

**NZAR ID 101, Arm Type: AFV, Date: 30 October 2011, Compiled by : Phil Cregeen**

**Pattern (name) Valentine Tank Mk II,III & V Introduced into NZ Service: 1941, Withdrawn 1960**

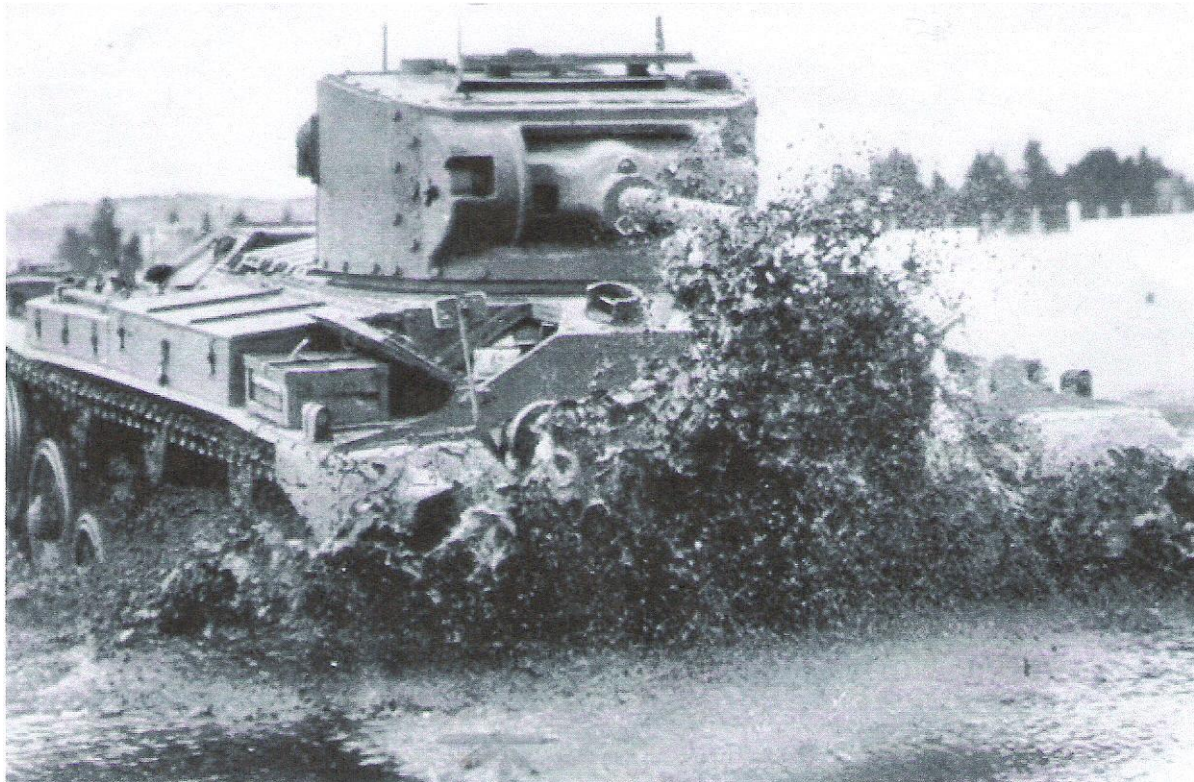
**Crew: 3-4 (commander, gunner, driver, plus loader in Mk III & V) Battle Weight: 35,840 lbs (16,257 Kg)**

**Length: 17 ft 9in. (5.41 m) Width: 8 ft 7.5 in. (2.63 m) Height: 7 ft 5.5 in. (2.25 m) Track width: 14 in (355 mm)**

**Guns: One 2 pdr or one 3 in. close support howitzer, plus one 7.92 mm Besa co-ax MG**

**Armour: 65 mm to 8 mm, Engine: 135 HP AEC Type A Diesel or 138 Hp GMC in Mk V.**

**Max Speed: Road 15 mph, X-country 8mph. Range: 90 miles.(144 Km)**



An original, 1942 photograph of New Zealand tank on trials. The photo, which is from a newspaper library, is dated 9 June 1942. The caption on the photo says " New Zealand tank ploughs through mud and water. Mud and water showered over this modern British tank as it rumbles through active service manoeuvres as part of the New Zealand Dominion Army Tank Brigade. It is a modern British war machine"



Valentine Mk III





Valentine Mk II

**1940 VALENTINE Mk 2**  
**BRITISH BUILT 16 TON INFANTRY TANK**

*HISTORY; INTRODUCED TO THE NZ ARMY 1st, 2nd, & 3rd BATTALIONS 1941. VARIOUS MODIFICATIONS WERE MADE DURING THE TANKS SERVICE WHICH LASTED UNTIL 1960 WHEN IT WAS REPLACED BY USA BUILT M41A1 LIGHT TANK*

**NZ VALENTINES FOUGHT AT VELLA LAVELLA & GREEN Is.**  
**BUT WERE MAINLY USED IN TRAINING**

**CREW, 4 PERSON ENGINE; 131hp AEC**  
**ARMAMENT; 1X2 PDR 1X7.62 MG**  
**MAX SPEED; 24k/h 15m/h RANGE 144 km 90 miles**  
**TRENCH; 2.36m 7ft 9in GRADIENT; 60%**

**1939 VALENTINE MARK III TANK**

This tank was made in England and was shipped to New Zealand in 1942. The Valentine tank was developed from an earlier model, the A10 Cruiser tank, and has an improved turret design and heavier armour. It is called the 'Valentine' because the plans for it were lodged with the War Office on St Valentine's Day, 1938.

Valentine tanks became one of the most important British tanks in World War II, serving throughout Europe, Russia, North Africa and the Pacific. 6,855 Valentine tanks were made in Britain during WWII, until 1944. They were a very reliable and easily made tank, but were relatively slow and had a poor crew layout.

This model has a 131 horsepower, AEC 6 cylinder engine, and had a crew of three. It arrived in New Zealand in 1941, part of a shipment of twenty Valentines from England. They were used mainly for home defence and training purposes in New Zealand. After WWII it was used for training until 1960, when it was stripped of its 2 pound gun and offered for public sale. Its new owner used it to haul trucks in a lime quarry until it broke down and became redundant. It came to MOTAT in 1971 and was restored by the volunteers of the MOTAT Military Section to its present condition.

Photos taken at Armistice in Cambridge 12 November 2010 & 2011



The Valentines were introduced into NZ service in 1941 and equipped the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tank Battalions. New Zealand imported a total of 255 Valentine Tanks between November 1941 and July 1943 plus 9 Bridge Layers on Valentine hulls. They were retained for home defence and training except for 25 Valentine Mk IIIs of the third Battalion which fought at Vella Lavella and Green Island. Of these nine were converted to close support (CS) tanks by replacing the 2 pdrs with 3 in. howitzers. The CS tanks were last used on manouevers at Waiouru in 1949 and all Valentines were withdrawn by 1960.

*Reference: Fighting Vehicles of the New Zealand Army by Michael Burgess*

*Armoured Fighting Vehicles of New Zealand 1939-59 by J Plowman & M Thomas*