

GAMBIT!



WITH the latest series of the exciting New Avengers under way, we finally tracked down its star, Gareth Hunt, in between his travels!

Gareth's been doing a lot of travelling this year, both for work and pleasure — and, some of the time, combining both!

"We were filming 'The New Avengers' through the summer in France and Canada," he said. "That sounds nice, but of course it was more than a holiday.

"But a change of location is always good for making you feel better! It changes the series a little, too, since we were working with French and Canadian actors, which was very interesting.

"I've been to both countries before," Gareth went on. "I went to Canada when I was in the Merchant Navy. I loved it, it's a super country and I was lucky enough to have a couple of weeks' holiday there — staying with friends and going water-ski-ing and stuff like that!

"On our weekends off during our stay with the Avengers cast, though, I did my best to look at the countryside — it was great to get out and have picnics or go fishing — and Canada's a wonderful place for things like that!"

But did Gareth manage to have a proper holiday somewhere this year, without thinking about work at all?

"Not really," he told me, "because it's always uncertain as to exactly when we're going to start filming.

"But when I had some spare time at home, I did a lot of redecorating to my house, and tried to write some television scripts of my own. And I wrote a couple of songs — just to keep myself out of mischief!"

GARETH did find time for an 'almost' holiday, though.

"I went down through Monte Carlo and Cannes and then up into Italy. Unluckily, I arrived in Milan in the

middle of a student demonstration, with red banners flying everywhere!

"I stayed the day and then did a sharp left turn and drove home, going through an incredible tunnel through the Alps. It was nice, I did about six thousand miles all told, in under a fortnight.

"That was one of the times when we were expecting to start work straight away, or I might have stayed longer.

"It was right for my mood at the time, actually," Gareth went on. "I seemed to need to keep driving and on the move, and be energetic rather than just lie in the sun for two weeks!"

Having travelled all over the world in the Navy though, has the novelty of going places worn off a bit for Gareth, I wondered.

"Not really — it's a big world and there are a million places to see," he grinned. "You can only really skim over it like a space satellite.

"I mean, looking out of my dressing room window I can see a group of trees I've never visited, and I don't suppose I know the names of the streets three away from where I live — there's always something new to see, everywhere!"

As well as all the other places he's been to this year, Gareth also visited America!

"It really was a fleeting visit, not much more than a weekend. We were in Boston and then New York, doing a publicity trip connected with the series 'Upstairs Downstairs'," he explained. "Then I had a phone call saying we were finally getting started on 'The Avengers.'

"I flew in to London at eight o'clock in the morning and was immediately whipped out to the studio to begin shooting. It was certainly a long way to come to go to work — three thousand miles!"

Perhaps it's just as well Gareth likes travelling!

