

Shucks, You're Stuck!

Cold weather and mud at the worksite can fool you.

Mud is soft and wet during the day, but it can freeze as hard as concrete at night. A vehicle left sitting in mud at the end of the day will be frozen in its tracks the next morning.

And, it doesn't matter if you're in the DEUCE, D5B or D7G tractors, or the M9 ACE...you can't rock the vehicle loose. You'll end up with broken track, snapped drive sprocket teeth and a vehicle that's still stuck.

Here's how to prevent that problem. Before the sun goes down:

- * Park your vehicle on high ground if possible. Water drains downhill, so the mud won't be quite as deep.
- * Avoid parking in deep ruts worn by other vehicles. Some are deep enough to bottom out your vehicle's hull. Leave it there and you won't be moving until spring.
- * Use a shovel to scoop out mud that has collected on and between roadwheels and drive sprockets. If there's no mud, it can't freeze.

