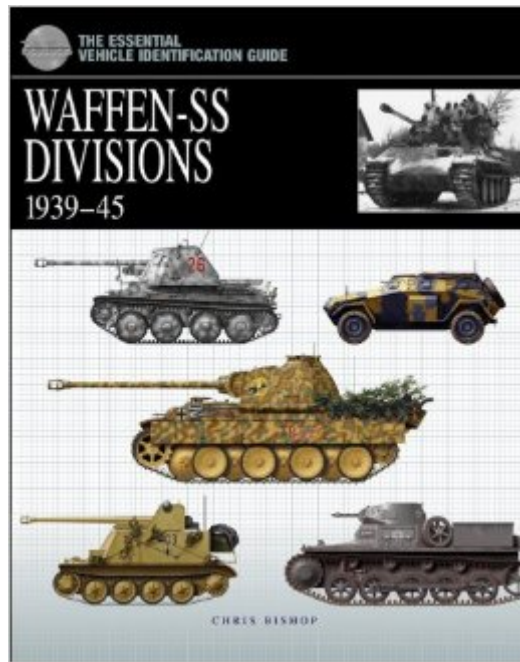


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Waffen SS Divisions, 1939-1945 (The Essential Vehicle Identification Guide)



Synopsis

Illustrated with detailed artworks of vehicles and their markings, *The Essential Vehicle Identification Guide: Waffen-SS Divisions, 1939-45* is the definitive study of the equipment and organization of Germany's elite Waffen-SS divisions during World War II. Organized chronologically by division and formation date, the book describes in depth the various models of tank and other armored and soft vehicles in service with the "fighting" SS, with listings of unit commanders, vehicle types and numbers, and unit structure. Each divisional section is further broken down by campaign, accompanied by orders of battle, a brief divisional history of the campaign, and any specific unit markings. Every SS division that saw combat is featured, from well-known units such as the elite Das Reich and Wiking divisions, to lesser-known divisions, such as the 11th Waffen-SS Panzer Division Nordland and the Albanian-recruited 21st Waffen-SS Gebirgs-Division Skanderbeg. With information boxes accompanying the full-color artworks, all drawn to the same scale for easy comparison, *The Essential Vehicle Identification Guide: Waffen-SS Divisions, 1939-45* is a key reference guide for modelers and military history enthusiasts with an interest in the Waffen-SS divisions of World War II.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

First, a caveat. As an avid Panzer modeler, I more or less liked the "Wehrmacht Vehicle Identification Guide." Yes there are a few errors here and there. (One notable error is the title itself,

as the author of course means das Heer, rather than Wehrmacht, as the latter term, which pretty much means armed forces, encompasses all branches of the German Armed Forces, including the Waffen SS). And yes it is very basic. But it provided a nice overview of each division des deutschen Heeres throughout different periods and theaters. In this way, it was a nice way to peruse different vehicles with different camo schemes and markings as a starting point to further inquiry and research, particularly given how beautiful the color-plates are. Not so with this mistake. As one damning example, which indelibly indicts the credibility of the entire work, page 36 features plates of a das Reich Tiger and Panther with errors and fictions that are blatantly and obviously wrong to anyone who has even cursory knowledge of the subject matter, both in terms of camo scheme and markings and even the version of the vehicle itself. The Tiger plate supposedly features number 812, a vehicle well documented in Tigers and Combat and Das Reich Tigers, among other sources. While the proper scheme is heavy white wash over schwarzgrau with large black numerals, the color plate depicts a vehicle in dunkelgelb with small numerals. Right below this is a completely fictitious Panther A--a version which was not fielded until late 1943 AFTER THE BATTLE OF KURSK-- with a black shield and white wolfsengel: a style, color, and emblem which I do not believe was ever depicted on any das Reich vehicle at any time ever.

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