
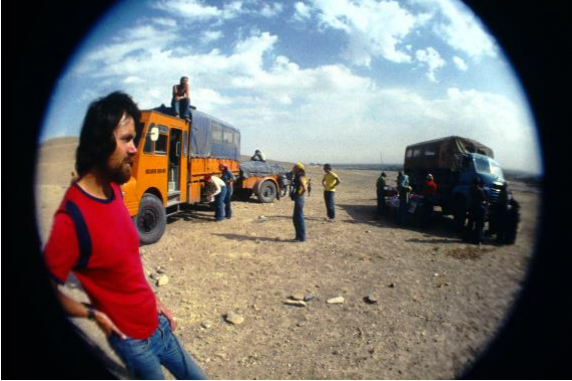



Derek Biddle

Worked with EO	from	May 1975	to	1989
Age on joining EO	27			
Nationality	British			
Role at EO	Leader/Driver – Operations Manager – Sales/Marketing Manager			
Expeditions/Brief Encounters etc. led or taken	Expeditions: Asia 5 (and a half!) – Africa 2 – South America 3. Brief Encounters 2			
Why did you want to work for EO?	The challenge to explore and discover 3 continents			
Occupation before joining EO	Mechanical Engineering – Design of industrial water pumps.			
Occupation after leaving EO	Travel Industry – Own company operating small group tours – Worlds Away – in conjunction with Guerba. General Manager for Mysteries of India - Tailor Made bespoke holidays. The association with Mysteries of India continues.			
Now living in	Crete			

Then photo(s)	Now photo(s)
 	

Memories or anecdotes

Tuareg Tea

Southbound Africa 1977. On the third evening in the Algerian Sahara an Algerian army Land Rover with 2 officers and Tuareg guides stopped to check if we were OK. Invited them to join us for dinner. On leaving later they said that we would be welcome at their base near Arlit to fill our water tank from their fresh water supply. Nice offer in an area where much of the water was salty.

Duly stopped there the next morning. Group invited to have tea while I, and three of the group, filled the tank and water jerries. On joining the group for tea was told I should not have any because I was the driver. What!!! Well Tuareg tea contains a desert poppy. Gathered group and left immediately.

After an hour, in the early afternoon, found a rocky outcrop with some shade and stopped for the day. Various signs of “the poppy effect” were evident. Those who had drunk one cup were like they had smoked a couple of joints. Two cups caused elated confusion. Three cups, about seven of the group had varied happy hallucinations. Lots of food needed as all had the munchies.

Organised a “guard” duty with those who were still unaffected to ensure others did not wander off into the desert. Escorts arranged for Loo visits. Albert, from Switzerland, decided in the early evening that it was time to leave, packed his bag and sat in the back of the truck all night. For those on “guard” duty it was a sleepless night.

Morning brought relief that we were all OK and some “hang-over” effects. After breakfast we continued onward to Tamanrasset.