

MARINES TRAIN FOR ARCTIC

The Cairngorm Mountains in Invernesshire have become a training ground for men of the Royal Marines. For this is a part of Britain where conditions are similar to those of the Arctic. Far below, is their camp, almost lost in the expanse of mountains. Another patrol nears the snow-covered regions near the top. Thick, cold-resisting clothing protects them from the extreme temperature and icy winds.

Nearly 4,000 feet up, the first patrol is near the summit. It's been a long, wearying climb. Heavy equipment saps a man's energy at this height. Patrol leaders check on their position. All the men are Royal Marine instructors undergoing this intensive course to be able to pass on their knowledge of fighting and living in ice-bound regions. Quickly they build a wall of snow to protect their tents. Part of their course is to spend some days on the summit of Cairngorm, living in these frail tents as best they can, on the few rations they carry with them.

Further below, another patrol sets out. It's not so cold at this height, but the going is rough over the stony ground.

Those at the summit prepare to leave for base again. Skiing is another part of the course, and you've got to be good to keep balance with a heavy pack and rifle. It has been suggested that should there be a third world war, one of the main theatres of operations would be in the Arctic, where, already, air bases have been established. The Royal Marines are making sure that they will be ready.