

# WHO'S WHO IN OVERLAND

**Tony Lindsay Jones, Founder/Director Encounter Overland Ltd.**

Tony Jones was commissioned into the British Infantry at eighteen and on leaving the Army three years later, in 1963, at once set off into Asia. What was at first intended to be an overland journey with no particular aim, got itself involved in Asia's nutritional problems and made a commendable attempt to survive on 'leaf protein'! The venture was called Encounter Overland.

Further travel took Tony Jones on to the Ho Chi Min Trail, to Hanoi, to China for seven weeks during the 'Red Guard' and to Outer Mongolia.

In the process a crust was made working at photo journalism. On returning to England, no would-be employer with an interesting job offer seemed sure enough to take this 'Army officer turned vegetarian' and, after helping to drill for the first North Sea oil, Tony Jones returned in 1966 to overland-ing.

Until 1969 Encounter Overland specialised exclusively in Asian travel but then set off trans-Africa, using the trucks that had superseded the company's Land Rovers. A reputation second to none was slowly earned in Africa and in 1973 Tony Jones set up a sister company to Encounter Overland in Johannesburg.



In 1972 the first E.O. expedition in South and Central America set off and in 1975 Jones formed Encounter Overland of California Inc. in San Francisco — "which might make it all sound rather impressive," says Tony. "but throughout the world there are less than forty people in E.O. and what little has been achieved hasn't been done by one person. Nothing ever is."

There has been little time in recent years for much but overland-ing and for an awareness of business and international affairs that are now an essential part of it. "What stays the same is E.O.'s principle of partnership which is the lynchpin of any of our expeditions."

"It's tempting occasionally to think of losing myself in a couple of private ambitions and I just might get the chance sooner than I think, for next year I turn thirty five and am no longer automatically eligible for E.O. trips!"