

The Patrol Books No. 22

PATROL MEETING BLUEPRINTS

By JOHN SWEET

Published by THE BOY SCOUTS ASSOCIATION 25, Buckingham Palace Road London, S.W.I

> Published 1958 Reprinted 1959 Reprinted 1961

Printed by C. Tinling & Co. Ltd.) Liverpool, London and Prescot.

Downloaded from: "The Dump" at Scoutscan.com http://www.thedump.scoutscan.com/

Thanks to Dennis Trimble for providing this booklet.



Editor's Note:

The reader is reminded that these texts have been written a long time ago. Consequently, they may use some terms or express sentiments which were current at the time, regardless of what we may think of them at the beginning of the 21^{st} century. For reasons of historical accuracy they have been preserved in their original form.

If you find them offensive, we ask you to please delete this file from your system.

This and other traditional Scouting texts may be downloaded from The Dump.

FOREWORD

The author will already be well known to you through other books in this series – *Patrol Activities* and *More Patrol Activities* – which must have been most helpful to you in the successful running of your Patrols. Although any words of mine are probably superfluous I am delighted to have the opportunity of saying that this new book more than maintains the reputation established by the others.

As an ex-Patrol Leader of many years ago I know how difficult it is to get enough new ideas and practical help. During my 50 years of Scouting I have read many books which attempted to fill this need but far too often have I been acutely disappointed by airy generalities which did not answer that difficult question – What shall I do with the "Lions" or "Peewits", etc., on Tuesday?

Here you have from 50 to 60 ideas, mostly in mint condition, any of which I should have been most grateful to receive as a Patrol Leader or even as a Scouter which I eventually became. Make your choice carefully, but do not dismiss any as impractical or impossible until you have given them a fair trial. And this means some personal preparation on your own part as well as some thought about suitability of time and place.

Good luck to you in your Patrol leadership which, although not the easiest job in Scouting, is one of the most important.

A. M. CHAMBERLAIN.

EXPLANATION

THE intention behind this little book was to produce a file of working drawings for the use of Patrol Leaders and Seconds who feel the urge to break away from dull routine and aren't afraid to experiment. I hope *you* are of that company.

The Second comes into the picture, of course, because running a Patrol is essentially team-work. Two kindred spirits working together can usually carry the Patrol with them. It is largely a matter of overcoming initial inertia.

So your first job, as Patrol Leader, will be to get your Second with you.

A word about that. Don't just buttonhole him when the rest of the Patrol are milling around. The idea is that you and he should enter into a conspiracy to promote better Scouting in the Patrol. You can't conspire in the middle of a crowd. Choose a moment when there is nothing else doing, and no-one is about, and go through this file together. Select the blueprint, or bits of several, which you think might suit your chaps best, and set to work to assemble the necessary gear. If you can find the time and opportunity for a "dry run" beforehand, so much the better – there is no better way of checking your equipment. Suppose, for instance, you have decided to try the "Beacon Spar" stunt (Blueprint No. 15): half-an-hour or so in the back garden with a few Scout staffs and a ball of sisal will ensure that your tackle is adequate when you lead the Patrol to the local duck-pond later in the week. Another advantage of this preliminary canter will be to fore-warn you of possible snags or difficulties, so that when you go into action with the Patrol you will at least know what you are up against.

However, don't make the mistake of telling the Patrol that you have already thought the thing out, and don't be too quick to produce all the answers yourself. Your Scouts won't be interested in adventure at secondhand. They will want to feel

that they are breaking new ground themselves. Your job, as Patrol Leader and Second, will be to provide the ideas, the gear, and the opportunity, and then to organise the activity, whatever it might be, so that every Scout in the Patrol is fully committed. A busy Patrol is a happy Patrol.

"Fine," I hear you mutter, "we've heard all this before, but the fact is my chaps don't turn up to Patrol Meetings, and even when they do, they just turn everything into a lark."

How true that is!

But don't imagine that you need a full turn-out to make a Patrol Meeting go. Very often it is the Scouts who don't "make it" who are the making of it. When they find that they are missing a lot of fun, they'll come to heel all right.

As for the tendency to skylark, well, my conception of Patrol Scouting is *controlled* skylarking, or *purposeful* skylarking, if you like. Don't take it too seriously; but do remember that the Patrol Leader must always retain the initiative. So keep on the alert, and when your sixth sense tells you that skylarking is about to commence, don't wait for someone else to start it – *start it yourself.* Call a halt to whatever you are doing and throw in a vigorous game – a round of partner contests, a series of personal challenges, javelin throwing, wrestling on horseback anything, in fact, to get rid of surplus energy and high-spirits; then back to work once more.

However, it is easy to solve problems on paper. I hope nobody is going to tell you that running your own Patrol Meetings is child's play. As P.L. you are bound to run into difficulties and I shouldn't like you to think that I'm making light of them. But it's worth it, every bit, as you will discover for yourself if you persevere.

Anyhow, here are the blueprints to help you. I hope you will find them useful, you and your Second.

Good hunting!





REHEARSAL : TRY THIS OLD CAMPFIRE YELL:

"BE PREPARED! BE PREPARED! SHOUT, SHOUT, SHOUT! TENDERFOOT, SECOND CLASS, FIRST CLASS SCOUT!



MURDER MYSTERY. The mundered Scouter is found like this. The key of the COHRoom - it is the only key in existence -is found in the pocket of his jacket. The window is securely shuttened on the inside. Above the door - which is lockedis a fanlight opening inwards for six inches only. The gun is on the floor. On the table is the Scouter's button-hole badge. The munderer had only ten minutes in which to commit the crime. How did he do it? The door is not self-locking.



CARRYING OUT A PLANE - TABLE SURVEY

YOU WILL REQUIRE - A TEA-CHEST OR BOX, A DRAWING BOARD, PAPER, TWO ORDINARY PINS, PENCIL & RULER.

TO CARRY OUT THE SURVEY, YOU MUST FIRST ESTIMATE MAIN DIMENSIONS OF FIELD & FIX SCALE TO SUIT DRAWING PAPER (E.G. IF FIELD IS 100 YDS. SQUARE & PAPER 22"SQ. THE MAXIMUM SCALE WOULD BE 5 YDS: I" - LEAVING ROOM FOR A ONE-INCH MARGIN ALL ROUND.)

NEXT, DECIDE ON POSITION OF TWO SIGHTING POINTS NEAR CENTRE OF AREA & WITH SCOUT STAFF MEASURE ACCURATELY DISTANCE BETWEEN. MARK POINT "A" ON PAPER WITH PIN. SET UP YOUR PLANE-TABLE AT POINT "A" & TAKE A SIGHT WITH SECOND PIN ON POINT "B". WITH RULER DRAW LINE FROM IST PIN THROUGH 2" PIN & MARK OFF DATUM LINE TO SCALE THUS FIXING ACTUAL POSITION OF POINT "B" ON THE DRAWING PAPER.

NOW, WITHOUT MOVING DRAWING BOARD, TAKE SIGHTS ON OTHER FEATURES (TENTS, TREES, GATE ETG.) MOVING SECOND DIN TO GIVE YOU AN ACCURATE READING, AND NOTING DOWN NAMES OF FEATURES. WITH RULER DRAW LINES FROM POINT "A" THROUGH THE PIN-PRICKS.

WHEN ALL FEATURES HAVE BEEN PLOTTED FROM POINT "A" MOVE PLANE-TABLE TO POINT "B" & TAKE SIGHTS FROM THERE STARTING BY TAKING SIGHT ALONG DATUM LINE TO POINT "A" WHERE THE SIGHTING WHES CROSS IS THE POSITION OF EACH FEATURE



YOUR FIELD-SKETCH WILL LOOK SOMETHING LIKE THIS:

LATER YOU COULD ELABORATE YOUR DRAWING AND RUB OUT THE PENCIL LINES AND ROUGH NOTES, OR, BETTER STILL, TRANSFER THE PIN PRICKS TO A CLEAN SHEET OF DRAWING PAPER AND MAKE A FINISHED DRAWING IN GREATER DETAIL.

A PLANE-TABLE SURVEY PLAN OF THE SUMMER CAMPSITE, FRAMED IN NATURAL WOOD GROWN ON THE SPOT, WOULD MAKE A NOVEL WALL-DECORATION FOR THE PATROL CORNER OR DEN, AND SHOULD BE GOOD FOR A LOT OF POINTS IN ANY PATROL COMPETITION.

NOTE THAT IN CARRYING OUT THIS PLANE-TABLE SURVEY YOU HAVE APPLIED THE PRINCIPLE OF TRIANGULATION, WHICH IS THE BASIS OF ALL MAPMAKING AND CARTOGRAPHY.





THE REAR MAN USES THE END LOOP AS A SHOULDER HARMESS. THE LEADER PULLS FORWARD & THE REAR MAN RESISTS THE PULL TO MEEP THE STRETCHER TAUT. Make the rope stretchen shewn in the cliagram and test it in une.

Divide the Potnel into two teams and try a tug-o-war with an old apple innor tube incerted in the tug-o-war repe.

Try a "wheelbarrow" race in which the "whee!" of the "parrow" is a flot pall.

Cut an ordinary postcard so that it can be opened out into a hoop through which you can pass your body.

● Give each man a chunk of solid Plaster of Paris and let him carve his own woggle.

In the course of a wide same you have taken cover under a haystack.

Unaware of your presence a member of the opposing side has climbed to the top of the stack & is semaphoning to his friends. You cannot see him, but the sum is carling his shadow on to the white washed wall of the stables & you can see the reflection of this shadow in the windscreen of the farmer's Landnover. You find that you can read the message without difficulty. Is the signaller facing the sun?





CHECK ALL GEAR FREQUENTLY!















MEETING RI

To the PL: Divide the Patrol with your Second and run this Meeting on a competitive basis

- 1 IMPROVISE A FRAME THAT WILL TAKE A 28 POUND LOAD WITH REASONABLE COMFORT.
- 2 IN ORDER TO LOWER A 60 FOOT FLAGSTAFE IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO ATTACH A HEAVY ROPE TO IT AT A NEIGHT OF 40 FEET . NO LADDERS OR SPARS ARE AVAILABLE AND THE FLAGSTAFF IS UNCLIMBABLE. HOW WOULD YOU DO IT?
- S ERECT AN APPARATUS WHICH, FIVE TO TEN MINUTES AFTER BEING "SET" WILL CHIME FIVE SEPARATE AND DISTINCT NOTES, CLEARLY AUDIBLE AT A RANGE OF 20 YARDS. NOTE THAT THE APPARATUS MUST BE SELF-OPERATING.



4 SELECT A SPOT IN OPEN GROUND ABOUT 4 YARDS FROM A WELL-GROWN TREE , AND ON THAT SPOT SET UP



AN ANCHORAGE OF ANY KIND GUARANTEED TO RESIST THE CONBINED PULLING POWER OF ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE PATROL

NEXT, USING THE TREE AS A HOLDFAST, MOUNT AN IMPROVISED TACKLE BETWEEN THE TREE AND YOUR ANCHORAGE, AND AFTER YOU HAVE FAILED TO BUDGE IT BY DIRECT







PATROL MEETING BLUEPRINT 15







PATROL BLUEPRINT Nº 18





WITH A COMIC TROPHY OF SOME SORT FOR THE CUB-SCOUT TEAM WHO SCORE MOST DIRECT HITS THROUGH THE QUOIT EACH SCOUT HELPS HIS CUB SCOUTS TEACH CUBS THE QUEST TO MAKE A "BULL-ROARER" - SIMPLY A LATH HITCH HIGHWAYMAN'S OF WOOD LIKE A 12" RULER WITH A STRING ATTACHED TO ONE END. WHEN THIS CONTRAPTION IS WHIRLED ROUND THE HEAD IT GIVES OFF A SOUND LIKE THE WHINING OF THE WIND IN THE TELEPHONE WIRES, THEN HOLD A RELAY RA THE PATROL SECOND DEMONSTRATES FINALLY A FIRE IS LIT AND EACH CUB ROASTS HIS OWN PLASTERCASTING, THEN EACH CUB MAKES A CAST OF HIS OWN SAUSAGE ON A STICK WHILE BUTTONHOLE BADGE. COCOA IS BREWED BY THE PL.



DRESS REHEARSAL

IN PREPARATION FOR THIS PATROL MEETING, WHICH WILL CONSIST OF A DRESS REHEADSAL FOR A FORTHCOMING CAMPFIRE STUNT, YOU SHOULD STOCK UP WITH BOTTLES OF POP OF DIFFERENT COLOURS. IN ADDITION EACH BOY WILL REQUIRE A FAIRLY POWERFUL ELECTRIC TORCH.

YOUR FIRST TASK WILL BE' TO CONVERT YOUR POP BOTTLES INTO MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS. DO NOT IMBIBE THE FIRE-WATER TOO HASTILY. THE IDEA IS TO TAKE A NIP AT A TIME, BLOWING ACROSS THE TOP OF THE BOTTLE AFTER EACH NIP, AND THEREBY PRODUCING BETWEEN YOU THE EIGHT NOTES OF THE OCTAVE. OBVIOUSLY THE THIRSTIER MEMBERS OF THE OCTAVE. OBVIOUSLY THE THIRSTIER MEMBERS OF THE PATROL WILL TEND TO PRODUCE THE LOWER NOTES, BUT THE WHOLE PROCESS WILL HAVE TO BE VERY CAREFULLY RECULATED. IF NECESSARY, BOTTLES CAN BE TOPPED UP WITH WATER; BUT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE VARIOUS COLOURS SHOULD BE RETAINED

NEXT, ARRANCE YOURSELVES IN ORDER UP THE SCALE, CHOOSE ANY SIMPLE AR WHICH FALLS WITHIN THE EIGHT-NOTE RANGE OF YOUR POP BOTTLE ORGAN AND REHEARSE TILL YOU ARE NOTE PERFECT.

WHEN YOU PERFORM AT THE CAMPFIRE, YOU LINE UP AS SHOWN ABOVE, EACH MAN HOLDING HIS TORCH AT THE READY BELOW THE BOTTLE, POINTING UPWARDS.

EVERY TIME A SCOUT BLOWS A NOTE, HE SWITCHES ON HIS TORCH THE BOTTLES - AND THE FACES ABOVE THEM - GLOW RED, GREEN, CHERRY, YELLOW, AMBER AS THE TUNE IS PLAYED. A SMASH HIT! IT CANNOT FAIL BUT IT WILL NEED CAREFUL REMEARSAL.

ALL THE ANSWERS

PATROL MEETING No. 1.

CODE MESSAGE: The alphabet was written out from A to M with N to Z below. Thus A became N in the coded message, N became A, and so on. The message ran, "The first man to read this is the winner".

CROSS-BEARING: Clue One – T (tea): Clue Two – Q (queue): Clue Three – J (jay): Clue Four – B (bee).

Missing from the sketch-map – North Point and Scale. Were you able to decode the Morse message round the border?

PATROL MEETING No. 3.

PAPER-FOLDING TRICK: It can't be done.

BRICK TRICK: Place a paper bag under the brick and blow it up.

MURDER MYSTERY: Having committed the crime, the murderer removed the Tenderfoot Badge from the lapel of the Scouter's jacket, threaded a long string through the buttonhole and tied both ends of the string to the quadrant on the fanlight. He then took the key from the Scouter's pocket and, taking care to leave the pocket open (as shown in the sketch) he left the room, locking the door behind him. From outside the room he was able to release the string from the quadrant and then slipped both ends through the eye of the key so that it ran down the string till it touched the jacket. By allowing the string to sag he was able to juggle the key into the open pocket. He then released one end of the string and hauled away on the other, leaving the key in the pocket. Try it! It works!

PATROL MEETING No. 5.

CARD TRICK: Cut the card as shown in the sketch and



you will find that it will open out into a wide hoop through which you can easily pass your body.

THE WIDE GAME: No. The signaller was standing with his back to the sun.

PATROL MEETING No. 11.

LOWERING THE FLAGSTAFF: One method would be to pass a loose running bowline round the flagstaff with the heavy rope, and then haul it up to the required height with the halyard before straining it.