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OPENING SHOT

LEYLAND HIPPO MK II

Rated at 10 tons, the original military Leyland Hippo was a militarised version of a pre-war commercial vehicle fitted with a typical open-sided cab. In 1944, it was replaced by the Hippo Mk II, an altogether more modern truck, designed specifically for shipping the large amounts of supplies that would be required following a successful breakout from the Normandy beach heads. The truck remained in production into the post-war years, with a total of 1000 constructed.

Power came from a six-cylinder Leyland diesel engine, producing 100bhp from a capacity of 7399cc, and coupled to the rear wheels through a five-speed main gearbox and a two-speed auxiliary 'box. Live axles were suspended on semi-elliptical multi-leaf springs, inverted at the rear, and the brakes were servo-assisted hydraulic.

Unlike the earlier Mk I, the steel cab was fully enclosed, but could be split at the waistline for transportation. Most were fitted with a well-pattern timber-panelled general-service (GS) cargo body, but some van variants were produced after the war. Later Mk IIA and IIB variants were fitted with different tyre and wheel equipment.







NEWS & BEVIEW

A round-up of military-vehicle related news and products. Send news items to ian.cushway@keypublishing.com



Despatches

his December marks the 70th anniversary of the Unternehmen Wacht am Rhein – better known as the Battle of the Bulge. Catching Allied forces totally off guard, it was a daring offensive helped by rubbish weather (which prevented Allied aircraft taking to the skies) and the audacity of those involved. Among the key players, none was craftier than SS-Standartenführer Otto Skorzeny. As Hitler's go-to man when it came to deception and dirty tricks, he was considered by many as the most dangerous man in Europe and a ghastly duelling scar on his cheek served to reinforce this notion. Accompanied by English speaking troops dressed in US Army uniforms he hoodwinked his opponents by disguising his Panther tanks as M10s. It's a fascinating story, which we tell on pages 34-38.

Elsewhere this issue, we've plenty of other features to interest and thrill in equal measure, including the restoration of a Fordson WOT6, a piece about the history and evolution of the talented DUKW and Thorneycroft Nubian, as well as all the usual market information — including the results from the recent Cameron Collection sale — shedding light on what's been happening in the classic military vehicle world. Meanwhile, in our quest to include more modern machinery, check out some of the hardware on exercise in Germany recently. We hope you enjoy it.

Ian Cushway



MURRAY WALKER OBE OPENS THE TANK MUSEUM'S LATEST EXHIBITION, 'FURY'



Hopefully you will have seen the film by now and with your appetite for *Fury* well and truly whetted, here's a chance to see more of what went on behind the scenes of this year's military-vehicle rich blockbuster, courtesy of a new exhibition at the Tank Museum.

Racing commentator, Murray Walker, a former Sherman tank commander with the Scots Greys during WW2, officially opened the new exhibition then enthralled the audience with stories from his time in service.

The ribbon in front of the new exhibition was cut by two Tank Museum employees, lan 'Buzz' Aldridge and Brian Frost, who were heavily involved in the filming of *Fury*.

Situated in the WW2 hall, 'Fury' tells the story of the museum's integral part in the making of David Ayer's visionary war film, using props and images from the set, interviews with museum staff and the Sherman M4A2E8 Fury itself.

Visitors will be transported from the familiar surroundings of a cinema to the backdrop of a destroyed town at the end of WW2; similar to the sets used in the film.

The exhibition also includes gaming stations, where visitors will be invited to play World of Tanks and recreate battles fought in the film.

It is hoped that people will come away with an insight in to the issues faced by the museum during this time; the difficult decisions that had to be made when working to protect the vehicles, what being involved might mean for the museum's reputation and what it was like for the staff on set.

A YouTube video www.youtube.com/watch?v=FFItR5hQIDE&list= UUhl-XKVVBAzoEVsnbOfpcqw put together by The Tank Museum, gives viewers an insight in to the themes explored in the 'Fury' exhibition, as well as a look at the exhibition itself. The 'Fury' exhibition is set to run until the end of 2015 and entry is included in the admission price.



BARV PICTURES UNCOVERED

Further to our story last issue concerning the long-term loan of a Centurion BARV to the Yorkshire Wartime Experience for its show on 3-5 July 2015, the vehicle's owner, Phil Turner, has sent us some fascinating images. and interesting historical background to its past adventures. Records held by Phil show that 02ZR77 was originally T351699 from the first batch of Centurions built by Vickers-Armstrongs to a contract (M14442) dated 4th July 1944. There were 300 Centurions Mks I, II and III in all and T351699 was the last of them. Sadly, it is not known when they were delivered or when they entered service as those records are gone. "The most we can say," says Phil, "is that T351699 must have been delivered sometime between 1945 and 1948 and presumably, since it was the last one, pretty near the end of that period, but there is no documentary evidence at all apart from the Contract Card quoted above and what is known as the Key Card from which we can trace 02ZR77 back to its original number.'



The BARV was on HMS Intrepid in the Falkland's conflict and was the last in service - being on Fearless at the end. She was used in both Gulf conflicts as a decoy beach landing faint. Says Phil: "I understand all the BARVs were given names after British rivers and that she was called Clyde. I would have liked to have had Tyne but beggar's can't be choosers!'













IED TANKS OF WORLD

by David Porter, Amber Books, £29.99 in hardback (ISBN: 978-1-78274-208-1)

This is a illustrated guide to the main armoured fighting vehicles used by the Western Allies and Red Army from 1939-45; the first half of the book is devoted to the former, the second part the latter. In chronological order, it details the defence of Poland, France and the Low Countries, North Africa and the Soviet Union as well as including the various tank battles at Kharkov and Kursk, D-Day, Operation Bagration, the Ardennes, the fall of Germany and the invasion of Manchuria. Each chapter is illustrated with a selection of vehicles that fought in the campaign, along with accompanying specifications. Packed with more than 400 illustrations it provides a useful reference quide to WW2's key military vehicles - as well as a valuable source of interesting facts and figures.

AM GENERAL HUMVEE by Pat Ware, Haynes Publishing, £25 (ISBN: 978-0-85733-374-2)

Covering vehicles made from 1985 onwards, CMV contributor Pat Ware outlines the Humvee's development and its key features, as well as offering essential buying tips and advice on ownership and restoring one of these US icons. In short, it covers all the bases for anyone with

the slightest interest in the high-mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicle (HMMWV). Indeed, it's stacked full of great images and useful information - including first hand accounts from military personnel who used them in conflict situations; the level of detail is truly impressive. In fact, even if you weren't previously interested in Humvees, it still makes good reading and for that reason, it's a nice book to have on your bookshelf.

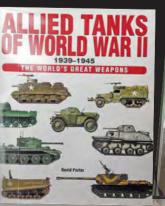
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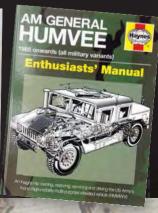
by Dr Seán Lang, Wiley, £15.99 (ISBN: 978-1-118-67999-9)

We like this book. It's easy to read and a brilliant way to remind yourself of the political nuances

surrounding the start of the Great War as well as the various treaties that formed and, of course, the battles themselves - namely Tannenberg, Gallipoli, Ypres, Verdun, the Somme and Vimy. Admittedly, the layout and symbols to point out key points sometimes make you feel like you're back at school but if you're willing to overlook this, it's definitely a worthwhile purchase. As for military vehicle content, well, to be honest it's minimal. But as a background to the world's first truly global conflict there's a lot you can learn inside and because it's published in collaboration with the Imperial War Museums, the text is supported by some fascinating images. Best of all, it's a book that is easy to dip in and out of – so there's no risk of getting too bogged down in the historical detail.













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'IN PEACE!

Stuart Wright has an uncanny knack of stumbling across derelict classic military vehicles, and his latest discovery includes this sorry looking but otherwise incredibly original (and complete) WOT6. Stuart tells us it's about to be saved, and we'll have more news on that next issue. You never know, with a bit of TLC Stuart could have it looking like the gleaming example we've featured on pages 14-20!











Send it in! If you spot an abandoned military vehicle rusting away somewhere, grab a photo and email it to RIP at ian.cushway@keypublishing.com



No – the inset picture isn't a cheap and nasty Chinese toy or a home made pedal Jeep. It's a Belgian made Minerva license built Land Rover – probably ex-Belgian Gendarmerie. Its owner seems confused and someone needs to tell him it's not a WW2 vehicle... we must marvel at all the effort he has put in to completely degrade a vehicle that is of interest in its own right. Maybe it landed on 6 June with the first wave on Omaha beach? He may well actually believe that but its absolute fodder for any arena commentator. The main picture is what an original Minerva 'should' look like. Nigel Hay

ISLE OF WIGHT MUSEUM REOPENS

Following much publicity at its closure some months ago the Isle of Wight Military Museum is now open again, reports Simon Thomson. It is now called the Conflict History and Remembrance Museum (CHARM). The remains of the old museum were pulled together by members of the British Legion Riders Club with the support of ex-servicemen and local military vehicle owners to provide not only a museum for the public to visit but also support for ex-servicemen to learn new trades. The plan is to grow the complex on the site of an ex-Army barracks and introduce new exhibits. Well worth a visit if you are on the IOW.





MEET THE CMV TEAM...

"Why do people leave vehicles to rot? I think this on a regular basis on my commute to work as I drive past a classic WW2 vehicle which must have been sitting outside for well over a decade



Scott Smith

now. Is it because they have some kind of sentimental value? Or perhaps the owners don't want anvone else to have that particular vehicle for some reason. Whatever the case it's a shame to see a green machine just dwindle away to rust as we look to conserve these machines whilst they are still here.

Scott Smith

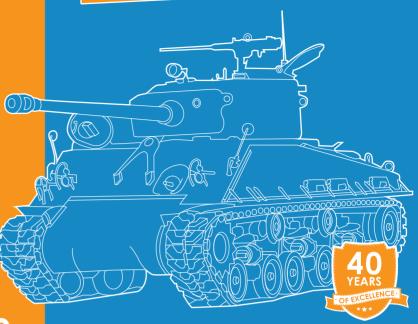
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TANKS IN TOWN

Alain Henry de Frahan reports on the impressive gathering of WW2 tanks and armoured vehicles in Mons, Belgium – appropriately awarded Europe's cultural capital of 2015!



he 15th edition of Tanks in Town and the inaugural 'Amphibious Operation' took place on 6-7 September 2014; it was a big success which the organisers, the Royal Mons Auto Moto Club (RMAMC), can be proud of. Once again, the spectacle was led by the indefatigable Pierre Deghaye, and a large and devoted team motivated by Jean-Marc Devos, Jean-Claude Busine and a few other pillars of the RMAMC who succeeded in managing various diplomatic, administrative, logistical and financial challenges. The support afforded by the town and its police was appreciated by all.

The result? More than 150 vehicles - of which around a third were WW2 tanks. half-tracks and wheeled armoured vehicles - arriving from Belgium, the UK, France, Luxembourg and Holland. As well as privately owned vehicles, the Royal Museum of the Army (based in Brussels and its especially dedicated team from Bastogne) participated with several tanks, some of which were on static display or running with the other tanks.

BRITS ABROAD

The British club 2nd Armored in Europe (honouring the US Hell-on-Wheels 2nd armored division) with superb half-tracks and M8s took part on their way from Normandy to Berlin, along with three veterans of the 2nd AD.

On Saturday the vehicles were free to drive off-road in the woods of the Bois Brûlé, a location used for off-road competitions.

At the same time, at the Grand Large lake located in the vicinity, five DUKWs and five GPAs took part in the first edition of the 'Amphibious Operation' linked to the Tanks in Town event. The two VW 166 Schwimwagens announced did not come. It is hoped they (and more) will be there next year, along with M29 and M29C Weasels.

On Sunday, two convoys - tracked and wheeled vehicles - set off in thick fog, driving on public roads to join first in Cuesmes where a ceremony was held to pay homage to the three veterans of the Hell-on-Wheels.

After that stop the tanks travelled towards Nouvelles via la Malonne and, an always very spectacular section, the former quarry of Ciply. This is like a jungle where tank drivers must

2014

Right: A ceremony was held at Cuesmes for the US 3rd Armored Division veterans.

Below: Ford GPAs and a DUKW at Le Grand Large.







Above: A British DUKW swimming at le Grand Large. Below: VW 82 Kübelwagen overflown by a light aircraft resembling a Piper L-4 Grasshopper.



Jean Weiler's Hetzer, in fact a former Swii G13.

B1

M5A1 Stuart in the 'jungle' of the former quarry of Ciply.

really prove their skills among the trees and through the deep and low vegetation on steep slopes and holes.

BATTLE RE-ENACTMENT

On the large field located between Nouvelles and Mesvin a 'soft' battle re-enactment involved all the participating vehicles, opposing a weak 'German' side that, believe it or not, lost once again! In September 1944 Mons was nicknamed the 'Belgian Stalingrad', as some 27,000 Germans were taken prisoner by the 3rd Armored Division and the 1st Infantry Division (the Big Red One), including three generals.

A very special participant among the Harley drivers was General Philip M Breedlove, Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR) and commander of the US Forces in Europe (USEUCOM). He drove a WLA lent by Pierre Deghaye. His six bodyguards had a hard time, for sure!

After the 'battle' all the vehicles drove to Mesvins and Hyon, and finally to the main square in Mons where I was in charge of the

public address system to explain, comment... and sometimes joke about this very impressive gathering on the venerable square. An official ceremony was held at the prestigious city hall to once again honour the veterans.

Tanks in Town 2015 and the Amphibious
Operation will take place on 29 and 30
August.



M3 half-track, one of the splendid examples brought by the 2nd Armored in Europe.

WOT A GH

John Blackman looks at Dominic Legg's most recent restoration, equally challenging Karrier K6 that preceded it

've said it before and will no doubt say it again, but I wish there were more WW2 British trucks on the military-vehicle scene. That they are vastly outnumbered by GMCs, Dodges and the like is, I admit, completely understandable. For a start there were less of them manufactured, and they tended to get sold straight onto the postwar civilian market where they were worked into the ground. On the other hand, many thousands of American-made trucks were passed on to Allied armies where they were maintained, rebuilt and stockpiled so delaying their entry onto the civilian market. That being the case, spares are also easier to source for them because they were also stored in big numbers.

And while I almost hate to mention it, I've been told many a time by enthusiast owners that, while patriotism is all very well, American trucks are generally better engineered, more rugged and easier to drive than our home-grown types.

However, someone not put off by any of the aforementioned is Dominic Legg, who has put an enormous amount of sweat and



ALLENGE

a Fordson WOT6, and compares it with the

toil into restoring a couple of British trucks, and rare ones at that, a Karrier K6 and a Fordson WOT6.

Indeed, we aren't aware of any other Karrier K6s currently on the rally scene, so that truck is particularly rare. Although there was no British commercial manufacturer of four-wheel-drive vehicles when war broke out, several companies — including Karrier Motors Ltd (part of the Rootes Group) — had built prototypes and were well-placed to meet the War Office's demand for a 3-ton 4x4. Despite being a relatively small concern, Karrier was able to put its K6 into production in December 1940. The company clearly didn't waste much time on styling considerations and it was at best a rugged-looking beast. Karrier's own six-cylinder

4086cc, 80bhp petrol engine drove the rear or all wheels via a four-speed gearbox and two-speed transfer box.

CASH AND KARRIER

While some K6s were equipped with a 4½-ton capacity power-driven vertical winch, mounted just ahead of the rear axle, there was also an air-portable version that could







Although the K6 entered production first, Karrier only built around 4500, while Ford's manufacturing might resulted in almost 30,000 WOT6s.

be disassembled and carried in two C-47 transport aircraft. After removing six bolts, the body could be removed from the chassis and then, after undoing nine more, split in half. Likewise, the cab could be split, and the chassis even had provision for castors to be

fitted to assist with loading once the wheels and suspension components had been removed. The

Karrier chassis, complete with the engine, gearbox, and radiator, could fit into the cargo hold of one C-47, while the rest of the vehicle - body, cab, wings etc - were carried in another.

Dom first set eyes on his K6 some 30 years ago when he watched it being dragged out of woods near his home in Essex. He

was 12 years old at the time and already a keen MV enthusiast, but hardly in the market for a 3-ton restoration project. However, in June 2001 he saw the very same vehicle advertised for sale on the internet and snapped it up. The intervening years

"Someone had welded the wings and all the cab panels together instead of using the

> hadn't been kind, and he found himself in possession of little more than a chassis, a rusty cab and a seized engine. With so much fabrication involved, it wasn't an easy restoration, but by the summer of 2003 the K6 was finished and road registered.

screw fixings, so we had to scrap it"

According to the chassis number, Dominic's K6 was manufactured in 1943 but is evidently a 1942 model as it has a splitscreen, a feature discontinued from 1943 onwards. Nothing is known of its service history except that when the paint was stripped off, evidence of 3rd Infantry Division markings were discovered. Since being

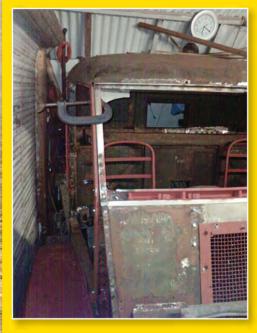
completed. the Karrier has covered many miles both at home and abroad but, unfortunately,

has had to live in the open air, exposed to the elements. You could say that it has gained the patina of a well-used and slightly abused military vehicle, but that is not really the way Dom wishes it to look. So, now that he has finished his WOT6 restoration, the K6 will soon be coming off the road for some remedial work.

FORDSON WOT6 RESTORATION



A second cab was sourced from the Muckleburgh Collection. It had a bad case of tin worm but elements were salvageable. (Daniel Smith)





The panels of the cab that originally came with the WOT6, seen here inverted, had been welded together. (Daniel Smith)



Most of the gantry framework is in place and a start has been made on the woodwork. (Daniel Smith)



Above and left: Unfortunately, few photos exist of the restoration process; these two showing the windscreen frame and surrounding area – which had been badly affected by rust – give a small indication of the effort and skill that Dom put into the project. (Daniel Smith)

WOT'S THIS?

Fordson's W0T6 came along in 1942, two years later than the K6, and was produced in far greater numbers, with almost 30,000 being manufactured before the end of WW2 as opposed to the mere 4500 or so K6s built between 1940 and 1945. Powered by Ford's ubiquitous 85bhp flathead V8 of 3621cc capacity, the basic general service truck spawned a whole range of variants.

Dom acquired his W0T6 in 2006 and although he knows absolutely nothing about its service life, he has worked out that in the late seventies it was being used as a showman's wagon but powered by a diesel engine rather than the original flathead V8. In 1986 the Fordson was re-registered as an historic vehicle but, apart from the diesel powerplant being given the heave-ho in favour of a Ford V8

of the correct type, it is unclear exactly what happened to the truck in the 20 years before Dom came across it quietly rotting away at a museum near Thetford in Suffolk.

Dom realised the WOT6 was 'a bit ropey' but it wasn't until he got around to taking it apart that he discovered just how bad it actually was. "Someone had welded the wings and all the cab panels together instead of using the screw fixings, so we had to scrap it," he recalls. "There was really nothing you could do; it wouldn't have been practical to cut it apart. But in 2008 we found out through the grapevine that the Muckleburgh Military Collection had two spare cabs. One was exceptional rough and one was just rough... I bought the rough one!"

Another boost came when Dom realised that his WOT6 wasn't one of the more common general service types, it was an

RE (Royal Engineers) machinery truck, one of 150 included in a 1943/44 contract and which would have been kitted out with a gantry, a 24Kw generator and various items of machinery... all of which were missing of course. However, before Dom could get stuck into what was clearly going to be an involved and demanding project, he suffered a stroke which all but side-lined him for two years.

TEAM EFFORT

By this time, the remains of the WOT6 had been hauled over to the premises that members of the Earls Colne Military Vehicle Group use courtesy of owner Phil Parrish. There, and once Dom was on the mend (who'd have thought that teaching yourself to weld would form part of a rehabilitation programme?), he was able to start work on the project with a lot of help from other



group members. And even when they cast doubt on the viability of the project, it only acted like a red rag to a bull as far as

Dom was concerned, "I had to prove them wrong," he now says. And he did. "We could pick the original cab up off



The interior of the WOT6's RE body, which once would have been packed with tools and equipment.

the chassis and put it down again," he continues. "It wasn't attached. And the roof could be lifted up and down like the lid on a tin can. Much of the cab had simply rotted away, as had the wings. Basically we used the best of the two cabs we had - they were both of the airportable type that could be split for shipment – to make one good one, although we had to put new panels in the wings, at the front where it had rusted away beneath the windscreen, and in the rear quarters. A lot of the folding of metalwork was done by Eddie Webb who had also worked on the K6."

Of course it wasn't only the WOT6's tinwork that had deteriorated over the years; the woodwork had also succumbed to rot. Although the rear body had been covered by a canvas, water had inevitably dripped through with the result that the body had rotted from the centre out. Most of the metal fixings were salvaged but every scrap of wood had to be replaced, for which purpose Dom used 1½in yellow pine as he couldn't get a supply of pitch pine, which would have been his first choice.

We've already mentioned that Dom's

Right: An inverted red triangle within a black triangle marks the WOT6 as belonging to the 3rd Infantry Division, which landed on Sword Beach on D-Day, 6 June 1944.



Below: Although the body's metal fittings and fixtures are original, all of the wood had rotted and had to be replaced.

WOT6 was an RE machinery truck, a major feature of which would have been the gantry, so it is fortunate that he managed to track one down in Oxfordshire. But that is as far as it goes regarding the RE's special equipment, because although the truck retains the related linkages in the cab, the

generator is long gone. Dom has, however, left a trapdoor in the body so that one could be installed should it turn up.

WOT A MESS

Since the W0T6's cab was little more than a combination of weld and rust, and







Aesthetically, Karrier's K6 is a fine example of function over form, but curiously attractive none the less.

Dom remarks that the WOT6's cab is roomier than that of the K6.

its body a fine example of wet rot, you won't be entirely surprised to hear that the engine was seized. Does Dom like a challenge or what? "Yes, water had got in," he says, "and we had to strip it right down and rebuild it, but we also had major issues finding a distributor. Eventually we located one at Belcher Engineering Ltd

(www.belcherengineering.co.uk) which specialises in vintage Fords. Actually they helped with quite a few bits and bobs."

Now that the WOT6 project is complete bar some tweaking, Dom has finished it as a vehicle attached to the 3rd Infantry Division, the first British formation to land on Sword Beach on D-Day, 6 June 1944. The Karrier K6 is currently marked for the 49th (West Riding) Division, which also took part in the Normandy campaign, but that will probably change when it is refurbished, something that Dom is keen to get on with. "I want it to look as good as the WOT6," he smiles. Frankly, we have no doubt that it will.



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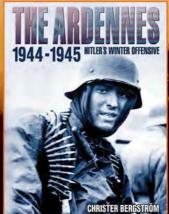
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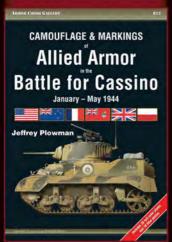
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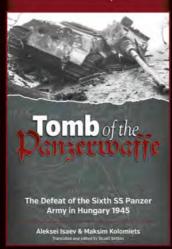
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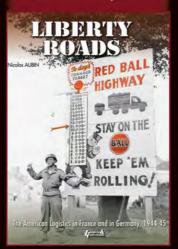
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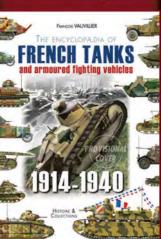
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LOVE A DUKWI

Pat Ware believes that the GMC DUKW still represents the pinnacle of amphibious vehicle design, and is unlikely to be bettered despite being more than 70 years old



Ithough, inevitably, attempts had been made to create vehicles that were equally at home on land or water since the invention of the motor car, the first practical amphibious vehicle didn't arrive until 1931. And then, like anticipated buses, two or three different vehicles appeared almost at the same time. Sadly, none proved to be able to pull of that trick of being both a good boat and a good truck, and in most cases, excelled at neither role.

The first such machine was demonstrated in July 1931, when Captain Geoffrey Malin, a British explorer, attached inflatable bladders to a motor car in such a way that it could float, and used paddles attached to the rear wheels to provide propulsion, a technique which was 'borrowed by the British Army in the fifties and sixties to allow vehicles such as the Ferret and Land Rover to become amphibious. During that same month, Modern Mechanix magazine reported on a New Jersey resident by the name of Peter Prell who had demonstrated his 'Auto Boat' in the Hudson River, claiming that it was capable of achieving 25mph (40km/h) in water and 40mph (65km/h) on dry land.

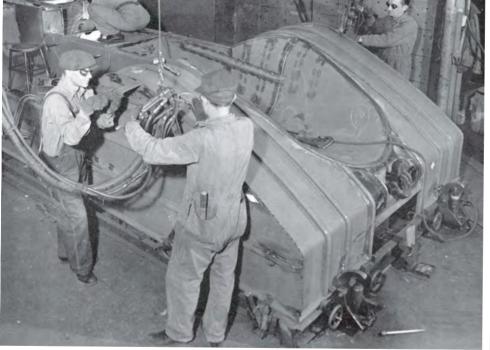
YANKS A LOT

The first military application for an amphibious vehicle also came in 1931 when Vickers produced the A4E11, and the subsequent A4E12, light amphibious tank; the design was also copied in Poland in the form of the PZIn 130 amphibious tank but there was no production. Four years later, in 1935, Rheinmetall-Borsig started work on the development of a tracked amphibious vehicle for the German Army that was designed to operate as a tractor-cum river tug. Powered by a Maybach HL120 V12 engine, the so-called Landwasserschlepper was finally demonstrated in 1940, and eventually went into limited production, with just 21 examples built.

But, inevitably it was the Americans who demonstrated how it should be done with the development of three amphibious vehicles. The Amphibian Car Corporation's civilian Aqua-Cheetah was prototyped in 1941, with a small number produced and supplied to the military. In 1942, this project was cancelled in favour of the Ford GPA amphibious Jeep of which some 12,778 examples were eventually constructed. However, it was the larger DUKW-353, generally simply described as the DUKW, which went on to become the best amphibious vehicle of WW2, and probably the best amphibian of all time.

The DUKW project was assigned to naval architects Sparkman & Stephens, who were already working on the amphibious Jeep, by the National Defense Research Committee (NDRC) in 1942. The NDRC asked the company to come up with a basic design for an amphibious truck that could be constructed around a standard 2.5-ton 6x6 chassis.





EARLY TESTING

Now, let's get that name out of the way right now. It is tempting to believe that the DUKW acronym was selected because it could be pronounced 'duck' but, in fact, the truth is far more prosaic. The first letter of the acronym indicates the year of manufacture, the second shows that it is a utility (in this case, amphibious) vehicle, whilst the third and fourth letters indicate that it has a 6x6 driveline; the suffix '353' was a model indication.

Work on the project began on 24 April

1942 with a group of draftsmen assigned to laying out the basic parameters of the vehicle. At the same time, a workshop team started work on producing a plywood- and cardboard-hulled mock-up constructed around a standard 2.5-ton 6x6 truck, in this case a forward-control AFKWX-353. Less than six weeks later, a prototype vehicle was driven out of the workshop. Powered by GM's ubiquitous 4425cc 'stove-bolt six', the vehicle incorporated the five-speed transmission and axles of the AFKWX truck in a welded-steel boat-shaped hull. The axles,

Above: View of the early DUKW production line, which was established at the GM Yellow Truck & Coach Plant number 2 at Pontiac, Michigan.

Left: Spot-welding the side panels of the hull in position. Welding the thin panels in such a way that they would be able to withstand shock loads from heavy seas presented one of the most serious production problems.

and the shafts required to drive the propeller, pierced the hull via sealed openings, and there was a rudder connected to the steering gear to allow the vehicle to be guided through the water. A winch was fitted to the deck at the rear, driven by a power take-off on the transmission, and arranged to allow winching from the front or the rear. From February 1943, the DUKW was also the first vehicle to feature a central tyre inflation system (CTIS), allowing the driver to alter the tyre pressures from inside the cab; this meant, for example, that the tyres could be fully inflated for road use, and deflated for soft surfaces such as sand.

On 2 June 1942 the hull was filled with water to test it for water-tightness, and was emptied using the bilge pumps. The following day the DUKW was given its first test in water at Crystal Lake, near Pontiac in Michigan; testing continued for a week, with modifications made to the prototype as and when problems arose. Various propeller designs were trialled to improve speed in the water and the arrangement of the propeller and the shape of the water tunnel were considered, again with a view to improving performance. The vehicle was subsequently demonstrated at the GM Proving Ground and at Fort Belvoir, Virginia,



Above: Interior of the driving position showing the major controls; the box on the floor ahead of the passenger seat controls a rocketlauncher system.

Right: British Army medical DUKW being used to transport German prisoners of war.





Production DUKW with the later windscreen in which the sides were angled rather than straight; this vehicle lacks the central tyre inflation system (CTIS) that was fitted from early 1943.

before the prototype was driven to Kittyhawk, North Carolina for sea trials.

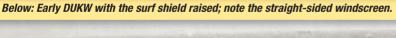
EARLY EVOLUTION GM was authorised to construct four more

prototypes, three of which were required for training purposes, with the fourth used as a check on the production drawings. At the same time, the company was also given a contract for 2000 production



In February 1943, the central tyre inflation system (CTIS) was released for production. This allowed the driver to alter the tyre pressures from inside the vehicle, matching them to traction conditions during an amphibious landing.

vehicles. Inevitably, there were further changes, and the decision was eventually taken, in late 1942, to use the engine and automotive components of the standardised CCKW-353 truck, and the DUKW was

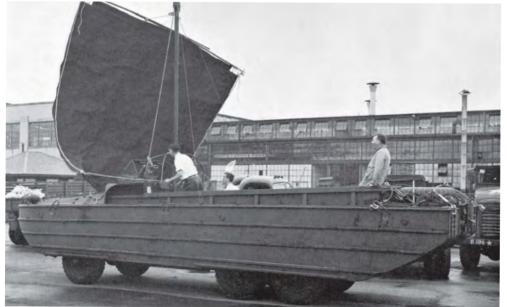








DUKW fitted with experimental frontal armour intended to be supplied as a kit for use in the field. Constructed from face-hardened steel, the forward-facing plates were 9.5mm in thickness, whilst those at the side were 6.5mm.



GMC conducted trials with this sail-equipped DUKW to see if this could provide a feasible method of allowing a stalled or mechanically-disabled vehicle to return to shore. Although it seems that the idea had possibilities, work on the project was eventually discontinued.

released for production in September 1942.

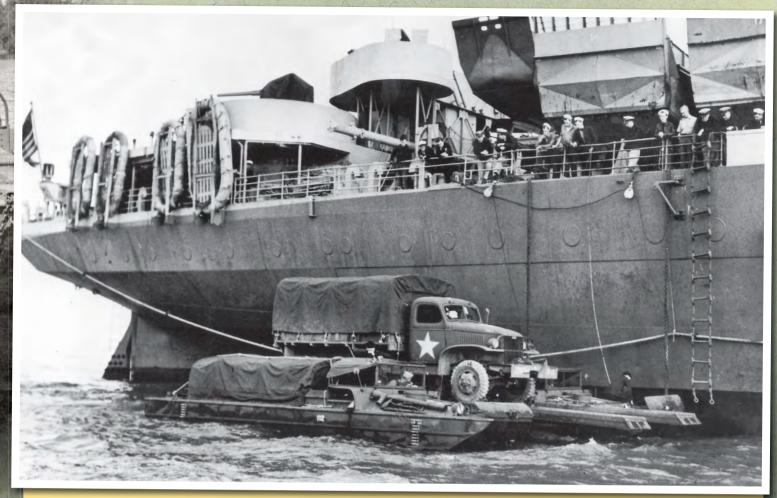
with cross tubes.

ferry' and used a pair of DUKWs tied together

Although the design was far from settled, production started in the summer of 1942. Changes to the design continued to be made, with a total of 70 changes authorised for production between September and November 1942, a further 171 changes between the end of November and 1 March 1943, and another 205 between October 1943 and June 1944. The first vehicles started to be delivered in November 1942 but, curiously, the US Army remained uncertain as to the value of the DUKW. According to GM's official history of the vehicle, the Army's indifference to the potential of the vehicle only began to change when, on 2 December 1942, two DUKWs were able to rescue the crew of a coastguard ship that was in trouble close to Cape Cod. At the same time, the testing and demonstrations continued through December and January 1942/43.

A total of 4508 DUKWs were constructed during 1943, with a further 11,316 built the following year. In total five separate contracts were issued for the DUKW and, by the time production ended in 1945, 21,147 vehicles had been built.





Dry ferry in use carrying a GMC 2.5-ton 6x6 truck. The treadways which were used to support the truck were 31ft (9.455m) long and the ferry could support a load of 65,000 lb (29,545kg) which was sufficient to allow a Sherman tank to be transported in this way.

FIENDISHLY CLEVER

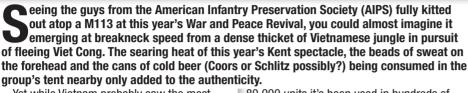
Whilst it would be fair to say that the DUKW was little more than a welded steel hull into which the automotive components of a 6x6 truck had been incorporated, this would be something of an understatement. This was a unique vehicle, and one which had the ability to operate in or out of water to any depth without compromising its road-going performance. The DUKW proved invaluable during the early stages of the Normandy landings when fleets of vehicles were used to ferry supplies from ship to shore before the Mulberry harbours were constructed, DUKWs were also used in the Pacific and during the Sicilian operation in the Mediterranean; they also featured heavily during 'Operation Veritable', which sought to clear the Germans from the land between the Maas and the Rhine, in the crossing of the Rhine ('Operation Plunder'), and in the Battle of the Scheldt. The vehicle was trialled for a number of specialised roles including wet and dry ferry, self-propelled pontoon, and rocket launcher;

there was also a special amphibious trailer, and DUKWs were trial-fitted with armour.

After the end of WW2, DUKWs remained in service with the US, British and French Armies, in some cases for another 30 or more years and, astonishingly, the Royal Marines still maintain and operate a fleet of five DUKWs at the Amphibious Trials and Training Unit (ATTU) at Instow in Devon. Many DUKWs have also been heavily modified for use as tourist attractions... not bad for a 70-year old design!

Below left: These days, even a DUKW in poor condition will command a considerable price; it is hard to imagine who might have been in the market for such a machine back in the fifties and sixties when they were being demobbed. This very-complete example, with the post-war British Army registration 71YP46, was offered for sale by Sworder Motors once its original owners had finished with it. Below right: This timber-construction two-wheeled amphibious trailer was delivered to Camp Gordon Johnson, Florida for trials in May 1944. Although design changes were planned to correct various handling problems, they were never implemented, and an alternative trailer design, by Cleaver-Brooks, was selected for production.

The 'Green Dragon' has become something of an icon among MV sixties M113 at War and Peace Revival 2014 certainly attracted qu takes a brief look at its history and evolution...





HE DRAGON







Above: With a crew of two, the M113 could carry up to 11 troops inside. Right: The beer cooler, we presume, must have been a standard M113 fitment in Vietnam.

EARLY HISTORY

The fully tracked M113 was developed by the Food Machinery Corporation (FMC) in the late 1950s and pioneered the use of 5083 aircraft grade aluminium armour to keep weight down; it was thick enough to protect

its occupants against shrapnel and small arms fire, but made the vehicle light

"...various modifications to the Vietnam icon have been applied to M113s still in service."

enough to be transportable by air (usually the Lockhead C-130 Hercules, of course) and be mildly amphibious.

Working closely with the Kaiser Aluminium and Chemical Company, FMC came up with two proposals initially, creating a thick and thin aluminium armoured vehicle (T113) and a mostly steel version to test alongside it - the T117. The thicker version of the T113 was chosen because it effectively weighed less vet miraculously offered a similar level of protection to the heavier steel vehicle. This effectively became the prototype for the M113 and an improved design was adopted by the US Army in 1960.

The original M113 was powered by a Chrysler petrol engine, but this was replaced in 1964 by the GM 5210cc six-cylinder diesel engined M113A1 mated to a three-speed Allison automatic transmission.

Where the M113 would excel best was in the jungle where forces needed a relatively lithe and reliable tracked vehicle that would main armament was a single .50 calibre M2 Browning, which was operated by the commander.

During early deployment with the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN). however. a high percentage of the highly vulnerable

gunners were killed which necessitated modifications to improve crew

survival rates. At first, makeshift steel shields were employed using salvaged bits of metal, but these proved ineffective and so something a little more substantial had to be considered. It was left to the ARVN 80th Ordnance Unit

enable troops to move quickly and relatively safely while keeping up with gun trucks. Obviously, the fact that it could be dropped into forward combat zones by air was essential and the M113's lightness allowed this. It would be used for transportation in the majority of cases, bringing troops forward, allowing them to exit swiftly, then retreating.

SHIELD OF HONOUR

The vehicle was first fielded by the US mechanized infantry units in Vietnam in the spring of 1962, where it quickly earned the name 'Green Dragon' by the Viet Cong. Along with a crew of just two (a driver and commander) it could carry 11 troops sat on benches facing inwards and its



Gun shields were improved early on to address high crew casualty rates.



Examples still in use have been significantly modified with the latest getting turbocharged engines, better driver aids and sophisticated comms equipment.



in South Vietnam to develop the shield, and the successful modification was issued to all units during the 1960s. During this time, as needs and changing situations demanded, the M113 was variously used as an amphibious light tank and a reconnaissance vehicle, complementing its intended use as a bush taxi.

ACAV VERSION

Recognising the versatility offered by the M113 and the many ways the Vietnamese were able to exploit this, the US Army developed their own Armored Cavalry Assault Vehicle (ACAV) variant - as seen on the example here. It featured extra shields as well as a circular turret for the .50 calibre M2 machine gun in the Track Commander position, two M60 machine guns with shields for the left and right rear positions and belly armour made up of steel sheets bolted from the front to the rear. The two rearmost gunners could operate their weapons while positioned inside the rectangular cargo hatch, thus transforming the M113 into a fighting vehicle.

The only aspect that held it back from becoming a truly effective combat machine was the fact that it remained lightly armoured.



Rear exit port allowed quick troop dispersion. Crews sat on benches facing inwards.

Experiments in the 1960s (under project MICV-65) to overcome this resulted in the Pacific Car and Foundry's steel armoured XM701 and FMC's similarly steel armoured

XM734 but weight and lack of pace meant neither were deemed viable. That said, FMC continued with the theme, developing the XM765 Advanced Infantry Fighting Vehicle



(AIFV) which was sold to Holland, Belgium and the Philippines in the 1970s.

FURTHER EVOLUTION

The M113A2 appeared in 1979 with improved engine cooling and stronger suspension and 12,700 existing APCs were subsequently upgraded to A2 spec in the US. The M113A3 went into service in 1986 with a more powerful engine, a longer hull, better armour and repositioned fuel cells.

Having been successfully deployed in countless subsequent Reconnaissance In Force (RIF) search and destroy missions during the US invasion of Cambodia in 1970 and Laos in 1971 the M113's flexibility was exploited throughout the seventies. It was frequently used alongside Sheridan tanks and even saw service with the USAF as well as the Australian Army in Vietnam who experimented with their own gun shields before settling for the Cadillac-Cage T-50 turret equipped with two .30 Browning machine guns. They even produced a variant with a Saladin armoured car turret fitted with a 76mm gun as a fire support vehicle.

Since then, various modifications to the Vietnam icon have been applied to M113s still in service. For example, those deployed in Iraq featured further modified gunshields, some





Above left: Free The Army was the official meaning of this acronym – but troops adopted an altogether different 'F' word... Above right: This one carries the markings of the 9th Infantry Division, 5th Battalion, 60th Infantry Bravo Company – nicknamed 'The Playboys' – hence the graphic of the Playboy comic strip character Little Annie Fanny.

even with locally made custom fabricated windows, while the rear port and starboard qunshields have been deleted.

Other M113s have been upgraded with add-on steel plates as well as reactive and slat armour to offer protection against rocket propelled grenades. Band tracks providing silent operation, higher top speeds and reducing damage to roads, have proved popular with Canadian forces.

Bringing the M113 story up to date, most still in service have been upgraded to A3 specification with the latest Reliability Improvements for Selected Equipment (RISE) kit which includes turbo power, better driver controls, external fuel tanks and a beefier alternator – as well as spall liners and the option of mounting external armour.

With further upgrades including hi-tech data transfer systems, even though it's reported that the US Army stopped buying them in 2007, it's likely the M113 will remain a familiar sight for many years to come. It's just nice that its essential role is finally being recognised – and that we're seeing the first ones at shows.

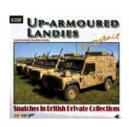




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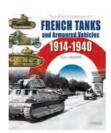
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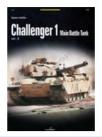
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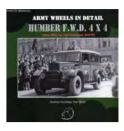
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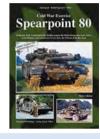
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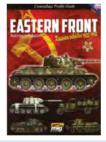
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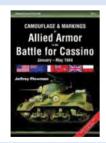
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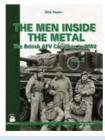
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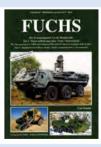
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THE MOST DANGEROUS MAN IN EUROPE

John Blackman profiles Otto Skorzeny and Operation Greif, during which German commandos dressed and equipped as US troops were controversially employed





Above: A left front view with the turret reversed. Note the false final-drive housings and side apron. Left: Wheels and tracks aside, the fake M10s are very convincing. Note the rectangular aperture on the false front to allow the use of the Panther's bow machine gun. Bottom left: A wartime photo of Otto Skorzeny, complete with duelling scar.

In the early morning hours of 16 December 1944 German forces launched Unternehmen Wacht am Rhein (operation Watch on the Rhine), a massive offensive in the Ardennes directed primarily against the American 1st Army. The plan was for the 6th Panzer Army to capture the port of Antwerp while the 5th Panzer Army secured the strategic road and rail centre of St Vith and then advanced on Brussels. For its part, the 7th Panzer Army was to attack to the south to protect the flank and create a buffer zone to prevent American reinforcements from attacking the 5th Panzer Army.

ONE OF A KIND

We know Wacht am Rhein better as the Battle of the Bulge because of the 'bulge' 60 miles deep and 80 miles wide that the offensive's opening successes created in the American lines. The attack caught the Allied forces completely off quard. However, since final success was dependent upon poor weather preventing Allied aircraft taking to the skies and on the German advance being swift enough to capture Allied fuel dumps, some commentators have suggested it was an absurd plan. But it was Hitler's absurd plan so it went ahead nonetheless. It was certainly an audacious plan, and one of the most audacious elements within it was Operation Greif, orchestrated by SS-Standartenführer Otto Skorzeny.

Skorzeny was born in Vienna in 1908. In 1931 he joined the Austrian Nazi Party and then, in 1939 after the invasion of Poland, he volunteered for service with the Luftwaffe. When rejected because he was both too old and too tall for aircrew training, he joined the elite Leibstandarte SS Adolf Hitler as an officer cadet. Skorzeny went on to fight in the Netherlands, France, the Balkans and then on the Eastern Front. After being seriously wounded in December 1942 he was given a staff role in Berlin, where he started to develop his ideas on unconventional commando warfare. This led to him being given command of

Sonderverband zbV Friedenthal, a special operations unit later redesignated as the 502nd SS Jäger Battalion Mitte.

PLAYING DIRTY

Undoubtedly Skorzeny's most high-profile operation during this period involved the rescue of deposed Italian dictator Benito Mussolini who, when his regime collapsed, was arrested and held in a remote hotel at the top of Gran Sasso d'Italia, a mountain located in the Abruzzo region. On 12 September 1943, Skorzeny's men landed by glider and took over the hotel without a shot being fired. Using a Fieseler Storch, an aircraft with incredible short take-off and landing characteristics, Skorzeny himself then escorted Mussolini to Rome. As a result, Skorzeny was promoted to Sturmbannführer and awarded the Knight's Cross of the Iron Cross.

An operation in the spring of 1944 to capture Josip Broz Tito, the Yugoslav partisan leader, went disastrously wrong but in October of the same year Skorzeny's plot to kidnap the son of Hungary's Regent, Admiral Miklós Horthy, and so force his resignation and subsequent replacement by a pro-Nazi government, was entirely successful. It seems that Skorzeny became Hitler's go-to man when deception and dirty tricks were involved and so it was that, on 22 October 1944 while Unternehmen Wacht am Rhein was being planned, Skorzeny was summoned to a meeting with the Führer.

He was tasked with forming an Englishspeaking unit equipped with American uniforms and equipment that could slip behind enemy lines to generally confuse and disrupt during the offensive. Ironically, it was Hitler who in 1942 issued the Kommandobefehl, or Commando Order. which stated that all Allied commandos encountered by German forces in Europe and Africa should be killed immediately without trial, even if they were dressed in proper uniforms or were attempting to surrender. It is said that Skorzeny was aware of the contradiction and that the operation as proposed by Hitler could breach the 1907 Hague Convention, but considered it would be futile to argue the point.

LIMITED RECRUITS

The clandestine unit was to be known as Panzerbrigade 150 but Skorzeny had very little time in which to recruit, train and equip the men. His task was immediately jeopardized when, on 26 October, the Oberkommando der Wehrmacht openly distributed a notice requesting that soldiers with knowledge of the English language and American slang volunteer for a secret commando operation. Allied intelligence did indeed get wind of the document but considered it a hoax.

In the event, the quest brought forth only 10 men who spoke perfect English and had some knowledge of American idiom, and these were augmented by several hundred more whose knowledge of the language ranged from excellent to schoolboy. Skorzeny therefore scaled down Panzerbrigade 150 from three battalions to two and put the 150 most proficient English speakers into a commando unit named Einheit Stielau. Skorzeny also





Above: A rear view. Note the dummy brackets and fittings and the ports for the Panther's exhaust. Left: A close-up showing the false gun shield and turret sides complete with dummy studs and lifting rings.

The turrets were further disquised by sheets of thin metal cut and fixed to represent the profile and counterweight of the M10's distinctive turret. Even the M10's lifting rings, brackets and studs were duplicated and fixed to the false turrets. The Panthers' hulls were also cloaked

with sheet metal to resemble the M10. A rectangular aperture with a chain-operated cover was cut in the front to allow the use of the Panther's machine gun and, again, the M10's brackets and fittings were duplicated. The ersatz M10s examined were all marked as belonging to the 5th Armored Division, 10th Armored Regiment, and bore the vehicle numbers B-4, B-5, B-7 and B-10.

On 10 December 1944 Skorzeny revealed to his commanders that three elements of Panzerbrigade 150, Kampfgruppe X, Y and Z, would be tasked with capturing at

"The turrets were further disguised by

sheets of thin metal cut and fixed to

represent the profile and counterweight

of the M10's distinctive turret."

Above: A top view of the turret showing the hatch covers used in lieu of the Panther's cupola. Right: The plate over the machinegun aperture is visible to the left of the star. Although partly hidden by the gun barrel you can just make out an aperture for the Panther's coaxial machine gun.

whenever they could. A third squad was to disrupt communications and the US chain of command by cutting telephone cables and issuing false orders etc.

AVOIDING SUSPICION

On 16 December 1944 Panzerbrigade 150 moved out behind the three attacking Panzer divisions, the 1st SS Panzer Division, the 12th SS Panzer Division and the 12th Volksgrenadier Division, with the aim of moving around them and through American lines when they reached an area known as the High Fens. However, when the advance faltered and it became clear that Panzerbrigade 150's original objective was unattainable, it was diverted to attempt to take Malmedy where, despite several assaults commencing on 21 December, it was repulsed.

The commandos of the Einheit Stielau were perhaps more successful in that their disruptive activities created an atmosphere of paranoia among American troops. Even General Bruce Clark and General Omar Bradley were stopped at US checkpoints and asked questions that it was felt only Americans would know the answers to, such as on sports trivia. On at least two occasions,

genuine US servicemen were killed by suspicious compatriots, but a number of German commandos were captured when their knowledge of US idiom and slang

let them down. One group drove into a fuel dump and asked for petrol rather than gas, while the leader of another group used the very British expression 'keep your pecker up' and immediately aroused suspicion.

Ironically, the capture of three German commandos in US uniforms near Aywaille on 17 December sent the American's paranoia levels sky high when they alleged that one of Skorzeny's aims was to capture General Dwight Eisenhower and his staff. Such was the Austrian's reputation at this point that the

employed a company of SS Jagdverbände Mitte, a unit formed from foreign volunteers, and two Luftwaffe parachute battalions. Together with tank crews borrowed from Panzer regiments and gunners from artillery units. Skorzeny eventually assembled some 2500 men for training at Grafenwöhr in eastern Bavaria.

The shortfall in equipment was even greater. Skorzeny only received a fraction of the requested US vehicles, a mere handful

of half-tracks plus 30 Jeeps, 15 trucks and two Shermans. However, he received a number of German vehicles which were repainted in the Allied style and five Panthers which

were quite elaborately disguised as M10 tank destroyers. Four were subsequently knocked out in the Malmedy area and subjected to close examination by US technical intelligence officers attached to the 1st US Army.

MASTERS OF DISGUISE

The resulting report emphasised the amount of effort that had gone into the deception, noting that in each case the Panther's distinctive cupola had been removed and replaced by two semi-circular hatch covers.

least two of three bridges over the Meuse at Amay, Huy, and Andenne before they could be destroyed. The Einheit Stielau commando unit, wherein were the best English speakers, was given three missions. Demolition squads of half-a-dozen men were to destroy bridges, ammunition dumps and fuel stores, while smaller reconnaissance squads were to operate either side of the Meuse River reversing road signs, removing minefield warnings, cordoning off roads and generally causing confusion wherever and



Americans tended to believe the story and Eisenhower spent Christmas 1944 isolated for security reasons.

It is said that on hearing of Eisenhower's confinement, Field Marshal Montgomery took it upon himself to head for Malmedy. What he didn't know was that a rumour was circulating in the Ardennes that a German Montgomery lookalike was on the loose. Apparently, when US troops halted Montgomery at a checkpoint, he took umbrage and told his driver to keep going, with the result that the guards shot out the staff car's tyres and detained the irate Field Marshal for several hours. He was only

released when a British officer known to the Americans vouched for him. What started out as, quite literally, an ego trip for Montgomery turned out to be the exact opposite, and one doubts he saw the funny side. Eisenhower did, however, and while he is quoted as having called Skorzeny 'the most dangerous man in Europe', lke also remarked that the

'Monty' incident was the best thing for which Skorzeny had ever been responsible.

ON THE RUN

The three Einheit Stielau men captured near Aywaille were tried for espionage, found guilty, and then executed by a firing squad on 23 December. In the following three weeks a



A rear view of the false turret with the bottom plate removed showing how the false plates were attached and braced.



A StuG III used during Operation Greif. To the left is a US half-track. All the uniforms visible are German.



An M8 armoured car employed by Panzerbrigade 150.

further 13 were similarly tried and executed by the US 1st Army. It wasn't until 1947 that Skorzeny and nine officers of Panzerbrigade 150 were tried as war criminals charged with 'improperly using American uniforms

by entering into combat disguised therewith and treacherously firing upon and killing members of the United States armed forces'. All were acquitted when the military tribunal drew a

distinction between using enemy uniforms during combat and for other purposes including deception, concluding that it could not be shown that Skorzeny had actually given any orders to fight in US uniforms.

But the acquittal was far from the end of the Otto Skorzeny story. On 27 July 1948 he escaped from the internment camp at Darmstadt where he was being held and for the following 18 months hid out at a farm in

"...Skorzeny's post-war exploits were even more incredible than his wartime operations."

> Bavaria rented by Countess Ilse Lüthje, the niece of Hitler's former finance minister, who he was later to marry. In February 1950 a photo of him in a café on the Champs Elysées in Paris appeared in the French

press, causing him to flee to Salzburg. But in 1952 Skorzeny was declared 'de-Nazified in absentia' and was able to move to Madrid where he became the Spanish coordinator for ODESSA (Organisation der Ehemaligen SS-Angehörigen), a network set up by a group of SS officers towards the end of WW2 to facilitate secret escape routes allowing SS members to avoid capture and prosecution.

In 1953, Skorzeny was employed in Egypt as military advisor to General Muhammed Naguib, the country's first President, and recruited a number of former SS officers to train the Egyptian Army. Subsequently, in the vain hope that Nazi hunter, Simon Wiesenthal, would remove him from his list of wanted Nazi war criminals, Skorzeny was to provide intelligence to Mossad, the Israeli secret service, regarding ex-Nazi scientists working for the Egyptian government.

Frankly, Skorzeny's post-war exploits were even more incredible than his wartime operations... founder of Die Spinne, a secret organisation said to have assisted 600 former SS men escape from Germany to Spain and South America, advisor to Argentine President Juan Perón

> and bodyguard to his wife Eva, founder of the Paladin Group established in the seventies and said to have recruited mercenaries for rightwing regimes around the

world... his curriculum vitae is way beyond the scope of this short feature but surely a case of truth being stranger than fiction. Otto Skorzeny died of lung cancer on 5 July 1975 in Madrid.



A US soldier inspects a knocked out StuG III near Malmedy. Allied stars have been painted on its hull and Schutzen.

ACTION ON EVERY FRONT



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Overlord

'Operation Overlord' was the codename for the Battle of Normandy, first stage of the liberation of Nazi-occupied Western Europe. British, American and Canadian paratroops were the first into combat.

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his 37mm anti-tank gun was located in Brazil in 2009 by top Lincolnshire military specialist Marcus Glenn. It was reasonably complete but in a pretty scruffy state. He took delivery of it in May 2010 and immediately sent it to Darrell Hazelton and Andy Crocker - artillery specialists based in Swindon.

Following that Glenn embarked on a long and often challenging quest to find all the missing parts and accessories. "A new sight was found on eBay, and was being sold by a vendor in Eastern Europe," recalls Marcus. "Similarly, a new battery box/stowage bin was found in America."

Sadly, little has been discovered of the gun's history. Regarding its manufacture, all that is known is what appears on the maker's plate -'US Mach Corp 1943'.

Still, it's a lovely piece of military history – and it's compact enough to keep in a small garage and wheel out at weekends to admire. Which is what we imagine the gun's new owner will probably do.









Above: A suitable battery box/storage bin was sourced from America.

STO

37MM ANTI-TANK GUN RESTORATION























Left: Marcus Glenn stumbled across the gun in Brazil. Below: Maker's plate reveals year of manufacture as 1943.



Best of British

RIYGRO

Pat Ware looks at the Thornycroft Nubian, a robust, no-nonsense Department requirements' and which survived, in various forms



During WW2, Thornycroft's major contribution was the Nubian TF/AC4/1, a 3-ton 4x4 chassis of which some 3824 examples were constructed between February 1941 and May 1945. There was also a diesel-engined variant designated TF/DC4/2.

ccording to Wikipedia, that font of all knowledge, Nubia is a region along the River Nile, which is located in northern Sudan and southern Egypt... and a Nubian, much prized incidentally as a Roman slave, is presumably, an inhabitant of that region. Quite how, or why, Thornycroft came to use the name Nubian for what was originally a 3-ton 4x4 general-service (GS) military truck remains something of a mystery, particularly when you bear in mind that previous Thornycroft truck names included the likes of Trusty, Handy, Nippy, Dandy and Strenuous... which sounds more like a group of second cousins to the Seven Dwarfs!

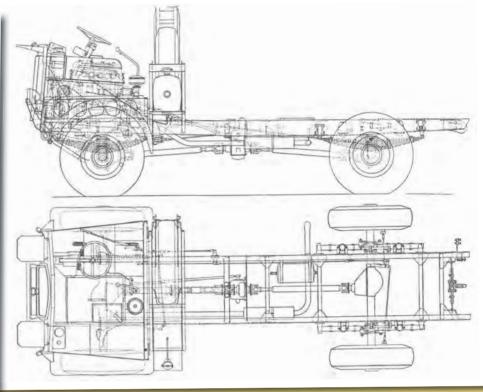
However, putting the origins of the name to one side, the Nubian was Thornycroft's most numerous contribution to the war effort, although perhaps it should also be

pointed out that the company designed Britain's only war-time wheeled amphibian, and built something like 8250 tracked carriers, as well as other trucks.

The Nubian was constructed against a War Department specification that called for the ability to climb a 50% gradient, as well as being able to operate reliably in deep mud and loose sandy soil, and to wade ashore from a landing craft. A pre-production vehicle was delivered for trials in June 1940, and the first production vehicles rolled out of Thornycroft's 15-acre Basingstoke factory in February 1941. The total number of vehicles produced by May 1945 was 3824, with large numbers of these ending up with the RAF.

forward-control truck that was 'built to comply with War into the eighties





Above: General-arrangement drawing for the Nubian TF/AC4/1 3-ton chassis showing the layout of the major components.

with a separately mounted two-speed transfer case that was coupled directly to the fully-floating spiral-bevel axles by means of conventional propeller shafts; the forward shaft passed under the engine; an epicyclic gear train in each of the hubs served as the final reduction gear. The front axle drive could be disengaged when not required, and was automatically selected when low-range was engaged.

TOUGH AS OLD BOOTS

Described by its makers as the Nubian TF, both petrol- (TF/AC4/1) and diesel-engined (TF/DC4/2) variants were developed, and while there is no evidence that any of the latter were supplied to the Army or the RAF, it is possible that the Royal Navy favoured this engine. The petrol engine was a four-cylinder overhead-valve unit of 5173cc, producing 85bhp at a governed 2500rpm. The truck adopted the forward-control layout with the front-mounted engine installed with a slight rearward tilt. There was a unit-constructed four-speed gearbox,



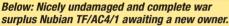
Side view of the wartime Nubian TF/AC4/1 3-ton general service (GS) cargo vehicle.



Left: Post-war Nubian TF/AC4/1 3-ton artillery tractor, very much in the WW2 style.

Right: Post-war Nubian 6x6 chassis being put through its paces in near-liquid mud in the early sixties.

Below: The post-war military Nubian was produced both as a 3-ton 4x4 (FV13402) and as the 5-ton 6x6 (FV14101-3) seen here. Both chassis were powered by a Rolls-Royce eightcylinder petrol engine, in the form of the B80 for the 4x4 chassis (designated TFA), and the B81 for the 6x6 (TFB).





Brakes were hydraulically-operated, with vacuum servo-assistance from a Clayton Dewandre unit, and the mechanical handbrake operated on only the rear wheels.

The suspension was thoroughly conventional, employing multi-leaf semielliptical springs, in combination with Luvax



Typical of the period, the steering consisted of a Marles cam-and-roller unit with a drag link to the right-hand hub, and a full-width track rod conveying the steering inputs to the left-hand side.

With its deep channel-section chassis incorporating six cross-members, it was a robust and well-constructed vehicle that was sufficiently flexible to withstand off-road use. The wheelbase dimension was exactly 144in (3658mm) and this combined with the forward-control layout to give the truck a compact appearance, even if this was, to some extent, at the expense of overall height. The two-man cab was coach-built, consisting of a timber frame to which were attached steel-panels, whilst the most common body type was the standard 3-ton timber general-service (GS) cargo body having a flat floor and drop-down tailgate. A removable canvas cover was supported on a tubular-steel framework.

The maximum speed on the road was 39mph (63km/h), which was almost double the blanket 20mph (32km/h) limit

Left: Post-war Nubian 5-ton 6x6 cargo vehicle, FV14102



Above: Under-chassis shot of the post-war 4x4 Nubian; note the WW2 style radiator that was retained into the sixties. Although primarily aimed at civilians, a number of these vehicles also entered military service.

that applied to goods vehicles until 1957, whilst the operating range was stated to

be 200 miles (325km) from a 30-gallon fuel tank. The availability of four-wheel drive and the excellent ground clearance figure of 13in (330mm) under the axles gave a creditable off-road performance.

There is little doubt as to the suitability

of the design, since it seems that the only changes made to the vehicle during the

"The Nubian was Thornycroft's most numerous contribution to the war effort."

wartime production period covered the substitution of coil ignition in place of

the original magneto set-up, and a small modification to a gearbox bush.

After the war, the Nubian 4x4 continued to be produced for commercial users, with a bare chassis put through its paces at the Farnborough military test site in 1949 by Lawrence Cotton, technical editor

of *Commercial Motor*. It would be fair to say that he was impressed by its performance. The name was also applied to a civilian 4x2 truck powered by a Thornycroft NR6 diesel

engine, but there was little commonality with the wartime original. Production of this latter

Below: Nubian 4x4 chassis with Bedford RL engine and running gear, used to provide the basis for a missile-handling crane. Registered 00EX21, the vehicle was one of two delivered in 1965 to the School of Artillery.





The Nubian-based light mobile digger was developed for the Royal Engineers to provide a fast method of digging slit trenches. The cutting gear was borrowed from coal-mining technology and the vehicle incorporated an auxiliary hydrastatic transmission system that allowed it to creep forward automatically whilst digging.

variant, which was described as the Nubian WF8, ended in 1952/53, when the name was once again applied to an all-wheel drive chassis.

POST-WAR PRODUCTION

Based on the chassis of the original military Nubian, and described as the Nubian TF, the post-war all-wheel drive version was manufactured in both 4x4 and 6x6 configurations, and was available with a choice of engines. Military users were offered an eight-cylinder Rolls-Royce petrol engine, either the B80, producing 169bhp from 5675cc, or the B81 which produced an additional 28bhp from its 6522cc; there was also a choice of the Thornycroft AC4/1 four-cylinder petrol engine, or the Thornycroft NR6 or CR6 diesels.

In 1952/53, the British Army took delivery of a further batch of Nubians in the form of the TFA - a 5-ton 6x6 truck, designated as the FV14100 series, and the TFB, a 4x4 rated at 3-tons and described as the FV13400 series. All were powered by Rolls-Royce petrol engines. Three separate contracts were issued, with a total of perhaps 177 vehicles eventually

constructed for the British Army. The vehicles were bodied for a variety of roles, including general-service (GS) cargo, winch-equipped artillery tractor, missile erector, airfield fire-crash tender, and the complex hydraulically-operated light mobile digger (LMD).

Aside from the LMD, which had a singleseat half-cab, early vehicles were fitted with a typical coach-built cab, closely resembling that used on the wartime Nubian, whilst later examples wore an altogether more modern-looking pressed-steel cab manufactured by Motor Panels (Coventry) Limited. The Motor Panels cab was also shared by other Thornycroft trucks, including the Antar Mk 3, as well as being used by Guy. Despite the adoption of the new cab, as late as 1961, Thornycroft was still offering 4x4 Nubians equipped with the old coach-built cab.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

In 1964, Thornycroft was acquired by AEC's Associated Commercial Vehicle (ACV) group, which resulted in the AEC AV410 sixcylinder diesel engine, with a power output

of 124bhp from 6756cc, also being offered as an option alongside the two Rolls-Royce B Series engines. ACV was subsequently acquired by Leyland, by which time the 6x6



Right: Chassis of the 4x4 Super Nubian, powered by a Cummins 400bhp V903 series diesel engine. Driving all four wheels through an Allison HT750 five-speed gearbox and Kirkstall twospeed auxiliary gearbox.

variant was being marketed exclusively as a military or civilian airfield fire-crash truck, fitted with a powerful Cummins diesel engine.

The Basingstoke factory was closed in 1972 and most production was moved to the Scammell plant at Watford... here, the names Thornycroft Nubian, and Nubian Major – continued to be used until 1977, with both 4x4 and 6x6 rear-engined chassis being constructed. From 1977, it became the Scammell Nubian, and from 1988, the Nubian name was licensed to Unipower. Of course, it hardly needs to be said that these later Nubians owed nothing to the wartime original!

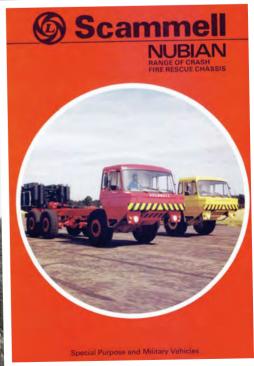
Curiously, very few of the wartime military Nubians have survived into preservation, although there is a handful of restored postwar fire-crash tenders, and half a dozen or more of the light mobile diggers (LMD) are in private hands... with more than one remaining in full operating condition.





Above: Rolls-Royce B81 engined Nubian Major Pyrene Protector airfield crash truck dating from the seventies. Left: The Nubian 4x4 chassis was much favoured as the basis for airfield fire-crash-rescue vehicles. This is the Nubian TF/B80 RAF Mk5 fire-crash-foam tender (FV13402), which was introduced in the mid 'fifties to replace ageing wartime equipment. Below: Dated October 1981, this Scammell brochure shows the rear-engined 4x4 and 6x6 fire-crash-rescue chassis. Five variants were offered: the 300bhp 4x4 Nubian 2; the 400bhp 4x4 Super Nubian; the 400bhp 6x6 Nubian Major 2; the 500bhp 6x6 Super Major; and the 500bhp 4x4 Nubian rapid intervention vehicle (RIV).





THE GREAT DORS

Scott Smith visited The Great Dorset Steam Fair at Tarrent Hinton, that even the Great War mud this year was authentic!

here have been many things which The Great Dorset Steam Fair has been capable of arranging during its long and prestigious history, however the mud which accompanied the special Great War display perhaps was something it could never have planned for.

The site was turned into a scene underfoot which many of the fighting men from the Western Front some 100 years ago would have been familiar with, which led to the

site becoming a quagmire with many areas impassable on foot and almost impossible to negotiate by vehicle.

Despite all of this the organisers wouldn't

be beaten and the show continued to the best of its abilities. I paid my visit to Dorset on the first two days of the event and it's the first time ever in my time attending the show that I haven't seen at least some vehicle movement in the numerous arenas around the site.

This was somewhat of a shame as although the thousands of exhibits on site

Below: Serial collector Richard Shepard has been a regular attendee at The Great Dorset Steam Fair and lives just a few miles away in Sturminster Newton. Pictured here is his 1944 GMC Fuel Bowser which was one of half a dozen vehicles he had brought to the show.



ET STEAM FAIR (1)

27-31 August 2014 and discovered



Above: This 1943 Bedford QLR was one which I hadn't seen out and about before. It has recently been purchased by the current owners from The Tank Museum in Dorset and is undergoing restoration. Notice how the body shown is not the standard wireless house type seen on many QLRs.



Above: Dating from 1941, this Morris Commercial CDSW gun tractor is somewhat of a rarity on the rally scene and would have originally towed a 40mm Bofors gun. The vehicle was overhauled in 1947 and sold at a disposal sale to the Bendry Brothers who removed the rear bodywork and used it for hauling timber in their sawmill for 20 years. Current owner Graham Jones saved it from being scrapped in 1970 and restored it to its present condition.





Above: Show regulars Graeme and Sandra Sty came with their 1943 Austin K2/Y Ambulance. They travel all the way from Jersey with the ambulance which has spent all of its life in the Channel Islands after originally landing with the liberation force in May 1945 and being used by the RAF at Guernsey Airport.



provide lots of interest, it's really the movement of vehicles – especially in the heavy haulage arena or 'Play Pen' as it is more affectionately known – which gives the Dorset show its edge. To be able to witness the power of both steam and diesel machines is a sight to behold, although thankfully this was something that was able

to be witnessed later in the week.

So what about the military vehicles I hear you cry? Well, Dorset has traditionally had a strong and varied military-vehicle presence



Above: Still very much working for a living, this AEC Matador belonging to Sussex showmen the Harris Brothers, could be seen powering their Chair-o-Planes which were situated on the vintage fairground area.

Below: Over 20,000 white M3A1 scout cars were built between 1940 and 1944, including this very nice 1942 example which is owned by Preston Isaac of the Cobbaton Combat Collection. These scout cars were used not only by American forces, but also by British, Canadian and Soviet Union forces on a lend-lease basis.







Above: This 1984 Bedford MJ owned by Roger Chedgzoy couldn't move very far due to the mud.



Above: This 1965 Bedford RL still carries the livery which it had when it was first supplied to the Auxiliary Fire Service. Built as a general purpose vehicle it was disposed of from Branston in November 1988 with just 983 miles on the clock.

Right: Nikki Owen finished the rebuild of his 1951 Scammell Explorer in time for the show. It has been a regular at the Dorset show for a number of years — it was originally supplied new to the REME.

and 2014 was no different. And while there were a number of 'regulars' in attendance, it was also good to see some different machines.

It's not only the military section where green machines are prevalent with various



bits of ex-military kit also present in both the Commercial Vehicle and Diesel Heavy Haulage sections of the show. Most now don't carry the livery they would have done when in service; however they are pretty

recognisable if you keep an eye out for them around the different areas.

TRENCH ATTRACTION
This year saw a special Great War

Below: Some machines come to the event in order to show how they would have been used while in service. This 1941 Caterpiller D8-8R, owned by Andrew Bettney and Paul Marriott, was actually used on Gold Beach on D-Day +4. It is seen here with a Le Tourneo Carryall Box Scraper which dates from 1940.



Above: Dating from 1942 Alan Oxborough drives his Diamond T 981 all the way from Derbyshire to attend the show. Although it's carrying a very different paint scheme to what it would have done originally you would have to agree that it still looks very imposing. Left: You always find a handful of vehicles amongst the Commercial Vehicle section with military history attached to them, including this 1950 Scammell Explorer. When it was demobbed it went to work in a garage in Cirencester before being used in showland by Brian Botham to pull his living van.







Above: There were over 10,000 Leyland Hippo Mk11s produced. This tidy 1944 example is owned by Nigel Bartlett from Bridport who has restored it to its present condition after he purchased it as a total wreck in 1996.



Above: It was little touches like this Model T Ford pick-up truck which helped create a very good Western Front display for the Great War commemorative area. This example dates from 1913 and was used by the Army Service Corps for repairing vehicles. They performed well over tough terrain.

commemorative display being set-up on one side of the show site in order to honour those who served their country between 1914 and 1918. The display was divided into three sections; a Western Front area, a Home Front area and an Exhibition Marquee along with a number of vehicles both mechanical and horse-drawn on show.

The main attraction in the Western Front area proved to be the massive trench system which had been created in order to give visitors an idea of what life might have been like 100 years ago. Manned by

Right: This Fordson Standard dating from 1939 is believed to have been used by US military forces at some point.

Below: This 1915 Daimler Y Type dates from 1915 and was built at the AEC factory in Southall. It had a top speed of 20mph (32km/h) and is powered by a four-cylinder petrol engine. Little is known of its activities during the Great War but when it was purchased by current owner Ronald Harris it was still in its original wartime livery.



Above: There are military connections across many areas of Dorset with this 1940 Caterpillar D6 being a prime example. Supplied as a lend-lease machine it was used to pull timber in the New Forest for the war effort. It is now owned by Oliver Cutts who found the vehicle on a farm in 2003 before restoring it during 2004 and 2005.

The Queens Own Royal West Kent Regiment, this created a great deal of interest and those responsible for creating it must be congratulated for making an area unlike anything seen before at a UK show.

All the Great War displays proved popular with the public and certainly added a unique element to this year's event.

Elsewhere, here's some of the vehicles which really stood out...







Above: Manufactured in 1915 this Napier carrier displays the battleship grey colour it would have had when it rolled off the production line. Originally registered in County Louth, Ireland it was kept in War Department service until 1919 before being sold to Sutton Seeds who used it to carry its produce. After being laid up in 1931 the engine was restarted for the first time in 2012 and restored to its present condition.



Above: Despite the weather conditions Simon Webb from Suffolk managed to bring along his Locomobile Truck which is believed to have served with the 51st Highland Division at the Battle of the Somme in 1916.

Above right: At the start of the Great War the military needed heavy transport for guns and the Holt 75 Gun Tractor such as this one pictured was the first choice. This example was built in 1917 to army specification and is believed to have been one of the many still in the factory when the war ended. It was purchased by the US government for use by public authorities but little else is known of its history. It was purchased by Ron and Keith Harris in 2003 and is seen here with a replica 8in Howitzer gun.





Above: Originally an RAF tractor unit when it was demobbed, this 1952 AEC Matador was put to work subsequently with Hoffman's Circus. After finishing work on the show it passed into preservation before being purchased by the current owner Nigel Blatch from Somerset some ten years ago.

Left: Something completely different was this 1918 Holt artillery tractor. The 5-ton tractor was designed by Holt with an RE Olds engine before being armoured by the Diebold Safe & Lock Co. They were used extensively on the Western Front to move artillery into forward firing positions. This rare example is part of the Ward Collection from North Yorkshire.

Below and right: The Western Front area of the Great War display featured a spectacular trench system which had been specially dug in order to show visitors what life might have been like between 1914-18 for soldiers on the front line. Members of The Queens Own Royal West Kent Regiment manned the trenches and helped give them that authentic look.





FEBRUARY ISSUE AVAILABLE FRIDAY 26TH DECEMBER *





POLISH SPITFIRE SALUTE

How Jacek Mainka became the first Polish citizen to fly a Spitfire for nearly 70 years

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Four very different, but equally fascinating — and challenging — ways of preserving Britain's post-war aviation heritage in focus: the Midair Squadron, the Duxford Aviation Society's British Airliner Collection, Shackleton WR963 and Vulcan XM655

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FULL OF RESOLVE

Interoperability is key in today's NATO doctrine. With the aim to train and further enhance this capability the US Army conducted exercise Combined Resolve II at the Hohenfels Training Area in southern Germany in May and June 2014. Carl Schulze was there to report on the military vehicle action...

June 2014 at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center (JMRC) of the US Army Europe (USAREUR), situated at the Hohenfels Training Area, the invitational exercise Combined Resolve II conducted by the US Army saw the participation of 4300 troops from 15 NATO nations and allies of the USA that are not NATO members. Sixty percent of the troops belonged to the US Army and US Army National Guard, the remaining came from Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, France, Georgia, Hungary, Kosovo, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Serbia and Slovenia.

FORCE ON FORCE

Using the Multiple Integrated Laser Equipment System (MILES) tactical engagement simulation system and other state-of-the-art simulation technology the exercise took on a force on force theme set in a high intensity conflict scenario. For this the Hohenfels training area became the fictitious state of Atropia, situated in the Caucasus region. Disputes over the control of water, oil and gas



Among other modifications the M1A2 SEP (v2) Abrams features improved microprocessors, colour flat panel displays, improved memory capacity, better Soldier-machine interfaces, a new open operating system designed to run the Common Operating Environment (COE) software, a Tank Infantry Phone (TIP), a Common Remotely Operated Weapon Station (CROWS), the Total InteGrated Engine Revitalization (TIGER) AGT1500 gas turbine engine, an upgraded transmission and a battery-based auxiliary power supply.



Above: For command and liaison purposes the French troops employed a couple of Petit Véhicule Protégé (PVP). The light armoured 4x4 PVP is 4.6m long, 2.28m wide, 2.17m high and has a combat weight of 4.4 tons. The vehicle can be armed with a 7.62mm machine gun, as seen here, or a 12.7mm heavy machine gun.



Above: M2A3 Bradley infantry fighting vehicles of the 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment operate on the Hohenfels training area. The latest variant of the Bradley features among other improvements the Improved Bradley Acquisition Subsystem (IBAS) and the Commander's Independent Viewer (CIV).



Instead of a TOW launcher the Bradley Fire Support Team Vehicle (BFIST) is fitted with the Fire Support Sensor System (FS3). The vehicle is used by fire support teams to direct mortar and artillery fire. The FS3 is a long-range multisensor system that allows to detect, recognize, identify and geo-locate targets in real time.

resources, instability resulting from ethnic tension and economic difficulties and a weak and non-representative government had eventually led to Antropia being invaded by a neighbouring country. In order to re-establish the status quo a US-led multinational NATO contingency force was deployed. Together

with the Atropian Army they now had to face the invading Opposing Forces which consisted of the 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, the in-house OPFOR of the JMRC and a Romanian Armoured Battle Group provided by the Brigada 282 Mecanizat, Unirea Principatelor. Elements of the 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry

Bradley cavalry fighting vehicles and M1151A1 HMMWV Expanded Capacity Armament Carrier IAP/Armor Ready fitted with the Long Range Scout Surveillance System (LRAS3). Regiment acted as local militia in order to add flavour to the spectacle. The Atropian Army was played by the elite airborne infantry

> National Guard. The forces of the remaining participating

> unit Jägerbataillon 25 of the Austrian Army,

reinforced by a Bulgarian infantry company

The Scout Platoon of the 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment employed a mix of M3A3

and an infantry company of the US Army nations formed the brigade size NATO

Below: Mobility for the French infantry and engineers that took part in the exercise was provided by different variants of the Véhicule de l'Avant Blindé (VAB) 4x4 wheeled armoured personnel carrier.



Below: A couple of nations that took part in exercise Combined Resolve deployed their troops without vehicles and borrowed US vehicles for the duration of the exercise. Here Bulgarian infantry can be seen operating a US Army M1025 HMMWV Armament Carrier with Basic Armor.





Above: The Tank Company of the 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, the in-house OPFOR of the JMRC, uses the M113 based OPFOR Surrogate Vehicle — Tank (OSV-T). The OSV-T is used to act as a T-80 MBT and its MILES equipment simulates the effects of a 125mm tank gun.





The US forces use the M88 A2 Heavy Equipment Recovery Combat Utility Lift and Evacuation System (HERCULES) as armoured recovery vehicle. Here the vehicle is towing an M1 A2 SEP (V2) Abrams main battle tank.

contingency force, spearheaded by the European Rotational Force (ERF) of the US Army consisting of elements of the 1st Brigade Combat Team of the 1st Cavalry Division, based in Fort Hood, Texas. In addition the NATO contingency force in the exercise consisted of a multinational infantry battalion including Georgian, Serbian, Lithuanian and US troops. An Aviation Task Force using US and Austrian combat and utility helicopters provided aviation support. The brigade size NATO contingency force also included reduced brigade engineer, artillery and brigade support battalions of the 1st Brigade Combat Team of the 1st Cavalry Division. With us so far?

EXERCISE PHASES

The exercise was conducted in several phases, beginning with the Reception, Staging, Onward-movement and Integration (RSOI) phase that included deploying the

Right: Lithuania took part in exercise Combined Resolve II with a reinforced mechanized infantry company of the Geležinis Vilkas Motorizuotoji Pestininkų Brigada Iron Wolf motorised infantry brigade. The company was equipped with M113 armoured personnel carriers fitted with the ACAV kit. troops to southern Germany, fitting vehicles and weapons with the MILES kit and familiarising the troops with it, integrating the forces from different countries into a combined task force command structure and conducting low-level interoperability training.

The RSOI phase was followed by the Situational Training Exercises (STX) phase which are short, scenario-driven, mission-

Above: Another wheeled light armoured vehicle used by the French forces participating in exercise Combined Resolve II was the Véhicule Blindé Léger. The fully amphibious vehicle is employed for reconnaissance and liaison purposes. This VBL belongs to the 126e Régiment d'Infanterie.



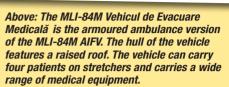
An M1151A1 HMMWV Expanded Capacity Armament Carrier IAP/Armor Ready provides security for the airfield of the aviation assets of the US-led multinational NATO contingency force. The vehicle is fitted with a Gunner Protection Kit.

oriented, limited exercises conducted over a limited period of time and designed to train one collective task or a group of related tasks or battle drills. Among other subjects





The mortar platoon of the Romanian Armoured Battle Group fielded a couple of TAB-79AR mortar



carriers. The amphibious 4x4 driven wheeled armoured vehicle is fitted with an 82mm M-1983 mortar. The mortar can be fired from the vehicle or used in a dismounted role.

obstacle breaching, fighting in urban areas, heliborne air assaults, engineer tasks and the evacuation of civilians from the battlefield were trained during the STXs.

Then came the actual combat phase of the exercise, which in turn was split into an defensive part, which saw the Opposing Force attacking further into Atropia and the brigade size NATO contingency force together with the Atropian Army fighting a defensive battle, and an attack part that involved the counter attack of the NATO contingency force and Atropian Army pushing back the Opposing Force.

The Combat phase was followed by an After Action Review day during which reviews were conducted on all levels.

CONCLUSION

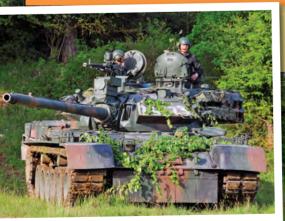
From the political point of view exercise Combined Resolve II provided strong evidence that the US are still willing to support their European NATO allies. While planned long before the crisis in Ukraine flared up, the exercise, together with other exercises held at the same time such as Sabre Strike 14, also provided an emphatic message to Russia.



The armoured infantry company of the Romanian Armoured Battle Group fielded MLI-84M 'Jderul' armoured infantry fighting vehicles. The Romania-built variant of the Russian BMP 1 is fitted with an OWS 25R stabilized overhead weapon station that features a 25mm automatic cannon, a coaxial 7.62mm machine gun and a Spike anti-tank guided missile launcher.

Known under the designation European Activity Set (EAS), the bulk of the equipment for the European Rotational Force (ERF) of the US Army has been prepositioned in southern Germany at the Grafenwöhr Garrison of the US Army Europe (USAREUR). The EAS contains most modern combat vehicles of the US Army such as the M1A2 SEP (v2) Abrams main battle tank, the M2A3 Bradley infantry fighting vehicle, the M3A3 Bradley cavalry fighting vehicle, the Bradley Fire Support Team Vehicle (BFIST) and the M109A6 Paladin self-propelled howitzer. It also includes all kinds of modern support vehicles ranging from M1151A1, M1152A1 and M1165A1 HMMWV variants across different types of FMTV and HEMTT A4 trucks to M9 Armored Combat

Earthmovers, High Mobility Engineer Excavators (HMEE) and M88A2 **HERCULES Armored Recovery Vehicles. With the heavy equipment** already in Europe only the troops with their personal equipment and small arms need to deploy, allowing for a much reduced deployment time of the European Rotational Force (ERF) and therefore a quicker reaction to swiftly developing threats. Placing the EAS in Germany is not the first time that heavy equipment of the US Army is prepositioned in Germany. During the Cold War the Rapid Reinforcement Concept (RRC) of NATO had the heavy equipment for several divisions of the US Army prepositioned in Germany in the POMCUS (Prepositioning Of **Materiel Configured in Unit Sets) depots.**



Above: The Romanian Armoured Battle Group provided by the Brigada 282 Mecanizată Unirea Principatelor included one tank company of the Batalionului 284 Tancuri equipped with TR-85 M1 Bizonul main battle tanks.

Below: Based partly on the Russian T-55 the TR-85 M1 Bizonul main battle tank is fitted with the 100mm A308 rifled tank gun, a coaxial 7.62mm PK general purpose machine gun, a 12.7mm DShK heavy machine qun and a smoke grenade discharger system with 20 launch tubes. The MBT has a gross vehicle weight of 50,000kg, is 9,920mm long, 3,430mm wide and 2380mm high.







FROM THE COCKPIT: A LIGHTNING DASH

On par with the Spitfire in terms of popularity, a select number of English Electric Lightnings have staved off extinction and continue to roar. Jamie Ewan visits the protectors of two such jets and learns what it takes to keep a Lightning alive.

PRESERVATION SUPER DROOPER

The Duxford Aviation Society's Concorde has emerged from a meticulous restoration and, as Steve Bridgewater reports, visitors are able to look down its nose once again!

MODERN MILITARY: PERSIAN TOM CATS

Babak Taghvaee speaks to Iranian Grumman F-14 Tomcat pilots and provides a detailed look at the role the F-14 continues to play in the Iranian Military.

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CAMERON COLLECTION CIEAR MIT

The auction of military kit caused quite a stir at Letton Court in October, not least for the excellent condition of the sale items. Tim Bolton was there for CMV to report on the hammer action...



1970s IH BTD 8 bulldozer was acquired as a 'load' for a Rogers trailer. The hammer went down at £8000.

'arm machinery sales are not an uncommon event in Herefordshire. However, what made the auction sale at Letton Court, Letton, on Saturday 25 October different was the inclusion of vintage and classic tractors and a number of military vehicles which had been collected over the years by Andrew Cameron.

The Cameron family has farmed in the area since the late 1940s, building up a substantial farm of 1230 acres at Letton Court as well as a noteworthy collection of old vehicles. Andrew Cameron has scaled down the operation over the last few years and has now decided to retire, although he will most likely move to a smaller farm nearby and has

decided to have a complete clear out. Auctioneers HJ Pugh & Co of Ledbury were given the task of selling all the farming equipment together with the items from Andrew's private collection. Andrew got into collecting military vehicles via Great Western Railway items such as loco name plates and collectable tractors. The first military items in the collection were a

Dodge M37 and Dodge WC51, both bought some 10-12 years ago from a farm sale in Cheshire. From these two the collection just grew. Other early purchases were a Diamond T 981 tractor and a Rogers tank retriever trailer, which was in 'hedgerow condition' when he acquired it. Since then Andrew has made it his policy not to buy vehicles requiring too much work, which on reflection seems wise, as all the vehicles appeared to be in very good condition and on visual examination it was difficult to see where any



Above: Studebaker Weasel was an ex-Norwegian Army vehicle - it sold for a very reasonable £6700.



Above: Maintenance engineer Dave Gurnev. demonstrates the Weasel's detachable spotlight.

improvements could be made. Indeed, with paintwork and canvas tops generally without fault, all road going vehicles had matching tyres with plenty of tread left, current

registration documents and were taxed.

A number of vehicles had the benefit of an electronic ignition

upgrade and when not in use the batteries had been connected to intelligent battery chargers.



USA.40020485

LOTS TO CHOOSE

The Diamond T tractor and Rogers trailer were sold privately earlier this year so were not in the sale. Included though was the only

Left: ... including the benefit of a radio and aerial. the early 1970s and was purchased as

Above: As with many of the vehicles Weasel

had lots of additional equipment...

a suitable 'load' for the Diamond T and Rogers trailer combination, originally in International Harvester industrial yellow. The crawler has been over painted in olive drab, although some of this has now peeled away to reveal the original yellow underneath.

The Studebaker M29 Weasel came from the Norwegian Army and was in very good

> order, the six-cylinder engine starting and running well, and was equipped with radio. aerial and detachable

spotlight with cable. Another ex-Norway vehicle was the Dodge WC54 ambulance previously used by Norwegian Army Reserves. Again, this was a well equipped vehicle, with jerry can, spare wheel and four stretchers in the back.

The GMC CCKW 353 6x6 general cargo truck was produced in large numbers so it was no surprise to see one in this sale, the canvas cover to the cab dating it to post July 1943. As well as the cab covering, a canvas cover was provided for the front winch and that for the load area was stated as being new. These vehicles were also used for troop carrying and the load area had fold-down benches along each side to accommodate up to 10 troops. As a sop to fuel economy an LPG gas conversion had been fitted.

The Diamond T 975 long wheelbase truck was made for the Canadian Army and around 1500 vehicles were produced. The example on offer carried Canadian Army markings. The Diamond T 968 general purpose truck was the closed cab version and stated to be built in 1941 making it an early example. Diamond T used the same chassis on the 968 and the 969 wrecker. One of two wreckers in the sale included

"All the military vehicles looked good enough to be rallied immediately"

tractor in military colours, the International Harvester BTD 8 crawler with 6-way blade and rear mounted winch. It dates from



Considering only about 1500 were built it was surprising that the Diamond T 975 didn't sell.



Above: Ambulance was well equipped with siren and four stretchers. Right: Dodge ambulance was also ex-Norwegian Army – it made strong money at £8400.

Below: Diamond T 969 was one of two wreckers in the sale. This one made £8200.



SA 22E HOW

Holmes equipment, two 5-ton winches at the rear and a front mounted winch. The canvas topped cab would date this vehicle to post 1943, so technically it's a 969A.

Lastly we come to what for many will be one of the ultimate WW2 military vehicles,

the Ward La France M1A1 wrecker with soft top cab and flat front mudguards, dating from 1944 and fitted with Gar Wood winches front and rear. This wrecker was well equipped with ancillary items.

GOOD TO GO

All the military vehicles looked good enough to be rallied immediately and in the early days of the collection some were taken to local steam fairs and rallies. Unfortunately, however, the rally season coincides with the busiest time of year for farmers, so these splendid vehicles have not been out recently. Perhaps in new ownership this will change?

Pre-sale interest was high, in fact higher for the military vehicles than others in the sale. Unfortunately, this did not convert into interest on sale day, even though HJ Pugh & Co is one of the last auction houses to charge a buyer's premium and for this sale set it at a lowly 5% capped to a maximum of £500 per lot. Despite this, only about a dozen serious potential buyers gathered when it mattered.

First up was the IH BTD 8 crawler and even though this was a non-military item it made £8000 plus £400 premium. The



Above: GMC 353 was equipped with fold-up troop benches along each side of the interior. Right: GMC 353 general cargo truck had been converted to run on LPG – the hammer fell at £5000.





Being the star of the sale, the Ward La France Wrecker gets a pre-auction spruce up.

Studebaker Weasel wasn't overpriced at £6700 plus £335 premium. No reserves were set for this sale but guide prices were discussed earlier between owner and auctioneer. This resulted in both the Diamond T 968 and 975 falling victim to the guides and were not sold as auctioneer Howard Pugh felt the level of bidding didn't

warrant them being sold. A reasonable £5000 plus £250 premium was obtained for the GMC 353 and a strong £8400 plus £420 premium was paid for the Dodge ambulance. Not overpriced was the Diamond T 969 wrecker at £8200 plus £410 premium. As expected, the top price amongst the military vehicles was reserved for the Ward

Military spares and equipment were late additions to the sale. There were bargains aplenty...

La France wrecker at £14,000 plus £500 premium. Not in the catalogue were a number of useful military items and spare parts, non of which were overpriced.



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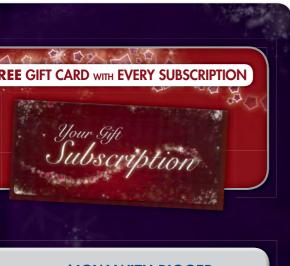


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Watch out for these exciting features in next month's action-packed issue, on sale 15 January. Don't miss it!

FACTORY-FRESH SHERMAN

John Blackman gets an exclusive insight into Chris Till's award-winning M4A1.

BIG WHEEL FERRETS

David Fletcher looks at the more buoyant and altogether better off-road Mk3, 4 and 5 Ferrets.

CALLED INTO SERVICE

Les Freathy examines the various vehicles inherited and issued to both the Army and the Royal Airforce during the period of National Service.

MODEL BEHAVIOUR

What Neil Tuckett and his brothers don't know about Ford Model Ts probably isn't worth knowing. David Gilbert paid them a visit to view a 1911 example, commandeered by the War Office for use by the British Army for military transport, as well as a later ambulance.









And don't miss our regular features, including product reviews, forthcoming events, pages and pages of classifieds, the very best in military-vehicle photography... and, as regular readers will be only too well aware, far more than we can list here!

These are just some of the features planned for the next issue, but circumstances outside our control may force last-minute changes. If this happens we will substitute items of equal or greater interest.



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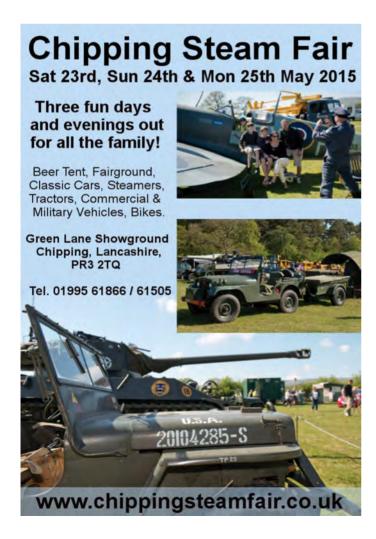
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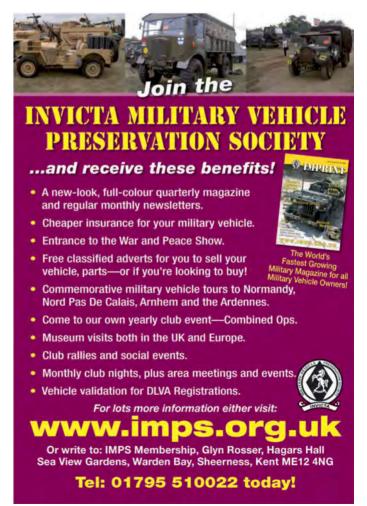
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www.grahamcurriemilitaria.co.uk www.bcmilitarytreasures.co.uk











There are many military-vehicle rallies held in the UK and elsewhere; only the larger events are listed here but more appear in the major club magazines – or look at www.milweb.net, www.mvpa.org, or www.mvt.org. It is always wise to ensure an event is still on before setting out on a long journey. CMV can accept no liability for errors or omissions in this list. Show organisers, please send details of your event to ian.cushway@keypublishing.com or to the editorial address at least eight weeks in advance. Unfortunately we have space only for shows with significant military-vehicle content.

MILITARY-VEHICLE EVENTS

May JERSEY MILITARY VEHICLE CLUB – MILITARY MANIA 2

Date: Fri/Sun 8-10 May 2015

Location: Jersey
Contact: Ricky Le Quesne, rickylequesne@gmail.com

VE PLUS 70 WEEKEND

Date: Sat/Sun 9-10 May 2015

Location: Fisher's Meadow, Quedgeley, Gloucester Contact: Stephen Smith, bulldog.smith@btinternet.com

2ND ARMORED IN EUROPE 70TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

Date: May-July 2015 Location: to be confirmed Contact: www.2ndarmoredineurope.co.uk

THE YORKSHIRE WARTIME EXPERIENCE SHOW

Date: Fri/Sun 3-5 July 2015

Location: Cockleshaw Beck Farm Hunsworth Lane, Hunsworth BD4 6RN

Contact: www.ywe-event.info

THE WAR AND PEACE REVIVAL

Date: Wed/Sun 22-26 July 2015

Location: Folkstone Racecourse, near Hythe, Kent Contact: Rex Cadman, 01304 813337;

www.thewarandpeacerevival.co.uk

MILITARY ODYSSEY

Date: Sat/Mon 29-31 Aug 2015

Location: Kent Showground, Detling, Maidstone **Contact:** James Aslett 07595 511981,

www.military-odyssey.com

MILITARIA EVENTS, AUCTIONS, ETC Government surplus sales Witham Specialist Vehicles Regular auctions of military vehicles and equipment are held by Witham Specialist Vehicles throughout the year at its Colsterworth, Lincolnshire site. Visit www.mod-sales. com, or call 01476 861361 for more details. RAMCO UK

Ramco UK is one of the largest outlets for the sale of miscellaneous and government surplus. The company holds tender sales each month from its premises in Croft and Burgh – both in Lincolnshire. Visit www.ramco.co.uk, or call 01754 880880 for more details

FORTHCOMING MILITARIA EVENTS 2015

DALLAS DIG OUT

Date: Sun 4 Jan 2015 Location: Dallas Autos, Cold Ash Farm, Long Lane, Hermitage, Newbury RG18 9LT Contact: 01635 201124 CHELMSFORD MILITARIA FAIRS

Date: Sun 4 Jan 2015

Location: Marconi Social Club, Beehive Lane, Chelsmford Contact: 07595 511981, www.chelmsfordmilitaria.com

SOUTH OF ENGLAND MILITARIA ARMS & ARMOUR FAIRS

Date: Sun 11 Jan 2015

Location: Chatham Dockyard, Kent

Contact: 07595 511981, www.chathammilitariafairs.co.uk

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NORFOLK MILITARIA FAIR THETFORD

Date: Sun 11 Jan 2015

Location: Thetford Leisure Centre, Croxton Rd, Thetford

Contact: 07596 436260, www.norfolkfairs.com

HILDENBOROUGH MILITARIA FAIR

Date: Sun 18 Jan 2015

Location: Hildenborough Village Hall, Riding Lane,

Tonbridge Rd, Hildenborough, Kent **Contact:** 01322 523531, www.bexleymedalsandmilitaria.co.uk

MILITARIA 2015

Date: Sun 25 Jan 2015 **Location:** The Exhibition Centre, Stoneleigh, Warks

Contact: Amanda Lycett, 01743 762266;

www.militariashows.com

February South of England Militaria ARMS &

ARMOUR FAIRS Date: Sun 8 Feb 2015

Location: Chatham Dockyard, Kent

Contact: 07595 511981, www.chathammilitariafairs.co.uk

CHELMSFORD MILITARIA FAIRS

Date: Sun 15 Feb 2015

Location: Marconi Social Club, Beehive Lane, Chelsmford Contact: 07595 511981, www.chelmsfordmilitaria.com

HILDENBOROUGH MILITARIA FAIR

Date: Sun 22 Feb 2015 Location: Hildenborough Village Hall, Riding Lane, Tonbridge Rd, Hildenborough, Kent

Contact: 01322 523531,

www.bexleymedalsandmilitaria.co.uk

March

SOUTH OF ENGLAND MILITARIA ARMS &

ARMOUR FAIRS Date: Sun 8 March 2015

Location: Chatham Dockyard, Kent Contact: 07595 511981, www.chathammilitariafairs.co.uk

MALVERN MILITARIA FAIR

Date: Sun 22 March 2015

Location: The Three Counties Showground, Wye Hall (Brown Gate), Malvern, Worcestershire SY4 4UG **Contact:** 01743 762266, www.militaryconvention.com

HILDENBOROUGH MILITARIA FAIR
Date: Sun 29 March 2015
Location: Hildenborough Village Hall, Riding Lane,

Tonbridge Rd, Hildenborough, Kent Contact: 01322 523531, www.bexleymedalsandmilitaria.co.uk

SOUTH OF ENGLAND MILITARIA ARMS & ARMOUR FAIRS

Date: Sun 12 April 2015 Location: Chatham Dockyard, Kent

Contact: 07595 511981, www.chathammilitariafairs.co.uk

HILDENBOROUGH MILITARIA FAIR

Date: Sun 26 April 2015

Location: Hildenborough Village Hall, Riding Lane, Tonbridge Rd, Hildenborough, Kent

Contact: 01322 523531,

www.bexleymedalsandmilitaria.co.uk

DALLAS DIG OUT

Date: Sun 26 April 2015

Location: Dallas Autos, Cold Ash Farm, Long Lane, Hermitage, Newbury RG18 9LT Contact: 01635 201124

SOUTH OF ENGLAND MILITARIA ARMS &

ARMOUR FAIRS Date: Sun 10 May 2015

Location: Chatham Dockyard, Kent **Contact:** 07595 511981, www.chathammilitariafairs.co.uk

CHELMSFORD MILITARIA FAIRS
Date: Sun 17 May 2015
Location: Marconi Social Club, Beehive Lane, Chelsmford Contact: 07595 511981, www.chelmsfordmilitaria.com

HILDENBOROUGH MILITARIA FAIR

Date: Mon 18 May 2015

Location: Hildenborough Village Hall, Riding Lane, Tonbridge Rd, Hildenborough, Kent Contact: 01322 523531, vww.bexleymedalsandmilitaria.co.uk

June South of England Militaria ARMS &

Date: Sun 14 June 2015 Location: Chatham Dockyard, Kent

Contact: 07595 511981, www.chathammilitariafairs.co.uk

HILDENBOROUGH MILITARIA FAIR

Date: Sun 28 June 2015

Date: Sun 28 June 2015 Location: Hildenborough Village Hall, Riding Lane, Tonbridge Rd, Hildenborough, Kent Contact: 01322 523531, www.bexleymedalsandmilitaria.co.uk

SOUTH OF ENGLAND MILITARIA ARMS & ARMOUR FAIRS
Date: Sun 12 July 2015

Location: Chatham Dockyard, Kent Contact: 07595 511981, www.chathammilitariafairs.co.uk

HILDENBOROUGH MILITARIA FAIR

Date: Sun 19 July 2015 Location: Hildenborough Village Hall, Riding Lane,

Tonbridge Rd, Hildenborough, Kent Contact: 01322 523531, www.bexleymedalsandmilitaria.co.uk

DALLAS DIG OUT

Date: Sun 9 Aug 2015 Location: Dallas Autos, Cold Ash Farm, Long Lane, Hermitage, Newbury RG18 9LT Contact: 01635 201124

SOUTH OF ENGLAND MILITARIA ARMS &

Date: Sun 9 Aug 2015 Location: Chatham Dockyard, Kent

Contact: 07595 511981, www.chathammilitariafairs.co.uk

HILDENBOROUGH MILITARIA FAIR

Date: Sun 23 Aug 2015

Location: Hildenborough Village Hall, Riding Lane, Tonbridge Rd, Hildenborough, Kent

Contact: 01322 523531, www.bexleymedalsandmilitaria.co.uk

MILITARY ODYSSEY

Date: Sat/Mon 29-31 Aug 2015
Location: Kent Show Ground, Detling, Maidstone Contact: 07595 511981, www.military-odyssey.com

SOUTH OF ENGLAND MILITARIA ARMS &

ARMOUR FAIRS
Date: Sun 13 Sept 2015 Location: Chatham Dockyard, Kent Contact: 07595 511981, www.chathammilitariafairs.co.uk

CHELMSFORD MILITARIA FAIRS

Date: Sun 20 Sept 2015 Location: Marconi Social Club, Beehive Lane, Chelsmford Contact: 07595 511981, www.chelmsfordmilitaria.com

HILDENBOROUGH MILITARIA FAIR
Date: Sun 27 Sept 2015
Location: Hildenborough Village Hall, Riding Lane,
Tonbridge Rd, Hildenborough, Kent

Contact: 01322 523531, www.bexlevmedalsandmilitaria.co.uk

SOUTH OF ENGLAND MILITARIA ARMS &

ARMOUR FAIRS

Date: Sun 11 Oct 2015 Location: Chatham Dockyard, Kent

Contact: 07595 511981. www.chathammilitariafairs.co.uk

CHELMSFORD MILITARIA FAIRS

Date: Sun 18 Oct 2015

Location: Marconi Social Club, Beehive Lane, Chelsmford Contact: 07595 511981, www.chelmsfordmilitaria.com

HILDENBOROUGH MILITARIA FAIR

Date: Sun 18 Oct 2015

Location: Hildenborough Village Hall, Riding Lane,

Tonbridge Rd, Hildenborough, Kent

Contact: 01322 523531,

www.bexleymedalsandmilitaria.co.uk

DALLAS DIG OUT

Date: Sun 25 Oct 2015

Location: Dallas Autos, Cold Ash Farm, Long Lane,

Hermitage, Newbury RG18 9LT Contact: 01635 201124

November South of England Militaria ARMS & ARMOUR FAIRS

Date: Sun 8 Nov 2015

Location: Chatham Dockyard, Kent

Contact: 07595 511981, www.chathammilitariafairs.co.uk

HILDENBOROUGH MILITARIA FAIR

Date: Sun 15 Nov 2015

Location: Hildenborough Village Hall, Riding Lane, Tonbridge

Rd, Hildenborough, Kent Contact: 01322 523531,

www.bexlevmedalsandmilitaria.co.uk

MALVERN MIILITARIA FAIR

Date: Sun 22 Nov 2015 Location: The Three Counties Showground, Wye Hall (Brown

Gate), Malvern, Worcestershire SY4 4UG

Contact: 01743 762266, www.militaryconvention.com

CHELMSFORD MILITARIA FAIRS

Date: Sun 29 Nov 2015

Location: Marconi Social Club, Beehive Lane, Chelsmford Contact: 07595 511981,

www.chelmsfordmilitaria.com

HILDENBOROUGH MILITARIA FAIR

Date: Sun 6 Dec 2015 **Location:** Hildenborough Village Hall, Riding Lane, Tonbridge

Rd, Hildenborough, Kent Contact: 01322 523531 www.bexleymedalsandmilitaria.co.uk

SOUTH OF ENGLAND MILITARIA ARMS & ARMOUR FAIRS

Date: Sun 13 Dec 2015

Location: Chatham Dockyard, Kent Contact: 07595 511981, www.chathammilitariafairs.co.uk





THE MILITARY-VEHI



£480,000 Jeep with one careful owner, General Eisenhower. It didn't sell, even with its leather seats...

nd the 2014 CMV award for Optimist of the Year goes to... the would-be UK based eBay seller of Eisenhower's Jeep who hoped it was worth \$750,000 (that's a mere £480,000). It was described as having been in a private collection for nearly 40 years and later 'sympathetically' restored to its original condition, the spec including leather seats. Wow, they must be super rare!

ADDED PROVENANCE

It wasn't that long ago that a far rarer Bantam Jeep belonging to the Duke of Edinburgh and kept on the Balmoral estate fetched just under £25,000.

Over the years we have seen lots of military vehicles with provenance attached to them, like Monty's Rolls-Royce and various high ranking Nazis' staff cars and more of the Fuhrer's personal Grosser Mercedes than were ever produced. But the buyers for such 'personal' vehicles of the evil empire are not normally your mainstream military vehicle collectors - they tend to be more in the investor market/classic car sector and they do certainly change hands for huge sums of money. This type of buyer is armed with

wheelbarrows full of cash and accompanied by expensive lawyers. And as we saw in the Littlefield Auction, where there is a rich buyer there can easily be a court case.

BRING IN THE HEAVIES

Meanwhile, back on planet Earth, there have been lots of good vehicle sales right across the market. Even in the run up to Christmas, collectors were still buying. December's 'must sell' was the Diamond T make, with virtually every type of WW2 Diamond coming onto the market, with a selection of prime movers, wreckers and cargo trucks plus two rarer Canadian versions being

LE MARKET Compiled by Nigel Hay in collaboration with MILWEB



The plaque gives the provenance.

offered by European sellers.

Perhaps the most unusual advert in our 'spares' classifieds for a long time was a WW2 NOS US Army marking stamping kit from MB-GPW in the USA who often find exquisite and rare NOS Jeep and vehicle accessories - rather than trading in the mainstream parts. Hands up anyone who already has one of these?

Two major auctions are taking place as we go to press - Witham's last (and massive) tender sale of 2014 and Troostwiik Auctions' sale of just released US Army trucks and equipment in Holland. With a similar sale planned for early January, this will put some good, heavy trucks into circulation - surprisingly in amongst the trucks in Holland is a quite original Dodge weapons carrier crying out for a good home. We have no idea how it ended up in this sale.

FANCY A PROJECT?

We often say that more restoration projects and barn finds need to come onto the market and it is still the case. but both Airborne Garage and Jean Wieler in Luxembourg are still turning up older restorations and serious projects such as ex-range targets. More and more military vehicles from collectors are bought and sold in and out of Europe - it's all so easy



Diamond T 975A - Canadian version of the more common 970 cargo.

now (even the export licences can be quickly done) within the EU. The Pound is good against the Euro so there are bargains to be had. That said, the price of Jeeps in France is about 25% higher than we see in the UK. (even if De Gaulle once

But whatever your views on the EU, if we had to go back to the 1980s of presenting reams of paperwork at customs and arguing about 'declared values' before paying import duty, our hobby would not be anything like as vibrant as it is now. So, if you fancy a vehicle that's advertised abroad, don't be put off because most of Europe can be reached in a day... but go see it first.

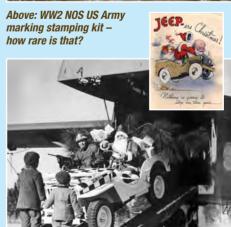
WATER MATTER

The new year will see a couple of rather special DUKWs come onto the market - we have seen the pictures and they look good - and there is a good story to their working life. Look out for the adverts on Milweb.

And a very nice unmolested GPA arrives in the UK in January – after many years dry storage in California.

In the meantime, as editor of Milweb and CMV contributor I want to wish you all a happy new year - and see you at the shows!







Fury – we've all seen the film, now see the trailer.... the Copeman's M15 Dragon Wagon trailer used on set.



THE MILITARY-VEHICLE PRICE GUIDE

Compiled by Nigel Hay in collaboration with MILWEB

VEHICLE	COUNTRY OF ORIGIN	YEAR OF ORIGIN		APPROX PRODUCTION	ASKING PRI	ICES: HIGH	AVERAGE	TREND		
SOFT-SKIN VEHICLES	LICA	1004	COOOss, VO. dissal	(on going)	040.000	045.000	044 100	_		
AM General HMMWV	USA	1984	6200cc; V8; diesel	(on-going)	£43,200	£45,000	£44,100	V		
Austin Champ, FV1801 Bedford MK/MJ, FV13800	UK UK	1952 1970	2838cc; 4; petrol 5420cc; 6; diesel	12,150 50,000	£2300 £3500	£6750 £3500	£4933 £3500	•		
Bedford RL, FV13100	UK	1952	4927cc; 6; petrol	73,150	£4999	£8500	£6749	_		
Dodge WC51, WC52	USA	1942	3770cc; 6; petrol	141,075	£2500	£9000	£6900	_		
Dodge WC54	USA	1942	3770cc; 6; petrol	26,000	£8400	£11,650	£9387	_		
Dodge WC56, WC57, WC58	USA	1942	3770cc; 6; petrol	37,000	£11,500	£19,500	£16,376	_		
Dodge WC62, WC63	USA	1942	3770cc; 6; petrol	43,000	£7000	£15,800	£10,384	_		
GMC CCKW	USA	1941	4416cc; 6; petrol	562,750	£5500	£9500	£7400			
Hotchkiss Jeep M201	France	1957	2199cc; 4; petrol	14,500	£8000	£10,000	£9200	_		
Jeep M151	USA	1960	2319cc; 4; petrol	175,500	£10,600	£14,500	£13,245			
Jeep M38, M38A1	USA	1952	2199cc; 4; petrol	100,000	£4750	£11,995	£7911			
Jeep MB/GPW	USA	1941	2199cc; 4; petrol	627,000	£6500	£18,400	£14,085			
Land Rover Defender 90/110	UK	1983	2506cc; 4; diesel;	(on-going)	£1525	£4950	£2495	—		
			and others							
Land Rover 101 forward-control	UK	1971	3500cc; V8; petrol	2675	£4500	£6000	£5498	-		
Land Rover Lightweight	UK	1966	2286cc; 4; petrol	14,000	£4995	£5500	£5025			
Land Rover Wolf (incl replicas)	UK	1996	2506cc; 4; diesel	_	£6500	£13,995	£9498	\blacksquare		
Land Rover Series II/IIA	UK	1958	2286cc; 4; petrol; and others	858,051**	£7250	£8750	£8000	-		
Land Rover Series III	UK	1971	2286cc; 4; petrol; and others	510,276**	£3000	£4500	£3650			
M35 (etc) 2½-ton 6x6, G742	USA	1951	5425cc; 6; diesel	15,000	£4800	£5425	£5075	•		
WHEELED ARMOURED VEI	WHEELED ARMOURED VEHICLES									
Alvis Saracen, FV603 (etc)	UK	1952	5660cc; 8; petrol	1850	£3000	£9750	£7165	_		
Daimler Ferret, FV700	UK	1952	4255cc; 6; petrol	4500	£14,000	£14,500	£14,375			
TRACKED ARMOURED VEHICLES										
Alvis CVR(T) series, FV100	UK	1971	4200cc; 6; petrol*	3500	£11,995	£14,500	£13,248			
GKN FV432 (Mk 2), FV434	UK	1962	6570cc; 6; diesel	3000	£6870	£12,500	£9685	-		
Vickers Abbott (Mk 2), FV433	UK	1966	6570cc; 6; diesel	500	£24,500	£24,500	£24,500	-		
AMPHIBIOUS VEHICLES										
Alvis Stalwart, FV620 (etc)	UK	1959	6522cc; 8; petrol	1575	£4500	£8950	£6725	-		
MOTORCYCLES										
Harley-Davidson WLA, WLC	USA	1939	740cc; V2; petrol	78,000	£6750	£9500	£7975	-		
TRAILERS										
1/4-ton (for WW2 Jeep)	-	-	-	_	£750	£1375	£985			
¾-ton British (for Land Rover)	-	-	-	-	£375	£400	£387	A		

^{*} Engine capacity figure refers to vehicle as introduced; other engine capacities used during production run.

Note

This guide is not intended to be comprehensive – at present it covers only the most popular collectors' vehicles. Similarly, the figures given are not valuations and do not necessarily reflect condition – they have been derived from the asking prices for vehicles recently advertised in Classic Military Vehicle magazine and on MILWEB. But remember that the price at which a vehicle was advertised is no guarantee that it sold at this price... or that it sold at all. The effect of VAT on prices has been excluded so if you are buying from a dealer you must ensure that you understand what you will pay in total.

^{**} Includes civilian production.



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Ex Military Sankey Trailer for sale. In good condition. Buyer collects. Needs paintwork done. £300 ONO. Kent, UK. 01689 825321. Kazy@live.co.uk

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Wanted. Lorries, motor bicycles, cars, tanks and plastic soldiers. Also knights, cavaliers, cowboys, forts, castles, buildings. Playsets. Britain's plastic and lead garden. Timpo trains. Leicester. 01455 286510

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GM Fox armoured car

n 1940, the decision was taken to build a wheeled armoured car in Canada based on the British Humber... which, in turn, had been derived from work carried out by Guy Motors in 1938. By 1941, the hull of a Humber Mk III armoured car had been mounted on the modified chassis of a GM 4x4 truck and, although by all accounts the vehicle was never entirely satisfactory, production started at GM's Oshawa, Ontario plant the following year.

Named Fox, the vehicle was powered by a rear-mounted GM 270 six-cylinder petrol engine producing 106bhp from 4425cc, and driving all four wheels through a four-speed gearbox and two-speed transfer case. There were live axles at front and rear, suspended on multi-leaf semi-elliptical springs, and the hydraulic brakes were vacuum servo-assisted. Closely following the pattern of the Humber, the welded steel hull and manually-traversed turret provided accommodation for a four-man crew,

and both were fabricated by the Hamilton Bridge Company. Maximum thickness of armour was 15mm, and the all-up weight of just under 15,000 lb (6818kg) apparently resulted in the chassis being put under an unacceptable strain. Nevertheless, top speed on the road was 44mph (72km/h), with a range of 210 miles (336km).

Two 'marks' were produced during 1942 and 1943. The Mk I was based on the Humber armoured car Mk III, with its slightly more spacious turret but, in place of the Humber's 15mm Besa machine gun, there was an 0.50in Browning heavy machine gun, together with a co-axial 0.30in weapon. The Mk II was based on the Humber Mk IV, which may suggest that the main gun was an American 37mm weapon but no documentary proof of this can be found. There was also an experimental self-propelled gun variant, mounting a 6-pounder (57mm) gun in a large box-like structure on a Fox Mk I chassis.

The total number of produced vehicles varies according to source: Bart Vanderveen and the Canadian Military Vehicle Historical Society suggest that the total was 1506, of which 200 were of the Mk I variant; *Janes Tanks of WWII* states that the total was 1123, with six examples built in 1944.





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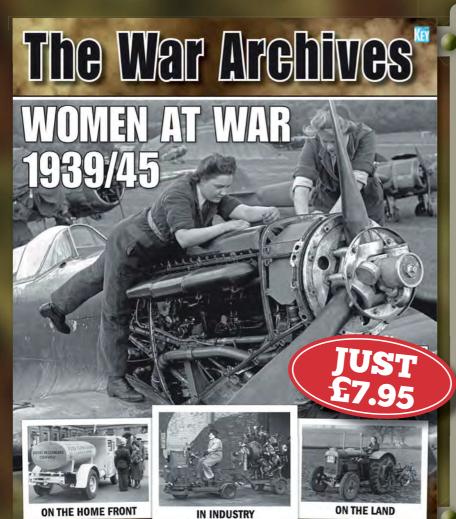








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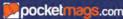


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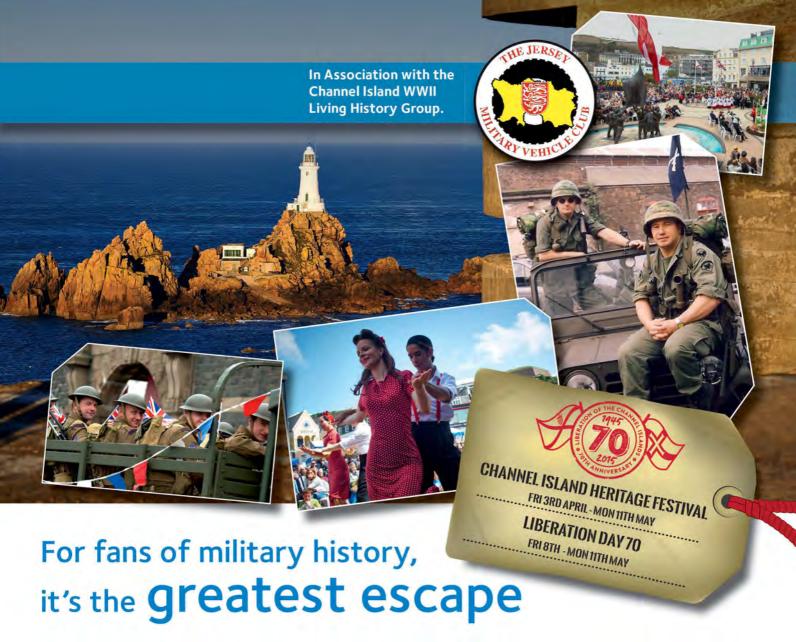






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