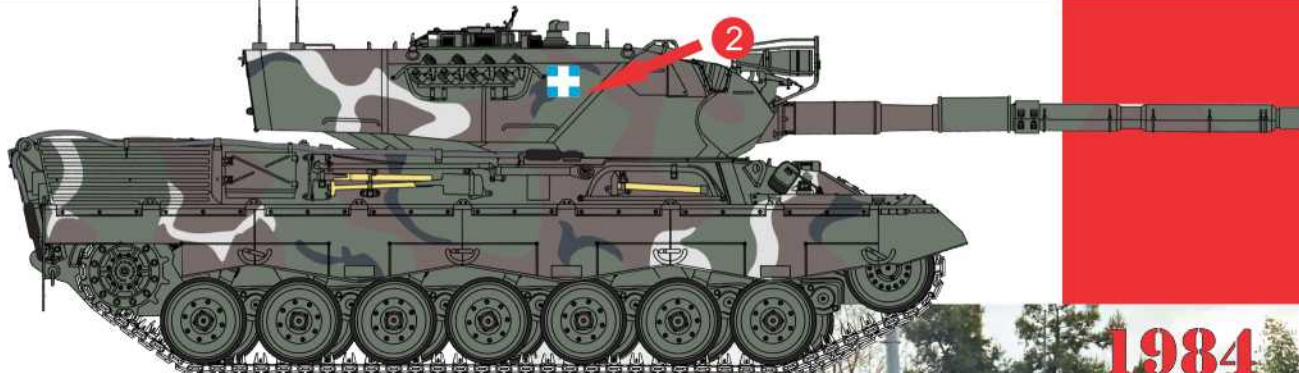


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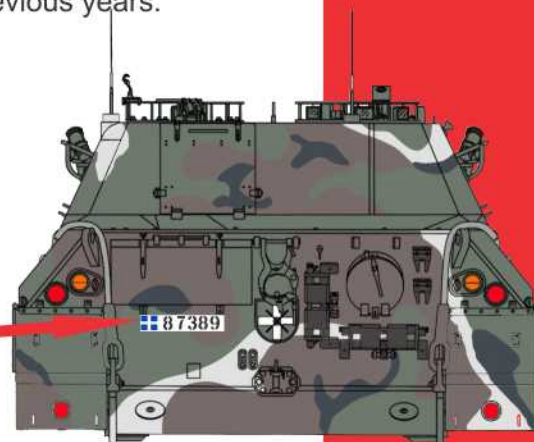
Hellenic Army Leopard 1 tanks

The first Leopard type to enter service with the Hellenic Army in 1983 was the Leopard 1GR. These tanks were delivered in a factory applied four-colour Hellenic Army camouflage scheme based on the American MERDC camouflage scheme. The actual shades of the factory applied colours were quite different to the shades usually used by the Hellenic Army and the pattern was identical on all tanks. The brown was distinctly chocolate and the green had a grey tinge. These tanks retained their factory applied scheme for quite a few years, before being repainted in more "Greek" shades. The Greek colours are equivalent to FS37038 (black), FS34079 (forest green), FS 30118 (field drab and FS30277 (sand).

The position of all the markings was identical on all tanks, as seen on the photo to the right.



The national markings on the tanks in the 25th March 1992 parade were darker than previous years.



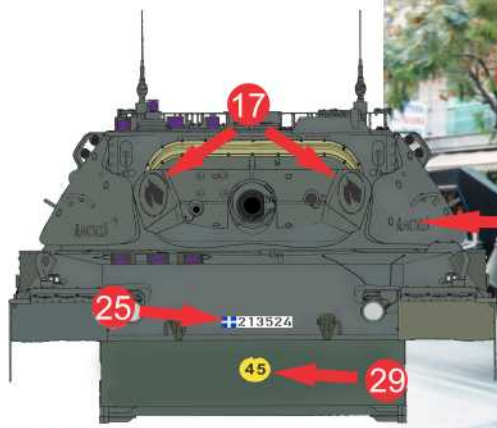


Photo: T. Tsiplakos

The second Leopard type to enter service was the Leopard 1V in 1992. These were ex-Netherlands Army tanks that were surplus and transferred free of charge under the CFE Treaty. These tanks arrived in their Dutch dark green colour scheme, which they retained for a few years and Dutch markings. All Dutch national markings and number plates were painted over leaving a patchy finish, but some unit markings remained. The Dutch green finish was heavily stained and presented a multitude of different shades on various surfaces. Later these tanks were also repainted in the Greek four-colour camouflage.



Photo: T. Metsovitis



Photo: F. Iordanidis

Later on the Leopard 1V was the first to be fitted with Pearson mine ploughs. The rear number plate on the Leopard 1V was under the stowage box. The circular Dutch marking that looks like a dog's head was present on the mantlets of many Leopard 1Vs.



Photo: D. Lambaditis

Along with the Leopard 1V the Hellenic Army received two unique prototype tanks. These were two Leopard 1Vs fitted with the EMES 18 fire control system like the German Leopard 1A5. The redundant protective cast thermal imaging collar was removed and replaced with a welded cover with a new rotating periscope for the loader. These two tanks, unlike the German ones, had stowage boxes on the hull sides just like the 1V. The Dutch smoke launchers were removed. Originally these tanks were delivered in the standard NATO three-colour camouflage and received Hellenic Army markings. Later they were repainted in the Greek four-colour camouflage as seen here.

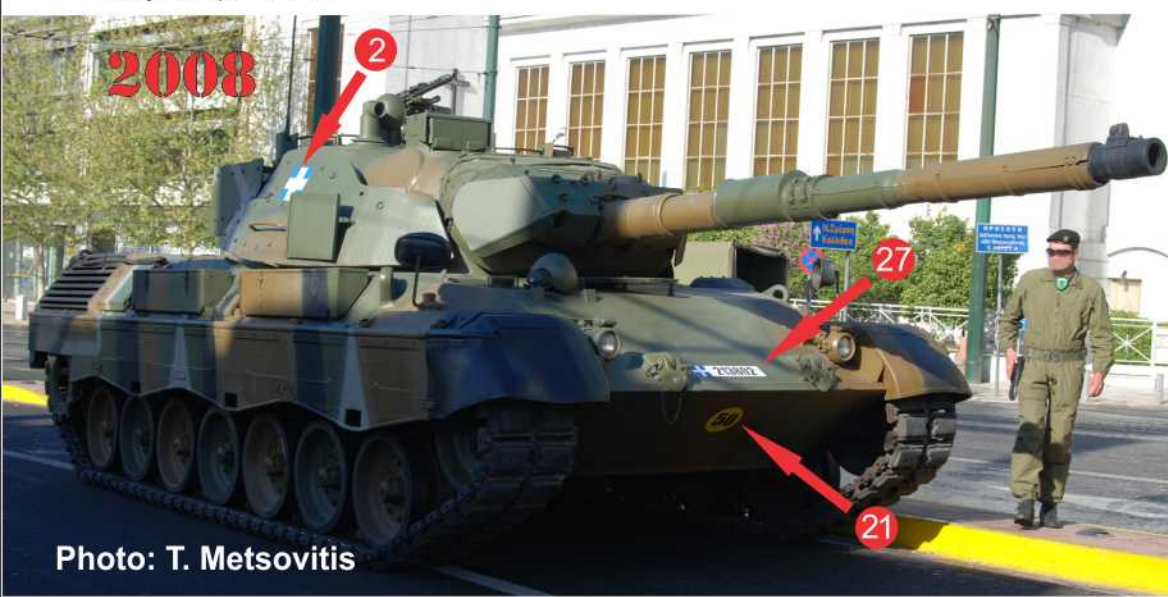


Photo: T. Metsovitis

Later they were repainted in the Greek four-colour camouflage as seen here. The rear number plate on these tanks was again under the stowage box.



Photo: D. Lambaditis



Photo: T. Metsovitis

The final Leopard 1 type to enter service was the Leopard 1A5. The first tanks were delivered in 1993. All these tanks came from Bundeswehr stocks and had been refurbished in various facilities. The name of the facility was stencilled on many tanks.

All of 1A5s were originally in the standard NATO three-colour camouflage which they kept for some time, and they all received Hellenic Army markings although a few retained some ex-Bundeswehr markings. The three German colours were Bronze Green (Bronzegrün - RAL 6031), Black (Teerschwarz - RAL 9021) and Brown (Lederbraun - RAL 8027). Gradually all tanks are repainted in Greek colours when they are overhauled.



Photo: S. Konstantineas



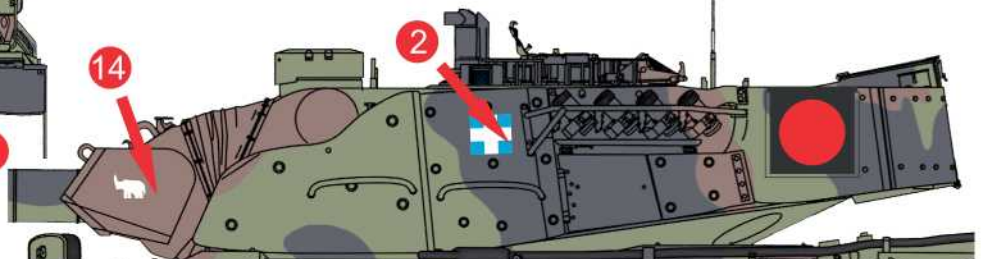
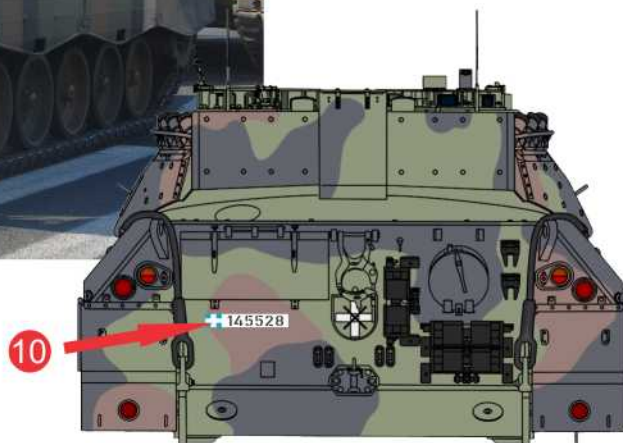
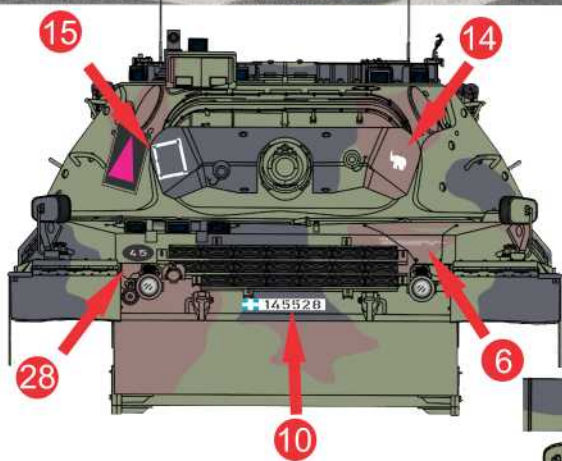
Photo: T. Metsovitis

The armoured element of the 32nd Marine Brigade also received Leopard 1A5s refurbished by IFG, formerly FWI.

At least one of these tanks had a white rhino silhouette on the left side of the mantlet, an ex-Bundeswehr marking.

Many of these tanks had shipping instructions taped to the mantlet or upper glacis plate.

When these were removed the adhesive tape left a white residue in the shape of a rough square.

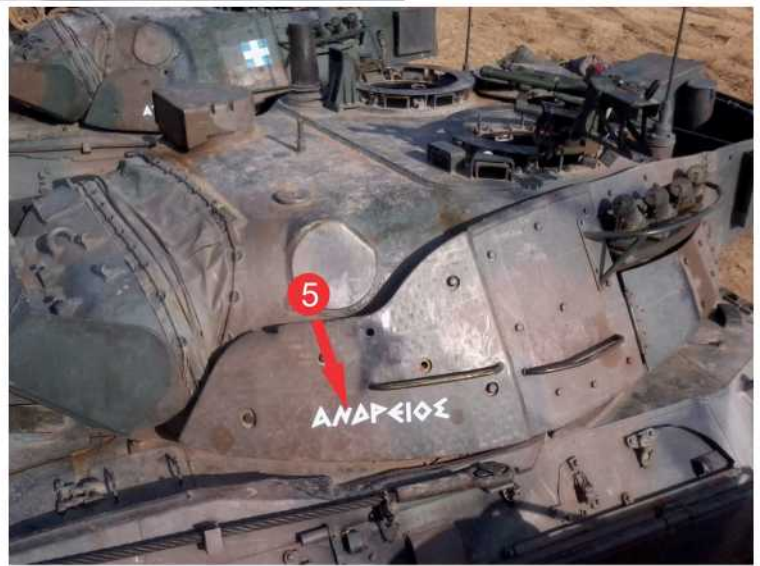


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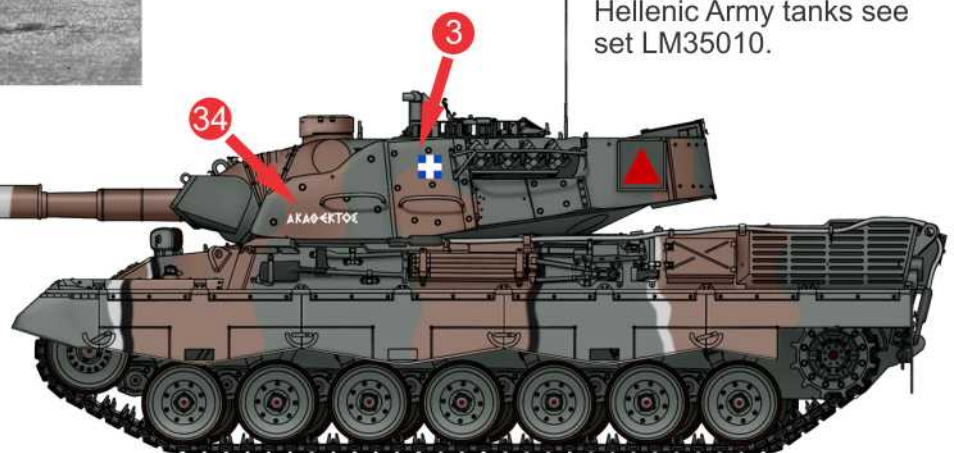
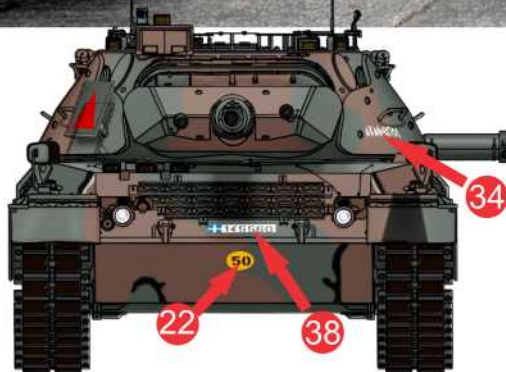


Photo: T. Metsovitis

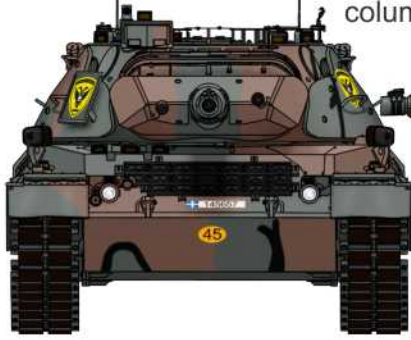
At some point the 7th Medium Tank Company applied names to the turret of some of their tanks in "ancient Greek" script. The name was only applied to the left side of the turret. The numbers of all these named tanks are not known.



NOTE: For the coloured tactical signs carried by Hellenic Army tanks see set LM35010.



If you enjoyed this set of markings you may also be interested in set LMX0070, which can be ordered separately. It contains anniversary markings for a tank painted specially to mark the 25th March Independence Day parade of 2018. This was the tank bearing the corps' flag, leading the Armoured Corps column.



Hellenic Army Leopard 1 tanks LM35011

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ATTENTION!

This symbol indicates that alternative markings are applicable in this position **OR** that the same marking applies to more than one colour scheme.

Disclaimer

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