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The tough Scandinavian

In the late 1950s the Swedish military was looking for a special vehicle, which should be primarily used for the transportation of troops. The constructors of Volvo were charged to develop a four-wheel-driven cab over engine, which ensured mobility even in very rough terrain.

Under the direction of chief designer Nils-Magnus Hartelius the engineers of Volvo developed a solid ladder frame and installed a box-shaped driver's cab, which merged into a tub-shaped rear end on it. This design was very stable and provided the possibility to install a variety of different rear structures. With measures of 8,90x16 inch the unusually large-dimensioned low-pressure tires dominated the visual appearance of the Volvo. These were also one of the few components, which were not taken from the shelves of series production. Generally the guideline applied to ensure a cost-efficient production and that is how it came that the engineers used many parts of the then-current passenger car range. This was also applicable to the 1.8-liter engine with a power of 75 hp. The mass production started of the Volvo with the type designation L3314 – known in common usage as the "Laplander" – in 1963. The exclusive customer was initially the Swedish military, whose wishes and guidelines were directly taken into account during production. Its generous chassis clearance, the extra wide tires, the short wheelbase and its large departure angle made it easy for the Volvo to climb high-lying areas, which were normally inaccessible for motorized vehicles.

Volvo produced overall 7,737 copies of the military version.

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