

IS-85 HEAVY TANK

DEVELOPMENT

Soviet heavy tanks were a thorn in the side of the German Army throughout the war. Their armour was almost invulnerable to most German anti-tank weapons and their guns were more than adequate to deal with most German tanks. GABTU (Main Directorate of Armoured Forces) was determined to maintain this state of affairs. The SKB-2 heavy tank design bureau in Chelyabinsk started the KV-13 program to build a heavy tank with both sufficient mobility and heavier armour.

N V Tseits, recently released from a Gulag concentration camp, headed the project with his old colleague K I Kuzmin working on the hull design. Using castings to get a better shaped tank, his team delivered a tank ten tons lighter than the KV, despite having better armour. Unfortunately its performance was lacking and the project was cancelled.

IOSEF STALIN HEAVY TANK

On Tseits' death, N F Shamshurin took over the project. A new transmission, cooling system and lightened tracks solved many of the KV-13's problems. Meanwhile Marshal Kliment Voroshilov, for whom the KV tank was named, was in disgrace, so the KV-13 was renamed IS-1 in honour of Iosef Stalin, the Soviet leader. One of the oddities of the new tank was a fixed-mount machine-gun for the driver to replace the one fired by the co-driver in previous heavy tanks. While certainly an interesting concept, the practical usefulness of this machine-gun was nil.

The capture of a Tiger tank in late 1942 led to the April 1943 order to install an 85mm gun in the new IS-1 tank. This required a whole new turret and the lengthening of the hull with an additional road wheel to take the extra weight. The IS-85 as it was now known shared this turret with the KV-85 that was produced while IS-85 production got under way.

This was not the end of the up-gunning. The Battle of Kursk led to the demand for an even bigger gun on the IS chassis that eventually led to the IS-2 armed with a 122mm gun.

COMBAT SERVICE

The first IS-85 heavy tanks were delivered by the Chelyabinsk Kirov Plant in October 1943. These were issued to Guards Heavy Tank Regiments reforming after the summer's heavy fighting.

The IS-85 heavy tank was issued to 1st, 8th, and 13th Guards Heavy Tank Regiments fighting in the Ukraine. These units were heavily engaged in early 1944 at Starokonstantinov, Korsun-Shevshenkivskiy and Fastov Station west of Kiev.



DESIGN FEATURES

The Stalin heavy tank is the pinnacle of Soviet heavy tank design. Innovative casting technology allowed Soviet engineers to make it faster and more reliable than older designs, yet with as thick or thicker armour.

The latest 85mm D-5T tank gun gives it more flexibility than the earlier super-heavy tanks, yet retains excellent anti-tank performance capable of knocking out any enemy tank in existence.

The IS-85 heavy tank combines the gun of the KV-85 heavy tank with thicker armour and greater mobility. It can take on the German Tiger heavy tank one-on-one and expect to win.

Anti-tank 12, Front 10

GVARDEYSKIY TYAZHELYY TANKOVY COMPANY (GUARDS HEAVY TANK COMPANY)

Only the best crews were picked for the Guards heavy tank regiments, and every crew had at least two officers.

Gvardeyskiy Tyazhelyy Tankovy Companies are rated as: **Fearless Trained**

REPLACING STANDARD EQUIPMENT

A Soviet force may equip any or all Gvardeyskiy Tyazhelyy Tankovy Companies with IS-85 heavy tanks. If it is a Gvardeyskiy Tyazhelyy Tankovy Polk, it may also purchase the Company HQ tank as a IS-85 for 235 points.

COMPANY

- 5 IS-85 1175 points
- 4 IS-85 940 points
- 3 IS-85 705 points

The IS-85 heavy tank is the logical next step in Soviet heavy tank design, incorporating the strengths of its predecessors and eliminating their mechanical weaknesses. Like all Soviet heavy tanks, its role is to lead the attack, smashing all before it.

Name	Mobility	Front	Armour		Equipment and Notes
			Side	Top	
IS-85	Slow Tank	10	8	2	Co-ax MG, Turret-rear MG.
Weapon	Range	ROF	Anti-tank	Firepower	
85mm D-5T gun	32*/80cm	2	12	3+	

KAPITAN

KAPITAN

Company Command IS-85 tank

HQ SECTION

LEYTENANT

LEYTENANT

IS-85 tank

IS-85 tank

IS-85 tank

IS-85 tank

TANK PLATOON

TANK PLATOON

GVARDEYSKIY TYAZHELYY TANKOVY COMPANY

With such a high proportion of officers in the company, Guards Heavy Tank Companies use more sophisticated tactics than most Soviet troops. They are not affected by the Hen and Chicks special rule.

IS-85 SPECIFICATIONS



Designation: Tyazhelyy Tank, IS-85
 Crew: 4 (cdr, gnr, ldr, dvr)
 Weight: 97,000lb/44,000kg
 Length: 28'1"/8.56m
 Height: 9'/2.73m Width: 10'1"/3.07m
 Armament: 1x 85mm D-5T tank gun,
 3x DT 7.62mm machine-gun
 Armour Thickness: 30mm to 120mm
 Engine: V-2 12-cylinder diesel,
 2368cu in/39 litres, 600hp
 Suspension: Transverse torsion bar
 Maximum Speed: 25mph/40km/h
 Road Radius: 93 miles/150km
 Vertical Obstacle: 3'3"/1.0m
 Trench Crossing: 8'2"/2.5m



GUARDS HEAVY TANK COMPANY