



## Ducks in Wartime

- General Motors manufactured about 21,147 amphibious ducks between 1942 and 1945. When first produced, the cost of a single Duck was \$10,000 – more than it would have cost to buy a three-bedroom home at that time.
- Ducks participated in all large amphibious operations, both in the Pacific and in Europe during World War II and in the Korean War.
- During wartime, Ducks were used as transport vehicles, carrying troops, ammunition, arms and supplies. In addition, Ducks evacuated wounded GIs to hospital ships and aided in the recovery of aircraft lost at sea. Inland, the Duck was used to traverse natural barriers such as rivers or other waterways.
- The Ducks finest hour came on June 6, 1944, when more than 2,000 Ducks shuttled troops and supplies to hard-to-reach areas for the D-Day invasion on the beaches of Normandy, France. It was touted as the greatest amphibious operation in history.
- Historic newsreels show three major world leaders being ferried on to the beaches of Normandy, France by Ducks following a grueling battle by the Allies to push back the Germans. In the days following D-Day, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Britain's King George VI, as well as the then soon-to-be French President Charles De Gaulle, all came ashore on Ducks.
- As one of the only vehicles that could maneuver over coral reef in the Pacific during the 1940s, the Duck was a vital asset to U.S. military operations. Drivers can change the Duck's tire pressure with the flip of a switch, allowing the vehicle to traverse a variety of surfaces.
- About 370 Ducks participated in the Allied crossing of the Rhine River between March 7 and March 31, 1945. These forces extended more than 350 kilometers and included 5,000 American Engineer Corps, 893 sailors, and 1,400 men from the Transportation Corps harbor companies who were led by General George Patton, among others.
- Of the nearly 15-million tons of equipment and supplies delivered to French and Belgian ports between June 6, 1944, and May 8, 1945, more than three-million tons were transferred by Duck amphibian vehicles.