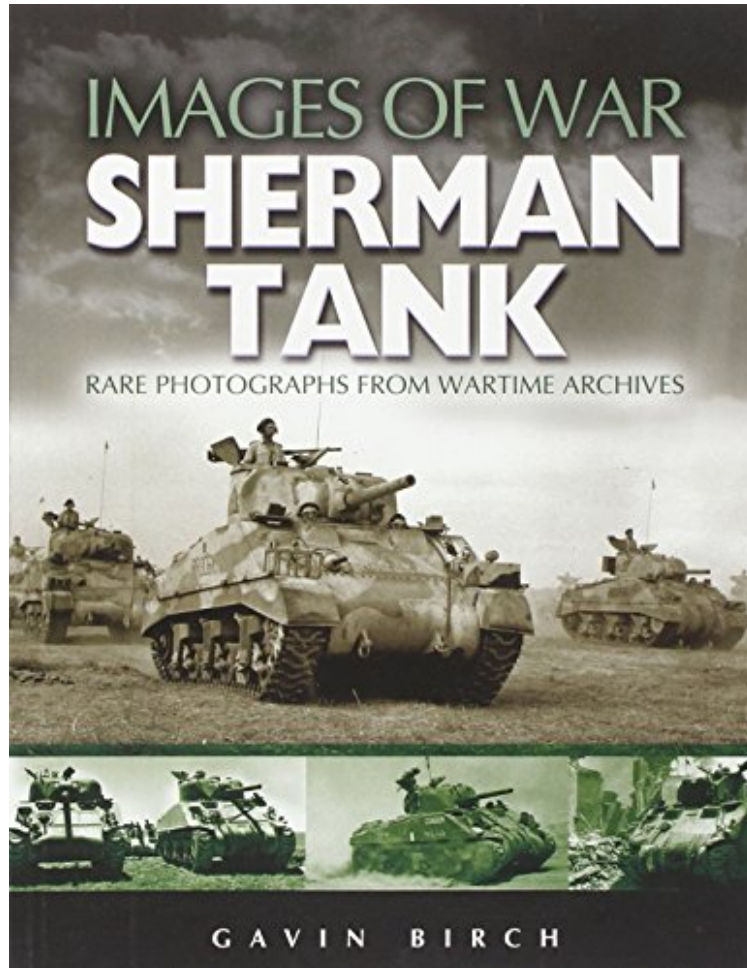


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Sherman Tank (Images of War)

Gavin Birch

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Gavin Birch : Sherman Tank (Images of War) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sherman Tank (Images of War):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. The tank seems like it was hopelessly inadequate to fight German tanks. By Kindle Customer The tank seems like it was hopelessly inadequate to fight German tanks. The men who fought in them were incredibly brave but they died horribly. Why did the Allies not produce a better? If they had got the Pershing tank in early 1944 the War would have been over in a few months, they could have smashed through to Berlin and saved us all the horrors of the Russian destruction of that city, the flying bombs on London, and the dogfight at Caen...thousands more lives saved. There seems to have been something wrong with the mentality of Allied leaders, they made too many mistakes. 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Great Photos, Weak Text. By Gerald P. Owens 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). The US tanks that landed in North Africa, Sicily, Italy and Normandy were all M4 and M4A1 versions (which shared the same engine, simplifying the supply situation). The Ford-engined M4A3 variant didn't reach combat until the Normandy breakout in August, 1944 (mostly the 1944 production versions with the new upper hull, though a few old training tanks from 1943 do appear as replacements very late in the war). The appendix devoted to identifying subtypes within the Sherman family is faulty in several respects, and Birch repeats the error originated in Chris Ellis' 1967 book that the British received the short-lived M4A6 version via Lend Lease--only 75 of this variant were built, and they actually went to a training battalion at Fort Knox. For the sheer number and quality of the images alone, the book is a good value for money, provided you have additional technical references on the tank itself. For a comprehensive view of the Sherman's development and employment, see Steven J. Zaloga's excellent *Armored Thunderbolt: The U.S. Army Sherman in World War II*. For an overview of Sherman production types with photos and general arrangement drawings, see *Sherman in Action - Armor No. 16* by Bruce Culver. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Nice read I expect this is a good book for the restorer or modeler. By L Shock. Seemed well researched, just enough technical bits for me. I will definitely purchase more of these books of a similar style.

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.

About the Author Gavin Birch is an author, historian and IWM expert.