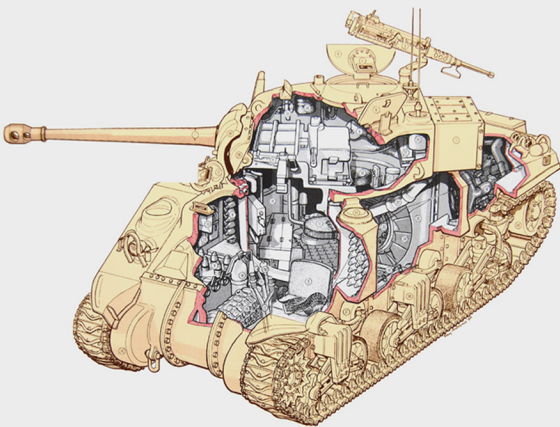


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Answers to Prayer



"We're so far ahead of that Heinie in tank design and production that he's never going to catch us"—that was the opinion expressed by Maj. Gen. Levin H. Campbell Jr., the War Department's Ordnance Chief, in an interview in New York last week. He quoted a British officer as saying that the American M-4 General Sherman tank is the "answer to a tankman's prayer."

Crediting the M-4 with being the deciding factor in driving the Germans from Egypt, Campbell said this tank's high-velocity 75-millimeter gun had had a devastating effect on the enemy at 2,000 yards, or 700 yards beyond the range of the best German tank gun. Furthermore, he promised that if the Germans put a gun in their tanks comparable to the American 75, then the United States would install a still better gun, for example, a 90-millimeter (some reporters erroneously quoted Campbell as saying the M-4 was already armed with a 90-millimeter gun).

Campbell also asserted that the excellence of American ordnance had been a strong factor in defeating Japanese Zero fighters in the Pacific war. For instance, he said the American 90-millimeter anti-aircraft gun, a new weapon, compared more than favorably with the German 88-millimeter, which was designed ten years ago. And Campbell's statements were only the latest chapter in the story of how good American equipment has proved.