

(Continued from previous page)

days, dramatised the whole siege for the stage later on. Shells hurtled round the ammunition factories day and night. Sirens shrieked at every sign of attack. And machine guns chattered so fiercely that the enemy hesitated before what was indeed a barely-defended town.

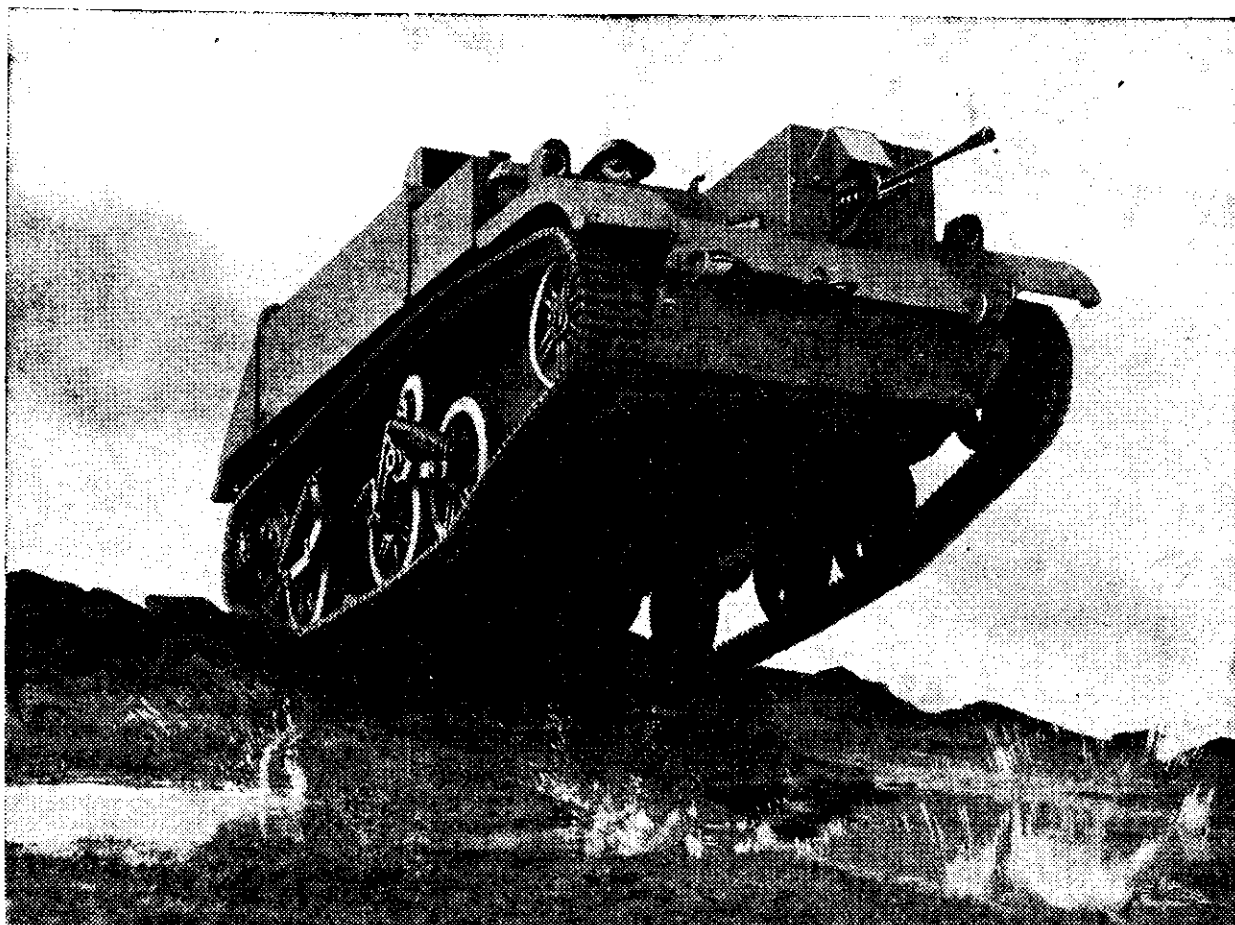
What Voroshilov Said

That was Voroshilov's big chance. His mob burst through. And the first big danger, the danger of a rising within joining the attackers without was over. Stalin in fact, rightly or wrongly, arrested the whole military staff on principle—the principle that ex-Tsarist officers, always pessimistically poring over maps, were no good anyhow. So Stalin shut them up in a prison hulk on the Volga, and made Comrade Voroshilov, enthusiastic but untried, commander instead. His new officers, "some little more than boy scouts" (comments Stephen Graham) won the loyalty and valour of the workers. So, when in the fateful month of August the great attack began—but let Voroshilov himself tell the tale: "Those were great days of trial. The enemy front, turned into a horseshoe with the flanks resting on the Volga, pushed closer every day. By a well planned manoeuvre they were pressing our exhausted troops who had already suffered great losses. The position indeed became catastrophic. (But) you should have seen Comrade Stalin then—calm as usual, deep in thought, no sleep for days on end . . ." In short the Steel bent nearly to breaking point, then, as the Cossacks' grip slackened, sprang back and hurled them over the Don. Tsaritsin was saved. And so the Revolution got its wheat.

"That Georgian Cockroach"

There is another view of the situation it is only right to point out — Trotsky's. He had ordered the town to be evacuated, so that Simbirsk might be defended. But that "Georgian cockroach" had simply scrawled "Take No Notice" across all Trotsky's telegrams. Marshal Tukhachevski said years later that this insubordination prolonged the civil war by two years; but then he has been liquidated. Anyhow Lenin, under Trotsky's pressure, recalled Stalin after the victory. Their trains passed. Trotsky, from the Imperial train in which he travelled like a Tsar, loftily upbraided the tousled uncouth Asiatic, in his everlasting uncleaned khaki tunic with the button missing, standing below on the track. Stalin, very subdued, asked only that his proletarian military "setup" at Tsaritsin be not destroyed. "Stupid and negligible," snorted the Organiser of Victory, sinking back among the Imperial cushions as the two trains passed on, "But he's destroying the Revolution."

However this is old stuff. The question now is whether history can repeat itself and whether the defence of Tsaritsin (now Stalingrad) can again save the wheat and the Revolution.



General Motors salutes the Machine Shops of New Zealand

When the idea of building Universal Bren Gun Carriers in New Zealand was first put forward there were many who said "It can't be done". The task of planning their manufacture and assembly was entrusted to General Motors New Zealand Limited—an exclusive honour which was accepted not only as a tribute to General Motors but also as an incentive to plan and work as never before.

Hundreds of different major parts had to be translated from blue-prints to metal. These parts had to be made in a hundred and one different engineering shops throughout the Dominion . . . so accurately that a part built at the North Cape would fit exactly with a part from the Bluff. A job of planning, of co-ordination, of supply, and assembly which is the

biggest and most worth-while ever achieved by General Motors in New Zealand.

Today this job is an accomplished fact—a job made possible only by the enthusiasm, the willing co-operation and sheer engineering ability of men in machine shops throughout New Zealand.

Today these Universal Bren Gun Carriers are playing their part in the defence scheme of the Dominion. They have been tested and proved in the field, and their drivers have signalled back "Well done". General Motors salutes the machine shops everywhere, which were responsible for this engineering success . . . and are proud to be able to report "It has been done in New Zealand."

GENERAL MOTORS Work and Plan for Victory

CHEVROLET • VAUXHALL • BEDFORD • BUICK • OLDSMOBILE • PONTIAC • G.M. DIESEL
ALLISON AIRCRAFT ENGINES • FRIGIDAIRE • G.M. GENUINE PARTS • A.C. SPARK PLUGS

GM.7.30

MAKE MONEY

I am at home to Design Showcards, Tickets, Posters, Commercial Art. Earn 5/- to 10/- per hour. Free illustrated booklet shows you how to begin. Write to-day.

McKAY'S ART STUDIOS

P.O. Box 367, WANGANUI