

Hellenic Army Universal Carriers Greece 1941

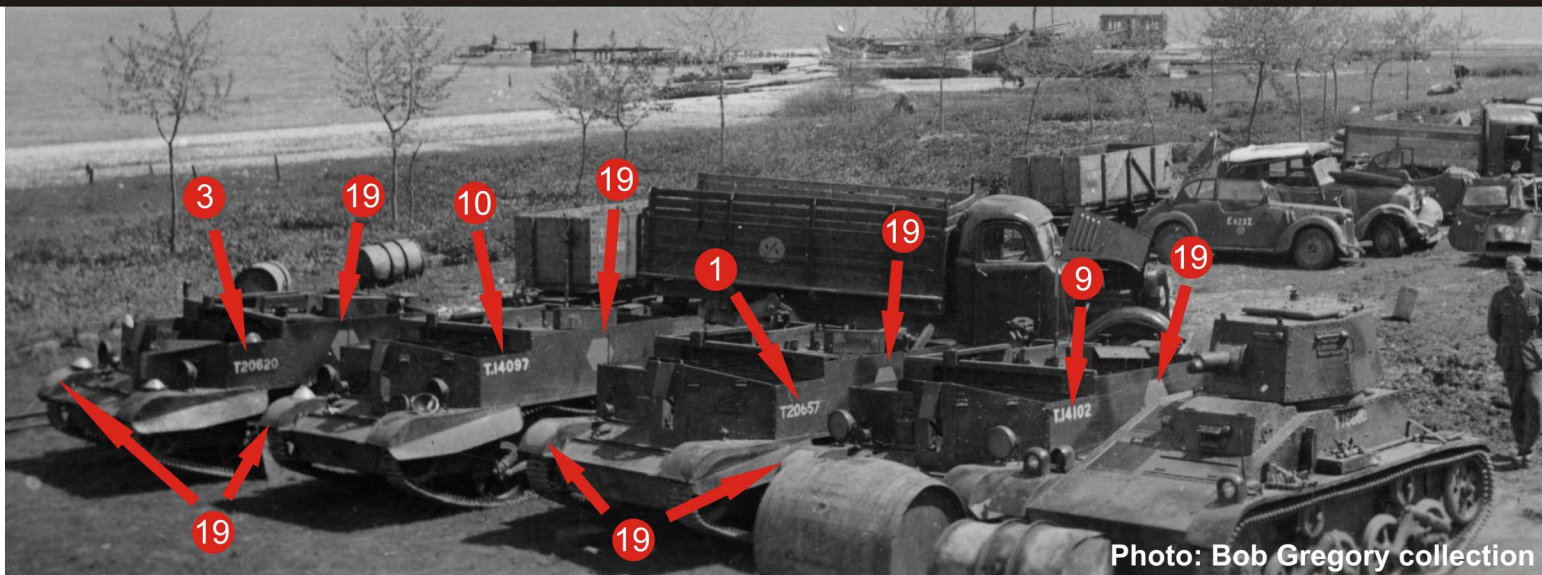
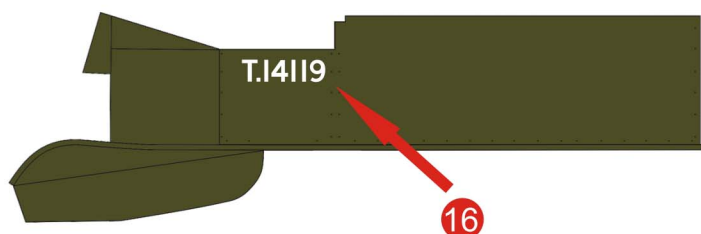


Photo: Bob Gregory collection

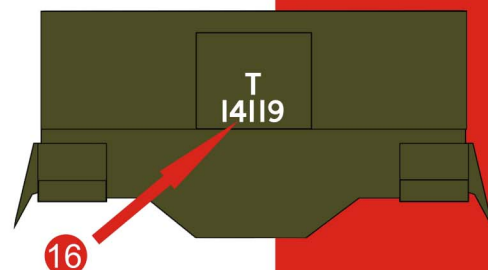
A very revealing photo of a scrap-yard in the Stavros area on the bay of Orphanos. The Germans have assembled a variety of ex-19th mot. div. vehicles including Universal Carriers, Dutchman Vickers light tanks and Austin 8HP field cars.

In 1941 Great Britain supplied the Hellenic Army 100 Universal Carriers, which in the Hellenic Army were classified as "Open Tanks". These vehicles equipped the 19th mechanised division. Also delivered were 10 Vickers M1936 Light Tanks Mk IIIB. This type was also known as the Dutchman, because it had originally been ordered by the Netherlands but was never delivered due to the Netherlands being overrun by the Germans and Dutch East Indies by the Japanese. The armoured vehicles were accompanied by Austin 8HP field cars, Morris Commercial Quad gun tractors with 18 pdr guns and a few other vehicles such as Bedford OY lorries and Austin K2 ambulances. A period news reel shows these vehicles being unloaded in Piraeus harbour.

When these vehicles were delivered to the Hellenic Army they were finished either overall in Light Green G5 or had a disruptive pattern of or Dark Green G4 or G3 Khaki Green No 3 in stripes over the G5 base colour. Photographic documentation of these vehicles is sparse and chronologically incomplete. A British Pathe news reel shows vehicles being unloaded in Piraeus harbour. There are then many private snapshots by German soldiers showing the Greek Universal Carriers destroyed or in German hands. In this second period group of photos many Universal Carriers appear to have a three or four colour disruptive finish. It is not known when and which extra colours were applied. Based on the fact that the vehicles were already finished in one or two shades of green, one can assume that a shade of earth/brown and/or sand/ochre was added. It is possible that these were shades similar to the pre-war German three-colour camouflage scheme, which had been used by the Hellenic Army on vehicles of German origin. One might also assume that the vehicles were completely repainted in new colours, however as their serial numbers seem to have remained unaltered it is probably safe to assume that the serial's background colour is the original Light Green G5, so the theory of a total repaint does not seem so probable.



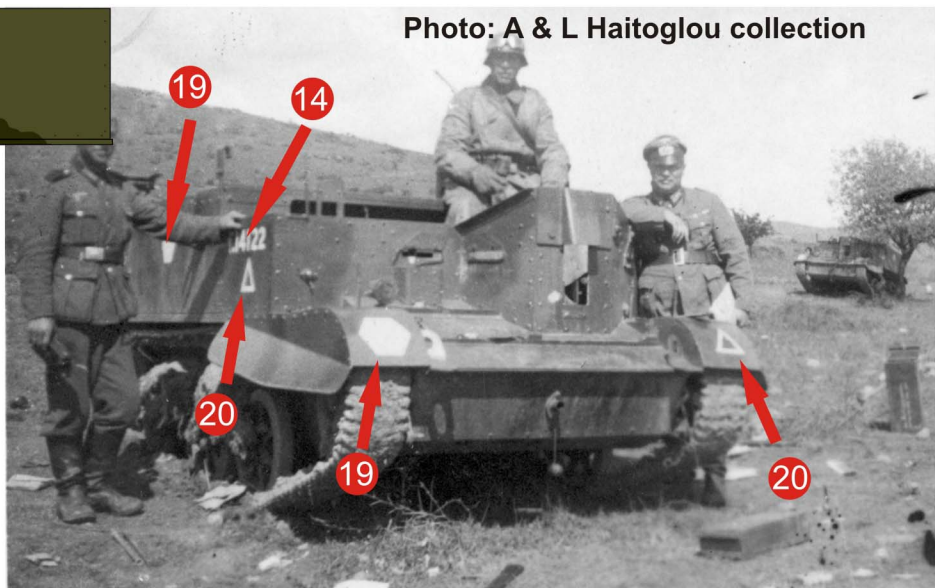
On all carriers the "T" that prefixed the rear number appeared above the number.



T.14122



Photo: A & L Haitoglou collection



All the available photographic evidence points to the 19th mech. Div. using a white hexagon as its emblem. All available photographs are black and white. On some photographs the hexagon markings are certainly white while on others they seem to have somewhat darker shades. Also when compared to the white serial numbers they evidently differ in shade. That this may be purely a layer of dust and/or grime is not supported by all available photographs, leading to the conclusion that apart from white, other colours may also have been used for these hexagonal markings, perhaps to indicate sub-units.

Deciphering these colours from b/w photographs is impossible.

However by comparing the various shades it is evident that these colours were pale and probably what would be termed as pastel shades, although the use of such colours for military vehicle markings is uncommon.

There is also the possibility that one or more of the additional camouflage colours that were used were added after the application of the 19th mech. Div. hexagonal insignia, so those that appear darker may have a light overspray of the new cammo paint.

Photo: A & L Haitoglou collection

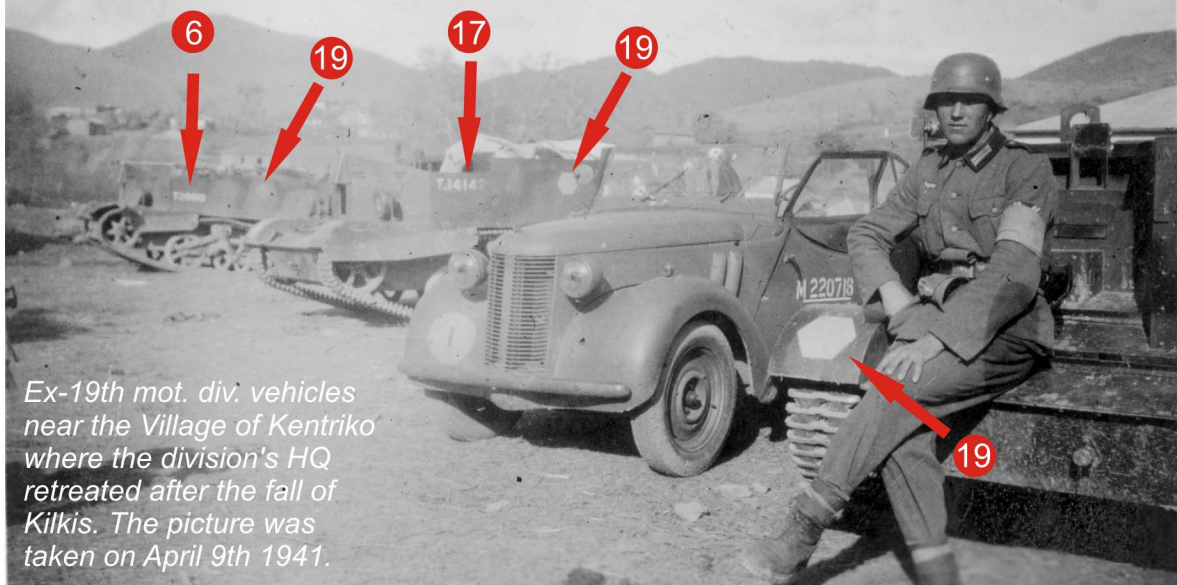


Photo: Aris Kosionides collection



Photo: Aris Kosionides collection

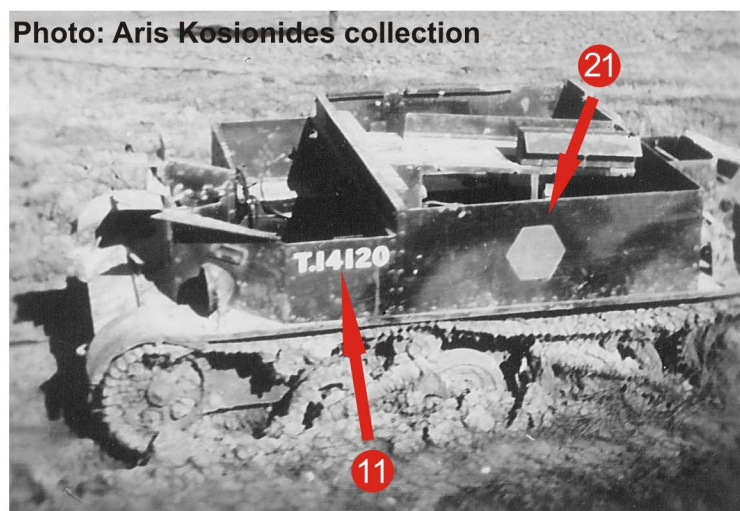


Photo: Aris Kosionides collection



A Bulgarian soldier posing on an ex-Greek carrier. The fading and chipping of the colours and markings could suggest that the vehicle had caught fire.

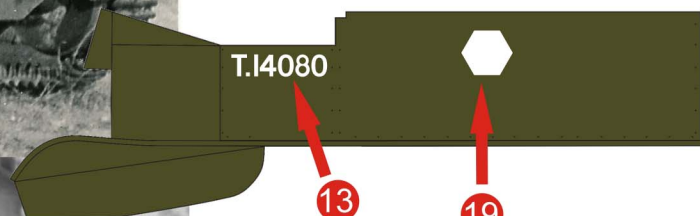
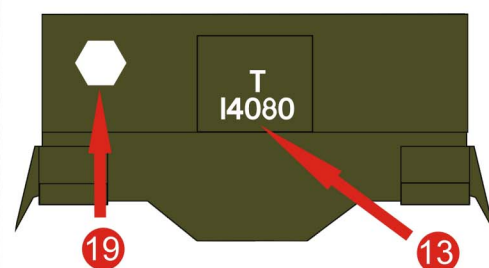


Photo: A & L Haitoglou collection



Note: The three shades of green G3, G4 and G5 used on British vehicles until September 1941 are available in the White Ensign range of colours.

Photo: A & L Haitoglou collection

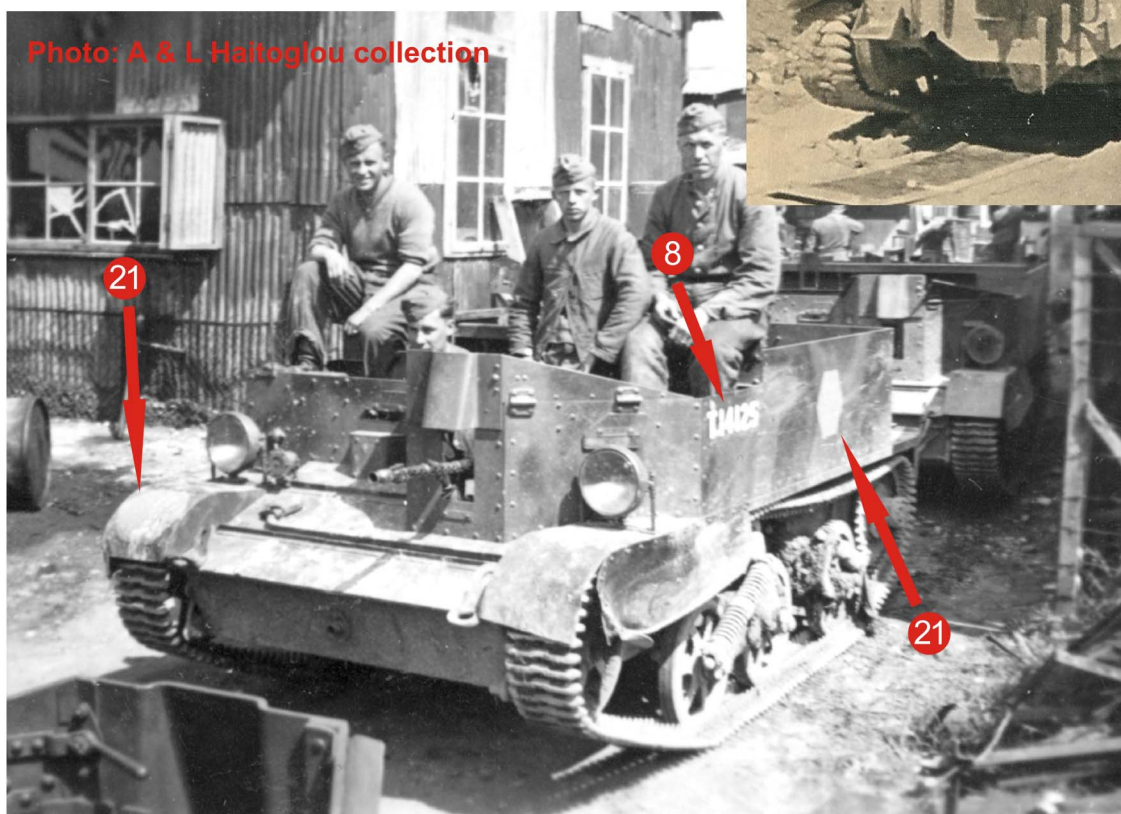


Photo: Aris Kosionides collection



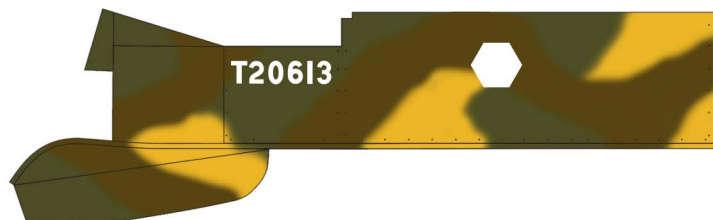
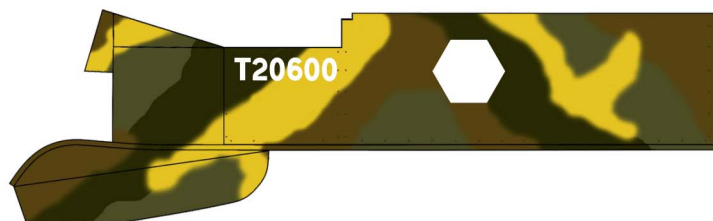
A German enemy equipment collection and maintenance facility in the Greek town of Serres in 1941. Judging by the German machine gun, the carrier must have already been used by the Germans, still retaining its Greek camouflage and markings. All the ex-Greek carriers were repainted in German colours and markings and consequently used by the Wehrmacht.



These colour profilee are our speculation on what the camouflaged Greek carriers may have looked like, based on the assumption that the additional colours that were used were similar to the German pre-war three colour camouflage scheme, because the

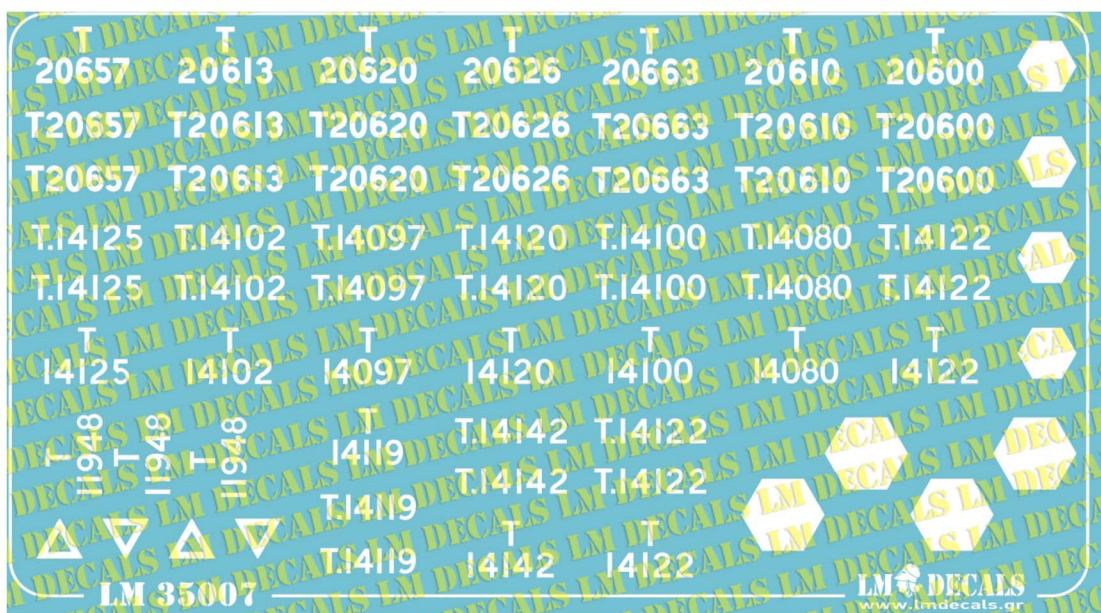
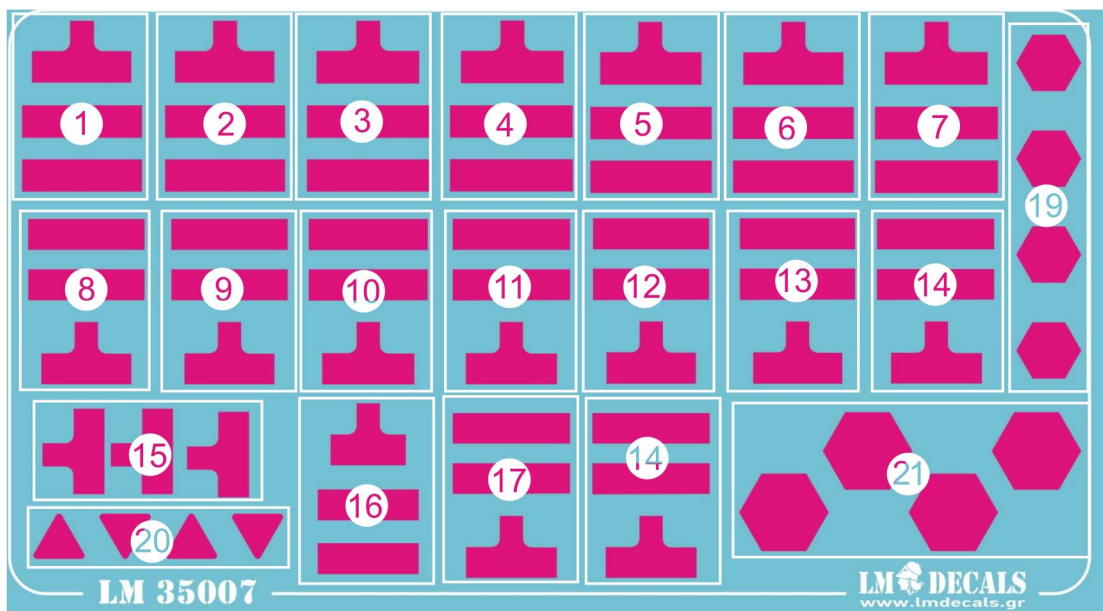
Hellenic Army had a number of vehicles in service finished in these colours. The basic colour of G5 and brush applied camouflage of G3, if applied, have been retained and a dark brown and an ochre yellow have been sprayed over this.

There is no hard historic evidence to support this choice of colours which is purely our interpretation of black and white photographs.



Hellenic Army Universal Carriers Greece 1941

LM35007



This instruction sheet may be downloaded and printed for your personal use.
Decals printed by: Fantasy Printshop
www.lmdecals.gr