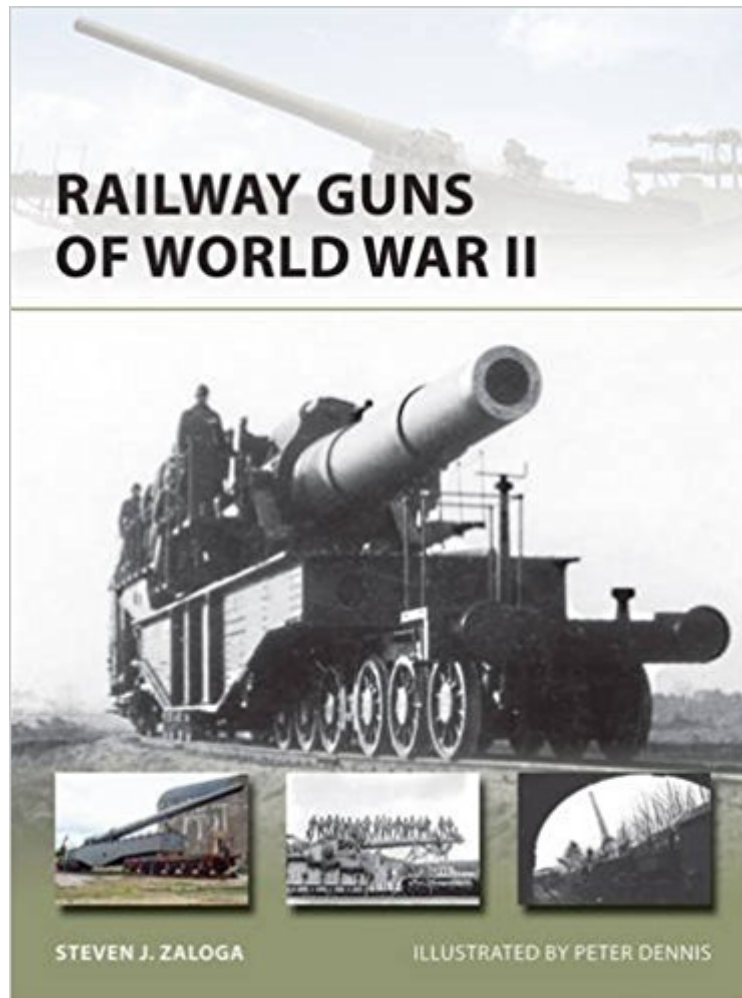




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Railway Guns Of World War II (New Vanguard)



Synopsis

World War II marked the zenith of railway gun development. Although many of the railway guns initially deployed at the start of the conflict were of World War I vintage, Germany's ambitious development program saw the introduction of a number of new classes, including the world's largest, the 80cm-caliber Schwerer Gustav and Schwerer Dora guns, which weighed in at 1,350 tons and fired a huge 7-ton shell. This book provides an overview of the types of railway guns in service during World War II, with a special focus on the German railway artillery used in France, Italy, and on the Eastern Front, analyzing why railway guns would largely disappear from use following the end of the war.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"This is an extremely interesting book, by an excellent author, with very good illustrations. Anyone interested in coastal defense or artillery should find it enjoyable and informative." - Coast Defense Journal

"I found this book quite fascinating. Railway Guns of World War II explains an area of rail operations that is rarely covered." - Model Railroader News

Steven J. Zaloga has worked as an analyst in the aerospace industry for over two decades, covering missile systems and the international arms trade. The author of numerous books on military technology and history, with an accent, he resides in Maryland. Peter Dennis, inspired by

contemporary magazines such as Look and Learn, studied illustration at Liverpool Art College. Peter has since contributed to hundreds of books. A keen wargamer and model-maker, he is based in Nottinghamshire, United Kingdom.

Steven Zaloga has here put together #231 of the Osprey New Vanguard series which focusses on the railway guns of World War 2. This book follows the basic premise of all this long running series of books in that it is quite concise, provides a basic overview of the topic at hand and then a step by step observation of some of the details. These books are great for the armchair military buff as they are usually replete with plenty of black and white photographs and a number of colour plates. This volume is no different, plenty of photographs being spread about through the book and the illustrations coming from Peter Dennis. The volume moves from a mere extended paragraph of an introduction and then delves straight into a discussion of French railway guns, thence onto the Belgians, the Germans, the Italians, the Soviets and thence to Finland, Japan, Britain and the US in that order. Tables of information are useful in terms of numbers and some of the technical data. Also some of the national entries contain some information regarding the use of the weapons in actual combat. The author isn't wearing rose-coloured glasses in terms of his subject matter and discussion of some of the costs in terms of money and manpower are discussed. As are the chronic accuracy issues these large weapons seemed to suffer from. These New Vanguard books are great for modellers and the like given the number of photographs and drawings. And the question posed by this volume is will we be seeing a similar volume on railway guns of World War 1. It is to be hoped so as they would provide an interesting triptych when combined with the volume on Armoured Trains. If you have an interest in the subject at all but are not wanting to get one of the more specialised volumes on the market (check the bibliography) then this is a good work to get.

Excellent osprey book on this subject covers each type of rail gun from design and operational use. Book has many pictures and is easy to follow and read. Each gun uses and deployment is covered and what happened to each type. Interesting book on the German uses of captured rail guns captured from the French.

An excellent overview of all of the railroad guns used by all of the different nations in WWII. This is not an in-depth study of any particular gun, but a series of profiles of what each country had or built in the way of railway guns for WWII. This will not be that useful to people that have accumulated

large amounts of specific data, but for someone just getting into railway guns, it is and EXCELLENT introduction, and will give a clear path to research for any particular railgun they may be interested in. I became interested in the German 28cm K5(E). guns built by Krupp and Hanomag, and this provided a LOT of explanations and information that I could use to begin my research.

Much less information than I hoped for. This thin book covers the railway guns of every nation. If it had been just on Germany it might have been about right. The drawing comparing the Dora to a K5 and a Tiger I was interesting.

Pretty good for a 48 - page book. It discusses German, French, Soviet / Russian, US, and British railway artillery and that of some relatively minor countries such as Finland, Italy, and Belgium. Perhaps not too surprisingly, the most detailed discussions are on German and French railroad artillery. There is also some fairly detailed discussion Russian / Soviet railroad artillery. The text covering British and American railroad artillery was pretty shallow, I thought. The coverage of Russian / Soviet artillery offers much new information that I had never read before, although photos of the major large caliber (305 mm) guns was sparse. My biggest disappointment was that the large caliber 340 mm, 370 mm, 400 mm, and 520 mm heavy French railroad artillery only received a few sentences of discussion and little information was offered on the performance characteristics of the either guns or the mountings. Very little information was provided on the American and British 14 - inch, 16 - inch, and 18 - inch artillery. Fortunately, other books exist that provide more detailed discussions of those guns.

thank you

All of Zaloga's books are great and this one is no exception. It gives coverage enough to let you decide which area you would want to investigate in depth. I am a railroad fanatic both in the real road and the hobby world. This book could be of interest to train lovers looking for something different to model.

A great read!!

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