

EXHIBIT # 31**SPZ OBSERVATION****FRANCE**

Like the SP1.A Reconnaissance vehicle the Observation SPZ was developed in the mid to late 1950s. This one on exhibit was specifically made in 1959. As you can see, this SPZ has an identical chassis to the SP 1.A. The most obvious difference is that this one doesn't have a turret. Instead, there is a machine gun ring for a small machine gun, the 7.62 mm. This ring is different from most other machine gun rings because it was moved by simply pulling/pushing the ring around using the handle behind one of the shields. Most machine gun rings moved by the means of a hand-crank. Inside the SPZ there is a mount for an advanced periscope in the center of the vehicle, and just below it is a moving seat that permitted the observer to scan a terrain screen up to around 60 degrees. To the right of the chair is the commander's/machine gunner's chair and seat. The hatch above the seat is also very unique. Rather than opening like a can's lid, the commander would have to pull down on two handles just beneath the hatch. He would pull until they could go no further, then pull on the bar just in front of the handles (only if the SPZ required heavy maintenance on the hatch, which applies to those Schutzenpanzers in the museum). After that the commander slid the hatch open using the rails, and then operate the machine gun before he fully exposed himself to enemy fire. This type of hatch is one of the lesser known hatches, but is certainly one of the safest when being fired upon by an enemy.

DATA**Length: 14 ft. 9 in. Width: 7 ft. 5 in.****Height: 5 ft. 5 in.****Crew: 5 (3 operators and 2 soldiers)****Power: Hotchkiss 6 cyl, OHV, water cooled gasoline engine with 164 hp, at 3,900 RPM****Armament: 7.62 mm machine gun Armor: 0.32 in to 0.59 in****Speed: 36 mph on the road Range: 242.24 miles**