

FEBRUARY 1983

6th. Sqn Ldr Chris Paish. Flt Lt Andy Miller. Flt Sgt Steve Lynch.

Our SOLO crew of the month. The only job - and a bit of a disaster for the hill-walker concerned who chose the wrong time to go out - his body was found by the teams searching on the ground, and about the only thing our lads got was a refuel at Blackpool - and not even a night stop. It was also a 'slack' news day - as you can judge by the Press Cuttings!!

YORKSHIRE  
EVENING POST  
(Leeds)

Daily

174,413

7 FEB 1983

A3421  
Climber found dead  
in blizzard

Accountant John Blakey died after losing his way and falling in a blizzard while climbing in North Yorkshire at the weekend.

The body of Mr. Blakey, 35, of Pinfold, Maghull, Liverpool, was recovered from the upper slopes of 2,373ft. Ingleborough, near Settle.

Police said he had lost his way in a blizzard and had fallen, but the cause of death had not been established.

Mr. Blakey, an experienced fell walker, was attending a caravan rally at Ingleton when he and a friend, Mr. Eric Bridge, 35, of Ainsdale Avenue, Rossall Park, Fleetwood, decided to climb Ingleborough.

They set off in good conditions but encountered a blizzard on the upper slopes.

Police said the men became separated. Mr. Bridge managed to stagger down the mountain to Ingleton and raise the alarm.

A full-scale search was

mounted. It was called off at 2 a.m. yesterday, then resumed at first light.

More than 150 people took part, including two RAF mountain rescue teams from the Lake District where they were on an exercise.

A helicopter from RAF Leconfield also assisted in the search which included police and fell and cave rescue personnel.

A police spokesman said: "Mr. Blakey was properly equipped and was an experienced walker, but weather conditions on Ingleborough were atrocious."

"There were strong winds and driving rain and snow. The whole area up there was very icy."

"At this stage we do not know whether Mr. Blakey died from the fall or from exposure."

BOOTLE  
TIMES

Weekly

14,944

10 FEB 1983

A3421  
Experienced  
walker dies  
in blizzard

A Maghull walker froze to death on a Yorkshire fell at the weekend.

Mr. John Blakey (35) of Penfold had gone away for the weekend with his wife, Susan, to Ingleborough.

His body was found on Sunday morning following a 100-man search involving police officers, members of a cave rescue organisation, and an RAF helicopter.

An experienced walker, Mr. Blakey had become separated from his companion while walking in a fierce blizzard on Saturday evening.

The rescue team said that Mr. Blakey was properly dressed and equipped with a survival kit.

NORTHERN  
ECHO

Daily

7 FEB 1983

A3421  
Peak  
teams  
find  
body

MOUNTAIN rescue teams searching for a missing fell walker, discovered a frozen body yesterday.

Men from the RAF, using a helicopter, were also involved in the search on the slopes of Ingleborough, a mountain in North Yorkshire, for missing accountant John Blakey, 35, of Pinfold, Maghull, near Liverpool, who became separated from a companion on Saturday after they set out to scale the 2,300-foot peak near Clapham, which itself is near Settle.

## Ice axes

A few hundred feet from the top, the two men were hit by a blizzard "white-out", and turned round to head for safety.

A spokesman for the rescue teams said: "The conditions were appalling at that level. During the search there were blizzard conditions and gale-force winds. We had to use ice axes to climb to the search area."

"When they were hit by the blizzard, they set off down, with Mr. Blakey's companion in the lead. He looked round, and Mr. Blakey was following. A minute later he looked round, and Mr. Blakey had vanished. He managed to reach safety and raise the alarm."

6 FEB 83

SLACK NEWS DAY?  
RUMOUR HAD IT PRESIDENT  
REAGAN HAD LARYNGITIS!!

# Fell walker

By Barry  
Turnbull

A342

# dies in raging

# blizzard

AN experienced Maghull fell walker died after being lost in a raging blizzard on one of Britain's high peaks over the weekend.

Married accountant John Blakey of Penfold, was found near the summit of Inglebor-

ough in Yorkshire after a massive search by tireless mountain rescue teams and an RAF helicopter.

His companion Mr. Eric Bridge raised the alarm on Saturday evening when the two walkers became separated in treacherous conditions. On reaching high ground, the weather had deteriorated and they made their way with bowed heads against the driving wind.

Mr. Bridge, aged 40, of Ainsdale Avenue, Fleetwood, said: "It was blowing a straight blizzard in our eyes. I could only just see in front of my feet and when I stopped to get my breath because the wind was so strong I turned round and John was missing."

"John was a lot more experienced than I — he had done the three peaks in 9½ hours in September."

A reconnaissance party searched the area where the Maghull man was last seen but without result. At midnight, mountain rescue teams were called out to scour the peak — 120 members of the Clapham-based Cave Rescue Organisation, the Upper Wharfedale Fell Rescue Association and the RAF Mountain Rescue Team joined in.

## Retraced

Mr. Bridge searched in vain for his 35-year-old friend and then retraced his steps down the 2,373ft mountain. As the weather cleared, he came across two people who said they had seen a man answering to Mr. Blakey's description.

He continued: "I thought he was all right but unfortunately it must have been someone else they had seen. We gave him until 7.15 p.m. and then raised the alarm."

On Sunday morning, an RAF helicopter was called in but it was the cave rescue team who discovered the body shortly after 10 a.m. It was carried on a stretcher about 1½ miles down the mountain to Chapel-le-Dale and then to the mortuary at Airedale Hospital.

A police spokesman said: "Conditions were difficult as freezing weather made the ground icy and treacherous."

Mr. Bridge and his wife, Anne, this week comforted Mr. Blakey's wife Susan who was with them on the trip.

● An inquest held in Skipton, Yorkshire, on Tuesday afternoon revealed that fell walker John Blakey died from internal bleeding after falling 40ft down Ingleborough.

His body was found by Mr. John Conway of Clapham Cave Rescue Organisation, in an area known as the "Arcs". It had appeared to have fallen a considerable distance, he said.

Coroner Dr. Stanley Jacobs recorded a verdict of death by misadventure.

The coroner said Mr. Blakey had been attending a caravan rally in the area and had set off on Saturday morning with his friend Mr. Eric Bridge to climb Ingleborough.



6 FEB 83