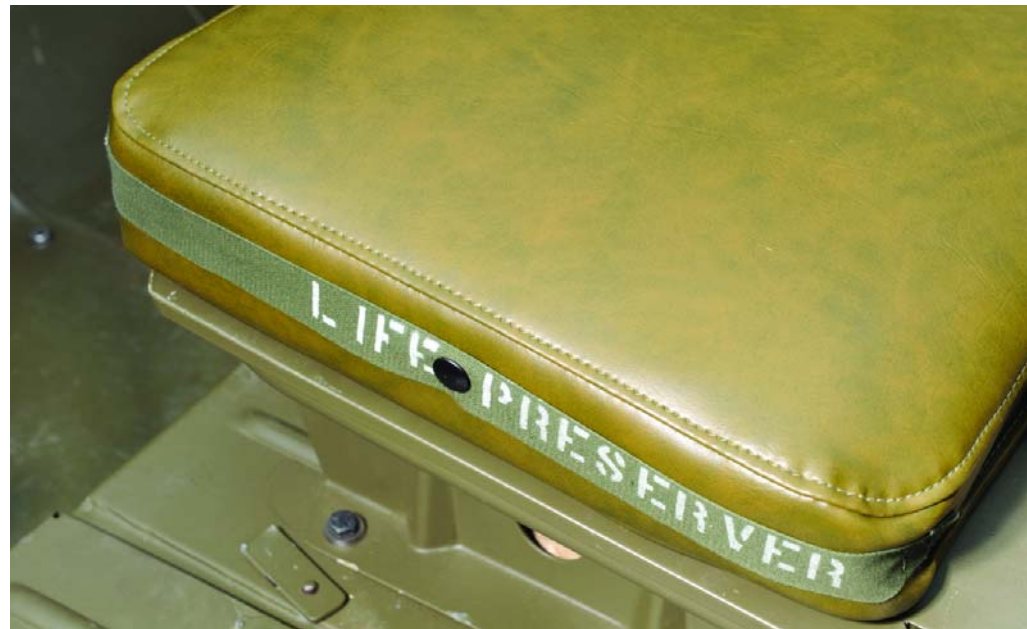


The driver not only got an adjustable seat, he also got a vacuum-powered windscreen wiper – you can see the mechanism at the top of the screen, with the tube leading down the frame into the engine bay. The passenger had the usual Ford manual wiper. Below that is the gun holder, which on most Jeeps was inverted instead of open like this. Interior is relatively spacious for a Jeep, with 50ins of extra length and 7ins of extra width, at 64ins. The shiny pipe next to the driver's seat is the outlet from the bilge pump, which discharged water from front and rear bilges.



Note that it doesn't claim to be a life saver, but just a life preserver. The seat cushions could be quickly unclipped and used as a buoyancy aid if it all went wrong. Since the GPA was hardly designed as a deep-sea vessel, land wasn't usually far away.



To a rookie driver this must have looked terrifying. For on-road use it was pretty straightforward, with the usual five dials in the centre, plus a volt meter to the right of them, the three main foot pedals and the gearlever next to him. The handbrake in the dashboard would also be familiar, as would the two levers to the right of the gear-lever. The left one is to engage the front axle and the lever beside it is to engage the two-speed transfer case for either high or low ratios – identical to a normal Jeep. Less familiar would be the mass of instructions and the two further levers near the bottom of the photo. The left one is for engaging and disengaging the propeller, the right one is for engaging or disengaging the bilge pump. Just out of sight to the right of that lever is a further lever to activate the bilge pump for front or rear scavenging.



The dials are standard GPW but the instructions above the speedo tell the driver how to use the two levers for propeller and bilge pump – not something a driver on a GPW normally had to worry about. Below the volt meter the large black shiny knob is for the winch control on the front. Pushed in like this it kept the winch disengaged while pulling it fully out engaged the winch.