

Early US Armor Tanks 1916-40 New Vanguard 245 - The Evolution of American Armored Forces

Armored tanks have played a vital role in shaping the course of military history. From their early days in World War I to the modern battlefield, tanks have become an integral part of warfare. The United States, in particular, has made significant contributions to the development and evolution of armored forces. This article will delve into the fascinating world of early US armor tanks from 1916 to 1940, as explored in the book "New Vanguard 245."

The Birth of American Armor

The US involvement in World War I brought about the birth of American armor tanks. Initially, the US Army relied heavily on British and French tanks for their armored divisions. However, by 1918, the US Army had started developing its own tanks, such as the Mark VIII and M1917. These tanks marked the beginning of a new era for American armored forces.

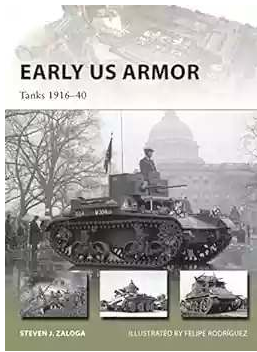
The Mark VIII, also known as the Liberty Tank, was the first indigenous tank produced by the US. It was characterized by its heavy armor and powerful 6-pounder guns, making it a formidable force on the battlefield. The M1917, on the other hand, was a light tank used primarily for reconnaissance missions. Despite its limitations, it played a crucial role in gathering intelligence and providing support for the infantry.

Early US Armor: Tanks 1916–40 (New Vanguard

Book 245) by Steven Zaloga (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

Language : English



File size	: 40854 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
X-Ray	: Enabled
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Print length	: 60 pages



Interwar Period: Advancements and Experimentation

The interwar period witnessed significant advancements in tank technology. The US Army, recognizing the importance of armored warfare, invested heavily in research and development. The objective was to create tanks that were faster, more maneuverable, and better equipped to handle the challenges of modern warfare.

One notable development during this period was the of the M2 light tank, a versatile vehicle designed for both infantry support and reconnaissance. The M2 was followed by the M2A1, which featured improved armor protection and greater firepower. These tanks were primarily used for training purposes and laid the foundation for future American tank designs.

Another significant milestone in the interwar period was the creation of the Medium Tank M2 and its variants. The Medium Tank M2 marked a shift towards heavier and more powerful tanks. With its superior armor and improved weaponry, it was suited for offensive operations and played a crucial role during the early stages of World War II.

World War II: The Rise of American Armor

World War II brought about a rapid evolution in tank technology, and the United States was at the forefront of this transformation. With the outbreak of the war, the American armored forces underwent a massive expansion, both in terms of manpower and tank production.

The M3 Stuart, a light tank with exceptional speed and mobility, became a staple of the US Army's armored divisions. It played a crucial role during the early stages of the war, particularly in the North African campaign. The M4 Sherman, a medium tank, soon followed and became one of the most widely used tanks by the US Army throughout the war. It was renowned for its reliability, durability, and versatility.

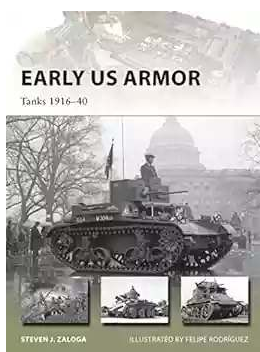
The American armored forces also experimented with more specialized tanks during World War II. The M26 Pershing, for example, was designed to counter German heavy tanks and played a significant role in the later stages of the war. The M18 Hellcat, on the other hand, was a tank destroyer known for its exceptional speed and firepower.

The Legacy of Early US Armor Tanks

The early US armor tanks laid the foundation for the future development of American armored forces. Their successes and failures shaped the evolution of tank designs, doctrine, and tactics. The lessons learned paved the way for the creation of iconic tanks such as the M48 Patton and the M1 Abrams, which would go on to dominate the battlefields of later conflicts.

, the early US armor tanks from 1916 to 1940 played a crucial role in the evolution of American armored forces. From the birth of American armor during World War I to the advancements and experimentation of the interwar period, and finally, the rise of American armor in World War II, these tanks have left an

indelible mark on military history. The book "New Vanguard 245" provides an in-depth look into these fascinating machines and is a must-read for anyone interested in the development of armored warfare.



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Between the two World Wars, the US contributed significantly to the development of the tank, a weapon invented by the British and the French seeking a way to break through the lines of German trenches. From the employment of the French Renault FT and British Mark V during their involvement in World War I, the US branched out with their own indigenous designs including the M1 Cavalry Car and the M2 Light and Medium tanks, the precursors to the Stuart and Grant tanks of World War II. Tank designers in this period faced unique challenges and so the story of early American armour is littered with failures amongst the successes. Featuring previously unpublished photos and fully illustrated throughout, Early American Armor (1): Tanks 1916–40 is essential reading for anyone interested in American armour, or in the development of tank design.



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