

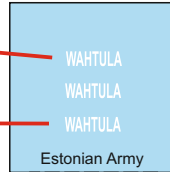
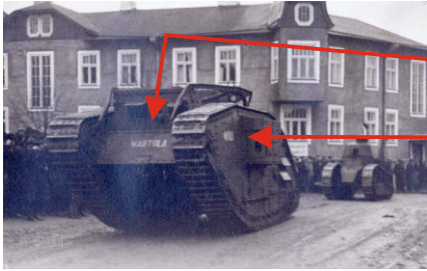


72039 Mark V

The Mark V heavy tank was a further improvement of the well known British rhomboid-shaped tanks, with a new engine and better controls. It has been widely used by the British army on the Western Front in 1918 and during the British occupation of the Rheinland and Cologne.

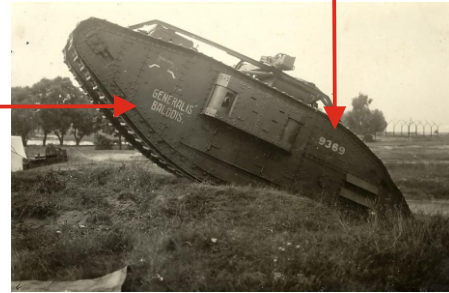
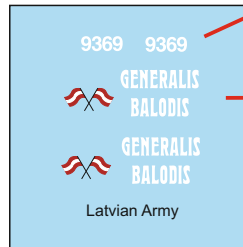
The Mark V was originally either 'male' or 'female', but sponsons were switched, creating the hermaphrodite tanks with both male and female sponsons in all variations.

The Mark V was exported by the British to Russia, in support of the Russian White armies, but were later captured by the Red army. Some ended up in the Estonian and Latvian armies.



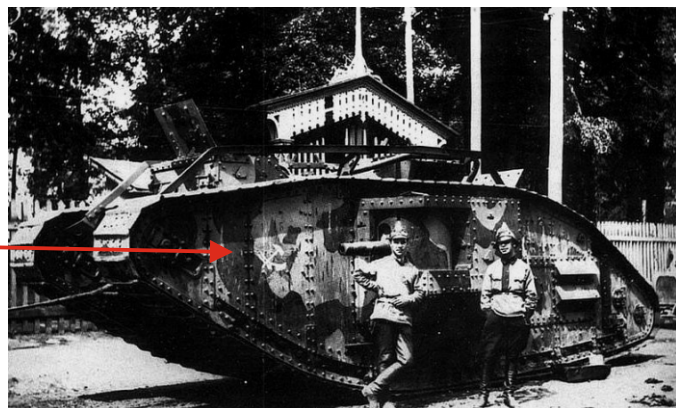
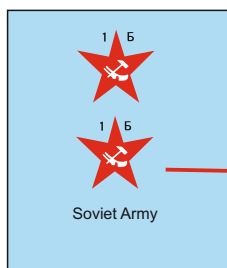
The Estonian Mark V's were most likely dark green, although without evidence, it's also plausible that they were dark brown. They have been re-painted, losing their original British numbers. The tanks received names like Wahtula, Paalik and Uku.

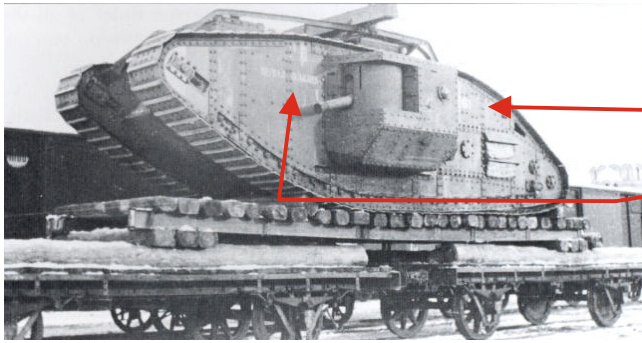
Like the Estonian Mark V's, the Latvian Mark V's were most likely dark green, although it's also plausible that they were dark brown. They have been re-painted, but retained their original British numbers. The tanks received names like Generalis Balodis and Ministr Pres Ulmanis.



The Mark V's that were captured by the Red Army from the White Army, were at first still in British colors, with only the slogans substituted. In the 1920's, they were painted dark green or in a light + dark green camo scheme.

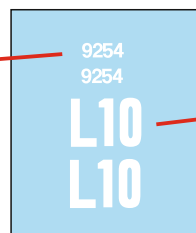
The markings changed with the Soviet regulations. In some periods a tactical sign was seen, and in the earlier periods, a red star with the old Soviet symbol of the hammer and plough. The side points of the star were sometimes pointing sideways, but sometimes also pointing slightly upwards.





The Mark V's that were delivered to the White Russian armies by the British, were given Czarist slogans, like 'For holy Russia' but also more practical slogans like on this photo: 'First Aid'. In some cases the British white-red-white stripes remained on the horns, but in the case of 'First Aid' the horns were painted white-blue-red (from top to bottom). All the Mark V's that ended up in Russia were hermaphrodites.

After the British Army abolished the Solomon camo scheme, all tanks were painted in a uniform light brown / earth / sand color. In 1918, the tanks were given white-red-white nationality markings on the horns of the tanks. The Mark V's had the white-red-white markings also on the driver's cab roof and the rearward placed turreted roof.



Apart from being used on the Western Front (top 2 photo's), the Mark V was also used during the British occupation of the Rheinland and Cologne (bottom photo) in 1919.

