

Competition.

My next manuscript is almost ready to be submitted to the publishers. However, I have a number of gaps in it, namely the titles of chapters. I've got a list of the chapters below and need suggestions for cool and clever sounding titles.

Should you have a suggestion stick it down, either use the comments here (highlight the chapter name, right click, 'comment'), on Overlords blog (overlord-wot.blogspot.com), on my facebook page (www.facebook.com/historylisty), or contact me directly via facebook.

How this will work.

I'll keep an eye on things, and then go through picking ones that work, or seeing if any inspire me.

Should I use any of these ideas, or be inspired by them I'll stick your name up on the credits page of the book.

So what is the book about?

Read on!

What follows is the introduction and title of the book, to give you an idea of the topics and themes to be covered.

The Dark Age of Tanks

Introduction

Over the years, I have visited a great number of archives looking for information about British armour development. At most of them, I have talked to the head librarian or curator of the collection, and all have had a common story. They tell of the absolutely dire state the UK archives are in. Each has his own little story about how they have fought to save documents. One tells of how an unmarked brown envelope was left in their post box with a load of tank documents and an unsigned note saying 'I was ordered to destroy these, but I think they are important.' Several tell of visiting an army installation and finding documents or models being thrown into a skip, and they have to grab what they can, loading the stuff into their car, when they return the skip has gone, and what they saved is all that remains of an irreplaceable collection that contained unknown wonders.

Other archives owned by private companies you cannot get access too. One has a heritage manager who is only interested in one small segment of the archive's contents, and all enquiries not about that small part get lost or mislaid. Other private companies plain lie about the documents they hold then charge thousands of pounds for seeing the documents.

On top of all that, you do not have a single source for all the documentation. There are hundreds of small museums each with their own collection. Sometimes, they will work out a deal with another organisation and split the collection in a swap with other archives so that your plans to view documents evaporate weeks before you are due to visit.

It was even worse in the years after the Second World War. Great swathes of documents were just outright destroyed, and we lost so much. David Wiley, the Tank Museum chief librarian, described the thirty years after the Second World War as the 'Dark Age of Tanks'. This is solely because so much knowledge was lost, and so little of what remains has been viewed as part of the larger whole.

This work is an attempt to fill in the blanks. To take a look at how the British projects developed, and shed some light on the period. It should, by no means, be taken as the detailed truth. As more work on the subject is done, I fully expect that some of what I write in the following pages will be altered. Consider this work a jumping off point, a primer if you will. Maybe a first weak lamp shined on the Dark Age of Tanks.

And here is a list of the chapters of the book and their contents. The ones in **Red** need naming, but I'll take suggestions for all of them.

Part 1: Tanks

Ch1: The End

Starts with the end of the second world war, lays out the situation as the British saw it, and the process of refining all the lessons learnt during the war.

Ch2: A Tank for All

The FV200 series and its basic characteristics.

Ch3: AVRE + DD

The AVRE and DD versions of the FV200 series, along with their specialist equipment.

Ch4: Flamethrower

The story of Britain's attempt to add a Flamethrower to the FV200 series.

Ch5: Fate + Conqueror

The fate of the Fv200 project, and it evolving into the Conqueror tank.

Ch6: Fv215 + Chieftain

The ideas behind the evolution of the FV215, and then how the Chieftain became the new MBT tank.

Part 2: Light armour

Ch7: Light is Right

Britain's move away from the ever increasing weight of the MBT and an attempt to build ultra light vehicles using technology to keep the same levels of combat ability.

Ch8: Project Prodigal

The formalisation of the above ideas into a single project, and how that project developed.

Ch9: Flying Tanks

Yes, I kid you not, Britain was working towards hover tanks in the 1960's, but they had to start somewhere, and this chapter is about their first tentative steps, and the hover armoured cars and softskins that they came up with.

Ch10: AVR + Scorpion

The culmination of the above thinking and research, into the AVR, and then CVR(T) Scorpion.

Part 3: Infantry Armour

Ch11: Universal Carriers

How carriers developed during the end of the war and afterwards, until the idea finally evolved into the APC.

Ch12: The MICV

How the APC developed into the MICV, and attempt to bridge the gap between the FV432 and the Warrior

Part 4: War Rocket

Ch13: The Time of Giants

The first, huge ATGM's, and their development.

Ch14: Swingfire

The very troubled and very long development of the Swingfire missile.

Ch15: Foiled Again

Project JAWL and Project FOIL, the artillery rockets the British were developing, and their relations with Germany.

Your suggestions please!