

# The FT 17 Renault Tank

The FT17 Renault prototype tank was set up on October, 1916.

The father of the armored tanks, General Estienne, promptly obtained from Marshall Joffre the authorization to order the manufacturing of 1,000 off 4 ton tanks, armed with a 7.62 m machine gun, or, for some of them, of a little 37 mm gun placed into the turret, which caliber does not exist any longer.

This light tank was the most widely spread tank of WWI and equipped every Allied Army. A total amount of 8,000 unit was manufactured, among which 3,940 were manufactured by Renault.

The design of the light tank provisioned for an armored carrying skull, constituted with riveted plates on sections, with a 2 men crew.

The various models were only different by the turret, which could be round in cast steel or octagonal in riveted steel. The first model was designed for the 8 mm machine gun, the two other models could be equipped with the machine gun or with the gun.

Its average 16 mm armoring protected it only from shrapnel and from shooting of individual weapons of that time. Finally, it was equipped with a 4 – 35 HP cylinder in line that propelled it at a 8.5 km/h maximum speed for a 35 km range.

Its dimensions : Length 4.95 m, Width 1.74 m, Height 2.14 m.

