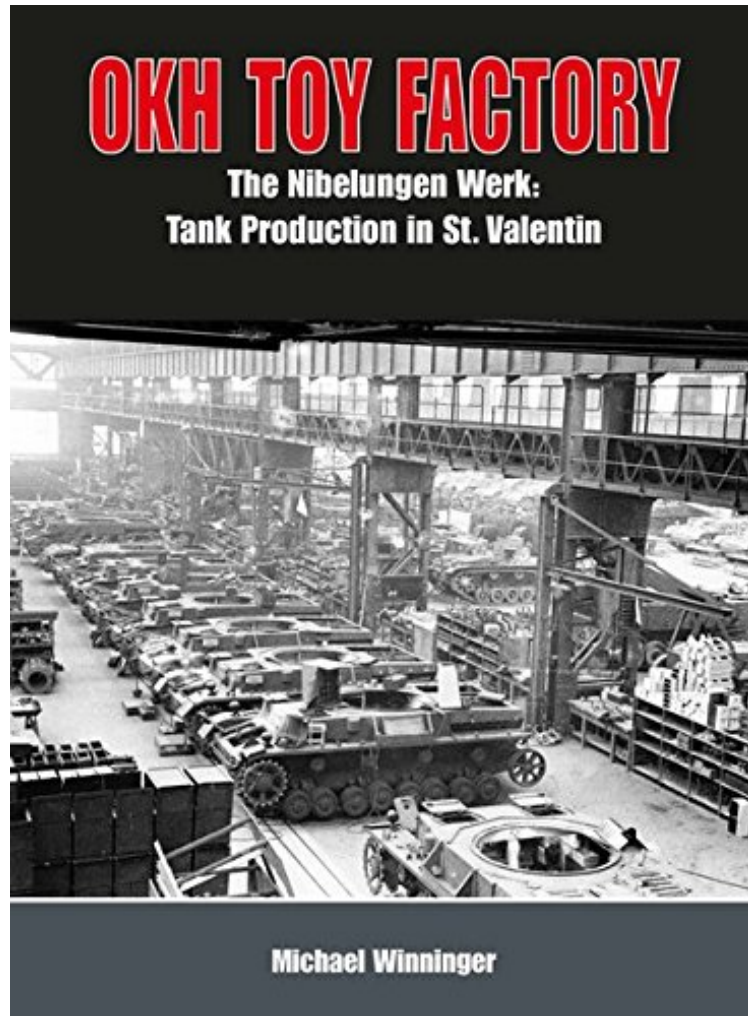


OKH Toy Factory: The Nibelungenwerk: Tank Production in St. Valentin

Michael Winninger

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Michael Winninger : OKH Toy Factory: The Nibelungenwerk: Tank Production in St. Valentin before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised OKH Toy Factory: The Nibelungenwerk: Tank Production in St. Valentin:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Something different By Iva Buch The Tiger and Panther tank from World War II are probably some of the most well known tanks of the war, and many books have been written about them, but it was the Panzer IV that was the backbone of the German Panzer arm, and the most numerous tank that the Allied tankers fought. This book which is obviously a labour of love from the author, and who lived in close distance to the former "Nibelungenwerk" (and has been researching the topic for years) has produced a great book on the factory

that built the Panzer IV. In 1939 the Germans gave the factory the designation "toy factory" to cover the real purpose for the sprawling complex that it would grow into. The book which covers tank production in St Valentin, a small village that became one of the most important armament places in Hitler's Germany, grew from 1941 - 1945 to become the biggest manufacturer of the Panzerkampfwagen IV. However it also repaired the more serious damage to the Panzer IVs sent back from the front, outfitted the Ferdinands and turned them into the Elephant, made the Jagdpanzer IV, and finally the mighty Jagdtiger. as well as completing armoured rail cars. There are numerous pictures of the production lines, charts on production numbers, photos of the more prominent Nazis visiting the factory, the effect of bombing raids by the allies and much more. It also covers forced labour and prison camps, workforce, plant facilities, and the St Valentin satellite concentration camp, and working conditions. The book is well written, interesting and full of facts on tank production and processes and would appeal to any armour buff that had an interest in how the Germans manufactured and supplied their tanks to the frontline units. Well worth the money.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By Dan
Interesting book on Germany's wartime tank production. There's a lot of information to digest.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars
By derek smith
Great book...just as advertised

Behind the camouflage name „OKH Toy Factory“ plans to build a new tank factory in Austria were hidden. Most secret were all plans to build the tank works and to run the production. By building this wide spread factory, the small village of St. Valentin was rapidly developed to a most important armament place in the Third Reich. Although hindered by war restrictions the tank factory was growing from 1941 - 1945 to become biggest manufacturer of Panzerkampfwagen IV. The author, Michael Winninger, used original documents of the former Nibelungenwerk GmbH and official authorities as well as photographs for his deep research. He lives in closest distance to the former “Nibelungenwerk” and was researching the topic for years. This book is the standard publication on the most important German tank manufacturing company of World War II.

"an excellent book, thoroughly researched and it tells a story that is seldom told. The privations of many who worked in the camp and the terrible efficiency of the Nazi regime are all chronicled in a sensitive and readable way. I would highly recommend this title." (Military Modelcraft International)

About the Author
Michael Winninger from St. Valentin has been occupied since his childhood with this topic. He grew up close to the Nibelungenwerk and some of his family members worked in the factory. The author was able, based on some 1200 historic photographs from the town's and Steyr-Daimler-Puch's Archives and private collections as well with documents, to finalise a history of the Nibelungenwerk at war.