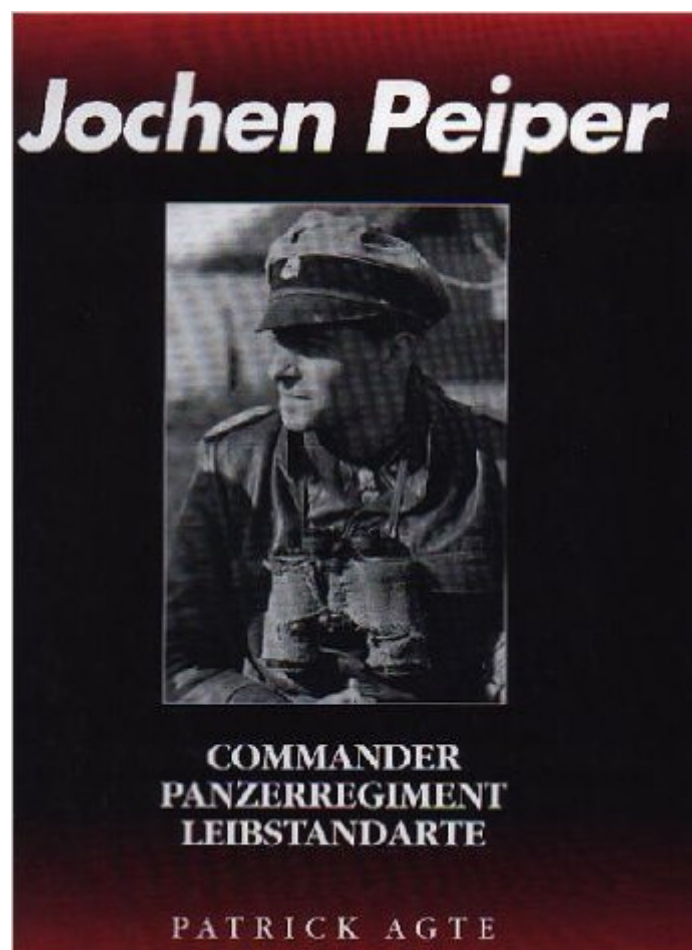


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Jochen Peiper: Commander, Panzerregiment Leibstandarte



Synopsis

BRAND NEW Oversized Hardcover - 670 pp - over 800 black and white photographs - The definitive biography of one of Hitler's most feared and victorious commanders

Book Information

Hardcover: 670 pages

Publisher: Fedorowicz (J.J.), Canada (November 1999)

Language: German

ISBN-10: 0921991460

ISBN-13: 978-0921991465

Product Dimensions: 12.1 x 9.1 x 1.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 6 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (35 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,238,734 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #223 in [Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Canadian](#) #330 in [Books > History > Military > Regiments](#) #730 in [Books > Textbooks > Social Sciences > Military Sciences](#)

Customer Reviews

I was lucky enough to pick up this book for \$65, however it is worth the full price. It is in the large size format and is 670 pages, a rather huge book. Also 850 excellent photos of Jochen Peiper, the men of Leibstandarte, and the equipment they used all interspersed between the chapters. This book delivers on many aspects, much more than just the career of Jochen Peiper. The style in which this biography is written is my personal favorite, letting his contemporaries describe him. The author constantly uses Peiper's subordinates descriptions of his combat leadership / actions or the man himself. I like this style because it allows the reader to see how those closest to Jochen Peiper viewed him from different angles. It also allows you to kind of get to know the man, apart from the constant slander printed about him over atrocities. Patrick Agte also does an excellent job describing for the reader the tactics used by Peiper. This book no doubt helped my understanding of how the SPW, the German halftrack or IFV, was used on the battle field. Speed was of the essence, and they often drove the SPW's as fast as they could into enemy positions with all weapons firing. This served to overwhelm the enemy. Peiper's battalion was nicknamed the 'blowtorch' battalion because when firing all the weapons the Russian houses often caught fire. Peiper was an excellent officer who was highly respected for his talents. He no doubt served his country to the utmost of his abilities. The book also conveys the fatalism that began to take over many of the German soldiers

as the war grinded on. One could only imagine losing close comrades that you have fought with for years with the war only weeks away from ending.

Few men personified the many contradictions of the Waffen-SS like Jochen Peiper. On one hand, he is a brilliant and inspiring battlefield commander. On the other, he served as adjutant to the evil Himmler, and bears the dark stain of the Malmedy massacre. This excellent biography delves deeply into both aspects. Although sympathetic to Peiper, the author nonetheless lays out enough evidence for readers to draw their own conclusions. The battlefield achievements of Peiper make it very clear that, but for the darker aspects of his career, he would today be a subject of study for every professional soldier. His handling of mechanized units is simply breathtaking, and the book provides considerable detail on Peiper's numerous combats. This was an officer who understood the true role of mechanized units in combat, and his lessons are of great value to military leaders. In particular, Peiper's tactics shed considerable light on the subsequent evolution of the modern Infantry Fighting Vehicle (IFV), such as the M-2/M-3 Bradley or Russian BMP. Faced with an extraordinarily lethal battlefield, Peiper's grenadiers repeatedly drove their half-tracks (SPW) right into enemy positions, firing automatic weapons furiously. Speed in crossing the killing zone became the key to the SPW's survival. Shock, surprise and a tremendous volume of fire became the means by which enemy positions were stormed time and again. Efforts to improve the weapons and armor on the SPWs lead seamlessly to the evolution of the modern IFV. Accordingly, Peiper presents modern commanders with novel thoughts on the proper use of these weapon systems. In addition, Peiper's combined use of tanks and artillery in hard-hitting, mechanized *kampfgruppen* are also worthy of note. Peiper was more than just a talented tactician.

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