

Cliff Hutchings of Gympie has crafted 1/35 scale models of forty Australian and American WWII vehicles. The former builder started model making in 2001, when he was confined to a wheel chair and stuck in the top of a two story building. The model making kept his fingers and hands working until recently when it became impossible to hold the small pieces. He now paints birds in acrylics from photographs he has taken himself.

Some models are totally scratch built, while on others he has used the chassis and wheels off bought kits and then made all other parts. He uses photos from the Australian War Memorial website for the Australian vehicles and worked out how to scale off those photos. His American models are built from photos off the internet.

Materials range from foil, to brass wire, model makers styrene sheet and fabrics. Whatever Cliff has available, even Easter egg foil, he tries to use. Sometimes one part, such as a wheel is made and then that pattern is used to cast more in resin. All models are then painted in the correct colours of the day.

1/35 Scale Model Descriptions

1941 Ford (Aust) 3 ton Tractor unit with 6 ton (Aust) bow fronted trailer.

This type of vehicle was used on the North/South Military Highway (now the Stuart Highway) during the early days of the war with Japan in the Pacific. Supplies were railed from South Australia to Alice Springs where they were then trucked to Darwin. Because of the roughness of the roads new vehicles often fell to pieces over the course of their first trip, hence the modifications done to the trucks and added as they were being built in the Ford Geelong NSW plant. This model shows a truck and trailer returning from Darwin with an empty load of drums for refurbishment. Taken from an AWM photo.

1939 GMC (Aust) 3 ton 4X2 Fitters truck.

This type of vehicle followed the convoys on the North/South Military Highway (now the Stuart Highway) during the early days of the war with Japan. They were later replaced, once supplies started flowing from Canada, by CMP 3 ton 4X4 trucks affectionately called 'Blitz' trucks here in Australia.

1942 CMP (Blitz) 3 ton 4X4 (Aust) SWB Tipper.

Used by RAAF Airfield construction units in the Pacific to cart sand and gravel to build aerodromes for Allied fighter and bomber squadrons in the Pacific Islands.

1944 GMC DUKW amphibious truck (DUCK).

Used by water craft units of the AIF during the Pacific war to transfer supplies from ships offshore to the beaches of different islands. This unit is fitted with a boom crane worked off the rear mounted winch to unload other DUKWs of anything from crates of food and ammo to heavy guns, jeeps and even planes.

1944 GMC - CCKW 6X6 Red Cross Club Mobile.

Built on a standard GMC-CCKW chassis which was extended approx. 3 foot at the rear. These trucks were used behind the lines to provide hot drinks and snacks to off duty personnel in the European Theatre of operations.

1942 GMC- CCKW 6X6 LWB Cargo with #7 wreckers set

This is a standard early hard cab GMC-CCKW fitted with a steel rear deck, #7 light wrecker set and the correct 50cal and mount on top of the cab. These were used as light wrecker trucks and for vehicle field maintenance work.

1944 GMC DUKW amphibious truck (DUCK).

with a Piper Cub Observation Aircraft load. In the Pacific these were unloaded off cargo ships offshore and unloaded on the beach by DUKWs with the boom crane attached. Planes were then assembled by RAAF fitters and the beach was used as a runway once the planes were reassembled. Piper Cub and Auster Aircraft were used as Artillery Spotting aircraft in the Islands.

1941 Chevrolet Modified Civilian Pattern (MCP) Fuel Tanker.

Chevrolet MCP 3 ton chassis had a variety of rear bodies fitted. This one is a 700 gallon fuel tanker taken from photos of one in the Atherton Tablelands Queensland in 1942/43.

25 lb Short (Aust) Howitzer.

With the war in the Pacific being undertaken more and more in jungle conditions, a move was made to make the standard 25 lb Field Gun more moveable in these conditions. The barrel was shortened and a new lightweight carriage made. This 'gun' was then designated 'Short' to differentiate from its older cousin.

1944 Canadian Military Pattern (CMP) Chevrolet C15A GS.

CMP vehicles were produced in large numbers in Canada during WWII and both GMH and Ford in Australia assembled them for the Australian Forces. This is a ¾ ton Cab 13 4X4 General Service vehicle painted in two colour camouflage of the day.

Nebelwerfer rocket launcher

WWII German rocket launcher used during the fighting in Europe to fire massive amounts of explosives at the enemy.

1944 M24 Chaffee Light Tank

Produced to replace the ageing Stuart light tank. Saw service in the last months of WWII and the Korean conflict.

1944 M26 Armoured Tank Recovery vehicle

The M26 Tank Transporter was a heavy tank transporter and tank recovery vehicle used in World War II and beyond by the US Army. Also well known as the Dragon Wagon

Gaz AAA 6X4

The Gaz was a Russian Built (under licence) Ford Model AAA truck from 1928 and was built between 1934 and 1943 in both 6X4 and 4X2 versions.

155mm M1 'Long Tom' artillery

Used by the USA and moved by the M35 prime mover as well as heavy Corbitt and Diamond T trucks during WWII and later by specially designed M4 high speed tracked prime movers. The 155mm was a long range artillery piece which was used by Australian Forces in New Guinea probably under Lend Lease arrangements. The gun could fire a 45.36 kg (100 lb) shell to a maximum range of 22.014 km (13.7 mi), with an estimated accuracy life of 1500 rounds.

1944 M35 Prime Mover

Converted by removing the turret from M10A1 tank destroyer (M4A3 Sherman tank chassis) and adding air brakes to tow 155 mm and 240 mm artillery

1943 Canadian Military Pattern (CMP) Chevrolet C60 Ambulance (Aust).

CMP vehicles were produced in large numbers in Canada during WWII and both GMH and Ford in Australia assembled them for the Australian Forces. This is a 3 ton Cab 13 4X4 Ambulance built on the short 134 inch wheelbase chassis.

1942 GMC- CCKW 6X6 LWB Water Tanker in disguise

This is a standard early hard cab GMC-CCKW fitted with a water tanker body. These were often disguised with a canvas tilt to look like a standard cargo truck from the air. Rear canvas on this model has been cut away to show the water tank body.

1944 GMC- CCKW 6X6 LWB Surgical Unit

This Surgical Unit GMC was often found in field hospital units in Europe and the same body type was used for operating theatres, dental units, x-ray units, etc. Cargo rack over the soft canvas cab roof was probably added in the field to carry extra medical supplies.

1941 MCP Chevrolet 30cwt

A modified civilian pattern Chevrolet modified with widened front mudguards for larger tyres and wheels and with a machine gun access hatch for anti-aircraft defence. These MCP's were used in large numbers by the AIF until more tactical 4X4 trucks like the CMP's become available. Painted in a standard pattern camouflage pattern of the day.

1942 Fordson WOT3 Heavy Utility (Britain)

Fordson was a Ford family enterprise and used Ford Company engines and drive train. Fitted with a side valve V8, these were made in a lot of different body styles for the British Army. Some were allocated to the AIF in the Middle East and the RAAF units in Europe.

Australian Pattern M3 Grant Medium Tank

The Australian Armoured units were issued with the M3 Grant both here in Australia and also in the Middle East when fighting alongside English Armoured units. It is different in several ways to the standard American M3 in the turret area especially. Painted in the standard 2 tone camouflage of 1943.

Australian Matilda Tank

This British made tank was chosen to replace the M3 Grant over the Sherman and M24 Chaffee tanks after trials in New Guinea. Again modifications were made over the original design to suit the Australian usage. Used in action by the Australian Forces in Borneo and the Pacific area.

Australian 2lb Anti-Tank Carrier

Based on a stretched universal carrier chassis and fitted with a 2lb anti-tank gun, these carriers were used in the early war years as a mobile anti tank force. The 2lb gun was found to be inadequate against the German armour but effective against the lighter Japanese tanks in the Pacific.

1944 GMC- CCKW 6X6 LWB Fuel Tanker

Used to fill jerry cans and transport in the field. Airforce fuel tankers had a one piece fuel tank rather than the two of this Fuel tanker.

1943 Federal 94x43 Tractor Unit and 10 ton semi-trailer

Used for bulk delivery of supplies in the European theatre of operations during WWII along the famous 'Red Ball Express' route.

1940 Canadian Military Pattern (CMP) Ford F60 General Service (Aust).

CMP vehicles were produced in large numbers in Canada during WWII and both GMH and Ford in Australia assembled them for the Australian Forces. This is a 3 ton Cab 11 4X4 General Service built on the long 158 inch wheelbase chassis and was the first body style to be made in the CMP range.

1941 Chevrolet Indian Pattern Ambulance (Aust).

A 4X2 conversion of the standard Modified Civilian Pattern Chassis, the rear body was made from wooden framing covered with doped canvas. Used in the Middle East and all areas of the Pacific by Australian Forces.

1941 Chevrolet Heavy Reconnaissance Wagon (Aust).

A 4X2 conversion of the standard Modified Civilian Pattern Chassis the rear body was made from wooden framing covered with metal sheeting. Used in the Middle East and Australia by AIF units. Only one known to have survived.

1944 GMC- CCKW 6X6 Australian Airborne

Converted from a short wheel base standard hard top early model GMC-CCKW 352 by GM Holden during WWII for both the US Army and the Australian Army. The fuel tank, windscreen and rear deck (which split into 2 parts) along with the rear half of the chassis which split behind the cab made up one DC3 (C47) aircraft load, and cab and front half of the chassis a second DC3 aircraft load. This enabled trucks to be rushed to the islands in the Pacific quite quickly. Some of the Australian trucks were written off in Borneo at the end of the war.

1944 GMC- CCKW 6X6 LWB Radio/Command Vehicle

This Radio/Command GMC was found in both Europe and the Pacific fighting areas often in rear areas. Mounted with an array of different radios it could be used in most situations.

1944 Dodge WC62 6X6 personnel carrier

Seen in all theatres of operation during the later years of WWII, the WC62 was known as the WC63 when fitted with a front mounted winch.

Krupp Protze – German 6X4 Personnel Carrier.

Used extensively by the German Forces in WWII and seeing action on all fronts the Krupp Protze used a variety of rear bodies including that on an artillery tractor towing the German 3.7cm anti-tank gun.

1943 Dodge WC54 4X4 Ambulance

Made famous in the MASH TV series these ambulances were seen in all theatres of operation during WWII.

1943 Dodge WC58 4X4 Command Car

Seen in all theatres of operation during the later years of WWII the WC58 was often set up as a radio car as well.

1943 ¼ ton 4X4 Jeep

Seen in all theatres of operation during the later years of WWII the versatile Jeep was made by both Willys and Ford.

Volkswagen Kübelwagen type 82

Used by all units of the German army in all theatres of operation in a similar role to the US jeep.

Volkswagen Schwimmwagen

An amphibious version of the Kubelwagen used by all units of the German army in all theatres of operation especially where river crossings had to be made.

USA Fuel Trailer

Towed by GMC and other medium to heavy vehicles for extra fuel supplies.

Mosquito Fighter Bomber

Used by some RAAF Squadrons and known as the plywood wonder because of it being built of wood. This one is marked as an RAAF Squadron 464 aircraft. It flew out of England to Europe.