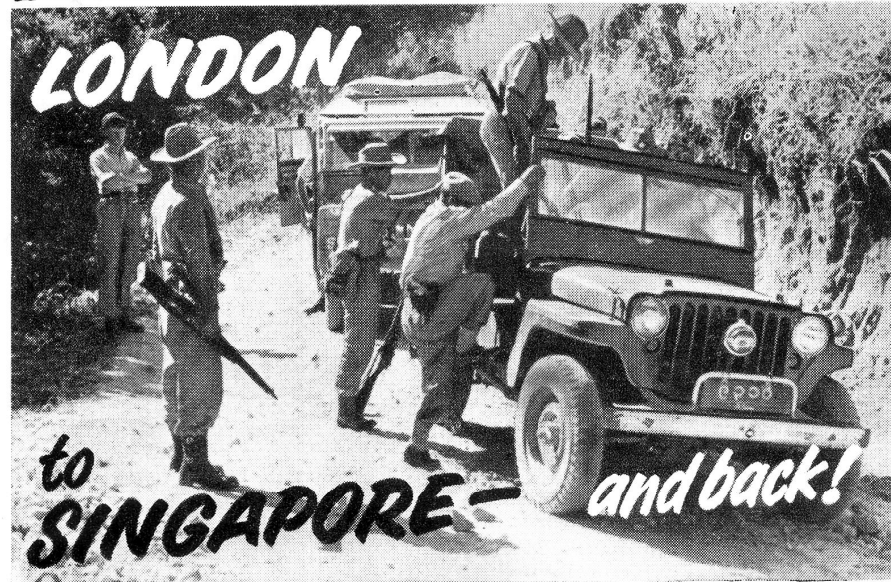


The Companion

"A blessed companion is a book"—JERROLD

NEWS OF THE COMPANION BOOK CLUB for OCTOBER 1958



Next month's book, *FIRST OVERLAND*, is the story of six young men who were the first to take up—and triumph over—the dangerous challenge of a 32,000-mile journey.

Best travel book I have ever read!

THE MOTOR

TIM SLESSOR has written one of the most unusual and exciting adventure stories we have ever published. It tells of one of the last land journeys left unconquered in the world: from London to Singapore; much of it uncharted; virgin jungle; bandit country; torrential rivers; a journey attempted by experienced adventurers all of whom gave up at various stages;



a journey that was triumphantly completed, not by hardened explorers, but by six students in two Land-Rovers. Their sense of fun and courage took them thousands of miles deep into unknown dangers in their efforts to be *FIRST OVERLAND*. Remember the T.V. Series? Now Tim Slessor tells the whole story. Inside he writes specially for "The Companion".

SPLENDID FREE GIFT OFFER—SEE CENTRE PAGES

HERE'S EXCITING NEWS FOR EVERY MEMBER

November Choice.
FIRST OVERLAND
 by Tim Slessor
 Harrab 21/- Club Edition 5/3

Adrian Cowell

Pat Murphy

Barrington Brown

Henry Nott

Nigel Newbery



The boys who ran "plumb outta road!"

Tim Slessor tells how this 32,000-mile jaunt was brewed up over a gas ring!

Tim Slessor, above, writes this article specially for "The Companion".

"NO ONE has ever done it before—so why shouldn't we?" We looked at each other, late one evening over gas-ring coffee in Cambridge. "Well," someone repeated, "why not?" The expedition was born, its aim—one of the longest overland journeys in the world, 19,000 miles across Europe and Asia to Singapore (or 32,000 with return journey, which was partly by sea). Most people said it was impossible, but a few—though doubtful—wished us luck.

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 "Hazards, hardships and laughable incidents." *Eastern Daily Press*  
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After lengthy preparations (12 injections apiece, 400 passport photos and 1,500 letters) we set off from Hyde Park Corner. Our two Land-Rovers (painted

light and dark blue, of course!) rolled across Europe to Istanbul, through the cloudless deserts of the Middle East and out across the great plains of Pakistan and India. In Calcutta, with 8,000 miles of tarmac, mud and sand behind, we paused before the hardest stretch of all—the mountains and rain-sodden jungles of northern Burma, down the famous wartime Ledo road, unused for twelve years; thence along the Chinese border to the opium hills of Siam. Surprisingly, we reached Singapore—the far end of Asia. As a welcoming American journalist opined, "I guess you boys have run plumb outta road." We *guessed* we had!

In **FIRST OVERLAND** I have tried to recall some of our many adventures, some of the wonders we saw and some of the strange people we met. But, most of all,

I have written of things that amused us—there were many, for my companions (average age 23) seemed almost incapable of taking themselves seriously. And, also, I have tried to tell how we ate, drove, camped, thought, and a hundred things more.

For me it was a most wonderful journey; to you, the reader, I hope it will be at least a passable story. And as I wrote in the preface, "I count myself very lucky, since, if I should never again travel further afield than the ways London Transport can provide, I have enough recollections to make me a thundering bore for the rest of my life!" **Tim Slessor**

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 "Altogether delightful. Reminiscent of Peter Fleming." *Times Literary Supplement*  
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Photos, at foot, left to right

On the war path!

The boys passed many relics of the last war on their travels. They pose for a snap in a derelict Japanese tank.

In the drink

There weren't many bridges—except light bamboo affairs—so most rivers had to be crossed the hard way. The gallant Land-Rovers sometimes protested.

On the Road Again!

The expedition pauses at the junction of the famous Burma Road—to look and remember what they have been told of the legendary "Vinegar Joe" Stilwell—and the life-line highway that was desperately hacked from mountain and jungle in the war against Japan.

The Club Edition contains 32 pages of pictures and special map endpapers.

