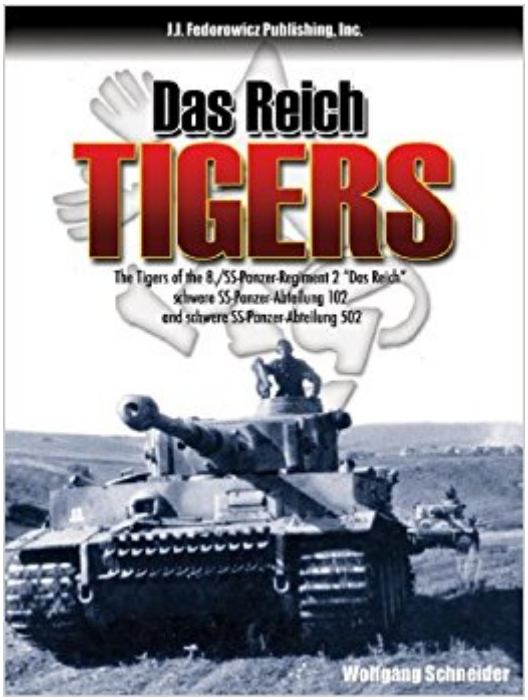
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Das Reich Tigers



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Synopsis

This book chronicles the Tigers associated with "Das Reich" from the beginning to the bitter end: 8./SS-Panzer-Regiment 2; schwere SS-Panzer-Abteilung 102; and schwere SS-Panzer-Abteilung 502. Among other aspects of its history, the fighting around Kharkov, during Operation "Zitadelle", at Normandy, on the Oder and at the Halbe Pocket in the final days of the war, are chronicled for the reader. This is an exceptional unit history. For the first time, this famous formation receives a complete unit history devoted entirely to it. While the photographic coverage of the "Das Reich" boys was exhaustive in Tigers in Combat 2, this book ties it altogether. Hard cover, large format (9"x12"), 396 pages, 8 pages of color, several hundred photos, scores of maps, lots of first-hand accounts, exhaustive appendices listing camouflage, markings, tank commanders, duty positions through the battalion, every existing monthly status report and a sampling of award recommendations.

Book Information

Hardcover: 410 pages

Publisher: J.J. Fedorowicz Publishing; 1st edition (November 1, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0921991835

ISBN-13: 978-0921991830

Product Dimensions: 9.2 x 1 x 12.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 6 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #495,441 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #280 inÃ Â Books > Textbooks > Social Sciences > Military Sciences #296 inÃ Â Books > History > Military > Vehicles #1352 inÃ Â Books > Textbooks > Humanities > History > Military

Customer Reviews

This book chronicles the Tigers associated with "Das Reich" from the beginning to the bitter end: 8./SS-Panzer-Regiment 2; schwere SS-Panzer-Abteilung 102; and schwere SS-Panzer-Abteilung 502. Among other aspects of its history, the fighting around Kharkov, during Operation "Zitadelle", at Normandy, on the Oder and at the Halbe Pocket in the final days of the war, are chronicled for the reader. This is an exceptional unit history. For the first time, this famous formation receives a complete unit history devoted entirely to it. While the photographic coverage of the "Das Reich" boys was exhaustive in Tigers in Combat 2, this book ties it altogether. Hard cover, large format

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Dang... it’s hard to believe this book is already 11 years old. Since I already had a copy of Herr Schneider’s TIC 2 there was a question in my frugal brain if this book was worth getting. I mean how many Tiger books does a person need, right? A slightly used copy popped up at a great price so I snagged it. I haven’t sat with both books side by to compare but am glad to have this in addition to all of those other Tiger books.What you get is over 250 pages of text liberally interrupted by period maps & pictures starting with the unit’s activation in Nov.’42, through the last battles in May ’45, 8 pages of color profiles, & ending with c. 80 pages of useful Appendices all printed nicely on the usual JJF heavy glossy paper.

Excellent general history filled with photos and maps. The usual high standards of JJ Fed. Publishers.

As another reader wrote, this book describes the life and death of what started out as the eight company of the 2.SS-Panzer Regiment "Das Reich" and ended as the 502. SS-schwere Panzer Abteilung.The book is typical of a Fedorowicz publication, quality pictures, nice presentation and robust binding.Inside are some exceptional b&w photographs and a set of color plates. I read the book cover to cover and found what I initially thought to be editing errors, but seem to be more than that.As an example, the text under the chapter on the 2.SS-Panzergrenaider Division describes the new Tigers arriving for Kursk showing up painted olive-green from the factory and then oversprayed with olive-green and red-brown. Ok, someone missed the error that the Tigers arrived from the factory in dark-yellow, not olive-green. An easy editing mistake, no? This assumption is given credence when you look in the back of the book where is talks about the markings of the 2.SS-Panzergrenaider Division at Kursk and it states correctly that that the Tigers arrived in dark-yellow paint and had olive-green and red-brown paint oversprayed in stripes. So far so good. They you look at the color plate of one of the Das Reich Tigers at Kursk and it shows a tank in dark-yellow base, with olive-green patches.I know this might seem to be nit picking, but one of the reasons I bought this book was to resolve this question. I have seen a number of pictures of the Das Reich Tigers claiming to be painted in dark-yellow with only olive-green; only red-brown or both

oversprayed camouflage patterns.This makes me wonder what other mistakes might be there that I did not catch.This is still a wonderful book, but it is not the definitive work I was hoping for.

This book describes the life of the Das Reich heavy Tiger company which eventually grew into the 102 and later renamed the 502 SS Schwere Panzer abteilung.The unit began its life as the 8/SS-Panzer regiment 2 of the das Reich Divison where it was first blooded in the epic battle of Kharkov and then later in the great battle of Kursk during Operation Citadel where the company performed extremely well.Unlike its sisiter division the Leibstandarte, Das Reich continued to fight in Russia where a single Tiger of the company could and did often influence the outcome of small unit actions.Rushed from sector to sector of the front the unit was gradually worn down during heavy fighting along the Mius and eventual retreat across the Dnjper.Reconstituted as the 102 Heavy tank battalion the unit fought in 1944 a long and bitter battle in Normandy against allied troops especially around hill 112 where Willi Fey became a noted Tiger "ace".Like most units involved in this battle of attrition the unit was again destroyed and would be reconstituted for the last time as the 502 where it was equipped with the King Tiger.The final battles that this unit was involved in were some of the most savage and brutal, and names such as the Oder nad the Halbe pocket are now infamous.The book has been well written and researched, which is what you would expect from Wolfgang Schneider now, and follows on the heels of other notable books such as Tigers in Combat.It is full of excellent maps in which you can follow the units actions and also has a huge number of personal recollections from survivors of the unit.These men describe the units actions and the day to day life of men in a Tiger unit.As usual with any Fedorowicz published book, it is lavishly provided with outstanding photographs of the units men and machines both at "play" and at war, which bring to life this units history.All in all this is an excellent book and is highly recomended for your personal library.

Another fine offering from Schneider and the publisher JJ Fedorowicz.Understanding that many unit records were destroyed in the final months of WWII, it is pretty amazing that as much as is presented here was even possible. Lots of personal stories are to be found as well, including some very good coverage of the Hill 112 fighting near Caen.Nice color section and some decent unit organizational charts really round out this fine volume.

Great

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