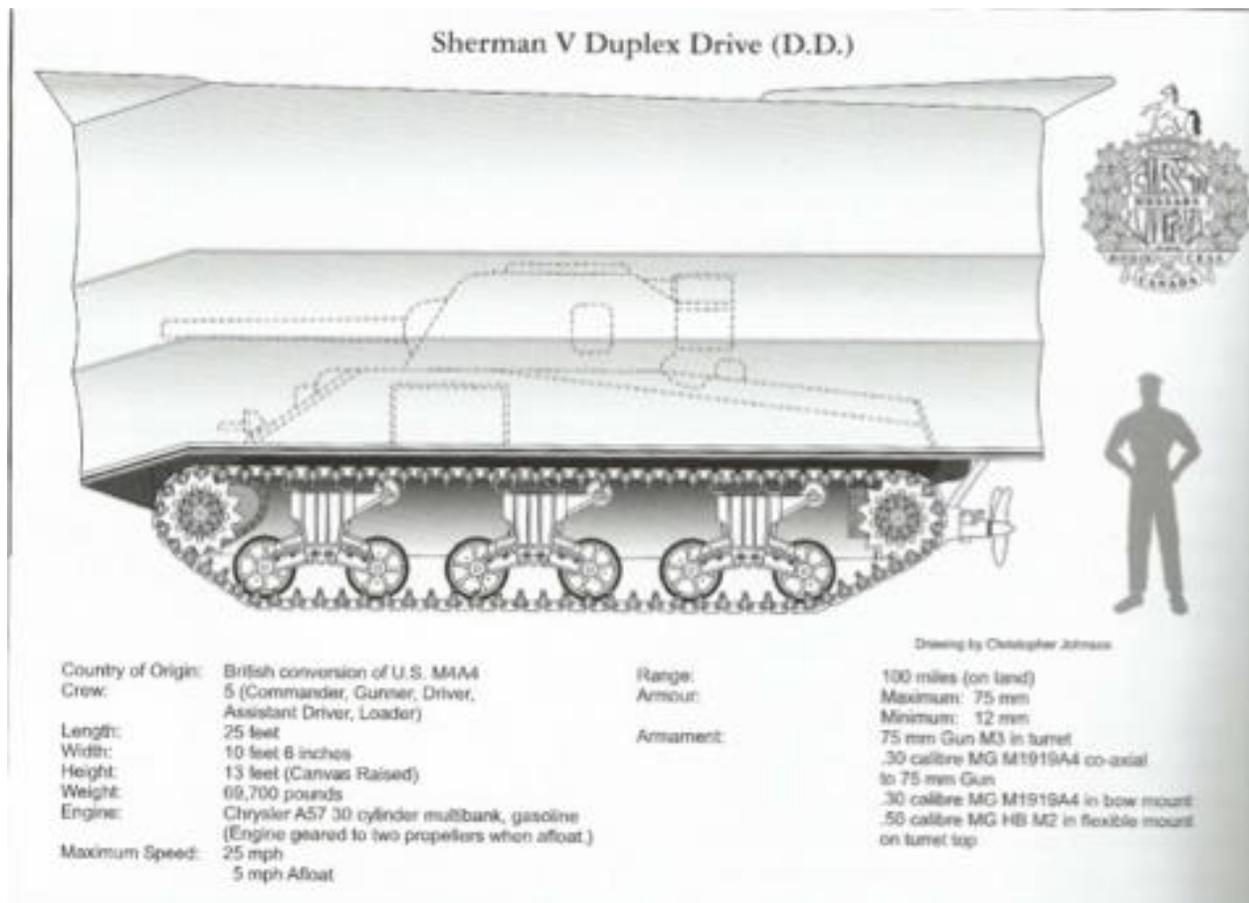


THE STORY OF BOLD, THE MEMORIAL TANK ON JUNO BEACH

The Official Story



One of the many closely guarded military secrets - the amphibious tank - was given to two squadrons of the 1st Hussars in April of 1944, just prior to the D Day landings. The idea of the Duplex Drive (DD) tank was simplicity in itself - a canvas screen erected by means of compressed air around the hull of the tank, its volume displacing the volume of the tank thus allowing it to float. The screen was kept in place by metal struts while propulsion was provided by propellers driven by the main engine. All the training was completed on in-land lakes in England for secrecy and as a result, they were never tested in heavy seas.

On D Day, the tanks of the 1st Hussars were to arrive prior to the infantry they were assigned to support but the rough seas not only delayed their landing, it claimed many of the tanks as they were swamped by the waves. One of these tanks was the one now on Juno Beach, serving as a Memorial. One of the regiment's Sergeants who landed on D Day, Leo Gariepy, came back to France to retire in 1967 but was given a job as town engineer at Courseulles sur Mer. The local fisherman complained to Leo that a sunken Sherman tank was snagging their nets at low tide. Leo believed this to be one of "B" Squadrons vehicles lost on D Day so he conceived a plan to bring it to the surface, clean it up and set it on the beach as a Hussar memorial. The Royal Canadian Dragoons were offered to effect the recovery and the town made preparations for a suitable display site. On 16 December, 1970, at 0430 hours, 20 Dragoons began to pull the tank ashore. To everyone's surprise, and delight, the tank's tracks rolled

easily despite their long immersion in the sea. As a veteran of D Day commented, "It was 26 years, 6 months, 10 days and 3 hours late."

No human remains were found inside the tank but all of the crew's equipment was found in place, shaving kit, soap, first aid kit and so on. The 50 calibre and 30 calibre machine guns were cleaned and were fired on the range. Based on the available evidence, Leo concluded that the vehicle was that of Major Stuart Duncan, known as BOLD. On June 6th, 1971, 85 1st Hussars paraded to the tank and Bold was dedicated to the memory of all who had landed in 1944.

The Rest of the Story

A family dispute arose over whose tank it really was. A claim being laid by Jim Paisley that it was indeed his tank, Audacieux that was pulled from the sea. Jim stated that in the high seas that morning in 1944, he and his tank were pushed into 'B' Squadrons landing zone and that they took enemy fire which killed one of his crew and caused the canvas to leak. The tank was taking on water and sinking as a small British cutter came alongside to rescue them. The sailor asked, "How many alive?" and Jim answered "Four". **The cutter pulled away as they had orders to only pick up full crews.** A few minutes later, another cutter came by and asked the same question. Jim pulled his sidearm and pointed it at the British sailor; - **"Only four and if you pull away, you're a dead man"**. Jim lived to fight the through the entire European campaign and both his son and his daughter were later members of the 1st Hussars. If you noticed on the tank, there is the name BOLD and underneath that name, in brackets, is the name Audacieux. And now you know the rest of the story.