



Flavion Camouflage & Markings by Matt Baker

In this series of dev blogs, I'd like to share the large amount of research and effort that has gone into making our 2.6 French release as accurate as possible. We've taken the time to re-texture some of our old German vehicles and create our new French vehicles with a set of camouflage and markings that are as accurate as possible to the real ones that partook in these battles. This is of course, all within the reasonable limits of the BF2 game engine (and within the limits of our own sanity, where we only have so much time to develop each asset).

We believe that our 2.6 French release will be the most accurate portrayal of Fall Gelb ever created for a WW2 FPS, and we hope we can immerse you, our players, in this world as much as possible.

These explanations of camouflage schemes and marking systems are fairly in-depth, but are nothing compared to the great information that you'll find in the various books and websites that I will list in our bibliography down below. In fact, some of the information below is taken verbatim from these sources.

First, we can discuss the map Flavion, made by TS4ever, that depicts the 7th Panzer Division's (Armored Division) encounter with elements of the 1st Division Cuirassée de Réserve (DCR or Armored Division) on May 15th, 1940.

Axis

German Vehicle Camouflage;

To get an understanding of how our German vehicles are portrayed, we must first discuss the German camouflage system in 1940. Skipping over the early years of panzer development in the early & mid 1930s, there was an important order issued by Inspectorate 2 on the 12th of July 1937 that ordered all Army equipment to be painted in dark gray (dunkelgrau) and dark brown (dunkelbraun);

"1. In place of the colorful paint pattern, a pattern in the colors dark gray and dark brown is introduced.

The colors should not meet using sharp edges. Instead, they must transition gradually.

On small surfaces, only one color - dark gray or dark brown - is to be used.

2. The units and service stations will be sent color plates once they have been made. The new pattern should only be applied once the current one requires patching or repainting.

3. Applying the paint using spray guns is more beneficial than using brushes, as using a spray gun results in a less shiny paint finish.

4. Tarpaulins must not be painted. They must be used up in their existing colors. Newly produced ones follow the colors in point 1.

5. Available equipment in the Army depots, etc., will retain the existing colorful paint pattern and will be given to the units in their current state.

6. The conflicting instructions in H. Dv. 488, part I, appendix 6, as well as page 237 article 30 and the paint pattern on page 238, are no longer valid. Changes in the manual will be implemented by page inserts or a new printing."

On the 7th of November 1938, Inspectorate 2 amended the order and stated that units would need to immediately re-paint their equipment as soon as possible. It was also specified that units had to buy the paint directly from the factories themselves. In this order, the colors are more specifically referenced as dunkelbraun Nr. 45 and dunkelgrau Nr. 46 in the RAL color system.

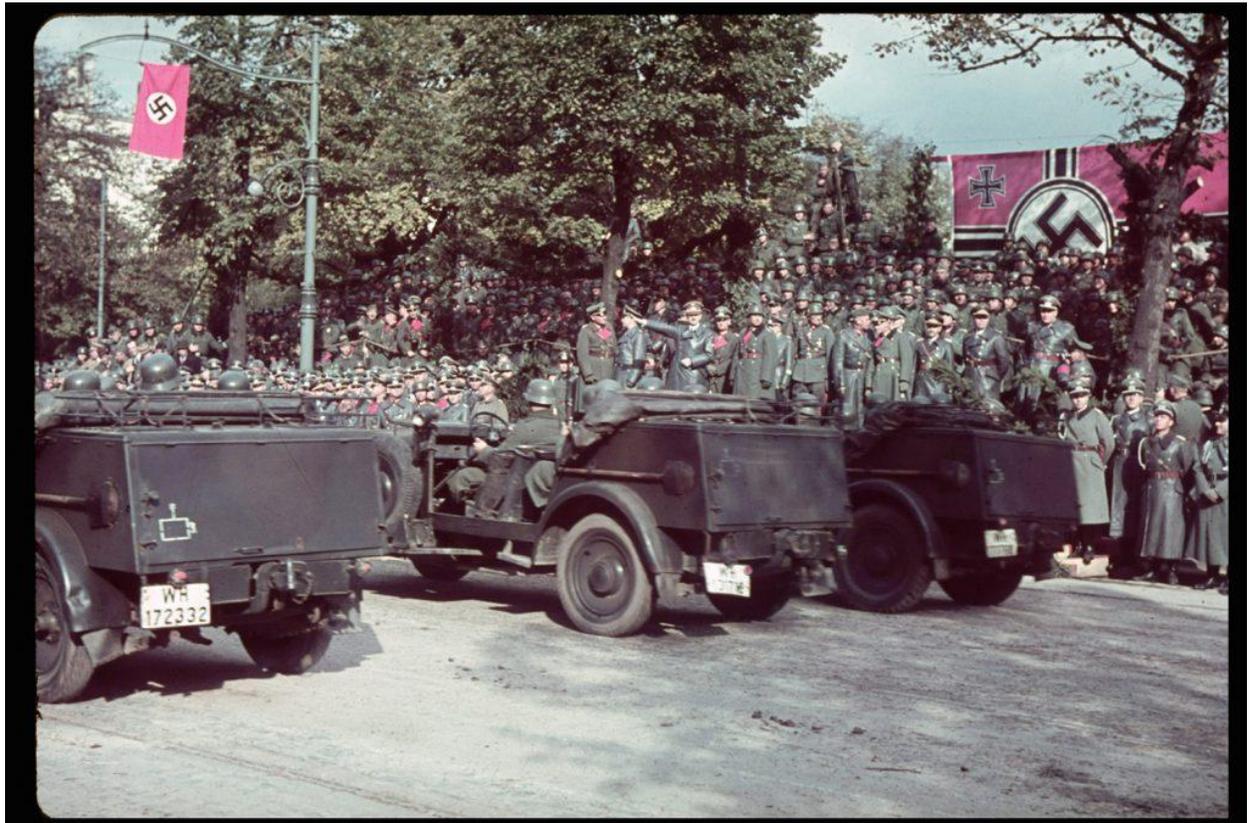
The pattern was to be a base coat of dunkelgrau covering 2/3 of the vehicle with 1/3 of the vehicle covered in dunkelbraun.

It should be noted that the difference between the dunkelgrau and dunkelbraun colors are almost impossible to distinguish in wartime black and white photographs. Only in a few high contrast prints of black & white photographs, using glass plate negatives, can this camouflage pattern be distinguished.

In some of these color photos of the Polish campaign in 1939, the 2-tone scheme can be seen:

Farbdiasposten aus Nachlaß Herr Kujaus





While still hotly debated in some modeling forums online, we've chosen to represent most of our Panzers in this 2-tone camouflage scheme based on the orders provided to the Army at the time. However, as will be exemplified below, not all units followed their orders to the letter. It is possible that some vehicles may have been left in a single base color of dunkelgrau during the campaign in France.

In fact, some researchers point to the change in orders directly after the French campaign, as a way of formalizing what many units were already doing in the field. The specific order on the 31st of July 1940 would eventually dispose of the 2-tone camouflage and state that equipment was now to have only a single color - dunkelgrau.

German Vehicle Markings;

Balkenkreuz (National Identity Cross)

All German armored vehicles throughout World War II were specified to carry a national identity marking known as the Balkenkreuz. This order went out on the 13th of July 1939 and specified a cross in all white that was to be painted on all four sides of the vehicle. Any panzer that didn't have this marking was to be recognized as an enemy. After the campaign in Poland, a new order was issued by Inspektorat 6 on the 26th of October 1939; this specified a new Balkenkreuz design that had an open center, similar to the identification cross on German aircraft, with stripes approximately 2.5cm wide. The new Balkenkreuz was to be stenciled on the superstructure sides and rear. Though the order specified the center of the Balkenkreuz to be "open," it was often filled in with a darker color to distinguish it.



Aircraft Recognition Symbols;

In addition to the Balkenkreuz, the order by Inspektorat 6 also specified the addition of a white rectangle (made with chalk) on the rear deck of vehicles as an identification marker for German aircraft. Indeed, most armies throughout World War II came to the same conclusion that these types of symbols were a good way of identifying friendly vehicles to the supporting aircraft flying above the battlefield, and these types of markings showed up in many shapes and sizes by all nations throughout the war.

During the campaign in France, these white rectangles were typically seen on leading vehicles during an advance, and not always added to every vehicle in the field.

Division Symbols;

On the 1st of November 1939, Inspektorat 6 issued an order for identification symbols to be used by Panzer Divisions. These were to be stenciled in yellow on all armored and motorized vehicles of the Panzer Divisions. New orders were issued throughout the war to change these division symbols in an attempt to disguise the identity of the units.

For the German 7th Panzer Division that is represented on Flavion, the divisional symbol was an upside down 'Y' with 3 'dots' to the right.



Rhomboid Plates;

Even though they are not represented in-game, a note can be made about the German use of rhomboid plates to display tactical markings on the Panzers of the early years. By the start of the campaign in Poland, the tactical numbers of many units were stenciled onto a sheet metal rhomboid that was fastened to both the sides and the rear of the vehicle. The idea was that these plates could be removed and go with the crew if they had to switch to a new tank - in this way, their position in the company was the same, and training was not interrupted to change the company organization when vehicles needed servicing.

The plates were typically dark gray with white numbers, but some units used different colors for the numbers. The rhomboid plates were used well into 1941 by several divisions, but it was soon appreciated that in the smoke and dust of battle, they were too small to be seen from very far, thus their combat effectiveness was limited.

Beyond these generalized vehicle markings, each unit had their own unique way of marking their vehicles to better identify each other and stay coordinated in a combat zone. We'll go over each of the German vehicles portrayed on the Flavion map below;

Opel Blitz



The common Opel Blitz isn't as exciting as the Panzers depicted on this map. And indeed, we mainly have one type of texture for this vehicle that you've seen before on our Mount Olympus map (and will see again on our other 1940 maps). This saves us a lot of texture space for such a common vehicle, and its markings are done in a way which allows it not to look out of place on most early war maps.

The vehicle is painted in an overall dunkelgrau Nr. 46. Perhaps it was repainted at some point and there just wasn't enough dunkelbraun available or enough care taken by the crew to provide it with a camouflage pattern.

On an Opel Blitz however, one of the more interesting marking aspects is the license plate number. On German vehicles, the number plates were coded in the following way: WH (Wehrmacht, Heer (army)), WL (Wehrmacht, Luftwaffe), WM (Wehrmacht, Marine (navy)), or SS. Each license plate began with one set of these letters. These two letter combinations were followed by five to six numerals, usually divided into a group of two numerals followed by a group of three or four numerals. Our Opel Blitz is a Heer (army) vehicle.

Our Opel Blitz also carries a raised Anhängerdreieck, or 'trailer triangle.' This was a foldable yellow triangle with a black border on the cabin roof of a truck which had to be set up when towing a trailer. The idea was a way to signal the danger of the trailer(s) to oncoming vehicles. Not German Army specific, the trailer triangle was prescribed in Germany on April 1st, 1938 in Section 44 of the Road Traffic Licensing Regulations. We aren't able to portray towed trailers in our game, but perhaps the driver forgot to lower the triangle after the trailer was dismantled. After all, there's a lot of confusion in the heat of combat.

Panzer II Ausf. C





The Panzer II on this map probably belongs to the Abteilung Stab of the I.Abteilung, Panzer Regiment 25 of the 7th Panzer Division.

The markings are mainly copied from a real photo of the tank in France 1940.



Like many other vehicles, this tank is camouflaged in the 2-tone scheme laid out in the 1937 order.

This Panzer II is adorned with Balkenkreuz, and carries them on the superstructure sides and left rear as per regulations. There's also a Balkenkreuz on the top right rear of the turret, and an additional Balkenkreuz on a sheet metal plate attached to the antenna trough on the side of the tank.

The tactical number 'I11' is also carried on a rhomboid plate attached to the antenna trough. It is possibly painted in a color darker than white.

The Divisional symbol of an upside down 'Y' with 3 dots, is carried on the superstructure sides, and tho not seen in the photo, we have also placed it on the rear superstructure and below the Balkenkreuz on the turret rear, as was typical on other 7th Panzer Division tanks.

The aircraft recognition symbol of a white rectangle is chalked or painted onto the engine deck of the Panzer II, as was common.

During the campaign in France, some units began to paint much more conspicuous tactical numbers on the turret side. Such was the case in the 7th Panzer Division which used especially prominent numbers. For most tanks the pattern was a three-digit number indicating company/platoon/tank. In the case of command vehicles, the regimental HQ/staff would use an "R" prefix such as "R01." The Abteilung headquarters within a regiment would sometimes use a "I" prefix for the first and a "II" for the second battalion, such as "I01, II01." Occasionally, unit commander vehicles would also use a "B" for Befehlspanzer, such as "B01." Use of other lettered prefixes for specialized sub-formations was idiosyncratic to each division.

The 7th Panzer Division in France was only equipped with a single Panzer Regiment (Panzer Regiment 25). The regiment was made up of 3 Abteilung (I, II & 66). The single 'I' would likely place this tank in the headquarters (stab) company (kompanie) of the 1st Battalion (I.Abteilung). The '11' is not exactly known. It could be the first tank in the Signals platoon (Nachrichten Zug) of the Stab Kompanie of the Abteilung, or another position. Throughout the war, the German units would occasionally change the way these numbers were represented to keep their exact identity a disguise to the enemy.

The color patterns for these numbers are also not certain. There are theories that the colors may have been based on the traditional bayonet-knot scheme in the German Army. Before the war, in 1937, the Panzer-Kompaniein were identified by colors in training exercises; white for the 1st & 5th companies, red for the 2nd & 6th, yellow for the 3rd & 7th and blue for the 4th & 8th (later in the war, green and light green were added for additional companies). It is not known for certain whether any of these old practices carried over into the way turret numbers were painted for this Division in France 1940. Sometimes, it was also common for entire regiments to keep their turret numbers in a single color. In fact, most models and paintings of the division show all of the numbers of this regiment in red with a white outline, and that is how we have decided to represent them in-game.

Panzer 38(t) Ausf. B



The Panzer 38(t) on this map is the 4th tank in the 3.Zug of the 1.Kompanie of the I.Abteilung, Panzer Regiment 25 of the 7th Panzer Division.

The 7th Panzer Division was one of the few divisions during Fall Gelb to be organized under special tables with Czech Panzer 38(t) tanks in place of Panzer III tanks. Only the 7th, & 8th Panzer Divisions would be equipped with the 38(t) tanks for the operation in 1940. (the 6th Panzer Division with 35(t) tanks)

This tank is shown in a single dunkelgrau color and may have been repainted by the crew without the use of dunkelbraun.

As per regulations, the Balkenkreuz is carried on the superstructure sides of the tank. It also carries one on the rear of the turret.

The Balkenkreuz is slightly more narrow than regulation, but is similar to those seen on other 38(t)s in the division.

This tank doesn't carry the divisional or an air recognition symbol, which was not uncommon.

The turret number '134' shows its position in the regiment and is painted in the standard red with white outline as seen on tanks of the 7.Panzer Division.

Panzer IV Ausf. D

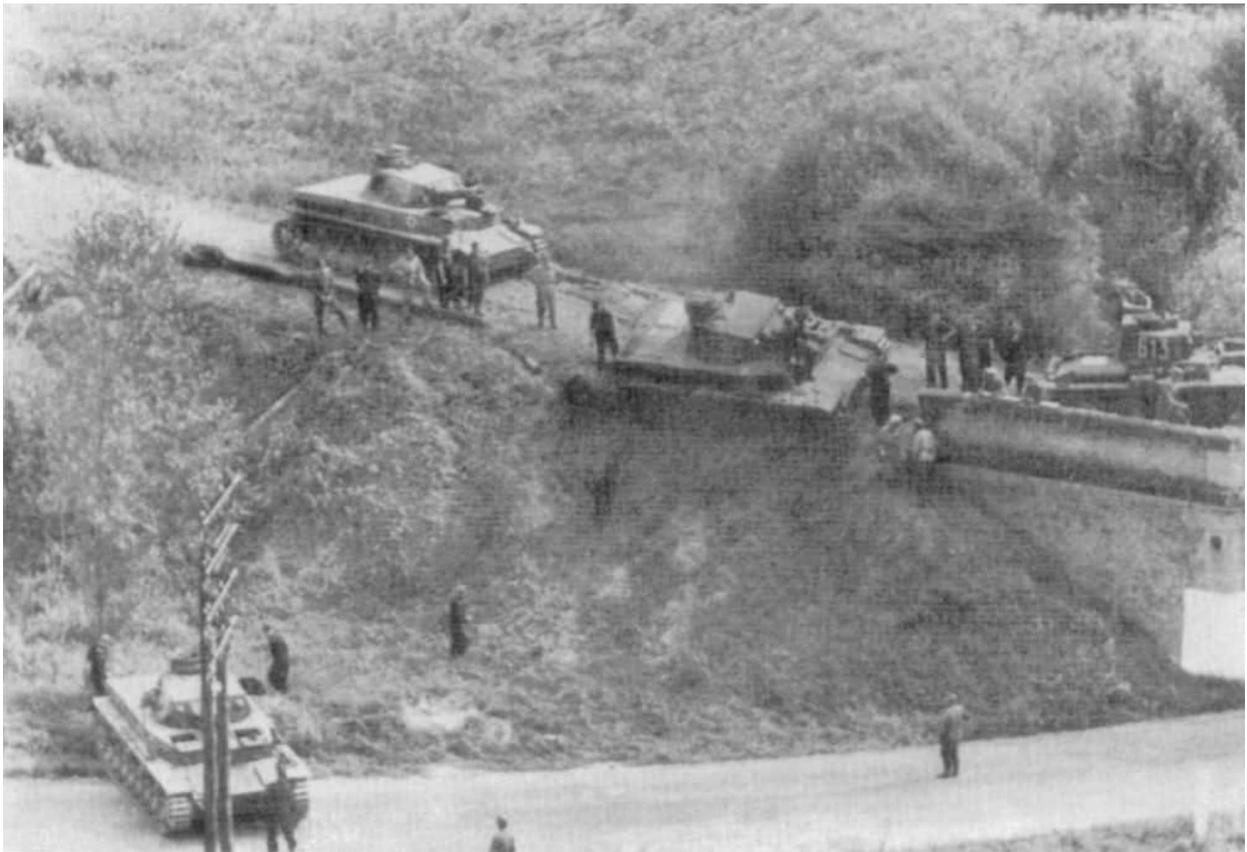




The Panzer IV on this map belongs to the 1st tank in the 2.Zug of the 3.Kompanie of the I.Abteilung, Panzer Regiment 25 of the 7th Panzer Division.

The 3.Zug was organized with Panzer IV tanks that were meant to be used in the infantry support role with their low velocity 75mm cannons.

The markings are mainly copied from a real photo of the tank in France 1940.



These photographs were taken in the early morning of June 5, the opening day of Fall Rot, as 7.Panzer-Division advanced down a railway embankment after crossing the Somme. A Pz.Kpfw.IV Ausf.D with tactical number "321" lost a track just before crossing an overpass and as a result held up the entire advance.

In the second photo there appears to be some discussion as to the best course of action to remove the obstacle. A Pz.Kpfw.38(t) and two more Panzer IV Ausf.D are in position to assist. 321's lost track can be seen amongst the group of men beside the rearmost Panzer IV. This shot also gives a good view of the aerial recognition rectangles painted on the engine decks of the tanks. Rommel took this picture while standing on the hillside overlooking the site.

Like many other vehicles, this tank is camouflaged in the 2-tone scheme.

As per regulations, the Balkenkreuz is carried on the superstructure sides of the tank. It also carries one on the rear of the turret in a position under the commander's cupola that was common on Panzer IVs during the Operation.

The air recognition symbol is carried on the rear engine deck to be clearly seen by friendly aircraft.

The turret number, '321' like the others, denotes its position in the regiment and is again painted in red with white outlines.

Allies

Again, to get an idea of our French markings, we must first discuss the French camouflage system in 1940, which was rather more complex than the German system.

French Vehicle Camouflage;

The French camouflage system went through many variations and experimentations in the pre-war years. Before 1937 the majority of vehicles were painted in a rather dark matt olive green (vert olive mat). Eventually, the army settled on the use of various multi-colored camouflage schemes in a notice dated 10th of March 1937.

This order listed 8 basic colors that could be mixed to form 16 colors that were categorized into 3 'types' (sky, ground & shadow). However these mixings were sometimes up to the interpretations of the factories and units that applied them, and it would seem that often-times the basic colors were frequently used.

The colors given in the order are listed below;

Basic Colors;

- Bleu de ciel
- Vert olive
- Terre d'ombre
- Ocre jaune
- Ocre rouge
- Bleu de Prusse
- Noir
- Blanc

Sky Colors

- Gris clair neutre
- Jaunatre
- Gris bleu clair
- Mauve pale

Ground Colors

- Gris ardoise
- Jaune d'ocre
- Vert olive clair
- Reseda
- Kaki
- Pierre
- Beige

Shadow Colors

- Violace
- Sepia
- Gris fonce
- Vert fonce
- Terre d'ombre

Unfortunately, actual hues are not known with any degree of precision since no official document describing them in detail has yet been unearthed. The *very* few color photographs of French AFVs in 1940 that survive are rather poor and never show the *true* colors. But they have been useful in determining camo patterns on some tanks.

These camouflage patterns were occasionally applied by units in the field during repainting or general upkeep, but more often than not, the patterns were applied at the factory. This practice led to certain similarities in patterns between certain types of vehicles, especially between vehicles produced during the same time-frame at specific factories.

French Vehicle Markings;

National Insignia;

Almost all French tanks carried the national tricolor. They were typically painted very small on the front and rear of the vehicles preceding the matricule (registration number). On some vehicles, such as the Char B, they were carried in additional places.

Some units, especially cavalry units, frequently painted the national roundel on the upper and rear surfaces of their vehicles. As leading vehicles meant to maneuver very quickly through the battlefield, these roundels helped to prevent friendly fire if the cavalry was to show up in unexpected areas. They could have also served as aerial recognition markings as they were often found on turret tops.

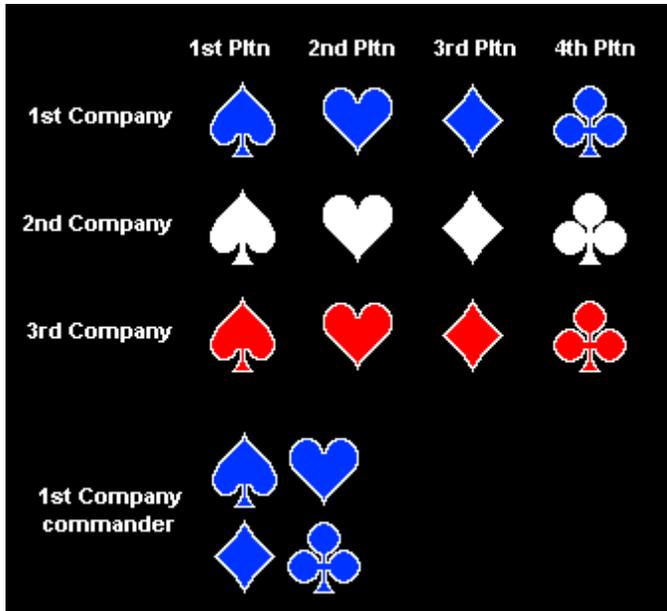
Tactical Insignia;

The most commonly associated marking with French tanks is the playing card symbols. These were derived from the insignia used by tanks of the Artillerie Speciale groups during the Great War, but the system in WWII varied slightly.

The system typically used symbols to identify the platoons in the bridge playing order (Spade, Heart, Diamond and Club) and the order of the National Colors (Blue, White and Red) to identify Companies. For example;

	1st Platoon	2nd Platoon	3rd Platoon	4th Platoon
1st Company	Blue Spade	Blue Heart	Blue Diamond	Blue Club
2nd Company	White Spade	White Heart	White Diamond	White Club
3rd Company	Red Spade	Red Heart	Red Diamond	Red Club

The company commander's vehicle was sometimes identified by displaying all four symbols (Spade, Heart, Diamond and Club) in the company or squadron color.



These markings usually appeared on tank turret sides and were sometimes repeated on the rear hull. When carried by Panhard 178 AMDs, they were usually displayed on the hull sides. Smaller markings of this type were sometimes used on other vehicles besides tanks and armored cars and very rarely on artillery pieces. The size and precise location of these markings (and the decision whether to use them or not) were very much left up to the unit commander. They were typically, but not always, bordered in white.

There was an older company designation system that used white geometric shapes; Circle, Square and Triangle for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd companies respectively. This system was sometimes combined with the playing card system, or used in a different manner altogether. They are commonly seen on the Char B1 bis.

Since the tactical marking systems were typically left up to the individual commanders of each unit, there are a plethora of different systems used by different branches and units in the French Army. We don't have time to go into all of them here, but below are a few notes on some common ones;

Large turret numbers were often found on cavalry tanks with several variations of the actual numbering system. Numbers could be continuous within the battalion, where the regiments were identified by their use of the numbers up to 49 in the first battalion and above for the second, continuous within the squadron (e.g. 1-20 or 1-12) or by platoon (e.g. 1-5, 10-14, 20-24, etc.).

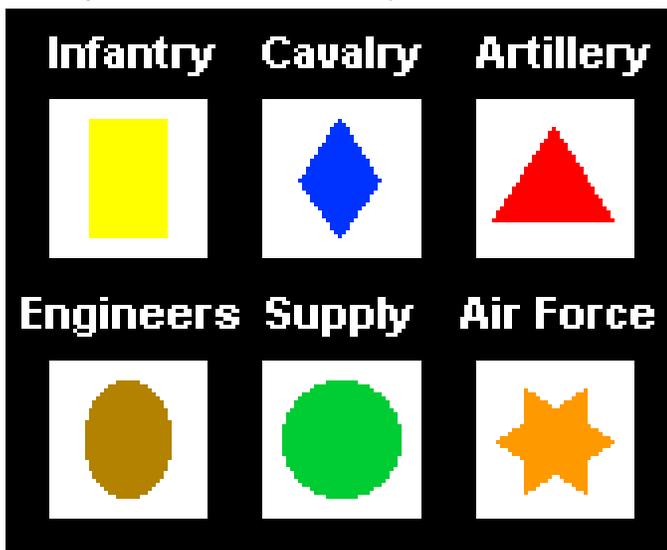
Another common marking found on French tanks was a single letter identifying the platoon. The actual letter, its size and style were left up to the platoon commander who usually used the first letter of his last name. This system seems to have been much more common on B1 bis infantry tanks than on other vehicles.

Branch Markings;

An order issued on 11 January 1940, made it compulsory for all unarmoured vehicles to display a 20 cm white square bearing a coloured geometric shape indicating which service it belonged to. The shapes and colors were as follows : Infantry 10 by 15 cm yellow rectangle, Cavalry 15 by 10 cm blue diamond, Artillery 15 cm red triangle, Engineers 15 by 10 cm brown oval, Supply and Transport (Train) 15 cm green circle and Air Force 15 cm orange six-point star.

This symbol was to be worn on the front left side of the vehicle (usually the front left wing or mudguard or the the left side of the cab) and sometimes it was added to the rear left side also. Motorcycles were to have a smaller version painted on the front mudguard or on the front of the sidecar when one was used.

These symbols were almost universally worn by soft-skinned vehicles by May 1940. Tanks did not use them, although at least some Cavalry AMR and AMD displayed them.



Regimental Insignias;

Some French units, particularly in the cavalry, carried colorful regimental insignia on the sides of their vehicles. These were typically based on the regimental badges worn on dress occasions.

Names;

French vehicles, especially Char B1s, D2s and Hotchkiss often bore names. Generally, these were applied on a standardized basis, usually a whole battalion at a time. The names did not always correspond to the company or platoon, but were often patriotically inspired, or even more lighthearted.

Serial Numbers;

All French armored vehicles were given serial numbers (matricules). These were issued in blocks to the factories, so certain patterns are evident.

We'll go over each of the French vehicles portrayed on the Flavion map below;

Lorraine 37L



The Lorraine 37L on this map belongs to the 26e Bataillon de Chars de Combat in the 3e Demi-brigade légère of the 1ere DCR.

The Lorraine tracked vehicles were intended to support the tank battalions as tank resupply vehicles (TRC: tracteur de ravitaillement pour chars). The primary function of the TRC was to refuel the tanks in forward areas by towing special tracked VRC fuel trailers carrying 565 liters of fuel. However, other supplies could be carried in the rear compartment and they were also helpful for towing artillery into place.

The 26e Bataillon de Chars de Combat (BCC, tank battalion) was part of the 3e Demi-brigade légère (light half-brigade) of the 1re Division Cuirassée de Réserve (DCR, armored division) in 1940.

The matricule (registration number) is carried on the front and rear of the vehicle and has the french tricolor and then an 'M' standing for 'militaire' followed by the number block.

This Lorraine is painted in a scheme of overall army green with a pattern of darker green on top. Unit insignia were not particularly common, but this particular transporter carries the regimental insignia of the 26e BCC, a boar's head on a shield with the phrase "Je grogne" ("I growl").

Lorraine 38L





The Lorraine 38L on this map belongs to the 2nd Platoon of the 3rd Company of the 5eme Bataillon de Chasseurs Portés (BCP) in the 1ere DCR.

The armored divisions in 1940 wanted to equip their mechanized infantry with fully tracked carriers. As a result Lorraine 38L VBCP infantry carrier (voiture blindée de chasseurs portés) had a tracked trailer added, took the design of the 37L and added armored protection for the troops by raising up the sides. They were also intended to (but didn't always) tow a tracked trailer that could accommodate six more troops.

The 5eme Bataillon de Chasseurs Portés (BCP, Motorized Chasseurs Battalion) was part of the 1re Division Cuirassée de Réserve (DCR, armored division) in 1940. The 5th & 17th BCP were the first two units of the French Army especially constituted to accompany the armored units of the armored divisions, and as such, were provided with the Lorraine 38Ls.

This Lorraine is painted in a scheme of overall army green with a pattern of dark brown on top. Ochre is used (as it often was) to outline the two colors.

The matricule (registration number) is carried on the front and rear of the vehicle and again has the french tricolor and then an 'M' standing for 'militaire' followed by the number block.

The insignia on this vehicle is a red heart which would make it part of the 2nd platoon in the 3rd company. The white circle it is inscribed in could have just been a way to make the insignia more identifiable or a way of using the older circle, square, triangle tactical markings to further identify the vehicle in the group.

Hotchkiss 39 (SA-18 gun)



The short barrel Hotchkiss 39 with the SA-18 gun on this map belongs to the 3rd Platoon of the 2nd Company of the 26e Bataillon de Chars de Combat in the 3e Demi-brigade légère, 1ere DCR.

The markings are mainly copied from a real photo of the tank in France 1940.



This Hotchkiss was painted at the factory in a scheme of light gray over the standard army green outlined in black. This was probably the 3rd type of the six sequential Hotchkiss camouflage schemes during the H35–H39 production run. This scheme would have stopped at around No. 40569.

The matricule (registration number) is carried on the front and rear of the vehicle in white and has the french tricolor followed by the number block '40530.'

The tanks of the 26e BCC used the usual playing card symbols, but in a square with rounded corners. This was carried on either side of the turret and sometimes on the upper right corner of the rear. The 2e Compagnie used a large letter on the hull side to identify platoon commanders, in this case the 3rd Platoon used the letter "t."

Hotchkiss 39 (SA-38 gun)



The long barrel Hotchkiss 39 with the SA-38 gun on this map belongs to the 4th Platoon of the 2nd Company of the 26e Bataillon de Chars de Combat in the 3e Demi-brigade légère, 1ere DCR.

The markings are mainly copied from real photos of the tank in France 1940.



Hotchkiss H39 40590 26e BCC

The unit commanders generally had tanks with the 37mm SA38, and in view of the production date of these vehicles, this gun must have been retrofitted.

This Hotchkiss was again painted at the factory as is probably the fourth type of the six schemes used during the production run. It consists of a pale green over the usual French army dark green. This scheme would've started around No. 40569 and continued through 40900.

Again, the usual playing card symbols are used in a square with rounded corners. This one carried the club for 4th Platoon. The letter "u" was used to identify the platoon commander. Other examples include "R" (spade insignia, no. 40582) and "S" (heart insignia, no. 40501).

A few of the battalion's tanks, such as this one, had the battalion insignia painted on them, a boar's head on a shield with the phrase "Je grogne" ("I growl").



Char B1 Bis



The Char B1 Bis on this map is named "Tunis" and belongs to Captain Clarac, the Commander of the 3rd Company of the 28e Bataillon de Chars de Combat in the 1e Demi-brigade lourde of the 1ere DCR.

The markings are mainly copied from real photos of the tank in France 1940.



B1bis TUNIS 282 28e BCC 3e Compagnie



B1bis TUNIS 282 28e BCC 3e Compagnie

The Char B1 bis tanks of the 1ere DCR were assigned to the 1e Demi-brigade lourde (heavy half-brigade) which consisted of both the 28e and 37e BCC. Each BCC had 31 Char B1 bis tanks.

The Char B1 tanks again carried camouflage and markings painted at the factory. This tank shows a scheme of brown over standard army green which is common on tanks produced at the St. Chamond factory. Sometimes, the turret was supplied separately, and the pattern differed from that of the hull. On this tank, that isn't the case.

The Char B1s carried a set of regulation markings applied at the factory in the form of a 3-digit number. These numbers were carried in white on the brace under the 75mm gun and on the right side access door. There were also rare occasions when it was carried on the left rear. This tank was number '282.'

The list of names for each tank was fixed by the Directorate of Armament Manufacturing. The name was applied on the front over the tricolor flash and almost always on the right side of the turret over the tricolor. The names were actually assigned in batches that run within the same groups of BCC and factory applied numbers. After about 431, the names were issued more irregularly and in some units replacement vehicles were christened after older vehicles such as 'Vendee II' and 'Verdun II.' Some were never named.

A brief overview of the system of allocating names to vehicles;

Type	Matricule	Theme	Unit
B1	101-135	Provinces	37e BCC
B1 bis	201-235	Provinces, colonies, towns	15e BCC
B1 bis	236-270	Destroyers and torpedo-boats	8e BCC
B1 bis	271-305	Towns and colonies	28e BCC
B1 bis	306-345	Rivers	41e & 49e BCC
B1 bis	346-375	Wines	41e & 49e BCC
B1 bis	376-387	1914-1918 victories	41e & 49e BCC
B1 bis	388-410	1914-1918 victories	46e & 47e BCC
B1 bis	411-431	Military leaders	46e & 47e BCC

Ours falls in the range of 271-305 named after towns and colonies. This one is "Tunis."

The Char B1s of the 28e BCC followed a variation on the playing card symbol marking system and also used a series of letters and dots to identify each tank. With only 3 platoons in each company, this club denotes the 3rd company commander Captain Clarac. It is carried on the turret right and left rear. The tank also carried the letter "C" used by only the 3rd company commander in many places on the tank; in two places the rear hull and on each side of the hull towards the rear. It also carries the letter on each side of the turret and on the rear.

The 28e BCC marking system used clubs for commanders of each company and spades for the 1st, hearts for the 2nd and diamonds for the 3rd platoons in each company. The colors of Blue for the 1st, white for the 2nd and red for the 3rd companies were still retained.

The letters used in the battalion could provide the exact location of the tank in the platoon by using dots placed before or after the letter;

	1st Company	2nd Company	3rd Company
Commander	2A	2B	C
1st Platoon	D, D., .D	G, G., .G	J, .J, J.
2nd Platoon	E, E., .E	H, H., .H	K, .K, K.
3rd Platoon	F, F., .F	I, I., .I	L, L., .L

As tanks of the 28e BCC, they were assigned Char B1 bis from the 271-305 range and were all named after towns and colonies.

As you can see, we've taken as much care as possible to replicate our vehicles after actual photos, and used the marking instructions and typical practices to apply markings where photos aren't available. In this way, the vehicles on Flavion will hopefully immerse you that much more when you get your hands on them in 2.6.

We hope you enjoy! 'Till next time!

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