

Heavy Tank

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World War 2 In Review No. 32: Soviet Fighting Vehicles

Merriam Press 2018-01-08 Merriam Press World War 2 In Review Series. The following articles are in this issue: (1) Kliment Voroshilov KV-1, KV-2 and KV-85 Heavy Tanks, flamethrower tanks and experimental models (2) T-35 Heavy Tank (3) T-100 Heavy Tank (4) SMK Heavy Tank (5) IS-1, IS-2 and IS-3 Heavy Tanks (6) T-42 Super-Heavy Tank. 349 B&W/color photos/illustrations.

TM 9-735 Pershing Heavy Tank T26e3 Technical Manual War Department 2013-05-01 The Pershing was the first operational heavy tank of the US Army; originally the T26, the tank was eventually redesignated the M26 Pershing medium tank. Named after General John J. Pershing who led the American Expeditionary Force in Europe in World War I, it was briefly used both in World War II and in the Korean War. Intended as an improvement of the M4 Sherman, the prolonged time of development meant only a small number saw combat in the European theater, most notably the 9th Armored Division's dramatic dash to take the Bridge at Remagen. On December 22nd, 1944, while the battle still raged, the brand new T26E3 tanks were ordered to be deployed to Europe. Twenty were sent in the first shipment, arriving at the port of Antwerp in January of 1945. They were given to the 1st Army, split between the 3rd and 9th Armored Divisions. A total of 310 T26E3 tanks would be sent to Europe before VE Day, but only the first twenty would see any combat action. Created in 1945, this technical manual reveals a great deal about the T26E3's design and capabilities. Intended as a manual for those charged with operation and maintenance, it details many aspects of its engine, cooling, power and other systems. Originally labeled restricted, this manual was declassified long ago and is here reprinted in book form. Care has been taken to preserve the integrity of the text.

Tiger 1 Hilary Louis Doyle 1997

Swinging the Sledgehammer U.S. Army Command and General Staff College 2014-07-01 This thesis is a historical analysis of the combat effectiveness of the German schwere Panzer-Abteilung or Heavy Tank Battalions during World War II. During the course of World War II, the German Army developed heavy tank battalions to fulfill the concept of breaking through enemy defenses so faster, lighter mechanized forces could exploit the rupture. These heavy tank battalions had several different tables of organization, but were always centered around either the Tiger or the Tiger II tank. They fought in virtually every theater of Europe against every enemy of Germany. Ultimately, the German military created eleven Army and three Waffen-SS heavy tank battalions. Of the Army battalions, the German command fielded ten as independent battalions, which were allocated to Army Groups as needed. The German Army assigned the last heavy tank battalion as an organic unit of the elite Panzer Grenadier Division Grossdeutschland. The Waffen-SS allocated all of their battalions to a different Waffen-SS Corps. Because these units were not fielded until late in 1942, they did not participate in Germany's major offensive operations that

dominated the early part of World War II. Germany's strategic situation after mid-1943 forced their military onto the defensive. Consequently, there are very few instances when heavy tank battalions attacked as a breakthrough force. During the latter part of the war, they were used in many different ways to provide defensive assistance along very wide frontages. This study assesses the German heavy tank battalions as generally effective, primarily because of the high kill ratio they achieved. However, based upon observations from a wide variety of examples, this study also outlines several areas where changes may have increased their effectiveness.

The Combat History of German Heavy Anti-Tank Unit 653 in World War II Karlheinz Münch 2005-11-18 Hundreds of photos, many never published before, of Germany's rarely seen tank destroyers, including the Ferdinand, Elephant, and Jagdtiger. Color illustrations focus on unit markings, numbering, and camouflage. Accompanying text chronicles the unit's combat operations plus there are personal accounts from the men who rode in these mechanical monsters.

Tiger I Dennis Oliver 2018-04-30 When at Hitler's insistence the first Tiger I tanks went into action in Tunisia in December 1942 they rapidly gained a formidable fighting reputation despite their lack of reliability and the small number deployed. With its heavy armour and 88mm gun, it outclassed all the Allied tanks then in service and forced the Allies to accelerate the introduction of improved anti-tank guns and tanks that could match the Tiger in terms of firepower and protection. In this, his second volume in the TankCraft series on the Tiger, Dennis Oliver uses archive photos and extensively researched color illustrations to examine the Tiger tanks and German army units that first took them into combat in North Africa and then operated them as they fell back through Sicily and Italy between 1943 and 1945. A large part of the book showcases available model kits and aftermarket products, complemented by a gallery of beautifully constructed and painted models in various scales. Technical details as well as modifications introduced during production and in the field are also examined providing everything the modeller needs to recreate an accurate representation of the tanks that made such an immediate impact on the southern front during the Second World War.

KV-1 & 2 Heavy Tanks 1939-45 Steven J. Zaloga 2013-03-20 Named after Klimenti Voroshilov, the People's Commissar for Defence, the KVs proved a nasty surprise for German tank crews during the early days of Operation Barbarossa. Although slow, they were extremely heavily armoured. This volume examines the transition from multi-turreted tanks to heavy single-turret vehicles, consisting of the KV-1 and 2, and the increased favour given to the heavy single-turret after the Germans began to develop ammunition capable of penetrating even the thickest armour, whilst detailing the design, development and operational history of the Soviet Union's monstrous KV series of tanks.

Future Utility of the Heavy Tank on the Twenty First

Century Battlefield in Mid-to-High Intensity Conflict

1996 Evolving anti-tank technologies seen by many military experts as making armor obsolete in future wars-will not displace tanks from the battlefield. The main battle tank will remain a crucial component of the ground force mix in foreseeable future conflicts. Some critics predict that such advancements in new technologies as precision-guided munitions, smart munitions, and other sophisticated weapon systems will indeed prove decisive on the next battlefield. However, experts in the armor community are convinced that the tank will again be the pivotal land weapon of choice in the years ahead. This essay explores the advancements in technology and the utility of heavy tanks as a decisive combat element in maneuver warfare in the year 2000 to 2010. It will specifically focus on the need to maintain the heavy main battle tank as part of the Army of the Twenty first Century for mid-to- high intensity conflict. This analysis is based on current material and my own speculations to draw conclusions about the future utility of the heavy tank.

Fast Tanks and Heavy Bombers David E. Johnson 2003-03-28 Johnson examines the U.S. Army's innovations for both armor and aviation between the world wars, offering valuable insights for future military innovation.

Tog-2 Heavy Tank Service Manual Andrew Hills 2018-09-06 Service Manual for the British Super-Heavy tank TOG-2*. Pieced together from surviving records this manual was written in sections during the long development of the tank and was stopped when the project was terminated. As such the manual is incomplete but has been recreated as close as possible to what the original manual would have looked like had the tank entered production. Terminated at a time when the manual was transitioning from TOG-2R to TOG-2* this manual provides an intriguing insight into the development process for a service manual for a tank and to the vehicle itself. Intended as a supplement to 'The Tanks of TOG' by Andrew Hills this manual shows how far the project had progressed and the amount of work which had gone into the design.

Firepower Geoffrey R. P. Hunnicutt 2020-08-18 Featuring hundreds of photos from the national archives, diagrams, and detailed specifications, Hunnicutt's Firepower remains the definitive developmental history of the heavy tank for the military historian, professional soldier, and tank restorer.

Tiger I, German Army Heavy Tank Dennis Oliver 2021-12-30 The Tiger I and Tiger II tanks are probably the most famous German armoured fighting vehicles of the Second World War and despite the relatively small numbers produced, the heavy Panzer units of the German Army played a key role in the battles fought in North Africa, Italy, the Western Front and particularly in the East. In the seventh and final book on the Tiger in this series Dennis Oliver examines the first tanks that left the production line to go into service on the Eastern Front in an effort to break the Russian defences around Leningrad. As reinforcements steadily arrived, the same units played an important part in the blunting of the Soviet offensive efforts and in the retaking of Kharkov in eastern Ukraine in early 1943, a tactical achievement that is studied in military academies around the world today. In addition to archive photographs and painstakingly researched, exquisitely presented color illustrations, a large part of this book showcases available model kits and aftermarket products, complemented by a gallery of beautifully constructed and painted models in various scales. Technical details as well as modifications introduced during production and in the field are also examined providing everything the modeller needs to recreate an accurate representation of the Tigers of 1942 and early 1943.

Swinging The Sledgehammer: The Combat Effectiveness Of German Heavy Tank Battalions In World War II Major Christopher W. Wilbeck 2014-08-15 This thesis is a

historical analysis of the combat effectiveness of the German schwere Panzer-Abteilung or Heavy Tank Battalions during World War II. During the course of World War II, the German Army developed heavy tank battalions to fulfill the concept of breaking through enemy defenses so faster, lighter mechanized forces could exploit the rupture. These heavy tank battalions had several different tables of organization, but were always centered around either the Tiger or the Tiger II tank. They fought in virtually every theater of Europe against every enemy of Germany. Ultimately, the German military created eleven Army and three Waffen-SS heavy tank battalions. Of the Army battalions, the German command fielded ten as independent battalions, which were allocated to Army Groups as needed. The German Army assigned the last heavy tank battalion as an organic unit of the elite Panzer Grenadier Division Grossdeutschland. The Waffen-SS allocated all of their battalions to a different Waffen-SS Corps. Because these units were not fielded until late in 1942, they did not participate in Germany's major offensive operations that dominated the early part of World War II. Germany's strategic situation after mid-1943 forced their military onto the defensive. Consequently, there are very few instances when heavy tank battalions attacked as a breakthrough force. During the latter part of the war, they were used in many different ways to provide defensive assistance along very wide frontages. This study assesses the German heavy tank battalions as generally effective, primarily because of the high kill ratio they achieved. However, based upon observations from a wide variety of examples, this study also outlines several areas where changes may have increased their effectiveness.

IS-2 Heavy Tank 1944-73 Steven J. Zaloga 2011-10-20 The Iosef Stalin tanks were the ultimate heavy tanks developed by the Soviet Union and were popularly called 'Victory tanks' due to their close association with the defeat of Germany in 1945. Yet in spite of their reputation, the Stalin tanks emerged from a troubled design, had a brief moment of glory in 1944 and 1945, and disappeared in ignominy after 1960. This title covers the events contributing to the Soviet Union's need to design the new series, with particular reference to the unsuccessful KV series and the advent of a new generation of heavy German tanks including the Tiger. It also covers their development, operational history and myriad variants.

Firepower R. P. Hunnicutt 1988 Traces the development of the tank, looks at U.S. tanks used in W.W. II, and discusses the strategy behind the use of heavy tanks

Super-heavy Tanks of World War II Kenneth W Estes 2014-11-20 The super-heavy tanks of World War II are heirs to the siege machine tradition – a means of breaking the deadlock of ground combat. As a class of fighting vehicle, they began with the World War I concept of the search for a 'breakthrough' tank, designed to cross enemy lines. It is not surprising that the breakthrough tank projects of the period prior to World War II took place in the armies that suffered the most casualties of the Great War (Russia, France, Germany). All of the principal Axis and Allied nations eventually initiated super-heavy development projects, with increasingly heavy armor and armament. Much as the casualties of World War I prompted the original breakthrough tank developments, as Germany found itself on the defensive, with diminishing operational prospects and an increasingly desperate leadership, so too did its focus turn to the super-heavy tanks that could turn the tide back in their favor.

Tiger I Dennis Oliver 2018-04-30 A fully illustrated guide to the German Tiger I tank and its operations in the field by the renowned expert on WWII armored vehicles. At Hitler's insistence, the first Tiger I tanks drove into action in Tunisia in December 1942.

Despite their lack of reliability and the small number deployed, they quickly gained a fierce reputation. With its heavy armor and 88mm gun, the Tiger I outclassed all the Allied tanks then in service. Beyond their deployment in North Africa, they also operated in Sicily and Italy between 1943 and 1945. In his second volume in the TankCraft series on the Tiger, Dennis Oliver uses archive photos and extensively researched color illustrations to examine the Tiger tank and the German army units that first took them into combat. Perfect for model enthusiasts, Tiger I showcases available model kits and aftermarket products. It also includes a gallery of beautifully constructed and painted models in various scales. Technical details, as well as modifications introduced during production and in the field, are also examined providing everything the modeler needs to recreate an accurate representation of the tanks.

Kampfpanzer Maus Michael öhlich 2017-01-28 In 1944 the Maus giant battle tank, weighing almost 190 tons, was supposed to help turn the Wehrmacht's fortunes of war on the Eastern Front. Just two prototypes of this monster were delivered, for its undeniable advantages-- tremendous firepower and virtually impenetrable armor-- were outweighed by the disadvantages of its slowness, excessive use of materials in construction, and fuel consumption so high that it was, by that time, far beyond the Germans' ability to supply. With this volume, Michael Fröhlich continues the legendary Spielberger series and delves into one of the most curious military vehicles produced by Germany--the Maus super-heavy tank. For the first time, this book tells the complete story of this vehicle, including its inner workings, accompanied by many previously unpublished illustrations. But that is not all: the book includes another novelty, the complete operating instructions for the tank's crew!

Soviet T-10 Heavy Tank and Variants James Kinnear 2017-06-29 When it was introduced into service in 1953, the T-10 represented a return to the "classic" Soviet heavy tank. Although considered a major threat to NATO tank forces, it also represented the end of an era. All gun heavy tanks like the T-10 would eventually be made effectively redundant by later models like the T-62 which had powerful next generation armament and new ammunition types. The tank was gradually withdrawn from service in the 1970s, though the last tanks would only leave Russian service, by decree of the President of the Russian Federation, in 1997. As such the T-10 outlived the Soviet state that had created it. Never exported outside of the Soviet Union and rarely used in combat, the T-10 has remained a mysterious tank, with many of its variants unknown in the West until very recently. This study, written from original Russian and Ukrainian primary source documents that have only recently been made available, uncovers the history of this enigmatic tank using 130 stunning contemporary and modern photographs of the T-10 as well as full colour side-view artwork.

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Modelling the IS Heavy Tank Nicola Cortese 2012-02-20 The IS (Iosef Stalin) heavy tanks were some of the most widely used AFVs produced by the USSR. First entering combat in 1944, the IS-2 went head-to-head with German tanks such as the Panther, Tiger and King Tiger, and post war IS-2s and IS-3s were exported to China, Cuba and North Korea. This book is packed with easy to follow super-detailing and finishing instructions for building the IS-2, IS-3, and IS-3M variants, as well as for the prototype ISU-152, and features kits from manufacturers such as Dragon, Tamiya, and Fujimi. Advanced scratch-building techniques and working with photo-etched and other after-market accessories in 1/35 and 1/76 scales are covered, making this highly accessible book a welcome addition to any modeller's library.

Do We Need a Heavy Tank? James G. Camp 1964 Summary: The need for a heavy tank has been discussed many tiems since the first concept of Armor. It has had a variety of answers, because few people understand the role of the heavy tank and how that role may be accomplished. In this paper we will examine the heavy tank and its place in the Armored unit.

Firepower Richard Hunnicutt 2018-03-06 Featuring hundreds of photos from the national archives, diagrams, and detailed specifications, Hunnicutt's Firepower remains the definitive developmental history of the heavy tank for the military historian, professional soldier, and tank restorer. This ambitious entry in R.P. Hunnicutt's 10-volume compendium of American tank history details the development of the heavy tanks from its initial conception in World War I to its final development in the 1960s. First developed after WWI, various iterations of the heavy armored military vehicle have served as a crucial component of American military operations in all manner of engagements. Hunnicutt spares no detail as he examines the origins and deployment of the Mark VIII and T1 and M6 in the 1930s and 1940s. First conceived as a vehicle to be used for infantry support, by the end of WWI, the heavy tank had evolved into the modern concept with a powerful turret mounted antitank gun protected by heavy armor--a fighting machine in its own right. Hunnicutt provides detailed technical information about these vehicles and their role in the U.S. Army and Marines. The M103A product-improved descendant of the T43 tanks and its many variations is also treated with exacting detail by Hunnicutt, who takes us through the numerous and important variations on the heavy tank design. Spanning the history of America's most widely used main battle tank, Hunnicutt's Firepower is an absolute must-have for anyone interested in the history of the American military. Readers interested in related titles from R. P. Hunnicutt will also want to see: Abrams (ISBN: 9781626542556), Armored Car (ISBN: 9781626541559), Bradley (ISBN: 9781626542525), Half-Track (ISBN: 9781626541320), Patton (ISBN: 9781626548794), Pershing (ISBN: 9781626541672), Sheridan (ISBN: 9781626541542), Sherman (ISBN: 9781626548619), Stuart (History of the American Light Tank, Vol. 1) (ISBN: 9781626548626), Firepower (ISBN: 9781635615036), Firepower (ISBN: FIREPOWER_WOT), Firepower (ISBN: 9781635615036), Firepower (ISBN: FIREPOWER_WOT).

6th Armored Division, Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, 5th Heavy Tank Battalion, Company C. 1955

Tiger I, German Army Heavy Tank Dennis Oliver 2021-12-30 The Tiger I and Tiger II tanks are probably the most famous German armoured fighting vehicles of the Second World War and despite the relatively small numbers produced, the heavy Panzer units of the German Army

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Firepower R P Hunnicutt 2020-08-28 Featuring hundreds of photos from the national archives, diagrams, and detailed specifications, Hunnicutt's Firepower remains the definitive developmental history of the heavy tank for the military historian, professional soldier, and tank restorer.

The Combat History of German Heavy Anti-Tank Unit 653 in World War II Karlheinz Münch 2022-03-15 German Heavy Anti-Tank Unit 653 was equipped with the heaviest tank destroying vehicles of the German armed forces.

Initially activated as an assault gun battalion and redesignated in April 1943, the 653 received its first Ferdinand heavy tank destroyers (later modified and renamed Elephants) in May 1943 and went into action on the Eastern Front a month later. In 1944, the unit converted to the even more massive Jagdtiger. The seventy-five-ton, heavily armored Jagdtiger was the behemoth of the battlefield and boasted a 128mm gun-as opposed to the Ferdinand's 88-with a range of more than thirteen miles, making it deadly despite its limited mobility. Outfitted with these lethal giants, the 653 saw service in Russia, Italy, Austria, and Germany. The Combat History of German Heavy Anti-Tank Unit 653 in World War II includes hundreds of photos, many never published before, of Germany's rarely seen tank destroyers, including the Ferdinand, Elephant, and Jagdtiger. Color illustrations focus on unit markings, numbering, and camouflage, and the accompanying text chronicles the unit's combat operations as well as personal accounts from the men who rode in these mechanical monsters.

Soviet Heavy Tanks Ray Merriam 2016-12-26 Merriam Press World War 2 In Review Special Series. First Edition 2017. Ninth in the Special series of the World War 2 In Review journal. Pictorial overview with 349 photos, illustrations and drawings cover: (1) Kliment Voroshilov KV-1, KV-2 and KV-85 Heavy Tanks, flamethrower tanks and experimental models. (2) T-35 Heavy Tank. (3) T-100 Heavy Tank. (4) SMK Heavy Tank. (5) IS-1, IS-2 and IS-3 Heavy Tanks. (6) T-42 Super-Heavy Tank. Color printing on heavy coated stock.

World War II in Focus Volume 9 Ray Merriam 2014-05-10 Merriam Press World War II In Focus WF9 First Edition (2014) Pictorial history of Russian heavy tanks in World War II. Kliment Voroshilov Heavy Tanks (KV-1, KV-2, KV-85 series) T-35 Heavy Tank T-100 Heavy Tank SMK Heavy Tank IS Heavy Tanks 322 B&W photos 18 color photos 7 four view drawings 1 two-view drawing 1 side view drawing 1 illustration

M103 Heavy Tank 1950-74 Kenneth W Estes 2013-03-20 The T43 design represented the pinnacle of U.S. Army tank engineering of the late 1940s. The heavy tank proved fairly popular with its crews, who above all respected the powerful armament it carried. The outbreak of war in

Korea brought a rush order in December 1950 which led to a complete production run of 300 vehicles. After 1951, the Marine Corps alone retained confidence in the heavy tank program, investing its scarce funds in the improvements necessary to bring about its fielding after a hurried production run in midst of the 'tank crisis' of the year 1950-51. The eventual retirement of the M103 in 1972, over 20 years after manufacture and after 14 years of operational service, demonstrated the soundness of its engineering. It may have been the unwanted 'ugly duckling' of the Army, which refrained from naming the M103 alone of all its postwar tanks. For the Marine Corps, it served the purpose defined for it in 1949 until the automotive and weapons technology of the United States could produce viable alternatives.

German Heavy Fighting Vehicles of the Second World War Kenneth W. Estes 2018-04-17 The German army faced tanks of superior size, armor and firepower from the outset of World War II. Although their Panzerwaffen handled the Polish campaign, war with France meant confronting superior heavy and medium tanks like the Char B and Somua, with 47 mm high velocity cannon that penetrated German tank armor with ease. French infantry disposed of effective antitank weapons and a portion of their 75 mm field guns were detailed as antitank guns. Even greater challenges emerged with the Russo-German War, for the Germans had no initial answer to the KV-1 heavy tank and T-34 medium. The successive technical shocks of superior tanks introduced by each side produced a gun-armor race that continued in some manner even after the war's end. The Germans placed a premium on technological quality and superiority over mass production, for which their industry (and, arguably, their regime) remained rather unsuited. Not satisfied with the advantage they obtained with the Tiger and Panther series tanks, the army leadership and Adolf Hitler himself pushed for larger and more powerful tanks than had ever been built.

Strike Swiftly Korea 1950-1953 Turner Publishing 1988-06-15 An overview of the 70th from the Armored School at Fort Knox, Kentucky in July 1950, to when it was alerted and then sent to fight in the Korean War. Arriving in Korea in August, 1950, the 70th was attached to the 1st Cavalry Division and immediately sent into combat.

Organization of Heavy Tank Units Paul D. Quinn 1960 Introduction: In the pages to follow, the reader will be presented with a proposed organization for the existing heavy tank units in the United States Army. No attempt is made to propose further heavy tank development.

General Orders, 63rd Heavy Tank Battalion, 1949 United States Army. Heavy Tank Battalion, 63rd 1949

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M103 Heavy Tank 1950-74 Kenneth Estes 2013-03-19 The T43 design represented the pinnacle of U.S. Army tank engineering of the late 1940s, with its cast elliptical hull and turret, Continental AV-1790 engine, cross-drive

transmission, and torsion bar suspension. A range-finder and mechanical computer directed a powerful 120mm main gun in a novel electro-hydraulic turret, among other features. The heavy tank proved fairly popular with its crews, who above all respected the powerful armament it carried. Many challenges to the crewmen were taken on with a sense of pride. Typical was the job of the second loader to hand-ram both the projectile (positioned by the first loader at the breech) and the propellant cartridge into the chamber in a single movement, all within the confines of a narrow turret. The outbreak of war in Korea brought a rush order in December 1950 which led to a complete production run of 300 vehicles, considered sufficient for Army and Marine Corps requirements. As might have been expected from the rush to production, the T43E1 failed its initial trials at Ft. Knox, mostly for erratic gun controls and poor ballistic performance of the projectiles. A modification program (of over 100 discrepancies) resulted in the standardization of the T43E1 as the 120mm gun combat tank, M103 in 1956. After 1951, the Marine Corps alone retained confidence in the heavy tank program, investing its scarce funds in the improvements necessary to bring about its fielding after a hurried production run in midst of the 'tank crisis' of the year 1950-51. Without the Marine Corps' determination to bring the M103 to operational status, it seems clear that the 300 vehicles would have languished in storage before their eventual disposal. The correctness of the Marine Corps support of the M103 tank was in no small way acknowledged by the Army's borrowing of 72 M103A1 improved USMC tanks necessary for its single heavy tank battalion in Germany. No other weapon system, before the era of antitank missiles, could guarantee the destruction of the Russian heavies, which continued their service through the late 1960s. The eventual retirement of the M103 in 1972, over 20 years after manufacture and after 14 years of operational service, demonstrated the soundness of its engineering and fulfillment of its designed role. It may have been the unwanted 'ugly duckling' of the Army, which refrained from naming the M103 alone of all its postwar tanks. For the Marine Corps, it served the purpose defined for it in 1949 until the automotive and weapons technology of the United States could produce viable alternatives.

Kingtiger Heavy Tank 1942-45 Tom Jentz 1993-01-28 As

World War II entered its later stages and Germany was forced increasingly onto the defensive, the need for fast-moving mobile forces lessened and the Wehrmacht required better protected and more powerfully armed tanks. After debacles against the T-34, Hitler and the Panzerwaffe were determined not to be unprepared again. The result of this determination was the production of the heaviest and largest tank to see combat during World War II, the Tiger II or Königstiger (Kingtiger). This title examines this formidable weapon, covering the problems and controversies surrounding its design and production as well as a detailed listing of every unit that was equipped with the Tiger II.

TIGER I DENNIS. OLIVER 2019

IS-2 Heavy Tank 1944-73 Steven J. Zaloga 1994-02-24 The Josef Stalin tanks were the ultimate heavy tanks developed by the Soviet Union and were popularly called 'Victory tanks' due to their close association with the defeat of Germany in 1945. Yet in spite of their reputation, the Stalin tanks emerged from a troubled design, had a brief moment of glory in 1944 and 1945, and disappeared in ignominy after 1960. This title covers the events contributing to the Soviet Union's need to design the new series, with particular reference to the unsuccessful KV series and the advent of a new generation of heavy German tanks including the Tiger. It also covers their development, operational history and myriad variants.

Super-heavy Tanks of World War II Kenneth W Estes 2014-11-20 The super-heavy tanks of World War II are heirs to the siege machine tradition – a means of breaking the deadlock of ground combat. As a class of fighting vehicle, they began with the World War I concept of the search for a 'breakthrough' tank, designed to cross enemy lines. It is not surprising that the breakthrough tank projects of the period prior to World War II took place in the armies that suffered the most casualties of the Great War (Russia, France, Germany). All of the principal Axis and Allied nations eventually initiated super-heavy development projects, with increasingly heavy armor and armament. Much as the casualties of World War I prompted the original breakthrough tank developments, as Germany found itself on the defensive, with diminishing operational prospects and an increasingly desperate leadership, so too did its focus turn to the super-heavy tanks that could turn the tide back in their favor.