

MkIV was developed from the MkI/II/III series, with totally redesigned male and female sponsons. The sponsons were smaller, did not hang up in heavy going and the sponsons could be retracted inside the hull for rail transportation. The main weapon was changed to a shorter 6 pdr quick-firing gun so it didn't get hung up in ditches or ram the muzzle into the dirt. The wheeled tail was dispensed with as unnecessary. The flush-mounted circular top hatch was changed to a raised angular oblong one. The exhaust now had a muffler and an exhaust pipe.

Rails were added to the tops of some MkIV's to carry an unditching beam; earlier unditching experiments included an individual torpedo spud spar attached to each track. The fuel tank was moved from the inside of the fighting compartment to a safer location at the rear of the hull.

The first encounter between British and German tanks revealed the vulnerability of the female tanks facing gun-armed tanks. The result was the "hermaphrodite" or mixed-sex tank. One or the other female sponson was switched with a male sponson from another tank, producing two tanks that each had one male and one female sponson. Evidence is a bit sketchy, especially since photos usually show only one side of a particular vehicle.

The MkIV was deployed in companies of 12 vehicles, usually 8 females and 4 males. Three companies made a battalion. There were initially 6 battalions, lettered A through F. Individual tank names, when applied, started with the battalion letter and vehicles in a battalion were numbered consecutively from the first company through the last company. More battalions were raised later, and all were numbered 1st through 12th, but the naming pattern was retained even for battalions that had never had a letter title. Late in the war, battalions were organized into 4 brigades of 3 battalions each.

There were 420 Male MkIV's and 595 Female MkIV's built, making it one of the most significant tank in terms of numbers used.

B.28 "Black Prince" was a MkIV male in "B" Battalion. Captured at Cambrai. Final fate is unknown.



B.28 "Black Arrow"

Mk IV (Male)

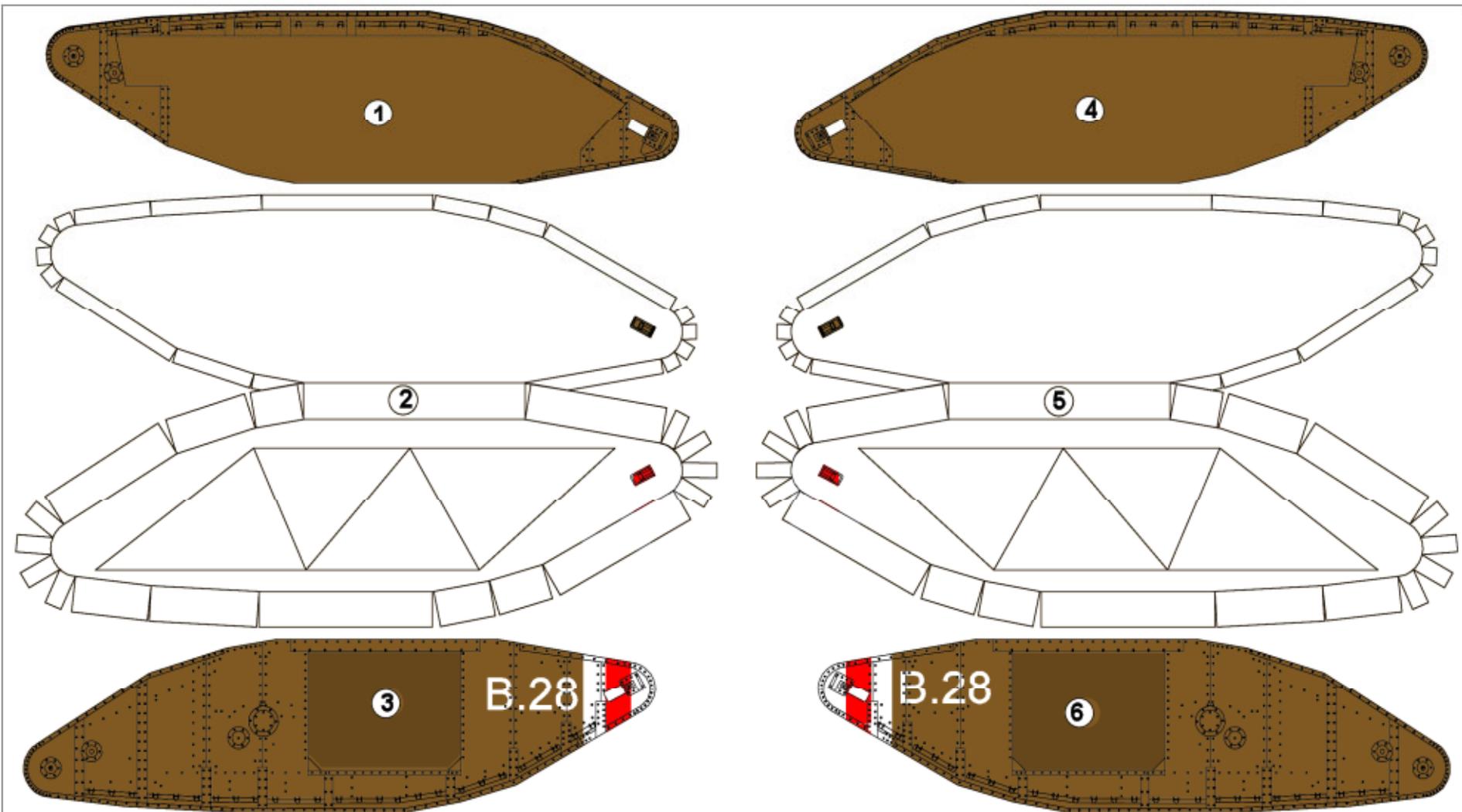
WWI British Heavy Tank

1/72 Scale

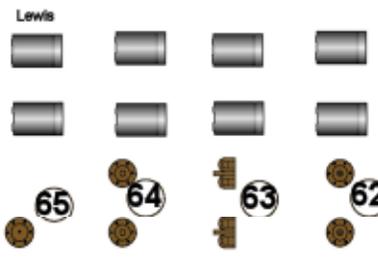
copyright 2006 Clifton W. McCullough

filename = "72.MKIV.B28.100.pdf"





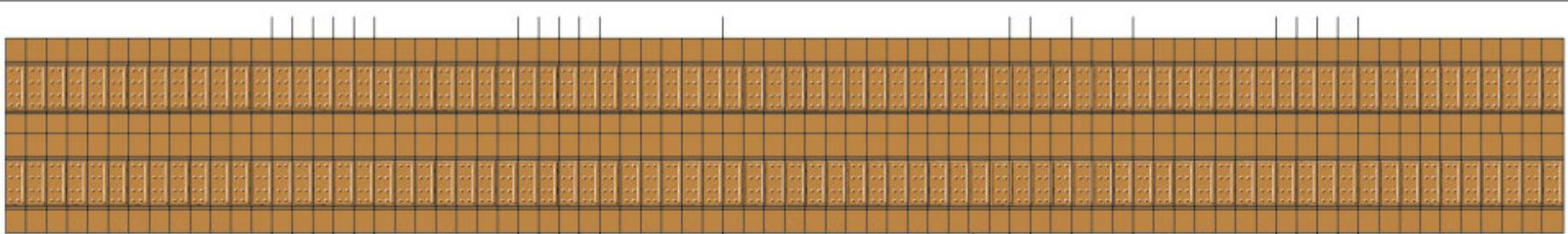
| | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|--|--|--|
| | | 8 | | | | |
| | | 8 | | | | |
| 7 | | | | | | |
| 7 | | | | | | |



B28 "Black Arrow"

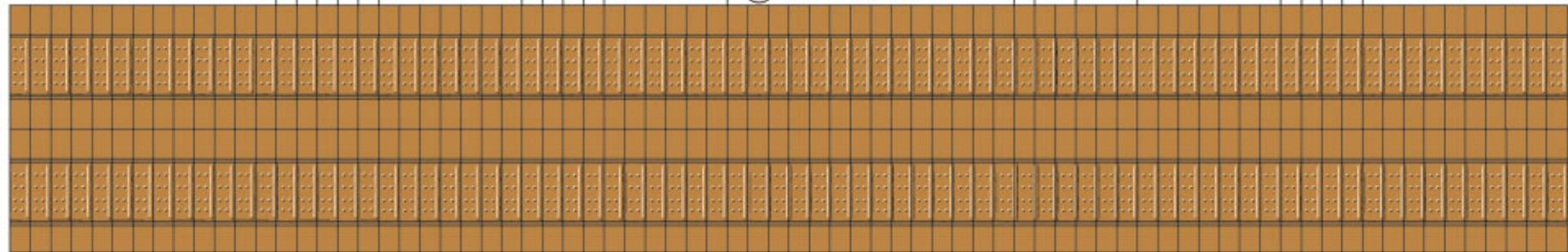
Heavy Tank MkIV
 UK WWI
 Scale 1/72

copyright 2006 Clifton W. McCullough
 (Sheet 1 of 3)

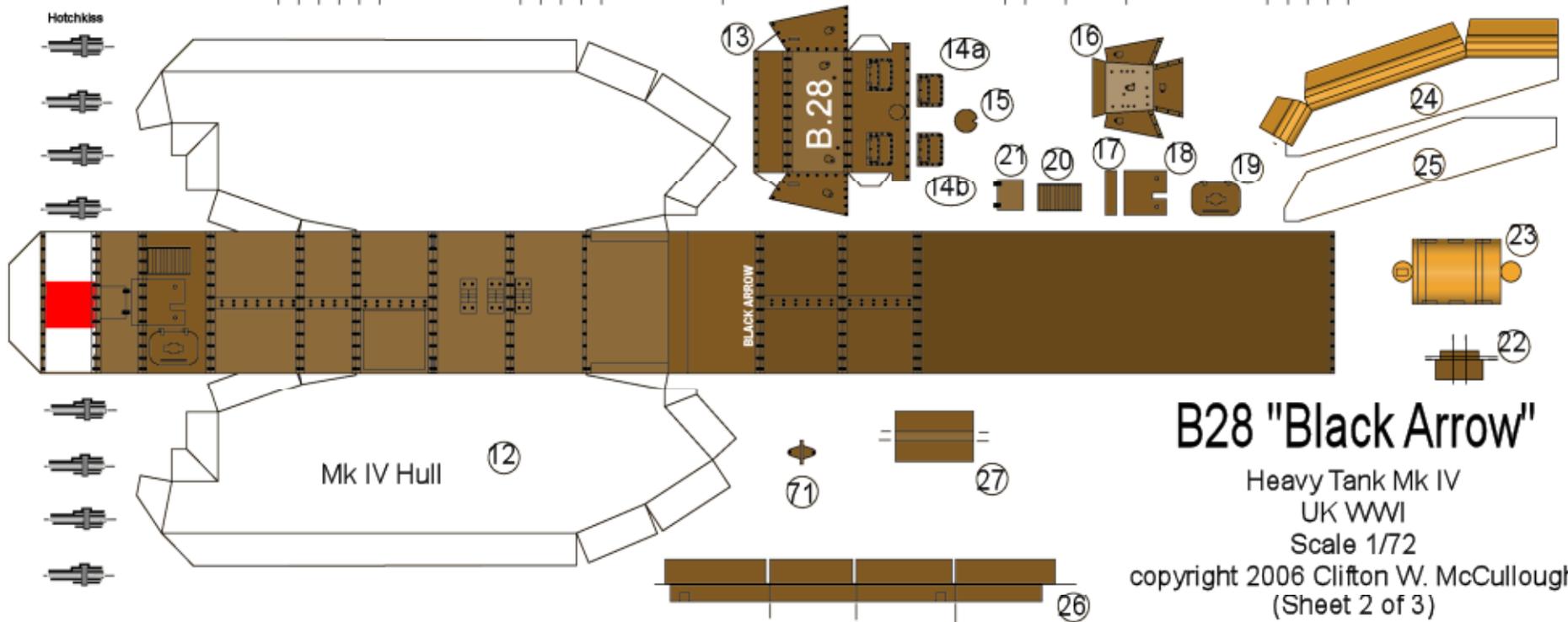
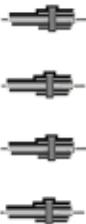


9a narrow tracks

9b wide tracks



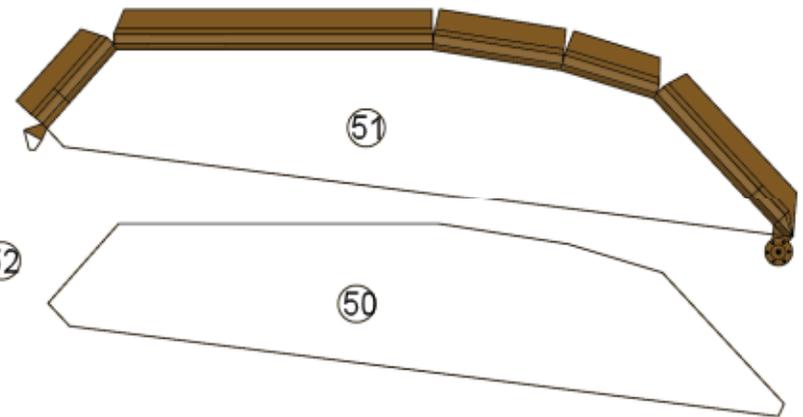
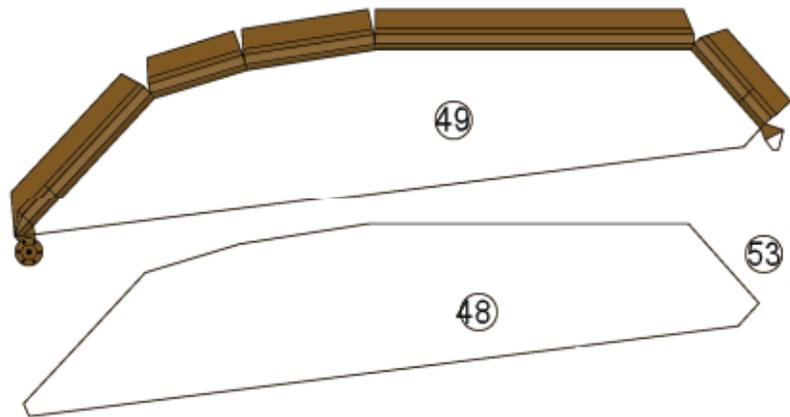
Hotchkiss



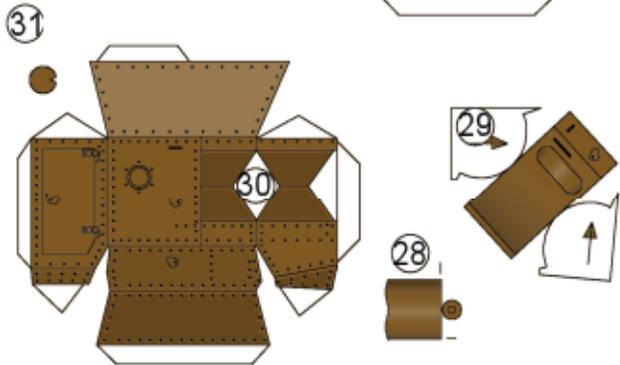
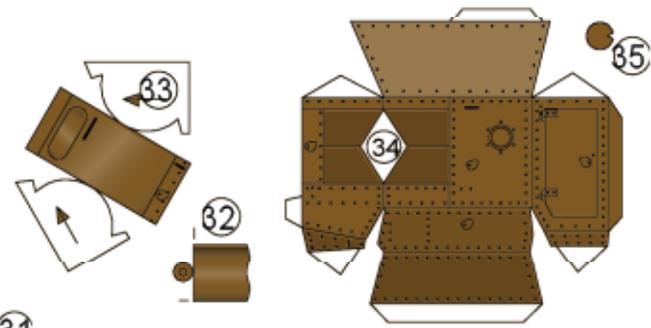
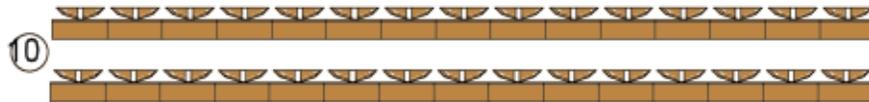
B28 "Black Arrow"

Heavy Tank Mk IV
UK WWI
Scale 1/72

copyright 2006 Clifton W. McCullough
(Sheet 2 of 3)



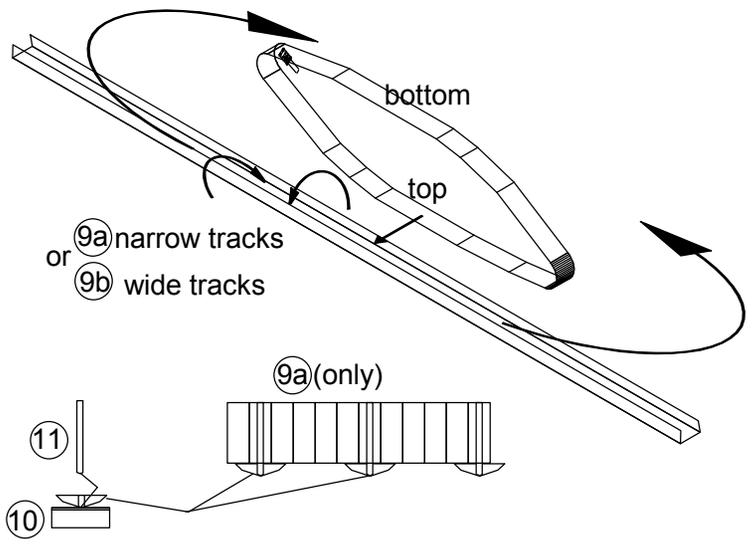
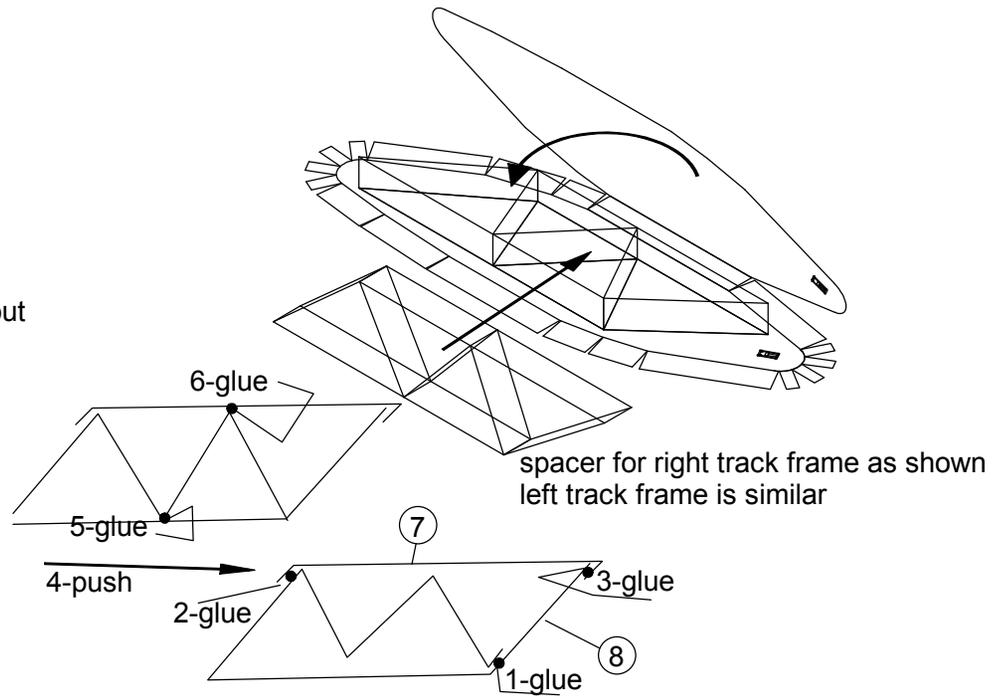
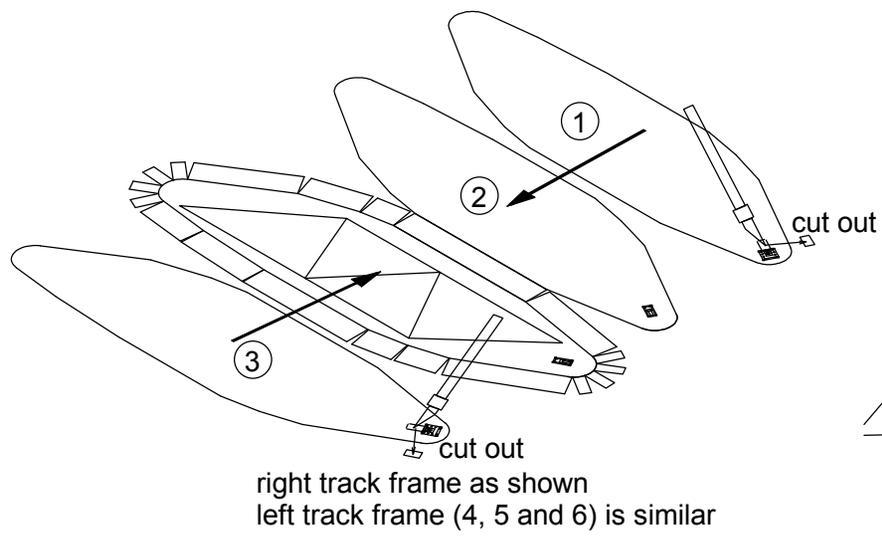
spuds for narrow tracks (9a)



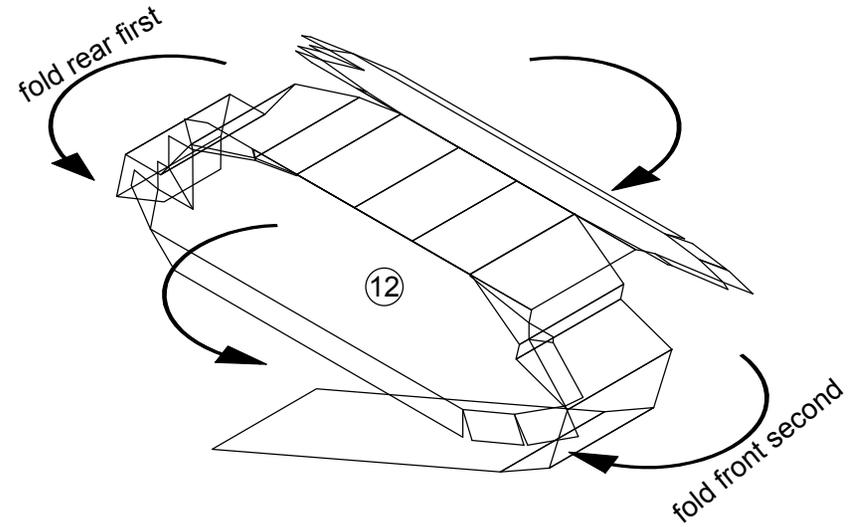
B28 "Black Arrow"

Heavy Tank MKIV
UK WWI
Scale 1/72

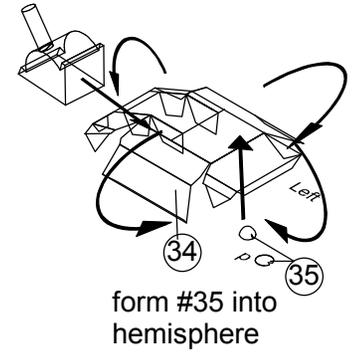
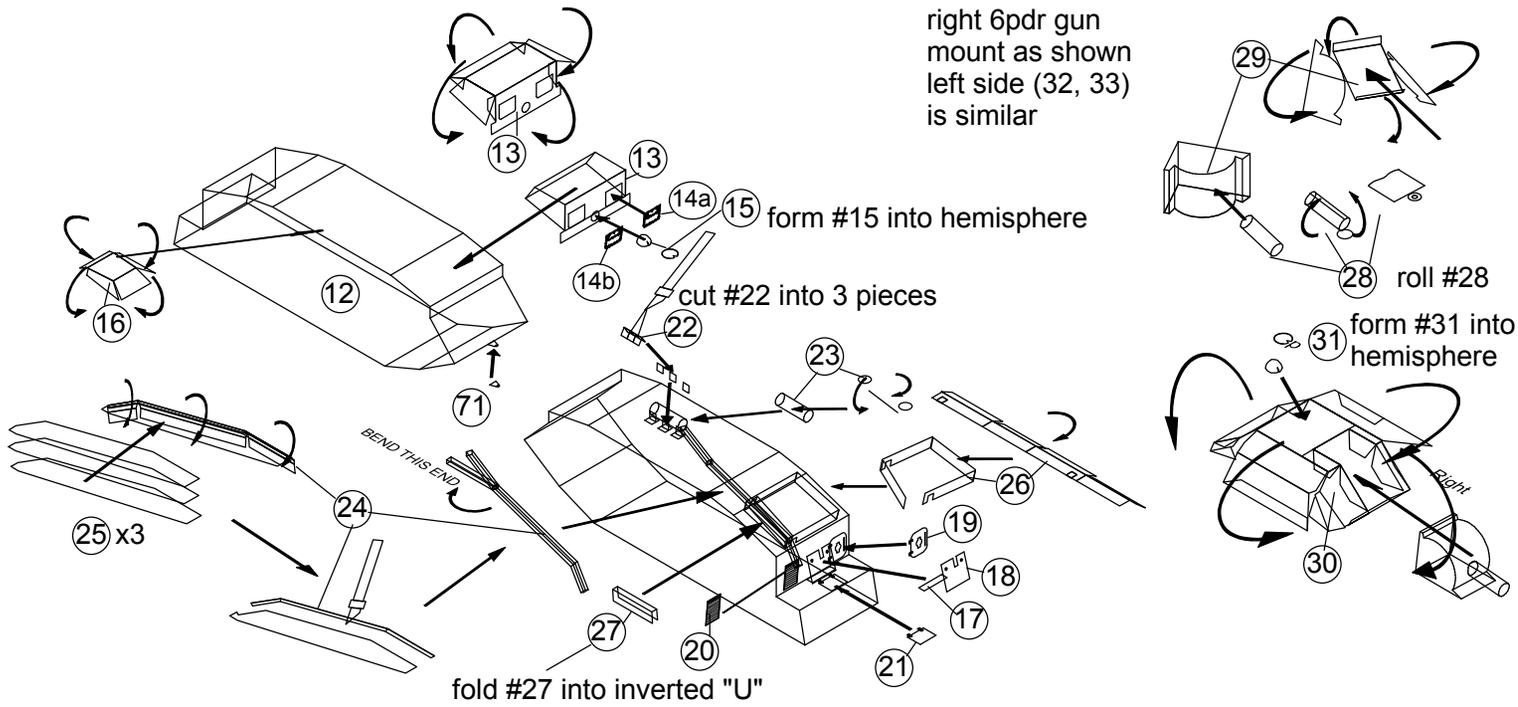
copyright 2006 Clifton W. McCullough
(Sheet 3 of 3)



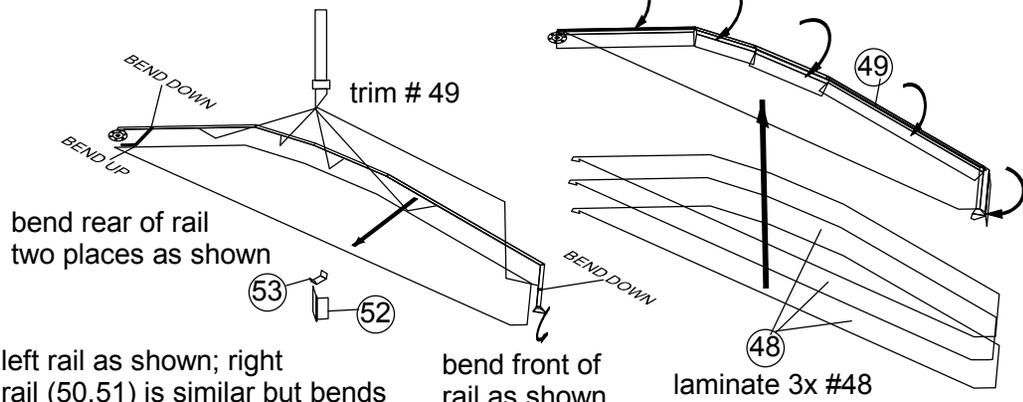
track spuds (10, 11) were used sometimes with narrow track (9a) only, one per 5 or 6 track links. Wide track (9b) was developed to provide traction similar to narrow tracks with spuds



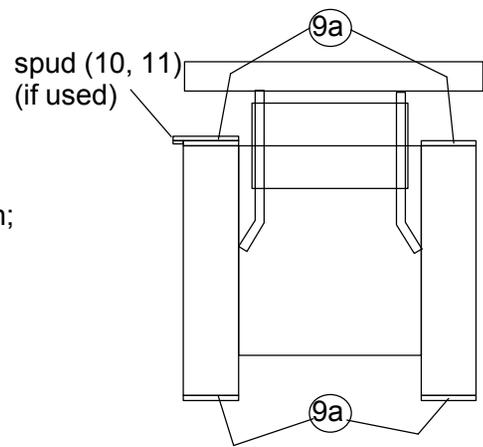
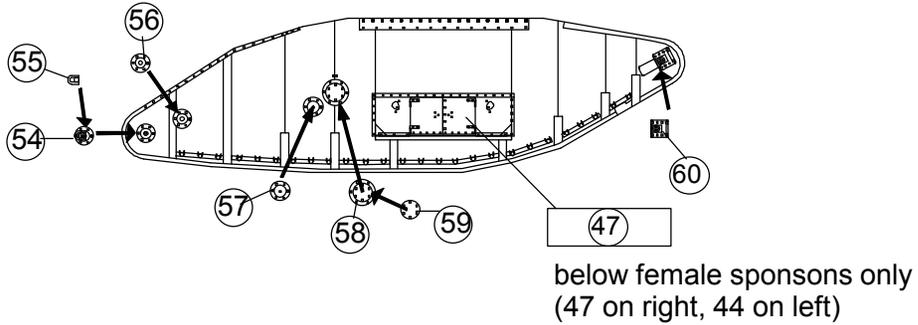
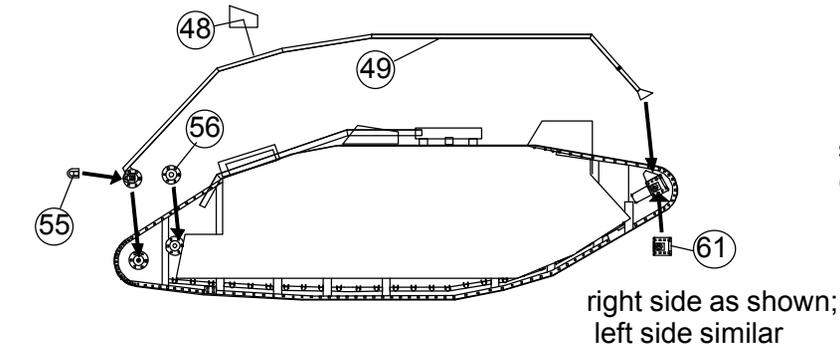
right 6pdr gun mount as shown left side (32, 33) is similar



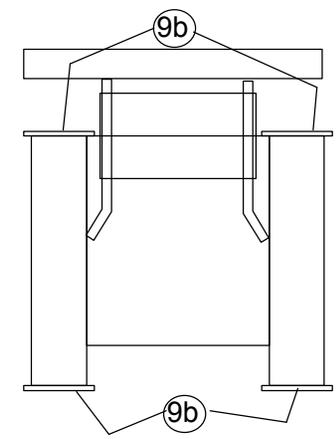
wrap # 49 around top of # 48x3



left rail as shown; right rail (50,51) is similar but bends in opposite directions

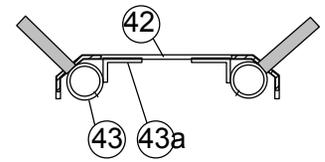


end view with narrow tracks

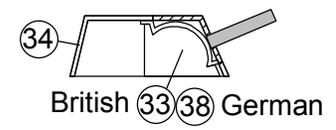


end view with wide tracks

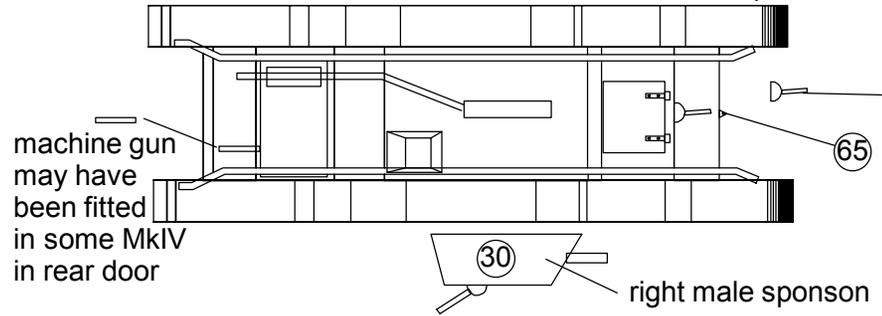
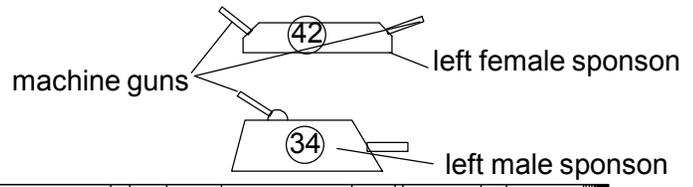
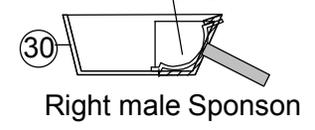
Left Female Sponson
Right sponson is similar



Left male Sponson



British 29/41 German



machine gun
may have
been fitted
in some MkIV
in rear door

