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Edited by
115, Sandringham Road, Worcester Park

W. Ervine

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E D I T O R I A L .

ONCE a year the Troop is inspected by an Officer appointed by the Admiralty to see if their standard of training and performance is high enough to entitle them to "Admiralty Recognition". You will see by the splendid report on page 4, from the Inspecting Officer, that the Troop came through with flying colours. Now "Admiralty Recognition", does not mean that we are a 'Military Organisation', but, whilst we do not receive any great material benefits, we have the satisfaction of knowing that other people appreciate that we are working on the right lines.

The Boy Scouts generally are celebrating their FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY this year, and on page 7 is a description of the Ralph Reader show, staged at the Royal Albert Hall in May, in which Bill Manning, Dick Riches and Charlie Bishop took part.

In his article "IMPRESSIONS", on page 10, Mr.Klinkert appeals for more 'Nautical Talk'. Would someone like to send me a list of 'Saltwater terms', for a future edition of the "Water Rat"?

We get many complimentary comments from our readers, and from the propaganda point of view our Magazine is a great success, but the financial side is not so good. There are many who receive the "Water Rat" each month because we know they are interested in the Group's activities, but they have not yet sent us their subscription. Just an oversight on their part we feel sure, but it means that we are publishing at a very heavy loss, and we cannot afford it.

Now a word to the members of the Group. After camps and special happenings I come down to the Clubroom and buttonhole some of you, generally the same ones each time, and drag from you a report of the proceedings. Now if only you would send me details of these occasions off your own bat, as soon as possible after they have taken place, it would be just grand. Will you do that? Don't wait for the other chap to do it, do it YOURSELF. It does not matter if I get two or three reports of the same function, all the better, as I can merge them into one. If you do this, it will help me a lot.

I frequently receive letters and calls from Scouts now in the Forces, who tell me how valuable they find their membership of the Scout Movement. In every large Military and Air Force Station there is a Rover Scout Crew, and all serving Scouts are welcomed as members. Owing to the very drastic reductions in the strength of the Royal Navy, the Deep Sea Scout Branch for Scouts serving at sea, has lately met with great difficulties. I am happy to announce that Rear Admiral K.M.Lawder has now been appointed Headquarters Commissioner for Deep Sea Scouts, and Scouts in the Royal Navy and Merchant Navy can now look forward to a renewal of the facilities and activities which were enjoyed by their predecessors.

In connection with the Admiralty Report, the County Commissioner, Mr.E.G.Neate, has written a letter in which he says that the Report has been specially shown to the CHIEF SCOUT, and he would like everyone in the Group to be told of this. Such a report is, of course, very gratifying to all concerned in the conduct of the Group, and is obviously the result of much hard work on everyone's part. I want, especially, to express my appreciation of the very great help which I have received throughout the past few years from S/M.F.Goodger, with the assistance of A/S/Ms P.Burton and R.Bass, and the invaluable instruction given by Mr.J.Klinkert. All make great sacrifices of time in order to reach and maintain the high standard for which "Leanders" have become renowned. It is becoming almost impossible for this small band of people to continue at such high pressure, and if the Group is to provide satisfactory training and to encourage the spirit of Scouting, it is essential that we have more help. I shall be most grateful for any offers in this direction.

We are anxious, immediately the summer holidays are over, to make a real drive in connection with the extensions to the Headquarters and at the "PARENTS' DAY", on September 18th, I shall be able to explain what is being done, and am looking forward to enrolling a number of parents and Old Boys for regular help with this work.

A D M I R A L T Y I N S P E C T I O N 22nd May, 1948.
Report of Inspecting Officer.

The last Inspection Report called the Troop an Outstanding Unit. This can be repeated with every justification and the Unit, being of a most progressive nature, has gone still further ahead with improvements to the Headquarters and their numerous other facilities for Sea Scouting. Excavating, concreting, fencing and much other skilled work have been completed or is in hand and all this is done by the Sea Scouts themselves. A great achievement by a Unit which knows what it wants to do and does it.

For my Inspection I was met on the river bank about a quarter of a mile from Headquarters and carried out the last part of the journey by boat. A really smart boat's crew who were all accomplished oarsmen, under an experienced cox'n, brought me alongside the landing stage in a most seamanlike manner.

The attendance was excellent, two boys being away through sickness and two at essential work and, during my personal inspection, I found the Unit was well up to its accustomed standard of smartness of uniform and steadiness on parade.

Practical work and instruction followed. The programme had been most carefully planned and I was given a demonstration which showed the Unit at every phase of its activities and pastimes. Many of the patrols were employed inside Headquarters covering all possible subjects shown on the Inspection form and others were carrying out boatwork on the river or very practical seamanship on the banks. The all round standard was of a high order and I was particularly struck with the advanced stage to which a class had reached in the study of Chartwork and Pilotage. I could almost add Navigation. I found that they were being taught by an Extra Master Mariner. Another Patrol were splicing wire and I discovered that all the rigging of the masts and bridge of Headquarters had been spliced by the Sea Scouts themselves. They had made a first class job of it.

The Unit possess a flotilla of Gigs and Skiffs and all these were put to good use throughout the afternoon. These include four of the special skiffs designed for Sea Scouting. 12ft. boats, they are rigged for sailing and pulling and are certainly extremely well suited to their purpose. I can strongly recommend them to other Units if they are on the lookout for the right type of boat.

Saturday afternoon is not a quiet day on the river. In spite of the swarm of boats, of every description, manned by both skilled and unskilled holiday makers, and the continual passing of pleasure steamers and other craft, the Sea Scouts held their own and handled their craft in such a way that it left no doubt about their knowledge and ability and the soundness of their instruction in boatwork.

Practical Seamanship was demonstrated by rigging a lofty pair of sheer legs and laying out a kedge anchor from which a preventer was led to the head of the sheers. This was not just a demonstration as the sheers were used to lift quite a heavy boat out of the river. This test gave ample proof of the efficiency and accuracy of the work carried out.

I would add a great deal more to this report about the good work carried out during the afternoon but I have written sufficient to show that a great effort had been made by all concerned for a hundred per cent Inspection and I left with the pleasant impression that the "Leanders" do not just come up to scratch for an Admiralty visit but do so at all times and Every Time. They are undoubtedly in very good hands but their success is achieved by a truly great spirit of Sea Scouting and by the combined efforts and loyalty of everyone from 'Skip' to Tenderfoot.

This outstanding Unit is recommended for continued Admiralty Recognition.

C. E. P. HARRISON,
Commander, R.N.

Inspecting Officer for
Admiral Commanding Reserves.

6. OLYMPIC GAMES .

The Sailing Competitions of the Olympic Games are being held at Torquay between August 2nd and August 12th, 1948, and Headquarters of the Boy Scouts Association have undertaken to provide 200 Sea Scouts to be on duty, 100 at any given time, between 0900 and 2000 hours each day.

The County of Devonshire is providing 100 of these lads, and the remaining 100 are coming from the rest of the United Kingdom. The 13 Senior Scouts of the "Leander" Group have been selected 'en bloc', and the Torquay Scouts have arranged accommodation for them in their Headquarters. They will also do the catering, for which a small daily charge will be made. As the actual accommodation is being provided, the Sea Scouts only have to take their personal gear with them.

The duties which the Sea Scouts have undertaken, include a messenger service at the Games Headquarters (for which an office and telephone have been provided); guides who will be attached to each of the foreign competing teams, 'longshoremen' who will assist the Harbourmaster in the many jobs in the Inner and Outer Harbours, ferrying competitors to and from their craft and manning motor-launches in Torbay.

This is certainly a fine opportunity of helping with international relationships, and also a chance to see some of the best boat work, as only the picked crews of each country and entered for the various events.

This should be a holiday which "Leanders" will long remember, probably many friendships will be struck up, and as we have been allotted these 13 places, our "ambassadors", we know, will see to it that the name "Leander" becomes world-famous.

7.

" B O Y S C O U T " - ALBERT HALL, 1948.

THERE could have been no more fitting celebration of the FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY of SCOUTING than the revival of "BOY SCOUT", for in it is shown, in pageant form, so much of what Scouting stands for and how it is achieved.

The story which forms the background is simply that of a boy's progress through the Movement. First he is seen watching a Troop, and the arena fills with the representation of a typical Saturday afternoon in a market square, from which the Troop leave for camp. The Scoutmaster invites the boy to visit the camp, and in the next scene we see him at the camp site.

In one corner he discovers a wigwam and as he approaches, out steps an Indian Chief. In a few moments the arena is filled with a thousand Scouts dressed as Indian braves, dancing and singing. Suddenly a whistle blows, and the boy realises what he has seen was only a dream for all the Indians have disappeared.

Back at Troop Headquarters we see the boy working at his tender-foot tests; as he is taught the composition of the Union Jack, a pageant of the saints appear before him; as he passes his hitches and bends, we see the practical use to which they are put in bridge building. Then comes the central scene, his Investiture as a Scout. The arena again fills, this time with Indians, pioneers, famous figures of history and heroes of all ages. But all are dressed in white to represent ghosts of the past. Before this assembly, the boy makes the Scout Promise - practically the only words spoken throughout the show.

Next we see him on his First Class Journey, and cannot help admiring the clever way in which the arena is transformed from town to country as the Scout progresses on his way, until he pitches his tent for the night. The farmyard animals who visit him next morning (including the cow who kindly leaves him a bottle of milk) are a delight to see.

Lastly, the Scout accompanies his Troop to the Jamboree, and in the final scene the arena is filled with a crowd representing world-

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wide Scouting.

Such are the more spectacular features of "Boy Scout", but interspersed among these are others of the same high standard, the P.T. show, the cycle-riding display, rope spinning, the burlesque on the Vicar's garden party, the musical ride, and the Sea Scout Display. Equally deserving of mention is the Choir, whose singing (accompanied by Organ and pianos) contributed so much to the show. More than all these, though, one admires the team spirit and the enthusiasm of performers and producer who can stage such a successful show.

T E S T S P A S S E D .

AMBULANCEMAN : W. Manning

OARSMAN: D. Farley, G. Banham, J. Vaizey.

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

Congratulations to MAUREEN, (daughter of Phil and Olive Day,) who will be starting at Tiffin Girls' School in September.

* * *

Congratulations also to JANET, (daughter of Les and Dip Edwards) who also goes to Tiffin Girls' School at the same time. Janet gained a scholarship whilst at Falmouth, and this has just become operative at Tiffins.

* * *

MAURICE ('Claude') JACK is at present on demobilisation leave.

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We wish to express our sympathy with the District Commissioner, Mr. R. G. Busbridge, and his family, on the death of his mother.

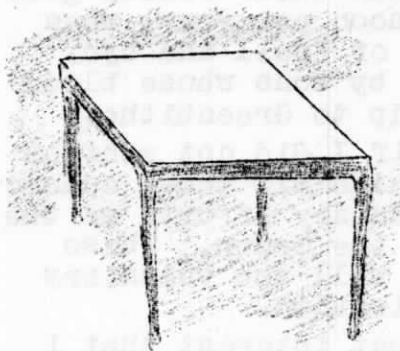
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A SINKING BUSINESS.

IT was a dark, dirty night, and on the rugged coast stood two men. They were Coastguards, and their job was to see that nobody pinched the coast. Big lumps of it had been missed lately, and rumour had it that a certain Foreign Country was sending ships over in the night and sneaking lumps off our land to stick on theirs. The two men stood looking out to sea. Suddenly one of them gave a start - "Sam" he said, pointing out to sea with his wooden leg, "Look, there's a boat out there sinking fast".

But what about those on the sinking vessel? The Captain's face wore a worried look. He turned to the 1st Mate, "We're going down", he said. Then, entering the Mess Room where the crew were making a mess of a steak and kidney pudding, "Men" cried the gallant Captain, "to your posts, we're sinking". "Aye, aye, Sir", chorussed the men. Then slowly the boat disappeared beneath the waves, with all those lives aboard.

The two Coastguards gazed at one another in silence for a moment. "Sam", said one, "it's gone - it's gone!" "Yes", nodded the other, "wonderful things, them submarines!"



SEEING IS BELIEVING!

Think you can place a sixpence on the table without it touching the edges?

You do?

Well, try it!

by J. Klinkert, F.R.Met.S.

ASKED to place on record the "impressions" gained by my weekly association with members of "Leander", places one in that unenviable position of perhaps delighting a few, and incurring the wrath of many, but since sailors "speak the same language" there are few differences which cannot be successfully overcome.

It has given me the most enjoyable satisfaction to witness the manner in which the Headquarters and its splendid surroundings are exploited to the full by those whose privilege it is to be a member of the Troop. The recent official inspection provided evidence of their versatility and of the inspired leadership under which they do their training. Truly I am amazed at the standard displayed in bends, hitches, knots, splicing - craft handling under oars or sail - signalling in its various forms - the sundry feats of practical seamanship in the form of anchor work, lifting gear, raft-making, and the like, leave so little to be desired that I can find only one expression which reflects my personal feelings - "it has opened my eyes". But all these young fellows have parents, and I feel sure that they would enthusiastically welcome an opportunity to see for themselves a little of that which really goes on. What about one more "official" Saturday afternoon per year, when Ma and Pa may witness the mysteries and privileges of "full and bye, throat halyards, and the wall and crown", revealed by sons whose blood has been rendered somewhat brackish by a recent trip to Greenhithe.

My impressions would be far from complete if I did not mention the extraordinary enthusiasm and enterprise with which all those connected with "Leander" contribute and sustain such voluntary efforts as the Bazaars which have been held to swell the funds of the Group. These affairs deserve the greatest credit and reflect so well the voluntary spirit which seems to me the essence of your organisation.

A word about the "old boys". It is with great interest that I have witnessed a decided fraternity existing among those who were fellow-scouts in former days and the effusiveness of renewed acquaintance at the various functions has duly impressed me. May I add that

this is a priceless asset when I compare my own, a seafarer's, experience whereby one knows so many hundreds of acquaintances with whom one has sailed, and yet possess only the remotest chance of renewing former pleasant associations. In a word the "old boys" have something there.

And of the present members themselves. Having sung their praises in all truth and honesty, let us pick a couple of small bones with them. May we have more "nautical talk" on the Main Deck and elsewhere please!! Not STARBOARD, but Starb'd. In the last eighteen months I have never heard anyone say Nor'East b'East. And what about your splendid polished bell, - not even "eight bells", let alone 3 bells in the "second dog" have I heard these many months. There ought to be a badge for "nautical glossary" men. So what about those familiar with the jargon encouraging the use of our precious terms?

Finally, what about POSTS OF SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY? Nothing, I submit, is so encouraging, and a keen healthy rivalry between the maintenance squads of each dinghy might assist the executives and relieve their worries in respect of every shackle pin duly greased, and then perhaps, when the price of a tin of varnish has been saved by combined effort, the Troop funds would not suffer so heavily.

My limited association has, therefore, produced these few impressions and to all concerned, I feel your job has been well done and a tribute goes to the planners as well as to those who have achieved and executed the design.

My personal thanks are due to those who have so patiently listened to our various discourses on blue water procedure, and the valiant attempts on the part of some to master the vagaries of deviation, variation, and the mysteries of celestial movements when, perhaps, ultimate opportunities of employing them are so very remote.

SEPTEMBER 18th, 1948 - "LEANDERS" will be "AT HOME"
to PARENTS, "OLD BOYS", and others. PLEASE MAKE A
NOTE OF THE DATE N O W ! !

12.

W H I S P E R S FROM THE J U N G L E

Dear Cubs,

We were very pleased to welcome JOHN BALCOMB back again to Pack Meetings after his illness.

It is also grand to see some First Stars being worn in the caps, and I hope it won't be long before there are some Second ones too.

FRANK MOODEY seems to be doing very well with his cycling and boating. Keep it up Frank, it will help you later on when you go up into the Scouts.

I am pleased to hear that quite a number of you are taking up swimming, this will also help you all when you become Scouts, and you can earn a Swimmer's Badge.

We usually close down the Pack meetings for a few weeks during the summer, as so many are away on holiday, and we only get an attendance of three or four, so we shall be finishing on FRIDAY JULY 23rd, and re-opening again on FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 3rd.

Good Hunting,

A K E L A .

A REMINDER - "LEANDERS" ARE HOLDING A BAZAAR at All Saints' Hall, Ashdown Road, Kingston, on Saturday NOVEMBER 27th, 1948. Its not too soon to begin thinking about it. Offers of help will be greatly appreciated. G/S/M. Ebbage will pass your offers on to the Committee dealing with the Bazaar.