

*In Memoriam*  
**LESLIE JAMES KIRBY**

Group Founder and President, 8th St. Marylebone Scout Group



*Born, 22nd May, 1897      Died, 24th June, 1971*

Vol. 50

AUGUST 1971

No. 596

**LESLIE JAMES KIRBY MEMORIAL ISSUE**



PRICE — 2 ½ p.





# 8th ST. MARYLEBONE SCOUT GROUP

"THE DIEHARDS"

Headquarters : Mansergh-Woodall Club, 24-28 Hill Road, N.W.8.  
Tel. 01 - 286 8210

Group Patron : E. C. Woodall, O.B.E.  
Group Founder and President : L. J. Kirby.

### WEEKLY MEETINGS :

MONDAY : District Scout activities 7.30 p.m.  
TUESDAY : Dramatics or Show Rehearsals 7.30 p.m.  
WEDNESDAY : Works Panel and District Service Team 7.30 p.m.  
THURSDAY : Scout Troop meeting 7.15 p.m.  
FRIDAY : Cub Scout meeting 6.30 p.m. Venture Scout meeting 8.0 p.m.

### GROUP SCOUTERS :

Group Scout Leader : J. W. Evans, 6 Garlands House, Carlton Hill, N.W.8.  
Deputy Group Scout Leader : G. Scott, 22 Guinness Court, St. Edmunds Terrace, N.W.8.  
Cub Scout Leader : D. Barrett. Asst. Cub Scout Leaders : P. Larkin, D. Cotchings.  
Scout Leader : W. J. Sherry. Asst. Scout Leaders : A. J. Barney, J. Larkin.  
Venture Scout Leader : J. W. Lomax. Asst. Venture Scout Leader : C. R. Amies.

### GROUP COUNCIL :

Messrs. V. S. Evans, G. Scott, C. W. Wood, R. Barney, W. J. Harffey.  
Mesdames R. Frisby, M. R. Barrett, P. Lomax, C. Robinson.  
Ex-Officio : Group President, Group Scout Leader, Group Secretary, Group Treasurer, H.Q. Warden,  
Cub Scout Leader, Scout Leader, Venture Scout Leader.

### H.Q. WORKS PANEL :

T. S. Barrett (H.Q. Warden). R. Barney (Works Manager).  
L. Lawrence, W. Lee, C. Robinson, R. Smith, F. Judson, A. Barney.

### OLD SCOUT BRANCH OFFICERS :

Chairman : Len Lawrence. Vice-Chairman : R. Barker. Treasurer : C. W. Wood.  
Secretary : C. W. Wood, 214 Scott Ellis Gardens, N.W.8. Tel. 01 - 286 1416.

### GROUP OFFICIALS :

Group Secretary : R. W. Larkin, 1 Robin House, Barrow Hill Estate, N.W.8. Tel. 01 - 586 1837.  
Group Treasurer : J. E. Balls, 14 Warner House, Abercorn Place, N.W.8. Tel. 01 - 328 0889.  
Headquarters Warden : T. S. Barrett, 23 Carlton Hill, N.W.8. Tel. 01 - 624 1892.

## THE DIEHARD

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## THE DIEHARD

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### Les Kirby Memorial Number

Filling the gap	Page 1
Farewell, Charles Kite	" 2
Service of Thanksgiving, Les Lawrence	" 3
Tributes,	" 4
Extracts from letters	" 5,6,7
"Thanks" Bob	" 8
The Group View	" 9
Pack, Unit and Old Scout reports	" 10 11
Troop report and Isle of Man programme	" 12
Lukis Exploit '71, Mark Upton	" 13
Group Council Report	" 14
Group Notices & Calendar	" 15
Doings in Diehardia	" 16

### Filling the gap

This is what we must now try to do and no easy task as everyone knows, and I suppose the reason why George and I feel we should share this page. We have been fortunate in growing up and going through life with Les as our Leader right from Cub days.

He taught us to be honest and loyal in every respect, to our families and friends, our Group and our Movement. Most important, he was himself a fine example of a churchman and did his best to ensure that the first part of the Promise "Duty to God" was put into practice wherever we might be.

He was very keen on one of B.P.'s words "stickability" and many's the time he used it when we struck a bit of hard going on a hike, getting soaked in a rainstorm or just some difficult task indoors when you wanted to give up.

So as a final tribute to Les for many happy days and friendships, not least of which was his own, I just say "we will try and fill the gap".

JACK EVANS

In accordance with the conventions of the society in which we live, we do well to mark the passing from our midst of a well beloved public figure.

In the following pages, or if you, as most of us, start at "Doings in Diehardia" and reach this page last, you will read or will have read the many tributes or perhaps have heard from the lips of the Rev. Barry Wainwright and Sir Thomas Robson just how our Les lived his life in the service of others.

However, it is given to very few, the gift of being able to put into words just how one feels so poignantly the loss of so close a friend and I am very conscious of the inadequacy of my pen to convey my feelings and my thoughts into print.

Suffice to say I first met Leslie when I was enrolled as a Cub in 1919 (his hair was plentiful then, as I well remember) and I count it a privilege to have been numbered among his closest friends. May I be worthy of the trust he placed in me to deputise for Jack in the continuation of his life's work which will always be L.J.K.'s Diehardia.

GEORGE SCOTT



FAREWELL

Les delighted in a well attended function; not entirely because he was concerned about the success of the function itself but because he saw so much other opportunity in the occasion. Old friends to meet and remember; congratulations for some; comfort for others; news items for the Diehard; discussion of future arrangements; an eye for likely helpers; new introductions; and so on. Les would have been pleased that his funeral service was so full of such other opportunities; not only the sad occasion of his passing.

Quietly, the coffin, draped simply in the altar cover from the Memorial Sanctum, which itself is embroidered with the names of some of our former Diehards, was borne into St.Marks and the Service of the Burial of the Dead proceeded. Together on this last occasion, Les, and so many of his friends who were able to be present, worshipped the Lord their shepherd and dedicated themselves afresh to serve Him in their chosen way.

As the cortege proceeded to Golders Green Crematorium it passed slowly the Mansergh-Woodall Club outside which hung the Group flag made for one of those former occasions of which Les could feel so proud; perhaps the securing of the lease of the Mansergh or the Silver Jubilee celebrations of the Group. At his request the floral tributes were kept to a minimum; any contribution one desired to make could serve a purpose closer to his heart if given to the Group.

And so on this memorable golden jubilee of the Group, Les has completed his course and I am reminded of a prayer which must have been a favourite with him for I am so conscious of its use at eventide at camp

O Lord, support us all the day long of this troublous life, until the shadows lengthen, and the evening comes, and the busy world is hushed, and the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then in thy mercy grant us a safe lodging, a holy rest, and peace at the last, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

CHARLES KITETHE SERVICE (continued)

replaced, an Old Scout nearby said "Les was a 'one off' job - he was made and the mould thrown away". A down to earth comment perhaps, but so sincerely said and how very very true.

As an Old Scout, may I be permitted a personal note on which to end. All Old Scouts will know that Les thought of the Old Scouts reunions as a special night from his point of view. His enjoyment of these reunions was always obvious, his affection for us all apparent. The attendance of so many Old Scouts on this day would have gladdened his heart - may we hope that his passing, and the memories of Les that we cherish will bind us even closer together.

LES LAWRENCE (LOLLO)

SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING  
for the life and work  
of  
LESLIE JAMES KIRBY  
Group Founder and President

I feel that I write only to record this time of thanksgiving in print, for if one may judge from the size of the congregation gathered at St.Marks on the 18th July, there can be few Diehardians who were not present. Any attempt of mine to capture the spirit and feeling of the service will be inadequate and so I hope I may be forgiven for producing a factual report on what was essentially an emotional experience.

The service was conducted by Deaconess Dorothy Warwick and thoughtfully conceived and seemed throughout to reflect the character of Les. No mournful occasion this, but rather a time to give thanks for the example set for us all by our Group Founder.

Just before 3.15 p.m. a fine turn out of uniformed Group members and with representation from the City of Westminster District Rangers were lined up before the headquarters and marched off, flags flying, to St.Marks. The mood of the service, I felt, was set as the flags were borne into the church. Another moving moment was the renewal of the Scout Promise, the voices answering giving some indication of the large number of uniformed and Old Scouts present.

The address, given by Sir Thomas Robson, M.B.E., F.C.A., traced Les' scouting career from 1915 and spoke of his sacrifices for the movement, his courage, determination and humility. Sir Thomas remarked how he had failed, as all would, in an attempt to assess the numbers of boys influenced for good by the fine example set by Les, who in turn have passed on to others this example of service.

Sir Thomas referred back to the Lesson, which was read by George Scott and taken from Ephesians Chapter 6, and said that Les had surely taken on the whole armour of God, the shield of faith and the sword of the spirit, this sword, Sir Thomas added, Les has handed on bright in the service of Scouting.

Sympathy was expressed for those of Les' family and a special word for Elsie who had, said Sir Thomas, contributed so much to the happy home life which Les enjoyed.

Following the singing of the well loved hymn 'Abide with me' and the Blessing the service was concluded by the singing of the Scout Hymn, the last verse of which seemed so fitting as we remembered all that Les had meant to those of us who have enjoyed the privilege of his friendship -

So as I journey on my chosen way. (play  
In all I do, my thoughts, my work, my  
Grant as I promise. Courage Lord for me  
To be the best, the BEST that I can be.

The congregation was long in dispersing from outside the church but eventually the vast majority found their way back to HQ where some good folks had prepared tea and light refreshments, served by the Rangers.

Here the conversation was often, inevitably, of Les. One heard many attempts to assess the loss we have suffered, perhaps the best comment came when someone remarked that Les could never be

(please turn to page 2 opposite)



From E.W.Hayden, Secretary, the Scout Association

LESLIE KIRBY

To many of us at Headquarters Leslie Kirby was a friend. A regular and always welcome visitor to our Canteen and a keen supporter of the Headquarters Christian Fellowship Group. Strictly speaking he had been one of us! Leslie was appointed Warden of B.-P.s Room at Headquarters in 1957 and remained so until 1961 when Baden-Powell House opened and the many treasurers at 25 Buckingham Palace Road were transferred to South Kensington. In fact, Leslie went too and was Archivist at the House until the Spring of 1962.

So much for facts to be found in records. Our knowledge is much greater from knowing the man himself. We all know of his tremendous work in the 8th St.Marylebone and in the District. His self effacing manner hid from any casual view both the work he did and the success he achieved. We liked to share his successes, to take pride in them and in him.

To some he may have appeared old fashioned. True he was justifiably proud of traditions but refused to be trapped by them and used them as starting points to further progress in the future. What mattered was the youngster of today and those to join Scouting in the years ahead. Leslie gave a great deal to very many and not least by his example of the Scout Promise in action and his continuing belief in young people.

16.7.71

From the County Commissioner - C.A.W.(Mick) Barker

Les Kirby's death was a personal loss to me as I know it was to the many hundreds of men and boys with whom, during his life, he came into contact.

A man of complete integrity, he held fast to the principles and standards he regarded as essential to the good citizen. He had a lively sense of humour and was devoid of rancour but tolerant of failings in others and full of compassion for those stricken in body or spirit.

A truly noble man and a great Scout.

Extract from St.Marylebone District Scout Council 'The Bulletin'

Those of you who have not yet heard will be very sorry to learn of the death of Les Kirby on 24th June. and I know that all will join me in extending to his sister Elsie and to other members of the family our very sincere condolences.

Les took out his first warrant as an A.S.M. in the old 5th St.Marylebone Troop some 56 years ago, and he held at least one warrant or charge until his retirement in November 1969 as G.S.L. of the 8th, his beloved Diehards.

(please turn to Page 5)

Over the years Les was awarded the highest honours that Scouting could offer in recognition of his outstanding service over a very long period. He has given a life-time of service and countless boys who have passed through the 8th particularly will always be grateful to him for his friendship, his leadership and guidance. One had only to be present at one of the 8th Old Scout Re-unions to know what he meant to the Old Scouts and what they meant to him - and these were only a very few of his Old Boys.

In his last illness Les showed the sort of courage and cheerfulness which was characteristic of him; those of us who knew him are fortunate indeed; he will be sorely missed.

L.D.Clark  
District Commissioner.

EXTRACTS from LETTERS

Sir Thomas Robson - ... The 8th have suffered a tremendous loss.

One had hoped that in spite of failing health he might be spared to see for a long period the torch which he handed on to yourself burn even more brightly than it had glowed in his own hands. But this was not to be. His work was accomplished and in his last days he could reflect, if in his modesty he ever allowed himself to do so, on the enormous number of boys who had passed through the Group since it was founded, and on the way in which their characters had been moulded and developed through his inspiration and example. He was a great Christian Scout - in all the best sense of the word - a type which cannot be spared lightly if at all. To you and all the Diehards, old and new, I send my warmest sympathy in the blow which has fallen on every one of you.

From a Parent - One of the many marvels is the manner in which Les carried on till the end. We only need look back to the Whitsun Camp to know how much joy he had from life - and what a quality he spread around him even so near the end.

One cannot mourn that a man so full of honour and so tired in the body has rested. Weeping in such a case is for ourselves, because the shadow and the guide is no longer. ... we have all lost a good friend.

This family is grateful to Les - we are also happy that he accepted our request to give the Cubs a flag in his name. Thank you for suggesting it.

From Mr.A.W.Hurll - I was deeply grieved to learn of the death of my old friend Les and offer to you and all members of the Group my warmest sympathy in the great loss you have suffered. How sad he did not live to enjoy the 50th anniversary.

I have had the privilege of knowing Les for forty years and have never ceased to be impressed by his devotion to Scouting and, in particular, to his beloved 'Diehards'. He set us a wonderful example of the really good man and, undoubtedly, the traditions he built up in the 8th will remain the hall-mark of the group in the years ahead. (continued)



Few have given more dedicated service to Scouting at all levels than Les and he will always be remembered with affection and gratitude.

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From Ron Clarke - R's letter arrived this morning with the news of Les' passing and I send with this my sympathy to the 8th and Sister Elsie. ... Les was responsible for drawing me into the web of Diehardia and I grew fond of him. He was a strong personality and used it to the full to the benefit of Scouting. I am proud to have known him. If only he could have been spared for the Jubilee....

-----  
From Mrs Ahern - I have just returned from holiday to hear of the Group's great loss of that gallant "Diehard" Mr Kirby. By his influence for good and the completion of the Jubilee Story he has "placed his footprints on the sands of time".

-----  
 EXTRACTS from some of the letters received by 'sister ELSIE' who has asked me to say that she has answered many letters but would be grateful if this is accepted as an acknowledgement for the many letters and kind messages received.

J.W.E.

-----  
From Miss Jean Scott Rogers - It was with great sadness and regret that I read of Leslie's death .. and this is to send you my sympathy.

He told me, when I went to the Scouts' sale last December, that he was ill, but I didn't expect his illness to advance so quickly. It must have been a trying time for you.... It must be a great consolation for you to look back on the splendid life of service which Leslie had led. The Scout Movement has reason to be grateful for all he did for "The Diehards" over the years. I shall always remember him as a perennially cheerful person, for whom nothing was too much trouble.

-----  
From Captain Donald Woodhouse, Church Army - I was very sorry indeed to learn of the death of your dear brother and I hasten to write on behalf of his many friends in the Church Army to express our sympathy and to say how much we valued his friendship over many years. He was a constant help and inspiration to Church Army Scouting and we admired his own devotion to the God he loved and served.

We shall remember him with a deep sense of gratitude and we feel sure that to you and all who mourn his loss God's presence and peace will be very real and precious.

-----  
From Mr J.M.Napier - I write to ask you to accept my sincere sympathy on the passing away from us of your dear Brother Les. I heard the news too late to attend the funeral but I hope to be at the memorial service  
 (continued)

Les was truly well beloved. He rendered me many services of which I and our Scout movement in London must be ever grateful and his memory will endure for a long long time.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

-----  
From Mr.E.C.Woodall - Jack Evans rang up to tell me the sad news yesterday. The Diehards without Les seem unthinkable but he built upon such sure and true foundations that his work will go on imbued with his spirit of service and sacrifice as long as Scouting lasts.

I know I am a better person for having known him and all the generations Les has brought up to love and honour the law and the spirit will rise up and bless him.

You have cared for him for so long and will look back to great years and splendid achievements together and you will have the thoughts of countless friends whose prayers will comfort you. ...

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From Roy Scriven - ...I attended Leslie's funeral service. What an inspiring service it was - just as he would have wished it. We shall all miss Leslie's earthy presence but what a wonderful life he lived. ... I always admired his firm faith and convictions and his concern that Scouting should not lose the Christian principles on which it was founded. ... May I extend my condolences to you in what must be a very great personal loss... God has now called him to an even higher Service. I am sure that when Leslie met his Maker he received a "well done thou good and faithful servant". We thank God for Leslie's wonderful life. His good works will live on and on ...

-----  
From Roy Porritt - .. Both Mavis and I would like you to know that our thoughts are with you at this time. Les will be sadly missed by us all, but particularly by those of us of Diehardia who cannot think of one without the other. After all Les was and will remain for ever the personification of Diehardia. That he should leave us this year is perhaps more poignant as he must have wanted, more than anything, that he should be spared to see the Diehards celebrate the 50th anniversary - his own anniversary. He would want us all to celebrate it all the more in his absence - and this we should do - a fine and fitting tribute to a very fine man and one whom we all loved.

#### MEMORIAL FUND

In answer to many enquiries, may I inform you that the Group Council at its meeting last week agreed that a Memorial Fund to Les be set up and that a full discussion as to the form of the memorial be held later. John Balls has agreed to receive donations which can be sent direct to him (address on the cover) or through George or myself.

J.W.Evans



Thanks for the left hand of friendship  
 Thanks for all you have done for youth  
 Thanks for the formation of the Eighth  
 Thanks for bringing hundreds of us together and into Scouting  
 Thanks for friends old and new  
 Thanks for most probably forgoing higher status in the Movement by remaining  
 G.S.L. of the Eighth  
 Thanks for getting so much help for the Group from parents, supporters and others  
 'outside'  
 Thanks for your work as A.D.C., D.C., Camp Chief (training), archivist at H.Q.  
 international and other Scouting work  
 Thanks for your vision of the future at all times  
 Thanks for setting such a good example to us all  
 Thanks for your leadership, comradeship, tolerance, understanding, loyalty and  
 trust  
 Thanks for driving us on when we flagged  
 Thanks for being a good Christian and doing your best at all times  
 Thanks for laying such good foundations and building up such good traditions for  
 Diehardia  
 Thanks for Glory Farm (Dorking), outings on Hampstead Heath, and for numerous  
 foreign tours, Easter, Whitsun, week-end and summer camps  
 Thanks for all the annual shows, Parents' Nights, Whist Drives, Socials, dances,  
 jumble sales, Fairs and other events  
 Thanks for your foresight in forming the Old Scouts' Branch and inaugurating the  
 Annual Reunion  
 Thanks for bringing in the Group Tie in 1937  
 Thanks for putting the Group on a sound financial basis  
 Thanks for the Good Turn Fund  
 Thanks for the Christmas Good Turn  
 Thanks for establishing a Building Fund in 1931  
 Thanks for your enthusiasm, drive and energy in battling against great odds to  
 obtain the Mansergh Club as Headquarters of the Eighth  
 Thanks for the Memorial Sanctum  
 Thanks for the Diehard, for keeping it going through the 1939-45 war, and for  
 keeping in touch with all of us on active service  
 Thanks for the Silver Jubilee Booklet and celebrations in 1946  
 Thanks for writing the Booklet for the 1971 Gold Jubilee  
 Thanks for the help and advice you have given at all times  
 Thanks for always being 'there' (in the Cabin)  
 Thanks for the numerous references you have given to help many secure employment  
 or better jobs  
 Thanks for helping those in trouble  
 Thanks for attending numerous weddings, christenings, 21st birthday and other  
 parties and being Godfather to many Diehardians  
 Thanks for doing just anything and everything so long as it would benefit  
 somebody  
 Thanks for bearing such a savage illness so bravely and all the while thinking of  
 the Group  
 Thanks for your life of good work and for showing us the way - we will carry on

To Elsie - Thanks for the wonderful part you have played yourself with Les for  
 us over the years - may you be with us for a long time yet.

"Thanks" -

BOB

Diehardia showed its strength during these last three weeks when paying tribute to Les by once more coming back 'home' from many places in answer to the call. In this instance it was, of course to be expected but may we hope that, despite the loss of the Leader, a good response will be forthcoming in the future when Diehardia is engaged in some important activity.

Which reminds me of an important item in the midst of our recent events, namely the County Competition, Exploit '71, when Mark Upton and his patrol won the Lukis Trophy for the Troop's third successive win. In congratulating them all, a word of praise to John Sherry and his helpers for giving them the necessary incentive and training to beat off the challenge of the rest of the County. I am sure there was some good opposition. This should give them an excellent start for their trip to the Isle of Man when we hope they will find adventure and pleasure in doing something different this year.

The Venture Unit also are doing something different, messing about in a boat on the canals and in company with the Rangers should enjoy a leisurely trip.

We are sorry that Alan Meaden has found it necessary to resign his warrant as Asst. Cub Scout Leader owing to pressure of work and studies. In thanking Alan for his past services with both Pack and Troop we look forward to his possible return as an active member once more.

To conclude may I take an extract from the County Commissioner's message in the July Leaflet: "...In addition to the joys of camping, the fun and the adventure, here is the opportunity to practise

The other District event or non-event was the Barbecue. The least said about that particular evening, the better.

We are now approaching the most important event of the Scout year, the Annual Camp. Everyone knows by now that we are going to the Isle of Man. A full list of campers, important addresses and programme appear opposite. How sorry we all are that A.C.S.L. Dennis is unable to come with us. We wish him all the best and hope that his eye trouble is rectified in the Autumn.

Awards presented this month are as follows :

Chief Scout Award Mark Upton

County Commissioners Award for 20 nights camping during the year to Ian Judson, Michael Kilcooley, Peter Nolde and Malcolm Williams.

Finally to all our readers, we wish you a happy holiday and good weather wherever you are going and look forward to seeing you all in September.



## Old Scout Notes

The Old Scout Branch shares the great loss occasioned by the 'calling home' of our beloved Les. Members of the Branch span the years of Les's gifted life from his early boyhood to those of elder statesman. Each has his own cherished memories of happinesses shared, and visions of Les at various times, at camp, in Troop Room, or in the host of other situations they found themselves led by him. Each will have been encompassed by his abundant sense of fun, and felt, when occasion demanded it, his stern rebuke. Above all they will remember a man of great humility, and of understanding of human foibles, every ready to spur us on to greater efforts. Farewell, Les, we will never know your like again, and value beyond measure having been privileged to have known you.

From North, South, East and West, members of the Branch came to honour Les at both funeral and Thanksgiving Service, a most gratifying tribute to a great man. Les spent his last year with one task in mind, to complete his contribution to the Group's Jubilee Celebrations by writing the history for the Jubilee Handbook. He completed this a short time before his death and telephoned me only a few days before he died to check that I had everything I needed. Another good job completed, and one which will live on after him.

In this issue of The Diehard Old Scouts will find an order form for the Golden Jubilee Dinner Dance. Accommodation is strictly limited by space and a full attendance is expected, so if you want to attend, fill in the form and send it off now. You will be too late if you leave it until after the holidays. To all campers and holidaymakers we wish halcyon days.

BRIAN SMITH

Thanks for the Diehard, for keeping it going through the 1979-80 war, and for keeping in touch with all of us on active service

Thanks for the Silver Jubilee Booklet and celebrations in 1946

Thanks for writing the Booklet for the 1971 Gold Jubilee

Thanks for the help and advice you have given at all times

Thanks for always being 'there' (in the Cabin)

Thanks for the numerous references you have given to help many secure employment or better jobs

Thanks for helping those in trouble

Thanks for attending numerous weddings, christenings, 21st birthday and other parties and being Godfather to many Diehardians

Thanks for doing just anything and everything so long as it would benefit somebody

Thanks for bearing such a savage illness so bravely and all the while thinking of the Group

Thanks for your life of good work and for showing us the way - we will carry on

To Elsie - Thanks for the wonderful part you have played yourself with Les for us over the years - may you be with us for a long time yet.

"Thanks" -

BOB

VENTURE SCOUTING

This month the unit has gained another member, Ian Judson, who judging by the number of other Scouters at the investiture, is going to have a close eye kept on him and to this end I would like to thank the Scouters for the training already given to Ian and can assure members of the group that this training will be kept up, as long as he pulls his weight! I am glad to report that a canoe rack has now been built in the Den by certain members of the unit to whom I express my thanks. Other members of the unit this month have been helping the works panel in painting the outside of the Mansergh. Other members of the unit have been putting their heads together sorting out and putting into practice rules for hand-ball and we are hoping to have these published soon. Looking forward into next month, August that is, that the summer venture is now nearly upon us and that your money is required otherwise there will be no food! To those not coming with us may I wish everybody a very happy holiday. Last of all, I would like to thank all ventures who attended the funeral and Thanksgiving Service for Les and on behalf of the Venture Unit I would like to send our condolences to Elsie and the family.

Summer Venture ... Cruising the Grand Union Canal from Norton Junction to

SCOUTING

For the first time ever a Scout Troop have won the Lukis Trophy for three consecutive years. Congratulations are due to Mark Upton, Peter Wolde, Jeff Cotchings, Robert Brooks, John Reid and Kevin Sharratt. It was a great thrill to Fred Judson and myself to see the boys presented with the trophy. A full report of the weekend camp appears elsewhere in The Diehard.

In the District Sports the troop came second out of the four troops that entered. All the competitors deserve the praise that is due for their efforts, but a special word of praise to Paul Williamson who won the 880 yards and the mile. The way in which Paul won the mile was the highlight of the evening.

The other District event or non-event was the Barbecue. The least said about that particular evening, the better.

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## Old Scout Notes

The Old Scout Branch shares the great loss occasioned by the 'calling home' of our beloved Les. Members of the Branch span the years of Les's gifted life from his early boyhood to those of elder statesman. Each has his own cherished memories of happinesses shared, and visions of Les at various times, at camp, in Troop Room, or in the host of other situations they found themselves led by him. Each will have been encompassed by his abundant sense of fun, and felt, when occasion demanded it, his stern rebuke. Above all they will remember a man of great humility, and of understanding of human foibles, every ready to spur us on to greater efforts. Farewell, Les, we will never know your like again, and value beyond measure having been privileged to have known you.

From North, South, East and West, members of the Branch came to honour Les at both funeral and Thanksgiving Service, a most gratifying tribute to a great man. Les spent his last year with one task in mind, to complete his contribution to the Group's Jubilee Celebrations by writing the history for the Jubilee Handbook. He completed this a short time before his death and telephoned me only a few days before he died.

Doctors name and address is Reel, Pycroft and Cousins,  
2 Sydney Mount  
Douglas.

Swimming will only be allowed at Scouters discretion and then only under strict supervision. Anyone breaking any swimming rules as laid down by the Scouter i.e. swimming will be barred from any further swimming.

All cases of accident or illness must be reported at once to John Sherry or any other Scouter who may be in charge at the time.

PROGRAMME

Friday 23rd July	17.00 meet at Mansergh.
Saturday 24th July	Pitch camp, games.
Sunday 25th July	Church, Swimming, Exploration, Games, Campfire.
Monday 26th July	Day out to Port St. Mary, Evening ramble.
Tuesday 27th July	Swimming, Group Projects, Free time.
Wednesday 28th July	Day out to Ramsey, Mountain climb, wide game, Camp fire.
Thursday 29th July	Swimming, Incident course, evening hike,
Friday 30th July	Day out to Peel.
Saturday 31st July	Camp sports, Swimming, Free time, Camp fire.
Sunday 1st August	Church, Exploration, Badge training.
Monday 2nd August	Day out to Castletown, Group projects, Night Op.
Tuesday 3rd August	Visit Snafell Mountain, free time "Diehard Knocks", Camp fire.
Wednesday 4th August	Venture and Treasure Hunt, free time, evening excursion.
Thursday 5th August	Round trip, Group projects, Badge training, camp fire.
Friday 6th August	Free time, swimming, strike camp.
Saturday 7th August	12.00 - arrive at Mansergh.

VENTURE SCOUTING

This month the unit has gained another member, Ian Judson, who judging by the number of other Scouters at the investiture, is going to have a close eye kept on him and to this end I would like to thank the Scouters for the training already given to Ian and can assure members of the group that this training will be kept up, as long as he pulls his weight! I am glad to report that a canoe rack has now been built in the Den by certain members of the unit to whom I express my thanks. Other members of the unit this month have been helping the works panel in painting the outside of the Mansergh. Other members of the unit have been putting their heads together sorting out and putting into practise rules for hand-ball and we are hoping to have these published soon. Looking forward into next month, August that is, that the summer venture is now nearly upon us and that your money is required otherwise there will be no food! To those not coming with us may I wish everybody a very happy holiday. Last of all, I would like to thank all ventures who attended the funeral and Thanksgiving Service for Les and on behalf of the Venture Unit I would like to send our condolences to Elsie and the family.

Summer Venture ... Cruising the Grand Union Canal from Norton Junction to Trent Junction from 14th to 28th August. The boat is called 'Almighty' and the cost is £25 per head. Those going:- VSL John Lomax, AVSL Chris Amies, Ventures M. Harvey, D. James, P. Lomax and D. Scannell. Guider Pat Lomax and Dawn and four Rangers.

AVSL CHRIS AMIES

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LUKIS EXPLOIT '71 by M. Upton (P.L.)

At 1730 hrs. on 9th July the Wolves Patrol (M. Upton, P. Nolde, J. Cotchings, R. Brooks, J. Reid and K. Sharratt met at the Mansergh and went to Downe Camp to represent the District in the Competition. We reported to the judges and were later told that we were the smartest to do so. By 2000 hrs. all the patrol were working hard to pitch camp and our work was echoed by the soon-to-be-familiar cries of 'Cue-Ball', 'Tigers in the Bed' and 'Ay-Man' (sorry but the six of us understand). After some practical astronomy we had a hot drink and went to bed. Saturday we went to Biggin Hill Airfield and were shown around the airfield and hangars and had a brief talk on signals and aircraft recognition. During the afternoon we inspected the 'Britannia'. After a rough game of British Bulldog we returned to camp and got on with the set evening meal. After this we had a wide game basically a clash between French Resistance, Gestapo and SAUSAGES. Scouts' Own on Sunday morning was followed by a very good inspection which was followed by a competition which our patrol won four out of six, drew one and lost one. After lunch and striking camp, the County Commissioner, Mr. Barker, announced the positions. Everyone was very excited and the tension was brought to a climax when it was announced that we, the Wolves, were the winners of the Lukis Exploit 71 Competition. This meant that we had achieved a hat-trick as the Group has the won the competition the two previous years as well. The whole patrol would like to thank John Sherry, John Larkin, Fred Judson and Mrs. Lomax for getting us into shape before the camp.

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Group Council Report

At their meeting on 13th July great sorrow was expressed by the Council on the sad loss sustained by the Group through the death of its great leader and founder, Les. All present were very conscious of his absence from their midst, they were mindful of the fruitful life he had led and of the great foundation and tradition he had laid for the Group. All pledged to carry on his good work. Vic Evans has now been elected as Chairman.

The G.S.L. said that as a result of informing as many people as possible right away about Les' death, St. Mark's had been full for the funeral service on 29th June (a great tribute to the high esteem with which he was held by everyone). Arrangements were well in hand for a Service of Thanksgiving at St. Mark's on Sunday 18th July, and details were given to the meeting. He congratulated the Troop on winning the Lukis Trophy for the third time running in the County Camping Competition and for coming second in the sports, and the Pack for coming third in the Gala and second in their sports. The Pack had had two outings (to Chorley Wood and Tolmers), and he thanked the Scouters for making the Whitsun Camp a success, particularly the Sunday when everybody was together and when Thanks Badges were given to Colonel Lloyd-Lowles and Mr. Maurice Horsfall for all they had done for the Troop. Parents' Night in May had also been a success, when the Group had presented Thanks Badges to Mrs. Marjorie Larkin and Mrs. Dorothy Ward for their long service, when the D.C. had presented a Thanks Badge to Mrs. Iris Barker for her long service, and when the presentation of a barometer from the Group was also made to Bill and Iris. It was great to have had Les with us for Parents' Night and at the Camp. All Sections continued to work well, the Summer Fair and St. George's Day Parade had both been successful and the Group had assisted with the Guides' Gala. Alan Meaden had unfortunately had to resign his warrant because of pressure of work, but would help from time to time if needed - and he was thanked for his good work.

The Treasurer said the financial position for the first 6 months was satisfactory and more money was due to come in for renting, etc. The Summer Fair had raised approximately £114 and a donation had again been given to the Friends of Agoonoree. Suitable thanks were expressed to two parents and to John Sherry for kindly donating new Colours to the Pack and Troop respectively. Bill and Iris Barker had found a factory which made wheelback chairs at a cost of £5.50 each (£5 each for a quantity) and it was agreed that 50 be purchased for the Sanctum (a note about these will be publicised in the magazine). A.T.V. and other sublets continued satisfactorily and Roland House had again booked up for their pantomime rehearsals. The Works Panel had locked up the bath area as agreed at the last meeting and this appeared to be successful, but the ceiling here needed attention some time. New stair lighting had been completed, and internal and external repainting was being done. The redecoration of the Sanctum had been completed at a cost of only £4, but new shades were required. The panel were thanked for their continued good work.

On social activities it was stated that the autumn Parents' Night would be part of the Jubilee celebrations this year, but the normal autumn Jumble Sale would not be held this time because of the celebrations. Arrangements were proceeding satisfactorily for the Jubilee - John Larkin was going ahead

with the Exhibition and Peter Larkin and John Sherry with the floats. The menu for the Dinner Dance would be printed this time, the Rangers had offered to do table cards and reservation forms for this event would be issued with the Diehard. The Headquarters was being well used by all Sections, the Rangers, and for District and other meetings. A £100 loan has been made to the Troop for the deposit on 4 mini buses and for use to and from and in the Isle of Man, and this will be repaid later. Finally, it was agreed that a Memorial Fund for Les be set up, but details about donations and what form it will take are being left over for the time being. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 19th October at 7.30 p.m.

Robert W. Larkin, Group Secretary.

GROUP NOTICES

During August, the Scout Troop will be in the Isle of Man and the Venture Unit somewhere on a canal boat.  
The Troop meet officially again on 2nd September.  
The Pack meet officially again on 3rd September.

A meeting of Group Scouters will be held on 7th September.

SANCTUM FLOWERS there are no names on the list for August.  
5th September - Mrs. Bright and Miss Martin.

GROUP CALENDAR

July 23	Troop Summer Camp		<u>Jubilee Celebrations</u>
Aug 14	Venture Unit Cruise		
	24 Old Scout Committee	Oct 2	Cavalcade
Sept 10	N.Z. Flag Camp	3	Thanksgiving Service
Nov 25/27	Annual Group Show	7	Exhibition
Dec 4	Christmas Fair	9	Group Binner & Dance
	17 Group Scouts Own	13	Film Night
	18 Good Turn	15	Group/Old Scout Night
	19 Carol Singing	16	Parents' Night

Letter from 'Duke' Wellington (to the G.S.L.)

As one of Les Kirby's oldest friends in Scouting - our association goes back to ankle tapping days on Hampstead Heath before World War 1 - I would like to say to you and George Scott and all the others who had a hand in organising yesterdays Service that you did a really splendid job and one in which even Les himself would have been justly proud.

The service content was pure 'Kirby' which explains why everybody in the large congregation joined in so whole-heartedly and the address by Sir Thomas Robson reached just the right note to touch the hearts and minds of all 'Diehardians' and of Les' friends outside the Group. Altogether a most heart-warming occasion and a fitting tribute to one of the finest Scouters the Movement ever had.

It but remains for me to say - and I know that all Diehardia will agree - that with God's help and Les's example you will continue the good work in the Group in the old tradition.

With all good wishes, Yours sincerely C.T. Wellington



Forthose of you who did not know The Diehard before the last war, and I suppose thats a fair number by now, a few words about this page. The title was thought up by (I think) Ernie Wells and contained a few sentences in odd parts of the magazine, quite often with some pointed remarks as well as recording social and domestic occasions. During the war 'the last page' was used by Les under the title 'News from the Diehard front' and as that faded out 'Doings in Diehardia' reappeared as friends moved away, got married and generally spread around the country. Hence the interest in 'the last page', keeping up with old friends and their whereabouts.

It can still serve a useful purpose but the news will not flow in so easily as it did to Les, therefore, if you have any odd spots of news or occasions you would like us to know about please let me or someone know by a 'phone call or short note.

The Funeral and Service of Thanksgiving certainly brought a lot of Diehardians together again it is impossible to name them all, but I can think of a few who m we have not seen for a long time. George and Elsa Hümphreys (sorry I do not know Elsa's married name), Albert Barker and John Smith. It was very nice to see quite a gathering of Scouter friends from the District getting together and John Skull and his young men from the 5th (how appropriate that number) and others in uniform were instant pointers that this was not only Diehardia remembering. We were also pleased to see Scout Headquarters and London represented at the funeral.

Sunday was not an occasion to say 'thank you' to anyone, but I would express my appreciation to many for their co-operation.

We congratulate John Larkin upon gaining his Diploma of Commercial Photography and we are already experiencing his work.

We offer best wishes to Paul Wagstaff who was married to Miss Susan Smith on 3rd July, also to John Barker, eldest son of Iris and Bill, who married recently a young lady I only know as Thelma.

We had a a pleasant hour with Doug Jenner and family and admired the many swimming trophies gained by Peter. Doug is helping to run Wembley Swimming Club if anyone is interested. We were sorry to hear that Mrs Jenner was in hospital and trust she is progressing favourably.

Other friends to whom we send best wishes include Dick Price, Mr Balls (Senior) and Denis Cotchings, also Mrs M.M.Woods still in hospital.

#### Obituary

It was with very great regret that we heard of the sudden death of Betty Pease (nee Bradshaw) and send our sincere condolences to Harold, Tinny, John and Brian.

J.W.E.

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