



Above left: Norman Reynolds, watched by McQuarrie, Kurtz and an unknown British crew-member, puts a model of the *Falcon* into the correct place on a maquette of the final set design of the Rebel Hangar interior to be built on the new STAR WARS STAGE. Above top right: Kershner, Kurtz and Peter Suschitzky. Above: Norman Reynolds, Kershner and Kurtz.

Fett is) going to do away with Han Solo. Or, at least, he's *after* Solo. They're talking about unmasking me... but you'll probably only see either the back of my head or my face hidden by breathing tubes." Asked if Vader's face would be disfigured, Prowse would reply, "Yes."

Of resuming his protocol duties as Threepio, Anthony Daniels recalled to BANTHA TACKS issue seven, Winter 1980: "3PO's character is transparent. There's no guile, no deviousness, no mystery. He is so obvious and he always states the obvious. If everyone is cowering back as a meteor hits the window, he is the one who says, 'Look, a meteor.'" Happy with his new costume, Daniels finds that his involvement in the film increases-not always, he feels, to the character and the audience's advantage, later telling STARBURST in 1983: "One of the problems with Threepio in EMPIRE was, because the suit was so appalling in STAR WARS, everything you did was a nightmare. And George remembered this when writing the script of

EMPIRE and therefore didn't put Threepio in. Too difficult, too problematic. Then, once Irvin Kershner saw what I could do in the new suit, he said to me, "I had no idea what you could do," and got all enthusiastic (slips into excellent Kershner impersonation), "Tony, Tony. Be in the scene. We needya, we needya." And he put me in every scene for no reason. So I'd be like talking wallpaper. (Kershner's voice) "Say somethin' funny." He loved everything I did, and I loved him because his enthusiasm was terrific. But the trouble was that you can't have a character there like an oil painting, as a decoration."



Above: early McQuarrie logo and banner for EMPIRE. Opposite: Hamill and Fisher have fun with the world's press in readiness for their Norway filming adventure.

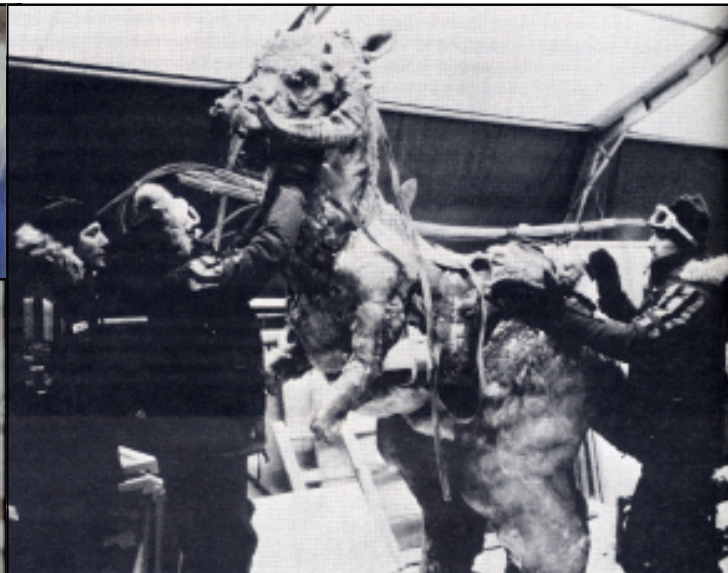


**PRINCIPAL PHOTOGRAPHY- MARCH TO SEPTEMBER, 1979**

**FINSE, NORWAY**

Of arrival and filming in Finse, UK Special Effects chief Brian Johnson recalled to FUTURE LIFE in 1980: "There was one railway line which operated between Bergen and Oslo and we were on the

was on 5<sup>th</sup> March 1979, with 65 minutes being spent to get the first shot filmed against the difficult weather conditions (with snow tractors used by the crew on the site being brought in from Sweden). It was Robert Watts who quickly initiated the critical decision of getting Harrison Ford to Finse. Originally, it was planned to shoot the blizzard scene at ELSTREE, but with a real blizzard taking place at the Finse location, and knowing that it will be difficult to make a believable blizzard work



Above top: Kurtz watches as Hamill mounts the Tauntaun for filming. Above and opposite right: the Tauntaun on its malfunctioning tracks. Above top right: in a storage facility on site, the beast is looked after by a select group of crewmen.

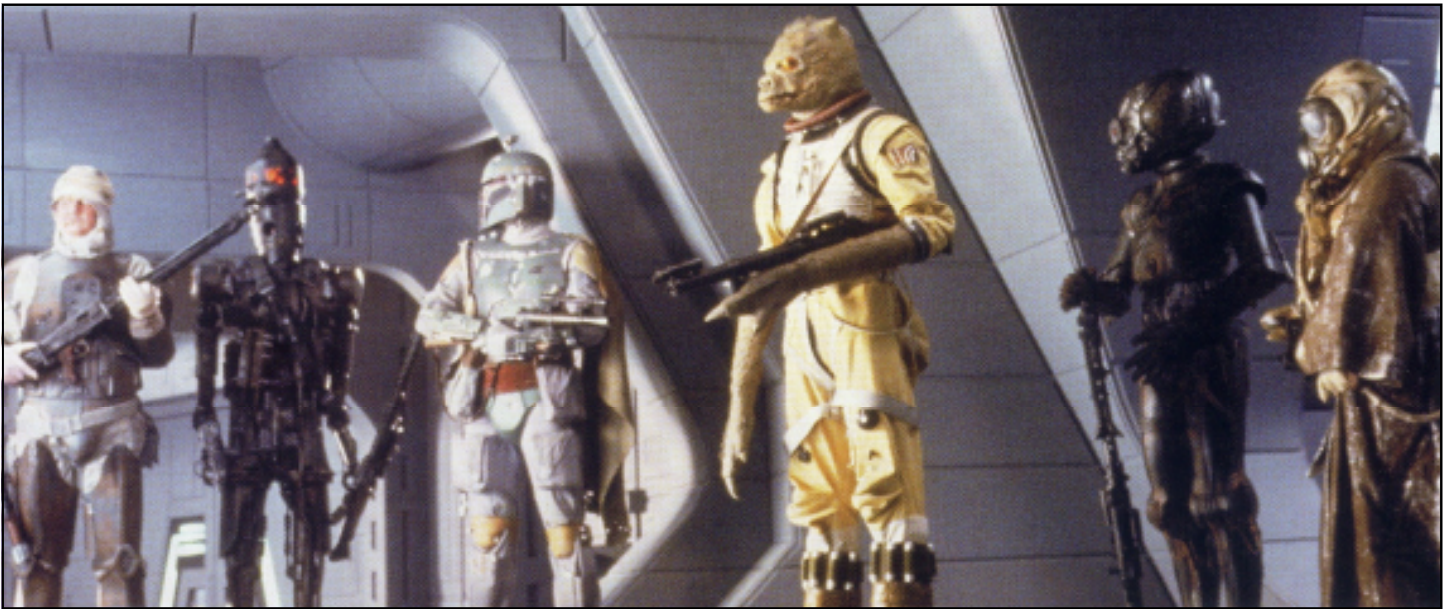
in a studio, Watts makes hasty new arrangements. Gary Kurtz continues the story: "We called London and told Harrison to get packed and on the plane that afternoon. But by the time he got to Oslo, we'd had three avalanches on the railroad line and we were cut off. No one could get in or out." By train and taxi, Ford eventually reaches Ustaoset, located 23 miles from Finse, where he gets a snowplow. Associate Producer Jim Bloom recalls: "The only way we could get the guy to drive the snowplow train was to send a bottle of vodka. I remember vividly at, like, 11.30 or midnight, the snowplow coming back to Finse. The snowplow engine was grinding up the tracks, and then Harrison, and this Australian location manager all rolled off the train totally drunk from having finished off



Opposite left: Des Webb in the Wampa suit on location, helped by the crew. Above: the costume is so heavy that Webb has to be ferried to and from on supports. Below left: the Wampa hand is readied. Bottom right: the critical scene of Luke Skywalker attacked by it whilst on patrol with his Tauntaun.

this big bottle of vodka." Harrison Ford would recall of the trek in 2010: "I hadn't been expected to work there, so the costume that I had was built for the stage. At the last minute, they decided that weather conditions were such that the schedule needed to be changed, and they decided to shoot my scenes not on the stage, but in Norway. So I was rushed up there. The only way to get to the set in the midst of a blizzard was on a snowplow train, which had a giant auger on the front of it. It pushed through the snow and delivered me to the set. We immediately went to work and the





*A belligerency of Bounty Hunters.* Left to right: Dengar (Moray Bush), IG-88, Boba Fett (Jeremy Bulloch), Bossk (Alan Harris), 4-Lom (Chris Parsons) and Zuckuss (Kathy Munroe) assemble for their first days filming on the Star Destroyer bridge at ELSTREE– April/May 1980.

little mouse droid running along that was always malfunctioning- in the end it took about eleven takes to complete. Of playing the part in general, he recalled to STAR WARS INSIDER: “When the movie came out, some people said to me: “Kenny, in that first scene with Darth Vader, where you were supposed to be scared, it was so good the way you were scared of him,” and I said “I wasn’t scared of him; I was terrified of the dialogue.”

On it (EMPIRE) I wore the black uniform and was in the pit on the Star Destroyer bridge. My main work was down in the right side working a control console during the action. We had to co-ordinate our movements to the attack. The consoles were put on plastic bread boxes so the wires could be put to the devices easily, but we had to jerk about when we were hit and we had to hold onto them to stop them from wobbling about!”

Background artist Terence Mustoo played a black clad Imperial technician on the set. He recalled: “I obtained the roles through my agent, and being the second and third in the series I was excited to be involved. I worked four days on EMPIRE and two on RETURN OF THE JEDI... On EMPIRE, I got dressed in my uniform and met Mark Hamill, who chatted about the costumes. He asked to see my hat and said that in the first film they had a leather lining and were better made. I also got to walk about ELSTREE and see the other sets like the Sky City, which was interesting.



Above: Irvin Kershner gets a chance to mingle with Vader, IG-88 and Boba Fett. Opposite left: an unmasked Dave Prowse has fun with Jeremy Bulloch as Boba Fett.

Michael Culver's scenes as the doomed Captain Needa were shot in a week-just another part for the jobbing actor.

For the later scene showing the assembly of Bounty Hunters on the bridge deck, Jeremy Bulloch, on stage for his first filming scenes as Boba Fett, would be accompanied by wrestler/ Dave Prowse film stand-in Moray Bush as Dengar, continuing droid extra Chris Parsons as 4-LOM, Alan Harris as the Trandoshan yellow spacesuit wearing Bossk and Kathy Munroe as Zuckuss. Of Playing Fett for the first time, Jeremy Bulloch knows the character, whose origins were vague, will become popular,



Richard Bonehill, playing a Snowtrooper, would recall an hilarious filming blunder to the STAR WARS INTERVIEWS BLOGSPOT: “One of the things I remember most was the terrible vision in the stormtrooper costumes. The eyes were made of a badly formed misty green plastic. It was like trying to see underwater, only vague shapes were visible. The helmets also tended to move round on the head when you moved this led to many hilarious situations with stormtroopers staggering all over the place. I remember one particular scene in the ice tunnels in EMPIRE where there were about a dozen of us with Darth Vader. We were lined up in a column of two’s. Two were in front of Vader and the rest of us behind him. We were facing an ice wall which was going to explode and we

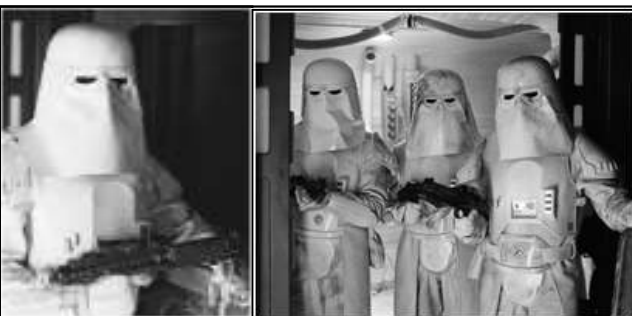
Above: the three stars chill out with George Lucas. Opposite right: Fisher and Ford rehearse a scene. Far right: Fisher gets advice from Kurtz and Kershner, Below: a worried Princess Leia wonders how long her forces can withstand attack.



Huston played both a Hoth Rebel and Stormtrooper- of his time on set he would recall Paul Simon traveling to ELSTREE to see Carrie Fisher on set. Chris Parsons may also have played a

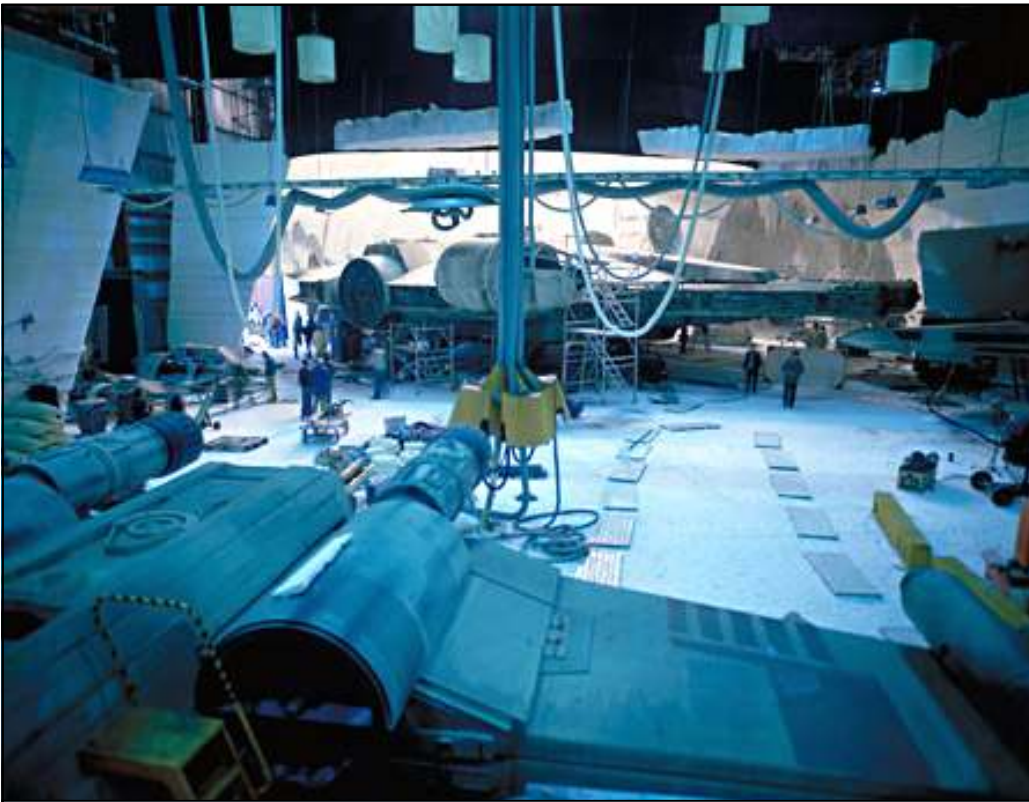
Snowtrooper but this is not confirmed.

Though Burnell Tucker had appeared as a Rebel Technician (later named in the Expanded Universe as Del Goren), his return as a Rebel in EMPIRE is considered a new character, later named by the EU as Lt. Wyron Serper!!



Above: actress Brigitte Khan, playing a Rebel technician, receives instruction on how to use her control console from Irvin Kershner. Opposite left: a selection of images showing Imperial Snowtroopers (mostly played by UK stuntmen) infiltrating the Rebel’s Echo Base facility. Not all their scenes made final cut.

were all to emerge into another ice tunnel. It took all morning to set up the explosion and when it came to the ‘take’ it was a complete disaster. The explosion went off and was so enormous and created a fog of



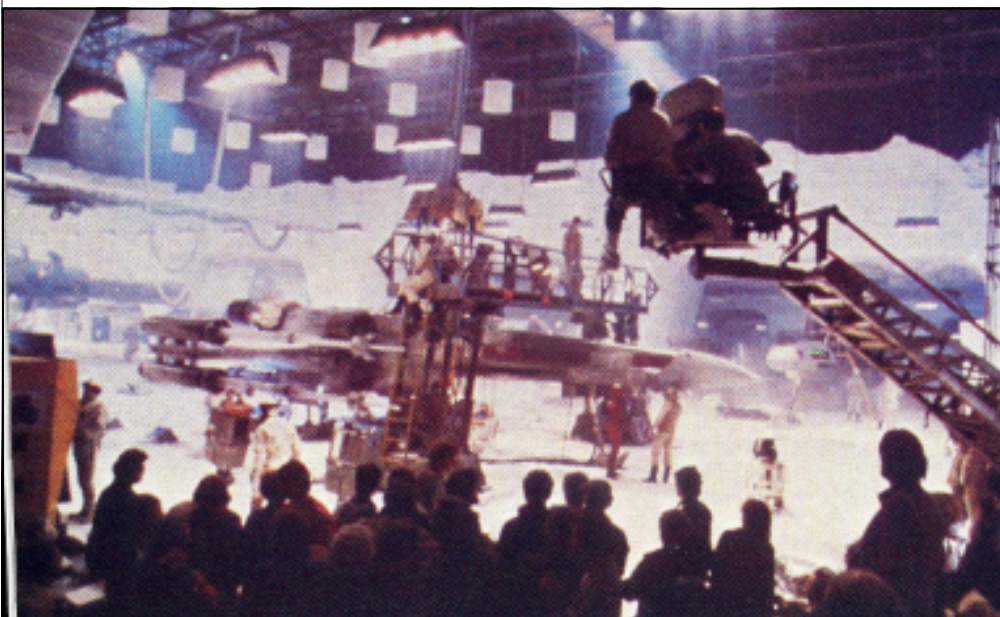
Above pix: the in-process set decorated Rebel Hangar with the impressive *Millennium Falcon* prop and X-wing fighter/ Snowspeeder craft. Opposite right: the remote controlled Artoo enjoys wandering amongst the production crew working on the completed set.

Kurtz for the BANTHA TRACKS newsletter), Prop department, Special Effects Shop, and Make-up Department. They are then treated to a special luncheon at the EMI-ELSTREE STUDIOS commissary with Mark Hamill, Carrie Fisher, Harrison Ford, and Peter Mayhew. Having won the contest, Matthew and his mother become almost like local celebrities, with articles appearing about them in both their hometown

paper and in Matthew's college paper.

A deleted scene would be shot of Han and Chewie working on the top hull of the *Falcon* and being drenched in overhead snow as they work on the ship during the Walker attack on Echo Base.

Norman Chancer would play the Rebel Deck Officer



Above left: filming continues on the set. Top right: Robert Watts has quality time with a Tauntaun. Bottom right: Han and Tauntaun.



Above: Commander Luke Skywalker rejoins his squadron to fight the Walkers. Opposite left: unknown extras in the Rebel base hangar at EL-STREE.

does recall that he filmed an awful lot more than what ended up being shown and spent four weeks on set, all on the Hoth Rebel Hanger which he remembered as being huge and amazing, and doing a lot of running around with other



who talks to Han Solo about the absence of Commander Skywalker within Echo Base. Originally from up state New York and retaining his American accent, he met and subsequently married a British actress in 1962 and moved permanently to the UK. He spent just 6 days working on EMPIRE and admitted he was amazed he stayed that long. He recalled his scene with Harrison could basically have been done in a couple of hours but got dragged out. On one occasion, Irvin Kershner saw him on set one day and quipped to him, "Are you *still* here?," thinking he was all done with that scene. Despite his American accent he was still dubbed in the movie. He only found this out when attending a UK press screening and when his scene came on, his children turned to him and said "That's not your voice!" (Chancer's own voice is very deep and the dubbed voice is of a much higher pitch, so the actor would later wonder if that was why it got changed).

Scottish actor Jack McKenzie played Lieutenant Cal Alder on the set. Although he only had a small part he



Above top: a filming break for Fisher and Ford. Above: another nice angle of the now completed Rebel Hangar ice cavern set-filmed in the middle of a very hot 1979 summer!!