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Pattern: (name) Staghound Armoured Car, T17E1, MK I & II Introduced NZ Service: 1943, Withdrawn 1944

Crew: 5 (Commander, driver, co-driver, gunner, loader), Battle Weight: 29,100 lbs (13,120 Kg)

Length: 17 ft 8in. (5.38 m) Width: 8 ft 10 in. (2.69 m) Height: 7 ft 10.5 in. (2.4m)

Guns: one 37 mm, (Mk I) one 3 in. Howitzer (Mk II) Plus MGs, Armour: 22 mm Hull, 38-45 mm Turret.

Engine: twin GMC 270 6 cyl each 97 hp. Speed: 55 mph (89 Km/h) Range: 450 miles (724 Km)



The British allocated the name **Staghound** to the T17E series. Production in the USA started in October 1942.

The Staghound was an innovative design that incorporated some advanced features. It had two rear-facing 6-cylinder engines with automatic transmissions (with 4 forward and 1 reverse gears) feeding through a transfer case to drive both axles. Either two- or four-wheel drive could be selected. Either engine could be shut down while in motion and taken out of the drive train. Additionally, a power steering pump was incorporated which could be switched on or off manually from the driver's instrument panel depending on steering conditions. Steering and suspension components were directly attached to the hull as the structure was rigid enough to dispense with the need for a separate chassis.

T17E1: 4x4 version built by Chevrolet for Britain. 2,687 - 2,844 units were produced.

Staghound Mk I

The T17E1 was armed with a 37 mm M6 gun, a coaxial .30 cal Browning 1919A4 machine gun and a 2-inch smoke mortar in a rotating turret. In the hull was mounted a .30 cal Browning 1919A4 machine gun. ¹Some T17E1 had an additional .30 Browning 1919A4 cal machine gun for anti-aircraft defence.

The turret had power traverse and featured a turret basket (which limited the amount of internal crew storage). The 37 mm gun was gyroscopically stabilized.

This variant had a crew of 5, commander, driver, loader, gunner, and hull machine gunner.

This variant saw combat with the British, Free Polish, Canadian, New Zealand, Indian, and Belgian armies in Italy, Greece and Northwest Europe.

Staghound Mk II

This was a field conversion that had a 3 inch howitzer Mk 1 for close support mounted in place of the 37 mm gun in the turret. The bow machine gun was removed. It is not known how many were converted. These were issued to the Armoured Car HQ section.

New Zealand Use

The 2nd New Zealand Divisional Cavalry were re-equipped with Staghounds for the Italian campaign, departing from Alexandria in September 1943. However the Staghounds proved unsuitable for the conditions found in Italy and in November 1944 the regiment was relieved of its cars and reverted to an Infantry role.

Acknowledgements:

2nd New Zealand Divisional Cavalry regiment in the Mediterranean by J Plowman & M Thomas

http://anzacsteel.hobbyvista.com/Armoured%20Vehicles/staghoundph_1.htm

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/T17_Armored_Car