

NZAR ID 166, Arm Type: AFV, Date: (V1) 4 December 2011, Compiled by : Phil Cregeen

Pattern (name) Centurion Main Battle Tank Mk III & V, Introduced into NZ Service: 1953, Withdrawn 1968

Crew: 4 (commander, gunner, driver, loader ) **Battle Weight:** 107,520 Lbs (48,770 Kg)

**Length:** 25 ft 8in. (7.72 m) **Width:** 11 ft 1.5 in. (3.39 m) **Height:** 9 ft 9 in. (2.97 m)

**Guns:** One 20 pdr (83.4 mm),one .30 in. Browning MG

**Armour:** 152 mm to 17 mm, **Engine:** V 12 Rolls Royce Meteor MK 4B 600HP.

**Max Speed:** Road 21.5 mph (34.6 Km/h) **Range:** 115 miles.(185 Km)



Centurions at Waiouru in the 1950s



**MAIN BATTLE TANK A41 CENTURION**

The Centurion Tank, built in Great Britain, was the first British-designed tank with a stabiliser for the main armament. It is regarded as one of the best tanks ever produced by Britain.

The Centurion, Mk3 & V, served in the New Zealand Armoured Corps from 1953 to 1968 and were used for training purposes. The Corps had a total of 11 tanks plus one armoured recovery vehicle.

New Zealanders saw action with the Centurion during the Korean War (as part of British Crews) and in Vietnam (as part of Australian Crews).





Crew	Four (Commander, loader, gunner, and a driver)
Weight	48.7 tonnes (48,770 kg)
Engine	V12 Rolls Royce Meteor
Speed	34.6 km/h
Guns	20 pounder Main Gun Browning .30 inch Machine Gun

The first Centurion Mk III arrived in New Zealand in 1950. New Zealand bought 11 Centurion tanks and one armoured recovery vehicle, serving with the NZ Armoured Corp 1953 to 1968, where they were used for training. Eight including the ARV were sold to Australia.

*Acknowledgements:*      *Photos: Phil Cregeen taken Waiouru National Army Museum November 2010 & 2011 & <http://kiwisinarmour.hobbyvista.com>*

*Reference:*                *Fighting Vehicles of the New Zealand Army by Michael Burgess  
Royal New Zealand Armoured Corp by J Plowman & M Thomas*