

# THE 1921 FCM 2C TANK

Designed in 1918, delivered in 10 copies in 1921 (as per an initial order of 700 units brought down to 300 units), the 2C Tank was born quite inauspiciously for a heavy tank.

The war was over. Peace was the only goal in mind. Very modern in its overall design, the 2C Tank had 5 big defaults that explain its feeble historic fame. They were : its mass, its reliability, its slowness, its consumption and the constraints of its logistic move. All the way along its weird career, the 2C tank proved to be specific for its terribly low level of availability (less than 60 %). The maximum speed of the EC tank was 12 km/h. This was due to its mass, but above all to its lack of suspension. Such a speed was acceptable in 1920. It was no longer acceptable by 1930 when the progress on the tracks had a 10, even 20 kms/hr gain. The 2C Tank was then unfit for its part. It constituted a superb target. The 2C tank consumed 12.8 litres per km. In the stricken economic situation and in the French context of that time, it was far too much for a regular use. With its 70 T mass and its 10 m length, the 2C Tank long distance haulage was an exceptional operation. Such transportation was planned by railway (which explains the tank's limited 2.95 m narrowness). Instead of being usually put upon a platform carriage, because it was too high, the 2C tank constituted the carriage's central part. At each extremity a 3-axle tree truck was fixed. The assembly of it all needed several hours and a timber site be build in order to lift the 2C tank to the right level. In May, 1940, this constraint turned out to be fatal to the last 2C Tanks. During their transportation, blocked in the middle of the railway by a German shelling, the 2 C Tanks were scuttled by their crews.

## Specifications :

Manufacturers : F.C.M. Forges et Chantiers de la Méditerranée

Production : 10

Period of manufacturing : 1919 to 1921

Type : Heavy tank

Crew : 12 men

Chassis's length (m) : 10.27

Width (m) : 2.95

Height (m) : 4,01

Weight, in combat order (kg) : 70,000

Wireless Equipment : none

Main armament : 1 off 75 mm 1897 APX gun

Secondary armament : 4 off 8 mm machine guns

