

# DESIGN A FUNNY TANK

## Why did we need these weird types of fighting machines which became collectively known as 'Hobart's Funnies?'

In 1942 over 6,000 men raided the French port of Dieppe in Northern France. Of those 6,000 men, 3,600 of them died, were wounded or taken prisoner. This was because they struggled to get off of the beach and on to the main land.

In 1943, Major General Sir Percy Hobart and the 79<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division were chosen to begin the task of seeking out and designing tanks and vehicles that could get across beaches and the obstacles involved.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> June 1944 (D-Day) The 79<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division and 'Hobart's Funnies' were one of the first to land on the Normandy beaches. With a huge force of over 150,000 soldiers, the Allies attacked and gained a victory that became the turning point for World War II in Europe.

## Hobart's Funnies at The Tank Museum



### Sherman DD (Duplex Drive)

Called the Duplex Drive because it could drive on water and drive on the land. This tank has a screen that would help it float and it would use its propellers to 'swim' on to the beach.



### Churchill Crocodile

This tank could fire flames using fuel from the trailer that it would pull behind it. These flames meant the British and allies could destroy enemy shelters and bunkers without having to rely on using valuable ammunition.



### The Sherman Crab (Flail)

The big drum at the front of the tank would rotate two times a second! The attached chains would explode any mines hidden beneath the ground before the tank drove over them.



# CAN YOU DESIGN YOUR OWN FUNNY TANK?

Name of tank \_\_\_\_\_

When would it be used \_\_\_\_\_

Special features \_\_\_\_\_

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