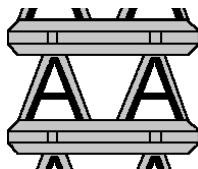


PRESERVED TANKS IN SOUTH AFRICA

ARMoured VEHICLES PRESERVED IN SOUTH
AFRICA AS MEMORIALS AND RELICS AND IN
MUSEUMS AND COLLECTIONS

**WILLIAM MARSHALL
TREVOR LARKUM**

ARMOUR



ARCHIVE

2000

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Armour Archive Publications

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Preserved British Tanks	-	-

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Any remaining errors are entirely the responsibility of the authors. All photographs are from the authors' collections unless otherwise credited. The following sources were consulted in compiling the information on preserved vehicles and collections:

Wheels & Tracks Magazine (Battle of Britain Prints International, London)
SANDF Magazines: Kommando (1950-60), Paratus (1970-94) and Salut (1994-)

Introduction

Despite the fact that South Africa has not been the site of any major tank warfare it holds a surprisingly large and interesting range of preserved tanks. Also, although the majority of the vehicles are of British and American origin, there is nonetheless an interesting range of Soviet tanks to see as well as, naturally, many South African developments of foreign designs.

South Africa was involved in two major areas of conflict during its post-war history. The first was the counter insurgency (COIN) war in South West Africa/Namibia (SWA/N) from the early 1970s until about 1989. The second was the internal political conflict within the borders of the Republic of South Africa (RSA) which officially ended in 1994. The SWA/N war was a low key insurgency war which later (mid-19890's) escalated into a limited mobile conventional war, in which SA conducted large raids into the southern part of Angola to combat the South West African People's Organisation (SWAPO). During this period South Africa was under a UN arms embargo and could not acquire any arms from friendly countries. This compelled the SA government to produce its own weapons and equipment. The South African National Defence Force (SANDF) started to receive locally produced and modified equipment; this can be seen in the large number of prototype vehicles developed to counter the landmine threat. The whole process made South Africa a world leader in anti-landmine warfare with a large fleet of locally produced anti-landmine vehicles. The Olifant tank was a product of this conflict; it was developed to counter the possible deployment of the T72 within Southern Angola. Although based on a Centurion tank hull, it has a locally produced power pack, transmission, tracks, wheels and fire control system and can be seen as almost a new tank. A large number of foreign tanks and equipment, mostly Soviet, was captured in Southern Angola. The conflict ended in 1989 with a negotiated settlement between the RSA, Angola and Cuba.

While the conflict was developing in SWA/N, the political situation within South Africa slowly deteriorated with conflict increasing between the South African apartheid government and the black political parties, led by the African National Congress (ANC). Limited riots and civil disturbances were taking place, and open armed conflict was slowly developing between the government and the ANC. This limited armed conflict paved the way for the development of some unique types of anti-riot control vehicles and armed personnel carriers (these vehicles can still be seen in service today within the SANDF and South African Police Service). However, the ending of the ban of all major political parties in 1990, and subsequent political negotiations, saw a diminishing threat to public order. This led eventually to the end of armed conflict and finally to progress from 1990 to the first free and democratic elections in 1994.

The SANDF today operates a large number of indigenously developed vehicles and equipment. Most older types have been retired and can be seen in a number of museums, and as monuments and exhibits throughout the country. They have been placed mostly at full time and part time units and in front of veterans' club buildings as monuments. The veterans' clubs consist of members who have served in the Armed Services of participated in any of South Africa's wars. One ex-servicemen's league is called the Moths (Memorial Order of the Tin Hats), with a small British tin hat as its emblem. Moth Halls tend to be fairly small whereas larger clubhouses, often with a restaurant or bar, are known as Shellholes.

Note that three types of vehicle registrations were used by the South African military. During the early years of the Union of South Africa, the U registration was used (e.g. U724220); from the 1960s to the 1980s, the R registration was used (e.g. R724220); and currently a three digit M registration is used (e.g. BDF672M). Some vehicles may have the same U and R registration. Many vehicles are difficult to identify, but particularly Sherman tanks, as there are up to three systems of identification, e.g. the US, the British and the South African designations. Turrets and hulls are frequently swapped during maintenance and repair and the only way to identify a vehicle correctly is to get inside and read the manufacturer's identification plate. This is not always possible as some have been welded close to prevent people from getting to them. Using the ID-plate is also no guarantee of identification as it will only identify the original hull. Thus a hull could have different equipment, guns or turrets

added which would change the version. The hull has been used as the main source of identification except for particular, distinctive types such as the Sherman Firefly.

For reasons of space photographs are generally given in pairs between entries, with the left hand photograph depicting the entry above, and the right hand photograph the entry below (no vehicle is illustrated twice). Similarly, distinguishing markings such as turret, tactical or registration numbers, plus model numbers, are given in brackets with the entry.

It should be noted that this guide is intended only to detail preserved, fully tracked armoured fighting vehicles (AFVs) and does not detail half-tracks, armoured cars or other military vehicles. Armoured Personnel Carriers (APCs) and Infantry Fighting Vehicles (IFVs) are not detailed except in those cases where they are derived from tank chassis. However, fully tracked military vehicles, including APCs and IFVs, are listed for those collections that also display tanks though they are not given detailed entries and we do not guarantee these lists are complete. Vehicles still in service are not included.

Finally, for the spelling of place names, we have used the *Collins South Africa 1:2000000 Travel Map*, the *CLB Pictorial Atlas of the World*, and other sources.

William Marshall (Pretoria)
Trevor Larkum (Northampton)
December 1999

Gauteng Province

National Museum of Military History, Saxonwold, Johannesburg

The National Museum of Military History is located in buildings and hangers on Erlswold Way in Saxonwold. It was established in 1947. Its exhibits include armoured vehicles, soft-skin military vehicles, some aircraft and a one-man submarine. The majority of the vehicles are displayed outside in open-air hangers.

- 1) Crusader Tank (Mark II, T15570/U73009/R73009/“NO 183F”) British
 {Museum Pieces list has R73009 with number T44174?}
 {What is meaning of NO 183F marking?}
- 2) Comet Tank (Type B, T334971/R90532/11ZR67) British
 This Comet is interesting as it has a very early chassis number but has the post-war fishtail exhaust system indicating it may have had a refit.
- 3) Centurion Tank (Mark 7) British
- 4) Valentine Tank (Mark I, T16412/U4550) British
 {W&T states Mark II}
- 5) Churchill AVRE Tank (Mark IV/IXLT, T172204/U74733/“L4358”) British
 This AVRE is a Mark IX LT (“Light Turret”), a Mark IV upgraded with appliqué armour and other improvements but retaining its original turret. It was one of four Churchills originally brought into the country; the others were the AVRE at the School of Armour Museum at Bloemfontein, the Bridgelayar at the School of Engineers {more!} and an ARK which is believed to have gone into a private collection.
 {“22A”?}
- 6) Sexton Self-Propelled Gun (U74639/S234443) British / Canadian
- 7) M3A1 Stuart Light Tank (U46942/R46942/10380) American
- 8) M4 (105) Sherman Tank (U74903/R74903/57568) American
- 9) M4 Sherman Firefly Tank (R74937) American / British
 Acquired from the Fort Klapperkop collection when it closed.
- 10) PT-76B Amphibious Light Tank Soviet
- 11) T-34-85 Tank Soviet
- 12) T-55L Tank Soviet / Polish
 This is T-55 was manufactured at Labedy in Poland, hence the ‘L’ designation. It has the early T-54 hull with the machine-gun in the hull next to the driver.
- 13) Carro Veloce CV-33 Tankette Italian
 This CV-33 is missing its left-hand track.

Other Fully Tracked Military Vehicles

T16 Mark II Universal Carrier

{

The following vehicle at Saxonwold from original TL draft has not been accounted for:

- 14) M4A3 Sherman Tank American

This Sherman IVB is displayed inside the museum building.

}

Imperial Light Horse Regiment, Kelvin, Johannesburg

This is a part time force unit situated in the suburb of Kelvin in Johannesburg. Originally an 'Uitlander' unit (Foreigner unit), it was raised in part from among the aggrieved Britons of Johannesburg on the eve of the Anglo-Boer War, and in which four of its members won the Victoria Cross. It served in Zululand in 1906; in German South West Africa; and, following the demobilisation of the Active Citizen Force, many of its men volunteered for service abroad in other units. The 1st Battalion, raised in June 1940, served under Lt Col. E.J.R. Blake as part of 3rd SA Infantry Brigade, losing many men in fierce fighting at Bardia on 1 January 1942 and with the fall of Tobruk. The 2nd Battalion served in East Africa as 13th SA Armoured Car Company (2nd Battalion, Royal Natal Carbineers) and going on to North Africa. The ILH amalgamated with the Kimberley Regiment as 11th Armoured Brigade of 6th SA Armoured Division and, under Lt Col. R. Reeves Moore, distinguished itself in the Italian campaign, being among the first into Florence, the first into Castiglione dei Pepoli, and finishing the War close to the Alps. More recently, the unit has served as an active citizen force unit during the war in SWA/N and in the internal conflict.

- 15) Crusader Tank (Mark II) British

- 16) Comet Tank (Mark IB) British

95 Ammo Depot, Lenz, Johannesburg

This is a full time force logistical unit situated approximately 30km south of Johannesburg.

- 17) M3A1 Stuart Light Tank American

- 18) M3A1 Stuart Light Tank American

Thaba-Tswane, Pretoria

Thaba-Tswane is a military suburb within the City of Pretoria, Thaba-Tshwane being the Sotho word for “black mountain”. The area has had a number of name changes during its career, originally being “Roberts Heights” named after Lord Roberts, then Voortrekkerhoogte (Pioneer Heights) from the 1950s into the 1990s. Currently it has been changed back to its original African name. Thaba-Tshwane is a suburb situated near the Voortrekker (Pioneer) monument and is one of the main military base areas in Pretoria. It has a number of Army units situated in the area and is also served by the Swartkops SA Air Force Base.

Army College

- 19) Whippet Medium Mark A Tank British

This Whippet was originally delivered in 1919 to the SA Army, later becoming the property of the SA Air Force. Named HMLS Union, its original purpose was to be used as a fundraiser. During the miner’s unrest Rand Revolt in 1922, BG Coen Britts attacked strikers in Fordsburg, with the Whippet brought up in support. Some of the crew were Air Force personnel and it was operated in support of aircraft that bombed the strikers’ positions in Johannesburg, Boksburg and Springs. One of the crewmembers was killed when he was shot through one of the visor holes by one of the Boers, who were renowned for their marksmanship.

It completed its career as ceremonial and training vehicle in 1939 when it was retired. It is now a gate guardian at the SA Army College. It is in near running order and is painted silver.

- 20) M4A1 (76) Sherman Tank (R74890) American

This Sherman is in fairly good condition.

- 21) T-34-85 Tank Soviet

This T-34 is in excellent exterior condition, though its interior is damaged. It is painted dark green.

Solitary Vehicles

- 22) M4A1 (76) Sherman Tank American

This Sherman is displayed at the Defence College. It is in excellent condition and painted dark green.



- 23) Crusader Tank Mark II British

This Crusader is displayed at the Group 15 HQ. It is in good condition and painted overall sand.

Pretoria Regiment, Salvokop, Pretoria

These tanks can be seen at the Pretoria Regiment base on Magasyn Road, located at Salvokop overlooking Pretoria. They are generally in a fairly poor condition.

24) Crusader Tank (Mark II)

British



25) Comet Tank (Mark IB)

British

26) Centurion Tank (Mark 5/7, BDC068M)

British

This Centurion is in a fair condition but needs some attention.

27) Sexton Self-Propelled Gun

British / Canadian



28) Sexton Self-Propelled Gun

British / Canadian

29) M3A1 Stuart Light Tank

American



30) M4A1 (76) Sherman Tank

American

{Temporary entry awaiting confirmation and details}

Technical Base Complex, Centurion, Pretoria

This Technical Base Complex or TEK Base (“Tegnies Basis Werkswinkel”) is located at Centurion, south of Pretoria. It holds a number of active SANDF units within its borders and also has a housing complex for active members.

61 Base Workshop

This is a full time force logistical unit.

- | | |
|--|----------|
| 31) Crusader Tank (Mark II, T44382/R73019) | British |
| This Crusader is in good condition and painted dark green. | |
| 32) M3A1 Stuart Light Tank | American |
| This Stuart is in excellent condition. | |

81 Technical Services Depot

This is a full time force logistical unit. Both vehicles are in excellent condition and painted dark green.

- | | |
|---|----------|
| 33) M3A1 Stuart Light Tank (R46933/10156) | American |
| 34) M4A1 (76) Sherman Tank (32430{?}) | American |

Warrior Shellhole, Muldersdrift, Krugersdorp

These tanks are on display at the Warrior Shellhole located beside the Krugersdorp highway, at the turnoff to Talton.

- | |
|---|
| 35) Crusader Tank (Mark II) |
| 36) M3A1 Stuart Light Tank (R46901/10134) |

Truck Farm Museum, Wallmansthal

This is a privately owned collection of military vehicles. The owner, Mr Wallush, has a keen interest in military vehicles and purchased a number of vehicles from the Durban museum when it closed down.

- 37) Comet Tank (Mark IB, VF246361/“L860”/ “The Iron Duke”) British

This Comet is in good condition and was acquired from the Durban museum.



- 38) M3A1 Stuart Light Tank (R46893/9939)

American

This Stuart is in good condition.

4VRP Collection, Wallmansthal

4VRP is the SANDF's Reserve Park and is situated at Wallmansthal, about 50km north of Pretoria.

Both vehicles are in a fairly good condition.

- 39) Comet Maintenance Repair Vehicle (R90530)

British / South African {?}

- 40) Comet Maintenance Repair Vehicle (R90550)

British / South African {?}

Solitary Vehicles

41: Crusader Tank (Mark II), Moth Hall, Brenthurst, Johannesburg

42: Crusader Tank (Mark II), Moth Hall, Florida, Johannesburg

43: M3A1 Stuart Light Tank, West Park Commando, Craighall, Johannesburg

44: M3A1 Stuart Light Tank, Moth Hall, Van Boeschoten Avenue, Pretoria

45: M3A1 Stuart Light Tank, General Smuts House, Irene, Pretoria

This Stuart is in fairly good condition.

46: Centurion Tank (Mark 5/7), Rooihuiskraal Recreation Grounds, Centurion, Pretoria

This Centurion tank is in very good condition and is displayed in the recreation grounds on Rooihuiskraal ("Red House Corral") Road in the suburb of Centurion, Pretoria.

{Photo scan shows reg number BDC 070
M ???}



47: Crusader Tank (Mark II), War Memorial, Springs

{not confirmed – unable to locate}

48: M3A1 Stuart Light Tank, Springs Commando, Springs

{not confirmed – unable to locate}

49: M4 (105) Sherman Tank, Moth Hall, Edenvale

50: M4 (105) Sherman Tank, Monte Stango Shellhole, Isando

51: Crusader Tank (Mark II), Moth Hall, Boksburg

Free State Province

School of Armour Museum, Tempe, Bloemfontein

In the City of Bloemfontein there are a number of military units, mainly armoured ones, including the School of Armour and the Special Services Battalion (see below).

{more info required}

- | | | |
|-----|--|-----------------------------|
| 52) | Crusader Tank (Mark II, T44188/R73015) | British |
| 53) | Crusader Tank (Mark II) | British |
| 54) | Comet Tank (Mark IB, R90557) | British |
| 55) | Comet Tank (Mark IB) | British |
| 56) | Comet Maintenance Repair Vehicle (R90528) | British / South African {?} |
| 57) | Centurion Tank (Mark 5/7, "238T") | British |
| 58) | Centurion Tank (Mark 5a, R90587) | British |
| | This is a Mark 5a Skokian {what does this mean?}. | |
| 59) | Churchill AVRE Tank (T68115/R74734/"1449/C"/"35/70") | British |
| | Acquired from the Fort Klapperkop collection when it closed. It was one of four Churchills originally brought into the country; the others were the AVRE at the National Museum of Military History at Johannesburg, the Bridgelayar at the School of Engineers {more!} and an ARK which is believed to have gone into a private collection. | |
| 60) | PT-76 Amphibious Light Tank (BDG272M) | Soviet |
| 61) | PT-76 Amphibious Light Tank | Soviet |
| 62) | PT-76 Amphibious Light Tank | Soviet |
| 63) | T-34-85 Tank (604r3033/BDG270M) | Soviet |
| 64) | T-34-85 Tank (R118168) | Soviet |
| 65) | T-34-85 Tank (65.022.019/BDG271M/883498/0032671) | Soviet |
| 66) | T-34-85 Tank (307/633257) | Soviet |
| 67) | T-55 Tank | Soviet |
| 68) | T-62 Tank | Soviet |
| 69) | M3A1 Stuart Light Tank (R46923/10201) | American |
| 70) | M3A1 Stuart Light Tank (46892/8745) | American |
| 71) | M4 (105) Sherman Tank (BBB847M) | American |

- 72) M4 Sherman Firefly Tank (BBB846M) American / British
- 73) M4A1 (76) Sherman Tank (BBB848M) American
- 74) M4 Sherman Firefly Tank (Hybrid, R74902) American
This is an M4 with hybrid cast/welded hull front.
{Did this come from Fort Klapperkop, which had a hybrid hull Sherman?}
- 75) M32 Tank Recovery Vehicle (U74995/R74998) American
In running order.

Special Services Battalion Museum, Tempe, Bloemfontein

The Special Services Battalion (SSB) was originally created during the Depression of the 1930s to provide work for the unemployed. It was an armour unit during the Second World War but has since been converted back to an infantry unit.

- 76) M3A1 Stuart Light Tank American
- 77) M3A1 Stuart Light Tank American
- 78) M4 (105) Sherman Tank (57937) American
- 79) M4 (105) Sherman Tank American
- 80) M4 Sherman Firefly Tank American / British
- 81) M4A1 (76) Sherman Tank American
- 82) Medium Mark IA Tank British

This is a very rare vehicle, and may be the only surviving Mark I in the world. It is in excellent, running order, and painted green.



- 83) Crusader Tank (Mark II, T44510/R73021) British
- 84) Comet Tank (Mark IB) British
- 85) T-34-85 Tank (44181-3354) Soviet

Fort Bloemfontein Military Museum, Bloemfontein

This museum is situated in the south of Bloemfontein and is owned by the city council.

- 86) M3A1 Stuart Light Tank (R46906/10342) American
- 87) M3A1 Stuart Light Tank (R46741/8541) American
- 88) M4 (105) Sherman Tank (57384) American
- 89) M4A1 (76) Sherman Tank (88887{?}) American



{Which Sherman is this?}

- 90) M4A1 (76) Sherman Tank American
- 91) Centurion Oliphant Tank (Mark IA) British / South African
- 92) Sexton Self-Propelled Gun (CA17973/R74621/“L4312”) British / Canadian
- 93) Sexton Self-Propelled Gun (CA17849/R74628/“L18415”) British / Canadian

War Memorial, Bethlehem

{Description/more info required}

- 94) M3A1 Stuart Light Tank American
- 95) M4 Sherman Firefly Tank American / British

Solitary Vehicles

96: Crusader Tank (Mark II), OFS Command, Tempe, Bloemfontein

97: M4 (105) Sherman Tank, Three Services Club, Bloemfontein

Western Cape Province

Eerste Rivier, Cape Town

{Description/more info required}

- | | | |
|-----|--------------------------------------|----------|
| 98) | M3A1 Stuart Light Tank (R46943/6991) | American |
| 99) | M3A1 Stuart Light Tank (R46969/8707) | American |

Solitary Vehicles

100: M3A1 Stuart Light Tank, Military Hospital, Wynberg, Cape Town

101: M3A1 Stuart Light Tank, Wynberg Commando, Wynberg, Cape Town

102: M3A1 Stuart Light Tank, Stellenbosch Commando, Stellenbosch Cape

103: M3 Stuart Light Tank, Faure

This Stuart was once used by SA forces and is now on static display outside the Cape Corps School near Faure, between Cape Town and Stellenbosch.

{Check: is this the same as the one above??}

104: M3A1 Stuart Light Tank (R46929/8832), Moth Hall, Somerset West

KwaZulu-Natal Province

Natal Mounted Rifles, Durban

{Description/more info required}

105) M4A? Sherman Tank	American / British
106) M3A1 Stuart Light Tank	American
107) Comet Tank (Mark IB)	British

Solitary Vehicles

108: M3A1 Stuart Light Tank, Military Museum, Durban

109: M3A1 Stuart Light Tank, Moth Shellhole, Pietermaritzburg

110: Crusader Tank (Mark II, T44365/R73018), Lord Allenby Shellhole, Escort

Northern Cape Province

Training Branch, Army Battle School, Lohatlha

{Description/more info required}

All tanks are generally in good condition and painted SA National Defence Force brown.

111) Crusader Tank (Mark II)

British

The Crusader is slightly damaged.



112) Comet Tank (Mark IB, "BC67199")

British

{Confirm which comet is shown}

113) Comet Tank (Mark IB, T335292/R90540/14ZR30)

British

114) Centurion Olifant Armoured Recovery Vehicle

British / South African



115) Sexton Self-Propelled Gun ("E8543"/ "1B2627")

British / Canadian

116) M3A1 Stuart Light Tank (D51847IH)

American



117) M4A1 (76) Sherman Tank (C2269/E8543)

American

War Memorial, Kimberley

{Description/more info required}

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| 118) M3A1 Stuart Light Tank | American |
| 119) M4A1 (76) Sherman Tank | American |

Other Provinces

Solitary Vehicles

120: Crusader Tank (Mark II, T44172/R73007), Moth Hall, Middelburg, Mpumalanga Province

This Crusader is on display on Gilfillan Street, along with two T16 Universal Carriers. It is in good condition and painted dark green.



121: M3A1 Stuart Light Tank, Legogutu Shellhole, Nelspruit, Mpumalanga Province

122: M3A1 Stuart Light Tank (R46907/10377), Graaff-Reinet Commando, Graaff-Reinet, Eastern Cape Province

123: M4A1 (76) Sherman Tank, Fort Beaufort Museum, Fort Beaufort, Eastern Cape Province

124: M3A1 Stuart Light Tank, Potchefstroom, North West Province

125: Crusader Tank, Military Base, Potchefstroom, North West Province

This Crusader is at the sports centre within the Potchefstroom military base.

{Temporary entry awaiting confirmation and details}



126: M4A1 (76) Sherman Tank (R74921), Town Centre, Pietersburg, Northern Province

Vehicles Not Accounted For

{ A temporary section, it is hoped }

SA Defence Force Collection

The collection of vehicles belonging to the SA Defence Force was on display for some time at Fort Klapperkop, in Pretoria. In the early 1990s it was closed down, with the majority of vehicles believed to have been transferred to other collections.

The following vehicle from original TL draft has not been accounted for:

127) Sexton Self-Propelled Gun British / Canadian

This Sexton II carries the number "R74644".

}

School of Engineers

{ Temporary entry awaiting confirmation and details }

128) Churchill Bridgelayer Tank British

Acquired from the Fort Klapperkop collection when it closed. It was one of four Churchills originally brought into the country; the others were the AVREs at the National Museum of Military History at Johannesburg and the School of Armour Museum at Bloemfontein, and an ARK which is believed to have gone into a private collection.

Solitary Vehicles

129: Churchill ARK Bridgelayer Tank, Private Collection, Unknown Location

This was one of four Churchills originally brought into the country; the others were the AVREs at the National Museum of Military History at Johannesburg and the School of Armour Museum at Bloemfontein, and the Bridgelayer at the School of Engineers. It is believed to have gone into a private collection but no details are known.

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