

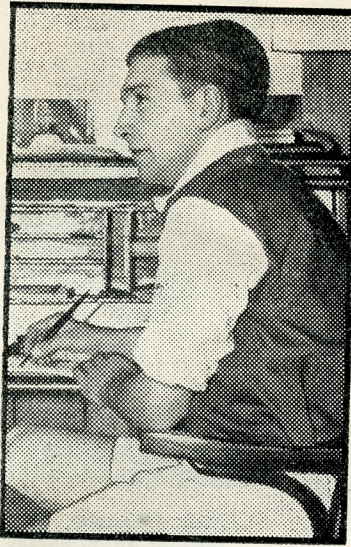
★ *Our personalities this week are Alec Stock, the player-manager of Yeovil who have "giant-killed" their way to the fifth round of the Cup, and Jim Sanders, the West Bromwich goalkeeper.*

And Here's Yeovil's Own 'Giant'

ALEC STOCK, captain of the Yeovil "giant killers," thought he had packed up playing when he was appointed Yeovil's secretary-manager at the end of the war. His magnificent leadership against Bury and then Sunderland is now the talk of the entire football world—he was literally "the architect of victory."

Born in the village of Peasedown, near Bath, Alec moved with his parents to London and was educated at the Dartford Grammar School. He started on a banking career, but changed his mind after playing in a public trial match for Charlton Ath. Although his mother did not approve Alec was encouraged by his father, who was Charlton's groundsman.

In the season 1937-38 Alec was transferred to Queen's Park Rangers. Then came the war. He joined the Duke of Wellington Regt., but was later commissioned in the North Hants Yeomanry and became a captain.



Alec Stock at his desk.

While commanding a tank crew in Caen he received a shrapnel wound in the back. But he was soon playing football again and "guested" for Leyton Orient during his leaves. His wife, Marjorie, who is a school teacher at Summerleaze Park School, Yeovil, used to travel up from Bath to watch him play.

Alec, slim, fair haired and smiling, has always been quietly confident of Yeovil's chances in the Cup this year, and speaking of past disappointments he described Yeovil as the "toughest little berth in soccer."

His methods? While advocating plenty of ball practice he does not believe in intensive last minute training but prefers to take the team to some country retreat where they can forget about soccer for a while.

Typical of him is the reply he gave recently to a reporter seeking Cup-tie news—"We've two League games before the Cup." Behind this quiet unassuming manner lies a personality that is the inspiration of his team.

He's Called 'Sanders of the River'



Jim Sanders

"**S**ANDERS of the River" they call Jim . . . all because Mr. Jimmy Seed, Charlton's manager, discovered him playing in a riverside park. He was invited to "The Valley" and tested by the League side players who banged in the stiffest of shots from all angles while Mr. Seed sat watching behind the goal. As Jim left the dressing-room a little office boy ran up, "Mr. Seed wants you" he said . . . ten minutes later Sanders was on the Charlton books.

Born in London, Jim began his playing career as a 'keeper for North London Schools and was playing for Longland's, a Kent amateur League club, when Charlton first saw him.

He played only a few games as an amateur before turning professional and while Sam Bartram was in the Services, Jim was the South-East London club's No. 1 goalkeeper.

Then Bartram returned. Jim was

too good for the sometimes talent-dulling effect of prolonged second team service. The question of his transfer in the mutual interest of the club and player, arose. West Brom stepped in with an offer . . . others followed. It could have been an "auction." But Sanders chose the Albion . . . "a club of great reputation," as Jimmy Seed put it.

He signed on November 14th, 1945, and except for a couple of breaks through minor injuries, has been regular 'keeper ever since. Against Lincoln City on January 8th, in the F.A. Cup, Jim made his 100th appearance in the senior side.

Early in the war he joined the R.A.F., quickly became an air-gunner and during his three flight tours took part in nearly 200 operational sorties. His luck changed during the third tour . . . he received a severe wound in an engagement with an enemy fighter.

Doctors invalidated him out of the service and said he would never play football again. But Jim had other ideas. In less than no time he was back in the game playing as brilliantly as ever.

To-day Jim Sanders is one of the best goalkeepers in the Second Division.