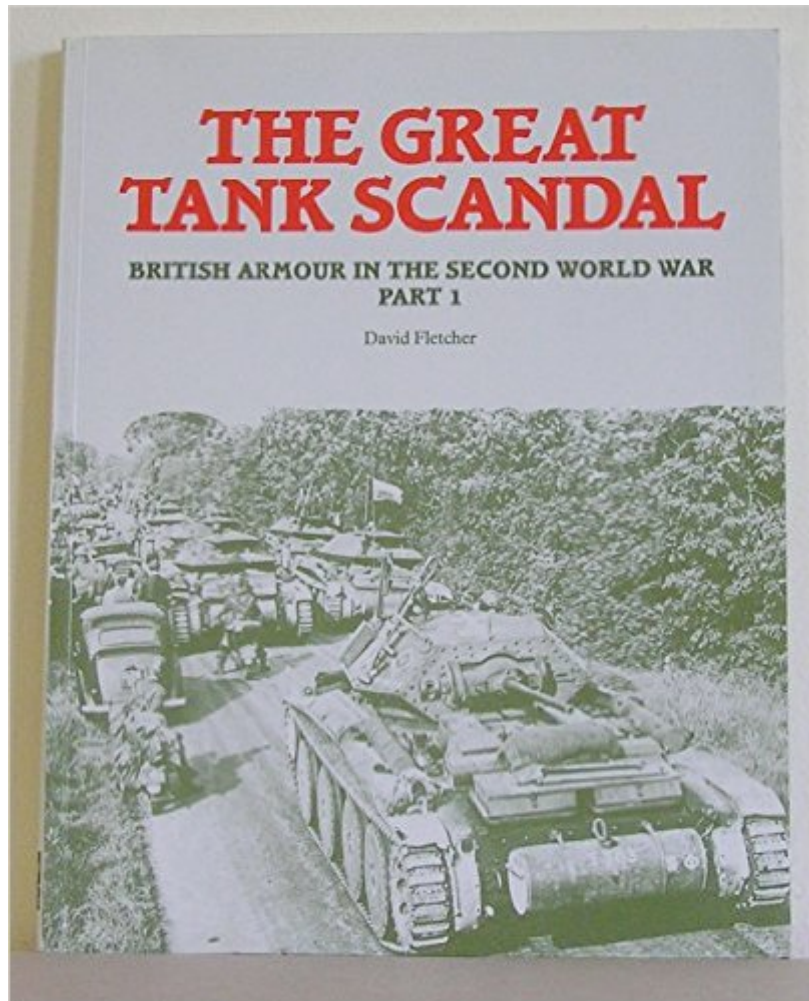


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Great Tank Scandal (British Armour In The Second World War) (Part 1)



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Customer Reviews

I was able to purchase this soft bound edition at an affordable - if somewhat high - price. Note that this is Part 1 which deals with the 1936 - 1943 period before the British armored divisions were equipped with the M4 (Sherman) variants. The last chapter does deal a little with the equipping of the British with the lend-lease material and the creation of some of the "Hobart Funnies" variants but deals mostly with the slow delivery and low-combat effectiveness of the native British Armor. I would have liked to actually have more data on the actual combat operations of the 20mm (2#) equipped tanks but the focus was more on the industrial base and lack thereof that added to the muddled direction of tank development. There is also a large section on British and Commonwealth armored cars which was interesting but did subtract pages from the tank story. That an inadequate gun and scanty armor were continued in new vehicles because they already had planned to build them was a poor use of their military men as well as industrial capacity. The faults of the Sherman in later 1944 was more a lack of demand by the front line forces (and Ordnance failure to use intelligence to press home new designs) than bad selection. Despite the Sherman's faults it was a better all around design than the German tanks it faced and had the automotive capacity to upgrade armor and gun - if that need had been recognized earlier. What is also shown by this work, as well as several others, was that the British North African campaign was a side-show for the Germans. They could ship outdated PzK I and II as well as early marks of III and IV while outmatching the latest British tanks.

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