

NOTE: The front tow hooks have been relocated half way up the glacis plate. The additional armour that is part of the Mk.5/1 upgrade does not have cut outs for the tow hooks on the leading edge of the additional armour like the Centurion gun tanks. Use 40thou plastic sheet to make a new dozer glacis armour plate by using the AFV Club glacis armour plate as a template but do not make the tow hook cut outs as per image above.



## Mouse Armour

1/35 scale kit  
MA614  
Centurion Dozers in Vietnam 1968-71

Researched by John Myszk

### Background

The Australian Army had acquired four Centurion dozer kits in 1961. Three of the four Centurion Dozers served in Vietnam. One Centurion Dozer did two tours ARN 169106. Dozers had a different glacis armour plate and mounting points for the front tow hooks – see last page for image.

ARN	Callsign	Arrived in Vietnam	Returned to Australia
169071	92A	February 1970	June 1971
169079	92C	April 1968	August 1970
169106	92A	April 1968	February 1970
169106	5A	April 1971	September 1971

### 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.

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

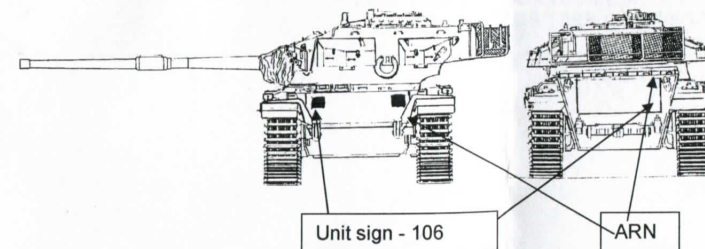
### Centurion evolution of modifications whilst serving in Vietnam 1968-1971

The Centurions went through a set of modifications whilst they served in Vietnam as a result of experience. To see what these were go to our website [www.mheaust.com.au/Aust/Research/Cent091/Cent%20evolution.htm](http://www.mheaust.com.au/Aust/Research/Cent091/Cent%20evolution.htm). These modifications applied to gun tanks as well as Dozers. This may not have applied to the carrying of spare wheel brackets.

### General placement of standard markings

The Australian Centurion tank in Vietnam carried a number of standard markings:

The **army registration number (ARN)** appeared on the glacis (top left) and rear 100 gallon fuel tank (top right). The **arm of service** marking both front and back – when facing the tank top right of the additional armour on the glacis and **Callsigns** were generally carried on the rear fuel tank and on the centre of the stowage basket. When on the stowage basket they were painted onto sheets of metal plate. In model form 10thou sheet can be used. Some carried callsigns in both these positions and some only in one of the two places.

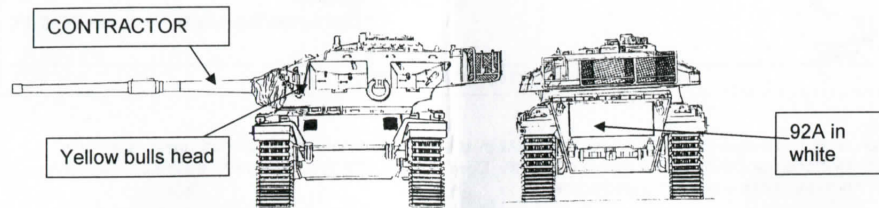


### NOTE:

Centurion Dozers in Vietnam were not all that well photographed. The emblem of Special Equipment troop (SEQ Troop) was a bull's head and this has been seen in either yellow or white on the forward face of the turret stowage bins. Generally there are no walkarounds of any vehicle to give a clear set of markings.



**ARN 169071 CONTRACTOR A Squadron February 1970**



Contractor was a dozer tank and the barrel name was mounted just forward of the mantelet on the barrel and only on the driver's side. The yellow bull's head was mounted centrally on the forward face of the front stowage bin (loaders side of the turret)

**ARN 169071 Callsign 92A - 29 August 1970 the M113A1 T50 Nympho incident (AWM photo reference P00592.007 and P04665.970)**

**Decals - 5 / 6 / 8 / 9 / 3**

Vehicle notes: the tank dozer had steel mudguards and stowage bin reinforcements  
The callsign (92A was had large black numbers with white shadowing on a yellow board). . Other generic markings - see above.

**ARN 169106 Callsign 92A - 22 May 1968 en route to FSPB Coral (AWM photo reference ERR/68/0534/VN)**

**Decals - 2 / 6 / 8 / 9**

This Centurion Dozer hit a road mine outside the US Army base at Black Horse while on its way to FSPB Coral. The front right suspension unit was blown off. It was replaced and continued on its way to FSPB Coral the next day  
Vehicle notes - coils of barb wire on rear fuel tank, water jerrycans in turret basket, no spare wheels

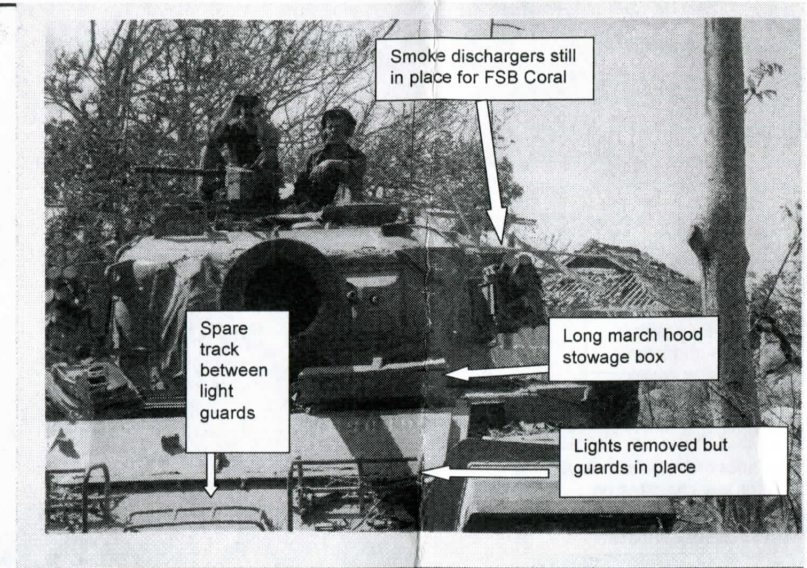
**Modelling Notes**

At the time that these Centurions saw action at FSPB Coral 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 BRACKET ON GLACIS PLATE (F28)
- REMOVE OMEGA BRACKET ATTACHMENT POINTS ON PART F23
- MACHINE GUN AMMO LINERS ON TURRET ROOF (F25-27)



Above - Australian Centurion Mk.5/1 gun tank ARN 169049 Callsign 31 - Tank dozer fitments would have been the same for this period.

**ARN 169106 Callsign 92A - June 1969 en route past Binh Ba village (AWM photo reference P06316.004)**

**Decals - 2 (callsign 92A) / 6 / 8 / 9**

This Centurion Dozer was attacked by RPGs and this started the battle of Binh Ba.

**ARN 169079 Callsign 92C 1969 (AWM photo reference P06318.015)**

**Decals - 2 (callsign 92C) / 4 / 6 / 8 / 9**

Woody the Woodpecker seen at Nui Dat 106 Field Workshop premises "The Opera House".

**ARN 169106 Callsign 5A SLEEPER "The Courtney Feature" June 1971 (AWM photo reference P06316.004 & P07256.032)**

**Decals - 2 (callsign 5A) / 6 / 8 / 9 / 10**

Vehicle notes: the tank dozer had steel mudguards and stowage bin reinforcements and carried two spare wheels on the glacis plate  
Callsign carried on the centre rear of the turret basket and consisted of a white 5A. The vehicle name was on the right side of the barrel only between the mantelet and bore evacuator. Other generic markings - see above.

**Additional items stocked by Mouse House Enterprises that can be used with this conversion.**

- MA111 - Centurion update detail set
- MA127 - Steel plate mudguards and bin reinforcements 1969-71
- MA302 - Australian pattern water jerrycans
- Mouse House paint - MAP01 Olive Drab lustreless