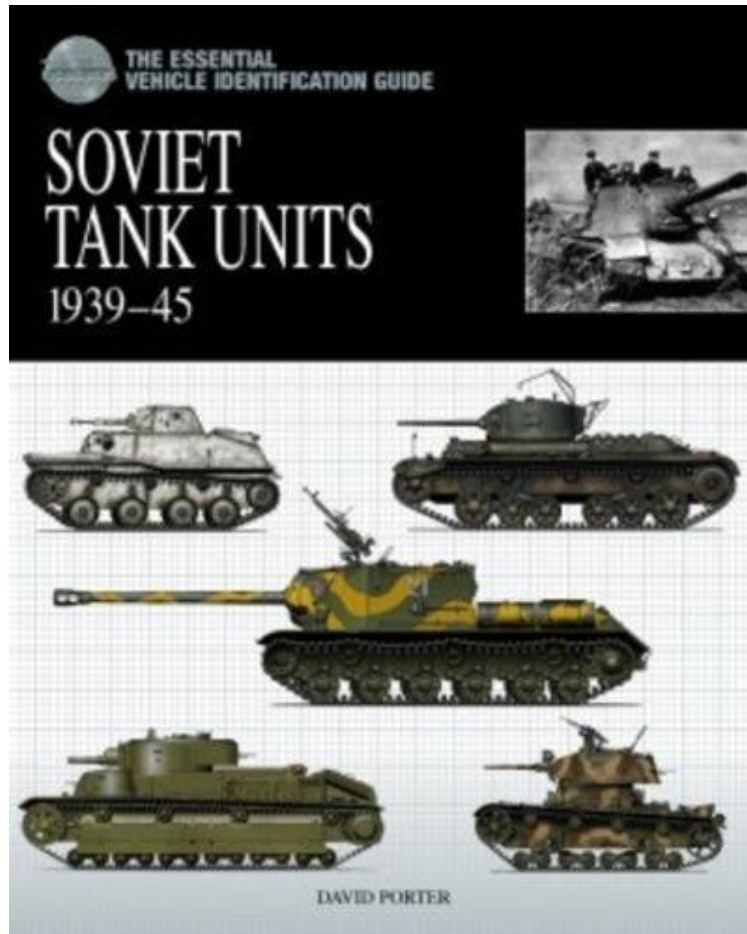


## SOVIET TANK UNITS 1939-45 (The Essential Vehicle Identification Guide)

David Porter

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**David Porter : SOVIET TANK UNITS 1939-45 (The Essential Vehicle Identification Guide)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised SOVIET TANK UNITS 1939-45 (The Essential Vehicle Identification Guide):

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. Competent introduction of Soviet Armor By Dave Schranck In the Preface, the author considers his book an introduction to Soviet Armor and its history; it's not intended to compete with the huge encyclopedias that are available. As an introduction, it was rated 5 stars for its comprehensive assortment of illustrations, graphic tables depicting the complement of tank units from company level upwards, battle summary and photos. The illustrations include light, medium and heavy duty tanks, antitank and the variations that developed throughout the war. It also covered armor cars, trucks, rocket launchers, ambulances, staff cars, jeeps and cycles. Lend lease tanks and trucks as well as tractors and towing vehicles round out the list. To my surprise, Mr Porter also includes

a brief history of Russian armor which started around the time of the revolution and continues its coverage to the start of the war. The summary includes Marshall Tukhachevsky and his driving force in improving war doctrine and Red Army modernization in the early and mid 1930s. Stalin's purges were also covered. The author also provides a brief but helpful summary of key tank battles during the war. It includes the engagements at Dubissa River, Bialystok, Minsk, Kiev, Moscow, Rzhev, Vyazma, Kharkov, Stalingrad, the Caucasus, Uranus, Bagration, Lvov, Berlin and even Manchuria. Before Barbarossa, the Spanish Civil War, and the invasions of Poland and Finland are mentioned. The Appendix includes tables of Lend-lease production and delivery quantities. It shows losses of T34s by year as well as Soviet tank production figures by year. A table also shows a comparison of German and Soviet tank strengths for various campaigns. In addition to the illustrations and tables, a good number of battlefield photos are presented. This is a competent primer that for many would probably be an excellent starting place to learn before moving up to the giant 500 plus page encyclopedias.

20 of 22 people found the following review helpful. An almost perfect book for Russian tank fans

By JGA357 This history of Soviet tank units in World War 2 has a lot going for it...excellent artwork, good organization, and engaging text. It does a great job of laying out the basic organization of Soviet tank units from the pre-war era to the end of the war. Kudos to the author, too, for including sections on Soviet operations in Finland (the Winter War), the often neglected conflict in Manchuria in 1939 and the "August Storm" offensive in Manchuria in 1945. The sections on "non-tanks" such as the multiple rocket launchers and artillery tractors are a nice touch, too. It probably is a nitpicky complaint given that the book is about Soviet tank units and not the tanks per se, but there is little data about the tanks themselves other than a short specifications box with each drawing. Also lacking is any real treatment of how the tanks performed in battle. As mentioned, the text is engaging but it treats the campaigns outlined at a very strategic level so the reader will have to go to other sources for a more detailed examination. Those minor complaints aside, this book is well worth the very reasonable price.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars

By Steven L McNeil Rare and excellent summary of the organization and equipment of the Russian armored corp during WWII.

The Essential Vehicle Identification Guide: Soviet Tank Units, 1939-45 offers an highly illustrated guide to the main armored fighting vehicles used by the Red Army during World War II. This compact volume includes sample unit structures and orders of battle from company up to corps level, providing an organizational context for key campaigns throughout the war. Organized chronologically, the book offers a comprehensive survey of Soviet-employed armored fighting vehicles by campaign, including the German invasion of 1941, the defense of Moscow, the Stalingrad counteroffensive, the battles of Kharkov and Kursk, Operation "Bagration," and the final defeat of Axis forces in Berlin, Vienna, and Budapest in May 1945.

provides a concise history of the Soviet tank armies...chockfull of information...excellent photos (IPMS)