The Covenanter Cruiser Tank (A.13 Mk III)



In 1938 the War Office announced requirements for a heavy cruiser tank, this demand was met by Nuffields with their A16 but this proved to be too expensive and so a cheaper alternative was required. The specifications called for a tank mounting a 2pdr gun, at least 1 machine gun and a 30mm armour standard, the resulting tank was the Cruiser Mk V, known as the Covenanter. Later it was requested to increase the armour basis on the front of the vehicle to a 40mm basis, due to the political situation it was decided to order the vehicles

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before the prototype had been delivered. The first prototype was delivered and tested in mid 1940 and was found to be fast but engine overeating was a serious issue.

The Covenanter used a composite armour layout similar to that of the Crusader but instead of using a machineable quality front plate a homogeneous hard plate was used. The armour was also thinner than that of the Crusader and doesn't seem to have been improved throughout each Mark as was done with the Crusader. Armament consisted of a 2pdr gun and a Besa machine gun, CS versions of the tank replaced the 2pdr with a 3" howitzer. The turret ring of the Covenanter was even smaller than that of the Crusaders and was not upgunned to carry a 6pdr as the Crusader did.

The Covenanter suffered from severe engine overheating trouble and even by November 1941 the General Staff stated "these tanks could no be used in operations abroad". A program to rework Covenanters and incorporate substantial modifications was scheduled to start in February 1942 but did not commence until May, by then rising Crusader production together with increased availability of U.S. tanks made it unnecessary to use Covenanters in North Africa. Capacity for Covenanters was transferred to other vehicles and so the Covenanter was not used in action.

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Name	Covenar	nter Covenante	r I Covenanter I	C
Туре	Cruiser	Cruiser	Cruiser	C
Production Dat	November 1940			
Crew	4	4	4	4
(In turret)	3	3	3	3
Length	19\'	19\'	19\'	1
Width	9\'-1"	9\'-1"	9\'-1"	9
Height	3\'-3.75"	3\'-3.75"	3\'-3.75"	3
Weight	18.15	18.15	18.15	1
Ground pressu		16.5	16.5	1
Ground clearar	1 08 '-4"	1\'-4"	1\'-4"	1
Track type	Box Section Sp.	BdecSection Sp.	B d ⊛cSection Sp	18
No per track	120	120	120	1
Weight of one	12860	1360	1360	1
Track width	9.7"	9.7"	9.7"	9
Engine	Meadows D.A.V	Meadows D.A.	<u>Meadows</u>	
<u>D.A.V</u>			<u>M</u>	
eadows D.A.V				
B.H.P/Ton	15.4	15.4	15.4	1
Max road spee		30	30	3
Average road s	· •	25	25	2
Cross Country		18.2	18.2	1
	Type 34 Consta	· ·		
Gears	4 Forward 1 Re	v er Ferward 1 Re	r é r s erward 1 Re	∕

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Fuel consumpti	ogn (road) – MPG	2	2	2
Fuel consumption	ongcross country	01.3	1.3	1
Petrol capacity	74	74	74	7
Auxiliary capacit	J	30	30	3
Radius of action		205	205	2
Radius of action	1 - 1	134	134	1
Trench Crossin	P -	7\'	7\'	7
Vertical obstac	1	2\'-6"	2\'-6"	2
Fording height	3\'-2"	3\'-2"	3\'-2"	3
Main Armamen	t <u>2 Pounder</u> 2 Po	under 2 Pounde	<u>er 2</u>	
Pounder				
Ammunition				
Secondary Arm	888€ ₹17.92	Besa 7.92	Besa 7.92	В
Ammunition				
_				
		Hand & Hydrau	leHand & Hydrau	_
Max elevation	25	20	20	i c 2
Max elevation Max depression	25 20	20 15	20 15	2
Max elevation Max depression Turret Ring Size	25 20	20	20	_
Max elevation Max depression	25 20	20 15 55.5	20 15	2
Max elevation Max depression Turret Ring Size Optics	25 20 55.5	20 15 55.5	20 15	2
Max elevation Max depression Turret Ring Size	25 20 55.5	20 15 55.5	20 15	2
Max elevation Max depression Turret Ring Size Optics Armour	25 20 55.5 <u>No.30</u> <u>No.30</u> N	20 15 55.5 0.30 No.30	20 15 55.5	2 1 5
Max elevation Max depression Turret Ring Size Optics Armour Lower Hull Nose	25 20 55.5 <u>No.30</u> <u>No.30</u> <u>N</u> 8(I.T.70)+6.99(I.	20 15 55.5 0.30 No.30 B(1.11070)+6.99(I	20 15 55.5 B(1.11070)+6.99(I.	2 1 5
Max elevation Max depression Turret Ring Size Optics Armour Lower Hull Nose Upper Hull Nose	25 20 55.5 No.30 No.30 N	20 15 55.5 0.30 No.30 B(1.11070)+6.99(1.11100)+19.0	20 15 55.5 B(1.11070)+6.99(I.5217(I.11100)+19.05	2 1 5 8
Max elevation Max depression Turret Ring Size Optics Armour Lower Hull Nose Upper Hull Nose Hull Front	25 20 55.5 No.30 No.30 N	20 15 55.5 0.30 No.30 B(1.11070)+6.99(1.5217(1.11100)+19.05 D(1.11070)+6.99(1.11070)	20 15 55.5 B(1.11070)+6.99(I. 211(I.11100)+19.0(I. 12(1.11070)+6.99(I.	2 1 5 8 2 9
Max elevation Max depression Turret Ring Size Optics Armour Lower Hull Nos Upper Hull Nos Hull Front Hull Sides	25 20 55.5 No.30 No.30 N	20 15 55.5 0.30 No.30 8(1.11070)+6.99(1.5217(1.11100))+19.0 9(1.11070)+6.99(1.52147(1.11100))+14.2	20 15 55.5 B(1.11070)+6.99(I. 211(I.11100)+19.0 9(1.11070)+6.99(I. 9(14(I.11100))+14.2	2 1 5 8 9
Max elevation Max depression Turret Ring Size Optics Armour Lower Hull Nos Upper Hull Nos Hull Front Hull Sides Hull Rear	25 20 55.5 No.30 No.30 N	20 15 55.5 0.30 No.30 8(1.11070)+6.99(1.52)1(1.11100)+19.05 9(1.11070)+6.99(1.50)(1.11100)+14.25 8(14(1.111100))+15.85	20 15 55.5 B(1.11070)+6.99(1.521(1.11100)+19.05 9(1.11070)+6.99(1.9(1.11100)+14.25 3(14(1.11100)+15.86	2 1 5 8 9 1 8
Max elevation Max depression Turret Ring Size Optics Armour Lower Hull Nos Upper Hull Nos Hull Front Hull Sides	25 20 55.5 No.30 No.30 N	20 15 55.5 0.30 No.30 8(1.11070)+6.99(1.5217(1.11100))+19.0 9(1.11070)+6.99(1.52147(1.11100))+14.2	20 15 55.5 B(1.11070)+6.99(I. 211(I.11100)+19.0 9(1.11070)+6.99(I. 9(14(I.11100))+14.2	2 1 5 8 7 9

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	7(I.T.70)	7(I.T.70)	7(I.T.70)	7
Hull Floor	7(I.T.70)	7(I.T.70)	7(I.T.70)	7
Drivers Box from	1 8(I.T.70)+22.2	2 (18T1.1T100)+22.2	2(18(1.11100))+22.2	2(1
Drivers Box Vis		50(I.T.90)		5
Drivers Box Sid	ৰ প্স(I.T.70)+15.8।	8 (14TL:T100)+15.8	8(14(1.11100))+15.8	8(11
Drivers Box Ro	Ø(I.T.70)	9(I.T.70)	9(I.T.70)	9
Turret Front	20(I.T.70)+19(I.	20(0).70)+19(l.	72 0(10) 70)+19(1.	12
Turret Roof	9(I.T.70)	9(I.T.70)	9(I.T.70)	9
Turret Sides Up	₱⊕ (I.T.70)+9.52	(1170.(1.11070)+9.52	(1170.(1.11070)+9.52	(11
Turret Sides Lo	₩® (I.T.70)+9.52	(1170.(1.11070)+9.52	(1170.(1.11070)+9.52	(11
Turret Rear Up	1€2 (I.T.70)+12.7	(1172(1.11070)+12.7	(11<u>P</u>.(1.110 70)+12.7	(11
Turret Rear Lov	VP4 (I.T.70)+9(I.T	. 70 (I.T.70)+9(I.T	. 70 (I.T.70)+9(I.T	.7
Turret Floor	9(I.T.70)	9(I.T.70)	9(I.T.70)	9

Production of Covenanter Tanks by year (UK Only)

1919191943
Covena 668 Reworked
Scissor 68 ridges

Sources - AVIA 46 188, AVIA 22 456-514, WO 194