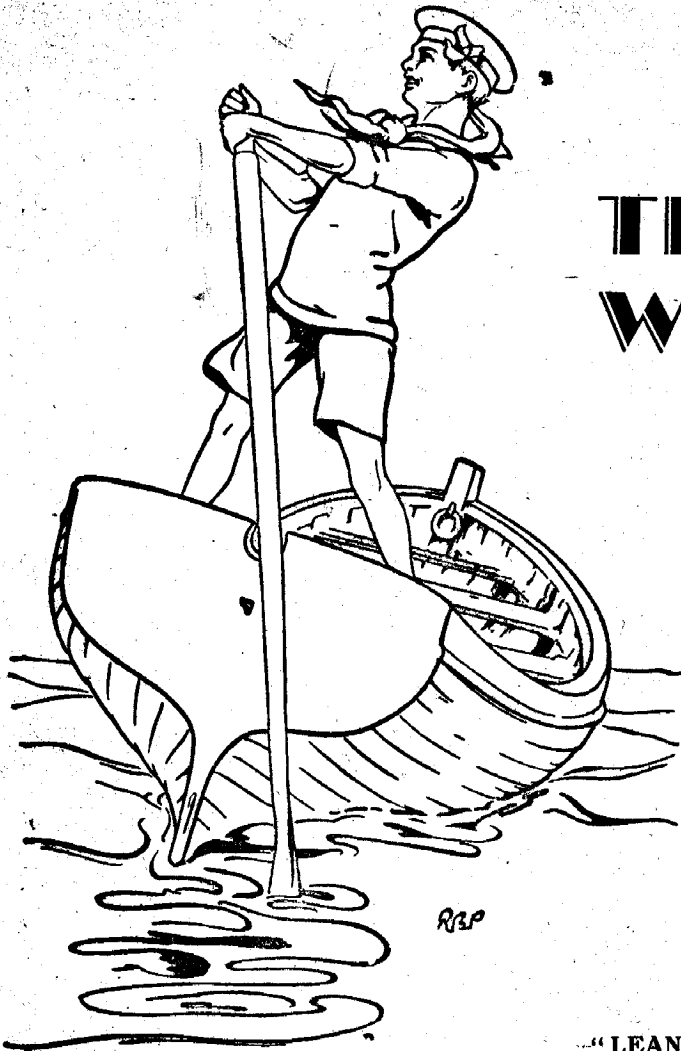


PRICE 3d.



THE WATER RAT

JAN 1960

Published by
"LEANDER" (KINGSTON) SEA SCOUT GROUP

THE BOY SCOUTS' ASSOCIATION

"LEANDER" (Kingston) SEA SCOUT GROUP (5969)

(Founded 1909 as the 2nd Kingston Troop)

HEADQUARTERS: Lower Ham Road, Kingston-on-Thames

Group Scoutmaster: E. L. Ebbage, 82, Eden Street, Kingston. Phone: Kingston 1141 (Office)
" 5614 (Home)

WOLF CUB PACK

Musters

Cubmaster

Age 8-12 years. Subscription - 3d per week.
THURSDAYS - 6 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. at Headquarters.
SATURDAYS - Occasional outings as arranged.
Miss S. Angles, 20, Fassett Road, Kingston. Kin 7843.

SCOUT TROOP

Musters

Scoutmaster

Age 12-16 years. Subscription - 6d. per week.
TUESDAYS - 7 p.m. to 8.30 p.m. at Headquarters.
SATURDAYS - 2.30 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Headquarters, or as arranged.
Tea is obtainable at a charge of 9d. and an optional
recreational session is held until about 8 p.m.
P. Burton, 44, Vincent Road, Kingston

SENIOR SCOUT TROOP

Musters

Scoutmaster

Age 16-18 years. Subscription - 9d. per week.
WEDNESDAYS - 7.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. at Headquarters.
SUNDAYS - 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Headquarters, or as arranged.
F. C. Goodger, 45 Dysart, Avenue, Kingston

ROVER CREW

Musters

Rover Leader

Age 18 years onwards. Subscription - 9d. per week.
FRIDAYS - 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Headquarters
SUNDAYS - 10 a.m. at Headquarters, or as arranged.
K. C. Martin, 14, Parkfields Road, Kingston

Regular and punctual attendance in uniform at the above times is essential for all sections of the Group.

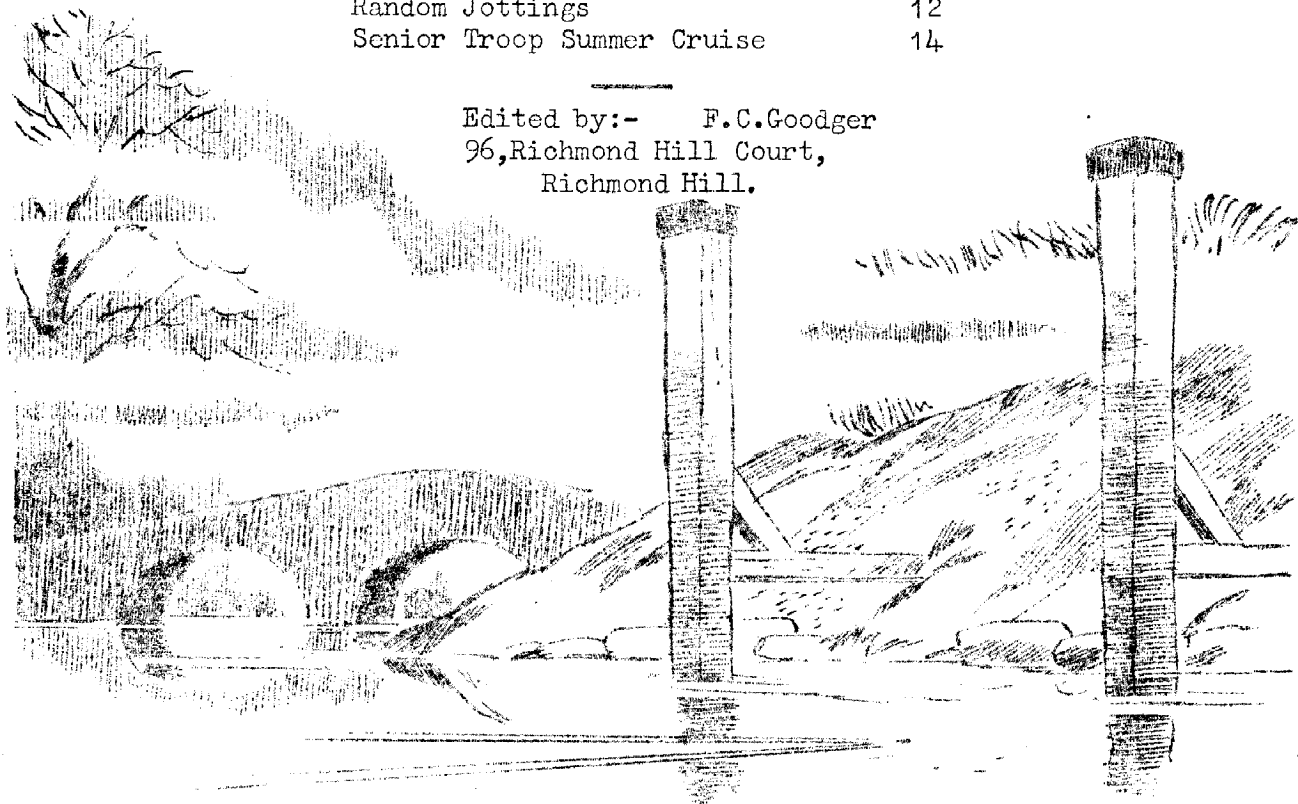
B.P. GUILD OF OLD SCOUTS

All former members over the age of 18 years are welcome at Headquarters from 8 p.m. to 10.30 p.m. on the first Thursday in each month.

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Edited by:- F.C.Goodger
96, Richmond Hill Court,
Richmond Hill.



THE SKIPPER'S SCRAWL.

After a short illness, Ronald Bass was "Called to Higher Service" in October, a few days before his 37th birthday. News of his death in Toronto came as a shock to the many friends he had made during the years he spent in the "Leander" Group as a Scout, Rover and Assistant Scoutmaster. A large gathering of members of the B.P. Guild and their wives attended the Memorial Service, conducted by the Rev. G.H. Donne Davis at Kingston Crematorium, when the ashes were scattered around the foot of a rose bush. Although Ron had lived in Canada for over seven years, he retained a great interest in the Group. We extend our deepest sympathy to his family.

The long interval since our last issue has been largely due to my being on the sick list for several weeks in the Autumn. I want to apologise to both our readers and the contributors for some of the reports being rather "ancient history".

In the Jubilee issue of the "Water Rat" I described the improvements which it is hoped to carry out at the Headquarters. There have been many delays in connection with the transfer of the boathouse from Kingston Corporation, but it is expected that the legal formalities will be completed within the next couple of weeks. We shall then be able to start work on the main part of the scheme. In the meantime, thanks to the initiative of Ted Boddy, Bernard Cole and Roland Spencer, the roof of the Workshop and Ward Room has been made water-tight and some much needed re-decoration of the Ward Room has been carried out. Unfortunately it looks as though we shall be unable to complete the scheme in the first year, as the response to the Jubilee Appeal has been rather disappointing. So far, approximately £200 has been subscribed by about 70 people, to whom we express our sincere thanks for their generosity. There must be many others who intend helping but have not yet done so. May I ask all these and other readers of the "Water Rat" who have the interest of "Leanders" at heart, to send in their contributions NOW. A further £750 is needed to complete the scheme and if all of this has to be found from normal income the result will be seriously to restrict the Group's activities for the next 3 to 4 years.

The Group is holding its annual JUMBLE SALE on Saturday 26th March at St. Luke's Social Centre, Elm Road, Kingston. If ALL our supporters will turn out their "Jumble" we shall be assured of a financial success.

This year's summer camp was held in the grounds of the Royal Hospital School at Holbrook, Suffolk. The S/M did not go, having been to every summer camp for years, and we had two visitors, Brian Woolsey, a Canadian, and Christian Bollier, a French boy. At an unearthly hour on Saturday, 25th July, Manorgate Road was awakened by the sound of joyful parents waving goodbye to their sons. The four patrol-leaders and about seven others, including Muff, travelled by lorry while the rest of the troop, accompanied by Ted, went by train. The adventurous Tacky travelled by a peculiar conveyance of unknown make and origin which he had acquired. He said it was a motor-bike, needless to say no-one believed him.

The lorry arrived at Holbrook at about one o'clock, to find the others waiting at the Little Shop, not knowing where to go. We continued to the camp-site where the gear was unloaded and then the boats were taken down to the river while the P.L.s chose camp-sites, camp was soon set up and on the Sunday a delegation went to Church. These pious souls were rather anxious to repeat their excursion the following Sunday on account of certain choir girls. During the first week three of the four patrols rowed down to Felixstowe, and back funnily enough, in one of the twelves. The Otters did not go.

The four P.Ls (Shrimp, Davy, Whisky and Chris) were persuaded by Sticky to go on a hike. They were given ten shillings each, a few tins, and told not to return for two days. Entering into the spirit of this exercise in a most commendable manner, they staggered as far as the Maybush at Waldringfield where they stopped for liquid refreshment. It is reported that next morning Shrimp saw two cows for every one in the field where the P.Ls were camping. The next day, they stopped for the night at Belstead. While looking at some birds Creeper absentmindedly started hacking away at a dead tree. A great horde of hornets came out of the tree and one stung Whisky. Some bi-carbonate of soda was purchased and plastered all over his head and the next morning he had recovered. On the third day the P.Ls returned to camp after walking forty miles. Meanwhile the seconds (Albert, Chris, Brian and Keith) were enjoying themselves and finding out how hard it is to have meals on time. During the second week there was a good deal of sailing, sometimes crossing the Stour to Wrabness, where Ajax camped last year. On Monday Sticky went home to work

accompanied by Hilda and her mother and sister. The next day the Troop were sitting up in Shrimps' camp-site having tea when someone shouted that there was smoke coming from the Seagulls' galley. This was not unusual, but this time it was a tree that was smoking. (I wonder if it was under age). A party, led by Muff, and armed with buckets, axes and such pieces of equipment rushed down the hill to the tree which was growing a few feet from a smelly stream. After pouring about fifty buckets of water into the tree, Muff and Tacky cut half of it down, it was all a crafty scheme to test our new felling axe and Muff's reactions...

While camping at Holbrook the Troop was invited to look around the Royal Hospital School. The Naval Chaplain escorted us and we had a most enjoyable afternoon. The school is for sons of officers or ratings in the Royal Navy. It was originally at Greenwich in what is now the Maritime Museum. In 1934 it was moved to Holbrook and the school was built on the ground and with the money of a Lord who died during its construction. 660 boys live there divided into eleven houses, and are taught mainly by civilian teachers. There is a very beautiful Chapel in the school in which there is a stone mosaic of the Nativity. After seeing the Chapel we were shown the swimming bath which is larger than Kingston bath. We were invited to return after tea for a swim, and accepted the invitation readily. The water was rather cold as the heating had been off for a week but this did not smother our enthusiasm and everyone had a swim.

The next day Chris and Davy decided to make an assault course for the parachute truck. With the help of many others including Keith, Brian, Brian Woolsey and Christian they built a large ramp of earth in the middle of a path. The ramp was eventually about three feet high. The idea was for someone to run down the path, pushing the truck, containing some poor defenceless fellow, as fast as he could, go up the ramp and let go of the handles of the truck. No one was injured, much to the astonishment of everyone. A stop was put to this when Ted tripped over the ramp one night.

Not much more happened during the camp. Graham went to Clacton on Thursday to stay with his aunt and Martin Evans went, to go on holiday on Friday. We went to see round a sawmill, which turned out to be about three large saws, one driven by

a tractor, and a caterpillar track tractor which four or five of the troop got a ride on. On Saturday we were all in early and packing up after a most memorable camp. The lorry left at one forty-five and once again half of the troop went by train with Ted. Tacky set out on his conveyance which he had been repairing for half the camp and at half past six we arrived back at H.Q. to find Sticky awaiting with the tea and Hilda. By the way "What did you say?"

WHISKY (A. DOW)

Parents of the Scouts concerned and other readers will be interested to know that the following letter was received from the proprietor of the shop at which the Troop bought supplies during the summer camp:-

"Mrs. Gobbit joins with me in congratulating you on the splendid behaviour of your Troop when on holiday here this summer. We both feel proud that decent boys are still in being. It was a pleasure to have them around, we wish your Troop the best of luck." M. GOBBIT

TESTS PASSED

Queen's Scout	I. Dow
Despatch Rider	R. Bevan
Helmsman	R. Day, A. Hockham, C. Young
Meteorologist	C. Young

1st Class Completed

C. Hunt., K. Maund

" " Partially
completed

P. Bevan (1) S. Day (3) M. Dyer (5) N. Duffin (3) G. Hockham (5)
B. Martin (1)

2nd Class:

S. Bourne (4) C. Edwards (2) M. Evans (5) F. Hawley (2)
P. Howes (2) P. Hunter (8) M. Lorenzini (3) R. Rainsley (5)
R. Peck (1) G. Steel (1)

Tenderfoot completed

D. Owen: Partially completed G. Bulleid (3) R. Elles (3)
D. Grigg (4) H. Henley (4)

6.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1959.

<u>INCOME.</u>		<u>EXPENDITURE.</u>	
Subscriptions - Cubs	11. 5. 3	Association Dues	2.14. -
Scouts	39.13. -	Bank Interest	10. 7. 9
Seniors	17. 9. 6	Insurances	33. 8. -
Rovers	9.10. -	Rent	7. -. -
Supporters Association	20. -. -	Rates	23.14. 8
6d. a Week Fund	18.17. 6	Water Rate	6. 3. 2
Other donations	23.13. 3	Electricity and Gas	31. 2. -
		Thames Young Mariners	2. 2. -
Use of premises and gear	58. -. -	Boat Registration (2 years)	4. 2. 6
Canoe Storage	6. 2. 3	Boat Gear and Maintenance	72.12. 7
"Bob-a-Job" Week	77.19. 5	Maintenance of Premises	7.19. 2
<u>Less paid to L.A.</u>	<u>22. -. -</u>	Tent and Gear purchased	47.13. 3
Other work done	2. -. -	Badges	13.10. 6
Garden Fete, 1958	35. 8. 6	Books, Stationery and post.	8. 4. 4
Bazaar, 1958	66. 6. 2	Entrance Fees and Fares	3.17. 9
Jumble Sale, 1959	66.10. -	Socials	5.14. 8
Catering	37. 9.11	"Water Rat" - less sales	5. 9.10
Sale of Surplus Gear	14. 5. 3	"Sandling" - nett expenses	19.19. 6
Surplus on Camp	3. 3. 4	Jamboree - 1st instalment	10. -. -
			<u>315.15. 8</u>
		Excess of Income	<u>169.17. 8</u>
	<u>£485.13. 4</u>		<u>£485.13.4</u>
Cash in hand 1.4.'58	65. 7.10	Outstanding Loans 1.4.'58	562. -. -
Excess of Income	169.17. 8	Cash in hand 31.3.'59	2.11.10
Outstanding Loans 31.3.'59	329. 6. 4	H.Q.Extension Fund	86.19. 6
Jubilee Appeal to 31.3.'59	<u>86.19. 6</u>		
	<u>£651.11. 4</u>		<u>£651.11. 4</u>

When I took my last "Grand Howl" as Akela of the 2nd Dover (Sea Scout) Group Cubs Pack, the lump in my throat was softened by the consoling thought of "Ah! Well! At last I shall be able to sit back and enjoy a short rest from Scouting for a few months whilst I settle into Kingston properly!"

A week after arriving in my new home, with packing cases still in evidence and curtains still unhung, I happened to meet the G.S.M. of Leander H.Q. - my short rest over and already styled "The new Akela"!!! The first month or so in the Pack was spent in getting to know one another, preparing for and having fun at the Cub Sports, at which several of our Cubs managed to collect a certificate, and also at the Leander Swimming Gala, which was enjoyed by all. We then got down more seriously to Cub tests and Badge work, and gradually the number of Stars, Badges and Leaping Wolves gained began steadily to mount.

It was during these early summer months that we discovered that not many Leander Cubs had gained the Swimmers Badge and that almost half the Pack could not swim. With the very welcome help of Mr. & Mrs. Grigg, we set to work to remedy this by holding weekly swimming parties at Kingston Baths for instruction and practice. The results have been very gratifying. Several Cubs have learned to swim in the last two months, five have gained the Swimmers Badge and four others are now ready to be tested. At the District Swimming Gala, the competition was keen and exciting. "Leander" Cubs came first jointly with 3rd Kingston, with whom we share the Rose Bowl, and Richard Andrews of Leander won the Cubs Diving Cup. Richard was also chosen to swim in the District team at the Cubs County Swimming Gala at Epsom. Kingston came first in the Relay and third in the Gala.

The Cubs were entranced one Pack night by Ian (Mac) Dows' account of his adventures and experiences at the Jamboree in the Philippines. At the end of the meeting the Cubs had literally to be dragged away by their long-suffering parents, who had been patiently waiting outside whilst their sons tried on Mac's collection of Coolie hats and juggled with chopsticks.

A few weeks ago we were all very thrilled to receive back our Totem Pole. It was a wonderful transformation, for Mr. Frith had entirely rebuilt the old Wolf's head with rubber and fibre-glass. He assured us that it is quite un-breakable, but it has now such a handsome head that no one would dare risk even a

possible scratch. On the night it arrived I suggested that the Pack should give a really special "Grand Howl" of welcome. The result was so startling that a passing canoeist almost capsized his craft, and I understand that members of the B.P.Guild, Rovers and Seniors are still repairing the damaged roof next door - but perhaps that's only coincidence!!!

Two Cubs have "gone up" into the Troop -- Clive Tanner and David Grigg. After the "Going-up" Ceremony the Pack retired to the garden for games. I am told that several Kingston residents and passers-by seemed rather puzzled and curious by one of our "wide games" as they watched a solitary figure, wearing rather strange head-gear, creeping stealthily along the road with furtive backward glances as he sought to evade the searching eyes of his pursuers. After a very good tea at which the Troop was host, the general opinion of the Pack appeared to be "Pity we don't have these "Going-up" Ceremonies more often!" Before going up into the Troop, Clive Tanner presented the Pack with a smart new Cubs Sports Pennant, which he made himself. We are hoping it will bring us luck at next year's Sports. Six new Cubs have been admitted to the Pack since May, John Evans, David Pugh, Mark Stephens, Brian Leyshon, Stephen Allum, and Peter Crump. We all join in welcoming them into "Leander" and hope they will enjoy "Good Hunting" with the Pack, the first stage of their Scouting journey which will eventually take them through each section of the Group. **AKELA.**

TENTH WORLD JAMBOREE (contd. from page 11).

One had his headquarters in the Police H.Q. and somehow the Chief of Police managed to get himself locked in his cell, during our visit. The local Cinema was open free to us and many of us were featured in the local radio programmes. We stayed at Filipino homes in Legaspi, and made trips to the volcano, Mt. Mayon, and many local beauty spots. We also visited some hot springs and saw a boiling lake. After three days we returned to Manila and on Thursday August 6th, we boarded our Britannia and flew to Hong Kong. Here we spent 26 hours, saw the sights and had a Chinese meal which consisted of such things as sharks fins, fried pineapple and many other delicacies. We returned to London via Singapore, Calcutta, Karachi, Beirut and Rome, arriving back at 9.15 p.m., on Saturday August 8th, after a wonderful and happy Jamboree trip.

"MAC" (I. DOW)

THE NEW CHIEF SCOUT.

After having served as Chief Scout for nearly 15 years, Lord Rowellan formally handed over his duties to Sir Charles Maclean, Bart, J.F., early in September. The new Chief Scout first became associated with the Scout Movement as a Wolf Cub at the age of nine, in London. Since the last war he has held various important positions in the Movement...County Commissioner for Argyllshire 1953-55; elected a Member of the Council of the Boy Scout Association in 1955; appointed Chief Commissioner for Scotland 1954; appointed a Deputy Chief Scout in February 1959.

As a soldier, Sir Charles held a regular commission in the Scots Guards, serving in the Guards Armoured Division, (3rd Guards Tank Brigade) and saw service in France (Landing on the beaches of Normandy), Belgium, Holland, and Germany. He retired from the Army in 1947 with the rank of Major, having been mentioned in Despatches.

Sir Charles' home is at Duart Castle, Isle of Mull, Argyll, and like his predecessor, is a farmer, and is intensely interested in the breeding of Highland cattle. He is a great lover of music, and is interested in Ski-ing, Royal Tennis, Hiking, Shooting, and Squash Rackets. He is also extremely fond of travelling, which is just as well, for he is likely to get plenty of opportunity for this.

RANDOM JOTTINGS (contd. from page 13.)

In recent District events, the Group has gained the following places:-

Scout Cross Country Race	1st.	Senior Scout First Aid Competition	1st.
Sports - Scouts	2nd.	Scout Camping Competition	3rd.
" - Senior Scouts	3rd.	Senior Scout Adventure Competition	2nd.
Swimming Gala - Cubs	1st. (tied)		
" " - Scouts	1st.		
" " - Senior Scouts	2nd.		

TENTH WORLD JAMBOREE

I left London Airport, together with 88 other British Scouts (including 5 others from Surrey) on Saturday July 12th by a chartered B.O.A.C. Britannia. In 11 minutes we were over the Channel and we landed in Rome after $5\frac{1}{2}$ hours. After a short stop to refuel we took off again and reached Damascus at 11.30. Security here was very strict because there were foreign jet fighters on the airport. We were met by Syrian Scouts who presented our contingent leader, Mr. Laurence Stringer, Headquarters Commissioner for Senior Scouts, with a large bouquet of flowers. In the airport lounge we sang the 1959 Jamboree song and another Scout and I were photographed for the Syrian papers. We soon took off again and travelled to Delhi via Bahrain and Karachi.

We arrived at Delhi at 3 p.m. on Monday. We were met by Indian Scouts and taken on a bus tour of the City, visiting the Red Fort and Ghandi's tomb. We slept in a large Scout Headquarters that night on concrete floors. Four of us were interviewed by the Indian National Press and a report and pictures appeared on the front page of the next edition which we managed to obtain before boarding the aircraft at Palam Air-port at 6 a.m.

Our next stop was at Rangoon where, after take off, the pilot made a detour over the city to allow us to see the famous golden pagoda. We arrived at Manila at 9.30 p.m. on Tuesday, landing in the tail end of a typhoon. We bumped rather hard and all the garbage and cutlery in the galley came adrift and we helped the stewards clean the plane up after landing. We were met by Filipino Scouts and were each given into the care of a British family staying in Manila. I, together with a Yorkshire scout was billeted with the president of a thread company. We spent the next two days sightseeing in Manila.

On Thursday we left for the Jamboree which was at Los Baños, about 50 miles south of Manila. We travelled in a convoy of 20 buses escorted by police cars with a siren at the front and rear. A bus which would not let us pass was

pushed into a ditch by one of the "Trafcon" cars. Each bus was accompanied by a policeman with a rifle. We arrived at our site in the rain. The ground was very muddy and no grass was to be seen, however we settled in quite happily.

On Saturday the Jamboree was opened when the Jamboree flag was raised by a bunch of 200 balloons. The next week was spent visiting other camps, giving displays, signing autographs and all the other activities associated with Jamborees. We were visited by Lord Rowallan during the Jamboree. We found the Filipinos very hospitable and extremely friendly. They all spoke a peculiar Americanised version of English as well as their native language. I was assistant quartermaster for my Troop and we used to collect our food twice daily. We each had a chicken a day and also pineapple three times daily. Every morning at 5 a.m. we were awakened by a Philippine scout band which on our request, played Rule Britannia in a way it had never been played before.

The Jamboree had shops, a post office, a radio station, and of course Coca-cola. We became friendly with a family who ran one of the shops and we visited their home for a day after the Jamboree, when they took us into Manila Bay in outrigger canoes. Our water, some of which, we learnt later, was obtained from a local pond and was brought in five trucks. Finally the day came when we had to say goodbye to all our friends. Lord Rowallan attended the closing ceremony after which we all threw our hats in the air and sang "Huld Long Syne". We then returned to Manila and on the following day visited Corregidor, an island in Manila Bay. Geoff, the Yorkshire scout, and I missed the naval boat which was to take us. Our plight was seen by the captain of a Philippine frigate who took us out in his frigate and when we had caught up the convoy after an hour we went alongside another Philippine ship and jumped across. This was not the ship we should have been on and there were no lunch packs for us so we dined in luxury with an Admiral and a Prince of Cambodia.

After two days in Manila we boarded a diesel train for the 12 hour journey to Legaspi, a small town beside a volcano south of Manila. We arrived in Legaspi at 7 a.m. to be met by a band with five drum majorettes leading it. We marched round the town behind the band and, after breakfast, we visited the mayors of the nearby towns. (contd. at foot of page 8)

RANDOM JOTTINGS

As the last issue of the "Water Rat" was a special one there was no record of current events, and these are given below although some took place several months ago.

Among several congratulatory messages on the publication of the Golden Jubilee issue of the "Water Rat" was an unusual one from our old friend Mr. P. Slijk (A/D/C. Rotterdam) in the form of a tape recording.

The total collected by the Group during the 1959 "Bob-a-Job" Week was £71: 15: 1d or average of just over 16/- per head, the highest in the Kingston District.

For Easter camp the P/Ls and Seconds of the Troop went to Frylands Wood Campsite at Addington while the Seniors went down river to Greenhithe.

At Whitsun both Troops were down river, this time at the Sea Scout meet at Chatham, attended by over 1,000 Sea Scouts from London, Kent, Middlesex and Surrey. A crew of Seniors made the return voyage of 170 miles in "Hermes".

The Group Swimming Gala, organised by the B.F. Guild on 30th May at Kingston Baths was again an outstanding success. During an under-water swimming display by members of the Guild, a sum of £5 was collected for the Jamboree Fund.

There have been some changes in the Group Committee which now includes Mr. D. Dow (Chairman) Mr. H. Duffin (Treasurer).

Congratulations to Bob Shackleton who gained 2nd place in the Sailing event for the Warrington Under-Powell Cup held on the 19th September.

Among visitors to Headquarters during the past few months have been Barry Carr, Ivor Hunt, Brian Garnish and Bob Shackleton.

In view of his reputation for frequent changes of job, those who know him will not be surprised to hear that Arthur Butcher is now working for yet another newspaper, the "Aldershot News".

Two Senior Scouts, Peter Thompson and Clive Steel joined the 3rd Amsterdam Sea Scout Group for their summer cruise in their ketch "De Litchstraal" (The same vessel in which the Senior Troop spent a fortnight in 1956). This year Peter and Clive visited many of the same ports to which the Seniors went in 1956 around the IJsselmeer and the Wadden Islands, but they had very much better weather. After the cruise they stayed for some days in the homes of two Dutch Scouts.

At the beginning of the 1959 sailing season, "Sandling" was taken by road to Portsmouth, and since then has been based at the Hardway Sailing Club on the Gosport side of Portsmouth Harbour. She has been sailed in Spithead and the Solent practically every weekend and for longer periods during this wonderful summer. In our next issue we hope to give more details.

Thanks to a lot of hard work on the part of Ted Boddy, assisted by Muff and others, two of the 12 ft. dinghies have now been sheathed in fibre glass and given a new lease of life.

(contd. at foot of page 9.)

SENIOR TROOP SUMMER CRUISE

This year five Senior Scouts and one Scoutmaster rowed and sailed round to Burreham (in the prototype of the new fibre glass gig) for their Summer Cruise. The five of us D.Dove (Pigeon); A.Hockham (Crasher); R.Bevan (Nye); Chris Young; and R.Day (Pluto) gathered on the Friday night at Headquarters, and got the boat ready sleeping there during the night. Bob Dodge (the Scoutmaster) joined us about 7 o'clock next morning, when we put our gear in the boat, and left for our voyage about 8 o'clock. We picked up a tow at Fulham, and were taken right to Lambeth Pier, where, on the 35th Westminster N.T.B. we were going to sleep the night. Unfortunately the boat was locked up, so we had to cook our dinner on the deck on primus stoves. About 7 hours later we were told that the keys to the hatches were aboard all the time!

We rose in the early hours to catch the ebb tide. We rowed from Lambeth to Greenwich, and then put up the sails. This being the first time most of us had handled these sails, we took about an hour to rig the boat. We pressed on to Dagenham, but the tide turned, so we anchored the boat, and cooked our "dinner-cum-tea". About an hour later a boat came along and towed us to Erith where we waited for 2 hours for the tide to turn. It was there that our Scoutmaster began his riverside lectures to certain of the admiring public, about our boat.

When the tide turned, we rowed down to R.M.S. Worcester, the Training Ship at Greenhithe, and at this stage we first used the oilskins which Skipper had given to us at Lambeth, where he caught us up, - for it rained rather hard. On arriving at R.M.S.Worcester, we unloaded the boat and had a cup of tea, made by a somewhat philosophic steward. The Chief Engineer gave us full use of his galley, so a meal was cooked, and we turned in on the half-deck. We rose at 5-30, had breakfast, and got under way, sailing, as there was quite a wind. We passed the docks at Tilbury, which were rather busy even at that hour of the morning, and eventually reached Southend Pier, having averaged a speed of $7\frac{1}{2}$ knots.

When we landed on Southend Pier a man rushed up to us demanding our 6d entrance fee, but we told him our Scoutmaster only wanted to make a 'phone call to the Master of the Bridge over Havengore Creek, so he let us off. We set off again to the measured mile off Havengore Creek, on the Maplin Sands, where we anchored and had a sort-of-dinner; (bread and jam, swiss rolls, and fruit pies, which we were to have so often in the future). Owing to the shallow water over the sands, and the high wind, there were fairly large waves which made life rather difficult. We waited here for 3 hours, catching up on lost sleep, till the water was deep enough to get into the Creek, and began to row, but when we reached the River Reach, we put up the sails and eventually reached the River Crouch, where we found the tide to be against us. We finally reached the Wallasea Bay Yacht Club, where we were to moor the boat, and we found a number of people water-skiing, but our Scoutmaster managed to miss them, but hit the pontoon with a resounding thump (his favourite trick for laugh-raising). We unloaded our rather damp gear, and attempted to pitch our tents on a strip of grass just over the sea wall, but the ground was like concrete, and the high wind did not help matters. However we managed somehow, and soon had our favourite meal going on the primus stove (steak and kidney pudding). We turned in at about midnight, most of us wearing the clothes we were standing in, including oilskin suits, owing to our sleeping-bags being wet. We rose early in the morning and had breakfast, after which Chris and Pigeon went to the village, 3 miles away, while Crasher and Bob went to the house of the farmer on whose land we were camping leaving Nye and Pluto to pack up the absolute mess which was left of the gear the night before. Bob and Crasher arrived back just as all the gear had been got together in a tidy heap, and Bob pointed to a wood on the distant horizon and told us that there was our camp site. When at 3 o'clock all the gear had been brought over to the site, we had our usual steak and kidney dinner.

Wednesday was a rest day, in which a few of us became acquainted with some of the natives (enough said?). On Thursday we went to Britain's Miami Beach, Southend and an enjoyable, if expensive, time was had by all.

16.

On Friday, Pluto took charge of a crew and went for a cruise for his Pilot's Badge. Just out of the River Crouch, when Bob suddenly remembered he had left his oilskin trousers behind, so he said he would have to come down from the bow and take the helm, or get wet. He got wet! We got back to Burnham on Saturday by means of Havengore Creek, having lived for the last 24 hours or so, on the usual fruit and meat pies, with coffee. We called in at Burnham on the Ex-Group Scoutmaster of the City of London Sea Scouts (Mr. Thomas) and went to tea with him on Sunday. On Monday, Crasher took another crew to Harwich to visit the Junior Troop camp-site. They arrived back on Wednesday, about 11.30 a.m. had dinner, and slept all afternoon. (Just because they had only had 5 hours sleep)

On Thursday we packed up camp, loaded up the boat, and left for home, rowing. Unfortunately we reached Havengore Creek a bit late, and the Maplin Sands had just become uncovered, so we had to wait about 6 hours, until they were covered with enough water to traverse them. During this time the Bridge-Master of the bridge over the Creek, aired his views on the policeman guarding the nearby munition factory, who would not let us go under the bridge until the tide was right up.

At 1 o'clock Friday morning we moved off, over the sands. We dropped anchor at 5 o'clock and got some sleep. We had breakfast at 7.30 - a pork pie and bean hash, with coffee. At 8 o'clock we started rowing, there being no wind. However at 8.15, a small coaster picked us up and towed us all the way to Wapping. We rowed on for about $\frac{1}{2}$ hour, and just under Tower Bridge picked up a tow from a tug right up to Putney. We then had the strenuous pull to Brentford, and then picked up a tow to Teddington Lock - arriving at Kingston about 5 p.m. (about 36 hours ahead of time!) and so ended our most enjoyable rowing and sailing holiday.

THE BOY SCOUTS' ASSOCIATION

"LEANDER" (Kingston) SEA SCOUT GROUP (5969)

UNIFORM

WOLF CUBS

CAP

Green, with yellow piping, with cloth Wolf Cub badge in front.

SCARF

JERSEY

SHORTS

STOCKINGS

SHOES (or Boots)

} As Scouts - see below.

SCOUTS, SENIOR SCOUTS and ROVERS

CAP

Blue cloth in Winter, white duck in Summer.

SCARF

Black Silk, with Surrey emblem on point, worn with Turks Head formed from black leather lace.

LANYARD & KNIFE

Not to be worn until after enrollment.

JERSEY

Blue woollen, worn with sleeves rolled above elbows.

SHIRT

White flannel, with blue binding at neck and pocket for knife.

SHORTS

Blue serge, worn with blue cricket belt or plain leather belt.

STOCKINGS

Blue woollen, with *plain* tops and green tabs to garters.

SHOES (or BOOTS)

Black leather, except for boating and indoor games, when plimsols, preferably white, are to be worn.

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