**Armor at Malmaison Research Module**

**Definition**: Limited, combined arms French attack upon La Malmaison fort and Chemin des Dames Ridge in October 1917 noteworthy for the deliberate effort to boost cooperation between tanks and infantry.

**NOTE**: The references below provide information relevant to this engagement. Use these references and supplement with your own research. All of the sources provided below are in English. Given the lack of general familiarity with French tank designs, tactics, and employment in World War I, be sure to at least review ALL of the sources indicated below.

**HINT:** Focus your analysis upon the operation of the French tank units employed in the battle. DO NOT focus on the operations of the attacking French corps or their defending German counterparts. DO focus on the French tank groups, their preparation and use in battle, the impact of terrain, and German antitank measures. Obviously, corps actions influenced tank employment, but if you focus on the former, your coverage of the accomplishments of the latter will suffer.

**Electronic References listed by file name:**

BCMH\_First\_World\_War\_Occasional\_Paper\_No\_1

* Paper written for the British Commission for Military History entitled “The Battle of Malmaison, 23-26 October 1917: ‘A Masterpiece of Tactics’.” Details planning, preparation, and execution of French attack.

French Armor in the Great War

* Translation of a French analysis of its army’s tank force in the Great War compiled in 1919. The extract provided here focuses on the employment of tanks at Malmaison.

Tanks at the Chemin des Dames 1917

* Online article that addresses key tank French tank designs and the preparation for their use at Malmaison. Also includes references to German antitank preparations.

The Battle of Malmaison, doctrinal turning point for the French Army\_ The Great War Channel

* Short online article that places Malmaison in broader context of French tactical and doctrinal development in World War I.

***Recommended Websites:***

<http://www.benning.army.mil/Library/>

* This is the website of the Donovan Research Library, which features an online catalogue and a host of different services, including JSTOR, through which to conduct research and access source material. You can also access various electronic materials here, once you have established a library account.

***Suggested secondary sources:***

Gale, Tim, *French Tanks of the Great War: Development, Tactics, and Operations*

(Havertown: Pen and Sword Military, 2016). Available in the Donovan Research

Library as an electronic book.

Perre, Jean Paul, “The Tanks in the Battle of La Malmaison, October 1917.” Student

paper, Infantry School, 1936. Available in the Donovan Research Library

archives at D608.P44. In library use only.

* Written by a French officer and translated into English

Zaloga, Steven, *French Tanks of World War I* (Long Island City, NY: Osprey, 2010).

Available in the Donovan Research Library. UG446.5.Z9 2010.

***Related Search Subjects (online and library shelves):***

SmK ammunition

Schneider tank

St. Chamond Tank