

Darth Vader. David has a way of strutting which is unique." One early Vader shot, showing him walking to Admiral Ozzel and Captain Piett, used at the beginning of the film, was reversed for the finale, showing him going to the other side of the room instead.

Additionally returning to the film, on a much smaller scale, is everyone's favourite little mouse droid, for a brief sequence showing it running up and down behind the Dark Lord as he makes his way to his personal chambers for a



was more than my life was worth to turn them down." Upon seeing the death of Admiral Ozzel in the rushes, George Lucas would comment that it was one of the best movie death performances he had ever seen- a statement that actor Sheard felt justly proud.

Following on from Admiral Ozzel, the later demise of Captain Needa originally had a slightly longer beginning to what was shown in the film-the cinema version starts with him collapsing to the floor, but footage was shot of him previously standing up, suddenly claspng his throat before collapsing, and there is a further scene where, in between Needa falling and the Imperial



Above top middle: "Luke!! It's a trap!!" Above left: Billy Dee Williams and Gary Kurtz during a filming break. Middle: shooting the prisoner escort scene with Carrie Fisher. Right: Billy Dee Williams as Lando Calrissian receives direction from Irvin Kershner on the corridor set.

communication with the Emperor. Respected UK stage and screen actors Kenneth Colley (particularly impressed with the film's sets, thinking of them as small cities during his first two days filming his scenes that were just with Vader), Michael Sheard, Michael Culver and Julian Glover (Robert Watts next door neighbor in real life) shoot their scenes as Imperial officers on the Star Destroyer set. Of his portion of filming, Michael Sheard recalls: "My agent rang and I had a gap between two movies. She said, "Look, there's a film that was a made a couple of years ago that proved quite successful, and there's a rather good death in it. It will fill in-would you like to do it?" Having not seen STAR WARS but aware of its huge success, Sheard goes to see it, understands it and gets an idea of the type of character he would be playing. Sheard continues to STARBURST: "As far as I was concerned, it was just another job. I was sent the script and asked to meet the director, Irvin Kershner. The main reason I agreed to do the film was that I wouldn't have been allowed back into the house if I hadn't said yes! I had three youngsters who really wanted me to do it, and it



Above: in a cut scene, Luke pulls back a shield door in a Bespin corridor. Top opposite: Hamill receives direction from Kershner. Below: Jeremy Bulloch's cameo as Imperial Officer Sheckil.



Above and right: make up and costume tests for an alien Bespin security officer who never made it into the final film.



guards taking him away, his demise is watched from a nearby corridor by several other shocked Imperial Commanders/officers.

In addition to the main speaking cast, other Imperial officers included Mark Jones ("Sir, the ship no longer appears on our scopes"), Stephan Buchanan as one of the hologram officers (who would also play a Stormtrooper for the film), Oliver Maguire, Mark Capri, John Dicks and Robin Scobey.

THURSDAY 26TH APRIL TO EARLY MAY

THE BOUNTY HUNTERS ASSEMBLE

See special feature.

LATE APRIL/EARLY MAY

BESPIN CORRIDOR (ADDITIONAL FILMING)

Filling in for an actor who is suddenly un-available for the day, film and TV stalwart Jeremy Bulloch, as well as playing Boba



A selection of different angles and cut moments from Han Solo's torture on the scan grid by Darth Vader.

having been allowed a day off due to prior commitments to a stage play in Leatherhead (the actor would praise the STAR WARS production team for allowing him to do this-in film-making this is often not allowed)). Morton would greatly enjoy working on the scene with Billy Dee Williams.

PRISON TORTURE CHAMBER

On Bespin, Darth Vader's torture of Han Solo on the scan grid machine was trimmed for reasons of being too intense (recalls Kershner: "I originally filmed more shots of Solo as he is being tortured. There were flashes of electricity everywhere. But it was cut out because we were afraid it might be too intense for children. We also took out some of his screaming off-screen when Vader is talking to Lando outside the cell.") Of the continued script/filming secrecy, which included a scene photographed where Vader, leaving (or entering?) the cell, sees Han Solo's severe torturing, Prowse recalled with humour to STARLOG in the run up to the film's release in 1980: "We had a scene where I have Han Solo in a torture chamber. To this day I have no idea how he got there!"

Fett in his required scenes on Bespin (with the characters knee pads often being the cause of hilarity with the cast and crew-when the actor is required to walk they would often dislodge from the costume and go flying off across the set!!), also plays the additional part of the Imperial Officer, Lieutenant Shekil, who escorts Leia and the rest of her captured party in a lure to trap Luke in the carbon freezing chamber.

play Rebel pilot Dack in the Snowspeeder filming, portrays Boba Fett for the scene where the character talks to Vader and Lando about Solo's fate (Jeremy Bulloch

Back on set as a restored to health Luke Skywalker, Mark Hamill wears his new combat fatigues in a wide shot of his character and Artoo walking the empty Cloud City corridors (later extended with an aerial matte painting, to make the scene look bigger). An additional scene of him pulling back a blast door and heading into the darkness ahead, with Artoo close behind him, would also be filmed but cut from the movie for time and pace reasons (though still images of the scene would appear in various merchandising items in 1980). Luke's gun in the film is a prop department revamp of a replica 1896 model German "Broomhandle" Mauser pistol. Amongst the added details are two piston halves from a V-8 engine model kit used for many other props.



Top: an angry Chewbacca reacts to his sound torturers above. Below: On a set that would be re-dressed and re-painted several times for re-use, Vader confers with Lando about the future of their prisoners, watched by Boba Fett (John Morton) and Lobot (John Hollis).

The chamber would be redressed to serve as the confinement area where Chewie, in a Hamlet and Yorick moment, rebuilds Threepio, later re-joined with Leia and the returned, injured Solo.

BESPIN INTERIOR CHAMBER/THREEPIO'S DESTRUCTION (EXACT FILMING DATES UNKNOWN)

The Threepio body blasting by Stormtroopers was shot with an inert dummy that was articulated off camera and then detonated with an explosive to simulate the laser blast hits. For the scene where Threepio's parts fall to the floor, before the shield door comes down in front of Chewbacca, stage hands literally threw bits of debris outwards from their off camera hiding places.



SLAVE ONE EXTERIOR/INTERIOR

A days worth of filming is done showing Fett in the cockpit of *Slave One* plus some additional, later cut, shots of him taunting the in storage Carbon frozen Han Solo (as far as this writer is aware, this cut scene does not appear in any of EMPIRE's scripts, though Bulloch has often recalled it at convention appearances).

BESPIN PRISON AREA CORRIDOR

Filmed in late April, on the previously used white circular corridor (which would be re-painted red and redressed as the prison area), actor John Morton, soon to



Billy Dee Williams takes a breather on the Bespin Walkway set. In a partially completed scene that would be cut from the movie, Lando takes Han, Leia and Chewbacca on an outside tour of Cloud City.



The scene showing Fett and his party boarding the vessel with the Solo "coffee table" was shot against blue screen with Jeremy Bulloch and a Stormtrooper extra walking up a lone ramp. Recalled Bulloch to Australian EMPIRE film magazine: "in the scene where I say, "Put Captain Solo in the cargo hold", there was a bit of a cock up on my part. When I said that, of course, no one can hear what you're saying in your helmet, but I can remember turning to the Imperial Officer and saying, "Put Captain Cargo in the solo hold." I completely mucked up the line, but of course no one can hear you, and the line was dubbed in afterwards." The *Slave One* ship, and the rest of the Bespin background, was painted by Ralph McQuarrie and overlaid onto the shot in post production

CLOUD CITY EXTERIOR WALKWAY

BLUE SCREEN UNIT FILMING (DAYS UNKNOWN)

SLAVE ONE RAMP

During Lando Calrissan's tour of Bespin, just shortly before their confrontation/ dinner with Vader, there was to have been a sequence where he brings Han, Leia and

Chewie outside, where they travel along a breezy walkway. Visual effects limitations and the desire to quicken the pace of the scene, however, lead to it being cut out of the movie in post production, though photos of the scene exist and it is in the MARVEL comic adaptation.

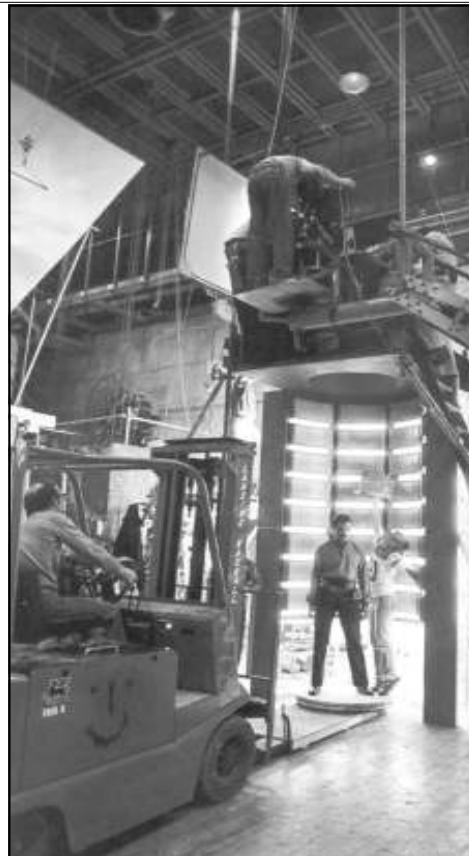
The walkway, redressed by the set building team,, may also have been used for facing shots of Leia, Lando and Chewie arriving too late to rescue Han on the east platform, and the later scene of Vader, surrounded by Imperial Forces, angrily declaring: "Bring my Shuttle" (in the original shooting script structure, Vader originally walked onto the Bespin platform just in time to see the *Falcon* escape).

LUKE SKYWALKER-HOTH SURFACE RUNNING SHOTS.

Previously unable to complete close up scenes shot at Finse, Mark Hamill is filmed against blue screen, running on a



Above top: watched by Gary Kurtz, John Mollo makes an adjustment to Julian Glover's Imperial helmet. Above right: costume reference pic of Julian Glover in his AT-AT costume. Left: costume reference picture of Ian Liston (?) as one of the Imperial Walker driver/gunners.



Billy Dee Williams, in the small *Falcon* hatch enclosure set, prepares to be hoisted upwards by a forklift for his attempt to rescue the injured Luke Skywalker from the ship's hull.

treadmill. He recalled to QUESTAR in 1980: " There you are, running on a treadmill against a blue screen. They don't call me Mark Hamster for nothing. I'm running in full snow gear; goggles, helmet and a gun. Running on a treadmill is very hard. Usually, you have a guard rail that you can grasp as they increase the speed. Mind you, this shot is now out of the picture, it didn't look right. But I spent the better part of a day running on this bloody treadmill. They say 'we're going to take it up to speed two, up to three, up to four'. But you can't look down. You're running and you're supposed to look up to see the giant walking machines. I took one misstep, and my foot came down on a stationary side of the treadmill; I went flying off, through three layers of polystyrene and landed with my feet, head and arms face up in a box."

" I wish someone was there to take pictures of me hanging on wires in mid-air totally helpless like a limp Howdy Doody puppet."

FALCON HATCH ELEVATOR

A small elevator that Lando takes to reach the top hatch to rescue Luke (this part of

the set being built away from the main *Falcon* interior set), was achieved with a little help from a forklift sending Billy Dee Williams upward through the small, circular tunnel set.

MAY

EARLY MAY

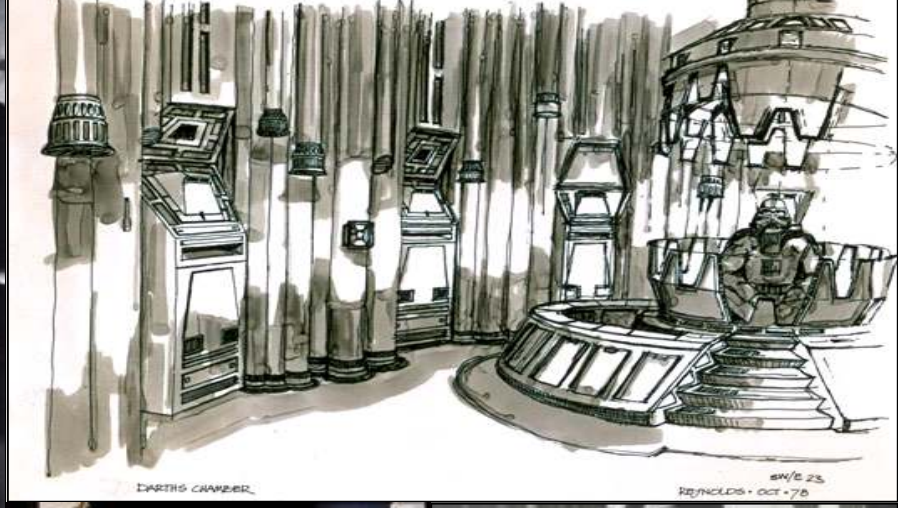
AT-AT COCKPIT INTERIOR

A very small set is built for the cockpit of the AT-AT Walker commanded by General Veers.



character of Veers would return for the third part of the saga (at one point he almost commanded one of the Scout Walkers in the battle on Endor for RETURN OF THE JEDI) though, sadly, this would not materialize.

There has been much controversy by fans as to whether Veers death was filmed. As stated previously, Glover confirms that nothing was shot with him in the UK, and that the storyboards of the crash scene were cut for time at ELSTREE (as well as a few other scenes in the movie that were trimmed, never completed (scheduled but just never filmed for



Top middle: George Lucas, back in the UK on his second visit batch, enjoys a fun moment with Dave Prowse and Irvin Kershner in the meditation chamber set. Above: Darth Vader in the spidery chamber. Opposite images: top right: Norman Reynolds production design for the set. Bottom left: filming Dave Prowse, assisted by Gary Kurtz holding his helmet, as the disfigured Vader in the cell. Far right: Vader kneels before his Emperor. Bottom opposite: a rarely seen view of the wall facing the chamber without ILM's later Emperor hologram superimposition.



Hobbie rams his Snowspeeder into Veer's Walker after the Rebel power generators have been successfully destroyed) is never filmed-we assume for time and money reasons-EMPIRE was very seriously over schedule and budget by then).



The observations of the gunners towards the Rebel energy shield were filmed facing bluescreen, with the Norway landscape/ battle scenes added on in post production.

The ramming idea would instead be held over for the following film. Julian Glover kindly informed Scott Weller in a 2004 e-mail conversation that "the death of General Veers wasn't scripted let alone filmed, which led to speculation that I would appear in the next film." It was indeed hoped that the

completion) or abandoned). Glover may have had a revised script or script pages to work from that indicated he wasn't killed (and again the script was constantly changing on the set all the time, with different colour pages always being distributed to the cast and crew). Some of the off the shoulder facing screen pilot

The scenes are shot very quickly, though the originally planned and storyboarded demise of the General (in which the dying