

CASTLETON

3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 1964

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TATHAM BRIDGE

10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 1964

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GREENFIELDS

17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 1964

SGT Hay left Stafford with a party of 9 at 13:30 hrs for an exercise at Greenfield. The vehicles used for the weekend were a Bedford, Ambulance and a J2. After the usual stop at Buxton for refreshments base was reached at 16:00 hrs. After settling in to “Ashway Gap House” we all went to have a drink at the “Wagon Inn”.

SATURDAY.

Three parties chosen last Thursday briefing night set out for navigation practice. Risdon, Daly and McEwen formed one party, Morgan, Clayton, and Crosbie the second and Sgt Hay, Cpl Siddid and Lennon being the third. Leaving Barr at base camp each party were given map references to be covered. Unfortunately the day turned out to be very misty with patches of snow so none of the walks were completed. Oldham was visited in the evening and was enjoyed by all.

SUNDAY

Three parties again left for the hills. McEwean, Siddid. Lennon with Sgt Hay in charge left for Bleaklow. Morgan & Risdon went climbing and all so did Crosbie and Clayton. Daly was left at base camp whilst Barr did the driving for the parties. Whilst at base Daly was approached by two men whose companion had fallen 30 ft in the Dovestone quarries. Daly immediately let off a rocket to which Crosbie and Clayton saw. The three went to the scene of the accident. The chaps name was Graham Shepherd and he had broken his left leg, had a gash in his right leg and had fractured his skull. After making him comfortable on one of our stretchers an ambulance arrived to take him to Oldham Hospital. Barr went to Oldham to retrieve our stretcher and immediately he returned everything was packed away for our return to Stafford which was reached at 18:30 hrs.



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DINAS MAWDDWY

24<sup>th</sup> -26<sup>th</sup> January 1964.

Sgt Hay with a party of 13 left Stafford at 1400 on Friday in a Bedford, Austin, Ambulance and a J2, reaching base camp by 17:00. After setting up base everyone adjourned to the "Buckleys" at Dinas. After a few pints all decided to go to Dolgelly and the evening was thoroughly enjoyed.

### SATURDAY

Today was devoted to radio-navigation practice. The team was split up into four parties, three of which had walkie-talkie sets. First party (Hiker 1) were Brown, McEwen and Javens. Second (Hiker 2) were Hay, Siddid & Daly. Third (Hiker 3) were Owen, Watkins and Tate. The fourth party who didn't have a set were Morgan, Risdon & Clayton. All the parties were given map references for the Cader Idris area. Barr conveyed the parties to the respective destinations and also was Cook for the day whilst Jones did the wireless operating from base which was very good for such a hilly district. Towyn was visited by a few that night whilst the rest had their usual pint at "Buckley's"

### SUNDAY

This morning saw the sun climbing over the snow topped Aran but most of it soon melted with the sun which was very bright so conditions were not as hazardous as one might expect. The team left again for climbing on Cader leaving Clayton who wasn't feeling too well as Cook helped by Owen who wanted to stay at base camp for personal reasons which turned out to be very nice. The team packed up by 16:00 and return to Stafford reaching camp by 19:00 hrs



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Dog & Partridge

31<sup>st</sup> Jan – 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 1964

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Skirfare Bridge

7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> Feb 1964

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Llangollen

22<sup>nd</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> Feb 1964

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Greenfields

28<sup>th</sup> Feb – 1<sup>st</sup> March 1964

A late start was made this week and Ashway Gap house was reached at 20:15 hrs. After unloading a quick

visit was made to "The Wagon". Harold, one of the caretakers was with us as usual. The vehicles used this week-end were The Bedford, The Austin and the Land Rover.

Saturday was devoted to stretcher lowering about four miles away so equipped with one walkie-talkie all the team except for Owen & Jones who was at base made their way to the quarries. Due to the spring weather time passed quickly without incident.

Oldham was visited by most of the team in the evening and was immensely an enjoyable evening for all members.

Half the team went walking and the other half climbing but due to a biting wind the climbers returned early and at 17:00 hrs we returned to Stafford reaching camp at 19:30 hrs. One incident was that when we reached Buxton we realised that one of the members had been left behind namely Watkins but he made his own way back-by hitching.



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### Tan-y-Pistyll

6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> March 1964.

An early start was made and camp was reached around four. This time we were all able to sleep in a disused farmhouse not far from the waterfall. The vehicles used were the Bedford, the Austin, the Ambulance and the Land Rover. An enjoyable evening was spent by everyone at Llanrhaidr.

On Saturday three parties each equipped with a walkie talkie made their way over the Berwyns.

The first party comprised of Morgan, McEown, Mertins and Gotfrey. The second were Sgt Hay, Watkins and Storer and a third of Tate, Clayton and an officer from Turn Hill ex Leeming. On base were Sharwood, Barr, Owen and Jones. Unfortunately radio contact was not very good though inter-communication between parties was OK. Another enjoyable evening was spent at Llanrhaidr.

On Sunday four parties decided to go walking.

First party was Sgt Hay, Gotfrey and Storer. Second was Morgan, McEown and Barr. Third of Clayton, Mertins and Squire and Tate and Watkins made up the fourth.



Tan-y-Pistyll was left at 5.30 and Stafford was reached at 800.

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## MARCH 1964 RAF STAFFORD

ROYAL AIR FORCE

STAFFORD

MOUNTAIN RESCUE TEAM

LOG

## Team MemBeRs

OfficeR i/c

Flt. Lt Bell

DePuTY i/c

F/O Whyte

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N.C.O. i/c

Sgt Hay

DePuty i/c

Cpl McNab

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## Full-Time MemBeRs

S.A.C. Tate

Pongo

S.A.C. Sharwood

Bruce

S.A.C. Barr

Paddy

S.A.C. Jones

Yanto

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## PaRt Time MemBeRs

S.A.C. Brown

Fred

S.A.C. Clayton

Tiny

L.A.C. Daly

S.A.C. Javens

S.A.C. Risdon

Brian

S.A.C. MoRgan

S.A.C. McEown

S.A.C. MeRtins

Brian

S.A.C. Watkins

The Blob

S.A.C. Owen

Taff

Cpl Siddid

Sid

## Dog and Partridge

13<sup>th</sup>- 15<sup>th</sup> March 1964

The team under the charge of Sgt Hay left Stafford at 18:00 hrs. Base was reached by 20:30 hrs and was set up by half an hour later. The team then adjourned to the Dog & Partridge for a quiet drink.

Saturday was a grey misty morning with driving rain and high winds, and was useless to go either climbing nor walking in such weather so it was agreed to stop at base. In the evening half of the team stopped at the Dog & Partridge whilst the other half visited Penistone.

At 2:00 AM on Sunday morning Sgt Hay was awakened by Penistone police. This was due to 6 Rover Scouts that were missing on Bleaklow after an exercise. The whole team was alerted and everything was packed up by 6.00 AM except for the tents. Glossop police station was reached by 7.00 AM the whole team was on its way up the snake-pass road on to Bleaklow. Sgt Hay was put in charge of the whole organisation by the Chief Inspector of Derbyshire. A series of sweep searches was organised for both the R.A.F. team and hundreds of civilians who had turned up for the search. All the searches was done in a blizzard and by the end of the day it was decided to stop at Glossop police station for the night and make a fresh start in the morning. Sharwood was sent back to Stafford for some more rations in the Land Rover and got back about 2 AM with barely enough for breakfast, so, from compo rations were also used.

Monday turned out to be a sunny day will still freezing cold. The team was on its way again by 7.00 AM. This time the sweep searches were started from Olport Castles Farm in where base camp was set up (The Austin). Inter communications and between the walkie-talkie sets was extremely good and by this all the team were able to keep the civilians in order. Again about 250 joined in the search. Just as the search was being called off a discovery of a body was reported. The RAF team now joined by Leeming MRT made their way to the spot with a stretcher and the body of John Butterfield, one of the Rover Scouts, was brought back to base and immediately taken to the morgue at Glossop police station. As it was getting dark the search for the second Rover Scout was put off until the next day. The team arrived at Glossop at 19:30 hrs and were again accommodated at the police station.

Tuesday turned out to be much colder day, but by 9:30 AM base was again set up at Olport Castles Farm. The R.A.F. party made their way from the top of snake pass down to base whilst other civilians made their way up-river to meet the R.A.F. party. It wasn't long before the body of the second Rover Scout Michael Welby was found about 450 yds from the snake-road and taken to Glossop police station. The

team then returned to Glossop to clear up whilst Sharwood, Mertins and Gotfrey went back to the Dog and Partridge to retrieve our tents. The team left for Stafford at 15:30 hrs and reach base by 18:30 hrs. the vehicles used during the week-end and the call-out were the Bedford, the Austin and the Land-Rover. This was another boost for the team and all papers had pictures and news in them as well as the B.B.C. and I.T.A. This was proved the following day when the C.O. came round to congratulate the whole team individually for a "jolly good show" that each team member put up. This could mean that all parades will be cancelled for M.R.T. personnel. I wonder!!!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John Davidson". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

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