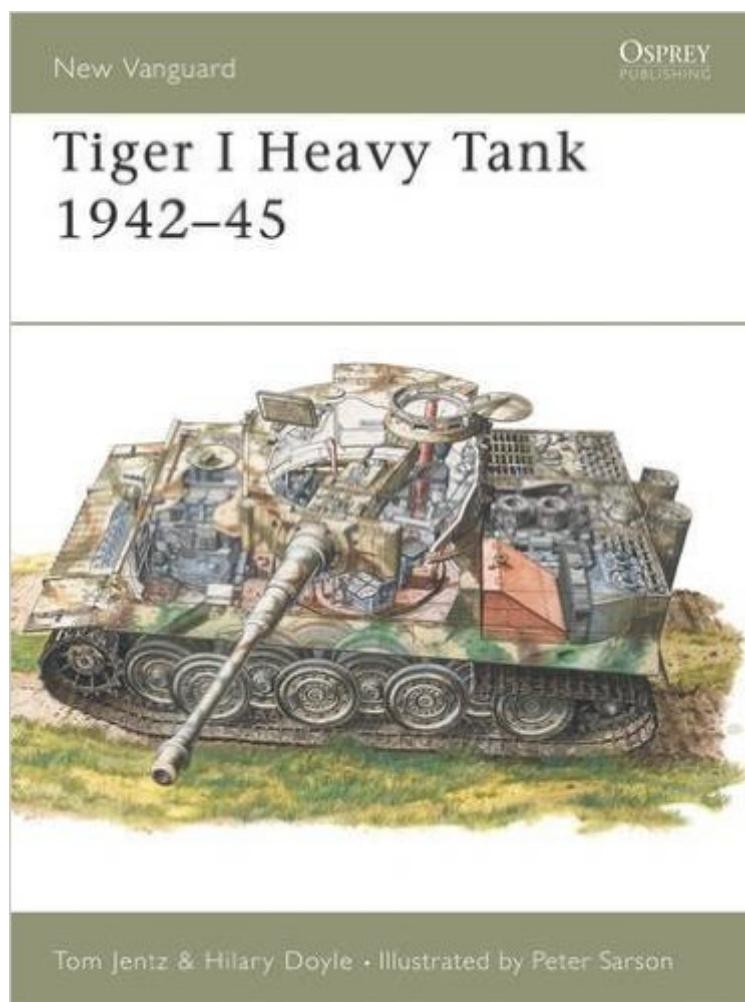


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# Tiger 1 Heavy Tank 1942-45 (New Vanguard)



Tom Jentz & Hilary Doyle • Illustrated by Peter Sarson



## **Synopsis**

Probably the most famous tank of the World War II, the Tiger I was originally conceived in 1941 in response to the German Army's experience in fighting British tanks and anti-tank guns in Western Europe and the North African desert. Following the invasion of Russia, the appearance of the Soviet T-34 and KW tanks lent a further impetus to the programme. The Tiger's power and performance on the battlefield is emphasised by tables of relevant performance throughout the book, which clearly show the battlefield survivability of the Tiger and its superiority to many allied tank designs. This comprehensive and extremely detailed text is accompanied by a fine selection of black and white photographs showing the tank in use.

## **Book Information**

Series: New Vanguard (Book 5)

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Average Customer Review: 3.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (10 customer reviews)

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## **Customer Reviews**

Jentz is one of the finest armor scholars around and Osprey usually does a good job with many of their titles but the publisher made a mess of this one. The reader will be annoyed by glaring editing errors, misspellings, awkward paragraph formatting, and poor proofing. Some facts have erroneous dates, e.g. well-known data that occurred in '43 are reported as '44 or vice-versa. The production history of the vehicle could also have been presented in tabular form instead of chunks of text. There is good info here but you will have to tolerate the inexcusable editing and check facts against an additional reliable source.

Jentz is one of the finest armor scholars around and the New Vanguard series is a budget edition for building a modeling reference library BUT the atrocious spelling, grammar, page/text layout & formatting sprinkled throughout the text seriously detracts from the value & enjoyment derived from perusing a well done reference publication. The editing is really inexcusable. Much information regarding production details could also have been presented more effectively in tabular form. The publisher did such a bad job on proofreading that only if you have a very high tolerance for the flaws and also believe that there are no errors in the factual content will it enable you to confidently accept the contents.

The tiger tank is one of the most recognized tanks of WWII. Having said that, this book is very good in showing all the technical details and development history of the Tiger. The artist color profiles of various units and paint schemes are excellent. The B/W photos could do with some enhancement and the exploded view is very detailed. But as a hobbyist I would like to see more attention to detail (mounting brackets, attachment points, interior, motor close-ups, etc) to balance out all the technical info. For the price however you receive enough info to satisfy your curiosity.

I love the factual and historical books that are printed and distributed by Osprey Publishing. That being said, I do not like the change in their binding process. I have many older publications by Osprey Publishing. They have the pages folded and sewn to provide book quality binding. Unfortunately, things have changed. They now cut the pages and hold them together with glue. After a few readings the pages start falling out. I am very disappointed. I will no longer order Osprey Publishing books sight unseen. I need to inspect them to see if they have the newer binding and, if they do, I will NOT buy their book.

The authors do a good job of introducing the Tiger I and provide some hard to find technical details about the tank and the units that used it. Readers of Osprey books are usually familiar with the New Vanguard series. All of the books are 48 pages long and provide succinct summaries of a given weapon or vehicle class. The quality of the series is very uneven. Some books are excellent, others rather poor. This one ranks among the higher quality titles. The book is more or less divided into 4 sections: Design and production of the Tiger, service modifications, tactical assessment, and operational history. Each section is very well done. In particular, in the service modifications, the authors chronologically list most of the major cosmetic and structural changes to the Tiger; this information will be invaluable to modelers, or to readers who really like to study Tiger photos. Under

the operational history, each unit that used the Tiger is listed, along with a great deal of information about which Tigers were used and when (e.g., in some case the range of serial numbers used by a unit are listed). These histories are useful, but of necessity short. Obviously in 48 pages you can't cover everything. In this case, the authors have omitted eyewitness accounts, after action reports, and first person experiences with the Tiger. Many will find this a significant omission. However, if you accept it for what it is, the book will still be of great use to WW2 or armor enthusiasts. Readers wanting more personal information about the Tiger will have to look elsewhere, perhaps Egon Kleine's book. Another minor issue with the book is that the authors can be rather technical. The text is filled with terms like Prismen-spiegelkuppel and Nahverteidungswaffe. However, the meaning of most (but not all) of these terms is explained. Overall, I can strongly recommend this book to readers wanting to learn some basics about the Tiger, modelers, and people looking for a handy go-to Tiger reference. For its size, it is a very useful book. As a side note, other reviewers commented on finding numerous typos and grammatical errors in the book. I did not notice this. The book was initially published in 1993, and my version was the 2000 Military Bookclub Edition. Perhaps they corrected these problems between editions.

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