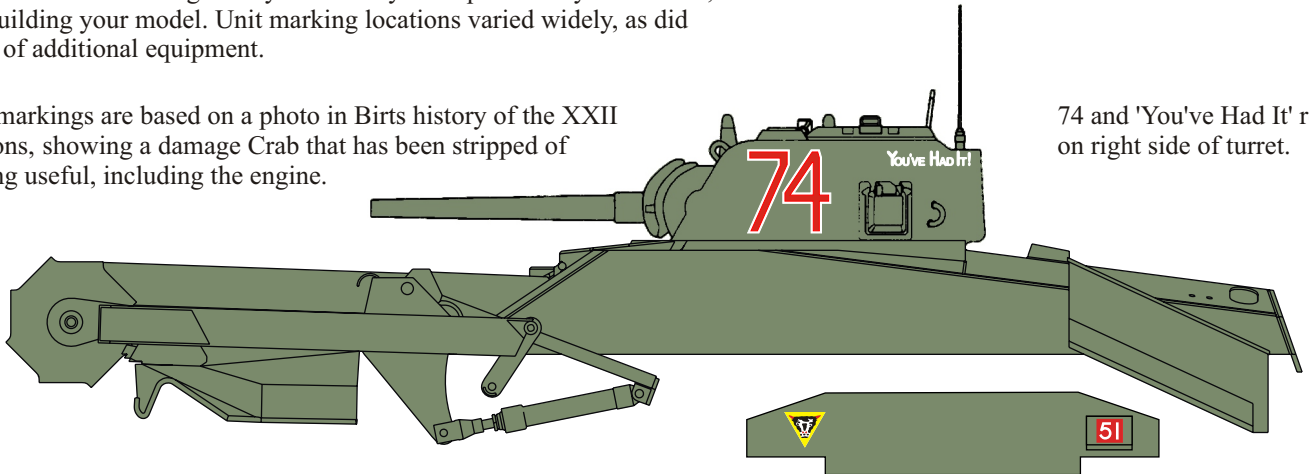


FIGHTING 48TH! 1:48 SCALE DECALS SET 10, NORMANDY CRABS

While the main markings on this decal sheet are designed from well-known war-time photographs, we haven't been able to confirm ALL of the markings outside the picture views, so some locations are conjectural. They are based on unit practise as seen in other pictures, but if you have any other information on these vehicles, or similar ones, we would be very pleased if you would share it with us! We can then print additional items, or corrected ones, in our next run of decals.

We would advise a thorough study of as many Crab photos as you can find, before building your model. Unit marking locations varied widely, as did stowage of additional equipment.

These markings are based on a photo in Birts history of the XXII Dragoons, showing a damage Crab that has been stripped of anything useful, including the engine.



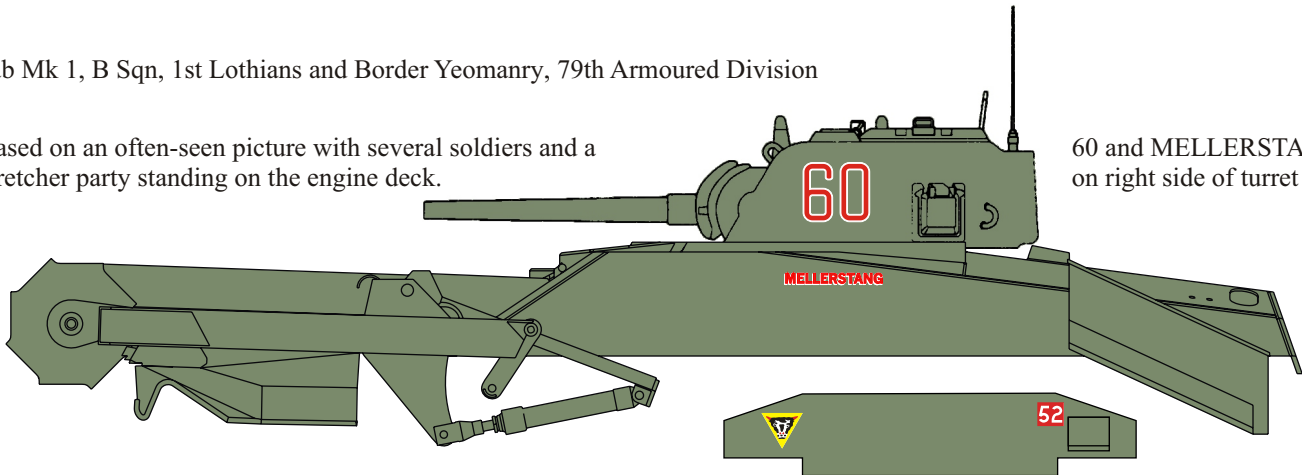
74 and 'You've Had It' repeated on right side of turret.

Crab Mk 1, C Sqn, 22nd Dragoons, 79th Armoured Division

Possible location for unit markings on the hull rear, as the box had been removed prior to the photo being taken.

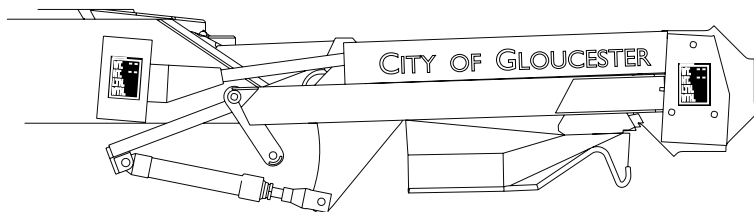
Crab Mk 1, B Sqn, 1st Lothians and Border Yeomanry, 79th Armoured Division

Based on an often-seen picture with several soldiers and a stretcher party standing on the engine deck.



60 and MELLERSTANG repeated on right side of turret and hull.

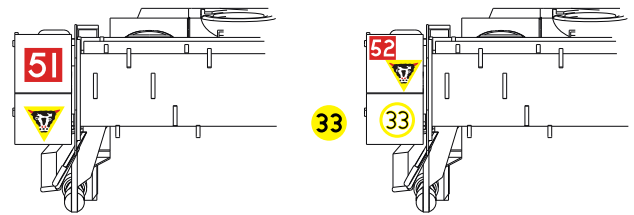
Possible placing of the weight and dimension tables for LCT and LST loading. Some were placed on the turret cheeks as well.



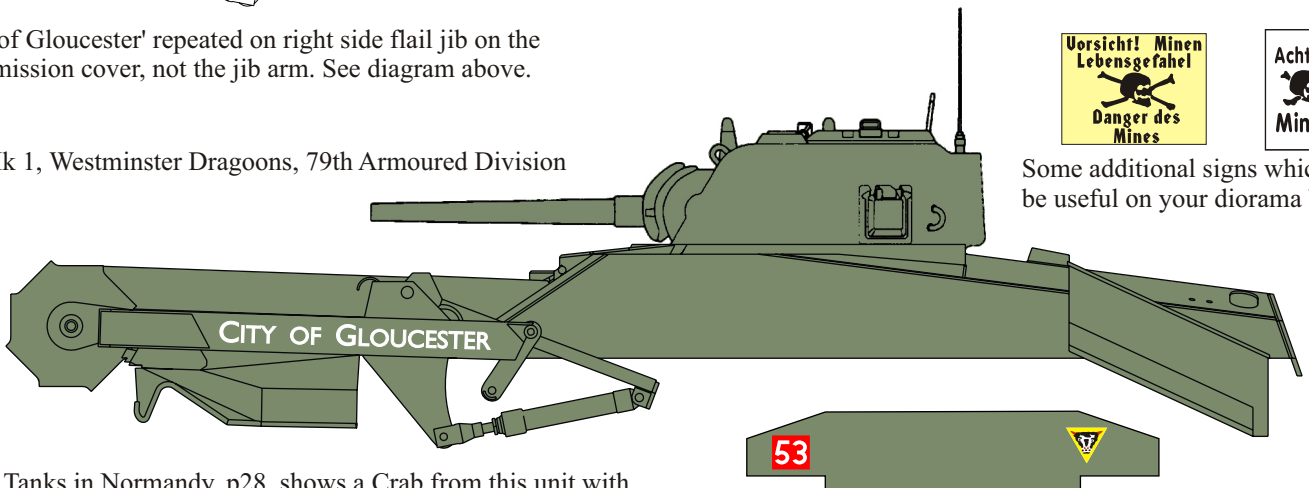
'City of Gloucester' repeated on right side flail jib on the transmission cover, not the jib arm. See diagram above.

Crab Mk 1, Westminster Dragoons, 79th Armoured Division

Alternate arrangements of markings on the roller gearbox shield.



Some additional signs which may be useful on your diorama bases!



British Tanks in Normandy, p28, shows a Crab from this unit with a star with a solid ring on the turret roof, although a turret number ending in a 3 is also seen in that picture.

1:48 AFV WATERSLIDE DECAL SETS

Thank you for purchasing this waterslide decal set. The Fighting 48th! decal range has been prepared to enable you to add accurate markings to your 1:48th model tanks and other military vehicles.

Most modellers will be familiar with waterslide transfers, but the following notes may be helpful.

Normal modelling tools such as craft knife, scissors, brushes and tweezers will all be very handy. Please notice the varnish carrier layer is printed right across the sheet so the images must be cut out individually. Dip the cut paper into warm water for a few seconds then place it on a smooth surface to allow the decal glue to soften. Don't leave the decal floating in the water as this will dissolve all the glue and it won't stick to your model.

Like all waterslide decals, these markings will settle down best onto a glossy surface. You could paint your model with gloss paints, apply the decals and then apply a matt varnish over the whole model. Alternatively the model can be glossed locally with varnish but this can lead to a patchy finish. You may want to experiment with your favourite finishing techniques to get the best effect.

The varnish will soften with decal solvents such as Micro Sol, but these decals are very tough, the ink is a bit stiffer than conventional screen printed ones. Make sure the solvent solution gets under the clear varnish carrier, as it has little effect on the printed ink. You may find it helpful to soak the decal in hot water if you want to apply them to a very curved surface.

REFERENCES

There have been literally thousands of books and magazine articles published over the years detailing the markings and camouflage of military vehicles. Our current range of British markings were designed with the help of the following books:

British Tanks in Normandy by Ludovic Fortin
British Military Markings 1939-45 by Hodges and Taylor
British Tank Markings and Names by B T White
British Tanks of WWII vol 1 and 2 by David Fletcher
British Armor in Sicily and Italy by Dennis Oliver
British and Commonwealth Armoured Formations
by Duncan Crow
Images of War, Sherman Tank by Gavin Birch
The Sherman Firefly by Mark Hayward
Mr Churchills Tank by David Fletcher

Military Modelling Magazine, numerous issues
Osprey Publications, numerous volumes

There are lots of web sites on the Internet which include lots of information, so careful use of 'Google' will turn up plenty to help you. Two sites we use frequently are www.missing-lynx.com, which covers all aspects of military vehicle modelling, and www.track48.com, which concentrates on various aspects of 1:48th scale. Both sites have very active forums, where information and ideas can be exchanged; both well worth a visit!

Brush some decal solvent onto the model where the marking is going to be placed. Holding the blue carrier paper with tweezers, gently slide the decal so that a millimeter or so of the clear varnish projects over the edge. Place the decal onto the model so the varnish touches the model, then pull the blue carrier paper away leaving the decal on the model. You can move the decal into its final position with the brush.

Once the decal is in its final position, another coat of solvent will help settle it down. Let it dry thoroughly before touching it again!

Once dry you can overcoat the model with a compatible varnish to seal the decals and give the overall finish required. Clear lacquers MUST NOT be brushed over these decals as the solvents will dissolve the ink. If you use a solvent-based varnish, it should be misted on very finely with an airbrush, allowing plenty of time between coats. Acrylic varnishes are usually safe to be used, but we would always recommend testing varnishes or lacquers on the paint and decals before possibly ruining your model.

If you have any suggestions or comments do get in touch with us. You can see the rest of our range of decals, as well as our cast resin and photo-etched parts for 1:48th armoured vehicles.

e-mail info@fighting48th.com
www.fighting48th.com for the latest news!

CONTACT & GUARANTEE

We want you to enjoy using these decals to enhance your models. And of course, we would like you to buy other products from us as well! Have a look at our web site www.fighting48th.com for details of our whole range of resin, photo etched brass, decals and books, all for the 1:48th scale AFV modeller.

We are aiming to add sets to this range directly in response to requests from our customers so if there is a particular marking you need for your project, do get in touch. If we have missed anything in these instructions, or you have a suggestion as to how this set might be improved, drop us a line. We will endeavor to incorporate these into the next production runs, as well as future kit projects. Our e-mail and snail-mail addresses are below.

If you have ANY problems, let us know immediately. We will always replace missing or broken parts. All of our products are backed with a money back guarantee. Provided the kit has not been started, send it back to us for a full refund.

So if there is something you don't like, TELL US!
If you loved the decals, TELL YOUR FRIENDS!

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www.fighting48th.com for the latest news!