Sandstone's Sherman Mk IV Tank.

A notable feature of our Sherman Tank has been pointed out by Clive Smith, from the UK. who lived in South Africa and did his military training at Tempe Base in Bloemfontein. The feature is the so called hybrid hull, where the front section is cast and the rear section is welded. Originally Shermans were built with either cast or welded hulls with castings which were cheaper and quicker to produce than the welded version.
However, in 1942, it was concluded by the US Army, that conversion to cast hulls was not feasible as many foundries could not cope with the size of the hull. So a programme of casting the front end of the hull was put in place, where welding was very labour intensive and expensive, but still utilising a welded rear end to the hull.



Our picture illustrates well the cast front end with its rounded edges and the welded rear end with razor edges. Not unique but, according to Clive Smith, unusual in South Africa.

For much more comprehensive information on the WW2 Sherman Tank have a look at the following website.

https://tanks-encyclopedia.com/ww2/us/m4_sherman