

NZAR ID 164, Arm Type: AFV, Date: (V1) 22 March 1012, Compiled by : Phil Cregeen

Pattern (name) Vickers Light Tank Mk II, III & VI B Introduced into NZ Service: 1940, Withdrawn 1941

Crew: 2 or 3 (commander, gunner, driver), Battle Weight: 9520 lb (4318 Kg)

Length: 11 ft 9in. (3.58 m) Width: 6 ft 3.5 in. (1.32 m) Height: 6 ft 7.5 in. (2.00 m) Track width: 9.5 in (244 mm)

Guns: One .303 Vickers MG

Armour: 10 mm to 4 mm, Engine: Rolls Royce 6 cylinder 66hp

Max Speed: Road 30 mph (48 kph), X-country 20 mph (32 kph). Range: 150 miles.(240 Km)



Mk II



Mk III



Mk VI

Between the First and Second World Wars, the British produced a series of similar light tanks. They saw use in training, and in limited engagements with British Empire units, such as the South African Army during the East African Campaign of 1941. All were around 5 long tons in weight and capable of 30 mph (50 km/h) on roads and around 20 mph (30 km/h) cross-country. Armament was machine gun only — Vickers machine guns firing either a .303 inch or .50-inch calibre round - in a rotating cupola. Suspension was Horstmann coil spring on bogies. The engine was a Meadows 6-cylinder petrol. Up until the Mk V, they had a crew of two: a driver/commander and gunner. The Mk V had a crew of three: a driver, a gunner, and the commander helping on the gun. The Tank, Light, Mk VI was the sixth in the line of light tanks built by Vickers-Armstrongs and was slightly heavier than its predecessors.

Production:

- MK II: 16 built by [Vickers Armstrong](#) from 1929;
- Mk IIA: 29 were constructed at the [Royal Arsenal, Woolwich](#);
- Mk IIB: 21 built by Vickers-Armstrong.
- Mk III: 42 Produced from 1934.
- Mk VI: 1,682 Produced from 1936 to 1940

New Zealand Use.

The Vickers Light Tank was used by the 2nd New Zealand Divisional Cavalry Regiment for training. The first echelon to arrive in Egypt in January 1940 received five old Mk IIIs soon after arriving at Maadi camp. They were later equipped with Mk IIs. The second echelon arriving in Britain in June 1940 were equipped with and trained in Mk VIs at Aldershot before going to Egypt in January 1941. Here the Division was re-equipped with Marmon Herrington Armoured Cars.

Acknowledgements:

2nd New Zealand Divisional Cavalry Regiment in the Mediterranean By J Plowman & M Thomas.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Light_tanks_of_the_United_Kingdom

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Light_Tank_Mk_VI