It was a tank battle exceeded in size and significance only by the famous defeat of Germany’s Panzer force near Kursk in 1943. And yet, little is known about this weeklong clash of more than two thousand Soviet and German tanks in a stretch of northwestern Ukraine that came to be known as the “bloody triangle.”

This book offers the first in-depth account of this critical battle, which began on 24 June 1941, just two days into Operation Barbarossa, Hitler’s invasion of the Soviet Union. Author Victor Kamenir describes the forces arrayed against each other across that eighteen-hundred-square-mile-triangle in northwestern Ukraine. Providing detailed orders of battle for both Wehrmacht and Red Army Forces and contrasting the strengths and weaknesses of the Soviet and German tanks, he shows how the Germans slowly and decisively overwhelmed the Russians, apparently opening the way to Moscow and the ultimate defeat of the Soviet Union. And yet, as Kamenir’s account makes clear, even at this early stage of the Russo-German war the Soviets were able to slow down and even halt the Nazi juggernaut. Finally, the handful of days gained by the Red Army did prove to have been decisive when the Wehrmacht attack stalled at the gates of Moscow in the dead of winter, foreshadowing the end for the Germans.

My Personal Review:
Little reported, rarely written about, the Bloody Triangle formed by Ukrainian towns of Lutsk, Dubno and Brody, was scene of what became the second largest tank battle of Operation Barbarossa. Between June 24, to July 1, 1941, some 2500 tanks, tank destroyers and artillery face each other, the Russians losing. The German Panzers moved on to the siege of Leningrad, the bloodletting at Stalingrad to end at the battle of Kursk, where the Germans were defeated in the largest tank battle in history.

Author Kamenir has taken on a large topic for his first book, an important battle which helped the Russians gain time to gather forces to eventually
defeat the Germans at Kursk. He writes with clarity, keeping me on task and reminds me occasionally that I need help keeping the units and geography straight and the dates in order.

The Germans did not learn from their victory at the triangle, and the Russians began recognizing weakness and produced a large armored force, capable of holding at Stalingrad and winning at Kursk.

The research was admittedly weighed toward the Russians so we see a bit different picture of the Operation.

Victor J. Kamenir, I look forward to your next book. Hopefully you will take us further on the war on the Eastern front.

Richard N. Larsen
Reviewer

For More 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price:
The Bloody Triangle: The Defeat of Soviet Armor in the Ukraine, June 1941 by Victor Kamenir - 5 Star Customer Reviews and Lowest Price!