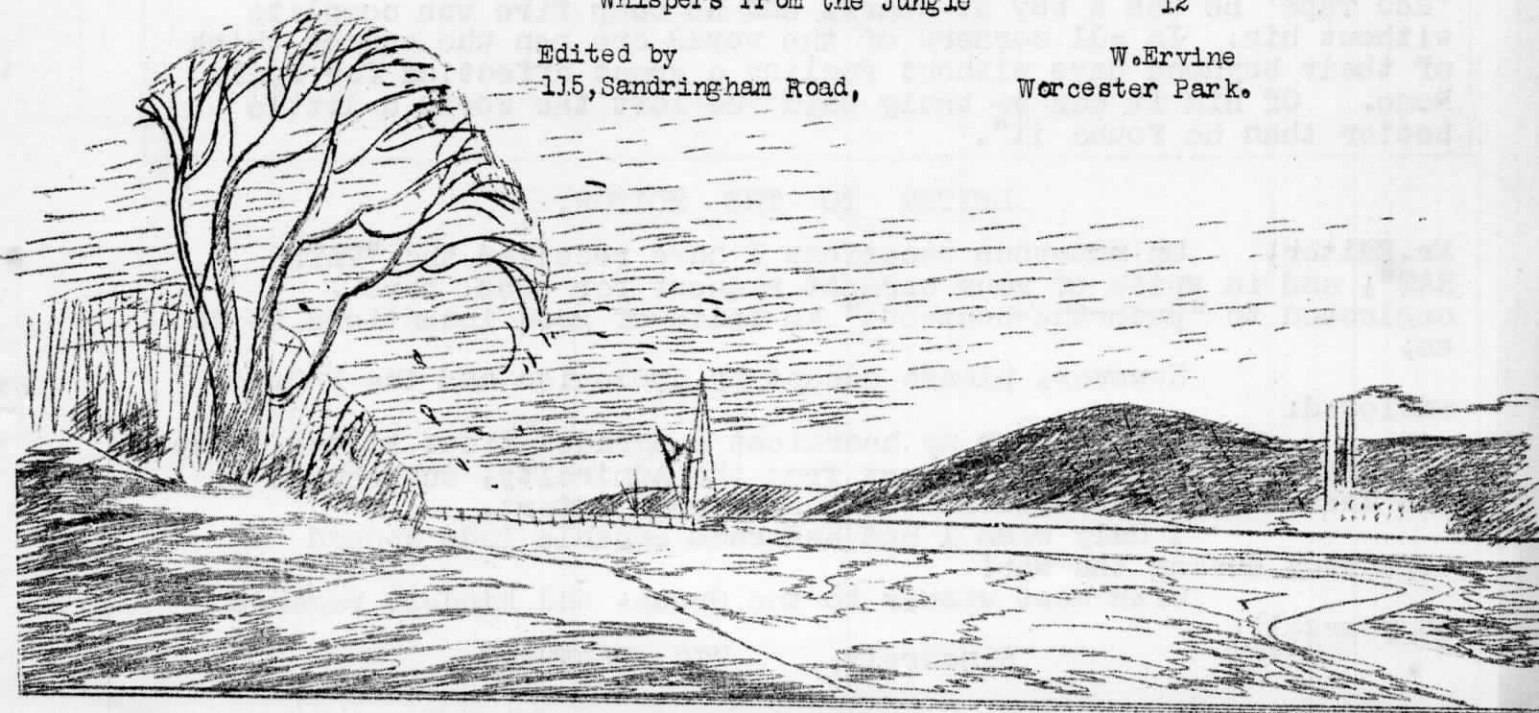


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Edited by  
115, Sandringham Road,

W. Ervine  
Worcester Park.





R O M E     A T T W E L L

It is with genuine sorrow that we record the passing to higher service of that fine old pioneer of Scouting, Rome Attwell of the Dittons. In the early years of Scouting our Troop, then the 2nd Kingston Troop, were very closely connected with the Dittons and many combined weekends were spent together at the Jungle and Blackberry Island. We owe a great deal to the wonderful inspiration we received from "Uncle" in those early days, and many of our original members will recall the fun he caused on the Troop's first Easter Trek Camp to Virginia Water. Always strongly opposed to 'Red Tape' he was a boy at heart, and no camp fire was complete without him. In all corners of the world are men who cannot think of their boyhood days without feeling a great affection for Uncle Rome. Of him it can be truly said "He left the world a little better than he found it".

LETTER TO THE EDITOR.

Mr. Editor, On numerous occasions I have received the "WATER RAT", and in spite of your earnest request for subs, have neglected to "push-the-boat-out" in spite of good intentions to do so.

However, please accept my apologies and the P/0.5/- enclosed.

May I offer my heartiest congratulations to the Group on receiving such a fine report from the Admiralty, subsequent to the last Annual Inspection. A really good effort.

I only wish I had had such capable lads aboard corvettes during the war!

With best wishes to the Group, and kindest regards to yourself.

Sincerely,            VIC PAREMAIN.

In spite of the fact that the "Official" Scout Year commences on April 1st, we, in the "Leander" Group have for many years looked upon the Summer Camp as the "Grand Finale" of the year. Immediately after this important event we start to plan our programme for another year so that by mid-summer all old members will be fitted to shoulder increased responsibility whilst the new Scouts will have obtained sufficient elementary knowledge to enable them to enjoy themselves whilst taking a fair share in the necessary work and duties. Thus, during the last few weeks, we have indulged in a certain amount of re-organisation in the Group. Patrol Leaders E.Colman and L.Mustoe have now become the junior members of the Senior Troop, whilst we are looking forward to welcoming Bobbie Sedgwick, John Cruddace, and Frank Moodey from the Cub Pack into the Junior Troop; Donald Frost and Harry Sharp have transferred to this Troop from Scout Troops at Wimbledon and Norbiton respectively, and we also welcome John Ramm from the Tolworth Cubs and John Ford (brother of Colin). We hope all these newcomers to our ranks will have many happy years with us. This influx has brought the Troop almost up to full strength and has necessitated some re-arrangement of the Patrols. Michael Chapman and Peter Phillips having gone to boarding schools, the Troop is deprived of the services of two keen and proficient Scouts who could have been expected to make excellent Patrol Leaders. Ray Quartermain, P/L of the Seals, has Colin Ford as his new Second. Dave Farley is P/L of the Beavers, with Wally Shennan as Second. Ian Finch and Michael Smart are P/L and Second of the Sea Gulls. The P/L of the Herons is Norman Handley, who has Tony Bond as Second.

By contrast, the Senior Troop has not suffered such an upheaval and its members are making solid progress both in their technical training and in developing the spirit of co-operation which is so lacking in the World today. Whereas in the Junior Troop the team spirit is inculcated through the Patrol System, in the Senior Troop emphasis is placed on the responsibility of each individual to make his proper contribution to the activities of the Scout Group and in the community (contd. on page 7. )

THE SWANAGE CAMP  
by Nigel Fentiman

The Leander juniors camped this year with Ajax (Sea Scout section of 4th Surbiton Group) near Swanage, and were joined during the first week by the Leander Seniors. The junior members made the journey by train, but at 8.45 a.m. on Saturday morning a pantechnicon left the Waterworks at Surbiton for Swanage, and in or on this pantechnicon were three 12 ft. dinghies, one pram dinghy, all the personal and camping kit for about 50 scouts, and 20 senior scouts. This Noahs Ark arrived at the camp site in the afternoon, and the camp was pitched on the top of the cliffs, but to get the boats to the water entailed carrying them about 200 feet down a steep pathway from the cliff top. Having completed this operation, and feeling warm, some of the seniors stripped off and went for a swim without costumes, or a picket, only to be hauled up on the carpet when it was explained to them in no uncertain way that this was not done, and that regulations regarding swimming must be strictly adhered to. The weather was kind to us, and apart from visits to Swanage and some fine sailing, much home-made fun was enjoyed. There was that evening when the seniors decided to go rabbiting. Cutting some large sticks which were immediately labelled "Bunny Bashers", they RAN up to the top of the hill and chased the rabbits until it was dark, without a single success. Tired and disappointed, they returned to camp only to find that they were required to go down the cliff and haul the boats clear of a specially high tide and by the time they got back to camp and turned in, it was well into the next morning. A very full day!

There was one piece of hard luck. In the middle of his holiday "Stew" Buer received his calling-up papers, and had to return home, and is now in the R.E.M.Es. We must not, however, forget to mention that a genius was discovered during this camp, to wit Ian Finch ("Thomas" to his pals). His cake-making was the highlight of the camp.

The Seniors had to leave the camp after the first week to go to Torquay to assist in the sailing section of the Olympic Games.

At the completion of the camp, with much struggling and many rests, the boats were carried up the 200ft. to the cliff top and having just completed this really strenuous job, we were greeted by a local, who told us "I saw 'ee playing around there". The tenth Scout Law does hamper one, doesn't it!

### THE BAZAAR.

Once again we are in the "throes" of arranging the Bazaar, which this year, as we are unable to have All Saints Hall, is being held at the Y.M.C.A., Eden Street, Kingston, on 27th November, and we are trying to make it as jolly and sociable as we can.

Materials etc. to make things for the Stalls are rather more difficult this year, and we are hoping that parents having sons at present in the Troop, will help by each one sending at least one article for a Stall. This would be a splendid way of shewing your appreciation to Mr. Ebbage for the time, work and worry that he puts into running the Troop to enable your boys to have such opportunities of camping holidays and weekends on the river.

Our chief requirements are Preserves (when you make that homemade jam or Pickles, or bottle that fruit for the winter, just put one pot of each aside for the Bazaar!) small articles suitable for a Bran Tub, prizes for the Side Shows, Paper Hats, Novelties and Toys suitable for the Christmas Festivities, and those who have Allotments, or who have fruit stored for the winter, gifts of vegetables, plants or fruit for the "Spivs" Vegetable Barrow would be very welcome.

The Skipper, at 82 Eden Street, or the Editor of the "WATER RAT" whose address you will find on Page 1, will be pleased to receive any offers of help, or suggestions for making the Bazaar a great success, so please come forward with them and "dont be fright", but above all, DON'T FORGET TO COME ALONG YOURSELF AND BRING YOUR FRIENDS ON SATURDAY 27th NOVEMBER, to the Y.M.C.A. EDEN STREET, KINGSTON.

A TRADITION TO LIVE UP TO

I had no idea where to observe Scouting and what particular Troops to visit in this country. I came to England on behalf of some 180,000 Boy Scouts and Scouters in the Philippines. It is common knowledge in my country that Scouting originated in England and that its founder was Lord Baden Powell. To the leaders of this Movement in my country it seemed highly desirable for a Filipino Scouter to come to England and to study and observe Scouting from every possible angle.

The International Department of the I.H.Q. has arranged for me to contact Scouters, Cub Packs, and Scout Troops in various sections of this country. The inclusion of the "Leander" (Kingston) Sea Scout Group would seem to indicate that this particular troop has an outstanding record of achievement that might be of interest to visiting Scouters. I am glad, and grateful, to have been afforded an opportunity to be with this particular group of Sea Scouts and to see the splendid work you are doing.

You have a Headquarters and Troop equipment that are well above the average. It is my impression that those who preceded you, carefully and painstakingly laid the foundation upon which you are building from day to day. You have made, and are still making, innovations in the direction of good Scouting.

As I went from room to room in your Headquarters, I thought of the many years that have elapsed and of the Sea Scouts and Leaders of the by-gone days who have long since taken their respective places in society. Many of them, I am told, have distinguished themselves in their chosen fields of service.

These men have left behind a tradition. Each, in his own way, contributed what he could to make the record of the "Leander" Sea Scouts what it is today.

They planned things, pulled together, and achieved that of

which they are proud.

I believe that their chief ambition was to be Sea Scouts that would justify the hopes and expectations of their leaders and parents.

The tradition your predecessors have built up will endure and gather more strength and prestige if you carry on, with intelligence, courage, and devotion.

As I observed you doing your individual assignments, I had the feeling that you are intent upon doing good work so as to keep your Troop's record unsullied. If you keep this up, and I am sure you will, no one need have any fears and misgivings as to the future of the "Leander" Sea Scouts.

With this goes my very best wishes.

All aboard for good Scouting, and more thrilling adventures as you go about in your boats.

JAVIER PONCE DE LEON, Scouter.  
 Boy Scouts of the Philippines.  
 (Prospective Deputy Camp Chief)

SKIPPER'S SCRAWL (Contd. from page 3)  
 at large.

Trevor Lawson, who as you know, had an accident whilst at Camp, is still unfortunately on the sick list, although he is now making progress towards recovery, after having had a very bad bout of illness, necessitating many visits to hospital, etc. We hope it will not be long before he is able to be about again. We have had another accident, this time at Hqrs. when Alan Porter had the misfortune to break his leg during a game. After having a very painful time for the first week, we understand that he is now making progress, although it is bound to be some time before he is about at Headquarters doing P.T.

OLYMPIC GAMES - TORQUAY.

by J. DOVE.

After having spent a weekend in camp at Swanage, the Senior Members of the Group bade farewell to the Junior section and set off to take up their duties in connection with the sailing section of the Olympic Games at Torquay. The cross-country train journey meant SIX changes and sometimes a rush to catch connections.

On arriving at Torquay, Dick Riches was minus his cap which shows what happens when you wave to strange girls at railway stations.

The party was met at the station by a Scout, who escorted us to our quarters. We found that we were to be billeted in a school, and to get our meals at the local Sea Scout Troop's headquarters.

On Sunday a rehearsal was held of the Olympic Games Opening Ceremony, after which, being off duty, a visit was paid to "Mister" Bass, who was on holiday there (greetings "Belcher"). The Leander Group was the largest Troop of visiting Scouts at Torquay, and were divided into Port and Starboard Watches, with the result that Dick Riches, Ernest Southey, and Jeff Dove found themselves in the Starboard watch, and John Sharp, Keith Quinman, Nigel Fentiman, John Scott, Dave Brown and Ken Armstrong in the Port Watch. Our duties consisted of (1) A Harbour Shore Party for launching boats (2) A Boat Party to ferry crews to the yachts (3) A Marine Spa Party to act as messengers and (4) A Galley Party (which everyone tried to dodge) to help the Cooks. Jeff Banham was fortunate enough to have a trip as a member of the crew on board one of the Swallow Class yachts, but Ken Armstrong was not so lucky, and received a ducking when a boat that he was in overturned. However it was not all work, and at 7 p.m. when the duties of the day were finished, the night life of Torquay was sampled.

One day 6 Leanders obtained a day's trip on Brixham fishing trawlers. As these left harbour at 4.30 a.m. it meant leaving Torquay at 11.30 the previous night, and arriving at midnight at Brixham, without having anywhere to sleep, but a little thing like



that did not worry Leanders, and 2 found shelter in a First Aid Hut, and the others in a Ladies Waiting Room. The watchman called them at 4 a.m. and knocking up a Bakery, they obtained bread and cakes which were consumed with large quantities of condensed milk. Nigel Fentiman and Ernest Southey went aboard the trawler "Migionette", and leaving the harbour at 5 a.m., they were told to steer the boat on a Southerly Course into the Channel, whilst the crew overhauled the fishing gear. After steaming 2 hours at full speed, the trawl was dropped and the "Migionette" cruised about for 3 hours, at the conclusion of which the trawl was hauled on board, but the catch proved to be very poor, and a second 4-hour trawl was commenced, this time with much better luck, and in spite of the trawl breaking, all the fish (consisting chiefly of Whiting) was saved. The amateur crew were then told to steer a course for harbour, whilst the fishermen gutted and prepared the fish for market.

Arriving back at Brixham at 6 p.m., hungry as usual, a dash was made for the local snack bar, and to quote the lads "We arrived back at Torquay about 7 p.m., after a grand experience."

The remainder of the week soon passed, and another glorious Summer Camp had come and gone.

**WIRELESS AFFECTS WATER:** Did you know that a Wireless Programme affects the pressure in a water main? In a recent article in the Waterworks Officers Journal, a District Engineer points out that during an interesting programme, people stop washing-up, etc. with a resulting rise in pressure in the mains. To prove this statement here are some of the official figures giving the water pressure changes and the number of listeners during some of the popular programmes.

	Changes of pressure in Mains.	Average London Audience.
"Have a Go"	17ft.	48%
"Itma"	17ft.	31%
"Sat. Night Theatre"	15ft.	38%
"Over the Garden Wall"	12ft.	23%
"The Four Feathers"	11ft.	22%
"Dick Barton" (chiefly Juvenile)	7ft.	26%

12. LEANDERS "AT HOME" (contd).

in time for a late tea. The Skipper, in welcoming the guests, took the opportunity of reminding them of the forthcoming Bazaar on 27th November, and received many promises of help, both with supplies for the Stalls, and of support on the actual day.

Everyone present voted the day a great success.

\* \* \* \*

W H I S P E R S            F R O M            T H E            J U N G L E .

Dear Cubs,

First of all, I would like to thank you all very much for the lovely wedding presents you gave me (a Biscuit Barrel and a Tea Strainer).

I was very thrilled to find the whole of the Pack waiting as I came out of Church with my husband, after my wedding on 25th September. Once again I would like to say "Thank you very much" for coming along.

Going now to a very different subject - I'm sure we would all like to give a very warm welcome to our three new chums, Michael Markey, Alec McJannet and David Smith, and I hope it won't be long before these new Cubs are made to feel quite at home in the Jungle.

Good Hunting,

A K E L A .

Christian has attended Leander Troop meetings, been sailing, and also done some sightseeing and travelling to different parts of England. His impression is that English Sea Scouting is good, and that the English standard of sailing is much higher than the French, but when one realises that the question of providing Troops in France with suitable headquarters and boats, is a great problem there, we appreciate our good fortune in our Headquarters and our boats. He does not like the English way of eating, nor the English slang!

The Old Boys of "Leander" have arranged to meet at the Clubroom from 8 p.m. on the first Thursday in every month, and all ex-members of the Troop will be welcome.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### LEANDERS "AT HOME" 18th SEPT.

The Group and Pack were "at home" to parents and friends on Saturday 18th September, 1948. On arriving at the Headquarters at 3 o'clock one was impressed by the sight of tables laden with sandwiches, cakes, etc. Mr. and Mrs. Fentiman and their helpers had been busy beforehand. During the afternoon the onlookers were able to see something of the work done by the members of the Group, - Seniors were doing Chart work in the Rover Den, some of the Juniors were cake-making out-of-doors, others were doing boat work, etc. and various classes were in progress. Seats were provided outside the chart-room and some of the visitors were able to enjoy the sunshine from that vantage point while watching the activities afloat.

Boat trips were arranged, - some of the "Old Boys" taking the opportunity of taking the family afloat, whilst some of the youngsters criticised the boat handling of the old 'uns. Altogether about 70 visitors called at the Headquarters either during the afternoon or

10. HEARD IN THE FOC'S'LE.

On September 25th our Cubmaster, Miss Alma Woods was married to Mr. J. Knight, and we wish them both Good Luck and Happiness.

Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Klinkert on the birth of a son, on 6th September. Another Extra Master for our Merchant Navy.

Congratulations also, to Mr. and Mrs. Roy Croxon to whom a daughter was born in August.

Since publishing the article "Impressions" in July number of the "Water Rat", Paymaster A. Loveridge, R.N., of H.M.S. Belfast, has compiled and sent us a glossary of nautical terms, many of which will not be found in the usual books of Seamanship. We hope to publish extracts in the near future.

Whilst the adults and greybeards have been bickering and wrangling at International Conferences, our lads have been making friends and pals amongst many from foreign lands. The 3rd Kingston Troop have been camping in Holland, and several Dutch boys came to Kingston on holiday at their invitation, staying in the homes of Kingston Scouts, and next year a troop of Dutch Scouts are coming to camp here. Last year a group of Austrian Scouts visited Surbiton and were taken to Portsmouth on a visit. The proprietor of the Royal Hotel, Southsea, was so impressed by the behaviour of the Austrian Scouts that he invited 5 of them to spend a free holiday at his hotel this year.

"Leanders" have also played their part and in the last 2 months have entertained as visitors, Mr. J. Ponce de Leon, who was sent to England by the Philippines Scout Association to study English Scout methods, and who will be responsible, on his return, for training Scoutmasters and Cubmasters. Mr. Young, Commissioner for Sea Scouting in Alexandria. Baron Von Asbeck, a Sea Scoutmaster from the Hague, who paid several visits to the Clubroom, and Christian Aubourg, of the 1st Havre Sea Scout Group (Senior P/L, now Rover) who came to England to improve his knowledge of English. Owing to housing difficulties, he has been offered accommodation for a period of five weeks with Ray Quartermain.