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British Rail



**THE BODY** of a 26-year-old London soldier was recovered from blizzard-swept Welsh mountains today.

Search teams had been looking for the Lance Corporal in the Territorial Army — a married man — since he failed to check in after a night navigation exercise.

More than 130 troops and four helicopters searched for the soldier, who was part of a group which set out from the Storey Arms public house near Brecon on Tuesday to cross the 3000-ft Brecon Beacons in bad weather.

About 40 soldiers started out on the six-mile exercise. Two others who had lost their way were rescued early today and brought to safety in poor health.

The body was found near an outdoor education centre about two hours after the search resumed today and is being brought down from the mountainside.

The Army has refused to say whether the soldier was a part-time member of the Crick Special Air Services regiment, which often carries out training exercises in the Brecon Beacons.

Last year two SAS men, one a major, died from exposure

criticised by the Brecon coroner after their deaths for the

the soldiers on the current exercise were well equipped.

temperatures, snow and high winds.

# A breath of Siberia sweeps across Britain

by Lynda Murdin

**INTENSE** cold and strong winds today dashed Britain's hopes of sliding gently into a warm spring.

The cold spell, caused by high easterly winds from Siberia, has come after one of the warmest Februarys for many years.

It caught the country unawares.

But in London, a spokesman at the Weather Centre said the capital was not really all that cold — it just felt that way.

"It is very cold for March when you consider that temperatures are not going to rise about 3C or 4C whereas the average for the time of

year is about 9C or 10C. But it's not extreme," he said.

"A strong easterly wind is making matters worse and that seems likely to decrease."

Otherwise, the weathermen could offer little respite. The outlook is for unsettled weather with outbreaks of sleet or snow.

## Lambing fears

In Wales, a 26-year-old Army corporal went missing after a training exercise on the snow-swept Brecon Beacons. A search by soldiers, police and mountain rescue teams continued throughout the night.

Off the Welsh coast a warship's motorboat had to be towed to the mother ship by

Tenby lifeboat after it broke down in rough seas.

Blizzards closed many roads across the Pennines in Lancashire and Yorkshire.

The BAC reported that 18 major roads in the North-west were closed. Many roads in the Nottingham area were also blocked and snowdrifts were reported on the M62.

Icy patches and poor visibility brought 50 mph speed restrictions on the M62 and the M1 in the north.

Strong winds coupled with high spring tides prompted fears of flooding along the north-east coastline.

Farmers in the North were concerned about the effect the sudden cold snap would have on the start of the lambing season.

# Last wave to an old friend

by Steve Doughty

**THE** battered, rust-streaked Mi Amigo was the last symbol of the broadcasting revolution that deposed the Light Programme and heralded the era of commercial radio.

Dubbed "Queen of the radio waves," she began her broadcasting life in Easter 1964, as Radio Caroline South. For a few weeks she broadcast in tandem with Radio Caroline North. Then she was on her own.

From the moment she anchored a few miles off the Frinton coast, the 274-ton 150-foot ship introduced hit pop records 24 hours a day. DJs with American-style patter and catchy jingles.

## Struggled

Pop fans in their thousands throughout Britain and North Europe turned away from the BBC and tuned into Caroline.

The Mi Amigo gave many of today's top DJs their big break. Tony Blackburn was one of the pioneers.

The Radio One disc jockey, who joined the pirate ship a month after the start, looked back nostalgically today. "I'm very sad to hear the ship has gone. I spent two years aboard."

"It could be very uncomfortable in bad weather. The studio was high above the waterline and really rocked about. I had to be strapped into my seat or I would have been thrown around the cabin."

At the end of 1965, DJ Blackburn was rescued by breeches buoy when the ship ran aground in a storm after shipping her moorings.



**DISC JOCKEY** Tony Blackburn: "I had to be strapped into my seat."

"I wouldn't have missed that time — it was very exciting. But for Radio Caroline the BBC would never have changed and there would still be Mrs Dale's diary. There would have been no commercial radio," he said.

Capital Radio DJ Dave Cash, another pirate product, began his career on Radio London moored nearby Caroline.

He said: "I used to spend a lot of time on Mi Amigo. She was an old ship then and I'm surprised she didn't sink a long time ago. She was something special and this was a sad thing."

Most of the pirates were sunk in August 1967 when Britain outlawed offshore radio broadcasting with the Marine Broadcasting (Offences) Act.

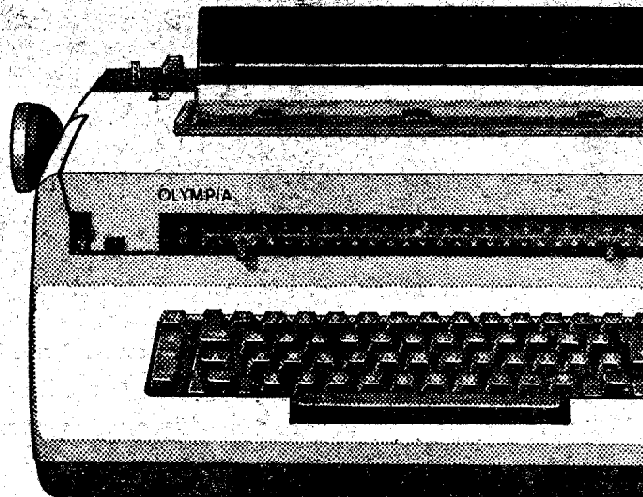
# Join up, urges Maggie

**MRS THATCHER** today called on employers to encourage their workers to enlist in the Volunteer Reserve Forces.

the Volunteer Reserves of the Royal Navy and RAF are essential to the nation's defence.

"They must be well manned,

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