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TRANS-AMERICAS EXPEDITION ON FINAL STAGE

The two British Leyland Range Rovers attempting the first ever unbroken land crossing of the Americas from Alaska to Tierra Del Fuego at the southern most tip of South America are now on the third and final stage of the journey.

The Range Rovers, loaned by the Rover Company and crewed by Army personnel from the 17th/21st Lancers, are expected to complete the final 7000 miles from Bogota to Tierra Del Fuego by mid-June.

Before starting the final leg the Range Rovers were given a thorough mechanical check following the gruelling three-month crossing of the Darien Isthmus.

The Isthmus had been unpassable before the Range Rover attempt.

A tortuous jungle, swamp and mountainous area regarded as one of the worst of its type in the world, the Isthmus divides North America from South America.

It is the only remaining obstacle to the completion of the Pan-American Highway which runs otherwise unbroken from Alaska down to Chile.

The Trans-Americas expedition began in December last year with the 7000 miles first leg from Alaska to Panama. The second phase, the assault on the Darien Gap, started in mid-January.