

GMC CCKW/CCW 353, M35 2.5 ton truck & M49 Fuel truck in Hellenic service

The first GMC CCKW-353 trucks were supplied to the Hellenic Army by the British in North Africa during WWII. Post war more were supplied and after 1950, when the US became the main supplier of military material to the Hellenic armed forces large numbers of almost all versions entered service. To this day in Greece the vehicle was popularly known as "James", a term that for many came to mean any military truck.

When supplied to Greece these tanks were finished in the post-war shade of US Olive-drab. During the 1950s and early to mid 1960s the vehicle serial number was applied to all four sides of the vehicle in white. Gradually, the practice of applying this to the vehicle's sides seems to have been abandoned. There were also instances when the number only appeared on the sides of the vehicle.

Most military material was supplied to Greece under the Mutual Defence Assistance Act. Many vehicles bore a red, white and blue sticker to signify this. The white, stenciled version of this marking often remained on the vehicle until it was repainted.



Photo: A & L Haitoglou collection

A bridging class plate would most probably have been fitted to this vehicle. The modeller has a choice of five markings to use. Painting tire sidewalls white for parades and inspections was popular in the 1950s and '60s.



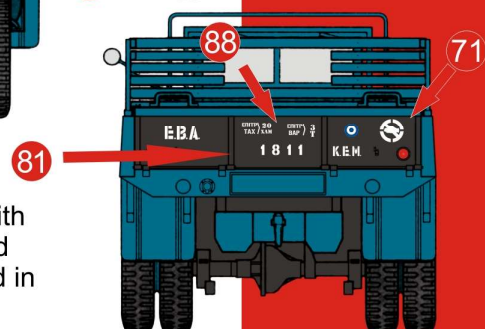
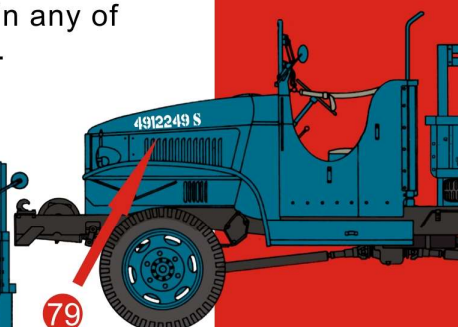
Photo: A & L Haitoglou collection



84 The rear serial number may have been in any of these two positions.



Photo: A & L Haitoglou collection



This Air Force GMC parading in Athens in the early 1950's is finished in blue with the bumpers painted black. The rear view is based on Air Force regulations and common practices of the period. The Bofors gun being towed would be finished in Olive Drab.

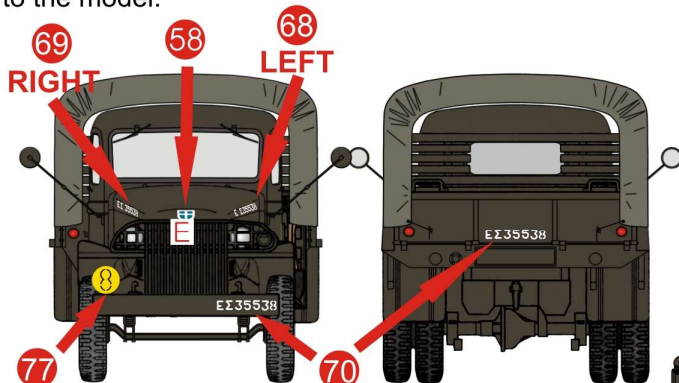
The GMC CCW-353 was the 4x6 version of the truck. It only appeared with the hard-top cab and was intended to be used for on-road transportation. It was classed as 5 ton truck. Some of these vehicles remained in use by the Hellenic Army until the early 1980s. It seems that the CCW-353 was often used for training drivers. For this role it would carry a sign (probably plywood or sheet-metal) with letter E fixed to the radiator grille with wire. E stands for "Εκπαιδευτικό" meaning "trainer" in Greek.

If the modeller wishes to portray such a vehicle, the sign may be printed on card or paper and attached to the model.



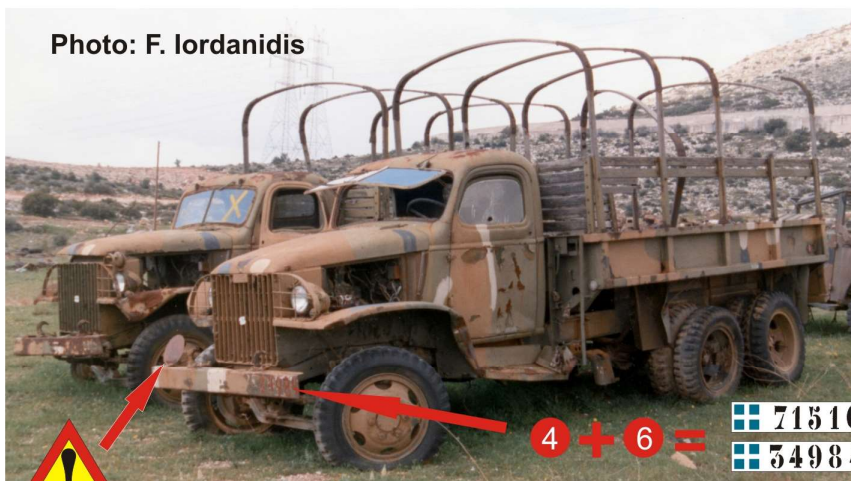
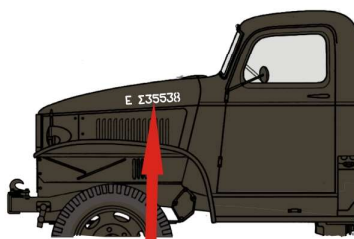
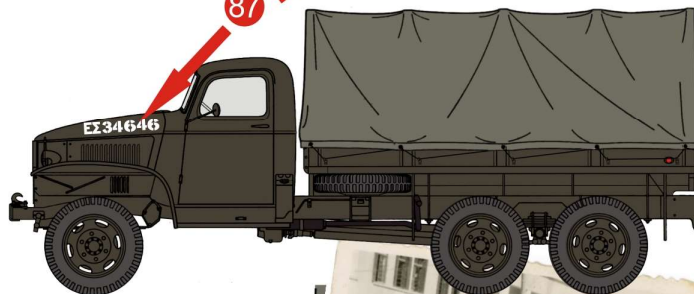
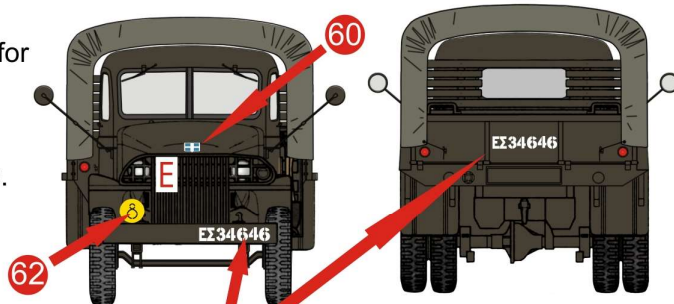
E

1/72
SCALE



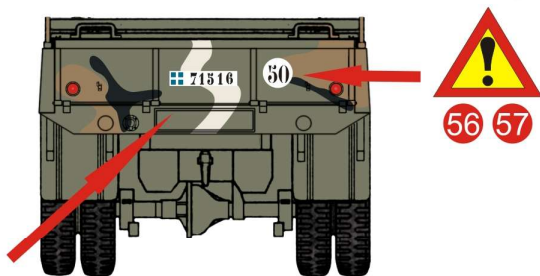
E

1/72
SCALE



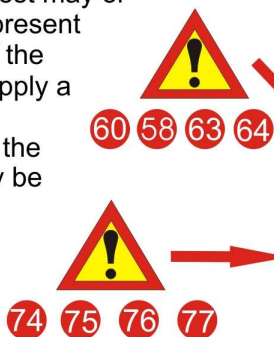
4 + 6 =

71516
54984



This vehicle may also be finished in plain olive drab using the same markings.

This photograph of a GMC tanker was part of set of various vehicles used during the early 1950's. Curiously it was the only one that was not a 3/4 view. The serial number may have been applied only to the bonnet sides of this vehicle. A national crest may or may not have been present above the radiator. If the modeller wishes to apply a national crest and a bridging plate any of the decals indicated may be



In 1967 Hellenic Hellenic armed forces markings were changed and standardised with NATO regulations. Vehicle numbers were now prefixed by a small Greek flag. The use of the national crest over the radiator was discontinued.

Photo: A & L Haitoglou collection

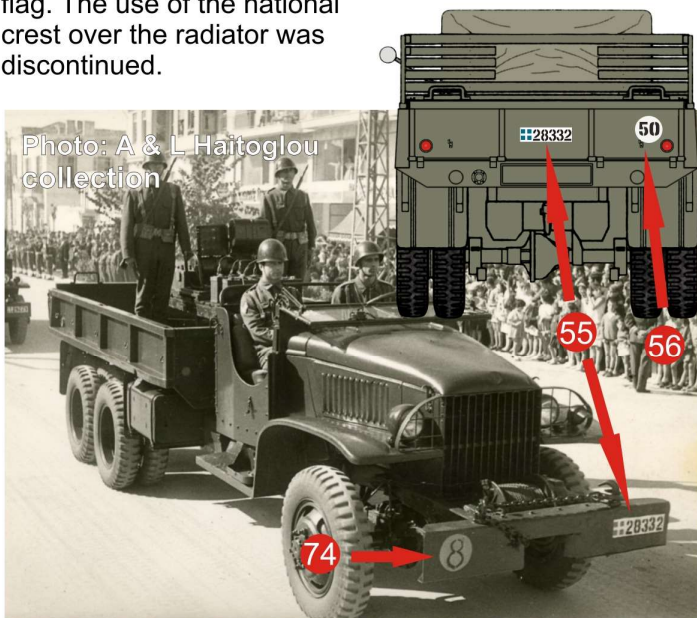
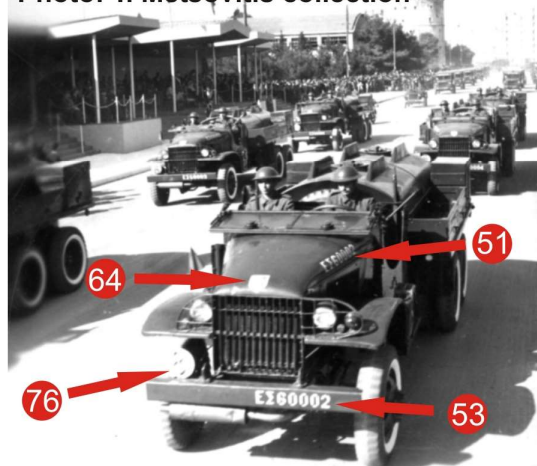


Photo: T. Metsovitis



There is no information about the rear view of this Air Force tanker, however the serial number and the Air Force roundel would probably be present. It is left to the modeller to decide on the exact positioning of the markings which are provided. The rear of the chassis and the bumperettes would most probably have been painted black. The red "83" on the bumper was added after disposal.

Photo: T. Metsovitis collection



This army tanker parading in Salonika during the 1950's or early '60's is typical of the period. Finished in overall Olive Drab and with white painted tire sidewalls. The metal bridging class plate is a fixed over the bumper. The serial number would also appear on the vehicle's rear side. Decal 52 is provided for this.

Marking 61 signified the day of the week when the vehicle was due for inspection. This marking is always applied to the windscreen on the passenger's side.

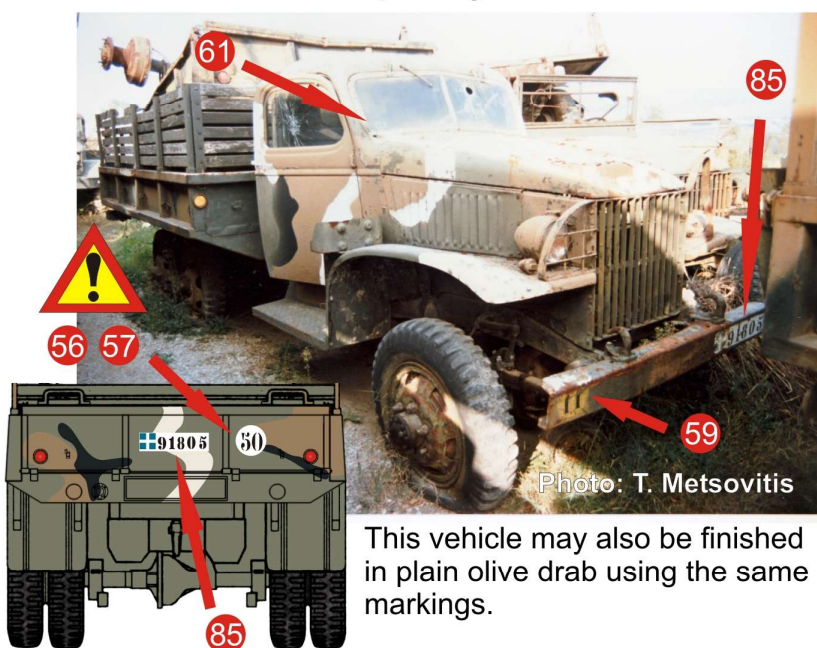


Photo: T. Metsovitis

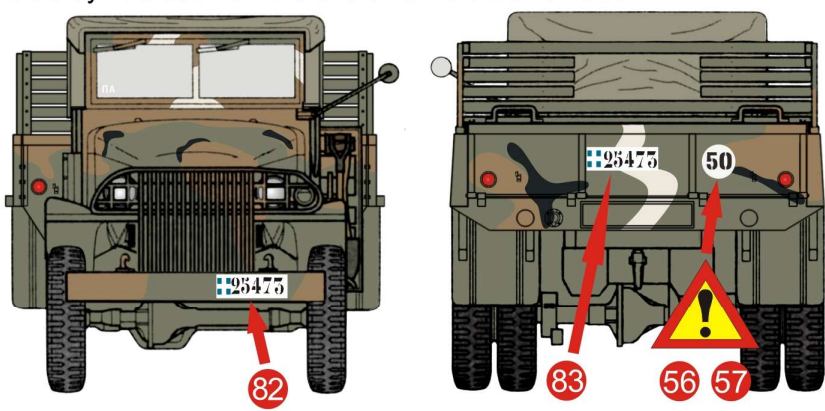
This vehicle may also be finished in plain olive drab using the same markings.

In 1976 with the adoption of the four colour camouflage GMCs still in service were painted using the MERDC pattern for the M35 truck. All the markings remained the same as they had been on the overall olive drab vehicles.



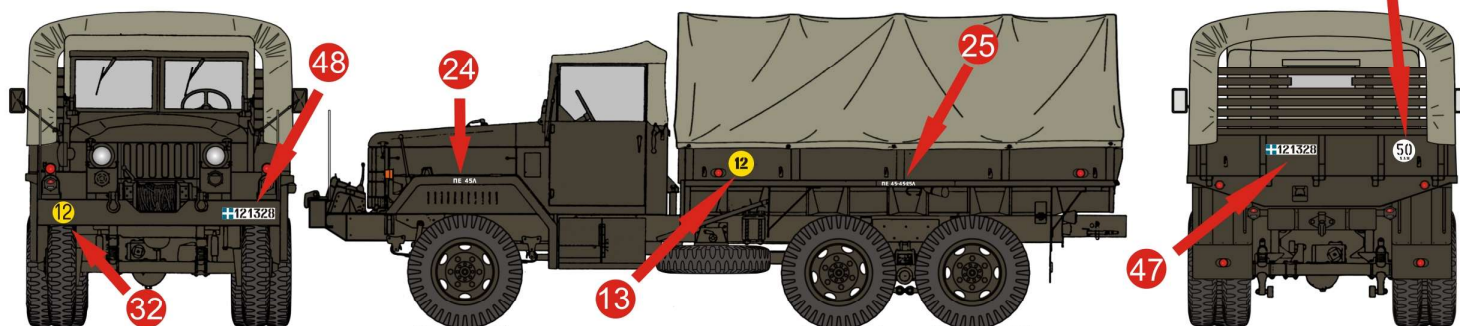
Photo: T. Metsovitis

The non driven front axle of the CCW-353 and the slightly different wheel hubs.



This vehicle may also be finished in plain olive drab using the same markings.

The M35 2.5 ton truck served in large numbers with the Hellenic Armed Forces. Apart from the three services in small numbers it was also used by the Gendarmerie and the Police. They were commonly known as "REO" and the first ones were supplied during the 1960s soon becoming popular. In the 1980s many were re-engined with Steyr diesel engines. They remain in service to this day (2011) although the older petrol-engined variants have mostly been retired.

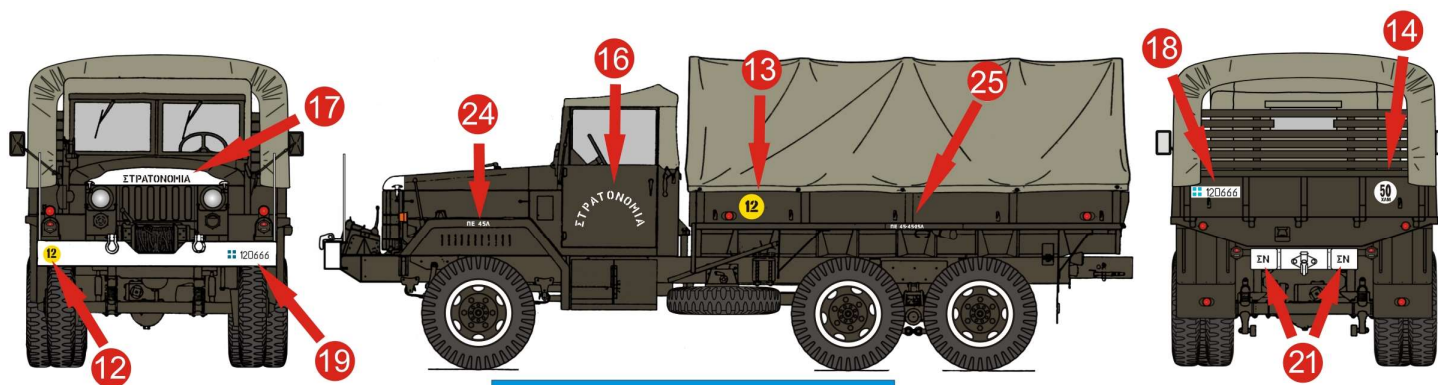


Hellenic Army vehicles were finished in overall Olive Drab, similar in shade to the post-war US army colour until 1976 when the four colour MERDC camouflage was adopted. The markings remained the same.

NOTE: The bridge classification on the sides of the body was not always applied. Sometimes it was applied only to one side.



In the army the maximum filling level is always marked on the fuel tank.



Military Police, Athens 1988

1988

Many M34 and M35 trucks were converted to recovery vehicles by fitting Set No 7 Wrecking Gear. It was common for these vehicles to have their bumpers painted in black and yellow stripes. Red flags were also flown from the bumpers as an additional warning sign.

This particular vehicle was photographed on two different Independence Day parades in Athens on 25th March, in 1988 and then again in 1991. Its colours and markings on the two occasions were slightly different.

NOTE: The ΠΑ marking on the windscreen did not always have the circle, so if the modeller wishes it may be carefully removed.

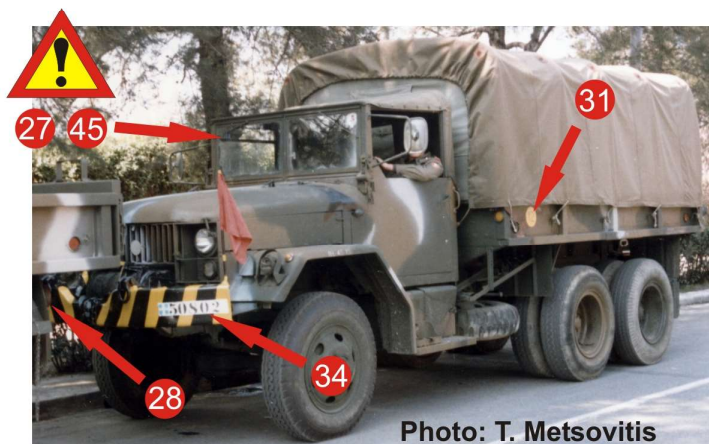


Photo: T. Metsovitis



Photo: T. Metsovitis collection

1991



Photo: T. Metsovitis



Photo: T. Metsovitis



Photo: T. Metsovitis

So that the yellow of the bridging class disc is the same as the stripes the modeller must mask off a circle of yellow on which to apply decal (28).



Photo: T. Metsovitis collection

M35A1



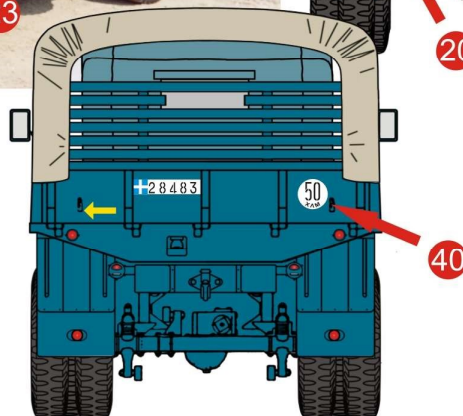
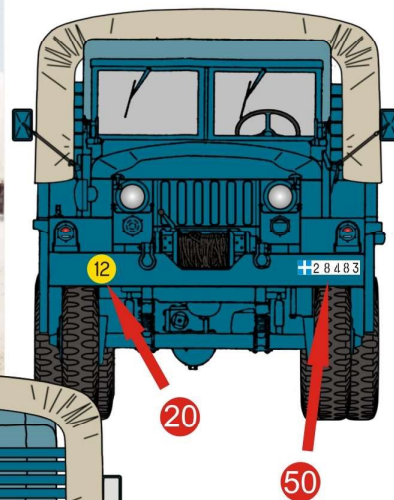
Photo: T. Metsovitis collection

This air force M35 was in use by the 111 Combat Wing based at Anchialos Air Base in Central Greece in 1992-1993. Its daily duties included the distribution of sentries to the many posts around the base. For this role it was fitted with a removable set of steps on the tailgate to facilitate entry and exit. The cab tarp was blue plasticised material. The front wheel is an early type from an old M34 truck, probably from the unit's spares box!

Photo: T. Vgenopoulos



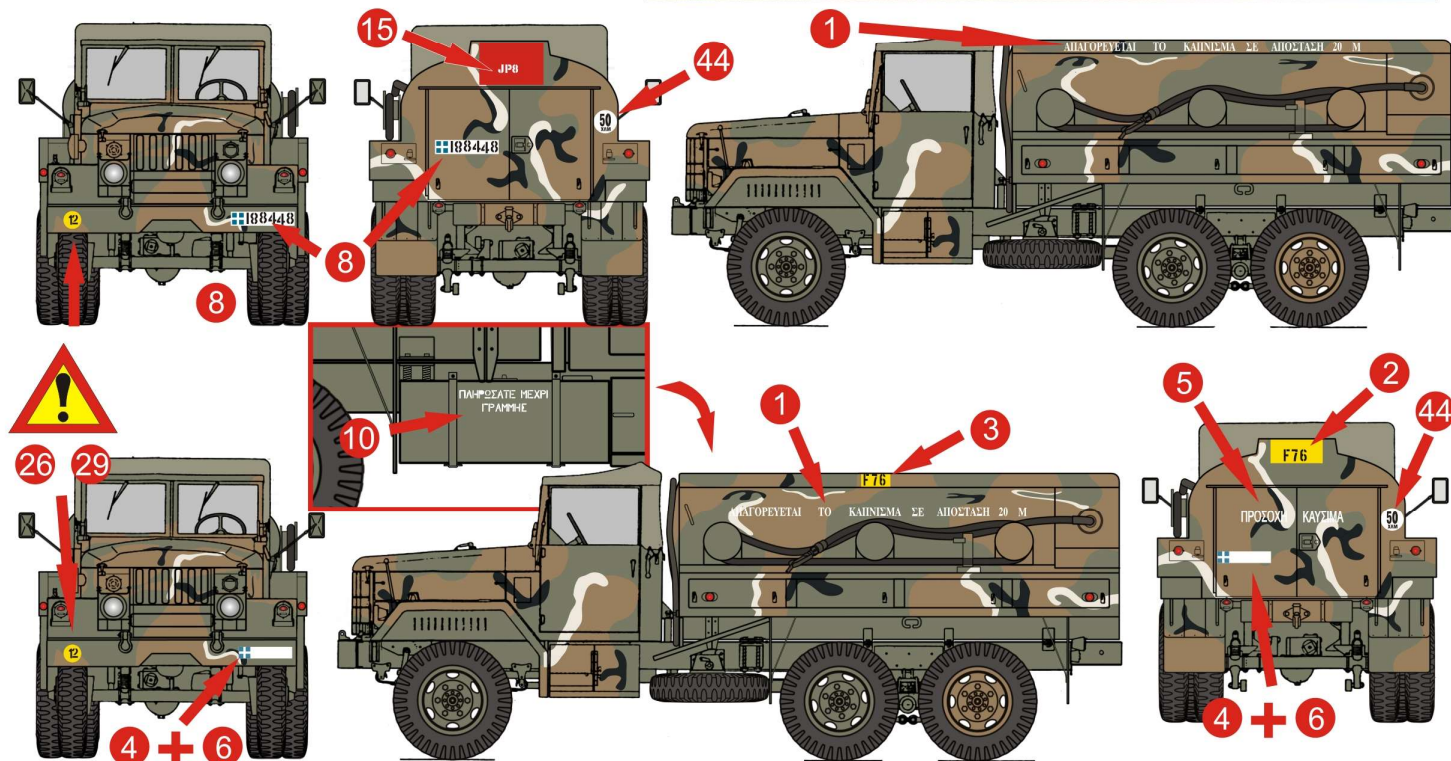
Photo: A. Roussos



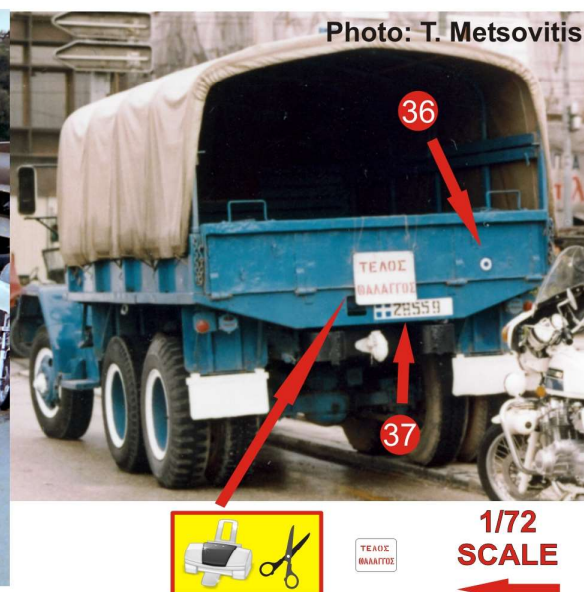
A red rectangle will have to be painted before the application of decal **9**.
This vehicles serial number is not known.

Large numbers of M49 tankers are still in service with the Hellenic armed forces, although many are of the type with the cut-outs for the rear wheels. The serial number of this vehicle is not known. Blank number plates are provided for the modeller to mark the model as desired.

Decal **15** must be applied onto a painted red background



This air force police M35 was at the rear of the convoy of air force vehicles that participated and supported the 25th March Independence Day parade in Athens in 1984. For this role it was fitted with a temporary sign hanging over the tailgate and red flags on the front wings. The white trim is typical of police vehicles.



This sign signified the presence of Glycol anti-freeze in the radiator and was attached to the radiator grill with wire. It is more commonly seen in yellow with black letters.



54 These markings are generic for Royal Hellenic Air Force vehicles during the 1950s and early '60s. It is believed that "ABΦ" signifies the Falliron Air Base.



1/72 SCALE

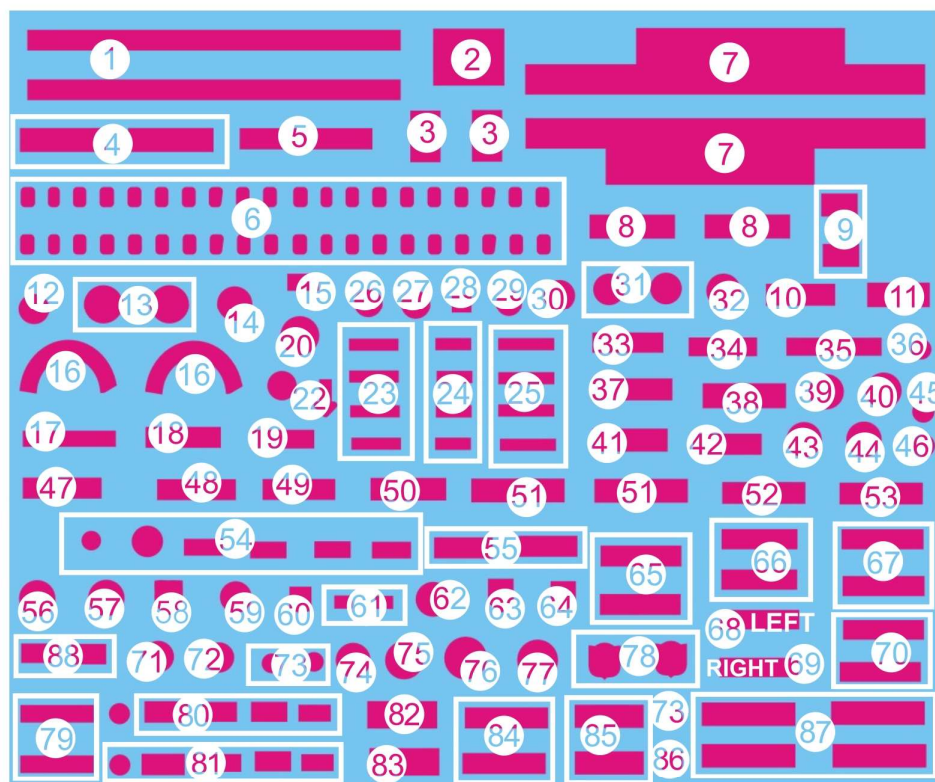


This symbol indicates that alternative markings are applicable in this position **OR** that the same marking applies to more than one colour scheme.

Due to a production error these markings were omitted from the main decal sheet and have been printed on an ALPS-type printer. The modeller should treat these with extra care and cut as close as possible to the design because the carrier film extends over the complete decal paper.



Decals 2 and 6 are generic and can be used to portray the number plates on any Army, Air Force or Navy vehicles from 1967 to the present day, although the font depicted by decals 6 was not common after the late 1990s. Also decals 5 and 8 can be applied to any Army M series 2.5 ton vehicle.



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