



INMARSAT SUPPORTS NORWAY 75

COMMANDO SPIRIT

CASE STUDY



A WORD FROM TODD MCDONELL, PRESIDENT, INMARSAT GLOBAL GOVERNMENT



The Royal Marines expedition across 2000 miles of Norwegian coastline was no doubt an arduous exercise, given the need to manage whatever Mother Nature throws at you when cycling and paddling in the Arctic Circle. However, of greater note than the physical hardships the Norway 75 team faced during this expedition is the significance of the footsteps the Royal Marines followed as they traced some of the key allied raids of World War 2, all whilst raising awareness for charity in support of their modern comrades.

One of these raids was Operation Source, where British midget submarines set out to sink or damage three major German warships; as a result, the German warship Tirpitz sustained major damage and the success of this saw two Victoria Crosses awarded to two of the midget submarine commanders. In the case of Op Source, the X series mini subs and their crews demonstrated outstanding bravery in going after well-protected, very large targets. This bravery and commitment continues to resonate with the qualities the Royal Marines represent today, including their drive to support their comrades' ongoing mental health, via the Royal Marines Charity and their efforts to deliver the Royal Marines Support Hub.

Inmarsat is extremely proud to have supported the Royal Marines Norway 75 team on their Norwegian odyssey, both to ensure the safety and success of the expedition as well as helping them raise awareness of their charity and its focus on Good Mental Health.



THE TEAM

NORWAY
75

Commando Spirit



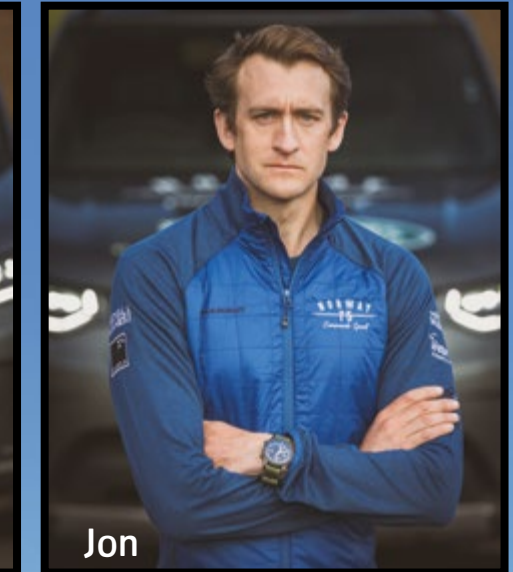
Lee



Rodge



Tim



Jon



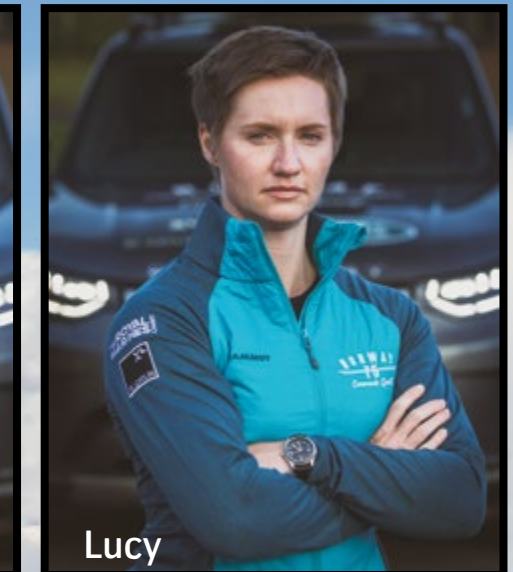
Dave



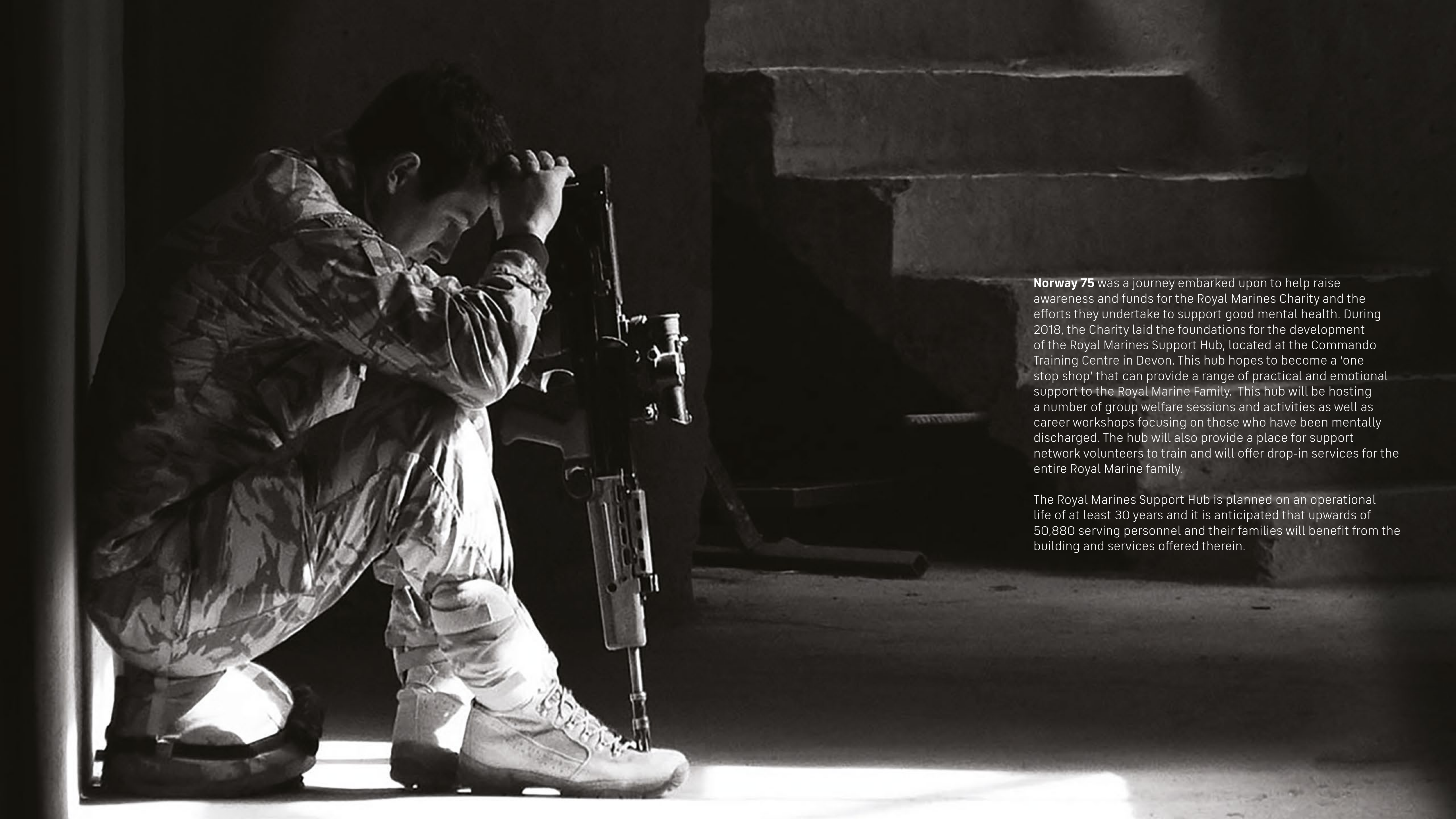
Ric



Rich



Lucy



Norway 75 was a journey embarked upon to help raise awareness and funds for the Royal Marines Charity and the efforts they undertake to support good mental health. During 2018, the Charity laid the foundations for the development of the Royal Marines Support Hub, located at the Commando Training Centre in Devon. This hub hopes to become a 'one stop shop' that can provide a range of practical and emotional support to the Royal Marine Family. This hub will be hosting a number of group welfare sessions and activities as well as career workshops focusing on those who have been mentally discharged. The hub will also provide a place for support network volunteers to train and will offer drop-in services for the entire Royal Marine family.

The Royal Marines Support Hub is planned on an operational life of at least 30 years and it is anticipated that upwards of 50,880 serving personnel and their families will benefit from the building and services offered therein.

A JOURNEY OF HISTORIC INTEREST TO RAISE AWARENESS FOR POSITIVE MENTAL HEALTH

June to July 2018 saw a team of eight serving and former Royal Marines journey by sea and land, via kayak and cycle, across the length of Norway's coastline. The self-sufficient team retold heroic stories of WWII Combined Commando / SOE operations, culminating in the 75th Anniversary commemoration of the famous Telemark raids, the successful Allied operation that halted Nazi Germany's program to create a nuclear weapon. The Norway 75 team worked with the Norwegian Military, local historians and veterans in preparing a schedule that revisited the following:

- **Operation Source**
A mini submarine raid on the Tirpitz, Lutzow and Scharnhorst
- **Operation Martin**
The heroic escape and evasion of Norwegian Commando, Jans Balsrud
- **Operation Claymore**
Commando raid on Lofoten Peninsula
- **Operation Musketoon**
Commando raid on the Glomfjord hydro plant

- **Operation Archery**
UK-Norwegian Commando raid on German positions in Maloy
- **Operation Gunnerside**
Norwegian Heavy Water plant raid, the 'Telemark Raid'



HISTORIC CONTEXT

Following the outbreak of war in Europe in September 1939, and the Soviet mobilisation into the Baltic countries by way of a 'mutual assistance' pact, Nazi Germany invaded Denmark and Norway. Despite heavy bombardment by the Luftwaffe and an ultimatum from Hitler to the King of Norway to surrender or he would 'bomb Oslo into oblivion', Norway held firm and refused to capitulate. The King moved his government into the mountains and the British Expeditionary Forces fought alongside the Norwegians for two months before the German's finally took control. The British evacuated their troops back to Scotland, taking with them any Norwegians who wished to join them in continuing to fight. These troops included a young officer from the Norwegian Navy named Martin Linge.

Upon arrival in Scotland, Linge heard of Churchill's Special Operations Executive (SOE). Keen to take the fight straight back to the Germans, he suggested the Norwegian troops could come together to carry out guerilla raids in their home country. Convinced by arguments that the Norwegians were hardened to both the terrain and weather, and would fit in with the locals, Norwegian Independent Company 1 was formed in March 1941, with Capt Martin Linge at its head. The unit quickly became known as Company Linge. Members undertook training in part at the home of the Commandos, Achnacary.

The operatives of the bold and resilient Company Linge primarily carried out acts of sabotage and were, for a time, counted amongst the most decorated military forces in the United Kingdom during WWII.

530 Norwegians served in the Norwegian Independent Company 1 as part of the Special Operations Executive. Of these, 57 lost their lives.



N75 Team kayak through one of Norway's stunning Fjords



OPERATION SOURCE

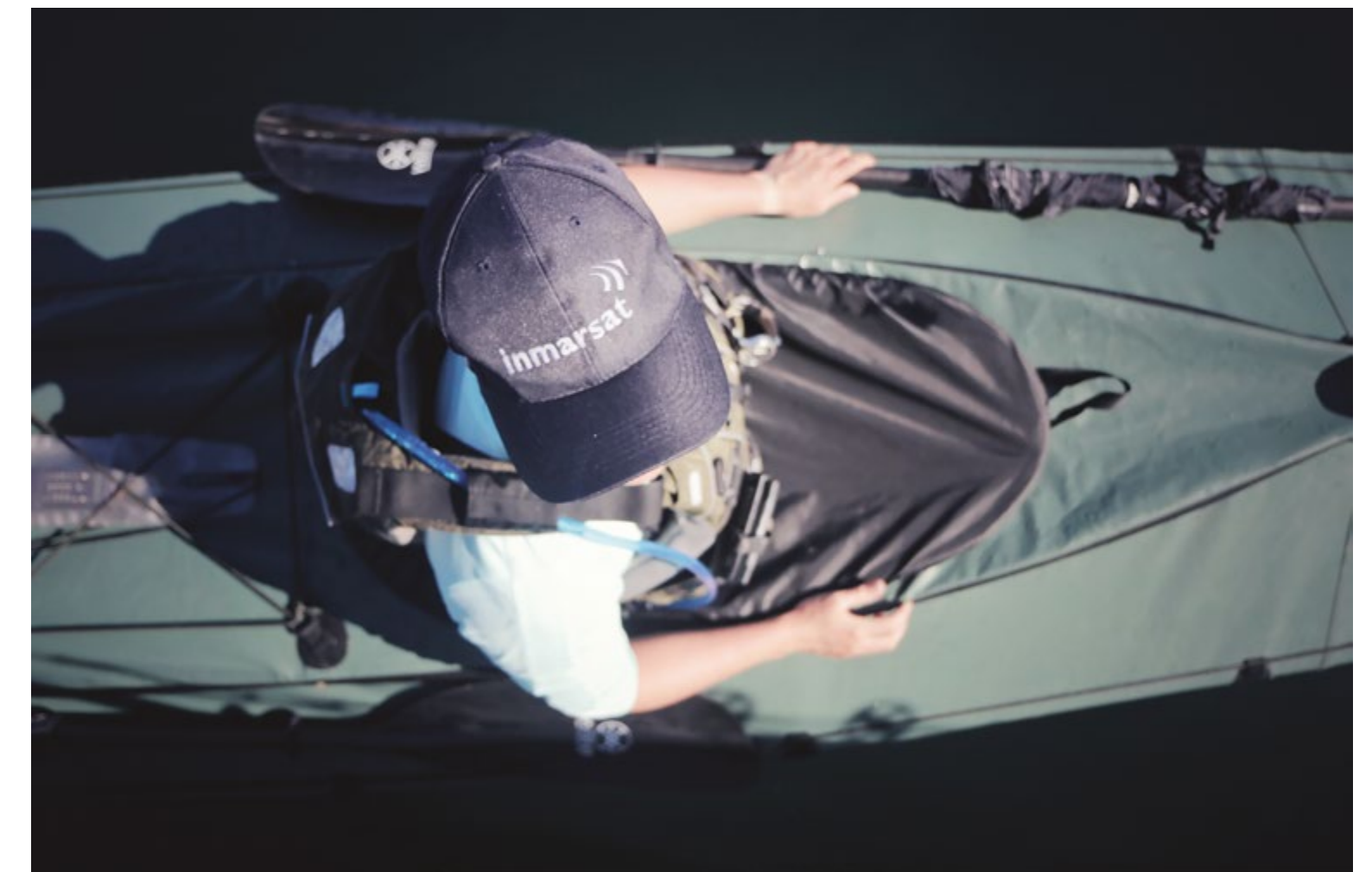
Op Source, a mission to destroy Germany's largest battleship, the Tirpitz, involved 6 mini-submarines. Each carried four crew and 2x2 tonne Amatol explosives. The X-craft were towed towards the Tirpitz's moorings by the entire British home defence fleet of submarines, departing from Scotland on 11th September 1943. Unfortunately, once released from tow, three of the submarines failed to reach their destination due to mechanical issues.

The remaining three, X5, 6 and 7, all arrived in the area of Brattholm Island on 21st Sept 1943. Although anti-submarine nets heavily guarded the Tirpitz, it is believed that all three mini-sub made it to the hull of the ship to drop their charges. X5 was sunk making her way towards the Tirpitz when the charges from the other craft were detonated at 0812. X6 succeeded in sneaking through anti-submarine nets by following boats ferrying German sailors to and from the shore, X7 also entered the area this way. Unfortunately, X6 hit a rock and her periscope caught fire. She then dived again, dropping her charges and ramming the hull before surfacing to surrender. All crew were captured. X7 collided with the Tirpitz before diving below her turrets to drop her

cargo. Turning to return home, she became entangled in nets and was caught in the detonation at 0812, causing mechanical problems. The CO decided to abandon ship and surfaced to surrender, however, realising they were about to collide with a moored target, the crew could not close the hatch in time and subsequently sank with the CO still on the surface. The remaining three crew decided to escape using breathing apparatus (Davis Submarine Escape Equipment). One ran out of oxygen waiting for the submarine to fill with water, another died whilst surfacing, and Robert Aitken escaped the submarine but was captured on the surface. The CO of X6, Godfrey Place, and Lieutenant Robert Aitken of X7, were both taken to prisoner of war camps.

Despite the loss of personnel, Op SourceE succeeded in disabling the Tirpitz and putting her out of action for the remainder of the war, freeing up many British battleships for other duties. The CO's of X6 and X7 were each awarded the Victoria Cross and the CO of X5 received a mention in dispatches. All other surviving crew members were awarded the Distinguished Service Order or Conspicuous Gallantry Medal.

A small monument honouring Operation Source is in the Kafjord church near the site of the action. After cycling and sea kayaking from the Russian border to the north, the N75 team joined veterans from the Norwegian, Dutch and American Forces to conduct a small ceremony to commemorate the heroism of these men.



OPERATION MARTIN

Operation Martin was a mission to establish a presence near Tromso in order to sabotage the German means of targeting the North Atlantic convoys. In reality, it became an escape, evasion and survival epic by Norwegian Commando diver, Jan Sigurd Baalsrud. On 29th March 1943, the Shetland bus entered the fjords with 11 Commandos on board, tasked to plant bombs on seaplanes and destroy the German air control tower at Bardufoss. However, local sympathisers alerted the Germans to its presence after a soldier seeking contact with a resistance fighter instead made contact with an unaligned shopkeeper of the same name. Nazi ships closed in to attack, with only one Commando escaping - Baalsrud. Having lost a boot and surrounded by the enemy, he was forced to swim through freezing water and took refuge in a gully. Here he came across two German soldiers hunting for him and he shot them both with his only weapon, a colt pistol. With a heavy enemy presence on the ground, his only option was to run. In his bid to reach the safety of Sweden, Baalsrud traversed the Norwegian landscape on foot and skis. On his way he encountered avalanches, became snow blind and was forced to amputate his own toes due to frostbite. Many

locals rallied around him during his travels, concealing him from the Nazis, providing food, water, medication and transportation. His story is their story and without them he would not have survived. Their refusal to be intimidated by Nazi reprisals embodies the Norwegian national strength and pride during the occupation.

Baalsrud remained in hospital for 6 months before deciding to return to Scotland where he spent the remainder of the war teaching marksmanship to Allied soldiers. He is buried in Norway, alongside the Norwegian resistance leader Asiak Fossvoll, who visited him whilst he was hidden in a cave in Skaidijonni.



"INMARSAT'S LIGHTWEIGHT, PORTABLE AND RELIABLY FUNCTIONAL COMMUNICATIONS WERE INVALUABLE WHEN WE WERE AT RISK OF BEING OUT OF REACH AND OUT OF REMIT ON THE WATER, WHEN HEADING TO OPERATION SOURCE."

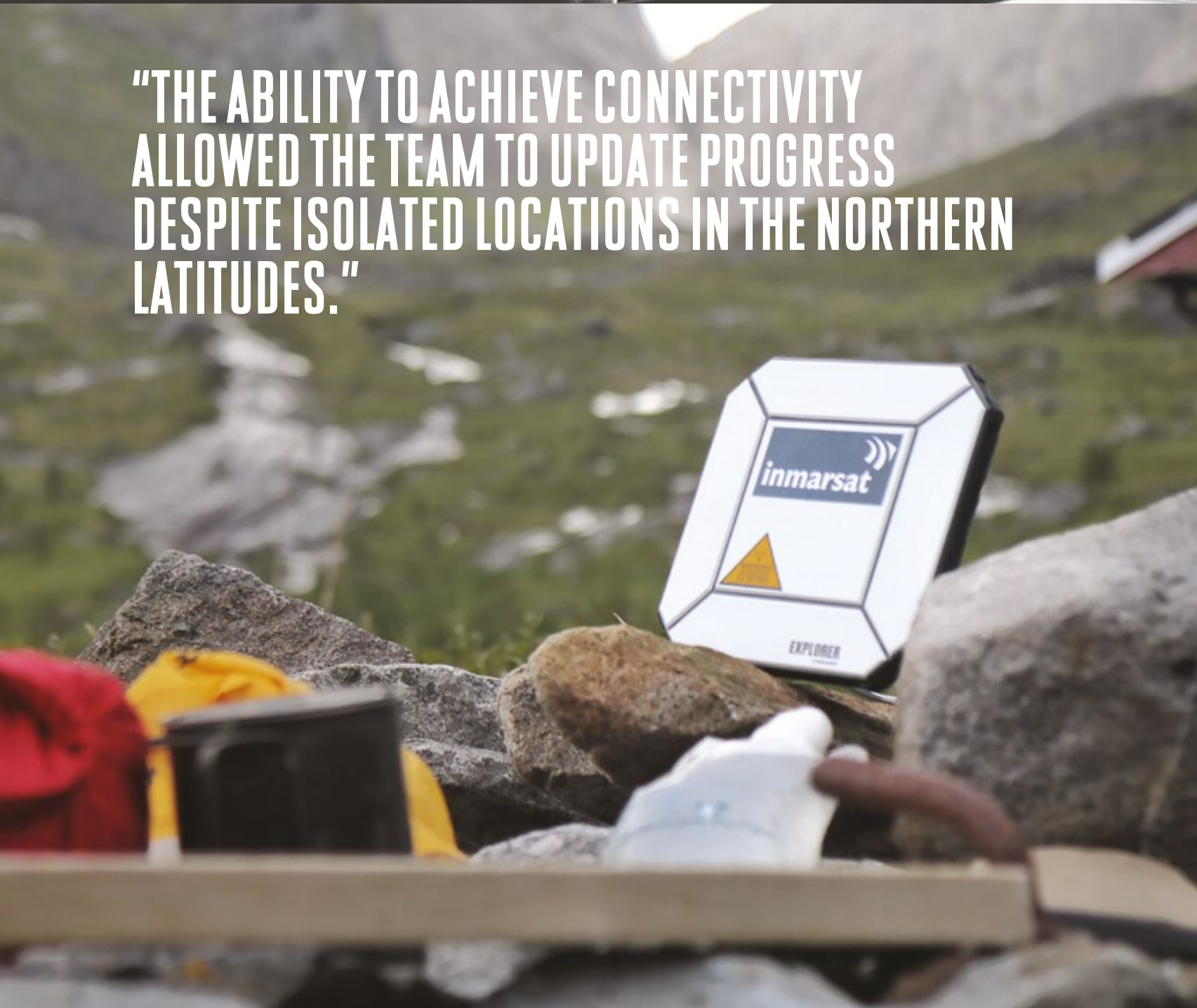


Long, self-supported kayaks often preceded by a camp fire and culinary expertise of our Kayak Guide, Former Colour Sergeant Lee Waters (Mountain leader).

"Here we are with local fisherman and historical enthusiast, Albert. Our disappointment with our Operation Source kayak leg had turned into a happy ending when we discovered Albert's family oversees the local resistance museum and could guide us to the subterranean ruins of a Nazi anti-invasion Battery."



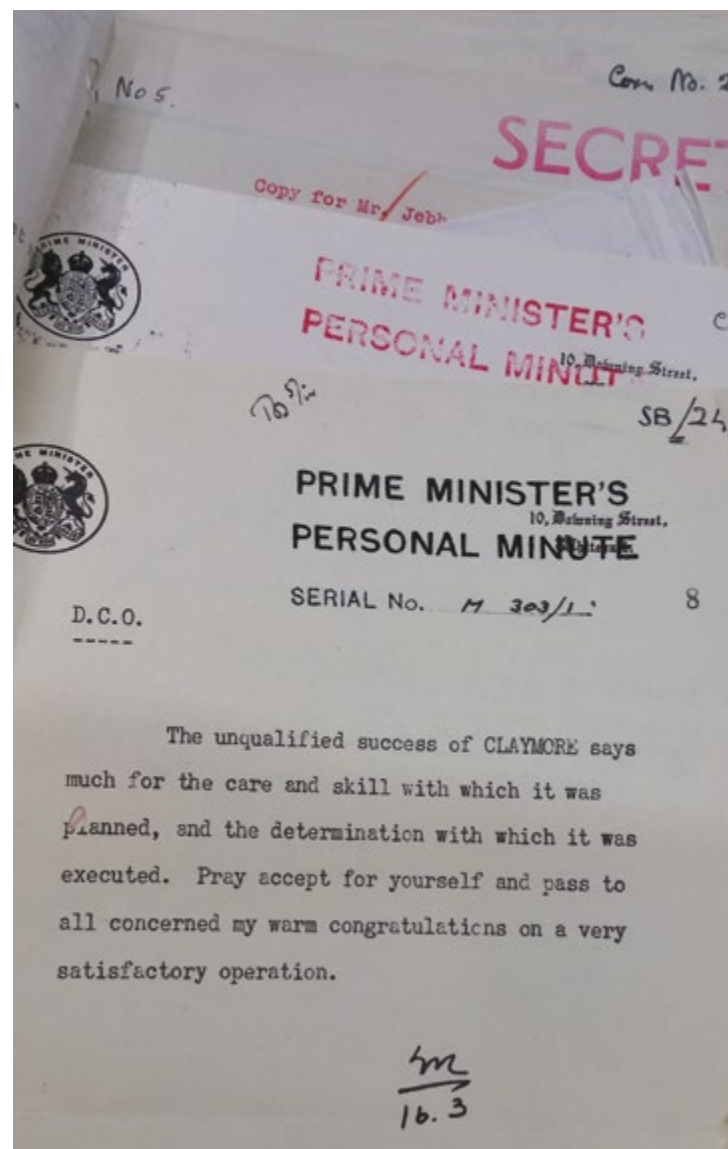
"THE ABILITY TO ACHIEVE CONNECTIVITY ALLOWED THE TEAM TO UPDATE PROGRESS DESPITE ISOLATED LOCATIONS IN THE NORTHERN LATITUDES."



OPERATION CLAYMORE

Arguably, the most successful Commando raid on Norway, Op Claymore's intent was to destroy the key fish oil industry used in the manufacture of explosives.

Departing from the Orkney Islands on 1st March 1941, No's. 3 and 4 Commando, alongside 52 ranks from the Royal Norwegian Navy, arrived in the Lofoten Islands on the 4th March. They succeeded in destroying eleven factories, five ships and 800,000 gallons of oil. The force also captured 225 German prisoners and 60 "Quisling" collaborators, returning with 315 volunteers for the free Norwegian forces. They also discovered rotor wheels from the Enigma cypher machine and encryption codebooks, which contributed significantly to code-breaking at Bletchley Park. The mission was a complete success with very little fighting taking place. The taskforce took the Stamsund which such ease they sent a telegram addressed to Hitler in Berlin writing 'you said in your last speech German troops would meet the British wherever they landed. Where are your troops?'



(Above) Research at the National Archives revealed declassified documents, Plans, Maps, minutes, sketches, reports and citations from the PM down to the man on the ground in support of all operations. Some are available online others can be viewed at the chives, all are fascinating and eye opening.

Capt Linge -1st Independent Norwegian Company

Despite graduating as a non-commissioned officer from the military school in Trondheim in 1915, Martin Linge spent the first years of his working career as an actor, a vocation that occupied his working life into the 1930's. During this time, he reached the rank of lieutenant whilst serving in the reserve forces and was also one of the first Norwegians to achieve his pilot's license.

When the Nazis invaded Norway on 9th April 1940, Linge travelled to Andalsnes to join his Regiment. This was the last unoccupied location with port and railway connections to eastern Norway and the point from which the Norwegian King, his government and the country's gold stores escaped. British forces arrived on the 17th and Linge took on the role of Liaison Officer. When the Germans finally succeeded in over-running the country, British

forces offered Norwegian recruits the chance to travel to Britain to continue the fight. Linge was one of the first to accept. Alongside Nordahl Grieg and Olav Rytter, Linge proposed ideas for resistance against the Germans, 'Our land is perfect for secret resistance and guerrilla warfare' he declared in June 1940. Two months later, he was appointed Liaison Officer to the War Office and soon began to recruit and organise a new unit, it was to be known as Norwegian Independent Company 1 and was officially formed in July 1941.

Exiled Norwegians were recruited and began training under Capt Linge, predominantly in the Cairngorms. He led his men in Operations Claymore and Archery, receiving the Distinguished Service Cross, awarded to officers of the British Armed Forces for gallantry, during this time. Linge was killed aged 47 in action during Operation Archery - a

Combined Operations raid at Maloy. He was awarded Norway's highest military honour for gallantry, the War Cross with Sword, and is buried at the Western Cemetery in Oslo. The adopted title Kompany Linge was formalised in his honour.





OPERATION MUSKETOON

Op Musketoon saw ten ranks from No. 2 Commando and two ranks from the Norwegian SOE carry out a raid to destroying a key German hydroelectric power plant. Success would mean the permanent closure of the aluminium factory it supplied. This, in turn, would delay the manufacture of Nazi aircraft. The commandos deployed via submarine on 15th September 1942, before a three day march over the mountains. The attack was

executed on the night of the 19th with complete surprise and success. However, as the saboteurs withdrew they encountered heavy resistance. In the confusion one was killed, two officers injured and another mortally wounded. They, along with four others, were captured and taken to Colditz Castle before being moved to the Sachsenhausen concentration camp. The officers were the first to suffer under Hitler's infamous 'Commando Order',

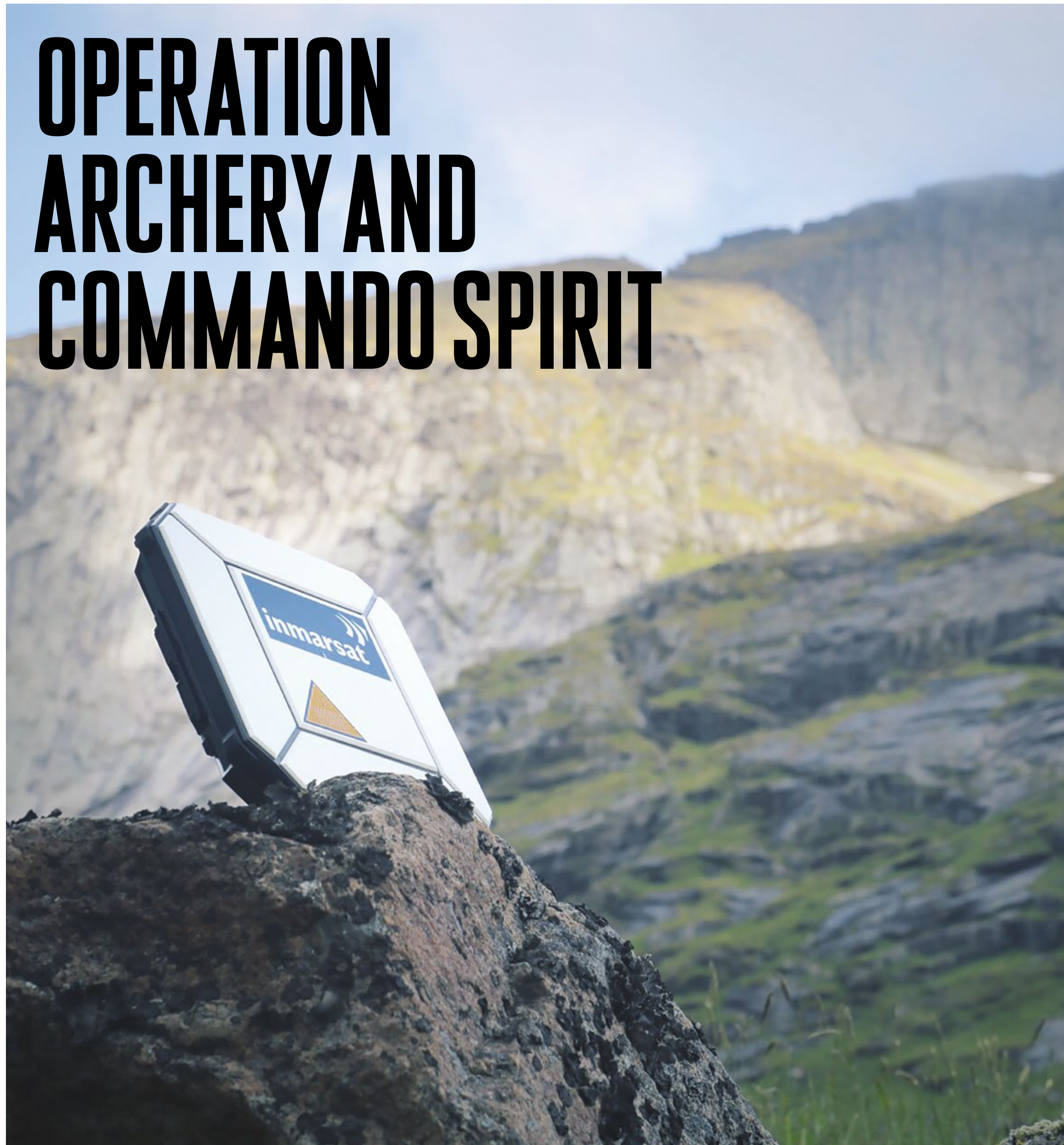
being shot by firing squad on 23rd September 1942. Knowing the 'Commando Order' was illegal, the Nazis informed the British these men had escaped, giving their families false hope. The surviving four soldiers escaped to Sweden and made their way back to Britain. Capt Black and Capt Houghton were posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Order and Military Cross respectively.



(Above): original footage of the hydroelectric plant.



OPERATION ARCHERY AND COMMANDO SPIRIT



Op Archery was one of the first joint Anglo/Norwegian raid, involving 800 men from No's. 2, 3, and 4 Commando and 101 Canoe Troop from No. 6 Commando. These men were joined by 12 ranks from Norwegian Independent Company 1, under the command of Capt Martin Linge. The Commando groups were landed around Vagsoy by Royal Naval ships in order to surround the town and destroy its defences. Enemy forces were present in far greater numbers than expected. The raid was carried out on 27th December 1941 and was a success, destroying four fish oil factories and eight ships. 98 German prisoners were also taken prisoner. British casualties were relatively low with 19 men lost; and Norwegians only suffered the one fatality, Capt Martin Linge, who fell during the assault on Maloy. In the aftermath of the attack, Hitler became convinced that the Allies would launch their bid for Europe through Norway and ordered 30 000 more soldiers to protect it. This proved to be an epic miscalculation and strategic error, which pulled critical Nazi troops from the fronts elsewhere.



(Above): Archive Photos of embarked Commandos prepping for battle. On first inspection it appears they may be playing cards...look closer.

Commando Spirit

Lt Col John Malcolm Thorpe Fleming Churchill MC and Bar, DSO and bar, Aka Mad Jack, Fighting Jack, Jack Churchill. Regardless of the name he went by, this man led countless soldiers into battle in his own unique way throughout WWII, including in Norway. Famous for saying, 'any officer who goes into action without his sword is improperly dressed', his words and actions were testament to this audacious nature.

His pre-war career saw him serve in Burma. While in Maymy, he studied under the (Bag) pipe major of the Cameron Highlanders. In 1932 Churchill left the Army, became editor of a Nairobi paper, worked as a magazine model and movie extra, took up the longbow and represented Great Britain at the world championships in Oslo in 1939.

With the outbreak of WWII, Churchill re-enlisted and was immediately sent to France as second in command of an infantry company. In May 1940, as part of the British Expeditionary Force to France, Churchill ambushed a German patrol, initiating the ambush with a precise shot from his longbow from a nearby tower. As the fighting became hand-to-hand, he proceeded to attack with his sword and revolver. He remains the only man to kill an enemy with a bow and arrow during WWII.

During the retreat from Dunkirk, he was noted in the war diaries: 'One of the most reassuring sights of

the embarkation was the sight of Captain Churchill passing down the beach with his bows and arrows.' Churchill received his first Military Cross during the retreat to Dunkirk. After taking command when his company commander was wounded he proceeded to attempt the salvage of a British tank by hitching six trucks together and rescuing a wounded British officer, whilst suffering a wound from machine gun fire himself.

After Dunkirk, Churchill volunteered for Commando Duties. On December 27th 1941, during Operation Archery, an appropriate name given his talent with the bow, Churchill was second in command of No. 3 Commando. As his lead landing craft approached the shore, he stepped onto the bow playing The March of the Cameron Men on his bagpipes, jumped ashore brandishing his sword and a grenade and charged into battle 'uttering warlike cries'. The garrison ceased to exist on completion of the demolitions carried out and Churchill's men returned with 70 volunteers for the free Norwegian forces. As the raiders prepared to leave, a British demolition charge exploded so close to Churchill that it 'blew him up'. Churchill's account however, relates that he was celebrating the raid's success with a glass of liberated Moselle wine when the charge went off and a chunk of broken bottle slashed into his forehead. For his actions throughout Operation Archery Churchill received the bar to his MC.

Churchill was also awarded the

Distinguished Service Order in 1943 while commanding No. 2 Commando during the landings in the Bay of Salerno. Leading his men through heavy and confused fighting he directed the final counterattack, which broke the last German attempt to destroy the Commando beachhead. His particular actions during a night attack on the town of Piegoletti secured his decoration. Organising his men into six parallel columns he sent them charging through the darkness shouting 'commando', due to thick undergrowth preventing a silent approach. The yelling succeeded in confusing the Germans, who believed they were being surrounded, as well as ensuring the Commando's did not shoot each other in the darkness. During this time, Churchill and a corporal had advanced into the town undiscovered. Locating sentry posts by the glow of cigarettes, Churchill took them by surprise, brandishing his sword and ordering 'Hände hoch' (hands up) and the pair took 42 prisoners, complete with their personal weapons and a mortar. The attack secured 136 prisoners in total.

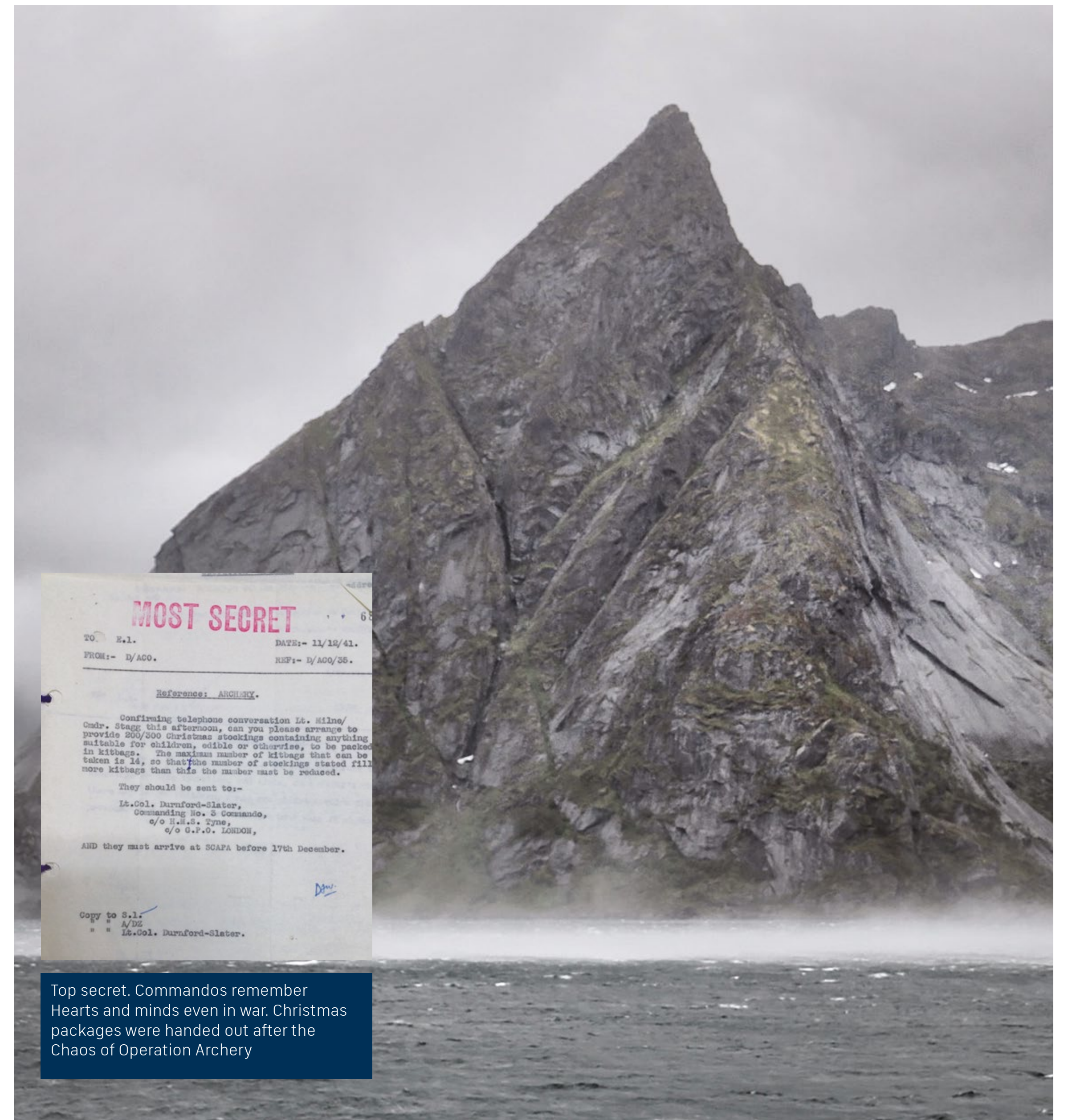
Following this raid, Churchill was assigned to the Adriatic where he led No.2 Commando to strike German garrisons along the Dalmation coast. In January 1944, he became commandant of the island of Vis, the last island not in German hands, and the base from which the Royal Navy and RAF dispatched raids against the German-held islands. However, it was here that his luck

would run out. After a series of successful Commando raids on the islands, a more ambitious attack was planned on Brac, requiring simultaneous attacks on three well defended, mutually supporting hilltops. Churchill led a reinforced Commando unit as part of several allied forces working in cooperation. While partisan attacks were unsuccessful, 43 Commando took a vital hill, Point 622, before being forced to fall back with heavy casualties. Churchill then led 40 Commando's assail playing the bagpipes. They retook the hill but quickly suffered heavy casualties until Churchill found himself the last man standing. Playing 'Will ye no come back again' he was knocked out by a grenade before regaining consciousness and being taken prisoner. He escaped execution under Hitler's 'Commando Order' thanks to the kindness of Capt Thuener of the Wehrmacht who told Churchill 'You are a soldier, as am I. I refuse to allow these civilian butchers to deal with you. I shall say nothing of having received this order.'



Churchill was flown to Berlin, as it was believed he was a relative of the Prime Minister, before ending up in Sachsenhausen concentration camp. This did little to deter him and in September 1944 he and an RAF officer crawled under the wire, through an abandoned drain and began walking to the Balic coast. They were captured only a few miles from the sea and moved to a camp in Austria, before he escaped yet again. When the lighting system failed during a night working detail in April 1945, Churchill took the opportunity and simply walked away into the darkness, heading for Italy, 150 miles away. Eight days later, he bumped into an America convoy and successfully returned to England. By this time the European war was almost over, as was his chance to lead a Commando Brigade, and he was sent to Burma once again.

Churchill ended his career by transferring to the Seaforth Highlanders and qualifying as a paratrooper aged 40 where he saw combat in Palestine.



Top secret. Commandos remember Hearts and minds even in war. Christmas packages were handed out after the Chaos of Operation Archery

OPERATION GUNNERSIDE

Op Gunnerside, was launched after the failure of Op Freshman, which only a group of four agents, known as the 'Swallows', had survived. Op Freshman had intended to drop troops by glider before moving on foot to destroy the water plant. However, the first glider crashed into a mountain, whilst the second ran into high ground. Forty one British and Norwegian Commandos who survived the operation were captured and executed. The four surviving Swallows survived for three months by hunting in the mountains. They received a message that six more Norwegians were joining them to carry out the original planned attack, this time named Gunnerside.

Known as the 'Telemark raid' Op Gunnerside saw the ten Norwegian agents from Linge Company successfully attack the Rjukan electrolysis plant on 28th February 1943. The attack resulted in the loss of 500kg of heavy water, which was being used in Hitler's quest to create the first atomic bomb. The raid was also successful in completely destroying the heavy water section of the plant.



The Operation Gunnerside Team





In December 1942, Joachim Ronneberg was summoned to London and told his target was the Norsk Hydro plant in Telemark. He was ordered to select five men who would parachute into the mountains above the region, travel in on skis and meet with the four Swallows. The plan involved them before breaking into the plant to lay their charges and then escape. Ronneberg and his men expected this to be a one-way mission. 'We didn't think about whether it was dangerous or not. You concentrated on the job and not on the risks.' Despite the complexities of the

task, Ronneberg's team were well prepared and informed by the Swallow agents. After two aborted drops the men landed in Norway just after midnight on 16th February 1943. Taking refuge from the snowstorm in a hut, five days later they met up with their reception committee, the Swallows. Utilising the most up to date intelligence from the Swallows, Ronneberg and the team finalised the plan. When they set off into the incredibly steep gorge near the plant, 'when you look at the gorge where we climbed down, you feel it

is impossible'. Once at the bottom they hid their equipment, crossed the frozen river and began to tackle the near-vertical ascent, all the while carrying heavy charges and weapons in freezing conditions. They arrived at 2345. 'We knew we had to be just outside the factory when they changed guards down on the suspension bridge at midnight, because then we could follow the two guards being released when they came into their barracks. Once they went into their hut, we knew that was our moment.' Due to the inaccessible location of the plant, the only guards deemed

necessary to patrol were on the bridge. With five men keeping watch, Ronneberg and three others headed for the cellars where the cylinders were kept. Although the door was locked, Ronneberg and another Commando crawled in via a narrow cable shaft. 'From the open hole, we could look into the heavy concentration room and saw there was only one man, a Norwegian caretaker. We climbed down without being spotted, rushed the door open and shouted: 'Hands in the air! I don't know how long we were there, but it was very easy. The charges fitted like a hand in a glove.' Once they had set the 30-second fuse, the caretaker opened the main door and they all ran. Because of the wind and the noise of the power station, none of the German guards heard the explosion. By the time it was discovered, the men were out of the gorge, back up in the mountains and on their way to safety. On summiting the escape route, the team watched the sun came up at 0600. 'It was a marvellous sunrise. We sat there very tired, very happy. Nobody said anything. That was a very special moment.'

Despite an entire German division and aircraft searching for them, Ronneberg's team escaped by skiing 300 kilometres into neutral Sweden. The remaining Swallows also managed to hide and survive the following months. The attack rendered the plant out of action for months. After the attack, the Germans decided to move their stores of 'heavy water'. However, Allied forces ensured the successful

sabotage of the ferry carrying the load, thanks to another Norwegian saboteur, Knut Haukelid. When it became possible to attack from the air, American bombers inflicted further damage on the plant, sealing its fate.

Described as the most successful act of sabotage during the war, Joachim Ronneberg received war honours from several countries. In 1943, he was awarded Norway's highest decoration for military gallantry, the War Cross with Sword. He also received St. Olav's Medal with Oak Branch, Defence Medal 1940 - 1945 and the Haakon VII's 70th Anniversary Medal. In addition to his Norwegian decorations, he was also decorated by the British with the Distinguished Service Order, by the Americans with the Medal of Freedom with Silver Palm and by the French with the Legion of Honour and Croix de Guerre. He has remained silent about his role in the success of the operation for many years, only speaking of the experience in recent times. 'We felt very much that we had a big

debt to Britain. They received us, they trained us and they helped us. This operation wasn't Norwegian or British at all. It was an Allied operation.'

Following the success of Gunnerside, Ronneberg subsequently commanded other raids against the Germans, including the Fieldfare operation in Sunnmore which was undertaken in preparation for attacks against German supply lines in the Romsdal valley. In January 1945, Ronneberg led a three-man unit from Kompani Linge on a mission to destroy the Stuguflat railway bridge, blowing up the bridge with a 130kg charge of plastic explosives and putting it out of service for three weeks. The team again escaped without casualties.

His service with Kompani Linge ended with the liberation of Norway in 1945. He is the last remaining survivor of the Gunnerside raid and a monument in his honour was unveiled in 2014 in his home town of Alesund.



A WORD FROM CAPTAIN TIM PITCHER RM

NORWAY 75 DIRECTOR

After 18 months of planning, in early June we found ourselves some 500km into the Arctic circle on the Norwegian-Russian border. In sub-zero temperatures, we began a rotation of cycling and sea-kayaking to cross the entirety of Norway's coastline, stopping each week to immerse ourselves in a pertinent Commando operation and to reset for the next phase.

Whilst this may not be perceived as operating at total reach i.e. polar expeditions or ocean crossings, very real risk to life still exists, especially in the high North where you can take for granted how quickly you can become detached from support and how fast



the weather can close in. In order to successfully execute these plans, an understanding of your limits is crucial; through providing a potent contingency with their satellite communication equipment, Inmarsat allowed us to increase our limits and as such, directly supported us in achieving our mission.

DETACHED.

As highlighted, northern Norway quickly lived up to its reputation for shifting weather patterns and separate climates within the fjords. Our first paddle began in searing heat with strong currents against us, but we spent the morning and early afternoon battling through the discomfort of our dry suits (2°C-4°C water temp) and made it to our mid way point. A point of relative safety, we were dislocated from our support vehicles and building katabatic winds delivered inclement weather, necessitating a call to the rest of the team to recover the kayaks so as to help us keep to our tight schedule. With high fjords blocking mobile signal coverage, the Inmarsat

iSatPhone proved to be an invaluable piece of kit on this, and several other similar occasions.

SOCIAL.

In order to bring our journey to life and immerse others in each historic and charitable sub story, the ability to share as much as we could online was paramount. Whilst mobile coverage was strengthening as we moved south, the Inmarsat BGAN proved to be indispensable in mobile black spots and we would use the opportunity to sit quietly in the background and churn away at our daily Instagram and Twitter posts.

WELFARE.

Despite the seemingly all consuming time spent on the bikes and sea kayaks, constantly liaising with locals, replenishing supplies and working up new routes plans, we would be lying if we didn't say that we weren't finding the time to also follow the World Cup! With maintenance of morale being a key tenant of a successful team, we took it upon ourselves to link up to

the BGAN, stream BBC 5 Live and hover around the iPhone as England played Croatia in the semi-finals!

"Despite the loss, being able to follow the National team and support their World Cup efforts provided the N75 team with a much needed boost ahead of further inclement weather and significant cycling stages." CSgt Rich Davison, N75 Team Member.

"Since returning to the UK, our time has been devoted to pulling together the rich history that we re-surfaced during our time in Norway and also to the continued fundraising for good mental health in the Royal Marines Family". Cpl Lucy Chappell, N75 Team Member.

You can re-live our journey, support the Royal Marines Charity and delve into this rich Commando history...

Instagram: @norway75

Twitter: @norway_75

Web: www.norway75.com



NORWAY

75

Commando Spirit



inmarsat.com/government

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