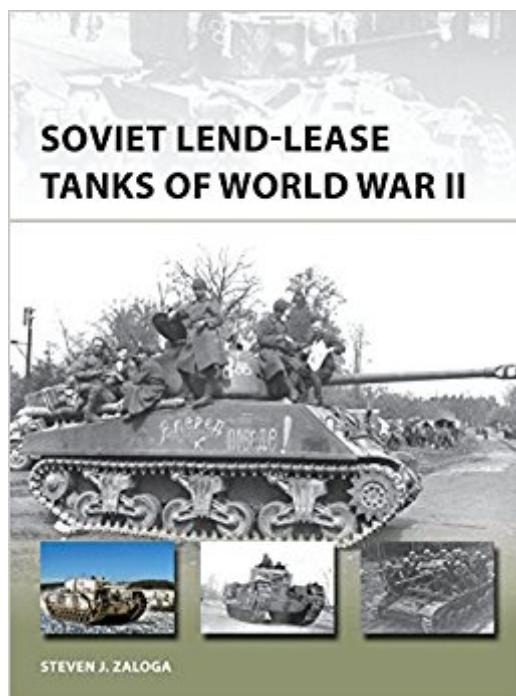


The book was found

Soviet Lend-Lease Tanks Of World War II (New Vanguard)



Synopsis

The Red Army suffered such catastrophic losses of armor in the summer of 1941 that they begged Britain and the United States to send tanks. The first batches arrived in late 1941, just in time to take part in the defense of Moscow. The supplies of British tanks encompassed a very wide range of types including the Matilda, Churchill, and Valentine and even a few Tetrarch airborne tanks. American tanks included the M3 (Stuart) light tank and M3 (Lee) medium tank and the M4 Sherman tank, which became so common in 1944-45 that entire Soviet tank corps were equipped with the type. With these Western tanks, the Soviets were finally able to beat back the German tide in the East. This study examines the different types of tanks shipped to the Soviet Union during the war, Soviet assessments of their merits and problems, and combat accounts of their use in Soviet service using full color artwork, contemporary photographs and detailed cut-away illustrations.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Steven J. Zaloga received his BA in History from Union College and his MA from Columbia University. He has worked as an analyst in the aerospace industry for over two decades, covering missile systems and the international arms trade, and has served with the Institute for Defense Analyses, a federal think tank. He is the author of numerous books on military technology and military history, with an accent on the US Army in World War II as well as Russia and the former Soviet Union.

Interesting. A subject to which the Soviets did not want to give much credit: Western Allied aid in their hour of greatest need.

Very nice, albeit a bit thin coverage of this subject. I recommend it for a good overview.

Zaloga again gives a fact-filled work in a few pages. Accurate and useful, up to its limitations, I recommend that readers also obtain Robert A. Forczyk's "Tank Warfare on the Eastern Front" (volumes 1 & 2) as this actually shows where British and Lead-Lease tanks were used by the Soviets and how critically they filled a gap in the 1941-1942 period when they were supplied at great cost to British and American naval and merchant marine sailors. Zaloga also briefly talks about how important the supply of trucks, half-tracks and White Scout cars were to the Soviet military operations. The Soviets had very little mobility during the flood times of Barbarossa but by late 1943 they had greater mobility than the Germans and the huge production of the T-34 (7.62 and 85mm) as well as the IS (Joe Stalin) tanks was only possible because the Lead-lease supply of their logistical train. Soviet post-war propaganda has tended to downplay the usefulness of the Lead-Lease tanks but even the M3 variants (Grant/Lee) were used right up to the final German surrender [even if in a secondary role] and may have been present during the steamrolling in Manchuria during August 1945.

The German invasion of the Soviet Union in June 1941 had at least two immediate effects. First, the Soviet Union became an ally of the moment for the United Kingdom and later the United States. Second, the massive Soviet tank losses from Operation Barbarossa needed to be made up quickly, from any available source...The British and the Americans had their own tank production challenges, but generously agreed to provide first hundreds, then thousands of armored vehicles to the Soviet Union. Of necessity, what was available was first to be shared. As author Steven Zaloga notes, not all British and American designs found favor, but the shipments of tanks were critical in replenishing Soviet forces in 1941 and 1942. This book is a short but interesting read, reflecting detailed research by the author. There is a nice selection of period photographs and modern illustrations. Of note, Soviet criticism of lend-lease tanks was all over the map, but actual usage reflected a clear preference for certain types, especially later in the war. Also of note, significant numbers of lend-lease vehicles never made to the Soviet Union, sunk in the Arctic Ocean as a result of German attacks on Allied convoys. Highly recommended to the student of the conflict as a concise but factual introduction to the topic.

While the Osprey New Vanguard treatment usually works best applied to limited subject, this book addresses a broad one, US, British and Canadian-built AFVs (not tanks, despite the title) supplied to the Soviet Union in the Second World War. Because these AFVs were involved in most of the Soviet Army's battles from 1942 on and carried out a wide range of missions, it has to cover a lot of operational ground, most of it of necessity summarized. It also has to cover the high-level relationship with Stalin's USSR, which the supply of these AFVs was the result and shaped. The author has used archival sources in the US, Britain and Canada for the western side of the story. While benefitting from the late/post Soviet willingness to acknowledge the western Allies in historical writing, this is not an area that has been extensively covered in the periodical and monographic literature that came out of the former Soviet Union and eastern Europe. This volume will be of interest for those looking at an overview of the vast and complex subject of how the Soviets armed, equipped and operated their land forces as well as to miniature wargamers looking to field Russian tank units with something else alongside their T-34s. If the source material permits, it would be interesting if the author can do a volume in the Osprey Duel series which would show how Soviet units equipped with western AFVs operated in combat.

Typical high caliber material from Steve Zaloga. Steve makes some lucid points as per his usual. We understand that Russia downplayed our contribution in tanks but he reminds us that in terms of money and importance the sheer tonnage of food and raw materials that Russia needed to stay afloat made up the bulk of America's contribution. Also, American trucks were indispensable to the march on Berlin once the Red Army turned to the offensive. I was shocked to learn about all the stuff we sent them. I knew about the Shermans but it turns out that was a drop in the bucket. Well over 500,000 trucks of all types including jeeps. It's kind of hard to wrap your head around those types of numbers.

Osprey, need I say more. Well researched, clearly written and beautiful artwork. A wargamer's dream

Good read. Well written and engaging work about a fairly major, but often overlooked subject. Have to admit, I was champing at the bit waiting for this one to come out. I was NOT disappointed!!!

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