

MAPLE LEAF UP



**VOLUME
37
NUMBER
2**

**WESTERN
COMMAND
MILITARY VEHICLE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
(WCMVHS)**

**2014
MARCH**

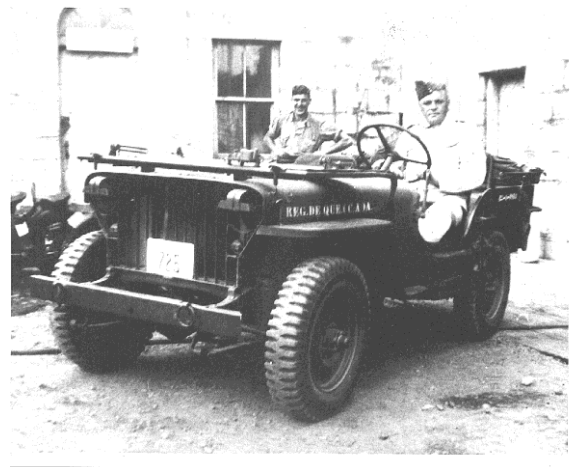
**BRITISH
COLUMBIA,
CANADA**



What model is this one? Answer on last page.

FEATURE ARTICLE

SLAT GRILLE JEEPS IN CANADIAN SERVICE



Regiment de Quebec Willys with name on the side of the hood and DND number over the rear wheel well.

Canada was one of the first countries to order what is now popularly known as the "jeep." (Note that I am using the lower case generic term here). In November 1941 Canada ordered from Willys-Overland 2,000 W-LU 440-M-PERS-1 or

"Car, 5-Cwt" as the Canadian Army called it.



The model designation translates as Willys-Light Utility - 4 wheels, 4 wheel drive, 80 inch wheelbase, Military, Personnel, model 1. The chassis was the standard Willys MB. The serial numbers (VIN) were part of the Willys MB series of numbers.

Production was in February 1942. The first date Canadian jeeps are known to have been made was Feb. 11. The earliest serial number noted so far is MB118729. The highest known number slat grille Canadian jeep is MB121666 made about Feb. 23. The author had one made on Feb. 11, MB119021 and sold it back to the Canadian Federal Government. Sadly they have done nothing with it and it sits in storage at Fort Rodd Hill.



A slat grille Willys in use by the 2nd Battalion, Seaforth Highlanders of Canada circa 1944, in B.C. DND number 50-998.

The Canadian jeeps were made in a continuous production run - to the apparent exclusion of other Willys jeeps. Similar batch runs included the MB-BRT made for the British, and likely the Russian and Chinese contract jeeps (which each had data plates in their own languages). The US Marine Corps jeeps were likely also in a batch theirs appear to all be stamped grille. The slat grille jeeps had no glove box and the fire extinguisher was mounted on the right side of the cockpit. Later models had a glove box and the fire extinguisher was then moved to the left side of the cockpit.



Overseas in Italy

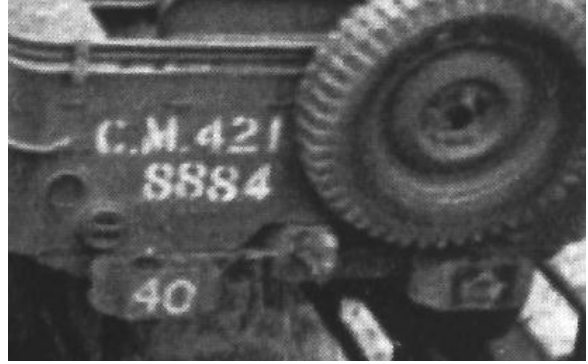
The Canadian jeeps had a number of special features demanded by Canada. These included an electric windshield wiper for the driver (only) when the Americans were still using manual wipers. The wiper wire had a special hole in the left side of the cowl and screwed on clamps up the left side of the windshield. Canada also insisted on a convoy light shining on the rear differential and a

switch for it on the dash. The data plates and manuals were special for Canada. The wiring was also changed for the lighting. As was the habit with the British, the right headlight was often removed and the hole was covered with a Bridge Plate and the left headlight often had a headlight guard and a special masked headlight bulb. Lifting rings (NOT tow rings) were fitted to the front and rear of the vehicle. Canada even insisted on special paint colours.

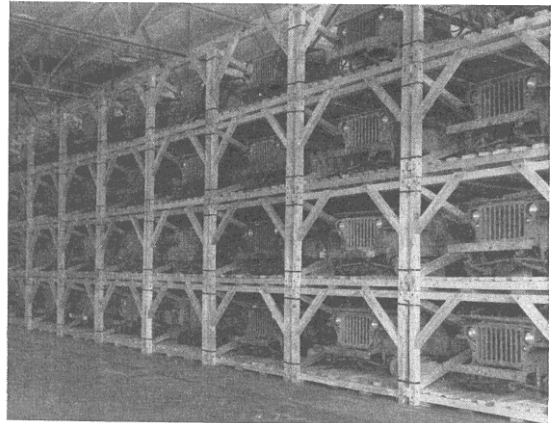


Electric wiper wire and motor on a Canadian contract jeep (CDLV-505 in this case)

A caution for restorers is that the very first slat grille jeeps had a shorter windshield and therefore had longer windshield latches and a squared edge fuel tank well however by the time the Canadian jeeps were made in February, the windshield was the standard height and the fuel tank was round edged. Also be aware that the rifle rack was not in place on these early jeeps. The British bolted on rifle clips, similar to those used in CMP trucks, to the inside of the windshield panel. All of the slat grille jeeps made for Canada had the raised WILLYS on the back and there was no Jerrican carrier.



We had two contracts actually at this time, CDLV-241 and CDLV-242. The first was for 500 domestic service and the second was for 1500 for overseas use. Interestingly all of the data plates are marked CDLV – 242 so many owners think that they have a Jeep that served overseas but in reality it is probably one of those that remained in Canada.



Stacks of jeeps.

Canadian jeeps in storage after WWII. We gave them all away!

Although Canada brought back 15,000 of the best condition military vehicles after World War II and placed them in storage they were virtually all sent back overseas as NATO aid to other countries. As a result the vehicles that we find in Canada are almost always those that stayed in Canada during the war. Finding a vehicle that served overseas is a special treat.

If you are restoring a jeep pay special attention to painted markings. If you sandblast it you will erase the history of the vehicle. Early on the vehicle sometimes had the name of the unit painted on the side of the hood and the Army painted Department of National Defense numbers in white, 2 inches high over the rear wheel wells and occasionally on the front center of the windshield. As well there would be markings usually repeated front and rear which gave the formation and the unit. The formation in Canada would be a military district, one of the home defense divisions or National Defense Headquarters. Remember that a vehicle could be transferred between unit so you will likely find that there are several layers of markings.

Canada realized that she needed more of these vehicles and ordered 5000 on contract CDLV – 505. Because Willys had switched over to the Ford designed stamped jeep grille, which ironically is now the iconic symbol of jeeps, the CDLV-505 jeeps were all stamped grill. These were made in a couple of batches so the early vehicles differ slightly from those at the end of the contract.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- As of the January meeting we had \$14,603.46 (of which \$9,000 is invested in a 1-year term deposit.)

NEWS

- **Paid-up Members** - As of January we had 30 paid members (16 on the Mainland and 12 on Vancouver Island. In 2012 we had 55 paid members. PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES!!
- **Dan Jahn**, our "Searchlight Guy", is continuing to show signs of improvement according to his brother Cliff.
- **Superbowl Party** at Newby's - 71 people attended.
- **Club business cards** are available through the President, Harry Moon.
- **Shipping cargo** - Are you planning to ship a vehicle to Normandy? If so, check with Robert Mossier. Another contact is Mike at System Air Freight 604-521-1430 systemaf@shaw.ca in New Westminster. He has been in the business a long time. If he can't help you he will say so and might be able to redirect you to someone who could.
- **Discount cards through the Collector Car National Insurance Group.** See Dean Wilcox, Treasurer.

FOR SALE



- **1942 BSA first model airborne bicycle.** This folding army bicycle is all original except that frame was repainted civilian blue). Handlebars and wheels are still original green. Original seat (suitable only for display as it is brittle but a modern Brooks B-17 seat looks almost identical), pedals, grips, pump, WAR GRADE tires (suitable only for display as they are brittle). No tool pouch or tools. As used by WWII British and Canadian Airborne and by assault troops on D-Day. Also used by Commandos on some raids. Very rare first model. \$3,500
Colin Stevens, Richmond, BC
seaforth72@gmail.com 604-341-1917
[2014-03-04]
- **1950s Dodge M-37CDN parts.** Rick Rice, Mission, BC milspec@telus.net 604-820-7026
- **1986 Humvee trailer.** The slant back California hardtop and one of the command tents. Don and Katrinka Gordon, Victoria, BC. ww2mv@shaw.ca 1-250-592-2622



- **Russian 45 mm anti-tank gun** (deactivated) Ex-Finland. Could be made to fire blanks. Comes with numerous accessories including sights, toolkits, dummy rounds, ammunition carrier wallet, etc. etc. Price \$16,750 Canadian "Collectors Source" in Ontario. On the web and email csm@collectorssource.com 1-519-853-2701
- **Books "Camp Vernon - A Century of Canadian Military History"** by Hugh Rayment and Patrick Sherlock, 2003. Hardcover large book with 524 pages. Lots of photos. Unsigned \$35; signed \$50. Thomas Houghton 604-522-0128
- **Jeep evolution poster drawn by Yasuo Otsuka** for the late Roy Van Wicklin. This is the artist who did the book "Jeep Jeep Jeep" and it shows the various models of the Jeep from the very beginning until the end. This is the last of the supply and only three are left. \$15 each if picked up or \$25 mailed in a cardboard tube; **Original manuals for the Canadian Ford Lynx Scout Car** \$400 each; **rare 1943 British Mark III turtle shell helmet** as worn on D-Day by the third Canadian infantry division. This one was repainted by the Dutch after the war. \$200; **World War II German M**

– **42 steel helmet**, all original and complete. Decal had been removed under German orders during the war. \$490; **1943 Canadian Army vehicle map case**. It opens up and has brass stiffeners on the back and a hook to hang it from a place inside the vehicle. The size is much larger than those carried by individual soldiers. \$75; **Jerrican post-World War II with Seaforth stenciled on the bottom** \$25. Colin Stevens seaforth72@gmail.com 604-341-1917

- **M38A1 engine**, completely rebuilt. For sale in Atlantic Canada by Colin Rose 1-902-755-5783

WANTED

- **Wanted: Military Police (Provost) white armllets**. David Beale davidb1@shaw.ca
- **Wanted: WLC or WLA 42 Harley-Davidson motorcycle**. Would consider a trade deal involving his Dodge WC-12. Jeff Davis 604-465-2373
- **Wanted: Chevrolet CMP 15-Cwt Cab 13** Ron Krywiak 604-377-5341
- **Wanted: Stuart M5/M5A1 tank hull and turret**. Ron Baker 604 – 462 – 8344
- **Wanted: CCKW parts** - wheel rims (3); seats; fuel tank; air cleaner; cargo box or ideally maintenance body. Also want **Harley-Davidson WLC parts**, especially sheet-metal fenders and fuel tank.
- **Wanted: Lee-Enfield No. 4 Mk. I(T) sniper rifle in chest** in trade. Colin Stevens seaforth72@gmail.com 604-341-1917

CLUB MEETINGS

B.C. Mainland - 2nd Wednesday each month, 8 pm ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION, BRANCH 263, 1025 Ridgeway Ave., COQUITLAM

Vancouver Island - 2nd Wednesday each month, 7 pm BRITANNIA LEGION, 780 Summit Ave., Victoria.

CALENDAR

- **Note that 2014 is the 100th anniversary of the start of World War I. Canada is officially commemorating World War I this year.** Fort Rodd Hill appears to be designated as one of the main venues for that.
- **Every Sunday is a club Drive.** Minimum one vehicle. Notify the president or vice president in advance by email so that it is on record. Also of course invite other club members along.
- **A&W Cruise-in every Thursday in the summer** at 228 and low heat Highway in Maple Ridge.
- **Date to be announced (better weather) Sunday drive to Dead Man's Island** (to see the Naval Museum at HMCS Discovery in Vancouver.)
- **2014 March 8 – 9 Historical Arms Collectors HACS annual gun show at Heritage Park in Chilliwack.** This is an official Western command function. Anyone interested may

- camp at CMEC overnight
- **2014 March 16 St. Patrick's Day Parade, 10th Annual.** For details see <http://www.celticfestvancouver.com/parade.php>
 - **2014 April 14 – 21 Tower Park event near Lodi, California.** It is always held on the third weekend in April. One must book a campsite early. This year Dean, Dave and Justin are going.
 - **2014 May 17 – 18 Fort Rodd Hill event and on May 19 the Victoria Day Parade** Harry, Carey (sounds like a Hara-Kiri suicide pact), Dave, Monty, Guy Black, Brent and Maybe Vince and Colin. Veterans' Affairs helped with ferry fares last year.
 - **2014 May date to be announced 26th? "Tankfest Northwest" on Memorial Day at the Flying Heritage Collection, Paine Field, WA.** Some military vehicles attend this function and the Museum has a running Sherman tank, Hetzer and T 34 which they bring out. MVs get in free. Exotic vehicles can show up such as Dingo, Mule with 106mm RR, Kettenkraftrad and Schwimmwagen,
 - **2014 Jun 6 - George Derby Centre in Burnaby. 70th Anniversary of D-Day.**
 - **2014 June 6 - 70th anniversary of the D-Day invasion in Normandy.** Harry moon and several others members plan to attend.
 - **2014 July 11-13 Arlington Fly-in, Washington.** There is usually at least one vintage warbird and vintage tracked armored vehicle.
 - **2014 July 24 MVPA Convention in Louisville Kentucky** for details see www.mvpa.org
 - **2014 August 8 – 9– 10 Abbotsford Air Show**
 - **2014 August 5 – 11 Marine week in Seattle Washington.** They are looking for Vietnam era vehicles. Contact Capt. Jeremy Buker in Washington via MV clubs there.
 - **2014 August [third week] Yorke Island.** This is an abandoned World War II coastal artillery fort. See Ian Newby for details.
 - **2014 September. Camp Delta in California.** Second-largest annual military vehicle swap meet in the Western USA.
 - **2014 October Parade and dedication of the new "Wait for Me Daddy" war memorial in New Westminster.** The date was originally Saturday October 4 but it seems to have been changed to October 1 in the middle of the week.
 - **2014 Nov. 11 - Remembrance Day events**
 - **2014 December date to be announced club Christmas party.**
 - **2014 Dec. 31 - END OF "AIRCARE" !! :-)**
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 - **2015 is Canada's official recognition of the 75th anniversary of the start of World War II.** That war will be commemorated all year.
 - **2015 date to be announced a second official event for the "Wait**

for me Daddy" statue in New Westminister.

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- **2016 date to be announced MVPA convention in California.**
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- **2017 April - Possible 100th Anniversary event of the Battle of Vimy Ridge.** DND might host an event. Looking for WWI vehicles and artillery.
- **2017 date to be announced Alaska Convoy**

ANSWER TO QUESTION

This is a CJ-7 in Canadian military service. This one is 83-56994 which served with the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada. The CJ stands for civilian jeep. The Canadian Armed Forces purchased some of these jeeps as interim vehicles. Ian Newby has one in his collection.



Richmond Service Battalion CJ-785-76556

Another one in very poor condition is on display in front of the Armory in Richmond. That one is painted white and incorrectly described as an M 38 A1. This particular Jeep, 56994, was later painted blue and sold through a car dealership in New Westminister.



CJ-7 CFR 85-76562



CJ-7 CFR 85-76562

So does anyone have this jeep? :-)