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M10 And M36 Tank Destroyers 1942–53 (New Vanguard)



Synopsis

The US Army had a unique tactical doctrine during World War II, placing the emphasis for tank fighting on its Tank Destroyer Command whose main early-war vehicle was the M10 3-inch Gun Motor Carriage, based on the reliable M4A2 Sherman tank chassis. This durable and versatile vehicle saw combat service from the North Africa campaign in 1943. By 1944, its gun was not powerful enough and it was rearmed with the new 90 mm gun, becoming the M36 90mm Gun Motor Carriage. This book details one of the only US armoured vehicles capable of dealing with the Panther and Tiger during the Battle of the Bulge.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

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.

Steven J. Zaloga was born in 1952, received his BA in history from Union College, and his MA from Columbia University. He has published numerous books and articles dealing with modern military technology, especially armoured vehicle development. His main area of interest is military affairs in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe in the Second World War, and he has also written extensively on American armoured forces.

I enjoy this 48 page book a lot - it includes the pictures and technical details M10 and M36 and some details of the British Achilles. The author explains the origins of the Tank Destroyer concept, vehicle development (for example explaining the counter-weights on the M10 and how a simple motor was suggested only after the hard work was done), and modifications including auxiliary vehicles based on the M10 hull as well as the British 17 pounder reworking (in basic detail). There are tables listing conversions to 17 pounders (and conversions of M10s and M4 tanks to M36s) and losses and strengths in Europe. Main cannon are explained somewhat in detail. Service use in all of the theaters they appeared in is dealt with in at least part. He explains their role as self-propelled artillery and (without great detail) how they encountered heavier German armor in Italy before June 1944 for example. There is a tremendous amount of information I haven't found elsewhere. I just wish the author had done two things: (a) laid it out a little better. Likewise the wording could be better: rather than stating "The M10 cost \$47,900, compared to \$60,200 for the comparable M4A2 tank, a price difference of about 25 percent." it would have been clearer to state "...the M4A2 cost 25% more than the M10 or the M10 cost 80% of the M4A2." And I would have liked to see the costs associated with building M36 turrets and installing them on the three basic hulls (M10s without turrets; removing turrets from M10s; and on M4s). And (b) done a lot more into the technical details, some of which are glaringly wrong. For example: Page 24 the Panther's glacis is 80-mm thick and sloped at 55 degrees it is roughly 140-mm/5.5-inches thick, not 85-mm and 185-mm thick. In "Panther Versus Sherman" he gets the thickness and slope right but somehow does the math wrong and comes up with 145-mm thick. But the gun table (as small as it is) indicating penetration is more accurate than some of the tables I've seen. Compared to some of the similar books of their series this one has a lot of meat in it.

I love knowing about tanks and everything about tanks. So this is just one more tank thing. It dies high light U>S> tank killer philosophy and the inadequacy of it.

As usual Steve Zaloga as great a writer as he is an artist. Very informative. I would recommend this book. My brother in laws father fought in ww2 and was most likely in one of those vehicles. I will have to talk with him soon about his exploits.

I knew about the M10 but nothing about the M 36 tank

My son was very happy to receive this book for Christmas and was delivered before Christmas.

Excellent reference source on WW2 American TDs.

A great reference for my painting

GREAT BOOK, FULL OF WONDERFUL INFORMATION

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