






Decalcomaniacs! DM-045


Commonwealth Armies #1: New Zealand

This decal sheet can not hope to definitively cover the complex nature of the subject of Commonwealth markings and users are encouraged to consult the reference section for further information.

Divisional Markings

Officially, New Zealander divisions carried a formation sign. These were normally carried on the left front and rear (facing) of the hull. On some Stuarts (M3A1) used by territorial units, this marking was placed on the machine gun sponson front (also on the left facing side). Depending on the division, the color of the square on which the formation sign was painted denoted the brigade. The colors are delineated in the table below.

1st Division	Divisional Insignia
Divisional Troops	
1 Brigade	
12 Brigade	
3rd Division	
2nd Army Tank Sqd	 

16 Bgd. Grp	
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4th Division	Divisional Insignia
Divisional Troops	
2 Brigade	
7 Brigade	
5th Division	
Divisional Troops	
3 Brigade	
10 Brigade	
11 Brigade Grp	

Tactical Markings/Miscellaneous Markings

In addition to the hull-mounted markings described above, New Zealand AFV's carried tactical symbols on their turrets or superstructure sides. The color of the symbol denoted the squadron (company) and the shape denoted the troop (platoon). The colors and symbols are shown in the table below.

Unit	Figure
HQ	Diamond
A	Triangle
B	Square
C	Circle

Unit	Color
Senior	Red
2 nd	Yellow
Junior	Blue
Independent	Green

Finally, New Zealand vehicles were supposed to carry census numbers, much like their British counterparts. In the Pacific theater, these were almost randomly carried. The Mediterranean theater showed slightly more uniformity. These took the form of a letter preceding a number. The leading letter was "T" for tanks and tracked carriers and "F" for armored cars. "NZ" was also used, primarily for units in the Pacific theater of operations.

Equipment

New Zealand forces' equipment varied considerably by theater of operations. In North Africa and Mediterranean theaters, their equipment was more along the lines of a British or American formation. In the Pacific, the quantity and quality of the equipment received was more haphazard.

In Europe, the 2nd New Zealand Division was equipped with Sherman IIB, III, IC and VC Firefly tanks. The Sherman III's (M4A2) were varied comprising of small hatch hulls (with welded hoods) and M34 gun mounts. Some later deliveries comprised of later-turreted tanks with wider gun mounts.

In the Pacific, M3A1 hybrid Stuarts, universal carriers, M3 scout cars, Daimler scout cars, Valentine III, Valentine IIICS and Valentine V were used. Two Matilda IVCS tanks were also issued, as well.

The modeler is highly encouraged to obtain Jeffrey Plowman's two books on New Zealand Armor in World War Two: 4th New Zealand Armoured Brigade in Italy and New Zealand Armour in the Pacific 1939-45 for exact tables of organization and equipment.

Arm of Service/Battalion markings

Arm of service flashes and their associated codes seem to be phenomenon only practiced by the British and Commonwealth armies. These Arm of Service (AOS) flashes were carried on the right (facing) front and rear of the hull, although the same rule applies to territorial Stuart light tanks. The color of the square signified the type of unit the vehicle belonged to and the number inside explained the battalion. The coded number was usually sequential inside the brigade, but there were exceptions. The table below shows, which units held, what codes at a particular period of time.

4 th New Zealand Armored Brigade		
Unit	Code	Color
Brigade HQ	65	
18 Arm'd regt	91	
19 Arm'd Rgt	80	
20 Am'd Rgt	52	
22 Motor Bat.	38	

1 st NZ Div		
Unit	Code	Color
HQ	1	Black
4 Waikato Mounted Rifles (recee)	4	Black
1 Infantry Bgd		
HQ	30	Red
3 Auckland East Coast Mounted Rifles (armoured)	3	Red
1 Hauraki Bat.	32	Red
1 Waikato Bat.	33	Red
12 Infantry Bgd		
HQ	34	Green
11 North Auckland Mounted Rifles (armoured)	2	Green
1 North Auckland Bat.	35	Green
1 Div. Artillery		
HQ	95	Red/Blue
1 Field Rgt	8	Red/Blue
20 Field Rgt.	98	Red/Blue
7 Med. Bty.	6	Red/Blue
101 Hvy. Bty.	96	Red/Blue
18 Anti-tank Bty.	11	Red/Blue
117 Lt. AA Bty.	12	Red/Blue
125 Lt. AA Bty.	102	Red/Blue
114 Hvy. AA. Bty.	97	Red/Blue

3 rd NZ Div		
Unit	Code	Color
HQ	1	Black
2 Army Tank Sqn	26	Yellow
8 Infantry Bgd		
HQ	32	Red
8 Def. Plt.	32	Red
29 Bat.	33	Red
34 Bat.	34	Red
36 Bat.	35	Red
14 Infantry Bgd		
HQ	37	Red
14 Def. Plt.	37	Red
30 Bat.	38	Red
35 Bat.	39	Red
37 Bat.	40	Red
MG. Co.	41	Red
3 Div. Artillery		
17 Field Rgt.	3	Red/Blue
38 Field Rgt.	7	Red/Blue
144 Ind. Bty.	16	Red/Blue
53 Anti-tank Rgt.	12	Red/Blue
54 Anti-tank Rgt.	13	Red/Blue
28 Hvy. AA Rgt.	8	Red/Blue
29 Lt. AA rgt.	9	Red/Blue
33 Hvy. Rgt.	11	Red/Blue

16 Bgd Grp		
Unit	Code	Color
HQ	11	Red
6 Canterbury Bat.	30	Red
1 Tonga Bat.	31	Red
2 Tonga Bat.	32	Red
16 Bgd Grp Artillery		
HQ	15	Red/Blue
55 Field Bty.	16	Red/Blue
57 Hvy. AA Bat.	19	Red/Blue
58 Lt. AA Bty.	20	Red/Blue
59 Hvy. Bty.	17	Red/Blue
56 Hvy. Bat.	18	Red/Blue

Unit	Code	Color
4th NZ Div		
HQ	1	Black
6 Manawatu Mounted Rifles (recce)	1	Black
2 Infantry Bgd		
HQ	10	Red
2 Queen Alexandra's Mounted Rifles (armoured)	7	Red
1 Wellington West Coast Bat.	15	Red
1 Hawke's Bay Bat.	16	Red
1 Taranua Bat.	17	Red
4 Div. Artillery		
HQ	75	Red/Blue
2 Field Rgt.	12	Red/Blue
8 Med. Bty.	77	Red/Blue
102 Hvy. Bty.	76	Red/Blue
22 Anti-tank Bty.	13	Red/Blue
118 Lt. AA Bty.	78	Red/Blue
115 Hvy. Bty.	79	Red/Blue

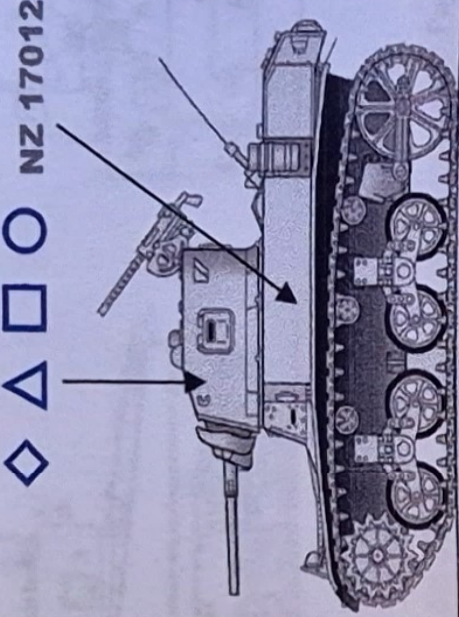
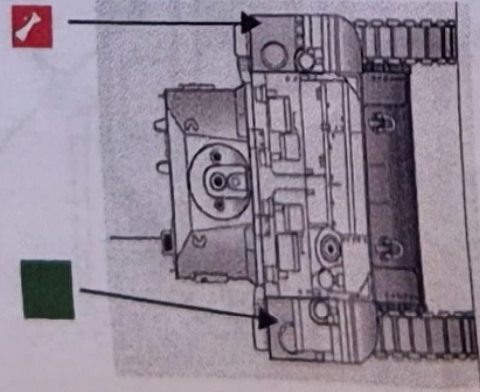
Unit	Code	Color
5th NZ Div		
HQ	1	Black
1 Canterbury Yeomanry Cavalry (recce)	1	Black
3rd Infantry Bgd		
HQ	25	Red
1 Canterbury Bat.	30	Red
1 Otago Bat.	31	Red
1 Southland Bat.	32	Red
10th Infantry Bgd		
HQ	40	Yellow
5 Otago Mounted Rifles	7	Yellow
2 Scottish Bat.	45	Yellow
11th Brigade Grp.		
HQ	10	Green
10 Nelson Marlborough Mounted Rifles (recce)	11	Green
1 Nelson Marlborough & West Coast Bat.	15	Green
19 Field Rgt.	12	Green
120 Lt. AA Bty.	133	Green
130 Med. Bty. (one troop)	123	Green
5 Div. Artillery		
HQ	121	Red/Blue
3 Field Rgt.	27	Red/Blue
18 Field Rgt.	124	Red/Blue
130 Med. Bty. (less one troop)	123	Red/Blue
21 Anti-tank Bty.	128	Red/Blue
24 Anti-tank Bty.	125	Red/Blue
119 Lt. AA Bty.	126	Red/Blue
121 Lt. AA Bty.	127	Red/Blue

In late 1943-early 1944, the above organization gave way to a new order of battle. Instead of being a division-based system, the new table of organization was based around the three military districts in New Zealand. An "N," "C" or "S" was placed in the corresponding arm-of-service flash. These district symbols replaced the divisional markings on many AFV's serving in the Pacific.

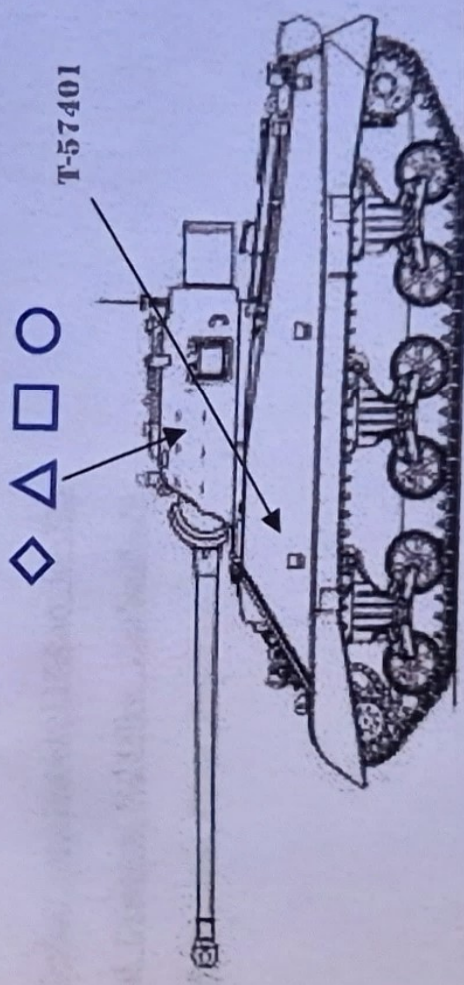
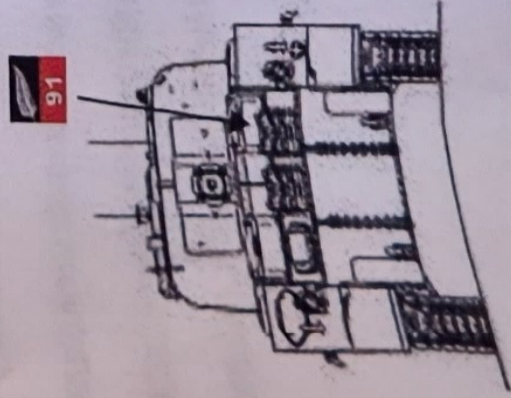
Northern Military District		
Unit	Code	Color
1 NZ Armoured Rgt.	7	Black
1 Field Rgt.	8	Black
7 Med. Bty.	6	Black
18 Anti-tank Bty.	11	Black
117 Lt. AA Bty.	12	Black
1 Hauraki Bat.	32	Red
1 Waikato Bat.	33	Red
1 North Auckland Bat.	34	Green
60 Hvy. Bty.	41	Brown
163 Hvy. Bty.	41	Brown

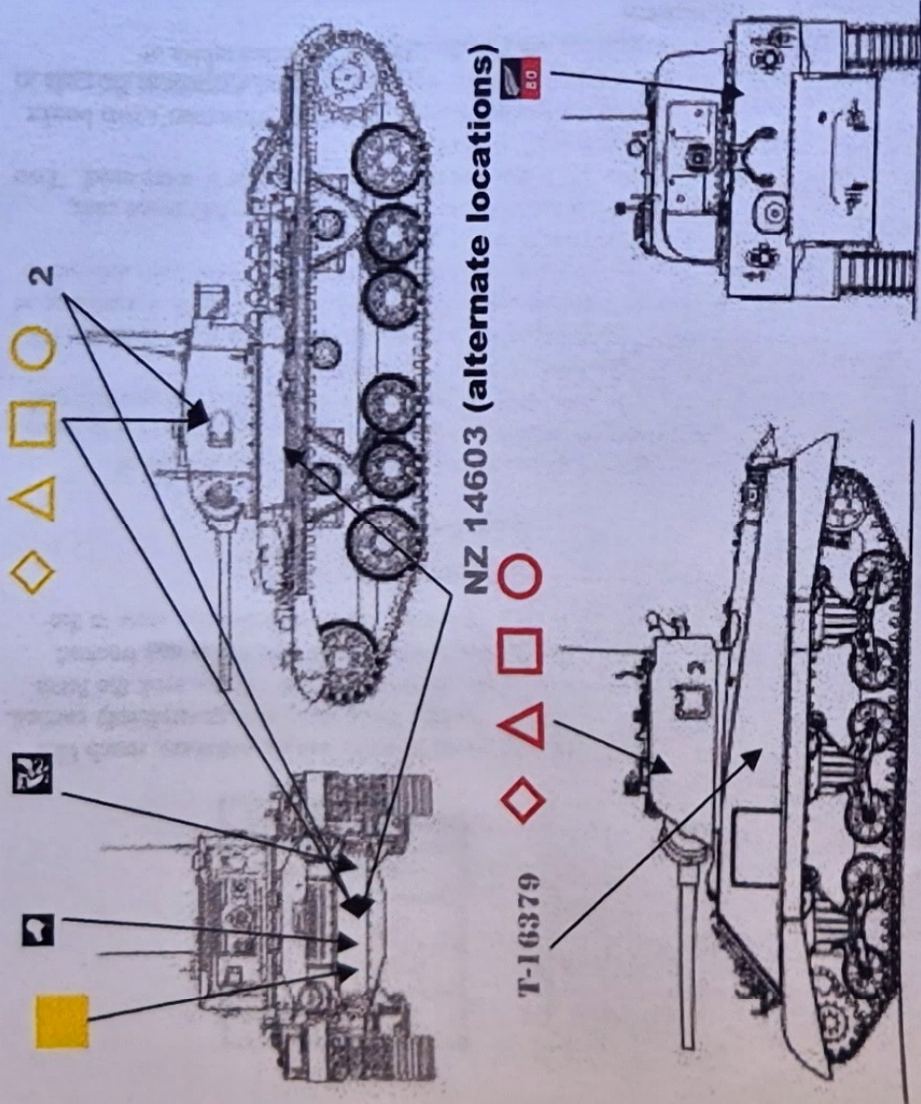
Central Military District		
Unit	Code	Color
2 NZ Armoured Rgt.	9	Black
2 Field Rgt.	12	Black
8 Med. Bty.	77	Black
22 Anti-tank Bty.	13	Black
118 Lt. AA Bty.	78	Black
1 Taranua Bat.	17	Red
1 Hawkes Bay Bat.	16	Red
1 Wellington Bat.	28	Green
70 Hvy. Bty.	26	Brown
165 Hvy. Bty.	41	Brown

Southern Military District		
Unit	Code	Color
3 NZ Armoured Rgt.	9	Black
3 Field Rgt.	27	Black
130 Med. Bty.	123	Black
21 Anti-tank Bty.	28	Black
119 Lt. AA Bty.	12	Black
1 Otago Bat.	31	Red
1 Southland Bat.	32	Red
1 Canterbury Bat.	30	Red
1 Nelson Marlborough & West Coast Bat.	15	Green
80 Hvy. Bty.	56	Brown



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References:

Plowman, Jeffrey and Malcolm Thomas. New Zealand Armour in the Pacific 1939-1945. Jeffrey Plowman, Christchurch, New Zealand: 2001.

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http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2nd_Division_%28New_Zealand%29

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/3rd_Division_\(New_Zealand\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/3rd_Division_(New_Zealand))