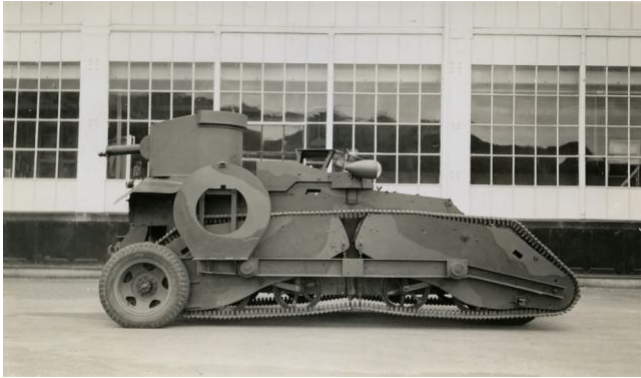
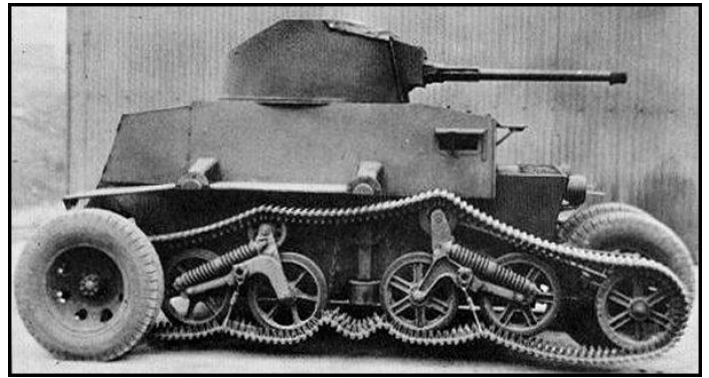


Pattern (name) Schofield Light Tank, Introduced into NZ Service: 1940, Withdrawn 1943
Crew: 3 (commander & turret gunner, hull gunner, driver) Battle Weight: 5.3 tonnes
Length: 13 ft 1 in. (3.98 m) Width: 8 ft 6.5 in (2.6 m). Height: 6 ft 7.5 in.(2.0 m) Track width: 9.5 in. (241 mm)
Guns: two Vickers .303 MGs in 1st prototype, one 2 pdr QF Gun & one BESA 7.92mm MG in 2nd prototype.
Armour: 10 mm mild steel, Engine: Chevrolet 6 cylinder petrol 29.5 hp.
Max Speed: 45.6 mph (73 kph) on wheels, 25.7 mph (41kph) on tracks, Range: 310 miles (440 Km).



First prototype



Second prototype

New Zealand Service

When a need for the production of indigenous armoured fighting vehicles arose in 1940, E.J.Schofield, a motor vehicle dealer for General Motors, in Wellington, approached the government with his own design.

Schofield tank's was based on the chassis of a Chevrolet 6 hundredweight truck using the suspension from a Universal Carrier. Wheels normally carried on the hull could be bolted on so that it could use these rather than the tracks. As initially designed it had a crew of three: machine gunner and driver at the front and a second machine gun in a turret at the rear.

The initial design performed badly in trials but the Government sought an improved version. Designed by another member of the original team, the improved model used a better transmission and the turret now contained a QF 2 pounder gun with a co-axial Besa machine gun. By the time it was complete - 1942 - New Zealand had received tanks from the UK and US.

The armour plating was provided by the New Zealand Railways. The four wheels shared drive and idler sprockets with the track, and the move from wheels to track, and vice versa, could be made from within the hull.

In 1943 the improved design prototype was shipped to Britain, where it was evaluated by the Department of Tank Design. Although not completely critical, the project was advised to be stopped. The tank was stored for a while and scrapped post war.

Reference: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schofield_tank

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