

Hungarian anti-aircraft tank Nimrod 40.M

Prehistory

In Sweden, through the 1930s, self-propelled anti-aircraft missiles of various types were tried.

AB Landsverk in Landskrona and AB Bofors in Karlskoga participated in this work and around 1940 the Luftvärnskanonvagn 40 appeared. It was produced in a very limited number, of which six. was sold to Finland where it served under the designation ITPSV.



The Landsverk L62, as the type was designated by the factory, basically consisted of a Landsverk L60 chassis, on which was mounted a turret with a 40 mm anti-aircraft gun L/60.

The chassis was extended so that there was room for a fifth road wheel, which was necessary due to the size of the tower.

The image comes from Source 2 and shows the Finnish ITPSV, which is on display at the armor museum in Parola, Finland.



In the Swedish army, the carriage was only accepted for limited service and it was soon discovered that the turret was actually too large for only one cannon tube.

It was decided to develop a model with two pieces. 40 mm anti-aircraft guns in twin mounts. This version was ready for testing in 1945. It was included under the designation Luftvärnskanonvagn 43 (Lvkv fm/43) in the Swedish army from 1947 until the early 1960s.

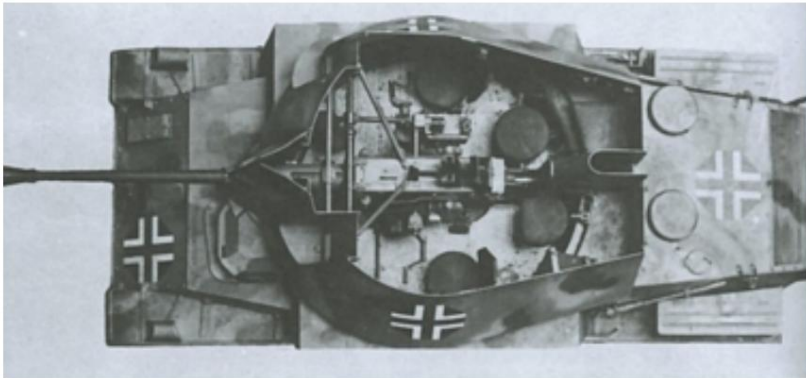
The image of the Swedish Lvkv fm/43 comes from a postcard that was purchased at the Swedish Panzermuseum in Axvall.

Nimrod 40.M



In 1941 Hungary obtained licensing rights to manufacture the Landsverk L62 anti-aircraft tank and a prototype was shown in October 1941. I assume that they had the opportunity to utilize both machinery and experience from the manufacture of Toldi tanks, which were manufactured from the Landsverk L60 type.

It was decided to place an order for 135 examples and MÁVAG began production in 1942.



45 examples were delivered in 1942 and 77 in 1943; the last 12 were delivered in January and February 1944.

The designation was originally 36/40.M Nimrod, but is most often referred to simply as 40.M Nimrod.

The anti-aircraft tank was equipped with the licensed 40 mm L/70 anti-aircraft gun 36.M from Bofors and was originally intended for the role of tank destroyer.

However, it soon became apparent that it was rather tall for this purpose and too weakly armored.



Furthermore, the 40 mm cannon did not have sufficient impact to solve the task as a self-propelled anti-tank gun.

To make up for the latter weakness, a special hole-charge grenade (42.M) was produced which could be inserted into the barrel from the front.

The grenade was ignited using a loose charge, analogous to a rifle grenade. Since the grenade had to be mounted from the outside, it was more suitable for ambushes than for offensive operations.

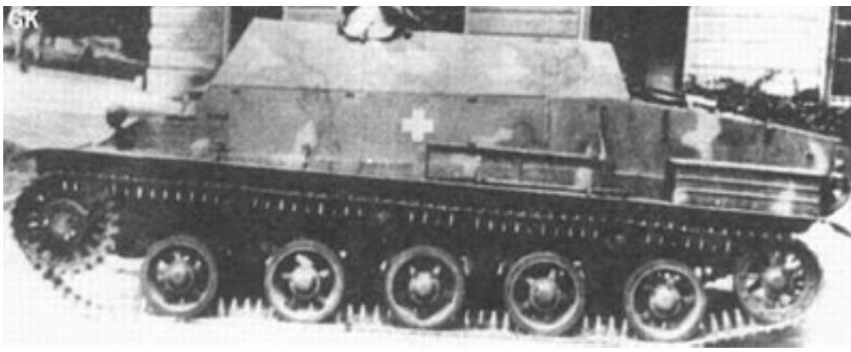


As an actual anti-aircraft tank and deployed against soft ground targets, however, the Nimrod had a good effect.

As can be seen in the pictures, supporters of "bush solutions" ;-)) can also be included here.

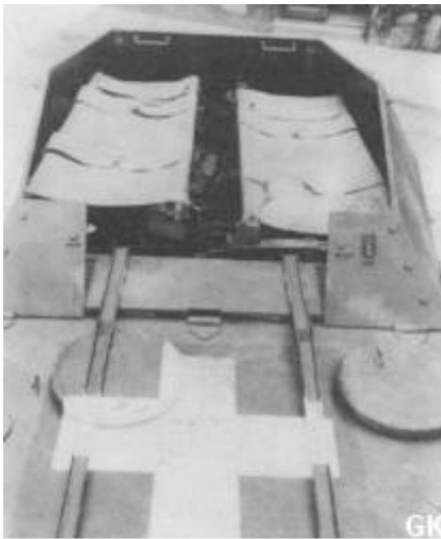
The organizational matters concerning the Nimrod 40.M are dealt with in my article on Hungarian anti-aircraft artillery.

Variants



In 1943, a very limited number of vehicles were built/converted to armored personnel carriers with the type designation 43.M Lehel. Basically, it is a Nimrod anti-aircraft tank without a turret, but with low fixed sides.

Lehel A was intended for engineer soldiers (storm pioneers) and could carry eight soldiers.



Lehel S was a sanitary version which could take either 2 patients on stretchers or 5 seated patients.

However, on 29 October 1943, the General Staff stopped all further development of these types, fearing that it would slow down the production of anti-aircraft tanks.

Sources

1. *The Royal Hungarian Army, 1920 – 1945* by Leo WG Niehorster, Axis Europa Books, New York 1998, ISBN 1-891227-19-X.
2. *The 40mm Bofors Gun* by Terry J. Gander, Patrick Stephens Limited, Wellingborough, 1986, ISBN 0-85059-840-0.
3. *Pansar of the Swedish Army* by Didrik von Porat, Armémusei småskrifter 3, Stockholm 1985, ISSN 0280-7254.
4. *Museum guide to Pansar Museet Axvall*, Stockholm 1989.
5. *Hungarian Armour- The Nimrod Anti-Aircraft tank and variants* by Istvan Bathory and Steven Zaloga, Military Modelling, August 1985.
6. *Uniforms and Traditions of the German Army 1933-1945, Vol. 3* by John R. Angolia and Adolf Schlicht, San Jose, CA 1987, ISBN 0-9112138-38-8.

Unless otherwise stated, the image material is "scissored" from various websites, among other things

1. <http://mailer.fsu.edu/~akirk/tanks/hun/Hungary.html>
2. <http://www.skalman.nu/third-reich/axis-hu-gallery-vehicles.htm>.



The color drawing is an extract from the cover of the Hungarian magazine *Model és Markett*, Extra 5 and shows a Nimrod M.40 advancing in Russia.

Perhaps the artist's imagination has run away, as the destroyed Russian tank on the right side of the picture is of the BT-5 type, of which there were probably not many left when the anti-aircraft tanks reached the units at the front.

On the other hand, it was precisely against lightly armored tanks like the BT-5 that the Nimrod had been suitable... However, the drawing was too good for me not to bring it.

Postscript

Regarding pictures of models of the Nimrod 40.M, I refer to Søren Juul's post. This refers to the model previously manufactured by S&S Models.

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