

# The Archer Tank Destroyer

The tank destroyer concept was initially dismissed by the British but due to the success German Tank Destroyers were having it was decided to go ahead. The first attempt was to mount a 3" Anti-Aircraft gun on a Churchill Tank, the first of these were completed in August 1942 and a total of 50 of these vehicles were completed. These vehicles do not seem to have been used in combat but their gun would have easily been capable of dealing with any German tank of the period. It had been hoped that the American M10 would have been available in numbers in 1942 but when it was realised this would not be the case it was decided to try to mount the 17pdr on any vehicles that would take it. Both the Valentine and Crusader were looked at, the Crusader due to its high power to weight ratio and the Valentine due to its reliability and low profile. The Valentine was eventually chosen as mounting the gun on the Crusader would have meant it was extremely exposed.

Development continued in 1943 but progress was slow as the M10 had not been made available in larger numbers and it was realised that the M10 would also be able to be converted to carry a 17 Pounder gun. The first Archers were completed in April 1944, the 17 Pounder gun was mounted facing backwards on the Valentine. Armour was very thin and would probably only have protected against small arms fire and shrapnel but the gun was powerful and the vehicle had a low silhouette.

## Archer Tank Destroyer

Written by Administrator

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Name	Archer
Type	Tank Destroyer
Production Date	April 1944
Crew	3
(In turret)	-
Length	18'-8"
Length With Gun	21'-11.25"
Width	9'
Height	7'4.5"
Weight	
Ground pressure	
Ground clearance	
Track type	
No per track	
Weight of one Track	
Track width	14"
Engine	
B.H.P	
Max road speed	20.91
Average road speed	19.55
Cross Country Speed	11.62
Gear box type	
Gears	

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Fuel consumption (road) – MPG	2.9
Fuel consumption (cross country)	1.32
Petrol	
Auxiliary capacity	
Radius of action (road)	
Radius of action (cross country)	
Trench Crossing	
Vertical obstacle	
Fording height	
Gradient	
Main Armament	<a href="#">17 Pounder</a>
Ammunition	39
Secondary Armament	
Ammunition	-
Transverse type	Hand (22.5)
Max elevation	15
Max depression	7.5
Turret Ring Size	-
Optics	<a href="#">No.43x3</a>
Armour	
Lower Hull Nose	20(I.T.80)
Upper Hull Nose	20(I.T.80)
Hull Front	20(I.T.80)
Hull Sides Upper	20(I.T.80)
Hull Sides Lower	20(I.T.80)
Hull Rear Lower	20(I.T.80)
Hull Rear Upper	

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	20(I.T.80)
Engine Deck	10(I.T.80)
Hull Floor	10(I.T.80)
Turret Mantlet	20(I.T.80)
Turret Front	20(I.T.80)
Turret Sides	10(I.T.80)
Turret Rear	20(I.T.80)
Turret Floor	

Production of Archer SP by year (UK Only)

1943 (End of May)  
Archer 19234