

Hellenic Army Leopard 1 & 2 tanks

The first Leopard type to enter service with the Hellenic Army in 1983 was the Leopard 1GR.

These tanks were delivered in a factory applied four-colour Hellenic Army camouflage scheme based on the American MERDC camouflage scheme. The actual shades of the factory applied colours were quite different to the shades usually used by the Hellenic Army and the pattern was identical on all tanks. The brown was distinctly chocolate and the green had a grey tinge. These tanks retained their factory applied scheme for quite a few years, before being repainted in more "Greek" shades. The Greek colours are equivalent to FS37038 (black), FS34079 (forest green), FS 30118 (field drab and FS30277 (sand).

The position of all the markings was identical on all tanks, as seen on the photo to the right.

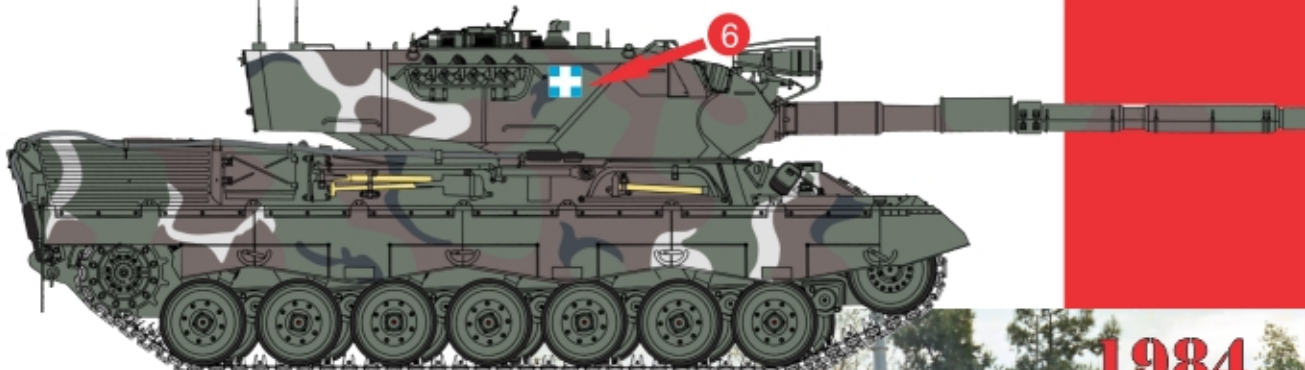


Photo: T. Metsovitis



Photo: D. Lambaditis

The national markings on the tanks in the 25th March 1992 parade were darker than previous years.

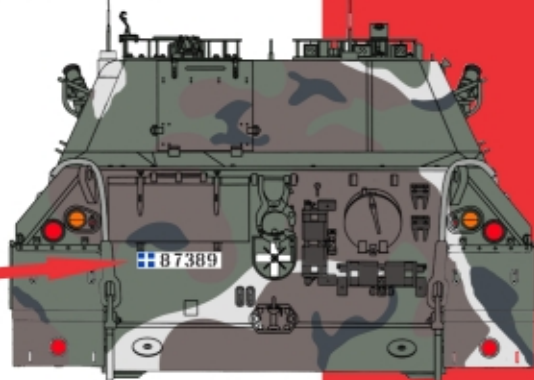


Photo: D. Lambaditis



Photo: T. Metsovitis

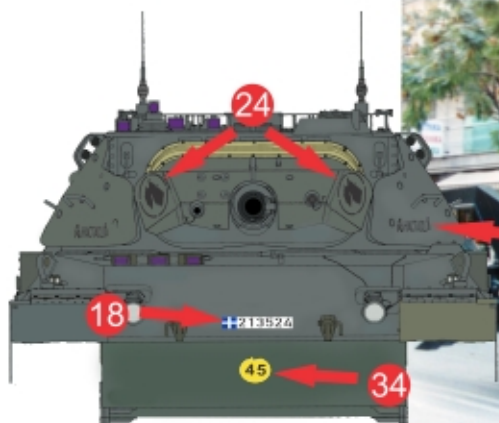


Photo: T. Tsiplakos



Photo: T. Metsovitis



Photo: F. Iordanidis

was the first to be fitted with Pearson mine ploughs. The rear number plate on the Leopard 1V was under the stowage box. The circular Dutch marking that looks like a dog's head was present on the mantlet of many Leopard 1Vs.



Photo: D. Lambaditis



Photo: T. Metsovitis

Along with the Leopard 1V the Hellenic Army received two unique prototype tanks. These were two Leopard 1Vs fitted with the EMES 18 fire control system like the German Leopard 1A5. The redundant protective cast thermal imaging collar was removed and replaced with a welded cover with a new rotating periscope for the loader. These two tanks, unlike the German ones, had stowage boxes on the hull sides just like the 1V. The Dutch smoke

launchers were removed. Originally these tanks were delivered in the standard NATO three-colour camouflage and received Hellenic Army markings. Later they were repainted in the Greek four-colour camouflage as seen here. The rear number plate on these tanks was again under the stowage box.



Photo: D. Lambaditis



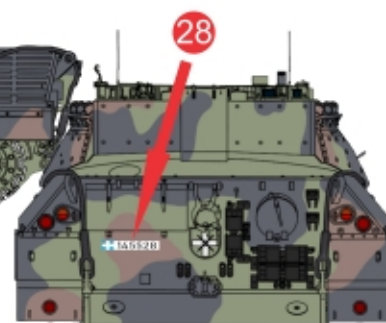
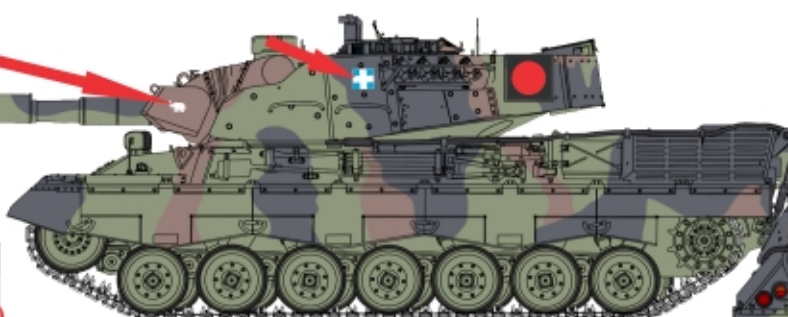
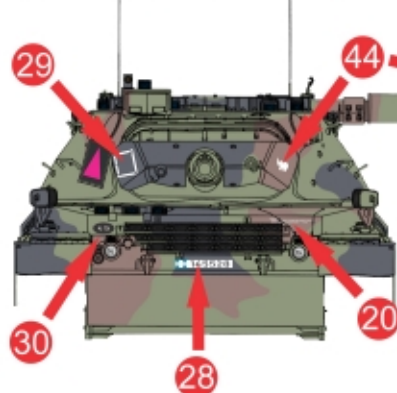
Photo: T. Metsovitis

The final Leopard 1 type to enter Greek service was the Leopard 1A5. The first tanks were delivered in 1993. All these tanks came from Bundeswehr stocks and had been refurbished in various facilities. The name of the facility was stencilled on many tanks.

All of 1A5s were originally in the standard NATO three-colour camouflage which they kept for some time, and they all received Hellenic Army markings although a few retained some ex-Bundeswehr markings. The three German colours were Bronze Green (Bronzegrün - RAL 6031), Black (Teerschwarz - RAL 9021) and Brown (Lederbraun - RAL 8027). Gradually all tanks are repainted in Greek colours when they are overhauled.



Photo: T. Metsovitis



The armoured element of the 32nd Marine Brigade also received Leopard 1A5s refurbished by IFG, formerly FWI. At least one of these tanks had a white rhino silhouette on the left side of the mantlet, an ex-Bundeswehr marking.

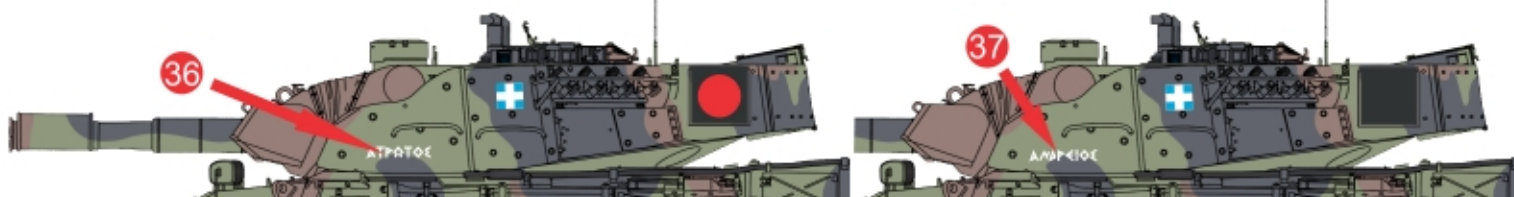


Photo: T. Metsovitis

Many of these tanks had shipping instructions taped to the mantlet or upper glacis plate. When these were removed the adhesive tape left a white residue in the shape of a rough square.

NOTE: For the tactical sign holders fitted to all Greek AFVs and the relevant tactical markings displayed on them see sets LM 72008-2 or LM 72008 and accessory set LMA 72001 and the relevant instruction sheets.

Some tanks had names applied to the turret in "ancient Greek" script. It is not certain if the name was also applied to other side of the turret and their numbers are not known. There was a third tank believed to have been named "ΗΡΑΚΛΗΣ" (HERCULES) but this has not been confirmed.



LEOPARD 2A4

The Leopard 2A4 entered service with the Hellenic Army in 2005 making its first public appearance in the 28th October parade of that year in Salonika.

In total 182 tanks were delivered. These came from the 2nd to 5th production batches (Baulos) and were finished in a four colour MERDC type camouflage scheme. The colours used had anti-IR properties and were not standard RAL ones. They also differed from the shades in use by the Hellenic army. The camouflage pattern was standard on all tanks but not entirely identical.



Number plates, national insignia and bridge class markings were vinyl stickers. The greasing nipples in the wheel centres are painted red.

The Leopard 2A4 colour profiles used here are by Dimitris Lambaditis and were first published in the "NEA" the IPMS-Hellas magazine, issue 15, September 2006. They are used courtesy IPMS-Hellas and the artist.



Photo: T. Metsovitis



Photo: T. Metsovitis



Photo: T. Metsovitis



Photo: G. Papadimitriou

Tanks 083210 to 083216 were seen with a low-visibility bridging class marking in the 28th October 2005 parade in Salonika. All their other markings and their positions were standard as shown



NOTE: Any Leopard 2A4 in Hellenic Service can be portrayed by combining decals 13 and 9 or 14 and 10 for the number plates. All other markings were standard.

LEOPARD 2HEL

The Leopard 2HEL made its first public appearance in the 25th March 2008 Independence Day parade in Athens. The camouflage colours were the same as the Leopard 2A4 and were factory applied to a standard pattern. National insignia and bridge class markings are vinyl stickers that may tear and peel over time. The greasing nipples in the wheel centres are painted red.



Photo: T. Metsovitis



Photo: T. Metsovitis



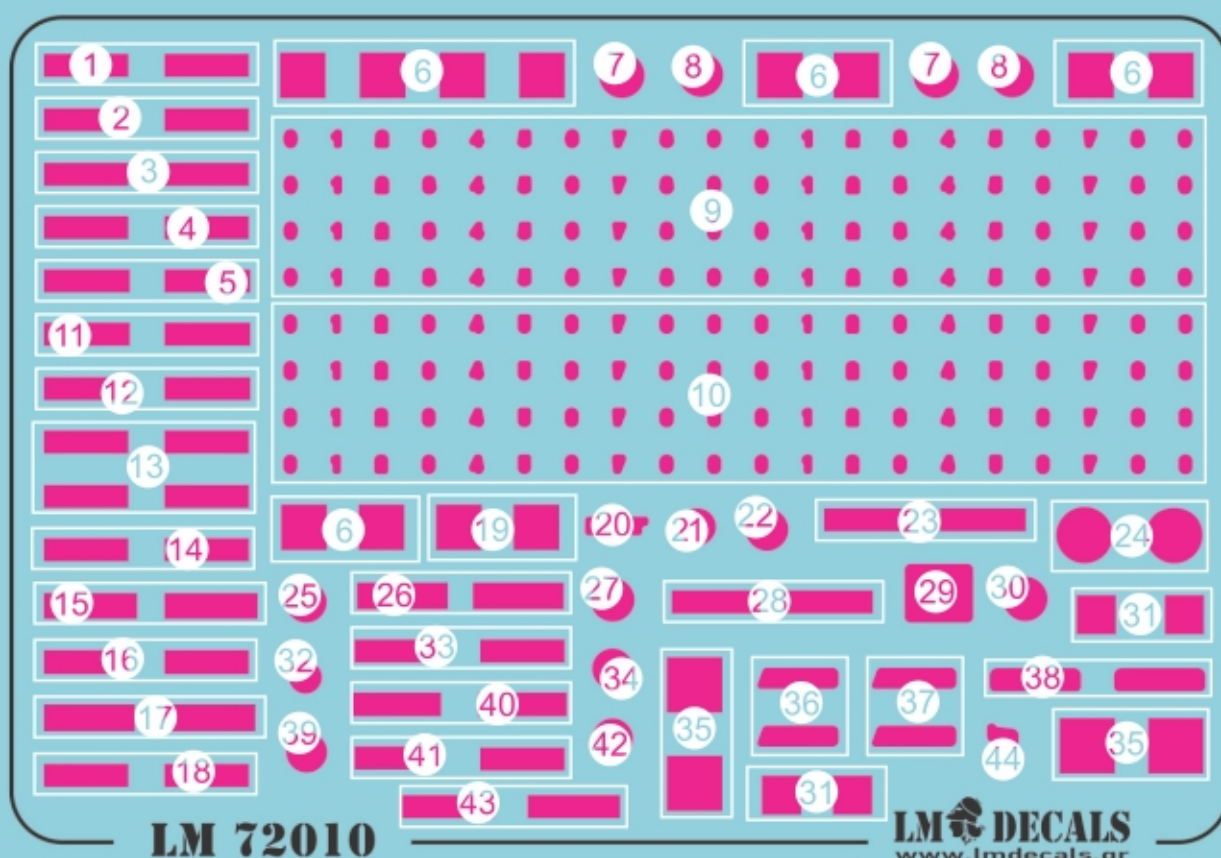
NOTE: Any Leopard 2HEL in Hellenic Service can be portrayed by combining decals 23 and 9.



Photo: T. Metsovitis

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LM72010



ATTENTION!

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

