

HISTORY OF THE  
IXth CAMBRIDGE (QUEENS'  
COLLEGE)  
TROOP OF BOY-SCOUTS.

MR. LEONARD SPILLER (now a London Vicar and a H-Q. Commissioner for Sea-Scouts) is our foster-father: he came up to Queens' College in 1909 and brought us the germ of the Scouting fever. Many of us were scorners and disbelievers for a time: but that winter seven Queens' Undergraduates started a Troop in Barnwell.

On May 20th, 1910 (by permission of the College), I invited all Cambridge Scouts to a Memorial Service for King Edward VII in the College Chapel. Next week the Choir boys were formed into two Patrols and attached to the 1st Cambridge Troop, which had as its first S-M. Mr. R. WRIGHT of Queens'; and in the summer H. WHITBY (now Captain in the Indian Army) and S. METCALF (killed in the War) went to Camp near Mr. WRIGHT's home in Derbyshire. He was a splendid S-M., and great was our loss when, soon afterwards, he was killed by falling down a quarry in the dark. The first Scout on our register is E.ELLIS, who I am glad to say is still in Cambridge.

In the summer of 1910 the Queens' Patrols were formed into a separate Troop as the 9th Cambridge, under S-Ms. G. H. CRUMP (afterwards D.S-M.) and M. G. FERGUSON. My own first warrant was as Chaplain to the Troop and is dated June 23, 1910.

On May 20, 1911 the Chief came for a Rally on the Rifle Range: the 9th gave a display of camp cookery. Just before the Chief came to us, the Scout carrying several appetising dishes on a tray tripped up, and the contents spread over the earth - but " be prepared " ! They were hastily shovelled back into their dishes, adhesive lumps of earth were poked below the surface by eager fingers, and fortunately the Chief did not eat any of them!

In June 1911 (the Coronation year) came our first Troop Camp at Houghton, near St. Ives; but alas! it was cut short by a tragedy. HARRY BENTON, a former Choir boy, was helping us in Camp; in my absence, he went to bathe and got cramp; Mr. WALTER SEARLE, of Pembroke College, a visitor acting as A. S-M., tried to save him, and both were drowned.

On July 4, 1911, came the Royal Rally in Windsor Park, when the King reviewed 35,000 Scouts; five of our Troop were present. In October Mr. G. B. RIDDELL of Queens' became S-M. and the Troop improved rapidly under his care.

In 1912 at a District Competition the breadmaking prize went to P-L. R. MOORE! In the same year Mr. B. SIMMS and Mr. H. S. MORTON (afterwards D. S-M., killed in the War) became A.S-Ms. Next year came our first First-Class Badge, won by BASIL LEVETT; and at a local Rally the Troop built its first Bridge (single lock-trestle).

In July 1913 five of the Troop went to the national Scout Rally at Birmingham. Then came our first Camp at West Runton, never to-be-forgotten, in splendid weather; it was attended by the Long Stanton Troop, of which I became S-M. soon afterwards.

Our second Camp there in 1914 was with S-M. A. D. HAMER of Queens' (killed in the War, a week before the Armistice); Mr. BASIL MAINE (Organist) was our chief Visitor. The Camp ended only three days before war was declared.

From that time on I was S-M. of the 9th. At first we met in an empty room in College (some will remember dissecting a rabbit there!) In 1927, when I was also S-M. of two other Troops and D.S-M. as well, we moved our H.Q. to the Albert Institute in Grafton Street. That year General SMUTS visiting Cambridge, inspected the Troop; and on June 13th the Chief came to a large Rally on Sheep's Green. He was three hours late in arriving, because the Germans had dropped a bomb on the front of his train just before it left Liverpool Street Station. The 9th built a double trestle Bridge over Snob's, the best they ever achieved.

At that time week-end camps were all that was possible, with tents camouflaged by paint. In 1917 however I took a number of Cambridge Scouts to camp on Mr. Chivers' ground at Impington to pick fruit for him, -strawberries (ugh!) and gooseberries.

In 1918 about eighty of us went to Fotheringhay for about six weeks to pick flax for the Government. I shall never forget it, for it was the year of the new and terrifying sort of influenza,-and, in spite of our open-air camp life, we had as many as forty ill-very ill-at the same time, and could scarcely get hold of a Doctor. Mr. G. W. MARTIN came to help and did valiant things.

In June 1918 the Troop had done its most memorable trek-camp ;--Friday evening, Cambridge to Hemingford; Saturday afternoon, back to Oakington (where I took Sunday Services in Scout uniform, and HORACE PETTITT lost his bacon to the bantams); Sunday evening, back home: total, thirty miles, and three of US, MANSFIELD, J. KINGSLAND, and H. ROOKE were eleven years old. P-L. FRANK, LLOYD became A.S-M. that year.

Our post-war history is given in tabulated form below.

The Troop has now 154 members on its roll. Perhaps the best testimonial to its soundness is given by the number of Scouters whom it has produced:

for the 9th, Wilfrid Houghton, C. Mansfield, E. G. Collins, R. Cockell, J. D. Bremner, H. Rooke;  
for Dry Drayton, B. Levett and R. Moore; for Barton, H. Rooke;  
for the 4th, J. Kingsland;  
for the 13th, D. Oakman;  
for Fulbourn, H. Pettitt;  
for Coton, P. Gamer.

#### CALLED To HIGHER SERVICE.

S-M. R. Wright (accident); W. Searle and H. Benton (drowned); A.S-M. H. Morton and S-M. A. D. Hamer (war); L. South, drowned in war service with D. Bright; S. Metcalf (war).

#### CUPS AND SHIELDS PRESENTED TO THE TROOP.

Small Inter-Patrol Shield, and Swimming Trophy (given by S-M.)

Large Inter-Patrol Silver Cup (given by Mr. Pipe.

Silver Camp Cup (given by Mr. Wilfrid Houghton, in memory of the four Houghton brothers in the Troop).

GOLD ALL-ROUND CORDS: won by C. P. Mans, field, J. Kingsland, H. Pettitt and K. Pipe.

BUSHMAN's THONG: won by K. Pipe and P. Garner.

KING'S SCOUTS: B. Levett, E. Smee, W. Houghton, F. Stoakley, C. Faircliff, A. B. Coe, G. Elwood, H. Pettitt, C. P. Mansfield, H. Rooke, J. Kingsland, F. Hubbard, D. Oakman, R. Cunnington, A. Harris, E. Fletcher, M. How, E. Gamlen, R. Houghton, J. F. Bremner, E. Hancock, C. Brown, K. Pipe, P. Garner, R. Lawn.

WAR-SERVICE BADGES: won by F. Lloyd, T. Stoakley, R. Moore, E. Smee, W. Houghton, G. Pinney, J. Robinson, F. Stoakley, C. Faircliff, A. B. Coe, H. Clark, G. Ellwood, C. Pell, H. Ellis, F. Cowles, S. Elwood.

#### VICTORIES IN ASSOCIATION COMPETITIONS.

Morley Silver Bugle in 1919 1921, 1924, and Morley Trophy in 1930.

Boxing Shield in 1930 and (tied) 1931.

Athletic Sports Shield in 1921, 1923, 1925, 1928, 1929, 1930.

#### POST-WAR CAMPS, ETC.

1919 Easter: trek to Quy and Newmarket. Summer: West Runton (with the 7th).

1920. Easter: Babraham (with our Serbian friend, A. Kostitch).

Summer: West Runton (with 7th and 10th) Olympia jamboree in August.

1921. Easter: Longstowe (snow: burning accident to W. Blackburn).

Summer: Harlech, with ascent of Snowdon. [Acting of play " Vice-Versa

1922. Easter: Longstowe.

[June Rally in Queens' Grove with Chief Scout].

Summer: Wall-End Farm, Langdale, with ascents of Sca Fell, etc., and rock-climb on Little Gully, Pavey Ark.

1923. Easter: Fotheringhay. Whitsun: Haslingfield. Summer: West Runton.

[National Scout Conference at Queens' College in March. Foundation of Scouts' Rowing Club with 12 Scouts from the 9th, particularly S. Elwood, now in Head-of-River boat].

1924. Easter: Longstowe.

Summer: Val D'Iere Savoy.

[Acting of play, "A Boy-Scout at the Court of King Arthur"].

1925-1927. Easter: Longstowe.

Summer: West Runton.

1928 March Rally in Guildhall with Chief Scout, and Sioux Chief Dr. Eastman].

Easter: Wyton Vicarage. Summer: Nook Farm, Rosthwaite.

1929. Easter: Brent Pelham. Summer: West Runton. Jamboree at Arrowe Park, Birkenhead.

1930. Easter: Waresley Park. Summer: Giffard Bay, jersey.

1931. Easter: Croxton Park. Summer: Saint's Bay, Guernsey.

C. T. WOOD.

**TALBOT PRINTER CAMBRIDGE**

(this version Jonathan Yates 14 Dec2002)