

THE **WEALD**
FOUNDATION



Military Heritage Sustainable Skills for Life

Instructional Lesson Plan 6

Willys MB 'Jeep'

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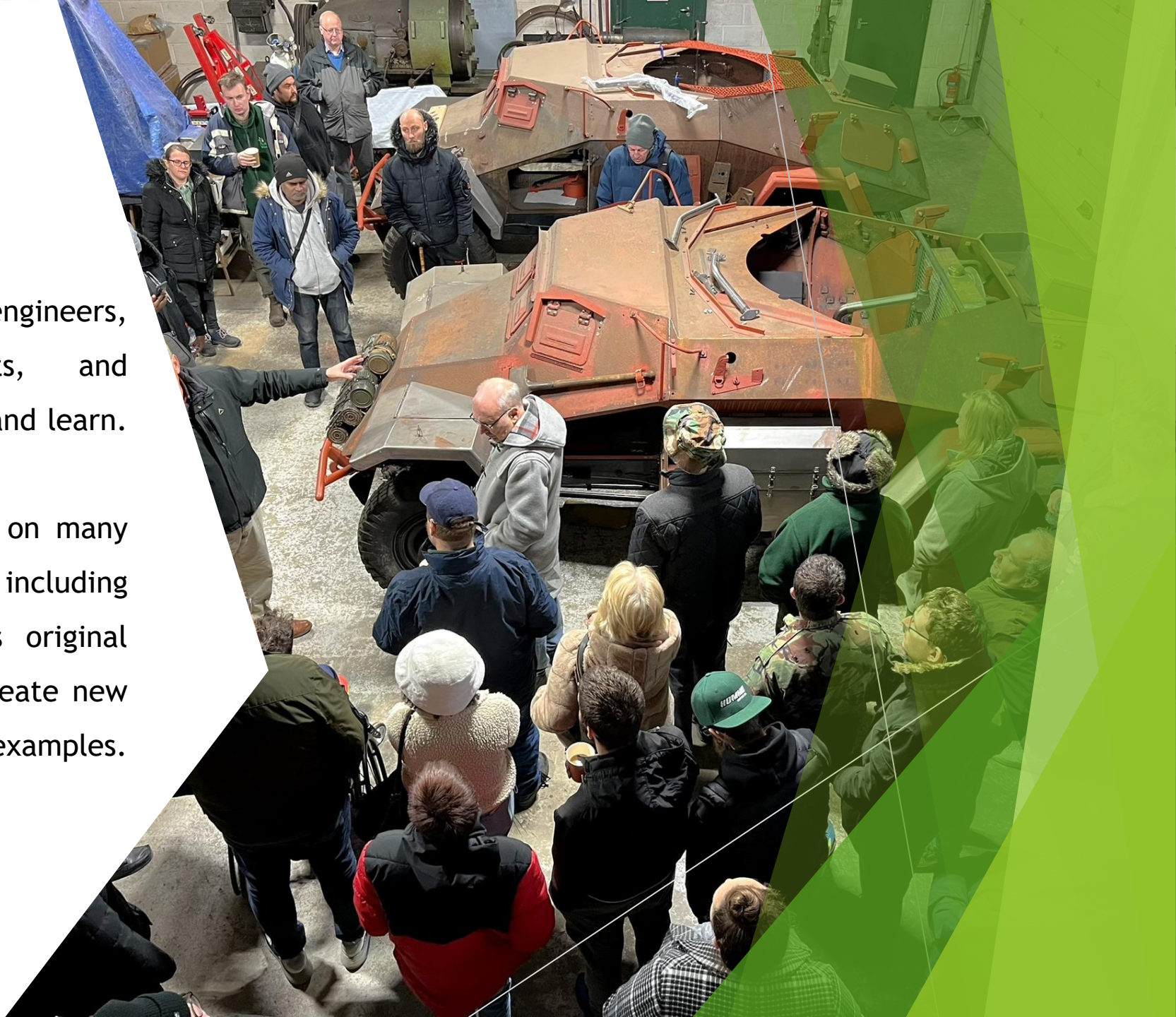
Who are we and what we do?

The Weald Foundation is a charitable organisation established to preserve, restore and maintain historic military vehicles from both World Wars, and to educate the public about their history.

Our unique line up of rare and important military vehicles that we have rescued is considered to be one of the finest working collections in the world.

At the Weald Foundation, schools, engineers, historians, modellers, enthusiasts, and collectors come together to discover and learn.

We have carried out extensive work on many types of armoured fighting vehicles, including tank restoration. Our team sources original components and, where necessary, create new parts from the original blueprints or examples.



Our research into the history of every vehicle in our collection provides unique authenticity to our work.


We strive to understand each vehicle's story, where and when it was assembled, its role in combat, and the story of the people who operated them or fought against them.





Skills and Development through Military Heritage

Providing Sustainable Skills for Life

A background image showing a group of people, mostly of African descent, holding hands in a circle. The image is slightly blurred and has a soft, warm tone. The text is overlaid on a white, semi-transparent rectangular area in the center of the image. The overall design includes green geometric shapes on the left and right sides.

At The Weald Foundation people are given an opportunity to experience first-hand our working environment, meet staff and see the restoration process in action. Our aims:

- To bring people from different geographical and ethnic backgrounds together in a structured, supportive environment and to help break down barriers and create change.
- Re-engage people with education, employment or training and help them to gain skills.



The main objective of The Weald Foundation charity is 'Education'.

We have offered Apprenticeships and successfully assisted individuals in secure employment.

We are an ASDAN-accredited provider offering accredited qualifications.

Military Heritage is our focus



South African Recon Car Marmon Herrington

With war clouds gathering in 1939 the Union of South Africa was forced to develop its own armoured cars. An armoured body was designed and developed in South Africa and mounted on the chassis of the Ford 3t General Service Truck. This was a normal rear wheel drive vehicle. This was designated South African Reconnaissance Car Mk I and starting in 1940 a total of 135 were produced.

From the beginning, the South African designers wanted to improve their armoured cars. They turned to the Ford Company of Canada to furnish a suitable chassis with right-hand steering. For a front axle that was driven and steered, they turned to the Marmon Herrington company.





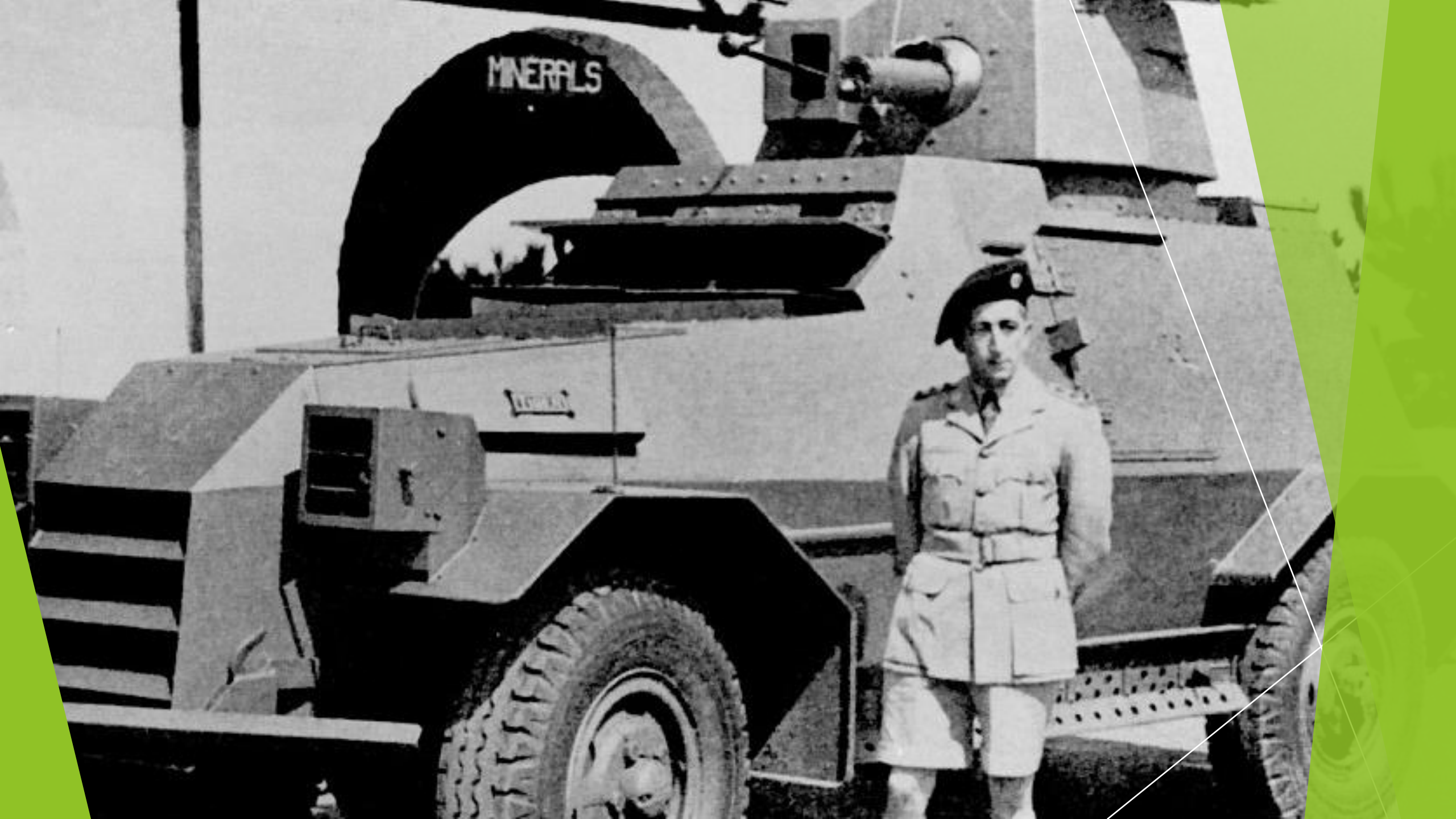
The Marmon Herrington company had, from 1932, sold kits, that converted trucks to all-wheel drive vehicles. In this way the South African designers were able to upgrade their 2-wheel drive Ford 3t General Service Truck chassis to 4-wheel drive. At the same time, they also took the opportunity to improve the ground clearance. This improved car was known as the South African Reconnaissance car Mk II. A total of 887 of the Mk II were built up to June 1941.

Continuous development led to the South African Reconnaissance car Mk III of which 2630 were produced. The overwhelming majority of enthusiasts use the term Marmon Herrington to describe the full range of South African armoured cars.









Restoration Plans of the SARC Mk III

We added two South African Reconnaissance Car Mk III Marmon-Herringtons to our collection in the Summer of 2018.

We are currently carrying out extensive research on the South African Reconnaissance car Mk III Marmon-Herrington, while we complete our current restoration project. This in-depth investigation will provide us with sufficient detail to assist us in identifying vital components. As with all of our projects, this information will help us obtain and manufacture or repair existing parts. One of the main sources of our early research is William Marshall and his excellent book *The South African Reconnaissance Car*.





We have a complete chassis for the later SARC Mk III and the engine is a Ford flathead V8. The discovery of hull registration, chassis number and U registration number, has allowed us to position the assembly date of the early Mk III. This can now be revealed as being assembled in approximately October 1941. The second car was assembled circa May 1942, towards the end of production of the Mk III. The later May 1942 example has a large door in the rear armour, in addition to the side hatches, and to accommodate this the spare wheel is moved to the left side. Tow points are plates with circular holes cut there in.





We still face several challenges. Completion of the upper superstructure will prove a challenge but what is fortunate is that the superstructure is a skeleton of angle iron and flat bar (the frame) to which the armour plate is fixed to form the armoured hull. The existing angles provide the most difficult structural answers. Due to no known survivors of this early Marmon Herrington Mk III, there may well have difficulties in checking exact physical details.

We are fortunate to have a near complete chassis, we were missing some key components such as the transfer case of which two have recently arrived from Australia. As with all our projects, years of dedication and research will lead us to a complete, original and correct restored vehicle.

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Contact Information

If you require more information about this Military Heritage project, or about skills and learning opportunities at The Weald Foundation.

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