



U.S. ARMY

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL

Ordnance & Memorial Field



MARK VIII LIBERTY TANK

THE FIRST TANK

The Mark VIII Tank was the first tank produced by the United States. Following World War I, 100 of these tanks were produced by Rock Island Arsenal.

WORLD WAR I

QUICK FACTS ON THE MARK VIII

Weight	Over 80,000 lbs.
Dimensions (L, W, H)	34.1', 11.7', 10.2'
Range	Around 50 miles
Crew	8
Variants	3
Number Produced	124
Country of Origin	United States / Britain

A SHORT HISTORY

For the Americans, production of a tank of their own did not occur until 1919, during the war Americans used British and French designed tanks. When American production finally began the design was based on the British Mark V design. The American version would be officially labeled the Mark VIII Tank. Weighing about 40 tons with a height of 10 feet, 3 inches, the Mark VIII Tank was nothing short of an industrial marvel. Two 57-mm guns flanked the sides of the tank, with an additional five M1917 Browning machine guns.

The armor and armament made the Mark VIII a perfect weapon of war during campaigns on the western front. However, the other key feature of the tank was its powerful engine and its uniquely shaped tracks.

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