

SAPPERS SHOW THEIR PACES.

Service officers, including General Erskins of Kenya fame, inspect a display of mines at a Royal Engineers' demonstration at Tidworth. Mine-clearing is an important part of the Sappers' work, and the flail tank is only one way of doing it. Another is the Giant Viper, an explosive-filled hose which can be rocket-projected over a minefield, to clear a path wide enough for vehicles.

The Giant Viper has a baby brother which can be used by infantry. Building bridges has been a Sapper job for as long as there have been Sappers - and so has the destruction of bridges when necessary.

The explosive-charges have been placed, and the Sappers take cover.

Quick demolition is a matter of skilful placing of charges.

Sometimes a gap must be bridged under fire - and that's when a Linked Ark comes in handy. It consists of two turretless Churchill tanks, with trackways above their hulls, which can link themselves together, before entering the gap and then open up to provide a bridge strong enough to carry out existing fighting vehicles.

So the Royal Engineers carry out their centuries-old task, of helping the Army to move, to live and to fight.