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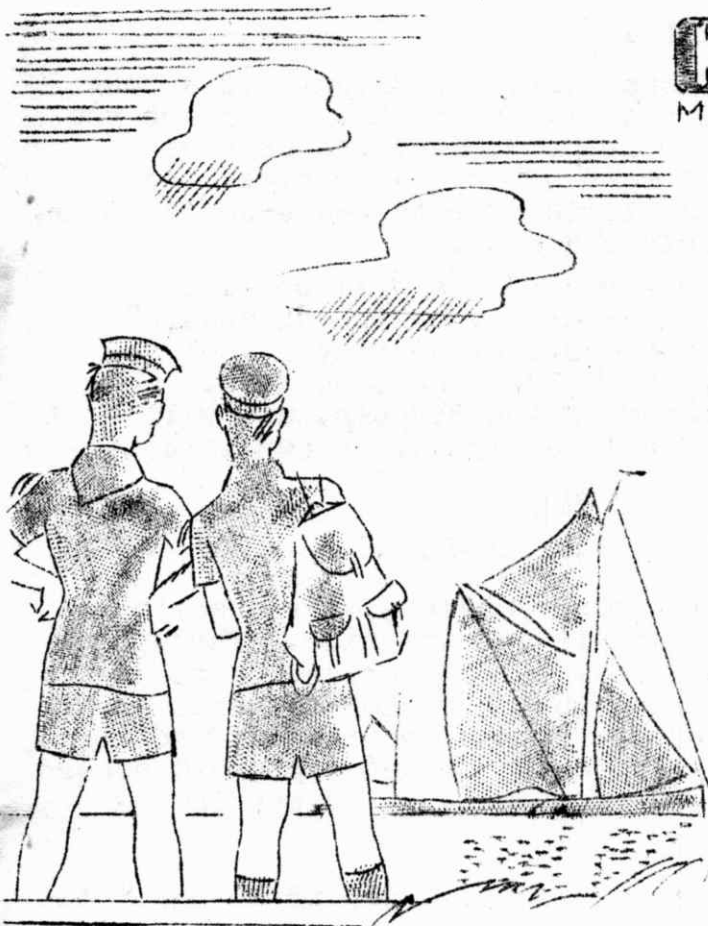
MARCH 1947

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Edited by:-

W. ERVINE.



2.

E D I T O R I A L .

With scout matters and his own business, the Skipper is a busy man and finds it impossible to meet you all as of old. He fears you are being left out in the cold, so to keep the many old members, parents and friends of the Group informed of our activities, the "Water Rat" has been revived. We apologise for the make-shift cover, owing to the crisis, - it is the best we can do.

Hoping to publish the Group's war record, we will be glad to receive names and particulars of service of any of the "Leanders". We want to make your Mag. as newsy as possible, so if you meet and receive letters from an old member, the Editor wants to know. This being a first edition, we are conscious of its defects, and will heartily welcome your criticisms. Don't be afraid, we can take it!

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S K I P P E R ' S S C R A W L .

I am delighted that it has been found possible to resuscitate the "Water Rat", although not quite in its pre-war size. Throughout the war years I found it a great handicap to be deprived of the means of communicating with the parents and with our former members, and of emphasising some things which I find the Scouts are inclined to forget. Much as I would like to refer to the Group's splendid record during the past few years, lack of space compels me to confine my remarks to the present.

Thanks to the efforts of the Group Committee during the past two years, the financial position no longer gives rise to acute anxiety and it has recently been found possible to make a start on restoring the Headquarters, boats and other equipment to an efficient state.

The first instalment has been the purchase of two 12 ft. sailing dinghies, and two 8ft. pram dinghies. Further additions will be required when the removal of Government restrictions allows. During the past few weeks there have been scenes reminiscent of 1938-39, of which our artist's impressions are recorded on page 9, and but for the recent cold spell, the structural work at Headquarters would have been completed.

We are very grateful to the members of the New Kingston Operatic Society for their kindness in giving us the proceeds of their recent production, "H.M.S. Pinafore", and for including a number of the Scouts in the cast. The amount received by the Group is £40, and not only is this financial help most welcome, but it is very nice to know of the interest which is being taken in the Group by people outside.

On April 19th, through the interest of Miss M. Hyland, Mr. Gillman's Secretary, the Cranford Social Centre Choir are putting on a concert on our behalf at All Saints' Hall, Ashdown Road, Kingston. The programme appears very attractive, and we look forward to a full house of parents, old boys, and other friends of the Group.

We welcome Miss A. Woods as Cubmaster, and wish her every success in the work she has undertaken. The Cub Pack has suffered from frequent changes of Cubmaster during the past few years, and I hope that it is now in for an era of steady progress. All sections of the Group are, however, carrying on with a minimum of Officers, and I shall be glad to hear from anyone who is willing to give up time and energy to help this Group to play its full part in the work of the Scout Movement in this district.

4.

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

We are very sorry to learn of the death of Mrs. Norman Smart. We send Norman and his family our sincere sympathy in their sad loss.

We also send sympathy to Eric Turvey and family on the death of his brother. Ken, who was once a "Leander" cub, was from birth a martyr to asthma.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Seagrave (Peter Lawrence and Madge Villiers) on their greatest and most successful production, "A Son and Heir".

A recent visitor to 82 Eden Street was Gerry Newman, back from 361 days' voyage on a tramp steamer, visiting all the continents. He is now sitting for his B.O.T. First Mate's Certificate.

Another caller was Tony Mason, who, having completed his training in H.M.S. "Ganges", is now awaiting foreign draft.

Welcome home to Mr. and Mrs. Marriou after seven years' evacuation to Bath, and good luck to Mary who, at her school at Bletchley, has a pack of 50 Cubs.

Jim Woolmer was home on leave for Christmas and has now returned to Salonika.

George Goodall was also home for Christmas, looking very seamanlike in his uniform, and by the by, it was fine to see his father helping at the Bazaar. George Goodall senior was a patrol leader in the "Leander" troop, in 1911, then known as the 2nd Kingston troop, and on the out-

break of the first world war was Assistant Scoutmaster, a position he held until he himself joined up.

Another visitor of the old school was Capt. Dobbie, who, many years ago was a famous "Leander" Patrol leader. It was good to hear that he has fully recovered from the serious accident he had when boarding a vessel at sea, and has once again resumed his duties as a Trinity House Pilot.

Congratulations to Paul Clements who has been appointed House Surgeon to a hospital at Plymouth.

That little rascal cupid has been busy in the Douthwaite family, Bob being married in May of last year, and his brother Jack engaged in July.

We wish them both good luck.

We welcome into the Troop Peter Pratley, younger brother of Mick, who is at present on service in Hamburg.

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HAVE YOU HEARD THIS ONE ?

A short-sighted man dropped his glasses, and complained that he was so blind without them, that it was useless his looking for them until he found them!

6.

OUR SUPPORTERS' CLUB.

During the past year, at the suggestion of Gordon Jewiss, a "Leander" Supporters Club came into being, under the chairmanship of Mr. G. H. Gillman of 63 Norbiton Avenue, Kingston.

The objects of the club are to relieve the Skipper of financial worries by organising and supporting socials, whist-drives, bazaars, etc., to give the Group publicity, and to help in any way possible the running of the Group.

The Club, at present in its infancy, is ambitious and intend to make the Group their Group. By talking "Leander" to their friends, neighbours and business contacts, they hope to gather in many who, up to the present, have not had personal contact with "Leanders", and thus to build up a healthy and active club.

Membership is open to all, and if you are not on our mailing list, send your name and address to the Chairman who will keep you posted concerning all future events.

* * * *

THE OLD BOYS AT HOME.

The Old Boys meet at the clubroom every Thursday evening at 8 p.m. for a chat, a game of darts, table tennis or billiards, and welcome all old "Leanders" on Forces Leave or demobbed.

For further information contact R. A. Davies, 71 Cheyne Hill, Surbiton, or 'phone KINGston 0413.

NEW COMMAND

Robert H. Marrion.

I stood beside the Skipper, a bit critical, but he was a fishing skipper in peace time, and used to handling trawlers. I was aboard merely to carry out the minesweeping programme, and I was looking forward to a run ashore.

We berthed at the coaling jetty, and there stood an officer I did not know. He brought a signal with him:- "Lieut. R.H. Marrion RNVR appointed Welsbach in command Sub/Lieut. R.A.L. Viner RNVR to Welsbach as First Lieutenant". So much for my run ashore!

Next day the ship was handed over, the Skipper had gone and No. 1 and I had got to know each other, as we undocked. From the bridge the ship looked bigger and the dock narrower. "Everything ready, Cox'n?" "All correct, Sir". "Slip all but the after spring. Slow astern".....As she moved, bows slowly coming away from the quay "Stop engine", far enough (I hoped). "Cast off.....Slow ahead.....Starboard one turn". She crept ahead.

"Midships....Port two turns....Midships.....Steady". We seemed to be rushing towards the lock entrance but luckily both gates were open and with a little discretion on the part of the Cox'n, we slipped through to the open river.

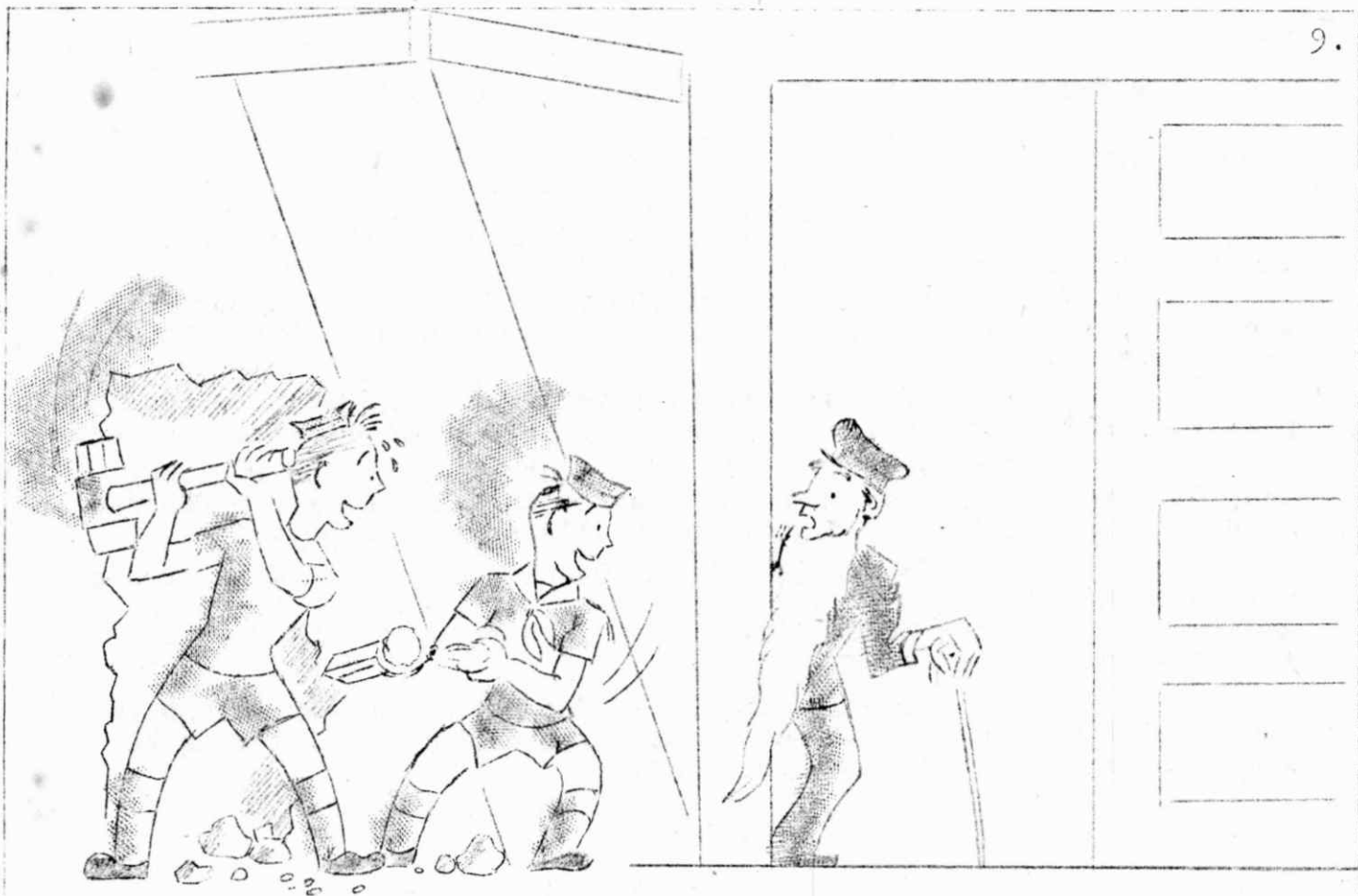
The trip was uneventful, but to me in command, the problem of getting back into the dock was very much in my mind. It's an awkward place, the Royal Dock, requiring a certain amount of way on the ship,

and with a single screw, it's difficult to pull up just where you want to.

It was fast getting dark, and I was in a cold sweat. With a muttered prayer, I headed her for the opening. "Half ahead", we just cleared the jetty....."Stop engines", and the fairway buoy slid past much too close....."Port two turns, slow ahead", we missed the stone quay, "Midships, stop engines", from aft came a grating noise, "Slow astern," the end of the lock was rushing up to us....."Half astern", the ship twisted round, bows banging the quay to starboard,.. .."Stop engines". First part over!

The inner gate had just opened, when the air raid sirens sounded! At once every light went out. It was now very dark indeed. Officials were anxious to get both gates closed again for fear of damage which might empty the whole dock. There was no waiting. I cast off and thrust out into a pitch-black dock, with 150 feet of vessel to turn round and berth in a particular spot.

Now the ominous sound of engines overhead, a whooshing noise, and suddenly a bright glow on the dock side. A fire-bomb on a warehouse of empty fish boxes. Golly, did they burn! but it did me a service, it lit up the whole scene. I crept down the dock till we were opposite our berth, then put the wheel hard a-starboard. It was no good trying gingerbread tactics, everything depended on how quickly the engine reversed. Rapidly she swung till she pointed straight at another vessel moored alongside. "Full astern"....would she never stop?..... "Half ahead"....again she charged. "Full astern.....Slow ahead..... Midships.....Stop engine". The Welsbach was secured and engine rung off. In the Wardroom, the Cox'n, the Chief Engineman, and I had a drink. I needed it!



THE ANCIENT (LEANDER) MARINER RETURNS: "Wot, still at it?"

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

Dear Cubs,

First of all, I would like to thank those of you who turned up to Pack meetings through the snow and the black-out. I think it was a very gallant effort.

We are hoping to start our full meetings as soon as the weather improves, so I hope everyone will turn up and show what Cubs really can do.

When we DO start again, several of you should be ready to pass your skipping test, as I expect you have been practising at home.

We were very sorry to lose Michael Crowe and Paul Hunt, and I'm sure we all wish them the best of luck in their new Packs - Michael's in the Isle of Wight, and Paul's is near Egham.

I must congratulate Jimmy Stone on learning most of his work for the First Star, as he thought he was going abroad to Australia just after Christmas. Don't forget to keep it up, Jimmy, even though you are not going yet.

I'm sure we all wish Bobby Sedgwick a speedy return to good health (he managed to get Measles!) and hope he will soon be well enough to come to pack meetings.

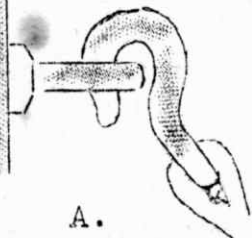
Good Hunting,

AKELA.

"ALL SHIP-SHAPE AND BRISTOL FASHION".

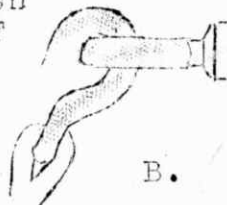
Under this title, it is proposed to publish a series of notes on the proper method of employing various pieces of gear which are often used incorrectly.

A.



* * * *

B.

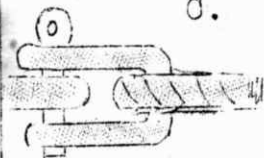


Diagrams (a) and (b) show the wrong and right way respectively of engaging a Hook into an Eye. It is fairly obvious that, in case (a), any sudden slackening of the strain may cause the hook to jump out of the eye.

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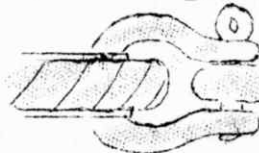
The use of a D-shackle should be restricted to the joining of two eyes or links of similar thickness. If a D-shackle is used for connecting a rope to a metal eye, as at (c), either the rope will be pinched or the shackle will be a very slack fit on the metal eye. In most cases both these faults will be present. Diagram (d) shows the much more satisfactory result obtained by using a Bow-shackle. In this case either the rope must be spliced through the shackle or the latter must be forced open and then closed round the rope.

C.



* * * *

D.



L I S T E N - I N T O A U N T I E M U R I E L

When last you "listened-in" to me, some of you were young curly-headed boys, and now in some cases, I see your heads are beginning to peep through that same curly hair. - How time (and hair) flies!

* * * *

Speaking of heads, now that D..k K..t has joined the Motor Cycle Patrol of the Senior Scouts, will he try to out-do the other members in the matter of "racy" headgear?

* * * *

No, there is no truth in the rumour that P...r P.....s has had to engage a Secretary to deal with his fan mail, after his recent stage appearance. You certainly did make a good show, P...r

* * * *

Congratulations to "our mighty atom" J..n S...p in beating his opponent in the recent eliminating trials for the County Boxing Competition. He has thus qualified for the semi-finals at Guildford on March 29th.

* * * *

The "scrapping" between the brothers B...y and R.y Q.....n are, I understand a private affair, and are in no way connected with the County Boxing Competition.

* * * *

Congratulations to G....n B...n who has recently gained his Kings Scout Badge. This is the first Kings Scout Badge in "Leanders" for a number of years. How history repeats itself.G....n's father was also a Kings Scout