

The M 24 in Hellenic Service

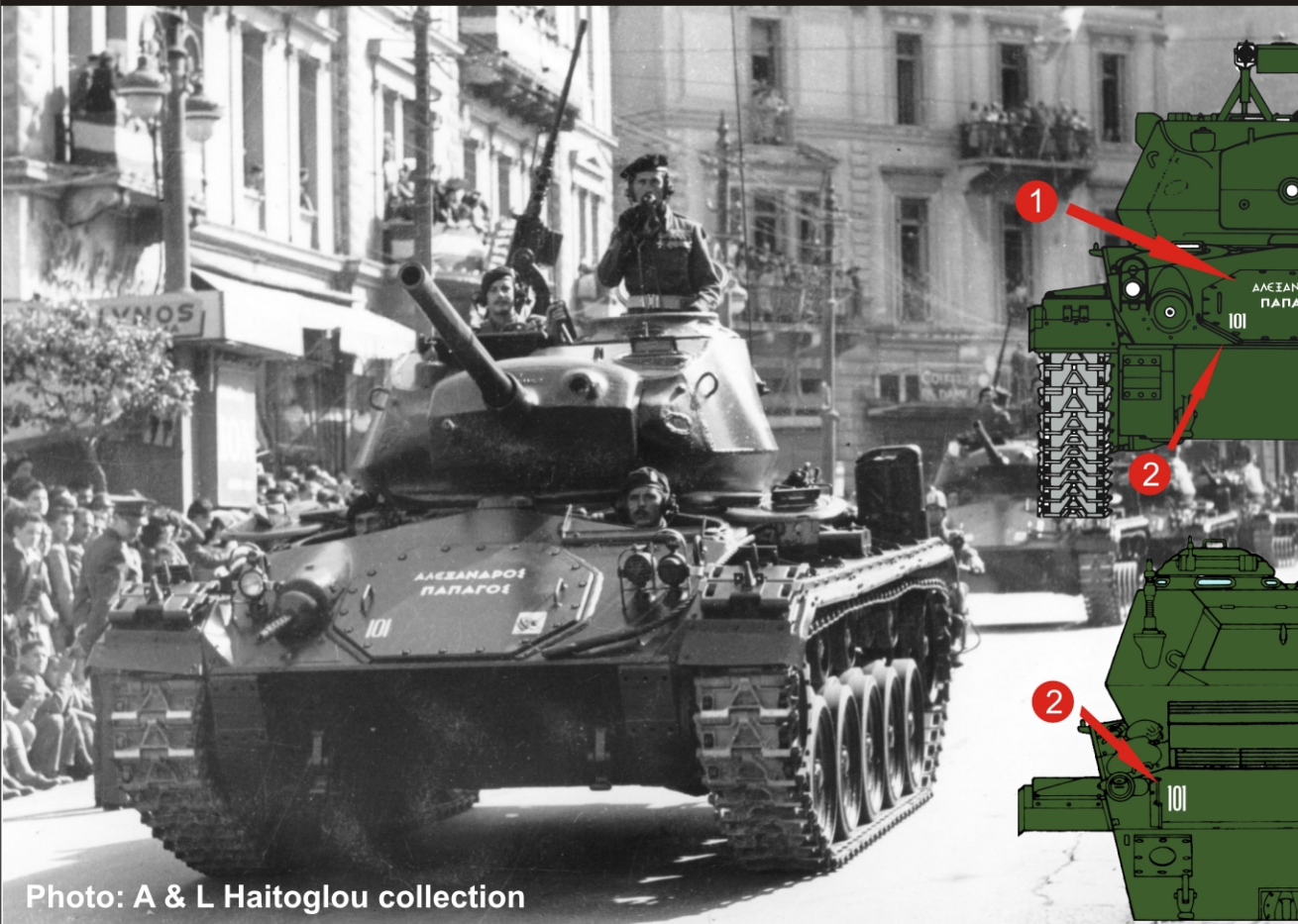
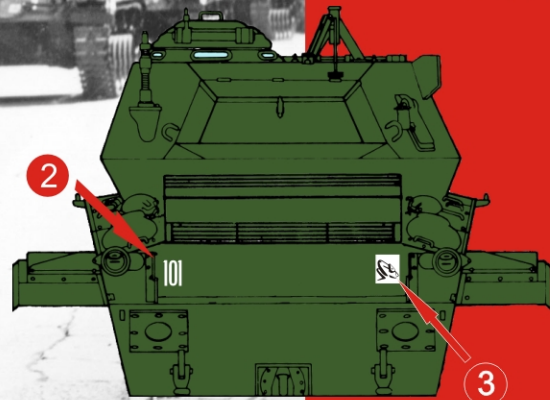
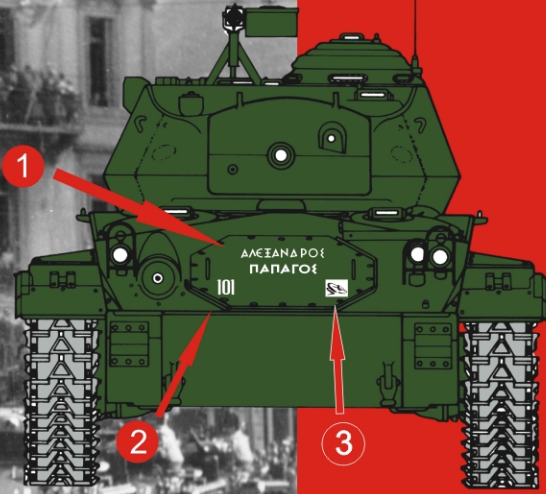
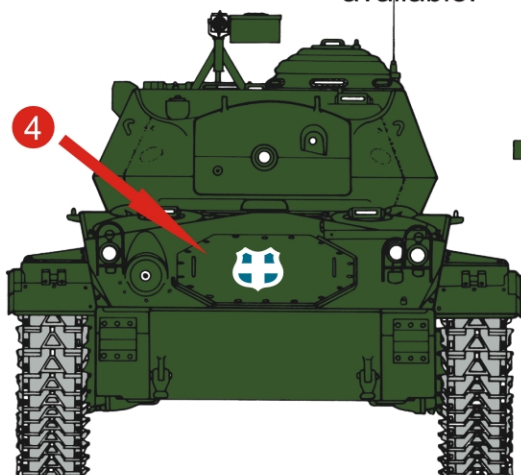


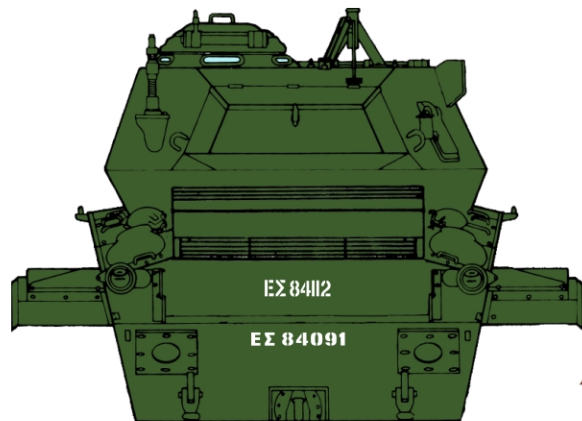
Photo: A & L Haitoglou collection



This is believed to be the M24's first public appearance in Athens, on 28th October 1950. These tanks belong to the armour school and carry its markings on the front plate. The leading tank also has the name "ALEXANDROS PAPAGOS" who at the time was the chief of the armed forces and the only ever officer in Greece to be awarded the rank of Field Marshal. When supplied these tanks were finished in the post-war shade of US Olive-drab. It is possible that for the parade they were repainted either in this shade or a similar one. No serial numbers appear to have been applied. The rear view is only speculative.

This M24 appeared in a parade in Salonika during the late '50s. It is believed that the oversize national crest on the glacis plate was applied for the occasion. No information about the rear view is available.

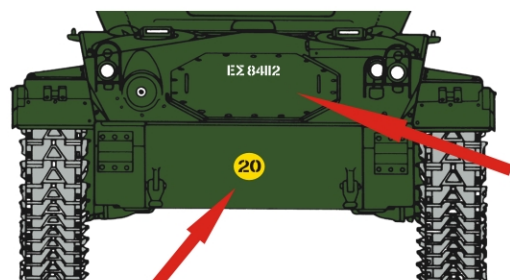




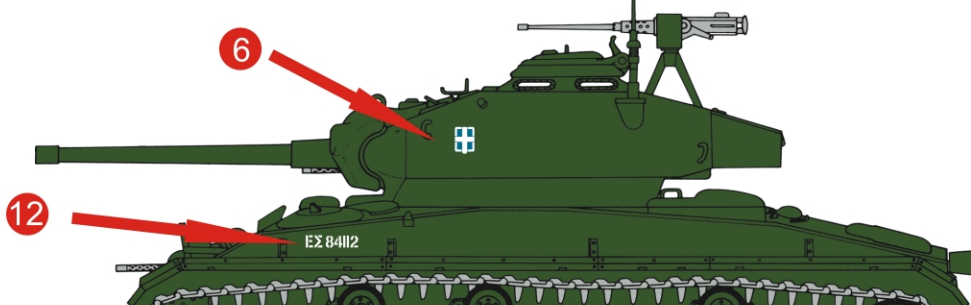
During the 1950's and '60s Greek tanks were finished overall in a dark shade of olive drab, similar to US tanks at the time. Markings consisted of the serial number applied to all four sides and the national crest on both sides of the turret. The style of the national crest varied from unit to unit. A bridge classification marking was applied to the lower glacis plate.



- 12 Although not much pictorial information is available it seems that the rear serial number could be applied in one of two positions. This applies to all tanks of this type.
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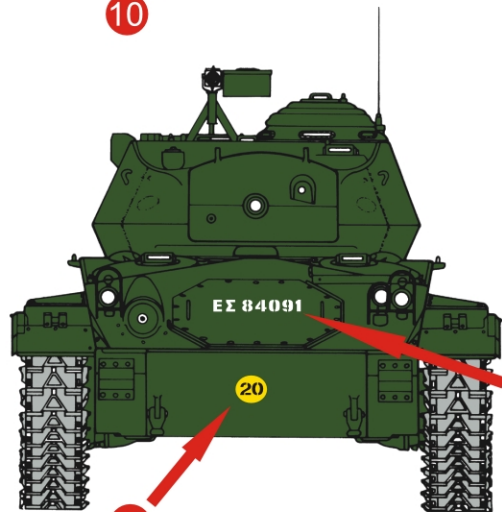


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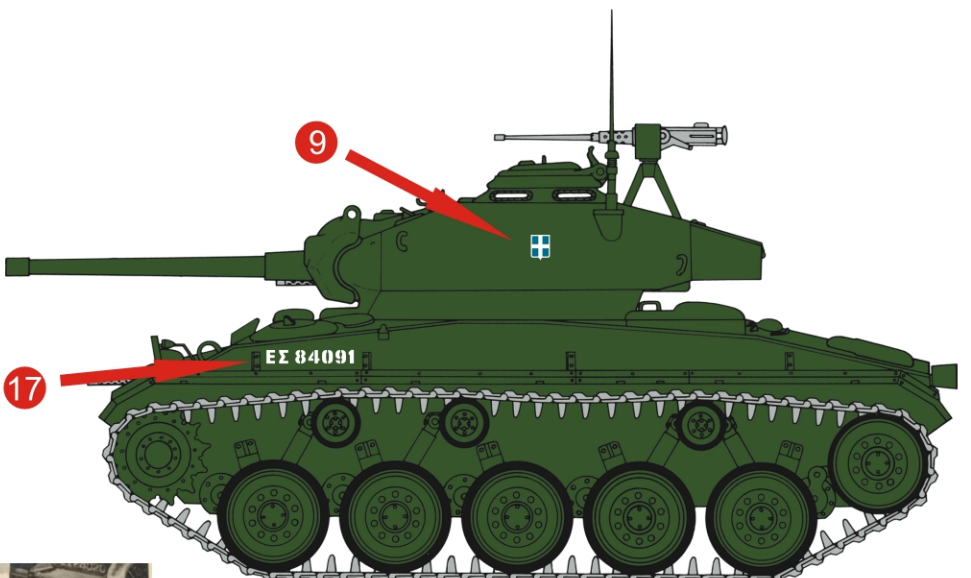


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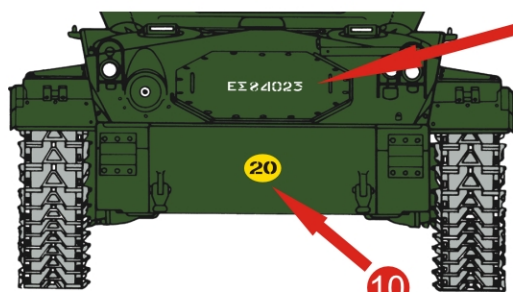
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Although this tank is fitted with a rear stowage rack, the serial number is painted above the rack.

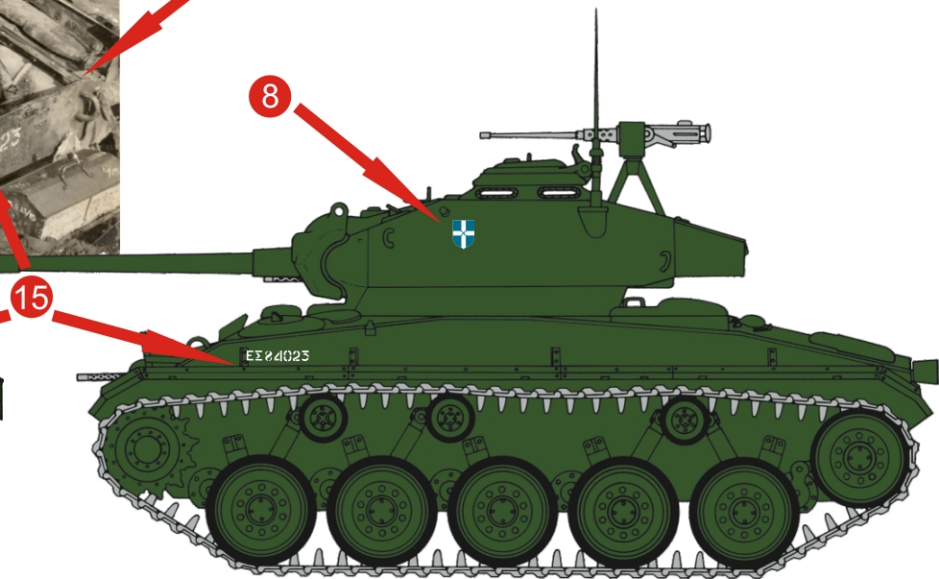
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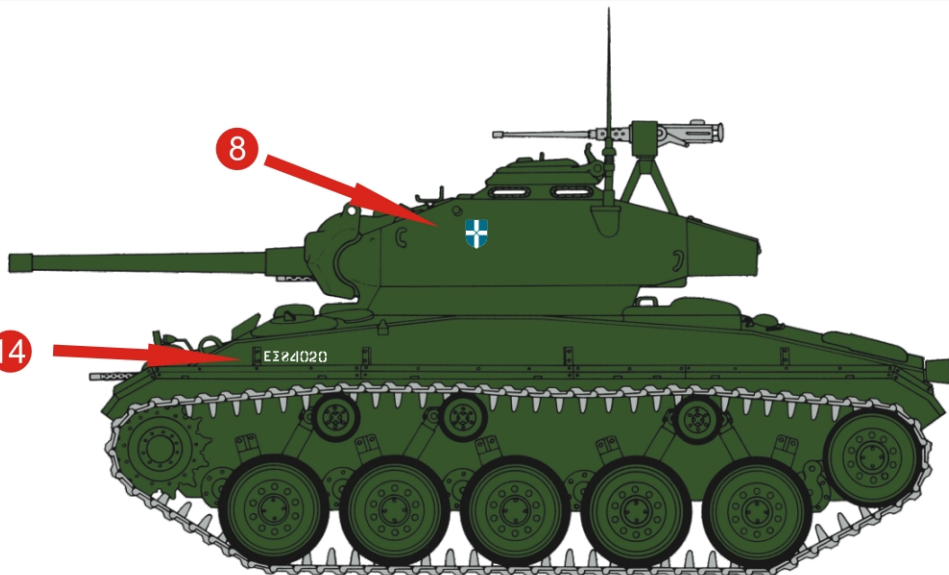
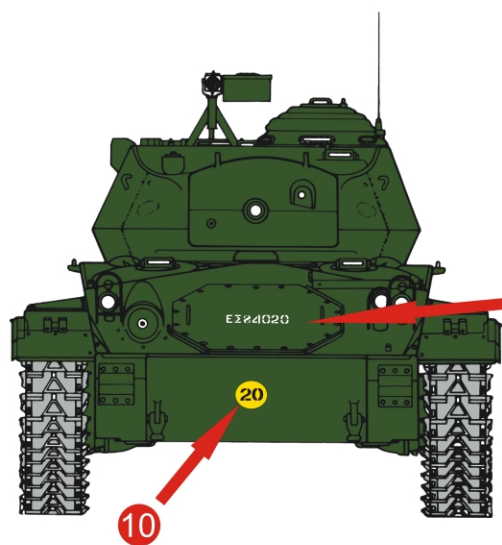
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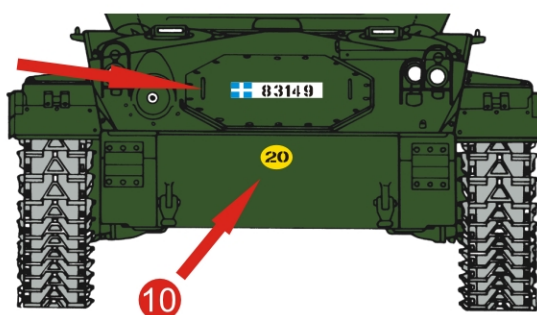
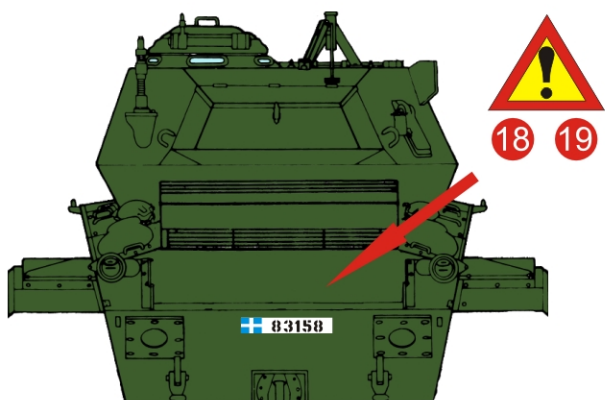
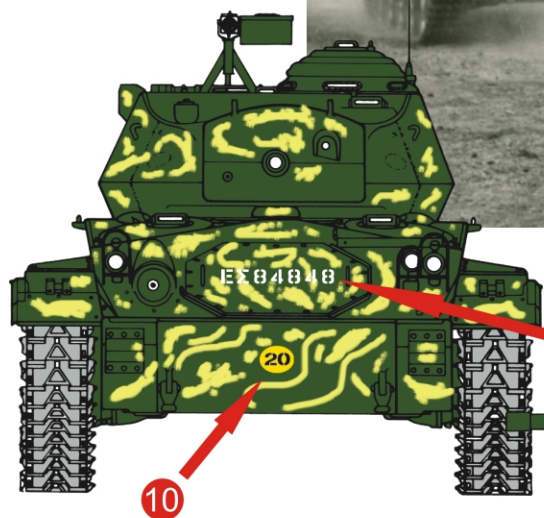
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To break up the overall Olive Drab finish temporary camouflage using mud and local vegetation was applied during exercises. The tanks in the photo have a rather elaborate temporary pattern. Wide irregular bands were much more common.

Photo: A & L Haitoglou collection



In 1967 Hellenic army markings were changed and standardised with NATO regulations. Vehicle numbers were now prefixed by a small Greek flag. The use of the national crest on the turret was discontinued.

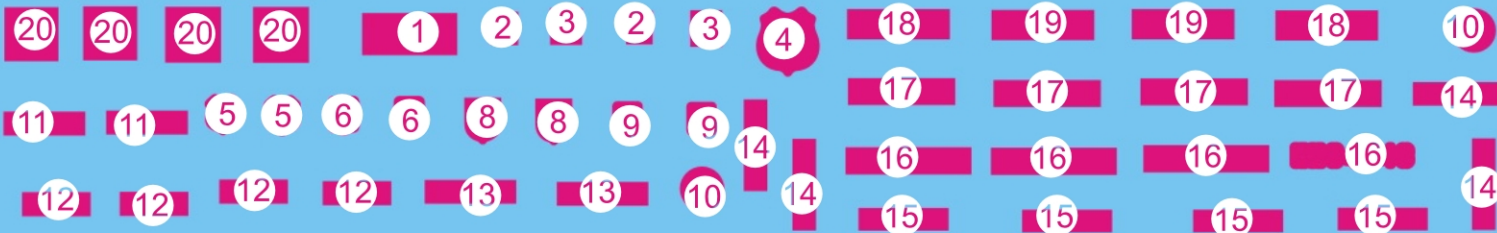


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This symbol indicates that alternative markings are applicable in this position **OR** that the same marking is applicable to more than one colour scheme.



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