

The Legendary M551 Sheridan: A Definitive Account of the Airmobile Tanks from 1941 to 2001



The M551 Sheridan was an iconic American airmobile tank that served the country from 1941 to 2001. Designed to be transported to the battlefield by helicopters, it revolutionized armored warfare and became a symbol of American military might. In this article, we will delve deep into the history, capabilities, and legacy of this legendary vehicle.

The Birth of the M551 Sheridan

The development of the M551 Sheridan can be traced back to the early 1940s when the concept of an airmobile tank was first explored. The United States Army recognized the need for a lightweight tank that could be quickly deployed in various combat scenarios. The result was the creation of the M551 Sheridan, a tank that weighed only 16 tons yet packed a powerful punch.



M551 Sheridan: US Airmobile Tanks 1941–2001 (New Vanguard Book 153)

by Christian M. McBurney (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

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Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 48 pages
Screen Reader : Supported



Technological Advancements

The M551 Sheridan was equipped with advanced technologies for its time. It featured an amphibious capability, allowing it to traverse bodies of water with ease. Its powerful 152mm gun was capable of firing various types of ammunition, including anti-tank missiles. Additionally, it was the first American tank to be equipped with a laser rangefinder, greatly enhancing its accuracy.

Combat Operations and Performance

The M551 Sheridan saw extensive combat operations during the Vietnam War, proving its effectiveness in a variety of terrains. Its lightweight allowed it to maneuver through dense jungles and navigate difficult terrain, giving the United

States Army a significant advantage. Although it faced some mechanical issues, the tank's speed and firepower compensated for its shortcomings, making it a formidable asset on the battlefield.

Legacy and Retirement

Over the years, the M551 Sheridan earned a legendary status among military enthusiasts. Its unique capabilities and iconic appearance contributed to its popularity. However, advances in technology and changing warfare tactics eventually led to its retirement in 2001. Despite this, the M551 Sheridan remains an important part of military history and serves as a testament to the innovation and adaptability of the United States Armed Forces.

The M551 Sheridan Today

Although no longer in active service, the M551 Sheridan can still be found in museums and private collections around the world. Its impact on armored warfare and the concept of airmobile tanks cannot be overstated. The tank's legacy lives on, reminding us of the ingenuity and military prowess of those who designed, operated, and fought alongside it.

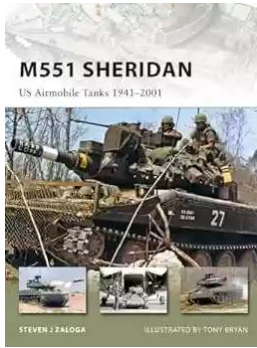
The M551 Sheridan was a revolutionary airmobile tank that played a crucial role in shaping the tactics and capabilities of the United States Army. From its inception in 1941 to its retirement in 2001, this legendary vehicle left an indelible mark on military history. Today, it stands as a symbol of innovation and adaptability, showcasing the remarkable capabilities of American armored forces.

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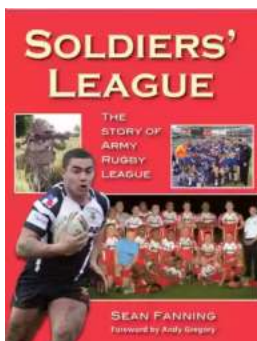
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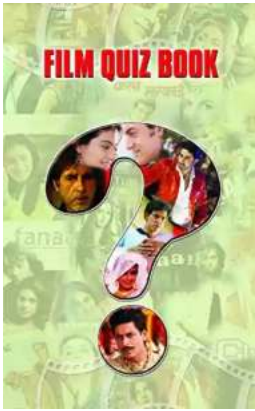


ALSO AVAILABLE TO BUY AS AN E-BOOK. Since the advent of airmobile warfare, there have been numerous attempts to support paratroopers with attached armored vehicles. This book tells the story of the US experience with air-mobile tanks, starting with their efforts in World War II. However, full success was not achieved until the production of the M551 Sheridan. The history of this tank provides the focal point of this book, highlighting the difficulties of combining heavy firepower in a chassis light enough for airborne delivery. The book examines its controversial debut in Vietnam, and its subsequent combat history in Panama and Operation Desert Storm. It rounds out the story by examining the failed attempts to replace the Sheridan with other armored vehicles.



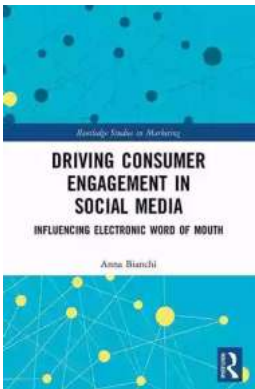
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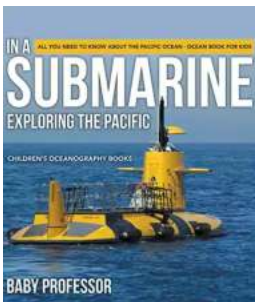
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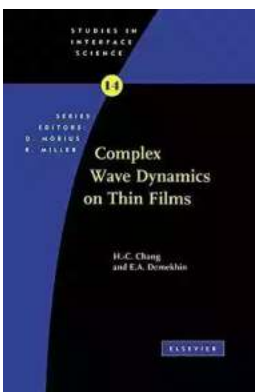
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