



THE SANDSTONE HERITAGE TRUST

Military Vehicles in Preservation

Alvis Saracen Armoured Personnel Carrier FV 603

Developed soon after WWII, the first prototype was built in 1950 and production started in '52. It was replaced in UK by the tracked FV432 and in South Africa by the Casspir and Unimog-based Buffel series and then the Ratel. Several hundred were bought for the SA Army in the 1950s and were in service until the 1970s. They were placed in reserve, then refurbished with particular attention to their cooling systems, brakes, steering and electrics.

Specifications:

Engine: Rolls Royce B80 Mk 6A 8-cylinder petrol **Power:** 170 BHP at 3 750 RPM

Transmission: Wilson Epicyclic gearbox with pre-selected 6 forward and 6 reverse gears. 6-wheel drive. Front and rear axles steer.

Length: 16' 6" (5.03 metres) **Width:** 8' 5" (2.57 metres) **Height:** 8' 1" (2.46 metres) with standard tyres, these are oversize

Ground Clearance: 17" (.55m) with standard tyres, these are oversize **Laden Weight:** 10.2 tonnes

Speed: 45 MPH (72 km/hr) on the road **Range:** 250 miles (400 km) from 44 gallons (200 litres)

Crew: Driver and Commander plus up to 9 Infantry)

Armament:

Ring mounted Bren gun (optional). Turret mounted .30 / 7.62mm Browning, elevation +45 degrees, -15 degrees, 360 degree traverse, non-powered. Infantry weapons. Ammunition: 3 000 rounds for BMG

