

Pattern (name) NZ Local Pattern Wheeled Carrier Introduced into NZ Service: 1943, Withdrawn 1957

Crew: 4 (commander, gunners, driver, radio operator) Battle Weight: 2.85 tonnes.

Length: 15 ft 6 in. Width: 7 ft 6 in. Height: 6 ft 6 in. Wheelbase: 10ft 10in.

Guns: One .303 Bren LMG.

Armour: 10mm. Engine: rear mounted Ford V 8 32.5 hp

Max Speed: Road 50 mph,



New Zealand Service

In 1941 the New Zealand Government was approached by India about the possibility of manufacturing the Indian Patern Wheeled Carrier in this country. It was considered that if the carrier could be used for local defence then they could be produced in New Zealand. Consequently two Ford chassis were ordered from Canada and fitted with mild steel bodies at the NZ Railway workshops in the Hutt Valley. Following trials at Waiouru it was decided to build 45 vehicles, although India no longer required any. In March 1942 the chassis were ordered from Canada and production of the hulls commenced at the NZR workshops in Petone. The order was increased to 99 vehicles but by December 1942 the chassis were still in Canada awaiting shipping space. By February 1944 only 76 vehicles had been completed and the remainder were cancelled.

In WW II a total of 7 vehicles were sent to Guadalcanal for 3NZ Division in August 1943, where it was found to be unsuitable for the conditions. In 1950 nine were sent to Korea as mobile Field Artillery Observation Posts with 16 NZ Field Regiment, but again the terrain proved them unsatisfactory for their purpose. From 1953 -56 they served with the NZ Scottish Armoured Car Regiment. The last one was withdrawn in 1957.

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