

Film Title and Release Date: *Nazi Mega Weapons: Super Tanks* (2013)

Length of Film in Minutes: 54 Minutes

Film Genre: History Documentary

Reviewer Name and Grade: Anbang J., 8th

Date Reviewed: March 20, 2022

This documentary talks about Nazi Germany's largest tank designs. The first main part talks about Hitler's obsession with tanks and cannons. It begins in WWI, when Britain introduces the Mk 1 to the German Infantry men and Hitler. When Hitler gains power, he approves of tank development in secret. In early 1935, Hitler is shown the Panzer I, the first ever Nazi tank. The Panzer I was highly mobile compared to the tanks of WWI, moving at 25 mph. Throughout 1935 to 1939, the Nazis produce a series of bigger tanks with larger guns, from the Panzer 2 to the Panzer IV. In September 1939, the tanks invaded Poland, starting WWII. Hitler attacks the Soviet Union, using a massive Panzer invasion to do so. The invading discovers the Soviets have a much better tank, the T-34. The sloped armor made it difficult to penetrate. The only gun that was capable was the Flak 88, an 88 mm cannon. The Nazis then made the Tiger, a Heavy tank carrying the Flak 88. The film then goes on to talk about how the Tiger was developed and challenges that were faced when developing it. After the Tiger was developed, it was tested at the Battle of Kursk in Spring 1943. By the end of day one, the Tigers were a huge success. However, more tanks were destroyed due to mechanical failures than enemy fire. After large losses, the Nazis abandon the battle of Kursk. After the success of the Tigers, Germany begins to build a mega-tank. One design was the Landkreuzer, a massive tank that carried battleship cannons. The project was, however, shut down due to how impractical it was. Hitler turned to another design, the Maus, which was twice the size of a Tiger and had a 128 mm gun. This would be built, but was incomplete when the Soviets marched through and stopped the production.

The information was presented through storytelling, perspectives of famous tank commanders like Michael Whitman, and things being described by tank experts. It taught the topic well and I learned some new things.

How did you find the film on Kanopy (by title search, subject search, casual browsing, etc.)?

I found this film when looking through historical documentaries.

Did the plot (for fictional movie) or presentation of information (for documentary) keep you interested?

Yes. The film presented information very well and I enjoyed learning from it.

Was the pace of the film too fast, too slow, or just right?

The pace was just right. It never stayed on the topic for too long and explained each topic well.

What grade level(s) is this film appropriate for?

I would say this film is appropriate for 6th graders and above because it doesn't have any inappropriate qualities about it other than some described deaths.

I rate this film 5 stars. It was really informational and had a balanced argument, describing both the pros and cons of large tanks. The information presented was accurate and interesting to watch, with tank experts giving their own insights on what they thought of the tank.