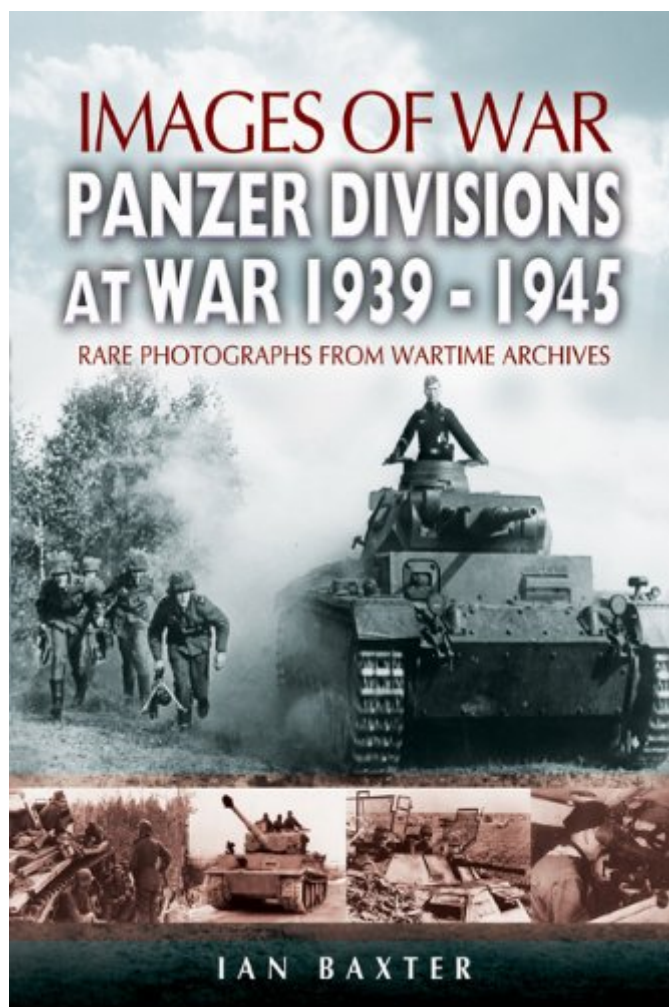


The book was found

Panzer-Divisions At War 1939-1945 (Images Of War)



Synopsis

"From the beginning in 1935 this attractive book describes the different elements that went into the Panzer-Divisions. It describes how the Germans carefully built up their assault forces utilizing all available reserves and resources into making an effective fighting machine. It depicts how these awesome formations grew to be used four years later in war, and provides much historical information and facts about the vehicles and its components that fought in all the campaigns of the war from the early victorious Blitzkrieg in Poland and France to the last ditch defense in Germany in 1945. Each chapter features unseen photographs of light tanks, main battle tanks, assault guns, anti-tank destroyers, artillery, reconnaissance units, support vehicles, pioneers with their bridge building platforms and the motorized infantry or Panzergrenadiers. This book is a visual treat for the military enthusiast and collector and a worthy addition to the Images of War series."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a book that has a lot of pictures in it that I haven't seen before, despite having a substantive German WW2 armour book collection. The pictures are from all the years of the war. That's where the problems arise. The author seems pretty good at describing later war vehicles, but he makes too

many mistakes when it comes to identifying earlier vehicles. For example, he repeatedly describes a turreted 8 wheeled SdKfz. 232 armoured car as a SdKfz. 263 command vehicle, which also has 8 wheels, but which has a fixed upper structure and no turret. Also, the author's description of many pictures makes little sense. A Hummel (Panzer IV undercarriage) self propelled gun that is hanging on its rear end against a tree at the bottom of a 60 degree slope is captioned as a "Wespe" (Panzer II undercarriage) moving in position during operation Zitadelle, despite the fact that a vehicle like that can't move in that position and despite the pile of rubble that is hanging out of the back and lying below the rear end of the vehicle. Another example is the picture of a 12 ton halftrack of which the rear is not visible in the picture. The author makes up a whole story about the famous 88mm FIAK gun, while it might as well be an artillery piece that is behind the halftrack! The really interesting details, such as the Panzer crews painting the inside of their white German crosses yellow, as can be seen in a few pictures, to make them less obvious aiming points for the Polish gunners, are simply forgotten. Instead he says something about the pictures being from the first days of the Polish campaign. Unfortunately for him that practice of painting the inside of the white crosses yellow was only happening later in the Polish campaign!

Panzer Divisions at War is a remarkable photographic history. The book contains over 250 never before published photos that encompass all stages of Germany's panzer divisions, from their inception in the 1930s to their virtual destruction in 1945. The photos appear to be taken primarily by amateur photographers and, with a few exceptions, do not appear to be staged for propaganda purposes. The photos were reproduced digitally, apparently because negatives in many instances were not available, but the author claims they were not enhanced in any way. Most of the photos are nonetheless crisp and clear. All are in black and white. (Panzer divisional insignia, drawn in black and white (or shades of gray), also provided in an appendix.) Included are chapters on the major campaigns: Poland, France, the Balkans, Barbarossa, Afrika, the Eastern Front, Normandy, and the fall of Berlin. Each chapter includes a 2-3 page well-written summary of the action in the campaign, emphasizing the role of the panzer divisions and the numbers and types of tanks and other vehicles involved from start to finish. Each summary is followed by 15-20 pages of photos, with a paragraph of explanatory text for each photo. The photos include rare snapshots of several late model German tanks, tank killers, and the like, e.g., the Panther, the Elefant, Hummel SPG, and the Nashorn tank destroyer. But the photos are not just of tanks, etc. Also included are photos of the many other types of vehicles and weapons used in support of the panzer divisions, such as half-tracks, motorcycles, and artillery, as well as of panzer troops themselves, but the book is not

all-inclusive either.

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