

# POLLUTED SHORES



**In the film Nick talks about the Torrey Canyon Oil Spill. It was a major environmental disaster. Here is a newspaper article (from BBC website On This Day- there is a video to watch here too), describing the disastrous day 18<sup>th</sup> March 1967**

## **1967: Super tanker Torrey Canyon hits rocks**

Super tanker Torrey Canyon has run aground on rocks between Land's End and the Scilly Isles and is leaking its cargo of oil into the sea.

The 974-ft (297m) tanker, which was carrying 100,000 tons of crude oil, hit Pollard's Rock in the Seven Stones reef.

The oil patch already forming is believed to be the biggest ever to threaten the West Country coastline.

There are fears that the beaches of Cornwall, Devon and Dorset could be hit by the slick.

## **Cornish beaches**

The Navy is plotting the direction of the oil, which is heading slowly towards the French coast, but says a slight change in wind direction could send it towards Cornish beaches.

Troops will regularly patrol around the coastline to give some indication of where the oil might be heading.

The 2nd Infantry Brigade, stationed at Plymouth, is standing by to assist if the oil threatens beaches.

A Penzance lifeboat official said the position was "serious" because the oil could cover the whole of the south-west coast for the next year.