

The CA-1 Schneider Tank

The first French tank manufactured in 400 units originated with a meeting between Colonel Estienne and Engineer Brillié, from the Schneider-Creusot Company, that entailed the performance of a concrete project on December, 1915.

The tank had the aspect of a big long cart put on a chassis that was made of two steel side rails, joint by crossbeams that were carrying the engine at front, and the linkage at rear. The chassis was located on two carts, respectively with three and with four rollers on the track. via springs.

On the chassis there was some sort of a redoubt that enclosed the engine as well as the weaponry, such redoubt formed with tempered steel, bullet proof from the Mauser gun at a 150 m distance. Up front a large beak was a support for the tank when it was tilting forward, preventing it from plunging into the earth. For the same reasons, the tank was equipped with two tails at the rear.

The armament was consisting of a short 75 mm gun, that was shooting an explosive shell at an initial 200 m/sec speed. Its shoot was precise until 200 m.

Before it was even used, a note was made that its armoring was too thin. The Schneider was vulnerable to the German bullets of the "K" type. An "over-armoring" was then adopted, which increased its weight by 500 kgs. It constituted the first one of the alterations that aimed at remedy to the serious defaults in its design. As a matter of fact, the inner temperature was quickly un-bearable, which made an easy emission of gas vapors and every single shell was likely to set the tank ablaze. So, albeit originally destined to actions of rupture, its vulnerability had it serve as an escort to infantry.

Specifications :

Dimensions : Length : 6.32 m. Width : 2.05 m Height : 2,30 m.

Speed : 6.75 km/h.

Range : 48 km

Weight : 12,5 t.

Armament : 1 off 75 mm gun, 2 off 1914 model Hotchkiss machine guns,

Armoring : 11.5 mm maximum

Crew : 6 men.



