

## As one does

Written by PAG

Tuesday, 30 September 2014 22:17

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(On a bus in Kensington, BBC staffer Arthur Calder Marshall 'heard' a fellow-passenger remark that war had broken out in Debenham's. As the bus neared the store, Arthur, half-hoping for a scoop, got off only to see a newsvendor's poster announcing 'War in the Lebanon'. Here is one of my Calder Marshall moments...)

Ken Dodd dead, the newsman said.  
Leicester police investigate  
motorway service station:  
grim find in back of van.  
Strange, I mused, as one does:  
he usually dies on stage.  
Is this Doddy's final curtain?

It had been a scorching day;  
all windows were tight closed,  
Death due to heat exhaustion.  
so said the RSPCA.  
Without compunction,  
as one does, I thought  
he should have had the strength

or gumption to open one.  
Perhaps he couldn't reach.  
Why was he there? I wondered,  
as one does. Dossing down  
from sleep to death unknowing;  
or suicidally inclined to  
finally pull down his blind?

Why the RSPCA? Paramedics on strike  
again? Then a summary enlightened me:  
how absurd! I'd misheard. Not Ken Dodd.  
It was ten dogs that died. I sighed.  
Glad that Doddy hadn't died?  
Sad for those hot doggies fried?  
Or maybe just because. As one does.

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**Jeff Garland**