



# The Rockenbach Report: Operations of the Tank Corps A.E.F.

*Samuel D. Rockenbach*

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“The Rockenbach Report: Operations of the Tank Corps A.E.F.” is widely cited and quoted by historians but only a few typed copies are known to exist. It has never been published—until now. Here is the verbatim transcript of that famous document, written by the Father of the American Tank Corps, Samuel D. Rockenbach. In it he details how he designed, organized, manned, trained and finally deployed American Tank forces into the Western Front of 1918 Europe. Appended to the original Rockenbach Report—and reprinted here—are supporting documents with even more information on those early Tank Corps days. These include after-action reports on the St. Mihiel, Meuse-Argonne and Le Catelet-Bony offensives by: Lieutenant Colonel George S. Patton, Jr., Commander of 304th Tank Brigade; Colonel Wahl, Commander of French Tanks assigned to American forces; Major Sereno E. Brett (who assumed command of the 304th after Patton was wounded at St. Mihiel); and Major R. I. Sasse, Commander of the 301st Battalion fighting with the British E.F. Also included is an organization chart of 1st Army Tank Corps as of September 10, 1918 listing its units and names of officers assigned. This report may be 100 years old, but it is still relevant today. The lessons learned then—how to wage a war, even while fundamentally changing the way that war is fought—are even more valuable in today’s constantly changing and ever more dangerous world. For too long the Rockenbach Report has been available to only the lucky few able to travel to one of the rare sites where it is stored. With this reprint, Rockenbach’s exhaustive treatise on the development of early tank warfare is available to the larger public. So save yourself the trip. Here is the Rockenbach Report.

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