

Skidmark

Monday, 25 February 2008

SKIDMARK. The code name used by U.S. Army Sergeant Cyril Colombani. Growing up in Los Angeles, Skidmark was the kind of kid that every mother held up as a shining example, extremely polite, successful in school and maddeningly well-groomed. Many were relieved when he got his driver's license and began to break records for accumulation of speeding tickets. Once he was in the Army, Skidmark was the same type of person, sometimes even pointing out his fellow soldiers' lack of manners and impolite behavior. But his skills make him one of the fastest and most reliable recon drivers around, so his teammates usually excuse his more annoying traits.

Skidmark joined the G.I. Joe team at the same time as Wild Card and Windmill, and was assigned to drive the six-wheeled Desert Fox jeep. Skidmark unwittingly gave the Star-Viper access to the Pit when the genetically enhanced Cobra pilot rode through the gates while clinging to the underside of his Desert Fox. Skidmark and the new Joes helped chase the infiltrator as he escaped with a valuable piece of military electronics. Skidmark served with the team for many other operations, including an advisory trip to Wolkekuckuckland and fighting Cobra troops in the desert outside of the Pit. He continued on as a member of the team for years before its shutdown in 1994. He did not return to the team after it was reinstated in 2001 until Hawk put the call out for former members to join the fight against a revived Serpenter on Cobra Island in what would be his final mission. During that battle, Skidmark was caught in the blast of an exploding helicopter and killed. Some time later at Arlington National Cemetery, Skidmark's name was placed on a new memorial dedicated to the fallen members of the G.I. Joe team.

(GI 72, 73, 88, 99, 100; Glv2 24-26; Figure: 1)