldiers moving and fighting on foot, armed with hand weapons such as rifles, machine guns, grenades, mortars, etc.

The Field Artillery is the branch of the army whose mission is to support the infantry by artillery fire, destroying, neutralizing or suppressing the enemy elements that threaten land forces / Increased mobility; fire direction centers, which enhanced their firepower; aerial observation; and radio communications increased the efficiency and accuracy to support ground forces



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Town of West Seneca, New York

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The Silver Star, officially referred to as the Silver Star Medal by all of the United States Armed Forces, is the third highest military decoration for valor that can be awarded to any person serving in any capacity with the United States Armed Forces / The medal is awarded for gallantry in action against an enemy of the United States



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: ZIMPFER

ARTHUR

L.

Address:

Service Branch:

Rank:

Unit / Squadron:

Medals / Citations:

Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

(NO OTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE)



West Seneca Answers the Call to Arms Residents in World War II



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: ZIMPFER

CHARLES

W.

Address: 581 SENECA CREEK ROAD

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: PVT

Unit / Squadron:

INFANTRY, COMPANY "Q"

Medals / Citations:

EUROPEAN-AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN CAMPAIGN MEDAL

Theater of Operations / Assignment:

EUROPEAN THEATER

Service Notes:

Private

Base Assignments:

Miscellaneous:

Infantry refers to soldiers moving and fighting on foot, armed with hand weapons such as rifles, machine guns, grenades, mortars, etc.

The European-African-Middle Eastern (EAME) Campaign Medal was a military award of the United States Armed Forces which was first created on 6 November 1942 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt / The medal was intended to recognize those military service members who had performed military duty in the European Theater (to include North Africa and the Middle East) and was awarded for any service performed between 7 December 1941 and 2 March 1946 / The European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal was awarded as a service ribbon throughout the entire Second World War



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: ZIMPFER

RICHARD

L.

Address:

Service Branch:

Rank:

Unit / Squadron:

3218TH S.C.S.U., A.S.T.R.P., SECTION "F"

Medals / Citations:

Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Base Assignments:

Niagara University, New York

Miscellaneous:



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Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: ZUBLER

FRANCIS

G.

Address: 73 COLUMBIA PARKWAY

Service Branch: NAVY

Rank: A/3

Unit / Squadron:

U.S.N.R.B. (UNITED STATES NAVAL RECEIVING BARRACKS), USN. T.C. L3U (TRAINING CENTER)

Medals / Citations:

Theater of Operations / Assignment:

Service Notes:

Petty Officer, Second-Class

Base Assignments:

Sampson, New York - In the three-and-a-half years of its operation during World War II, the Sampson Naval Training Station trained 411,429 naval recruits before closing in 1946 / The camp was named in honor of a local Seneca County native, Rear Admiral William T. Sampson, from Palmyra, NY, a hero of the Battle of Santiago during the Spanish-American War

Shoemaker, California - Camp Shoemaker housed a Naval Hospital and Naval Training and Personnel Distribution Center designed to handle naval personnel on their way to, or returning from, the Pacific

Miscellaneous:

Navy chief petty officers served a dual role as both technical experts and as leaders, with the emphasis being more on leadership as they progressed through the ranks

Naval Training Centers introduced recruits to “boot camp” training and indoctrination / The recruits were given a battery of tests to determine their educational and skill levels, then trained in indoctrination, ordnance and gunnery, seamanship, fire fighting, physical training, military drill and shipboard duties



West Seneca Answers the Call to Arms Residents in World War II



Town of West Seneca, New York

Name: ZUBLER

ROBERT

A.

Address: 73 COLUMBIA PARKWAY

Service Branch: ARMY

Rank: SGT

Unit / Squadron:

G.F.R.C. (GROUND FORCE REINFORCEMENT SYSTEM), A.R.T.C. (ARMY RECRUIT TRAINING CENTER)

Medals / Citations:

EUROPEAN-AFRICAN-MIDDLE EASTERN CAMPAIGN MEDAL

Theater of Operations / Assignment:

EUROPEAN THEATER

Service Notes:

Sergeant

Base Assignments:

Fort Knox, Kentucky - A new Armored Force (Tanks) was established in July 1940 with its headquarters at Fort Knox / It was responsible for establishing armored formations, doctrine, and training in the use of armored vehicles

Miscellaneous:

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