

Challenger MBT 1982-1997
Osprey New Vanguard series, No. 23 (1998)
By Simon Dunstan; illustrated by Peter Sarson

Review by Jonathan Aird

The first section of the book is a good summary essay on UK tank development from Chieftain to Challenger, covering the design pressures from new weapons developed by the USSR, abortive attempts to collaborate with France on a joint new vehicle, lessons from Israeli combat use of Centurions and the boost to UK tank development that resulted from the development of the Iranian Shir 2.

There follows a detailed technical description of Challenger ó also -- covering variants such as driver trainers and engineer vehicles. Useful gunnery data from the Canadian Armoured Trophy 1987 multi-national gunnery competition is provided with comparison to Challenger's western rivals.

A summary of the development of Challenger 2 leads onto the main wargaming meat of the book ó five pages on the operational deployment during the first Gulf War. As well as the colour plates, there are dozens of photographs and some scale drawings as well. Overall a useful book for the modern gamer, but with only a moderate level of direct wargaming content.

Plates

- A: Challenger I Mk2 / Challenger I Mk3 side profiles
- B: Challenger I Mk2 Command Tank 1991
- C: Challenger I, Kuwait 1991
- D: Detailed cutaway of Challenger I Mk3
- E: Challenger I Mk3 control tank / Challenger ARRV 1991
- F: Challenger I Mk2, Canada 1994
- G: Challenger I Mk3, Bosnia 1996 / Challenger I Mk2 Poland 1996

