

Severn Bore ridden on a surf board

THE Severn Bore, the wall of water that rushes up the river to Gloucester at high tides, has been conquered in a novel way—by Australian surf board.

The rider was Col. J. Churchill, a commando leader during the war, who performed this feat at Stonebench, yesterday.

"He was a very brave man," Mr. Leslie Prout, of Severn Farm, Quedgeley, told "The Citizen."

Mr. Prout's farm is near the river bank. During the time he has been there, he has seen some strange incidents.

"But I have never seen anything like this before," he said. "The feat appears to have been carried out without an audience."

"My son, Richard, happened to look out of the window, just after the bore had gone by, and saw Col. Churchill, on the surf board being tossed about by the following waves as he made for the bank," said Mr. Prout.

"He caught hold of some bushes on the side of the river, and when, a little later,

I drove by in a car, he was on the bank with the surf board. It looked something like an Indian canoe—very narrow with an upturned prow."

"He wore a bathing suit or sweater, and appeared to have been drenched by the muddy water. He seemed to have had a pretty rough time."

Col. Churchill hopes to repeat the feat next year, entering the river lower down. There are now no more bores of spectacular height in the Severn for another month.

Miss Margaret Rowe, "Miss England," was among fifteen semi-finalists left in the "Miss Universe" beauty contest at Long Beach, California, today, after judging in the preliminary round was completed.