

# THE SCOUTER



*March 1956*

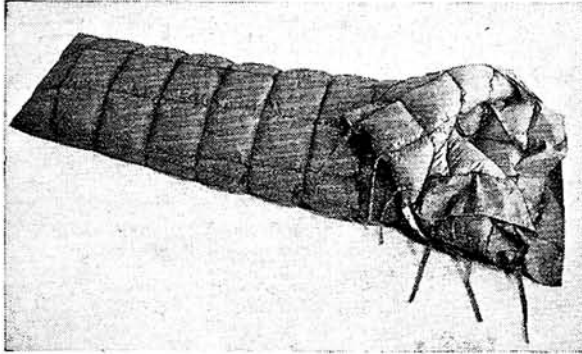
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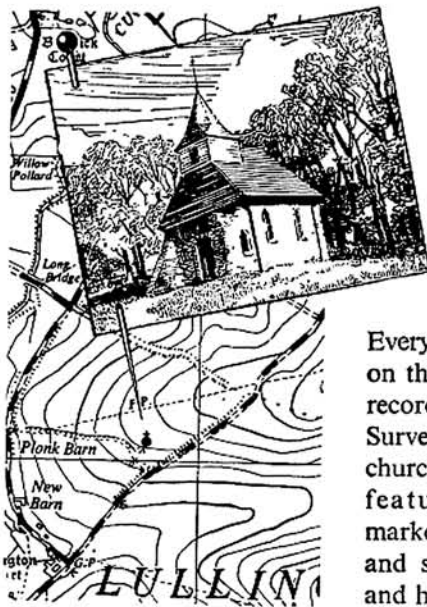
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# The SCOUTER

March 1956

Vol. L. No. 3.



## THE OUTLOOK

Today the new Rover plan is published and Group Captain Lumgair, your Headquarters Commissioner for Rover Scouts, explains it to you in this number of THE SCOUTER. I do not pretend for a moment that it will please everyone, but it is an honest attempt, the last, I hope, for some time, to provide for the needs of the young men for whom B.-P. wrote Rovering to Success and who ought to be coming up from the ranks of our Scouts and Senior Scouts, so that they may complete the process of finding their own place in the community.

Scouting is a voluntary Movement and there is no compulsion to join it or remain in it. But, a Scout is loyal, and it is, therefore, necessary for those who wish to belong to it to be loyal to myself and my Commissioners or for myself to go and leave the field for others. For that reason I ask you to do your best to follow this plan in principle and detail, If you do this I am sure it will work, and I hope that as a result Rovering will take its place as a vital part of our Movement and provide:

1. Our Queen and our country with responsible clear headed citizens;
2. Our Movement with a constant supply of young, inspiring leaders to meet the needs of the boys who are joining us in ever increasing numbers.

IT'S a long way out- to Australia, even in these days of air travel. I knew it would be tiring, for we were only to have one night in a bed and I am one of those people who cannot sleep in a plane. For this reason we were very careful not to publish the time of departure. It's nice meeting old friends at the airports, but it does mean that the journey gives no chance of rest. Somehow the news had leaked out, but I explained the situation to the Reporters and they played the game as they always do in my experience when you ask them for a good cause.

There was hardly a bump all the way and we landed at Darwin where everyone was preparing to see the New Year in with the temperature up at the top-and very high humidity. New minutes after we were in the air again, 1955 had passed and, once more on the dot, we reached Sydney where the Governor, Sir John Northcott, was waiting for us at Government House to provide a bath and breakfast before going on the final lap to Melbourne where I was spending the night with Sir Edmund Herring, the President of the Victorian Scout Council, and Lady Herring. Here we had the news that Roy Nichols, the Chief Commissioner of Victoria, had been awarded the O.B.E. by the Queen.

We heard that His Excellency Field-Marshal Sir William Slim, the Governor-General, had been unable to carry through the opening ceremony of the Jamboree because of downpours of rain and people were already beginning to talk of Arrowe Park; as I drove out it looked as if my luck would hold, but the clouds gathered again and I arrived in a Land Rover, for the camp roads were impassable on anything without four wheel-drive. After a wonderful welcome and a very short "Thank you" to the boys I again entered the Land Rover and, skidding perilously close to the Scouts on either side of the road, we climbed the hill with its memories of 1949 and the small Scout trailing his toes in the dust while a heavily perspiring father carried the kitbag.

## By THE CHIEF SCOUT

What a change now with the mud and the slush and a cold wind. There were eighteen days in succession on which rain fell before and during the Jamboree. Day after day the Arena shows had to be cancelled. Day after day the huge Camp Fire circle oozed water and remained empty of boys. It was a real tragedy that so much preparation should have been in vain.

It did, however, give the boys a chance of meeting and getting to know each other. To this end a hut was established in each sub-Camp with papers, games, radiograms, etc., as well as a soft-drinks and tea counter. These were tremendously popular and one of the greatest attractions was to shave the mud off a well-covered face with an electric razor. Not very good for the razor but evidently great fun for the boys. Another popular sport was tobogganing down the muddy slopes - without a toboggan; when, eventually, the mud began to dry, it was possible to prolong the season for a time by sitting down and getting a friend to pour a bucket of water behind you. No mothers were there to tell them to go and wash so a good time was had by all.

Meanwhile, the Governors of New South Wales, West Australia, South Australia, Tasmania and Victoria all visited the Camp and saw their own Contingents and part at least of the visitors from overseas which included Mr. Craddock and four Scouts from home.

One of the things that impressed me, as it has done at many other gatherings lately, was the number of fellows who have been overseas and remain in Scouting. The Coronation Contingent was there in force and at a Jamboree Reunion there were a grand lot present. There was a Rover Moot, too, to attend; of course, Bill Waters was there and his inspiration set the tone. Young and full of initiative, doing a really fine job in leading the many hikes arranged and providing so many other teams for every kind of service, it was a joy to meet them. Then what should we do without the Lady Cubmasters. On this occasion, the site of their camp was about the worst, but they were as cheerful as could be. The hospital, too, was another opportunity for the Guides and L.C.M.s, and there were one or two boys who liked the place so much that they announced they were going to stay there.

The sun came out and the mud dried up and turned to dust for the last day or two. The back-room boys had their show in the Arena and what fun it was. The great Camp Fire amphitheatre was filled to the brim. I should think there were 25,000 people in it on Saturday night, perhaps even 30,000, but there was no loss of control.

Finally, the last farewell on the Sunday, and we went our ways. The whole team had achieved a triumph in face of difficulties and disappointments. The organisation was flexible and was *flexed* to meet the problems of distribution on mud-covered roads, and there looking on, ever willing to put themselves to endless trouble to do anything that was needed, were the Hon. and Mrs. Clifford, the owners of Yarra Brae; their contribution to the spirit of the Jamboree was magnificent, and it was a tragedy that on the last night a freak storm should damage the roof of their house and cut off all their electricity. I introduced a silly little song to the tune of "We're on the Scouting Trail"

# BOB -A-JOB

## 1. TILE WOODWORM PATROL

To give a detailed description of the visit to New Guinea and all we saw there would take more than the whole of this month's issue and I fear the Editor would object! It is a vast area. Half the Island of New Guinea itself is administered by Australia, the remaining half is Dutch territory. But apart from the main island there are hundreds of others spread over thousands of square miles of sea.

Of course we could only cover a few places from. Rabane in New Britain with its harbour formed from a volcanic crater. Twice at least in recent years the town has been destroyed by eruptions apart from the destruction of war. Lae, another name familiar from bitter fighting; Madanes, a peaceful little harbour of great beauty; Poroka in the highlands at the head of a beautiful valley surrounded by mountains and explored twenty years ago, now a flourishing town the centre of coffee plantations and the production of passion fruit juice; Port Moresby itself in British hands since it was annexed by Queensland in the middle of last century, the centre of administration.

Much of the mountains of the interior are even now unknown though gradually the tribes are being brought to a peaceful co-existence. To speak of tribes, however, is a misnomer, for each village lived a separate existence, had its own language, its own customs and its own little battles just as our towns have their football teams.

A stoneage civilisation still persists. There are few roads, little animal husbandry though their cultivations are quite far advanced. It is the land of the bird of paradise whose plumes appear in their mad dances and much of their ritual.

Here, indeed, is a wonderful opportunity for young District officers to show courage and forbearance. They still have to face bows and arrows and spears unarmed and by sheer personality inspire confidence and real affection. Their traditions of selfless devotion is high and is still being raised today. As an example the natives love sing-songs or Camp Fires on festive occasions. Sometimes seventeen thousand will gather, dance their war dances, each man carrying bows and arrows and spears, sing their war chants as in olden days, and yet some thirty police and a European or two will have them under complete control. What would happen at home? There would probably be some heads broken! It has happened at football matches.

Scouting is keenly supported by the Missions and the Civil Authorities, and more important by the native village Councils. To pass from the Stone Age to the Jet Age in one generation interrupted by five years of war is an achievement almost impossible to imagine but it has been done.

Much of the Scouting is still in the schools and the missions, but we saw several Troops with native leaders doing fine work. We saw, too, many first-rate young fellows in the Teacher Training Schools. How they love it! But here as elsewhere there is a tendency to abandon their dress and their songs and crafts for Western ways.

For instance, the Cubs used to wear, and some of them still do wear, Lap-Laps or sarongs with nothing above the waist. When they get wet, they dry off. But if they wear a shirt it chills them and they develop chest troubles. Alas they want to wear a grey Cub uniform. Perhaps my Lap-Lap, which caused great delight, may help them to get back to their own dress. They wore a green Wolf's-head Badge about six inches long in front and into it their stars went when they had won them. Smart and more practical.

Their singing is splendid, their enthusiasm unbeatable and, although to begin with they may us some places seem sullen, this soon breaks down and they are all smiles. They are anxious for training and I have never been in a place where a good organising Commissioner would have such a wonderful opportunity. We saw several Troops being run without any European help and they were good Troops. There is room for hundreds more, but each step must be planned and no precipitate expansion allowed without training. We shan't forget our visit or the grand people we met.

In a day or two we fly to Fiji on the way home.

**ROWALLAN.**

*(The Chief Scout arrived back home on February 29th. - R.H.)*

### BE PREPARED.

I have always known that this is the Boy Scout motto but not until the arrival of six Scouts to do a "Bob a Job" job for us, did I realise that it ought to be the motto for anyone who comes in contact with these boys!

There was no evidence on the morning of their arrival that anything odd was to occur. The door bell rang about 11.0am. and six boys, looking very spruce in their Scout uniforms, explained that they had come to "do the roof." It had been previously arranged with their Scoutmaster that a number of Scouts would come to put worm killer on the rafters of the house. They were ushered into a room where they changed their smart uniforms for the old clothes which they had been advised to bring with them, and it was only when they emerged that I was struck by a sneaking fear that perhaps Scouts were the same as all other boys, once they were out of uniform, and I began to doubt our wisdom in having them.

They proceeded upstairs armed with tins of worm killer brushes and torches and, I believe, did a splendid morning's work. When the lunch gong rang they streamed downstairs and ate an enormous meal - all - a perfectly normal and expected procedure - and then returned to the roof.

We had arranged their evening meal for about 5.30 p.m. so when they came down about five o'clock it seemed a splendid plan that they should go off and have a shower bath and change into their clean clothes.

The shower bathroom is directly above the kitchen and the shouts of glee and merriment had little difficulty in penetrating the not particularly tough division. I was still hanging on (a trifle desperately, admittedly) to the idea that Scouts were indeed different from all other boys, when water started to drip through the kitchen ceiling and oceans of foam poured down outside the back door; all too obviously the dear boys had found a packet of detergent, decided that it would be fun to pop it in the bath, and then things had got out of control!

Although the six arrived down for tea looking most immaculate and the bathroom was successfully mopped up, established for ever in my mind was the truth that all boys are the same - but it wasn't luck that the ones we had were also speedy, efficient and an awful lot of fun to have in the house, it was just the effect of Scouting on the ordinary boy. Half a dozen of them in two days had done a job that we had been trying to get done without success for several years - and had enjoyed doing it.

**NANCY BLAIR.**

## INVITATION

You are invited to suggest a name for the camp daily newspaper which I have been asked to edit and produce during "JIM." Will you send your suggestions to me as soon as possible at 25 Buckingham Palace Road, London, S.W.1? Overseas readers by air mail, please!

**REX HAZLEWOOD.**



## 2. GET READY FOR THE BOB-A-JOBBERS

IT hardly seems possible that a year has elapsed since the last "Bob-a-Jobbers" invaded our homes and gardens. Yet here they are once more, full of good deeds and energy exactly as their elder brothers appeared in past years. The pattern is much the same each time, starting with a thunderous knock on the door which makes you leap to answer it fearful of what awaits you. It comes as something of a shock, therefore, on opening the door to find no face at eye level. You refocus your gaze a couple of feet lower and there he stands - small, eager, and hopeful on your doorstep.

On reflection there seems to be a minor mystery involved here. Why are they always so small? Where are those healthy, husky Scouts you see in the Lake District or Wales, dragging trek carts piled high with tents and all the rest of the camping gear? These lads could, you feel, tackle anything, but they never seem to come to you. Perhaps they are safely settled at headquarters giving out cards and calculating the average earning per boy over the whole Scout population.

So back to the boy on the doorstep. He will wear either a Cub cap too small for his round, cherubic countenance or a Scout hat several sizes too large for him, so that his face is in some danger of a total eclipse. Well, there he stands, holding out his card and asking most politely if you can find him a job. If you have boys of your own you know what that means. Preparation, supervision, and clearing up after even the simplest job takes four times as long as the thing is worth. But don't imagine that you can smile brightly and offer your shilling even though you are terribly sorry but there really is nothing you want doing today, thank you.

That is strictly against the rules: all those shillings have got to be earned by the sweat of his (and your) brow. It is good for the Cub or Scout to feel that by his own efforts he is helping to raise money for a really worthwhile cause. It is even better for you, although, strictly speaking, the organisers have not got you in mind. It teaches you tact, patience, and understanding and brings out all that is good in your nature.

If you are inexperienced at the game you will probably ask what the boy can do and be duly amazed by his reply. The smaller the -boy the bigger the job he is prepared to tackle, and you have to be very careful at this stage or you will find yourself in the garden watching him chop down the giant elm which has shaded your cabbage plot far too long, or holding the ladder while he distempers the spare room. They all like sawing, painting, and anything which involves lots of water. Washing the car or washing the garage doors, for example. If you are wise you will insist on carrying the water yourself. It is a fag, certainly, but not half so tiring as washing and repolishing the kitchen floor to remove hundreds of wet footmarks and the odd half-bucket which slopped over.

If you are really cunning you will think of some comparatively clean dry job which can be carried out where it is possible for you to remain in comfort yet still keep an eye on the work in hand. Cleaning the spoons and forks causes very little disturbance and carries hardly any risk of damage to your possessions. Clearing out the bookshelves is another loathsome chore which can be handed over with confidence. Shoe cleaning, window cleaning, or polishing the hall are other noteworthy suggestions.

When the work is completed it is advisable to indicate the kitchen sink as the place for a wash. Then a little light refreshment may be offered - a mug of cocoa or glass of squash according to the April weather. A generous hunk of fruit cake is the standard accompaniment. All that now remains is for you to sign the card and enter on it the nature of the work performed and the fee paid. And when you see that Mrs. Smith has given 2s. for having the garage swept out, you cannot possibly offer less than half a crown to your Bob-a-Jobber. If you are lucky a small yellow label bearing the welcome words "Job Done!" will be slapped in your front window and your Scout or Cub will vanish out of your life for another twelve months.

**MARIAN HEGINBOTHAM.**

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**CAN YOU BEAT THIS UNUSAL BOB-A-JOB?**

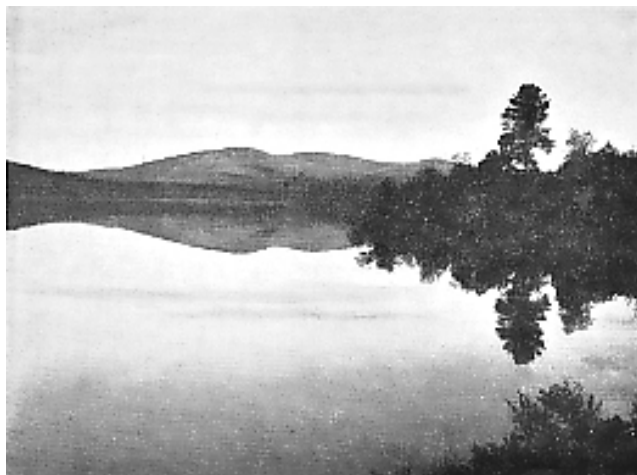
## 53. LAPLAND HIKE

WHEN the Chief Scout was in Finland in 1954, he travelled far into the Arctic Circle, where he met Dr. Ilkka Vaananen, Scout Commissioner for Finnish Lapland. Between them the idea was born that in 1955, a party of sixteen British Senior and Rover Scouts should join Dr. Vaananen and some Finnish Rovers for a hike in the more remote part of North-East Lapland, where a log cabin would be established to give shelter to anyone in need in that area. They saw in this the possibility of a joint Anglo-Finnish endeavour - a job of service to the community, and the chance to strengthen the bonds of friendship between British and Finnish Scouting.

So it was that, on July 13, 1955, there assembled at J.H.Q. 10 Senior Scouts, 5 Rover Scouts and one Commissioner. It was a young party, age range 16-26 with an average age of 19. Most of us had been abroad before, but not to Scandinavia. A lunch with the International Commissioner and the H.Q. Commissioner for Senior Scouts, a final briefing and we were off. The next week was one of whirlwind, travel, during which we experienced the most modern and the most primitive, the most luxurious and the most uncomfortable of Scandinavian travel. Train to Harwich, boat to Esbjerg, train to Copenhagen, boat to Malmo, train to Stockholm, boat to Helsinki, train to Rovaniemi, bus to Korvanen and open boat to a Lapp house forty miles from the nearest road.

We disembarked at Helsinki, our fourth capital in as many days, having already made many Danish and Swedish friends, to be greeted at the new reception quay built for the Olympic Games by the Chief Executive of Finnish Scouting. We spent twenty-four hours in Helsinki, visiting the Olympic Stadium and Swimming Pool, and then the home of Finland's greatest leader, Marshal Mannerheim. Here we saw his trophies and equipment, and learnt that he slept on a camp bed until the age of 85. In the morning we paid our formal respects to his memory and to the fallen heroes of Finland by laying a wreath at the War Memorial. At noon we said farewell to the Rovers who had shown us round Helsinki, and started our 1,000 km. rail journey to Rovaniemi, which lies a few kilometres south of the Arctic Circle. Twenty-four hours later, we arrived to find a very modern town which had been completely rebuilt after having been destroyed during the war. Here we were met by Dr. Vaananen - who took us for lunch to a very pleasant restaurant, where we sat at a long table decorated with British and Finnish flags - a rather charming custom observed by the Finns when entertaining foreign guests.

After lunch, we changed into boots and long trousers and left all non-essential kit at Ilkka's house before starting the 260 km. bus journey north along the Arctic Highway to the village of Korvanen where we spent the night in the village school. It was here that we collected our food for the next eleven days. The food was divided into loads, each weighing about 25 lb., but varying somewhat in volume.



By JOHN PORTER, A.C.C.(S), Essex

We drew lots for it, and spent most of the evening trying to find room for it in our rucksacs. During the evening it had started raining, and we were not looking forward to the next day's journey which was a ten-hour one in open boats. Standing at the doorway, Ilkka scanned the uniformly black sky, smiled and pronounced that the weather would improve. We thought this was pretty clever forecasting, so questioned him on it. "Well," he said, "it can't get any worse, so it must improve." This sense of humour, and attitude to adverse conditions of his was infectious, and it enabled us all to enjoy even the most exacting of the days before us.

That evening, too, gave us our first introduction to the food on which we were to live for the next eleven days. It consisted mainly of smoked reindeer meat, rye biscuits and butter, literally washed down with strong black coffee.

Next morning we felt quite at home as we walked down to the river in the pouring rain, though we were loaded somewhat like Sherpa porters. Four large canoes, two of them with outboard motors were waiting for us. The gear was loaded into two of the boats, and we crowded into the two with outboards. We were joined by two Finnish woodmen who were to show us how to build the hut, and by two Lapp boatmen. These two sat like statues in the rain, wind and snow, while we huddled, frozen, in the bottom of the boats. To keep up our spirits we sang for most of the day, and the Scots performed highland dances whenever we stopped. Late in the afternoon, we came to a Lapp house, and Ilkka decided that we should spend the night there as the weather was still bad. We trooped into the living-room and the Lapps welcomed us, then, as is their custom, retired to the kitchen, leaving us in complete possession of their only large room. The Lapp men were small but fairly broad, and had rather Mongolian features. The women were gaily dressed with reds and yellow predominating. After a meal we bedded down early on the floor, and were up again for a 5 a.m. breakfast. The river had risen appreciably overnight, and had washed away one of the boats. This delayed the start, but secretly we were glad to have an extra hour before resuming the boat journey.

Gradually, the river got smaller and smaller, until by midday, we had to leave the boats, say good-bye to our Lapp boatmen, and start walking through swamp towards the higher country near the Russian border where we were to build the hut. In no time at all, we were wet to the knees, and all our preparations with gaiters were of no avail. It was here too, that we first met that little inhabitant of Lapland, the mosquito, a vicious little beast who could bite through a shirt. Our anti-mosquito cream was effective for an hour or two, but they always found just the spot you hadn't covered. After a couple of hours, we were on dry land, so we stopped for lunch.





Lunch is perhaps not quite the right word, but we used it to describe the first meal after breakfast, though it was often taken as late as 4 p.m. We were just about to start gathering firewood when our Finnish friends felled two pine trees and made a fire of them. Other fires (two trees each) were lit to help us to dry out. It was explained that trees were of little value just there, as it was almost impossible to get them to a river to float down south. A few more hours walking by compass brought us to the banks of the Jauru Joki, and the site where the heavy equipment for the hut had been taken by reindeer sledge in the spring, just before the snow melted. This place, three miles from the frontier, was to be our home for the next five days, and knew that our walking with 45 lb. packs was over.

The hut we were to build was 8 x 4 metres and 3 metres high. It was to contain one large room, a sauna and entrance hail. This involved the felling of some 120 trees, their being trimmed, peeled of bark, and carried, or shot down the hillside to the building site, which was on the opposite side of the river from the camp. We worked about eight hours a day, with a few left in camp to cook, and establish a bridge, flag-pole, lats., etc. During this time, two fishing expeditions were made to a neighbouring river, and the results of these gave a welcome change to our diet. The weather had now improved, and temperatures up to 78 degrees F. were recorded. It never got dark, though we did not find that this interfered with our sleep. It did, however, have a noticeable psychological effect in that we felt less tired in the evening than in Britain. The work on the hut went well, and it was a real pleasure to fell so many trees. The skill of the Finns with an axe is most remarkable, and they use it for almost every job, even the cutting of the long square pegs (which, incidentally, were forced into round holes to keep the logs together). A few of the braver types went swimming, though the water at 40 degrees, and the ever-present mosquitoes did not make this a pleasant pastime. We learned many things during our five days at this camp about life in Lapland, and we got to know each other, and ourselves pretty well. In that isolation, in spite of the job we had to do, there was time for reflection on the more fundamental issues of life, which sometimes tend to get crowded out of a busy urban existence. The Scouts' Own we held there, and the evening prayers were moving experiences.

Then the time came to move on - and to make our sad parting from the two woodmen who were left to finish the hut. We had done all the heavy work, and made it possible for them to complete the project by themselves in the following three weeks. Our return route led us north-west for 80 kin. (on the map) back to the Arctic Highway at Laanila. We marched in single file the leader being responsible for the direction. The leadership changed every 15 minutes, and a 15 minute rest was called every hour. Our route lay over some hills which rose to 780 metres, and as we gained height, the trees got smaller and smaller, until we were walking through birch trees which were waist high.

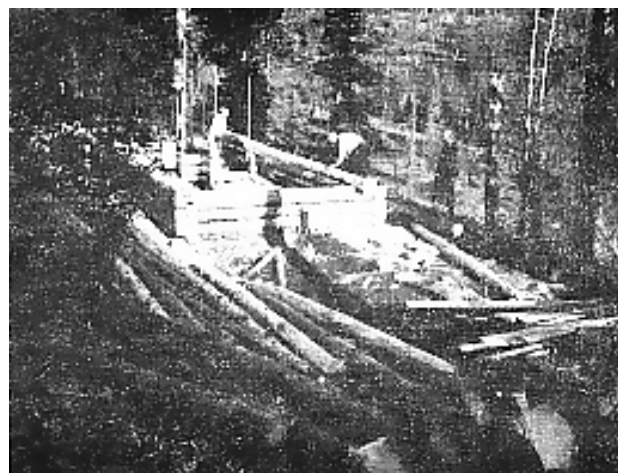


Soon the birches gave way to sharp stones and rock, and walking was quite tiring. The sky was cloudless and the temperature rose into the 80's.

At last we gained the top of a hill, and all collapsed and looked back over our route. We gasped at the vastness of it, a carpet of dark green speckled with spots of lighter green stretching for 50 miles in each direction, with no sign of road or building. Our route then led us down a little stream, where the geologists among us looked for gold without success.

It was here that we first met our greatest enemy, the Paarma, a fly well over an inch long with a most painful bite, and no respect at all for our anti-mosquito cream. When we stopped for our 3 p.m. lunch, we were visited by a reindeer which posed for photographs at a range of ten yards. Then followed more hills, with snow patches still left on their northern slopes. These hills were sacred to the Lapps, and were formerly thought to be the home of the Gods. On the high ground, we were free from insects and swamps, and a breeze gave relief from the hot sun. However, our destination for that night was a hut similar to the one which we had started, and it was situated by a lake which we could see from the hills. The last few horns went by, and the lake seemed to get no nearer, but at last we arrived, about 11 p.m. It was here that we met the first people that we had seen for over a week. It was a small party panning for gold. We swam, fed, and turned in about 1 a.m.

The route for the next day was tough going, we were warned by Ilkka, as it was all up or down hill. We made a late start so that the walking we had to do in the heat of the day we did when we were fresh. In the hot weather there, it is better to walk from midday to midnight, than to start at 5 a.m. and finish at 5 p.m. The day's route was, indeed, tough going, and it also involved fording and bridging many rivers. Again, we did not reach our destination until after 11 p.m., but we somehow found the energy to swim and cook a meal before turning in for the night, many of us sleeping without tents because of the hot weather. We just tied the top of a mosquito net to a tree and slept under that.



The next day was our last day of hiking. We started about mid-day, and at once gained height, to avoid the heat and insect life of the lower ground.

Again, the height of the trees diminished as we climbed, and after some hours we were on the tops, in quite a chill wind.

We looked back, over the rolling green hills, and ahead to a deep green valley which sloped away to a blue-green horizon. On the horizon, we saw a speck which, Ilkka told us, was our destination. It seemed a very long way away. It was.

Our lunch that day was rather later, longer and larger than usual. We had it on a small island in the middle of a shallow stream, and devoured all our remaining food. Reindeer meat, pork, cheese, biscuits, chocolate, jam, and pints of tea and coffee, in fact anything remotely eatable was eaten. This was followed by a long "rest hour," and we were off on the last lap. At 8 p.m., we hit the first path that we had seen for ten days, and we felt near civilisation. It was a path used by gold panners, and led to a hut where we rested for a while. The last twelve kms. from there to Laanila were, perhaps, the worst, as we were pretty tired by then. One of our number was not well, and his load had been distributed among the rest of us. The path soon petered out, but we were able to follow a paper trail which Ilkka had laid four months before when he had skied that way.

At last, after midnight, we reached Laanila. This was not exactly a village, in the British sense of the word, but one house, and a new hostel built by the "Friends of Lapp Children," a society of which Ilkka was President. It was a beautiful timber establishment with small dormitories, dining-room, and, in a separate building, near the river, a SAUNA. After a meal, we went in relays to sample this Sauna which, as one of us said, is really a "sort of Finnish Turkish bath." A Sauna is usually a small wooden building consisting of two rooms. You undress in the first, then go into the second, which is the bath itself. Round three of the walls are tiers of wooden benches right up to the roof, and in the centre of the floor, a large stove. On top of the stove, are large flat stones. The temperature inside the bath varies from about 80 to 110 degrees centigrade. If it is below 90, it is safe to put small quantities of water on top of the stones. This fills the room full of steam, and the moist heat is almost unbearable. If the room is kept dry, it is possible to stand temperatures above boiling point. When one is sweating freely, one is beaten with bundles of birch twigs, complete with leaves. This somehow does not hurt at all, in fact, is a rather pleasant sensation, if not done too hard. When the heat can't be stood any longer, one rushes out and dives into the stream (or in winter, rolls in the snow). In all, a really exhilarating experience.

The next day was a rest day, and was spent writing letters and washing clothes. In the evening we were introduced to a Finn who used to make a living by panning for gold. He took us down to the stream, took two bucketfuls of soil from the bank, and from them, produced, after some 15 minutes, four specks -of gold. Of course, we tried our hand at it, and a number of us -were successful.

On the following day, we started our long journey south. We spent that night at Rovaniemi, where we said good-bye to many Finnish friends, and next day, started the two-day rail journey to the Finnish Scout Training Centre at Sulkava in South-East Finland. For this rather involved journey we had, as guide a very pleasant young Finnish Rover named Johnny. We spent two days at Sulkava, which lies on the banks of one of the large lakes of South Finland. It was supposed to be a rest period, but there was so much to see, that we did not find much time to lie in the sun. While we were there, a Wood Badge Course was just ending, and we saw one Patrol returning from its 50 km. hike. Their route had ended on the opposite bank, and one of their number had to swim the half-mile across to find the boat. The Part II was rather more exacting than in Britain.

On our last evening there, a Camp Fire to which the whole village was invited was held in our honour. The evening was also graced with the presence of some rather attractive Finnish Rangers.

When we returned to Helsinki, more sightseeing was in store for us, and some of us were asked to attend the British Embassy.

Here we spent a very pleasant hour with the Ambassador and his wife, exchanging stories of Lapland, for they, too, had just returned from a holiday there.

Then, all too soon, came the moment we had been dreading, the time to leave Finland. At the quay side were Dr. Vaananen and the leaders of Finnish Scouting to bid us farewell. We could not adequately express our thanks to them for the wonderful experience they had given us, but the way we sang ourselves out of Helsinki harbour was, they told us afterwards, proof that their hospitality had been appreciated. It had been for all of us, the most enjoyable and the most worth-while holiday we had ever spent, and we expect applications for the next one will be rather numerous.

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## DEAR EDITOR

### Time-Table or Programme

DEAR EDITOR

One cannot but admire the candour and courage of Mr. Fox's letter. Is the Movement, however, not a bit prone to forget the old, and perhaps trite, adage "Boys will be boys"?

Ever since the genus "Boy" was invented it has been characterised by a careless, happy-go-lucky, chuckle-headed approach to all its affairs. "A boy's will is the wind's will."

Are we not too apt to expect that, as soon as we put a boy into uniform and call him a Boy Scout, he will automatically become a cross between The Admirable Crichton and Capability Brown?

Here and there, of course, one runs across an infant prodigy who conducts business with the efficiency of a managing director; who prefers signalling to British bulldogs and who runs a mile when he sees a platinum blonde on the horizon. I know that such exist but, thank Heavens, it has never been my misfortune to have one in my Troop. Personally I have a deep distrust of infant prodigies - they usually come to a sticky end. The boyhood of most of our greatest men would not bear too close a scrutiny.

We must always remember that Scouting is a long-term policy - not a magic wand. We accept the boy in his "wild" state and, in course of some seven years, try to help him to weather the storms of growing up. Perhaps Mr. Fox has tried to travel a little too fast. He has tried to place full responsibility on shoulders insufficiently trained to carry it. He has perhaps overlooked the duty of a Scouter to "give guidance." There is a big difference between "guidance" and undue interference. The basic principle of the Patrol System is "let the boys make their mistakes,, - but don't let them crash.

As in everything else the theory of the Patrol System can be carried to extremes when it becomes absurd. The excellent theory of "Free Education" is a case in point. Let the children "express their personalities" but within Reason. When it comes to breaking up the classroom and throwing "dear teacher" out on his (or her) neck a little adult guidance suggests itself.

I suppose that most boys, if left entirely to their own devices, would choose to camp in the middle of a fun fair. They don't know any better; haven't got the experience - and we can't blame them.

I once knew a Troop like that. After a couple of years' holiday camping the Scouter put his foot down. Announced that camp this year would be in the wilds of Glen Bogle - twenty miles from nowhere. Half the Troop left on the spot. The rest went to Glen Bogle and have never looked back. Last year the Scouter suggested a sea-side camp for a change. Quite spontaneously the Court of Honour turned it down flat on the grounds that "it was too near a town." Fact.

So with Court of Honour Meetings. My own Court of Honour "waffles" abominably. It takes them just one and a half minutes to get off the point. Incidentally so do several adult committees on which I have the misfortune to serve.



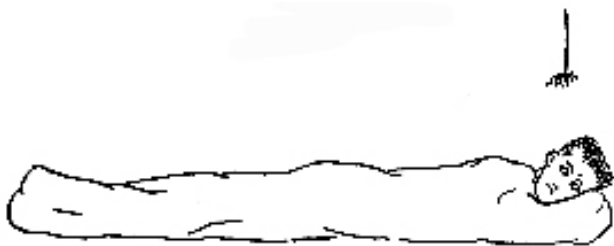
I like to listen to the "waffling., - it is often most instructive. A point, however, is reached when it appears that we will be late for breakfast - then I "interfere" with a demand for a decision on the matter in hand. I regard that as necessary "guidance." Much the same applies to implementing of such decisions. Left entirely to themselves things are not liable to happen. In my experience adult Committees are very little better in this respect.

As always may I conclude with a thought as to what B.-P.'s attitude would have been. When a boy couldn't light a fire "with natural materials" he said, "Don't be a fool - give him paper."

When boys can't run a Troop completely on their own "give them guidance.

**JOCK NEISH,**

C.C. Angus and G.S.M. 22nd Angus.



DEAR EDITOR,

I wonder whether Mr. Fox is very unlucky in the boys of his Troop or whether I am particularly fortunate in mine. Because in many respects my experience is directly opposite to his and it would seem from his letter that the fault is not Mr. Fox's.

My Court of Honour (Boy Scout Troop, boys 13 or 14) does make decisions and keep them, and, if need be, tells me when I fail to carry them out. In November, for example, my A.S.M. and I left them for 20 minutes and returned to find plans ready for the Troop Christmas Good Turn and the Court of Honour Party.

It is our custom in the Boy Scout Troop, and has been for several years, that on alternate weeks Patrols in turn will arrange the programme for the Troop meeting during the winter months; this includes some form of outdoor game when the weather permits. On the alternate weeks the Scouters organise the meeting.

Naturally some weeks are better than others, but it is so much a matter of course that the Patrol will take its turn that \*hen, recently, I knew a P.L. would be away, and I asked his Second, under 13k, what about it, the Second immediately offered to see to it himself and did it quite successfully.

Although about 20 minutes of each Troop meeting and 45 minutes each day at camp are allocated to instruction for Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class, we successfully arrange Badge classes on a separate night. For example, last winter, eight Seniors regularly attended, for about seven weeks, a class for Astronomer Badge on Sunday nights after Church (the only possible time, in view of evening classes and school homework for School Certificate). Recently, sixteen out of the eighteen First and Second Class Scouts in the Boy Scout Troop attended classes for several weeks for either First Aid or Weatherman Badge (and a seventeenth had to miss it for choir practice!). As a result of this tradition of Badge work, it is rare for a boy to take a year over Second Class, and most Scouts go to the Seniors with First Class and Scout Cords, as well as Under 15 Badges corresponding to the Queen's Scout Badges.

It seems to me it is all a question of Troop tradition. If it appears to be the natural order of things in a Troop that Scouts make progress in their tests, then the new recruit either fits into the picture, or decides that he doesn't like it and fades away. We have had this tradition for 27 years now and our difficulty now is more to hold back the 12-year-old who has done half his First

Class, or the 15-year-old who wants to rush his Queen's Scout as soon as he is a Senior. That such traditions and the true Scout training do appeal to the boy, and are not looked on as a pill to go with the jam of Scout games, etc., is shown by the comments of the boys about a neighbouring Troop whose P.L.s have not even got Second Class; incidentally, two of my present P.L.s were in that Troop and left because there was no progress, and then joined us.

I disagree with Mr. Fox about his boys without Second Class. Unless there are special circumstances in particular cases, it is no use to have in a Troop, which aims at a definite Scout training, boys who do not want to be so trained. Let them get out and not hold back others who would be keen to get on but for bad examples.

I believe we can get over-worried about leakage. Scouting will not appeal to every boy and we cannot alter our standards or methods to try to keep all who sample it. But most boys who get as far as passing the Tenderfoot will fit into a healthy tradition - we have lost only three Seniors out of 15 since last Census (and two of them 17-year-olds) and four Boy Scouts out of twenty-four (one of them did not "fit" into the Seniors); on the other hand there are a number who came, saw and did not like it, so they went away. Anyway, some of our "leakages" turn out very well afterwards, even within Scouting.

For example, our Warrants Committee has just approved for an A.S.M.'s warrant a young man who "leaked" from our Seniors at 16; the Secretary of our District "Show" Committee was a member of my Troop for a few months several years ago and "leaked"; the next Queen's Scout in our Seniors will be a boy who left the Boy Scout Troop at 13¾ and rejoined as a Senior at 15¼; a First Class Scout and P.L. in a local Troop was in my Troop for six months, "leaked" and then joined this other Troop six months later; and so on. Not all leakage is truly loss to Scouting.

Just in case Mr. Fox or others think we are in any way an extraordinary Troop, I will add that we are an open Group in a not very large town, with boys about equally divided between grammar and modem schools; their fathers are a mixed lot, too, ranging from teachers, civil servants and local government officers to miners, police constables, joiners, bus drivers and boilermen.

As I do not fancy using the answer to Mr. Fox as any form of self-advertisement, or even as advertisement of the Troop, I sign myself,

**SKIPPER.**



DEAR EDITOR,

I was most interested to read G.S.M. Richard Fox's letter because although his Troop appears to be quite efficient in many ways (competitions and the like), it seems to suffer from an ailment common to a great many Troops and I think that considerable emphasis should be laid on finding and remedying the cause. In an effort to draw forth other views I set out below my ideas as to the root of the trouble.



Whilst Scouting appeals to a large number of boys, it is important to recognise that it does not appeal to all. Those in the first category cannot be identified at first sight in any way and it

is not possible to judge when a boy comes along to join the Troop whether or not he will like Scouting activities. Many boys come along because they hear that we play games and they think it will be good fun. If, when these boys come, they find a Scouting programme with no more than the odd "fun" game or two thrown in now and then, some of them are not so keen as they thought they were and clamour for more of "fun" type of games with less accent on other Scouting activities. This tendency is, of course, to be expected from all those boys who join us and then find that they are not too keen after all on Scouting as such and I think that this is the point where many of us start sliding down the slippery slope.

We ought to say: "This is a Scout Troop. If these boys don't like Scouting, let them drift out as soon as possible because we have nothing to offer them. We will carry on Scouting." B.-P. instituted the Tenderfoot tests to help us sort out these boys, but what far too many of us do say is the opposite to what we should, i.e. "If we let these boys go, they are lost to us and we shall not have a chance of influencing them with our ideas leading towards good citizenship. Therefore, we must keep them. The only way to do this is to give them what they want - more 'messaging about' and less 'Scouting activity'." Acting upon this premise, we dilute our Scouting programmes more and more (how easy this is!) and then complain when we find that the boys who really want Scouting leave us because they don't get it and we are left with a group of boys who don't want it.

Many Troops do not, of course, slide down as far as this ultimate position but manage, mainly by coercion on the part of the Scouters, to stay somewhere betwixt and between.

In effect, we allow ourselves to be dictated to by youngsters who are not particularly interested in Scouting because so many of us bow to the idea of quantity rather than quality. If, instead, we would put quality and a good Scouting programme first and keep it there, I venture to suggest that:-

- (a) Our numbers would fall considerably.
- (b) The standard of Scouting would rise (also considerably).
- (c) Our numbers would begin to rise again, but this time the increase would be caused largely by boys who want Scouting and would benefit by it.
- (d) The bulk of our "leakage" problems would disappear.

Once a Troop has started on its way down the "slippery slope" it is, of course, more difficult to arrest its downward progress and to bring it back to the top than it is to keep a Troop at the top all the time. However, my suggestion to those Scouters who think that there may be a grain of truth in all this is:

1. Inflict (and I use the word deliberately) a full Scouting programme on the Troop until the slackers have eliminated themselves. Articles published in THE SCOUTER can help here. The Troop will now be much smaller, but shed no tears over the dear departed - the benefit they were deriving from membership of the Movement was negligible.

2. Train the Scouts you have left to as high a degree of efficiency as you can.

3. Let the Troop's new reputation attract new blood, but be careful not to start sliding down the slippery slope once more. If a boy does not want Scouting, then he is better out of the Movement from every point of view.

The primary aim of every S.M. should be to make his Troop into an efficient group of Scouts, not merely a large group of boys, and through that will come character development provided that due emphasis is laid on moral training. Having established his Troop on that basis, he can then, and only then, hope to cope with the odd slacker or two or an odd "bad boy." The influence of the rest of the Troop will tend to elevate the outlook of these. However, once the S.M. allows a surfeit of these types, their influence on the rest of the Troop will drag the whole lot down.

Finally, I would ask all Scouters to bear in mind that we are dealing with boys, not men, and that the best of these will let us down occasionally. Even when the best has completed his Scout training, he will still be far from perfect. From this it must follow that no Scout Troop will ever be faultless - not even the one run by the redoubtable "Delta" (with all due respect).

**BASIL GILL, A.D.C., Bradford East.**



DEAR EDITOR,

I feel that the G.S.M. of the 12th Croydon Group voices some opinions that most of us secretly hold, but consider are contrary to what is taught.

I assume that Mr. Fox is also S.M. in his Group, otherwise he has no business to be present at a meeting of the Court of Honour.

The Court of Honour in our (not my) Troop tends to behave rather similarly, but is capable of making some decisions if allowed time. From my experience of adult Committees, I should imagine that about two hours per session are needed, if boys are no worse than adults.

I think the fundamental problem is the conflict between the dual objects of helping the backward boy and keeping him off the streets, and training Leaders. There is a certain proportion of boys who "muck about" which it is dangerous to exceed. I think it is one per Patrol. Any beyond that should be removed if need be while it leaves room for a few who are deserving cases.

Patrol meetings depend on having Patrols. This seems an extraordinary statement, but what I mean is this, that a boy must join a Patrol before he joins the Troop. The one absolutely fatal thing is to push a recruit into a Patrol because its numbers are low.

I am sure that most boys join the Movement because they like what goes on at the average Troop meeting, i.e. indoor games. There isn't a word in Scouting for Boys about evening indoor Troop meetings, with games of the conventional type we have nowadays. Of course we can't abandon them but the Patrol meetings are more important.

I sat down recently and went over the existing allocation of Patrol points, which were on the usual ten point maximum per Troop meeting and two for tests basis. On this system I calculated that during his maximum of four years in the Troop, a boy could earn four times as many points for his Patrol at Troop meetings than at Badge sessions or Patrol meetings. This was rectified by the Court of Honour, with the result that three Patrols are now holding meetings instead of one.

In conclusion I would say that it does take time to get a Troop which has not been used to the Patrol System on to its feet again. It is said that three years is needed, practically a Troop generation.

A boy who has no interest in the simple practices required for the Second Class Badge is not on the whole worth keeping. There are plenty of youth organisations, and if Mr. Fox's boys want organising, they had better leave the Scout Movement to the few who don't.

In the early days when they had to find their own Scoutmasters many of our boys would never have become Scouts. B.-P. didn't mean Scouting to be limited to those who had a good education, but he didn't design it to appeal to those who were lacking in initiative. Perhaps we've gone wrong somewhere if we have too many of them.

**PHILIP RICHARDSON, G.S.M., 8th Rugby.**

DEAR EDITOR,

I feel that Mr. Richard Fox voices a problem that worries a lot of us, and I am going to be foolish enough to rush in and suggest at any rate one remedy for the state of affairs that he deplures. To start with, I think he is on the wrong track in drawing a rather arbitrary line between Scouts and Scouters for, to mix my metaphors, the leopard does not change his spots on the day he puts a plume in his hat, and if space allowed I could continue his tale of woe with stories of equally casual behaviour on the part of Scouters.

I know I shall be howled down, but I attribute this behaviour to a decline in the standards of self-discipline in the community as a whole. You can't run Scouting without discipline (more howls), and you can't teach discipline in the abstract: it must have a focus. I make -then the profitable and constructive suggestion that we should give far more attention to teaching the Scout and the Scouter something which might profitably be embodied in his promise, namely his duty to Scouting. The scope of that duty is covered in the first, second, third, fourth and seventh laws, but how many groups tie them up to present the boy with a connected picture of his obligations?

Every Scouter must, if he agrees with me, tackle this matter in the light of the needs of his own boys, but to be not only rash but positively foolhardy I offer three ideas as being applicable to one and all:

1. Start with the Cubs, using their impressionable minds to establish the important principle that Scouting demands "give" as well as "take." Put in simple terms the idea is by no means beyond them.

2. Enforce a rigid standard of example from Scouters: even in matters they may think the boys know nothing about.

3. Extend the penalty of a can of cold water to be poured down the sleeve of everyone heard using the phrase "I couldn't care less?"

**JAMES ELLIOTT, S.M., 5th Dover (St. Margaret's).**



*"It could do with more water."*

DEAR EDITOR,

It is very fitting that you should print letters, such as the honest statement of G.S.M. Fox. With a surfeit of material advantages as exists today, it is difficult to indicate what more we can do to help boys think and plan for themselves.

I do, however, think we can honestly feel that an active programme, based on the working of the Patrol System, and with emphasis on open-air Scouting, is the very best effort to that end that modern life can offer.

Mr. Fox had successes, as well as failures (like the rest of us), and I would urge such a whole-hearted Scouter as he must be, to continue on his way with patience, basing his faith on the Scriptural promise: "He that soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully."

**FRANK BUCKLEY, G.S.M., 5th Stalybrirgle.**

DEAR EDITOR,

I was amazed on reading the January SCOUTER to see what I believed to be our very Troop described by a writer. This turned out to be Richard R. Fox of the 12th Croydon and not one of our Scouters as I expected.

May I congratulate him on such a simple, true and straightforward description of a type of Troop that seems to be getting quite common these days. As he wrote such a good letter perhaps he could send in a few ideas for righting matters; we've tried all sorts of things and so far failed - but haven't given up yet.

**R. LURZAN-TOMPSON, A.S.M., 2nd West Drayton.**

DEAR EDITOR,

G. S. M. Fox must not be accused of heresy. He is stating facts which must be faced if Scouting is to survive. When Scouting began there was, for the majority of boys, no alternative occupation for evenings and week-ends. Now there are plenty of alternatives. Many boys are attracted to Scouting but, having tried it, they find it is not what they want. Why should we worry if they find some worthwhile alternative? (I can't recall B.-P. ever complaining that the Boys Brigade took away potential Scouts!) If not, is lounging in the Scout Hut so much more to be desired than lounging in the street? The Seniors that G.S.M. Fox lost were apparently not the type who really want Senior Scouting. They wanted, it seems, only a holiday camp without even the bother of writing to book or walking to the station! Perhaps Scouting is well rid of them.

I must, however, find fault with the complaint about behaviour in camp. Why camp within reach of a town or even of a bus route? If a boy leaves camp without permission send him home. In a camp run on a Patrol basis there is plenty for all to do and if boys recognise that they are far from the bright lights of town but are in interesting country they will soon be grateful for Scouting activities. If they aren't they don't really want Scouting. It is well worth trying.

If the Scouter is fed-up with his Court of Honour I suggest that he stops attending it. Instead, let him give the Chairman an agenda with items requiring some thought and some answers. Then let the chaps get on with it. If they waste time- it is after all their own! They can hardly disclaim decisions recorded in the minutes by their own scribe and duly agreed and signed. Give the Patrol Leaders a complete meeting to run but demand varieties activities. Does it matter if the ideas are not, at first, original Let them have some good hooks on the subject if they want a lead. Give Patrols some specific training to do by themselves and then have a competition based on it. If the Court of Honour and Patrol systems still won't work then probably the Patrol Leaders are not the right ones. When the right ones come along the system will start working and the tradition, once started, tends to survive. The natural leaders soon appear if a Patrol is set to work without its Patrol Leader. If Scouts don't come to Saturday meetings why arrange them? Sooner or later there will be a demand for one. Then let it be known that a Scouter will be available on a given afternoon and that he will be pleased to take them out if a complete Patrol calls for him.



In short, we must give much more thought to the place of Scouting in modern life. We must recognise that it has today only a limited appeal. I believe that leakage figures show this and little else. We must show the best that Scouting can offer but make it clear that if a boy does not want it he is at liberty to resign. We do not want misguided loyalty from Scouts who fear to hurt their Scouter's feelings! Scouting was made for boys, not boys for Scouting. We are Scouters in order to fulfil a need, not to create one.

**S. J. OWEN, S.M., Troop A, Maidstone Grammar School.**

#### **First-Class Journeys.**

DEAR EDITOR,

What an excellent article that was on the first-class hike in the January number. Now that the subject has been brought up, I wonder whether the author, or anyone else, would give a ruling on two points:

1. What is meat? If I go out to see a candidate and find him frying a rasher of bacon, I cannot say that he is not following the letter of *P.O.R.* 431 (6) (b), but I don't think he is following the spirit.

2. Should two candidates be allowed to hike together? If one cannot read a map, for example, he will get through provided the other can. Personally, I should like to see it stated in the rules that only one of two may be a candidate, but this view is obviously not shared by the D.C.s of many of the Scouts whom I am asked to test.

The sister Movement recently held a conference to discuss just this problem of attempting to get more uniformity in the standards which testers up and down the country demand. Would we not benefit by some such attempt at co-ordination? I am not suggesting a conference, but wonder whether some authoritative opinions could not be expressed in *THE SCOUTER* now and then.

**T. T. MACAN, Warden, Wray Castle Campsite.**

DEAR EDITOR,

I would favour the word "report" in place of "log" in the rule regarding this test. The word "log" is open to the interpretation of "personal record" or diary and, contrary to the writer of the article, I hold that it is a report which is wanted and not a diary.

The objectives of the journey are set out in the Examiner's instructions and the report on these should be addressed to him. The journey is undertaken so that such a report can be made. It is not undertaken to provide the boy with a personal record of his journey. If he has found the pleasure that a personal record can give he could keep that also.

I feel that the log should not contain much that is not pertinent to the objectives (which should be sufficiently extensive to enable the examiner to make his assessment). Here I find myself in agreement with the writer since I regard the practice of noting times and mileage every five minutes as irrelevant and the practice of tracing the O.S. sheet as unnecessary in most cases.

R. BLANE, A.S.M. 94th, Glasgow.

#### **"Our District"**

DEAR EDITOR,

I hope that A.D.C. is not getting deaf, for I find it hard to believe that Colonel Sheeanchor said that his Scoutmaster died at Mons. The battle of Mons was fought by the regular army, and even if the Colonel's Scoutmaster had joined up on August 4, 1914, it would not have been possible for him to have fought at Mons. There were no Territorials there and none of the New Army. There were, of course, a certain number of Reservists called up who served, but these were men who had been on the Reserve only a year or so, the majority who were called up went to the Reserve Battalions. If the Scoutmaster was a young chap who served at the bacon counter and had started a Troop, it is very doubtful if he would have been a Reservist who had only left the army a year or so before August 1914. The Reservists provided the drafts for regular battalions after Mons, and later on a few crack Territorial battalions came to France in 1914. I feel

sure Colonel Sheeanchor must have said Loos or the Somme and A.D.C. taken him up wrong.

By the way, Colonel Sheeanchor must be much more than 55, for even if he had been born in January 1900, he would not have been called up till April 1918 and then would have had some four months' training after that. Perhaps A.D.C. might check up in Who's Who and find out the Colonel's real age.

**A. C. B. MOLONY, A.C.C. (Cubs), Yorks. N. Riding.**

#### **"Scouting for Boys," a Correction?**

DEAR EDITOR,

It is most unusual for us to find something incorrect in *Scouting for Boys* and it almost savours of blasphemy to say that B.-P. was definitely wrong, and that he made a mistake, but there it is on:

Page 193 of the original fortnightly parts of 1908.

Page 77 of the more recent Memorial (24th) edition, and of the 77th edition.

Page 43 in the Boys' edition of 1954 (28th edition).

It is in Camp Fire Yarn five, with a sketch of the constellation Orion, and a line through those stars supposed to be pointing "North" and "South," and the caption under the diagram says: "Orion and his sword always point to the North and South Poles."

This is quite wrong.

It would appear that for forty-seven years this has passed unnoticed until I had quoted it in a recent Girl Guide publication, and a Girl Guide officer has drawn my attention to the mistake.

It is quite correct to say that the line drawn through Orion points to the North Star, in one direction, and to where a South Star would be (if there was one) in the opposite direction. But this is very different from saying that the line points "North" and "South." Actually, at different times this line will point almost anything between N.W. and N.E. in one direction, and S.E. and S.W. in the other. The statement that it points North and South is only true in equatorial districts (and in fairness it should be remembered that B.-P. was much nearer to the equator in India and Africa than we are), or when Orion is at its 'highest in our sky each night, and is actually South of us.

To illustrate the point further; there is a vast difference between pointing to the North Star, and pointing North. The "Pointers" of Ursa Major (The Great Bear) always point to the North Star, but as they revolve completely round it every twenty-four hours, within that period they will have assumed every possible compass direction. So, too, Orion is revolving round the Pole Star at a greater distance from it, and only occasionally indicates true North and South.

**WALTER LEACH, G.S.M., 36th Huddersfield.**

#### **"Going-up" Ceremony**

DEAR EDITOR,

My Group, which meets in school premises with the Boy Scout Troop meeting immediately following that of the Pack, has, as an experiment, been trying a composite "Going-up" and Enroiment ceremony.

The proceedings are not, we feel, over-long or ostentatious. There is the recommended "crossing-the-line" and jersey-stripping operation exposing the Scout shirt, the welcome to the Troop and settling in to the Patrol. There, however, in our experiment, we have left orthodoxy and proceeded to enrol the new Tenderfoot (the tests having been passed in the last few weeks of Cub service) - training given by the S.M.; this in the presence of the Pack.

To us the experiment seems to have been very successful, but we have been told on more than one occasion by members of the Training Team that the Pack should not be present for the Scout Enrolment - even that the Enrolment should not follow immediately in any case.

In the opinion of my Group Council no convincing argument has so far been offered in support of these views, yet we are anxious to find the best answer and shall be grateful for some discussion of this point in your columns.

**ALEC FIARHURST, G.S.M., 7th Reigate.**

### King's Colour

DEAR EDITOR,

The letter in your November issue by Sherdil J. D. Taylor created quite a stir in the 1st Bellevue Group. As far as I can remember there was a King's Colour competition in each of the Commonwealth countries. The 1st Bellevue Troop was "The King's Troop of South Africa" for five years until the competition was abolished. Sherdil's Group are lucky still to be in possession of their Colour, the South African edition was withdrawn from circulation, and we only have photographs of our award.

A. C. CRAIG, *1st Bellevue, Johannesburg.*

### P.C. Forms

DEAR EDITOR,

May I ask Scoutmasters who are filling in P.C. forms for camps which are a long way from the farm buildings of the farm on which they are situated to try to put the grid-reference of the actual camp and not that of the farm building on the form. On certain sites in this part of the country, failure to do this is liable to give the visiting Commissioner four or five miles of extra driving, much of it on farm roads on which two vehicles can only pass in a few places. If the S.M. has not seen the site and does not know, he should say so.

May I also suggest that S.M.s should clip on to their P.C.s a short letter asking for any local knowledge jobs they want done. The local Commissioner may or may not be a better Scout than the S.M. but he normally knows the country much better, and can set better First Class and Venturer Badge hikes and practices for these tests.

In many parts of the country it is not possible to leave the roads and start on a straight cross-country line anywhere, but round about here there are many places where this is possible, and I am always sorry when I find that an S.M. has set a road hike when I know what much better fun he could have given from the same spot on a more instructive hike.

The primary purpose of the visiting Commissioners is not to criticise but to help. Give him early notice of the help you need most and need first.

ROBERT A. ARCHER, *A.C.C., Senior Scouts, Somerset.*

### Cycle Competition

DEAR EDITOR,

May I commend to Seniors, Rovers, and Scouters, a cycle competition which is organised annually by the Cyclists' Touring Club. It is known as the "British Cycle Touring Competition" and is open to all cyclists whether members of the C.T.C. or not. The event is run on purely touring lines, and competitors are tested on such things as map-reading, nature study, observation, care and maintenance of a bicycle, and so on. Eliminating heats are organised in various districts throughout the country, generally in May, winners of the local proceeding to a final test held later in the year.

Boys in our Group, and of other Groups in the district, have ridden in the local event for the last two years and have thoroughly enjoyed it. The organisation was excellent, and the organisers provided us with separate result sheets so that it was possible to operate a competition amongst the boys themselves. It is most unlikely that a boy would win his way to the final, but one of our Seniors did reach fourth place in a field of about seventy.

Here is a ready-made competition, ideally suited to our Movement, and if any Scouters are interested, I suggest that they get in touch with the Secretary of the C.T.C. at 3, Craven Hill, London, W.2.

F. G. GLEDHILL, *G.S.M., The Pathfinders, 3rd Orpington.*



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# IDEAS AND THINGS - III

So far in this series we have dealt with Venturer Incident Journeys for Senior Scouts, and we will now transfer our attention to the Boy Scout Section. I am mentioning this now so that if you know anyone who does not read my blurb because "it is only for Senior Scouts" you can tell them that all tastes are catered for, and in our next instalment competitions for Cubs will receive attention. Of course you probably know some who do not read "Ideas and Things" for an entirely different reason, but we will not go into that just now.

Let us take a look at a game we got up a year or two ago.

In the first place Scouts from all over the District reported to a Group's H.Q. which was fairly central one Saturday afternoon. Lest there be any misunderstanding let me point out that the H.Q. in question is central on all other afternoons of the week, but it was a Saturday when the Scouts reported. Immediately upon arrival each P.L. was given a pass-word and a message in what was thought to be a simple code. It was simple to Scouts from Troops which went in for codes and that sort of thing, but a great many spent half the afternoon puzzling over it.

Should you try out a game commencing with the first clue in code, you will be on safe ground in having the whole District report at the same time, as the standard of decoding ability will be found to vary to such an extent that the odds are against two Patrols solving it at the same time. They will, therefore, leave for their second destination at irregular intervals. A certain amount of assistance will have to be given to some, or there is danger that they will still be working on it when the caretaker is waiting to put out the light and lock up and go home to bed. You may, of course, use any code you prefer, but the one we used is based on the key-word "Scout" which was given to all P.L.s as a pass-word on reporting. For the benefit of anyone who is not familiar with this, you write down the alphabet in the usual order, and underneath it the word "Scout" followed by any letters of the alphabet not included in that word, thusly:-



abcdefghijklmnop  
scoutabdefghi  
nopqrstuvwxyz  
jklmnpqrwxyz

To prepare the message refer to the key, and instead of writing down the letters on the top line you use the equivalent ones on the bottom line. To solve the code reverse the procedure. No claim for originality is claimed for this, but it may be new to some.

Having solved the code the Patrols will find that they have to journey out of town to a spot where a Scouter (two for company if you can manage it) is waiting to tell them what to do next.

To revert to our game. The Scouter to whom the Patrols were led by the coded message sent them off on a compass bearing (quite a short

distance) at the end of which they were blindfold and made to follow a sisal trail which led round trees and through bushes in the approved fashion. Being once more permitted to see the light of day they were sent off again through the wood. The next obstacle was a Scouter who had decided to put aside the cares of mortal flesh by hanging himself from a tree.

The observant reader will notice a distinct relationship between the last two items and two mentioned in the first article in this series, but you can't be original every time, and to be honest both were taken from stunts worked on a Wood Badge Course.

The Scouts, it must be admitted, did not make as good a job of rescuing the hanging Scouter as did the Seniors in rescuing the

parachutist from the tree mentioned two articles back, but the results, were not too bad.

Next, our victims had to collect a selection of leaves from various trees named, and report to a map reference. At this point a Scouter told them that he had their instructions written down on a piece of paper somewhere, but he was not sure where he had put it. In his attempts to find the illusive scrap of paper he emptied his pockets on the bonnet of his car, but still being unable to find it he refilled his pockets and sent the Scouts off to the next point. The dismay on the faces of the Scouts on being told to write down the contents of his pockets at the end of the game was a joy to behold. The various remarks were, also worthy of note.

At the next stop each Patrol was given a treacle tin and told to place a small quantity of water therein, replace the lid tightly, and then light a fire. All right, you are ahead of me; they had to place the tin on the fire and keep the fire going until the lid blew off - not original, but the majority had not done it before. To help things along the Scouter stationed at this point gave detailed instructions as to exactly where the fires were to be lit. In each case it seemed that he required a fire lighting in the middle of a swiftly flowing stream. At first he was quite obviously considered to be barmy, but by the use of stones and Scout staffs, quite a few of which became somewhat scorched, all lids were blown off to the accompaniment of loud cheers from all present. At this point there was quite a pile-up of Patrols, all paddling about trying to get fires going, with bangs and cheers resounding at intervals. To a casual observer it must have given the appearance of a rather mad Jamboree, and what the idle passers by thought about it all we never managed to ascertain.

A further cross-country trek took the Patrols to a sort of disused quarry surrounded by conveniently placed small hills. In the middle of the quarry two Scouters spent the afternoon doing whatever came into their heads. Each Patrol had to observe these gentlemen for three minutes, and write a report of what they had seen. Naturally any Scouts seen by the Scouters concerned were ruled to have failed this part of the game.

A further walk of a mile or so took the Patrols to a Group H.Q. where, to their dismay as previously recorded, they were asked for a "Kim's Game" of the articles taken from the pockets of the Scouter who had mislaid his instructions. From there they returned to the starting point for tea and a Camp Fire.

Nothing new, you say? Well, perhaps not. But most of the items were new to a lot of those taking part, and there were no complaints. Incidentally it was not long before we were asked when we were to have another.

I shall now digress somewhat.

The summer before last (you know - the wet one) I - took a busman's holiday and went camping. Not, mind you, the usual Patrol or Troop camping (I did that later on), but with the family and a couple of tents and two primus stoves. I toured R.A.C. recommended camp sites hither and yon. In common with other Scouters I had a sort of idea at the back of my mind that only Scouts really camped, and other people only played at it, unless they had been Scouts of course. You'd be surprised. I picked up one extremely good idea. You may have heard of it before, but it was new to me, and it may be to the other chap. So if you have been doing it for years please don't write and say so. One camper had sections of a car inner tube, each about an inch wide, fastened on to the ends of his guy ropes on both tent and fly sheet.

These he looped round the tent pegs, and his tent was up in no time. The beauty of this is, of course, that he never had to either slacken or tighten his guy ropes. When wet the ropes shrank and the rubber stretched, and when dry the rubber contracted. He told me that he had made the modification a few years before the war, and was still using the same tent, fly-sheet and bits of inner tube. You live and learn. And in case you think it is not Scouting, then perhaps you too have a tent of your own and do a bit of personal camping. Anyway, the idea is there for what it is worth. Me, I'm all for it, although the lads in our Troop still have to slacken and tighten their guys as of yore....

D. L. N.



# ROVER SCOUTS: THE UPPER AGE LIMIT

The Committee of the Council of the Boy Scouts Association decided to introduce an upper-age limit of 23 for over Scouts. It will take effect on 1st April next. The decision has been most carefully considered. The principle of an upper-age limit is already well-established in the Pack and Troops, and the advisability of its extension to the Crew has been discussed repeatedly, both at I.H.Q. and elsewhere. Abroad, some ten National Scout Councils have already fixed maximum ages for Rovers, ranging from 20 to 25 years of age. Others have the question under review.

When this decision was taken, account had to be taken of the fact that Great Britain, as the birthplace and cradle of the Movement, had inherited a peculiar influence in World Scouting: an influence which flows partly from our experience, and partly from a belief that our actions are governed by one thing, and one thing only: what is best for the boy. Accordingly, the introduction of an upper-age limit for Rovers may well have a similar reaction elsewhere.

That alone would be sufficient justification for stating the reasons behind the Council's decision at some length. But when, in addition, we consider that thousands of older Rovers, many of long standing in the Movement, will be affected by this decision, it is clear that it is not only desirable, but imperative, to set out the whys and wherefores as fully as possible, so that they may clearly understand the reasons and know what will be their position in the future.

The decision has been made in an attempt to ensure that the "purpose" of Rovering is fulfilled. From the earliest days of Rovering there has been controversy about that purpose, which has slowly crystallised into two fairly distinct schools of thought: - the one regarding Rovering as essentially a training section of the Movement; the other considering its real function to be one of service for others. There is, of course, every shade of opinion between these different views.

*Rovering to Success* is not a handbook of rules or of detailed practices. B.-P. - as was his habit - was content to set an aim and create an atmosphere: he visualised a Brotherhood of the Open Air with two intermingled objects: *training* a young man in and *for* citizenship through Scoutcraft, and *for* service to the community. This was interpreted by some as a quasi-distinction between citizenship and service. Their various pronouncements soon gave rise to trouble, and in 1928 B.-P. expanded his own outlook a little. In a message to a Rover Leaders' Conference he said:

"Service is not extraneous to the Rovers' daily life and work. Carrying on their professions well is part of their service for the community. Rovering is partly preparation for life and also a pursuit for life."

Unfortunately this had the effect of adding to the number of differing views on what the "purpose" of Rovering should be, and on how training and service should be correlated: so much so that in 1930 I.H.Q. issued this pronouncement, which is as true today as when it was first written:

"It is felt that there has been a tendency to give too restricted a meaning to the idea of 'Service.' Service presupposes an attitude towards life as a whole; it includes all-round self-development, the making of a career, the spirit of the daily task, the management of a home, etc., as well as service for the community or for other people; in short, all these aspects of service are service to the community."

This careful differentiation between "service for the community" and "service to the community" is derived directly from B.-P. and was approved by him. It is in this light that we should regard the service element in the "purpose" of Rover Scouting, as stated in *Policy, Organisation and Rules*. Yet many Rovers and Crews look upon service in the more mundane sense of some useful act which one is in duty bound to render - an attitude which has its roots in feudalism - and ignore the more spiritual concept of service which B.-P. had in mind. "Service for others" exercise it spasmodically; it may even carry with it such intangible rewards as public or private esteem, or inward

satisfaction. Service, as B.-P. meant it, is the adult stage in the life of a good man and a good citizen in the community in which he lives, and in this sense it is, in the words of B.-P., a "pursuit for life." There is no picking or choosing, no putting off, and there are no earthly laurels. These two ideals of service are in practice incompatible; once you bring them together, Gresham's Law comes into action: the bad money drives out the good. Before long, the Crew will look upon Rovering as a species of service organisation with Scout affiliations, and the real purpose of Rovering will be overlaid and may well be forgotten. Such a Crew is attempting to play at "Scouting for Men," and there is no such thing.

Looking back it seems obvious that the whole trouble was that the primary purpose of Rovering - to *continue* a Scout's training towards citizenship - was ignored or even rejected. Rovering was never planned as the man's Movement it has largely become. This initially unforeseen development sprang from the growth of a body of Rovers of mature age, reluctant to leave their Crews, whose activities of service not infrequently lay outside Scouting, coupled with the parallel emergence of older "Scouter-Rovers" (to be carefully distinguished from the young Rover who also holds a Warrant) as Crew members - about whom it has been said "it is an anomaly that one who is a leader in one section of the Movement should at *the same time* consider himself to be in the ranks of another section of the same Movement."

Rover training is intended to cover the period during which a young man is "finding himself." It was at first taken for granted that for every normal young man the time would come when he would realise that he had gained all that he could hope for from Rovering, and that it was up to him to cease roving and settle down to putting its lessons into practice: to bring the ideals of Scouting into his everyday life "and thus bring it to pass that other people are touched by its magic and helped by its ideals." The trouble began when Rovers who had reached that stage in their lives were faced with the wrench of saying good-bye to Rovering, and hadn't the guts to do so. They made excuses, they stayed on. What is more, they induced others, of their own age - not infrequently men already holding Warrants in other Sections of the Movement - to become Rovers. The Crew, from being "a society, not only of young men, but of young minds," slowly developed into a mixed bag of men from eighteen to eighty. The inevitable outcome was perhaps not fully apparent at first, though some were awake to the problem. The first edition of Gilcraft's *Rover Scouts* referred to it as follows:

"If intimate and active association with a Crew is maintained too long or until too great an age, two dangers arise:

(a) The value of Rover Scouting as a continuation of Scout training for young men will diminish.

(b) Self-reliance will cease to develop."

Time has proved how true those words are. As the proportion of older men in a Crew increases, so, more and more, are Crew activities conditioned to their requirements. The whole atmosphere of the Crew changes. No longer is its effort directed towards the training of young men for citizenship and service to the community. The Crew may well still serve a useful purpose: it may search for worthwhile jobs and carry them out; it may provide a welcome haven of rest for the overworked Scouter; it may indulge in cultural or social activities - but it will no longer be carrying out the purpose of Rovering.

Why? Well, there is a very sound reason. Little as we older fellows may care to admit it, "crabbed age and youth cannot live together." Take any band of men you like - say from the ages of 18 to 35. Left alone, you will find that in practice they gravitate into two distinct groups, and that each group has different characteristics. These groups are in fact "age-groups" and the dividing line lies round about the 23 year mark. The interests of each group are by no means identical: left to themselves they are unlikely to select similar activities or to occupy themselves in similar ways. Now, combine these two groups into one. What happens? The older men take over: the youngsters have not got a chance; they are dominated by the more mature element.

Any planned activities are likely to be those suited to and desired by the over 23s. At the most, a show of consulting the younger men may be made, but in any case the result will be ultimately governed by the desires of the older men, and the youngsters can either take it or leave it.

A youth puts his boyhood behind at 17 or so - perhaps earlier, perhaps later. But he is not yet a man. Before he reaches manhood "there is a space of life between, in which the soul is in a ferment, the character undecided, the way of life uncertain, the ambition thick-sighted." Then, quite suddenly, usually about the age of 23, the young man surges forward violently into manhood. His change of mental outlook is pronounced. He acquires new interests, fresh needs spring up. He is, in fact, whether he likes it or not, a different fellow. And, with all this, comes a change of attitude towards Rovering, if he is a Rover. Rovering has done its job of helping him to find his feet during the difficult 17 to 23 year period. That kind of Rovering attracts him less and less. And yet, he doesn't want to leave the Movement. So he tries to bend Rovering to suit his more mature needs.

When the "Plan for Rover Scouts" was being hammered out, some ten years ago now, a genuine attempt was made to deal with this situation, whilst still leaving a place for older men in the Crew. As Lord Rowallan stated quite plainly in the foreword:

"It is my experience that, if the members of a Crew who are more mature are still allowed to take an active part in the management of the Crew, it does not give a fair chance to these young fellows who are coming up from the Troop. It is for this reason that we have made a clear distinction between the Training and the Senior portions of the Crew."

What in fact was intended was to split the Crew into two stages (three, including the probationary stage): Training and Service. It was made quite clear to the older Rover, the Rover in the service stage, that Rovering was not primarily for him and that he must be prepared to leave the youngsters in the training stage to manage their own affairs and to carry on with their training without interference. He was trusted to do this; there was no compulsion; he was expected to accept the plan loyally and to do his best to make it work. What in fact happened? The position in many places was that it was either ignored entirely; or condemned as unworkable without trial, something else being substituted; or tried out in a half-hearted fashion and then dropped. Meanwhile, Scouts and Seniors of Rover age were being discouraged by their Scouters from joining the Rover section, and not infrequently were being pressed to take Warrants in lieu; others were unimpressed by what they saw of Rovering and could not be induced to join a Crew; others again gave it a trial and dropped it. With what result? Only one Scout Group in five now has a Crew. "Service Stage" and "Scouter" Rovers are in the majority.

The number of Rovers under 21 is dropping, and there are now only four of them to every 100 Boy Scouts under 15. There are far more Senior Scouts of Rover age than there are Rovers under 21, and many of them are Queen's Scouts. Yet very few of them become Rovers. The plain fact is that Rovering today has nothing to offer the keen Scout or Senior of 17 to 18; nothing, that is, that attracts him. He looks at the average Crew, and gets the impression that Rovering is an old man's game (remember, a man of 28 is old to a boy of 18) - and a pretty dud one at that. Rovering has nothing to offer him, because it has largely ceased to cater for youngsters, and has been content to meet the wants of its older members.

I am not pretending that this is the only reason why the 17 and 18-year-olds are not coming forward, though I do claim that it is the chief one. There are many other cogent reasons, such as shortage of R.S.L.s; tiny Crews; a widespread misapprehension about the application of the "Activities" section of the Rover plan; the difficulty of running attractive programmes for small numbers (especially in rural areas); the lack of really definite training targets; the impact of National Service - nor should we forget the effect of large pay packets for youths coupled with the growth of attractive ways of emptying them.

Those responsible at I.H.Q. are alive to all these problems: some of them have been tackled already.

It should also be recorded that there are still Crews where young Rovers are getting first-rate training, where the older members are giving them their heads and letting them run their own show. Rovering is still working and proving attractive when it is given its chance. The fact remains that far too many Crews have ceased to be effective as training sections, nearly always because they are concentrating on the wants of their older members. Rovering, in ceasing to fulfil its training function, is letting down the other three training sections: to a certain extent their hard work in preparing the foundations for the job which should be done in the Crew is being stultified.

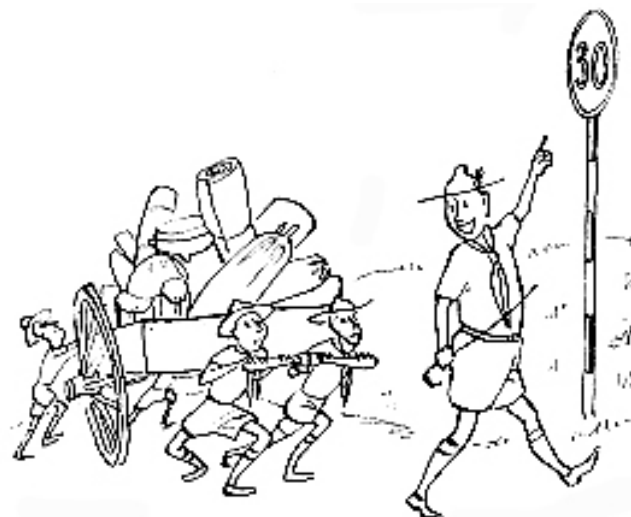
The overall position just isn't good enough. So the Council has decided on a surgical operation. From April 1st next a Crew will consist of young men only, and they will be faced with what is, I believe, a challenging programme of "training and activities, with definite targets to aim at: a programme which will, I hope, attract the best of our Scouts and Seniors into the Rover Section and thus fulfil the purpose of Rovering.

If all goes well - and there is no reason why it should not - we shall need many more Crews, and trained R.S.L.s and A.R.S.L.s. I believe we could make effective use of 2,000 or more Crew Scouters. Is it too much to hope for some of them from amongst the 2,600 or so unwarranted Rovers over the age of 25 who will be leaving their Crews on April 1st? To be a good R.S.L. is no easy job - but how rewarding it can be! For those who may feel that they are not cut out for the Scouter's job, or who cannot spare the time which it demands, there are, of course, opportunities for service in one or other of the non-warranted ranks of the Movement: indeed the new appointments of Service Auxiliary and Quartermaster have been introduced with this object in view; and it is hoped that as many as possible will take advantage of them. Membership of L.A. or Group Committees may well prove attractive to others. One thing is certain: there is a place and a job for everyone who wants it and is suitable for it.

Finally, may I call upon each individual Rover who is now being asked to take down his epaulettes to accept the decision loyally and without grumbling, as something which is essential if Rovering today is ever to fulfil its purpose. Please give the new plan a chance to get going. Don't denigrate it before it has had a fair run - and above all, whatever your personal views may be, do not attempt to influence the youngsters against it. I believe that if the new set-up gets off to a fair start it has a good chance of succeeding: do give it that chance.

**DAVID LUMGAIR,**

*Headquarters Commissioner for Rover Scouts.*



## NEWS FROM 25 B.P. ROAD

In a few days' time another Scout Year will have ended and I expect G.S.M.s already are collecting the information needed to complete the Annual Census return. This year, March 31st falls during the Easter holiday and I hope the preoccupations of the week-end and Bob-a-Job week will not mean any delay in the forms being sent to L.A. Secretaries. L.A. Secretaries and Treasurers are busy people at all times but the burden is very much greater at this time of the year. It makes their task so much easier if returns and other information the L.A. requires for its Annual Meeting and Bob-a-Job payments are sent in as quickly as possible. I do not think there will be any vast changes in most Groups during the last few days of March so why not complete and post the form just before the holiday begins?

The information contained in the census form is valuable at all levels in Scouting but nowhere is this annual stock-taking more useful than in the Group. The main business at the first meeting of the Group Council after March 31st should be to compare the state of the Group today with what it was a year ago. The present form is designed to make comparison easier and to produce more information to think and talk about. My hope, and I know it is yours, is that this year's census will give as all a little modest pleasure - Scouts staying a bit longer and achieving a bit more.

LAST month, Roland House held its Annual Reunion - an event which always takes place on the Saturday nearest the anniversary of Roland Philipps's birth. As you will remember, he bought the House just before the first World War with the intention of making it his home and a centre of Scouting in East London, but he was killed in action before he could take up residence. He left the property to trustees for the benefit of Scouting and since 1916 the House has not only served as East London's focal point but as a residential settlement for men who are willing to work for the Movement in that area during their spare time and as a home for Scouts studying or working in London.

Any Scouter who has to come to London to work or study and wants a congenial home during his stay there could not do better than write to the Warden, Roland House, 29 Stepney Green, E. 1, for particulars. There are also vacancies from time to time in the Boys' Dormitory and parents and Scouters can be assured that their boys will be well looked after. Situated as it is within two miles of the Bank of England and near an Underground Station, the House is very convenient for anyone whose work takes him to Central London.

ALTHOUGH I hope Scouts who have never camped before will not be joining the experienced campers during the Easter week-end, it will not be long before Scouters and P.L.s will decide that the time is ripe for this year's batch of new campers to have their first taste of Scout camping. During his life in the Troop, with the Seniors and in the Crew, a Scout will have many happy and memorable camping experiences, but his first camp is the most important of them all. It is our responsibility as Scouters to see that he has a happy, busy time and that nothing is allowed to happen which may mar it for him. Last year, we were very concerned to receive reports from several Commissioners that they had come across Troops who indulged in un-Scoutlike initiation ceremonies in which the new campers were the victims. Let me hasten to add that there is no evidence that this infantile behaviour is widespread but one instance is one too many. So if any Scouter should find this sort of thing happening he must put a stop to it at once.

While on the subject of camping, may I once again urge that Form P.C is sent to the Commissioner of the District in which the camp is to be held at least 28 days before the camp is due to begin. Quite apart from it being a requirement of P.O.R., it is a matter of courtesy that we tell the Commissioner in good time that we propose to descend on his District. In my experience it is a precaution, too. We have heard of quite unsuitable sites being chosen and if the D.C. knows in time he may be able to find an alternative.

**A. W. HURLL,**  
*Chief Executive Commissioner.*

## THE GILWELL LETTER

What is it like at Gilwell in the winter? The Camp Chief, before he left for Canada, suggested that I should try to answer that question.

One feature of the place which has so far escaped the notice of the historian is our little company of resident children. In the summer-time when Gilwell is over-run by Scouts it is possible perhaps to overlook them, but when the landscape empties in late autumn you see them romping on the front lawn or taking part in fairy-cycle races round the Lime Walk, and all I can say is that they make Gilwell in winter a much livelier place than it might otherwise be.

Not that we can complain of loneliness. Apart from the recurring invasion of week-end conferences, courses, Service Patrols, work parties, etc., your letters arrive in a steady stream, keeping us in touch with Scouting in every continent and island; and very glad we are to have them. From Africa comes news of a Wood Badge hike through country where the inexplicable hostility of the villagers was finally traced to the fact that they had mistaken the Scouters for police officers nosing out their illicit gin-stills. Elsewhere in that vast continent the Training Team has just emerged triumphant from a tricky process of reorganisation. (Things might so easily have gone wrong there but for the wisdom of the men on the spot and the dynamism of the fourth Scout Law.) Nearer home, courses of infinite variety have been filling the week-ends with activity, and soon or late the news of their success - and occasionally of their failure - arrives on the Camp Chief's desk.

Gilwell's pleasant function as universal pen-pal brings us letters on every conceivable subject. Lately, since the Camp Chief visited the United States last summer the postal link across the Atlantic has been busier than ever, and many of the ideas he picked up on his tour will certainly be reflected in one way or another at Gilwell this year.

Just now we are in the grip of the big freeze. Even so, from the direction of the Orchard cheerful sounds of whistling indicate that a new dining shelter for the Bulls - the gift of the Chief Scout of Venezuela and his Scouts - is going up under the skilful hammer blows of the Quartermaster. Elsewhere on Gilwell's 108 acres the winter programme is well forward. In the session circle the gravel which we have never really liked has been replaced by crazy paving, the roofs of the Provider and the Gidney Cabin have been re-tiled with cedar shingles, and splendid new stable doors have been added to the Swan Hut. Our little tree nursery has been planted out and re-stocked, and where the ancient holm oak once mouldered on the edge of the North Lawn a young redwood is sprouting bravely.

This week-end we shall have a full house. At Gilwellbury and in the Hostel every available bed will be occupied. As I write the Training Instructor is preparing for an Observer and Stalker Course due to arrive at any moment, whilst Mac, known to generations of boys for his cheerful strictures on careless campers, has been piling logs on the Group Room fire to give an in-coming Duty to God Course a warmer welcome. Presently, one by one, the Gilwell Rovers will arrive to take up where they left off last weekend their invaluable long-sustained service to Scouting.

What is it like at Gilwell in the winter? Spade, mattock, hammer, saw, chisel, typewriter give the answer.

As a postscript, may I draw your attention to a Scout Wood Badge Course which is being organised by the Kent Training Team at Buckmore Park, Rochester, in August this year. The unique feature of the course, the second of its kind, is the "annexe" camp to which Scouters attending the course may bring their Troops. Here, surely, is the answer to the age-old problem of how to qualify for Part 2 of the Wood Badge without depriving the boys of their Summer Camp. Further information about the course will be found elsewhere in these pages.

**JOHN SWEET,**  
*Acting Camp Chief's Deputy*



# LUCK OF THE MONTH

By TILE EDITOR

**January 18th.** - From "Adults-Boy's Eye View" in the winter issue of *The Boy*, the magazine of the N.A.B.C.:

"There are adults who expect to be treated with respect and who are not respected, and there are those who like boys and mix with them and still get respect, although they do not really want it.

"The most despised of all adults are those who show off in front of boys and expect to be admired. The truth is never told them but they are regarded as absolute and interminable bores."

**January 20th.** - *Visiting D.C.* tells me of a mother's complaint about a certain Troop not being very lively, ending up "After all he pays a regular subscription you know." "How much?" asked the D.C. "A penny a week," said the mother! In my opinion Scouting has been offered too cheaply for too long. Who knows? We might get less Scouts leaving if their sub was six-pence a week (or a shilling a week with *The Scout* thrown in). A penny sub in 1956 is ludicrous, and must be held in contempt by the boy.

**January 21st.** - So far this year our paper has gone up £5 a ton and our printers' bills by 10 per cent to 15 per cent. THE SCOUTER as a shilling monthly may have to come.

**January 23rd.** - Willie Clark (whom many will remember as Chief Commissioner) came in to recommend a book which he thinks ought to be compulsory reading for all Scouters who want to understand boys. It is *Victorian Boyhood* by L. E. Jones.

**January 24th.** - Great happiness to meet old friends at 21st Birthday dinner of the 19th Harrow: a Group inspired from the beginning by its present G.S.M. "Johnny" Walker. Johnny told amusingly of visiting in his early days a parent who wished her small son to join the Group, the small son remaining obstinately under the table throughout the interview. This evening the same "small son," - now S.M. of the 19th - later gave a nice definition of their D.C.: "He's done his job - he's kept out of our way!"

The Group's success is due I should say to Johnny's leadership, his refusal ever to lower standards merely to hold on to boys, and the backing of a loyal, hardworking Group Committee. Other Groups, please note.

**January 26th.** - The day of Leonard Attrill's funeral. Met General Sir John Shea in the entrance hall and agreed with him how happy we were that our friend Leonard's pain was over. Said Sir John: "He cared most of all for Scouting and right now he's probably having a grand talk about it with the old chief himself!"

**January 27th.** - Learn that at the recent Pan Pacific Jamboree (the opening of which had to be postponed owing to the heavy rains and which closely resembled Arrowe Park of happy memories underfoot and where the Chief Scout scored another great personal triumph) the Scout Shop there sold 3,000 pairs of Wellingtons! Be prepared!

**January 28th.** - A thought of Sir Alexander Korda's: "Success needs no excuse. Failure has hundreds."

**January 30th.** - Several letters recently about the "flag at half-mast" question: i.e. where is half-mast? Tiny Chamberlain tells me that when he was Training Secretary he consulted the Brigade Major of the Brigade of Guards, the Admiralty and St. James's Palace without being able to get an authoritative or definite statement. Finally he got on to the Ceremonial Department of the Ministry of Works who said that "half-mast" means what it says! - half way down the mast, but on a tower or steeple (where stone work might partially obscure the view) the flag should be so lowered as to appear to be mid-way between truck and base of mast.

**February 1st.** - From the always interesting Fruit Grower's Diary by Raymond Bush in the recent winter's issue of *The Countryman*: "On a small section of the Dartmoor National Park in three hours twenty Boy Scouts collected a heap of litter 5ft. high." And again: "In the Trent near Beeston fish leapt wildly and perished to the tune of 50,000 following pollution by cyanide. Boy Scouts who swallowed a little too much water while bathing were very ill.

## LUCK OF THE MONTH: DAFFODILS AND PRIMROSE



When one sees our streams and rivers clotted with floating bergs of froth from housewives' detergents one realises that it must be a stout fish to survive these days." And looking at the road accident figures not only a stout fish! What our age wants to develop most of all is a social conscience. wildly and perished to the tune of 50,000 following pollution by cyanide. Boy Scouts who swallowed a little too much water while bathing were very ill. When one sees our streams and rivers clotted with floating bergs of froth from housewives' detergents one realises that it must be a stout fish to survive these days." And looking at the road accident figures not only a stout fish! What our age wants to develop most of all is a social conscience.

**February 2nd.** - I don't know how correct this is but I hear that 25 per cent of boys entering most secondary modern schools at 11 can't read - or can't read to any extent. One's thoughts go back to the First Class test of 1909, one of the requirements of which was "Must be able to read and write."

February 8th. - I have no idea if it is being suggested, but I do hope that one way we Scouts celebrate 1957 will be by tree-planting - one of the most satisfying and long-ranging of good turns. You remember James Russell Lowell's words:-

Who does his duty is a question  
Too complex to be solved by me,  
But he, I venture the suggestion,  
Does part of his that plants a tree.

There's a delightful story told once upon a time by Sir William Beach Thomas, journalist and countryman. A London worker who wished one future day to retire into the country, early in his career bought a plot of country ground and began to plant it with trees. He employed an old country labourer for the work and gave him precise instructions. They were accurately and honestly performed except in one particular. When he next visited the plot, the labourer met him and explained: "You did tell me," he said, "to plant the apple trees here and the walnut trees there. It did seem to me that some day, when you and me was gone, them walnut trees would shade them apple trees; and stop 'em bearing so well."

Our Jubilee trees could bring joy and delight to many - another fifty years on!

REX HAZLEWOOD.

# A CUB CELEBRATION

What about an activity which is really active; which any Cub can do; which exercises imagination, observation and courtesy; which is an embodiment of the Cub Law, and which can be first class fun into the bargain? What could be more suitable for an Anniversary celebration?

I mean the Good Turn. Nothing new, but something that should be always new.

I hope you won't stop at that, feeling you have been swindled, for I think you'll agree that my description is perfectly true, and that it is therefore worthy of a lot more consideration than we usually give it. The Chief himself has suggested that a Pack Good Turn should be one of the main features of our Cub Year.

One's mind naturally turns to the nearest Hospital or Home. Can we make things which are good enough for presents; or if we go ourselves, in force, full of good intentions and Cub-like noises, shall we merely make a nuisance of ourselves? It would obviously be wise for Akela to approach the Principal or Matron and offer the services of the Pack, perhaps one Six at a time. Many a Matron will say that the best Good Turn Akela can do is to keep twenty-four small boys as far away from the precincts as possible. But there may be small and reasonably Cub-proof jobs which we could suggest, since our imagination and our faith in the Cubs should be more developed than Matron's: sweeping up leaves, carrying cut-grass, weeding, providing wild flowers for the wards, running errands.

This might be organised on a rota system, but it must be under the personal supervision of a Cub Scouter. Bitter experience is behind that remark. . . . During World War I, I arranged a rota of Cubs from my Pack to go and do odd jobs at a nearby Red Cross Hospital. They did their jobs so well and became so ingratiating that they infiltrated to the wards, with instructions from Matron to do odd jobs for the patients. They were mostly amputation cases, and much appreciated a few spare hands and feet. But the jobs became increasingly odd, and the whole plan was blown sky-high when it was found that the boys were smuggling bottles of beer into the wards. How they got the beer, I never discovered, but it's wonderful what a Cub can do.

But there are other institutions at everybody's elbow: churches and chapels, schools, parish halls, parks and playing fields, many of which would be glad to have their paths swept, their grass edges trimmed, their War Memorial cleaned, the inevitable litter cleared away regularly. Litter - that suggests a pretty wide field of activities, and if you turn it into a pig-sticking competition it's great fun. The W.V.S. are engaged on an anti-litter campaign and Cub people might be well advised to co-operate with them and to offer the services of their boys to the nearest W.V.S. office.

It is usually necessary to get permission from the appropriate authority, before we start any of these activities. Even a garbage clearance operator, if that happens to be his correct title, probably has toes to be trodden on. More especially we must get permission for burning the rubbish dump, which is the most satisfactory part of the job.

I came on a Pack the other day, turning their rubbish dump into a Camp Fire, round which they were gathered, joyously chanting:

"Litter's burning! Litter's burning!  
Filthy litter, filthy litter!  
As a gleaner, as a gleaner,  
I'll sing and be cleaner!"

Perhaps we can carry the whole idea a little further by stepping up the individual Good Turn this year, and trying to make the Cubs see it as a daily adventure, even as a necessary qualification to being a Cub worthy of the name. Most of us feel there is little we can do about it, beyond jogging the boys' memories from time to time, with the spur of an occasional yarn about a Good Turn and the incentive of our own example.

But yarns and acting, as illustrations of Good Turns, are apt to be rather more dramatic than practical, and leave the younger Cubs with the impression that nothing short of heroism in connection with murder, accident or sudden death is worthy of

the epithet. They do need positive suggestions for practical Good Turns, simple but satisfying. It is disillusioning to be told that to help mother wash up is just as good as helping to tame a savage tigress - and it is best not to point out the resemblance.

Make the Cubs do their own thinking, for the Good Turns one has thought of for oneself are twice as good as other people's ideas. It provides an opportunity, too, gently to discount the things that should come under the head of Duties. Remember successful Good Turns of the past; swap ideas with other people; recall what was done in Bob-a- Job week, and remember the Chief's suggestion.

The Sixers' Council should come into its own, here, with suggestions for Pack or Six or individual Good Turns. Here are some suggestions which have emanated from Sixers' Councils and from Seenee Packs over a number of years, though which came from Sixers and which from Scouters, I will leave you to decide.

1. Collecting silver paper and tinfoil, for helping to buy guide dogs for the blind.
2. Collecting comics, toys and books for children's homes (and mending the toys if necessary).
3. Collecting fag-ends from gutters to give to Pensioners for Christmas.
4. Collecting a box full of nature handicraft materials for a Town Pack or a Handicapped Pack (conkers, oak-apples, acorn cups, fir-cones).
5. Collecting and burying broken glass.
6. Catching flies to put in spiders' webs.
7. Growing tree-seedlings in pots for hospitals or townsfolk. (If kept in small flower pots they stay small.)
8. Finding any handicapped boys in the neighbourhood and telling them they can join the Pack. (Akela's job to get the parents interested and to find out a bit more about it.)
9. Adopting an orphan in a home; sending him birthday and Christmas presents and inviting him to Pack parties. He might even be allowed to join the Pack if someone were responsible for his escort and a uniform were provided. -
10. Earn money to buy toys or groceries for old people, etc. ("Earning" calls for Akela's careful supervision.)
11. Helping to shunt the engines on the railway.
12. Making scrapbooks, dolls' house furniture, Christmas - decorations for some kids (Akela to find out who).
13. Making a birds' feeding-table or nesting box. A feeding tray to fit a window-sill would be a good Good Turn to a bed-ridden person, and if it had a niche for a water dish it would be a better Good Turn to the birds. If it isn't securely fastened it would be a bad turn to all concerned.
14. Lighting bonfires on the commons at night, to help passing aircraft to see where they are.
15. Saving a bit of waste land, however small, and planting strawberries - or perhaps just vegetables. (Not cabbages.)

Some of the bigger undertakings suggested above are actually being done at the present time.

Some of these might be more suitable for District Good Turns.

Many of them could be adapted and improved to your own local conditions.

There are two small Points, casually mentioned earlier on, which I think are worthy of more exploration.

Meet Michael—IV



"Well, it said unstead and great on the packet."

## 2. THE EMPEROR AND THE SOLDIER

Observation. Opportunities for Good Turns are so easily overlooked. The best of us are apt to think of them only when we are taking off our shoes to go to bed that night - and Hell's paving stones are hard on bare feet. Every observation game we play in the Pack should help to counter this habitual blindness, provided that at least some of the games are related to facts and to people.

Here is a stunt you may like to try out on your Pack just for fun: Akela announces that he wants to talk to the Pack about Good Turns. It happens that his shoe lace is undone and he tends to trip over it a good deal until someone notices. He also has an open safety-pin stuck in his shirt. He must start, he explains, by writing a message in his notebook. He has his notebook but can't find a pencil, and then, when one has been provided, he has nothing firm to write upon, until somebody offers him a book or a back.

The message has to be sent by telephone, presently, but Akela discovers he has no coppers, only sixpence. But first he sits down to explain, and while he talks (about anything) he puts down his notebook and pencil where he can't find them again. If he is fortunate enough to wear glasses, this is the opportunity to take them off to polish them, put them down and then, of course, be unable to see them again, or to read what he has written.

He also has a very tiresome cough, or even a sniff, and is quite unable to find - a handkerchief. Finally he decides to shift his ground, fetches his case, full of bits and pieces, only to find that it wasn't properly fastened, for it flies open, scattering its contents.

If the Cubs haven't tumbled to the game already, Akela must go on being ingeniously ingenuous, and getting into more and more trouble until they do wake up. Even then he may have to go on quite a long time, because the Cubs will love it.

The other casual point: the example of the Scouters. That has become a cliché and is liable to be shelved in a nice tidy row, along with other clichés. Of course the Cub Scouters can't boast to the Cubs about their own activities, but it's curious how boys get to know nearly everything about people they like. Besides there are many opportunities to help other people which arise before, during and after Pack Meetings, and especially during Outings, which will not go unnoticed. There will be opportunities too to suggest to the Pack that they should do an extra bit of tidying up, take something home to mother, shut a gate, mend a broken-down gap, destroy thistles and ragwort and other public enemies.

Above all, the Scouters of the Pack must have their aims and objects clear. Why are we trying to encourage the Good Turn habit? Because it's good publicity? Because, as B.-P. said, it's a

"patent dodge" for being happy? Because it is one of the continuing things which will grow in Scouting, and is a tradition peculiar to the whole Movement? Because it is a very practical way in which a boy can serve God, by serving his neighbour? Or just because we are proud of being forty years old, and happiness must overflow? Any or all of these reasons are good enough.

HAZEL ADDIS.

Meet Michael—V



"I could do it much better without the rope, Akela."

Incognito. You know the meaning of the word? In former days when monarchs were fenced about with more regulations and prohibitions than is the case today, they were glad to doff their regal clothes .and all the cares of State, dress in ordinary attire and wander at will among their subjects - as one of them. Even the greatest of emperors, like Joseph of Austria, have been known to do this.

Unattended, dressed in the most work-a-day suit, in a quite commonplace buggy, Joseph drove away from his magnificent palace and out of the grand capital, one autumn day, to enjoy the country in peace.

He was returning home after a long drive which he had greatly enjoyed, rain was beginning to fall and the hood of his buggy was up, when a soldier "thumbed a lift," as we would say. He apologised for begging the lift but explained that his uniform was a new one and he was anxious not to get soaked through. Of course, he had no idea as to the identity of the owner of the buggy.

Soon they were chatting without constraint like old friends. The soldier had been to spend the day with an old comrade. He had had a wonderful time. And the dinner! That crowned everything. "Why, what did you have?" asked the buggy driver. "You would never guess," said the soldier. Entering into the spirit of the thing, the Emperor said, "Soup?" "Soup!" said the soldier in disgust. "Have you no imagination? Better than that!" The Emperor patiently tried again. "Ham?" "Ham!" said the soldier as contemptuously as ever, "don't you ever get anything better than that?" "Well, was it calf's head?" "Better than that," said the soldier, "better than that!"

"You told me I should never guess. You had better tell me what was better than that." Then the soldier told him. "I had roast pheasant, one that I shot myself on the Emperor's estate," said the soldier. "Indeed," said the Emperor drily, scarce able to credit his ears.

The Emperor drove the soldier home, who thanked him warmly and asked, "May I know to whom I am indebted for this kindness? Please tell me your name." "It is your turn to guess now." "I should think you are a soldier." "Yes, better than that," said the Emperor. "A lieutenant?" "Better than that." "A colonel?" stammered the soldier. "Better than that." Beginning to be alarmed the soldier said, "Not a general?" "Better even than that." "Surely not a field-marshal?" said the soldier, going pale. "Once more, better than that." Now, the soldier was terrified.

"Why, you must be His Majesty himself!" Before-he fainted right away, the Emperor gave him a bit of good advice: "Take care not to kill pheasants before asking the owner's permission and do not reveal secrets to the first stranger you meet."

As the Emperor drove away the soldier reminded himself that it is not something to boast of when you take what belongs to others. It is not clever, it is something to be ashamed of, and he resolved in future to refrain from saying what he might afterwards be sorry he had ever said.

E.J. WEBB.

Meet Michael—VI



## JUNGLE DAYS - VIII

We are all good at something, and every new Scouter in a Pack will contribute in a different fashion to the general activities. How exciting it is for the boys when Bagheera, who may at first have seemed quiet and rather shy, turns out to be full of new and amusing tales, at story time. Then Chil comes along one night with a model steamer or aeroplane and promises the Cubs that he will show them how to make one for themselves. And he does. Bagheera, however, says she is "no earthly good" with her hands; and Chil can't bear telling yarns. The new Cub Instructor proves a tower of strength in teaching semaphore to the Cubs, and everyone sighs a sigh of relief.

Sometimes one visits a Pack which enjoys acting, and Jungle dances. The next group gets none of this, as the Old Wolves don't bother. The Cub programme is so elastic and varied though, that even if one aspect is never touched upon, you can still have happy and useful Pack meetings. But there is a side of Cubbing which is too important to be neglected, and that is Cub prayers. We all know this, and I believe are doing our best to begin or end our meetings with this reminder to our boys of their duty to God. Why it should be so difficult for some of us often puzzles me. It should be a privilege to have the opportunity of leading our boys in prayer. I look upon it this way, but nevertheless I found myself very shy and rather tongue-tied when first I had to do it. Also, the Cubs develop such a lively sense of humour at these times, and this does not make matters easier.

Concerned as I was for Ginger's blasphemous young soul, I found myself at one time obliged to send him off before we began prayers, in order to get through them at all. Once, immensely brave, I tackled him on his own. We were on our way home after games in the forest, and he was walking beside me. We were coming down a very steep hill, and the conversation turned rather naturally to cars, good brakes, etc. I remembered something I had read once - a helpful illustration on the subject of prayer. "However good the engine is, Ginger," I ventured, "it wouldn't go far without petrol would it? I think we are rather like motors, and when we say our prayers, God gives us power to go on a bit further - like putting more petrol in the tank." Ginger was silent for perhaps a little longer than usual and then he grinned. "Reckon I can manage on me own," he said. Well, at least I had tried! And we continued with our Pack prayers, until there were fewer and fewer gigglers, and we found that we really had built up a tradition. I discovered this one day by being forgetful. I expect my head was full of things-to-make-a-note-of, as our heads are apt to be by the end of a Pack meeting. So I forgot the prayer for the King, but was promptly reminded by one of the Cubs. Our prayer for the King was the third verse of the National Anthem, which is a prayer. We said it all together, and thus it was not only learned but used. For otherwise, the only time that verse is sung seems to be at St. George's Day Parade, and very often another version is substituted then.

I felt really embarrassed once when starting Pack prayers with only five small boys whom I did not know at all. Indeed, on the first week, when there were only three, I just could not face it.

We were in such a big, bare room, and we had just been playing some chasing game. I was helping a new Akela who had had no Pack experience at all, and we had expected more boys to come along. We looked at these three small people standing so hopefully before us, and for a moment I don't know who felt the shyest. "You are going to be Wolf Cubs," I began, "and we are called the 'Old Wolves'." "Coo-er!" muttered one, turning a shade paler, and I decided we had better slap straight into a game.



We were completely reconciled, though very breathless, in five minutes, but at the end of the meeting my embarrassment returned. So I shelved the prayers for that time anyway, and urged the boys to come again and bring some friends. Thus we found ourselves next week with five members. Fortunately the vicar himself looked in to fetch his own small son, so I seized the chance and asked him to lead us in a closing prayer, and thus placed our faltering



feet on the first rung of the ladder. After this it was no longer difficult. About two weeks later we tidied a cupboard and found a Cub flag, belonging to the original Pack, which had been closed for some time through lack of leaders. The boys were thrilled and, whipping their new flag away, dashed round the hall waving it enthusiastically. I explained then that it was a Pack possession to be treated with great respect, and told how it should be used. They wanted it out "for prayers," and on this first occasion of glorious rediscovery we considered it appropriate, but after that it was kept for enrolments and parades. I felt very happy myself to see this old flag valued again, and hope it still leads a thriving Pack.

To establish proper ceremonies, and start Pack prayers in an open group is much more difficult. For one thing, the Cubmaster most probably has to get to know the ministers, or Sunday school teachers, of the different places of worship to which the boys are attached, as well as trying to place boys who do not attend any Sunday school or church. Usually the other boys offer to take them along, and parents are glad enough in most cases for them to go. Sometimes the boys' parents admitted to having been themselves to Sunday school when young, but Alfie was "too shy" or "had tried it but didn't like it."

In a closed Group, where there is a Sunday school, the boys are already used to having prayers together, and the newcomers who might find it strange, soon fall into line; but in an open Group the boys feel more self-conscious, and unless Akela can take an unwavering line, will be more inclined to try to "change the subject." If, like the proverbial ostrich, we bury our heads and instead of facing up to our opportunity content ourselves with hurrying through the Lord's Prayer with the Cubs - a very great mistake - we shall be losing a tremendous chance of really helping them.

I believe that all Cub Scouters who have this important responsibility should approach this part of their Pack programme with a determination to make Cub prayers as real to their Cubs as the star work, the games, and the outings; and for this we must give as much time in preparing for prayers as we do in collecting equipment for our games and tests. *Interest* the Cubs, choose prayers which include their immediate world, and let them join in sometimes, and choose a prayer themselves. If you are sincere they will soon sense it, and remember that during these few moments - the prayers should never be too long - you have a chance to lead their thoughts into caring about the needs of other children, thanking God for personal blessings, asking for forgiveness, for good health, and for courage to fight their "dragons." This is when we are able to teach them to value those things which cannot be touched, or bought for cash, but are none the less real. So we will try not to let Ginger and his pals "manage on their own." They may not admit to their dragons, but they jolly well know just what these are, and we must find our own way, with God's help, of showing them how to put on the whole armour of God and fight on His side.

A.M. DOUGLAS.

# MY SCOUTING STORY

By P. B. NEVILL - III.

It will be remembered that B.-P.'s original idea before the publication of Scouting for Boys, was that his ideas should be taken up by the then existing Boys' Organisations as part of their programmes. It was only after the boys up and down the country had seized on the new book and started Patrols of their own that it was seen that it would be necessary to set up some organisation to control this. B.-P. for the first time in his life probably, had been caught unprepared.

The Y.M.C.A. took up Scouting with enthusiasm, and a number of Boys Brigade companies did in the early days run Scout Patrols. I actually helped to run such a Patrol in one of the Enfield Companies for some time, but it was not long before it became apparent that the Scout programme was such a full one that it was not possible to run this without conflicting with the programme of the Brigade.

The booklet of the 5th Enfield at this time shows that in addition to the Scoutmaster there were five Assistant Scout-masters, three Lady Helpers, a Gymnastic Instructor, a Troop Leader, and Eight Patrol Leaders. Here is a list of the Troop's activities:-

**Sundays 10a.m.** Scouts' Own.

All Scouts not attending any other service are expected to be present. Last Sunday in the month, Court of Honour 4.15 p.m. (This was always followed by tea.)

**Mondays 8 p.m.** Seniors' meeting.

**Tuesdays 8 p.m.** Patrol meetings for Otters, Peewits, Eagles, Hyenas.

**Wednesdays 8 p.m.** Patrol meetings for Curlews, Lions, Panthers, Beavers.

**Thursdays 7.45 p.m.** Hobbies; Fretwork, Cooking, Basketwork, Repousse, Metalwork, Toy-making, etc.

**Fridays 7.45 p.m.** Ambulance and First-Aid work, Stretcher, Drill, Gymnasium and Drill.

**Saturdays. 3.15 p.m.**

1st in month  
2nd in month  
3rd in month  
4th in month  
5th in month

Scouting.  
Patrol work.  
Scouting Games.  
Route March and Drill.  
Scouting.

**7.30 p.m.**

Rally and Games.  
Games.  
Debates, etc.  
Sing-song.  
Lantern Lecture.

In the summer months Swimming was arranged.

Even with six Scouters this was a strenuous programme to carry out!

I paid a good deal of attention to the seniors, and in addition to a special night, juniors had to leave the clubroom at 9 o'clock each evening. Our definition of a Senior was a Scout who had left school and started work, and in those days this meant at about fourteen years of age. This special attention undoubtedly had a marked effect on the retention of the Seniors in the Troop, but I was never satisfied that I had found the right solution to this problem, and I have a copy of a scheme I drew up for a Senior Troop with special activities in 1913.

This was never tried out, for before I had an opportunity of doing so other activities claimed my attention.

In the spring of 1913 I was appointed District Scoutmaster, and as our District Commissioner lived in Barnet, several miles away, I had a great deal of his work to do, and in November of this year he asked me to be his Assistant District Commissioner for Enfield. Realising the importance of my new job I soon handed over the 5th Enfield to my Senior Assistant Scoutmaster, although I still took an interest in the Troop, becoming their Honorary Scoutmaster.

Before this came about, however, my first trip abroad with Scouts took place. The experiences of my visit to Oslo in the previous year led to the suggestion of an exchange of visits between the Scouts of my Troop and that of Pastor Gasmann. Eight Scouts were chosen from the Troop to go to Norway, all preparations made, and money raised for the trip. We crossed in a Norwegian ship from Newcastle; we had booked third class for cheapness' sake. This nearly proved disastrous for the sea was rough and the food unappetising. Most of the party soon succumbed to the effects of this.

The situation was such that I asked the Captain if we could sleep on deck the following night, and this revived us but unfortunately some of us caught a bad chill, and spent some days in bed on our arrival.

On the return journey I arranged to travel second class as we could not face the poor conditions of the journey out.



ENFIELD SCOUTS (sitting) WITH NORWEGIANS, PASTOR GASMANN & P.B.N., back centre.



For the first week we were the guests of the Norwegian Scouts in their homes, combining for sight-seeing trips during the day. The second week was taken up with a hike camp through wonderful scenery in that part of Norway. We carried all our kit on our backs but our equipment was very elementary, whereas the Norwegians were all fitted out with well-fitting rucksacs even in those days.

Another thing which surprised us was the quantity and assortment of the tinned foods in use. This was partly accounted for no doubt by the fact that no fires were allowed in the forests, because of the danger of forest fires, so cooking had to be kept to the minimum. Tinned foods were far rarer then in England than they are today, when some people seem to live on them. The hike proved very strenuous for us not having the proper equipment, but it taught us a great deal, and we learnt what could be left behind on the next trip!

In spite of all this, and of an accident to one of my knees, which caused me trouble for a long time afterwards, we had a wonderful time, thanks to the kindness of our brother Scouts, and we left Oslo with real regret. On our way home we were to call at a port named Arendal, to pick up some cargo. As we were to be there for some hours we left the ship to have a look round the town. While we were walking along, a gentleman came up to me and asked if we were the English Scouts who were on a visit to Norway, and when I replied that we were, he said that he was so very sorry, for he had read in the papers that we were to return on the following Saturday, and that he had called a special meeting of all the Scouts in Arendal to come and meet us. All I could do was to thank him for his very kind thought and to tell him that we too were sorry to have to be going home so soon. He departed saying that he would see us again before we left.

We returned to our ship, and looked over the side to see if we could recognise our friend amongst the crowd of people on the quay side, but there was no sign of him until, just at the last moment we saw him at the head of a long line of Scouts appear at the back of the crowd through which he pushed his way to the front. He had evidently been round to collect as many of his boys as possible. As we slowly moved off from the quay side, we just had time to shake our brother Scouts by the hand, and as the distance widened, the Norwegian Scouts gave us three cheers in their style of "rah-rah-rah", which we returned with three British cheers. It was all over in a matter of minutes, but it was one of those enduring memories which show the deep roots of brotherhood which Scouting engenders.

County Rallies were becoming popular events, and our Troop attended three in Middlesex in as many years. This meant a long Journey into London and out again, as the main body of Middlesex Scouts are to the West of London so we were very cut off from the rest of the county, which fact eventually led the Enfield Association to join up with the Scout County of London.

Displays of handicrafts were usually part of these Rallies and as we specialised in this kind of thing we were always much in demand, providing working exhibits besides taking our printing outfit with us. This meant that our trek cart had to go with us to carry everything.

Then came the great Scout Exhibition and Rally in Birmingham, to which we sent our magazine and an exhibition of printing work, securing a first place. We stayed two nights in the camp at Perry Hall Park. On arrival we reported at the reception marquee where harassed Scouters were dealing with a hundred and one things all at the same time, but the notice stuck up for all to see disarmed all criticism, "Scouts smile and whistle under all difficulties but please keep your whistling till you get outside."

Roland Philipps was one of the organisers of the exhibition, and with his friend Anthony Slingsby turned up in shirt and shorts. It was quite unusual at that time for Scouters to dress in anything but breeches and puttees, with pugarees - a pugaree is a light scarf - on their hats, but Roland Philipps was a boy at heart, and anything which was good enough for the boys was good enough for him. Many of us were much struck with this new idea of dressing like the Scouts and gradually breeches and puttees began to give way to the more comfortable shorts and stockings.



ENFIELD SCOUTS CAMPING IN NORWAY, 1913

Birmingham was the third great Rally on a National scale and for the first time a number of Scouts came from overseas. There were six parts of the Commonwealth and twelve foreign countries represented. This was also the first occasion that most of us saw Lady Baden-Powell, as B.-P. had only recently married.

The motor-car which the Scouts had given them as a wedding present was much in evidence in the Camp.

On our way home in the train I met a Scoutmaster from Poplar in East London - R. W. Pinchback. He had been up for the week-end with some of his Scouts. This was my first East London contract, and before long I was visiting his Troop in Poplar and this prepared the way when the call came to me to take up work in that part of London.

It was our custom about Christmas time to hold a Patrol Leaders' Supper, usually in my home. After the meal we would adjourn for games. This was always a popular event. When replying to one of the toasts we invariably had at the end of the meal, I took the opportunity to put over anything which was for the good of the Troop. I have always found that if you have anything of a serious nature to get over to your Scouts it is far more effective over a meal than at any other time. My notes of the after dinner speech at this year's supper contain some interesting references. I said "that I hoped I should soon have schemes placed before me for starting Wolf Cubs for our younger brothers," and again, "For the Senior Scout scheme we are at present too young to take any steps, but I hope some day we shall be able to join in."

There was considerable interest in Enfield in a junior section, as the Rev. A; R. Brown who started Scouting in the District in 1908 formed a junior section in the very early days, which he called a Cadet Corps. I have a photograph of this Corps taken not later than 1911, the boys are wearing very long shorts, jerseys, Scout hats and Eton collars! - as you can see.

Our first Scout show for helping our Troop funds was a pantomime, "Ali Baba"—rather too ambitious perhaps, for I well remember the agonising gaps between the scenes, of which there were six, but we painted all the scenery, and made our own costumes and generally thought it a good show. Our next effort was a pierrot troupe, which was not quite so difficult to produce, and quite a number of performances were given for Troop funds and as good turns.

Soon after my appointment as A.D.C. I gave the question of the Training of Patrol Leaders a good deal of thought, and drew up a scheme. The objects were:

1. To train Patrol Leaders so as to make them more useful to their Scoutmasters.

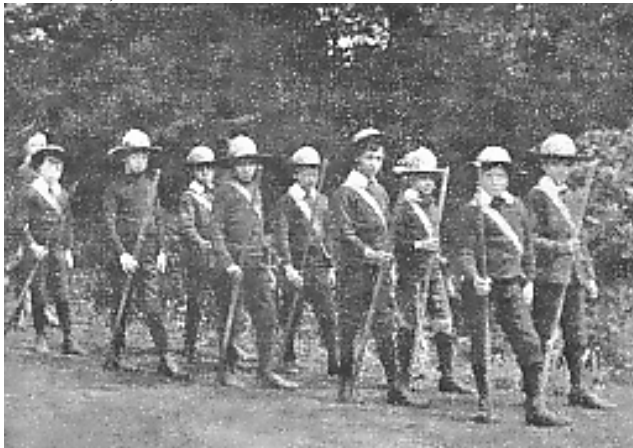
2. To train Patrol Leaders to become Troop Leaders.

3. To train Troop Leaders to become Assistant Scoutmasters.

This was tried out early in 1914, a number of talks being given by Scouters and others, and questions were set which the Patrol Leaders had to answer on paper.

This scheme did not work out as well as I had hoped, as it was not very popular with Scoutmasters, so I began to turn my

attention from the Patrol Leaders who were being retained in the Movement, to those Scouts who had left us.



1ST ENFIELD "CADETS"

We were losing too many boys just at a time when they should be becoming useful to us. The Scouts' Friendly Society had been started in an attempt to hold some of these fellows under the influence of Scouting, but it did not seem to me to go quite far enough. I thought that there should be some training introduced, so there were to be two objects:

1. To work with the Scouts' Friendly Society.
2. To provide training so as to fit them for becoming Scoutmasters. The age was to be "over 18 for preference."

The Scouters were to be asked to supply the names and addresses of Scouts who had left their Troops; there was to be no recruiting of Scouts in Troops. There were to be two meetings a week, one for training and one night on which the Senior would be prepared to go to one of the Troops in the District to help in some capacity such as Instructor.

The war, however, prevented this idea being tried, but the thought given to it was by no means wasted, and later when we had lost nearly all our Scouters I made use of both these schemes in rather different forms.

1914 was an historic year in more ways than one. The first big Scoutmasters' Conference was held in Manchester at Easter. I was determined to go to this and set off on my motor-bike, but on the way I looked in at a Boys Brigade Conference at Swanwick. They had invited a Scout Troop to camp there alongside a Boys Brigade company, and Maurice Gammon, a well-known London Scoutmaster, was to talk to the conference on Scouting, and I went to support him. Sir William Smith the founder of the B.B. was there and I felt privileged to be able to speak to him. This was the only time I met him, although in later years his son Stanley who succeeded his father as Secretary of the B.B. became one of my personal friends.

On the Saturday I pushed on to Manchester to take part in that inspiring conference. I have always kept notes of items of interest which arise at such gatherings as this, here are one or two which I jotted down on this occasion. The headmaster of the Harrow County School, who had 240 Scouts in his school, stressing his keenness for Scouting pointed out that only 22 boys could take part in a game of football, whereas all could join in a Scout game.

Stanley Ince of Hackney urged that Senior Scouts be given activities on their own - what a long time it took the Movement to grasp this important truth. While Lord Glanusk the Commissioner for Wales told us that *5d.* a day would feed Scouts in a Patrol Camp!

Roland Philipps, Anthony Slingsby, Arthur Gaddum and Geoffrey Elwes all took a prominent part in this Conference. They have all passed on now, but how much Scouting owes to these stalwarts.

On 2nd May the first Bob-a-Job day was held, although this name was not used at that time. Sir Arthur Pearson, who had helped B.-P. so much in the launching of the Movement, asked if the Scouts could help him in raising money for the blind, so B.-P.

approved of a scheme for a day of work, and Scouts everywhere set to work to earn money for this object.

In June, having failed to get the local Association to organise a Scoutcraft Exhibition, my Troop decided to put one on. It ran for four days, and the programme, which had sixteen pages, was printed by the Troop - our biggest effort in this line. No less than twenty-five Hobbies and Scout badges were being demonstrated at the same time by the Scouts on the Saturday afternoon. This resulted in a profit of over £15.

*(to be continued)*

## BOOKS

### *TREES AND MOUNTAINS*

Trees, Birds and Man by H. L. Edlin (Collins New Naturalist No. 32, 30s.); The Age of Mountaineering by James Ramsey Ullman (Collins, 30s.).

In his preface Mr. Edlin writes: "I have sought to review the position of trees and forests in the life and landscape of Britain, from the standpoint of the enquiring layman rather than that of the professional forester," and certainly Scouters, where trees and forestry are concerned, can be described as "enquiring laymen." Mr. Edlin divides his book into three parts.

First, he considers the tree botanically and biologically and surveys our native woodlands; second, he takes us quickly through our history from the time of the first clearances until today; finally, he studies a number of trees one by one, giving something of their history, nature and uses.

Mr. Edlin's great knowledge and first-hand experience has ensured a readable and entertaining book which has some excellent black and white photographs and some less successful colour photographs. The book has a six-page bibliography.

Mr. Ullman's book by its nature is rather concentrated reading, bristling with facts. It tells the stories of the ascent of various mountains in Switzerland, our own country, in North and South America, in Africa and of course in the Himalayas. He has a chapter on the craft of mountaineering and a mixed bag of appendices.

There are a number of good photographs. For myself I prefer to read the original stories written in their times by some of these mountaineers who did the climbs. But for anyone coming new to mountain literature or wanting a well enough written precis (of some 350 pages) of the tale of the great mountains and their conquerors, Mr. Ullman's book can be recommended.

**R. H.**

### *BRIEF LIVES*

Sir Walter Raleigh by Philip Magnus; William III by David Ogg (Collins, 8s. 6d.).

The arrival of these two books enables me to remind you of the whole excellent series, written most authoritatively. They are ideal books for those whose reading time or reading stamina is limited. Particularly interesting to Senior Scouts are Sir Francis Drake by Mr. J. H. Williamson (whose books on the Tudor period are so absolutely dependable) and the new Sir Walter Raleigh by a most distinguished biographer. This intelligent book will provide admirable entertainment for all intelligent readers. So of course will Mr. David Ogg's book which concerns a monarch and an age of which we normally tend to know less than of many others. These books are nicely produced and should be particularly noted.

**R. H.**

## LEISURE READING

*Man Must Measure*, by Lancelot Hogben (Rathbone Books, 15s.).

Some months ago I wrote commending *Adventure of the World* to you by James Fisher. Now Messrs. Rathbone Books have published a companion, *Man Must Measure*, by Lancelot Hogben who has led so many through the fascinating jungle of mathematics in *Mathematics for the Million*.

In *Man Must Measure* he stresses by diagram and letterpress the history of mathematics from the earliest days of mankind, and shows how essential it is to our civilised life, hardly a facet of which does not depend on some form of mathematics.

Bertrand Russell says "I cannot too highly commend this masterpiece of simplification without falsification." No one who reads this book would wish to alter a word of his assessment. It is a real masterpiece of condensation and exposition.

## ROWALLAN

*Biography of a Nation - A Short History of Britain*, by Angus Maude, M.P., and Enoch Powell, M.P. (Phoenix House, 12s. 6d.). Nearly everyone is interested in history, if only from time to time. As with science, however, the trouble is that there is so much knowledge. In history we need some framework of knowledge, including a mental time-chart, against which to study our special interest of the moment. This book, written not by professional historians but by two scholarly M.P.s, sets out to give a connected story of Britain in 224 pages. It is easier to read, though nothing like so authoritative as E. L. Woodward's *History of England* (Home Study Books), a book the publishers overlooked when writing the "blurb" on the dust sheet.

All historical writing is a selection of facts made into a pattern according to the point of view, theories or beliefs of the writer. This is all the more so in the case of a compressed outline of a thousand years; and there is no harm in that provided the reader realises it. The thirteen chapters of *Biography of a Nation* are in fact self-contained essays on British (mostly English) history from the Norman Conquest to World War II, with an emphasis on constitutional development, including a lucid account of the Church of England under the Tudors and Stuarts. They do not carry a stale aroma of the school textbooks we now dimly remember. We can read them as adults, agreeing here, disagreeing there, and gaining some sense of the continuity of life in these islands.

There are points one might criticise - the space accorded to the Wars of the Roses, the credence given to the theory that the real Joan of Arc was not burned at the stake, occasional lapses in style, and the lack of any "visual aids" in the way of tables of dates or of genealogy. But these do not add up to much. The authors have succeeded in writing a stimulating book which will enable the general reader both to see the wood for the trees, and to learn about some of the trees as well.

J. H. P.

## AIR WAYS

*Playground in the Sky*, by "Bill" Gotch (Hutchinsons, 12s. 6d.).

This book is primarily written for the beginner and the uninitiated, who will find it rewarding and fascinating. Those who have not yet experienced the joys of gliding run the risk of being so infected with the author's keen appreciation of this exhilarating sport that they will long to try it for themselves.

Those who have already been bitten by the "gliding bug," will share with "Bill" Gotch the excitement of soaring - and some of the sense of 'frustration that comes when one's own lack of skill

prevents adequate use of the unseen forces bubbling around your sailplane. The book contains lucid explanations, numerous diagrams and photographs that will appeal to all who are interested in the art of flying.

L. J. B.

*Know Your Aircraft* (Shell-Mex and B.P. Ltd., 2s.6d.)

One might reasonably expect a booklet specialising in aircraft of one type to include information that has not already appeared in books dealing more generally with this subject. Unfortunately this is not so and the use of "maker" and "operator" designations is inconsistent. The excellent colour drawings by Roy Cross, however, make this booklet good value.

L. J. B.

## RELIGION

*The Church and Young People* (Church of England Youth Council, 3s.). Many Scouters - even of Church of England sponsored Groups - may be surprised to learn that there is such a body as a Church of England Youth Council, and that Scouting is represented on it. Our job as Scouters is so absorbing that we have very little time left to think about any other Youth Movements. So this booklet can be recommended in that it enables us to see ourselves as part of a much greater whole, and helps us to realise just where our own Group fits into the whole picture of youth work throughout the nation.

The Scouter who reads this book may well feel that it is directed mainly at the leader of a mixed youth club attached to a church, and he may also feel disappointed in that its concern is mostly with youth already in connection with the Church, rather than with the need to bring in the boy and girl outside: but he will find

in it a useful store of information as to the many ways in which youth work is carried on today, and the methods of correlation between the different youth organisations. He will find a useful list of books and pamphlets that can be of help to him in his own work. But perhaps the most useful thing he will find is a clear statement of the aims that should be behind his own work in relation to his Church and may well be led to ponder those aims with profit to himself and his Group. As the author says, "How many Church Youth Groups fail because the leaders and members have never defined and dearly understood their aims."

A. C. H.

## NATIONAL SERVICE

*The Soldier's Pocket Book*, by Major R. C. W. Thomas, O.B.E. (Evans, 5s.).

This latest addition to the Series of Pocket Books is a complete and very informative edition which should prove most useful for young men called up for National Service in the Army.

It gives a good general description of life in the Army today. The chapters include:

The organisation of the Army both in peace time and in war.

Details of enlistment and Service liability (including Regular Service and National Service).

Details of pay and allowances.

Officer service.

Military law.

Daily life in the Army.

Foreign service.

Military customs.

This book should be valuable to a young man when he is in the Army. It is a good 5s. worth and comes under the category of a personal book rather than a library one.

G. F. W.



## WORTH THINKING ABOUT

### III

#### *Raw material for Troop and Pack Yarns*

In what spirit do we give? Mother with Johnny (three years old), out shopping, came across an old man playing a whistle.

"Here's a penny to give to that poor man," said mother. After presenting the penny, Johnny came back sobbing. When asked what was the matter, he replied: "He didn't give me the whistle."

A worth-while offering, At Lincoln Cathedral on the West porch stand two figures, one a Bishop in his robes and the other a swineherd blowing a horn. In the reign of Henry II, the Cathedral was falling into ruins. Bishop Hugh made plans to repair it. Seven years passed. Bishop Hugh was in his study. A swineherd came in carrying the horn he used for calling his pigs. The Bishop asked him what he wanted, but he had come to give and poured silver pennies out of the horn at the Bishop's feet. He had seen the Bishop working with his own hands on the building and had decided to put by 10 silver pennies out of his wages of 12 each year to help pay for building part of the Cathedral. Because of his gift, he now stands level with the Bishop on the West porch of the Cathedral.

Size is not everything. A certain Duke of Bavaria had a dwarf and a giant among his courtiers. One day, the giant laughed at the dwarf, upon which the latter threatened to box the giant's ears. The giant dared him to, and laughed all the more, whereupon the dwarf accepted the challenge. The Duke, highly amused, ordered the duel to take place. Everybody gathered round, roaring with laughter as the dwarf, being only 2 ft. high, would have to climb to reach the giant's ears. The dwarf walked round the giant, as if taking his measure, the giant laughing meanwhile. Then the dwarf undid the giant's shoelaces, and kicked and punched his calves. The giant took a stride or two towards the dwarf, nearly tumbled over his laces and stooped to do them up. At once, the dwarf boxed his ears. The giant went off and hid himself.

Courage. Stephen de Colona, owner of a strong castle, was taken prisoner by his enemies. "Where is now your fortress?" they jeered at him. Putting his hand on his heart, he answered:

"Here!"

Patience. Charles Darwin laid lumps of chalk on the surface of the ground in his garden. He knew the soil was full of worms who passed earth through their bodies and he thought if he waited he would find out how far they had broken up the ground. After twenty-nine years, he dug it up and found the chalk had sunk 7 inches.

Little things. Aesop tells us about a crow who, when very thirsty, came to a pitcher. There was only a little water in it, which he could not reach. The crow took pebbles and dropped them in one by one until the water rose high enough for him to have his longed-for drink.

The importance of a good pattern. Some years ago, an English army officer stationed in China wanted four pairs of trousers made. He gave a pattern to his tailor. Much to his surprise, he received the new trousers each with a patch on the knee and a hole in the seat. The tailor had taken his instructions too literally and copied the pattern.

The Problem of Suffering. Question asked at the Handicapped. Scouts' session at Filey Conference, 1948: "What shall I say if, when talking to my blind Cubs about Duty to God, one of them should say, 'How can I love God when He has done this to me?'" A voice: "May I try to help? I was blinded in 1941 and I have asked myself that question many times. You see, before then I was an ordinary person like you, but now I am different. I have been chosen by my Creator to do something for Him. I do not know yet what is expected of me, but this realisation has made me happy and I hope I shall be worthy of it."

Standing on one's own feet. A young Mohammedan student who was diligent at his books and wanted to be wise had to stop studying one night because his lamp went out for want of oil. He fell asleep and, in a vision, the God of Learning appeared and offered to convey all knowledge to him by breathing into his ears and mouth. "No," said the student, "but, if it please you, I shall

be glad to have a supply of oil so that I can pursue my studies till midnight."

J. B. GEARING.

## OUR DISTRICT *By. A.D.C.*

I visited the 3rd last night, and I was amazed to find that they had quite suddenly become one of the best all-round Troops in the District. They are attached to our local Methodist church, and as the minister had looked in to give them a yarn about some of his experiences as a missionary in Bechuanaland, we strolled home together.

"Young Purvis was a real find!" I said. "The Group was nearly dead when he took over a year ago, and now it is obviously going great guns."

He chuckled.

"Purvis gets the credit," he said, "and he deserves a lot of it, but you ought to meet the fellow who was really responsible for saving the Group. He lost both his eyes on the Anzio beach-head."

As we are rather a large District the Commissioner and I share the Troops between us, so far as normal "visiting" goes, and until recently the 3rd was in his area, so I didn't know much about them, and I asked the minister what he meant.

"I mean," he said, "that there wouldn't be a 3rd today if it wasn't for Cawdor, who is totally blind. About four years ago, when the Group was going quite well under our late G.S.M., I appealed one Sunday evening from the pulpit for a volunteer to act as secretary of the Group Committee. Old Bludgeon, the late G.S.M., wasn't keen on Group Committees, but the Commissioner persuaded him to form one, and I became Chairman. We tried to get one of the parents to act as secretary, but they all refused, and so, as I say, I appealed from the pulpit."

"And this chap volunteered?"

"He did. I always shake hands with people as they pass out of the church door, and this fellow waited in the background until everybody else had gone, and then said he had a bit of spare time, and though he knew nothing about Scouts, he had always admired the Movement, and would be glad to help. I explained just what was wanted, and he said he would come along to the next meeting of the Group Committee, and offer his services. Then he said, 'By the way, I'm blind, but I'm holding down the job of secretary to the managing-director of a big firm, so I can take this in my stride. . .

The minister said he had often heard how wonderful blind people could be, but he had never really believed it until he saw Cawdor in action. He typed the minutes of the meetings with a braille typewriter so that he could read them back at the next meeting, and in every way he beat quite a lot of sighted secretaries for efficiency.

"When old Bludgeon had that frightful quarrel with the Commissioner and chucked up the Group in a huff," he went on, "most of his older chaps went with him, and for six weeks there was really no Group at all, for Bludgeon's daughter had been running the Cubs, and she went too. The Group Committee was reduced to myself, Cawdor, and two parents, and we were all for 'packing up' except Cawdor. He's one of those chaps to whom 'giving in' is unthinkable. Just as he'd played his part in that almost impossible fight against odds at Anzio, just as he'd conquered his own blindness, so he meant to snatch victory from defeat for the Group he had grown to love. He organised a huge Jumble Sale in aid of a Group that existed only on paper, and advertised it all round the town. He sat at the door taking people's two pences as they went in, and young Purvis stopped for a chat, told him he'd been a Scouter before his National Service and would like to take it up again, and asked what night the 3rd met. 'They don't' said Cawdor, and yelled for the Commissioner to come over from the white elephant stall. The pair of them had Purvis assisting on the ladies' hat stall within five minutes, and running the Troop within a fortnight. I used to share some of Bludgeon's doubts about Group Committees, but I'm convinced, now, that they're like a spare backbone for a Group, useful in prosperity and invaluable in adversity."



# J. J. I. M. M.

It is a great pleasure to announce that Sir Rob Lockhart has accepted the Committee of the Council's invitation to act as J.I.M. Camp' Chief and Fred Hunt has accepted to be his deputy. The wisdom of inviting these two, who are responsible for the leadership of the directing team during the preparations, to carry on and undertake the duties of Camp Chiefs, will be apparent. Nevertheless, they have undertaken a mammoth task in being responsible for both jobs and now, unlike the proverbial true leaders, there will be no question of them sitting back on August 1st next year and saying "our work is done - the show will run itself"! I am sure we all wish them every success.

As the detailed work of the organisation builds up, more and more ideas and recommendations are being brought forward for discussion by the Directing Committee. J.I.M. has become such an all-absorbing task to me now that I am frequently in danger of assuming that everyone who reads these pages or who has sent ideas to me, automatically knows who is going to discuss them and which member of the Committee is responsible for the departments which would put the ideas into effect. I was, therefore, somewhat ashamed, the other day, to be reminded in the course of conversation with a Scouter who had contributed several ideas that I have never published in this column the complete list of the Directing Committee and so I now hasten to do so. I would point out that the responsibilities of Assistant Organising Commissioners are couched in the vaguest terms by their "one-word" description. Believe me, the ramifications of their individual tasks become ever more complicated as time passes. Readers I know will realise that in an organisation of this kind there can be no absolute watertight compartments, indeed if this were possible it would be a very dangerous thing for the organisation. Consequently all departments are constantly collaborating with one another.

J.I.M. Directing Committee

**Chairman General** Sir Rob Lockhart, K.C.B., CIE., M.C.

**Deputy Chairman** A. W. Hurl, C.B.E.

**Organising Commissioner** K. H. Stevens

**Deputy Organising Commissioner** W. J. Rapley

And the following Assistant Organising Commissioners:

**Overseas Relationships** Sir George Beresford-Stooke, K.C.M.

**Hospitality and Guests** Capt. H. W. S. Browning, D.S.O., O.B.E., R.N. (Retd.)

**Religious Observances** J. F. Coiquhoun, O.B.E.

**Finance** S. J. L. Egerton

**International Relationships** Lt.-Col. R. M. Gold

**Transport and Movements** D., Francis Morgan, O.B.E., M.A., LL.B.

**Catering** T. P. Parry

**Works and Services** T. Porter, A.M.I.C.E., A.M.I.Mech.E., M.I.Mun.E.

**Health** Dr. J. R. Preston, B.Sc., M.B., C.H.B., D.P.H., F.R.F.P.S.

**Camp Administration** W. J. Rapley

**Equipment and Supplies** Maj.-Gen. F. J. Walsh, C.B., C.B.E.

**Publicity** E.G. W. Wood, M.I.P.R.

**Programme** J. Dudley Pank

By the time you read this most of you who have offered your services for J.I.M. will have completed the forms of application which we sent out. Some of you have been asking why there were two forms of different colours and have even made dark references to red tape, etc.! As is often the case with these things, the answer is simple. The Jamboree office needs to keep a complete index of all who have offered their services and been accepted and the leaders in the team who are responsible for various sections of the working party need to have copies of the relevant information about the fellows allocated to their sections. Hence the two copies!

While on this subject I would like to stress that although we have had an excellent response to the general invitation for people to offer to help, we have not yet received a sufficient number of volunteers to make it possible for those who do help us to have an adequate allocation of free time. Most of the work which the volunteers will undertake during the camp will be fairly heavy and will require to be done almost continuously throughout every day and most of each night. It is essential therefore that we have a satisfactory number to work in shifts and to give people time off to see something of the attractions of the camp itself. It will be most helpful, therefore, if more of you who have been thinking about this and perhaps thought you are too late to apply would write in and offer to help.

**KEN STEVENS.**

*Organising Commissioner.*

With apologies to the B.B.C.—III



"A Book at Bedtime"



# LIGHTEN THE LOAD

Again this summer a very large number of Scouts will descend upon the countryside for their Annual Summer Camps. Each year the quest for a camp site brings a lot of work to D.C.s of rural areas, but some people do not try to make the load as light as possible.

Many Scouters write to the Training Department at I.H.Q. asking for help and advice and the department is happy to be of assistance. D.C.s in rural areas are used to these requests and do their level best to help. Yet their task is not made any easier by Scouters writing: "a site within five minutes of the sea, plenty of wood, a large barn in case the weather is bad and a good, but cheap, hotel where the wife can stay or "let me have by return a list of three or four sites and I will then let you know which one we want. . ." It does not need much imagination to realise what the D.C. thinks of these requests! A large number of Scout Troops find their own sites by exploration or through other Scouters, and there is no doubt that these are the best methods. A *word of warning*. If you do find your own site, do check it against *The Unsuitable Camping Sites and Areas List* because if it is unsuitable you will have to look for another site. Your D.C. has a copy, or you can have your own copy for 6d. from the Training Department at I.H.Q. But if you must ask for help then do please make sure that:

1. You give the Commissioner an idea of possible numbers.
2. Any special requests are reasonable, but if possible make none.
3. Enclose a stamped addressed envelope.
4. If you do not want the site you are offered, reply *immediately* and say so. Somebody else may be glad enough to have it and the Commissioner will probably be holding it for you.

Another thoughtless person who appears every year is the one who writes to about six different D.C.s in various parts of the country asking for help. Imagine what happens. Six people, none of whom has a great deal of spare time, find this individual a site and write off to tell him so. Then back comes the reply, very often after a long period, "No thanks, we have been offered a better site elsewhere." It is to the everlasting credit of our D.C.s in these places that they still try to help the people to write to them. We are told that a letter of thanks to the Commissioner is a rare thing. Are we really so ungrateful?

Sometimes, regrettably, a camp has to be cancelled and there have been occasions when nobody has bothered to tell the local D.C. The grocer has actually arrived on the site with the first order to find that the Troop has not arrived. It should be easy to inform all those concerned. If the name and the address of the Commissioner is not known then I.H.Q. will gladly forward a letter to him if it is addressed to the D.C. for the area.

The question of wives in the camp is an increasing problem. In all cases before making any arrangements, your D.C. must be consulted but there have been cases of Commissioners being told at the last moment, "If my wife cannot come with us then there will be no camp for the Troop Not really fair on the D.C. or the Troop! It is a problem that the Movement must face; many of our Scouters are married and if they have only a fortnight's holiday it seems that unless they can take their wives to camp there will be no Troop Camp. Each case must be dealt with individually but very careful consideration must be given before permission can be granted. The D.C. should always inform the Commissioner of the area where the Troop is camping if he has agreed to the Scoutmaster's wife going to camp.

To end on a positive note. Good camping sites are becoming increasingly difficult to find. It will certainly lighten the load of Commissioners in rural areas if your camp creates a good impression in the locality and encourages people there to offer their land for camping. The Commissioner will thank you and so will the Movement.

**E. W. HAYDEN,**  
*Training Dept., I.H.Q.*

# NOTES AND NEWS

## MARCH PHOTOGRAPHS.

This month's cover by Stanley Newton shows members of the Service Rover Crew erecting chestnut fencing at Chalfont Heights Camp Site.

The Cub heads on page 21 are by John Annandale and Stanley Newton.

## INTERNATIONAL BIBLE READING FELLOWSHIP

Two amendments are necessary in the announcement on page 45 of the February SCOUTER.

(i) Prices vary from is. 6d. to 2s. 6d. for a set of readings for *twelve* months, not *six*.

(ii) The price of 6d. to Is. per copy, mentioned at the end of the first paragraph, is for a set of readings for *six months*.

## I.H.Q. SPEAKERS' VISITS IN APRIL

7th/8th S. Staffs. Corroboroe

7th/8th N. Staffs. County Conference

8th Derbyshire County Scouters' Conference

14th Manchester and S.E. Lancs. Cub E. Conference

21st Public Schoolboys' Course, Gilwell Park

28th Glasgow County Patrol Leaders' Conference

## COUNTY EVENTS

April 7th/8th. North Staffordshire County Conference.

May 19th/20th. Huntingdonshire Rover/Ranger Conference.

June 2nd/3rd. The Third North-West Kent Rover/Ranger Conference, Erith.

June 23rd/24th. Gloucester County Rover Moot.

## WOOD BADGE, PART I

Papers relative to Part I of the Wood Badge are obtainable from Gilwell Park. The fee for the Course is 4s. Applicants should state whether they wish to enter for the Cub, Scout or Rover Course. S.M.(S) and A.S.M.(S) should normally take the Scout Course.

## THE SCOUT

Owing to circumstances beyond our control, the London printing dispute, it was impossible to produce "The Scout" for February 24th and succeeding weeks. By this time "The Scout" may again be available but we should be grateful if all concerned would keep their eyes on the news and in touch with their newsagents.

## NEW ADDITIONS TO THE I.H.Q. FILM LIBRARY

*"The Jamboree of New Horizons."*

Here is the eagerly awaited official film record of the World Jamboree held at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Canada, 1955.

Sponsored by the T. Eaton Co. Ltd., of Canada, it presents a vivid and very colourful account of the first World Jamboree to be held outside Europe which was attended by 1,000 Scouts from the United Kingdom. A first-rate film for every type of audience. 16 mm. Sound: colour; running time 45 minutes; hire charge £2 first night, £1 each additional night.

*"The Bird Book."*

The Bristol Amateur Cine Society which made the successful film "You Call Yourself Scouts" and gained one of the Amateur Cine World "Oscars" for the Ten Best of 1953 has, on the suggestion of the Publicity Secretary, produced a much-needed Cub subject.

Entitled "The Bird Book" this excellent one-reeler tells the story of how a timid boy overcomes his fears by joining forces with a Cub in retrieving the latter's personal log-book on birds from the clutches of two "roughs." An exciting chase involving an entire Pack and the subsequent enrolment of the no-longer timid type makes an ending that every Cub will enjoy.

16mm. Silent; black and white; running time 17 minutes; hire charge 4s. first night, 2s. each additional night.

## EMPIRE YOUTH SUNDAY

Particulars of how to obtain a copy of the Queen's Message and of the special orders of service, which have been drawn up for Empire Youth Sunday on May 13th, 1956, are given in a leaflet which may be obtained free of charge from the Secretary, Empire Youth Sunday Committee, 44 Rutland Court, Denmark Hill, London, S.E.5.

## CAMPS ABROAD

The following invitations have been received from National Headquarters abroad and it is hoped to send a British representation to each.

### Denmark

*Dyrehave Divisional "Jamborette," Seeland, Nr. Copenhagen, July 27th to August 8th, 1956.*

Up to forty British Scouts are invited to take part in the above camp and to spend a further five days after the camp, as guests in Danish Scout homes in Copenhagen. Two main items of the programme will be a Patrol Hike and a cross country game. There will be a camp fee of 10 Danish kroner (approximately £2 10s. 0d.). The "party" rate fare London - Copenhagen and return is approximately £12 10s. 0d. each.

Applications, which should reach the International Department, L.H.Q. by March 31st, are invited from Troops, Patrols, individuals and Scouters. Preference will be given to those between the ages of 14 to 18 years holding the First Class Badge.

### Norway

*Norsk Speidergutt-Forbund National Jamboree, August 1st to 9th at Bamoen, near Voss (approximately 60 miles east of Bergen)*

A Troop consisting of four Patrols together with Scouters is invited to take part in the above National Jamboree. During the camp there will be an overnight hike into the surrounding country. There will be a camp fee of 55 Norwegian kroner (approximately £2 15s. 0d) The "party" rate fare (overland route) London - Bergen and return is approximately £20 each.

Applications, which should reach the International Department, L.H.Q. by March 3 1st, are invited from Senior Troops, Patrols, individual Senior Scouts and Scouters.

### Sweden

*National Camp of the Y.M.C.A. Scout Association, Galo, 30 km. S.S.E. Stockholm, August 3rd to 13th.*

A party of fifty British Scouts is invited to take part in the above camp at Galo in the archipelago near Stockholm. There will be a camp fee of 45 Swedish kroner (approximately £3 2s. 0d.). The "party" rate fare London - Stockholm and return is approximately £16 0s. 0d. each.

Applications, which should reach the International Department, L.H.Q. by April 14th, are invited from Troops, Senior Scout Patrols, Rover Crews, individuals and Scouters. Preference will be given to Scouts over the age of 14 years holding the First Class Badge.

### Portugal

Four Scout Patrols, one Rover Crew and six Scouters are invited to take part in the 10th National camp from August 17th to 26th next.

The programme includes wide games, hikes and competitions. Tours to Oporto, Bragua, Regua and other interesting places have been arranged. There will be a camp fee of Esc. 200 (approximately £2 10s. 0d.). The "party" rate fare London - Oporto and return is very approximately £20 0s. 0d.

A sub-camp is being arranged to accommodate Lady Cub Scouters who are invited to attend and to take part in informal meetings and discussions on Cub work.

Applications, which should reach the International Department, I.H.Q. by March 31st, are invited from Patrols, individual Scouts over the age of 14 years, Rovers and Scouters. Preference will be given to Scouts holding the First Class Badge.

*Camp and Pilgrimage of Les Scouts de France, July 25th to August 25th*

A party of twenty to twenty-five British Rover Scouts together with leaders, are invited to take part in the above camp and pilgrimage to Jericho, Jerusalem, Abou-Gosh. The cost of the venture from and return to Paris is about 40,000 francs (approximately £40).

Applications to take part and requests for further information should be addressed to Mr. E. L. Fornara, Secretary, Catholic Scouts Advisory Council, 128 Holden Road, Finchley, N.12.

## CHALFONT HEIGHTS

The following Badge Courses will be held at Chalfont Heights Scout Camp this summer: Weatherman (1 W.E.) April 14th-15th. Fee Is. 6d.

Meteorologist (1 W.E.) April 28th-29th. Fee Is. 6d.

Pioneer (2 W.E.) May 26th-27th and June 2nd-3rd. Fee 3s.

Observer/Stalker (1 W.E.) June 23rd-24th. Fee Is. 6d.

Tracker (1 W.E.) June 30th-July 1st. Fee Is. 6d.

Applications to: The Bailiff, Chalfont Heights Scout Camp, Denham Lane, Gerrards Cross, Bucks.

## DELTA QUIZ

Readers are reminded that the closing date of this Quiz is March 3 1st.

### THE ARUN KAYAK RACE 1956

The Seventh Annual Arun Kayak Race will be held on July 8th. Twin-seater kayaks start at Pulborough - Class A: Senior Scouts 16-18 years. Class B: Rovers and Scouters. Single-seater kayaks start at Houghton Bridge: this is an open class for over 16. Both races finish at Littlehampton and are confined to amateur built kayaks. Camping facilities will be available at Pulborough. Full particulars and entry forms may be obtained from the Hon. Secretary, Arun Kayak Race Committee, 29 South Street, Upper Portslade, Sussex.

### Why Scoutmasters' wives grow wrenny



"But 'Skip' sent us round, Mrs. Brown."

## GLIDING COURSES 1956

Because of the large number of applications received for the Courses announced in the January SCOUTER an additional Course, the King George VI Leadership Training Memorial Course, has been arranged. from Saturday, July 7th, to Saturday, July 14th, and will be restricted to Air Scouters or Senior Air Scouts if vacancies exist.

The Course Fee will be £8 8s. 0d., but applications for bursaries up to £5 will be considered.

Nominations should be addressed to the Headquarters Commissioner for Air Scouts and applications for financial assistance must have the support of the D.C. and C.C. or A.C.C. (Air Scouts).

Senior Air Scouts nominated should have shown exceptional leadership qualities and be capable of passing on to other members of their Group the knowledge they gain by attendance at the Course.

Further information can be obtained from the Training Department, I.H.Q., 25 Buckingham Palace Road, London, S.W.1.

### GILWELL PARK

#### SPECIALIST COURSE

Public Schoolboys', April 16th-22nd.

#### SCOUT AND SENIOR SCOUT TRAINING COURSES

Camper (Scout), April 27th-29th. Camper (Scout), June 22nd-24th.

Camp Warden (Senior), May 25th-27th.

Pioneer (Senior), July 13th-15th.

(Courses start at 7.30 p.m. on Friday.)

#### VENTURER, PIONEER AND FORESTER BADGE COURSE

A Training Course for the above badges will be held at Gilwell Park from Easter Monday, April 2nd, to Friday, the 6th. Senior Scouts holding the First Class Badge who wish to attend should be prepared for a strenuous but interesting and enjoyable experience. The Course will start promptly at 3 p.m. on Easter Monday and finish at 11 a.m. on the Friday. The fee for the Course will be £2.

Application forms for all above courses may be obtained from The Camp Chief, Gilwell Park, Chingford, E.4.

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## HEADQUARTERS NOTICES

### ROVER SCOUTS

The Committee of the Council has decided to introduce certain changes in Rover Scout Organisation and Training with effect from 1st April, 1956. The changes are set out in detail in the enclosed pamphlet which should be read in conjunction with *P.O.R.* Whenever the two are in disagreement, the provisions of the pamphlet override those of *P.O.R.*

These changes do not apply to Scotland. Scottish Headquarters will shortly publish a corresponding pamphlet containing minor variations.

Further copies of the pamphlet may be obtained from the Scout Shop, price 3d. (Postage 114. extra.)

### NON-WARRANTED RANKS

The Committee of the Council has decided that in future the term "Non-warranted rank" will be used instead of "Non-executive rank."

It has also been decided to introduce the following additional appointments under the heading of Non-warranted ranks:-

(a) *Service Auxiliary*, to cover Group and District Workers, Camp Site Workers and Scribes, and

(b) *Quartermaster*.

The term "Lady Auxiliary" will be used in future instead of "Lady Worker."

Holders of the Non-warranted appointments listed in *P.O.R.* 155, other than County and Local Association Secretaries, and holders of the two new appointments of "Service Auxiliary" and Quartermaster, will wear uniform as at present laid down for Non-executive ranks (*P.O.R.* 298), plus a Scouter type hat badge with yellow plume, worn on the left-hand side of the hat. County and Local Association Secretaries will continue to wear plumes of the colours laid down in *P.O.R.* 324 (i) and (ii).

The general conditions laid down in *P.O.R.* 155-162 for Non-executive ranks will apply in all respects to Non-warranted ranks.

Supplies of the new hat badge with yellow plume may be obtained by Badge Secretaries from the Scout Shop.

### DEEP-SEA SCOUTS

Arising out of the changes in the Rover Scout Section, Deep-Sea Scouts will in future be organised as a separate Branch of the Movement and not as a part of the Rover Scout Section.

The following amendments to *P.O.R.* refer:

396. (i) Deep-Sea Scouts are those who are members of the Royal Navy, the Merchant Navy, the Fishing Fleets, or crews of ocean-going yachts and who had attained the age of 16. They are registered as Deep-Sea Scouts by Port Commissioners and Port Secretaries. Registration is for one year only and must be renewed annually.

Those who have not previously been members of the Movement will be invested by a Port or Fleet Commissioner should one be available, otherwise by any Commissioner on the recommendation of a Port Secretary or Deep-Sea Scout Leader. On investiture they will make the Promise as in Rule 3.

Port Commissioners and Port Secretaries may be appointed at the discretion of I.H.Q. in certain Home Ports for the Royal Navy and for the Merchant Navy.

Applications for registration should be sent to the appropriate Port Commissioner or Port Secretary.

(ii) Full particulars of organisation, registration, uniform and badges will be found in the pamphlet "Deep-Sea Scouts" obtainable from I.H.Q.

397. The following appointments to warranted rank are made by I.H.Q. at its discretion:

(1) Fleet Commissioner.

(2) Port Commissioner.

398. (i) Fleet Commissioners are appointed by, and are directly responsible to I.H.Q.

(ii) A Port Commissioner receives a warrant as A.D.C. (for Deep-Sea Scouts) for the District in which he functions. The warrant is issued in accordance with Rules 63 and 129.

26. (i) and 129 (3).

For "Deep-Sea Rover Scouts" read "Deep-Sea Scouts."

200 (iii).

To read: "Scouts, Senior Scouts or Rover Scouts leaving their Groups to

go to sea should apply for registration as Deep-Sea Scouts in accordance with Rule 396. The address of the appropriate Port Commissioner or Port Secretary can be obtained from I.H.Q."

### ORGANISING COMMISSIONER, BRITISH SCOUTS IN WESTERN EUROPE

Applications are invited for the full-time appointment of Organising Commissioner for British Scouts in Western Europe. Candidates should preferably have held Field Rank or its equivalent in H.M. Forces and have had previous Scouter or Commissioner experience.

The appointment will be for a minimum period of two years.

Particulars of the appointment and application forms may be obtained from the Administrative Secretary at I.H.Q.

### SENIOR SCOUT PATROL NAMES

The list of names which may be used for Senior Scout Patrols has been increased by the addition of the five set out below. The Patrol symbols and the colours for the shoulder patches are as follows:-

Patrol	Symbol	Patch
<b>Guy Gibson</b>	Albatross	Blue and Red for the sky and valour.
<b>Eric Liddell</b>	Winged heel of Mercury, and a Cross	White and Green for Mission work and the Sporting Field
<b>Roland Phillips</b>	Roland Phillips's Coat of Arms	Gold and Black for his endeavours and for taking Scouting into new places.

Patrol	Symbol	Patch
<b>Somers</b>	Stag's Head	Gold and Dark Blue for Scouting and for Oxford and Sporting Culture.
<b>Edward Wilson</b>	Husky	White and Light Blue for snow and the search for knowledge and for the Southern Oceans.

The Patrol Patch is worn at the top of the left sleeve immediately below the shoulder seam, the first-named colour being at the top along the seam and facing the front.

Supplies of the Patrol Patches are now available from Scout Shops.

#### UNSUITABLE CAMPING AREAS AND SITES

The List of Unsuitable Camping Areas and Sites for Scout Camps for 1956 has now been circulated to District Commissioners.

This list of sites which are not available, or which are not entirely suitable for the special conditions of Scout camping, is issued for the assistance of Scouters in arranging camps and to avoid applications being made to owners who have clearly indicated that it is not convenient for them to allow camping on their ground. The list also includes the names and addresses of people willing to advise on camp sites in certain areas.

The District Commissioner's copy may be consulted by Scouters, but further copies can be obtained from the Training Department at I.H.Q., price 6d. (including postage).

#### INTERNATIONAL AND OVERSEAS TRANSIT CAMP (NORTH LONDON)

Applications are invited from Scouters and Rovers for the full-time salaried posts of Bailiff and Assistant Bailiff at the above for the months of July and August. Applicants should state details of their age, Scout qualifications and experience to the International Secretary.

I.H.Q.

#### ST. GEORGE'S DAY SCOUTS' OWNS

At this time of the year, I.H.Q. receives many enquiries from Groups and Districts for advice about Scout Funds which might benefit from collections at Scouts' Owns.

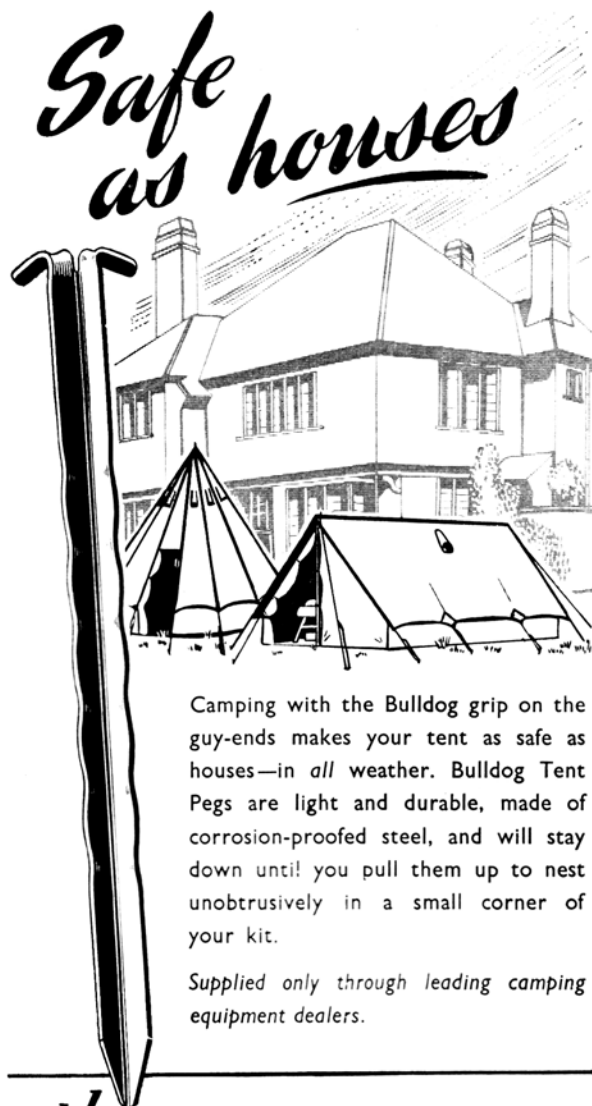
Special objects which are suitable for these gifts are: Roland House; the B.-P. Memorial Fund; the Benevolent Fund.

Roland House is particularly deserving of consideration this year.

#### EASTER HOLIDAYS

I.H.Q., including the Restaurant and the Scout Shops, will be closed from 5.45 p.m. on Thursday, 29th March, to 9.15 a.m. on Tuesday, 3rd April, 1956.

C. C. GOODHIND,  
Administrative Secretary.



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42 3 4  
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Groundsheet, reproof (2 lb.) 43 2 4

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2 ft. high, 1 ft. walls.  
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With outside inverted poles (4 lb.) 42 3 4  
Flysheet, with pegs (2 lb.) 42 3 4  
Groundsheet, reproof (2 lb.) 43 2 4

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## WOOD BADGE COURSES 1956

*In all Courses, age limits for the appropriate Warrant holders are as follows:*

*Pack Scouters, Eighteen years and over.*

*Troop Scouters, Twenty years and over.*

*Rover Leaders, Twenty-one years and over.*

*In each section, probationary Scouters of the appropriate age may be accepted.*

### **Gilwell Park**

**Cub Courses** (open to all appropriate warrant holders of eighteen years of age and over):

No. 142. Sunday, May 13th-Friday, May 18th.

No. 143. Monday, June 11th-Saturday, June 16th.

No. 144. Monday, July 16th-Saturday, July 2 1st.

No. 145. Monday, August 6th-Saturday, August 11th.

No. 146. Monday, September 10th-Saturday, September 15th.

**Scout Courses** (open to all appropriate warrant holders or Scouters on probation of twenty years of age and over):

No. 244. Saturday, April 7th-Sunday, April 15th.

No. 245. Saturday, April 28th-Sunday, May 6th.

No. 246. Saturday, May 26th-Sunday, June 3rd.

No. 247. Saturday, June 23rd-Sunday, July 1st.

No. 248. Saturday, July 21st-Sunday, July 29th.

No. 249. Saturday, August 11th-Sunday, August 19th.

No. 250. Saturday, September 15th-Sunday, September 23rd.

**Rover Courses** (open to all appropriate warrant holders of twenty-one years of age and Over):

No. 15. Saturday, July -7th-Saturday, July 14th.

### **Scotland (Fordell)**

Cub, Cont. July 23rd-28th

Cub-Cont. August 25th-30th

Cub, 4 W.E. May 5th

Scout, Cont. June 30th-July 8th Scout, Cont. August 11th-19th

*Apply:* The Secretary, Scottish Headquarters, 44 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh.

### **Bedfordshire (Milton Ernest)**

Cub, Cont. August 27th-Sept. 1st

Scout Cont. Aug. 25th-Sept. 1st

*Apply:* Capt. S. Starey, Milton Ernest, Bedford.

### **Berkshire and Oxfordshire (Youlbury)**

Cub, 3 W.13. May 26th

*Apply:* Mrs. M. Preston, Linden, Bath Road, Maidenhead, Berks.

Scout, S W.E. April 7th (omitting April 28th)

*Apply:* A. C. Murdock, B.Sc., 8 Kenilworth Avenue, Oxford.

### **Birmingham (Yorks Wood)**

Cub, 3 W.E. June 9th

*Apply:* J. Hawtin, 31 Gillott Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham.

Scout, 5 W.E. April 14th, 28th,

May 12th, 26th,

June 9th

Rover, 4 W.E. September 8th, 15th, 29th,

October 6th

*Apply:* C. Raeburn, 36 Innage Road, Birmingham, 31.

(Wolverton)

Cub, 2 W.E. (Indoor), November 10th-12th

*Apply:* R. Saunders, 18 Marina Drive, Wolverton, Bucks.

### **(Chesham Bois)**

Scout, 3. W.E. April 27th

*Apply:* F. W. E. King, Rexview, Bais Lane, Chesham Bois.

### **Cambridgeshire (Abington, for East Anglia)**

Cub, Cont. May 18th-21st, commencing Friday evening

*Apply:* R. B. Herbert, Old Lakenham Hall, Norwich, Norfolk.

### **Cambridge, Norfolk and Suffolk combined (Shrubland Park, Nr. Tpswich)**

Scout, 3 W.E. June 2nd-3rd, 16th-17th, 29th-July 1st

*Apply:* Cyril Whitehead, 92 Westerfield Road, Ipswich.

### **Cheshire West (Overchurch)**

Scout, 4 W.E. May 5th

*Apply:* J. P. Hindley, 10 Warwick Drive, West Kirby, Wirral.

### **Cornwall**

Cub, 3 W.E. April 7th

Scout, 4. W.E. April 7th

*Apply:* H. A. Stoye, Westgate, Station Hill, Redruth.

### **Derbyshire (Chesterfield)**

Cub, 2 W.E. (Indoors), May 4th (Assemble Friday evening)

*Apply:* J. E. Hale, 8 Chesterton Avenue, Sunny Hill, Derby.

### **(Ogston Hall, Higham)**

Scout, Cont. May 19th-26th

*Apply:* H. W. Wright, 93 Simmandley Village, Glassop, Derbyshire.

### **Dorset (Weymouth)**

Scout, Cont. October 13th-20th

*Apply:* Lt.-Cdr. H. Taylor, G.C., Hartgrave Retreat, Musbury, Axminster, Devon.

### **Durham (Brancepeth).**

Cub, 3 W.E. May 19th (Whitsun)

*Apply:* A. Knox, 242 Park Road, West Hartlepool,

Scout, 5 W.E. June 9th Scout, Cont. August 11th-18th

*Apply:* C. Rogers, Woodcroft, Sea View Park, Whitburn.

### **Hampshire (Tatchbury Mount Hospital, Totton, Southampton)**

Cub, 3 W.E. May 5th

*Apply:* Mrs. L. H. Robinson, 76a Waverley Road, Southsea.

### **Hertfordshire (Well End)**

Cub, 2 W.E. May 18th

*Apply:* H. Warren, 27 High Street, Ware, Herts. Kent

### **(Buckmore Park, Rochester)**

Cub, 3 W.E. May 26th

*Apply:* Miss Wigger, 126 London Road, Sevenoaks.

Scout, 4 W.E. April 21st-22nd, 28th-29th, May 12th-13th, 19th-21st

*Apply:* F. J. Peters, 54 Priestfields, Rochester.

Scout, Cont. August 4th-12th

*Apply:* E. R. Bindloss, 43 Yardley Park Road, Tonbridge.

### **Lancashire N.E. and N.W. (Waddecar)**

Cub, 3 W.E. April 28th

*Apply:* Miss M. M. Lloyd, 8 Sunny Bank Avenue, Bisham,

### **Blackpool. (Huntroyde Park, Padiham)**

Scout, 3 W.E. May 12th-13th, 18th-21st, June 2nd-3rd

*Apply:* H. Burrows, F.C.A., Penarth, 16 West Park Road,

### **Blackburn. Leicestershire (Ullesthorpe)**

Cub, Cont. May 15th-22nd

*Apply:* Mrs. E. Pye, Alteryn, Cowper Road, Burbage, Nr.

Hinckley.

### **Liverpool and S.W. Lancashire (Bishain Hall)**

Cub, 3 W.E. April 27th

*Apply:* P. Walmsley, 52 Hallsall Road, Birkdale, Southport.

Scout, 5 W.E. May 27th (omit June 17th)

*Apply:* F. Molyneaux, 326 Queen's Drive, Walton, Liverpool, 4.

### **London (Gilwell Park)**

Cub, 3 W.E. May 5th

Cub, 3 W.E. May 26th

Cub, Cont. August 5th

Scout, 3 W.E. June 16th

Scout, 5 W.E. September 8th (omit Sept. 29th)

Scout, Cont. September 22nd

*Apply:* The Secretary, London Office, 3 Cromwell Place, London, S.W.7.

### **Manchester**

Cub, 3 W.E. August 11th

Scout, Cont. May 19th-27th

Scout, 4 W.E. July 7th-8th, 14th-15th 28th-29th,

August 5th-6th

*Apply:* W. H. Banning, Gaddum House, Queen Street, Manchester, 2.

### **Middlesex (Elstree)**

Cub, 2 W.E. May 19th (Whitsun), June 2nd

Scout, 4 W.E. April 28th (omit May 19th)

Scout, 3 W.E. Sept. 14th-16th, 21st-23rd, Oct. 5th-7th

*Apply:* J. A. Walter, Seiwood, Cornwall Road, Hatch End, Middx.



**Northumberland (Gosforth Park)**

Cub, 3 W.E. May 26th

Scout, 5 W.E. Sept. 1st (omitting Sept. 29th).

*Apply:* D. M. Paulin, Boy Scout Camp, Gosforth Park, Newcastle upon Tyne, 3.**Surrey (Bentley Copse)**

Cub, 2 W.E. May 12th (Assemble 4 p.m., 18th)

*Apply:* E. R. Alcorn, 27 Albion Road, Sutton, Surrey.

Cub, Cont. July 7th-11th

*Apply:* Miss R. Guggisberg, 71 Tupwood Lane, Caterham.

Scout, 4 W.E. June 1st (Assemble 8.30 p.m., Friday first weekend only).

*Apply:* J. L. Moore, 28 Campden Hill Court, London, W.8.

Scout, Cont. July 14th-21st

*Apply:* N. J. Wilkins, 22a Chatsworth Road, Croydon.**Wsrwickshfre (Strafford-on-Avon)**

Cub, 3 W.E. (Indoors), January 12, 1957.

(Rough Close, Coventry)

Scout, 3 W.E. May 12th (including Whitsun)

*Apply:* P. W. Blandford, Quinton House, Newbold-on-Stour, Stratford-on-Avon.**Wiltshire (Salisbury)**

Scout, Cont. May 19th

*Apply:* Lt.-Cmdr. A. E. Bickford, "Silver Birches," Hartmoor,**Devizes. (Monkton Coombe, Bath)**

Cub, Cont. August 4th

*Apply:* Miss P. Baily, Boyers, Monkton Coombe, Bath.**Yorkshire, Central and West (Bradley Wood, Huddersfield)**

Cub, 2 W.E. May 12th

*Apply:* Miss G. Barker, 17 Victoria Mount, Horsforth, Nr. Leeds.

Scout, 4 W.E. April 14th

*Apply:* J. E. Wilson, "Grinkle Dene," College Lane, Linton-on-Wharfe, Nr. Wetherby.**Yorkshire, East (Gorsehill, North Ferriby)**Scout, 4 W.E. (including Whit-Monday). May 5th *Apply:* Major

C. I. Ingleby, D.S.O., D.L., J.P., Drewton Cottage, Muston, Filey, E. Yorks.

**Yorkshire, North (Kirkdale)**

Scout, 3 W.E. May 5th/6th, 19/21st, June 2nd/3rd.

Scout, 4 evenings, May 10th, 16th, 24th and 30th.

*Apply:* C. F. Hale, The Grammar School, Scorton, Richmond, Yorks.**Yorkshire, South (Hesley Wood)**

Cub, 3 W.E. May 26th (commencing at 10 a.m. on Saturday)

*Apply:* Miss M. Stephens, 3 Victoria Crescent, Barusley.

Scout, 4 W.E. Sept. 1st (commencing at 10 a.m. on Saturday)

*Apply:* J. Dorgan, 1 White Lane, Chapeltown, Nr. Sheffield.**South Wales (Silver Cross)**

Scout, 4 W.E. April 28th-29th, May 5th-6th, 19th-21st, 26th-27th

*Apply:* F. Thomas, The Old Manse, Horton, Gower, S. Wales.**Northern Ireland (Hillshorough)**

Cub, 3 W.E. August 11th

Scout, 4 W.E. May 19th-20th, 26th-27th, June 1st-3rd, 8th-10th

*Apply:* Ernest Moore, Headquarters Office, 50 Dublin Road,**Belfast. British Scouts in Western Europe**

Cub Cont. (Ostenwalde) June 27th-July 1st

Scout Cont. (Iserlohn) May 26th-June 3rd

*Apply:* C. P. Carter, British Centre, Die Bricke, Hanover, B.A.O.R., 5.

**1st Chesham Bois Scouts present *Our Show - 1956***, a new revue written by Ralph Reader, at Pioneer Hall, Bois Lane, Chesham Bois, for nine nights. Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, April 5th, 6th, 7th, 12th, 13th, 14th, 19th, 20th and 21st. Tickets, numbered, 3s. 6d. and 2s. Order forms from Mr. F. E. Davies, Lynton, Waterside, Chesham, Bucks.

**South Staffs Senior Scout Corroborree** to be held at Wolverhampton, April 7th-8th. Chief Speakers: Sir John Hunt, Dobson and Young, Colonel J. S. Wilson, Percy Blandford. Details from A. C. Baxter, The College, Tettenhall, Staffs.

**"Our Show, 1956"** . . . The Hertford "Gang Show." Each evening, April 9th-14th inclusive, at the Corn Exchange, Hertford. Tickets 5/6, 3/9 and 2/9 on weekdays and 6/6 and 4/6 on Saturday. Immediate application should be made by post to Mr. A. A. Franklin, "Benalva," Farquhar Street, Bengoe, Hertford, enclosing cheque or Postal Order.

**Cub Scouters' Conference**, April 14th, in the Town Hall, Albert Square, Manchester. Main speaker, Mr. E. D. Smith. All Scouters welcome. Details from County Office, Gaddum House, Queen Street, Manchester.

**Burnham District Scouts and B.-P. Guild** are producing their 1956 Show at Taplow, April 25th/26th, and at Burnham, April 27th/28th, to help Scouting in the District. Ticket order forms from N. E. Wallis, Nortonbury, Taplow, Maidenhead.

**"We'll do our best"** - Wembley and Sudbury Wolf Cubs. A 40th Anniversary Cubborree on Friday and Saturday, May 4th and 5th at Wembley County School at 7.30 p.m. All tickets numbered and reserved 1s. 6d., 2s. 6d., 3s. 6d. obtainable from: R. Hopkins, 75 Riverside Gardens, Alperton. Phone PERivale 9610. BOOK NOW!

**Welcome to Wiltshire** for the Annual Rover Moot, May 12th-13th, at Warminster. Alfred Lynch, J. B. W. Took, R. St. John Battersby and other speakers. All meals provided. Programme from Mr. R. T. Kemp, 31 Brittox Devizes, after March 20th. (S.A.E. please.)

**1st Wann Rover Crew Reunion**, Gilwell Park, Whitsun. Please contact Mr. A. Sheppardson, 50 North Circular Road, London, N.W.10.

**Huntingdonsbire Rover/Ranger Conference**, May 19th/20th (Whitsun). Details from Miss B. Warren, 3 Hill Estate, Houghton, Huntingdon. Shropshire Rover Moot 1956, Tall-House Meadow, Madeley, June 2nd/3rd. Book this date. Details in the April SCOUTER.

**The Third North West Kent Rover/Ranger Conference**, Erith. June 2nd/3rd. Theme: Along the Broad Highway to a Wider World. Details from Mr. P. Jessett, 99 Brampton Road, Bexleyheath, Kent. Numbers limited.

**All Wales Jamboree**, August 2nd-13th. A grand Patrol Jamboree with lots of activities and excellent facilities laid on in beautiful Gredington Park, Nr. Whitchurch. Special activities for Sea Scouts on Gredington Mere. Early enquiries from Troops outside Wales are also welcome. Secretary: F. Sumner, Esq., Byways, Marford Hill, Gresford, Wrexham.

**Kent (Buckmore Park, Rochester)**. Scout continuous, August 4/12th. Scouters who wish to may bring their Troops to this Course. The Troop camp will be supervised by the Training Team whilst the Scouter takes the Course. *Apply:* E. R. Bindloss, 43 Yardley Park Road, Tonbridge.

**3rd Essex International Jamboree**, August 11th-18th, at "Bel-champs," Hockley, Nr. Southend-on-Sea. Open to all Scouts and Scout Troops. Inclusive cost £2 15s. 0d. per head. Send for illustrated leaflet or better still send and reserve a place for your Troop to Mrs. R. Andrews, "Mount Echo," West Avenue, Langdon Hill, Basildon, Essex.

## CLASSIFIED

### COMING EVENTS

**Coichester Scout Show** "Red, White and Blue," April 2nd, 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th, 7.30 p.m. Box Office Moore's, 135 High Street, Coichester. Phone Colehester 2064.

**2nd Whitton Group presents** "Our Show, 1956," April 4th, 5th and 6th. Tickets 5s., 3s. and 2s. 6d. from Mr. L. Bragg, 80 Ryecroft Avenue, Whitton, Twickenham. Tel. POPesgrove 4607.

### ACCOMMODATION

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**Wolf Cub Pack Holiday Centre**, Dorset coast, near Swanage, New Group H.Q. suitable 30-35, wood floor, palliasses, all main services, available mid-July to mid-September, £5 a week. Full particulars from Hon. Sec. Miss Beryl Bower, Coombe, Langton Matravers, Swanage.

**Camping.** City of Nottingham Boy Scouts Association camp site of 250 acres - woodland and open country, near Sherwood Forest. Particulars from the Warden, Walesby Forest, Nr. Newark, Notts.

**Edinburgh:** Is your Group visiting Edinburgh? Book at the Scout Hostel, Hermitage of Braid, Braid Road, Edinburgh, 10. For Brochure apply resident Warden.

**For your summer camp** come to Silverdale, seaside and lovely country, ideal for a real Scout holiday. For particulars of good camp sites write to L. & I. Smith, Grocer & Provision Merchant, 18 Emesgate Lane, Silverdale, Nr. Carnforth, Lancashire.

**Ashlack, ,camp site** of the Duddon and District L.A. Fifteen acres of camping ground available, surrounded by woodland, hills, and open country. Firewood and water available on site. A secluded site is reserved for Scouters with families. Bathing in sea, two miles. Fee 3d. per head per night. Further details from H. Kellett, 30 Greystone Lane, Dalton-in-Furness.

**Cotswold country.** Mrs. Noble, Weavers Cottage, Nailsworth, Stroud, Glos. Good centre, excellent bus service, breakfast, high tea, bedtime snack. 4 gus. weekly. July/August 4 1/2 gns. Mid-day meal optional; extra. Homely atmosphere.

### EMPLOYMENT

**Applications are invited** for the position of shop salesman by Black's "the Tent and Camping Equipment people." Interesting, varied, progressive and permanent position. Apply by letter 22 Gray's Inn Road, W.C.1.

**The Church Army.** Is God calling you to "serve the present age" to a greater degree? Keen Christian men 18-33 years of age, communicants of the Church of England, are needed to staff Mission Vans, Youth Centres, Hostels, Parishes. Write for details of free two-year (residential) course to Captain J. Benson, C.A., P.O. Box 420, 55 Bryanston Street, London, W.1.

**Merchant Navy** Radio Officer Cadet Training School, World Travel and Adventure Overseas, Brooks' Bar, Manchester.

**Victoria College**, Alexandria, Egypt. Resident Scoutmaster required next September for Sea Scouts who would also be qualified to teach General Subjects in the Lower and/or Preparatory School. Salary within the scale £E500 x £E20 to £E840 p.a. A deduction of £E60 p.a. will be made in respect of part cost of board and lodging. Provident Fund. Passage to Egypt paid and return passage or holiday travelling allowance at end of two years. Passage allowance also granted for wives and children of married Masters. Apply Mr. A. R. Hogg, 27 Elgin Road, Bournemouth, Representative in England of the Council of Victoria College, Alexandria.

**Instructor in Sailing** required by the Federal Government of Nigeria for Man O' War Bay Training Centre, for one tour of 18-24 months in the first instance. Salary scale (including inducement addition) £810 rising to £1,530 a year plus gratuity at rate of £100-£150 a year. Commencing salary according to qualifications and experience. Outfit allowance £60. Free passages for officer and wife. Assistance towards cost of children's passages and grant up to £150 annually for their maintenance in United Kingdom. Liberal leave on full salary. Candidates, not over 35, must be of good education and possess outstanding qualities of leadership and command. They must have had considerable experience of sailing in small boats and be capable of taking charge of swimming instruction and sea training. Write to the Crown Agents, 4 Millbank, London, S.W.1. State age, name in block letters, full qualifications and experience and quote M3B/42723/SBE.

**The Probation Service.** Training is provided for men and women over 21. Candidates under 30 without University qualification in social studies normally attend University Course as part of training; shorter training, about a year, available for those over 30 with practical experience in social work. Allowances payable during training. Details and application

forms from: Secretary, Probation Advisory and Training Board (lc), Home Office, Whitehall, S.W.1.

**Experienced Scouter/Youth Club Leader** desires full time work with boys, junior ages preferred, anything considered. Box 227, THE SCOUTER.

### PERSONAL

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**Shorts for winter** in the best English cord, 47/6 to measure, outside 5/- extra. From Ossie Dover, the Cycling Tailor, 160 Kensington, Liverpool, 7. S.A.E. for patterns and self-measurement form.

**Rover has been able to arrange with Lloyd's Underwriters** specially reduced premiums for private and commercial motor insurance for warranted Scouters. Rover Scout Mills, 123 Queen Victoria St., E.C.4.

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**Theatrical costumes and accessories.** Costumiers to the London Gang Show. Special rates of hire to Troops for all productions. West End Costumes (Peter Dunlop) Ltd., 18 Tower St., W.C.2. Temple Bar 6806. "Scout-inK" Catalogue. Group Record Systems, Certificates, camping cards and forms. Programme blanks and posters, all Group stationery. Stacy Ltd., 99 Kingsland High Street, London, E.8.

**Lady C.M. uniforms** made to measure for 65/-. Dress, skirt, battle-blouse and/or shirt. Send S.A.E. for patterns and self-measurement form to Miss Puttock, Upcotts, Everton, Lymington, Hants.

**Scout Troop in South East London** wishes to form a small football league for season 56-57. For further information please contact Mr. Lewis, 62 St. Asaph Road, Brockley, S.E.4, or 'phone evenings New Cross 3059.

**Cruising Holidays in "Terminist,"** 85-ton ketch. Approved by Boy Scout and Girl Guide Associations. Special rates for Scout and Guide parties. Accommodation for ten plus professional crew giving full training facilities in seamanship and navigation. Full particulars from Rae, do Harbourmaster, Ramsgate, Kent.

**Raise Funds Easily.** Sell hand-painted plastic brooches. "Sale or Return" show 50% profit. For samples write Dept. S5, 312 Hamilton Street, Atherton, Manchester.

**Wanted as gift or cheaply** for District Scout Band: Two Tenor Drums. Can any District or Group help? Offers to: Rev. F. Smedley (D.C.), The Vicarage, Bolton-on-Dearne, Rotherham, Yorks.

**For Fund raising.** Green's of Brighton offer valuable prizes for Cookery Competitions in which Green's Sponge Mixture is used. Why not include this Competition in the next function you are organising? Details may be obtained from H. J. Green & Co. Ltd. (Dept. T.S.) Aldrington Works, Hove 3, Sussex.

**Cub Scouters** (others not excluded). Arrangements are in hand to take another mixed party to Denmark, August 19th to September 1st. Details of remaining vacancies from Mr. L. R. Moncrieff Flat 9, Manor House, 15 Honor Oak Road, London, S.E.23.

### STAMPS

**Selections of Br. Colonial** and foreign Stamps for Juvenile and General Collectors sent on ten days approval. Selections sent abroad on minimum deposit of £1. Wants lists receive personal attention. Catalogues, Albums and Accessories in stock. P. .F. Gray, 4 Old Palace Road, Weybridge, Surrey.

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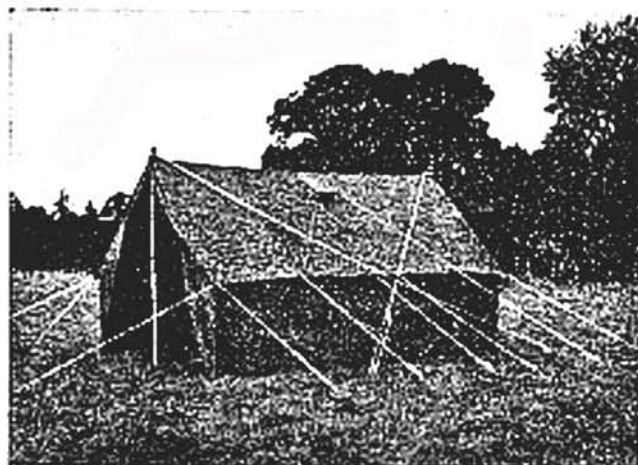
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