

The Oshkosh WT-2206 – America's Cold Warrior

By James Menard
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Northland Press
376 pages, 8-1/2 x 11 inches
Soft cover

Review by Reg Hodgson, Editor Army Motors

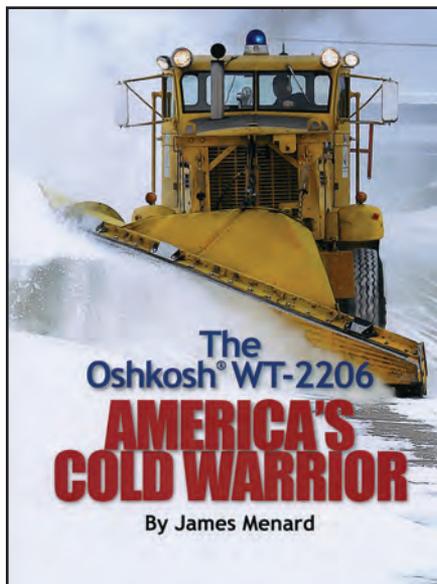
This amazing, well researched, highly detailed, and remarkably specialized book on *The Oshkosh WT-2206 – America's Cold Warrior* by MVPA member James Menard #34104 was forwarded to *Army Motors* for review.

The MVPA has attracted many knowledgeable and exceedingly skilled researchers and writers to its fold. Menard certainly qualifies in this regard, and can without a doubt, hold his own with the best of those the Association has the privilege of counting as one of their members.

His appreciation for, and understanding of the Oshkosh WT-2206 together with his mechanical background delivers a uniquely personal, historical, technical, and photo narrative journal of these heretofore

unheralded veterans.

The initial introduction to the book provides the reader with some of the history on the Oshkosh Motor Truck Company and the W-Series Family (1939-1965) of stylish looking snowplow trucks with their swept



back V-type windshield; the forerunner of the WT-2206 series. Menard then skillfully walks the reader through a history of the Oshkosh WT-2206 from the days of the Cold War to present day.

The initial chapters discuss the Cold War Years – the emphasis behind the need – requirement for better and faster runway snow clearing equipment and the research and development that ultimately led to the WT-2206 series. As a result of the enhanced snow-clearing need the US Army was tasked by the US Air Force to explore new methods and equipment that would provide rapid clearing of ice and snow from the existing 150 wide by 5000-foot long runways.

As the publisher states *“It covers the initial testing from the 1950s to the trucks still in service today after 56 years. The author takes the truck and all its components apart from the ground up from the engines, gas or diesel, the transmissions and the hydraulic systems. The plows, snow blowers, underbody-blades, and attachments are all discussed and explained.”*

There are 376 pages in this book with numerous good clear photographs, both black and white as well as color, and outstanding well-chosen illustrations identified in detail. This superior resource of technical information is lavishly illustrated with numerous photographs and technical drawings of the truck under actual working conditions, moving snow as it was designed to do in its national defense role.

The book's design and layout is remarkable and favorably enhances the information presented on the Oshkosh WT-2206, which makes it a very enjoyable and comprehensive read. Much credit should be given to William Gerrish/Homage Creative Arts, the book designer, for the remarkable and attention-grabbing layout.

The Oshkosh WT-2206 – America's Cold Warrior is a treasure trove for truck enthusiasts, historians and fans of this rarely seen vehicle that was often hiding in plain sight. It's a valuable resource on the WT-2206 snowplow truck used by the U.S. Government and airports for years and I recommend it for your library.

The Oshkosh WT-2206 – America's Cold Warrior is available from the publisher for \$57.

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