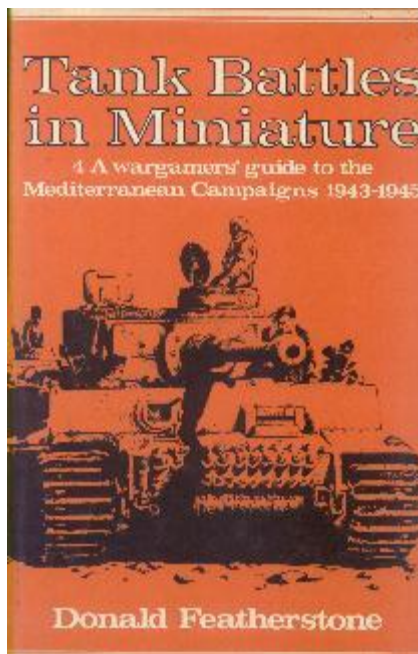


# **‘Tank Battles in Miniature Vol.4: A Wargamers’ Guide to the Mediterranean Campaigns 1943-1945’**

**By Donald Featherstone**

**Review by Paul Le Long**

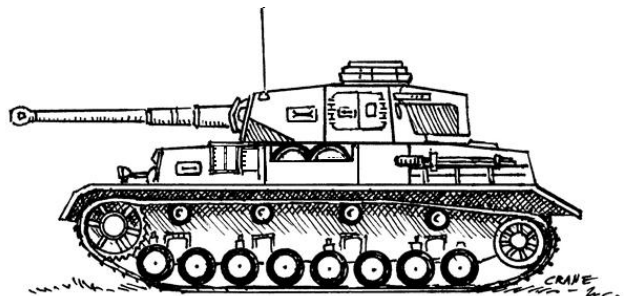
If you enjoyed Volume 1 of this series (also by Donald Featherstone) about the Western Desert campaigns, then you will also like this book. What I’m reviewing here is the original book published in 1977 because that’s what I have. There is however a reprint available by John Curry and the History of Wargaming Project. I don’t have the reprint version, so I will restrict myself to the original.



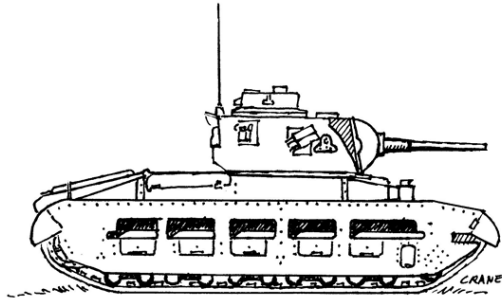
After a short introduction we have a chapter entitled “What it was Really Like!” As with Volume 1, this is possibly the best in the book. This chapter gives you a soldier’s eye-view of the campaign and presents things like movement, visibility, communication and combat in a very clear and immediate fashion. We are also treated to an eyewitness account of an action at Steamroller Farm in Tunisia in February 1943. The author was in the same regiment as the men in this battle and got the story first-hand from those involved – so this is *really* what it was like.

The bulk of the book is given over to narrative descriptions of the campaigns in Tunisia, Sicily, Italy and Southern France. This gives you a nice potted history in the author’s familiar accessible style which is valuable, informative and entertaining in its own right. This is followed by a chapter entitled “Armoured Lessons from the Campaigns” which is both an examination of the tactics used and a discussion on how to reproduce them on the tabletop. This is one of the most important chapters in the book from a wargaming point of view; the author doesn’t present wargames rules here but the many points he raises will all be useful to anyone wanting to formulate their own rules or to set up a campaign.

Then there are chapters on communication, navigation, minefields and simulating fire and movement. Much of this material is recycled from Volume 1. Then, again as in the previous volume, we have a chapter on the tanks and vehicles used in the campaigns and another on the artillery and anti-tank guns used. Each vehicle or gun is examined with a set of stats – weight,



speed, armour, armament and so on, and a discussion on hitting the target and the damage done. This is well presented and very useful.



All in all, this is an excellent book – yes, there is a lot of repetition with Volume1, but it's still worth owning a copy of both volumes since they are campaign specific. If you are interested in the campaigns in Tunisia, Italy and Southern France, then you really should have this book in your collection. Recommended.

Details:

- **Hardcover:** 152 pages
- **Publisher:** Patrick Stephens Limited; 1st edition (4 Nov 1977)
- **ISBN-10:** 0850592755
- **ISBN-13:** 978-0850592757

This is the original book which is available from £7.12 on Amazon.

There is also a reprint available by John Curry and the History of Wargaming Project; the price for this is £11.66.

