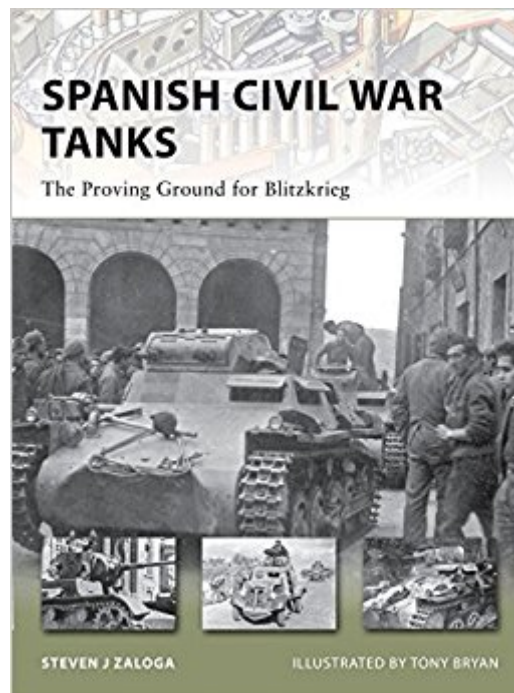


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Spanish Civil War Tanks: The Proving Ground For Blitzkrieg (New Vanguard)



Synopsis

The tanks used during the Spanish Civil War are not often examined in any great detail, and are often labeled as little more than test vehicles in a convenient proving ground before World War II. But, with groundbreaking research, armor expert Steven J Zaloga has taken a fresh look at the tanks deployed in Spain, examining how future tanks and armored tactics were shaped and honed by the crews' experiences, and how Germany was able to benefit from these lessons while their Soviet opponents were not. Based on recently uncovered records of Soviet tankers in Spain and rare archival accounts, this book describes the various tanks deployed in Spain, including the PzKpfw I and the T-26.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Steven Zaloga's "Spanish Civil War Tanks" is a great introduction to the history of tanks and armored cars used by both Republican and Nationalist forces in the conflict. Zaloga excels at crafting a historical narrative that makes good use of the limited space provided by the Osprey New Vanguard series format, and Tony Bryan's illustrations are crisp and well executed. The photos are well chosen and well reproduced with useful captions that strengthen the text. Modelers should find both the vehicle photos and illustrations with markings and color schemes useful. While there are no battlefield maps or super detailed blow by blow accounts of individual battles, the book does provide coverage of all the major operations where tanks were used and it should provide wargamers and anyone interested interwar armored history with some interesting insights and

analysis of the technology and tactics used during the war. For me the coverage of T-26 tank and development of the Soviet 20-K 45mm tank gun was worth the price of admission because it helped clarify my hazy understanding of the interwar evolutionary offshoots of the Vickers 6-ton tank and provided me with a little better grasp of the evolution of AFV armor and firepower in the 30s. It would have been nice to read more about the Soviet BT-5s in both Republican and Nationalists hands, but these vehicles made up only 50 of the 331 tanks the Soviets sent to Spain and Zaloga has a great deal of ground to cover in 48 pages. Examples of Republican ad-hoc and series production armored trucks are provided by the author, as well as interesting field modifications by the Nationalist forces of several German Panzer Is and Italian CV 3/35 tankettes with items like Breda 20mm M35 cannons and flame throwers.

SPANISH CIVIL WAR TANKS: THE PROVING GROUND FOR BLITZKRIEG STEVEN J. ZALOGA OSPREY PUBLICATIONS, 2010 QUALITY SOFTCOVER, \$17.95, 48 PAGES, PHOTOGRAPHS, MAPS, CHARTS, ILLUSTRATIONS

Steven J. Zaloga's new title for Osprey, SPANISH CIVIL WAR TANKS: THE PROVING GROUND FOR BLITZKRIEG is a welcome addition to the growing literature on the Spanish Civil War. With that being said, there are a number of mistakes as well as clarifications and additions to help the reader with their understanding of this much overlooked topic. The comments are listed below:

Page 5-The photograph should be corrected to read two members of Gruppe Drohne driving the vehicle.

Page 6-The photograph should be corrected to read 2nd (not 1st) Battalion de Carros de Combate de la Legion in 1938.

Page 16-Although the Soviet-built and supplied T-26 was relatively speedy and well armed, they could easily be knocked out. The Soviets had made a mistake in their construction: they used rubber on many external parts. Franco's troops would pour gas on these tanks, ignite them, and turn them into "smelting ovens." In actuality, most of the tanks captured by the Nationalist forces were due to the lack of tactics or experience, i.e., abandoned in muddy terrain, etc. Also, the rewarding of 500 pesetas for each Soviet tank captured in good condition by von Thoma helped as well.

Page 19-The photograph should read a Gruppe Drohne instructor shows a Spanish soldier how to homogenize the machine guns of a Panzer 1 Ausf A in the workshop at Cubas.

Page 20-"Negrillos" is a diminutive of Negro, black in Spanish, a nickname that the Spanish applied to all German personnel and equipment.

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