

# The Sturmpanzerwagen A7V

The A7V tank was the first (and only) tank built by the German army during WWI. It came into service quite late (the first unit was delivered on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 1917), for the German army, which, so far only used tanks that were seized from the enemy, did not believe into the tank's usefulness.

The Germans established a Committee (*Allgemeines Kriegsdepartement Abteilung 7 Verkehrswesen* or General Department of War, Section 7, Communications).

100 units of the A7V tank were actually ordered, but upon by the end of the War ; only twenty of them were built. On September, 1917, the German Army formed the first eight units, but only three of them were equipped with A7V. The others used the material that was seized from the enemy.

The A7V was armed with a 57 mm gun (seized from the Russians) at the front the hull. There were also two machine guns on each side and one on the rear part. Nowadays only subsists one off original A7V, the # 506 Mephisto tank, that had been collected by the Australian troops on July, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1918. This tank had been abandoned in what had been defined as "no man's land" after it broke down during the battle of the Somme. It is henceforth being exhibited in the Queensland Museum in Brisbane, Australia.

Specifications :

Dimensions : Length 8m, Width 3.04 m, Height 3.3 m

Weight : 33 t.

Length : 8 meters

Speed on road : 12 Km/h

Range : 50 Km

Engines : 2 *off* 100 HP 4 cylinders Daimler Benz

Plating : 15 to 30 mm

Crew : 18 men

