

# The Combat Debut of the 35A Tank: A Pivotal Moment in Armored Warfare



## Fallen Giants: The Combat Debut of the T-35A Tank

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 46573 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 144 pages  
Lending : Enabled



The 35A tank was a Soviet-designed and -built tank that played a significant role in the early stages of World War II. Its combat debut in 1941 marked a pivotal moment in armored warfare, as it demonstrated the potential of medium tanks in modern combat. This article will explore the design, development, and combat effectiveness of the 35A tank.

## **Design and Development**

The 35A tank was developed in response to the need for a more powerful and versatile tank than the existing T-26 light tank. It was designed by the Kharkov Locomotive Factory and incorporated several innovative features. The most notable of these was its sloping armor, which provided improved protection against anti-tank weapons. The tank was also equipped with a powerful 76.2mm gun, which gave it the firepower to engage enemy tanks and fortifications.

## **Combat Debut**

The 35A tank made its combat debut in the summer of 1941, during the German invasion of the Soviet Union. Initially, the 35A performed well against the German tanks of the time. Its sloping armor proved to be effective against the German 37mm and 50mm anti-tank guns, and its 76.2mm gun gave it a significant advantage in firepower. However, as the war progressed, the Germans developed more powerful anti-tank weapons, such as the 88mm flak gun, which could penetrate the 35A's armor.

## **Combat Effectiveness**

Despite its shortcomings, the 35A tank proved to be a valuable asset to the Soviet Red Army during the early stages of the war. Its firepower and mobility allowed it to engage enemy tanks and infantry effectively. The 35A also played a key role in the defense of Moscow in the winter of 1941-1942. However, as the war progressed, the 35A became increasingly outclassed by newer German tanks, such as the Panzer IV and Panther.

## Legacy

The combat debut of the 35A tank marked a pivotal moment in armored warfare. It demonstrated the potential of medium tanks in modern combat and paved the way for the development of more advanced tanks. The 35A also played a significant role in the Soviet victory in World War II. Today, the 35A tank is considered a classic example of early Soviet tank design and engineering.

The 35A tank was a groundbreaking tank that played a significant role in the early stages of World War II. Its combat debut marked a pivotal moment in armored warfare and demonstrated the potential of medium tanks in modern combat. While the 35A was eventually outclassed by newer German tanks, it remains a testament to the ingenuity and skill of Soviet tank designers and engineers.



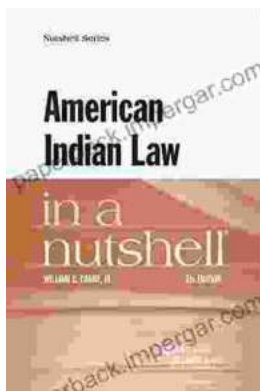
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