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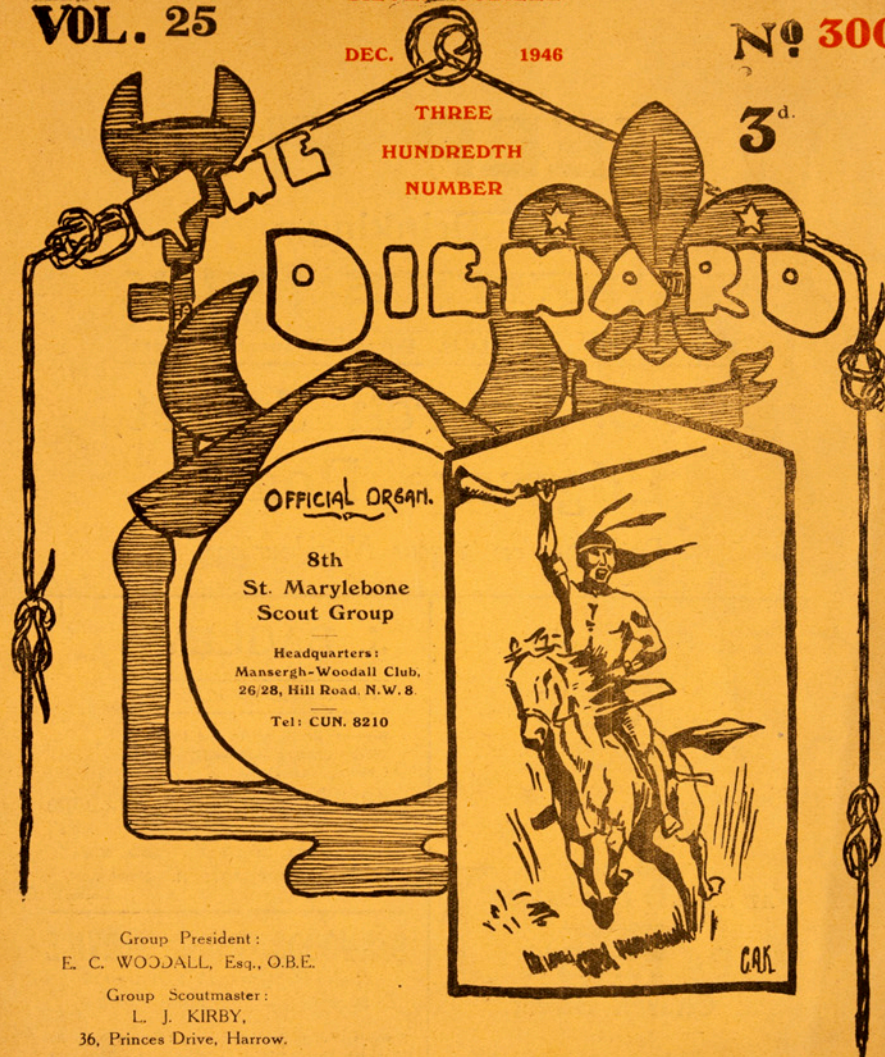
SILVER JUBILEE

DEC. 1946

No 300

THREE  
HUNDREDTH  
NUMBER

3<sup>d.</sup>



# DIENARIO

OFFICIAL ORGAN.

8th  
St. Marylebone  
Scout Group

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Chairman: A. E. WELLS

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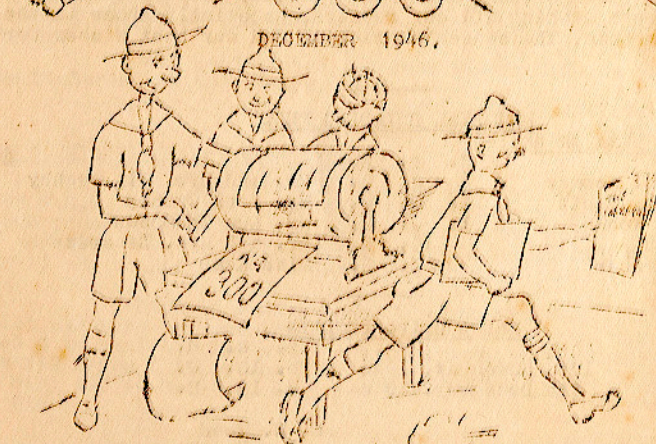
# DIHARD

VOL. 25

## NO.

# 300

DECEMBER 1946.



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THE GROUP WISHES ALL DIHARDIANS A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A PEACEFUL  
NEW YEAR.



EDITORIAL

The Diehard is proud to commemorate its 300th issue by publishing messages from the Chief Scout - Lord Rowallen - and other Leaders of the Movement. It is pleased, too, to be able to make the issue a worthy one by recording the celebrations of the Group's 25th Birthday. Our reporters, we think, have done full justice to the great festivities of last month.

Ever since the Group was born the magazine has made its monthly appearance and has proved its importance to the Group. During the war, when for a time the Eighth was completely disorganised, the magazine, under L.J.K.'s firm direction, was alone responsible for saving Diehardia from extinction. Whilst it is hoped that The Diehard will never again be called upon to play such a role, it is reassuring to know that the magazine is a worthy organ of the Group.

The H.Q. is a strangely quiet place after the terrific activity that has lately been going on there. We even saw some Rovers playing Bridge there last Monday; well, they've earned a rest.

Here's wishing all our readers, especially those in the forces and away from home, the season's greeting and our best wishes for the New Year.

MEMORIAL BUILDING FUND

Acknowledged with thanks:-

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COLING EVENTS

|                |  |      |           |
|----------------|--|------|-----------|
| Fri. 13th Dec. | H.Q. Sub-Letting Committee               | H.Q. | 7. 0 p.m. |
| Mon. 16th "    | Group Committee                          | "    | 7.30 p.m. |
| Thurs. 19th "  | Memorial Sanctum Guild                   | "    | 7.30 p.m. |
| Sat. 21st "    | Group Whist Drive                        | "    | 7. 0 p.m. |
| Fri. 3rd Jan.  | Diehardia visits Pantomime Golders Green | "    | 7. 0 p.m. |
| Sat. 4th "     | Group Whist Drive                        | H.Q. | 7. 0 p.m. |
| Mon. 6th "     | Old Scouts and Rover Gathering           | "    | 7.30 p.m. |
| Sat. 11th "    | Senior Scouts Supporters Social          | "    | 7. 0 p.m. |

HEADQUARTERS MESSAGESFrom the CHIEF SCOUT.

3rd December 1946.

My dear Diehards,

I was delighted to hear that you had just celebrated your Silver Jubilee and that you are not content to rest on the achievements of the past.

Heartiest congratulations on your new Group Headquarters. This in itself is a sign of your success and the way you keep your Old Scouts interested and the strong support you get from the public are another grand testimony.

Best of Scouting to you, and may you be as flourishing at 50 as you are at 25.

ROWALLAN.  
CHIEF SCOUT.

From the DEPUTY CHIEF SCOUT.

Thank you very much for the copy of your Souvenir Booklet. This is very well produced and should prove a most valuable and permanent record of the good work done by the 8th St. Marylebone Scout Group.

All good wishes for your Silver Jubilee programme and for "The Diehards" in the future.

PERCY EVERETT.  
DEPUTY CHIEF SCOUT.

From the COMMISSIONER AT HEADQUARTERS.

So "The Diehard" has reached its 300th number, and the evergreen G.S.M. has asked me to send its readers a message for that auspicious occasion. And he reminds me that I was also the author of similar messages for the 100th number in 1950, and the 200th in 1938. Well, well! No wonder he and I have less than one crop of hair between us.

Because I have known the 8th all these years, it gives me special pleasure to send my good wishes at this time, and to say how delighted I am that the Group has obtained working Headquarters. It is a long while since I first saw its former members in Capland Street - I hope it will not be long before I see the present ones in the Mansergh-Woodall Club.

J. F. COLQUHOUN.  
COMMISSIONER AT HEADQUARTERS

From the COMMISSIONER FOR LONDON.

I was so thrilled by your wonderful service yesterday and by the ceremony at your new Group Headquarters, and especially by that beautiful key which you were good enough to give me which will always be one of my greatest treasures, that I must write and send you my most sincere congratulations and thanks. It was a great tribute to the reputation of your Group that such a large Church should have been so full and the hall of your Headquarters so crowded by your many well wishers. May I give you my sincere and personal thanks for the grand work which you have done and are doing in Scouting. I have no hesitation in saying that I rank your Group as one of the very finest Scout Groups in London.

JOHN SHEA.  
COMMISSIONER FOR LONDON.



More than half of this month's DIEHARD is devoted to reports of our Silver Jubilee Week - and what a week it was! I think the most heartening thing was the wonderful team work of all who had a hand in the organization and administration. Several of our distinguished guests commented on the unity and friendliness which prevailed throughout the week, and here perhaps lies the secret of our 25 years journey together. That, no matter how many minor differences we experience in day-to-day routine matters, when it comes to a real test we have all learnt to forget self in the good of the whole.

It is difficult to select any part of week as outstanding when all was so excellent, but perhaps we were all thrilled most of all by the Thanksgiving Service at St. Mark's. That, together with the silent witness of the Memorial Sanctum, stood out as a beacon for the rest of the week to follow. Every night proved popular and many friends were deeply impressed by the spirit which finished the week at the Jamborette. We have tried, in different parts of this magazine, to voice thanks to all who contributed to the Week in any shape or form. But if you did something, and in the hustle of it all your name has been inadvertently omitted, please accept this as a grateful vote of thanks.

It is difficult to put into words my feelings concerning the presentation at the Official Opening Ceremony. The secret seems to have been well kept. As I intimated at the time I felt that the award of the bar to the Medal of Merit was more a collective honour to the Group rather than to me personally, though I valued it as coming from the hands of our much respected County Commissioner. The illuminated address, with album of Diehard signatures, was a wonderful thought and I am deeply grateful to all who had a share in it. Nothing could have given me keener pleasure and I shall treasure it more than you know.

In thinking of the hundreds of names of Diehards, past and present, who have earned our gratitude, my thoughts turn this month, with the 300th edition of the DIEHARD, to all the Editors, Publishers, Business Managers, Typists and Salesmen who have taken their turn during the past 25 years in producing and circulating this magazine. It is a record which I dare to suggest is not shared by any other Scout Group in the world. The EIGHTH could still function without its magazine, but that little community we call Diehardia would be all the poorer.

1946 has been a memorable year. The new Headquarters and the Silver Jubilee together have taken us to a high plane. The problem now will be how to keep up there. There are infinite possibilities ahead and in the New Year, after a short deserved rest, we must begin to make plans for still better Scouting. In the meantime comes Christmas, with all the joy and happiness associated with that holy festival. Elsewhere S.M. Jack writes concerning the Christmas Good Turn. On this occasion we appeal not for ourselves but for others. I am sure you will do what you can to help. I wish all members of the Group, and all friends of Diehardia, a very, very happy Christmas.

L.J.K.

Sun. 24th

Prayer - Praise - Pageantry.

Sunday, November 24th - surely the wettest day of the year but not sufficiently so to dampen the enthusiasm and spirits of the Diehard supporters rallying to their Jubilee Thanksgiving. Over four hundred of them filled the body of St. Marks and overflowed into the gallery.

All round one could see the faces of those who had helped the Group at some time during its adventurous journey. Greyheads who had assisted at its birth and guided its faltering footsteps in the far-off 1920's, and many who, by a hand and a smile, cheered, encouraged and kept the Group moving along its appointed course.

Well chosen hymns sung by the choir (composed mainly of Group members) led by Mr. F.G. Elliott at the organ, were heartily re-echoed by the large congregation, while many present must have had memories stirred by the anthem "Ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers" the favourite of all the years at Emanuel.

"Here in this hallowed place will I give thanks" - - so must our Group leader have thought when he read the lesson from Rev. 22 and we feel sure that he did give thanks, when, from the Lectern he looked out upon the fruits of his labours, the boys, youths and men, who had passed through his hands and had in some measure grown with his help, into good scouts and worthy citizens. Assuredly has Leslie's leadership been divinely guided.

It was fitting that upon such an occasion the flag presented by our Danish brothers, should be consecrated by our own Vicar, the Rev. W. T. Veal, and held aloft, a symbol of the great international brotherhood of scouting. Also, that at this time, our County Commissioner, General Sir John Shea, should lead us in our re-affirmation of the Scout Promise.

What a memorable occasion - - the intercession by the Rev. D. Kirby Burt, the earnest prayers of our friend the Rev. A.J. Fisher and perhaps most moving of all, the inspiring address of the Rev. J. Lee Featherstone - - "Where there is no vision the people perish."

Despite the early darkness and rain, quite a number of people participated in the official opening of the new H.Q. by the County Commissioner, who, undaunted by the elements, also planted a Silver Birch tree as a symbol of remembrance and to commemorate our Silver Jubilee.

The arrangements for the reception of visitors to the Grand Opening of the new H.Q. had been well organised and the hall soon filled up. During a brief interval there were opportunities to renew old friendships and compare families. Among the several veterans present was Tom White, a pioneer of Scouting.

The appearance upon the platform of the County Commissioner, attended by the London Secretary and supported by many figures well known to Diehardia and the scouting world, was the signal for our President, Mr. E. C. Woodall to call upon the District Commissioner, Mr. C.T. Wellington, to introduce Sir John to the meeting, which he did most effectively.

The reception accorded Sir John left no doubt that we were pleased to see him and that we appreciated the honour of having such a distinguished soldier and scout amongst us.

Rising to reply, he unfolded a secret, known to but few and certainly unknown to the hero of the hour, Leslie J. Kirby, for to Leslie's great surprise, Sir John, on behalf of the Chief Scout, The Lord Rowallan,



conferred further high honour upon our G.S.M. by investing him with a bar to his Medal of Merit. In a few well chosen words, tribute was paid to Leslie's work and to the high standard of scouting in the Eighth.

However, there were further surprises in store and the Chairman, who was obviously in the secret, called upon Ernie Wells, who, on behalf of Diehardia, presented Leslie with a humble tribute of our regard and affection, in the form of an illuminated book, inscribed with the signatures of all those who had passed through the Group. This gave opportunity for Ernie's wit, which found outlet when referring to our batchelor G.S.M., of how, although an expert map-reader, he had missed the 'bridal path', although an experienced scout, he had failed to tie the 'lovers knot' and that a woman's loss had been our gain when L.J.K. became wed to scouting.

The double presentation took Leslie greatly by surprise and obviously overwhelmed, with great feeling, he tendered modest thanks to Sir John and to Diehardia, but true to form took advantage of the occasion to remind us of the necessity of purchasing tickets for the week's shows!!

We were very interested to hear from our Chairman of the origin and purpose of the new H.C. and of his family association with it and the moment was not inappropriate to remind us of our obligation and responsibility to maintain the high principles traditionally connected with the Mansergh-Woodall Club.

After Mr. Woodall had invested Sir John with a replica of the key with which the opening ceremony was performed, the hall was darkened, the 25 candles of the Diehard Jubilee Birthday Cake were lighted and Leslie was escorted to the table to cut it. This was the signal for Diehardia to get rid of its pent-up feelings and there was prolonged cheering, hand-clapping and happy laughter.

An excellent tea was served by willing helpers and parties went on conducted tours of the new premises. One could not fail to be impressed with the marvellous facilities provided, the work-room, the dark-room for photography and voices were hushed and footsteps lightened on entering the sacred precincts of the Group Memorial Sanctum.

These impressions of a wonderful day would not be complete without recording appreciation to all those who planned and worked to make it so.

What was the most pleasing feature of the day? Who can say? - to each his choice according to age and temperament - some of our younger brothers were impressed by the Dedication and the smart bearing of the escort party. Others were excited by the lighting of the birthday cake. Many of the older persons were delighted to see the Rev. J. Lee Featherstone and his charming wife moving amongst them and still remembering everyone by name. Some were heartened by the tea, others by the size and features of the building and more than one eye was wet during the more intimate moments of the speechmaking.

We cannot record the feelings of Leslie but for him the occasion was a great personal triumph and a day that will never be forgotten in Diehardia.

Anon.

SATURDAY, 23rd.

JUBILEE DANCE.

Jubilee Week got off to a flying start with a Grand Dance at the Seymour Hall on Saturday, November 23rd, when hundreds of Diehards and supporters of the Eight St. Marylebone Group thoroughly enjoyed themselves. It was a very merry evening - for Diehards know how to disport themselves - and at the same time brought much grist to the mill. There were many reunions with old friends and memories revived of happy days gone by. Diehard dances have always been happy affairs, and looking back over 25 years of them brings other halls to mind. To a newcomer the Jubilee Dance was - just another dance being enjoyed by a crowd of people who liked dancing, but to an old stager, there was much more in it than that.

Older members of Diehardia remember the series of dances at the old Wellington Hall over the "Eyre Arms" - yes indeed - "Those were the days". Many dances were held in the old days at Capland Street School hall and Emmanuel Parish Hall, and many budding romances have received impetus at those happy affairs!

So history repeats itself and now children of the original Diehadians are emulating their parents as time marches on. We had the Wellington, the present generation have the Seymour, and the Diehards are in the ascendant as they enter upon their second quarter century.

Quite so, you say, but tell us about the Jubilee Dance.

O.K. then, the band (Howard Biggs and his band) were excellent. We danced Waltzes, One-steps, Foxtrots, Rumbas, Old-Time Medley, Palais Glide, the Conga and the Hoky Bokey. Mr. T. May was M.C., Mr. Dent ran his usual successful crew, Chips worked like a nigger in the box office, there were the usual faithful band of stewards, Mr. Prior and Mr. Bulcraig were ready to deal with interlopers. The bars and buffet did a roaring trade. There was a very effective tableau on the stage of truck-cart and flags, Old Boys could be seen capering about just as lively as they did 25 years ago, Teenagers were enjoying themselves almost oblivious of the ex-Teenagers, I say "almost" for sometimes it was observed that the twain did meet.

One lady of the older generation wared so exceedingly merry that it was not until the following morning that she discovered that she had walked home in somebody else's coat.

Finally, let us pay tribute to Les Kirby, without whom Diehardia would have been a Society unknown, and Diehard Dances non-existent. (P.S. The way things are going we shall need the Albert Hall for our 50th Anniversary Dance!).

J.R. ANDREW.

AT CHRISTMAS (Cont'd)

To all others of the Diehard Family may I offer on behalf of the Old Scouts our very best wishes for Christmas and may your next 25 years be as happy as our last 25 have been.

A.E. WELLS.



Monday 25th.EXHIBITION AND FUN FAIR

In every sense, Fun Fair Night was really Jubilation night, and these few lines are intended for the dissatisfied, who will now have to fall back on our friends at the Olympia this Xmas.

Spontaneous merriment and fine humour rang through the Big Hall, the happy night, and I'll look back on these brief hours as containing the spirit and real breath of the GROUP. It wasn't captured - as some of us old boys would like to be able to say, it was quite definitely on Top, and you know, I was greatly pleased because we old boys do have a selfish attitude towards the past, we like to say - Well these youngsters are all right y'know, but remember so-and-so, or such-and-such. No, this must not be. Movement, colour and responsibility is what they want, and th is what I saw this night. Those boys put all the hardened buskers completely in the shade - I write from experience, I was nearly 'broke' when I left.

They had, mark you, one or two serious competitors from my own generation and I now refer to The Right Hon. Nip! I mean ter say - Biffin 3 inch nails in a piece of solid elm, wiv a back scratcher - and the bloke running the Southend illuminations, one had to light about 5,000 candles in 2 secs to win a prize. The animated animals who just wouldn't animate in the direction of their own burrow!

And upstairs the exhibition of Arts and Crafts by all members of the Group, many fine pieces of work which took hours of patience to construct the Cubs Lair with their very clever models, all tastefully displayed.

Downstairs again to the prize giving by Mr. J. Ramsay a great friend to scouting.

There was another too - e Mr. Jenkins -remember him? You who weren't there? sports master at Capland St. School, many years ago. And now as I hear him once again, not quite so many.

He taught Cricket, Football, or should I say the Game of Life as it should be played, not only at Capland but at the Mansergh-Woodall Club. On the ceiling of the Big Hall, there are many marks of a dusty Football made by numerous boys of the past. - I hope those "Marks" remain, I am sure they will.

Gratefully I shall look back on this night of merry-making, wondering at all the effort behind Bunting - stalls, hot cups of tea, numerous cakes.

IT WAS A GRAND NIGHT!

VIC EVANS.

A "Full House" enjoyed to the utmost a robust "Old Time Night" under the Chairmanship of 'Alfred Black' with Mrs. Ernie Wells as accompanist to give most valuable assistance to the Cast.

(Apart from Mrs. Wells, all the names are 'Boloney', but the key below gives the 'low down' for the benefit of the blokes overseas and other absent friends).

The show started on time; unfortunately the audience didn't arrive likewise and "The West London Gangsters" had to do their spot of "Dirty Work" under difficulties. However they got it over well, and the audience having settled down (more or less) "Bill Lafayette" got 'em in fine fettle with "Lily of Lagum". (How these old time audiences enjoy a good chorus). "Johnny Weston" in his own inimitable fashion shook 'em up with "Four Horse Charry Bang" and a spot of barracking (suspected to be more "Dirty Work" of "the West London Gangsters") was so well timed that it did nothing to mar the rendering of "If those Lips could only speak" by that great ballad singer "George Walters". The exhibiting of "The beautiful picture" was a nice touch and went down well. "Gus Victor" (he wasn't 'arf posh) got 'em swaying and singing with "I'll be your sweetheart" and following him, dear old "Albert Hawkins" went right to their hearts with "My Old Dutch". All over the vast auditorium sweet faced, silver haired old ladies could be seen clasping hands with their bald headed old husbands, gazing fondly into one another's faces (soppy things) and ripping out that lovable chorus as if they wanted to be heard as far away as the old H.Q. They succeeded. Then a very fine contribution by that grand Chairman and personality "Alfred Black", who received an ovation not only for his share in the show, but also as an expression of the esteem in which he is held.

Who's next? Can it be? It is! None other than that great tenor "Alan Forbes", world famed, (well - he's known wherever the 8th is known, and that's the same thing) to enchant with "Thora".

The thunder of applause easing down a little, the curtain again lifted and "Cy Kaye" soon had the audience rolling with "Wonders of The Bioscope". It was a rough sea scene and whether it was the endless laughter or sympathy with "Cy Kaye's" seasickness the fact remains that y Reporter was glad to grab a cup of Mrs. Hampton's famous "cawfee" at the interval to settle his "stomick".

The second half consisted of 10 "Old Time" dances and it is regretted that the blue pencilled blue pencil of the Ed. will not allow a description of each. Suffice to say that Mr. Cyril Kirby as M.C. kept the crowd in the jolly mood that the concert had put them in and the show ent with a "whizz". Maybe there was a preponderance of silver hair and bald heads, but those "tootsies" were young enough and it is a fact that "The Old Timers" definitely outdanced the youngsters present.

The whole show proved quite conclusively that whatever the age, "The Spirit of Youth" lives in the hearts of all who come in contact with "The Eighth".

KEY: West London Trio - Nip Webb, Wal Harvey and Tom Martin, Bill Lafayett - Will Lavers, Johnny Weston - Ron Andrews, Geo. Walters - Wal Harvey, Gus Victor - Vic Kirby, Albert Hawkins - Ernie Wells, Alan Forbes - L.J.K. Cy Kaye - Cyril Kirby and Alfred Black - Alfred Grimes.

T.Y.N.



SCOUTING ON THE SCREEN

On the Wednesday night of the Jubilee Week I sat near the front amongst the cubs and scouts of this generation and as we saw pictures of the early days of the "Diehards" one felt assured that these lads will uphold the traditions they have inherited in being members of the 8th troop.

As the pictures of the "Diehards" of 15 to 25 years ago were thrown on the screen, Les and Vic gave a running commentary and it was not difficult to see how gradually with careful handling and wise decisions the Group has reached its present status.

Pictures of Rovers on the Continent gave some of the senior scouts more ideas, and future slides will no doubt contain more of these overseas camps.

As well as the lantern and cine projector was in service and cub and scout films caused much laughter, and, we hope, taught more than one lesson.

As the evening flew by the story of the 25 years unfolded, faces appeared on the screen of lads who had paid the supreme sacrifice and one could feel the atmosphere, and then we came to the more recent years and the babble of voices grew louder as the boys began to recognise recent camps, yes these boys were now seeing the page in the history of the 8th that they had helped to write, and it can truly be said that the Scout spirit of the "Diehards" is a reality today. May it ever be so.

A.V. CALL

Thurs. 27th

JUBILATION

(First Night)

Despite the continued bad weather approximately 250 Diehardians presented themselves at Portland Hall for the first night of the 8th's Annual Show - this one with the original title of "Jubilation".

Mrs Wells at the piano with her very soothing playing brought a hush over the audience, made us forget our damp clothes and prepared us for the Opening Chorus.

At 7.40 p.m. up went the curtain and the troop in full uniform set the ball rolling with "The 8th says Good Evening to You", sung so well that we felt sure we were in for a good evening. The Cub Pack then took the stage as the Minstrels, all of the appropriate nigger brown colour and with a good line in minstrel suits. With Robbo as their big white chief, they gave us a fine selection of Derkoy songs, taking some of us back to our camp days. One cub in particular showed that the Kentucky Minstrels had nothing on him and, whether he knew it or not, he had the audience shaking in their seats. Next came an amusing sketch called "Apology Accepted". Bill Dent quite at home in his part as a schoolmaster doing his best to keep a firm hand on a bunch of mischievous schoolboys.

After a snappy 10 minute play entitled "S.O.S.", in which one of the scouts showed plenty of talent, playing the part of a boy scout, came an amusing, if rather frightening picture of conditions in the world 200 years hence, as portrayed by Jack (Cap and Gown) Evans and his pupils who were living in the year 2146 - discussing a world so modernised as to be hardly civilised.

---

After the old boys had bought us back to earth or rather the sea with some Sea Shanties the lights went up and there was a ten minute interval. (No chocolates, ices or cigarettes).

The Eighth were honoured by the presence of His Worship the Mayor of St. Marylebone and Councillors H.F. Ryan and F. Frane. The Mayor's few friendly words during the interval left us all most heartened to know that everything the 8th stands for, has done in the past 25 years and will do in the future has and will have his full support.

The interval over, came the highlight of the whole show and that was R.L. Stevenson's Novel "Treasure Island" and a fine effort it was too.

Everyone played their parts extremely well and the stage scenery was really grand. I think special praise should go to Ralph Goldstaub as Captain Bones, John Cuthbert as Jim Hawkins, Cecil Dent as Black Dog, Bob Larkin as the blind man "Rex", Roy Garner as Squire Trelawney, Roger Kirby as Captain Smollett and Doug Jenner as Silver. Their performances were excellent. The play terminated with the discovery of the treasure and was a fitting end to "Jubilation".

Congratulations to the Production Director, Ernie Wells, the Stage Managers, Ted Thomas, Fred Wagstaff, Len Pickford, Tom Slade and Roy Daniels, the pianist, Mrs. Wells and to all the players for their hard work which made the show an undoubted success.

D. SAVEGAR.

Friday, 28th.

JUBILATION

(Musings by DU KERINA)

On Friday 29th Nov. 1946 we wended our way to the 8th Groups Silver Jubilee Show which they had aptly called Jubilation.

The Portland Hall gave them the opportunity which in our opinion they had needed for a long time - more commodious accommodation on the stage which they used to the fullest advantage.

The Show, coming as it did at the end of a week packed with nightly attractions all needing lengthy preparation naturally suffered to some extent but on the whole was worthy of an honourable place in the long line of performances put on by the group.

The introductory opening chorus is always a good idea as it enables the audience to see most of the group in uniform and looking at their best so that at the outset any stranger is left in no doubt that it is a Scout Show.

The Minstrels were very entertaining and the cubs are to be congratulated, but we do feel that those mothers who like to keep programmes of shows which their sons have appeared, had a legitimate cause for complaint in that whilst space could be found on the programme for the names of fifty-eight performers in other sections of the group, no space was available for the names of the Cubs.

"Apology Accepted" was the amusing kind of play which always goes down well as the boys are required merely to be themselves and act as Schoolboys. It was quite well done but we wondered if the modern School-boy does look so angelic in his form at School!

We should have been disappointed if the 8th had not included one playlet demonstrating the triumph of Scouting over all evil and S.O.S. did this very nicely. The cast seemed to get down to it with real imagination which savoured of much listening to the radio serial Dick Barton - Special Agent.



The play "Looking Back" was a little out of the ordinary and it was rather nice to be carried into the future and to hear ourselves talked about as historical subjects. There was practically no action called for by this item and we think it would have helped considerably if we had heard the sound effects of the plane landing even if they will make no noise in 2046 - and, if the chaps had been a little more animated in their replies to the far off Form-master's questions.

Many of these replies were inaudible to us in the front row, so we are sure that the people at the back of the Theatre heard very little except the voice of the Form-master.

The "hole in the road" we felt had a bigger hole in the script than the one in the road! Fortunately with two such stalwarts carrying it through it did not communicate itself to the audience but we wonder if the bacon really deserved the nasty look it got! The scene, though simple was very well set and the exploding gas main was a fine piece of work and most effective.

The outstanding features of "Treasure Island" were the really excellent and most effective stage settings; the Admiral Benbow the deck of the Hispaniola and the stockade were a real triumph and reflect the greatest credit on those responsible and Polly Kirby was an inspirational touch. The costumes too were outstanding and lent the right touch and colour for the period of the setting.

From our intimate knowledge of the - at times - chaotic conditions which obtained at the Headquarters during the periods of rehearsal, we feel that all concerned, including the producer should be congratulated on the final result. The Tavern songs and sea shanties were apparently enjoyed as much by the songsters as the audience and created a very pleasant interlude.

The 8th owe a lot to the back room boys and the "front stage girl" whose piano knitted the snow together.

Well done, Diehards, and as the Americans said of the English policemen, "We think you're wonderful!"

#### XMAS GOOD TURN

We are going to make an effort to do something as usual for Xmas and with space being limited I would just like to invite our friends to join us in 'giving' during the festive season. I appreciate we have almost cleaned you out during Jubilee Week, but if you care to make a donation please send to 294 Wharncliffe Gardens or pass it via any member of the Group. Yes! Still scrounging! Thanks.

S.M.JACK.

#### MEMORIAL SANCTUM GUILD

The following gifts to the Sanctum are acknowledged with thanks: Pathfinder Picture - Mrs Pitteway. Altar Cross - Mr and Mrs C. Evans. Altar vases - Mrs Cook sen. and Mrs Jane Cook. Lamp - Mrs Phillips. Memorial Clock (for hall) Mr and Mrs Prior. Glass Vases - Miss Sharland Working names on Flag - Miss Kirby. Framing photographs - Will Lavers.

We are also grateful to the Works Committee for many hours labour on the structure, and to Mr Lovett and Mr S. King for the decorative work. Will all members of the Guild note that the next meeting will be held at H.Q. on Thursday, 19th December at 7.30 p.m. when the business to be transacted will include arrangements for Dedication.

Sat. 30th.

#### JAMBORETTE IMPRESSIONS

Page 13.

"Old Soldiers never die, they only fade away." But in the case of "The Diehards" this is simply not true! The old members refuse to fade away, and it is in this that the strength of the 8th St. Marylebone Scout Group lies.

The Group has its roots back 25 years, but many of its members still remain, not least of all the G.S.M., and so the tree continues to grow and put out new boughs as well as retaining its old branches. Some of the younger members are truly "limbs" as the old members returned from the Forces found at the Jamborette.

How easy it is to control a squad or an air crew or a ship's crew or a battery, compared with a mixed unit of Brownies, Cubs, Guides, Scouts, Rangers, Rovers and Old Members. But out of all the medley of people and noise, buns and ices, order was comparatively easily restored and the afternoon and evening displays at the "Jubilee Jamborette" put through in grand style. I personally appreciated the whole show and carried away a memory of unity, friendliness and continuity.

These are just the qualities we are striving for in wider Scout circles - and wider still. "The Diehards" have set an example of help and international friendship for as long as they have been alive, and they look as if they were intent on doing so as long as they live. So, from every point of view, I wish them long life and prosperity.

I have been asked to repeat the words I said at the end of my yarn at the "Jamborette", words written 200 years ago by my great-great-great grandfather. Here they are:

"May choicest blessings still attend  
Each honest-hearted open friend;  
And a that's good watch o'er him,  
May peace and plenty be his lot."

J.S. WILSON, Director,  
Scouts International Bureau

#### JAMBORETTE REFLECTIONS

The Jamborette, like all other events of Jubilee Week, is now over but the shouting. Happily it went according to plan thanks to so many kind folk implementing their offers of help. Their names deserve to be recorded. The JAMBORETTE COMMITTEE (listed in previous issues of the DIEHARD) spent many weeks beforehand making a suitable division of the many duties involved.

LAY-OUT PLANS of building produced by Vic Dodd and printed on by Lollo helped considerably in quickly educating the visiting Scouts.

SATURDAY MORNING was spent by the following preparing the various rooms, involving much hard work: Wilf Harrington, Gerald Duggleby, Bill Adams, Harry Bland, Ralph Goldstaub, Cecil Dent and a number of Scouts.

NUMBERS & GROUPS. Soon after 2.30 pm. contingents began to arrive from the Home Counties and from all parts of Marylebone. There were approximately 600 uniformed folk in all, representing the following Groups: 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th, 10th, 13th and 14th St. Marylebone; 1st Rayners Lane, 3rd Stanmore and 16th Wembley, Middlesex; 1st Chadwell Heath, Essex; 1st Crookhill, Kent; 4th Wimbledon and 4th Epsom, Surrey; Barking and Poplar Associations; 1st Maida Vale and 1st Lissen Grove Brownie Packs; Guides and Rangers from most St. Marylebone Companies; Rovers from St. Marylebone and Malta Crews, and one French Scout.

STEWARDED. Apparent chaos was soon transformed into good order by Rovers and Rangers acting as stewards under leadership of R.L. George



Scott and D.R.L. Joe Chapman. Duties involved acting as doorkeepers, controllers of one-way traffic, cloakroom attendants, assemblers for Rally, Competition and Display items, Arena property managers etc.

CLOAKROOM CONVENIENCES for Brownies and Guides were indispensable at St. Mark's, kindly arranged by Mr Jenkins and unselfishly supervised by Miss E. Kirby at very short notice.

RALLY was good considering no rehearsal and limited space, thanks to Markers, Miss Windsor, Mrs Walsh etc. FLAGS loaned by I.H.Q. were carried smartly, led by S.M. Jack and A.S.M. Dick and a descriptive commentary was given by Ernie Wells followed by other worthy commentators.

MUSIC was provided by Mr. Lee and his radiogram (as on other nights) and we owe him a great debt of gratitude. SPOTLIGHTS loaned by St. Mark's and operated by Terry Herring improved the spectacle.

INTER-PATROL COMPETITION under the management of Erny Hemming was a great success. Winners and runners-up 15th Wembley and 14th St. Marylebone. Responsibility for tests were: First Aid, Wal Harvey; Quiz, Roy Garner; Kims Game, Doug Jenner and Roy Robertson; Tug-o-war and Alarm Race, John Balls. Complicated scoring meticulously carried out by Cecil Dent.

BROWNIE AND CUB GAMES were arranged by Will Smith, Stan Mason, Miss Rogers and Miss Jenner. CUBS JUNGLE DANCING by the 8th Pack was equally enjoyed and we thank Robbo and the D.C. COUNTRY AND SCOTTISH DANCING by the Guides and Rangers was ably directed by Miss Lee. BRIDGE BUILDING by the 8th Scouts was a thrilling and popular item led by Jack and Dick. SKETCH produced by Will Lavers and 3rd Stanmore was enjoyed during the afternoon session.

REFRESHMENTS to some of the 600 was the most popular item. (See back page for names of helpers) Ice cream (from Taylors) was worth queuing for. FILMS, We are grateful to Wag and Bert for entertaining Cubs and Brownies. FUN FAIR arranged by Jack held upstairs had desired effect of relieving pressure in the arena.

CAMP FIRE constructed by Nip nearly two years ago proved its worth. Roy Daniels and John Woods did necessary fixing. The singing and stunts were excellent. Many ideas were exchanged thereby fulfilling one of the purposes of the Jamborette.

YARNS by Colonel Wilson in afternoon and evening were appreciated both by participants and onlookers. GRAND FINALE. A short yarn by the G.S.M. made a fitting conclusion to a very wonderful week.

V.A.W.K.

#### THE DIEHARD.

The 300th issue of the DIEHARD makes a fitting occasion to pay tribute to the work of the Business Manager, Dick Prior, who has now completed 10 years in that office. During the greater part of the war he also acted as chief publisher. Dick gets married this month to Miss Nan England and the Group propose to show their appreciation of his work as A.S.M. and Business Manager by making him a presentation at the Annual Social on Sat. 25th January. It is felt that some readers of the DIEHARD may care to be associated with this tribute. Any contribution should be sent to the G.S.M. Incidentally, the Social on 25th Jan. will give magazine subscribers the opportunity of renewing their annual subscriptions which expire with this issue.

#### SENIOR SCOUTS' SOCIAL

The Senior Scouts are making themselves responsible for the organisation of a Young People's Social Dance at H.Q. on Saturday, 11th January at 7 p.m. Admission 1/-.

#### OLD SCOUTS BRANCH.

After the hectic events of Jubilee Week, the Mansergh Club seems strangely quiet. For the moment that restless energy and feverish haste which has typified the atmosphere for several weeks, has given place to an air of serenity. It would appear as though the Group members were making up for all those lost hours of sleep.

Should we be tempted to indulge in a little self-congratulation at the successful accomplishment of so ambitious a programme, it would be well to remember the loyal support given by so many members of Diehardia throughout the Week, while the yeoman service rendered by the ladies, who despite their heavy task always found time for a joke and a smile, is indeed a matter for wonderment.

Can anyone explain this unbreakable thread which binds us all so completely to the Group?  
Panto Visit.

All the 150 seats which we obtained for the Panto have been sold so please don't send in any more applications.

#### Monthly Meeting.

Just a reminder that our next meeting is on January 6th at 7.30 when a joint evening with the Rovers is being arranged.

J.S. BALLS.

#### AT CHRISTMAS.

To the Old Scout Branch, this Jubilee Year celebration brings a full crop of memories, which whilst they remind us of our silver thread among the gold, also have allowed us to dwell again on many pleasant years spent in the company of very good companions. It has been most gratifying to meet on one or other of the evenings of Jubilee Week so many stalwarts of Diehardia, to laugh and live again in the adventures and misadventures of past years, and, what is more, to find how ready a hand has been put forward by so many Old Scouts to assist in many ways the successful running of all the events of the Week. This bears out so very truly my remarks on the occasion of the opening of the Mansergh-Woodall Club, we of Diehardia have made Scouting for Boys into Scouting for Life.

During recent years the Chairmen of the Branch have taken the opportunity of the Christmas number of the Diehard to send a greeting to all members of the Branch. To have been Chairman at this time of celebration in the Group's history has been a privilege and an honour beyond my expression, but to have been able to lead and to work with so many, who even after 25 years still can give hours of brain and brawn with the zest and good humour that they have done in the last few months, makes me very very proud indeed.

This Christmas time, in spite of difficulties, will be to many Old Scouts the happiest they have spent. Families re-united and to some perhaps their first "Family" Christmas ever, will possibly make my wishes for their happiness at this time seem almost unnecessary, but to all of you may I wish that the happiness of Christmas will fill your lives through all the years to come.

Continued on Page 7....



SCOUTING.

It seems unnecessary to have to write anything this month, as I should imagine all the readers of our rag must have been aware of something happening during November and there is no doubt at all, that it will live long in our memories. As I mentioned to the Scouts, to my mind the Jamborette was THE event of the week from a purely Scouting point of view and I'm sure we have all grasped the fact that it is not just a local organisation. We owe a debt of gratitude to Hon. S.M. 'K' for opening the eyes of our youngsters by getting along so many of the movement to join us.

The popularity of our Monkey Bridge gave us a certain amount of satisfaction and we feel that the Troop showed itself off quite well, not forgetting the noise made at the grand Camp Fire.

The boys were 'in' on every event bar the "Old Time" frolic and did various jobs of work at odd moments to help things along. The Fun Fair and Exhibition was one of our items and it was a good effort by everyone (in the Group) to extract more than £22 from our uncomplaining friends. Grand to see so many exhibits in the Troop Room and Bill Dent was able to make a good show of his 'half' of the job. Apart, of course, from his fine models on view. Thanks Bill.

While on the subject, I must say a big THANK YOU to Mrs. Humphreys (of 293) and her daughter Mrs. Hubble for the excellent box of fruit raffled, some grand toys for the Lucky Dip and for the Cake. It was all so much appreciated, as was the help given by Mrs. Scott and Mrs. Evans with some of the "necessaries" for said cake. I could go on thanking people indefinitely, but would like to mention Mr. Taylor, who was able to show us the results of many Tuesday evenings spent with a few of the boys at his workshop, and our old friend Vic Evans for advice and other services.

May I just record the result of a two-month Inter-Patrol Competition which finished with the presentation of the shield at the Jamborette. Congrats. to the LIONS with 109 points and well done WOLVES 90, BUFFS. 78½ and PECKERS 73.

Ken Carter and John Cuthbert were able to earn £1 for the Troop a few weeks ago by shifting coal. From what I hear it was well earned and we split the proceeds by putting into Patrol Funds 10/- for the Peckers and 5/- for the Lions, the balance going to the Group's Good Turn Fund. Well done chaps.

I was very disappointed upon arriving at the Borough's Remembrance Service on 10th Nov. to find I was a lone '8th'. Its awfully difficult when you are asked "where are the 8th." Quite a good parade, but bad show chaps!

As Editor at the time of the 100, I must congratulate the 'Diehard' on its 300. What a fine record and all praise to Les and Dick for keeping it going when things were so difficult, not forgetting Les Smith who was on the job for the 200.

( continued on PAGE 17).

ROVERING.

As this issue of the Diehard is more or less devoted to reports on our Silver Jubilee Celebrations, the functions of which have been attended by most of Diehardia, there is no point in my referring to the part the Rovers played in that Great Week as you are fully aware of them.

By unanimous vote our Rover evening has been changed from Friday to Monday when we hope to obtain a better attendance. It is our intention to discuss the ROVER PLAN and to put it into practise as far as possible.

On Monday Jan. 6th we are joining with the Old Scout Branch in a "get together." Just what form the evening will take has not yet been decided but I feel sure we shall have a good time.

We are very grateful to Mrs. C. Benstead (Snr) for the gift of a Dartboard and to Mr. 'Johnny' Kaye for a Shove ha'penny board. Neither of these articles are given any mention in Headquarters 'Rover Plan' but I can assure the donors that they will be put to good use.

On behalf of the Crew I wish you all a very merry Xmas and a most prosperous New Year.

G. Scott.

CUBBING.

Hectic November 1946 will be remembered forever by the Pack. I must record here my thanks to Mrs. Walsh for her assistance in blacking the Cubs faces for the Nigger Minstrel item in the dramatic show, to Mrs. Frisby for making the black & white bows for the costumes and to Mr. Bailin for the loan of white collars ( which will shortly be returned), and to the Scouters for their help.

I would like to say thanks to Cubs Jack Shepperd, Roy Scales, Brian Scates and Brian Ward for their excellent support and a special word of thanks to Tony Curtis, who proved to me that my judgement of boys is still sound. Tony has been a terror to me since he joined the Pack, but I always felt he was made of the right stuff. On the first night of the show he went on, although suffering from earache and feeling ill, and made a hit. Afterwards he was sick! A real Diehard is Tony.

Martin Walsh's model for the Exhibition was first class and his prize will be handed to him when he is well enough (soon I hope) to resume Cubbing.

The Pack wish all members and supporters of Diehardia a happy Christmas.

H.G. Robertson, C.M.

SCOUTING.

( continued).

On behalf of the Troop may I wish our good A.S.M. Dick and Nan every success on their journey to matrimony and many happy years.

To all our grand Parents and friends and the rest of the Group a most joyous and merry Xmas and a New Year of happiness and a bit more on the ration book. Cheerio!

S.M. Jack.



All other events in Diehardia recently have been dwarfed by the Jubilee Week and we are deeply grateful to the following for their help: Fred Larkin (making and fixing gates to H.Q., Fixing Notice Board and Flag brackets and props. for Dramatic show) Cecil Bensted and Jack Weiler for electricity expedition; Albert Wagstaff for cake, films, printing etc; Vic Evans (woggles and show props) Mr Taylor for Waste bin and instruction; Mr Lee, musical equipment; Ralph Goldstaub, Transport work and Photograph albums; Mrs Thomas, 24 cups; Mrs James, Flowers; Mr and Mrs Edwards, Fruit; Will Hurvey, Clock; Mr F.G.Hunt, Encyclopaedia and Text books; Miss Sharland, Flags; Ted Thomas and Fred Wagstaff, making props; Tom Slade and Bill Adams, transport; Mrs Caldbeck, Silver Cup; Rev.Kirby Burt, loan of lantern screen; St.Mark's and Emmanuel Churches, loan of chairs and crockery; Paddington Chapel, loan of tables and crockery; Ron Andrew, arranging rostrum; Scouts I.H.Q., loan of international flags; Tom Martin, Nip Webb, Dick Price, Wilf Harrington and Harry Bland, Sanctum preparations; Mr Frisby, motoring Good Turn.

For the catering arrangements we have to thank Mrs Prior (Opening Ceremony), Mrs Ethel Kirby (Jamborette) and Mrs Hampton (other nights) with the following helpers: Mesdames Balls, Bland, Bradshaw, Bulcraig, Dent, Evans, J.Evans, Frisby, Humphreys, Lukehurst, Mount, Porritt, Scott, Southernwood, Strood, Webb, Wells, Wood, Lee, Gray, Pitteway, Kybird, White, James, Cook, Smith; Misses Kirby and Stanborough.

For the Dance stewarding: Messrs May, Wells, Bland, V.Kirby, Prior, Barton, Barker, Southernwood, Long, Bulcraig, Longdon, Porritt, C.Evans, Whale, Webb, Drinkwater, W.G.Harvey. For Dramatic Show stewarding: Messrs Long, Humphreys, Balls, Duggleby, Bland, W.Harrington.

Acknowledgments of Exhibition and Jamborette assistance appear elsewhere but we have to place on record our appreciation for the work of E.Wells for Dramatic Production, J.Evans for Fun Fair, W.Dent for Exhibition; B.Emmott, Lantern slides; Mr Dent, raffles; C.W.Wood for all financial arrangements; and V.Kirby who conceived and organised the Jamborette. Also Les Lawrence for last minute work on Sanctum Door and R.Andrew for Old Time night arrangements.

We were glad to welcome home for the Jamborette Den Savegar and Bill Adams (both demobbed) and to have Roy Porritt, Den Longdon and B. Barker on leave. Other old friends we welcomed during the week included Messrs Jenkin and Churgwin of Capland and Gateforth St.Schools; Tom White, late A.S.M,5th and now R.L.Kenton; Bill Gilbey, 22nd; Len Owen, 26th; Douglas Earlam, 15th; Old Diehards not seen for many years were Malcolm Wood and Sid Sitton.

The Group sends hearty congratulations to Percy Harrington, whose wife Olga presented him with Ann Loraine on 11th Nov; to John Kaye, whose wife presented him with John Charles on 21st Nov; and to David Mason whose wife presented him with David Jon on 23rd Nov; also to Bill Barker on his engagement to Miss Iris Webber. We all regretted that illness prevented Mrs Phillips, Mrs James, John Evans, Judith Andrew and Pauline Bensted being with us during the Jubilee Week.

It is with deep regret that we record the death of Mrs Bartley, for so many years connected with Emmanuel, and our sincere condolences are sent to Mr Bartley and his family.

Jubilee Letters have come to hand from Cyril Symmons, Bill Lee, Mr and Mrs Scott sen. and Dr.Probyn Williams. Also birthday cards from Paul Jorgensen (Denmark) and Mrs M.M.Wood.

The next two Whist Drives will be held on 21st Dec. and 4th Jan. Owing to more involved audit of accounts the Annual Group Meeting will be held rather later than usual. Notice will be given in January DIEHARD.