



## Mouse Armour

1/35 scale decals  
MA634  
Australian Centurion Mk.5/1  
tanks at FSB Balmoral 1968

Researched by John Myszkza

### Background

Australian Centurion tanks and M113A1s of C Squadron 1<sup>st</sup> Armoured Regiment were deployed to FSB Balmoral and Balmoral in May – June 1968.

These decals are for the four Centurion Mk.5/1 gun tanks of 2 Troop that were deployed at FSB Balmoral. 2 Troop was commanded by Lt Mick Butler and contained four Centurion gun tanks whose callsign were 32 / 32A / 32B / 32C and Fitters Track 38C.

### Modelling Notes

At the time that these Centurions saw action at FSB Balmoral they had only been in country for one month. The centurions had very little exposure to the thick jungle so at this time had not made any modifications due to service in Vietnam. Bearing this in mind the Centurions (as produced by AFV Club) should have:

- Smoke dischargers in place (section 19)
- Long march driver's hood (SPRUE H part 20 section 16 replaces spare track)
- Front double light guards (part 12 and 18 sprue b)
- Spare track between light guards

### Do not include:

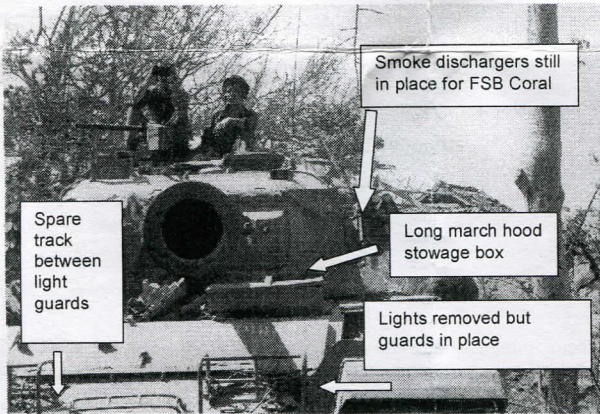
- SPARE WHEELS AND OMEGA BRACKETS ON GLACIS PLATE (F28)
- REMOVE OMEGA BRACKET ATTACHMENT POINTS ON PART F23
- MACHINE GUN AMMO LINERS ON TURRET ROOF (F25-27)

### Tools

Handy tools would include a sharp model knife and a set of fine nose tweezers and decal setting solution.

### Decal Application.

These decals are printed onto a single sheet of decal paper. This means that you will need to carefully cut through the decal sheet for each decal and then soak it in cold water. The decal will separate from the decal paper fairly quickly – so be watchful. The decal can then be slid on to the model. Be aware that if the model has been painted with matt paints some decal softening solution will need to be applied to avoid the trapping of air under the decal itself and thus eliminate "silvering" of the decals.



Above - Australian Centurion Mk.5/1 ARN 169049 Callsign 31

Alternatively coat the whole model in gloss varnish and after this has dried apply the decals. Finally seal with matt varnish and weather.

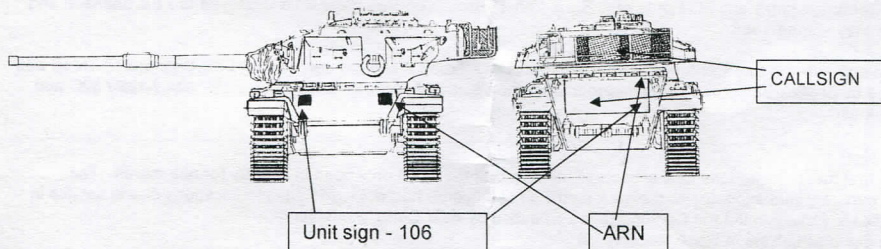
### General

**Army Registration Number (ARN)** was seen on the right front of the glacis plate and right rear of the fuel tank. The **RAAC flash with the unit number (106)** was seen on the left front of the glacis plate and right rear of the fuel tank. Below the ARN.

A **small callsign** was generally carried on a board / plate attached to the centre of the rear turret basket. A **large callsign** was carried on the rear fuel tank. For 1 troop at this time it was on the left side of the fuel tank. See illustration below.

The **vehicle name** was placed on the centre of the middle (long) bin below the bin lid handle.

### General placement of standard markings



### 2 Troop May – June 1968

Callsign	ARN	Name
169069	32 Mick Butler	No name
169037	32A Len Allen	No name
169099	32B Dennis Britten	No name
169072	32C Trevor Lowe	No name
134371	38C	ROCK



### M113A1 APC 134203 Callsign 22B

One of the few carriers that has been documented that was fitted with 50 cal with gun shield, an M74C turret and then twin 30 cal in a gunshield. As far as can be determined it served in SVN from May 1968 until March 1969 when it was returned to Australia beyond local repair (BLR)



Also seen with M74C twin 30 cal turret

