Although the specific ground pressure of tracked tractors is low, it may be necessary in special cases to widen the track. The standard widths of tracks varies from 350 to 600 mm; this width can be increased by about 200 mm by screwing extension plates to the individual track links. This modification is recommendable for work on marshy ground or quick sand. However, it should be pointed out that this impairs the manoeuvrability of the tractor.
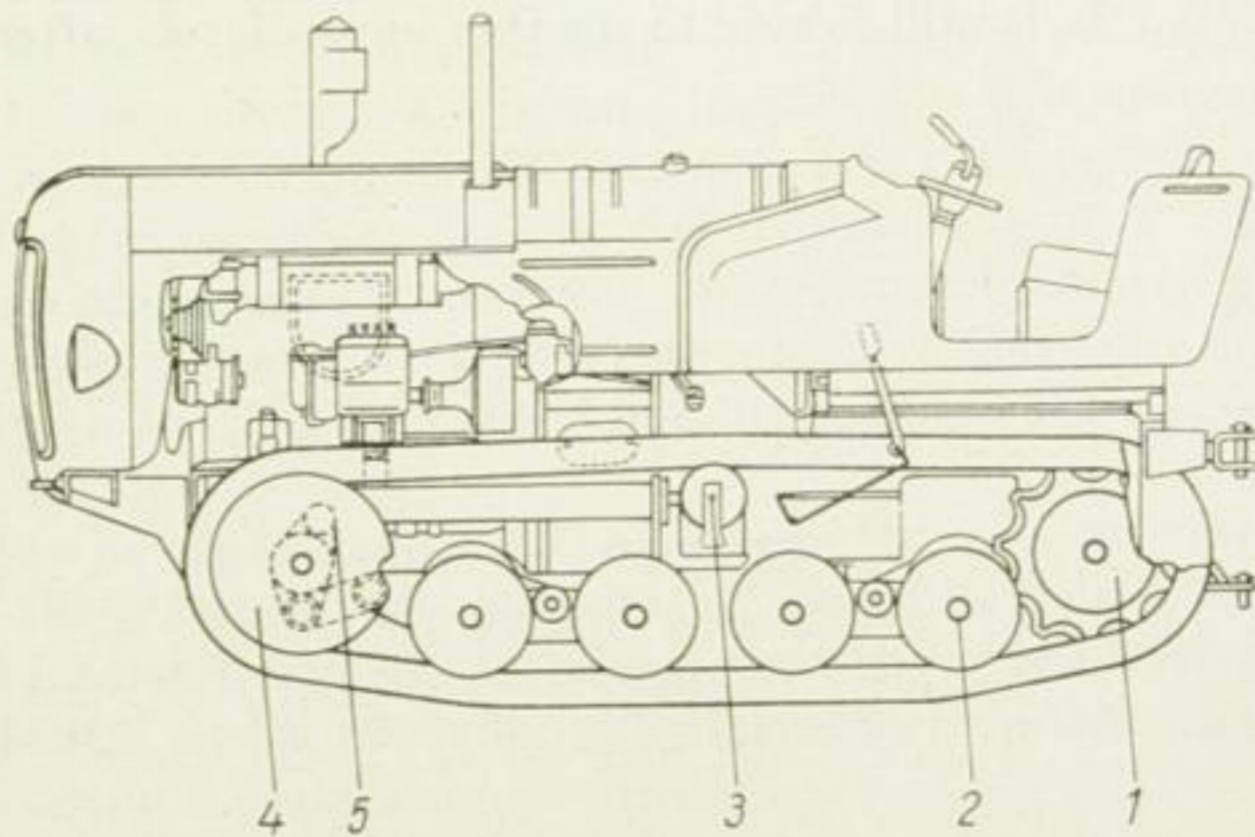
Fractures at parts of the running gear frequently occur when the tractor is operated on rocky ground. Stones get between track driving sprocket wheel or track idle roller and track. They cause serious damage. Therefore, running gears are frequently covered with a sheet metal panelling which is fitted to the frame.

(c) Hints Regarding Maintenance and Repairs

(1) The running gear of crawler or tracked tractors is subject to heavy wear as a result of heavy-duty operation. Lubrication at regular intervals according to the lubrication chart included in the Operating Instructions is imperative. Fig. 298 shows a lubrication chart including the most important points of lubrication. It should be taken into consideration, however, that each type of tractor has its own conditions.

(2) To keep a tractor ready for immediate operation, the running gears should be cleaned of earth and mud at regular intervals. Track links, idle rollers and the other parts of the running gears must thoroughly be cleaned with an ample supply of water. The best way will be washing with a spray.

Fig. 298. Points of lubrication at the running gear

1 Track driving sprocket wheel
2 Idle rollers
3 Track-supporting rollers
4 Track idler
5 Idler lever

(3) The tracks must be tightened in due time in order to keep the wear on the running gear as small as possible. The sag in the track between supports should only be insignificant. Detailed information about the specified values and tightening devices is given in the Operating Instructions. When stretching the track it is recommendable to put a lath on