

Ford GP Truck, 1941

While observing the mechanized war in Europe, a committee of the Army Ordnance Department published specifications for a small reconnaissance vehicle in 1940. Three companies submitted designs.



After initial tests, Ford produced this vehicle, known by its production code GP (perhaps the origin of the word Jeep). The Ford design did well in tests, and the company built 1,500 of them in 1941. Nevertheless, Willys-Overland ultimately won the contract. Many of the GP models were sent to Europe under the Lend Lease program of sending war materiel to Britain while the United States was still at peace.

Donated by Thomas W. Bemiss, 1994.37.01

War is not just a compilation of dates that represent a series of battles. "[Kentucky Military Treasures](#)," an online exhibition that illustrates the personal stories of bravery, innovation, heartache and perseverance, provides evidence of the people and artifacts history books often neglect. To learn more about this item and others in the military collections of the Kentucky Historical Society, visit "[Kentucky Military Treasures](#)."