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Tipp-Ex

A white Mercedes van inserts in front of me in a traffic jam near Antwerp. The back of the van has been altered in several ways: a latch was added to the door,¹ a footstep was bolted to the bumper, a couple of tie-wraps are holding up the lights on the left side.² Traffic is moving slow. There is no Mercedes logo.³ Some parts have been retouched with white paint that differs slightly from the rest of the bodywork,⁴ not unlike a tipp-ex'ed document.

NOTES

¹ Maybe the original locking mechanism no longer functions, or, perhaps, the owner wants to add a padlock to the doors at night.

² Maybe a corroded screw caused the lights to come loose, or a slight collision.

³ Someone might have stolen it. Mercedes stars are often stolen, although mostly from the hood.

⁴ Maybe to counter corrosion, to conceal a mark someone made on the van or to cover up a fixed dent.

Legislation concerning the publication of someone else's licence plate on the internet and the demand to blur it, is somewhat ambiguous.



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