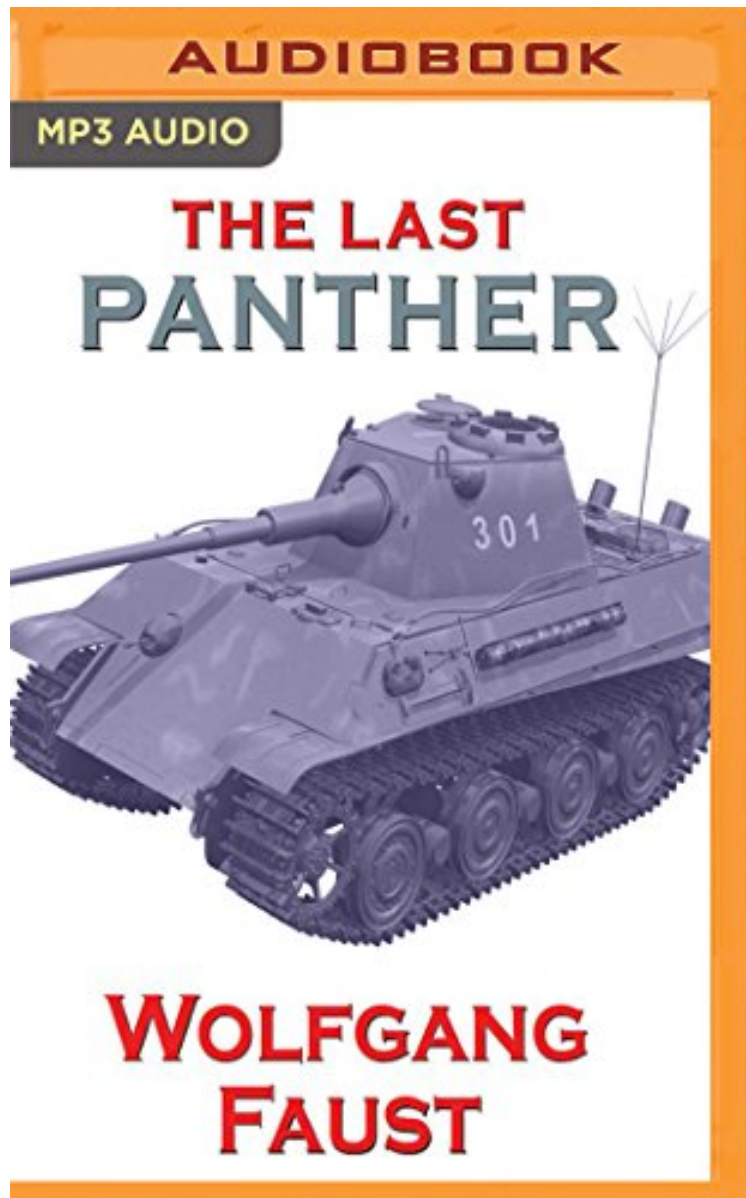


The Last Panther: Slaughter of the Reich - The Halbe Kessel 1945

Wolfgang Faust

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Wolfgang Faust : The Last Panther: Slaughter of the Reich - The Halbe Kessel 1945 before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Last Panther: Slaughter of the Reich - The Halbe Kessel 1945:

72 of 74 people found the following review helpful. so reader discretion is highly recommended. By Roadstar05 Hard-hitting, graphic, and fast moving...those adjectives sum up Faust's highly descriptive account of his experiences during

the Halbe pocket breakout. This operation involved the frantic attempt of German troops and civilians to escape the clutches of the Soviets as the noose tightened around them near Berlin in 1945. Faust's role as a Panther commander is described in graphic detail and builds upon his previous experiences as a driver of a Tiger tank on the Eastern Front earlier in the war. (Read "Tiger Tracks") Faust's accounts puts the reader right into the turret of a deadly Panther tank as it confronts overwhelming Soviet infantry, armor, and air power hell-bent on capturing and annihilating all German forces within their grasp as the war ended east of the Elbe river. The ruthlessness of the combat by both sides is not for the faint hearted, so reader discretion is highly recommended. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Pretty intense and solid read. By David Haley The break out around Berlin is a known action. This puts a personal stamp on things. I haven't read much about the King Tigers in action. You can tell Faust is writing from "hind sight" and there are some inconsistencies in the time line. However, the panic and fear as the war ended and Soviets closed in is all there. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Was the author embellishing and/or fabricating? let's discuss. By D'harans I don't quite know what to say. I was drawn into the story and completed the book. However, several times I felt as though the author was "pulling my leg" by embellishing stories. I read a few other reviews saying the author is in fact a fraud who may or may not have shared the experiences he writes about. Normally I would not entertain such ideas, however, this story does beg the question. How does a commander inside a hot, cramped tank, have this deity like vision of all the action around him, which he describes.

While the Battle of Berlin in 1945 is widely known, the horrific story of the Halbe Kessel remains largely untold. In April 1945, victorious Soviet forces encircled 80,000 men of the German 9th Army in the Halbe area, South of Berlin, together with many thousands of German women and children. The German troops, desperate to avoid Soviet capture, battled furiously to break out toward the West, where they could surrender to the comparative safety of the Americans. For the German civilians trapped in the Kessel, the quest to escape took on frantic dimensions, as the terror of Red Army brutality spread. The small town of Halbe became the eye of the hurricane for the breakout, as King Tigers of the SS Panzer Corps led the spearhead to the West, supported by Panthers of the battle-hardened 21st Panzer Division. Panzer by panzer, unit by unit, the breakout forces were cut down - until only a handful of Panthers, other armour, battered infantry units and columns of shattered refugees made a final escape through the rings of fire to the American lines. This first-hand account by the commander of one of those Panther tanks relates with devastating clarity the conditions inside the Kessel, the ferocity of the breakout attempt through Halbe, and the subsequent running battles between overwhelming Soviet forces and the exhausted Reich troops, who were using their last reserves of fuel, ammunition, strength and hope. Eloquent German-perspective accounts of World War 2 are surprisingly rare, and the recent reissue of Wolfgang Faust's 1948 memoir Tiger Tracks has fascinated readers around the world with its insight into the Eastern Front. In The Last Panther, Faust used his unique knowledge of tank warfare to describe the final collapse of the Third Reich and the murderous combat between the German and Russian armies. He gives us a shocking testament to the cataclysmic final hours of the Reich, and the horrors of this last eruption of violence among...

About the Author The rarely-heard voice of a World War 2 panzer crewman, now in a modern English translation.