

TO ENTER Complete the crossword and count how many times the letter 'A' appears in the grid. Text YOU followed by a space, your answer (the number of 'A's) and name to 65700, eg, YOU 9 Sue Smith. Texts cost £1 plus your standard network rate. Or telephone 0905 652 2141 and leave your answer and details. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. Or post your entry to YOU

Crossword No 1,741, PO Box 3451, Norwich NR7 7NR. Entries will be accepted until 11.59pm on Friday 19 March. One random winner from all correct entries will win £250 and five runners-up will win £50 each. If you enter after the closing date you will not be included but may still be charged. Phone and text helpline: 0330 100 0601. Winners will be notified by phone within 14 days. Solution in two weeks.

NUMBER 1,741

NAME.....
 ADDRESS.....
 TEL.....
 YOUR ANSWER.....

ACROSS

- 6 Dutch city featured in
- 9 down (6)
- 8 Turmoil, disorder (8)
- 10 Tear open (5)
- 11 Ready, willing (to go) (6)
- 12 What (initially) many allied soldiers became as a result of the real-life events in 9 down (4)
- 13 Drove away evil spirits (9)
- 15 Improves (7)
- 17 What, proverbially, you should do while the sun's shining (4,3)
- 19 Heroic action (7-2)
- 22 Yorkshire river (4)
- 23 Country

- whose forces Gene Hackman's character leads in 9 down (6)
- 24 Crook (5)
- 25 Offend, repel, estrange (8)
- 26 Design for cloth traditionally associated with Scotland (6)

DOWN

- 1 Russian composer (surname) who died on precisely the same day as Joseph Stalin (9)
- 2 The human product of conception (6)
- 3 Believe, conjecture, feel (7)
- 4 Personal magnetism (8)
- 5 Sir Michael, who starred in

- 9 down (5)
- 7 Very famous (9,4)
- 9 1977 epic war film based on Operation Market Garden (1,6,3,3)
- 14 *The Godfather* star who appeared in 9 down (5,4)

- 16 Imaginary line from the North Pole to the South Pole (8)
- 18 What some of the stars of 9 down – eg, Dirk Bogarde – were in (7)
- 20 Courageous, hardy, resolute (6)
- 21 Actor Elliott who played a colonel in 9 down (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 1,739

	F	H	T	P	N	L	M								
	T	E	N	E	R	I	F	E		A	R	A	R	A	T
	B	N	M	R	P	O	R								
10	G	R	A	C	I	E	F	I	E	L	D	S	P		
	U	E	L	O	E	L									
11	R	A	F	F	L	E		D	I	S	A	S	T	E	R
	R	O	S												
15	A	Y	E	R		S	A	L	L	Y		A	R	G	O
	T									U	N	E			
16	R	O	C	H	D	A	L	E		L	E	S	S	O	N
	X		S	V	E	F	I	M							
	Y		D	E	S	S	E	R	T	W	I	N	E	S	
	G	A	E	N	I	E	T								
26	H	E	R	M	E	S		T	O	D	D	L	E	R	S
	N	E	S	S	E	D	Y								