

VEHICLE TACTICAL MARKINGS FOR A FIELD AMBULANCE (Infantry Division).

BY MAJOR STEWART BROWN,
Royal Army Medical Corps.

THE NEED FOR TACTICAL MARKINGS.

THE advantages of having vehicles with distinctive markings has long been recognized. In peace-time the full regimental name and battalion was painted on the door or tailboard. In war, for reasons of security, the name has been replaced by a Unit Serial Number.

The mere Unit Serial Number, however, is not sufficient in these days of rapidly moving warfare. It should be possible to identify any one single vehicle at a glance and recognize the passengers and load it carries. With each vehicle distinctly labelled according to a set plan, it is possible to locate the Commander and subordinate Commanders of any unit or formation while on or off the road.

It is thus for the rapid recognition of passengers and loads of every car or vehicle, for ease of rapid intercommunication and recognition and for co-ordination generally, that the following scheme for the tactical marking of vehicles is submitted.

BASIS FOR CLASSIFICATION.

The scheme proposed is based on the system which has been adopted for some time by the Royal Artillery. This basis is :

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| Command Group | — | Letter Z followed by a Serial Number according to priority of Command, e.g. O.C.—Z.1.
2 i/c—Z.2, etc. |
| Company H.Q. | — | Letter X followed by Company letter. If more than one vehicle then XB.1, XB.2, etc., but only vehicles which are actually Coy. H.Q. are so marked. |
| Companies | — | Company letter ("A," "B," etc.) followed by section number, then an oblique and number of vehicle, thus—A1/2, A3/4, etc. |

These letters and numbers are added to the serial number plate immediately above the unit serial number both front and rear.

THE FIELD AMBULANCE.

As applied to the Field Ambulance, the tactical markings have been worked out according to the following table which is largely self-explanatory. The distribution of vehicles is according to the most recent re-organization.

Allocation (a)	Common Marking Letter (b)	Vehicle (c)	Use (d)	Marking (e)	Remarks (f)	
H.Q.	Z	4-str. car	O.C.	Z1	Dental Officer may act as B.M.L.O. or officer acting as such will use car so labelled.	
		2-str. car	2 i/c	Z2		
	QM	2-str. car	Q.M.	Q.M.		
		2-str. car	Liaison Officer	L.O.		
	H	3-ton lorry	do.	Technical Stores		H1
			30-cwt. lorry with water trailer	do.		H2
			do.	do.		H3
		30-cwt. lorry	do.	do.		H4
			do.	do.		H5
		Ambulance Cars	do.	do.		H6
do.			Workshops	H7		
Motor Cycles	No Tactical Markings are allotted as their distribution depends on necessity and their use is already obvious without further designation.					
	No Tactical Markings are allotted as their distribution and employment varies.					
Light Section	HL	30-cwt. lorry		HL1	H.Q. Light Section.	
		do.		HL2		
A Coy. No. 1 Light Sec.	XA A	4-str. car	O.C. Coy.	XA/1	As 2 i/c Coy. (Inf.) is marked XA/2.	
		3-ton lorry	Stores	A1/1		
No. 2 Light Sec.		2-str. car	O. i/c Sec.	A2/1		
		30-cwt. lorry	Technical Stores	A2/2		
No. 3 Light Sec.		do.	do.	A2/3		
		30-cwt. lorry	do.	A3/1		
		do.	do.	A3/2		

B Coy. And similarly for B Coy. with the substitution of the letter B for A as in A Coy. above.

SUMMARY.

- (1) Suggested vehicle tactical markings for a Field Ambulance (Infantry Division) are recorded.
- (2) They might prove a basis for uniformity in all Field Ambulances.
- (3) The identification of any vehicle is a simple matter.
- (4) Ambulances and motor cycles are not marked as their distribution varies, and their employment is obvious.

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