

Surviving Centaur and Cromwell Tanks

Last update : 10 March 2024

Listed here are the British Centaur, Cromwell tanks and derivatives that still exist today.



Pierre-Olivier Buan, June 2014 - <https://www.flickr.com/photos/13963542@N08/14569699161/in/set-72157645512102875>

Cruiser Tank Mark VII A24 Cavalier wreck – Bovington Tank Museum (UK)

This tank was found on Larkhill artillery ranges back in 1985. It was a Gunner's Observation Post (OP) tank in the 9th Armoured Division during its short service life (info. from the museum)



Picture provided by Lance Varga

Cruiser Tank Mark VII A24 Cavalier wreck – Lance Varga Collection (USA)

This vehicle was previously part of the Isle of Wight museum in the UK, and then by Classic MVs in the Netherlands



Pierre-Olivier Buan, June 2014 - <https://www.flickr.com/photos/13963542@N08/14386402030/in/set-72157645512102875/>

Cruiser Tank Mark VII A24 Cavalier hull – Bovington Tank Museum (UK)



Massimo Foti, October 2014 - <https://www.flickr.com/photos/massimofoti/31961702726/>

Cruiser Tank Mark VIII A27L Centaur Command Tank
Imperial War Museum, Duxford (UK)
A type hull with No 20 MG mount (Steve Osfield)



Pierre-Olivier Buan, June 2014 - <https://www.flickr.com/photos/13963542@N08/14583803986/in/set-72157645570837201>

Cruiser Tank Mark VIII A27L Centaur – Cobbaton Combat Collection (UK)

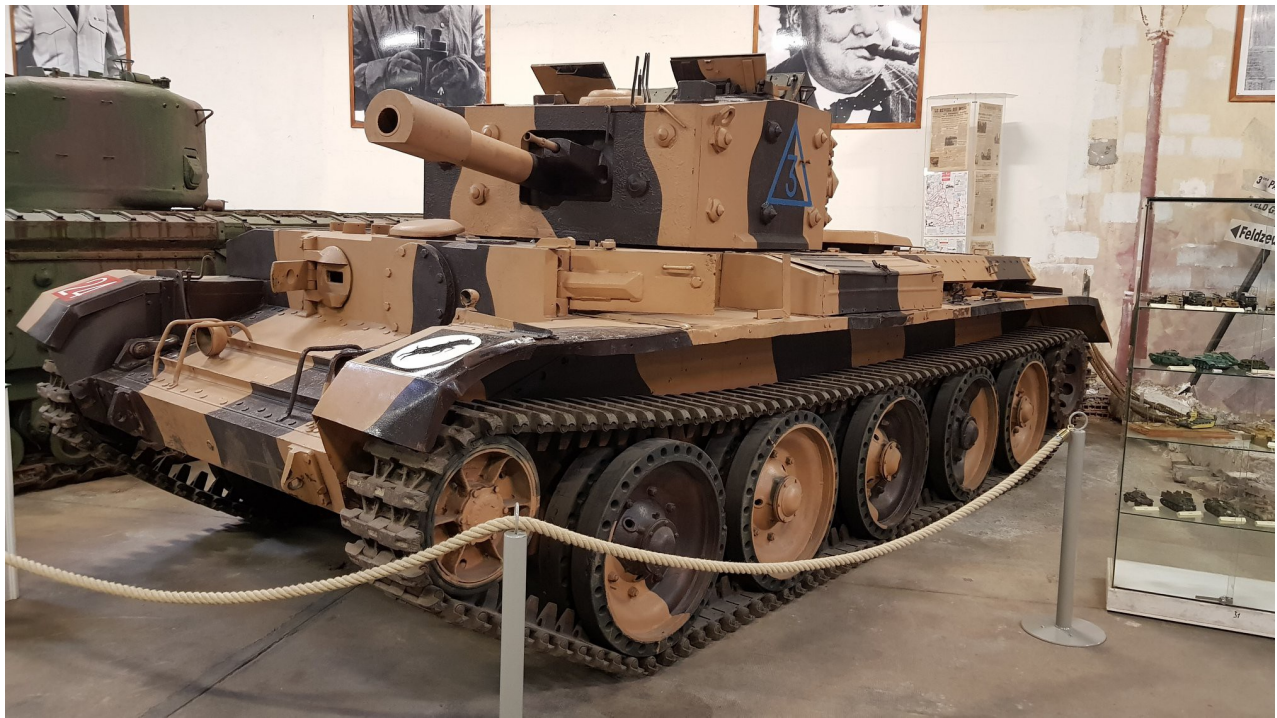
The Centaur MkIV tank in the Cobbaton Combat Collection was built in 1944. It is Serial Number 72 and the tank's vehicle registration number was T11243 which is still painted on the outside of the tank today. It was converted into a Centaur Dozer tank by the Army in July 1945. The conversion consisted in the turret removal and a metal blade was added to the front of the tank. It was sold as scrap in 1957 and remained at the Pound's Military Scrap Yard in Portsmouth until Preston Isaacs of Cobbaton Combat purchased the tank hull in 1979 (Craig Moore). It currently carries a mock up turret, but the museum owns an original turret which is intended to be fitted to the tank (<http://www.armouruk.net/>). Although it didn't run for a while, it is in running condition



<https://www.facebook.com/armouredengineering/posts/>

Cruiser Tank Mark VIII A27L Centaur – The Bannister collection (UK)

It probably was a Centaur MK I or III and modified to a Centaur Dozer in 44 or 45. You can still see some of the dozer modifications on the tank (as of July, 2022). It was given a type A/B hull, it has 2 top opening hatches. It has the early Number 20 besa mount and housing for telescope number 35 (Lance Varga). Used in Band of Brothers series



Pierre-Olivier Buan, March 2019

Cruiser Tank Mark VIII A27L Centaur – Musée des Blindés, Saumur (France)



Benoît Fritsch, July 2021 - <https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=1058647278213539&set=a.723609195050684>

Cruiser Tank Mark VIII A27L Centaur Memorial Pegasus Bridge Museum, Ranville (France)

This tank landed at Sword Beach on 6 June 1944 between Hermanville and Lion-sur-Mer with the Royal Marines Armoured Support Group. It was recovered in 1975 by 7 Field Workshop REME, according to a plate welded on the tank. It was previously displayed beside the Pegasus Bridge in Bénouville



Pierre-Olivier Buan, June 2007 - http://the.shaddock.free.fr/Tanks_in_France/centaur_hermanville/index.html

Centaur (A27L) / Cavalier (A24) turret – Hermanville-sur-Mer, Sword Beach (France)

This tank was originally a Dozer (Steve Osfield), and was restored at Duxford by the Imperial War Museum with a Cavalier turret which was recovered on a fire range in the UK. Some of the fittings of Centaur Dozer tanks can still be seen on the hull. Marked and restored to appear as a Centaur close support tank of the Royal Marines Armoured Support Group, according to "Hermanville Centaur," *Military Machines International*, Vol. 6, No. 8 (January 2007). The Cavalier turret comes from a wreck of the Otterburn fire range, which carried the serial T129857U (<http://hmvf.co.uk/> forum)



Jim Goetz, July 2014

Cruiser Tank Mark VIII A27L Centaur

2nd Lancers Regiment Barracks, Calcada da Ajuda, Lisboa (Portugal)

About 24 tanks were sold to Portugal. The first Centaur tanks were delivered in 1945. There are still some doubts if Portugal only received Centaurs, or also few Cromwells. The tanks remained in active duty until 1955 (<http://www.areamilitar.net/>)



"PereiraMarques", November 2006 - <http://www.militaryphotos.net/forums/showthread.php?p=3306519>

Cruiser Tank Mark VIII A27L Centaur
Portuguese Army Cavalry School Museum, Santarém (Portugal)



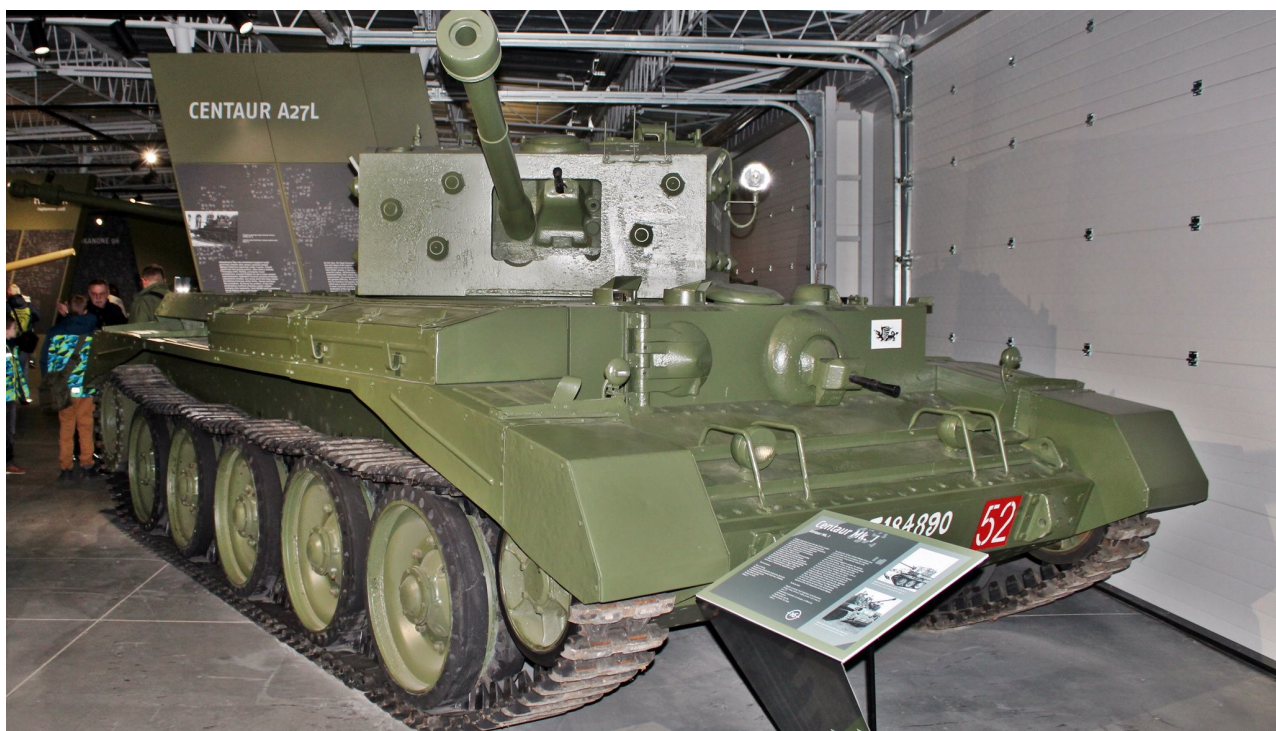
"HSMW", August 2008 - <http://forumdefesa.com/forum/viewtopic.php?p=78005&sid=e467f1115ea9a56c2a5167b73ba06ff>

Cruiser Tank Mark VIII A27L Centaur – Museu Militar de Elvas (Portugal)
Comes from the Portuguese Army Cavalry School Museum, Santarém (Portugal)



Jim Goetz, July 2014

Cruiser Tank Mark VIII A27L Centaur – Campo Militar de Santa Margarida (CMSM)
Santa Margarida da Coutada (Portugal)



Adrian Kot, January 2020 - <https://www.flickr.com/photos/junktimers/49833384186>

Cruiser Tank Mark VIII A27L Centaur – Armoured Weapons Museum, Poznań (Poland)
This tank came from Portugal and was transferred to Poland in June 2013. T134653 U, built in August, 1943



<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10205935035317127&set=pcb.10152675278070069&type=1>

Cruiser Tank Mark VIII A27L Centaur – Hellenic Army Armor Museum, inside the Armor Training Center, Avlona, near Athens (Greece)

Original tracks and drive sprockets were missing and were replaced by M113 APC ones. The original engine deck is also missing and has been replaced by a sheet metal cover (Nikos Livadas). Greek Centaurs were equipped with a 6pdr Ordnance Mk.5 (57mm) gun (Angelos Sanopoulos). This tank has been restored in 2013



photo provided by Lance Varga

Cruiser Tank Mark VIII A27L Centaur – Lance Varga Collection (USA)

B type hull (Steve Osfield). Formerly displayed at the Isle of Wight military museum. Being restored to a Centaur gun tank



Lance Varga, August 2019



Lance Varga, August 2019

Cruiser Tank Mark VIII A27L Centaur restoration project – Lance Varga Collection (USA)

This tank was bought from Ian Galliers in 2010. It carries the British RN T-217875. Rick Wedlock took this vehicle's turret to restore a Charioteer back to Cromwell configuration and then sold the hull to Kevin Powles in 2012. Kevin then sold it to Lance Varga in 2018. The tank will be restored into a Cromwell Mk IV



<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1041825/Revealed-The-astonishing-D-Day-tanks-the-English-Channel.html>

2 Centaurs (A27L) – 8 miles offshore in Bracklesham Bay, West Sussex (UK)



July 2010 – <http://picasa.google.com/>

Cruiser Tank Mark VIII A27L Centaur wreck – Rex & Rod Cadman Collection (UK)



Pierre-Olivier Buan, June 2014 - <https://www.flickr.com/photos/13963542@N08/14671427022/in/set-72157645315709427>

Cruiser Tank Mark VIII A27L Centaur hull – Rex & Rod Cadman Collection (UK)



Bob Fleming, August 2015

Cruiser Tank Mark VIII A27L Centaur hull – Private collection (UK)

This vehicle comes from former Budge Collection stock (Bob Fleming)



"plainmilitary" - <http://s144.photobucket.com/albums/r183/plainmilitary/Plain%20Military%20wrecks/>

Cruiser Tank Mark VIII A27L Centaur wreck – Salisbury Plain firing range (UK)



Pierre-Olivier Buan, April 2022



Pierre-Olivier Buan, April 2022



Pierre-Olivier Buan, April 2022

Three A27L Centaur hulls – 2nd Dragoon Regiment, Fontevraud (France)

The Centaur was used by one or a few French regiments in the post-war years



Photo provided by the MM Park

Cruiser Tank Mark VIII A27L Centaur wreck – MM Park, La Wantzenau (France)

Formerly located at the Oberhoffen Military Camp training field, Oberhoffen-sur-Moder (France). The Centaur was used by one or a few French regiments in the post-war years



Eric Kauffmann

Cruiser Tank Mark VIII A27L Centaur hull – MM Park, La Wantzenau (France)

WD Number T-183868, manufactured in February, 1943 (manufacturer's plate)



"Megashorts", April 2009 - <http://www.flickr.com/photos/megashorts/3465143367/in/set-72157609057315170/>

Cruiser Tank Mark VIII A27L Centaur Dozer – Bovington Tank Museum (UK)

B type hull (Steve Osfield). This vehicle was built as a Centaur tank then converted into a dozer by MG Cars in Abingdon. Its service history is unknown. It was retired in 1963 and sold for scrap five years later. It was then recovered and restored, coming to the Tank Museum in 1985 (Museum)



Pierre-Olivier Buan, May 2016

Cruiser Tank Mark VIII A27L Centaur Dozer – Armourgeddon, Husbands Bosworth (UK)

Formerly part of the Isle of Wight Military Museum (UK). Currently for sale on Milweb with 2 Libery engines



Pierre-Olivier Buan, May 2017

Centaur Dozer – Staman International Trading, Nijverdal (Netherlands)
Formerly part of the Isle of Wight Military Museum (UK)



"rahul m", November 2010 - <http://picasaweb.google.com/113353781365135287048/CavalryTankMuseumMIRCAhmednagar#>

First Centaur Dozer – Armoured Corps Museum, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra (India)
B type hull (Steve Osfield)



"rahul m", November 2010 - <http://picasaweb.google.com/113353781365135287048/CavalryTankMuseumMIRCAhmednagar#>

Second Centaur Dozer – Armoured Corps Museum, Ahmednagar, Maharashtra (India)
B type hull (Steve Osfield)



<https://www.go-myanmar.com/sites/go-myanmar.com/files/uploads/img/milit.jpg>

Centaur Dozer – Defence services museum, Naypyidaw (Burma / Myanmar)



<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=2320016121597098&set=pcb.2320010448264332&type=3&theater>

Cruiser Tank Mark VIII A27M Centaur Dozer – Lance Varga Collection (USA)

Number T185462, registration number 54 ZR 60, type D. B type hull (Steve Osfield). This vehicle was previously owned by Classic MVs in the Netherlands



http://i835.photobucket.com/albums/zz273/afvmilspec/DSC_0829.jpg



Pierre-Olivier Buan, June 2014 - <https://www.flickr.com/photos/13963542@N08/14668543401/in/set-72157645315709427>

Two Cruiser Tank Mark VIII A27M Centaur Dozer wrecks
Rex & Rod Cadman Collection (UK)
B type hull (Steve Osfield)



"f0rbe5", April 2009 - <http://www.flickr.com/photos/67307569@N00/3806847731/in/set-72157617097696996/>

Cruiser Tank Mark VIII A27M Cromwell – Bovington Tank Museum (UK)
This is a Cromwell Mark IV, the most common type. It was a training tank at Bovington Camp (Museum)



Pierre-Olivier Buan, June 2014

Cruiser Tank Mark VIII A27M Cromwell – Desert Rat Memorial, Thetford Forest (near Mundford), Norfolk (UK)

This Cromwell was restored by R. H. Barrell engineering Ltd. to represent Cromwell Mk IV T189873 "Little Audrey II" which served in "B" Sqdn, 1st Batt. RTR here In Thetford Forest and took part of the invasion of Normandy in June 1944. The founder of this memorial, Mr. Les Dinning served as gunner in this tank (plate)



Bob Fleming, August 2015

Cruiser Tank Mark VIII A27M Cromwell restoration project – Private collection (UK)

B type hull with No 20 MG mount (Steve Osfield). This vehicle comes from former Budge Collection stock (Bob Fleming). The turret can be seen on the side



Pierre-Olivier Buan, August 2008 - <http://news.webshots.com/album/566321611vZcJYT?start=0>

Cruiser Tank Mark VIII A27M Cromwell – National War and Resistance Museum Overloon (Netherlands)



Pierre-Olivier Buan, December 2012

Cruiser Tank Mark VIII A27M Cromwell – Heintz Barracks, Bastogne (Belgium)

This tank came from Norfolk, it is a Charioteer converted back to Cromwell. The conversion was done by Richard Farrant (<http://hvmf.co.uk/>). The turret was apparently modified to fit on a Charioteer turret ring



Hanno Spoelstra, April 2017 - <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=431327570537790&set=oa.1877268225884873&type=3>

Cruiser Tank Mark VIII A27M Cromwell – Jan Van Rijsewijklaan, Antwerp (Belgium)



<https://www.facebook.com/>

Cruiser Tank Mark VIII A27M Cromwell – Handmet Military, Gostyń (Poland)

This is an ex-CSIABG (1st Czechoslovak Armoured Brigade) tank chassis. The turret comes from a British fire range



"Probe", 2005 - <http://galerie.valka.cz/displayimage.php?album=242&pos=35>

Cruiser Tank Mark VIII A27M Cromwell – Army Technical Museum Lesany (Czech Republic) – running condition

Purchased in England in 2002, from D.Nicholson. It was used in the miniseries Band of Brothers (Patrik Krista)



"palic", June 2008 - <http://www.com-central.net/index.php?name=Forums&file=viewtopic&t=5337&start=45>

Cruiser Tank Mark VIII A27M Cromwell – Private collection, part of Rota Nazdar reenactment group (Czech Republic)

This tank was previously part of the 1st Czechoslovak Armoured Brigade and later used as surface coalmine excavator, heavily modified, stripped of turret and electrically powered (In 1960, 22 tanks were redesigned for mining machine, more info here <http://forum.valka.cz/viewtopic.php/title/CZK-THV-01-tankovy-haldovy-vykopnik/t/84828>) . It now has a turret made of concrete plates on metal frames and no engine, but the owner wants to restore it to running condition ("palic")



Pierre-Olivier Buan, August 2015

Cruiser Tank Mark VIII A27M Cromwell – Smržovka private tank museum (Czech Rep.)

This ex-CSIABG (1st Czechoslovak Armoured Brigade) tank was transformed into a crane to be used in a quarry.
The crane was dismantled before the transfer to Smržovka ("palic", Jan Loncik). The museum also got a turret from England, which comes from a fire range ("Patrik")



<https://www.facebook.com/>

Cruiser Tank Mark VIII A27M Cromwell – Royal Jordanian Tank Museum (Jordan)

Appears to be a Charioteer converted back to Cromwell



Alexey Domin, October 2014 - <https://www.flickr.com/photos/142809800@N03/31426288956/in/dateposted/>

Cruiser Tank Mark VIII A27M Cromwell – Kubinka Tank Museum (Russia)



Timur Pakuro, 2017 - <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1680657885279795&set=pcb.1966425183580446&type=3&theater>



Yuri Pasholok, June 2017

Cruiser Tank Mark VIII A27M Cromwell – Vadim Zadorozhny Museum, Arhangelskoe, Moscow Oblast (Russia)

The Cromwell above was acquired from Germany and once belonged to the Budge Collection (Bob Fleming). It was then part of Kevin Wheatcroft Collection. The one below was converted from a Finnish charioteer tank



© Vitaly V. Kuzmin

Vitaly Kuzmin, April 2020 - <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.2609824352477954&type=3>

Cruiser Tank Mark VIII A27M Cromwell – Museum of military equipment "Battle Glory of the Urals", Verkhnyaya Pyshma, Sverdlovsk Oblast (Russia)

This tank is an ex-Finnish Charioteer (Reg. Number Ps 252-32) and was converted back to Cromwell configuration (Rick Wedlock). Previously part of Rick Wedlock's collection



Jim Goetz, March 2017 - <https://www.facebook.com/>

Cruiser Tank Mark VIII A27M Cromwell – Yad la-Shiryon Museum, Latrun (Israel)



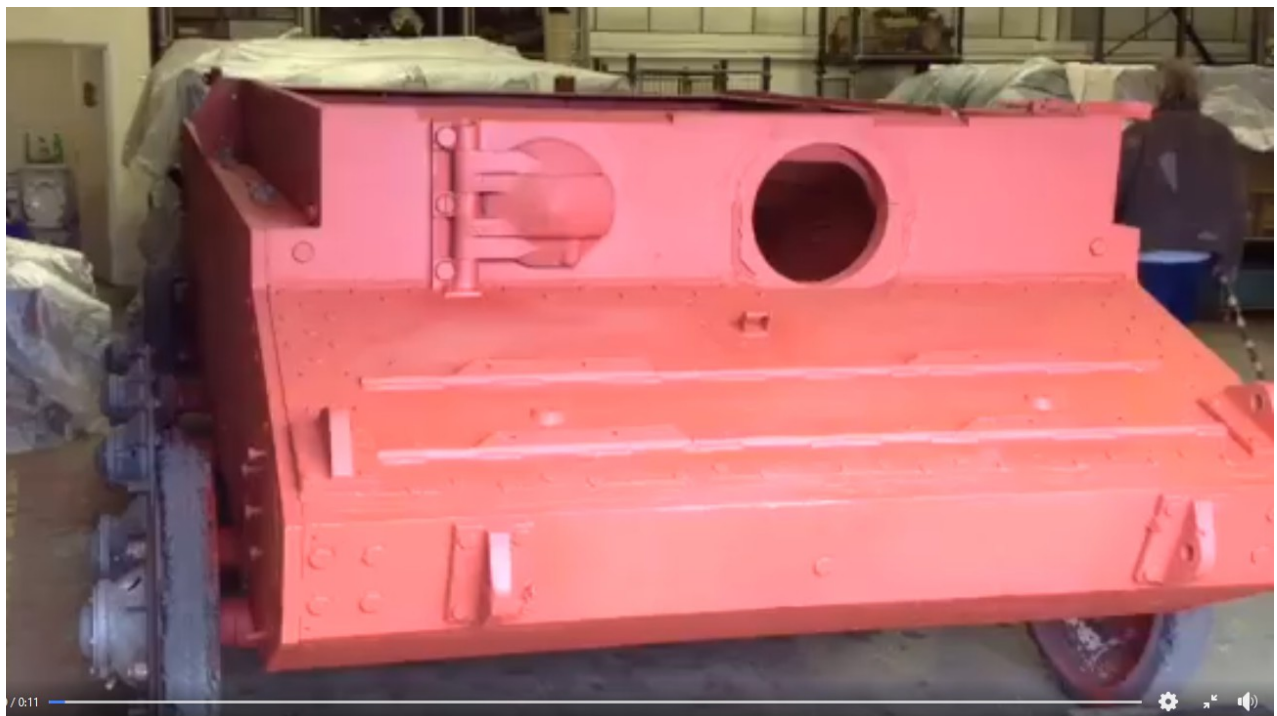
Massimo Foti, May 2017 - <https://www.flickr.com/photos/massimofoti/35189898186/>

Cruiser Tank Mark VIII A27M Cromwell – Yad la-Shiryon Museum, Latrun (Israel)



"Bukvoed", January 2007 - <http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Image:Puckapunyal-Cromwell-2.jpg>

Cruiser Tank Mark VIII A27M Cromwell – Royal Australian Armoured Corps Tank Museum, Puckapunyal, VIC (Australia)



<http://www.hmvf.co.uk/forumvb/showthread.php?t=11288>

Cruiser Tank Mark VIII A27M Cromwell project – Australian Armour and Artillery Museum Cairns, QLD (Australia)

Formerly owned by Adrian Barrell. This tank is an ex-Charioteer and will be converted back to Cromwell configuration (Adrian Barrell). Built by English Electric as a Cromwell IV in March 1944 and was given the census number T189557. It was issued to the 1st Royal Tank Regiment and delivered to Thetford where 22nd Armoured Brigade were preparing for the Normandy Invasion. Nicknamed "Annous". The full story of this tank can be read here : <http://www.hmvf.co.uk/forumvb/showthread.php?t=11288>



Pierre-Olivier Buan, September 2019

Cruiser Tank Mark VIII A27M Cromwell "Blenheim" American Heritage Museum, Hudson, MA (USA)

This tank was part of the Budge Collection (UK) before the collection was scattered. It was then part of Jacques Littlefield Collection in California. The entire Littlefield collection was donated to the Collings Foundation, and only 80 of the 240 vehicles of the collection are now displayed in a museum in Hudson, MA. The other vehicles were sold in an auction in August 2014



Lance Varga, September 2021

Cruiser Tank Mark VIII A27M Cromwell – Lance Varga Collection (USA)

F type Hull, it was converted to a Charioteer post war and owned by Finland, then converted back to Cromwell. Formerly owned by Kevin Wheatcroft



Pierre-Olivier Buan, June 2014 - <https://www.flickr.com/photos/13963542@N08/14569702541/in/set-72157645512102875/>

Cavalier (A27L) or Cromwell (A27M) hull – Bovington Tank Museum (UK)



Pierre-Olivier Buan, June 2014 - <https://www.flickr.com/photos/13963542@N08/14485116338/in/set-72157645315709427/>

Centaur (A27L) or Cromwell (A27M) hull – Rex & Rod Cadman Collection (UK)



Picture from Facebook

Cromwell ARV restoration project – Shaun Hindle Collection (UK)

This tank was a Charioteer fitted with an export 105mm gun for a middle east, but the contract was never completed. It is being restored as a Cromwell ARV of the REME (Craig Moore)



<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=802186975254760&set=pcb.802187505254707>

Cromwell ARV restoration project – BAIV BV, Maarheeze (Netherlands)

Former Finnish Charioteer



Philippe Elias, November 2018

Cruiser Tank Mark VIII A27M Cromwell wreck – Heintz Barracks, Bastogne (Belgium)

The origins of this tank are unknown yet



Martin Šejbl, September 2014 - <http://modelforum.cz/viewtopic.php?f=2&p=1644640#p1644640>

Cruiser Tank Mark VIII A27M Cromwell hull Army Technical Museum, Lesany (Czech Republic)

This is an ex-CSIABG (1st Czechoslovak Armoured Brigade) tank chassis. Probably transformed into a crane and used in a quarry



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/307283852755257/permalink/1623498097800486/>

Cruiser Tank Mark VIII A27M Cromwell – Vojenské Museum, Králíky (Czech Republic)

This is an ex-CSIABG (1st Czechoslovak Armoured Brigade) tank chassis



http://www.milweb.net/classifieds/view_large.php?ad=84016&cat=1

Two Cruiser Tank Mark VIII A27M Cromwell hulls – Private collection (Czech Republic)

These chassis were previously part of the 1st Czechoslovak Armoured Brigade and later used as surface coalmine excavators, heavily modified, stripped of turret and electrically powered. One of them was used to restore "Faust", listed above. These tanks are T188771 and T188692



<https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1368877989824194&set=pcb.63928293955345&type=3>

Cruiser Tank Mark VIII A27M Cromwell hull – Latvia or Eastern Europe?

This ex-CSIABG (1st Czechoslovak Armoured Brigade) tank was transformed into a crane to be used in a quarry.
The crane was dismantled before the transfer to Smrzovka military museum ("palic", Jan Loncik). The hull was sold in August, 2016



Ian Wilcox, November 2019 - <https://www.facebook.com/TheFriendsofTheTankMuseum/>

Cruiser Tank Mark VIII A30 Challenger
National War and Resistance Museum, Overloon (Netherlands)



Trevor Larkum, August 2009

Cruiser Tank Mark VIII A30 Challenger wreck – Bovington Tank Museum (UK)

Formerly stored at the Isle of Wight Military Museum (UK). This tank is awaiting restoration, it will be displayed at Bovington once restored. Its an odd one, the turret and hull belong to two different machines, both of which were up-armored versions with the extra applique welded on. The engine bay is a mess, and the lower left rear 3 road-wheels and suspension is ruined. The turret itself was used as a training tool and so has a large cutaway side and all fitting removed (Ed Francis via Craig Moore)



Robert Skene, September 2007

Cruiser Tank Mark VIII A27L Centaur turret – Cobbaton Combat Collection (UK)

This turret is the one which will replace the mock-up turret on the Cobbaton museum's Centaur (<http://www.armouruk.net/>)



"gsurya", March 2011 - <http://www.flickr.com/photos/gsurya/5501126097/in/set-72157626193139808/>



"gsurya", March 2011 - <http://www.flickr.com/photos/gsurya/5501691852/in/set-72157626193139808/>

Two Cruiser Tank Mark VIII A27L Centaur turrets – War Museum, Athens (Greece)



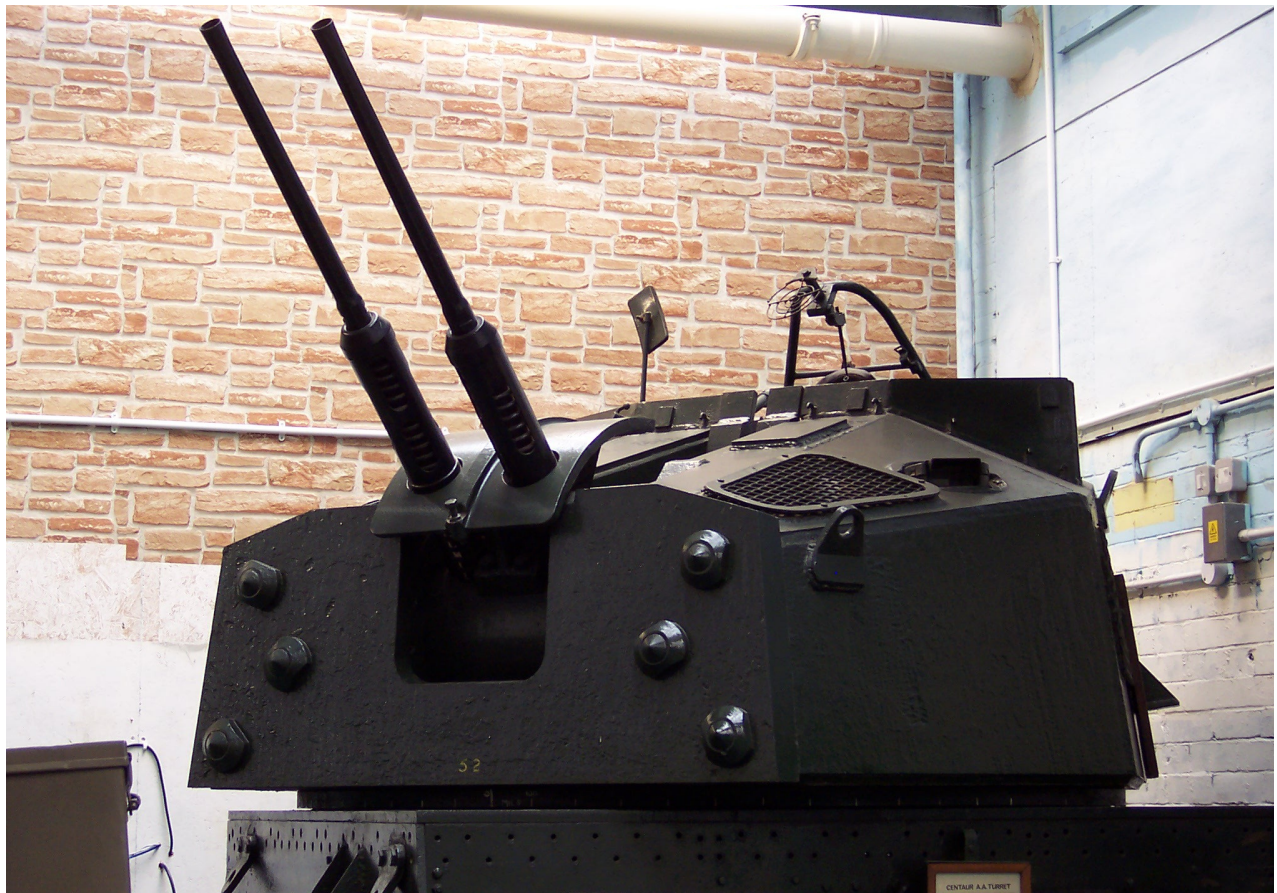
<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=5915670738468170&set=gm.2396647000485588&id=307283852755257>

Cruiser Tank Mark VIII A27L Centaur turret
Military area, possibly near Thessaloniki (Greece)



<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=5722895494403636&set=pcb.2116296941853930>

Centaur or Cromwell turret – on a former French bunker, near Hà Nội (Viet-Nam)



Neil Baumgardner, June 2006 - <http://www.com-central.net/index.php?name=Forums&file=viewtopic&t=4092&start=30>

Centaur AA turret – Bovington Tank Museum (UK)

This turret is fitted to a stand rather than a Centaur as it was only used for training and didn't need to move. The Centaur AA tank was intended to replace the Crusader, but ultimately it saw no service (Museum)

I'm looking for photos of those tanks :

Centaur (A27L) – Dennis Roberts Collection (UK) – running condition – used in Band of Brothers serie
Some Centaurs (A27L) – Lying in the Solent, off the Isle of Wight (UK) – unlikely to be ever recovered

any tank that I forgot....

This document is a compilation of photos published on the web. I would like to thank especially **Rafał Białęcki**, who deserved the most of the job on this document, and also the people who took these photos and put them on their websites, or sent them to me, and those who helped me doing these lists (particularly people of the AFV News Discussion Board). For any question, you can email me at soldat_ryan@hotmail.com

Main page : http://the.shadock.free.fr/Surviving_Panzers.html