
*by Sylwia Ewelina Serwońska*

“The tank is formed by combining the concept of an armored car and tracked tractor. Heavy armor and high mobility of tanks ensured survival on the battlefield, and the drive crawler allowed to move at high speed in difficult terrain. The tank eventually became a principal means of fighting land, appropriates attack” (Piątek, 2015).

The first words of introduction introduce the reader to the specifics of the book. As presented by the author book is a study of a new type of weapons, which are tanks. It analyzes the creation, evolution and the impact of tanks to conduct hostilities. Their significant impact on the quality of actions on the battlefield.

The materials used in the study are mostly from the Central Military Archives. They concern a large part of the Polish armored vehicles, but also those of countries like Russia, Germany and France. The author indicates that collections of documents relating to armored Great Britain, Lithuania, Czechoslovakia, Romania and Hungary were very small. As rich as the source files is literature used in the book. Bibliography is divided into development and collections before and after 1939, which accurately shows the analysis of the subject at a high level.

Perfectly they are also prepared lists (tables, diagrams, charts, plans and maps and images) and indexes (the personal and names). The publication also contains a list of all acronyms used in the book. This all allows you to quickly find any information in a quick time and satisfactory.

The book consists of five chapters. The first chapter is about the changes in warfare in the period preceding the outbreak of and I the course of World War I. There are descriptions of the influence of technology on the character of wars conducted at the turn of the 20th century, including socio-economic changes and their impact on changing warfare. In the description of the initial character of the war the author is analyzing the concept of doctrines adopted by the armed forces. Then shows the changes imposed by the course of

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military action. The end of the chapter is to show the impact of technological developments on the change of military operations including information on technological development and construction of submarines or coverage and the use of communications systems.

The concepts of conducting warfare developed in Europe during the interwar period is the next chapter of this book. It describes the influence of views on the use of tanks onto the development of military theories and the character of future war. The author then explains brilliantly describe the location of military thought in the USSR in the years 1918–1939 in this part of the publication, and then presents the conclusions of the use of tanks in the war against the Soviet Russia and other military actions in the years 1919–1939. At the end of the chapter shows the Polish conceptions about the use of tanks in combat.

The third chapter is a war tanks in the structures of post-war armed forces in European countries. It begins with an analysis of the factors determining the development of the armed forces in Europe. Smooth moves to changes in the organizational structure and combat preparedness of armoured forces, including the author has divided analysis of state power (Britain, France, Italy, the Soviet Russia, Germany and other countries). It is a very good reference material to describe the tanks in Poland and the evolution of organizational and structural changes.

Tanks and their evolution in major European countries as the next chapter in a natural way systematise the collected information to the reader. Also in this chapter, the author retains the logical chronology developed information. Starting from the development of the tanks’ construction and the search for perfect solutions through structures prepared, put into production and to equip subdivisions to Polish construction of tanks against the achievements of other countries.

Ending is a chapter about tanks in military doctrine and the initial stage the war. Attitudes to the processes of motorisation and armorification of the troops among the European and Polish highest military institutions, include enforced changes in management or as indicated by author having the industrial base necessary for the accomplishment of tasks and development of an appropriate amount of technical measures. Then we read about the modernization of armored formations, armorification of other types of troops in Europe and the action taken in this field by Poland. Chronologically at the end of the chapter, the author describes the use of tanks in the initial phase of the war. It refers to the number of armored forces of the Wehrmacht in the confrontation resource Polish; It shows the errors of that time commanders (including their “short-sightedness” on the Polish side) to the end perfectly rightly summed up the activities of all sides.
In summary by the author: “although the first use of tanks took place during the First World War they did not immediately find a place for them in the structures of the armed forces. (...) War tanks or armored war assumed the existence of a large amount of funds of tank, no single copies even the most perfect machines” (Piątek, 2015). These assumptions through quotations theoretical work and conclusions practitioners and rich commentary author of this whole wealth of this book. Develop multiple sources, multiple maps and images, and as I mentioned above, accurate analysis of the author’s increase the value of this publication. The book is needed in the military literature as well as for the war strategy. An excellent source of information for enthusiasts, a layman who had first contact with the subject and students. I recommend the book BATTLE FOR TANKS as a valuable and much explaining about tanks for everyone.