



1. Introduction

These decals are intended for the Retrokit 1/72 Gun Carrier Mk I. Here you find the basics and if more detail is needed consult the work listed in the reference section.

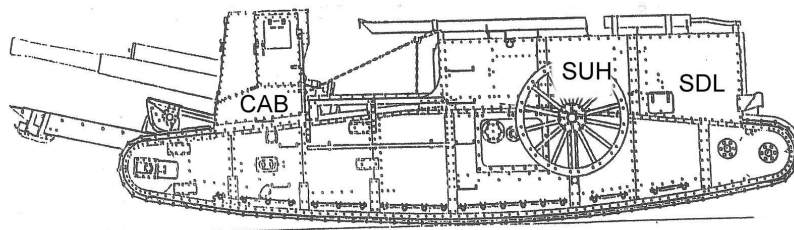
2. On the Gun Carrier Mk I itself

The Gun Carrier was suggested as a companion machine to the Mark I Tank, to carry forward medium artillery and ammunition over shell-torn ground covered with old and new trench systems. Forty-eight Gun Carriers were built (two similar machines were completed as Salvage Tanks), the majority of them by Kitson & Co at Leeds, by July 1917. In France, they were used far less for carrying artillery than ammunition. The vehicle was designed so that the 60-pdr. gun or the 6-inch howitzer could be fired from it, although from a practical point of view only the 6-in. howitzer could be used in this way: These weapons were employed in this fashion at night on a few occasions and achieved some tactical success, but the Gun Carrier companies were eventually converted into supply companies and carried other supplies as well as ammunition. When transporting a medium gun or howitzer, sixty-four rounds of ammunition could be carried or, without the weapon 130 rounds, or approximately seven tons of supplies. It was estimated that six Gun Carriers with their combined crews of twenty-four men could carry a load which would otherwise require 1745 men - the only practicable alternative form of cross-country transport.

2. Decal Placement

There are in general three possible spots to place these decals on, reflecting the actual usage. (See the sketch below.) for even more detail. They are:

- **Cab Side (CAB):** The marking (invariably the Nickname of the vehicle) is placed on the bottom panel of the Drivers Cab, both on the left & right side.
- **Side Up High (SUH):** The marking (invariably the word SUPPLY) is placed in the middle superstructure panel, and of course only on Supply Vehicle variants.
- **Side Down Low (SDL):** The marking (invariably the serial number) is placed low down on the back superstructure panel, slightly & above the small hatch.



3. The Decals

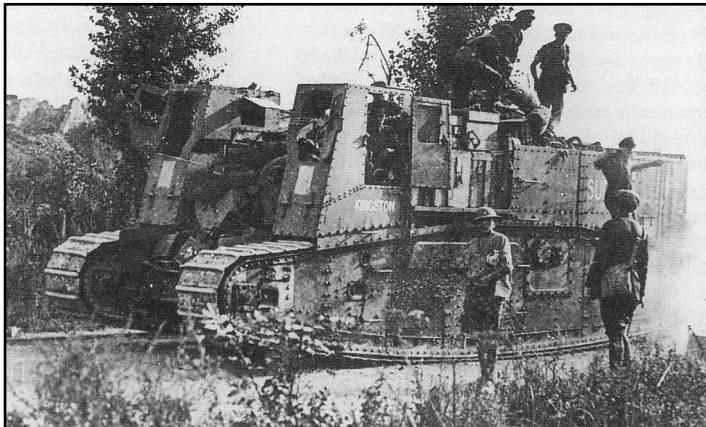
- **“Dublin” & “Darlington”** were nicknames used on Gun Carrier variants, both equipped with the 6-inch Howitzer. Both these names were placed **CAB**. “Darlington” had the serial number **GC 131** placed **SDL**. The Serial number of “Dublin” is unknown.
- **“Harwich” & “Kingston”** were nicknames used on Supply Carrier variants. Both these names were placed **CAB**. “Harwich” had the serial number **“GC 141”** placed **SDL**, plus the marking **“SUPPLY”** placed **SUH**. “Kingston” also had the marking **“SUPPLY”**, placed in the same spot, plus a Serial Number, placed **SDL**. The actual Serial Number of “Kingston” is unknown.

- **Using the decals “GC”** plus the numerals (“1, 2, 3... “ etc) any serial number used by Gun & Supply Carriers can be put together. The known combinations go from GC 100 up to GC 147. Refer if possible to photos of real vehicles.

4. Camouflage Schemes

The camouflage schemes used on Gun & Supply Carriers into two categories:

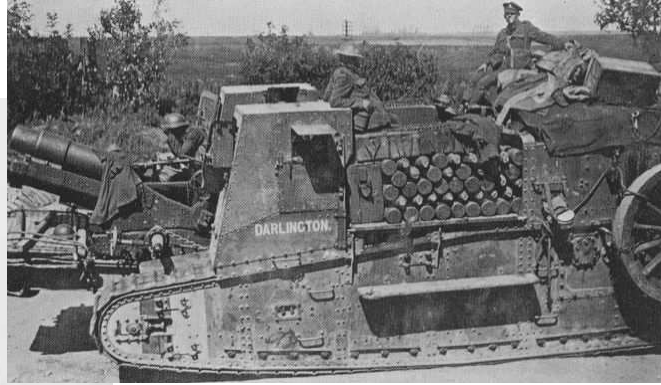
- The earliest scheme was a Light Medium Grey overall, but only experimental or training vehicles seems to have been painted in this way.
- All Gun & Supply Carriers used in action in France appears to have been painted the same way that the Tanks were painted, i.e. Dark Khaki Brown Overall. Any attempts to describe an exact hue is pointless, as this varied with different paint batches, and with the amount of sun and weather that the vehicle was exposed to, but a good approximation – based on paint found on surviving tanks – can be found in the Humbrol Matt 29.
- **National markings.** Gun & Supply Carriers also wore national markings. These came in use on British AFV’s in June 1918, as a direct order from GHQ, and constituted of three stripes of white-red-white on the utmost forward portion of the track assemblies. (The reason for using these colours, is that they were those of the Cavalry Corps.) Gun & Supply Carriers sometimes also had white rectangles on either the front of the cabs, below the front doors, sometimes above the Serial Number on the back. (Again, refer if possible to photos of real vehicles.)



5. References

David Fletcher: “The British Tanks 1915-19”. The Crowood Press 2001.
Thanks to Peter Kempf of www.landships.freeservers.com.

Gun / Supply carrier



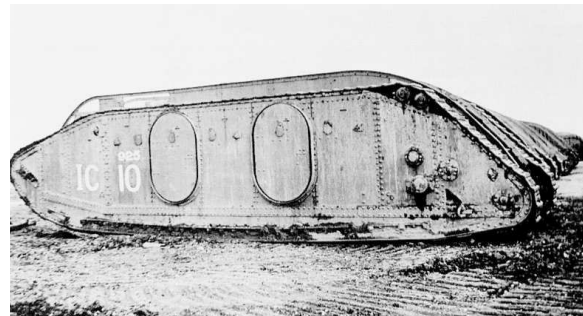
Recommended models:

- Mk IV tank: Emhar
- Mk I tank: Airfix, Masterbox
- Mk IX carrier: Early War Miniatures
- Gun carrier: Solfig (Retrokit France)

Conversion sets for the supply versions are available from Modelltrans.

DUBLIN	KINGSTON	DARLINGTON	HARWICH	Gun / Supply carrier	
DUBLIN	KINGSTON	DARLINGTON	HARWICH	SUPPLY	SUPPLY
GC141	GC131	GC	1 1 1 2 2 3 3 4 4 5 5 6 6 7 7 8 8 9 9 0 0		
GC141	GC131	GC	1 1 1 2 2 3 3 4 4 5 5 6 6 7 7 8 8 9 9 0 0		
SUPPLY		712	712	IC 10	IC 10
SUPPLY		B s	B s	IC 10	925
6041 6041		58	58	IC 10	925
		0000	0000		
Mk IV Supply tank		Mk I Supply tank		Mark IX carrier	

Mark IX carrier



Mk IV Supply tank



G1: Mark I supply tank *Dodo* of B Battalion, Heavy Branch, Machine Gun Corps; Messines, 7 June 1917

