

World War's history while forcing readers to consider how prisoners' pre-war lives influenced their responses to surrender and captivity.

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Alaric Searle, *Armoured Warfare: a military, political and global history*. London: Bloomsbury: London, 2017. pp. 269. ISBN 978-144-114-250-4. SOFTBACK. Price £21.99.

While there appear to be as many books on tanks as there are stars in the sky, as well as a similar number of books covering armoured warfare in specific wars, there are few books on armoured warfare in general. If you search *Amazon Books* for armoured warfare, 22 pages of results come up but very few of the hundreds of books listed survey armoured warfare as a whole. There are, of course, some excellent volumes on specific periods of armoured warfare such as Paul Harris' *Men, Ideas and Tanks* which covers the British Army's armoured forces in the Great War and the inter-war period but there are very few general surveys that cover the entire history of tank operations. Thus, Alaric Searle's new survey of armoured warfare from its beginnings in the Great War to fighting in the Gulf in the 21st Century manages to fill a gap in the literature that many, including this reviewer, will not have noticed needed filling. Once this lacuna is noticed, however, it quickly becomes clear that a book such as Professor Searle's is a really valuable addition to the literature on warfare in general and armoured warfare in particular.

Approaching the topic in a generally chronological fashion, Professor Searle carefully and diligently leads the reader through the first steps towards armoured vehicles prior to the Great War all the way through to the present day. Professor Searle reminds us that even a term like 'tank' requires some interrogation. For example, if we define a tank as an armoured vehicle with a movable turret, then the first tank did not appear in combat until 31 May 1918 with the debut of the Renault light tank, as previous tank models used by France and the UK did not have this essential feature. Chapters cover the First World War, the inter-war period, Blitzkrieg, the Eastern Front, other fronts in the Second World War, the Cold War, the Arab-Israeli Wars and the modern wars in the Middle-East. Perhaps the most innovative chapter in this interesting work is the final chapter entitled *The Political History of the Tank* (pp. 198-208). In this chapter he considers how the tank has moved from a symbol of victory, after the Great War, to a symbol of oppression in Soviet-occupied Europe during the Cold War.

REVIEWS

Inevitably in a work this comprehensive, errors do creep in but these are very minor. For example, on page 109 it states that the tanks of Japanese 9th Tank Regiment counter-attacking at Saipan on 16 June 1944 were destroyed by US Sherman tanks. Although Sherman tanks did participate in the American defence, most of the Japanese tanks were knocked out by USMC infantry and artillery (See History of the USMC, *Central Pacific Drive*, Vol 3, 1966, p. 285). On page 18 it is claimed that the leader of the Great War French tanks corps, Colonel (later General) Estienne, writes to Generals Joffre and Janin on 1 December 1915 for the first time explaining his ideas for armoured warfare. In reality, Estienne wrote a personal letter to Joffre (which was not co-addressed to Janin) on 1 December and this was his third attempt to interest the French commander-in-chief in armoured vehicles, having written his first proposal in the autumn of 1915 (see Tim Gale, *French Tanks in the Great War*, Pen & Sword, 2016, p. 2) However, it is worth stating that these are errors in the secondary literature, not errors made by Professor Searle.

If Professor Searle gets the opportunity to produce a second edition, my only recommendation would be to add a chapter on armour in the Indo-Pakistan wars. This is the only major area of armoured warfare unaddressed in this book, although he does examine armoured fighting between China and India in the 1940 and 50s (pp. 118-20), so this is a very minor caveat. With that said, this book is strongly recommended to anyone that wants a reliable and sure-footed guide to the history of armoured warfare and it will suit audiences from the general reader to the specialist. In particular, this is an excellent primer for undergraduates going on to higher level studies and they will gain a good understanding of the underpinnings of armoured warfare from this excellent book.

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James Tanner. *Instruments of Battle: The Fighting Drummers & Buglers of the British Army from the Late 17th Century to the Present Day.* Oxford and Philadelphia: Casemate, 2017. pp.366. Hardback. Price £35.00.

Military music in its various forms has gained increased attention in the last decade. Its importance to the history of the military and to music culture more generally has found some acknowledgement but there is still some way to go.

Quantitative data provide a clue to the historical significance of military music in the UK. The first official (if not very scientific) estimate of the number of soldiers