



Nonclassified
Smith, W.B.

XEROX 91

May 24, 1961

Dear Mrs. Marshall:

I felt you would approve the attached letter regarding some incidents in connection with the Jeep, and I neglected to ask for your approval through inadvertence.

I hope you will not object to what I have said and the one small addition that I made.

Faithfully,

Budd Smith

Mrs. George C. Marshall,
Care of Colonel James J. Winn,
Auburndale,
Owens Mills, Maryland.

Dear Dr. Pogue

P.S. Just received this - I am coming to Washington Sulgrave Club. June 9th for the rest of June. Am glad you and Mrs. Pogue are safely home - I am glad

you would attend the G.M. J. installation of Pres. Shall

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May 9, 1961

Dear Mr. Goldborough:

Mrs. Marshall's account of the genesis of the Jeep is entirely correct. I can add only one minor correction which is that Mr. Payne was brought or sent to me by an officer of the Secretary of War's office who had asked me to take off of Mr. Woodring's hands a persistent automobile salesman whom he could not afford to give any more time to.

Pursuant to this instruction I took Mr. Payne to my office and there looked at the blueprints of what later became the Jeep. I had recently been an instructor at the Infantry School and knew the great demand for a light weapons carrier and how unreliable our best motorcycles were when subjected to bad field conditions. It seemed to me that the Jeep which was originally designed to be light enough to be lifted from a mud hole by its driver and occupants might serve the purpose. It is true that Mr. Payne had not been able to interest the General Staff, although two of the Chiefs of Branch (Infantry and Cavalry, I believe) had recommended service test.

To answer your question specifically, my rank early in 1940 was Lt. Colonel (temporary). I was a Major in the regular Army, and Mrs. Marshall is correct in her designation. Mr. Woodring's title was Secretary of War, and I am not aware that he played any further part than described by Mrs. Marshall. I do not remember the amount of the initial expenditure, but from my recollection the source was the very considerable appropriation made by the Congress to be expended by authority of the Chief of Staff for the purpose of taking advantage of lessons which could be learned from the fighting then going on in Europe.

Correct
Sincerely,

W. B. Smith H. T. M.

Mr. Stuart H. Goldborough,
1522 Connecticut Avenue, N. W.,
Washington, D. C.