

# Bridge falls to second salvo

*From the Oxford Times, 5 February 1971*

A loud bang, a cloud of dust and a few flying stones and that should have been the end of the 19th-century railway bridge at Ladder Hill on the Wheatley to Garsington road. But the bridge refused to come down and it took a second charge of gelignite before it crashed to the ground.

Mr Harry Lucy, of the Amey civil engineering department, said that soil by the bridge had begun to slip, pushing the base of the bridge in and it was beginning to collapse. So it was decided to demolish the bridge, fill in the gap, and build a new road on top of it. Before blasting (above), the bridge was covered with canvas blankets and wire-netting, to prevent flying fragments damaging nearby houses.

Mr Bert Bridges, explosives expert for Ameys, used 24lb. of gelignite for the attempt, but the bridge was held together by pipes running through it.

Re-making the road will take about six months. Traffic is being diverted through Horspath.

