

make a nightmare out of a dream. It was Cowboy and Indian stuff: a picture, a story, a play—almost, in its rush and wonder, a poem." Rarely is Llewellyn bitter or petulant, but the proprietors of Crown and Anchor boards made him bitter, and when changes occurred in the Middle East High Command in August, 1942, British official propaganda makes him petulant. "... Only yesterday press and radio had been reminding us of our confidence in The Auk (which was what we were supposed to call him) and saying how much he meant to us. Now they were saying the same thing about his successor, whom we were to refer to affectionately as Monty. Hell!" One could quote endlessly from the Italian section of the book, which is probably the finest section, although here Llewellyn is occasionally tempted into verbal extravagance.

This is a fine book, a sensitive book, an intelligent book, with excellent maps, profuse photographs and a wealth of biographical footnotes. The price seems very low.

CLOSED FRONTIERS

EASTERN APPROACHES, by Fitzroy Maclean; Jonathan Cape.

THIS is the work of one of those rare individuals who combine a faculty for encountering adventure with a gift for descriptive writing. Brigadier Maclean has a sense of humour and an eye for ridiculous situations. A keen observer, he gains his impressions not only from sights but also from smells—an accomplishment that must considerably widen the oriental traveller's field of interest.

As a member of the Diplomatic Service he spent some time in Russia, where he travelled extensively, and illegally, in the forbidden areas of Soviet Turkestan, continually shadowed by spies of the N.K.V.D. A spectator at the Moscow purge trials of 1938, he formed a theory concerning the psychology of confession. When war broke out he wanted to leave the Diplomatic Service and enlist, but found that the objections to such a course could only be overcome by first getting himself elected a Member of Parliament. The adoption of this expedient caused him to be described by Mr. Churchill as "the young man who used the Mother of Parliaments as a public convenience."

Having discovered that the life of a private soldier had "unsuspected tonic qualities," he was given a commission and sent to the Middle East, where he

(continued on next page)



FITZROY MACLEAN
More light in dark places.

Mr. Farmer
Mr. Tradesman
Mr. Businessman...

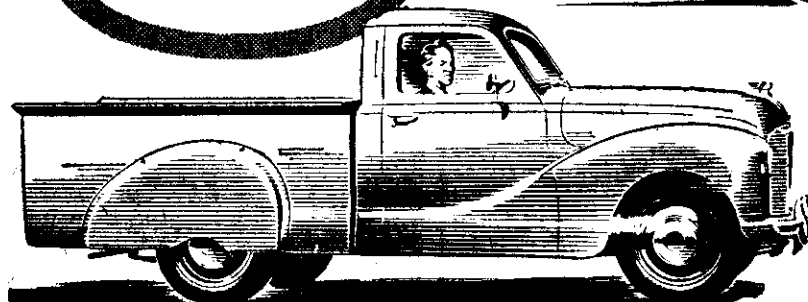
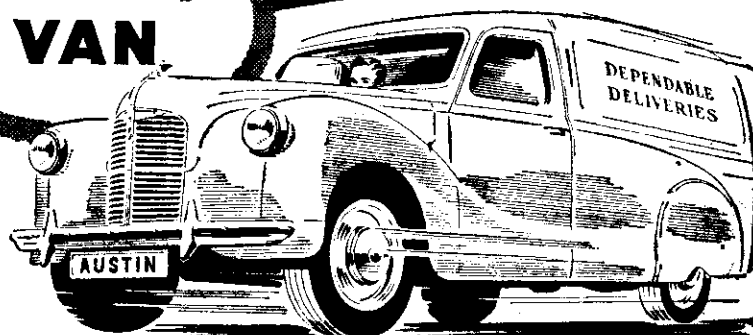
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