

HEBDEN BRIDGE

12<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> Jan 1963

Two very good days with plenty of snow and sunshine.

We had to borrow an S.L. of 2 M.T. as our own Bedford and Ambulance are in Scotland on an expedition.

Saturday we spent the day doing practice stretcher lowers on snow. Which is a lot different to doing them on Rock. Also tried doing some standing and sitting glissades. Some good laugh were had with the standing one's when one or two people fell on their faces.

We spent most of Sunday clearing up base camp. Only one party on the hill.

Jim Watson came out as a visitor. He is on leave from Germany.

Departed H. B. In thick fog at 1600 hrs and arrived at 16 M.U. at 2045 hrs none the worse for wear.



---oo0oo---

TAN-Y-PISTELL

18<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> Jan 1963

A party of 11 members left RAF Stafford at 3-00 P.M. on the 18<sup>th</sup>; Arriving at Base Camp at 6.00

Because of bad weather (snow) the N.C.O. i/c asked permission for the team to use the old house, at the foot of the waterfall.

Saturday was spent with Sgt Burnett instructing in Glissading and the use of the ice axe as a break. By mid afternoon Sgt Burnett had returned from the hill and after a "Pot" of hot soup left the Base camp, to visit RAF Valley MRT who were camped in Bethesda. On the return journey Sgt Burnett was caught in a blizzard and was forced to spend the night in the ambulance, arriving back at Base camp at 10.00 AM on Sunday morning, whilst an attempt was being made by AC Fergus to climb the frozen waterfall. Meanwhile the wind was blowing the freshly fallen snow into drifts at several points along the road, making things very difficult indeed.

When the time came to return to Stafford a quick reconnaissance was made in the Land Rover to check on the road conditions, it was found that a drift had formed about 1½ miles from base camp which would not allow the R.L. through although the Land Rover & Ambulance could get through. The Land Rover and Ambulance proceed back to Stafford to collect rations for the stranded team. On Monday the Land Rover once again proceeded to Tan-Y-Pistell, with rations, encountering difficult road conditions all the way, at one point, 6 attempts were made to "PLOUGH" through one drift, at the time of arrival at base camp, SAC Morgan and SAC Owen were about ⅓ of the way up the waterfall, but put off their attempt until Tuesday. The rest of the team were trying hard to dig away the snow drifts.

On Tuesday a phone call was made to Flt Lt Hawke, saying that the snow plough was on its way from Oswestry to relieve the team. At 2.00 PM the snow plough broke through, and a hasty pack up began, by 3.00 PM the team was ready to move off. On the way to the village the Bedford slid into a stone wall, causing slight damage.

At 6.00 PM the team were back at Stafford and OPERATIONAL once again.



---oo0oo---

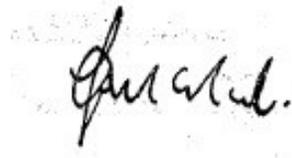
Greenfield    1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1963

The team consisting of nine members left Stafford at 13.30 on Friday. Arriving at Greenfield at 16.00 the same day.

Saturday a party of three "Jones, Mckeown, Morgan" set off to walk to Edale. Another party "McNab, Tomlin, McDonald, Wilson" intended to walk Edale to Greenfield but found the snake pass blocked that meant that party 2 had to stop party one from reaching Edale. The parties met at Crowden station. They then returned to Greenfield in one Party arriving at 16:00 hrs.

Saturday night was spent in the Wagon inn. There was a lot of snow Saturday night and many of the lads hoped to get "Snowed in" again. On Sunday the Bedford got stuck in a drift 6 or 7 feet high and the day was spent in digging it out. It was out by 1500. Tomlin then had a flight with his model Aircraft which after climbing over 1,000 feet vanished over Dean Rocks. It took over 1½ hours to find it. We then packed up and returned to or intended to return to Stafford for Supper.

On the way out of Greenfield the land rover's clutch burned out so the Bedford had to tow the trailer and the landrover back to Stafford. The journey took 7 hours and we arrived back Stafford at 23:00 hrs. All in all a very enjoyable weekend was had by all.



---oo0oo---

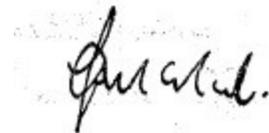
Foxhouse Inn

9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> February 1963

The team left Stafford at 1800 there was hrs on 8<sup>th</sup> February and arrived at Foxhouse at 2045hrs. There was a record number of 15 people out. Conditions were said to be very good for snow and ice climbing but on arrival we found that the snow was a little too soft for any decent snow work.

Saturday a party set off to “plant” some tins for a hare and hounds walk. The rest of the team led by Sgt Burnett were taught different ways of belaying on snow and ice followed by the falling leader practice. After a couple of hours of this we returned to base camp. Saturday night was spent in the “Shoulder of Mutton” having a “quiet” drink.

On Sunday the Icy fog made road conditions a wee bit bad so after obtaining a road report from the A.A. we decided to return to Stafford at 15:00 hrs arriving at 16 MU at 17:45 hours.



---oo0oo---

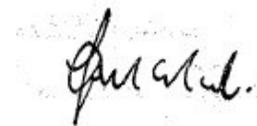
15<sup>th</sup> February 1963

“BETHESDA”

Sgt Burnett and 14 team members left RAF Stafford at 13:15 hrs, on 15<sup>th</sup> and arrived at the ATC hut Bethesda at 18:00 hrs to set up base camp.

On Saturday, 3 parties departed from base to walk (a) The Snowdon horseshoe Sgt Burnett, b the Glyders SAC Morgan, and (c) Garnedd Llewellen Cpl McNab. By 11:00 hrs SAC Owen who wasn't feeling well, had returned to base. At 13:00 hrs Cpl McNab also returned as they were unable to combat the severe weather conditions. Sgt Burnett's party returned at 14.30 leaving SAC Morgan and SAC Lund on the Hill, who eventually came off the hill at 18:30 hrs. A good night followed in the Douglas Arms. However at 2:30 AM on Sunday morning the local police paid a call, Sgt Burnett later told the team, that there were 2 people missing on the hill and we were to move from Base at all 06:30 hrs, which we did moving to a village called CROESOR from which the search was directed. A local search party located the missing couple, who had fallen about 150 ft to their deaths. After being given 3 incorrect map references the team located the incident and contacted base for stretchers, after being evacuated the bodies of the casualties were taken to PENRHYNDEUDRAETH Mortuary.

The team then cleared up base camp and departed for RAF Stafford at 18:00 arriving at 23:00 hrs.



---oo0oo---