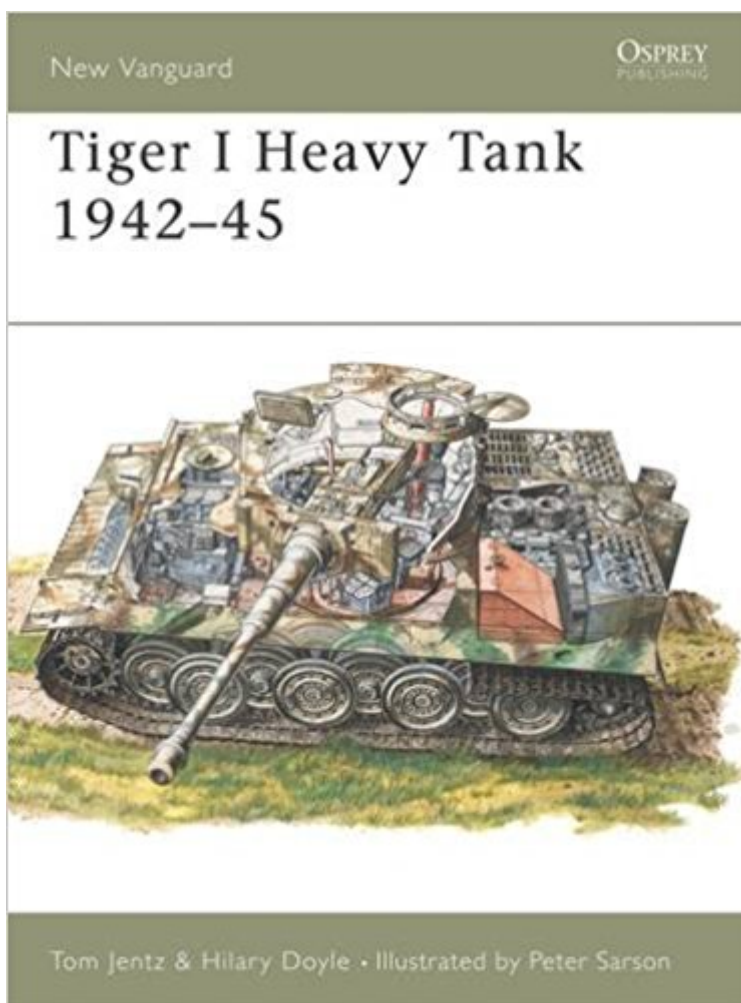


The book was found

Tiger 1 Heavy Tank 1942–45 (New Vanguard)



Synopsis

Probably the most famous tank of the World War II, the Tiger I was originally conceived in 1941 in response to the German Army's experience in fighting British tanks and anti-tank guns in Western Europe and the North African desert. Following the invasion of Russia, the appearance of the Soviet T-34 and KW tanks lent a further impetus to the programme. The Tiger's power and performance on the battlefield is emphasised by tables of relevant performance throughout the book, which clearly show the battlefield survivability of the Tiger and its superiority to many allied tank designs. This comprehensive and extremely detailed text is accompanied by a fine selection of black and white photographs showing the tank in use.

Book Information

Series: New Vanguard (Book 5)

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Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 10 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

“This book is a must have for all avid modellers of the Tiger tank regardless of the scale. It provides a 'one stop shop' resource for anyone wanting to find out the details of the Tiger Heavy tank and the differences between the variations throughout the Second World War.”

— Jeremy Wee, Armorama (October 2006)

The unrivalled illustrated reference on fighting vehicles, transport and artillery through the ages. Each volume is illustrated throughout, making these books uniquely accessible to history enthusiasts of all ages.

I love the factual and historical books that are printed and distributed by Osprey Publishing. That being said, I do not like the change in their binding process. I have many older publications by Osprey Publishing. They have the pages folded and sewn to provide book quality binding. Unfortunately, things have changed. They now cut the pages and hold them together with glue. After a few readings the pages start falling out. I am very disappointed. I will no longer order Osprey Publishing books sight unseen. I need to inspect them to see if they have the newer binding and, if they do, I will NOT buy their book.

fantastic detail, utterly absorbing. everything you wanted to know about the Tiger tank

Good book

The authors do a good job of introducing the Tiger I and provide some hard to find technical details about the tank and the units that used it. Readers of Osprey books are usually familiar with the New Vanguard series. All of the books are 48 pages long and provide succinct summaries of a given weapon or vehicle class. The quality the series is very uneven. Some books are excellent, others rather poor. This one ranks among the higher quality titles. The book is more or less divided into 4 sections: Design and production of the Tiger, service modifications, tactical assessment, and operational history. Each section is very well done. In particular, in the service modifications, the authors chronologically list most of the major cosmetic and structural changes to the Tiger; this information will be invaluable to modelers, or to readers who really like to study Tiger photos. Under the operational history, each unit that used the Tiger is listed, along with a great deal of information about which Tigers were used and when (e.g., in some case the range of serial numbers used by a unit are listed). These histories are useful, but of necessity short. Obviously in 48 pages you can't cover everything. In this case, the authors have omitted eyewitness accounts, after action reports, and first person experiences with the Tiger. Many will find this a significant omission. However, if you accept it for what it is, the book will still be of great use to WW2 or armor enthusiasts. Readers wanting more personal information about the Tiger will have to look elsewhere, perhaps Egon Klein's book. Another minor issue with the book is that the authors can be rather technical. The text is filled with terms like Prismen-spiegelkuppel and Nahverteidigungswaffe. However, the meaning of most (but not all) of these terms is explained. Overall, I can strongly recommend this book to readers wanting to learn some basics

about the Tiger, modelers, and people looking for a handy go-to Tiger reference. For its size, it is a very useful book. As a side note, other reviewers commented on finding numerous typos and grammatical errors in the book. I did not notice this. The book was initially published in 1993, and my version was the 2000 Military Bookclub Edition. Perhaps they corrected these problems between editions.

This book is quite short at 48 pages almost half of which consist of tables, photographs or other illustrations. The book itself consists of three sections. The first describes the actual physical characteristics and development of the vehicle from the pre-prototype and prototype stages through its variants through the end of the war. The second part consists of very brief histories, of about a paragraph on the average, of the units equipped with this vehicle and the third consists of a series of color plates showing a number of the vehicles in profile (i.e., front, sides, top) along with a brief description of a few paragraphs on each vehicle in each plate. The description of the vehicle's physical characteristics and developmental history is about half the book's length. It is very technical and, as a result, would probably be of interest only to the specialist. For this audience it would be of considerable interest, however. There is a discussion as to the vehicle, unlike the Panther, was not developed as a response to Soviet armor encountered after the invasion of the Soviet Union, for example. It was started in the month before Barbarossa started. Another interesting fact is that it was not designed from scratch but was more the amalgamation of numerous components in development (at the time) for other vehicles or components already in service. For example the 88mm gun was already in service, the chassis and body were in development for another project and the turret came from yet a third development project. In addition, various technical tables and discussions are included on armor, mobility and firepower (i.e., gun penetration charts of various enemy armor at different ranges, accuracy, etc.). This discussion would, again, prove quite interesting to the specialist but not the general reader. There is also a discussion on the units equipped with this vehicle consisting of about a paragraph. The narratives generally discuss when it was formed, where, and a very brief history. Tables showing detailed statistics such as monthly production plans, actual production levels, numbers in service, etc. are included. This table makes clear the very small numbers of this vehicle produced (even at peak periods production was only about 100 a month). Again, for the specialist wonderful but probably not of much interest to the general reader. Lastly, there are color plates that cover about 5 vehicles that actually existed along with a two page cut away spread showing the innards of the vehicle. The vehicles are from a variety of units serving in different geographic fronts (i.e., Tunisia, Eastern Front, Italy, Western Front) and are

all in profile from a variety of angles (i.e., left and right, upper, front, back). These can be quite useful for a modeler to base his model on. In addition, there is a brief discussion of each tank illustrated with information that may seem rather mundane but can be quite useful for the modeler (i.e., color of primer of tank, etc.). What the book lacks is discussion of the vehicle's strengths and weaknesses, in particular in comparison to enemy vehicles it had to face. There is also no discussion of note on combat performance or details relating to crew (training, were they elite?, etc.). All and all a very good book for the specialist interested in learning more about this vehicle but not very useful for the general reader.

Jentz is one of the finest armor scholars around and the New Vanguard series is a budget edition for building a modeling reference library BUT the atrocious spelling, grammar, page/text layout & formatting sprinkled throughout the text seriously detracts from the value & enjoyment derived from perusing a well done reference publication. The editing is really inexcusable. Much information regarding production details could also have been presented more effectively in tabular form. The publisher did such a bad job on proofreading that only if you have a very high tolerance for the flaws and also believe that there are no errors in the factual content will it enable you to confidently accept the contents.

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