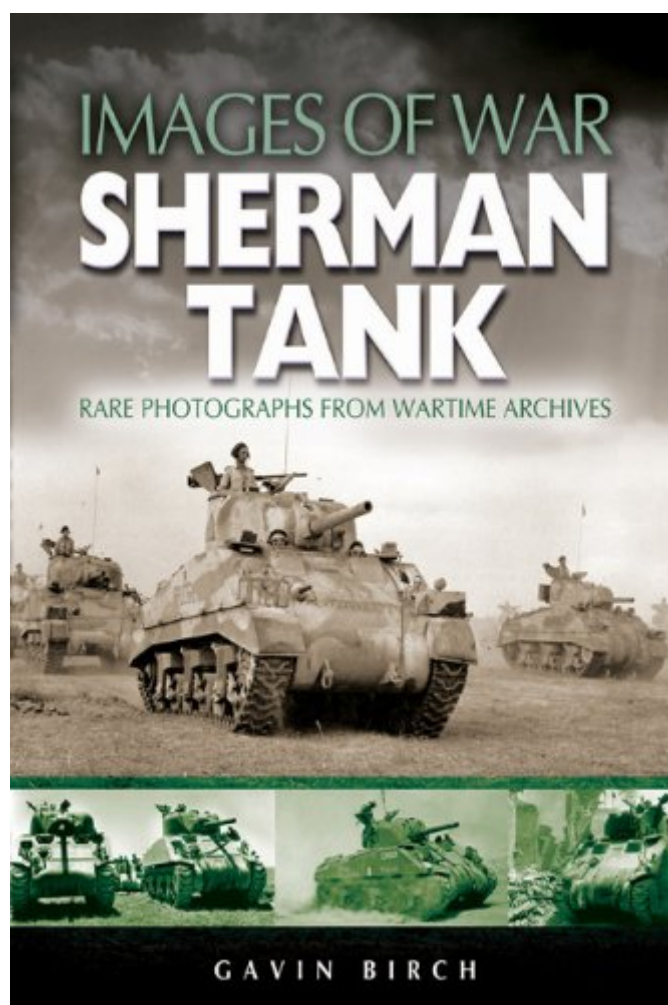


The book was found

Sherman Tank (Images Of War)



Synopsis

A brilliant and prolific collection of rare photographs celebrating the war-winning qualities of arguably the most important tank of the Second World War. Many of the marvelous images have never been seen before but thanks to the author, who has special access to the IWM archive they are now available with full authoritative captions.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Gavin Birch's "Sherman Tank (Images of War)," is an inexpensive, large format, photo book devoted to the American-built M4 Sherman Tank series, the tank that carried the Western Allies through the last half of the Second World War (and a substantial number were supplied to the Soviet Union as well). The book stands out from similar books, in that the source for the photos is the British Imperial War Museum, rather than the various US government archives. Thus, the book is substantially devoted to the vast numbers of Shermans supplied to the British Commonwealth Forces through the Lend Lease Program (though a small section at the back of the book depicts the tanks in US service). The whole subject of Shermans is convoluted, due to the large number of variants in production simultaneously, which differed mainly in their powerplants. The British

operated every 75mm-armed Sherman variant except the M4A3 and M4A6, and they received some 105mm-armed M4 howitzer tanks and 76mm-armed M4A1 tanks in 1944-45 as well. The good thing about the book is the wealth of interesting photos, though Birch seldom goes beyond the original photo captions to describe the unit or location. Unfortunately, Birch is simply not very good at identifying Sherman subtypes, apart from the M4A1 series (obvious from their cast upper hulls), and the Firefly conversions (which had long-barreled British 17-Pounder guns replacing the stubby US 75mm). His section on US tanks is needlessly confused, as he appears unaware that the US Army did not issue the M4A2 or the M4A4 variants at all (they were mainly for training or Lend Lease use, though the USMC operated the M4A2 in the Pacific).

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