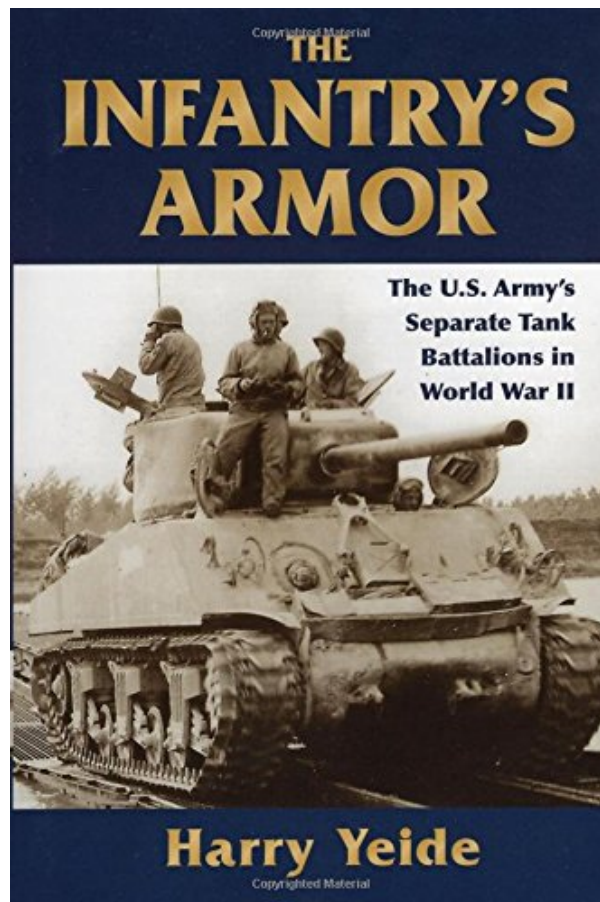
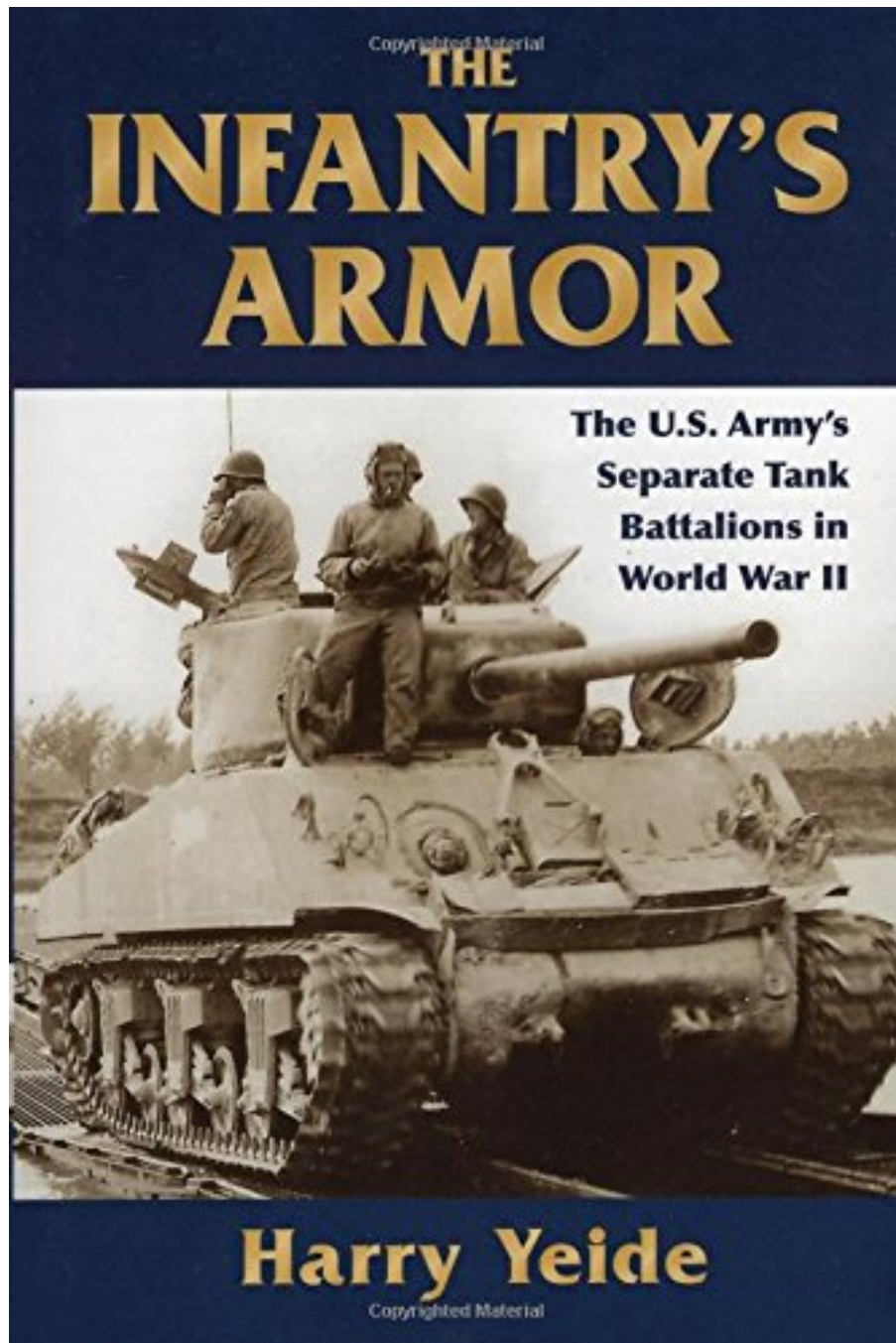


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ARMY'S SEPARATE TANK BATTALIONS IN  
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## Review

"A useful resource and reference text that is entertaining to read as well." (The Armor Modeling and Preservation Society 2011-10-12)

## From the Inside Flap

The U.S. Army's separate armored battalions fought in obscurity by comparison with the flashy armored divisions, but they carried the heavier burden in the grim struggle against the Axis in World War II, argues Harry Yeide in this engaging new study of American armor. Equipped with tanks, amphibian tanks, and amphibian tractors, these units went everywhere the Army went, from the beginning of the war to its very end, from Bataan to Salerno, Omaha Beach to Okinawa. During the campaigns in the Mediterranean and Europe, the separate armored battalions landed in North Africa in November 1942 and battled across the desert before invading Sicily in July 1943 and Italy in September. Other battalions ploughed into Hitler's Atlantic Wall on D-Day and fought through the hedgerows of Normandy until breaking out and racing across France. They endured the futile hell of the Hürtgen Forest that fall, braved snow and German panzers during the Battle of the Bulge that winter, and rolled into Germany for the war's final clashes in 1945. Thousands of miles away, separate tank battalions were among the first Americans to defend against the Japanese tide that swept across the Pacific in late 1941 and early 1942. Following their tenacious but unsuccessful stand in the Philippines, they participated in every amphibious assault the Army conducted during the bloody campaign from New Guinea and the Solomons toward Japan. On islands like Saipan and Peleliu, they fought on sandy beaches entrenched with pillboxes and in dank jungles infested with a fanatical foe. In the war's last year, the battalions returned with MacArthur to the Philippines. Frequently relying on the words of the tankers themselves, Yeide describes the battles, large and small, of the separate tank battalions. Victory was anything but certain, but through grit and guts and experience gained in the welter of combat, the tank troops became a top-notch fighting force and a vital component of the U.S. Army's effort to win World War II. HARRY YEIDE is a world-renowned military historian specializing in World War II and armored warfare. His other works include *Steeds of Steel*, *First to the Rhine*, *The Longest Battle*, and *Steel Victory*.

#### About the Author

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He got it right this time!!!

By Dog of War

Mr. Yeide wrote a previous book on independent tank battalions in WWII and it was not really good, but he makes up for that effort with this latest book.

This book is probably one of the best books on the independent tank battalions I have ever read. Mr. Yeide quickly paints the "big picture" for the reader, but then quickly shifts the reader into the trenches and turrets of the fighting men. There are numerous first person accounts from the tankers who fought in the different theaters where independent tank battalions fought. These first person accounts are riveting and give the reader an excellent view of what battle was like for these brave men.

Mr. Yeide also corrected a flaw he had in his previous book, numerous maps and diagrams are in each

chapter of this book so the reader can follow along where the tank battalions are and to see what tactics they used.

Overall this book is worth every penny and should be on the bookshelf of any tank enthusiast. 13 of 14 people found the following review helpful.

another home run from Yeide

By Gary E. Binder

This volume continues Mr. Yeide's look at various aspects of American armored forces in WW2. Here he updates one of his earlier work "Steel Victory" with new information. "The Infantry's Armor" is a compliment to "Steel Victory" not really a replacement. The story concerns the tank battalions assigned to support the infantry divisions. This task did not have the publicity or "dash" associated with the units assigned to the armored divisions. Infantry tanks have to move at the pace of the rifleman, they provide mobile fire support to assist with the advance of the infantry, they engage bunkers, machine guns, and other blockades. The tanks endured artillery, mortars, antitank guns, bazooka-type weapons, and other fires. The infantry's tanks all too often had to teach the infantry about their capabilities and limitations. The rapid expansion of the US Army along with rapid deployments meant that tank-infantry training was either minimal or omitted entirely, so both parties had to do "on the job training" while in combat. The fact that they forged a strong team is a tribute to the American soldier. Yeide draws on many official documents, but most importantly on the soldiers' stories to give a complete picture. His books are very readable. I regard this book as a valuable addition to my collection of books on WW2 combat. 7 of 7 people found the following review helpful.

Excellent Overview the WWII American Tanker Experience

By Jeff Danby

Independent U.S. Army tank battalions (those not organic to armored divisions) bore a terrible burden in the Second World War. This I knew. However, I did not realize how vast and extreme those experiences ranged from one unit to the next until I read this wonderfully detailed book by Mr. Yeide.

Did you ever wonder how, when, and why independent tank battalions were first created? It's all explained clearly in the first chapter. What was the U.S Army's "Armor Doctrine" in 1940? Basically, there wasn't much of one at all. Successful tank tactics were learned primarily "on the job" through tough trial and error battlefield experiences, and those experiences ranged wildly from Fall of the Philippines, to the deserts of Tunisia, the jungles of Bougainville, the mountainous roads of Italy, and the hedgerows of Normandy. Yeide explains this well by providing example after example throughout the remainder of the book. As a reader, you are transported from light tanks to M4s to amphibious tractors in every setting. Not a major battle or "lesson learned" is missed. Remarkably written for such a sweeping subject! See all 17 customer reviews...

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