

Battleground - The Greatest Tank Duels in History

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**Battleground -
The Greatest Tank
Duels in History**
Author: Steven J. Zaloga
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A compilation of five of the most popular 'Duel' series, Battleground is a high-quality and relatively inexpensive alternative to the individual soft-bound versions. And as far as content, a room full of armor enthusiasts would find it hard to find more worthy selections to include than what Steven Zaloga and Osprey have done here:

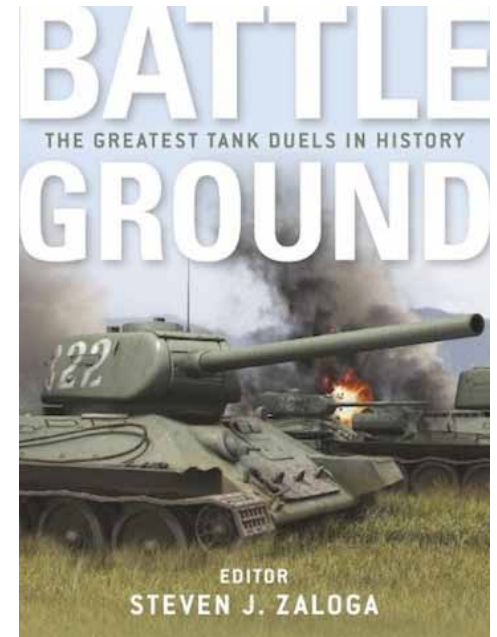
- T-34 vs. Panther:
Ukraine 1943
- Tiger vs. Firefly:
Normandy 1944
- M26 Pershing vs. T-34-85:
Korea 1950
- Centurion vs. T-55: Golan
Heights 1973
- M1 Abrams vs. T-72: Desert
Storm 1991

The five chapters are broken down into identical sections which allow readers to easily zero in on what is of interest at any point in time. If I pick up the book for casual reading, I might go directly to the section title 'The Action'. If I need to

know some technical aspect during a modeling session, I might refer to the section titled 'Inside the (M26 Pershing)' and so forth. Other sections include: 'The Tanks', 'Technical Assessment', 'The Men', 'Battleground', 'Statistics and Analysis', and 'Aftermath'. Each of these sections is further broken down into different subjects. The section labeled 'Technical Assessment' for example contains information on Armor Protection, Firepower, Mobility, Communications, and so forth. The Action sections contain in-the-vehicle narrative of several battles, most of which have names that are familiar to the reader, and several that might be new.

The first section (T-34 vs. Panther) covers action at Kursk, Akhtyrka and Kharkov, the German retreat to the Dnepr, Melitopol, Fastov, Brusilov and Radomyshl (West of Kiev).

The second section (Tiger vs. Firefly) finds the reader in Normandy shortly after the invasion, with action in St-Aignan (including German Tiger ace Michael Wittmann's 'Death Charge'), and the battle for 'Le Petit Ravin'.



The next section moves on to the Korean conflict (T-34-85 vs. M26 Pershing). The action section here includes the Pusan Perimeter, the duel at Obong-Ni Ridge, the 'Bowling Alley', the Inchon landings, and the breakout from the Pusan Pocket.

Desert warfare of the Egyptian/Israeli conflicts is covered in the next section, which includes the defense of the Golan Heights, the Stand of the Barak Brigade, and the Valley of Tears.

The last section (M1 vs. T-72) takes the reader to (what I have known as) 'the battle of Grid 73' a gripping clash of armor during the furious 100-hour ground war in 1991. I have not found a better and more compelling account of

this stand-out engagement than what is found in Battleground.

As one would expect from Osprey, the entire book is heavily illustrated, with color and b&w photographs, charts, drawings, action-orientated artwork, maps and engagement diagrams, etc. As I worked through the book, the modeler in me wanted to go out to the garage and pour

though the various kits and aftermarket products I own, envisioning future builds.

Special features include an introduction by Steven Zaloga charting the development of tank warfare and technology

'Battleground' is well worth the price even if you own one or more of the individual titles. Having a single, sturdy high-quality compilation of

the best of the series for your archives is a must for armor enthusiasts, especially if you are a fan of Steven Zaloga and his comprehensive analysis of tank warfare.

I would like to thank Stevens International for providing this book for review, and to Internet Modeler for giving me the opportunity to read it.
