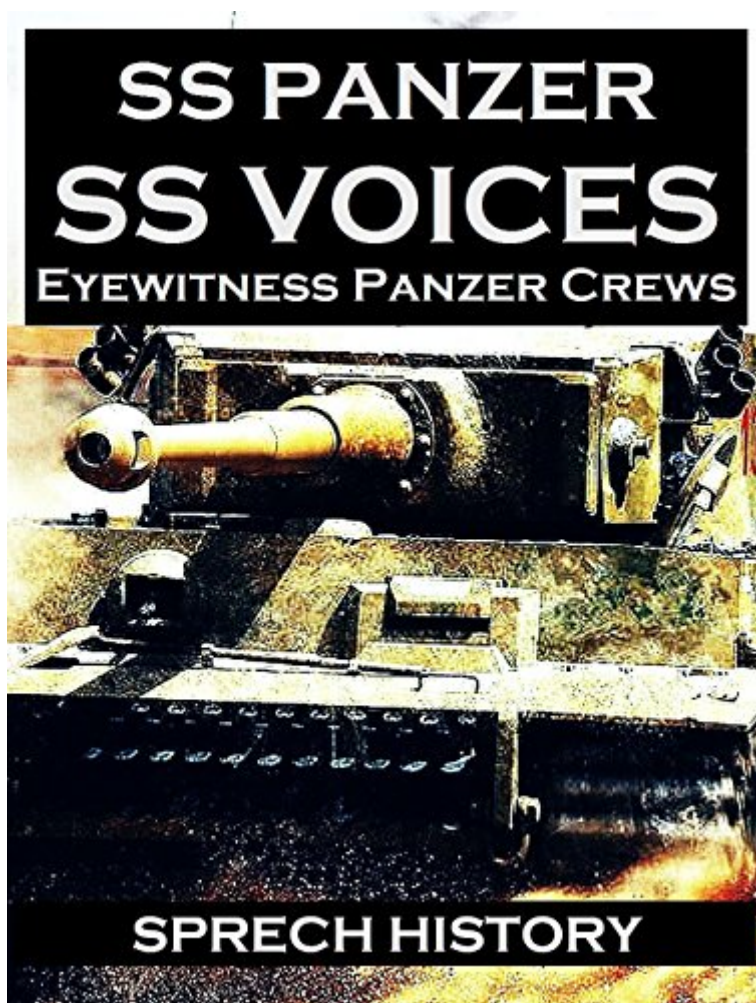


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SS Panzer SS Voices - Eyewitness Panzer Crews - From Barbarossa To Berlin



Synopsis

“My next round went straight into the Sherman’s hull . . . within seconds, flaming gasoline was pouring out, burning white and orange . . . We shot at the Russian tanks when they came out of the dust cloud . . . the T34 exploded like a rotten fruit . . . engine, turret and deck all going in different directions, with the crew torn apart likewise . . . Told by the men who fought in the tanks, with all the searing aggression and violence that they experienced . . . these are the shocking first-hand stories of the SS panzer troops themselves. The crews of the Panzer IV, the Stug, the Panther, Jagdtiger, Tiger and King Tiger . . . the authentic voices of the gunners, commanders and drivers who fought some of the deadliest battles in human history. In 1962, German researchers conducted a series of interviews with former members of the Waffen SS panzer troops who had fought in World War 2. The intention was to probe the SS veterans’ motivations and psychology, but the men were unwilling to discuss these matters in depth. They were prepared, however, to describe their combat experiences - and they gave astonishing accounts of tank battles in Operation Barbarossa, Normandy, Italy, the Russian Front, the massive conflict at Kursk, the Ardennes and during the final apocalyptic battles against the Soviets within the Reich and for Berlin itself. These were men whose memories of battle were still vivid, and they were ready to relate the physical details of combat - the violent sights, sounds, and sensations of tank fighting, the weapons and tactics that they used, their triumphs and humiliations. Told in ice-cold, clinical detail, with phenomenal drama and sense of crisis, these first-hand accounts stand out today as one of the most remarkable testimonies to the experience of tank warfare in WW2. They will fascinate anyone interested in tank combat, the Waffen SS and the use of armor from 1941 to 1945. This book has the complete set of interviews from Books 1 and 2 of this series, with accounts of tank battles in: Operation Barbarossa (Panzer IV) Onslaught in the East (Stug III) Kursk (Tiger I) Italy (Elefant and Panther) Normandy (Panther) The Ardennes (Jagdtiger) Prussia (Stug IV) Berlin (King Tiger and Wirbelwind) A unique and shocking insight into panzer warfare in all its horrors.

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Customer Reviews

I found the transcribed stories from the German point of view very enlightening. The downside is, I purchased 3 "books" from this series and many of the stories are passed around from book to book. It appears to be a way for taking the material from one book and "recycling it" through three books... not a good move from the consumer's point of view.

There are two views to every conflict. It's interesting to hear the voice on the other side. I find it hard to understand why man spends so much time with such waste. I would have liked to heard more on the ideology and what makes one follow another into the very gates of hell. I like what the book offered.

Individual SS Panzer troop accounts of their battles. These accounts were from interviews taken in the 1962 period when many of the young SS Panzer personnel were still perhaps younger than 40 years of age. Fear, Blood, Death, as experienced in some of the greatest tank battles of all time. Worth your time if you are a military history buff.

3/25/2015 EDIT: Some other readers have questioned the authenticity of the interviews contains in this book. If they are a work of fiction then I would change my rating to zero stars for being a scam. should not recommend a book that is of dubious authenticity. Anyway, here is my original review:I've been on a WWII Eastern front kick lately and read Otto Carius 'Tigers in the Mud' and

Hans Rudel 'Stuka Pilot.' SS Panzer SS Voices was recommended to me for only \$2.99 and, despite no customer reviews, I figured I would give it a shot. The main difference with SS Panzer from other memoirs is it's a compilation of short interviews that were conducted back in the early 60's. The interviews are done anonymously and little backstory is given to the subjects. The title is slightly misleading because it implies that Waffen SS soldiers are going perhaps talk openly about nefarious activity that the term "SS" brings to mind. However, these stories are strictly about tank vs. tank combat. As promised in the description there are a variety of battles, crew member positions and vehicles featured here. (The most unusual vehicle being the Berge Elefant recovery vehicle) Where I would give Tigers in the Mud and Stuka Pilot a PG-13 rating, this book is definitely rated R for extreme graphic violence. There are vivid descriptions of tanks running over active, wounded, dead soldiers and then the arduous task of later removing the human debris from the tracks. Things also get ugly whenever there are flame-throwers, napalm and burning oil involved. Horrible, horrible ways to die and all described in nauseating detail. However, there are also moments of ominous beauty that are poetically recalled, such as a lonely StuG III navigating by compass and stars across the endless and desolate steppe of Soviet Asia. Or the deadly trio of a massive Jagdtiger, flanked by a Tiger and King Tiger, slowly emerging from the Ardennes forest under the cover of thick fog. And the final days in the Battle of Berlin as a pair of T-34s drive down the street looking like "a pair of rats with their noses sniffing the air of Berlin." The observations made of the American Shermans are quite interesting as well. Such as why spend \$40,000 on a Sherman and not an additional \$2 for camouflage paint? And why not "put a bazooka on their Sherman, instead of their short-barrel 75mm" ? These SS soldiers seemed to feel sorry for the brave crews in these metal "coffins" and one Jagdtiger crew member said "My God, if you could see the effect of our 128mm gun on these badly-made Shermans. No army should have sent them against machines such as ours." Although I am thankful for the interviewer who took the time and interest to record these fascinating accounts, his interruptions during the interviews are often unwelcome and inappropriate. Practically every question he asks obviously offends the subject and causes him to switch topics rather than elaborate further. However, the editor of the book provides good notes, classifications of terms and overview of each particular battle. Overall, highly recommended for anyone interested in German tanks. You will taste the dust and smell the fumes as these iconic war machines roar to life and bring unparalleled death and destruction wherever they roam.

The voices of the dead and their experiences are heard again.

Really good, shows how horrible war is and expresses that fact that the German soldiers thought they were fighting to keep the Russians from overrunning Europe which they eventually did at least in the east. The only fly in the ointment is that the Germans did the same thing they claimed they were trying to prevent the Russians from doing.

A great book to read. Along with the book "The Forgotten Soldier" by Guy Sajer, the two books give a great narrative from young German soldiers of life on the Eastern Front. Forget the politics, and enjoy reading about the tactics and battles. Being sent to the Eastern Front was a death sentence, both the soldiers gave it their all- for naught.

This book describes one German SS soldier's experiences during WWII. The SS were a hand chosen adjunct to Hitler and were fanatics who frequently ignored the Geneva agreement on the treatment of prisoners. The SS were recruited from youth who had been groomed to believe that Germany was going to save Europe from itself - exterminate all who didn't fit Nazi doctrine.

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