

C O N T E N T S - O C T O B E R , 1 9 5 8 .

Skipper's Scrawl	Page 2
Troop Summer Camp, 1958	3
Scouting in the Middle East	4
Senior Troop Summer Cruise	5
Cub News	7
Group Accounts for year to 31.3.58	8
Admiralty Inspection, 1958.	9
Random Jottings	10
Tests Passed	11
Outward Bound Course	12

Edited by:-
45, Dysart Avenue,

F.C. Goodger
Kingston.

SKIPPER'S SCRAWL

I have to start on a very sad note as, since our last issue, three very great friends of the "Leander" Group have died. Mrs. Margaret Davies (wife of our former member, Rex), Mrs. Buer, wife of Mr. "Bill" Buer and mother of Morrie, and more recently still, Mrs. Butcher, wife of Mr. Arthur Butcher of New Malden and mother of Peter, David and Arthur. We offer our sincere sympathy to their families.

* * *

Our records show that the 2nd Kingston Scout Troop, from which the "Leander" Group has evolved, was registered by the Boy Scouts Association on 9th April, 1909 - when registration first commenced. We know, however, that the Troop had been in existence for some time prior to this date but there are no documentary records. It was, therefore, decided to wait until next April before celebrating the Group's Golden Jubilee. A committee will shortly be set up to arrange a programme of "festivities" to mark the occasion and, in the meantime, I shall welcome any suggestions as to what might be included.

* * *

For many years the pages of the "Water Rat" have recorded all manner of activities undertaken by the various sections of the Group, and this issue is no exception. These reports, however, can only touch the fringe of the programme which is carried on continuously by the steadfast efforts of the Scouters of each Section. The enthusiasm of the Cubs, Scouts, Senior Scouts and Rovers bears testimony to the quality of these efforts and we all owe a great debt to those who spend so much of their time at the Group's Headquarters in the boys' interest. We can do a great deal to encourage them by seeing that they have the necessary equipment and that it and the premises are maintained in satisfactory condition. This requires money. Let us do all that we can to make our 1958 bazaar a tremendous financial success and thus ensure that succeeding issues of the "Water Rat" will continue to record enjoyable adventures and worthwhile achievements.

* * *

TROOP SUMMER CAMP 1958

The Troop Annual Summer Camp was held at Waldringfield, Suffolk, this year. Owing to the number of Scouts going and amount of the gear we were taking a few of the younger Scouts with Muff in charge went by train. The rest of us went by lorry; we left Kingston at 7.50 a.m. and after an uneventful journey arrived at Waldringfield at 12.30 a.m.

On arrival we were surprised to find the 1st Hertford Sea Scouts were already in camp in the field we usually have. We were assured that they were moving out on the Monday. So for the first two days we formed two patrols and did our cooking on primus stoves. By Tuesday afternoon each patrol had made its own campsite and the Troop was down to a normal routine. During the first week we had fine weather and several patrol expeditions were made to Ipswich and Felixstowe and also up river to Woodbridge. On Wednesday "Sandling" arrived and the next day Nye, Chris, Pluto and Paddy went for a sail in her down river; in the capable hands of Ted and Bob we went aground. On arrival back at camp we discovered that Skipper and Mrs. Ebbage had arrived and we were very pleased to have their company. Most days the mob went swimming and occasionally when the tide was out we bathed in the high quality mud which is a well known feature of the Waldringfield Camp Site and has been the scene of many "Leander" mud fights.

Due to the lack of support the parents' coach did not run as usual and the only parents who visited us were Mr. and Mrs. Day who were accompanied by their daughter and her husband. They found the frail young son safe and well! There was a certain amount of moving around over the week-end; Steve went home for his holiday in France and Clive came home from France for his camp. We were interested to receive a card from Steve later in the week. During the week-end we were almost overwhelmed by Scouters as Akela, Bagheera, Yank, Mike, Bumble and his wife Barbara, all visited us. "Peasey" came down from the wilds of Scotland with a colour film to search for rainbows.

The weather changed during the second week and the ground became very unsafe and waterlogged. The "Ajax" troop were camping nearby and with them we went to look over Felixstowe Airport and R.A.F. Station. We saw some very interesting equipment including a helicopter (which a R.A.F. mechanic is probably still trying to put together again)

(contd. on Page 11)

SCOUTING IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

When I left the "Leander" Pack I went first to Egypt and joined the Pack of the 15th Cairo group at Abu Sueir which was the R.A.F. depot in the Canal Zone. We had our own headquarters and met on Wednesday and Thursday evenings. I stayed there about a year during the course of which we had a Pack holiday at an R.A.F. camp near the Great Bitter Lake.

We then moved to Cyprus and were stationed at Limassol where I joined the 51st Cyprus Troop. The Troop had about 15 - 20 scouts all of whose fathers were service personnel stationed locally. There were continual changes and during the time I was there we had no less than nine scoutmasters! We had our own headquarters and met Friday evenings and on Saturday afternoons. For week-end camps we used to go to an army camp at Episcopi. Here we were close to the sea and were able to go swimming. Nearby was the R.A.F. sailing club and sometimes we were able to crew in the club "Fireflies". For longer camps we used to go to a permanent camping site at Eagle Falls up in the mountains. This site was also used by Cypriot and Greek Scouts and it was from here we did our First Class journeys. I was fortunate as I had a month's camp there, two weeks with the 51st and a further two weeks with a friend of mine who was in the 36th Cyprus, a service Group in Nicosia.

During the time I was in Cyprus I managed to see most of the larger towns in the island. Nicosia, the capital, has many interesting old buildings and bazaars and as it lies inland in a basin it gets very warm at times. Kyrenia, a small town on the north coast has a massive ruined castle. Larnaca is on the south coast and has a mosque said to mark the burial place of an aunt of Mohammed. Not far from the town is a lake which dries up in the summer and from which salt is collected. Famagusta is another port on the east side and also has good sandy beaches close to it. There are many pretty places, particularly in the mountain areas, and the island abounds in interesting old buildings many of them built hundreds of years ago.

STUART SHENNAN (in an interview)

SENIOR TROOP SUMMER CRUISE.

The Crew were Bob Dodge, Bob Shackleton, Ivor Hunt,
Martin Webb and Ian Dow.

We left Kingston in "Sandling" on Saturday morning and used the engine on the journey down to Greenhithe where we moored alongside the training ship "Worcester". Here three Guildsmen met us and helped us to step the mast. The next morning we left for Gillingham on the River Medway. We passed Tilbury Dock and Gravesend and then came to Shellhaven. The wind was Force 4 and the water was getting choppy by this time. We were engaged in conversation and did not even notice the water was becoming sandy. "Sandling", however, did notice and hit the bottom about a mile off shore. We rowed an anchor into deep water in the Pram and pulled ourselves off. We eventually arrived at Gillingham in the evening and there found "Sandling's" permanent mooring buoy floating just under the surface.

Monday morning was spent shopping and we left again at mid-afternoon intending to go to the mouth of the Medway. However, the wind was so good we decided to head for Burnham on the other side of the Thames Estuary. Half way across we sighted and nearly captured a large beach ball. When we were about eight miles from our destination it became dark and Bob Shackleton took over the navigation, but his charts were thrown all over the cabin by the movement of the boat. We decided to make for Brightlingsea instead of Burnham as the channel to the latter place is not lit. We passed through a narrow channel it being necessary to steer by keeping two buoys astern of us in line. At 3.30 in the morning we arrived at Brightlingsea (which seemed to puzzle Bob as he was navigating us to Burnham). We entered the harbour using the lights shown on our chart. We turned in and when we got up at midday we studied our course of the previous night. We found we had entered the harbour by navigating on wreck buoys and further examination of the chart we had used showed it had been cancelled in 1953.

On Wednesday we left Brightlingsea and headed for the Troop camp site at Waldringfield. We passed the Cork Lightship and entered the River Deben, a tricky proceeding as there is a moving bar of sand across the entrance. There

(contd. on Page 6)

was 5 ft. of water over the bar and as "Sandling" only draws 4 ft. we were all right. The next day was spent doing odd repair jobs and generally cleaning the boat up. On Friday Bob Dodge and Ted took four of the Troop P.L.'s for a trip. They had just started when Pluto noticed the bottom coming close to "Sandling". For once he was at a loss for words, and they went aground. On Saturday we planned to go to Pin Mill on the River Orwell but as the wind was not favourable we returned to the Deben for the night. The next day we were able to make Pin Mill where we stayed. On the Monday evening we motored round to Wrabness in the River Stour where "Ajax" Sea Scouts from Surbiton were camping. We visited them next morning and as we entered their campsite Bruce and Jim Peters looked at us in disgust and walked out the other end. Wishing to buy some petrol here we were directed by a railway man to one "Bert" who it appeared supplied it by syphoning it from his car. Unfortunately on this occasion the car had run out of petrol itself. We left in the evening but were too late to avoid the falling tide and had to spend the night on the mud. Bob Shackleton who was going to Manchester University in the autumn climbed into the mud and amused himself making mud pies - Britain's hope for the future! We floated again early on Wednesday and made for Brightlingsca. We reached Clacton but with wind and tide against us made no progress and while we were taking in a reef Butlins operated aeroplane trips around us from their holiday camp. We had to return to Pin Mill where we stayed all day Thursday owing to near gale force winds. We consulted the local bus timetables in case we had to leave "Sandling" there. Something important seemed to happen on Fridays as there were three buses running that day whereas during other days of the week none operated at all.

By Friday, however, the wind had moderated and we headed for the River Blackwater. On the way we passed a practice bombing range and watched from a distance. We left "Sandling" near Maldon and returned home by train after an enjoyable cruise.

IAN DOW

CUB NEWS

During the summer we have had two Cub Camps at Polyapes. The first was for the whole Pack and was very well supported; the weather turned warm and fine and we spent the weekend eating, lying in the sun to recover from the meal and playing football and rounders to work up an appetite for the next one. The hard work and cooking was, as usual, done by the over-worked Assistant Scoutmasters, Yank, Sticky and Muff to whom we pass our grateful thanks. The camp would not have been possible without the very kind help of the parents who assisted in the transportation and to them also we say "Thank you". The second camp was organised by Bagheera for the Sixers and Seconds and again fortune smiled on us and the weather was good. In this respect we seem to have had all the luck this year.

The District Swimming Gala was won by the Pack sharing honours with the 5th Kingston Pack. However, we managed to win the Relay Cup all to ourselves and send some of "Leander" Cubs forward into the County Gala where they obtained second place. Jolly good show, especially as this year the Cubs taking part were all fairly young. Next year we ought to break all records.

Recently we held a cake-making competition vaguely hoping that one or two Cubs would turn out something looking a little like a cake. To everyone's amazement practically the entire Pack started baking and the cakes were far better than the ones in shop windows for miles around. In fact such a professional assortment had the poor judges baffled, and all the cooks will be getting a certificate for their magnificent efforts.

Work is going ahead at the moment for the Bazaar, Cubs making models, waste-paper baskets, spill holders, kettle holders, etc. We are also looking forward to the Hallowe'en Party on the 30th October and parents are having headaches trying to design fancy dresses in time. This year the theme will be Imps and Angels - quite a lot of Imps are expected! During the winter we are planning to learn the art of club-swinging and if anyone has any old Indian Clubs the Pack would be very grateful for the loan of them.

Badges gained will be published in the next "Water Rat". Several Cubs are half-way through tests and, with the winter coming on, there will be a lot more badge work being done.

AKELA

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1958.

	£	s	d		£	s	d
To <u>SUBSCRIPTIONS</u> -				By Association Dues	2.	1.	-
Cubs	15.	12.	-	Bank Interest & Cheques	21.	16.	3
Scouts	34.	18.	6	Insurances -			
Senior Scouts	18.	6.	9	Boats	£22.	-.	6
Rovers	23.	17.	3	Fire	2.	5.	9
" <u>DONATIONS</u>				Adm. Gear	2.	5.	5
Supporters Association	35.	-.	-	Local Rates	23.	4.	8
6d. a Week	28.	8.	-	Rent	8.	-.	-
Others	19.	16.	3	Water Rate	7.	16.	4
" BOB A JOB £67.8.5				Electricity and Gas	41.	15.	9
Less to Assn. <u>18.9.-</u>	48.	19.	5	Maintenance of Premises	4.	-.	10
" Use of premises	40.	5.	-	Boat Gear and Maintenance	10.	7.	5
Surplus on Camp	19.	11.	10	Camp Gear " "	15.	17.	5
Hire of Boats & Gear	7.	1.	-	Instruct. Gear & "	15.	16.	2
Canoe Storage	8.	10.	6	Boat Registration	2.	15.	-
Jumble Sales (2)	93.	2.	2	Badges, Books & Stationery	21.	3.	3
Bazaar	57.	2.	7	1st Aid Gear	-.	17.	11
Whist Drives	6.	6.	6	"Water Rat", less sales	5.	13.	8
Catering	41.	15.	11	Kingston Youth Ctc. Swim.	-.	10.	-
Sale of Firewood	-.	7.	6	Competition Expenses	1.	12.	6
Christmas Draw	22.	11.	-	Hospitality & Socials	7.	10.	8
Football Competition	30.	10.	-	Postage and sundries	1.	16.	11
				Trans. to B.P. Guild	10.	5.	7
				"Sandling" Expenses	45.	15.	9
					275.	8.	9
				Excess of Inc. over Exp.	276.	13.	5
					£552.	2.	2
Cash in Hand & Bank	1,4.	57	43.14. 5	Outst. Loans	1,5.	57	817. -. -
Exc. of Inc. over Exp.	276.	13.	5	Cash in Hand & Bank			65. 7.10
Outst. Loans	31.	3.	58		31.	3.	58
	562.	-.	-				882. 7.10
	£882.	7.	10				882. 7.10

ADMIRALTY INSPECTION 1958.

In the last issue of the "Water Rat" a brief description of the inspection was given. The following is the Inspecting Officer's Report (which has since been received) -

The Inspection took place at the Headquarters, Lower Ham Road, Kingston, at 1930, May 20, 1958. At Thamesis Yacht Club Steps Admiral Commanding Reserves accompanied by Staff Officer Sea Scouts was embarked in a gig manned by a smart crew of Seniors and pulled the short distance up stream to Leander Steps. The Admiral was piped ashore and after being greeted by the County Commissioner E.G. Neate, Esq., and the Group Scoutmaster E.L. Ebbage, Esq., proceeded to inspect the Scouts, Seniors and Rovers mustered on the main deck. Patrols were smartly turned out in correct uniform and bore themselves well on parade. However, the movement of taking two paces forward after the Admiral had passed was not executed with the precision expected.

An intensive programme of instruction and practical training followed which included classes in chart work, boat maintenance, P.T. and the Rule of the Road. The general standard remains of a high order and fully demonstrated the ideal of the Founder as the responsibility for the tuition of each class rested solely on the shoulders of individual patrol leaders. Afloat, pulling instruction took place in the two gigs and sailing in the other gig and YW Cadet. The scout sailing the latter gave a most convincing display of capsizing and drowning and once brought ashore lay for some moments on a stretcher shivering with teeth chattering. The presence of the St. John's Ambulance manned by two scouters dressed in brigade uniform added colour to what was an extremely realistic and well executed evolution.

Good progress has been made with hedge work during the winter months, one scout having attained his Queen's Scout and two their first class badges. One of the seniors, a pupil at Kingston Grammar School received news this morning that he had passed successfully the direct entry examination into the Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth. Once again the programme fully demonstrated Sea Scouting at its best and was consistent with the very high standard maintained by Mr. Ebbage and his Scouters. Continuance of Admiralty qualification is recommended.

R.C.E. WATKIN. Inspecting Officer to the ADMIRAL COMMANDING RESERVES.

RANDOM JOTTINGS

During the last few months several of the Rovers and Seniors have left Kingston. Graham Fennell having completed his course at the Technical College has joined his first ship (M.V. King City) as an engineer apprentice and is now on his way to Japan via the Panama Canal. He is still, however, a member of the Scout Movement as he has enrolled in the Deep Sea Scout Branch. Ivor Hunt and Bob Shackleton have obtained places at Nottingham and Manchester Universities respectively and are now in residence in those northern cities. "Tacky" Garnish has also gone in the same direction and is now with British Thomson Houston at Rugby. Keith Sutherland has gone to Dartmouth. We wish them all success in their new careers.

* * *

Letters of commendation from the Chief Scout were recently presented to the five "Leander" Scouts who rescued an elderly lady from the River Thames last April. The presentations were made by the D.C. who was accompanied by Mr. Cowie, Deputy County Commissioner and Mr. Paul, Superintendent of Dr. Barnardo's Home.

* * *

Congratulations to Paul Adams on winning the Puttock Cup at the Kingston District Swimming Gala held in September. The Cubs and Seniors both tied for first place in their respective sections and the Troop took second place in the Scout events. The Gala was very well organised by Gordon Biden, Chairman of the "Leander" Supporters Association.

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The Fiftieth Anniversary of the Registration of the Group occurs on 9th April, 1959 - look out for details of the celebrations to mark this event.

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As usual after Summer Camp there have been a number of changes between Sections. R. Bevan, R. Day, J. Fielder, C. Godsave, C. Steel and C. Young have all gone up in the Senior Troop. From the Pack the following have joined the Troop - A. Bayley, N. Duffin, R. Peck, G. Steel, A. Topham. R. Broadbridge has transferred from the 35th Westminster Sea Scout Troop.

The following are the present members of the Group Committee - Mesdames Fennell, Raymond and Steel, and Messrs. A.G. Bailey, W. Bourne, K.F. Casey, B.A. Cole, K. Coghlan, D. Dow and R. Rainsley, together with the Group Scoutmaster and the Chairman and Secretary of the Supporters' Association and the Chairman and Secretary of the Old Scouts' Guild for the time being.

The Trustees of the Group property are P.H.G. Day, E.L. Ebbage, W. Ervine and R.H. Marrion.

The Officials of the "Leander" Branch of the Old Scouts' Guild for this year are -
Chairman - N. Bennett, 91, Bellfield Road, West Ewell, Vice-Chairman - M. Buer,
Treasurer - G. Goodall, Social Secretary - D. Balls, Editor of News Letter - D. Blundell,
 2 North Road, Surbiton (E.M. bridge 9506).

The 10th World Scout Jamboree is to be held in the Phillipine Islands in July 1959, and will be the first such Jamboree to take place in Asia and only the second one outside Europe. It is hoped to send a strong contingent of scouts from the U.K. Chartered aircraft will be used for the journey and the cost per scout is likely to be about £300. Many districts are planning to raise the necessary funds.

The 1958 Kingston District Scout Camping Competition was won by a "Leander" patrol led by Chris Young.

TROOP SUMMER CAMP 1958. (contd. from page 3)

and a non-water-cooled ack-ack gun. The afternoon was spent wrecking the local fun fair with the help of "Ajax". We spent most of Friday packing up and eventually arrived back in Kingston at 1800 hrs. on Saturday in time for tea at the Skiff Club.
 J. FIELDER.

TESTS PASSED

PROFICIENCY BADGES

Ambulance - I. Dow. Swimmer - D. Dove, C. Hunt.

Rescuer }
Venturer } P. Adams

FIRST CLASS - C. Carr, D. Huckson, I. Coghlan, (all tests completed), G. Phillips (1).

SECOND CLASS - M. Dyer (2), G. Hockham (2), K. Maund (3), A. Palmer (4), F. Taylor (completed)

TENDERFOOT - N. Duffin (3), A. Guy (2), G. Steel (2)

OUTWARD BOUND COURSE

This is an account of the four week course which I attended at the Outward Bound Sea Training Centre at Aberdevev in North Wales during July last. On arrival at the railway station we were divided into watches and then taken by Land Rover to the Outward Bound Headquarters which is a large house standing in its own grounds a little way outside Aberdevev. Here we each had a medical examination, drew our kit, bedding etc. and then settled into our quarters which consisted of huts for each watch, in the grounds. Then followed a general talk about the course and what we should be doing.

Things started in earnest next morning when we were called at 6.30 a.m. and had a very cold shower provided straight from mountain stream water. Each watch had to keep its hut clean and in addition had to act periodically as duty watch. After breakfast, the morning was spent mainly in athletics and we were each given a standard which we had to attain during the course. Further sessions followed in the afternoon and were varied from time to time with forestry work, boatwork and sailing. We also had the use of the old Barmouth Lifeboat and had a course of lifeboat drill. On other days we had mountaineering instruction followed by practical work in the mountains which surround Aberdevev. Evenings were devoted to discussions and lectures.

About half-way through the course each watch went on a four day expedition. The expedition was led by the watch captain (I found that the captain of my watch was a Scout) and was accompanied by one of the Outward Bound Instructors. The latter, however, was there only as an observer and in the event of an emergency arising. First we went by train to a small station up the River Dovey. From there we hiked up the mountains some miles until we were enveloped in cloud. We eventually reached a log cabin built by the Forestry Commission for the Outward Bound Trust in recognition of the assistance given by those on courses in forestry work. There we spent the night. The next day the weather was not very good, we did some forestry work and some cliff climbing. The third day we continued the hike through mountainous country and that night slept out in the woods - it being one of the rules of the expedition that one night shall be spent in the open without tents, whatever the weather; trust us to pick a good wet night for it! On the fourth day we returned to Aberdevev. Unfortunately as I had injured my shoulder I was unable to go on the other expedition which was a cruise in the ketch attached to the centre.

ALAN HOCKHAM (in an interview)