

The Combat History Of German Heavy Anti Tank Unit 653 In World War II

This vivid combat history examines the role of German and Spanish artillery in the WW2 fight for control of Leningrad. When Nazi Germany invaded the Soviet Union in 1941, it quickly established a blockade around Leningrad that would become one of the longest and most destructive in history. In an attempt to break the blockade in 1943, the Red Army launched an offensive near the town of Krasny Bor. Previous works on the Battle of Krasny Bor have focused on the infantry involved, while little attention has been paid to the use of German and Spanish artillery in the conflict. In *Ending the Siege of Leningrad*, Spanish military historian Carlos Caballero Jurado corrects this oversight. Describing the action from an artilleryman's point of view, Jurado puts the reader in the heart of the battle.

This fascinating collection of primary source accounts focuses on the combat actions of the Wehrmacht in World War II. The material is drawn from a variety of wartime sources and encompasses fascinating writings concerning the vast array of German artillery pieces and the men who operated them, from the difficulties of warfare in problematic terrain such as desert and forest, the tactics used by the men on the ground, to the facts and figures of the weapons themselves.

Compiled and edited by Emmy Award winning author and historian Bob Carruthers, this absorbing assembly of primary source intelligence reports encompasses rare material originally drawn from German original sources to provide the reader with a unique insight into German artillery. This compelling compilation is essential for readers with an interest in discovering more about German artillery from a range of unusual and diverse primary sources.

Spitfire: The Combat History Jackson immortalized in the Battle of Britain, the legendary Spitfire also saw action in every other theater of battle during WWII. Focusing on the Spitfire's role in combat Jackson compares the Spitfire to its German, Italian and Japanese adversaries. Jackson charts the Spitfire's combat career, from its earliest skirmishes against the Luftwaffe over the North Sea to its final actions of WWII against the Japanese in Burma. Contains background information on Spitfire design, development, and early flights, along with details of later modifications and specially adapted models. Hdbd., 7 1/4x 9 1/2, 194 pgs., 18 bandw ill.

Complete history of a German tank division that fought exclusively on the Eastern Front.

German Fallschirmjäger as you've never seen before! Over 160 images from the files of the Bundesarchiv in Germany, the over-whelming majority shown for the first time in print since World War II. Printed mostly full page and showing details of various uniforms and equipment, helmets with various painted camouflage schemes, wire and covers. This book is a must have for any collector or historian.

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. 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.

Focusing on the decisive engagements of World War II, the author explores the immense challenges faced by the commanders on all sides, looking at the changing weapons and tactics and offering his own assessment on what brought about the war's outcome.

Waffen-SS Armour in Normandy presents the combat history of SS-Panzer Regiment 12 and SS-Panzerjäger Abteilung 12 in the Battle for France from June to the end of August 1944 based on transcriptions of their original unit war diaries from the Military History Archives in Prague. Both armored units belonged to the 12.SS-Panzer Division Hitlerjugend. SS-Panzer Regiment 12 was fully equipped with Panzer IV and Panther tanks. The main AFV of SS-Panzerjäger Abteilung 12 was the Jagdpanzer IV L/48 tank destroyer. The structure of the volume is partly source publication (documents of SS-Panzer Regiment 12) and partly study (the deployment of SS-Panzerjäger Abteilung 12). The text was written and footnoted by the author based upon original wartime files in Prague that have remained almost unknown. The book starts with the story of the units' establishment and training in 1943/1944, including, for example, the shipments of equipment, orders of battle and tactical numbers of the tanks. After this introduction, a highly detailed daily chronology of the combat actions is provided, from 12.SS-Panzer Division traveling to the Caen sector to Operation Totalize and the withdrawal to the Seine River. Documents from SS-Panzer Regiment 12 presented in the book include the following: combat reports, list of knocked-out enemy tanks, German personnel and tank losses, combat orders, summary of acquired combat experiences and others. This is an impressive look at tactical-level events and command decisions, highlighting the armored combat tactics that were able to stop Montgomery's Army Group from breaking through the German lines near Caen for two months. The study includes a number of detailed maps and excellent photos. In addition, the book has benefited from the contribution of rare information, photographs and documents from the archive of noted Waffen-SS historian Mark C. Yerger. This volume presents a cross-section of the most common transport vehicles produced and used by the German army. Tanks plus auxiliary vehicles such as cars, motorcycles, vans, ambulances, trucks and tractors made it possible for the troops to keep moving. These lightly armored or unarmored vehicles—aka “soft skins”—operated behind the front lines, maintaining supply lines,

connecting armies with their home bases, and ultimately determining the outcome of battle. Beginning with the development of military vehicles in the early 1930s, this volume discusses the ways in which this new technology influenced and, to some extent, facilitated Hitler's program of rearmament. Nomenclature, standard equipment, camouflage and the combat roles of the various vehicles are thoroughly examined. Individual vehicle types are arranged and discussed by the following classifications: cars and motorcycles; trucks and tractors; half-tracks and wheeled combat vehicles. Accompanied by well-researched, detailed line drawings, each section deals with a number of individual vehicles, describing their design, manufacture and specific use.

"Panzer Grenadiers to the Front!" is the first in-depth look at the enigmatic Panzer Grenadier-Division 'Brandenburg' formation and its five-month combat career along the Eastern Front at the end of the Second World War. This book draws on the previously unpublished personal accounts by more than a dozen division veterans, and is supplemented by extensive use of new primary documents and relevant secondary German, Polish, and Soviet source material. While this book represents the most thorough and accurate treatment of Panzer Grenadier-Division 'Brandenburg' published to-date, it also provides extensive coverage of Heeresgruppe Mitte and 4. Panzer-Armee operations. The new Panzer Grenadier-Division 'Brandenburg' was forged in December 1944 from the nucleus of burnt-out commando regiments and the remnants of a half-dozen conventional units supplied by the Ersatzheer. Panzer Grenadier-Division 'Brandenburg' entered the frontline a month later where it fought in some of the most dramatic and relatively unknown late war battles in Poland, Silesia, Saxony, and Czechoslovakia. The desperate fighting at places like Kutno, Raudten, Primkenau, Niesky, Bautzen, Olmutz and elsewhere is told through the words of the men who fought there. Revealed for the first time is the role of 'Brandenburg' in the last operational Wehrmacht victory of the war that destroyed the Soviet 7th Guards Mechanized Corps, defeated the 2nd Polish Army, and spared Dresden from immediate capture. The raw, emotional, accounts by 'Brandenburg' veterans shed new light on to the day-to-day operations of the Wehrmacht during the war's chaotic final months. Readers will experience the routine of frontline life, the despair of defeat that caused some to attempt suicide, and the euphoria of survival, with corks popped on champagne bottles to celebrate another day alive. The uncertainty of unconditional surrender drove many in 'Brandenburg' to continue to fight amidst the certainty of a war they knew. In the words of Major Kurt Steidl: 'I found out on the radio in the morning that our Fuhrer had died in Berlin. All of us knew what that meant for us. Should we surrender for that reason like miserable cowards after years of struggle against forces many times our size? No! And again no! Now more than ever, they shouldn't have it easy with us old hands. We would prove that.' "Panzer Grenadiers to the Front!" is a compelling narrative of the often brutal combat of war's end.

Based on forty years of detailed research, the Phoenix Project is a unique history of the wartime German Luftwaffe. Going far beyond a simple description of famous air battles and operations the overall work draws extensively on original documents, secondary sources and contemporary accounts to place the Luftwaffe within its proper historical context, gather together its many disparate components and provide a hitherto unpublished balance to its diverse activities. In addition to the lead role of the combat air forces the history provides a proper emphasis to the largely unsung work of the Anti-Aircraft Artillery, Luftwaffe ground forces,

Signals Service and the Medical Services. It also examines in detail the vital work of the huge training organization and the organization and role of a continent-wide ground organization. All theaters are covered thus placing a much needed emphasis on the Luftwaffe's momentous struggle in the East, a theater of operations that was always more urgent and more vital to the Wehrmacht. Throughout this work Luftwaffe activities are set within the wider role of overall military operations and Luftwaffe activity is therefore placed back within its proper context in the overall European conflict. Volume 1: The Phoenix Reborn covers a particularly neglected area, specifically the postwar Reichswehr and the years of secrecy leading up to the unveiling of the Luftwaffe in 1935. Much of the key developmental work was completed at this time and the first volume examines the evolution of the uniquely German concept of operativer Luftkrieg, the work of the clandestine air staff and the key roles played by the German Transport Ministry and the Flight Center Lipetsk in the technical development of military aircraft and the training of military aviators. It shows how Goring and Hitler essentially inherited an air arm in waiting - a product of covert military professional endeavor over a period of fifteen years. The structure of the Phoenix Project is totally unique. Five major themes run throughout the history's constituent volumes - (A) Strategy and Command, (B) Ministerial Activity, (C) Technology and Production, (D) Infrastructure and Training, and (E) Operations. These divisions enable the reader to pursue particular areas of interest throughout the overall work or to look at the interrelationships between the various aspects of Luftwaffe activity.

Combat stories of eight German infantry soldiers: one paratrooper, two members of the Waffen-SS, and five members of the Wehrmacht A concluding chapter examines infantry tactics This is an authentic account of German infantry aces, common foot soldiers who were thrust into a blazing maelstrom of bloody horror the world had never seen. On the frozen Russian steppes, under the scorching African desert sun, and in the final desperate battles, they were outnumbered and outgunned and faced impossible odds. Here are the fascinating stories of the men who stared death in the face during some of the most brutal battles ever waged.

In August 1944, Londoners thought the war might be over by Christmas. But on September 8, 1944, in the London suburb of Chiswick, a thunderous double-boom was heard followed by a huge plume of black smoke rising high into the air. Several minutes later another explosion rocked the earth near Epping. There had been no warnings, no drone of aircraft above, just sudden devastation. "Operation Penguin," the V-2 offensive, had begun. The A-4 rocket, better known as the V-2, Vergeltungswaffen Zwei, or "Vengeance Weapon 2," was the first ballistic missile to be used in combat. Soaring over 50 miles high at supersonic speeds, the V-2 would strike its target within 5 minutes of launching. Once in the air its deadly warhead was unstoppable. The ancestor of all Cold War and modern day ballistic missiles, as well as the rockets used for space exploration, the V-2 could not win the war for Germany--it was too expensive, too complicated, too inaccurate, and its warhead was too small--but its unprecedented invulnerability and influence on Allied planning made the V-2 and the advancements it represented the ultimate war prize, and British, American, and Soviet forces scrambled to seize German rocket technology along with its scientists and engineers. In V-2: A Combat History of the First Ballistic Missile, T. D. Dungan relies on an unparalleled collection of original documents, unpublished

photographs, and accounts from those who were there to provide a complete description of the V-2 program, the missile's use in combat, and the race to capture its secrets.

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.

“A photographic history of some of the most elite of Germany’s armed forces as they fought on all fronts during World War II . . . Highly recommended.”—Scale Military Modeller This is the photographic history of the Waffen-SS in combat on all fronts. The short six-year history of the Waffen-SS spanned triumph and disaster, and their story can be traced through these powerful images, which clearly document the reality of combat from 1940 to 1945. These rare images span the combat history of the Waffen-SS from the optimism of the opening phases of the war in the west through to the challenges of Barbarossa and the long and bloody retreat against a numerically far superior enemy in both the east and the west. The powerful photographic record is essential reading for anyone with an interest in the course of the war from the German perspective and clearly demonstrated the scale of the task undertaken by the Waffen-SS on all fronts. “This collection of b&w historical photos from WWII showcases photos taken by the Germans for propaganda purposes and published in newspapers, magazines, and books between 1940 and 1945. Many of the photos come from the SS-Kriegsberichter-Kompanie (Waffen-SS War Reporters Company), led by Gunter d’Alquen, which recorded actions of platoons. The photos are grouped in three sections on the activities of the Waffen-SS in the west in 1940, in the east in 1941-1943, and in combat and defeat 1943-1945. Each section begins with an introduction giving context on the origins of the photos and the photographers and crews involved. There is also background on the units, platoons, and divisions photographed.”—ProtoView

Hundreds of photos of Tiger tanks in action. Text chronicles the unit's combat operations in the East and West. Personal accounts from the men who rode in these battlefield behemoths.

Stalingrad: The Death of the German Sixth Army on the Volga, 1942-1943, is the first published work to detail the situation of every German corps and division for every day of the six-month Stalingrad campaign. Derived from the Sixth Army daily operation reports and the German Army High Command (OKH) situation maps (Lage Ost), this two-volume set presents the situation on the flanks of the army, as well as the combat in the city itself, a level of detail never before attempted. Stalingrad was the perfect storm that would lead to the death of an army – the German Sixth Army. Led by Field Marshal Friedrich Paulus, but micromanaged by Adolf Hitler, who insisted that his forces fight to the last man and bullet, the Sixth Army became fixated on an objective that continued to be just past their grasp. Believing that Stalingrad would be theirs "if only" one more attack against the urban rubble was mounted, the Sixth Army did not see that it was in a situation where if something did go wrong, it would not "see" impending doom until it was too late. That something was the massive Soviet attack that broke through both flanks of the Sixth Army in such a violent manner and to such a great operational depth that any hope of relieving the surrounded pocket from the outside in such horrible winter conditions was probably illusionary. Thus, defeat was in order for the Sixth Army, but it would not end there. Adolf Hitler had insisted that this would be a fight between the supermen of Aryan Germany against the sub-humans of Slavic Russia. In this fight, according to Nazi ideology, the sub-humans had no right to live. Given the polar ideological differences of Fascism and Communism, combined with this racial antagonism, when the Red Army did gain the upper hand and isolate the German forces around

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Stalingrad in November 1942, the situation guaranteed that the Sixth Army would not only be defeated, but that it and most of its soldiers were headed for annihilation.

Originally published: To the Caucasus and the Austrian Alps. J. J. Fedorowicz Pub., 2009

En beretning om 276. Sturmgeschütz Brigade fra brigadens oprettelse i 1943 og enhedens indsættelse på østfronten indtil den tyske værnemagts kapitulation i 1945. Beretningerne er personlige oplevelser fortalt af soldater, der tilhørte Sturmgeschütz Brigaden.

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.

This book offers a unique perspective for understanding how and why the Second World War in Europe ended as it did—and why Germany, in attacking the Soviet Union, came far closer to winning the war than is often perceived. • Detailed maps show the position and movement of opposing forces during the key battles discussed in the book • More than 30 charts, figures, and appendices, including detailed orders of battle, economic figures, and equipment comparisons

The Combat History of the 23rd Panzer Division in World War II

From the War in the Desert through the vast expanses of the Eastern Front to the bitter defense of the Reich itself, this second volume continues the history of Germany's innovative anti-tank force: the Panzerjäger. The German Panzerjäger, or Panzerjägertruppe, was one of the most innovative fighting arms of World War II and its story has never properly been told, until now. Many books have focused on an element of the story--the Hetzer, Jagdpanzer, and Jagdpanther--but this two-volume series represents the first time that the whole history of the development and organization of Nazi Germany's anti-tank force has been revealed. This second volume takes up the story in the mid-war years and follows the development of the Panzerjäger, describing the innovative new vehicles such as the Ferdinand, Elefant and Nashorn. German Armored Fighting Vehicle specialist Thomas Anderson also analyzes the key role it performed in the War in the Desert and across the Eastern Front, and ultimately in the defense of the Reich itself. Packed with previously unpublished wartime photographs, combat reports, and detailed charts and

statistics, this book offers an unparalleled account of this unique arm of the Wehrmacht.

This book tells—with firsthand accounts as well as numerous, never-before-seen photographs—the combat history of German Tiger Tank Battalion 503, the senior Tiger battalion of the German Army, equipped with both the Tiger I and the King Tiger. The unit saw action in the attempted relief of Stalingrad, the tremendous tank engagements at Kursk, and the bitter fighting to relieve German units encircled at the Tscherkassy Pocket. It then defended against the Allies in Normandy in 1944, and ended the war with desperate fighting in Hungary and Austria.

The NCA is a comprehensive record of over 6000 Luftwaffe night fighter claims and over 2100 Flak claims which have been painstakingly matched to RAF Bomber Command losses resulting in over 95% of them now being identified. This means that for the first time ever, the fate of the vast majority of RAF Bomber Command losses can be clearly understood with exact locations, times and identities of the pilots or Flak units responsible for bringing them down. This first volume in The early years covers the beginnings of the Nachtjagd and includes many previously unseen photos of both the night fighters and their victims.

In September of 1939, the world was astounded by Germany's ability to defeat Poland in less than a month. With the world still puzzled by the suddenness of this event, Denmark, Norway, Holland, Belgium, and France fell in rapid succession to the German onslaught, leaving Britain in shock. Greece and Yugoslavia were rapidly over-run during April of 1941, while German-Italian forces advanced rapidly in North Africa. Russia's turn was next, when German forces began pulverizing their forces in June of 1941. How had Germany achieved victory after victory, often against numerically superior enemy forces? The answer came in two words—Panzer and Blitzkrieg. When and how had Germany built its Panzer forces and trained them for the Blitzkrieg? When was each Panzer unit formed? What was their organization? Why were Panzer units disbursed among the Panzer-Divisions, leichte Divisions, and Armee-Korps? When were the various types of Panzers developed? What were their armament, armor protection, capability? How many of each type were produced? What tactics did they use? How successful were they in combat? This is the only book that provides detailed answers to these and other questions related to how German tankers fought in World War II. Tom Jentz found the answers to these questions by digging through original records for the past twenty-five years. The content of this book is derived solely from these original records consisting of war diaries, reports, and technical and tactical manuals written during the war. The story is told as recorded by those responsible for decisions in developing the Panzertruppen and by those who fought in the Panzers. As work on this book progressed it became apparent that the story of the Panzertruppen was divided into two distinctly separate phases; offensive and defensive. This first volume presents the offensive phase up to October 1942. A second volume is planned that will cover the defensive phase to the end of the war. Tom Jentz is also the author of Germany's Panther Tank: The Quest of Combat Supremacy (available from Schiffer Publishing Ltd.).

Numerous action photographs and a detailed text depict the use of German medium flak in combat.

In September 1939, the tanks of Panzer-Regiment 5 swept into Poland, a devastating part of the German blitzkrieg that opened World War II with a terrifying display of military force. The following spring, the regiment rumbled across France, again showing the

destructive power of the panzer. But the unit's greatest fame would come in the North African desert, where Panzer-Regiment 5 joined Erwin Rommel's vaunted Afrika Korps as it battled the British back and forth beneath the scorching sun of Libya and Egypt. The German campaigns in the northern theatre of operations encompassing Denmark, Norway, Finland and the far north of Russia are detailed in this long neglected account of the campaign as described from the German point of view. Out of print since the fifties, this new edition is edited and introduced by Emmy Award winning author and historian Bob Carruthers. Based mainly on original German records captured in 1945 alongside the postwar military recollections of veterans, this fascinating account encompasses the lessons and conclusions drawn from these German sources. The work of preparing this study in English, which consisted of translating basic German records and manuscripts, performing additional research, expanding and then rewriting the narratives with an eye for continuity and factual data, was done chiefly by Earl F. Ziemke under the supervision of the Foreign Studies Branch, Special Studies Division, Office of the Chief of Military History. In the process of presenting the material, every effort has been made to give a balanced account of German strategy and operations in the often neglected northern theatre of operations.

Dive deep into the fascinating world of German tanks in this definitive textbook about the Leopard 1 and 2. Known as one of the most for their prominence in peacetime, there's more to these trusty machines than meets the eye. Follow them on their journey around the globe as we guide you through every combat mission ever ventured upon by the mighty machines. The wide range of conflicts they have been in creates a fascinating reading experience for history lovers and war fanatics. Read in raw, uncut detail the savage battle reports from these fierce tanks as you're taken deep into each conflict they took part in. From being pitted against Bosnian Serb battle tanks to their involvement in the invasion of Kosovo, this book covers the complete combat operation history of the Leopard 1 and Leopard 2. Also, their deployments in more modern times are discussed, with them being used to fight against the Taliban in Afghanistan and ISIS in Syria. The amount of missions these tanks have embarked upon is endless, and you will learn about them all in this definitive book. This is the only book of its kind. A one-off concise guide outlining everything you would ever need to know about the Leopard 1 and 2. First, we go into the history behind the German panzers from its beginnings in World War I as well as an insight into all the upgrades and user states. In the conclusion, we explore the significance of the Leopard tanks in modern warfare. Finally, in the afterword, Danish tank expert Thomas Antonsen graces us with a few thoughts. Brimming with umpteen references and sources, this is one book tank enthusiasts don't want to miss out on. Leopard 1 and 2 main battle tanks took part in combat operations under the flag of Canada, Turkey, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, and Denmark. Hundreds of photos--many of them rare--of Tiger tanks and their crews. Color illustrations by Jean Restayn focus on markings, camouflage, and insignia. Inventories and timelines for each unit.

Military historian David R. Dorondo examines the history of the German cavalry, a combat arm that survived World War I and rode to war again in 1939. He places the cavalry's World War II actions within the larger context of the mounted arm's development from the Franco-Prussian War to the Third Reich's surrender. The author contends that politicized command decisions, technical insufficiency, industrial bottlenecks, and wartime attrition forced Army leaders to rely on combat horsemen throughout World War II. He describes these horsemen as best represented by the 1st Cavalry Brigade/Division that saw combat in Poland, Holland, France, Russia, and Hungary, but whose service was dishonored by the 8th Waffen-SS Cavalry Division, a unit that killed more civilians than enemy soldiers. Drawing extensively on primary sources, Dorondo shows clearly how the cavalry's tradition carried on in a world undergoing rapid military industrialization, a story not widely

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