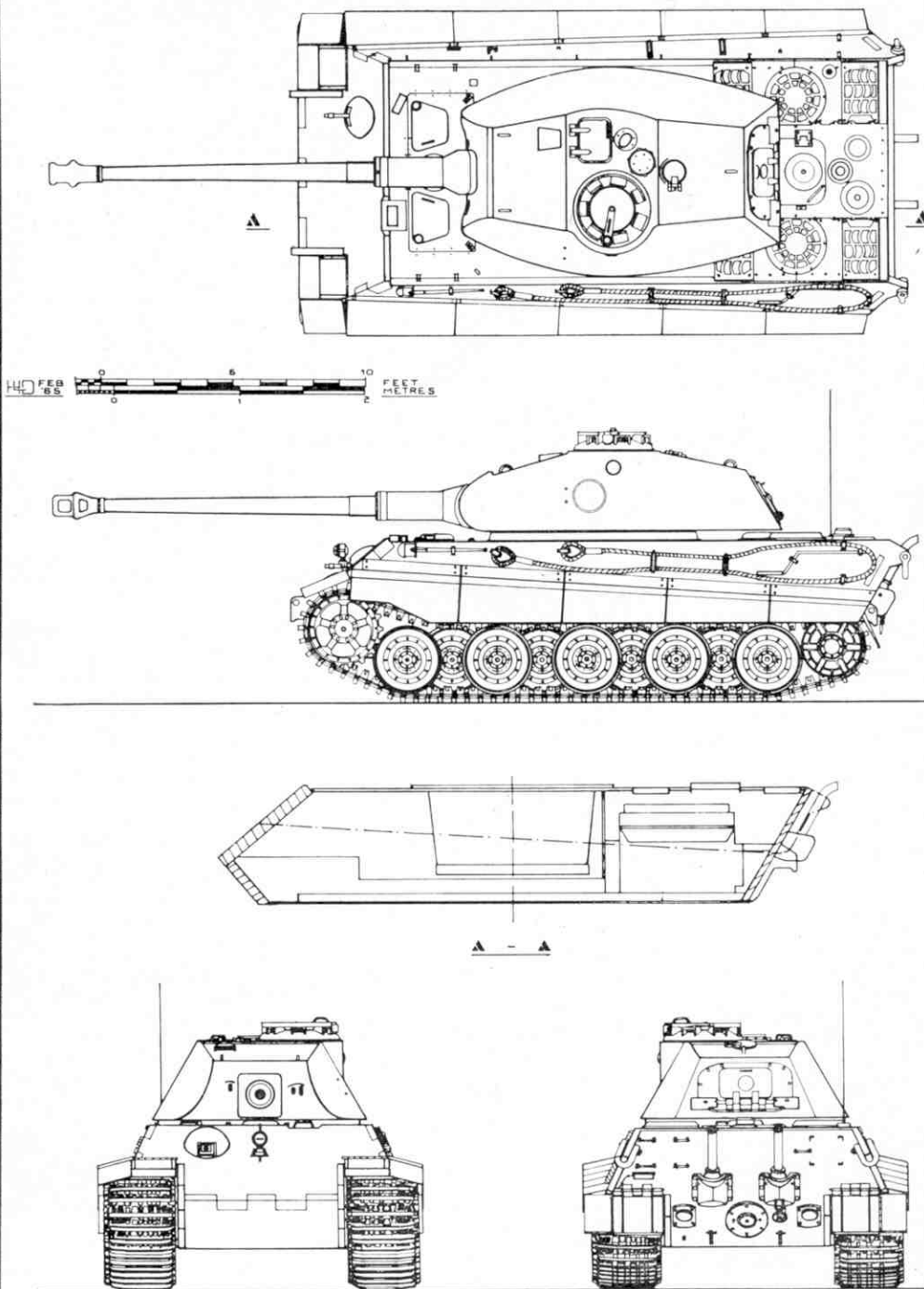


# THIS TIGER IS A TANK

Pz Kw VI, Sd Kfz 182 T

The drawing and information in this feature are taken from one of the Merberlen Military Vehicle Prints which are available in sets each comprising four different plans and featuring a wide variety of interesting prototypes.

Further information and details of larger scale drawings may be obtained by writing to Merberlen Ltd., Badgers Mead, Hawthorne Hill, Bracknell, Berks., and mentioning this Meccano Magazine feature.



Sd Kfz 182 TIGER II with Porsche Turret - 1943  
Scale 1:76 (4mm. to 1 Foot). Drawn by H. L. Doyle

The Tiger II drawing is included in the 'Series 2' set of Belona Military Prints. The other vehicles in the set are the Japanese Medium Tank Type 97, Russian S.U.100 Tank Destroyer and German Hanomag Sd Kfz 251/1 Troop Carrier.

Each one is fully described and illustrated enabling the modeller to reproduce them in considerable detail. Colour prints of several armoured vehicles are a recent introduction to the range.



Royal Tiger, knocked out in France 1944. An example of this vehicle is on display at the R.A.C. Tank Museum, Bovington, Dorset

## 32 Tiger II with Porsche Turret 1943

**E**VEN before the first Tiger I models were in service it was realised that a better vehicle would be required if German tank superiority was to be restored at Russian expense. Dr. Porsche received orders, therefore, to develop a heavier version of his original Tiger design (see Bellona Print No. 4) which would mount either a 15 cms. L/37 or a 10.5 cms. L/70 gun. His first design was rejected but the second, which had a rear mounted turret, central engines, and electric transmission, was given a production order. At this time the weapon requirement was altered to call for a standard 8.8 cms. L/71 gun.

Lack of copper, required for the electric transmission, put the Porsche project in some doubt and it was ultimately cancelled, suffering the same fate as the Porsche Tiger I. Meanwhile a parallel design had been ordered from Henschel in January 1943. Design on this vehicle—the VK 4503(H)—was finished in October 1943, three months behind schedule due to insistence by the Production Ministry that features of the projected Panther II should be incorporated in the design. Production began in the following December alongside the Tiger I at Kassel, and the first 50 vehicles utilised the turrets originally produced for the cancelled Porsche design. The drawings show the Henschel Tiger II in this form, but all subsequent production incorporated the Henschel turret.

The first vehicles went into service on the Russian front in May 1944, but the type was not met on the Western front until

the following August. Known as the 'Royal (or King) Tiger' to the Allies and as the 'Koenig Tiger' to the Germans, the Tiger II suffered from lack of power, unreliable transmission, and short engine life. This is not so serious when it is remembered that the Tiger II was primarily a defensive weapon and that the life expectancy of German tanks was very short at the time of its introduction. Tiger II was the heaviest operational tank of World War II.

### Technical details

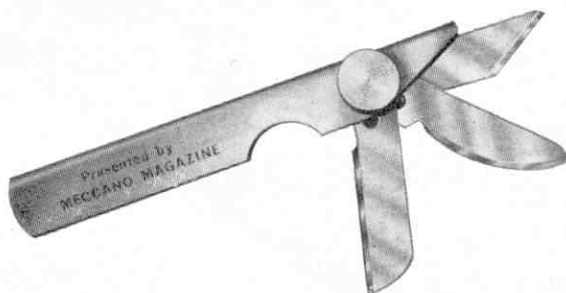
Weight 68.4 tons; Crew 5; Road speed 23.6 to 26 m.p.h., cross-country 9 to 13 m.p.h.; Maximum gradient 35 degrees; Fording depth 5 ft. 3 in.; Range 75 to 106 miles; Armament—1 by 8.8 cms. KwK 43, L/71, (78 rounds, A.P., H.E., H.C.), 2 by 7.92 mm. MG-34, one coaxial and one in hull (5,850 rounds); Armour—lower front and turret front 100 mm., upper front 150 mm., sides 80 mm., top surfaces 40 mm. Engine—1 Maybach HL 230 P30 water-cooled V-12 developing 694b.h.p. at 3,000 r.p.m.; Gears 8 forward and 4 reverse, Torsion bar suspension.

### Modelling

From Airfix Panther Kit: Remove front plates and set to new angle; cut hull deck in centre and insert extension; fit card sides over existing ones; extend belly; use hull rear; discard trackwork; modify hatches and details. From Airfix Tiger: Use all trackwork and wheels and find extra wheels for extra axle; modify exhaust; carve new turret from balsa. Mudguards are optional.

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