

NON CANADIAN VEHICLE MARKINGS:

A look at the markings, colour schemes and vehicles of the world's armies.

Part 35: British Armour at War - yet another look at the B.E.F. in France, 1939-40

Light Mk.VIc - Headquarters, 'B' Squadron, 9th Queen's Royal Lancers, 2nd Armoured Brigade, 1st Armoured Division, BEF France, June 1940



Unit Sign:



9H

Squadron Marking:

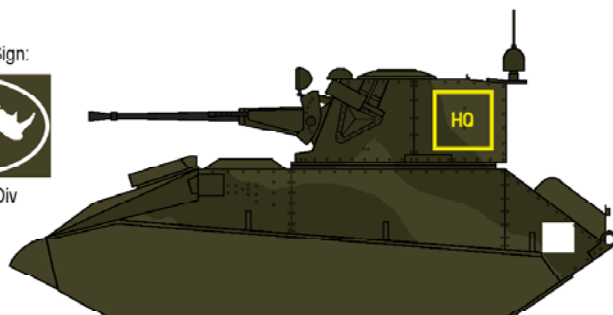


'B' Sqn HQ

Formation Sign:



1st Arm'd Div



Why there should be a white triangle altering the squadron marking I do not know, the turret markings may well also be altered in this way, but I cannot see well enough to be sure.



Civilian Licence Plate

The photo I am working from does not show the lower front hull so the markings there are based upon the norm for 1st Arm'd Div.

The civilian licence plate is liberally coated with mud with the right side flaked away just slightly exposing the white numbers underneath.

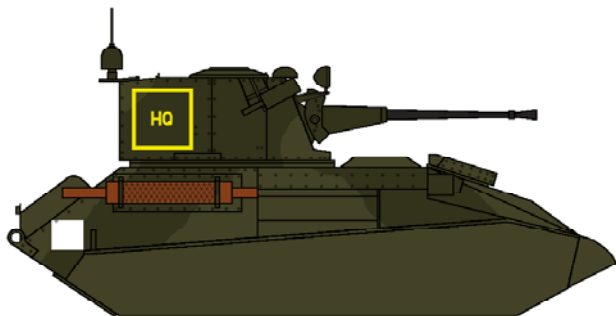


Embarkation Code

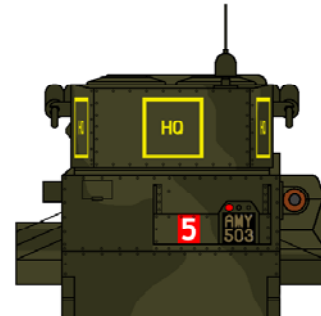
Bridge Class:



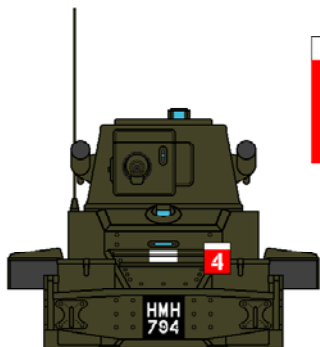
6 Tons



This vehicle appears to have had mud either thrown up from the tracks or smeared on the hull rear and turret sides. I believe the squadron markings are on the turret.



Matilda Mk.I (A11) - unknown squadron, 4th Battalion The Royal Tank Regiment, 1st Army Tank Brigade, BEF, Hebuterne, France, March 1940



Unit Sign:



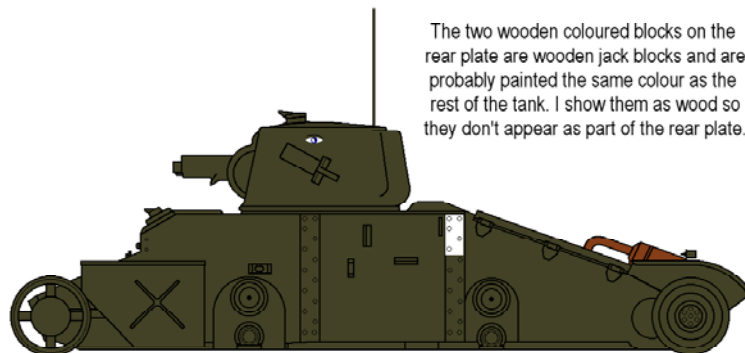
4RTR

Formation Sign:



1ATB

It is quite possible that this vehicle is in two-tone cam rather than the single colour shown but I cannot discern the pattern well enough to show it.



The two wooden coloured blocks on the rear plate are wooden jack blocks and are probably painted the same colour as the rest of the tank. I show them as wood so they don't appear as part of the rear plate.



4RTR
'Chinese Eye'

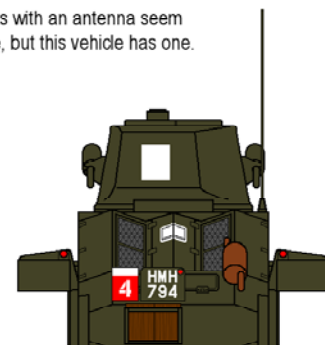
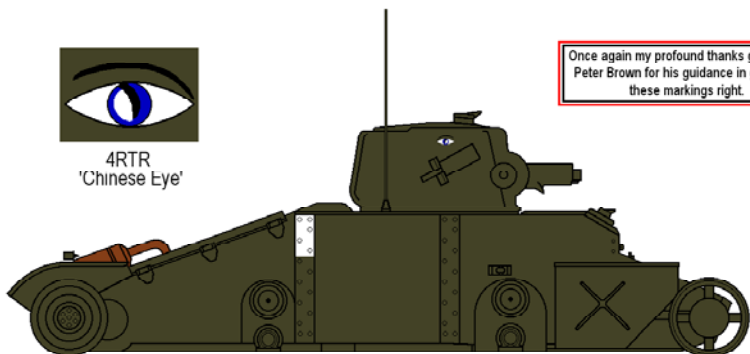
Once again my profound thanks go out to Peter Brown for his guidance in getting these markings right.



Civilian Licence

The rear civilian licence appears to be painted on green rather than the usual black.

Matilda Is with an antenna seem to be rare, but this vehicle has one.



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A11 Matilda Mk. I - unknown troop and squadron, 7th Battalion The Royal Tank Regiment, 1st Army Tank Brigade, BEF France, May 1940



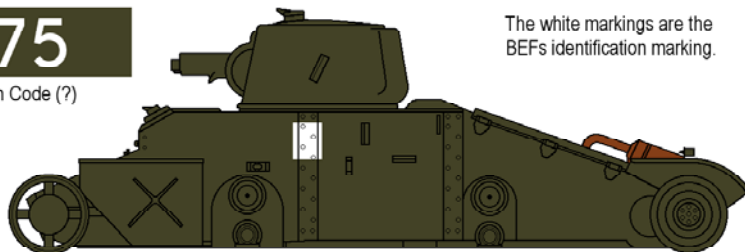
Unit Sign:



7RTR

1875

Embarkation Code (?)



The white markings are the BEFs identification marking.

GROUSE

Vehicle Name

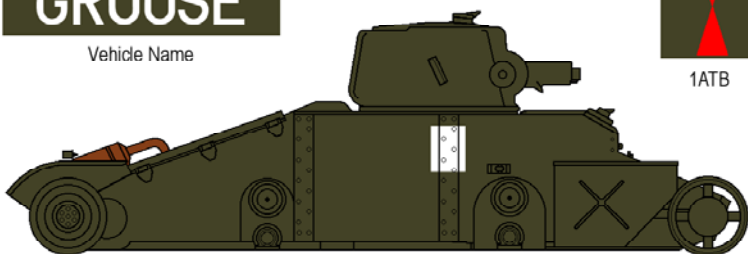
Formation Sign:



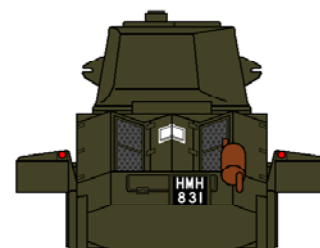
1ATB

HMH
831

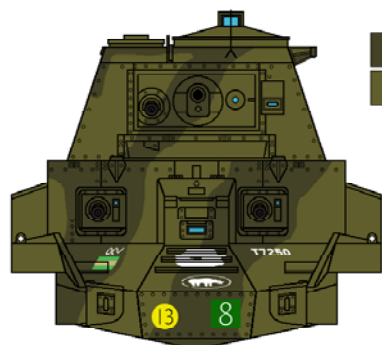
Civilian Licence



As with many BEF vehicles, there does not seem to be any unit/formation signs visible from the front.



Cruiser Mk.I A9CS - 2nd Battalion The Royal Tank Regiment, 3rd Armoured Brigade, 1st Armoured Division, BEF France, 1940



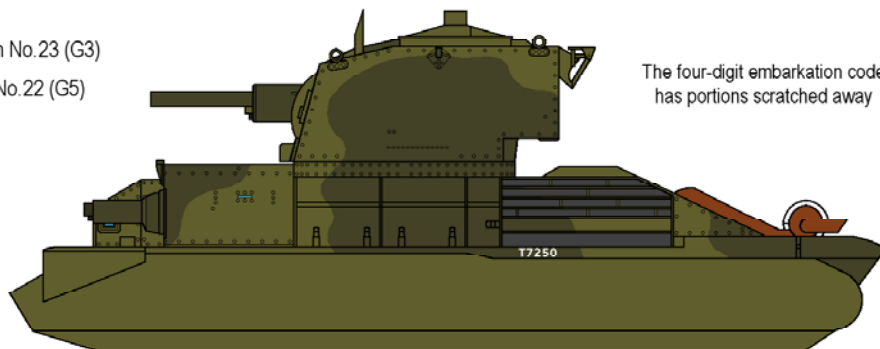
Middle Bronze Green No.23 (G3)

Light Bronze Green No.22 (G5)

Unit Sign:



2RTR



The four-digit embarkation code has portions scratched away

The white shape on the glacis plate immediately below the driver's visor appears to me to be a well worn and scratched BEF identity patch.

Once again my profound thanks go out to Peter Brown for his guidance in getting these markings right.

0046

Embarkation Code

Formation Sign:



1st Arm'd Div



BEF ID Patch

T7250

Vehicle Serial

Bridge Class:



13-Tons

