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HATTON GARDEN BEATS JEWEL BANDITS.

Sparkling diamonds - their value running into millions, are giving Hatton Garden sleepless nights. With London now a world centre for diamonds, jewel bandits have made this city thoroughfare their favourite target. There have been widespread thefts of precious stones worth hundreds of thousands. To foil the thieves, Hatton Garden now has its own giant strong room - available to every jewel merchant in the district. Constructed at a cost of more than £20,000, a two-foot wide bomb-and-burglar-proof door - (operated by a combination that has to be worked by at least two men) - opens up a labyrinth of safes.

In the vestibule, to which dealers are taken by an automatic lift, the identity of each caller is double-checked, before he is admitted. Alarm signals connect direct with Scotland Yard's control room and police cars are within a minute's drive of the building. It is the only one of its kind in Britain and has taken more than six months to build. Nearly a thousands individual safes are contained within this mass of steel and reinforced concrete.

To jewel merchants the super-safe provides comforting security for their diamonds and other precious stones. Jewel thieves will have to transfer their activities to other countries.

