

# THE T54/55 TANK

The T 54 tank appeared in 1947. A T 44 prototype's chassis was being used again, but with a wider turret adapted onto it, that could carry a 100 mm gun. The new tank swiftly entered into mass production in order to take over from its ancestor, the T 34/85 Tank. Together with its derived models, it became the standard armored car of the communist block and its fittings became the archetype of the soviet armored car until the '80s, when it was replaced.

Its suspension encompassed five large road wheels, without any return roller, distinguished by a space between the first and the second wheel. Besides the gun, the armament was composed of a co-axial 7.62 mm machine gun, by another lightly tilted one and by a 12.7 mm anti-aircraft one.

The vehicle improved progressively, in particular concerning the turret which, by a gradual evolution became of an hemispheric form. The armament was equipped with first vertical then dual-axed balancer, the machine gun ended up disappearing.

In 1958, a version re-motorized with a HP 580 V-55 engine, equipped with a NBC protection and with a turret that was designed anew, including a floor, received the T-55 designation. The capacity in ammo and gas had increased, the ranged passed up to 500 km and the number of shells up to 43 instead of 34.

Specifications :

Dimensions : Length 6.45 m, Width 3.27 m, Height 2.40 m

Weight : 36.6 t.

Speed : 48 km/h

Range : 400/500 km

Armament : 1 off 100 mm gun, 2 off 7.62 machine-guns and 1 off 12.7 mm. gun.

Armoring : 100 to 200 mm

Crew : 4 men

