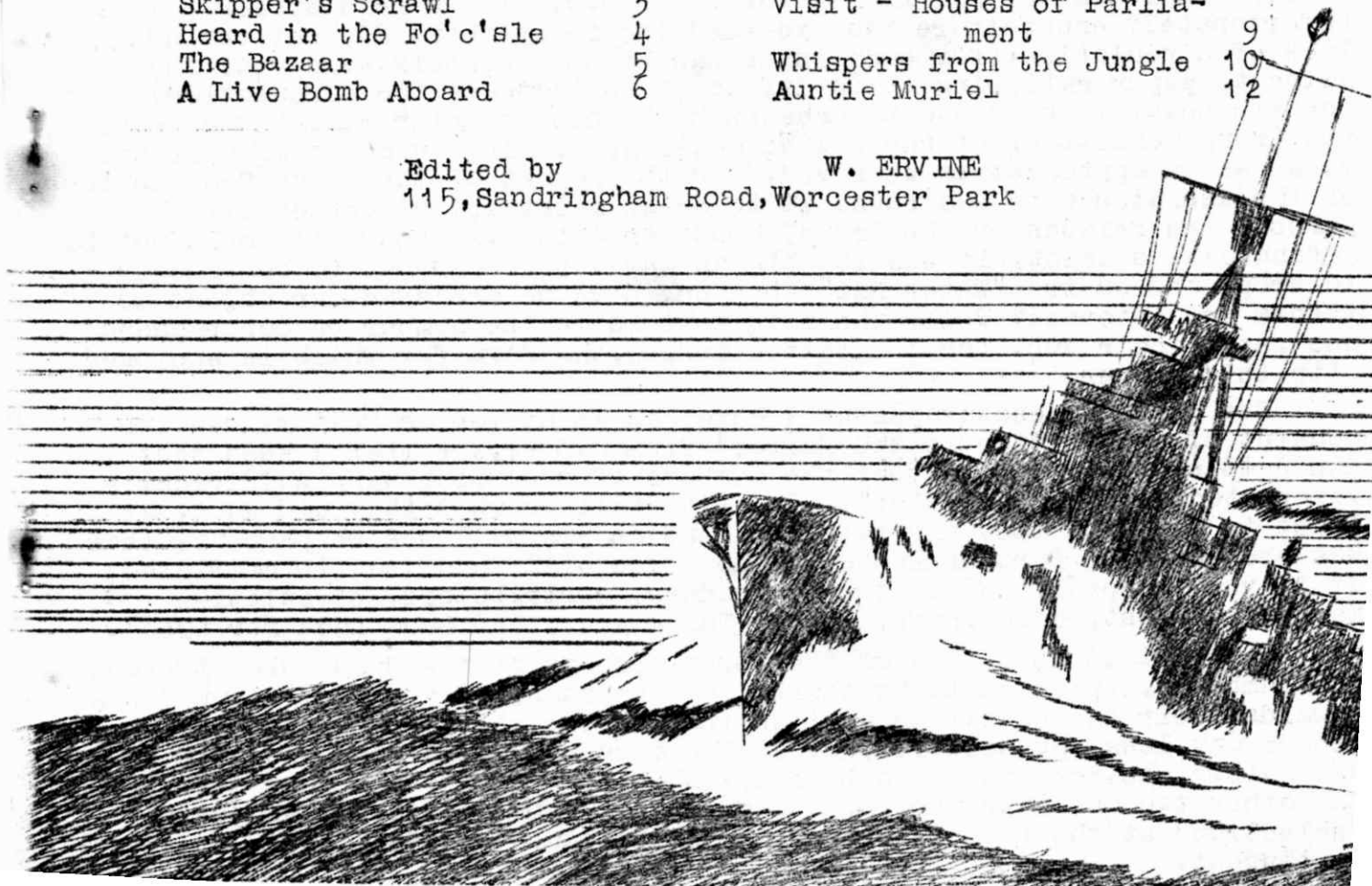


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2.

## EDITORIAL .

This is a first and last issue of the "WATER RAT". The first because it appears in the first month of the New Year, and we wish all our readers a Happy and Prosperous New Year, and it is a last issue, because this number completes the six issues for which many of you paid subscriptions. Unfortunately expenditure has exceeded income by about £7, not through lack of circulation. (for each issue has been completely sold out, and owing to paper rationing it is difficult to increase the circulation). The financial loss is due to present high cost of materials, etc. However the Group Committee, at their last meeting, judging from the letters and messages of appreciation received, and the report of the Group Scoutmaster of the assistance he has found it to be in maintaining contact with parents and friends of the Group, considered that, although it could not be a financial success, it was too big an asset to the Group to be allowed to drop, and so the "Water Rat" goes on. Have we achieved our object to inform and interest? Well, the acid test is in the number of our readers who renew their sub. for the next 6 issues, the form for which is enclosed with this number.

The greatest encouragement I have had in my job as Editor, was the receipt of the "Letter to the Editor" from J. Dove, for then I knew that I was cutting some ice, and that the members of the Group were sufficiently interested in the "Water Rat", if not to tell me what they did want, at least to say what they did not want, and as you will see on page 11, this has brought in a further letter. I hope you will continue to criticise. It is very helpful, and so to our readers, contributors, circulation manager, artist, and printer, I say "Thank you , and Good Luck for 1948".

In our last issue two of the three members of the Group who attended the Jamboree, expressed their thanks for assistance given from Group Funds towards their expenses. I am anxious that no one should think the third member any less appreciative, but in his case the whole cost was paid by his father, who, no doubt, has been suitably thanked. Grants were made to the other two as their participation in the Jamboree was due to their "selection" at the 11th hour to join the Headquarters Sea Scout Contingent.

At this season it is customary to indulge in a retrospect of the past year. On this occasion, however, I want to carry you back over a longer period. The history of the "Leander" Group may be divided into two eras. The first covers the period from its foundation in 1909 to 1922. During this time the 2nd Kingston Troop as it was called, imitated the wanderings of the Children of Israel in the Wilderness, and many and varied were the odd holes and corners (including a cellar and railway arch) which provided shelter for its meetings. By 1922 the Troop had added to itself a Wolf Cub Pack, thus becoming the "Leander" Group, and had gravitated to the site of the present headquarters in Lower Ham Road. Thus began the second era with the tenancy of a somewhat leaky boathouse which has since been transformed into the Boat Deck. Here, in a space 30ft.x 15ft.were held the Troop and Pack meetings, boats were housed and repaired, tents & other gear were stored. In 1923 the freehold of this boathouse was purchased from Mr.Headley, grandfather of Cub Malcolm Headley. In 1929 the present Main Deck was acquired and the front of the premises was reconstructed on the present lines. A year or two later a lease of the Workshop & Rover Den was obtained, and in 1936 land at the rear of the premises became ours and, after considerable excavation, the Galley, Fo'c'sle, Store and Lavatories were added and a new roof constructed over the Main Deck & Boat Deck. With the erection of the Chart Room in 1940, the limit of extension had been reached and numerous attempts have since been made to secure additional floor-space. Kingston Corporation has recently acquired "The Thicket" adjoining the H.Q. and has agreed to lease to the Group a portion of the property. This will enable some great improvements to be effected. We shall be able to construct Shower Baths, and W.Cs connected to the main drainage, improved storage for tents and other gear, and space for parking bicycles. All this will entail an enormous amount of hard work for everyone. This is being planned by a Committee consisting of Messrs.A.K.Biden, F.V.Manning, R.H.Marrion and myself, and we shall be glad to hear from any former member of the Group or the parent of any Scout and Cub who is prepared to come along and give a hand.

## HEARD IN THE FO'C'SLE.

Congratulations to Peter Chivers, who did a tap dance in our NAUTICAL MOMENTS SHOW, and is now attending rehearsals for dancing in "OKLAHOMA".

Mike Pratley has been demobbed from the Royal Artillery. Wilf Balls should have been demobbed from the Royal Navy, but this has been postponed indefinitely, owing to lack of someone to take over his duties. Wilf has been studying chiropody whilst in the Services.

Gordon Biden, who joined the Royal Navy on his return from the Jamboree in France, and is now stationed at Devonport, was home on Christmas Leave.

It was nice to meet once again, at the Bazaar, the Bo'sun's mother, Mrs. Jewiss, and also Mrs. Gentry, who herself in the past, has managed the catering arrangements at so many "Leander" functions.

Conversation actually heard outside the Clubroom, between two Cubs.

"That's not a boat, it's a gig".

"A what?"

"A gig!"

"I thought a gig was one of those things with a horse in it!"

Congratulations to Ted and Milly Bullen on the arrival of a daughter, Susan Averil, a sister for Robert and Derek.

On the morning after our Bazaar, Doug Child and other members of the Molesey Rowing Club were rowing from Putney to Molesey when their "eight" struck a submerged snag at Richmond and rapidly sank. Fortunately Doug experienced no ill effects from his involuntary swim in very cold water.

Paul Clements has now been accepted for the Royal Navy and in a week or two's time starts his duties as Prob. Acting Temporary Surgeon-Lieutenant (R.N.V.R.)

T H E        B A Z A A R .

We were very fortunate in the weather for our Bazaar in November, and having a full house from opening time until we closed down, the takings amounted to over £100, of which £88 was profit.

The articles on sale were of a very high standard indeed, and we are grateful to the organizers of the Stalls for the tremendous amount of work which they must have spread over several months. The results of their efforts make interesting reading, and it is remarkable how small is the variation between the total takings of each Stall.

Mrs.Biden's stall (including £3.10.-d.for the Raffle of a Chicken) made £22. 3. Od., and Oriel and Sheila Biden, with their Bran Tubs, netted a further £3.17.-d. Mrs.Ebbage's score was £19.2.7d. (with a further £2.10.-d. for articles sold since the Bazaar). Mrs.Harling £17.3.Od., (with a further £1.6.-d.to be added,for goods sold since the Bazaar), and Mrs.Dodge £11.8.-d. The raffles resulted in :- Eggs £1.5.6d., Rug £2.8.6d., Bulbs 8/6d., and Cakes £2.7.Od. The profit on Refreshments, so well managed by Mr.and Mrs.Fentiman, was £7. 3.9d. Phil Day's "Spinning Wheel" netted £3.7.6d.,and the Messrs.Buer and Pidduck partnership with their Dart Boards £2.6.4d. The "Spivs" Greengrocery Barrow, organised by the P/Ls,sold out in about twenty minutes and showed a return of £1.4.Od., a jolly good effort, and we have booked them up for next year. "Rolling the Penny" gained £1.0.6d. "Hidden Treasure" 18/6d. Fishing 17/3d.,Chinese Sticks 16/3d. Can Can 9/6d. 2/- in the Bucket, 7/8d. Pony Wheel 4/9d. and Jam Jars 2/2d. The Film and Conjuring Shows brought in a further £2.11.2d.,and Social Evening tickets and Raffle £2.7.-d.

We should like to express our thanks to the lady who gave us a donation of 10/- towards expenses, and to the gentleman, for 10/- towards a Whist Drive Prize.

Altogether a splendid effort, and we must express our admiration for the discipline of the members of the Group, both Cubs and Scouts, and the willing, cheerful way they tackled the work of transport,etc. In fact, a "GOOD SHOW".

## " A L I V E B O M B A B O A R D "

Robert H. Marrion.

Our trawlers were anchored, after a hard day's work, thirty miles out in the North Sea, close to the War channels we had to sweep again in the morning. The light was fast going, when an airplane flew over high up, travelling in a westerly direction. Now this was the Spring of 1941, when aircraft over the East Coast were far more likely to be hostile than friendly, so I lingered on the bridge and closed up guns' crews.

Everything was deadly quiet, when we became aware, at first low, then louder, of a noise like that of a high-speed motor boat. I gazed at the sky through my glasses for what seemed minutes without seeing anything, when suddenly there it was!....Low down, right on the wave tops, a 'plane coming fast from the east! On it came, growing rapidly larger, heading straight for the Group Commander's trawler "Loch Eriboll". At the last moment it rose to clear her mast, and amid streams of Lewis tracer, roared away into the gathering dusk.

I anxiously watched "Loch Eriboll". I had heard no explosion yet now she was enveloped in roaring steam and her Carley raft bobbed alongside on her quarter. There came the noise again! And there was the second 'plane, low down as before, heading this time straight for us! Just as she rose, a huge black roaring shape, two bombs leisurely detached themselves and came on with her, almost horizontal. I saw them, I heard their whistle, I all but felt their passage as they swooshed across just above the bridge and plunged into the water on the far side not a hundred feet away. Fascinated I watched their splash, and within two seconds felt the ship jump to a double explosion. A shout from the engineroom, and the tiny light in the binnacle went out. Soon the Chief reported the dynamo out of action.

There was one more attack, less successful, and then a faint light winked aboard "Loch Eriboll", "S.O. to Welsbach. Weigh and come alongside my port side". As we manoeuvred I noticed a clattering noise and learned that the "A" bracket supporting the shaft of the steering wheel

was broken. However, we had to steer, if the darned thing jumped all over the wheelhouse!

We secured to the S.O's ship, took the whole crew aboard, and then laid off at a safe distance. It seemed they also had had two bombs, virtually direct hits. The first had passed over the ship just abaft the funnel, smashing the lifeboat and knocking the Carley float overboard, then continuing into the water without exploding. The second was even lower, passing through the bulwarks just above deck level, bouncing off a steel bunker lid, penetrating the Engineer room casing, smashing the main steam valve, rebounding from the far side of the casing, and coming to rest right on top of the boiler. No wonder the Commander decided to abandon ship!

Well, we waited for the big bang, and meanwhile sent radio messages ashore reporting the "engagement". I felt very sorry for my wife, who was on duty that night in the decoding office! And "Alafoss" was sent off post haste with the injured (there were not many, and none serious).

The Commander paced my bridge looking very worried at having left his ship while still afloat. Finally he turned to me; "Marrion, I'm going back aboard. You'll have to tow me". So while he called for volunteers for a skeleton crew, our men roused out the towing wire and again I manoeuvred alongside. All was secured, and we slowly took up the strain. We had been going half-an-hour when I received a signal from our fourth ship "Loch Leven" that we were proceeding East, straight for the minefield and then Germany! This was before the days of compass corrector coils, my ship had been swung with the de-gaussing circuit on, and now we had no "juice" the compass was just plain haywire. So we turned round and let "Loch Leven" pilot us home. By 0800 we had anchored in the Roads, where the Captain himself came out and brought a bomb expert, who removed the fuze of "Eriboll's" unwelcome cargo. The bomb, a 500-pounder, was taken away and detonated later on the marshes, and judging by the bang it made, we all felt

mighty glad it hadn't gone off on impact! We never knew why! Perhaps some gallant Czech or Polish slave worker had introduced a fault, perhaps the bomb had been released too late to allow enough time in flight to set the fuze. Anyhow, we got some "leaf" out of the affair!

### CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5		6
7					8	
		9				
	10					
11		12				13
14	15					
16						

#### ACROSS:

1. Joined
7. Flower
9. Hardwood
10. Blaze
12. Railway (abb)
14. Part of Crew
16. Members of a family.

#### DOWN:

1. Steer wildly
2. Not off
3. Part of boat
4. Boards
5. Fate
6. Egyptian title
8. Compass point
11. Animal
13. Employ
15. Denoting direction.

There is no Prize for this puzzle, and the solution will be found on page 12, but why not try to compile one YOURSELF and send it to the Editor? The best effort received from any member of the Group will receive a prize, and will be published in next month's issue.



On the afternoon of Saturday Nov. 15th, 19 members of the Group made a tour of the Houses of Parliament. Several of us left Kingston Station at about 2.30 p.m., after waiting for a few chaps, who were either late or didn't turn up. We met the others, who had gone up previously, outside the Norman Porch (which is opposite King George Vth Statue) at about 3.15. The party, consisting of 9 juniors, 5 seniors, 3 rovers and 2 Scouters, thence joined the other representatives of Kingston's Youth Organisations. We made our way through the Norman Porch and up a number of steps, and turned at the top into a passage which leads into the House of Lords (which is only the temporary quarters of the Lords because the Commons, owing to enemy action, had to quit their Chamber and move into that of the Lords). Two thrones are installed in the Lords, which are for the use of the King and Queen when they desire to attend any session. Major Boyd Carpenter explained everything to us as we passed through each different section. From the Lords we went into the Hall, which used to be the House of Commons, but which no longer is so. Then we entered a small Chamber, with doors leading from it into the Commons (really the House of Lords). The Commons is quite a big Chamber with the Speaker's seat at one end, places for the members to speak from, and rows of benches on both sides, one side for the Government, the other side for the Opposition. Around the top of the Chamber there is the Public Gallery, which is very narrow. The Commons has two doors which lead into a passage, through which you go in order to get into the main lobby (this contains a post office and several telephone kiosks). On one side of the lobby, the new House of Commons is being built. From the lobby we went into another passage, which contains statues of Charles Fox, William Pitt, and other well-known statesmen. From there we went down into the Crypt (which was very cold) and thus made our way into the street. Once outside we decided to take a walk along to "Discovery" hoping to obtain a cup of tea. I think that everyone had quite an enjoyable afternoon, although it was spoilt a little by other members of the public who joined the Kingston Party, thus making it rather crowded.

10.

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

Dear Cubs,

Here we are once again, and I expect by now you have all got over your Christmas "Tuck Boxes".

I hope you all had a good time, and I was very sorry not to have been able to be present at Pack Meetings during December, and to wish you a very happy Christmas, but I take this opportunity of wishing you a happy New Year, and trust you have made resolutions to be good Cubs and "Do your Best".

Everyone thought your little show was very good, so we must try to do another and better one, some day.

I was also very sorry to have missed our visitor, Michael Crowe, but I heard that he made himself thoroughly "at home". All the best, Michael, and come and see us again when you are this way.

The present Subs.of 1d.per week has been the same since the Pack was started over 25 years ago. Nowadays everything is costing more, including the badges which you earn, and the lighting and heating of the Clubroom. I am sure that you will all wish to pay your fair share of the expenses, so from the first Friday in February, the subs will be raised to 2d. per week.

Good Hunting,

A K E L A .

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Dear Mr. Editor,

With reference to J. DOVE's letter last month, complaining of the lack of space devoted to Junior Troop affairs, I would suggest that the members of the Junior Troop should, themselves, write more articles describing their doings. If P/L DOVE and his associates in the Junior Troop were to contribute more for publication in the "Water Rat" there would be no need for anonymous authors to burst into prose or poetry. So please, Mr. Editor, do let us have some accurate and intelligible accounts of future camps, from P/L DOVE, up to the standard of the "Water Rat" and the "Leander" Troop.

Yours faithfully,

W. MANNING.

\* \* \* \*

### W H I S T     D R I V E S

We hope you will keep the THIRD Thursday evening in each month clear so that you can come to our WHIST DRIVES at the Clubroom at 8 p.m.

ADMISSION: 1/6d. including refreshments.

The dates are:-

15th JANUARY  
19th FEBRUARY  
18th MARCH  
15th APRIL.

\* \* \* \*

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

Why does the "Duty" Patrol always cause such a headache over the weekly rations? Would it help if they had a P/LS Session upon "How to make 2lbs of Sugar go round among 24 Scouts"?

\* \* \* \*

This one applies to YOU! Why not try to look as if you are interested during the Church Parade Service, instead of nudging the other fellow and trying to distract his attention?

\* \* \* \*

Speaking of Church Parades, I hear that some of the Rover Scouts and Seniors are not keeping up their good start-off of attending these Parades. The youngsters DO look to the older fellows to set them an example, and surely once a month isn't asking too much!

\* \* \* \*

I hear that the "S.....r" was so charmed by the many-hued pullovers worn by P..l D.y, that poor Mrs. S.....r has had to get the knitting needles busy. Has anyone seen the result yet?

\* \* \* \*

SOLUTION OF CROSS WORD PUZZLE from page 8.

DOWN:	1.Yaw	2.Or	3.Keelson	4.Embarks	5.Doom	6.Bey	8.N.N.E	11.Ass	13.Use	15.To.
ACROSS:	1.Yoked	7.Aremore	9.Epony	10.Flame	12.S.R.	14.Stokers	16.Sons			