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Sturmgeschütz III And IV 1942-45 (New Vanguard, 37)



Synopsis

As the Second World War dragged on, heavy German losses in armoured vehicles and tanks ensured that assault gun units had to play an increasingly vital role in supporting the beleaguered infantry and countering Allied armour, particularly on the Eastern Front. The Sturmgeschütz was one of the most numerous produced and effectively deployed of the German armoured vehicles. This book reveals how the Sturmgeschütz provided the backbone of Germany's armoured forces in every theatre and on every front during the long fighting-retreat of the final years of the war.

Book Information

Series: New Vanguard (Book 37)

Paperback: 48 pages

Publisher: Osprey Publishing; 1st edition (June 25, 2001)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1841761826

ISBN-13: 978-1841761824

Product Dimensions: 7.3 x 0.1 x 9.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 5.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars See all reviews (9 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,041,314 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #158 in Books > History > Military > Weapons & Warfare > Conventional > Armored Vehicles #3536 in Books > History > Europe > Germany #9943 in Books > History > Military > World War II

Customer Reviews

This book is very slim, even by Osprey standards - 47 pages of large font type somehow slipped between lots of pictures and labels. But the pictures are mostly small and don't show a lot of detail for modelers. The color plates are paintings of four side views, one 3-view, one 3/4 external, and one 3/4 cutaway of Stug IIIs, and one 3-view of the Stug IV (with schurzen - not helpful!) and a corner view of a Sturmhaubitze. There are some schematic drawings, but they are at 1/76th scale which is not very useful because it is both very small, and of a not commonly used scale for modeling (1/72 would be good, 1/35 would be better). There is only a single paragraph on Stug IVs total. It is a decent overview of the vehicle, how it is used and its strengths and weaknesses. But it isn't really helpful for people making models or looking for more than just basic information.

I am really impressed by the mini coverage of this assault gun given in this tiny book. The text is

clear, many data are provide, all the pictures are described and support written information. The graphic cutaways and the drawing reinforce the well-balanced text/images conception of the New Vanguard series. The real lack of all the Osprey book is the source. Nearly all the books edited by Osprey are lacking the bibliography and Index. Most of the books are from renowned historian with many years of background research, but they end-up with no source to validate their works. I had to go with the more complete book *Sturmgeschütz & Its Variants* (Spielberger German Armor & Military Vehicles Series, Vol 2) from Schiffer publishing to ascertain the trueness of the facts imply in this Osprey book.

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If you're a fan of the Stug III then the New Vanguard series is a must-buy. For the price they simply cannot be beat for the information they contain. This one on the Stug is no different - a fantastic little book for the price.

The Vanguard series is intended to give a brief introduction to various weapons systems used in the major wars of the 20th century. As such, they include color plates of various paint schemes on campaign, a sectional drawing of a representative vehicle, and plenty of B&W photos in the text. All this is wrapped in an elementary text based on new research in newly opened archives and presented in an attractive format. Useful to war gamers, students, and model makers.

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