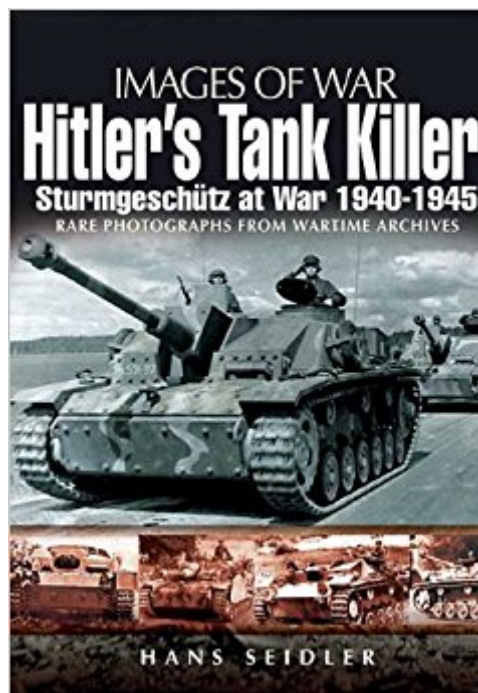




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Hitler's™ Tank Killer: Sturmgeschütz At War 1940 - 1945 (Images Of War)



Synopsis

Sturmgeschütz III was originally designed as an assault weapon, but as war progressed it was increasingly used in a defensive role and evolved into an assault gun and tank destroyer. By 1943 its main role was providing anti-tank support to the units in its area of operation. This consequently led to many StuGs being destroyed in battle. Nonetheless they were very successful as tank killers and destroyed, among others, many bunkers, pillboxes and other defenses. While not considered to be a true tank because it lacked a turret, the gun was mounted directly in the hull, with a low profile to reduce vehicle heights, and had a limited lateral traverse of a few degrees in either direction. Thus, the entire vehicle had to be turned in order to acquire targets. Omitting the turret made production much simpler and less costly, enabling greater numbers to be built. Most assault guns were mounted on the chassis of a Panzer III or Panzer IV, with the resultant model being called either a StuG III or StuG IV respectively. The StuG was one of the most effective tracked vehicles of World War II, and over 10,000 of them were eventually produced.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Hans Seidler is an avid collector of rare wartime images. He is the author of Hitler's Tank Killers and cooperated with Ian Baxter on Barbarossa (both published by Pen and Sword in the Images of War Series). He can be contacted through Ian Baxter who lives near Chelmsford.

Good reference for my military modeling

Arrived safely

This is a great photo essay on the StuG III. What text there is offers little of interest. The average WWII history buff already knows more than what the book contains. The captions are also weak. The author clearly needed to write something so he must have just written whatever popped into his head. Most captions are mundane and state the obvious, and are repeated throughout the book. A few are of interest but not a high or even reasonable percentage. Some are just silly or nonsensical. The technical information provided on the various StuG models is very basic and can be found anywhere. Ignore the text and most of the captions, the value of this book is in its photographs. They show paint schemes (some of which I have never seen before), stowage, modifications (i.e. track extenders to improve flotation in soft ground similar to what Americans used on the Sherman), some markings of interest, a variety of models are shown, tarps wrapped around the gun mantlet in an effort to keep out rain, etc. The only thing really lacking in the photos are shots of the interiors. It's a fairly good picture book, don't expect anything else.

Images of War is a fast growing series of photo albums of mostly WWII but have begun to expand into WWI as well. Each volume varies in page count but most are around 160 pages long. This volume specializes in the StuG III assault guns and includes all variants from 1940 to 1945. Except for the Appendix almost every page has either one or two photos of the assault guns and their crews. Each photo has a decent caption describing certain features of a particular model or describes the type gun it has or any optional equipment. Many of these assault guns show the extra armor added by their crews or carrying lumber to build a corduroy road if needed. Sometimes the location and time of year will be part of the caption. For the experienced reader these captions will be blasé but for the rest of us they're helpful. There are also a few pages of commentary on the war but it's too brief to be a summary; buy the book for the photos. The photos are good but there are only a couple that were taken during battle. The rest of the photos show these assault guns either being transported by train, crossing a river, traveling in a column down a dirt road, driving through a destroyed town or past burning farms or transversing an endless field. There are no photos of the interior of these guns. If you're a fan of tanks and assault guns or you want to learn about them and you don't expect too much you'll like this album. The appendix includes a wrap sheet of the StuG III Model A through Model G. Information included in these tables are production dates, dimensions,

weight, engine, speed, range, main armament and crew size.

Like already stated in the previous reviews, the book does contain a nice selection of pictures (mostly from the mid-late war period), but the captions are way off: dozens of the StuG variants are stated wrong. Get it for the pictures only.

I agree with the other reviewers. This book has a good collection of photos but the text leaves a lot to be desired. The photo captions are highly repetitive. I would have liked to see some photos and description of the interior of the vehicle. How could the text have been improved? How about the views of those who used it: was it reliable, how did it run, how did it compare to other assault guns? How about more detail on the engine? Where was it manufactured and more details of manufacture? The text could have been so much more detailed.

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