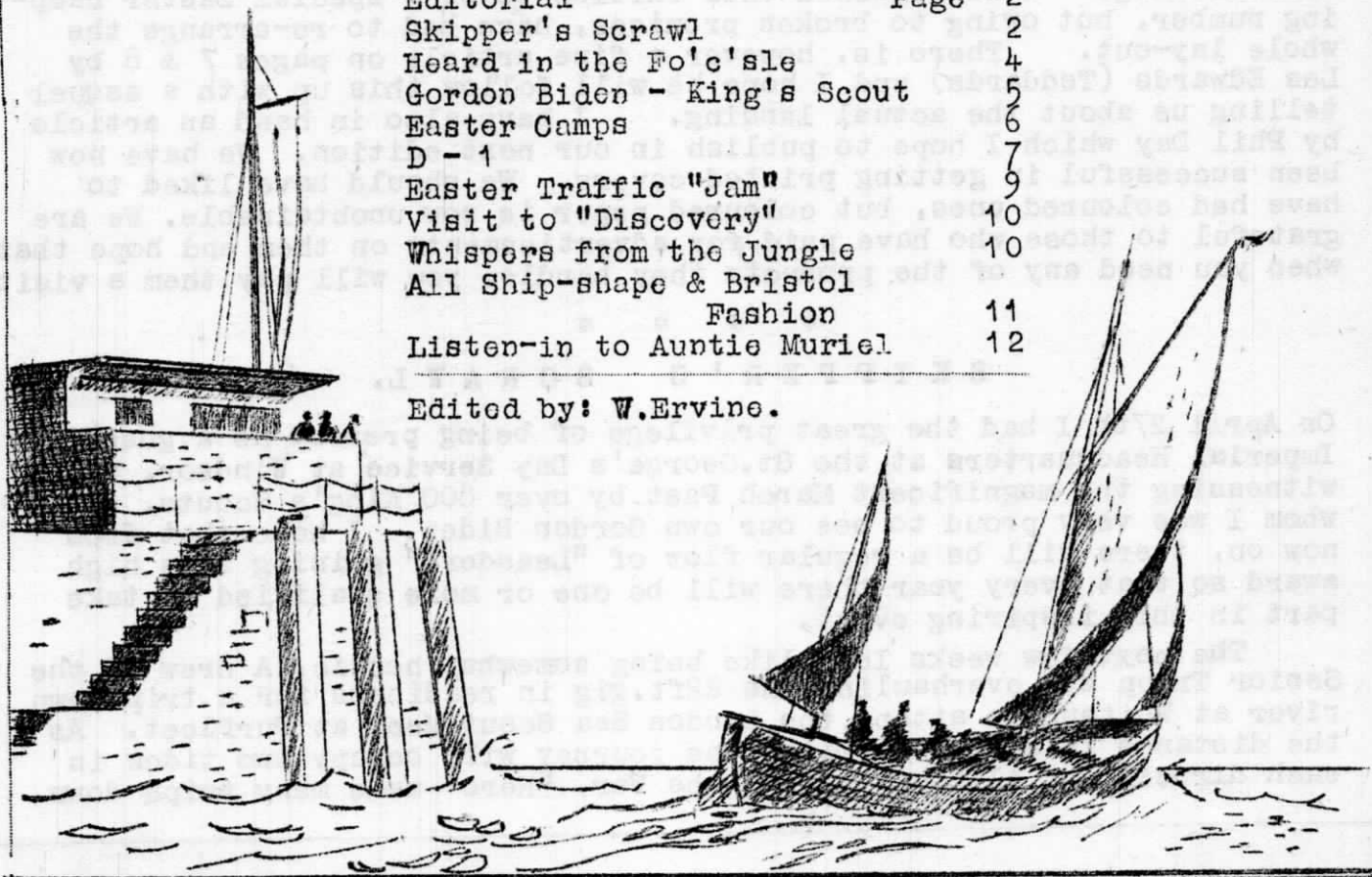


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Edited by: W.Ervine.



E D I T O R I A L

There was a time when an Englishman's word was his bond, but these days one is up against a terrible state of apathy, and promises just seem to mean nothing. I had planned this edition to be a special Easter camping number, but owing to broken promises, have had to re-arrange the whole lay-out. There is, however a fine article on pages 7 & 8 by Les Edwards (Teddards) and I hope he will follow this up with a sequel telling us about the actual landing. I have also in hand an article by Phil Day which I hope to publish in our next edition. We have now been successful in getting printed covers. We should have liked to have had coloured ones, but coloured paper is now unobtainable. We are grateful to those who have paid for advertisements on them and hope that when you need any of the products they handle, you will pay them a visit.

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S K I P P E R ' S S C R A W L .

On April 27th I had the great privilege of being present as a guest of Imperial Headquarters at the St. George's Day Service at Windsor, and of witnessing the magnificent March Past by over 800 King's Scouts, among whom I was very proud to see our own Gordon Biden. I hope that from now on, there will be a regular flow of "Leanders" gaining this high award so that every year there will be one or more qualified to take part in this inspiring event.

The next few weeks look like being somewhat hectic. A crew of the Senior Troop are overhauling the 22ft. gig in readiness for a trip down river at Whitsun to attend the London Sea Scout Meet at Purfleet. As the distance is almost 40 miles the journey will occupy two tides in each direction. Although before the War, "Hero" made many trips down

3.

to the Thames Estuary, the last occasion on which this gig was as far down-stream was in 1936, when three of our boats made the voyage to Tilbury and back during the Whitsun holiday. Also at Whitsun, the Troop will be taking part in the Surrey Camp and Rally at Rammore, when about 3,000 Scouts will be in camp. What memories this brings back of former County Rallies! I recall that at the 1912 Camp, our Editor cut his hand and this necessitated (?) a number of visits to the hospital tent which was in charge of a Nurse with ginger hair. Others among our adult readers will remember those later occasions when "Leanders" flaunted a "Jolly Roger" through the camp, and who said that hammocks are out of place in camp?

The annual visit of the Admiralty Inspecting Officer has been fixed for Saturday June 7th, and much cleaning up after the recent alterations at H.Q. requires to be done in time for this event. In any case it is hoped to have everything ship-shape by Thursday May 29th, as this is the date of the Annual General Meeting of Parents and Supporters. The Meeting is at 8 p.m. but the H.Q. will be open from 7 p.m. onwards, so that everyone interested may have an opportunity of inspecting the improvements which have been made. I am looking forward to a "full house" of our friends on this occasion.

I have left the most important matter to the end. I am very troubled by the poor attendance of Senior Scouts at our monthly Church Parades and at the recent St. George's Day Parade. There are no doubt many reasons which will be given for this, e.g. Church-going has become unfashionable; friends and relatives desire our company at week-ends; the cycle used to go to work on, needs an overhaul, etc. The real reason, however, is forgetfulness of the responsibilities undertaken at the time of admission into the Scout Movement. A measure of self-discipline is called for on the part of those concerned, and I look for a marked improvement next month.

4.

H E A R D I N T H E F O ' C ' S L E .

Congratulations and best of luck to Joe Bunkin who was married last month to Miss Pauline Heslop at Loughton Parish Church. Joe had some hectic times in the Mediterranean and, during his service in the Navy, collected a D.S.M. at the evacuation of Crete. He also witnessed the bombing of the Aircraft Carrier Illustrious, and was successful in having a drawing of this incident published in the London Illustrated News.

Also congratulations to Mrs. Ervine (Tubby's mother) who celebrated her 90th birthday in April.

Hard luck on John Sharp who, on Saturday 19th April, boxed his way through the Surrey Scout Championship at the Guards Barracks, Caterham, until he was defeated in the finals by Keith Atkinson of Sutton, holder of South of England Secondary Schools Championship.

Noel Knight who has for the last 12 months been stationed at Woolwich in the R.E.M.E. was home in March on embarkation leave and expects to go to South East Asia.

Roy White who, although a toolmaker by trade, was drafted into the Royal Artillery as a driver, has now secured a transfer into the R.E.M.E.

"Bunny" Smith was a welcome visitor last month. After 5 years in the R.A.F. he has resumed his prewar employment, and in his spare time is Scoutmaster of the 26th Bournemouth Troop.

Billy Myers rolled up the other Thursday evening to see the Old Boys.

During the D day invasion operations he served as a volunteer cook aboard a small craft engaged in victualling the ships of the fleet in the Solent. He has a business as a plumber and hot-water fitter in Kingston.

An unwelcome visitor to the Clubroom was Old Father Thames, and during the floods we had a foot of water in the Headquarters.

On April 12th, twentyfour of the "Leanders" attended the private theatre of 'British Gaumont' in Wardour Street, for a pre-release view of the film

"Knights of Freedom", a picture portraying the history and entire range of Scouting activities. The whole of the Sea Scouting section of this picture was performed by Leanders, and was shot at their Kingston Headquarters.

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HAVE YOU HEARD THIS ONE?

Description of a worried man - He had so many wrinkles on his forehead that he could have screwed his hat on!

* * * * *
GORDON BIDEN -KINGS SCOUT.

The week-end April 26th-27th was a red letter one for Gordon Biden who, passing the necessary tests, has become a Kings Scout, the first member of Leander Troop to do so for many years. On the Saturday, he, together with 12 other new Kings Scouts, was entertained at the Boy Scouts Headquarters, London, where he received his badge direct from the Chief Scout (Lord Rowallan), together with a certificate signed by H.M.the King. After the presentation he had tea with the Chief, and then with the remainder of the party, was taken to the Westminster Theatre to see "Hey Presto". Spending the night on "Discovery", the new Kings Scouts on Sunday morning attended Holy Communion Service at St.Marys in the Strand, before proceeding by coach to Windsor where, forming the Chief Scout's party, they took part in the annual St.George's Day Scout Service and march past, held at St.George's Chapel, Windsor. Gordon Biden transferred to Leanders from the 1st Surbiton St.Marks Cubs in 1942, and has in all 9 years service in the Movement. To be a Kings Scout he had to become a First Class Scout, which necessitates a general efficiency in cooking, compass, map reading, signalling and camping, and in addition pass the qualifying tests for the following badges, Oarsman (managing boats under oars) Helmsman (managing boats under sail)Boatswain(splicing - rope & wire - sailmaking,&c)Ambulance (first aid)Pathfinder(knowledge of locality)and Venturer(perform tests of physical endurance and initiative) WELL DONE , GORDON !

6.

E A S T E R C A M P (JUNIORS)

Patrol Leaders and Seconds Eric Southey, Bill Manning, Jeff Dove, David Brown and John Sharp, under the charge of Mr. Burton, braved the bad weather and left Kingston Station at 7 a.m. on Friday, to spend the Easter holiday in camp at Chesham, Bucks. All went well until John Sharp, wearing an outsize in rucksacs, trying to board the train at Baker Street, got stuck in the carriage door. Whilst still struggling to enter the carriage, and blocking the entrance to anyone else, the train started, taking John with it, but leaving all the others behind. He managed to slip the harness and shut the door, and jumped out at Marylebone Station to await the others on the next train. When they arrived, getting all excited, John got mixed up with his kit-bag and went sprawling on the platform (the great gink!). He got on the train alright, and eventually they arrived at the camp-site.

The weather? Well, the Editor has a blue pencil!

Most of the time had to be spent in the tent singing songs and telling yarns, whilst the rain came down in buckets, and that night the gale snapped the guy ropes and as no one volunteered to turn out in the rain, they were left to flap on the tent all night.

During a bright spell on Saturday, a visit was paid to Chesham, and on Sunday it was proposed to go by bus to Whippsnade, but unfortunately, the bus was missed by ten minutes, and there not being another for two hours, the trip was abandoned.

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E A S T E R C A M P (SENIORS)

The Senior members of the Troop had a motor cycle holiday.

D - 1

by L. J. EDWARDS.

It was D minus 1, the day before "Operation Torch", the Allied landings in North Africa, first invasion of any magnitude by the Allies in the war.

We had left the Clyde, in a large well escorted convoy, about 12 days previously and had only been told our destination the day before passing Gibraltar, having been nearly halfway across to America before turning East again. The trip as far as Gibraltar had been uneventful, now and again a destroyer would dash off and drop a few depth charges in the distance.

I was in a Union Castle liner converted into an assault ship, her lifeboats having been replaced by landing craft. H hour was planned for 0100 Sunday morning, and about dawn on that day I was rudely awakened by a loud explosion. On going on deck to "look see" we saw that the U.S. transport Thomas C. Stone had been "tin fished" and was rapidly being left astern. An escort vessel was detached to stand by her and the convoy continued on its way. This was the only casualty sustained by the whole convoy whilst on passage. The Commanding officer of the Thomas C. Stone decided to embark the 700 odd combat troops into the landing craft for the passage of some 150 miles to Algiers, escorted by H.M.S. Spey. Unfortunately, by dawn the sea proved too rough for the flat bottomed craft, so they and their compliment of troops were all crammed aboard the "Spey" thoroughly soaked but cheerful.

The rest of the day was spent making last minute preparations, ensuring that our equipment was in order, and our 48 hour emergency rations etc. safely stowed in our haversacks. Another occupation on this day was "swopping" buttons, an American superstition being that it brought luck to both parties making the exchange. I had an American army button on my uniform in place of one of my naval buttons from that day until I discarded the suit some 3 years' later, and it was surprising how rarely

8.

it was noticed by anyone. I never heard whether it actually brought luck to my American friend, but I had nothing to complain of.

At dusk we were treated to a marvellous firework display, force H, our covering force of Battleships, Aircraft Carriers, Cruisers and Destroyers, were being subjected to a heavy air attack some 5 miles away. It was a real "Brocks Benefit", as the heavy ships put up everything they had, mostly "tracer" shells which looked like hundreds of Roman candles, firing Red balls into the air.

Fortunately no damage was done to the Battle fleet, but one destroyer had to return to Gibraltar slightly damaged by a near miss.

After the firework display and dinner, we had a very jolly sing-song in the Smoke Room, and anyone who knows the lads of Combined Operations, the young officers in charge of the landing craft, will realise that most of our songs were definitely non-drawing room, no doubt the extra tot of rum issued during the evening was responsible for the lusty singing.

Towards midnight the party broke up as the first flight were standing by to embark. By this time we could see the lights ashore, including Cap Caxine lighthouse, which indicated that we were unsuspected. The lights got gradually nearer as the ships crept closer inshore, till at last we were in our pre-arranged position, and the engines rang off.

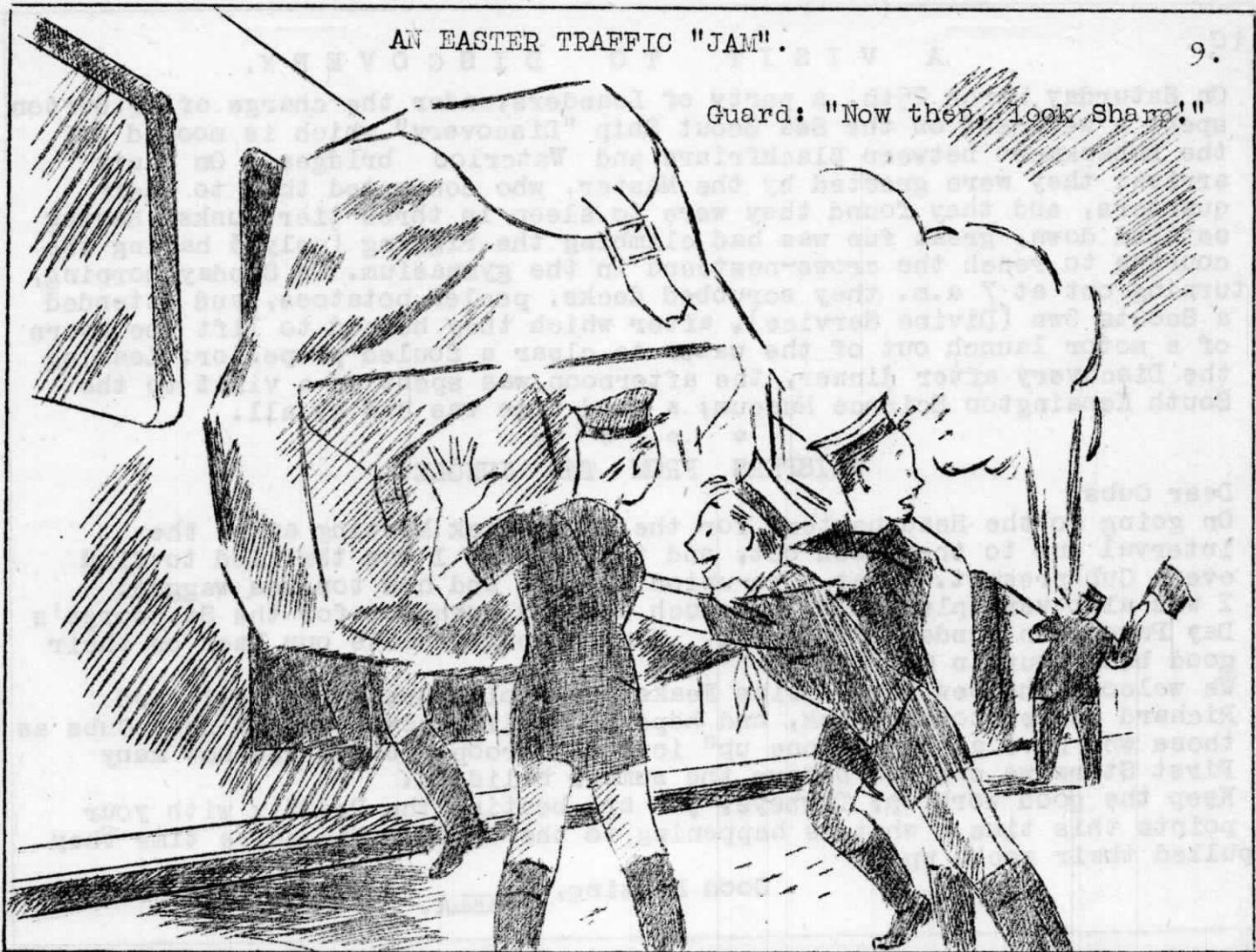
As soon as way was off the ship, the first flight of landing craft were lowered, complete with troops.

The invasion was on at last - and D day had commenced!

AN EASTER TRAFFIC "JAM".

9.

Guard: "Now then, look Sharp!"



10.

A V I S I T T O D I S C O V E R Y .

On Saturday March 25th, a party of Leanders, under the charge of Mr. Burton spent a week-end on the Sea Scout Ship "Discovery", which is moored off the Embankment between Blackfriars and Waterloo bridges. On their arrival they were greeted by the Master, who conducted them to their quarters, and they found they were to sleep in three-tier bunks. Having settled down, great fun was had climbing the rigging (only 3 having the courage to reach the crows-nest) and in the gymnasium. On Sunday morning, turning out at 7 a.m. they scrubbed decks, peeled potatoes, and attended a Scouts Own (Divine Service), after which they helped to lift the stern of a motor launch out of the water to clear a fouled propellor. Leaving the Discovery after dinner, the afternoon was spent on a visit to the South Kensington Science Museum; a good time was had by all.

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WHISPERS FROM THE JUNGLE.

Dear Cubs,

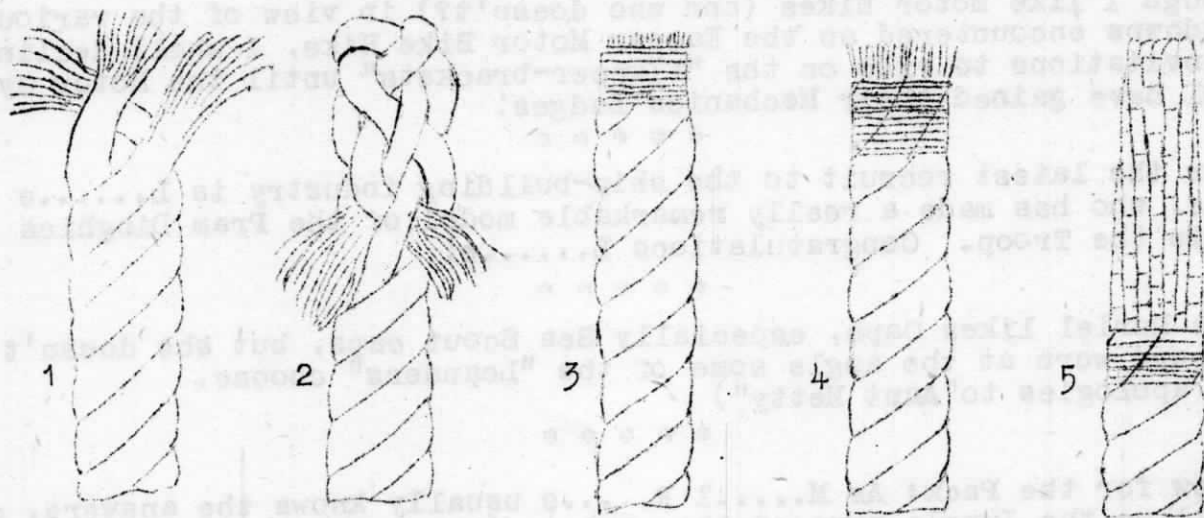
On going to the Headquarters for the first Pack Meeting after the interval due to the black out, and the floods, I was thrilled to find every Cub present. What a re-union it was, and how tongues wagged! I was also very pleased to see such a grand turn-out for the St. George's Day Parade on Sunday 27th April. I must congratulate our Pack on their good behaviour in Church.

We welcome the new boys, Brian Feaks, Ian Bolt, Graham Fennell, and Richard Sadler to the Pack, and hope they will prove just as good Cubs as those who have already "gone up" into the Troop. Let us see how many First Stars we can get before the summer holidays. Keep the good work up, Tawneys, you are beating the Red Six with your points this time - what is happening to the Whites? Its quite time they pulled their socks up!

Good Hunting, AKELA.

"ALL SHIP-SHAPE AND BRISTOL FASHION".

11.



"A Scout is thrifty". For Sea Scouts the eighth Scout Law has particular application to rope. The cut end of a rope if neglected will quickly assume the appearance shown in Fig.1, and after a little use, many feet will become unlaidd and useless. The **BACK SPLICE** (Fig.2), although often used, is not a very good method of finishing off a rope's end as it cannot be rove through an eye or block. If suitable twine is available, ropes' ends should be secured with either a **COMMON WHIPPING** (Fig.3), or a **SAILMAKER'S WHIPPING** (Fig.4). For a permanent finish to important ropes such as yoke lines, or a sheet, **POINTING** (Fig.5) is the proper method, but this requires considerable time and not a little patience.

* * * *

LISTEN-IN TO AUNTIE MURIEL.

Although I like motor bikes (and who doesn't?) in view of the various breakdowns encountered on the Easter Motor Bike Hike, I shall decline any invitations to ride on the "flapper-brackets" until the Motor Cycle Patrol have gained their Mechanics Badges!

* * * * *

I hear the latest recruit to the ship-building industry is L.....e M.....e, who has made a really remarkable model of the Pram Dinghies used in the Troop. Congratulations L.....e!

* * * * *

Auntie Muriel likes Caps, especially Sea Scout caps, but she doesn't like caps worn at the angle some of the "Leanders" choose. (with apologies to "Aunt Hetty")

* * * * *

And now for the Pack: As M.....l R.....s usually knows the answers, can he tell me the Jungle name of the monkeys (those little fellows who do such a lot of chattering)?

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Welcome to the latest member of the Senior Troop, M.....l M.....d "Wot! no bananas, M.....l?"

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- ANNOUNCEMENT -

The Crew of S.R.S.VICTOR are holding a FLANNEL DANCE at St.Paul's Parish Hall on MONDAY 19th MAY, 1947, at 7.30. Tickets 2/6d.each, may be obtained from any member of that Crew.