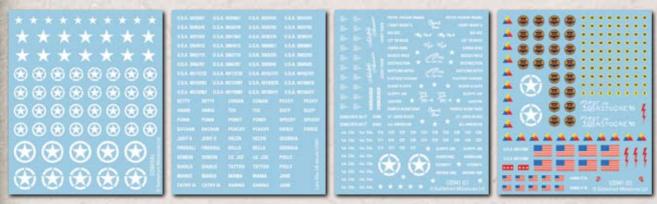


SHOOTING STARS Using Battlefront's New US Decals By Victor Pesch



Last month saw the release of Blood, Guts, & Glory, Battlefront's new intelligence handbook covering the tank battles in the Lorraine, September 1944 - January 1945.

To coincide with this release, this month sees the arrival of the new US Decal sheet (UBX941). Victor is going to walk us through how to get the most from these sheets and give your armoured force the war paint it deserves.



Advances in Allied armour development has shorted the technological gap between them and the Germans. But what does that mean for us Flames Of War players? New bad-ass American tanks! The 'Easy Eight' and 'Jumbo' are the most notable, and are sure to add a new element to many American players' Flames Of War games. It's only fitting they look the part too!

UBX941 American Decals are essentially an updated and improved version of the previous US decal pack. It adds two new sheets to the pack, giving a total of three white sheets, and one 5 colour sheet. These two new sheets add more specific designs to represent the tanks fighting in Lorraine and on to Germany towards the end of WWII. I'm going to go through each sheet in more detail over the following pages and hopefully give you some insight and inspiration for decorating your American tanks accurately.



US941 A

The first sheet in the blister gives you all the different types of Allied stars commonly found on US vehicles.

There was no standard way of applying these stars, so feel free to have a mix in your army. The examples below are just a sample of the more common practices in terms of where the stars go, but if you're looking to represent tanks in a specific historical battle, period photos are your friend.



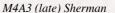


Tanks

US tanks would typically have six stars: turret sides, hull sides, hull front, and engine deck. These varied in style. Some would have basic stars, while others had stars with rings around them. A large star with a ring was often on the engine deck for air recognition.

Some crew would paint over them later so they didn't provide easy targets for the Germans, so leaving some off is an easy way to add variety to your force.









Tank Destroyers

Tank Destroyers usually have the stars in broken circles. Some M18's had a large star on the front armour.



Armoured Artillery

A similar treatment to the tank destroyer was given to armoured artillery, but they commonly had a large star in a cirle on the side armour where there was room.



Utility/Transport Vehicles

Due to the smaller nature of these vehicles, there sometimes wasn't room for the larger stars and so small stars were used.





US941 B

Sheet B has a wide range of serial numbers and nicknames to adorn your tanks. These names are simple and are fine to use on any American vehicle, though with some digging you might be able to find which type of tank they historically appeared on. They commonly appeared near the center of the sides of the vehicles.

There are enough serial numbers on this sheet to adorn 18 vehicles. The numbers, starting with three, are for tanks. Those starting with 4 are for other tracked vehicles, such as half-tracks. These were usually located at the rear sides of the vehicle.



			MSA-X	
CATHY III	CATHYIN			



M4A3 (late) Sherman



M3 half-track



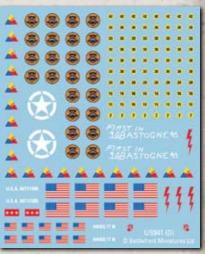
US941 C & D

Sheet C expands on nicknames further and also adds unit bumper codes and technical information lists. These are great for adding that little bit of extra detail to you vehicles to really make them look the part.

Here's where it gets a little more colourful! Sheet D has five colours displaying some really bright and intricate designs for more specific situations.

To go along with the unit bumper codes on sheet C, we have bridge weights. There are also tank destroyer 'Hellcats', armored division symbols, and some personalised markings specific to individual tanks.





Bridge weights and unit bumper codes

Vehicles were often marked with thier weight in tons on the front of the vehicle. This was shown in black numbers on a yellow circle. The purpose was to easily know the weight of a vehicle for crossing bridges. We've provided a range of numbers to cover most vehicles in your force. A little research well help you find the appropriate weight for each type of vehicle.

Also on the front of the vehicles were markings that detailed its number in the company, and what division and battalion it comes from. On this sheet we've used 4th Armored Division, 37th Tank Battlion, and C Company vehicles numbered 10 to 29.



M4A3 (76mm) Sherman



M18 Hellcat GMC



M20 utility car

Vehicle Specs

Often vehicles had a small list of technical information near the back of the hull. This would have listed the weight and dimensions of the vehicle, ground clearance, etc.



M4A1 (76mm) Sherman

US Flags

When the Allies landed in North Africa during Operation Torch in 1942, American crews displayed large US flags on the front and sides of their vehicles. The hope was that the French defenders (thought to be pro-American) would spot the flags and decide not to resist the landings. This proved to be wishful thinking as the French did resist most landings. Still, adding the flags to your vehicles is a way to add some colour and patriotism to your force!



M3 half-track







M4A3E2 Jumbo 'COBRA KING'



M4 Sherman 'CHANNEL BLUES'



M4A3E8 Easy Eight 'FLATFOOT FLOOGIE'



M4A3E8 Easy Eight 'ALLEY OOP II'



M4A3 (76mm) Sherman 'COOL STUDS INC. #4'



M4A3 (76mm) Sherman 'PURPLE HEART KIDS'



M18 Hellcat GMC



M36 90mm GMC 'PORK CHOP'



M12 155mm GMC 'ADOLPH'S ASSASSIN'

Armoured Division symbols

Some tankers proudly displayed the red, yellow, and blue triangle symbol of the US armoured divisions on the sides of their vehicle.



The borney of

M12 155mm GMC 'CORREGIDOR'

Lt. Gen George S Patton Jr.

In *Blood*, *Guts*, & *Glory*, a player can field Patton as a warrior in his M20 command car. Included with his blister (blister code US885) is an adhesive sheet, which has two flags and two rank plate stickers.

For those who prefer decals, our colour decal sheet also has those same rank plates, aswell as his M20's serial numbers.

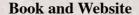


OTHER HELPFUL RESOURCES

Videos

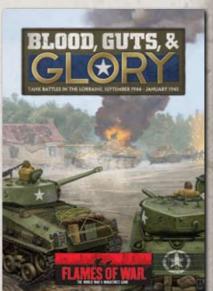
For a beginners guide on how to apply decals, check out Blake's video called 'Flames of War Decal Basics' on our *Flames Of War* YouTube channel along with other great videos:

www.youtube.com/flamesofwar



Blood, Guts, & Glory has a handy painting guide for getting your US tanks looking right, and make sure to check out our website over the coming month for all the great new US releases:





www.FlamesOfWar.com

