

CAMPAIGNING BY 'COPTER:

They used to say that a soldier's best friend was his rifle, but French soldiers fighting in Algeria are beginning to wonder if their best friend isn't the helicopter. It can drop them in the most unlikely places, just where the rebels don't expect them to turn up. Campaigning in wild country, surprise can be vital - and the helicopter gives it.

Casualties, too, have a much better chance - a radio call brings the flying maid-of-all-work to the spot, and they're away to the dressing station in no time at all. These light machines are called "jolly elephants" by the French Army, while the big chaps which can move jeeps about like chessmen are nicknamed - more obviously - "flying bananas".

Motor vehicles find them very handy in many ways - particularly when they're bogged down, which can happen very easily in country like this. It's all in the day's work for the "flying banana" - an air-to-ground tow-line solves the problem at once.

Just the job for pulling out that bad tooth!