

NZAR ID 167, Arm Type: AFV, Draft Date: (V1) 23/march 2012, Compiled by : Phil Cregeen

Pattern: (name) Armoured Car, Marmon-Herrington Mk II & III,

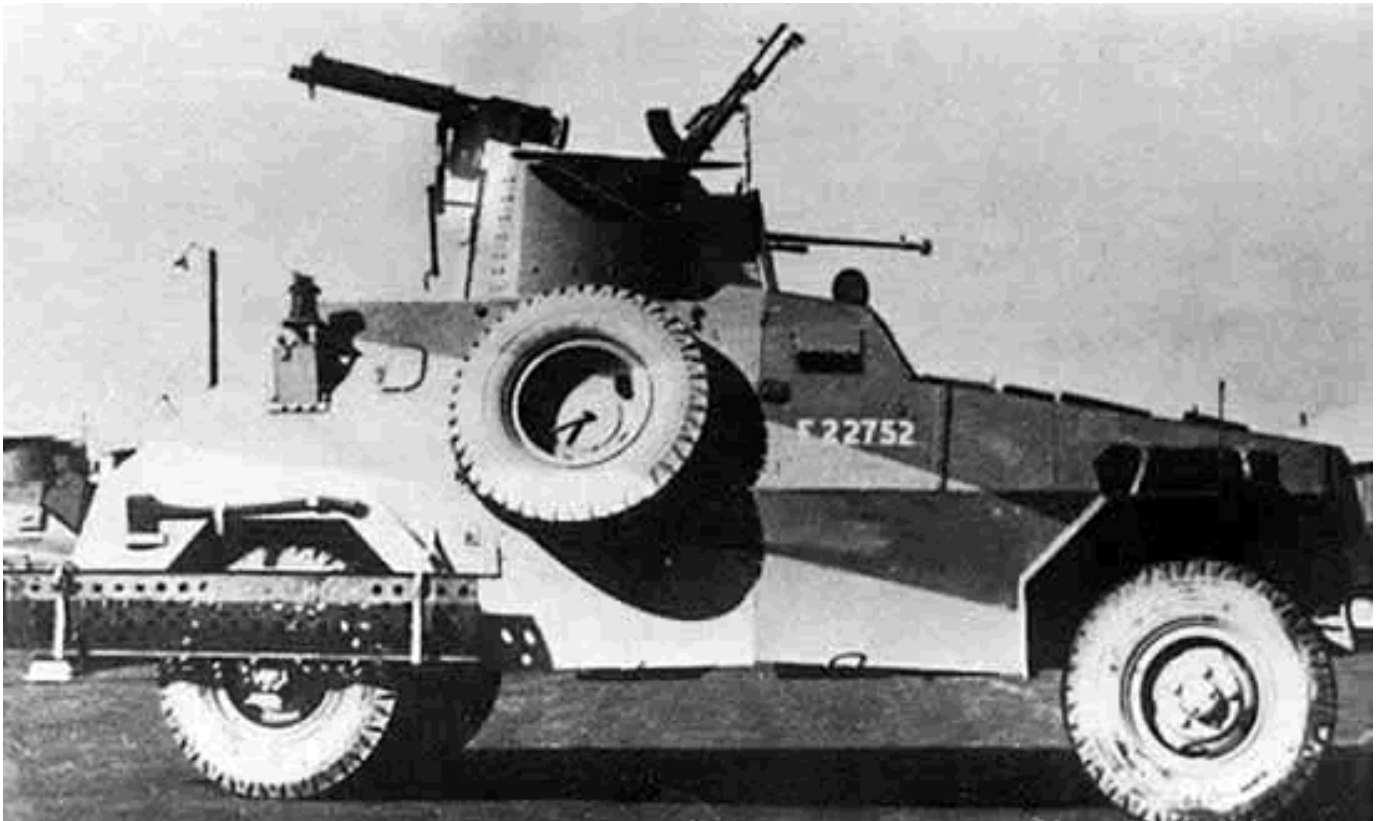
Introduced into NZ Service: 1941, Withdrawn: 1941

Crew: 3, Weight: Mk II 15,440 Lb (7,003 Kg) Mk III 13,440 Lb (5096 Kg)

Length: 17 ft 0in. (5.18 m) Width: 6 ft 6 in. (2.00 m) Height: 8 ft 9 in. (2.67m)

Guns: Vicker MG, Bren or Boys Anti Tank rifle, or captured guns.

Engine: Ford V 8 . Speed: 50 mph (80 Km/h) Range: 200 miles (322 Km)



Mk II



Mk II fitted with Breda gun



On patrol western desert 1941

South African Reconnaissance Car, better known under as **Marmon-Herrington Armoured Car**, was a series of armoured vehicles produced in South Africa and adopted by the British Army during the World War II.

In 1938 the South African government initiated development of an armoured car. The outbreak of the war led to a vehicle based on a Ford 3-ton truck chassis.^[1] As the country did not have an automotive industry to speak of, many components of the vehicle had to be imported. Chassis components were bought from Ford Canada and fitted with a four-wheel drive train produced by the American company Marmon-Herrington^[2] (hence the designation), UK-made armament (with the exception of the U.S.-made Browning machine gun) and armour plates produced by the South African Iron & Steel Industrial Corporation, ISCOR. Final assembly was done by the local branch of the Dorman Long company among others.

The Mk II had a shorter wheelbase than the Mark I and four wheel drive by using a kit from Marmon-Herrington that gave a driven front axle. It was known in British service as **Armoured Car, Marmon-Herrington Mk II**. The Mark I continued in production (until the end of 1940) while supply of the units from the US was resolved.^[1] For British service in the desert (known as the Middle East model) the Mark II was fitted with Bren light machine gun and Boys anti-tank rifle ; for the Union Defence Force use in South Africa (Mobile Field Force model) Vickers machine guns.

It and the Mk III were extensively used during the North African Campaign, mostly for reconnaissance being the only armoured car available in sufficient numbers, and had a reputation as a reliable, but under armoured vehicle. Their normal armament, consisting of a 0.55 inch Boys anti-tank rifle in a turret, a coaxial Bren machine gun and one or two additional machine guns for anti-aircraft defence, was also considered insufficient.

- **Mk II** (1941) - lengthened chassis, all-wheel drive. Early vehicles carried Vicker MG. Late production vehicles received an octagonal turret with Boys anti-tank rifle and Bren MG. There were pintle mountings for Vickers MG and Bren MG (the latter was rarely carried). Hull was riveted in early vehicles and welded in late production ones. 887 units built.
- **Mk III** (1941) - similar to late production Mk II, with a slightly shorter wheelbase. Late production vehicles had single rear door, no radiator grille and no headlight covers. 2,630 units built.

As a large amount of weaponry was captured during the Desert campaign, units were able to modify their vehicles to reuse these.^[3] Weapons fitted included the Italian 20 mm Breda and 47 mm Breda, the German 3.7 cm Pak 36 and the 2.8 cm sPzB 41 taper bore gun, the French 25 mm gun, the 20 mm Oerlikon cannon and the British QF 2 pounder anti-tank gun. As there was no place for a gun in the small turret, the latter had to be removed and the crew had to rely on the gun shield for protection.

New Zealand Use

The 2nd New Zealand Divisional Cavalry were equipped with Marmon Herrington Armoured Cars in Egypt in about January 1941 where intensive training took place. They then embarked with these vehicles from Alexandria for Greece in March arriving in Pireaus on the 21st. After fighting in the Greek campaign they had to destroy their vehicles at the end of April, when forced to withdraw to Crete and Egypt. Back in Egypt they were re-equipped with Vickers Light Tanks Mk VI.

Acknowledgements:

2nd NZ Divisional Cavalry Regiment in the Mediterranean by J Plowman & M Thomas

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Marmon-Herrington_Armoured_Car

<http://www.wwiivehicles.com/southafrica/armored-cars/marmon-herrington.asp>