



Figure 105.—Pz. Kpfw. "Tiger", Model B (Sd. Kfz. 182)

Pz. Kpfw. TIGER, MODEL B (KING TIGER).

(1) *General.* This tank is a development of the Tiger along the lines of the Panther and with a new main armament, the 8.8 cm Kw.K. 43 (L/71). The armor is as thick as that of the Tiger—in some parts thicker—and the improved design and the slope given to the majority of the plates (as in the Panther) give the tank vastly improved protection.

The King Tiger is a tank designed essentially for defensive warfare or for breaking through strong lines of defense. It is unsuitable for rapid maneuver and highly mobile warfare because of its great weight and low speed. To accommodate the gun the turret has been made unusually long in proportion to the total length of the tank. When "buttoned up" the tank is extremely blind, and this is one of its weakest points.

Since the King Tiger first appeared in August 1944 in Normandy, modifications have been made in the turret to eliminate the excessive plate-bending involved in the original construction. The King Tiger virtually is invulnerable to frontal attack, but the flanks, which are less well protected, can be penetrated by Allied antitank weapons at most normal combat ranges.

King Tiger *Specifications.*

Model B

Specification number...*Sd. Kfz. 182*

Weight in action75 tons.

Crew5 men.

Armor

Front glacis plate150 mm at 50°.

Lower nose plate100 mm at 50°.

Hull sides80 mm vertical.

Superstructure sides..80 mm at 20°.

Rear plate80 mm at 25°.

Turret front180 mm at 10°.

Turret sides and rear.80 mm at 20°.

Armament (coaxially

mounted in turret)...One 8.8 cm *Kw.K.43*
(L/71) and one *M.G.*.

In hullOne *M.G.34*.

Dimensions, Length ...23 feet 10 inches.

(excluding gun)

Width11 feet 11½ inches.

Height10 feet 2 inches.

Gun overhang.....8 feet 10 inches.

Ground clearance,

Front1 foot 7 inches.

Rear1 foot 8 inches.

Performance,

Road speed24 miles per hour.

Cross-country

speed9 to 10 miles per hour.

Maximum speed26 miles per hour.

Range on roads106 miles.

Range cross-country.74 miles.

King Tiger

Engine, Type Maybach HL 230 P30.

Cylinders V-12.

Fuel 229 gallons.

Fuel consumption

(per 100 miles)

On roads 213 gallons.

Cross-country ... 300 gallons

BHP 590 HP at 2,600 rpm.

Transmission: Maybach-Olvar preselector type gearbox, hydraulically operated; eight forward speeds, four reverse.

Suspension: Nine load-carrying axles each side, each carrying twin over-lapping bogie wheels. Single torsion-bar suspension. Front driving sprocket rear idler.