

DAIMLER DINGOS IN THE MALAYAN EMERGENCY

by Ley Reynolds from information provided by Dick Taylor, David Waters, Cyril Ferris and Paul Napier

Manufacturing Notes

The Daimler Dingo was a small 4x4 reconnaissance/liaison armoured car, of which something like 6,600 were produced between 1939 and 1945. There were five versions:

Mark I - 4 wheel steering and sliding roof hatches

Mark IA - as Mark I but with folding roof hatches

Mark IB - as Mark I but with revised engine cooling

Mark II - front wheel steering only

Mark III - waterproofed engine, smoke grenades and open topped.

Ford Canada produced the visually similar Lynx which was 510mm longer and one tonne heavier and Italy built an unlicensed copy, the Autoblinda Lince.

Historical Notes

When the Malayan Emergency was declared in 1948, the army units of the British garrison were undermanned and largely equipped with vehicles of WW2 vintage. It soon became apparent that the Malayan Races Liberation Army, although few in number and generally only equipped with small arms, could attack transport virtually anywhere in the country. This, in turn, led to the need for APCs and armoured convoy escorts. The former was initially provided by fitting GS trucks, often CMP Chevrolets and Fords, with Workshop designed steel plate or using armour kits manufactured in Singapore. It seems that the Daimler Dingo was quite popular for the armoured escort vehicles, no doubt because of its agility, 4-wheel drive and low weight. The Dingos were mainly Mark IIIs, the open top and restricted field of fire proving major disadvantages however. It seems that there were five conversions designed to alleviate these problems:

1. A circular gun ring mounted on stanchions welded to the hull having a sliding mount consisting of two semi-circular clamps with a bar welded on top and fitted with a Bren LMG - while this solved the field of fire problems, it did nothing to protect the gunner. This fitting was also used in Kenya on Dingos operating against the Mau-Mau.
2. A circular turret fitted to the lefthand side of a plated-over open top, again mounting a Bren LMG.
3. Similar to Note 2 but with a faceted turret with hinged top and different hull top plate. As shown in the photographs the welds are a little rough - A Field Workshop fabrication perhaps? The mount for the Bren LMG resembles the WWI upper wing Foster Mount but details are not clear.
4. A turret seemingly very similar, if not identical, to that fitted to the Ferret Mk 2

and mounting a 0.303" Browning MG.

5. A pedestal mount for twin MGS that look suspiciously like Vickers K Guns which may have also been remotely operated from inside the hull. There were at least two and possibly three designs for this variant differing in some details. At present I only have details of that version illustrated.

I have not been able to establish in what exact order these conversions were done or if; indeed, they were alternative solutions to the problem, although it seems likely that Note 1 was the first type fitted to the Dingo.

Modelling Notes

The following kits of the Dingo are generally available:

1/76 - Matchbox, possibly re-released under the Revell banner

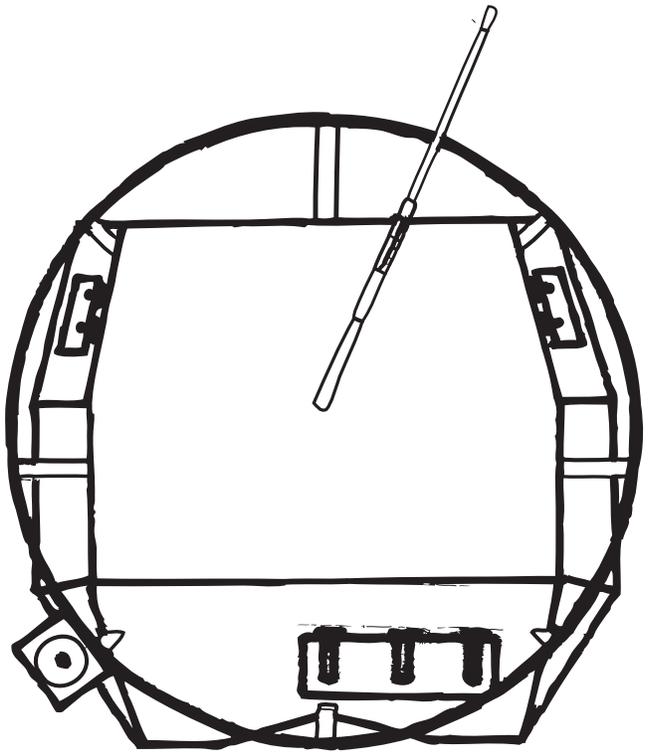
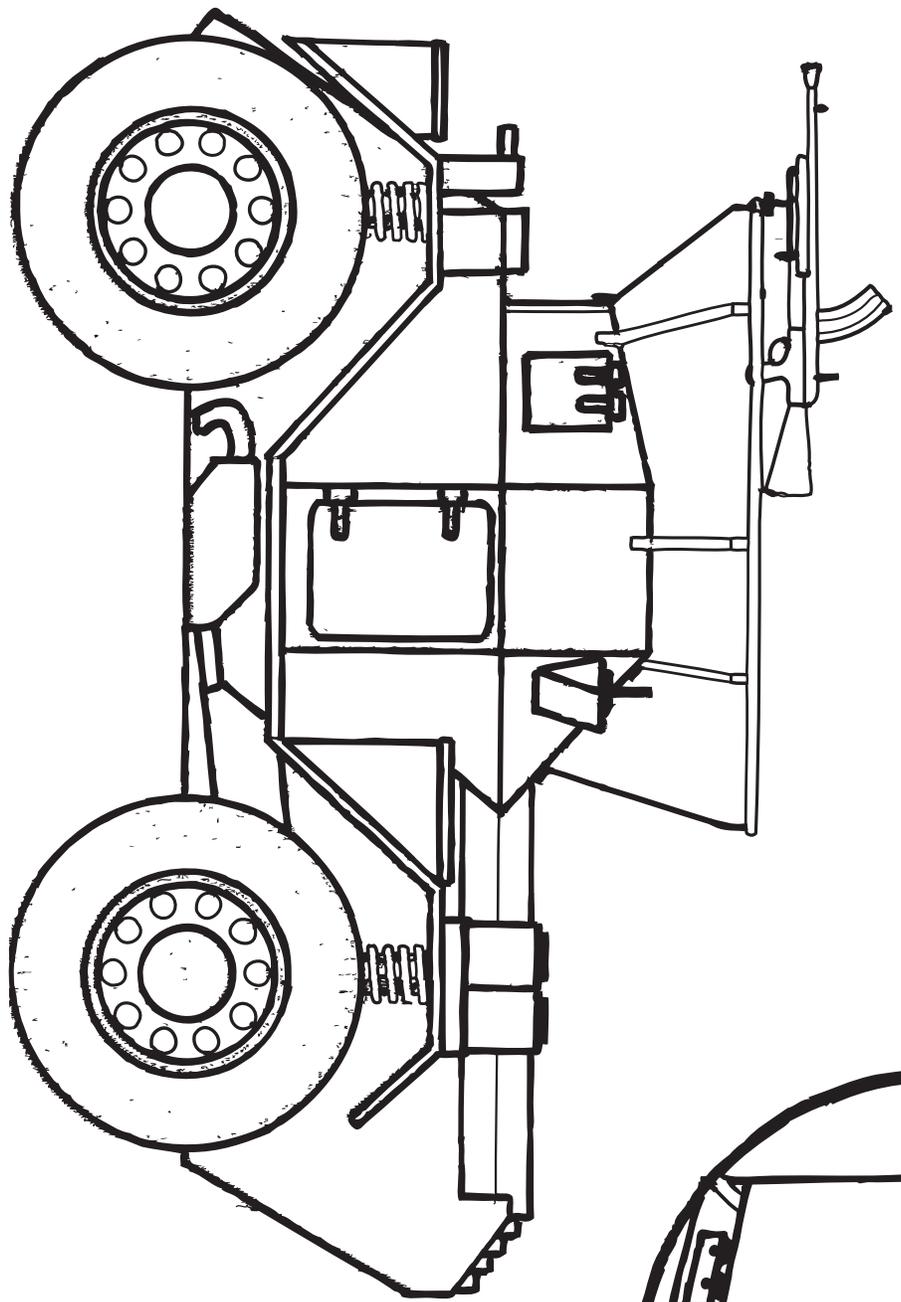
1/72 - ACE, probably readily available but parts fit may not be brilliant

1/48 - Gasoline, not generally available outside France

1/35 - Tamiya, released as both a Mk 1A and a Mk II and rather old. More recently kitted by Miniart, who have released a Mk 1A (in two boxings, one portraying a captured vehicle in German use), a Mk 1B, a Mk II (with British and German markings) and a Mark III. Additionally, Accurate Armour has released a resin conversion for the Miniart Dingo allowing it to be built as the fourth type of Malayan Emergency-era Dingo with Ferret turret.

Scale: 1/18 X 0.514 for 1/35
 X 0.25 for 1/72

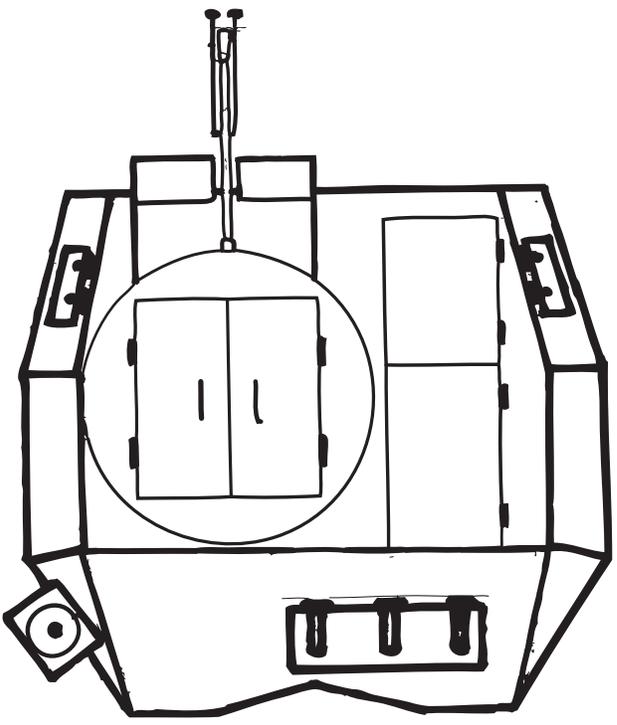
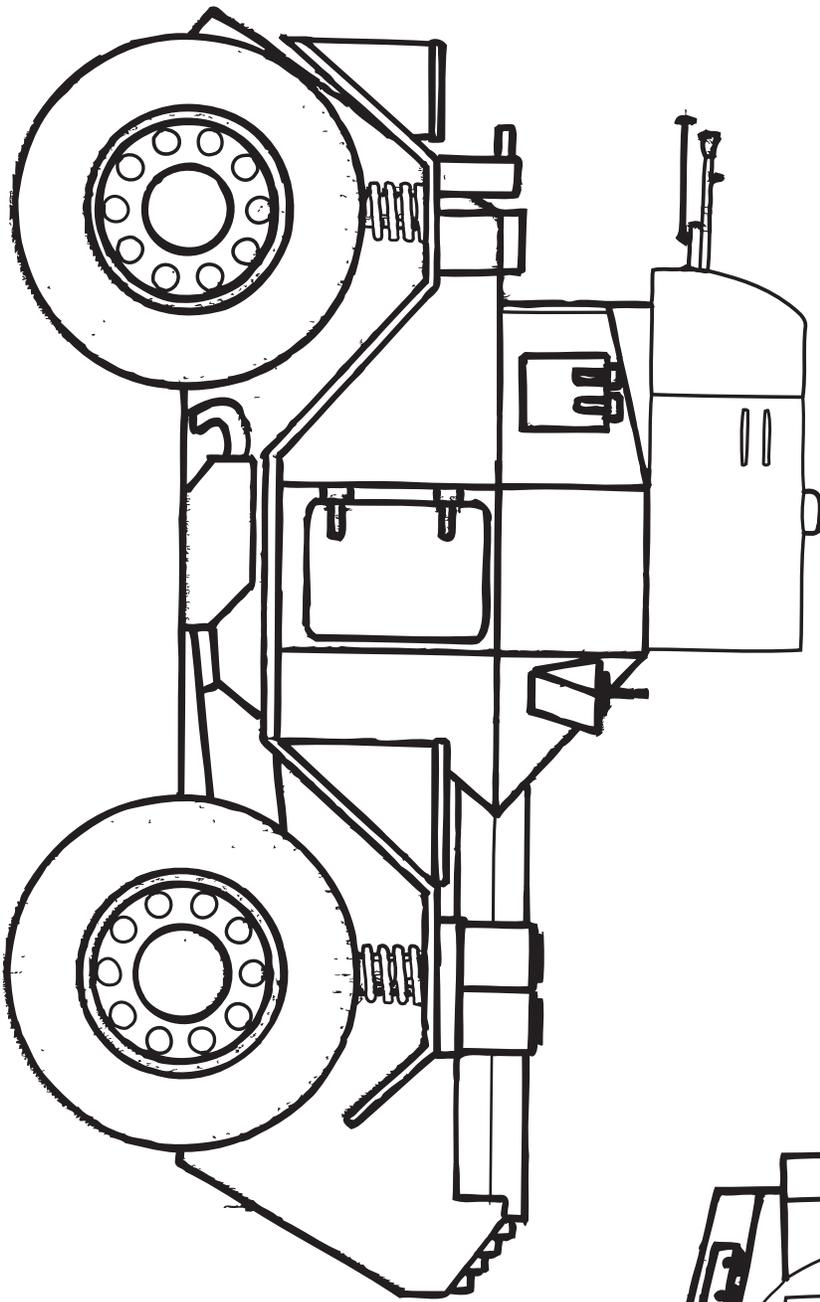
Type 1



Scale: 1/18 × 0.514 for 1/35
 × 0.25 for 1/72

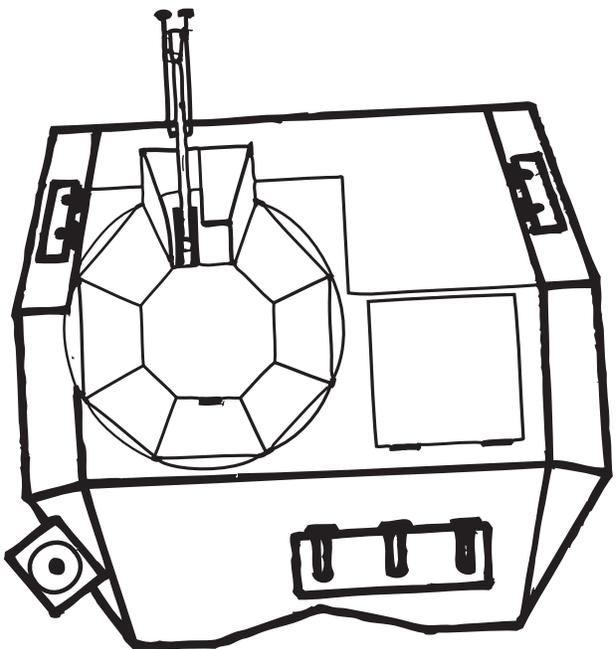
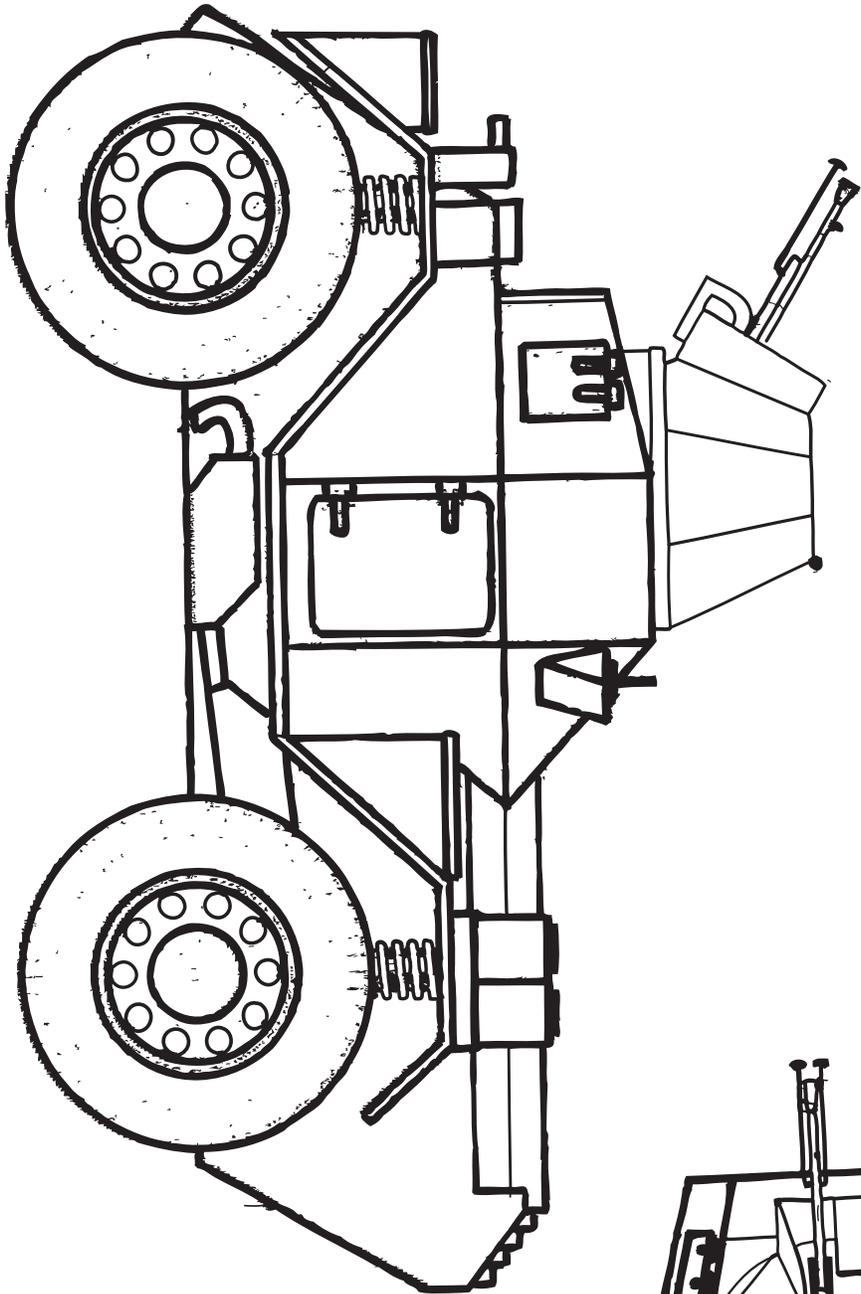
Type 2

Note - vision slots on side of turret



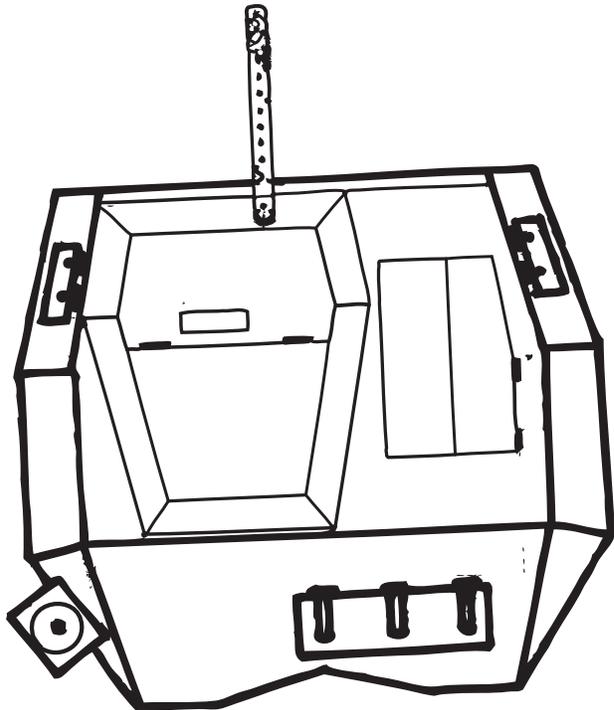
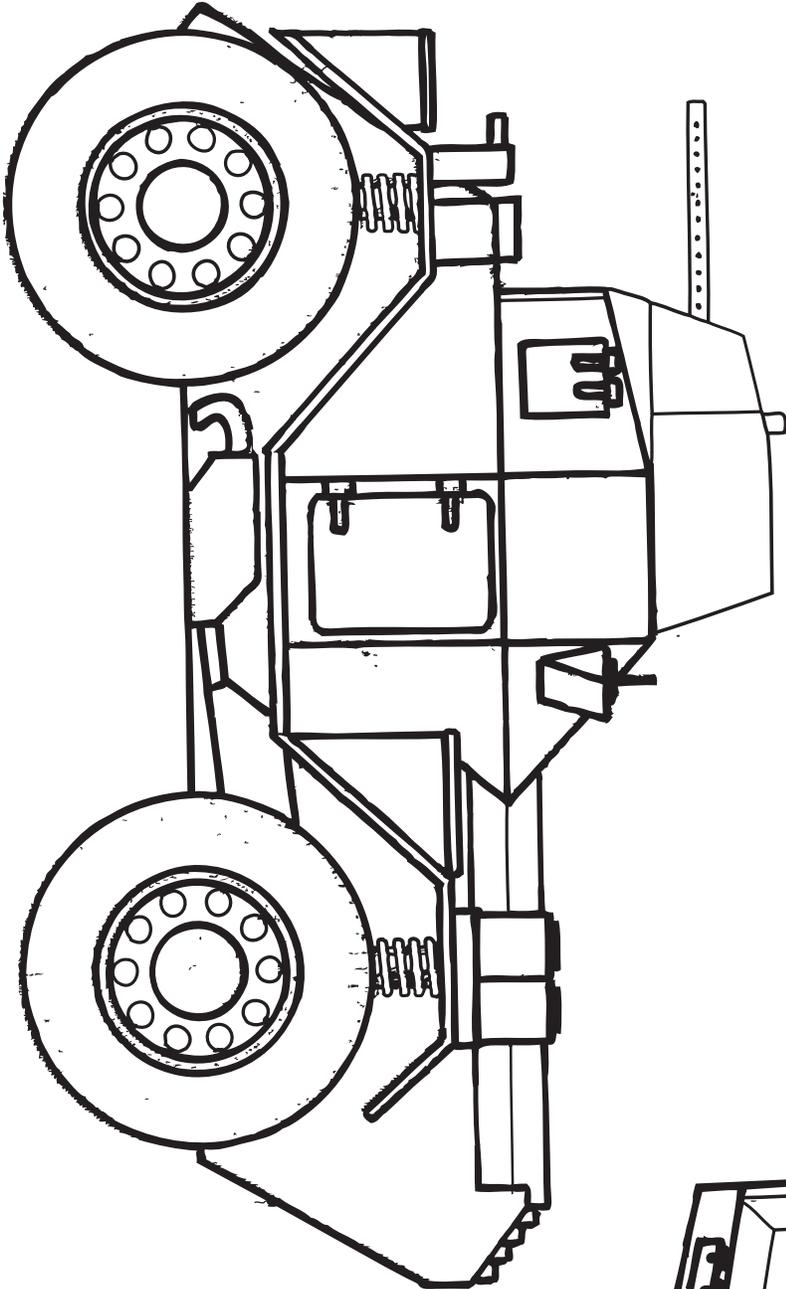
Scale: 1/18 X 0.514 for 1/35
X 0.25 for 1/72

Type 3



Scale: 1/18 X 0.514 for 1/35
 X 0.25 for 1/72

Type 4

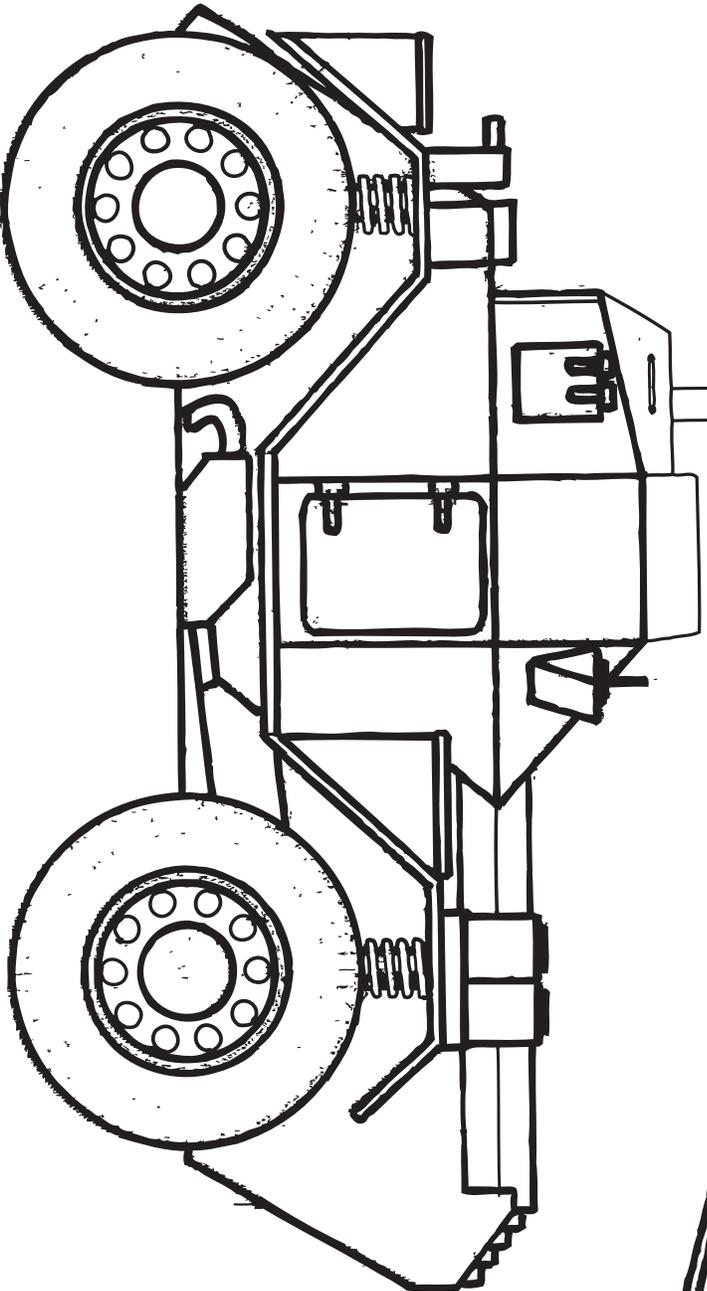
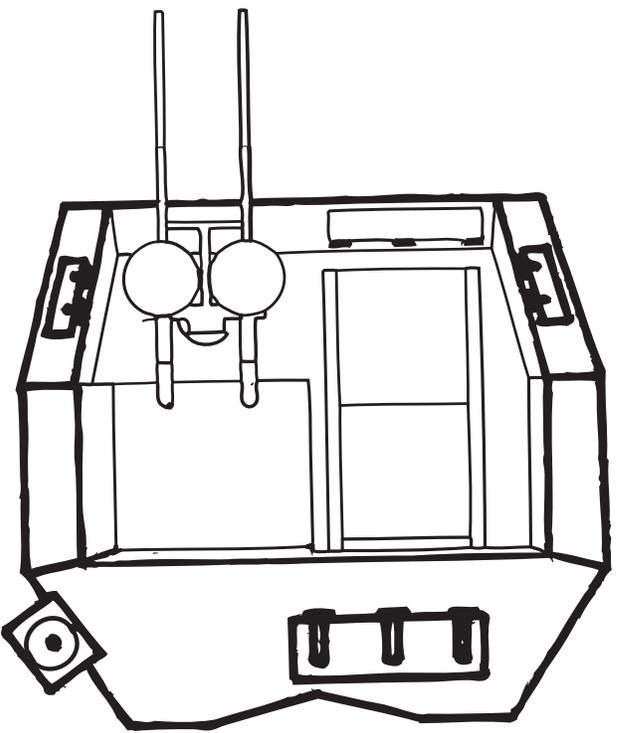


Scale: 1/18 × 0.514 for 1/35
 × 0.25 for 1/72

Type 5

Note - vision slot on side of extension

- The hatch on the right is sliding
- The cupola on the leaf rear may have a hinged top and presumably has a vision slot in the front plate



PART 2 - DAIMLER DINGOS

EVEN MORE DAIMLER DINGOS By Ley Reynolds

Historical Notes

Two more variants of the Type 5 pedestal mount described in the previous article have now come to light and it seems probable that there was a basic design for the mounting but that variations occurred during fabrication.

1. Variant A differs somewhat, it - does not have the vision slit on the side of the hull extension; has a spotlight mounted between the Vickers K Guns; has a sloping top plate under the pedestal mount; and has a higher splash ring with leather edge padding around the opening behind the guns.
2. Variant B differs again, it- does not have the vision slit on the side of the hull extension; has a hinged rather than sliding hatch above/behind the driver; does not have a splash ring around the opening behind the gun (possibly there is a hinged hatch here too, the photographs are not clear); has a spotlight; and is armed with one Bren LMG (but it appears two could be fitted), the fitting on top of the pedestal seems to be slightly different no doubt to accommodate the different weapon.

The pedestal mount, officially called the Parrish-Lakeman Mounting and designed as an AA fitting for AFVs, allowed 360 degree traverse and apparently some amount of elevation/depression. How this latter was achieved is not clear from the photographs examined to date. As the Bren LMG retained its bipod, it appears that it could be dismounted with minimal effort for use away from the vehicle and presumably the same was true for the Vickers K Gun. It also appears that the Bren LMG could be fitted with a drum magazine.

It seems that these Dingo conversions were manufactured in Malaya and/or Singapore and then issued to formations in the field as needed. The 2nd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment certainly used examples of the Type 5/ Variant B in Malaya.

Post-war serials for Dingos were:

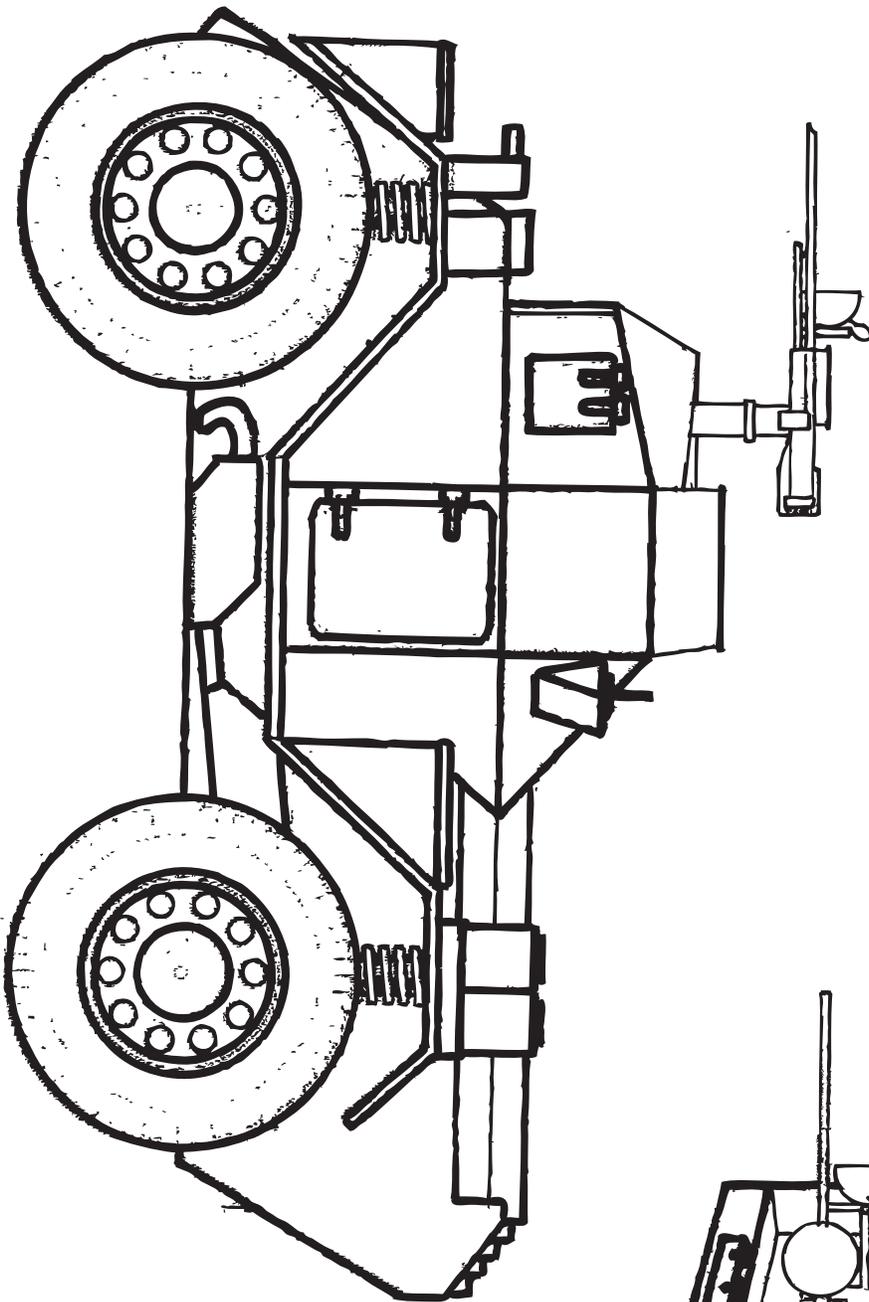
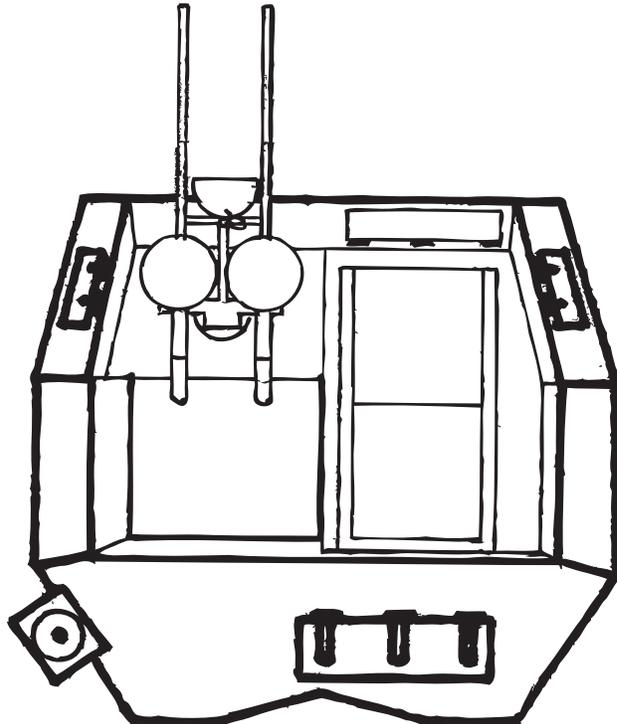
00ZS01 - 24ZS23
24ZS87 - 25ZS86
26ZS42 - 27ZS07
27ZS60 - 30ZS98
43ZV87 - 43ZV88
94ZV71 - 95ZV74

Scale: 1/18 × 0.514 for 1/35
 × 0.25 for 1/72

Note - spotlight mounted between MGs

- The hatch on the right is sliding
- The cupola on the leaf rear is a splash ring around an opening with leather padding to the edges

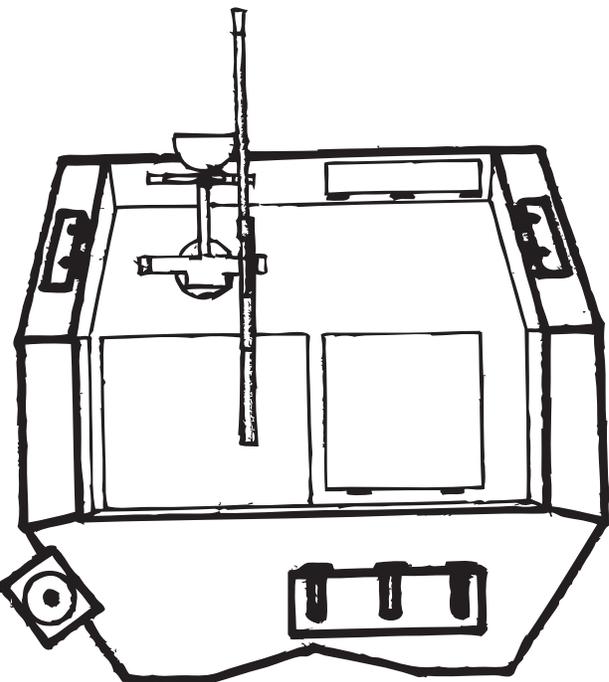
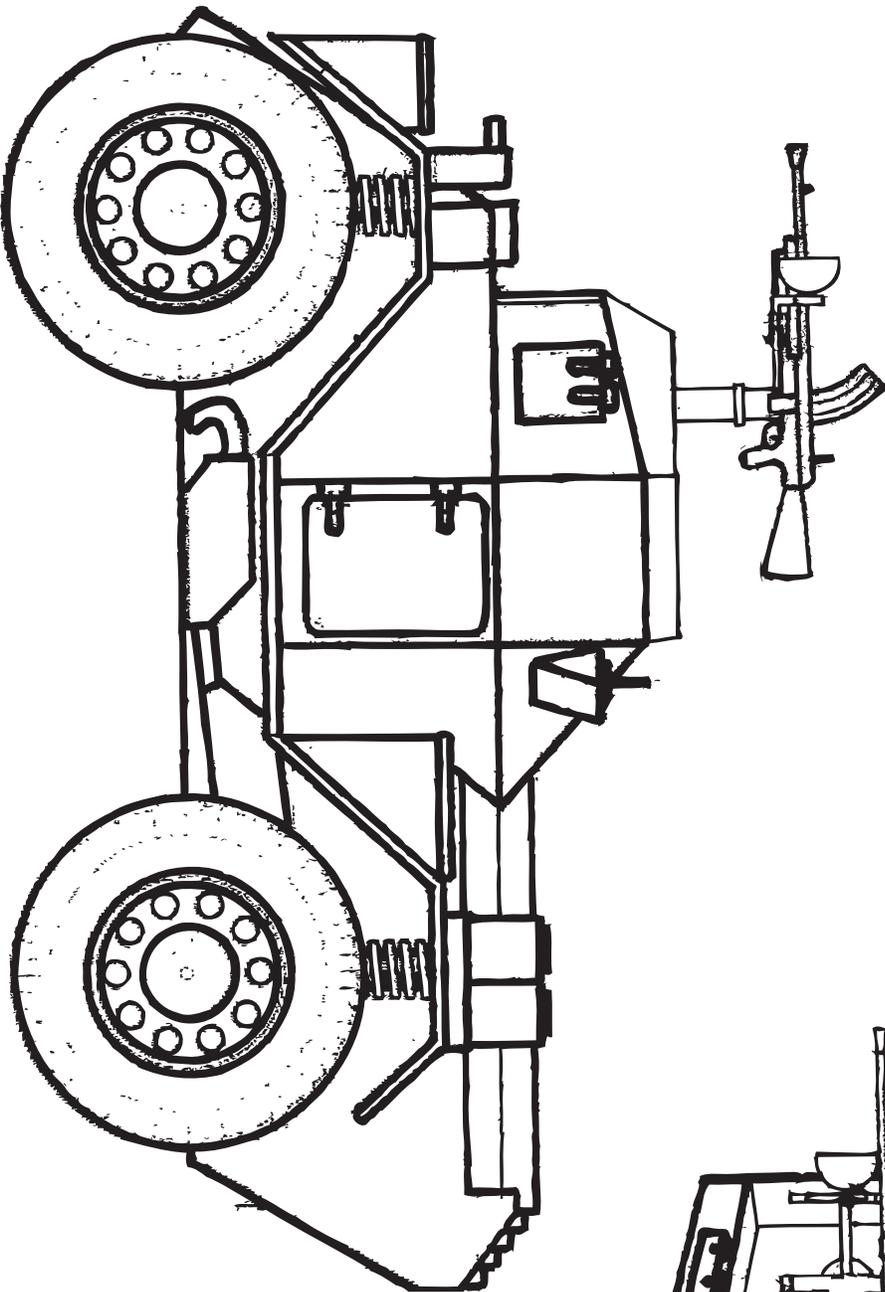
Type 5 Variant A



Scale: 1/18 × 0.514 for 1/35
 × 0.25 for 1/72

Note - Bren mount slightly different

Type 5 Variant B



PART 3

MODIFIED DAIMLER DINGOS Mystery Dingo

This Dingo is somewhat of a mystery vehicle. The original front vision hatches appear to have been plated over and a new superstructure added to the top of the hull. Most of the external military fittings have been removed and the vehicle has what appear to be civilian-style headlights and a numberplate on the left-front mudguard. The photographs on which the illustrations herewith are based are from a newsreel and are not of great quality, but they show an urban European setting and the clothes of the bystanders indicate a mid-1950s timescale.

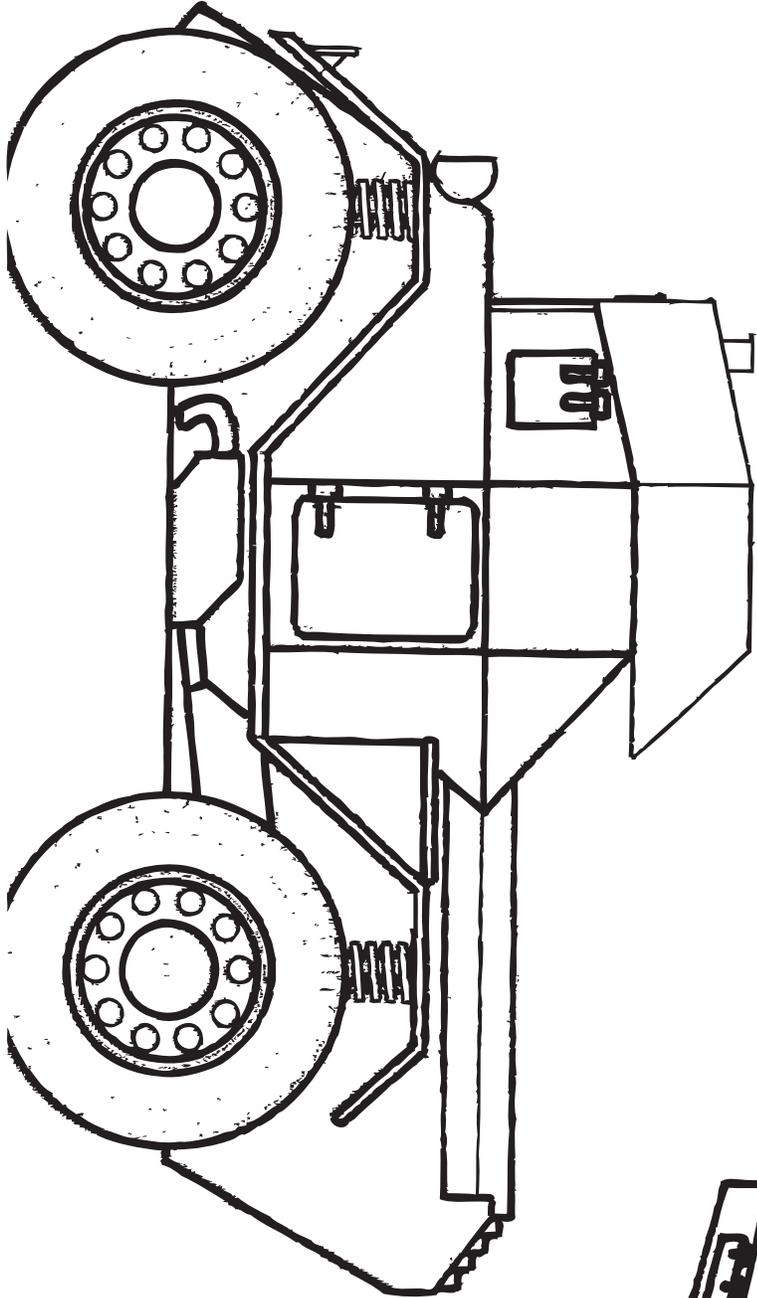
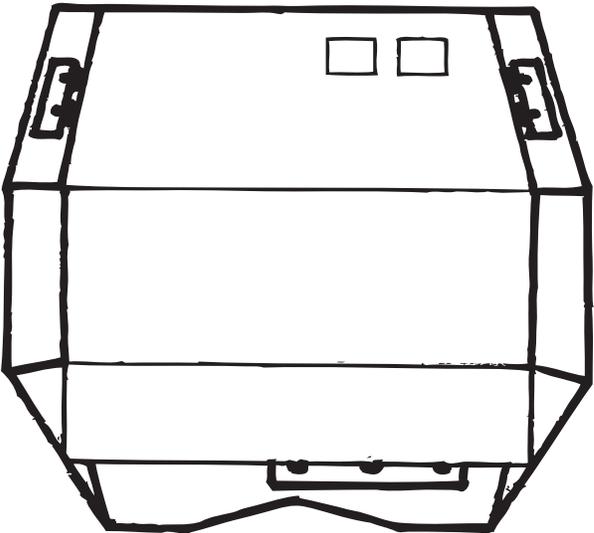
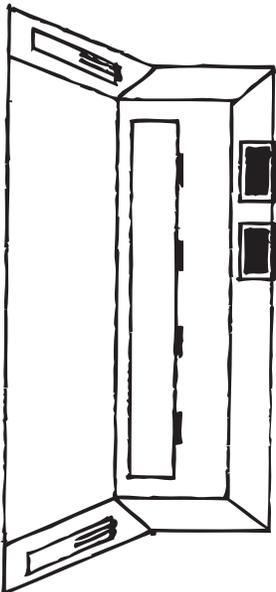
The overall white colour scheme for the Dingo immediately brings a United Nations peacekeeping vehicle to mind but no such operations seem to fit the locale and timeframe. Some para-military police forces have used AFVS on occasion -the Guardia Civile in Spain, Carabinieri in Italy and CRS in France come to mind - although it's hard to see any of them employing British vehicles. The Royal Ulster Constabulary has also recently had such equipment but I am unsure if this was so in the 1950s. Finally there is the possibility of a civilian security company owning this Dingo, but it hardly seems an economic proposition. Any thoughts from readers would be appreciated.

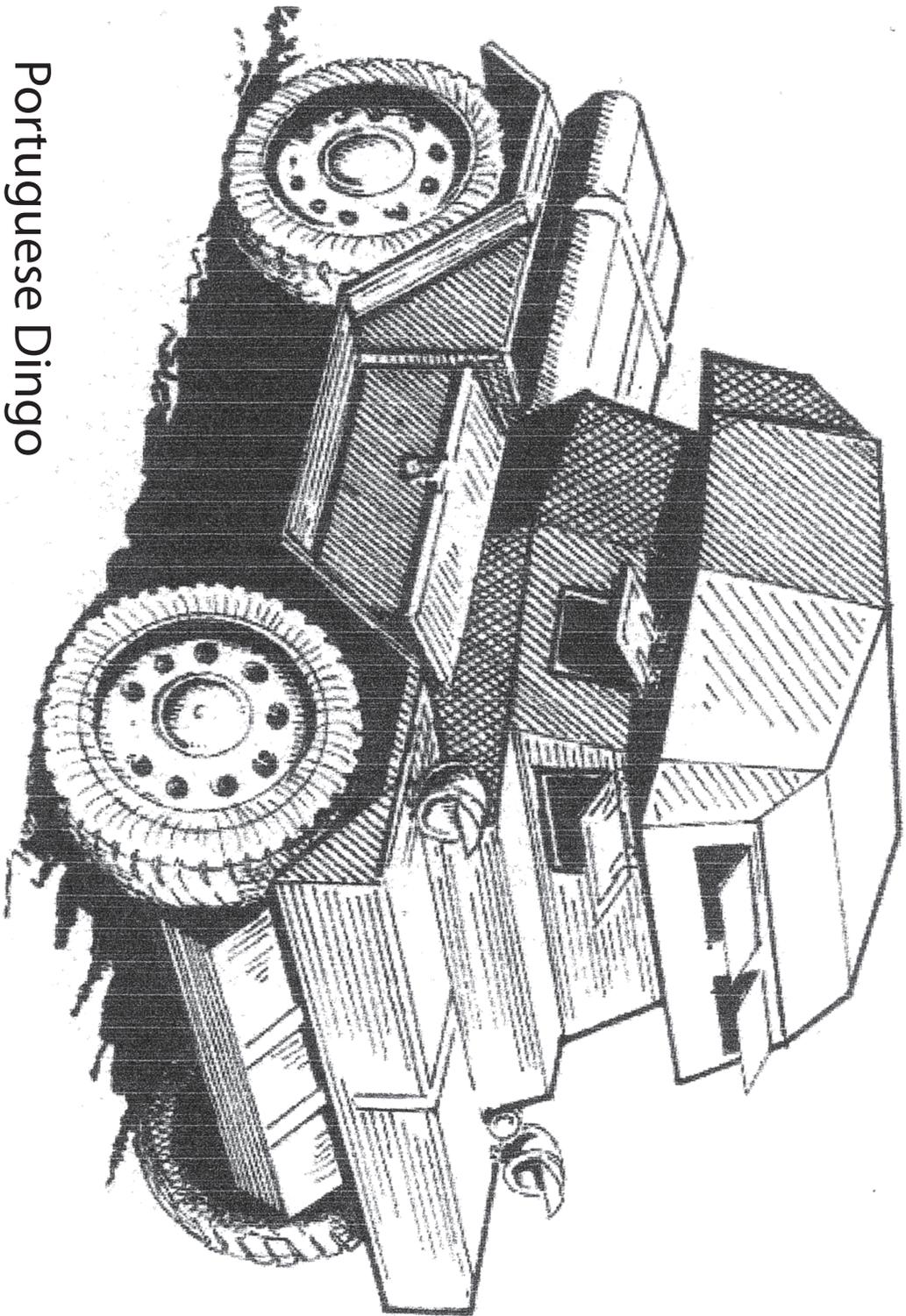
Portuguese Dingo

This sketch, provided by Emsto Jiminez, shows a Portuguese Auto-Metralhadora Daimler which was a Dingo conversion used for convoy escort work during the colonial wars in Angola and Mozambique. A substantial superstructure of unknown dimensions was added to the hull and the vehicle apparently carried no fixed armament. Further information would be appreciated.

Scale: 1/18 X 0.514 for 1/35
 X 0.25 for 1/72

Mystery Dingo





Portuguese Dingy