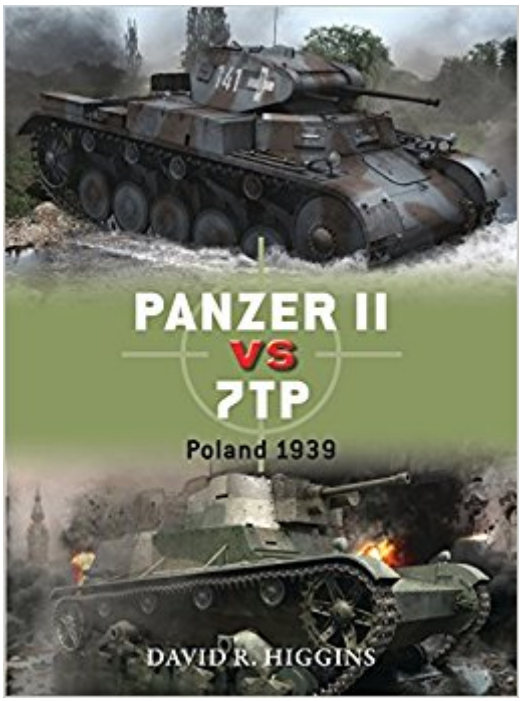
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Panzer II Vs 7TP: Poland 1939 (Duel)



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Synopsis

Hitler’s lightning invasion of Poland in 1939 was the real beginning of World War II in Europe. This was the period when armored warfare inscribed itself into global consciousness as the Poles desperately sought to stave off the Blitzkrieg. At the heart of the fighting on the ground, large numbers of Nazi Germany’s PzKpfw II battled against Poland’s better-armed but much less numerous 7TP tank. The two types both possessed unique strengths and weaknesses - the PzKpfw II was blessed with radio which the 7TP was not, which proved critical for command and control purposes in the heat of combat. But the German tank was blighted by thin armor, which could not withstand Polish gunfire at combat ranges. This fully illustrated, detailed work evaluates these strengths and weaknesses, comparing opponents and exploring the clashes between these armored fighting vehicles (AFVs) in the context of the invasion of Poland.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

David R. Higgins is the author of several military history books, including The Roer River Battles, King Tiger vs IS-2: Operation Solstice 1945 and Mark IV vs A7V: Villers-Bretonneux 1918. He has also written nearly 50 articles for magazines such as Strategy & Tactics, Armchair General, World at War and Modern War, and has appeared on television’s ’Greatest Tank Battles’. The author lives in New Albany, OH.

A book of in-depth scholarship which portrays one aspect of the Polish Campaign, and which would

enlighten many interested in the first battles of WW11 other than the persistent demeaning myths, such as calvary charges on horseback with sabres. There was one charge where the calvary rushed past German tanks to escape encirclement and another which was a successful surprise attack on a German infantry position. Like the Germans the Poles used horseback to transport troops who mainly fought as infantrymen.As Higgins points out in 1939 the Poles had a superior tank to that of the invading Germans and Soviets. Their problem was that they did not have enough of them despite winning some key battles. The Germans had another advantage in that they had communication between their armoured vehicles which the Poles lacked.I have just finished reading Evan McGilvary's 'Man of Steel and Honour: General Stanislaw Maczek'. General Maczek (a Polish patriot of Croatian descent) commanded the First Polish Armoured Division which joined the allies in the Normandy Invasion and saw victories in the Falaise Gap as well as during the liberation of Holland (e.g. liberating the city of Breda), Belgium and the capture of Wilhelmshaven in Germany. It seems that the Poles view armoured warfare as an extension of their Hussar (the winged calvary compromising Polish and Lithuanian nobles) which for centuries wreaked havoc upon their enemies, as well as protected and extended the expanse of the Polish and Lithuanian Commonwealth.I congratulate David Higgins for his detailed scholarship and in helping enlighten the English language readership to the fact that the Polish response to the invasions of September 1939 was not as primitive as malicious distortions of historical fact countless of other authors have described it.

Very competent book. As far as I'm aware, this is the first comprehensive story on the battles of the polish armoured forces. Highly recommended.As usual, tank radio's are neglected; how does an Polish AVA radio looks like?

This is a book that I wish I would have had during my graduate studies in the early 1980s. One of the classes that I took at that time was a war-gaming seminar. As a project for that class we developed a table-top war game based on the hex-grid map that was traditionally used by "Strategy & Tactics" during that time. The military campaign we selected to develop into an operational scale game was the 1939 invasion of Poland by the Germany. Key to that campaign was the fast-moving "Blitzkreig" strategy employed by the German tank forces. At the time of the Polish campaign, the German Armored was overwhelmingly dominated by the Panzer Mark I and Panzer Mark II. The Panzer II was actually key to that blitz style of armored fighting in Poland. Thus, we set about seeking all the information that I could find on the German Panzer II military tank. Earlier in my life

before taking the war-gaming seminar, I had put together a plastic model of the Panzer II tank bought as a boxed kit purchased at a hobby store. Thus, I was aware that the Panzer II was fitted with a radio and could communicate with other tanks by that means. We did find some material, but this book reveals that the information we obtained was extremely limited. Furthermore, we had almost no information on the Polish military tanks like the Model 7TP seven-ton tank. This book had it been available at the time would have added immensely to our understanding of both the Panzer II and the Polish Model 7TP tanks.

It’s not bad but not real good either. I didn’t get much out of it.

For specialists in armor of the 1930’s this is very interesting

Outstanding! It is very refreshing to see work done on the Polish campaign with all of its warts. The author is fair and objective to both sides, and even mentions the Polish occupation of Czechoslovakia in 1938, which is not widely known. Highly recommended.

Excellent WWII AFV comparison.

Another superb edition to the tank Vs tank series. I truly enjoy these fact filled and well illustrated books. I loved reading about the 7TP. What a unique find. Just not allot of information out their on this tank. Keep these sweet books coming.

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