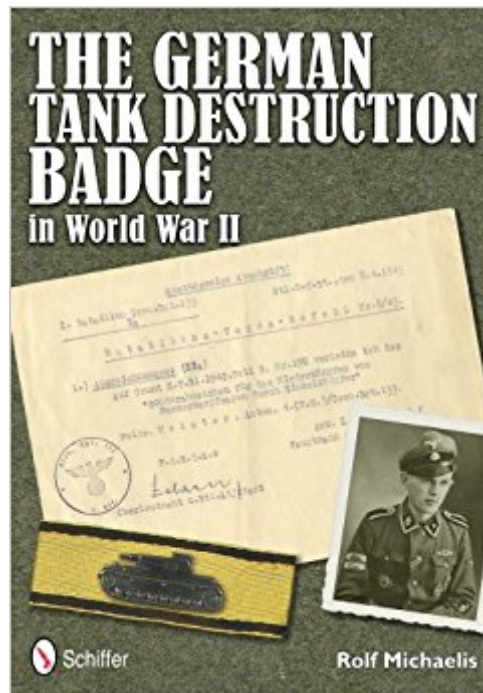




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# The German Tank Destruction Badge In World War II



## Synopsis

The close-range engagement of tanks became extremely important mainly because of the Soviet T-34 and KV-I tanks, which for a long time were superior to all German tanks and anti-tank guns. Frequently employed in small groups of three to five tanks to support the infantry, these Russian tanks could often be put out of action with close-range weapons. This book provides a concise account of Tank Destruction Badge, and the close-range combating of tanks. In addition to a description of the special badge and the most commonly used weapons, it includes operational accounts by recipients of the badge.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Rolf Michaelis specializes in books on the Waffen-SS and has written over thirty to date, with many available in English from Schiffer Books. He lives in Berlin.

Well researched and written, and great source for seeing what real awards look like. Many rare photos and detail that makes it a pleasure to read, will prevent someone from getting one of the many repro's around, this shows the real awards and how they were made along with award documents . Great job and super clear photos.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN; I AM VERY PLEASED WITH THE BOOK THAT I RECEIVED FROM YOU, AS A COLLECTOR AND MILITARY HISTORY BUFF, THIS BOOK WILL HELP ME IN MY KNOWLEDGE AND COLLECTING IN THE FUTURE. IT IS A WONDERFUL BOOK AND VERY

HELPFUL SO FAR. THANK YOU. SINCERELY, MOISES

Was interesting but still good book to keep

Hard cover book with little in it. That was a surprise. SCHIFFER Military books are usually excellent. This one starts off telling me just how cost inefficient the Panzerfaust and Panzerschreck were, costing much more to manufacture than the cost of the tanks they destroyed??? On the other hand, the book doesn't discuss the major changes in tactics forced on the Allied and Soviet forces by the Germans having effective close in AT weapons with the range to at least allow the German infantry to attack armor without having to close assault the target. Book does have a copy (in German) of the Tank Hunter handbook issued to German troops on killing tanks; and the English translation of the German. It does cover close in anti-tank weapons the Germans used. It does have a few accounts from the paperwork that was put in for the award. There are better books on this subject out there. Just search for GERMAN ANTITANK to find them.

great ref

Excellent

THE GERMAN TANK DESTRUCTION BADGE IN WORLD WAR II ROLF MICHAELISSCHIFFER PUBLISHING, 2012 HARDCOVER, \$19.99, 65 PAGES, PHOTOGRAPHS, APPENDIX Although this badge was authorized on 9 March 1942; its award was made retroactive to cover such actions since the first days of the invasion of the former Soviet Union in June, 1941. It was intended as a special decoration for the single-handed destruction of an enemy tank. Members of an anti-tank gun crew weren't eligible for this badge. This was subsequently modified on 18 December 1943 to include anti-tank gun crews. The badge, of stiff silver cloth edged in black, was worn on the upper right arm, and carried in its center a metal facsimile of the short-barreled version of the German Panzer IV Tank not the Soviet T-34 Tank as many people believe. One cloth badge was worn for each tank destroyed, and subsequent badges for additional tanks destroyed were worn one above the other on the right arm. A gilt tank sleeve badge was instituted on 18 December 1943 to commemorate a fifth victory. That cloth badge had a black tank facsimile and also an edging in gold. Unofficial versions had a golden tank on a golden band and a golden tank on a silver band. THE GERMAN TANK DESTRUCTION BADGE IN WORLD WAR II consists of the following chapters-Close-Range

Anti-Tank Warfare, The Tank Destruction Badge, Training, Anti-Tank Weapons And Devices, Recollections, Appendix: Pamphlet 77/3-Manual For The Close Range Tank Attacker, May, 1944, and Sources. Author Rolf Michaelis has written a very well-researched and detailed book on one of the many badges awarded to the individual German soldier in World War II. The only mistakes that I came across while reviewing this book are listed below: \*Page 10-22 June 1941 should be written as 21 June 1941. \*Page 11-Oberstleutnant Gunter Viezenz was later awarded the Knight's Cross. Lt. Colonel Robert A. Lynn, Florida Guard Orlando, Florida

If the quality of the paper is superior, the content does not compare. With a mouth-watering title the author does not deliver. Although the prospect should be promising I am left dissatisfied. Though this is a monograph some errors are to be found, which is inexcusable. Here are some examples: p.30 A photo purports the anti-tank rifle to be a PzBf 38 when it is actually a Soviet-made Degtyarev PTRD. (expertise is found wanting to say the least) p.9 The photo of a Luftwaffe airman fails to show what the comment is stating. (due to hurried and botched publishing ?) To add insult to injury, some spelling mistakes are to be found here and there. Now for photo novelty your expectancy will wane as quite a few photos are only too-well known. Also I have to differ when the author declares German close anti-tank combat program a "marginal" success, as would most military historians and Allied tank crews. By 1945 it is hard to find Sherman tanks that aren't adorned with sandbags, layers of timber or reinforced with concrete. The same applies to Soviet armour, festooned with screens of meshwire, in the streets of Berlin. The real bonus turns out to be the reproduction of the close range tank attack manual "Panzer Knacker" in its original version. Alas the translation is unprofessional as it is too rigid often clumsy if not plainly awkward. When I think of it, two stars is a mighty generous rating ...

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