

## HOTCHKISS M201 24 volt

### "JEEP HOTCHKISS"

Original French Army registration number allocated on manufacture:

**2312190**

Chassis number: **22227**

Body tub number: **H19802**

From the registration number (stamped on chassis rail at rear passenger side) the following information can be gleaned:

**2** (312190) = manufactured in the 1960s for L'Armee de Terre

(2) **3** (12190) = year of manufacture 1963

(23) **1** (2190) = brand new, not a rebuild

(231) **2190** = 2190th vehicle to have been built in 1963

On 27th September 1971 this vehicle arrived at the La Maltournee workshops near Paris where it was rebuilt. This was part of a jeep refurbishment programme at the time. The jeep would have been dismantled and then rebuilt, using new and refurbished parts, the vehicle was then reissued with the following number:

**6150821**

This number is interpreted as follows:

**6** (150821) = rebuilt in the 1970s

(6) **1** (50821) = year of rebuild 1971

(61) **5** (0821) = allocated to L'Armee de Terre (French Land Forces)

(615) **0821** = 821st vehicle to have been rebuilt in 1971



This jeep is equipped with a 24 volt electrical system and was fitted with radio equipment. The radio operator would have sat on a single seat in the rear of the vehicle. There is evidence that this jeep would have had machine gun mountings at some time during its military service. The steering wheel has a number of 'cuts' on its rim - it is believed that these were made by French national service soldiers to indicate how many months of their national service they had completed; another theory was that the marks were made as a tally of how many vehicles of a convoy had passed the vehicle during convoy control duties.

There is evidence that this vehicle was wired for the use of infra red lighting although there is nothing to suggest that such lighting was fitted.

This jeep was brought into the UK in 2008 having been 'demobbed' some years previously and sold through auction along with many other surplus jeeps. The previous owner had it registered in France (Department 58 - Burgundy).



It has been cosmetically refurbished as the engine, transmission and running gear are in good overall condition.

During the preparation for repainting the last markings from its military service were found under hand painted coats of paint. These markings have been replicated on the vehicle as it would have been prior to its retirement from the French

Army. Unfortunately the unit markings were illegible but the other markings revealed would indicate that this vehicle was part of one of the Regiments de Circulation Routiere.

The role of the Circulation Routiere Regiments was to carry out the reconnaissance of routes, to clear and secure such routes for use by military transport and to provide convoy control and escorts.



This jeep is used regularly in most conditions and has proved its worth off road and in snow as an extremely competent vehicle.

