

# Table of contents

INTRODUCTION TO VOLUME 2 .....	5
PAINT AND CAMOUFLAGE 1939 - 1945 .....	6
INTRODUCTION TO PAINTS – SYSTEMS, SPECIFICATION AND SUPPLY .....	6
GAS DETECTOR PAINT.....	10
GENERAL .....	11
BRITAIN AND NORTH WEST EUROPE 1939-1943 .....	16
MILITARY TRAINING PAMPHLET No 20 (1939-1941) .....	16
MISCELLANEOUS SCHEMES 1940-1941 .....	24
CANVAS CANOPIES & TILTS .....	25
MILITARY TRAINING PAMPHLET No 46 PART 4A (1941-1944) .....	29
THE FOLIAGE PATTERN.....	31
THE DAPPLED (OR MICKEY MOUSE) PATTERN.....	36
THE DRY BRUSH PATTERN.....	39
MISCELLANEOUS.....	39
VEHICLE MARKINGS 1942 & 1943 .....	40
THE INTRODUCTION OF SCC 14 .....	41
AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN 1939-1940 .....	41
THE CAUNTER SCHEME 1940 - 1941 .....	43
POST CAUNTER SCHEMES 1941 – 1943.....	46
OTHER MEDITERRANEAN THEATRES - MALTA, ERITREA & SYRIA.....	65
TUNISIA 1943 .....	68
MISCELLANEOUS SCHEMES IN NORTH AFRICA .....	70
SICILY AND ITALY 1943 .....	71
SICILY AND ITALY 1944 - 1945 .....	86
MISCELLANEOUS SCHEMES - ITALY .....	87
EUROPE 1944 - 1945 .....	88
MISCELLANEOUS SCHEMES .....	90
THE FAR EAST 1941-1945 .....	95
VEHICLE SIGNS.....	98
RAF & RN VEHICLES IN WW2.....	98
ANNEX A – CHRONOLOGY .....	99
TABLE 1 – Chronology of WW2 Main Colours and Schemes.....	99
ANNEX B – PAINT DETAILS.....	99
TABLE 2 - BSC 381c Colours for Ready Mixed Paints .....	99
TABLE 3 - BSC 987c Standard Camouflage Colours 1942.....	101
TABLE 4 – SCC Descriptions.....	102
TABLE 5 - Non-Standard Colours .....	103
MISCELLANEOUS .....	103
ENDNOTES .....	105

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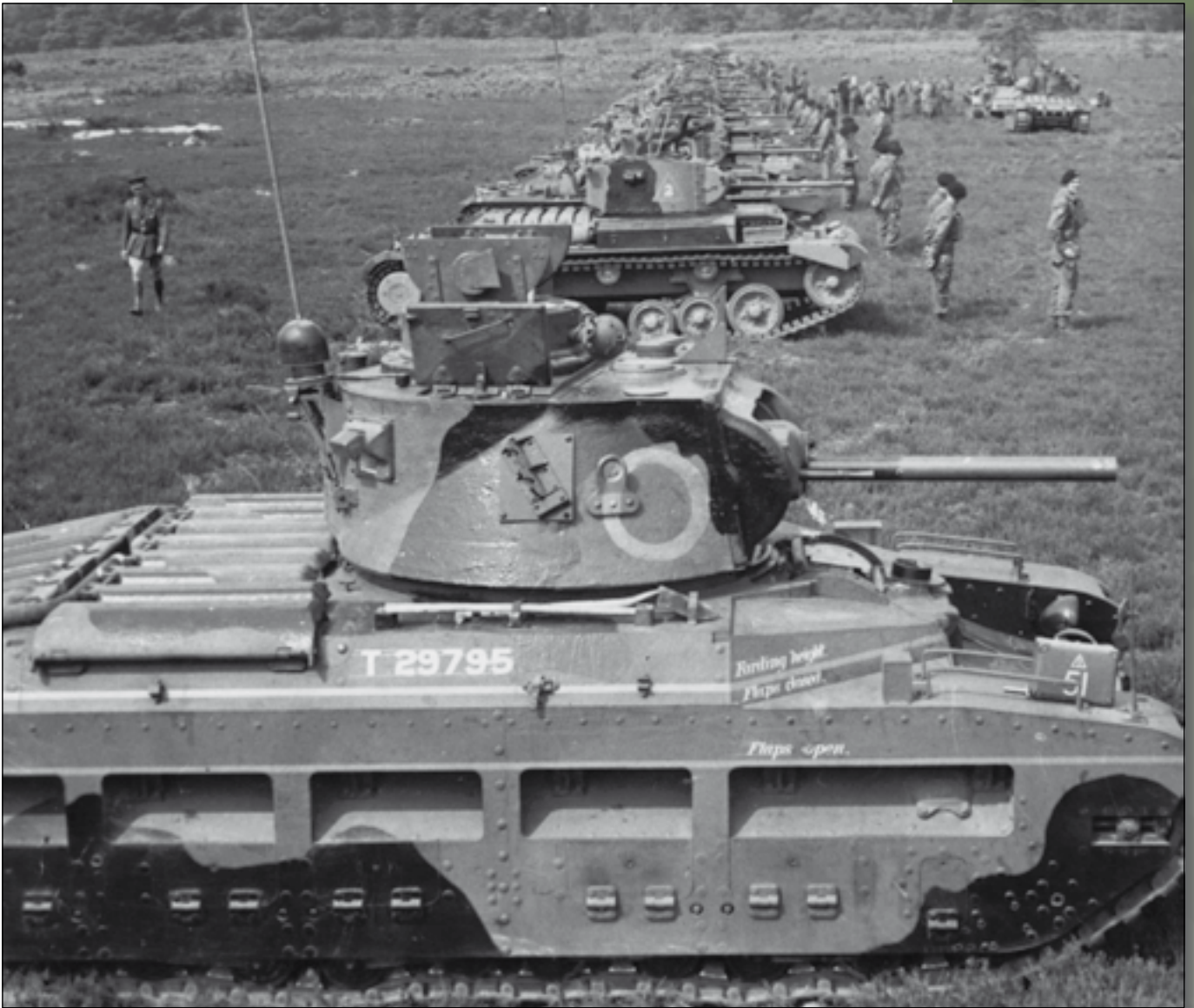
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*On title page: A Sherman Firefly with a countershaded barrel - note the .30 MG*

<b>SUB-UNIT MARKINGS AND CALLSIGN SYSTEMS.....</b>	<b>107</b>
INTRODUCTION .....	107
TERMINOLOGY .....	107
WORLD WAR ONE – ROYAL NAVY .....	107
TANKS .....	109
SYMBOLS .....	116
BETWEEN THE WARS.....	117
CALLSIGNS.....	117
THE DEVELOPMENT OF GEOMETRIC MARKINGS .....	118
WORLD WAR TWO .....	122
GEOMETRIC SQUADRON/COMPANY MARKINGS.....	122
THE ‘STANDARD’ INDIVIDUAL CALLSIGN SYSTEMS .....	131
COLOURS, SIZES AND POSITIONS .....	135
NON-STANDARD (TWO-DIGIT) CALLSIGN SYSTEMS .....	135
SOFTSKIN CALLSIGNS .....	143
THE ROYAL ARTILLERY SYSTEM .....	144
NON-STANDARD RA SYSTEMS.....	149
POST WAR.....	150
GEOMETRIC SIGNS.....	150
KOREAN WAR CALLSIGNS.....	152
THE 1960s CALLSIGN SYSTEM .....	153
ARMOURED REGT RHQ & HQ SQUADRON: .....	154
ARMOURED SQN.....	154
ARMOURED REGT, RECCE SQN:.....	154
ARMOURED RECCE REGT, RECCE SQNS .....	154
THE 1970s CALLSIGN SYSTEM .....	155
ARMOURED REGT RHQ & HQ SQUADRON: .....	155
ARMOURED SQN.....	155
MEDIUM RECCE (SCORPION) SQN .....	156
CLOSE RECCE (SCIMITAR) SQN .....	156
THE 1980s CALLSIGN SYSTEM .....	159
BATTLEGROUP/BATTALION/REGIMENT HQ.....	159
ARMOURED SQN.....	160
ARMOURED / MECHANISED INFANTRY COY .....	160
SUPPORT GROUP 1 .....	161
SUPPORT GROUP 2 .....	161
ARMOURED ENGINEER SQN .....	162
ARMOURED RECCE SQN.....	162
IRAQ 2003.....	167
THE BATUS SUB-UNIT IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM .....	167
ENDNOTES: .....	169
<b>REFERENCES &amp; BIBLIOGRAPHY.....</b>	<b>170</b>

### Get in picture!

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*Making life easy: the dark disruptive colour has been applied around the existing markings. The 51 symbol on the front right wing is actually on a small suitcase!*



*A Grant ARV showing the inside of the hatch covers still in White. (TM 2878/A/6)*



*The inside of a typical box-body, with the lower half in a dark scuff-resistant colour, and the upper half pale to maximise light. (TM 1667/B/4)*

*An imaginative version of MTP20, nearly Mickey Mouse! (TM 1679/B/2)*

*MTP 20 scheme on a 15Cwt Portee. Notice not only the different shades on the body and the canvas, but also the huge blob of gas detector paint on the bonnet! (IWM F2169)*



The difference between Scheme 1 and 2 is well illustrated by the advice given in Section 3 Paragraph 2. Shown below are two identical tanks, both with an original base of G3 applied using the diagram shown in Plate 1 as the basis. The same patterns are used, but when the disruptive paint is applied, the overall effect looks totally different, as does the common colour G3!



Military Training Pamphlet No 26 “Notes on Camouflage and Concealment” was also issued in 1939, and mentioned the painting of vehicles but dealt mainly with methods of camouflage and concealment, and described and authorised the use of “scrimmed” camouflage nets attached to vehicles, a system which was in widespread use by Normandy 1944. (MTP 26 was later superseded by “Vehicle Marking 1943”)

# VEHICLE MARKINGS 1942 & 1943

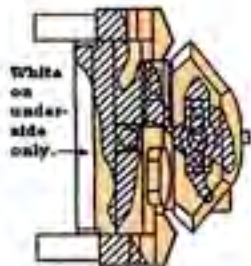
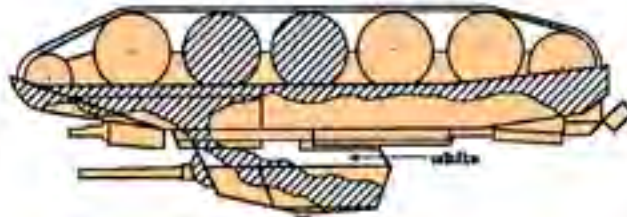
ACI 279 of 1942 cancelled ACI 31 of 1941 and its associated Pamphlet, as well as ACI 511 of 1941 and WO letter 57/Vehicles/8271 (O.S.6) of 18<sup>th</sup> March 1940. However, ACI 279 also announced the introduction of a new pamphlet known as *Vehicle Markings*, detailing the main types of markings to be applied to vehicles, as opposed to their paint and camouflage schemes. Another ACI issued on 20<sup>th</sup> October 1943 announced an updated version of this *Vehicle Markings* pamphlet, and Supplement A to this version of the pamphlet, a poster showing two example vehicles, has survived and is reproduced below.



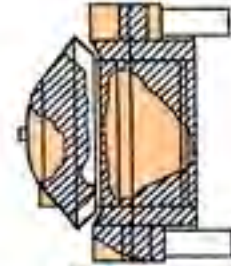
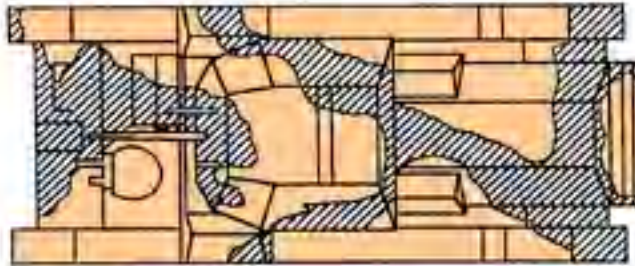
**SCHEME FOR DISRUPTIVE PATTERNING.**

**CRUSADE.**

- (a) Recessed planes of gun turret painted white.
- (b) 2nd and 3rd wheels painted dark.



FRONT

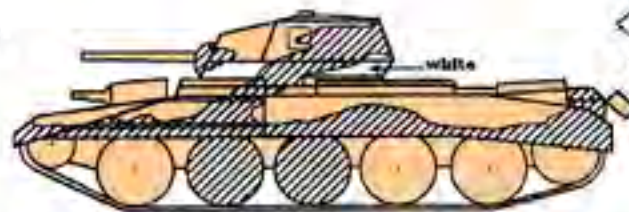


REAR

1. This supersedes design issued under CRME/42497/G(CAM) of 6 Oct 42 which is now rescalled.

2. Work from the elevations first and then complete the top of the tank.

Issued by G(CAM), GHQ, MEF.



1/3rd white



white

Detail of gun.

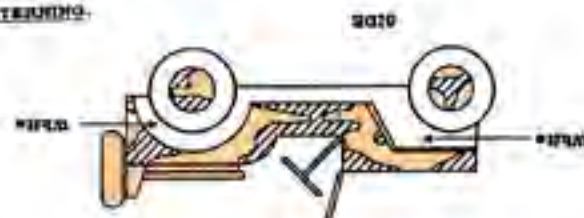
G(CAM) Drawing No. A/140/1

Oct 42.

**SCHEME FOR DISRUPTIVE PATTERNING.**

"KEEP"

.....



FRONT



SIDE



Undersides of mudguards white.

FRONT

Conspicuous features are:-

- a. The large flat upper surface of the bonnet.
- b. From front view, the flat open radiator grille - nothing can be done about this as it cannot be painted.
- c. Disruptive pattern should be carried over petrol cans mounted externally.

Issued by G(CAM), GHQ, MEF.

- d. The spare wheel at the back should be absorbed in the disruptive pattern.
- e. The pattern should be also taken over the dashboard.
- f. Undersides of mudguards and the complete front and back axles should be painted white.
- g. As the vehicle rides fairly high above the ground it is worth painting the wheels.

G(CAM) Drawing No A/141













17, Oct 42



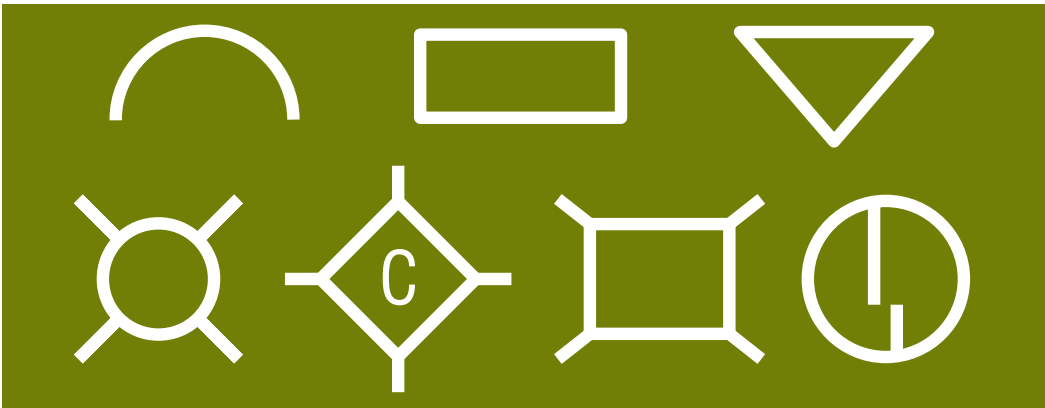
*Infantry Tank A11 or Matilda I as used by the BEF in 1940. GLENLYON was a 7RTR tank. (as shown by the initial letter G), and the White square was a BEF recognition sign. She is painted in MTP20 Scheme 1 of G3 and G4 Greens.*

*Another A11 in MTP20 Scheme 1, this time Vickers-built DEMON of 4RTR – again, the initial letter of the name showing the RTR naming convention. The AOS number 4 with White bar above indicated the unit – details will be in Vol 3.*



THE 1937 SYSTEM	Company HQ	1st Section	2nd Section	3rd Section
A or First Coy Sections 1-3				
B or Second Coy Sections 4-6				
C or Third Coy Sections 7-9				

Other symbols noted in photographs but not identified as belonging to a particular system were:



The use of symbols based on the letter D was also quite prevalent. They were seen depicted exactly as the letter would be written, but were sometimes used as mirror-images, or laid down (both ways); as they were lying on their sides, the latter two versions came to be known as the 'Lazy D'.





This Sexton comes from A Troop of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battery of the second Field Regiment in 7<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division 1944, therefore 5RHA. Very hard to see is a tiny D in the top left corner of the combined plate, showing this to be the 4<sup>th</sup> Gun. (IWM BU 8751)



Similar roles sometimes used the same letter, the distinction being made by the type of backing plate or by suffixes; thus Q1 on a Regimental sign denoted the QM, whereas Q1 on a Battery sign denoted the BQMS. These characters could either be marked 4" high centrally within the sign, or could use 2-3" characters in the blue portion of the quarters; this latter system originating with AA units and eventually becoming the norm. (Note that these codes were NOT used as the Callsigns on radio nets.)



3rd Bty BQMS. (1st style)



4th Bty BQMS. (2nd style)



In November 1941 7<sup>th</sup> Armoured Division instructions ordered that these RA symbols were to be grouped, with an 8" x 4" plate mounted directly above the "unit sign", e.g. the AOS plate. This was to be divided into two small 4x4 plates, the Offside (RHS) bearing the code for the vehicle, the Nearside (LHS) the battery indicator.

These 8" x 4" plates (without the AOS plate) could also be painted onto the sides of the vehicle if the unit desired.<sup>14</sup> It is not known how long this instruction remained in place, but it was in use with 5RHA on Sextons in Normandy in 1944. This featured a combination battery indicator with tactical number painted on it, above the formation sign, above the 76 AOS plate. This system, modified when necessary, remained in use until at least the late 1960s.



*The 1980s system - a 2RTR Scorpion 22A using the diamond, as Recce Tp were part of HQ Sqn; note the smaller font used for the A. (TM 3542/E/6)*



*OP GRANBY 1991 - Challenger 1 with C/S 32 alongside the A Sqn triangle. (TM 3978/B/3)*



*OP GRANBY Callsign 22A of Scots DG Recce Tp. (TM 3825/F/5)*