

CLEARING UP MISCONCEPTION

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A widespread misconception as a result of the movie "To Hell and Back," is that Audie Murphy earned his Medal of Honor in 1945 on the turret of an M-4 Sherman Tank.

The fact is that Audie Murphy fought off the Germans from an M-10 tank destroyer. When the movie was made in 1955, an M-10 could not be found and to the dismay of Murphy (the movie was based on his book by the same name) a Sherman tank was used.

The M-10 was the first of the class of American tank destroyers to be based on a full-tracked chassis. Development and design began in early 1942, known as the T-35E1. It was based on the diesel-powered M-4A2, with a five-man crew, but the bow gun was left off; an open-top turret with a 3-inch gun; and a .50 caliber machine gun mounted at the rear of the turret (it was this gun that Murphy used against the German attack).

The Fisher Tank Division of General Motors, who were committed to building the M-4, rolled the first M-10 off the production line in September 1942. By the end of production in December 1943, some 4,993 M-10s were in the Tank Destroyer Forces inventory.

Four years after Murphy's one-man-stand atop the M-10 tank destroyer, he revisited the site to find the same burned out hulk right where he left it. It was then that he discovered that the vehicle had been hit three times by 88mm shells from the German Tiger tanks.

An original M-10 tank destroyer is on display at the 4th Infantry Division museum in its outdoor exhibit area.