

PRESS RELEASE



THE SOCIETY OF MOTOR MANUFACTURERS AND TRADERS

LIMITED

148 PICCADILLY, LONDON, W.1

TELEGRAMS:  
MOVENDUM, AUDLEY, LONDON

TELEPHONE:  
GROSVENOR 4040

PRESS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE BRITISH MOTOR INDUSTRY

Not for release before  
DATE 27th September, 1956.

FOR RELEASE 584  
REFERENCE No.

AN EXHIBITION OF BRITISH MILITARY VEHICLES FOR HOME AND EXPORT SALES

F.V.R.D.E., Chertsey, on Thursday, 27th September, 1956

Many hundreds of distinguished visitors from this country and overseas will attend a demonstration and exhibition of British military vehicles at the Ministry of Supply's Fighting Vehicles Research and Development Establishment (F.V.R.D.E.) at Chertsey, Surrey on Thursday, 27th September, 1956.

The exhibition will be on similar lines to one held at F.V.R.D.E. in September 1954, but on a much more ambitious scale; there will be a greater variety of vehicles to be seen, and since 1954 entirely new test facilities have been constructed at F.V.R.D.E. which are representative of the exacting and special conditions for which the vehicles have been designed. Spectacular demonstrations will be staged throughout the day on these new facilities.

A particularly dramatic item in the programme is a wading and swimming demonstration, in which vehicles will be driven or floated through a tank of water 7 feet deep; some vehicles being submerged with their 'frogmen like' drivers. The entrance and exit of the tank are specially designed to represent the conditions of operating from landing craft. The vehicles involved include the 5 cwt. British combat vehicle, and also the Centurion tank, which will be floated in public for the first time.

The exhibition has been organised jointly by the Ministry of Supply, to whose specifications the vehicles are built, and by the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, some of whose members are responsible

*Scenes  
7 8 9 10 11  
are a Centurion tank  
with floatation gear  
attached*  
*John Please alter your  
Comments, [Signature]*

for the manufacture of the vehicles. Many of the vehicles developed for military purposes are particularly suitable for comparable civil work in which exceptional demands are made upon strength, power and ease of handling. The exhibition has been staged primarily to promote sales in this special channel of our export trade, and is timed to coincide with the Society's Commercial Motor Show at Earls Court. It will be attended by prominent industrialists from all over the world, and by high ranking members of the British Services, and of military, diplomatic and trade missions from Commonwealth and foreign countries.

About a hundred different types of vehicles will be on show. Among the exhibits are examples of load and personnel carriers from 5 cwt. to 30 tons capacity, workshop lorries, mobile cranes, tankers, fire tenders, trailers up to 60 tons capacity for tank transportation and the latest armoured vehicles, including the Conqueror heavy tank. There will be static displays, and a number of wheeled vehicles will be shown on gauges specially designed to demonstrate the flexibility of their suspensions, and their ability to operate from landing craft. Other vehicles will be shown running on the new suspension courses specially designed to demonstrate their capacity for negotiating very rough and broken ground.

A number of wheeled and tracked vehicles will be shown climbing the steep new test slopes of 1 in 4 to 1 in 1.7 or 30°.

The joint organisers have planned a varied and eventful programme for the day in support of the main exhibits. Visitors will have the opportunity of riding in various vehicles on the test track surrounding the display area. An engineering exhibition will display some of the more interesting components and systems used in the manufacture and development of military vehicles, together with associated test apparatus and laboratories. There will also be on view a number of armoured tracked vehicles which have been designed for service with the Royal Armoured Corps in specialised roles.