

THE **WEALD**
FOUNDATION



Military Heritage Sustainable Skills for Life

Instructional Lesson Plan 3

LP1 - Australian Local Pattern Carrier

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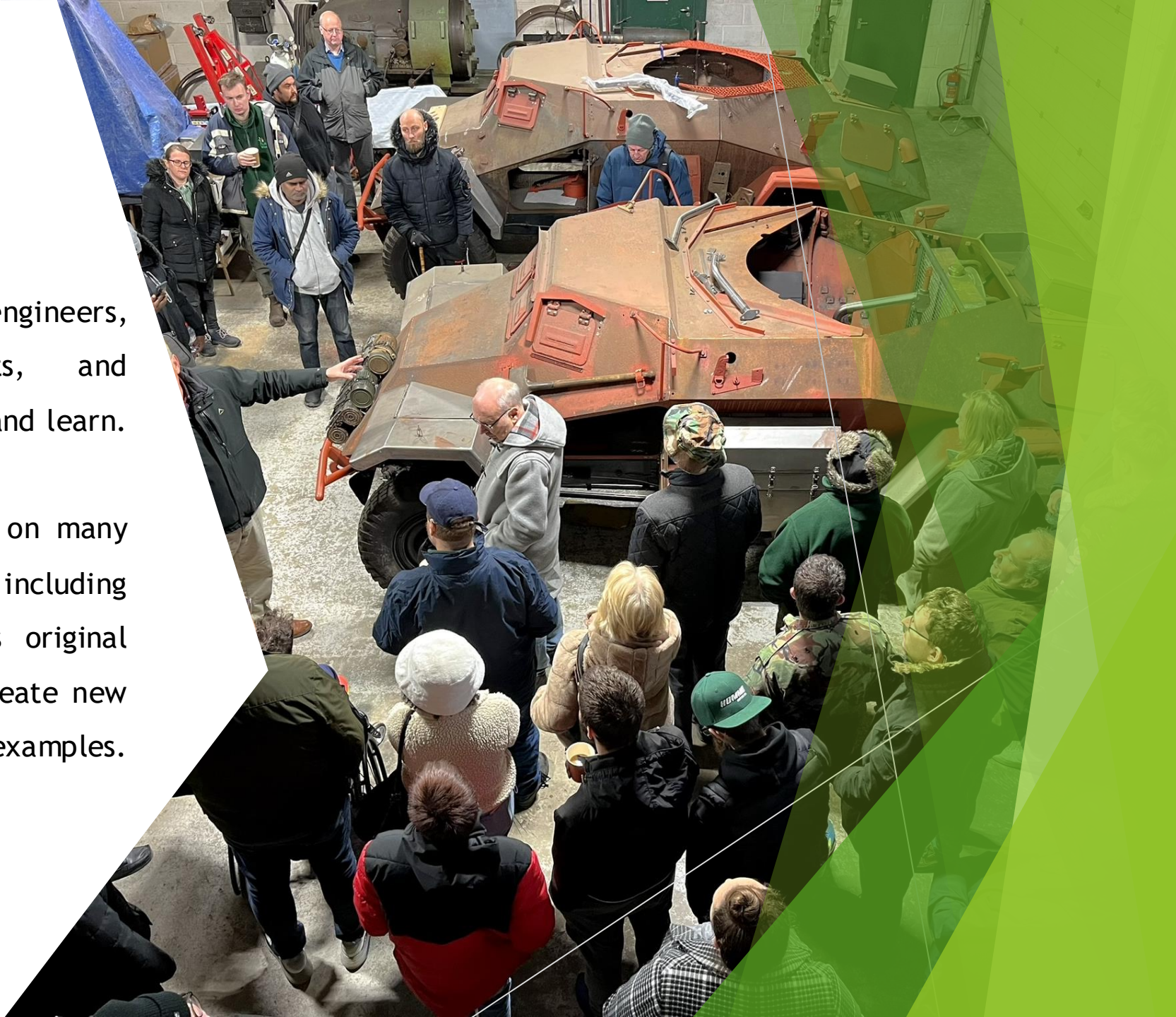
Who are we and what we do?

The Weald Foundation is a charitable organisation established to preserve, restore and maintain historic military vehicles from both World Wars, and to educate the public about their history.

Our unique line up of rare and important military vehicles that we have rescued is considered to be one of the finest working collections in the world.

At the Weald Foundation, schools, engineers, historians, modellers, enthusiasts, and collectors come together to discover and learn.

We have carried out extensive work on many types of armoured fighting vehicles, including tank restoration. Our team sources original components and, where necessary, create new parts from the original blueprints or examples.



Our research into the history of every vehicle in our collection provides unique authenticity to our work.

We strive to understand each vehicle's story, where and when it was assembled, its role in combat, and the story of the people who operated them or fought against them.




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Skills and Development through Military Heritage

Providing Sustainable Skills for Life

A group of people holding hands in a circle, symbolizing unity and support. The image is partially obscured by a white semi-transparent box containing text. The background is a mix of green and white geometric shapes.

At The Weald Foundation people are given an opportunity to experience first-hand our working environment, meet staff and see the restoration process in action. Our aims:

- To bring people from different geographical and ethnic backgrounds together in a structured, supportive environment and to help break down barriers and create change.
- Re-engage people with education, employment or training and help them to gain skills.



The main objective of The Weald Foundation charity is 'Education'.

We have offered Apprenticeships and successfully assisted individuals in secure employment.

We are an ASDAN-accredited provider offering accredited qualifications.

Military Heritage is our focus



Australian Local Pattern 1 Carrier

This Australian Local Pattern 1 Carrier, hull number 76, was assembled at the Victorian Railways Newport Workshops, Australia, in 1940. A total of 158 were built in total during 1940, out of an order of 160.

The 'LP1 Carrier' was the first vehicle to be successfully secured for our British Empire Collection at The Weald Foundation. Very few of these vehicles remain in Australia, and none existed in the Northern Hemisphere, making this vehicle particularly significant due to its historical importance.

The Australian LP1 Carrier represents a particularly important development in AFV history, as it was the first manufacturing project undertaken in Australia, making it an important artefact to restore and get running.



Victorian Railways Newport Workshops, Australia




Victorian Railways Newport Workshops, Australia



Victorian Railways Newport Workshops, Australia



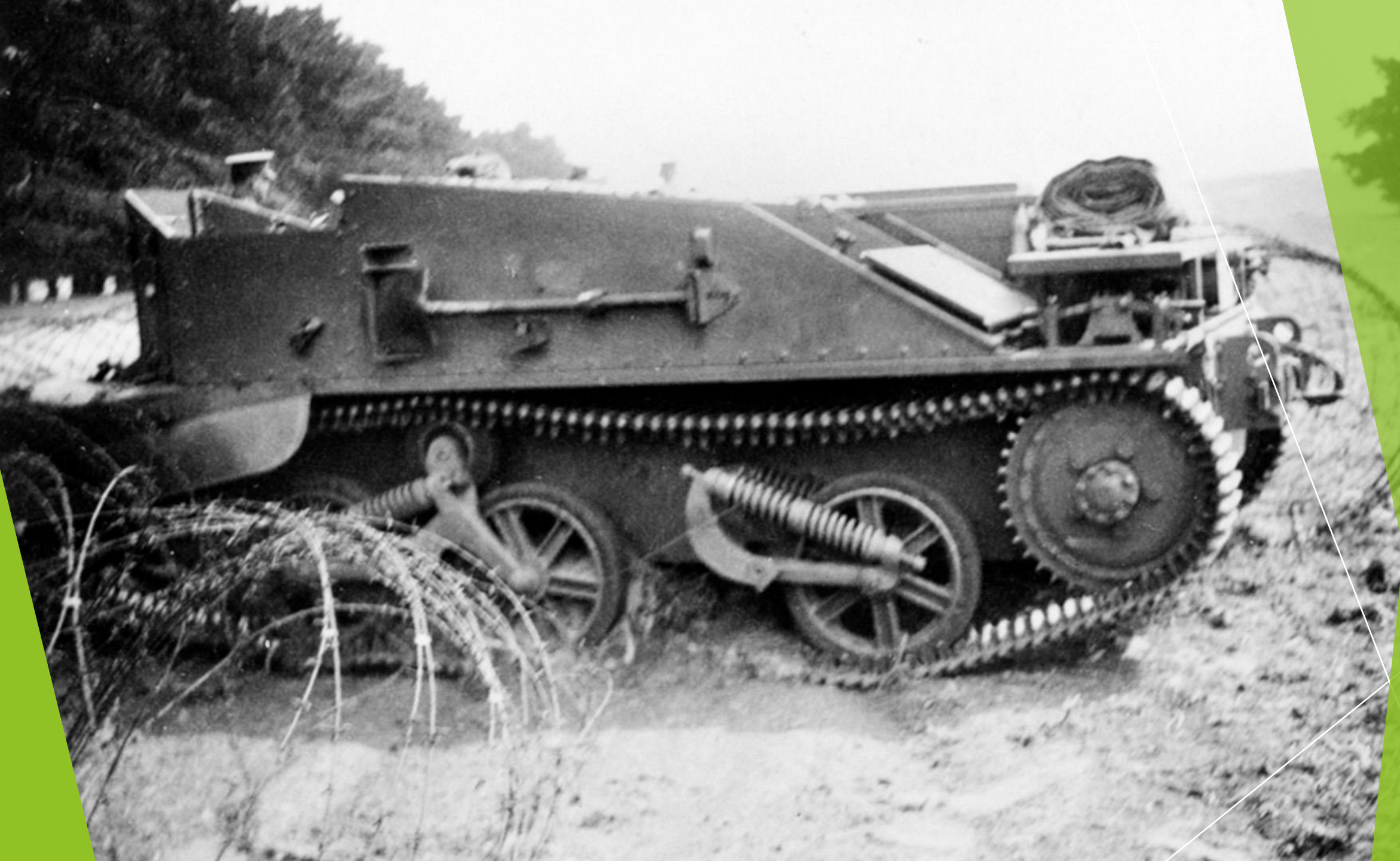
Victorian Railways Newport Workshops, Australia



Following production,
the LP1 undertook
testing and training by
personnel in Australia.



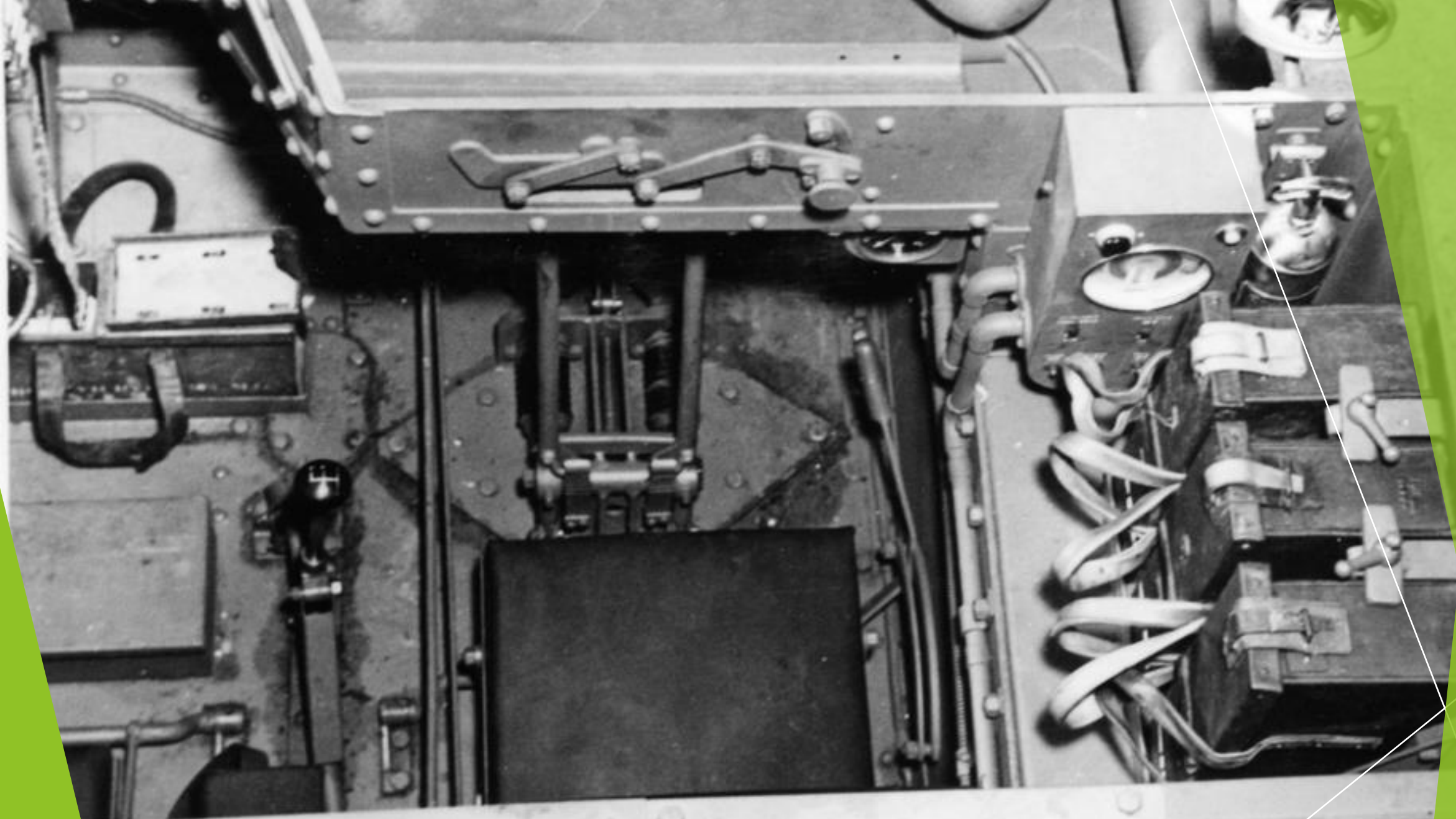




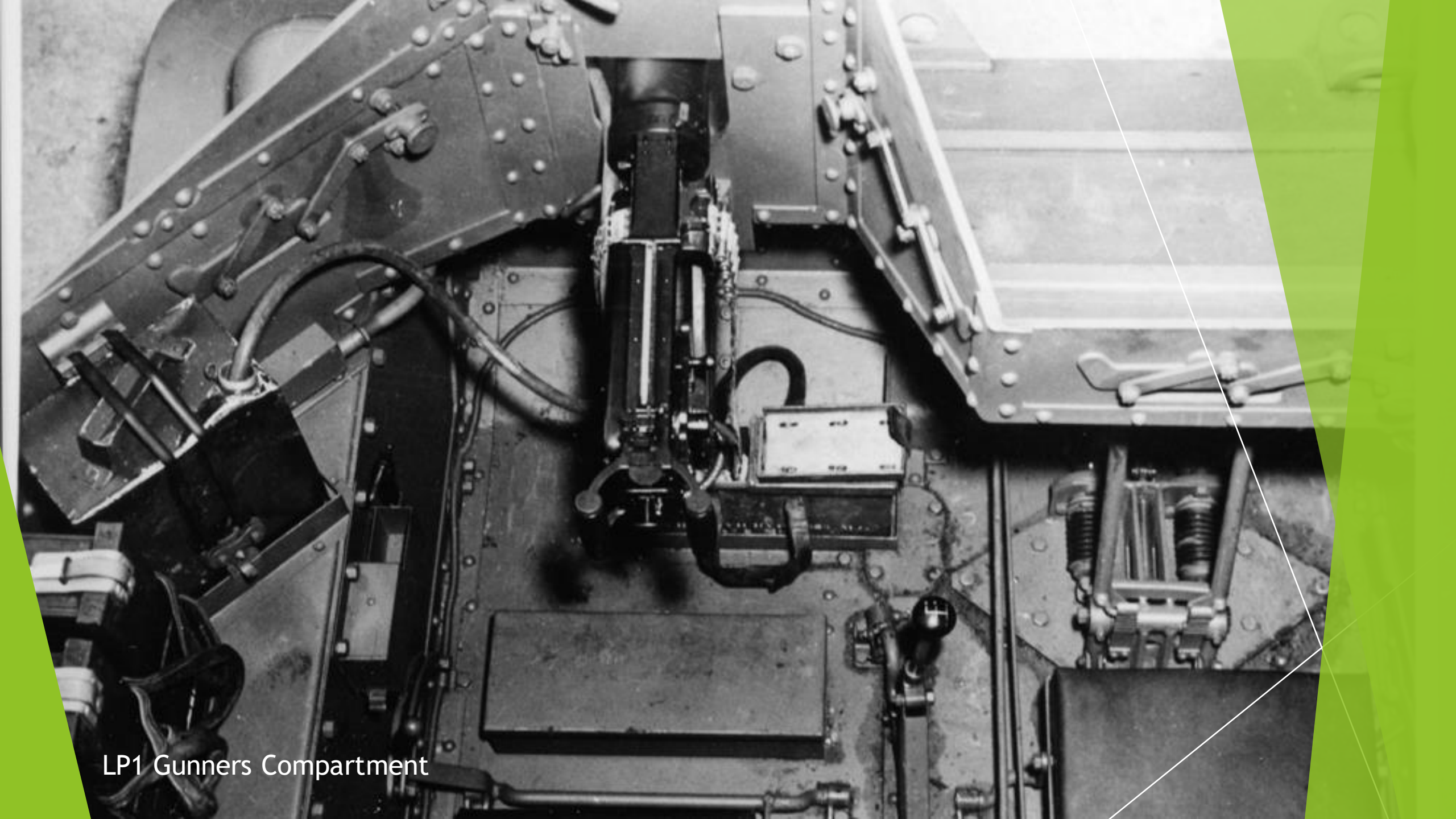
The following photos show clearly some of the internal compartments of the LP1.

These photos and others like them can assist us greatly with the work by our team at The Weald Foundation as they provide clarity and excellent imagery of the vehicles when originally completed.

The following two slides shows both the Drivers Compartment and Gunners Compartment.



LP1 Divers Compartment



LP1 Gunners Compartment



Restoring the Local Pattern 1

The History and Research of our vehicle.

Since 1940, Hull No. 76 has undergone significant modifications, most notably being converted into a bulldozer post-war and then losing panels and fittings to restorers and souvenir hunters.

The extended team at The Weald Foundation have surveyed a number of survivors, providing us with important information, images and dimensions.

This information enabled us to create AutoCAD drawings for the restoration. The biggest challenge with our LP1 is the armoured body and sheet metal work.

The vehicle had been reportedly used as a digger on a farm after the war. The challenge has been the procurement of original parts, for either replacing severely damaged or missing parts.

The hull of the 'LP1 Carrier' was made with armour plate with a maximum thickness of 0.5 inches (12mm) and was rivetted together. It was an open top hull with a number of different areas for the crew and its components.

The driver was located at the right front of the hull, together with the gunner on the left. The engine and transmission was located at the centre rear of the hull, with stowage areas and additional crew seating on the right and left side.

The 'LP1 Carrier' was equipped with a Vickers .303-inch Machine Gun, manufactured by the Australian Government Small Arms Factory in the New South Wales town of Lithgow.

The Weald Foundation was able to secure a genuine Australian 'Small Arms Factory Lithgow' Vickers .303 Machine Gun dated 1940, the same production year as our 'LP1 Carrier'.

The machine gun was mounted at the front of the vehicle and could be used in a dismounted role.

Pre-Restoration of the LP1

The following images shows the LP1 when it arrived at The Weald Foundation.

The images clearly show that much of the vehicle had corroded / rusted and required significant restoration work to be undertaken by our experts and engineers, this work takes years of painstaking skill and diligence to ensure that when restored it is as close to the original as possible.

















The 'LP1 Carriers' were assigned to both AIF and AMF, and our vehicle at The Weald Foundation was one of those assigned to the AIF, some saw action during the Second World War.

These were sent to the Middle East, and North Africa during 1940 and were used to equip the Divisional Cavalry Regiments.

A few assigned to infantry and artillery units, and some of these were later sent to Greece in early 1941.

The remaining vehicles stayed in Australia and their main use was for training within various units.



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Contact Information

If you require more information about this Military Heritage project, or about skills and learning opportunities at The Weald Foundation.

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