

MOUNTAIN RESCUE

TEAM

LOG BOOK

Opend: **30th March '60**

Closed: **31st DEC 1961**

NOTES

- 1 This Diary was transcribed by Dr. A. S. G. Jones between July and November 2014
- 2 He has attempted to follow, as closely as possible, the lay-out of the actual entries in the Diary.
- 3 The first entry in this diary is dated 30th March 1960. The last entry is dated 31st December, 1961. There are no page numbers after page 167.
- 4 There is considerable variation in spellings. He has attempted to follow the actual spelling in the Diary even where the Spell Checker has highlighted a word as incorrect.
- 5 The spelling of place names is a very variable feast as is the use of initial capital letters. He has attempted to follow the actual spellings in the Diary
- 6 Where there is uncertainty as to a word, its has been shown in italics
- 7 Where words or parts of words have been crossed out (corrected) they are shown with a strike through.
- 8 The diary is in a S.O.Book 445.
- 9 It was apparent that the entries were written by number of different people
- 10 Sincere thanks to Alister Haveron for a detailed proof reading of the text. Any mistakes are the fault of Dr. A. S. G. Jones.

INDEX of CALL OUTS to CRASHED AIRCRAFT

Date Time Group & Month	Place	Height	Map Ref	Aircraft Type	Time missing	Remarks	Page S
17th July	Nant Gwynant Watkin Path					Team alerted by NRCC but arrived when injured walker was down transported to hospital	158
25th November	Main Wall Cern Las					1 dead Climbers 2 stranded	
25th November	Crib Goch					Party of 5 stuck	
4th December	Snowdon Horseshoe					2 Climbers benighted on Lliwedd. Search called off	

INDEX of CALL OUTS to CIVILIAN MOUNTAINEERING ACCIDENTS

Date Time Group & Month	Place	Map reference	Time spent	Names and addresses	Remarks	Pages
1960 April 031530 Z	Parsons Nose	107/617554	Team on exercise Cader Idris area 36 extended one day	John Etches John Benchley Tony Evans	All found dead	3
April 191600 A	Dinas Mot	107/627563	1 1/2 hours	2 members University of London M.C. C Jones 165 Kingsway Hove 3.	Assisted off Diagonal was the second man	11
April 211745 A	Cader Idris	116/710133	4 hrs.	Robert Chapman	Carried down	12
June 041530 A	Upper Cliff Glyder Fawr	107/644585	1 1/2 hrs	Kim Cheetham St Thomas Hosp M.C.	Carried down # ankle	29
June 051800 A	Lliwedd	107/625533	4 1/2 hrs	Douglas Peel	# leg Advanced stretcher work	31
August 230045 A	Snowdon	N/A	11 hrs	Colin Chumley Inter Schools Camp	False alarm	61
November 30 2345 A 1961 23rd May	Carnedd Llewelyn Cwm Lanarch	107/682643 ---		Marine fellows trek Warickshire Scout Troop	Died of exposure Injured in fall	98 144

10 hr exercise

GLYDERSWednesday 30th March 1960

1330 F.S. Lees +13 Team left Valley in RL 59AE05, Sigs truck & two landrovers 35AA73 & 65AA44 (loan for courses). Previously parties & routes had been worked out so that the convoy split up at Menai Bridge & people were set down with various intentions to walk over back to the base. Base set up by Lees (RL) Broome (Sigs) & Morris (WOP) at 1445 Ogwen Cottage. Fortunately a Sub Unit, so we were able to set cooking gear out in their garage. Strong wind from NE, low cloud, snow showers.

1430 Cartledge Walters & Simpson (RT) were set down at Nant Peris by Cpl Pibworth in 44. Their course; up by Afon Duodyn to Foel Goch → Y Garn (3104') → Ogwen.

1440 Also in 44: Sgt McMichael, Grant (RT) Hardman - Gwastadnant - Y Garn - ↓ NE ridge to Ogwen.

1430 Pearson Barclay (RT) & Keegan dropped by Brown (73) at Beudy Mawr - Esgair Felen - Glyder Fawr (3279') ↓ Grabin ridge to Ogwen.

When Pibworth & Brown had brought their vehicles round the Glyders to Ogwen they joined lees in ascending Y Garn from this northern side, carrying a walkie - talkie as link to meet those coming over from Llanberis.

The mornings heavy rain in Anglesey had been snow here - quite heavy going on tops - & ice axes all carefully left in the lockers in the RL!

Satisfactory radio communications despite the very poor conditions; new manpack carrier used by the drivers party with more success than everest carrier.

All down within an hour after dark. Very wet. Two u/t (fortnight attachment) volunteers less keen?

Returned to Valley after a good meal.

NCO i/c MRT

Remarks Officer i/c MRT

F/O
Wg Cdr

Remarks O.C. Flying Wing

Remarks Station Commander

CADER IDRIS

36 hr exercise
& CALL OUT

Saturday 2nd April 1960

1400 F.S. Lees + 20 Team left Valley in RL 59AE05, Sigs 75AV07 & LR 35AA73 + trailer. They were joined by Flt. Lt Stewart & SAC Poyton from N.R.C.C. 18 Group - a Controller & Controllers Clk on a liaison visit. Prospect of a typical weekend for them - gale force winds & heavy rain during the journey south.

Camp set up a few miles south of Dolgelley at Pont y Llan 116/657134. Tents up before dark but W/OPs had less success with their aerials (the trained W/OP recently demobbed will be missed like this!)

Sunday 3rd April

A fine morning with rain later -
Some walking from and to base, others going out in transport & traversing more hills back to back.

Gordon Keegan (RT) Grant Pont y Llan - Fortress wreckage (645122) 645120 tops on Cader Idris ridge to summit (2927') Pen y Gader - Mynydd Moel - ↓ N Ridge to 725149 - Llyn Gwernan - 664153 - Pont y Llan.

Murphy Hardman Cross (RT) - the reciprocal of above.

Broome Morris Berkley up Cader Idris via south ridge & back as convenient with link set & extra aerials.

Pearson (RT) Flt. Lt Stewart Poyton set down by LR at 685111 Llanfihangel y Pennant. Thence slowly up to 709122 - Pen y Gader & down Fox's Path to road at 696152. R/T arranged for transport.

Lees Bray Cartledge (RT) took LR to Llanfihangel y Pennant & then onto Abergynolwyn & SW to Dolgoch Stn where LR left. Walk 667048 - Tarren Hendre (2076') - Tarren y Gesail (2187') 728073 - 717087 Tal y Llyn - 68411 - 678122 - 665119 - base.

Meanwhile Sgt McMichael Kinnes & Cpl Pibworth walk from base over the same course & latter drive LR back.

Base Watmore & Simpson.

1315 Llanberis Police asked Valley if M.R.T. could help in search for 3 C.C.F cadets missing on Snowdon. Air Traffic passed message to the selected contact for the Team whilst on exercise.

1330 - Dolgelly Police.

3

1335 Dolgelly Police who could not apparently spare a man telephoned the Llwyngwril constable to pass the message, [Llwyngwril 9 miles from camp & up hills 1 in 4. Dolgelly to campsite about 7 miles along a better road!]

1530 Llwyngwril constable arrived campsite pushing his bicycle!

1545 Despite the poor walkie-talkie reception (rain & wind does not help) parties were alerted. In view of the time & the available light left it was decided that it was pointless to cut short the exercise & get to the search area just after dark & NCO i/c passed this message back from 717087 (above Tal - y - Llyn to base for relaying to other parties).

1930 Last party arrived base camp just after dark

2130 Packed up after a meal & travelled to the search centre Pen y Gwryd, The civilian rescue co-ordinator, Mr Briggs had gone out but the NCO i/c spoke to him on telephone & found that parties had been asked to report P.Y.G at 0500 for briefing. NRCC informed by Flt Lt Stewart.

Monday 4th April

[Information available. On Saturday afternoon 2nd April a party from the Royal Masonic School, Bushey Hertford C.C.F. who were camping in Nantgwynant, commenced the traverse of the Snowdon Horseshoe in very bad weather. The Schoolmaster in charge, Peter Sutcliffe (28) had the boys (16) roped together in two threes from the time they left Pen y Pass, for training in rope management. He led the first rope while the second 3 followed.

After going over the crib Goch ridge they became separated in cloud; Sutcliffe left his 2 cadets & went back to look for the other 3. He missed them on the ridge (probably on First Step of Crib y Ddisgl) but when he returned they had caught up. He retied to his two & the two ropes of 3 continued and became separated once more. This time it was thought that again the following three had taken a slightly different line on the rocky section & so after a few minutes wait, Sutcliffe continued to the summit of Crib y Ddisgl (3493') & then Snowdon. Since there was no sign of them he then returned onto the ridge of Crib y Ddisgl but did not see them. He returned to their base at Nantgwynant with the other 2 cadets, & when the 3, John Etches, John Brenchley & Tony Evans did not arrive later, reported in the evening that they were missing.

On Sunday the weather was still not good but parties

organised by Mr. C. B. Briggs B.E.M. (of Pen y Gwryd) searched the whole area without success. Llanberis Police asked for assistance of RAF Valley M.R.T. after lunch & another search was planned for the Monday]

Monday 4th April 1960

0500 More intensive search planned by RAF MRT. Walkie - talkie intercommunication arranged.

- A. Cwm Tregalan Kinnes (R/T) & Nantwynant Sch party (CCF)
- B. Cwm Brwynog under Clogwyn du Arddu. Hardman (R/T) Foster & other non climbing civilians.
- C. Cwm Dyli - Glaslyn under Lliwedd Jones Watmore (R/T) + all those remaining after other search parties made up.
- D. Upper Cwm Glas - Parslyfern from above Cyrrn Las - Pearson, Mackenzie (R/T) + sundry civilian scramblers.
- E. Experienced rockclimbers then set out at approx 80 ft intervals climbing & traversing the flanks of Crib y Ddisgl - Parson's Nose from Bwlch Goch. From Glaslyn scree upwards - (on scree C.C.P.R. Instr. Barlen + 9 boys then the highest). Cpl Pibworth (R/T) Parker Staton J/T Gordon A. Baines SAC Dempster Clark Pomfret Cpl/T Bray FS Lees (R/T) on crest then down into Cwm Glas - J. Jackson T. Derbyshire SAC Cartledge SAC Newby G. Dwyer. P. Crew R. Orgill Cpl Hughes (R/T) Tregalen on scree again (those without routes civilian several from CCPR Plas y Brenin) [This involved actual rockclimbing as distinct from scrambling where hands are used to steady a person over easy rocks as on most of the crest of the ridge]
- F. Sgt McMigael & Barclay as link R/T at 642552 then started moving up onto Crib Goch.
- G. Also link & transport at Llyn Llydawh - Broome Grant

0830 (approx) Pearson & Cpl Hughes found 3 bodies with head injuries which would have been instantaneous, at the foot of the rocks to the east of the Parson's Nose, left of Square Gully: it appeared that they had fallen together from near the top of the Clogwyn y Person arête, where in descent it steepens & becomes rockclimbing rather than scrambling. 107/617554. It looks as though they lost their way on the upper ridge of Crib y Ddisgl & descended the Parson's Nose ridge in error.

Messages passed to recall other parties to help stretcher carry - large nos. available eventually, including Llanberis & Beddgelert Police (total 3 & Mr C.B. Briggs. Bodies carried down to Ynys Ettws & Llanberis Pass etc.

(All wearing thin shorts - much heat loss in bad weather.)

Team returned to Valley in the late afternoon.

Remarks NCO i/c MRT

The Team members worked very hard & efficiently; pity the fat Dolgelly constables didn't! Improved methods of contact are being suggested to higher authority but all involve money - e.g. with several W/OPs established & sufficient drivers we could have a continuous W/T watch with N.R.C.C. - as it is we only have one W/OP & depend on luck & odd policemen being at home when off duty. (A policeman with more imagination & initiative would have asked a passing motorist for help & a lift from Dolgelly to the campsite.)

The accident was a sad & avoidable story. We hope schools will learn from these mistakes - our often mild mountains change suddenly in bad weather. The civilian

Mountain Rescue Committee, the controlling body in G.B. (voluntary) are being approached with suggestions to prevent reoccurrence.

26/5/60

NCO i/c MRT

Remarks Officer i/c MRT

Flt Lt Stewart of N.R.C.C. had a chance to study the difficulties encountered during a 'call out' at first hand. It is hoped that some improvements in the system of contacts will be made.

Fg Of

Remarks O.C.F.W.

Remarks Station Commander.

6

10 hr exercise

GLYDERS

Wednesday 6th April 1960

Navigation & rockclimbing training carried out by FS Lees + 21 Team who left Valley in 1330 vehicles 59AE05, Ambulance, 2 LR's & trailer & set up camp at Ogwen 107/650604.

Cross Keegan Walker Deniolen - Elidir Fawr - Y Garn Glyder Fawr ↓ Gribin ridge.

Foster Jones Pibworth Bethesda - Mynydd Perfedd - Y Garn Glyder Fawr ↓ Gribin ridge to Ogwen.

Janney Watmore Milestone Buttress Direct ↓ Rowan.

Kinnes Gordon. Angular Chimney ↓ Slab Intermediate.

Wilson McMichael Idwal Slabs Ordinary

Brown Hardman Broome ----- " -----

Newby Cartledge Heather Weakness Lazarus ↓ Javelin Gully Original Route.
Lees Pearson at inquest.

Base Morris Hill Simpson

All parties were back at Ogwen within an hour of darkness & had the customary 21000 Weds "afternoon" evening meal of sausages egg & beans before departing for RAF Valley.

Remarks NCO i/c MRT.

Familiarisation & navigation training for those who aren't / can't & rockclimbing experience for the better trained.

30/5/60

NCO i/c MRT

Remarks Officer i/c MRT.

Fg Off

Remarks O.C.F.W.

Remarks Station Commander.

7

36 hr exercise

CARNEDDAU

Saturday 9th April 1960

1330Z F.S. Lees + 15 left Valley in RL 59AE05, two landrovers & trailer & set up a base camp at Caer Llugwy between Capel Curig & Betws y Coed. Map reference 107/749572. Navigation exercise for Sunday detailed with u/t navigators working out their bearings from courses given to them, assisted when necessary by experienced men.

Sunday 10th April 1960

Was an exceptionally wet day - as it always is whenever Sgt McMichael visits this campsite (which he has been doing but for odd overseas tours, for some years now!) - as he likes to tell us! Extremely cold wind too. Courses abbreviated & some haste introduced with 'hares & hounds' in an attempt to keep some warmth in soaked bodies:-

Hares (in 2 groups hoping to get drivers etc to go faster)

Pibworth Broome Beveridge Brown.

752583 - Southern end of Llyn Goddion-duon - Llyn Bychan 742593 - base.

pairs chasing: Cross Newby: Cartledge Watmore: Wilson Lees: Jones McMichael: Kinnes Bray: Gordon Driver.

A good exercise which demonstrated how careful one always must be - a very experienced navigator put the last message 'can' on a hummock half a mile from the correct one (there are several similar rounded little tops here, all marked by 2 contour lines above the plateau) in his haste! Which meant that most pairs of hungry hounds tore up the heather on top of the right reference looking for a hidden message, until the truth dawned & they returned to base (which was the next point listed.)

Returned to RAF Valley later in evening.

Remarks NCO i/c MRT. The lesson was hammered home at the subsequent Tuesday evening
de-briefing
31/5/60

NCO i/c MRT

Remarks Officer i/c MRT.

F/O

8

4 1/2 day exercise

ERYRI

Thursday 14th April 1960

1400 F.S. Lees +13 Duty Team over Easter Grant period left Valley in RL 59AE05, two landrovers & trailer & camped at a new campsite in Cwm Abrach above Glyn farm opposite the Forestry School. Narrow approach track not easy for RLs. A pleasant site hidden from the road, once gained. 107/751582.

Extension poles used to heighten a cooking shelter using the walls of a ruined cottage as well. Plenty of head room for a change.

Those who did not know this corner of the Carneddau, or who were a little lost last w/e then taken for a brisk walk up two or 3 of the nearest hills to improve their geography.

Kinnes Wilson Jones Pibworth

Llyn Bychan - Sp ht 1325 - 1300' top 742593 - 745590 - base.

Lees McMichael Foster & Simpson did the reciprocal.

Good Friday 15th April 1960

Occasionally on a long distance mountaineering expedition the Team traverses all the 3000' mountain of North Wales of which there are 14 - the total distance is over 30 miles & involves much ascent & descent. Spare clothing, first aid kit, torches & food must be

carried but tea is provided at the places where the route crosses the roads thro' the two big passes - Nant Peris in the Llanberis Pass & Glandena, Llyn Ogwen in the Nant Ffrancon.

0330A Accordingly the two landrovers were driven up to Llyn Llydaw full of personnel. One was left there while one of the drivers returned to base to start the Nant Peris brew!

A damp & quite cold night with a fair wind on the tops, though well sheltered on the way up Glaslyn. Some went up Snowdon as fast as possible to get as much daylight as there was while the others went more easily & probably gained by it later in the day.

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	Height above sea level	Pearson Gordon ↗	Kinnes Wilson	McMichael Foster ↗ P.F	Pibworth Jones M.J.	Newby Cartledge Driver	Lees Bray
Llyn Llydaw	1430'						
Snowdon	3560'		0535	0520		0525	0537
Crib y Ddisgl	3493						0549
Crib Goch	3023'						0616
Nant Peris	360'	0701-0710	0715-26	0722-35	0724-33	0724-35	0710-21
Elidir Fawr	3029'						0855
Y Garn							0935-9
Glyder Fawr	3279'						1015-24 1057
Glyder Fach	3262'						1124
Tryfan	3010						1209
Glan Dena	1000'	P.1327 -1414 G. 1323	K 1323 -1414 W 1327	1435	1343-1414	1343-1414	1250-1320
Pen yr Oleu Wen	3210'						1450
Carnedd Dafydd	3426'						1518
Yr Elen	3151 3484'						1627
Carnedd Llewelyn	3484						1659
Foel Grach	3195'						1724
Foel Fras	3091'			1915		1915	1754
Bwlch y Ddeufaen	1350'	G.2009	K.2007	F.2035	P.2035	2035	1920
				13h 55			12h 17

(McMichael, with Jones had to pack too)

Pearson & Jones packed in - ankle & knees swollen respectively.

Conditions were quite difficult: some verglas & ice crystals on Crib y Ddisgl & Crib Goch & light snow showers & cloud all along the Glyders (from ascent Elidir Fawr it was compass work all the way to Bwlch Tryfan) - little chance of overheating. Improvement on Carneddau.

Frequent ferry service back to base for meal & much sleep.

Saturday 16th April

Was devoted to camp chores, sleeping & eating mainly though some enthusiasts went for some short walks & navigation exercises later. Fine summer type day.

Easter Sunday 17th April

Walk to Tan y Grisiau - Pibworth Pearson - via Mynydd Criban Pont y Pant 756516
Bwlch y Groes Rowen Moel Penamon Allt Fawr - LR below Craig Dyn on Llyn Stwlan road.

Walk back to base after a climb - (Bray) McMichael, then Wilson Foster ↑ Traith y Perein the 3 latter via Moel yr Hydd

10

Moel Druman Yr Arddu & Moel Siabod to base.

Rockclimbing purely - Gordon Brown Y Drafel

Evasion Direct

↓ Taith y Pererin ↑ Evasion

Kinnes Driver ↑ Evasion ↓ Taith y Pererin

---"--- ---"--- Bray ↑ Bent

Newby Lees ↓ 2nd pitch Y Gelynen. New route thence

up corner above first belay Y Gelynen & Taith Pererin - HS - led by Newby (this pitch is not new) then up in some fault line above. a vertical wall then step right into a groove VS.

Again on up cracks left of slab Taith y Perein. ↓ Taith y Pererin onto pitch 3 Y Gelynen & down it . To Craig Dyn ↑ Chic

A fine day. Climbers almost had to be dragged off the warm rocks as night fell.

2200

Drive back to base to find walkers recently returned.

Easter Monday April 18th 1960

The M.R.T. from RAF St Athan was also camping in North Wales but preferred to do other less advanced (& more hackneyed, to us) climbs etc. most of the time, but today we offered to help them & eventually took two of their lads rockclimbing:

Gordon + 2 StA. Craig y Stac Floating Rib. South & North Chimneys

Kinnes & Jones --- " ----- S. Chimney Easter Parade Slick.

McMichael Pibworth & Simpson walked back from the Moelwyn crags via Moelwyn Bach, Moelwyn Mawr & Moel yr Hydd.

Brown Foster traversed Moel Siabod to the Dakota wreckage & back to camp.

Advanced rockclimbing on Clogwyn du'r Arddu Snowdon.

Lees Walker Sheaf (HVS) } Newby Bray Henry Longlands climb (VS)
(with Lianell's Leap Severe)

Tuesday 19th April

Transport to Llanberis Pass. McMichael Pibworth Pearson Wilson walked back to base over the Glyder ridge

Gordon Jones Carreg Wastad Wrinkle (S)

Dinas Cromlech Flying Buttress ↓ Pharaohs Pass ↑ Parchment Pass

Kinnes Foster --- " ----- 3. ----- " ----- 2. ----- " ----- 1. ----- " -----

Lees Newby Clogwyn y Grochan Nea (S)

Wilson Another ----- " ----- Scramblers Gate (S)

11

Newby Bray } Dinas Mot Nose Direct (VS)

Lees Roberts on the climb this party was able to effect a roped rescue: while negotiating the penultimate pitch the noise of a fall was heard, & then shouts from a pair of civilian climbers who had previously been seen on the neighbouring climb, Diagonal Route (HVS). The leader had fallen from about 30 feet above his second man, who was belayed to a piton at the stance above the crux. The leader had been stopped by the rope & was shocked but relatively uninjured, on a small ledge 30 - 40 ft. below his second. The secondman, who was not wearing belaying gloves had lacerated & burnt hands. Both were pulled up to the ledge below the final pitch of Diagonal, belayed across to the first of the final cracks of the direct, & again pulled up. They were then safe guarded down the western gully to the foot of the crag.

It was a most fortunate coincidence that we were to hand as they could not have extracted themselves & a rescue party would not have reached them before nightfall.

The Team returned to RAF Valley later in the evening.

Remarks NCO i/c MRT.

A very fine period but for the first day. The performance on the 14 Peaks was very gratifying. We have a good team at present, with improving newer ones, but no novices to follow on.

31/5/60

NCO i/c MRT

Remarks Officer i/c MRT.

A fine example of how quickly the Team can go from 'training' to 'actual' rescue during a week end exercise. Fortunately the accident was not serious but it would have entailed much more discomfort had we not been to hand.

FO & i/c MRT

Remarks Station Commander.

12

CADER IDRIS

Callout

Thursday 21st April 1960

1745 When 3 members of M.R.T. (Lees Bray Pibworth) reached Dolgelly to visit the Police (re 3rd April) & inspect the Sub Unit (Fire Stn) they were informed that a school boy 1800 had broken his leg on Cader Idris & that some of his party were cragbound. It was found at the Fire Stn that only 5 firemen had set out with the sub unit stretcher about half an hour previously so it was assumed that more help would be required. (106/710133)

The youth, Robert Chapman (14) was lying at the foot of the final rocks of Cader Idris, 100 yds south of the Fox's Path, at about 2500' & had fallen while trying to make his way down a steep buttress. (# leg, poss spine & skull). He was a member of a party from the High School, Welwyn Garden City, who had been up the mountain in several groups; each group was in the charge of one of the 3 mistresses from the school who were present on the 2 masters from another school who were assisting them. The particular group containing Chapman had been told to stay where they were, when it was obvious that they were not on the Fox's Path, while the master, Mr. G. Booker, of Hertford Grammar School looked for an easier way. (The mistress in charge of the whole party was Miss Fletcher of the High School. Chapman tried to continue directly down & fell.

The youth was carried down to the road at Tyddyn Mawr. Apart from the few RAF & Fire personnel one civilian walker also assisted (member of Rucksack Club). The sledge 2030A stretcher which is part of the Sub Unit equipment (& is the only mountain stretcher available for use in this area) which was used was better than a normal ambulance stretcher but was

still most difficult to manage, particularly when there were so few helpers. A recommendation has been made to the (civilian) Mountain Rescue Committee that, in view of the great number of ill equipped walkers who attempt Cader Idris in the summer, a more comprehensive mountain rescue kit be maintained at the Fire Stn.

Remarks NCO i/c MRT.

Again it was very fortunate that we were there. The Firemen are very enthusiastic but completely unskilled. We 3 (without too much flag waving) did nearly all the work & were very glad we had decided to go up & help - the police

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attitude was complete disinterest - "they shouldn't go up the mountains to start with"!

This was another example of quite clueless school parties - in perfect weather fortunately. Complete contrast to Tuesday when 2 rockclimbers on extremely steep rock had an accident & because their rope technique etc. was perfect they got away with a few burns only.

31/5/60

NCO i/c MRT

Remarks Officer i/c MRT.

This matter of 'civilian school parties' has been to the fore in a number of recent accidents. I have written an article for the Times Ed or a similar publication likely to be read by school masters, as it appears the majority of this class do not read books on mountaineering, or articles on 'Mountain Safety' which are published from time to time in climbing journals.

Well done Lees for your prompt action in this case.

F/O

Remarks O.C.F.W.

Remarks Station Commander.

14

CARNEDDAU, GLYDERS & CWM SILIN

36 hr exercise

Saturday 23rd April 1960

1340 FS Lees & 14 Team went out in RL 59AE05, RL 58AE94, Landrover 65AA44 & landrover Ambulance 08AA20. A camp was set up at Bryn Engan nr Capel Curig
1530 at 107/725577. Vehicles parked further up the forestry road, out of site of the A5, over the crest of the hill at Forestry Commission suggestion so that we will not encourage other campers!

Rockclimbing training on the small crags on the other side of the road, Capel Pinnacles, for Bray Pibworth Hughes Pearson Watmore Hardman Cross while Janney & Lees climbed Lion (HVS) on Carreg Wastad & Cartledge & Shanks ascended the Wrinkle (S), a climb near by.

Sunday 24th April.

Navigation & familiarisation for Cross with McMichael & Pibworth instructing. From Ogwen up Y Garn & over the two Glyders back to base. Remainder went to Cwm Silin Great Slab. Cartledge Hardman, Janney Pearson climbed the Outside Edge & Bray Watmore, Lees Shanks did the ordinary Route. Cartledge then climbed down the Ordinary. Strong gusts of wind, overcast low cloud yet no rain - a strange day. Inspected quarries in

Nantlle later but the only one with prospects of rockclimbing training grounds is still being worked.

Returned to RAF Valley in the evening.

Remarks NCO i/c MRT A useful weekends training carried out.

30/5 NCO i/c MRT

Remarks Officer i/c MRT

F/O

Remarks O.C.F.W.

Remarks Station Commander.

15

36 hr exercise

ERYRI

Saturday 30th April 1960

(P.T.O. for 27th April Weds)

1330 F.S. Lees + 14 Team travelled from RAF Valley to Bwlch y Ddeufaen on the Carneddau (107/720715) in RL 59AE05, Sigs truck, Ambulance, 2 landrovers & trailer. Rather an inaccessible campsite but a great spot. situated at the end of the 14 Peaks traverse. The aim this weekend being to get those of the Team who missed their opportunity at Easter over the 14 Peaks, starting on Snowdon & finishing on the Carneddau.

Sunday 1st May

0330 Landrovers ferrying parties to Llyn Llydaw.

		Pearson Shanks	Brown Kinnes (Broome)	Hardman Simpson (Hill)	Sgt Mac Janney Cpl Wilkinson B/E ?
Llyn Llydaw	1430'				
Snowdon	3560'	0510	0535	0550?	0600
Crib y Ddisgl	3493'	0520			0616
Crib Goch	3023'	0546			0707
Nant Peris	360'	0625-0645 0710	0810-0815	0835-55	0810-40
Elidir Fawr	3029'	0830			1035
Y Garn	3104'	0922			1135
Top of Devils Kitchen	2300'	0940	1140	1220-30	
Glyder Fawr	3279'	1005	Exit Broome		1200
Glyder Fach	3262'	1035			1225
Tryfan	3010'	1120	1320	1455	1420
Glan Dena	1000'	1210-1310		joined by Hill who had been on base camp	1500-1600
Pen yr Oleu Wen	3210'	1425			1715
Carnedd Dafydd	3426'	1448			1740
Carnedd Llewelyn	3486'	1525			1920
Yr Elen	3151'	1544			1855
Foel Grach	3195'	1630			1950
Foel Fras	3091'	1700	1830	2200	2010
Bwlch y Ddeufaen	1350'			0300	
Time Snowdon - Foel Fras		11h.50m	12h. 55m	16h. 10?	14h. 10m

Hardman made the awful mistake of putting his compass in his pocket when he

2230 reached the top of Drum, because he "knew the way even in cloud." His party then walked about four miles parallel to the road before joining the track

16

0300 from Bwlch y Gaer to Llanbedr & walking back another 3 miles to the campsite where one or 2 weary men still kept watch & periodically burnt the food a bit more!

1930 Cpl Pibworth took first party back to Valley in Ambulance.

LR (73) & trailer were taken back to Valley in due course, but for the last party who consisted of 2 pers. Staff & one SSQ driver. with Cpl Wilkinson (attached p.staff u/t Team Leader) i/c base who were brought back on Monday morning after some sleep. Messages passed to S.M.O. & Fg Off Andrews that they would be late.

Remarks NCO i/c MRT. A very good show hardly marred by one easy mistake when very tired. Bouquet to Cpl Wilkinson who completed the course wearing plimsolls & boots alternatively. AC Simpson the W/OP since posted who had collected the biggest blister the M.O. had ever seen & Boy Entrant McLean staying the course on his first exercise with the Team though he has had a fair amount of experience & recently collected a Gold Award for the Duke of Edinbrough's Award Scheme from Buckingham Palace. A very promising new comer indeed.

1/6/60

NCO i/c MRT

P.S. Simpson & Cpl Wilkinson had 2 days in SSQ on return.

Remarks Officer i/c MRT.

Agreed. What a week end to go out with the Team for the first time!

F/O

Remarks O.C.F.W.

Remarks Station Commander.

17

10 hr exercise

GLYDERS & CARNEDDAU

Wednesday 27th April 1960

(30th April - 1 May entered previously in error)

1330 FS Lees + 18 Team travelled in RL 59AE05, the two landrovers & trailer to Ogwen,
1445 where camp was set up at 107/650604.

A fine afternoon - Walter navigated Sgt Mac & Cpl Pibworth round the Idwal skyline - Y Garn, Glyders, Tryfan while Brown & Broome went up Pen yr Oleu Wen onto Carnedd Dafydd & down to Tyn y Maes.

Others climbed on Glyder Fach.

Cartledge Bray The Direct (S) Gamma

Hardman Wilson Beta. Spiral Variant on Slab climb.

Janney Varly Hawks Nest Arête & ↓ Hawks Nest Buttress.

Idwal Slabs.

Kinnes Shanks ↑ Tennis Shoe ↓ Charity

Lees Jones Rowan Tree Slab. Jones continuation

Original Route, outside variation ↓ Javelin Gully ↓ faith via bad Step & last 2 pitches of hope.

2230 Returned to RAF Valley after a meal.

Remarks NCO i/c MRT.

We are able to make good use of a Wednesday afternoon when it extends until darkness
1/6/60 NCO i/c MRT

Remarks Officer i/c MRT.

F/O

Remarks Station Commander.

18

10 hr exercise **CARNEDDAU & GLYDERS**

Wednesday 4th May 1960

- 1330 F.S. Lees & 14 Team went to Ogwen (for a change) & set up camp at the usual spot (107/650604).
Vehicles used were RL 59AE05, Sigs truck, LR 65AA44 & trailer.
1500 Sgt McMichael Hardman Jones & Cross were set down at Tal y Braich & went over Pen Llithrig y Wrach (The slippery hill of the witch!) & pen yr Helgi du. down to Glan Llugwy & back to base.
Cartledge took McClean & Haiselden up the Nameless Cwm & over Glyder Fach & Tryfan.
Janney Gordon: Newby Kinnes climbed on Braich ty du Routes 1 & 2 on B Buttress. So to did Lees & Wilkinson, doing Diesel which seems VS & not V.Diff as graded in guide book. Janney & Gordon finished off the evening by doing the Right Wall route on F Buttress,
2200 Returned to Valley

Remarks NCO i/c MRT. Some cloud on the tops & rain made navigation training more interesting than it has been on the perfectly fine days, though familiarisation is better done when one can see.

1/6/60 NCO i/c MRT

Remarks Officer i/c MRT.

F/O

Remarks Station Commander.

19

48 hr exercise **MOELWYNNS**

Saturday 7th May 1960

- 1330 FS Lees + 14 Team travelled in 58AE94, Sigs truck 2 landrovers & trailer to Nantmor campsite 107/620467
The rocky outcrops above the camp were explored once more & several very good short practice climbs were found.

Sunday 8th May

(This campsite we were assured was Forestry Commission land. Yesterday a man living at Cae Dafydd, ex Y.H. claimed ownership & said he intended fencing it to stop campers, so prospect of using this excellent valley again seem poor).

Sgt McMichael Pibworth Watmore R/T - Cwm Ystradlllyn - Moel Hebog - Moel Lefn - Og off Ogof Owen Glyndwr - Yr Aran - to base. Cpl Watmore, the wireless fitter, glad to put his set down on return, very appreciative of the need for first class servicing - he wants his mechs from R.S.F. out on a walk such as this carrying one now!

Brown Mackenzie Kinnes R/T. Beddgelert Craig Wen Yr Aran Snowdon - Lliwedd - passed message to climbers on the face - base.

Gordon Hardman Foster R/T Yr Arddu - Cnicht - Moelwyn Mawr - Moel Bach - Tan y Bwlch & transport.

1100 Lees & Bray did one of the longest rockclimbs in the country, the Girdle Traverse of Lliwedd. Good intercommunications so that a message asking for our assistance from Police was passed thro' Valley, Beddgelert Police - Sigs truck - walkie talkie for ledgebound sheep in Nantlle valley. No pressure. Requested Valley be asked whether to carry out rescue Monday or wait for next exercise on Weds. afternoon.

2140 On return to base rec. answer to stay out & rescue sheep Monday morning.

Monday 9th May

0800 Thanks to the good work of the duty cooks we were able to leave the camp site with all equipment loaded & travel to Tal y Mignedd on the way back to Valley.

0845 Temporary base set up at Tal y Mignedd Uchaf (534528)

20

after calling at Beddgelert Police Station & notifying the constable, N.R.C.C. of our move.

Team heavily laden with spools of 500' rope, walkie talkies etc. toiled up into the cwm east of Trum y ddisgl. We have rescued sheep from this 600' face before - it is steep but has many grassy ledges which encourage the animals to jump down further than they can get back (see RSPCA award on M.R. Section door (5 Jan 1958)). Unfortunately no RSPCA man to go to spot, & it transpired that the farmer was only a deputy & that local PC & RSPCA man had started the panic. However as we appeared in sight of the face a ewe & lamb were seen to run along a ledge & disappear behind a buttress - there was an easy way down round the corner which they must have taken.

Cpl Wilkinson & FS Lees were lowered down the crag parallel & 150' apart searching for any other sheep but of course none could be found, as Sgt Mac asserted on the R/t from his position in the cwm. A dead one certainly some days old was found on the scree at the foot.

1230 Returned to the farm where Policeman had arrived - had been up the hill someway (beware of the ????? notices everywhere!) & discussed mountain sheep & their habits - they'll live for weeks on a grassy ledge without discomfort - in fact until all the grass has been eaten. Suggested in future that the farmer or his shepherd would be the man to say when a sheep has been too long on a ledge. (This farmer ill, wife or daughter i/c had little clue)

Back to Valley after a snack in the field by the farm.

Remarks NCO i/c MRT. Excellent training but a pity to waste time - our good name would have suffered if a refusal to help. Area Inspector RSPCA called at M.R.S. subsequently & apologised for new man in Bangor & agreed he must consult specialist first in the future.
1/6/60 NCO i/c MRT

Remarks O i/c MRT. I think this incident has been well sorted out with the R.S.P.C.A. It provided some good training both for the Team and the new RSPCA man,

F/O

Remarks O.C.F.W.

Remarks Station Commander.

21

5 hrs exercise

HOLYHEAD MOUNTAIN

Wednesday 11th May 1960

1330 FS Lees + 13 Team drove in the opposite direction for a change in RL 58AE94, Ambulance & LR 65AA44 & set up a temporary base by Twr farm on the South Stack road at 106/222822.

Rockclimbing & abseiling practised:-

Mackenzie Brown Chockstone Gully. Crypt Route.

Cartledge McLean Crypt. Chockstone Gully. Central Trident.

Gordon Newby Central Trident. Diagonal Crack on the White Slab.

Wilkinson (Wilson) Lees Chimney & Slab (S)

Pibworth Walters Simpson James Haizeldean abseiling

Rain later

1730 All back to vehicles & to RAF Valley in time for the late meal ordered.

1800

Remarks NCO i/c MRT.

There is some reasonable training potential on the rocks of Holyhead Mountain although it is not a very good material for inexperienced people to lead on & its uses therefore limited to the instructors available.

2/6/60

NCO i/c MRT

Remarks Officer i/c MRT.

F/O

Remarks Station Commander.

22

90 hr exercise

LAKE DISTRICT

Friday 13th May 1960

1430 F.S. Lees + 20 left Valley in RL 58AE94, Sigs truck & trailer & LR 65AAWW with inter vehicle R/T communications. Despite the date & time it was decided to take the large vehicles through the Mersey Tunnel & Liverpool rather than go round by Warrington; the LR sent Warrington way to prove a point! Heavy traffic in tunnel

1855 Arrived rendyvous just north of Preston bye-pass end with RL & Sigs truck. LR arrived 10 minutes later.

2215 Arrived Keswick & booked with Police Stn. Camp set up just north of the town, at Millbeck. 82/252258.

St Athan & Leeming MR Teams combining in our area of responsibility, camping at Caer Llugwy II (744568)

Ins	LAKES MAY 72 1960
	Valley 1432 9999999
	Bangor 1510
	Mersey Tunnel 1740
	Barton white Horse 1850 - 2000
	Ambleside 2115 - 45
	Keswick 2210
VM	Mill beck about 195 m from Valley 5hrs 58 mins approx

Saturday 14th May

A perfect morning - up early but as we slept out under the odd groundsheet some time was spent setting up camp.

Familiarisation emphasis:-

(a) Cartledge Shanks. Wilkinson Kinnes - over Grey Knots & Brandeth to Great Gable. Up Napes Needle & Needle Ridge to top Gable, down to Seathwaite via Gillercombe.

(b) Foster N Cross Wilson Pearson R/T.

Dale Head - Robinson - Whiteless Pike - Grasmoor - Grisdale Pike - Sleet How - Millbeck.

RL then driven to Carlisle to refill jerricans for all vehicles.

Remainder to Langdale in LR.

Pibworth McMichael Hardman R/T - Langdale - Esk Hause - Great Gable - Green Gable - Seathwaite - RL due there at 1800.

Newby Gordon - Janney Lees - Raven Crag Revelation (both parties had heavy rain while negotiating the crux!) Centipede - Gimmer Crag - Oliverson's & SE Gully.

Improving weather encouraged all to do as much as possible so that 'dinner' was from 10 to 11 pm!

(Ambulance driven up by Brown who had been admitted SSQ suddenly yesterday lunch time with upset stomach)

23

Sunday 15th May 1960

1030 A fine morning. All to Seathwaite in the RL.

Pibworth McMichael Simpson R/T acting as contact with climbers on Scafell - Scafell Pikes: failed Broad Stand. Sunbathed on Mickledore & watched others on Keswick Brothers climb opposite. Back over the summit of England's highest mountain & down by Grains Ghyll.

Remainder via "Corridor" track to Scafell to climb.

Janney Pearson Keswick Brothers ↓ Broad Stand

Lees Hardman ----- " --- ---" ---

Gordon Mackenzie High Man by Steep Ghyll & Slingsby's Chimney

Wilkinson Cross ----- " ----- ---" ----- " -----

Cartledge Wilson Moss Ghyll

Newby Kinnes --- " -----

All these climbs were made much more difficult than usual by yesterdays rain as there is much lichen on this sunless face - everything thus extremely greasy.

Ron James ~~A instructor of one of~~ The Chief instructor of our Sub Unit at Ogwen Cottage Mountain Centre was climbing on the next climb to Keswick Brothers & since his second could not follow Botterills Slab (VS) in these conditions he waited so that some of our leaders could have a look at it - thus Lees Cartledge & Janney eventually ascended this very fine climb. James by now very cold (2½ hrs on a small ledge waiting for us finishing Keswick Bros.) Gordon & Wilson also did another climb Grooved Arête Pikes Crag.

All returned over Scafell Pikes & down Grains Ghyll at high speed to restore temperature!

2150 Seathwaite - a strenuous day - Scafell is not exactly accessible, but one of the great climbing grounds of the Lake District & well worth the walk.

Monday 16th May

Traverse of Helvellyn via Striding Edge & Great Dod - Pearson Cross R/T Foster nav - from Patterdale 383157

Landrover to Langdale - McMichael & Picken RT from Old Dungeon Ghyll - Langdale Pikes (Pavey Ark, Harrison's Stickle, Pike o' Stickle) Gimmer Crag - meet climbers later - thence High Raise to Stonethwaite. RV with RL at Rosthwaite.

Cartledge Kinnes Middlefell Buttress, Ash Tree Slabs &

24 Oliverson's on Gimmer then walked back to Stonethwaite &
 2130 Rosthwaite.

1000 Others in RL to Stonethwaite: leave between 257143 & end of track to SW to be collected later.
 Walk to Gimmer for following climbs then descend to LR to Old Dungeon Ghyll

1800 Newby Brown ↓ Oliverson's ↑ Main Wall
 Wilkinson Hardman ----- " ---- ↑ Gimmer Chimney
 Janney Mackenzie ↓ SE Gully ↑ Main Wall
 Gordon Wilson ↓ SE Gully ↑ Gimmer Chimney
 Janney & Lees (latter ascending Middlefell Buttress [direct!] from landrover) - the Crack VS - a very fine climb

1900 To ODG
 Back to Millbeck for a meal, packed leisurely too allow as much traffic as possible to leave road to the north!

2300 Left for the south - (RL 94 suffering steering shudder)

0445 Arrived M.R. Section RAF Valley Tuesday 17th May.

Remarks NCO i/c MRT.

A good boost to morale, particularly for the more Senior members. Most have fair idea of the geography of the Central mass of the Lake District now. The majority were able to sleep on mattresses spread across the kit in the back of the RL & have a fair amount of rest on the return journey.

Apparently we had better weather than did St Athan & Leeming in N. Wales

2/6/60

NCO i/c MRT

Remarks Officer i/c MRT.

These trips into the Lake District, Derbyshire and South Wales do provide a break for men who have been walking over the same area for as many as five years. This is particularly worthwhile as it is N.R.C.C. policy to move a second team to an emergency involving a plane search. In the past we have been joined by both St Athan and Harper Hill MRTs.

E/Q

Remarks O.C.F.W.

Remarks Station Commander.

CWM DYLI

36 hr exercise

Saturday 21st May 1960

FS Lees + 17 exercised from the Cwm Dyli base camp 107/656538. Vehicles used were RL 59AE05, Landrover 73 & trailer.

Wilkinson Gordon did Forest Wall on the outside varn to Lockwood's Chimney on Clogwyn y Bustach & descended some of Lockwood's Chimney in afternoon. Janney & Lees went earlier & climbed on Clogwyn du'r Arddu - Pedestal & Pinnacle Flaked with Whillans continuation. (The latter is rather XS than HVS.)

Sunday 22nd May

Rockclimbing training: Gordon Kinnes Dinas Cromlech Spiral Stairs, Better Things, Horseman's Route (HS)

Cartledge Picken Lockwood's Chimney. Forest Wall.

Wilkinson Watmore ----- " -----

McMichael Cross Lliwedd & Gallt yr Wenallt

Lees An?????? Central Route Llech du

Yet another dry weekend

Returned to Valley in the evening.

Remarks NCO i/c MRT.

The new W/OP shown his first rockclimb - a change from the warm safety of a signals truck! Just so that he appreciates both sides of the question.

2/6/60

NCO i/c MRT

Remarks Officer i/c MRT.

Rock climbing at a very high standard

F/O

Remarks O.C.F.W.Remarks Station Commander.

10 hr exercise

CARNEDDAU & GLYDERSWednesday 25th May 1960

1330 F.S. Lees + 14 Team drove to Ogwen in RL 59AE05, Sigs truck, 2 LRs & trailer. Camp as usual 107/650604. Weather not as usual - rain.

Pibworth Watmore Cross traversed Tryfan.

Gordon Wilson ↑ Charity & retreated from Lazarus due to amount of rain coming down the rock.

Kinnes Newby Sub Cneifion Rib

Cartledge Bray ----- " -----

Lees Wilkinson went again to Braich ty du where last Weds they did a new climb (Cuckoo Groove (VS)) & saw other possibilities. Two more climbs made on this flank of B Buttress - Ring Ousel (HVD) & Stonechat (S) - Wilkinson leading both. NCO i/c resting on rear of rope with cracked finger - hence the awful writing!

Returned to Ogwen for customary Wednesday tea/supper & returned to Valley later

2230

Remarks NCO i/c MRT. These new climbs are a good training area & not polished by thousands of nailed boots as are many of the popular climbs around Ogwen.

2/6/60

NCO i/c MRT

Remarks Officer i/c MRT.

When the MO advised you to rest your cracked finger do you think he had in mind a 'Hard very difficult' and 'Severe' rock climbs - but the back of the rope of course?

F/O

Remarks O.C.F.W.

Remarks Station Commander.

27A

- 1100 3. SHANKS (N) GORDON. Dropped off at Pont Cwm Pyden 009315 - 047315 (Spot 2317') - 066318 (Moel Sych) - 072327 (Cader Berwyn 2712') - 076341 - 077346 (Cader Bronwen 2672') - 078353 (Spot 2020') - 117350 (Pen - yr - Eryr 1935') - Base.
To give PERKEN radio experience of the area test calls were made half hourly on the quarter from radio set "Charlie" carried in the landrover but even a call from BWLCH LLANDRILLO (091366) - a distance of about 2 miles from here failed to make contact. Between radio calls a search for suitable camp sites for possible use by the team when operating in the area and route, and a particularly attractive one discovered at GAWST MAWR (117/031356). A talk with Constable OWEN at Llandrillo led to the inspection of a possible site at the farm of MOEL - IS - Y -GOEDWIG (117/ 0??375). The owners of both farms were interviewed and readily gave their permission for the sites to be used by the team. Although permission wasn't sought a site with possibilities was observed at NANT GWYN (117/075376).
1600 First party picked up at LLANDRILLO (where they had been entertained to tea at the Police Station) A road navigation exercise by this party eventually returned the L/R to base.
1700
1800 After meal prepared and cooked by BROWN camp struck, vehicles prepared, kit and equipment stowed for return journey.
1915 Shortly after departing base camp the fuel trailer shed an already broken spring near the village of Llanammon D. C. resulting in a short delay while fuel cans were transferred to R/L and a temporary repair affected to the broken spring.
2230 No further trouble with trailer. Team arrived M.R.S. Valley, booked with Pitreavie and A.T.C. Vehicles refuelled.

Remarks NCO i/c:- A useful weekend in perfect weather. The acquisition of new camp sites in this area may be of use to the team.

Sgt.

Remarks Officer i/c M.R.T.

27

36 hr exercise

BERWYNS

Saturday 28th May 1960

- 1400 Sgt McMichael + 9 members leave MRS Valley with vehicles R/L 59AE05, Signals truck, and one LR - 65AA44 with intention of siting base camp at TY'N LLWYN (117/156418). Owing to lack of information in the team's Camp Site Book, and the fact that no one could be found who had previously been to the site a preliminary recce in the Landrover of the area was carried out, (the heavy vehicles left on A5 at

- Berwyn Arms Hotel). The site at Ty'n Llwyn inspected and considered to be of "emergency only" standard (water from well or spring fouled and used by cattle). A search for alternative site in the area of NANT y PANDY made with disappointing results. The old faithful Berwyn camp site at PANTIAU (117/125856) again ????
 1800 the day and team and vehicles move there via Llangollen, and Chirk. Police at Llangollen informed of location of team, and N.R.C.C. Pitreavie informed from police station at GLYNCAERIOG.
 1930 The camp site at Pantiau found to be unoccupied despite the approach being partially blocked by Army trucks (site is ????? being ruined by indiscriminate digging of refuse pits - sites for fires etc. - possibly by the Army)
 2000 Camp set up and a late meal prepared. The majority of the small number on exercise never having been in the area before the intended night exercise is abandoned in favour of an area familiarization exercise on Sunday.

Sunday 27th May 1960

- 0700 Reluctant risers persuaded with help of "gunfire". Much grumbling and swearing of annoyance or a certain cuckoo.
 0730 Breakfast and preparations for days exercise.
 0915 The first walking party leave directly from base camp.
 1. WATMORE (N) HILL
 117350 (Pen - y - Erur 1435') - 098353 (Spot 2023') - 077346 (Cader Bronwen 2572') - 062341 (Spot 2100') - 056361 (Spot 1850') - pick up point at 035371 (LLANDRILLO)
 0930 Second and third parties in LR 65AA44 navigate by road to their respective dropping off points
 1015 2. WILSON (N), KINNES (Dropped off at junction A5 & B4402)
 089410 (Liberty Hall) - 117398 (MOEL FFERNA 2071') - 113386 (Spot 1941') - 102375 (Spot 1942') - 091369 (Spot 2000') - 040366 (Spot 2050') - 077346 (Cader Bronwen 2572') - 098351 (Spot 2023') - 117350 (pen yr Eryr) - Base.

Continued on P 27A opposite

28

10 hr exercise

CWM IDWAL

Wednesday 1st June 1960

- 1345 F.S. Lees + 11 went to the temporary campsite in Ogwen Cottage car park
 1555 107/650604 in RL 59AE05 65AA44 & 35AA73.
 A warm afternoon.
 Cartledge McLean Sub Cneifion Rib Flake Crack ↓ Slab Climb
 Kinnes Jones ----- " ----- ----- " -----
 Brown Cross Pen yr Oleu Wen - Glandena & base.
 Pibworth Watmore Church & Diamond Crack etc & base
 Wilkinson Hardman second ascent Ring Ousel & another new climb on the opposite wall, lower down - Oak Tree Buttress - Shelf Edge (S) 90'.
 Lees climbed with an old friend (Dan Stewart) ex O i/c Kinloss MRT visiting for day - Heather Wall, Javelin Wall, Groove Above, Lava Slab - Grey Slab ↓ Stepped Slab (??) ↓
 2100 Idwal Buttress.
 Very clear atmosphere; sun hot on Grey Slab at half past seven, most gratifying.
 Returned to Valley (LR via P.Y.G. looking for Wilkinson & Newby who had accepted offer of a rope on Cenotaph Corner at 2000 hrs from James of Ogwen Cottage. James & Wilkinson achieved the ascent of this notorious climb before it became dark).

Remarks NCO i/c MRT. More rockclimbing experience - this Team is providing several instructors for the annual rock climbing training course which is being held in the Lake District this year (8 - 24 June) - Newby, Janney, Wilkinson & myself.

2/6/60

NCO i/c MRT

Remarks Officer i/c MRT.

F/O

Remarks O.C.F.W.

Remarks Station Commander.

29

4 day exercise **SNOWDON GLYDERS & MOELWYNNS**

WHIT DUTY TEAM

Friday 3rd June 1960

1830 FS Lees + 15 travelled to Cwm Abrach (107/751582) in RL 59 AE05, LRs 35AA73 & 65AA44 via back roads from Llanrwst - Cyffty & through forests - finding a new forestry "road" done to one ~~road~~ track, with a new fork, which baffled each driver in turn!

Saturday 4th June

fine, hot

Rockclimbing on Glyder Fach:

Cartledge Pibworth Gamma. Spiral Variant. ↓ Chasm

Wilkinson Cross Beta ----- 2 -----

Pibworth Cross Bristly Ridge - Idwal Slabs - stretcher carry

Kinnes Watmore Beta Spiral Variant ↓ Chasm ↑ Main Gully Ridge

Newby McLean Delta Chasm ↓ Main Gully Ridge

Gordon Shanks Gamma --"-- Oblique Buttress ↓ M.G.R.

Cartledge Needles Eye Bristly

Pearson Brown Delta Spiral Variant

~~Wilkinson Cross~~ ~~Spiral Variant~~

1639 approx Calls for help heard by Lees whilst on Continuation Wall & his party joined several civilians at foot of Upper Cliff of Glyder Fawr where had fallen off Grey Rib, first pitch. He was with a party of medical students so that some first aid had been done on the man's broken . A rope stretcher was made under direction of the professional & with help of one or 2 Ogwen Cottage climbers (Sub Unit) the carry down was commenced, joined by other members of RAF Valley Team & other climbers & walkers in vicinity &

1800? transferred to civ. Thomas stretcher → Ogwen.

The injured man was most apologetic & admitted that he was merely careless stepping onto a sloping footholds.

30

Sunday 5th June 1960

Whitsun

(fine & sunny)

To avoid the crowds in the popular areas the Team went to the Moelwyns for
1000 rockclimbing, while a navigation party drove on to the Manods & northern Arenigs - again also free of all humans!

Cartledge Newby Pinky. Orang Outan

Watmore Wilkinson Taith y Pererin ↑ & ↓ Bent

Pearson Gordon Kirkus' ↓ Slick

Lees Lees Y Gelynien ↓ Taith Pererin ↑ Bent

Pibworth drove McMichael Cross McLean to Bwlch y Slates for them to climb Manod Mawr & walk across the featureless Mignant to Arenig Fach. He drove to Tai Hirion, left the LR there & went up Arening Fach expecting to meet them. A gigantic thunderstorm had been brewing all day & it broke later in the afternoon with torrential rain & frequent lightning which seemed to strike the hills all round. Accordingly all met on the road & returned in LR for the just as wet climbers at Tan y Grisiau.

1900? Driving through Betws y Coed on the way back to the campsite looking forward to much tea & food when stopped by a climbing friend with a van: looking for us; obviously "hiding" on Moelwyns! Help required in rescuing a climber who had fallen off Red Wall or Longlands Continuation on Lliwedd. Since this was almost halfway up a 1000' cliff on Snowdon we realised that the civilian rescue facilities would certainly need our assistance if the man was to be evacuated before dark (RAF V. MRT have specialised in 500 foot ropes & long stretcher lowers recently & are well ahead of the civilian field in this respect, since we can operate as a team & practise whereas there are no actual teams established locally, merely haphazard associations of any climbers available at a given time)

It was learnt that our Sub Unit, the recently formed Mountain Centre at Ogwen Cottage was already in action, & we were met by several parties of people coming down from the cliff who said that their offer of help had been refused, & therefore we were wasting our time. This is one of the difficulties of civilian rescue - unless the volunteers, in an instance of this sort, are first class rockclimbers & mountaineers, they are liable to be a hindrance on a big face - & Lliwedd has much loose rock too (The first class people all know each other!)

So we flogged up to the summit & descended Terminal Arête roped in pairs (since many carrying the bulky 500' rope spools on

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Everest carriers - weight about 30 lbs) & were able to communicate with the five Ogwen climbers (one recently a member of this MRT - Driver, ex W/OP p. Staff, so certainly well trained!) who were just getting the man, in a Thomas stretcher onto the Great Traverse at the foot of Red Wall. They were just deciding that they would be short of rope so our arrival was most opportune.

A slightly diagonal descent was taken with the stretcher - patient, one Douglas Peel. broken leg quite happy but for discomfort of the double Thomas splint with 'saddle', & interested in the technical problem - refused morphia as not in pain. A guide on either side of the stretcher was most useful due to the need for a slight diagonal, (Ron James & NCO i/c MRT) to finish at foot of Shallow Gully where many volunteers including the ubiquitous Llanberis Police Sgt & Constable were waiting.

It was just starting to get duskish but the stretcher was at the track at the foot of Llyn Llydaw before dark. Good timing, but none to spare.

2300 approx Team returned to base camp for a belated dinner. All had performed very well indeed & had certainly earned their meal!

Monday 6th June 1960

(fine again)

Yesterday evening a sheep had been noticed stranded on a ledge halfway down Lliwedd, just above the steep part of Central Gully. Since on an actual rescue the senior members always get the most responsible tasks while the less experienced merely pay out rope from spools etc., and since we are often asked to recover sheep, & the owner of this sheep would probably be a farmer whose field in Nantgwynant we use periodically as a campsite, it was decided to go back to Lliwedd &. at our leisure more or less, do a repeat performance on last night with variations, & u/t leading actors.

1000 It was quite hot going up the top of Lliwedd. As soon as the three had been lowered on parallel courses down the loose rib just east of the top of Central Gully, it was discovered

that there were two sheep on the same ledge! Both were cornered together, & grasped safely, then 2 men went up with one sheep while the other two stayed on the ledge, clutching each other affectionately in an attempt to keep out of the line of fire of the odd stones knocked down - by sheep, of course! It is most gratifying to be wearing one of the crash hats on such an occasion!

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Two other team members were then lowered to retrieve the second sheep - there was less than 50' rope left on the drum - while the first two "rested" by paying out rope or doing other jobs on the belay ledges.

1700

The sheep were carried to the Landrover at Llydaw & taken to the farm, Hafod y Llan. This is necessary because (a) often sheep get indigestion or even die of eating too much too suddenly after being stuck a few days and (b) they are frightened & "maladjusted" on reaching the stop of a crag & will often go straight back the ledge they're just left, according to the owner!

Returned to base for a good scrub - we all carried them on they way down (across the shoulders) & the sheep were obviously frightened!

Tuesday 7th June 1960

(weather deteriorating throughout the day with rain in afternoon & evening)

Navigation parties sent out in the two Landrovers
Shanks Watmore (N) Pearson

Tan y Bwlch - Moelwyn Bach - Moelwyn Mawr - Pen y Gwryd (where they were collected by transport)

Cross N McMichael Kinnes

top of Crimea Pass - Allt Fawr - Moel Druman - Moel Siabod - base.

Lees Newby Cartledge Gordon walked via forestry tracks to Clogwyn Caerau where they made a new climb, a girdle traverse of the main buttress, 230 ft very severe - an excellent climb - named Panorama. (Newby & Gordon climbed as a separate pair) The last pitch was completed in a heavy shower & the second pair had to finish by Long Climb to avoid being washed off the crag.

Team returned to RAF Valley later in the evening.

Remarks NCO i/c MRT.

A varied long weekend with much excellent training. It was a boost to our morale to be responsible for getting the injured man off the cliff in daylight, though of course half the credit goes to Ogwen Cottage; here our advanced training saved the man being out all night, on a long job: so often the operations carried out by the Team are for people past help or who have been evacuated just as well without our assistance. The Team can certainly be proud of its performance on Whitsunday.

NCO i/c MRT

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Remarks Officer i/c MRT.

34

CARNEDDAU

36 hr exercise

Bethesda Hut

11/12-6-60

13.30 CPL PIBWORTH AND TWELVE TEAM MEMBERS LEFT VALLEY FOR BETHESDA. BEDFORD 58 AE 94 AND LAND ROVER 35 AA 73. 107/625665.

TWO PARTIES ON CARNEDDAU ON THE SUNDAY CONFIRMING GALE FORCE WINDS AND LOW CLOUD - NAVIGATION FOR ALL MEMBERS. THESE PARTIES PICKED UP AT CAPEL CURIG IN THE EVENING. *

CARTLEDGE AND GORDON DRIVEN TO LLANBERIS PASS FOR ROCK CLIMBING.

F/O ANDREWS AND ONE IN AMBULANCE (08 AA 20) TO LLYN LLYDAW FOR RECCE PURPOSES.

NOT AN AMBITIOUS WEEKEND BY ANY MEANS, BUT INTERESTING NEVER THE LESS. MORE FOUL WEATHER AND MINUS VISIBILITY WOULD SHARPEN NAVIGATION TO THE NECESSARY PITCH FOR "SPOT ON" OPERATION IN ALL WEATHERS.

HUT AND CONTENTS MAKE A PLEASANT CHANGE FROM WIND BLOWN TENT.

21.00 12-6-60 TEAM RETURNED TO VALLEY.

REMARKS N.C.O. i/c M.R.T:- *Courses:- Wilson Picken Pearson Shanks Pen Llithrig y Wrach - Pen yr Helgi du - Carnedd Llewelyn - base Kinnes Foster McLean did the reciprocal. Cartledge & Gordon Dinas Cromlech ↑ Pharaohs Passage ↓ Flying Buttress,
NCO i/c MRT

REMARKS OFFICER i/c M.R.T:-

REMARKS O.C. FLYING WIND:-

REMARKS STATION COMMANDER:-

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TERYN BLUFFS

TEN HOUR EXERCISE CWM DYLI 13.50/15-6-60

F/O ANDREWS AND EIGHTEEN TEAM MEMBERS TO [EN-Y-PASS IN BED 59 AE 05, AUSTIN 75 AV 07, L/ROVER 08 AA 20, AND L/ROVER 35 AA 73 WHERE BASE WAS SET UP ON EXTREMELY WET CAR PARK. BOTH L/ROVERS THEN FOLLOWED THE TRACK TO LLYDAW WITH TEAM MEMBERS FOR DEMONSTRATION OF TEAMS ACTIVITIES FOR WING. CO. FLYING.

ROCK CLIMBING, ABSEILING, AND LOWERING BY THOMAS STRETCHER AND BRAYDREW RESCUE HARNESS WERE DULY CARRIED OUT IN DRY, DULL, BLUSTERY CONDITIONS ON THE TERYN BLUFFS.

TWO "PROBATIONARY" MEMBERS UNDER GUIDANCE OF CPL WATMORE HAD BEEN DROPPED ON THE OUTWARD JOURNEY FROM VALLEY AND WERE BEING INTRODUCED TO THE CARRYING OF W/TALKY SETS AND NAVIGATING IN CLOUD OVER THE GLYDERS (FIVE MILES).

THIS AFTERNOONS DEMONSTRATION WAS TOLERABLE, BUT MARRED BY A CERTAIN SLOWNESS. POSSIBLY THE AWKWARD AND WET V.S. GRASS SLOPES ON TOP OF CRAIG ADERYN ACCOUNTED FOR THIS.

THE AFTERNOON WAS ALSO MARRED BY AN ACCIDENT WHICH INVOLVED CPL/TECH BRAY (IRONICALLY THIS WAS HIS LAST EXERCISE IN THE TEAM BEFORE DEMOB.) ONE OF THE REAR DOORS OF THE AMBULANCE CLOSED IN A GUST OF WIND AND HIT BRAY ON THE FOREHEAD NECESSITATING HIM VISITING BANGOR C.A. FOR X-RAYS AND STITCHES (ALL THIS AFTER SEVERAL YEARS OF STERLING SERVICE!).

CPL WATMORE'S PARTY ARRIVED BEFORE DARK WITH A U/S W/T SET - BOTH NEW TYPES CERTAIN OF THE JOYS OF HUMPING U/S EQUIPMENT ACROSS HILLS.
TEAM LEFT PEN-Y-PASS 20.45 HRS FOR VALLEY.

REMARKS N.C.O. i/c M.R.T.:-

One can say with conviction that his Mountain Rescue service has left its mark on 'Vic' Bray! A more effective door-holding-open device has since been fitted from a u/s fire vehicle.

NCO i/c MRT

REMARKS OFFICER i/c M.R.T.:-

REMARKS O.C. FLYING WING:-

REMARKS STATION COMMANDER:-

36

MOELWYNS

THIRTY-SIX HOUR EXERCISE GLYN BARN 18/19-6-60

13.30. CPL. PIBWORTH AND TWELVE TEAM MEMBERS TO CAPEL CURIG IN BED. 59 AE 05 AND L/ROVER 35 AA 73.

SUNDAY WAS SPENT ROCK CLIMBING, IN SUPERB WEATHER, IN THE MOELWYNS.

CARTLEDGE / BARKER

KINNES / TOMLINSON

↑ CHICK ↓ SLICK ↑ BENT

GORDON / McLEAN

↓ Chic ↑ Slick

PEARSON / WATMORE

BROWN / CROSS ↑ Taith y Pererin up to upper rocks of Moel yr Hydd

BASE: PIBWORTH.

PROBATIONARY MEMBERS TOMLINSON AND BARKER ATTACHED TO VALLEY FOR ONE FORTNIGHT FOR M.R. TRAINING. BOTH OF THESE HAVE CLIMBED BEFORE IN THE U.K. AND APPEAR TO BE REASONABLY COMPETENT ON ROCK.

21.30 HRS. 19-6-60 BASE BROKEN AND TEAM RETURNED TO VALLEY.

REMARKS N.C.O. i/c M.R.T.:-

Subsequently Barker said he did not want to become a full team members as he was engaged to be married & would not give up all his weekends. Tomlinson was satisfactory & was posted b here afterwards - a gain for ASF?

NCO i/c MRT

REMARKS OFFICER i/c M.R.T.:-

REMARKS O.C. FLYING WING:-

REMARKS STATION COMMANDER:-

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ERYRI

72 HOUR EXERCISE CYFFTY 23/27-6-60

13.30 CPL PIBWORTH AND EIGHT TEAM MEMBERS TO CAMP SITE AT CYFFTY WITH BED. 59 AE 05 AND L/ROVER 35 AA 73.

CONTINUOUS SUPERB WEATHER.

24-6-60.

NAVIGATION / FAMILIARISATION. CARNEDDAU IN STIFLING HEAT.

GORDON - BARKER - McLEAN. BWLCH SYCHANT TO BASE VIA PEN-LLITHRIG-Y-WRACH.
WILSON - TOMLINSON - PIBWORTH. BONT NEWYDD TO BASE VIA MOEL EILIO.
BASE: BROWN - PICKEN

25-6-60.

ROCK CLIMBING. GLYDER FACH.

GORDON - TOMLINSON. ↑ Gamma. ↑ Chasm. ↓ Main Gully Ridge
BROWN - WILSON -MCLEAN. ↑ Beta
SHANKS - BARKER. ↑ Gamma
BASE: PICKEN - PIBWORTH.

26-6-60

DUE TO A MISTAKE EARLY IN WEEK OVER TELEPHONE CONCERNING A ROYAL FLIGHT STANDBY - THIS RESULTED IN AN "OFF-DAY" - BUT A RECCCE OF THE FORESTRY ROADS ABOVE BETTWS WAS MADE AND POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE CAMP SITES FOUND.

27-6-60.

PEN-Y-PASS FOR CIRCUIT OF SNOWDON HORSESHOE RIDGE.

GORDON - MCLEAN - TOMLINSON: ANTI-CLOCK

WILSON - PICKEN - BARKER: CLOCK-WISE.

BROWN - PIBWORTH: ANTI-CLOCK INCLUDING GALT-Y-WENALLT

A VERY PLEASANT AND EXHAUSTING WEEKEND - DUE TO THE REALLY HOT, ALMOST WINDLESS WEATHER CONDITIONS. FOLLOWING IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE A.O.C.'S INSPECTION THE TEAM WAS NOT A PARTICULARLY BIG ONE AND THE "HOLIDAY" MOOD WAS PRESENT, BUT MUCH FOOT-SLOGGING AND ENOUGH ROCK WORK WAS INDULGED IN CONSIDERING THE WEATHER. VEHICLES GIVING NO TROUBLE. RATIONS AND EQUIPMENT SATISFACTORY. CAMP SITE CLEAN AND TIDY. WATER SUPPLY GOOD, BUT NO FISHING IN THE LAKE PLEASE - AT REQUEST OF FORESTRY WARDEN.

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REMARKS N C Q j/c M R T :-

We don't often have weather too good for mountaineering.

NCO i/c MRT

REMARKS OFFICER j/c M R T :-

REMARKS O.C. FLYING WING--

REMARKS STATION COMMANDER:-

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CARNEDD AU

1330 FS Lees + 8 went in RL 59AE05, Sigs truck & trailer & Landrover 65AA44 to camp at a spot that we could easily leave for movement eastwards if required, as requested by

- N.R.C.C., since Harpar Hill nonoperational (moving to Stafford) & Leeming MRT in the north.
- 1530 After setting up camp 4 were left to prepare a meal for 2000 while remainder went to some accessible Carneddau crags for rockclimbing experience:-
 Cartledge Foster Carreg Mianog Zip Wall & Cracked Arête.
 Janney Gordon Craig Lleor West buttress climb.
 Lees Bray ----- " ----- new route Hhier 110' HVS on the wall left of the gully (E? buttress) Janney followed in place of Bray who exhausted himself on the overhang & removed the running belays.
- 2100 Returned to the Landrover at Glan Llugway - not very popular with Carreg Minaog party who had been waiting about 2 hrs, nor with base camp cooks.

Sunday 3rd July

- 1000 The two drivers went walking, exploring tracks in the Cyffty Geirionydd Crafnant Bychan lakes area while remainder rockclimbed on Clogwyn Caerau, making a new climb ideal for training purposes. Diagonal route (D) (Janney Lees Cartledge) to the right of Conway Corner.
 Also climbed: Panorama Janney Lees Cartledge Foster Gordon
 & Conway Corner ----- " ----- ----- " -----
 and finally Jingling Wall HS by Cartledge & Lees.
- 2200 Returned to RAF Valley in the evening.

Remarks NCO i/c MRT.

Training continues though with fewer members. I think that this is basically due to the small proportion of human beings who like mountaineering! When the small proportion of them are in the RAF there are just not enough to go round 7 mountain rescue teams which need about 25 - 30 each. My previous suggestion to I.M.R about 18 months ago that there should be less teams with more full time & less part-time

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volunteers & a more economical stores & M.T. situation was examined but due to a leakage to the Press at A.M. level caused rather a furore which seemed to stop further consideration of the question. Full time mountain rescue personnel could be recruited into the RAF but mountaineers can not be recruited to work at two different jobs, particularly when there is no question of extra pay.

NCO i/c MRT

Remarks Officer i/c MRT.

10 hr exercise

CARNEDDAU

Wednesday 6th July 1960

- 1330 F.S. Lees + 12 MRT travelled in 2 RLs & LR to Ogwen. On the way parties were dropped with the following courses.
 Hardman N Picken Pearson Bont Newydd - Carnedd Llewelyn - Ogwen
 Hughes Cartledge Foster N. Bont Newydd - Bwlch Ddeufan - Carnedd Llewelyn
 Carnedd Dafydd - Ogwen
 McLean Jones Gordon Bethesda - Carnedd y Filast - Elidir Fawr Foel Goch
 - Y Garn - base.
 Lees Newby Braich ty du new route Temptation V.Diff
 Brown Broome after driving & dropping parties rigged up a flysheet cooking shelter & when the stove was not being blown out cooked. A wet day, low cloud. good for navigation; the u/t navigators all brought their parties back to the right place!

2200 Team returned to RAF Valley in the evening

NCO i/c MRT

Remarks Officer i/c MRT.

41

36 hrs Exercise

ARANS

Saturday 9th July 1960

- 1345 In perfect weather Sgt McMichael and nine members left Valley for week end exercise. Owing to lack of drivers on leave - (the NCO i/c leave also) only two vehicles used Bedford R/L 59AE05 and Landrover 65AA44. While the heavy Bedford took the "Crimea" route to Ffestiniog the Landrover travelled via Druid and Bala to LLANUWCHLLYN by the narrow unclassified road over Bwlch y Groes to the camp site on Dinas Mawddwy common, arriving only a few minutes before the R/L.
- 1725 1730 Visit made to the local police station to inform the constable of the teams location, but it was discovered later (after there was no reply to repeated ringing of the bell) that he was on leave, and as he had no relief all enquiries would have to be made through the police at Dolgelly.
- 1740 On arrival of the R/L at the site the tents were pitched and a meal prepared - the close proximity of the river invited those who wished to do so, to indulge in bathing, fish trapping (unsuccessful) and other aquatic efforts.
- 2225 N.R.C.C. Pitreavie informed by telephone that contact would now have to be made through the police at Dolgelly - they, previously having been informed that contact would be through the policeman at Dinas Mawddwy.

Sunday 10th July 1960

- 0800 Heavy rain which arrived during the night makes a damp start. A climbing party of five - Cartledge, Newby, Pearson, Gordon and Foster were transported in the Landrover to Blaen Cowarch to survey the climbs on Craig Cowarch (above whose cliffs a party of the St Athan team were struck by lightning at Whitsun) - there is no record of the team having climbed on these unfrequented crags. A roversised survey of roads, and hill tracks and possible alternative camp sites in the area was made by Brown Pibworth and McMichael over Bwlch y Groes - Waun y Godfa to Lake Vernwy and thence over the Hirnent track to Bala returning via Llanuwchlllyn to Cwm Cowarch where three of the party were picked up (other two - Pearson and Gordon having walked over the top to base). Most of the listed climbs were identified, but no routes were attempted owing to the prevailing conditions - heavy rain storms, rocks slippery and vegetated, party wearing rubber soled boots.
- 1645 1700 Landrover returned to base in heavy rain, and a meal prepared and cooked in less than ideal conditions by McKenzie.

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- 1745 Between showers camp struck and equipment stowed - in possible record time of twenty minutes (ten men).
- 1815 Team departs Dinas Mawddwy to section via Dolgelly and the better route to Druid on the A5.
- 1900 Team fortunate in having with them Cpl Pibworth (M/T Fitter) as Bedford R/L (59AE05) develops brake trouble one mile from Dolgelly and vehicles pulled in to lay by at Dolgun. Trouble diagnosed as being in rear near side wheel. Vehicle jacked up, wheel removed and cause found to be the loss of a grub screw locking the piston of the brake expander unit and allowing it to unscrew from the actuating rod. Effective temporary repair carried out by Cpl

- 2000 Pibworth, wheel replaced. brakes tested and found to be "O.K"
 2300 No further M.T. trouble - Team arrives Valley, "booked in" with Pitreavie, and vehicles refuelled.

Remarks NCO i/c: A useful area familiarisation exercise. The brake failure on the Bedford R/L fortunately developed under circumstances where it was easily "caught" and rectified. The invaluable presence of Cpl Pibworth would otherwise probably necessitated calling on assistance from the M.T. Section at Valley.

Sgt

Remarks Officer i/c M.R.T.

Remarks O.C. Flying Wing.

Remarks Station Commander.

43

36 hrs exercise

DENBIGH MOORS

Saturday 16th July 1960

- 1345 Sgt McMichael + 10 members left Valley for the monthly night training exercise with vehicles Bedford R/L 59AE05, Landrover 65AA44, Austin (Sigs) 75AV07, trailer 15AW90.
 1630 Team arrived at old quarrie camp site beside Llyn Aled Reservoir - (108/922574). Tents pitched in a stiff breeze to sounds reminiscent of as busy shipbuilding yard as pegs are driven in (suggestions of pneumatic hammers, and permanent pegs). Meal prepared and cooked while exercise courses are detailed.
 1900 Visit made to police station at LLANSANNAN - the nearest, but no signs of the constable anywhere. Police at Denbigh (further ten miles) informed of the teams intensions and location.
 2330 With the teams usual luck in Denbigh Moor weather - high wind and driving rain a party - Cpl Watmore, Janney (N), and Pearson (R/T) set out from the Sportmans Arms for Llyn Dron crossing the moors to Marial Gwyn, Pont y Ddol and points as detailed. Navigating by landrover to their dropping off point. Cpl Pibworths party with Shanks (N) and Hardman (R/T) started from 085555 to Marial Hwyn - Pont-y-Ddol, Gwylfa Hiraethog to Llyn Aled.
 2345 A third party - Sgt McMichael, Kinnes (N), Brown (R/T) were dropped at Pont-yr-Alwen (Rover returning to base - Hill driving) crossing the Mwdwl Eithin over to Llyn Alwen and round to Llyn Aled.

Sunday 17th July 1960

- 0445 Third and last party returned to base - all those walking were thoroughly wet and bedraggled. With the exception of the wireless operator who had to make a W/T call to Pitreavie all the team slept until mid day. In the late afternoon there was signs of life about the camp and a somewhat meagre meal was made - (one roll of pork had "gone off" and had to be buried) - by the more energetic.
 1800 Camp struck between showers, gear and equipment stowed in vehicles and team departed
 2000 more or less dry for Valley, "booked in" and refuelled vehicles.

Remarks N.C.O. i/c

A useful exercise in night navigation and R/T experience. This almost featureless area is rapidly being encroached on by forestry

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and other cultivation, and most of what is left is grouse moors. The area lately used by the team for these type of exercises is owned by a syndicate PEKOVER, BURRILL & OWEN, 47 VALE STREET, DENBIGH. The NCO i/c was informed by Williams their gamekeeper that their permission would have to be obtained if the team wished to use the locality - he also took the opportunity to mention that sheep were being frightened by low flying aircraft - presumably making dummy attacks on the dam of the Llyn Alwen reservoir - this happened "about two months ago", but he couldn't state what kind of type of aircraft were involved.

Sgt

Remarks Officer i/c M.R.T.

Remarks O. C. Flying Wing

Remarks Station Commander.

45

10 hour Exercise

ERYRI

Wednesday 20th July 1960

- 1345 Sgt McMichael + 10 members left Valley with three vehicles - Bedford R/L 59AE05, landrover 65AA44, Austin *Sigs) 75AV07 and trailer for Rhyd Ddu. Unfortunately there is no convenient by pass round Caernarvon where the team was considerably delayed by a holiday traffic jam.
- 1515 A climbing party of six was dropped at Betws Garmon to climb on Craig Cwm Du where Cartledge / Kinnes, and Newby / Foster climbed "Adams Rib" (H.S.) while Janney / Cross did "Beer Cellar Buttress".
- 1520 A temporary base was established in the Rhy Ddu car park. A range test between old type T46 R/T set and the Signals truck was carried out - the T46 being mounted on the Rover and satisfactory results obtained up to ten miles - set operator Cpl Pibworth - driver Brown, Picken manned the Signals truck while Brown undertook the domestic chores.
- 2100 As the climbers hadn't returned the Rover was sent to pick them up - they were found on the road, picked up and returned to base.
- 2200 After a delayed meal base camp packed up, and under more favourable traffic conditions the
- 2350 team returned to Valley, booked in and refuelled the vehicles.

Remarks NCO i/c

Interesting climbing was done in Cwn Du - not often visited by the team. The experiment with the T46 R/T set was made with the view to possibly installing them "permanently" in the team vehicles for inter vehicle communications. They might also be utilized for R/T procedure exercises while conserving the HF15 sets for emergency,

Sgt

This idea was put forward to A.M Ops (SAR) some time ago & we are waiting to see if crystals are available for the frequencies we now have allotted for the HF15. The crystals now in the TR46 sets are no longer officially cleared for our use.

NCO i/c MRT

Remarks Officer i/c M.R.T.

Remarks O. C. Flying Wing.Remarks Station Commander.

36 hour Exercise

ARENIGSSaturday 23rd July 1960

- 1330 Departing Valley Sgt McMichael + 7 members travelled in vehicles Bedford R/L 59AE05, Landrover 65AA44, Austin (Sigs) 75AV07 (with Trailer. Routing through Craig y Drudeon and Fangoch the Rover and Austin were sent to pick up the keys, while the Bedford R/L carried on to Druid and the wider road to Bala rejoining the team at Tai Hirion to selected base camp - the door of the house was found to be unlocked anyway. An additional driver - Miller - had been conscripted from the M.T. Section allowing the Signals truck to be used.
- 1700 1930 Police at Bala informed of the teams location.
- 2359 The Landrover with Cpl Pibworth and Hardman were sent to Llanberis to assist in an attempt to set a record on the "5 Peaks" (Snowdon, Scafell, Ben Nevis, Scafell, Snowdon) being made by team members Pearson and Gordon.

Sunday 24th July 1960

- 0800 An unpromising morning - "clag" right down, and drizzling.
- 0900 The Rover - scheduled to return from Llanberis (after picking up Pearson and Gordon and rushing them up to Hafody Newydd) hadn't returned.
- 1200 A combined R/T and road navigation exercise using the Bedford R/L "laid on" - (most of the members available are all well experienced in bad weather hill navigation). T46 R/T sets were used for communication with the Signals truck, sets being temporarily installed in each vehicle. It was found that these sets work satisfactorily enough up to a range of about ten miles, but when installed in vehicles the electrical interference from the engine is so great that to read a message properly the vehicle had to be stopped and the engine switched off.
- 1315 Rover rejoined the team - Pearson and Gordon hadn't appeared by 1200 so Cpl Pibworth returned to base, and joined in the R/T exercise, and proceeding to the Trwsfynnyd area.
- 1700 The R/T exercise was concluded and vehicles returned to Tai Hirion.
- 1800 Miller the volunteer driver ably assisted in the preparation of the evening meal while Picken packed his sets away.
- 1930 Vehicles packed - no tents to take down this time -, and team returns to Valley via Fangoch (keys returned to the farm) and Cerrig y deudion.
-

- 2300 M.R.T. arrives Valley, after "booking in" vehicles are refuelled.

Remarks N.C.O. i/c

Pearson and Gordon made their attempt on the "5 Peaks" in 43 hours, but their non arrival at 0700 on Sunday morning - as scheduled (they didn't reach Llanberis until 1500) and the late return of the Rover "threw things out of gear" a bit, but some R/T experience was gained, and navigation of sorts was accomplished. The T46 R/T sets are hopeless to operate near a running vehicle engine. (When we used to use these sets it was found that they could be screened but were better mounted in the rear of vehicles NCO i/c MRT).

Sgt.

Remarks Officer i/c M.R.T.

Remarks O. C. Flying Wing.

Remarks Station Commander.

49

10 Hour Exercise

CARNEDDAU

Wednesday 27th July 1960

- 1345 Sgt McMichael + 7 members with vehicles Bedford R/L 58AE94 and Landrover 65AA44 left Valley - Weather dull and drizzly.
1500 M.R.T. arrived Bettws-y-Coed - vehicles dodge through holiday crowd in the car park to the quieter Forestry road and thence to a temporary base (at the end the track this time) near Clogwyn Cyrau. Stretcher, ropes and kit unload from R/L.
1600 In persistent drizzle a stretcher lowering exercise was carried out on the crags of Clogwyn Cyrau - the emphasis being on rope layout and know tying etc. "Victim" for the live lower being A/C Hardman - Broome having declined.
2000 Pots and pans washed - kit and gear stowed in R/L. M.R.T. returned to Valley.
2200 On arrival at Valley the team "booked in" with N.R.C.C. Pitreavie and the vehicles refuelled.

Remarks N.C.O. i/c

Despite the rain an interesting exercise. Most team members agree that their knowledge of lowering techniques is rather "rusty".

Sgt.

Remarks Officer i/c M.R.T.

Remarks O. C. Flying Wing.

Remarks Station Commander.

50

108 hr exercise

CARNEDDAU

Friday 29th August July 1960

- 1330 F.S.Lees +9 travelled in RL 58AE94, Sigs truck & trailer & LR 65AA44 to set up a camp in Cwm Abrach (107/751582). The ruined bothy was again fitted with a double flysheet roof with the 'special' long tent pole modification & used as a kitchen.

Saturday 30 July

(heavy showers & bright periods)

Rockclimbing

Gordon Broome. Kinnes Shanks 2 prs up Great Gully Craig yr Ysfa Very wet Lees Cartledge Gavwain, Craig y Tri Marchog - leading thro which meant that Cartledge led the two hardest pitches - standard HVS! May be more reasonably when dry & with holds cleaned - probably about the third ascent? A very strenuous climb.

Pibworth Mc Michael Navigation & familiarisation on the Carneddau: - base - Clogwyn Mawr - Craig Wen - S end Cowlyd - Cwm Bychan - Cwm Eigiau - Melynlyn - Dulyr - Foel Grach - Carnedd Llewelyn - Pen yrHelgi du - Capel Curig to base.

Sunday 31st July

(Showery)

Cartledge Gordon Shanks Kinnes - Craigau Gleision (Cowlyd) Anvil Cracks. They were most impressed by this rarely visited climbing ground - nice rough rock quite accessible for Weds. afternoons.

McMichael Pibworth Picken Capel Curig - Creigiau Gleision - Llyn Crafnant - Base.

Monday 1 August 1960

(wet)

McMichael & Pibworth explored some of the newer network of forestry roads & paths between Miners Bridge & Cyffty hoping that on foot they might come across a suitable campsite in the area which is not too inaccessible - particularly for the large vehicles.

Meanwhile rockclimbing training of a more advanced nature was carried out on Clogwyn yr Caerau by Lees Cartledge Newby & Gordon who after several hours struggle in the rain, under an overhang managed to complete a new climb using several pitons

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slings & double rope artificial technique. The climb is to the left of Conway Corner & has since been called Waterloo. Cartledge also climbed Conway Corner while Lees & Gordon soloed Diagonal (for grading for "guide book") & then two cordees ascended Jingling Wall. Lees & Cartledge finishing by Nock's left hand arête (VS) (I.C. leading p. 2) & Newby & Gordon leading through on the normal right hand line finish (HS)

Tuesday 2nd August 1960

(fine)

- 1000 More navigation on Carneddau for McMichael & Pibworth, checking also on states of one or two old aircraft wrecks.
Bethesda, Gyrn Wigau, Yr Aryg, Pen y Castell, Moel Eilio, Llyn Cowlyd, Crafnant, back via Llyn Bychan.
- 1000 Meanwhile remainder trotted up to Craig yr Ysfa & watched cloud descending over Carnedd Llewelyn - we tried to beat it to the crag as a long awaited promise to photograph a certain wall there in colour was about to be carried out - the cloud settled over the crag & spirits fell! Kinnes & Shanks descended to climb Amphitheatre Buttress taking one camera in case the cloud dispersed, while the other 4 descended Nameless Rib into the Amphitheatre & roped up as a four at the foot of Mur y Niwel (the Wall of Mists) in appropriate conditions. The sun reappeared & photographs were possible of most of this spectacular wall (hard very severe) from the amphitheatre and on the climb, as well as from the 2 on Amphitheatre Buttress opposite. Order of ascent Less Cartledge Gordon & Newby - the latter being pursued by the shadow all the way up the climb. The upper wall was climbed (a) Lees Newby by the Grimmett & (b) Cartledge Kinnes Gordon by Pinnacle Wall (a) had just reached the top & were waiting (b) 2nd coming up the pinnacle when a bang &
- 1830 a rocket seen fired from col below Pen yr helgi du.

The driver, Broome, had come up to tell us of a police request for assistance as 2 civilian accidents had been reported.

about } As was surmised by the time 20 minutes after Broome had left the roadhead
1745 left } for a suitable rocket firing point news had been sent to cancel the request as
Glan Llugwy } more than enough civilian climbers was available to police but in view of the
time our assumption based on previous experience of nervous bobbies saved undue rush.

2000 Returned to base for meal, packed & returned to RAF Valley
2330

52

Remarks NCO i/c MRT.

Much advanced training carried out. The request for assistance came from the police who, on the Bethesda side of the hills appreciate less well the accepted civilian mountain rescue organisation & our position therein. The (civilian) Mountain Rescue Committee has posts at suitable places where equipment is left & where all available mountaineers in the area should report to assist whenever there is news of an accident. Therefore at a weekend or holiday period, when plenty of mountaineers of reasonable experience are available. We would not normally be expected or asked to help unless we were actually training on the spot or unless there was some specific need in (a) a difficult rescue, technically, from a large cliff or (b) a large area to be searched when our organisation & communications help a lot. In off season periods we might expect to be asked to help more often but usually there are sufficient people for an accident like this, on easy ground relatively near the road. Unfortunately the Bangor Police district don't seem to be able to differentiate so well as the Llanberis ones, between rockclimbers, ace & novice & hillwalkers & even tourists who wear shoes! The recently formed Mountain Centre at Ogwen Cottage is staffed by rockclimbers all experienced (one or 2 aces) who can usually cope very well (they were made our Sub-Unit so that they would have the advantage of pyrotechniques, last year). Unfortunately they have not yet received recognition of their ability from the Police in their area as this depends to a large extent on the press, sad to say - & the Ogwen Cottage people don't go in for publicity in this very much!

The two accidents turned out to be the same one reported differently & Ogwen Cottage & all those climbing nearby then moved this injured tourist rapidly & efficiently while we were still unaware of Broome panting up towards us!

On the other hand it is better to ~~for~~ have a superfluous call occasionally than have a man die of exposure after a fall, because we were not asked for assistance & there were too few helpers, as happened one night two winters ago. Therefore, other than chatting amicably to the constable who arrived with cancellation, no comments were made.

NCO i/c MRT

53

Remarks Officer i/c MRT.

54

S.W. SNOWDON GROUP

48 hour Exercise

Friday 5th August 1960

- 1805 Sgt McMichael + 7 members left Valley in Bedford R/L 59AE05 (and trailer) and Landrover 65AA44 for Cwm Pennant routing via Caernarvon and Dolbenmaen. On arrival in the valley it was discovered that the team had been "booked out" to a site alternative to the one intended. Ownership of the site at 107/533477 where the team proceeded being in question, information was sought at the farm BRAICH Y DINAS (533483) where the NCO i/c was informed that the mistaken site was on the land of the farm TYDDYN MAWR (536480). Mr. Pritchard the farmer of Braich y Dinas kindly offered the team the use of any suitable site on his land, and one was chosen a short distance further up the valley
- 2045 Camp was made and tents pitched in failing light.

Saturday 6th August 1960

- 0800 A bright morning deteriorating to occasional showers over the hills. Better prospects were sought nearer the coast on "The Rivals" where the team with the exception of Cpl Pibworth on base went to TREVOR in the Landrover. An exploratory party (Gordon, Pearson,

Wilson and McClean) went to search the sea cliffs at Trwyn y Tal and survey some of the reported climbs while McMichael, Broome and Pecken climbed Yr Eifl and visited the ancient fortification on Tre'r Teiri, returning in the late afternoon to base. Police in Portmadoc were informed of the teams location and NRCC Pitreavie advised by phone that contact could be made through M. Pritchard, Braich y dinas.

Sunday 7th August 1960

- 0900 Three walking parties got off to a fairly early start being conveyed to their dropping off points in the Landover and completed the following detail:-
Cpl Pibworth, Pearson: 591431 - MOEL DDU - MOEL HEBOG - OGOF OWEN GLYNDDOWER - MOEL YR OGOF - MOEL LEFN - RHYD DDU - BWLCH GYLFIN - MYNYDD DREWS Y COED - TRUM Y DDISGL - MIGNEDD TAL Y MIGNEDD - CRAIG CWM SILIN - CRAIG LAS - BRAICH Y DINAS.
Gordon, Wilson: PEN Y PASS, CRIB GOCH - CRIB YS DDSGL - Y WYDDFA - BWLCH MAIN - LLECHOG RIDGE - RHYDD DDU - MIGNEDD TAL Y MIGNEDD - CWM SILIN - CARNEDD GOCH - BRAICH Y DINAS.
Sgt McMichael, McClean: HAFODODTY NEWYDD (LLANBERIS) BWLCH MAES GWM - ~~???????~~ FOEL GOCH - FOEL GRON - MOEL EILIO - via BETTWS GARMON & Cwm Ddu to MYNYDD MAWR crossing the Afon Drws y Coed near the farm of Tal y 2000 mignedd to GARNEDD GOCH and thence to Braich i dinas and

55

and to a apparently deserted camp, but the other two parties were only recovering from a bloated meal while Broome and Pecken on base had gone to pay their respects to the farmer in the Landrover.

- 2055 Camp was "broken" and team returned to Valley

Remarks NCO i/c Not a very good "turnout" but some useful walking was done by the "faithfuls". Mr Pritchard was found to be very helpful and friendly farmer.

Sgt.

Remarks Officer i/c Team:-

Remarks O.C. Flying Wing:-

Remarks Station Commander:-

56

10 hr exercise

NORTHERN GLYDERS

Wednesday 10th August 1960

- 1330 F.S. Lees + 10 travelled in RL 58AE94, Sigs & trailer & LR 65AA44 to set up a temporary base at the gateway to Machlyn Quarry 107/596629. Unfortunately the gate 1500 locked so that the large vehicles needed about 20 locks to turn round; the quarry does not appear to be in use any longer. (slate) The W/OP & driver (Broome) were left at base. (W/OP achieved VHF call to Valley Tower on TR5043) while others (a) navigated: McMichael, Pibworth clockwise, Hughes Cartledge anticlockwise did a circuit of the hills visible from the base:- Elidir Fach, Elidir Fawr, Mynydd Perfedd & Carnedd y Filiast; (b) rockclimbed on the Pillar of Elidir: Gordon Kinnes Wilson - up East Gully & Rift. ↓ West Gully & traverse. Lees Newby ↑Corrugated Cracks ↓ traverse to gap & down E. Gully. The latter were down first & left rocks in the rucksacks of the other 3, wrapped in the spare sweaters etc. but, I'm afraid they were discovered before returning to base for the usual fry

2100 up.
2300 Back to RAF Valley after packing etc.

Remarks NCO i/c MRT. New ground for all, & a fine afternoon.

6/9/60

NCO i/c MRT

Remarks Officer i/c MRT.

57

48 hr exercise

ERYRI

Friday 12th August 1960

1830 FS Lees + 11 left Valley in RL 58AE94 & Landrover ~~an trailer~~ & went to Betws y Coed. The LR had gone ahead to find a suitable campsite & soon returned to the R.V. with news of old quarry buildings. C/W slate roofs at Hafod Las quarry 107/779562, although at the time when describing the place to the police we were told it was Maes Newyddion - subsequently got the Forestry Officer's permission to camp in it! Fine evening.

Saturday 13th August

0930 Wet morning - Navigation on Moelwyns:-
Wilson Kinnes - Beddgelert - Cnicht - Ysgafell Wen 664486 - 662503 Moel Merich - Yr Arddu - Y Griban - Moel Siabod - Hafod Las quarry.
McLean Pibworth Gwynant 626503 - 669475 - Moel Druman - Allt Fawr - Crimea pass top - Moel Farlwyd - Moel Penamnen - Ro wen - Llyn Elsi - 779562.
Tomlinson Cross McMichael - Moel Siabod - Y Griban 670521 Dakota wreck - Moel Penamnen (Ro wen - Llyn Elsi - base) - but when the first party met them Cross & Tomlinson were obviously unfit & going badly - they are our 2 newest ones - so Lees took LR to look for Sgt Mc bringing them back a shorter way perhaps - & on the second cast found him & them a mile further up the road, walking down to Dolwyddelan (in Cwm Penamnen.)

Lees Cartledge & Gordon had spent all day struggling on "Waterloo" finally ascending it with only one peg which was left in situ.

Very heavy going on the Moelwyns with non stop rain. A day for finding 'skivers'. The two untrained men with Sgt Mac had done reasonably well & produced some good blisters!

Sunday 14th August

Another wet morning; more navigation in ideal conditions - Gordon Broome Picken Dolwyddelan - Moel Siabod - Pen y Gwryd.
Tomlinson McLean (C/W blisters) Pont y Pant Old Roman road to

58

Mynydd Criban to Rhiw-ddolion & Llyn Elsi to base.

Cartledge Kinnes Wilson went to Clogwyn Caerau & did some very necessary "gardening" to remove ivy from a buttress which has already provided one or 2 good training climbs & has possibilities of more under the vegetation.

Returned to RAF Valley in evening.

Remarks NCO i/c MRT.

Training continues in worse weather

Remarks Officer i/c MRT.**59**

10 hr exercise

GLYDERSWednesday 17th August 1960

- 1330 Sgt McMichael + 14 Team travelled to Capel Curig in RL 58AE94, Sigs truck. Landrover & trailer, & set up camp for the afternoon opposite Plas y Brenin 107/715579
 1500 Landrover left in Ogwen Car Park. Climbing party to Bochlwyd Buttress:-
 Cartledge and McClean: "Wall Climb", "Marble Slab", "Two Pitch Route"
 Wilson and Hardman: ↑ 'Chimney Climb ↓ 'Arête and Slab'

Idwal Slabs

Gordon and Tomlinson	}	
Kinnes and Foster		"Tennis Shoe", "Lazarus"

- Cpl Hughes, McKenzie, Brown walked from Ogwen via Twll Du, Glyder Fawr and Fach, Nameless Peak, Galt yr Ogof to base. After assisting Picken to set up base
 1900 Sgt McMichael, Cpl Pibworth, Broome did the reciprocal of Hughes route and picked up the Rover and the non walking climbers.
 2030 Kinnes arrived at base having walked from Glyder Fawr in an hour and half (Foster returned to Ogwen and a lift by the 'rover')
 2110 Gordon and Tomlinson arrived at base to well done meal while base was speedily packed up (everyone demented by midges and glad to leave)
 2130 Team returned to Valley.

Remarks N.C.O. i.c.:- A useful afternoons exercise

Sgt

Remarks Officer i/c Team:-Remarks O. C. Flying Wing:-Remarks Station Commander:-**60**

36 hr exercise

RHINOGSSaturday 20th August 1960

- 1330 F.S. Lees +13 left RAF Valley in both RLs, Landrover & trailer & drove via Betws y Coed & Blaenau Ffestiniog to Llanbedr & set up camp in Cwm nantcol 116/60752707.
 1700 The gateway to this campsite had always been too narrow for RLs with one inch to spare overall, & a slight slope & bend to contend with so the non slip clutch on 05 was just sufficient to make life too hard, so that the second RL started shacking the dry stone wall! We spent an instructive & satisfying late afternoon & evening dry stone walling ending up with a gateway 18 inches wider. The old Celtic wood & corrugated iron (1940 model) gate had then to be extended to fit.

Sunday 21st August

Navigation - Sgt Mac Cross Tomlinson'
606270 - 632285 (Lancaster wreckage) - Foel Ddu - Rhinog Fawr - Rhinog Fach - Y Llethr
- Crib y Rhiw - Diphwys - Craig Bodlyn to watch climbers a while - Moelfre - base.
Foster McLean the reciprocal.

Lees Cartledge were lowered down Craig Bodlyn (carrying spades) on 500 ft ropes by Cpl Pibworth, Kinnes, Gordon, Mackenzie & Hardman in an attempt to see whether the crag was climbable & for lowering & rescue experience - ascent afterwards by the central cleft cleaning much grass etc. on the way up. Wet & dirty but interesting. A lightweight wireless is still necessary on large crags such as this.

Returned to Valley in the evening.

Remarks NCO i/c MRT. The farmer at Cefn Cymmerau was told of the gate mods & appeared to approve being duly offered the odd "left over" perishables as an encouragement.

6/9/60

NCO i/c MRT

61

SNOWDON

CALL OUT

Tuesday 23rd August 1960

0045 Llanberis Police, Sgt. Jones, telephoned asking for our assistance in searching for an Officer Cadet (21), one Colin Chumley from the Inter Schools Camp, Arthog. (south of Dolgellau), Merionethshire missing on Snowdon.

It appears that about 60 people mainly youths were taken up Snowdon by the Pyg track on a bad day. They split into 2 groups about where the Miners track joins (above the lake is all that we had to start with) & the tired & demoralised descended while the others pressed on. Chumley was in the first group & changed his mind; apparently the upper party were still just in sight above & he left the descending party to join them.

When the coaches returned to Arthog it was discovered that he was not with either party so late in the evening it was announced by a Mr Dodd (?) i/c that he was missing.

Weather still very bad. Sgt. Jones & 2 constables set out to go up Snowdon from

0100 Pen y Pass by Pyg track. Station Duty Officer, Cpl Pibworth & FS Lees agreed Valley

0200 MRT would commence search first light

0430 Reveille. Vehicles RL 94 LR & Ambulance used.

0530 Arrived Pen y Gwryd (Rescue Post) - no civilian searchers yet organised. Walkie talkies assembled & in driving rain & strong wind parties set out to sweep Crib Goch both sides, spreading into position during ascent of its east ridge. Police party reported by 'phone from summit hotel to Llanberis, were descending Miners Track.

0730 R/T base aerial 'guyed' at Pen y Gwryd established, satisfactory communications between here (Pen y Pass (Amb) & Crib Goch.

0835 Approx. Police arrived PYG with news that Chumley had walked & hitchhiked back to Arthog arriving there at about 0800. Searchers recalled.

0850 RAF personnel met Police on descent.

1030 All back at Pen y Gwryd. A garage had been borrowed for changing & cooking - Tea & emergency chocolate only for breakfast to get away faster, so all now ready for a meal.

Downpour continuing did not exactly help unpacking of gear from 94 & setting up of 'bomb' oven etc.

1500 Returned RAF Valley after drying out & repacking equipment in vehicles.

62

Remarks NCO i/c MRT.

An unfortunate business - yet another example of badly led education authority type expeditions to the hills.

Excellent practise for the Team!

Inspector of Mountain Rescue Ops (SAR) A.M. was informed when he telephoned subsequently & he is going to attempt to trace the individual through the Secretary of the "Inter Schools Christian Fellowship" who we found afterwards (during a Sub Unit visit) to be a Wg Cdr (ret) B. A. Burbridge of 47 Marylebone Lane W.1. Chumley was supposed to be one of the adults in charge of these lads but did not know how to use a telephone apparently!

Sgt Jones of Llanberis deserves commending for his enthusiasm & energy - it might have been a case of a broken leg etc.

Representations are being made to Education authorities by the British Mountaineering Council & the Mountain Rescue Committee asking that only qualified people should take youngsters on the hill.

12/9/60

NCO i/c MRT

Remarks Officer i/c MRT.

63

48 hrs

RHINOGS & MOELWYNS

Friday 26th August 1960

0830 FS Lees + 13 left Valley in RL 58AE94 & Landrover & trailer travelling again through Blaenau Ffestiniog to camp near Maentwrog, above Felin Rhyd Bach 116/661392 at the northern end of the Rhinogs.

Saturday 27th August

0900 First LR parties away to walk over the northern part of the Rhinogs:-

Pearson McLean N leave LR 600273 0 Cwm Nantcol - up south flank Rhinog Fawr - Llyn Du - llyn Morwynion - 66353065 - 66753195 - Clip - Foel Ysgafarnogod - Foel Penolen - Felin rhyd bach 66153925.

McMichael Shanks O'Donnell N leave LR 600273 - Llyn Cwm Bychan - Roman Steps - Bwlch Tyddiad - 66353065 - 66753195 - Clip - Moel Ysgafarnogod - Foel Penolen - base.

Remainder walked down the road to meet Brown returning with LR. Then took LR to 615233 up the Ardudwy valley track & walked to Craig Bodlyn 648=236 again with lots of rope, 500' spools etc. Janney lowered to dangle over overhang & decide the central buttress would not be even a hard climb but "moderately impossible" while Cartledge & Lees climbed 'the Spade', the route cleaned to some extent hard worked - very severe - a good gully climb.

1700 A most impressive thunderstorm burst as the top was reached - deafening bangs close enough to make one cringe at times and an ?????????? deluge of rain hail & ice chips!

1830 Retreated to the LR at high speed to try to keep warm - almost with success.

Sunday 28th August

A fine day for the Moelwyns though it was quite wet early on.

0930 O'Donnell McMichael in LR to Tan y Bwlch Stn 648414 - Moelwyn Bach - Moelwyn Mawr - Moel yr Hydd - Llyn Clogwyn hrith 665466 - Allt fawr - Careg Flaen Llyn - 679460 - look for climbers (including driver) on Craig Nyth y Figfran.

McLean Pearson 679460 - Careg Flaen Llyn - Allt Fawr - Moel yr Hydd - Moelwyn Mawr & Bach - 655412 - Felin rhyd bach.

Gordon Janney ↔ Craig Tri ¹ ↑ Taith y Pererin then across Cwm Orthin gap to Craig Nyth i Figfran ² (others were already climbing) for Thin Wall Special.

Cartledge Brown Africa Rib ². 683458

Hardman Brown Betimes ¹. 679455

Lees Hardman Useless Dilemma

Lees Cartledge ↓ Betimes ↑ Thin Wall Special ↑ Danlbe Chriss.

The latter being an excellent climb but HVS.

Sgt McMichael & O'Donnell ,materialised as planned. Brown had just finished climbing & 2030 two trips took all back to base
Returned to RAF Valley in late evening.

Remarks NCO i/c MRT. Familiarisation & navigation training continues for the newer team members, while the more experienced practice more difficult rockclimbing.

12/9/60 NCO i/c MRT

Remarks Officer i/c MRT.

10 hr exercise

CARNEDDAU & GLYDERS

Wednesday 31st August 1960

1330 FS Lees + 10 left Valley & travelled to Ogwen in 2 RLs & Landrover. (trailer being inspected for towing arm failures experienced on this model elsewhere). Camp set up at 107/650604.

McMichael Pibworth Tal y Braich, Pen yr Helgi du, Craig Llugwy to Pen yr Oleu wen.

Hughes O'Donnell north ridge Tryfan. Bristly ridge of Glyder Fach. down the Gribin ridge.

Gordon Tomlinson Braich ty du B1. B2. Pinnacle Rib

Kinnes Wilson ----- " ----- ditto in different order.

Lees Brown James ----- " ----- Decameron Rib.

Lees & James 11/2 pitches of Cuckoo Groove & descent in dark.

2130 Vehicles packed, RL 05 & Landrover departed for RAF Valley. FS Lees remained Ogwen with RL 94 to give an airman a lift back to Valley when the man got back (his party was late).

2230 RL then failed to start. Part of accelerator pump linkage appeared to be missing so a call was made to Valley with intention of asking for Cpl Pibworth to come out with spares in the morning.

2240 The O.O. had call from Sgt Jones of Llanberis Police asking for M.R.T. help in searching for a 58 yr old man, Mr Davies, a known mountaineer, who had set out for a few days in Snowdonia & whose car had been noticed deserted for the past 3 days at Pen y Pass. SDO, O.O. & Cpl Pibworth agreed on MRT commencing search in morning but when

0045 NRCC 18 Group were informed the Controller there said that there was insufficient evidence to send a party out, that the VMRT should rest after their exercise (!) & that civilians were calling on the help of the RAF rescue organisations far to much.

Cpl Pibworth spoke FS Lees & latter asked O.O. to put all points for going out to NRCC including our good name in area & fact that Sgt Jones wouldn't cause an unnecessary search to be carried out - he knows Snowdon weather P62! With Plt Off Jones blessing FS Lees telephoned NRCC with no luck of course.

In the morning Cpl Pibworth brought RL 05 & necessary technical know how to take 94 back to RAF Valley without accelerator pump.

Mr Davies was found dead on Crib Goch, the first area of probability! by civilian searchers during the day.

66

Remarks NCO i/c MRT The new Officer i/c MRT Sqn Dr Steele (CGI) has taken this matter up as it appears that discretion of those on the spot might well be authorised by AMO A 267/55 in instances such as this.

13/9/60 NCO i/c MRT

Remarks Officer i/c MRT

The C.O. is dealing with this case formally. As for ability to send the team out, new notes will be issued shortly

Sqn Ldr. 13 Sept 60

A sound months training.

67

72 hr exercise

LAKE DISTRICT

Friday 2nd September 1960

1425 F.S. Lees + 10 duty team left RAF Valley in Bedford RL 58AE94 & trailer & Landrover 65AA44.

inserted between pages 66 & 67

Langdale Sept 72 1960
Valley 1425
exhaust pipe kept dropping onto spare wheel
Langdale 2208
generally wet.

2208 Arrived in Langdale on road below Mill Beck farm but no lights visible in house. Visit to Old Dungeon Ghyll Hotel (local rescue post) where Mr S.H. Cross who had arranged the campsite for us was consulted & drew a map. The correct field was identified by tilly lamp light & camp was set up as quietly as possible, trying not to wake two other tents in other corners of the field. Narrow dry stone walled tracks etc. make RL menovering difficult in this district & mistakes helps towards RAF unpopularity - some previous MR drivers from Leuchars, Topcliffe, Harper Hill & now Leeming & Stafford have occasionally touched a dry stone wall with surprising results! Map ref. campsite NY (82) 296064.

Saturday 3rd September

0700 A fine morning after last nights drizzle encouraged earlier brew than usual but cooking tent had to set up & camp arranged so that we were no earlier than usual leaving base.

0900 for familiarisation training:-

Pearson Brown McLean (N) Side Pike - Pike o' Blisio - Crinkle Crags - Bow Fell - Rossett Pike - Pike o' Stickle - Harrison Stickle - Pavey Ark - 296064.

McMichael Pibworth & O'Donnell N. Started on the Langdale Pikes & walked round the skyline in the other direction.

Lees Wilson Stoats Crack ↓ Gwynnes Chimney on Pavey Ark,

Gordon Kinnes Rake End Chimney ↓ some of Cooks Tour & ↑ half Gwynes Chimney & scrambled then over Harrison Stickle to base.

(Specified routes were misread - ↑ Gwynes Chim ↓ Rake ↑ Cooks Tour)

A fair amount of rain later in the day - Stoats Crack, not often climbed, is hard (S) particularly delicate & mossy upper slabs when its raining. A good day which all enjoyed - & the navigators had to at times.

2000 Extra height cooking tent full of steaming clothes & hungry bogs.

68

Sunday 4th September 1960

McMichael Pearson base -285039 - 276027 - Little Carrs Grey Friar - Swirral How - Wetherlam - 302022 - Little Langdale Bays Brown - Oak Howe - base.

Pibworth O'Donnell the reciprocal

Shanks Gordon } ↑ the Band. Bowfell Buttress - Bow Fell

Wilson Kinnes } Crinkle Crags - Pike o' Blisio - Side Pike - base.

Lees Brown ↑ the Band. Plague route ↓ Bowfell Buttress ↑ Cambridge climb - heavy rain made last part very hard - Bow Fell down Band. A similar day & almost as wet on return.

Monday 5th September

McMichael Pibworth Pearson O'Donnell in LR to Grasmere - 341071 - Heron Pike - Fairfield - Seat Sandal - Dunmail Raise - Steek Fell - Sergeant Man - Stickle Tarn - base.

Wilson Kinnes. Lees Gordon Original route on Raven Crag to Gimmer ---- " ---- ↑ Main Wall ↓ Oliversons. L.G. ↑ Joas & D Route ↓ SE Gully.

2245 Left for RAF Valley. RL Oil pump gasket blew & was replaced on way south, a suitable one being scrounged from Lancaster Fire Stn. Most people slept in rear of vehicle on the extra mattresses carried so hardly noticed this stop.

0548 Arrived Valley.

Remarks NCO i/c MRT. These occasional visits to other Teams areas are a great boost to morale & our knowledge of the Lake District might be useful in a large scale search. Excellent training for navigators particularly on unknown ground - they can't get a sense of direction from Snowdon if in doubt.

13/9/60

NCO i/c MRT

Remarks Officer i/c MRT.

69

48 hr exercise

ARENIGS & MOELWYNS

Friday 9th September 1960

1830 FS Lees + 11 travelled in RL 94 + trailer, Sigs truck & LR to Dolwyddelan. The LR went ahead so that NCO i/c could find owner of a possible campsite seen nearly a month ago. It turned out to belong to the Forestry Commission & the Forster was visited in Dolwyddelan & permission given to use 'sheltering shed' just above the ruined barn at Tai in Cwm Penamnen 107/736506. Other vehicles arrived RV in Dolwyddelan five minutes 2030 before successful LR party.

It was found best to turn the large vehicles at the ruined bothy & then reverse up the lane to 100 yds to the hut - fine corrugated iron roof, stone flagged floor plate glass windows in a dry stone (moss filled) wall! A dirty night for tents, so all most grateful.

Saturday 10th September

Excellent navigation training weather - cloud down to the deck!
Pibworth Wilson^{R/T} McLean^N in RL with Broome (& Picken to test R/T set) - 817394 -
Arenig Fach - 786425 - Llyn Serw - 762437 - Llyn y Gors - Manod Mawr - 727458 - Foel
Fras - base.

McMichael Hughes^{R/T} Cross^N in LR to 693393 - 739395 - Llyn y Divarchen -
75254305 - Shooting box by Llynau Gamallt - Sarn Helen old Roman road (not often
visible) to base.

LR party to Moelwyn crags - Y Pinac (new name for Craig Dyn) - Gordon Hardman
Slick & walk back with R/T set, round Cwm Orthin to Crimea Pass top - Moel Farlwyd -
base.

Lees Janney after R/T attempts from Llyn Stwlan ↑ Kirkus direct (hard in rain) then ↑ Slick;
back in LR.

Picken W/OP up Rowen with link set first then down to Sigs truck later. R/T comm.
not good - vibrators & batteries the same old snags - also foul weather!

Sunday 11th September

Unbelievably fine morning to dry out.
In RL - Pibworth R/T Wilson McLean N - Yspytty Ifan -Foel Goch - Carnedd y Filisast
872446 - Foel Wen 81554350 -

70

791438 - 769444 - 742485 - 746498 Ro Wen - base.

McMichael R/T Hughes Cross N in RL

817394 - Arenig Fach - 786425 - Llyn Serw - 762437 - Llyn y Gors - Manod Mawr -
727458 - Foel Fras - base.

Gordon R/t Hardman.

Base 731502 - 718490 - Moel Penamnen - Foel Fras - 727458 - 723446 - Llyn y Gors - Ro
Wen - base.

Lees Janney guidebook descriptions on Moelwyn crags - Pinac Kirkus' ordinary.
Girdle traverse then back to base for attempt on Carreg Altrem on the other side of the
valley - the crag is as steep as it looks but there are holds - similar to Clogwyn Caerau.
Attempt on Penamnen Groove, but first pitch very wet, despite today's sunshine. It was
climbed to half height by the wall on the left. Janney working it out & leaving a poor (?)
line runner before descending with tired fingers. Success then to JRL to pinnacle belay: the
upper crack & overhang looked very fierce & wet so a traverse left was made into the
hidden groove, which was ascended to the top finishing by its left edge - also VS but not as
hard as Davies route - this groove turned out to be "Lightning Visit" by Ron James - almost
the 4th ascent, tho' his start was on a wall left of the groove. A very fine climb. Descended
by Moulams Slab route & Pigott's holly tree - abseil.

Down to base in last light.

Team returned to RAF Valley later.

Remarks NCO i/c MRT Much navigation & familiarisation work carried out, on two
completely different days, one extreme to the other

13/9/60

NCO i/c MRT

Remarks Officer i/c MRT.

71

10 hr ex.

CARNEDDAU & GLYDERS

Wednesday 14th September 1960

- 1330 Rather a wet afternoon when Team of 14 with FS Lees i/c left Valley in RL 58AE94 & trailer, Sigs vehicle & 65AA44. A temporary cooking shelter was set up at Ogwen 107/650604.
Navigation & familiarisation :- Pibworth McClean (N) Cross - NE ridge Y Garn - Glyders - ↓ Cwm Cneifion.
Pearson O'Donnell (N) Foster - Marauder wreckage Cwm Cwyion - Foel Goch - Y Garn down south side Devil's Kitchen.
McMichael Gordon - Seniors Ridge to Glyder Fawr - Glyder Fach & down Bristly Ridge.
Lees Hardman Janney - Braich ty du - Shelf Edge second ascent. Severe - quite hard on one move particularly. Heavy rain just before dark hastened everyone back to base.
- 2100 Returned to RAF Valley after a meal.

Remarks NCO i/c MRT.

Our two newest members are navigating regularly now & will soon know their way around the central area.

30/9

NCO i/c MRT.

72

48 hr exercise

GLYDERS

Friday 16th September 1960

- 1800 F.S. Lees + 12 team travelled in RL 59AE94, Sigs truck & LR to Capel Curig & camped opposite Plas y Brenin 107/715579.

Saturday 17th September

(A dull morning improving later. Dry)

- 0900 Assembled on A5 by Milestone Buttress Tryfan by Llyn Ogwen. W/T watch opened with Pitreavie & maintained throughout Battle of Britain day. Team members carried out rockclimbing training within sight of the Sigs truck - in fact one could hear the morse now & again - so that the Team could be recalled if necessary & be on the road in 10 - 15 minutes. Fortunately this was not required.

McMichael & Pibworth took O'Donnell for elementary work, knots, belaying & roping down on the slab at the side of the track, opposite Cantilever. Janney & Foster went up the Direct & ↓ Ordinary. Hardman led Wilson on Ordinary. Lees McClean Rowan. McC leading odd pitches.

During lunch hour - tea & sandwiches at roadside - Brown took Broome to practise on slab. Then parties reorganised - Hardman Wilson Rowan Ivy Chim ↑ & ↓ Pulpit. McClean Lees McMichael ↑ Wing Chimney & Cantilever, followed by Foster leading O'Donnell. These five then abseiled down Bishop's Gut & went up Direct & Ordinary respectively. The Corner Chimney near the top of the Direct gets no easier! Janney Pibworth went up Canopy but P. in nails failed on the Smooth Oblique Trench & the party descended & then climbed Wing Chimney & Cantilever.

- 2030 Left the parking space for base camp.

Sunday 18th September

(fine)

Snowdon Horseshoe - McMichael Pibworth Broome.

Remainder rockclimbing on Tryfan - from Gwern y Gof Uchaf - Shanks Hardman, followed by Foster & McClean went up the arête of Little Tryfan while the other pairs

walked on up the scree gully & Heather Terrace: thus introducing a suitable time lapse for 2 prs on two routes on the east face.

73

Wilson Brown. Shanks Hardman First Pinnacle Rib finishing as one rope of 4 for Thomsons Chimney at the top.

Lees O'Donnell Foster McClean Gashed Crag.

All descended North Buttress climb. Below Terrace Wall two pairs halted so that Lees could take Foster up 'Cheek' (S). Others continued on down roped in different pairs & were caught up by Cheek party later. To Heather Terrace in last light & to Gwern y Gof Uchaf where the Landrover was parked, in the dark.

Returned to RAF Valley an hour or 3 later.

Remarks NCO i/c MRT

Concentrating on elementary rockclimbing for the less experienced. Assuming that they can now navigate reasonably well.

30/9

NCO i/c MRT

74

10 hr exercise

GLYDERS

Wednesday 21st September 1960

A lot of Team members were told that they were working (often at 1225!) this wet afternoon although some inter Section football matches were played, & I think station hockey & rugger fixtures!

F.S. Lees & five permanent staff, plus 3 volunteer part timers went to Ogwen & did some brief navigation training. Some also loaded scree & improved the muddy car park where we always camp.~~a little~~ - the RL & Sigs truck tend to cut the ground up a lot during winter.

Returned to Valley in the evening with RL 59AE05, Sigs truck & LR - trailer wiring still blowing fuses on prime movers! so in M.T. still.

Remarks NCO i/c MRT.

Perhaps the situation could be improved on Weds. if the ruling given by OCFW a few months ago could be promulgated in SROs - that if there was any sport being played the M.R.T. were expected to exercise. Then those few team members who are indispensable in their trades on Weds afternoons would require the approval of O i/c MRT to be excused the exercise! The request to come from the team member's superior before 1225 when possible! The position is made particularly difficult because of the few men available - strength is 22 establishment 36 (including permanent staff). (It is appreciated that the part time members are paid as tradesmen & that generally sections are short too!)

30/9/60

NCO i/c MRT

75

48 hr exercise

S. W. SNOWDON GROUP

Friday 23rd September 1960

1800 RL 58AE94 & LR 65AAww left Valley with FS Lees + 10 11. The Sigs truck was left with W/PO waiting for a driver from SSQ to come back from a job & they followed later. Camp was set up at Tal-y-Mignedd in the Nantlle valley 107/532532.

Saturday 24th September

(cloud base about 2000' but improving late in the Day)

Reciprocals, drivers walking one way across the SW Snowdon hills - O'Donnell Hughes Hill out in LR which was left at 549433. They then walked over Moel Ddu - Moel Hebog - Moel Lefn - Mynydd Drws y Coed to base.

Tomlinson Pibworth Watmore Foster went from base in the opposite direction & Pib brought the LR back.

McClean & Hardman were also taken in LR & walked back - 549433 - Pont y Plas - 497485 - Mynydd Tal y Mignedd along ridge to Mynydd Drws y Coed.

Lees & Cartledge went to Cwm Silin (519504) & climbed the Ogof Direct - a hard very severe climb, 5 pitons in place. The climb was not in good condition - enough wet holds & a bit of cloud - damp on the rocks, to make feet feel uncertain - extremely strenuous.

Returned to base to find a visitor - Sqn Ldr Steele - who had arrived earlier & ascended Mynydd Tal y Mignedd in his new boots.

Sunday 25th September

(fine dull aft)

"Cripples" from Snowdon Ranger YH up Snowdon & down Llechog to Rhyd ddu - Cpl Watmore carrying a walkie talkie for his last day with the Team - (posted Aden) with Shanks & Mackenzie.

Foster R/T Pibworth Mynydd Mawr - Moel Elio with intention going over Snowdon but Foster packed up at Betws Garmon (cold? influenza?) while Pib went up & down Moel Elio with the R/T set. Back to LR at Bwlch Gyffin.

Tomlinson R/T Hardman O'Donnell from Rhyd ddu ↑ Snowdon - Moel Elio - Mynydd Mawr to base, arriving

76

not long after dark - they might have started earlier but didn't rush forward to winding up the alarm clock last night!

X Base Hughes & Picken - satisfactory contact with W/OP instructing Cpl Hughes (A/F fitter, one of the "indispensables" in ASF) in use of the 1154 - 55 as base R/T set. One walkie talkie which was carried up a lot of mountainside gave unsatisfactory results where were traced to an acc. charged the wrong way round (again) - we might get an acc room civilian rushing up hills with a walkie talkie to prove our point if this happens a third time?

Lees Hill (a) were preceded by Cartledge & McClean (b) on Angel Pavement, Craig y Bere - quite hard severe in nails & severe even in rubbers - in view of base all day. Descent (a) middle section of Pinnacle Ridge (b) Sentries ridge. Well timed to arrive on road at dusk.

Returned to RAF Valley about midnight.

Remarks NCO i/c MRT

Familiarisation in another part of "Snowdonia" with some rockclimbing thrown in for those who know the area.

30/9

NCO i/c MRT

X Officer i/c MRT

Here is a classical example of the way the MRT is run the 'shoe string' basis. We only have a few accs. and this happens. Little wonder feelings run a little high! Have spoken to electrical officer and also heightened up our "drawing procedure" for the accs. They sign that they are charged.

1 Sept 60

Sqn Ldr

48 10 hr exercise

GLYDERS & CARNEDDAUWednesday 28th September 1960

1330 F S Lees +14 Team left for Ogwen in 58AE94 RL Sigs truck & landrover.

107/650604.

On the way out LR dropped off Hughes Foster & Tomlinson in Bethesda to go up Drosgl - Yr Aryg - Foel Grach - Carnedd Llewelyn - Pen yr oleu wen - Ogwen. The RL set down McClean O'Donnell & Cartledge who went up Mynydd Perfedd from Tyn y Maes & traversed Y Garn to top of Devils Kitchen & down the track to Ogwen. Gale force winds but surprisingly no rain.

Lees & Janney climbed on Braich ty du where gardening in such a wind was hard on the eyes - tho' the crag was relatively sheltered. Probably the second ascent of the direct start to Decameron Rib (very severe) - the crux is probably at the top of the upper pitch, by the twin cracks & moving left to the large thin flake. Very cold on the fingers - a good climb.

Returned to the road in last light after 3 abseils down the rib 100' left of the top of Decameron Rib: where there are 2 large rowans as bollards.

To Valley later.

Remarks NCO i/c MRT

30/9

A good turn out & a much drier day than we had expected,

NCO i/c MRT

Officer i/c MRT

A good months training making use of all daylight available. The team is in good shape but there are a few domestic problems to be sorted with section Commanders! - This I will do

Station Commander

There was a mistaken view that an MRT exercise did not come under the heading of an officially sponsored revention for Wednesday afternoon. I have corrected this view with one officer - you may quote me if similar incidents arise,

10/10/60

Gp Capt.

48 hr exercise

MOELWYNNSFriday 30th September 1960

1800 FS Lees + 8 travelled in RL 58AE94 & LR 65AA44 to a campsite in Nantgwynant, by the foot of the Watkin Path 107/626509. Gale force wind & driving rain made tent erection difficult & the cooking shelter was left for tomorrow in the hope that the weather would improve.

Saturday 1st October

0700 The wind had dropped & cooking tent was erected between showers. Last night when the Police Stn was visited to inform PC Hughes (a Sub Unit) of our position he asked 1000 for our help in rescuing a sheep from a steep cliff above the Aberglaslyn Pass.

The cliff is steeper than it appears from below & gave good training, particularly as the sheep was still fit & ready to leap off rather than be caught by a Scotsman! (Success to Shanks & Foster backed up by Cartledge & lowered by Brown Tomlinson and Lees. Sheep

taken down on NCO's back abseil fashion, thought harness requires many mods in fabric shop yet. Overhangs of gorse presented their own problems often felt in ensuing weeks!
1600 Returned to base - a short day but hungry!

Sunday 2nd October.

High winds still & low cloud.

- A. Cross Shanks Picken Tomlinson - top of Crimea - Allt Fawr - Moel Druman - Moel Merich - base.
- B. Foster Cartledge O'Donnell - Llyn Stwlan - Moelwyn Bach - Moelwyn Mawr - Moel Merich - base.
Lees Brown Crackstone Rib ↓ Dead Entrance Spiral Stairs.

Remarks:- A good weekends training.

NCO i/c MRT

79

10 hr exercise

CARNEDDAU & GLYDERS

Wednesday 5th October 1960

1330 F.S. Lees + 17 travelled to Ogwen in RL 58AE94, Sigs truck & LR setting up camp in the car park 650604.
Hughes Tomlinson Wilson llyn Bochlwyd - direct up the cwm to Castell y Gwynt - Tryfan.
Shanks Kinnes - Pen yr oleu wen - Carnedd Dafydd.
Pearson Mackenzie Foster - Bochlwyd - Tryfan.
Hardman O'Donnell Charity with Ord. start.
Cartledge & Lees; Janney & Gordon Girdle Traverse of the East Wall of Idwal Slabs. The last 2 ropes took their head torches & needed them - the last pr. by the classic finish abseiling off the large ledge of Grooved Wall. The first party on Charity carefully left their torches at the foot of the Slabs & had to feel their way down the east traverse!
2030 All back at base after some night experience.
Returned to RAF Valley after a meal.

Remarks NCO i/c MRT

The change from A to Zulu time is always rather a surprise: those caught out will learn the hard way!

24/10/60

NCO i/c MRT

80

48 hr exercise

CARNEDDAU & MOELWYNS

Friday 7th October 1960

A night exercise was long overdue & hopes were raised as a team of 16 with FS Lees i/c travelled in bright (rising) moonlight to Bwlch y Gaer 107/744693. Vehicles out were 58AE94, Sigs truck & LR (trailer still u/s wiring).

After a meal & issue of pyrotechnics, to be fired from various summits, parties were
2100 set down as follows:-
A. LR (Broome Picken)
B. Hardman N Cartledge Gordon
Aber - Foel Brach - Carnedd Llewelyn - base.
C. Tomlinson McMichael Shanks
Bethesda - Carnedd Dafydd & Llewelyn - Pen Llithrig y Wrach to base

-
- C. RL (Lees Brown)
Foster Kinnes Mckenzie
Trefriw - Pen Llithrig y Wrach - Carnedd Llewelyn - Foel Fras - base
- D. O'Donnell Wilson Janney.
Capel Curig - Pen Llithrig y Wrach - Carnedd Llewelyn - Foel Fras - base
-

The drivers of vehicles informed Police Stns around the area of the possibility of lights being seen - Conway, Bethesda, Capel Curig & Betws y Coed. Conway Police also informed the Divisional Fire HQ (& Sub Unit) at Colwyn Bay,

Saturday 8th October

- Even before midnight the cloud clamped & later it began to rain - ideal navigation practise!
- 0100 Lees & Brown took a stroll up Pen y Gader & Pen y Castell to see how thick the cloud was, & set off a few flares G.I. No other pyrotechnics were seen of course with vis. 20 yds at best. Returned to base at about 0330.
- 0600 First Party, A returned.
- 0930 Last party, B having been somewhat mislaid achieved bed!
-

81

Sunday 9th October 1960

- 0900 Another day of almost non stop heavy rain.
Navigation:- Kinnes Shanks Mackenzie
Pen y Castell - Drum - Tal y Fan - Pont Hafodty Gwyn - base
Reciprocal course. Hardman Wilson McMichael.
Rockclimbing:- Gordon Picken Tomlinson & another 3 Janney O'Donnell Foster did Diagonal, Conway Corner & Lay Climb on Clogwyn Caerau & also Picken & O'Donnell were taught abseiling.
Cartledge & Lees did Chic, Clogwyn yr Oen, Moelwyns.
- 2030 All soaked again when packing wagons.
Roll on bed!

Remarks NCO i/c MRT.

Keep the 'skivers' away.

NCO i/c MRT

Remarks Officer i/c MRT.

82

10 hr exercise

GLYDERS & CARNEDDAU

Wednesday 12 October 1960

- 1330 Vehicles left as soon as parties ready to drop people off & then rendezvous at Ogwen. Total 17 with Bedford RL 58AE94, Sigs truck & LR 65AA44.
Landrover dropped parties as follows:
O'Donnell Hughes Kinnes
above Deiniolen - Elidir Fawr - Y Garn ↓ E ridge - Ogwen.
Foster Cartilage Shanks
Pen y Pass - Glyder Fach - Glyder Fawr ↓ N Kitchen track.
RL dropped:-
Tyn y Maes - Pearson Wilson McMichael -

- ↑ Carnedd Dafydd - Pen yr oleu wen - base
from base when set up at 650604
- Brown Hardman + 2 drivers on 14 day attachment (Martin & Morrow) ↑ S ridge
Tryfan ↓ W face.
- Lees Gordon explored new crag to see if it is suitable for training - Craig y Dinas quite good but there is a dearth of suitable lay-bys on the A5 beneath.
↑ Outside Route & Bolder Way (HS) - wet.
- Satisfactory W/T comm with NRCC as is usual from here.
- 2200 Returned to Valley in the evening.

Remarks NCO i/c MRT.

A fine afternoon & evening. The 2 drivers who had volunteered for MR work under the ROM really wanted to get way from Coningby & are not the sort of people we need - they could easily do more harm than good

NCO i/c MRT

83

72 hr exercise

ERYRI

Friday 14th October 1960

- 1830 Sgt McMichael + 9 went with 2 RLs, Sigs truck, LR & trailer to a new campsite, found the previous evening on a Sub Unit inspection. Cwm Llanerch 797578.
Tilley lamps lit in Betws car park & then visit made to check with the farmer before camping on an excellent site near road but hidden by tress - old quarry for parking space.

Saturday 15th October

- RL 94 to Pen y Pass. Fine.
Snowdon Horseshoe - Michael F/O Sweatman Martin CG → Lliwedd while Tomlinson Hardman Morrow other direction.
Gordon & Foster climbed
& were late back.
- 2200 Message from Betws Police requesting Team to
~~Sunday 16th October~~
be at standby for Royal Flt 16 1530 - 16 1900 Z

Sunday 16th October

- 3 pairs rockclimbing on Clogwyn Caerau -
Gordon F/O Sweatman } Lay Climb
Tomlinson Martin } Conway Corner } Also abseiled
Foster Morrow } Diagonal climb }
- 1515 Sgt McMichael telephoned RAF Valley to confirm team standby - Betws Police Stn.
LR left at Police Stn
Short visit by Sqn Ldr Steele during afternoon.

Monday 17th October

wet

RL to Moelwyns - Gordon Sweatman Evasion Direct & Y Gelymen. Foster Brown Africa Rib. Tomlinson Hardman Slack. Sgt McMichael went over Carreg Flaen LLyn - Allt Fawr - Moel Druman - Llyn Caiglog - Moel Hydd - Llyn Stwlan → RL

36 hr exercise

CADER IDRIS

Friday Saturday 22nd Oct. 60

- 1140 Cpl Pibworth Gordon & Picken went off early in Sigs truck with cooking tent, "bomb" etc.
- 1345 Main party of 14 with Sgt McMichael i/c left Valley in RL 58AE94 + trailer & Landrover.
Trailer still blowing fuses in prime mover on the way down despite being u/s for last few weeks.
- 1645 Arrived base camp Pant y Llan 116/657134 where a brew was ready. It was rather a shock to find that the farmer was most "anti" - he did not want us to use the site at all but was eventually placated. Apparently some RAF from St Athan had been there a month or more ago & had done much damage to the ground & his approach road (mainly with their vehicles.)

Sunday 23rd October

Familiarisation:-

Fine day cloud on tops

- 0930 1. Foster Cross Wilson set down Dinas Mawddwy to do course 844154 - Bwlch Siglen - 817145 Cae Afon - 801141 - Waen Oer - 772139 - Mynydd Ceiswyn - 757140 (head of pass A487 between Cross Foxes & Tal y Llyn) 728136 Mynydd Moel - Pen y Gader - 691136 - 677135 - 657134. These had been specifically given this long course but without approval immediately halved it & went over Cader Idris from Cross Foxes instead.
2. Hughes Shanks F/O Sweatman. Cross Foxes - 757139 - 728136 - Mynydd Moel - Pen y Gader - 691136 - 677135 - 665120 - 645120 - Carig Cwm Llwn - base.
3. Gordon Janney Mackenzie. Minffordd 732115 - 729113 Llyn y Cau - 711131 Pen y Gader - Foxes Path - base.
4. Kinnes McClean Llanfihangel i Pennant - 673095 - 683102 - 704117 - 709122 - Pen y Gader - 691136 - 677135 - base.
5. Brown Pibworth McMichael returned from Dinas Mawddwy in LR via Bird Rock - Carig Aderyn & looked for campsites to the NE of the massif.
- 1800 All parties back at base by darkness or just after.

1900 Set off for RAF Valley.

Remarks NCO i/c MRT.

The senior man of the first party was taken to task at the subsequent debriefing and all are being given plenty of long walks in straight lines over tops

3/11

NCO i/c MRT

PS Telephone call to St Athan MRT proved that the people who caused much trouble were not their team but a group of PTIs from the P.T School there operating independently on some initiative scheme. Perhaps a letter could be written pointing out country code etc.

3/11

NCO i/c MRT

PPS Flt Lt. Cooke, a P.F.O. on the P.T. School Staff at St Athan telephone & also O i/c MRT there telephoned later saying no P.T. School were in the area either!

3/11

NCO i/c MRT

10 hr exercise

GLYDERSWednesday 26th October 1960

(wet)

- 1330 Cpl Pibworth took 2 parties as follows:-
 1. Sgt McMichael Shanks & new member England - Aber - Bera Mawr - Carnedd Llewelyn placed yellow can - Craig Llugwy - Glandena.
 2. Foster Tomlinson Cross - Rowlyn Isaf - Carnedd Llewelyn (bring back yellow can) - base.
 Party 2 arrived Carnedd Llewelyn 5 minutes before 1 & had to wait for can!
 Brown dropped from Sigs truck:-
 Hardman Hughes - Nant Peris - Esgair Felin - Glyder Fach - Glyder Fawr ↓ N Kitchen track & then joined RL at Ogwen 107/650604 - later Cpl Pib arrived with LR & then took W/OP Picken after contact with NRCC for a walk up Cwm Idwal to see Janney & Kinnies disappearing into the dusk halfway up Faith in Idwal Slabs.
 Meanwhile Lees Gordon & Cartledge were fighting with Decameron Rib direct - eventual success to the nails. Abseiled down from tree at top of pitch 1 in the dark.
- 2100 The Carnedd Llewelyn combined parties returned after a pleasant night walk.
 Returned to RAF Valley late.

Remarks NCO i/c MRT

Good night navigation experience & helps to make up for the weekend.

3/11/60

NCO i/c MRT

Inserted bottom of page 86.

M.R.T. LOG - OCT 1960	
Pages 67 - 87	
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F 540 DIARIST 3/11/60	
(signed)	
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O.C. M.R.T. (Sqn Ldr Steele)	
Sqn Ldr	
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O.C.F.W.	
Wg Cdr	
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C.O. (signed)	
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NCO i/c MRT	
✓	

48 hr exercise

CARNEDDAU & MOELWYNSFriday 28th October 1960

- 1800 15 Team left Valley in RL 59AE05, Sigs truck & Landrover & set up camp in a site used previously by the St Athan MRT in error when misreading a map reference at night! Used for a change of scene - called Bryn Gefeiliau. 107/744568.

Saturday 29th October.

Cartledge Gordon Wilson Crevassed Rib }
 Picken Gashed Crag } (fine)
 McMicheal F/O Sweatman Foster Janney
 Llyn Clyd - Y Garn - Glyder Fawr - Gallt yr Ogof.
 Pibworth Kinnes Tomlinson
 Tyn y Maes - Carnedd Dafydd - Pen yr Helgi du - Clogwyn Mawr - base.
 Lees & Moffat 3rd ascent Panorama Clogwyn Caerau.

Sunday 39th Oct

(fine again)

- 0900 Moelwyns:- LR Gordon F/O Sweatman 1 for Rd. Pied Piper
 LR { Janney Brown Pied Piper Doctors Dilemma (poor route)
 Lees Moffat ↑ Kirkus Direct ↓ Kirkus Ord. ↑ Pinky
 RL - Pen y Pass
 Cartledge Wilson Kinnes Snowdon Horseshoe
 McMichael Pibworth Llyn Gwynant - Moel Merich - Cerrig Cochion - Y Griban - Bwlch Main - PYG.
 Foster Tomlinson another long walk dropped at foot of Craig yr Oen - Moelwyns Bach - Mawr - Moel yr Hydd - Cnicht - Moel Merich - Moel Siabod - base
- 1930 All back for another good meal by O'Donnell (caught some wkshops ground equip on his toe!)
 Returned to Valley later

Seen Sqn Ldr off i/c MRT	3/11/60	NCO i/c MRT
W/C		

88

10 hr exercise

GLYDERS

Wednesday 2nd November 1960

- 1330 Sgt McMichael + 15 Team travelled to Ogwen in RL 59 AE05, & LR & set up base at 107/650604.
 Set down at Tyn y Maes - McMichael Kennsby O'Donnell - Carnedd y Filiast - Mynydd Perfedd Foel Goch - Y Garn - ↓ N Ridge.
 Janney Cartledge (Gribin Facet) Clogwyn y Bustach
 Slab Intermediate Slab Recess
 Pibworth England Kitchen Y Garn Kitchen
 Hardman Kinnes helped re-erect blown down cooking shelter & then went up Cwm Idwal.
 Hughes Gordon Wilson Y Garn
 Foster Shanks Pen yr oleu wen
 Extremely windy & heavy rain at times with spray blowing off lake into base kitchen!
 2100 Returned to RAF Valley under full sail later

Remarks NCO i/c MRT

More familiarisation

NCO i/c MRT

89

48 hr exercise

GLYDERS & CARNEDDAU

Friday 4th November 1960

- 1830 FS Lees + 14 Team left Valley in 59AE05, Sigs truck & LR. Trailer still u/s. Accompanied by Sqn Ldr J. R. Sims, Inspector of Mountain Rescue. Ops (SAR) Air Ministry who had been visiting the station during the day. Camp set up at Gwern y Gof Uchaf. 107/670604.
Non stop rain & strong wind - rather squelchy under foot!

Saturday 5th November.

- Was hardly better, although it did stop raining occasionally. I.M.R. wished to see some of team rockclimbing while remainder carried on with usual training programme of navigation & familiarisation, hillwalking

- A. Pibworth McMichael. LR to 601658. Machlyn Mawr Elidir Fawr - Y Garn - Glyders to base.
- B. Shanks England. Pen yr oleu wen Carnedd Llewelyn (put down can) Pen yr Helgi du - Pen Llithrig y Wrach - base.
- C. Tomlinson McClean Foster dropped by LR at top of Sychnant Pass - Tal y Fan - Drum - Foel Fras - Carnedd Llewelyn (bring back can) - Havoc wreckage on Carnedd Dafydd 665628 - base

Rockclimbing on Craig yr Ysfa -

Gordon S/L Sims, Kinnes F/O Sweatman ↑ Amphitheatre Buttress.
Lees Cartledge ↓ Nameless Rib ↑ Pinnacle Wall.

Rocks very cold & wet. All walked back over Carnedd Llewelyn & Carnedd Dafydd.

- In the evening we were asked to assist in rescue of 3 novices from U. College of N. Staffs, Keele M.C. from Idwal Slabs. Fortunately they had a lighter & were able to show their posn - so NCO i/c went down Eastern Traverse to top of Ordinary & threw them a top rope & then escorted them back to the "walk-off". They were merely wet & cold & had learned, no doubt, from their mistakes! (Bright moonlight by now)

90

Sunday 6th November 1960

Continued rain & sleet, though a little less wind.

I.M.R. packed up his tent new-type 4 man tent (which suffered a little from the weather!) & departed while the Team did a "hares & hounds". Sgt Mac & Cpl Pibworth were the hares taking a handful of yellow cans on sticks one of which was left at back point with the next map ref. written on a piece of paper in the can. All parties passing them sign & last party brings back cans.

Course 698592 - 701582 Cefn y Capel - 685585 Gallt yr Ogof top sp.ht 2499' - Llyn Caseg Fraith - Glyder Fach - base.

Hounds: 1. England O'Donnell. 2. Foster Tomlinson. 3. Shanks F/O Sweatman 4. Kinnes McClean. 5. Cartledge Gordon.

Back in good time for a huge meal & then packed up camp in last light & departed towards RAF Valley where drying facilities were once again at full stretch.

Remarks NCO i/c MRT. I.M.R appeared quite satisfied & is aware of our problems,

4 hr exercise

HOLYHEAD MOUNTAINWednesday 9th November 1960

- 1330 Sgt McMichael + 13 travelled in RL 59AE05 & Lr 65AA44 to a temporary base at TWR farm 106/222822.
Stretcher lowering & roping down was taught to the many newcomers since we last used the stretcher. A good spot for a short afternoon.
- 1730 Returned to RAF Valley for a late tea.

A useful afternoons refresher exercise.

(J.McMICHAEL) SGT.

36 hr exercise

ARENIGSSaturday 12th November 1960

- 1330 F.S. Lees + 12 went to Tai Hirion 116/811398 in RL 59AE05, Sigs truck & LR. On the way there 4 stopped at Braich ty du for rockclimbing - a wet afternoon again. Janney & Shanks failed to make the second ascent of Temptation while Cartledge & Lees failed to get up the rib above it on the left, but got some way up before descending & leaving a peg in situ.

Sunday 13th November

Navigation & familiarisation in better weather for practising the former! Janney Shanks Butterworth 750360 - Foel Boeth - Moel Llyfnant - Arenig Fawr - base.

Hughes Prakinson Pibworth Cwm Teigl (in LR) 763467 - 787424 - (Migneint - Arenig Fach).

Mackenzie Picken Brown up & down Arenig Fach.

Lees Cartledge ↔ Clogwyn yr Oen (Craig Dyn new route) new variation Slack direct - Pied Piper. One for the Road. Cold & wet again.

Returned Valley in the evening.

10 hr exercise

SNOWDON & GLYDERSWednesday 16th November 1960

- 1330 FS Lees + 14 set up a base at Ogwen 650604
On the journey out various parties were dropped off to traverse ridges of Snowdon - Hughes Brown Cross Janney Shanks
↑ Gribin ridge & down Miners Track.
Pibworth Butterworth England Parkinson Y Garn via Devils Kitchen
Kinnes Wilson Foster
Lees Cartledge climbed up and down some extremely cold wet rock on Braich Ty Du, finally descending leaving 2 slings & karabiners & 2 pegs, halfway up the proposed new route just left of Temptation.
Descended to base camp in the dark. Arrived a few minutes before the LR with Brown & the other Snowdon people.
Usual evening sausages & egg type meal before setting out for RAF Valley.

Remarks NCO i/c MRT.

Keeping an eye on Snow conditions on the higher mountains and also showing newcomers & people on 14 day "suitability" attachments, what to expect on our hills in winter.

NCO i/c MRT

93

72 hr exercise

ERYRI

Friday 18th November 1960

- 1800 FS Lees + 13 travelled in RL 58AE94, RL 59AE05 and LRover to camp at Glyn where there is a large half open barn with an excellent high roof - there is plenty of room for a badminton court for example! 107/751575. The gateway proved rather tricky particularly as we did it the hard way & reversed the RL in. Repairs to the fallen down gate were effected during the weekend.

Saturday 19th November

Parties on Snowdon horseshoe though with an interesting variation missing out the easier way over the ridges of Lliwedd & gaining Bwlch y Saethau by the Gribin ridge from Glaslyn instead.

Janney Gordon Parkinson Flt Lt Lonergan going up the Gribin & down Crib Goch & Foster McClean & Butterworth traversing Snowdon in the opposite direction.

Kinnes Shanks & Cross went from Nant Peris up onto Elidir Fawr & then traversed the Glyders to Capel Curig.

Good hard snow on the tops & a fine day

Lees & Cartledge completed the ascent began on the 12th & continued on 16th and called the new climb Patience. Standard hard severe in nails, some 'gardening' of heather clumps to be done yet.

Sunday 20th November

At breakfast we were interrupted by a telephone call from Ron James, C.I. Ogwen Cottage Mountain School & Sub Unit Rescue Post etc. with request to help in finding a party last seen late last evening on the Knight's Move Slab on Grooved Arête.

On arrival at Ogwen after telephoning NRCC etc. we were told that they had bivouacked & were met on the descent by some Ogwen personnel.

Search & rescue equipment re-stowed in RL and parties set off in drizzle for other courses. Pibworth McClean Miners Track - Glyder Fach - base.

94

Shanks Kinnes Prakinson Janney Capel Curig - Tal y Llyn Gerionydd - Cyffty - Ugly House - base.

Cartledge Gordon Butterworth Foster to Nyth Bran to arrange campsite for Christmas & inspect site to discuss gate widening operations etc. then walk over the low hills in vicinity back to base in time for the meal.

Since rain became heavier ardur for rockclimbing had diminished but Lees found one of Ogwen Cottage Sub Unit to go & climb on Braich ty du (J. Papworth) - Pinnacle Rib & 3rd ascent of Temptation - both quite difficult in vibrams - another way of getting our appetite. Sqn Ldr Steele visited base camp in our absence & left a crate of beer as a morale boosting present which was much appreciated - particularly by those who had developed a good appetite.

Monday 21st November 1960

Cpl Pibworth took the RL to Hafod Ruffydd & then parties did a circuit over the western Snowdon group from there:-

Pibworth Kinnes Shanks - Moel Hebog - Moel Lefn - Mynydd Tal y Mignedd - Hafod Ruffydd again.

Foster & Butterworth did the reciprocal.

Also dropped from RL at head of Llyn Gwynant

McClean Parkinson Flt Off Lonergan - Moel Merich - Moel Siabod - base.

Lees & Cartledge led thro' on second ascent of Patience (no pegs used this time) & finished off the day with B Buttress Route 2 (steep enough for the 'chimney' to be almost dry!) while Janney & Gordon did Temptation & some of B route 1. Very heavy rain in the afternoon made the rocks quite cold.

Returned to RAF Valley in the evening.

Remarks NCO i/c MRT

A varied weekend - the 'false alarm' call out gave practise in preparing emergency equipment carried in the RL.

NCO i/c MRT

95

48 hr exercise

ARENIGS & RHINOGS

Friday 25th November 1960

Sgt McMichael + 8 were intending camping at Cwm Nantcol but as it was there had been protracted heavy rain & gale for the last week & extensive floods throughout the country it was suspected that the campsite there would be slightly damp.

1600 Therefore Cpl Pibworth & Picken (W/OP) were sent in LR to asses the state of this campsite & rendezvous afterwards at Maentwrog.

1900 Main party left RAF Valley in RL 58AE94.

2100 Arrived Maentwrog to be told that Cwm Nantcol campsite was under water.

Directed to an alternative possible campsite noticed on a previous exercise by Sgt McMichael. This proved suitable under the existing weather conditions & was at Bedd

2230 Dorws in the Arenigs, ex artillery range behind Trawsfynydd - Bron Aber camp. Excellent tarmac roads have been built here & an old army cookhouse is available. 116/732312.

Saturday 26th November.

Navigation exercise on the surrounding hills - Arenigs & Rhobell area:-

(very wet low cloud)

Gordon Wilson Tai Cynhawaf 757299 - Pen y Cwm 765299 Bryn Pig 768307 - sp.ht. 1766' 778317 - Moel y Feidiog 783324 - 1743' 784333 - Foel Boeth - 2021' 778345 Pant Ugain 751327 - base.

O'Donnell Hardman Pont Abergairw 768292 - Pen y Cwm 767319 - 766330 - ford at 755366 - Llyn Gelligain - 735328 - base.

Pibworth Kinnes 765282 - Rhobell y Big - Foel Gron 794278 - Dduallt - 787293 - 753310 - base.

McMichael Picken from S - Rhobell Fawr - Rhobell y Big - Pont Abergairw - Pen y Cwm - 745309 - base.

Generally better for navigation training than for familiarisation of a different area.

96

Sunday 27th November 1960

- 1000 A practice sweep search had been planned previously in the Cwm Nantcol (Rhinog) area, so the RL was driven round to the farm above the originally proposed campsite - Cefn Cynneran & the party was set down to commence a sweep. The intention was to search the area between Moel Ddu, Carieg Fawr and Arenig Fawr & Bwlch ~~Ardudwy~~ Tyddiad for the remains of a Lancaster which crashed here in February 1945. ("Small bits only") Those that had not had to carry out a sweep search before learnt an awful lot quite soon, but no wreckage was found. However this was not unexpected considering the few experienced personnel available & the complete total of 7 in the line.
The party continued eastwards from the watershed & arrived back at the base camp
1800 in the dark. Starting to freeze.
Returned to RAF Valley icy windscreens & roads adding to the interest.

Remarks NCO i/c A disappointing turnout, but not surprising since half the team were on late grant ~~and only~~ we only have about twenty members in a thirty six man team generally.
(J. McMICHAEL Sgt)

97

8hr exercise

CARNEDDAU

Wednesday 30th November 1960

- 1330 FS Lees + 18 left RAF Valley in 2 RLs & LR & dropped off parties at Aber & Llanfairfechan etc. to walk over the northeastern corries of the Carneddau to a temporary base camp at Cae Coch above Tal y Bont 107/732715. SW gale, occasional showers.
1. McMichael Dulson Cormick Aber - Tal y Fan - base
2. Kinnes O'Donnell Foster Aber - Llwydmore - Drum - base
3. Shanks Butterworth England Aber - Llyn Anafon - Drum - base
4. Janney Gordon Picken Llanfairfechan - Tal y Fan - base.
5. Hughes Wilson Hardman Penmaenmawr - Liberator wreck - Tal y Fan - base
After helping Cartledge & Brown organise the cooking equipment in a small barn at Cae Coch Cpl Pibworth & FS Lees went to check on the amount of wreckage left of Anson on Tal y Fan & then continued to the W summit (1962' sp.ht.) Darkness
The wind was extremely strong in exposed places even at this low level on the eastern end of the mountains.
1830 All parties back at base camp.
Returned to Valley in the evening.

Remarks NCO i/c MRT.

We have just enough daylight for a brisk "trot" over some of the lower hills in this corner of our area at this time of year & usually manage an hour of 'night' experience too.

NCO i/c MRT

Sqn Ldr 30 Nov 60

98

Call Out

CARNEDD LLEWELYN

Weds 30th November 1960 -

Thursday 1st December

- 2345 Police Caernavon asked RAF Valley MRT to assist in search for a marine commando lost on a training exercise on Carnedd Llewelyn.

Team travelled to Bethesda Police Station in 2 RLs & LR and after finding out up to date details continued to Ogwen Cottage Mountain Centre where some of the earlier rescue parties had come.

Several prs of marines with little experience of high mountains had a course to do from Nant Peris over the Glyders to Ogwen & then onto Carnedd Llewelyn & down to Bethesda. A check pt at Ogwen & one on summit Carnedd Llewelyn. Last pr were Cpl Collins & Marine Greenstead & on the ridge leading to Llewelyn Greenstead became exhausted by the cold & wind. They carried on as far as possible expecting to get help from check pt personnel but they had already descended. Eventually Greenstead was left while Collins went down for help.

It appears that the marine party sent out to search for Greenstead was not very strong & certainly conditions were extremely bad. The Ogwen Cottage & Idwal Cottage rescue supervisors were asked to follow up with a stretcher so they did not go out in strength either. Visibility was about 2 yds & it was snowing high up. The stretcher & 3 carriers became airborne & the stretcher was damaged considerably.

- 0700 VMRT personnel joined with stringer group from Ogwen Cottage & ascended via Glan Llugwy, Ffynon Llugwy & Craig Llugwy at dawn & met Commando party from
1000 Bethesda as arranged near summit. Body of Greenstead found at 682643 on the exposed slopes just below the Summit. The lad had moved from where Collins left him. Carried down by combined parties.

Remarks NCO i/c MRT. Another sad & unnecessary accident in our hills caused by lack of respect. The medical opinion gave death as occurring between 1600 & 1800 on Wednesday evening, shortly after he was left.

NCO i/c MRT

99

36 hr exercise

ARENIGS

Saturday 3rd December 1960

- 1000 FS Lees + 20 Team travelled in RL 58AE94 Sigs truck & Landrover to Tai Hirion 116/811398. Ambulance also out serviceable at last (new back axle) driven by the M.T. fitter as a trial (Cpl Pibworth) while Sigs truck driven by an MTD attached for 3 weeks trial u/t fulltime driver (SAC Corey) the previous p. staff driver SAC Broome having bought his discharge.

Parties were set down as follows:-

LR (SAC Brown Yspytty Ifan - Carnedd y Filiast - Arenig Fach - Tai Hirion - Foster Cormick O'Gelsby (2 new lads, former on 2 wks trial attachment, latter posted to GWTS).
RL (FS Lees ~~Sgt Me~~ dropped Sgt McMichael Plt Off Lonergan & Cpl O'Donnell at 912428 to go up Carnedd y Filiast & Arenig Fach to Tai Hirion. (They eventually decided to go round Arenig Fach as the extremely strong headwind & driving rain adversely affected their powers, & the party leader did not want to push the relatively unknown Plt Off too hard since he was lagging, with last weeks Marine example still fresh in the mind.)

Previously the RL had also dropped McClean Butterworth & England with a course:- 892510 - Carnedd y Filiast - Arenig Fach - Tai Hirion.

After RL was unloaded Shanks Wilson Tomlinson & Corey went up Arenig Fach, down to the lake the other side & back to base. Cpl Pibworth & Dulson (part time u/t on fortnight attachment to assess suitability) also ascended Arenig Fach going up by the lake.

The LR was taken to the Moelwyn crags & in steady rain the enthusiasts enjoyed a climb on Craig Fach - Milky Way - Cartledge & Lees, Gordon & Kinnes. The first pr. also descended a Mod. climb, "Top Plate" in the last light.

Sunday 4th December 1960

Navigation training over southern Arenigs mainly & familiarisation -
Wilson Tomlinson Butterworth 852276 - Dduallt - 817354 - Moel Llyfnant - base.
O'Donnell England McClean Hardman 872306 - 846326 - Trawscoed - Arenig Fawr - Tai
Hirion.
O'Gelsby McMichael Ply Off Lonergan - Tai Hirion - Amnodd Bwll - Arenig Fawr - Moel
Llyfnant road - voluntarily also to Arenig Fach - Tai Hirion.

100

Pibworth Shanks Foster 750360 - Foel Boeth - Moel y Slates - Moel Llyfnant - Amnodd
Bwll.

Kinnes Brown Dulson - Capel Celyn - check on Vampire wreckage ~~8454222~~ 848439
Carnedd y Filiast - Arenig Fach - Tai Hirion.

Three went rockclimbing on Moelwyn crags looking for suitable training climbs. 2 climbs
were made, one of which took some rock in a line previously followed by M.R. parties on
training courses a few years ago; now described as "MARS" a new route of 200' Very
Difficult, up the obvious line 50 ft right of Milky Way Craig Fach. Afterwards a girdle
traverse of this crag was made & called ORION had V. Diff on first 15' pitch, well protected
for those following. Party was Cartledge Gordon Lees various leads.

Returned to RAF Valley in the evening.

Remarks NCO i/c MRT

A good weekend in many ways - the soaking & blind navigation on Saturday was an
eye opener for the 2 newboys, while Sunday enabled people to see more of the area & note
the ground they had "felt" their way across on the Saturday.

NCO i/c MRT

101

4 hr exercise

HOLYHEAD MOUNTAIN

Wednesday 7th December 1960

- 1330 Sgt McMichael + Team travelled to temporary base at Twr 222822 in RL 58AE94 and
LRover Ambulance. Abseil tuition for new boys including Plt Off Lonergan & driver
attached 3 wks. Corey (v. good at this!) Stretcher lowering down Yellow Wall, with the Plt
Off aboard!
1700 Back to RAF Valley

Remarks:- A fine day, usefully employed

(J. McMICHAEL SGT)

36 hr exercise

CARNEDDAU

Saturday 10th December 1960

- 1000 Sgt McMichael + 15 travelled in RL 58AE94 and LR to a base at Cyffty old lead mine.
107/772589. Snowing heavily. New forestry roads in this corner of the Carneddau were
explored in late afternoon by small parties.

Sunday 11th December

1000 While LR was taking Fg. Off Sweatman Tomlinson & Foster & another party of Shanks & O'Donnell to Pen y Gwryd the driver on attachment, Corey, slid into the wall on the way down to Ugly Ho. They were able to continue however & the parties went (a) Moel Siabod - Cyffty, (b) Cwm Ffynnon - Glyder Fawr & Fach - Capel Curig. Others in RL to near Bwlch y Gaer - road beat them - then Cartledge Picken England - Moel Eilio - Pen Llithrig - base: Gordon Hardman Butterworth - Llyn Dylan - Carnedd Llewelyn; and Sgt McMichael Janney & Cross ↑ Pen y Castell ridge to Drum - Foel Grach - Llewelyn - Helyg

1930 & back by road.

To Valley in evening over snowy roads.

Remarks Much deep soft snow on hills - heavy going.

(J. McMICHAEL SGT)

102

36 hr exercise

SNOWDON & GLYDERS

Saturday 17th December 1960

Sgt McMichael + 11 went in RL 58AE94 and LR 65AA44 + trailer 15AW90 to Glyn 107/751575.

Sunday 18th December

Drizzling. low cloud. Navigation weather:-

Foster England Parkinson - Pen y Gwryd - Glyders Fawr & Fach - Capel Curig - base.

Cartledge Shanks Hardman Bwlch Ehediad - Y Griban - Bwlch Main - Moel Siabod.

Gordon O'Donnell Wilson Dinas Emrys - Yr Aran - Snowdon - Carnedd U Crib y Ddisgl - Crib Goch - Pen y Pass.

McMichael soloed Cyffty - Llyn Gerionydd - Llyn Crafnant Capel Curig.

Remarks Training continues.

Sgt.

103

8 hr exercise

SNOWDON

Wednesday 21st December 1960

1330 FS Lees + 15 travelled to a temporary base camp in Capel Curig by Bryn Berthynan gateway 107/737572. On the way RL 58AE94 went via Pen y Pass & set down parties to 1500 "nip up" Crib Goch, one group ascending the East ridge from Bwlch Moch & descending the North ridge & traversing Cwm Beudy Mawr back to Pen y Pass, & the others the reciprocal. Snow on the upper part required care on the rocky sections.

Hughes Kinnes Cross Tomlinson (anticlockwise)

McMichael Gordon England Parkinson (clockwise)

The remainder did a vital job of removing a stone gate post (about 2 tons!) relic from a bygone age of narrow Celtic carts! Meanwhile the wkshops reps. O'Donnell & McClean finished making a gate extension from a scrap bedstead to be bolted to the existing iron gate. The owner, a sheep framing mountaineer, Whay Campion had previously approved the widening scheme to enable us to park the RL off the road & get to a suitable barn for the long Christmas "w/e", Sigs truck (Corey) arrived with wkshops party & extension just before darkness.

Drilling digging & cutting. RL collected Crib Goch parties at Pen y Gwryd where Mr C B Briggs bought them a Christmas pint!

Returned to RAF Valley (with gate swinging happily in wider gateway) & some feeling quite tired in arms after unaccustomed navvying!

Remarks NCO i/c MRT The 'navvies' were those who could safely "nip up" Crib Goch anytime - the newcomers being looked after by a reasonable proportion of experts, however
NCO i/c MRT

104

ERYRI

5 day duty team exercise

Friday 23rd December 1960

1400 FS Lees + 10 travelled in RL 58AE94 & LR 65AA44 + trailer to Bryn Brethynan & set up base in the barn there. 107/737572. The RL went through the bottom gate beautifully but a 5 ton rock had to be moved from halfway up the track before we could drive up to the barn! This occupied an instructive hour or so.

During the weekend we had much rain & some snow. Parties carried out sorties over all the surrounding hills from time to time, usually to work off a surfeit of beer or to improve an appetite. Apart from useful familiarisation, good relations with civilian sub Units etc. were encouraged & we were visited by the Guardian which produced a very fair article on RAF MRescue on the following day - 28th December.

Returned to RAF Valley on evening 28th Dec.

Remarks NCO i/c MRT

Generally wet. There were many complaints about the rations - we seem to be real Cinderella's these days.

NCO i/c MRT

105

SNOWDON & CARNEDDAU

48 hr exercise

Friday 30th December 1960

1830 FS Lees + 11 duty team travelled again in RL 58AE94, LR & trailer to Bryn Brethynan 107/737572. Despite our work over Christmas shovelling gravel & scree onto the track it was extremely muddy.

Saturday 31st December

Wilson Hardman Plt Off Lonergran Snowdon Horseshoe clockwise
Tomlinson Butterworth Fg Off Sewatman ----- " ----- anti ---" ---
Pibworth Parkinson England Carneddau - Crafnant - Pen Llithrig y Wrach - Pen yr Helgi du - base. Snow on tops almost hard enough to walk above - then! in knee deep again! New Year Eve celebration with Ogwen Cottage sub unit on Carreg Wastad:- R James J Papworth P Benson JR Lees PR Janney a rope of 5 on Unicorn then RJ PB JRL ↑ Ribstone Crack while other 2 climbed Crackstone Rib. Showers - very severe rock at this temperature is hard on the fingers - fine leads by James.
In the evening other Sub Units were visited with Seasonal greetings.

Sunday 1st January 1961

The year started well with sleet & much rain. The Team started well too sleeping & eating after last years exertions. A firkin of beer in one corner of the barn also had something to do with it!

Returned to Valley in the evening.

2/1/61

NCO i/c MRT

10 Jan 61 Sqn Ldr

12 Jan 61 Sqn Ldr

13 Jan

106

4 hr exercise

HOLYHEAD MOUNTAIN

Wednesday 4th January 1961

FS Lees + 11 went to Holyhead Mountain in RL 58AE94, Ambulance & Landrover & parked at Twr 222822. Abseiling & stretcher lowering was taught & practised and an attempt on the diagonal crack under the roof right of Catapult was made by Janney & Lees. Latter nearly up. Extremely strenuous & severe route requires practise. Several others attempted Catapult Crack but did not growl enough!

Back to RAF Valley for tea.

Remarks NCO i/c MRT

A good midweek break for some fresh air & a lot of exercise

NCO i/c MRT

107

48 hr exercise

ARENIGS & MOELWYNNS

Friday 6th January 1961

FS Lees + 12 Team travelled in RL 58AE94, Sigs truck & trailer & LR 65AA44 to Cwm Penamnen where the forestry 'bothy' just above Tai was used for shelter 107/736506.

Saturday 7th January

~~Majority on navigation training courses over surrounding hills.~~ Stretcher lower on Craig Wrysgan, Moelwyn crags, 3 ATC boys also arranged to come to be tested for M.R. in D.E.A scheme - 'public service'. 2 turned out to be without basic knowledge of abseiling & were taught this by Cpl Pibworth, also a new driver went with him for training.

Remainder 'rescued' Kinnes from stance at foot of the little V chimney on Taith Pererin - he was lowered about 200' in two pitches to the ground, one ATC boy, John Roberts of Blaenau Ffestiniog (aged 17) lowering one of the stretcher ropes. Stretcher tie methods & bowline on a bight on a doubled rope gave him some trouble - also others! Long belay ropes & prusik knots quite baffling. Party for second stance abseiled past ledge where injured man was to prepare for descent (double Thomas splint most uncomfortable, see MO)

Afterwards Pibworth drove RL back with new driver, Catner & dropped off a party at top of Crimea Pass to walk back to base over the hills - Butterworth Shanks Parkinson O'Donnell & Plt Off Lonergran.

Quick rockclimb: Lees Fg Off Sweatman 3/4 Orion, descent first pitch Milky Way. Tomlinson Kinnes first 2 pitches Orion & then escaped upwards. Wet snow & ice on rocks, showers of snow & sleet. A day for 'nordwand' aspirants.

Sunday 8th January

- Majority on navigation training courses over the surrounding hills:-
- A. Parkinson Kinnes - base - Moel Penamnen (can) - Manod Mawr find can on 723446 & bring back to Ro Wen (can) - base.
 - B. Butterworth Plt Off Lonergran LR to Tan y Grisiau - Cwm Orthin - Moel yr Hydd - Allt Fawr - Crimea - Moel Penamnen (bring back can) - Ro Wen - base.
-

108

- C. O'Donnell Shanks Pibworth LR to Pont yr Afon Gam 74554425 - Manod Mawr - place can on south summit for party A - Rowen - base.
Lees Tomlinson rockclimbing on Moelwyn crags - started up Milky Way. Off to left & down to foot of Orion. Completed Orion to foot of yesterdays rib - up Mars. 3/4 way up
1530 this when a Police car came up & shouted to ring NRCC. Descended to call box Blaenau F.
1600 approx NRCC controller explained Police Wrexham had asked for assistance in searching for 2 civilian climbers missing in the Berwyns last evening. However at about 1500 a report had come through that they had been found dead, probably having walked over a cornice on Cader Berwyn. No further action from RAF required, thank you.
1451 W/OP on base had rcd message from local policeman to contact NRCC W/T - success - "Proceed to 117/081290. Police controlling thro' Wrexham 2291"
1513 W/T watch still open with NRCC "cancel last message bodies found".
Police contact usual bicycle business until base are asked to open up on W/T
Fortunately only a mile & a half up hill to this campsite from Police Stn.
1700 All parties back at base.
Returned to RAF Valley in the evening.

Remarks NCO i/c MRT Our press liaison people did us a lot of no good on this - we were quoted to have taken too long to get there to be of use!

NCO i/c MRT

↑ P.R.O. has been instructed to investigate this.

Wg Cdr

109

4 hr exercise

HOLYHEAD MOUNTAIN

Wednesday 11th January 1961

FS Lees + 14 Team travelled to Twr base (222822) for an afternoon. Abseiling & rockclimbing taught & two possibly new routes were climbed on the left hand buttress of the crag, both about severe. One might add here that again a hold broke with no warning - great care should be exercised when leading on these crags & top ropes should be used for training on the more difficult climbs & particularly for those leaders of the Team who have not had much previous experience.

Returned to RAF Valley for tea.

NCO i/c MRT

110

48 hr exercise

CARNEDDAU

Friday 13th January 1961

FS Lees + 14 travelled to the Bethesda hut in 58AE94, Sigs truck & trailer, Ambulance & new LR for SNCO Course 14AA84. 107/625666.

Saturday 14th January.

A fine day with prospects of hard snow high up tho' after last weeks thaw none at all below 2750 - 3000' Small parties made their way to the eastern face of Carnedd Llewelyn where one can almost guarantee snow (3484')

Kinnes Plt Off Lonergran }
McClean O'Donnell Fleming }
Shanks England }
Butterworth Parkinson Hardman }

via Yr Elen & back by Carnedd Dafydd

up Dafydd, down Yr Elen

Shanks & Kinnes, last years winter course pupils were in charge of training - roped members were thrown down the east face & taught to stop etc!

Sunday 15th January

Another fine cold day deteriorating later. All up to Cwm Cneifion - in LR & Ambulance to Ogwen. 647582 - "Nameless" Cwm where again braking falling belaying & step cutting taught on the steep hard snow at the head of the cwm. All walked back to base over Y Garn & Mynydd Perfedd.

Returned to RAF Valley in the evening.

Remarks NCO i/c MRT. A good grounding in winter climbing using the ice axe & rope - essential if the team are to be safe on the hills in winter.

NCO i/c MRT

Inserted between pages 110 & 111.

From Valley at 5.5pm.

Exercise extreme caution on returning
to Valley. The nearside of road is
still icy.



111

10 hr exercise

N. E. CARNEDDAU

Wednesday 18th January 1961

Parties set down from the transport on the way out to the base:-

Bont Newydd - Llyn Anafon - Drum - base
England Wilson Shanks

Bont Newydd - Llwydmore - Drum - base
Butterworth Janney Kinnes Gordon

Bont Newydd - Roman road - Tal y Fan - base

O'Donnell McMichael Hardman Tomlinson

~~Llanfairfechan Moelfre Tal y Fan base~~
~~Fleming Pibworth Sykes~~ Total team of 19

New NCO i/c Sgt Appleby introduced to our Sub Unit at Ogwen Cottage & then taken with some of the Ogwen Cottage M.R. Team to a crag in Crafnant where some possibilities for new 'artificial' routes abound & a combined ascent has been in progress for some days. Good place for training in the summer.

To Cae Coch after dark where base was established at 107/732715. Vehicles used were 58AE94, Sigs truck & trailer, Ambulance & LR 65AA44.

Remarks NCO i/c MRT Useful training & familiarisation.

Sgt Appleby attached here for 3 months while I run a new Team Leaders course

NCO i/c MRT

112

36 hr exercise

CARNEDDAU & GLYDERS

Saturday 21st January, 1961

Sgt Appleby + 18 team members left the Station at 14-10 hrs arriving at Bethesda Hut - 15-05 hrs. F.S. Lees already installed with six N.C.O.s on M.R. Leaders Course.

Vehicles used. Bedford R.L., Austin R.V.T. Landrover Ambulance, Landrover 4 x 4, and Trailer.

Sunday 22nd January 1961

All parties left the Hut at 08-20hrs, two parties by Landrover to Aber Falls & Sychant, and a further two parties by Bedford R.L. to Capel Curig.

From Aber Falls - Sgt Appleby, SAC McClean, S.A.C. Wilkinson.

Course:- Ffridd Ddu, Moel Wnion, Gyrn, Drosogl, Yr Arig Foel Grach, Cwm Eigiau, Dolgarrog.

From Sychant - Sgt McMichael, J.T Gordon, SAC Kinnes

Course:- 743765, Tal y Fan, Bwlch Ddeufan, Drosogl, Foel Fras, Foel Grach, Carnedd Llewelyn, Yr Elan, Craig Llugwy, Carnedd Difydd, Tyn y Maes.

From Bron Heulog - Cpl O'Donnell, Hardman, England

Course :- Pen Llithrig y Wrach, Pen yr Helgi Du, Craig Yr Ysfa, Carnedd Llewelyn, Yr Elan, Craig Llugwy, Carnedd Difydd, Pen yr Oley wen, Tyn y Maes.

From Capel Curig - Wilson, Tomlinson, Shanks

Course:- Gallt yr Ogof, Nameless Peak, Glyder Fach, Glyder Fawr, Yr Aran, Elifir Fawr & Fach, Eynydd, Mynydd Perfedd, Carnedd Perfedd.

Team returned to Valley 22.20hrs.

Remarks N.C.O. i/c M.R.T.

The Welsh type Asian Flu which is "going the rounds" laid a restraining hand on several of the N.C.O.s (Leaders Course) and served the symptoms on three team members. Otherwise - A very good exercise.

Sgt Appleby

113

8hr Exercise

Carneddau

Wednesday 25th January, 19861

Ch/Tech Hinde + 10 team members left the Station at 14.00hrs, arriving at Ogwen Cottage - 15.15hrs.

Vehicles used. Bedford R.L. Austin R.V.T. & Landrover, Trailer.

Ch/Tech Hinde, Cpls Pibworth & Hughes gave Snow & Ice technique instruction to team members in the Cwm Lloer area. Step cutting techniques, snow belaying, glissading, & emergency stopping were demonstrated by the instructors and practised by team members. Snow conditions quite good.

Team returned to Valley at 22.10hrs

Sgt Appleby

114

72 hr exercise

Snowdon, Carneddau & Moelwyns

Friday 27th January, 1961

Sgt McMichael + 9 team members left the Station at 14.25 hrs arriving at base camp (Glyn Barn) at 16.30 hrs F.S. Lees & Sgt Appleby followed on later, being delayed at Station with Inventory work.

Vehicles used: Bedford R.L. Austin R.V.T. Landrover ambulance Landrover & trailer

Saturday 28th January 1961

Two parties completed the reciprocal of the Snowdon Horseshoe. Poor visibility & high winds and good snow conditions on the tops were encountered.

Sunday 29th January 1961

Windy day with heavy rain showers. A 'Hare and Hounds' was organised.

"Hares" - Sgt McMichael & Tomlinson

"Hounds" - F.Off Swetman, Gordon, O'Donnell, Fleming, Cartner, Wilkinson

Course:- 753584 - 746595 - 744589 - 753605 - 772594.

Monday 30th January, 1961

Heavy rain, cold. Climbing Party consisting of F.O. Swetman and Tomlinson went to Ogwen & climbed "Pinnacle Ridge". Rover transported Wilkinson, Gordon & Cpl O'Donnell to PYG. Walked back to base via Moelgied, Moel Siabod to Pon Cyfng. Third

party (Sgt McMichael, Brown, Picken) Pon Cyfng via Moel Siabod, Moelgid, Bwlch y Main, Y Girbau to Air Lingus Dakota crash returning via Bwlch Main to P.Y.G.

Parties returned to base camp at 18.00 hrs - tea on diminished rations (short of Meat)
Team to Valley at 21.30 hrs.

Sgt Appleby

115

C.O. Re the final paragraph of Page 114 - Shortage of meat. This was not the fault of the Catering Section but the result of our lavish cooking for previous meals.

Wg. Cdr.

116

48 hour Exercise

Arenigs

Sgt Appleby + 8 team members left the Station at 19.05 hrs on Friday 3rd February arriving at base camp (Tahirion) at 22.10 hours

Saturday 4th February 1961

Usual hill weather - low cloud and raining. Two parties set out from base camp on a navigational exercise.

Sgt McMichael, S.A.C. Cartner, AC Hardman

Route:- Arenig Fach, Foel Wen, Foel boeth - 868414 Mynydd Nodol - 858372 Return to base

2nd Party:- Gordon, Kinnes, Shanks, Brown, completed the reciprocal of the above party.

Sunday 5th February

Transport to Tyddyn Bach and above parties carried out the reciprocal course of:-
Craig Eas eithin - Moel Oernant - 753352, 766365, 772356, Foel Boeth - 764331 - Tyddyn Bach.

Vehicles used. Bedford R.L. Austin R.V.T. Landrover 4 x 4.

Team returned to Valley at 22.25 hrs

Sgt Appleby

117

2 hr Exercise

Holyhead Mountain

Wednesday 8th February

Sgt Appleby + 11 team members left the Station at 14.00 hrs arriving exercise area at 14.25 hrs.

Vehicles used Bedford R.L. Landrover.

It was the intention to carry out a rock-climbing should the weather be clement. With high winds blowing across the rock-faces, conditions were considered unsuitable. Two Parties walked round the mountain - covering all high ground.

The following took part in the exercise:-

Sgt Appleby

Cpl Hughes

Team returned 17.25 hrs

Sgt Appleby

120

36 hour Exercise

Snowdonia

Saturday 18th February

Sgt Appleby + 7 team members left Station at 14.00 hrs arriving 15.30 hours at Garth base-camp.

Vehicles used:- Ambulance, Austin R.V.T. Bedford R.L.

Sgt Sykes operating T.R. 1154/1155 failed to make contact with Pitivie Castle (N.R.C.C.)

Sunday 19th February.

A fine day, visibility - excellant.

Sgt Appleby - Brown

Route:- Moel Siabod - Clogwyn Bwlch-y-Main - Y Cribau - 690530 - Bwlch Ehediad, Ceunent Mawr.

Shanks, Fleming, Hardman, Cartner

Route:- Moel Siabod - Y Cribau - Ysgafel Wen - Moel Drumait, Allt Fawr - Return Base

Both parties converged on the Dakota crash to view wreckage.

Team returned to Valley at 21.00 hrs

Sgt Appleby

121

2 hour Exercise

Airfield

Wednesday 22nd February.

The team were briefed by 22 Squadron on winching and Neil Robertson Stretcher lifting prior to practising same

Team members participating

Sgt Appleby	S.A.C Picken	L.A.C. Wilson
" Sykes	" Cartner	" Butterworth
J/T Shanks	" Wilkinson	AC Hardman
SAC Brown	" Janney	" French-Paris

Exercise finished 15.30 hrs

Sgt Appleby

122

72 hour Exercise

Carneddus

Friday 24th February

Sgt Appleby + 11 team members and Flt Lt. Grindley (Detached from BallyKelly) left the Station at 19.00 hrs arriving at Cyffty - 20.40 hrs.

Saturday 25th February

Party 1 Brown, Butterworth, Wilkinson & Flt. Lt Grindley proceeded to Pyn y Pass with transport, and completed Snowdon Horseshoe.

Party 2 Wilson - French-Paris, Hardman

Route 729614 - Llithrig y wrach - Pen yr Helgi du - Llewelyn and return

Party 3 Shanks, O'Donnell, Fleming

Route Taly-y-Llyn, Monument (765616) - 738634 - Pen Llithrig-y-Wach - Pen y Helgi Du - return via Ty-y-Llyn.

Sunday 26th February.

Heavy gale force winds, drenching rain. It was decided that the hills could be given a rest turning out to be a wise move. Tent blown down by winds, and the roof of the building housing the kitchen fell in, fortunately no-one was injured. A hasty retreat to Bethesda Hut was indicated and adopted unanimously.

Monday 27th February

Transport to Ogwen Cottage.

Cpl O'Donnell Brown French-Paris set off to do a ridge walk.

Route:- Glyder Fach, Glyder Fawr, Y Garn, Foel Goch, Mynydd Perfedd, Carnedd y Filiast and return via base camp

Wilson, Shanks set off from Ogwen walked to Craig yr Ysfa and climbed Amphitheatre Buttress, ten to Llewelyn - Yr Elan & return to base.

Sgt Appleby, Fleming, Butterworth, Hardman went rock-climbing starting on assorted boulder problems, and rock just to the East of Milestone Buttress, finishing up on the Slabs at Little Tryfan.

123

Team returned to Valley at 20.00 hrs

Remarks. Despite a poor day on Sunday everyone enjoyed their week-end. Food very good.

Sgt Appleby

6 Mar 61

Sqn Ldr i/c MRT

124

48 Hour Exercise

NANT GWYNANT

Friday 3rd March

NCO i/c + 9 members departed Valley 03/1900 Z for Nant Gwynant Map Ref: EW 108/626509

Saturday 4th

0820 Combined R/T & Navigation Exercise carried out over the Moelwyns. Communication good when working from peaks to Base camp. Weather cloudy but good for navigation practice.

Sunday 5th

0930 One party with R/T set to Snowdon via Y Lliwedd with link man on YR ARRAN. Again good communication to Base but only from the peaks.

Four team members to Llanberis Pass for climbing on Dinas Cromlech:-

1 Shanks } up Parchment Passage, down Pharaohs passage
Gordon } up Horsemans.

2 Tomlinson } up Parchment Passage & Flying Buttress
O'Donnell }

3 Gordon Better Things of Spiral Stairs
Tomlinson

Climb No. 3 was completed at dusk.

Remarks NCO i/c

A varied exercise & enjoyed by all. although the new driver failed on familiarisation due to a visit by the Station Commander in disguise.

I also carried out W/T exercise with the W/OP on C.W. but even 500 yards from Base camp, separated by trees & high ground (200') QsA was negative.

G. Sykes Sgt

125

Remarks Officer i/c

OGWEN

Wednesday afternoon

NCO i/c plus 18, which included J/T Clay & LAC Mills probationers on 2 week course, left Valley at 1415 hours

Familiarisation & ridge walking was the order of the day over the Glyders, Tryfan & Carnedd Dafydd. All parties reassembled at 1930 hrs for mugs of hot soup then returned to Valley for a booked meal.

P.S. One 'fit' aircrew (M/N Walker) came along for exercise & did Carnedd Dafydd in flying boots. He was watched. His remarks "all A/C should do this"?

Remarks NCO i/c

A lovely sunny afternoon for a stroll & most enjoyable.

Remarks Officer i/c M.R.T.

126

48 Hour Exercise

PANT Y LLAN - CADER IDRIS

Friday 10th March 1961

NCO i/c plus 15 members left Valley at 1900 hours for Base camp Map Ref 116/657134. Forward Base Party have already left at 1000 hrs in R.L. & W/T wagon. Party of three, Hardman, French-Paris, Butterworth were dropped off in Vale of Ffestiniog enroute to Base camp to make their own way over desolate terrain including two night 'bivvys' & rejoin main party on Sunday evening.

Saturday 11th

0830 Three parties were engaged in a familiarisation tour of the Cader Idris route. Very low cloud, rain & windy. The two probationers were put in charge of leaders for navigational experience. A pick up / drop off party was arranged at Cross Foxes farm.

Sunday 12th

0930 Weather deteriorating & cloud even down to Base Camp level. Hill walking was carried out by all members.
Hardman, French-Paris & Butterworth rejoined at Base camp at 1800 hours who commented that the tot of rum issue was the best morale booster they had ever had!
Arrived Valley 2230 hours

Remarks NCO i/c

Now knowing this area I would keep it for a 36 hour exercise. Police Station Visited.
G. Sykes Sgt.

Remarks Officer i/c.

127

48 hour Exercise

GLYDERS - SNOWDON

Friday 17th March, 1961

NCO i/c + 15 members proceeded to the R.A.F. hut Bethesda in the evening

Saturday 18th

- 0900 Hardman, Clay Mills - last two probationers - were dropped off at NANT GWYNANT for an overnight 'bivvy' on Snowdon but due to very cold weather & snow a retreat was made to the shores of Llyn Llydaw where they stayed for the night. The following morning they decamped & carried on down the 'zigzags' to Pen y Pass crossing the A4086 to complete the Glyders, arriving at Bethesda hut 1730 hours on the Sunday. A Party of 4 (2 x 2) went Llanberis Pass for rockclimbing & returning over the miners track to Ogwen Cottage. A further party did the Glyders from Base camp to Ogwen.

Sunday 19th

- 0900 Snow was visible on the tops this morning, but bright sunshine followed later in the forenoon. Rockclimbing was continued by the same parties & familiarisation of Carnedd Dafydd & Glyders continued by remainder of members.

Remarks NCO i/c:-

The 'bivvy' probationers enjoyed their two weeks with us & have been recommended for posting this sta.

G. Sykes Sgt

Remarks Officer i/c

128

Afternoon

Ogwen

Wednesday 22nd March 1961

The team (12 members) were accompanied by F.S. Lees & his party of would be Team Leaders. Sgt Sykes staying behind to do administrative work. Rock climbing was the general order of the day.

Remarks NCO i/c

BRYN ENGAN

36 hr

Saturday 25th March

- 1420 NCO i/c + 15 members proceeded to Base Camp dropping of 4 Parties at Ogwen for climbing. Hardman took Lewis (new member) up 1st 2 pitches hope rest of Charity. Gordon / O'Donnell tennishoe. All parties returned by 2000 hrs to Base Camp.

Sunday 26th

A rather cloudy day with drizzle on tops. Pibworth - Lewis - Hardman a general familiarisation of the Tryfan area for Lewis's benefit. Sykes, Brown, familiarisation of the Carnedd, Tomlinson / Butterworth - Home Climb, Zig Zag - L.H finish

129

O'Donnell / Gordon on Canopy Tennishoe. Wilson / McClead Poston Gate, Holly Tree Crack, Rowan Tree, Ivy Chimney. O'Donnell / Gordon also did 1/2 Soap Gut. All parties assembled at Base camp by 1830 hrs.

Remarks NCO i/c. Despite the cold wet / damp weather the 'Rock Apes' enjoyed themselves.

Officer i/c MRT

A goods months training. Sgt Sykes is running the team well, and will remain as team leader until the proper leader finishes the winter course,

6 April 61

Sqn Ldr

130

131

5 day exercise

LAKE DISTRICT

Thursday 30th March 1961

Total of 13 Team with FS Lees i/c went to Lake District while the Leeming duty team came to Wales.

1100 An advanced party went in Sigs truck 75AV07 - 4 perm. staff.

1430 Main body left in 58AE94 RL and Team Leaders course Landover 14AA84.

Camped at Millbeck just N of Keswick 82/252259

Good Friday

Showery.

RL to Carlisle with jerricans for refuelling.

Two of the Team Leaders course Bennett leading Barry did Napes Needle.

Navigation training & familiarisation for two parties :-

Pibworth & Mr (ex Sgt) McMichael

Horseman Hills in LR 253333 - 273333 - 296330 - 291312 - 266309 Skiddaw - base.

Hardman Butterworth & Tonlinson did the reciprocal & were picked up by the RL.

Lees, Hinde & Gordon Kinnes went to Black Crag (260177) First pr did Troutdale Ridge & the others Troutdale Pinnacle climb.

In the morning earlier all spent 2 hrs or more digging a large pit & burying the piles of tins & bottles left round the walls of this excellent field. The farmer, Mr Brownrigg was most grateful & will keep this campsite for M.R. Teams only in future.

Saturday 1st April 1961

Skiddaw Picken & Fleming

Borrowdale - Dale Head - High Spy - Cat Bells - base

Pibworth Mr McMichael Kinnes

Sergeant Cray Gully (thoroughly recommended) Lees Hinde

----- " ----- Oaktree Wall & Little Pinnacle climbs - not very good -

Gordon Barry. Tomlinson Wilkinson Butterworth

132

Easter Sunday 2nd April 1961

- was a fine day and since this is a holiday and duty permission was given for those not fanatical about mountaineering to carry out other sports so long as they were aimed at improving their familiarity with the Lake District! Hence the majority went boating on Derwentwater (they said) but it turned out later that they travelled round on a large motor launch, & not in rowing boats!

The LR was taken to Seatoller & then Pibworth & McMichael walked over Maiden Moor & down to Grange, while 4 went up Combe Ghyll.

Gordon Kinnes did Raven Crag Buttress on one side of the Combe while Lees Hinde went up the Side Exit to Columba's Gully & down Combe Ghyll Buttress.

Monday 3rd April

Fine again

The Team was split into two groups one of which drove round to Langdale, climbed on Gimmer Crag & walked back to Borrowdale over the tops, while the other walked first & drove last.

from Langdale

Hinde Butterworth Ash Tree Slab Oliversons
Kinnes Hardman Gimmer Chimney
Pibworth McMichael

& from Borrowdale

Gordon Barry Herdwick Buttress, D Route Main Wall Bracket & Slab
Lees Tomlinson Gimmer Chimney to Chimney Buttress
Introduction Oliversons (cold wind & overcast now)
& drove back in the LR which was left at ODG.

Tuesday 4th April

(wet)

More familiarisation for those knowing the Lakes less -

Pibworth McMichael Hardman Wilkinson

Braithwaite - Causey Pike - 190207 - Grisedale Pike - base

Butterworth Barry Kinnes went up Grisedale Pike first then the same circuit - to base.

Hinde Gordon Lees leading various each did Donkey's Ears on Shepherds Crag. Heavy snow showers made this an interesting route!

133

The Team drove back to RAF Valley during the night waiting instil the roads were quiet before leaving Keswick.

In plenty of time for early breakfast.

Remarks	A good boost to morale which is useful training for the duty team NCO i/c MRT
---------	--

134

48hr exercise

SNOWDON & MOELWYNNS

Friday 7th April 1961

F.S. Lees +18 Team (incl Team Leader Course) travelled to a campsite at Cwm Dyli 107/ in RL 58AE94, Sigs truck, trailer, LR ambulance & LRs 65AA44 & 14AA84

Saturday 8th April

The Team on exercise was visited (or inspection?) by the Station Commander. Parties were detailed to cover several routes round Snowdon & at a given time NRCC were to instigate a mock alert for a supposed climber hurt on Lockwood's Chimney, Clogwyn y Bustach. Communications between the 22Sqn helicopter & the Teams VHF set was also to be tested, & one party carried a Sarah to prove its worth. The weather was laid on for the Group Captain & mostly things worked, except the walkie talkie set in his party!

Crib Goch - Snowdon - Lliwedd. Bennett Barry; Hinde Burnett with R/T man Lewis. The first 2 pairs climbed Crib Goch Buttress while Lewis sat on Bwlch Goch listening out in case of need.

Lliwedd Snowdon Crib Goch - Hughes Wilson R/T Plt Off Wright, a student visitor carrying a SARAH. The chopper homed straight into them & dropped the attached message.

Yr Aran - Snowdon Crib Goch - Pibworth Lilley RT French-Paris.

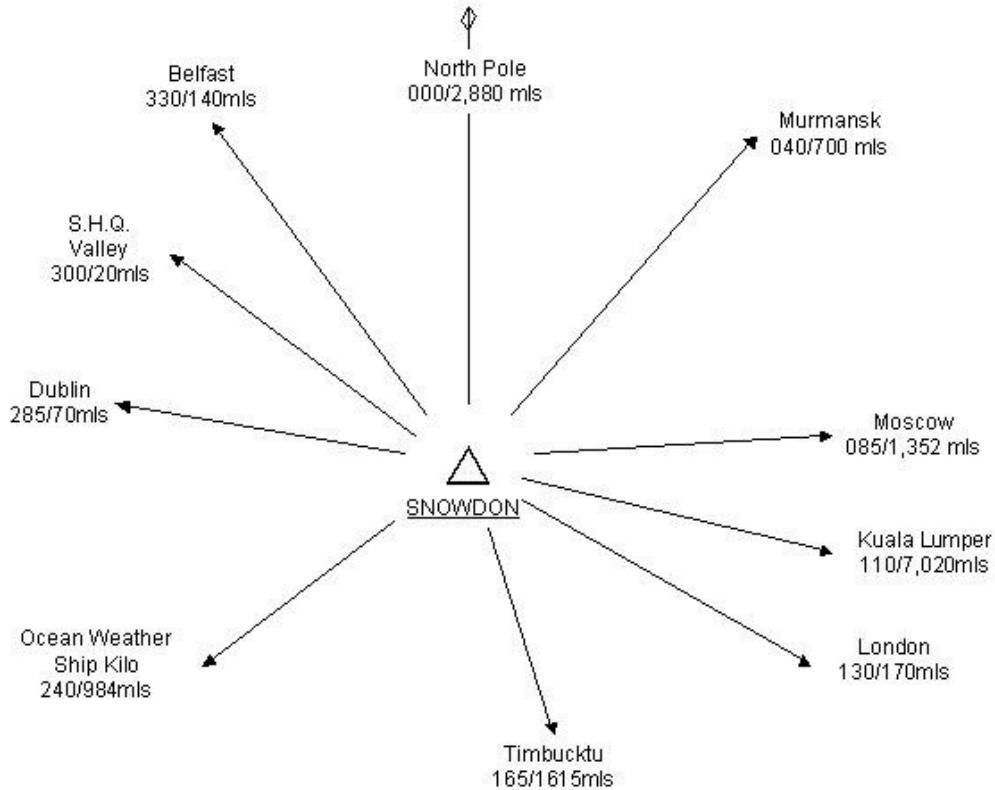
Gribin Snowdon Crib Goch - McClean O'Donnell RT Gordon

Crib Goch Snowdon Miners Track Gp Capt McMillen, Lees RT.

An RT link C/W F aerial Brown went up Gallt y Wenallt & was accompanied by Sqn Ldr Steele

- 1500 The mock alarm was instigated and about 20 minutes later the message reached base from the Power Stn nearby: transmitted to all parties except the one on the Miners Track who were informed by pyrotechnics from those on Crib Goch above.
The first party to reach the top of Clogwyn y Bustach provided a casualty (pretended!) on a ledge 60' down from the top (where one exits from the chimney) Meanwhile the base camp party had organised a stretcher & ropes & by the time the last ones down had reached the crag the situation was almost under control.
This lower had not previously been practiced & no one there had

Inserted between pages 134 and 135



Publishers. (and also printed by)
 The Aids to Lost Mountaineers Society, Upper Greenwich Square, Southampton, Britland.
 Delivered to your very doorstep, through courtesy of the 22nd Rotary Winged Fleet (Radio Controlled)

135

seen the plan before (bar Sgt Bennett) so that considering the numbers of relatively inexperienced team members there the 'rescue' went off quite well. (It is obviously necessary to teach navigation & familiarisation first, rockclimbing (elementary) second, & stretcher lowering third.)

After a 'brew' the Station Commander, Officer i/c & P/O Wright departed.

Sunday 9th April

A navigation & familiarisation parties in the Moelwyns walking back to base:-

Barry (N) Hughes i/c

664453 - Moel yr Hydd - 650473 - 656478 - Moel Merich - 670520 - 687536 - Moel Siabod - base.

O'Donnell N Pibworth

Moelwyn Bach - Mawr - Moel yr Hydd - Cnicht - Dakota wreckage.

Cartner French-Paris N

Ty Lyll - 729554 - 715547 - Moel Siabod - Dakota wreckage at 670520 - base

Fleming Lewis N Burnett

Dolwyddelan - Moel Siabod - 670520 - base

Rockclimbing:-

Hinde ~~Bennett~~ Gordon Mars Orion Kirkus Direct

Wilson Brown Milky Way Mars Orion

Lees Bennett Andromeda, Orion Slick Pied Piper

Back to Valley in the evening.

Remarks: We enjoyed having the C.O. (& his special weather) also the beer money. The Team has 3 slides of a VIP on Crib Goch from which b & w negatives could be prepared by the Photo Section if required?

NCO i/c MRT

136

8hr exercise

GLYDERS

Wednesday 12th April 1961

FS Lees + 11 drove to Ogwen in 58AE94 & LR 65AA44. It was raining extremely heavily, although 2 or 3 times it slowed down & a suggestion of brightness above sped down the valley.

Picken Cartner Fleming Brown Lewis II - a strong permanent staff party - went up Y Garn & came down past the Devils Kitchen.

McClean & Gordon did ~~eape~~ Canopy, Janney & Parkinson Rowan & down Ordinary while Lees & Wilson went to Creigiau Dena & did Easter Ridge (a good climb).

Returned to RAF Valley after a meal cooked under a flysheet in the Ogwen car park.

Remarks NCO i/c MRT

Not an afternoon for the fine weather climber - good training.

NCO i/c MRT

137

48 hr exercise

MOELWYNNS

Friday 14th April 1961

FS Lees + 8 Team travelled in 58AE94 Landrover 65AA44 & trailer to Cwm Penamnen 107/ where the Forestry kindly lends us a cosy shed / barn for a base.

Saturday 15th April fine

Joined by Plt Off Kendrick just after breakfast.

Parties walking over surrounding hills & climbing on Moelwyn crags.

Craig Wrysgan Y Gelynien Gordon French-Paris

----- " ----- Taith y Pererin Lees Parkinson; McClean Lilley

Craig Nythog Gyfran Thinwall Special Lees Gordon

↓ Betimes ----- " -----

----- " ----- ↑ Betimes McClean Parkinson French-Paris Lilley

Navigating from fr Craig Wrysgan, over Moel yr Hydd to Allt Fawr, top of Crimea, Moel Penamnen & base were Lewis Mk II (storeman, first w/e out) and Fleming.

Sunday 16th April

Was another fine day:-

McClean Plt Off Kendrick North Chimney Clogwyn y Bustach

Lees Gordon Flake Wall ----- " -----

then to Craig Nyth y Gigfran to meet French-Paris & Parkinson who had walked from base camp over Moel Penamnen & Allt Fawr.

Lees took French-Paris on Ushers Dilemma while Gordon took Parkinson on Africa Rib. P. failed to complete the first pitch & said he would rather descend so Gordon joined the other rope on the neighbouring climb at the top of pitch 2. Lees then attempted a new possibility with success - out & up the overhangs at the top of the slab by a 'spread eagle' - Eagle finish - very severe & not suitable for FP on his second days climbing. He followed up Africa Rib while Gordon seconded the Eagle finish.

Returned to RAF Valley in the evening after a very pleasant weekend.

138

8 hr exercise

GLYDERS

Wednesday 19th April 1961

Wet

FS Lees + 10 travelled to Ogwen Bethesda in 58AE94 & LR 65AA44 & trailer & set up a base in the hut with apologies to the inmates, some 7 army cadets with a TA major.

Cartner French-Paris were set down above Mynydd Llandegai to go over Elidir Fawr back to base while Fleming Lewis I & Lilley went up Tryfan.

Butterworth & McClean climbed Canopy on the Milestone Buttress while Kinnes & Wilson went up Anniversary Approach.

Lees & Gordon visited Ogwen Cottage rescue post & discussed the M.R. civilian organisation.

Returned to Valley in the evening after a good meal.

139

36 hr exercise

RHINOGS & MOELWYNNS

Saturday 22nd April 1961

FS Lees + 7 Team travelled in 58AE94, 65AA44 & trailer to a campsite near Meantwrog 107/ .

It was rather muddy as trees have been felled here recently & dragged through the campsite approach track. Occasional showers.

Lees & Wilson did some exploratory work on Craig Wrysgan ???? Romulus ↑ ??? A good climb on the rib just left of the prominent corner on the right hand of the crag.

Sunday 23rd April

wet

Lewis I French-Paris Lilley - navigation

Eissing - Clip (can) - Moel Ysgafarnogod (Clip) (can) - Foel Penolen - base

Foster Butterworth - LLechwedd du bach - Clip - Moel Ysgafarnogod - Foel Penolen - base - checking on the less experienced party by bringing back the yellow cans they left.

The river in spate made access to the campsite difficult.

Lees Wilson Y Drafel Babylon V good - the corner - Craig Wrysgan.

While driving away from the campsite the driver Fleming carefully drove off the track & about an hour was spent with pick & shovel getting the RL back on course.

Returned to Valley wet & muddy.

Remarks NCO i/c MRT

Volunteers for this sort of thing are few & far between - they have to be quite waterproof to start off.

NCO i/c MRT

140

8 hr exercise

CARNEDDAU & GLYDERS

Wednesday 26th April 1961

FS Lees + 12 travelled to Ogwen in RL 58AE94 & LR 65AA44 & set up a temporary base camp there.

Gordon took Lewis I (General office) on Milestone Buttress to do Rowan route & descend the Ordinary.

Kinnes & Wilson Rope Wall ↓ Pulpit

Butterworth Tomlinson Pulpit ↓ Ord.

McClean O'Donnell Direct ↓ Rowan

Lees on Creigiau Dena Easter Ridge - traversed MS ↑ Little Gully Wall down Pulpit.

Cartner Lilley Pen yr oleu wen Carnedd Dafydd down to Glandena.

Returned to RAF Valley in the evening.

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72

ERYRI

Friday 28th April 1961

1800 FS Lees + 9 went to a campsite at Cwm Lanerch near Betws y Coed. Vehicles used RL 58AE94, Sigs truck, LR 65AA44 & trailer.

In the morning Sgt Bennett Wilkinson & Wilson had left for Birmingham to give a lecture on M.R. taking a Thomas stretcher & other equipment, some slides & LR 14AA84. (They returned to base & joined the Team on Saturday afternoon.)

Saturday 29th April

fine

0930 To the Moelwyns

Lees Foster. McClean Tomlinson. Moffat & Gordon. Y Drafel all down Taith y Pererin
Then Gordon Foster Evasion Direct o/w Tower finish.

McClean Tomlinson ----- " -----

Lees Moffat Ddeufaen & big cnr above, probably new - Honeysuckle Corner VS.
To Craig Nyth y Gigfran for Ushers Dilemma with Eagle finish & Inverted Staircase.

Gordon Foster Romulus.

Set down to walk to base from Dolwyddelan - via Moel Siabod - Sykes Lewis

2030 Cartner - they arrived at the same time as the climbers in the LR.

Sunday 30th April

wet

Gordon Foster first two pitches Sub Wall then Faith ↓ Ord.

Bennett Tomlinson - Outside (Abrahams) way on Monolith

Wilson McClean Crack on a rope (VS strenuous)

Lees Phil Late Night Final (hard)

Monday 1st May

was foul & no enthusiasts could be found for other than lectures & cooking. Returned to Valley early

Sqn Ldr.

142

36 hr

SNOWDON

Saturday 6th May 1961

Sgt Sykes + 6 departed Valley 1400 hours in vehicles 548AE94, L/R Ambulance & Trailer to set up base camp at Nant Gwynant.

Sunday 7th May 1961

Due to the small numbers of members (mainly due to detachment on Summer Course - 6) only one party was made up to do the Snowdon Ridge commencing from Y Llewidd - Snowdon - & Yr Aran. Very heavy rain was experienced and an early departure for Valley was indicated on return to Base camp.

Arrived Valley 1930 hours.

143

36 HR

NANTLLE

Saturday 14th May 1961

Sgt Sykes + 9 departed Valley 1340 hours for TAL Y MIGNEDD where base camp was to be already pitched by a forward party who departed Valley 1215 hours.

Whitson Weekend

ERYRI

Friday 19th May 1961

Sgt Bennett + 13 departed Valley 17.30 hrs for Cwm Lanarch near Betws y Coed where base camp was established. Vehicles used Bedfords 59AE05 - 58AE04 & L/R 65AA44

Saturday 20th May 1961

Foster - Lilley	Rock climbing at Ogwen
MacClean - Mills	Milestone Direct Pulpit
Bennett - Wilkinson	Ordinary

Wilson - French-Paris	Llanberis Pass ↑ Flying Buttress
	Wrinkle on Dinas Cromlech

Hughes - Picken - Lewis - Webb.

Devils Kitchen - Glyder Fawr - Fach Llyn Caseg Fraith 678582 - 685586 - 701582 - Capel Curig

Sunday 21st May 1961

Bennett - Sykes Wilkinson - Wilson - Picken

Braich ty Du. Pinnacle ridge where photographs were taken which should prove useful for instructional purposes.

MacClean - Webb, French-Paris - Lewis

Bochlwyd Buttress Gribin Facet Slab recess Slab intermediate.

144

Hughes Lilley Mills

Dolgarrog - Moel Elio - Pen Llithrig y Wrach - Tal-y-Llyn - Base.

Monday 22nd May 1961

Sykes - Fleming - Lewis

Cyffty - 592774 - Llyn Geirionydd - Monument 764615 - Llyn Crafnant - Clogwyn Mawr - Base

Hughes Picken

Tryfan via NORTH RIDGE - Bristly Ridge - Glyder Fach - Fawr - Devils Kitchen - Ogwen.

Bennett Wilson French-Paris Lilley Foster Mills McLean Wilkinson

Idwal Slabs ↑Charity ↓ ordinary ↑ Hope.

Tuesday 23rd May 1961

The whole team to Braich-ty-du were abseiling and stretcher lowering exercises were carried out.
Return to Valley at 22.00 hrs.

INCIDENT REPORT: (TREVOR WELSH)

A SCOUT WAS INJURED IN A FALL ON THE CRAGS ABOVE THE BASE CAMP ON
SUNDAY 21ST MAY.

HIS TROOP (WARWICKSHIRE ASKED ASSISTANCE OF VALLEY M.R.T. AT 21.00 HRS.

A

STRETCHER PARTY (CPL WEBB i/c) WENT TO HIS AID AND CARRIED HIM DOWN. HE
WAS THEN TAKEN TO LLANDUDNO HOSPITAL WHERE HE WAS DETAINED
SUFFERING FROM SHOCK, HEAD INJURIES AND FRACTURED WRIST. M.R.T. STOOD
DOWN 22.50 HRS

A. Bennett.

145

36 hour exercise.

ARENIGS AND MOELWYN AREA

Saturday 27th May 1961

- 13.00 Sgt Bennett and 9 team members plus SAC Millar travelled in RL 59AE05 and L/Rover 65AA44 to base camp at tai Hirion: 116/811398.
- 16.00 Sgt Bennett and 6 team members travelled in L/Rover to the Moelwyn Crags 116/677455 for stretcher lowering practise.
Two 500 foot Terylene ropes were used for this and found once more to be more suitable than Nylon for this work. The lower involved 300 foot of rope and was carried out in good dry conditions. The rope tends to fluff a certain amount when running over rocks, but is otherwise considered ideal. No chance yet to carry out similar trials under cold wet winter conditions as in winter over the full length of 500 foot.
Lower finished at 18.00.

Sunday 28th May 1961

- 09.00 Navigation exercise carried out over the Arenig area by two parties dropped by Sgt, Bennett and SAC Brown in L/Rover.
Party 1. Dropped at Yspty-ifan 116/842488 and walked to base via Foel-Goch 116/860452, Carnedd-y-Filiast 116/871447 and Arenig Fach 116/821416 (Lilley, Butterworth and Clay)
Party 2. Circular course from base via Moel-y-Slates 116/785364, Foel Boeth 116/779345 Moel Llyfnant 116/809352, and Arenig Fawr 116/827369. (Snowdon, Wilson, Cartner and Miller).

Sub-unit at Beddgelert visited by L/Rover party on return trip.

23.00 Team arrived back at Valley
Wg Cdr. Sqn Ldr i/c MRT C. Pibworth Cpl 29/5/91
Gp Capt.

146

8 hour exercise HOLYHEAD MOUNTAIN 31-5-61

Sgt Bennett and 18 team members to 106/222822 for an afternoon exercise
Stretcher lowering and abseiling practise carried out.

147

148

149

36 hour BRYN ENGAN 11-6-61

Depart Valley 14.00 hrs 10-6-61. Established base camp at Bryn Engan 16.00 hrs
(107/724577)
F/S Lees i/c plus 14 team members.

11-6-61. Sunday. Parties as follows:-

Sykes } Along A.5 road to Pen-Lithrig-y-wrach to Moel Eilio, Cefn
Cefarwydd }
Snowdon }
Cartner }
Parkinson }

P/O Wright } Recip. of above party with exception of Moel Eilio.
Millar }
Lilly }

Lees } Rock climbing on Lliwedd.
Butterworth }
Wilson }
French-Paris }
Lewis I }
Lewis II }
Mills }

Fleming and Clay on base.

150

151

Long weekend Brecon Beacons 16-19-06-61
E.T.D. 13.30 hrs

Sgt Bennett and 12 team members travelled to camp site at Storey Arms in the Brecon Beacons (141/987198) ETA 20.30 hrs.
Vehicles: 3 tonner 58AE94. Sigs 75AV07. L/R 65AA44

17-6-61. Saturday

Two parties dropped off on A4067 at 141/887212 to walk to base via the Fan tops

Party I	Party II
French-Paris	Sykes
Lilley	
Pibworth	
Picken	

Sgt Bennett, Foster and Snowdon acted as guides to a party of St Athan B/A's walking to a tented camp at 141/927189 and returned by alternative hill route.
Weather Foul. Cloud down to base camp (1400') Raining.

18-6-61 Sunday

Team in 3-tonner and L/Rover to Eynon on Gower Coast. Thomas lowered down cliff into Smugglers Cove providing a "free" dangle for casualty and guide. Considered to be more harrowing than from Yellow Wall on Holyh'd mountain.

Team made use of a nearby beach for swimming after cliff lower. Weather windy but sunny.

On return to base camp Bennett, Lilly and Foster went for a night stroll onto Pen-y-Fan summit and back.

19-6-61 Monday.

Team walked reciprocal course over Beacons.

French-Paris	Webb
Snowdon	Clay
Picken	Mills and Pibworth

Bennett, Foster and Lilly to Valley via M.R.T. St Athan.

Base struck at 16.00 hrs Arr. Valley 23.00 hrs.

152

48 hr Exercise

Rhinogs & Moelwyns

Sgt Bennett plus nine members travelled to disused army camp near Trwasfynydd on Friday 23rd June. Vehicles used were L/R 65AA44, Austin 75AV07 and Bedford 58AE94. Base camp map ref. 116/732312

Sat. 24th

Moelwyns. Stretcher Lowering practice

Several lowers were made each some 300 ft but using 120 ft ropes instead of the usual 500 ft. This gave the members a chance to find belays and also plenty of abseil practice. Mr. John Roberts of Blaenau Ffestiniog who runs the local civilian mountain rescue post joined us for the days exercise. Weather perfect.

Sunday 25th

Navigation and Walkie Talkie

Bennett - Cross - Butterworth & Lewis complete with HF15 walked in dense clagg over the following course.

116/689191 - 661235 - 663251 - 661258 - 665261 - 664271 - 716318.

Foster - French-Paris - Cartner reciprocal of the above also carrying HF15.

In radio contact with each other and Signals wagon every half an hour throughout the course. Contact excellent at all times. Walking in cloud all day.

Struck camp at 19.00 hrs Arrive Valley 22.30 hrs

A Bennett Sgt

153

8 hour exercise

Ogwen

Wed. 28th June 61

Sgt Bennett plus seventeen members travelled to Ogwen in R/L 58AE94 and L/R 65AA44 and set up temporary camp there.

Eight personnel climbing on Milestone Buttress. Routes done Direct, Rowan, Pulpit.

The rest formed a walking party and walked from base to Craig-yr-Ysfa - Carnedd Llewelyn Dafydd - Pen-yr-Oleu-wen - base.

SNCO's Remarks.

Weather ideal for rock - climbing but more low cloud would have given the navigators a better test.

154

48 hr Exercise

Caer Llugwy

30-6-2-7-61

Sgt Bennett + 12 personnel travelled to base at Caer Llugwy 107/737568 in R/L 58AE94 - L/R 65AA44, L/R Ambulance 08AA20.

Saturday 1st July

Two parties covered the following course, the main object being to test W/T equip. after it being serviced.

Drop off point 107/700485 - Allt Fawr 682475 Dakota crash 670520 - Moel Siabod 705546 - Base

Verdict

Quite an improvement on W/T since the servicing although a further check should be held when weather conditions are bad.

Sunday 2nd

All personnel taking part in rock climbing instruction on the East face of Tryfan and Idwal Slabs. Returned to Valley at 21.30 hrs

NCO,s Comments.

Very good weather indeed for rock climbing but bad weather would have been more suitable for testing the W/T.

A. Bennett Sgt

155

8 hr Exercise

Glyders

5-7-61

Sgt Bennett + 16 personnel travelled in B. 58AE94 and L/R Ambulance 65AA44. Base camp set up at Plas-y-Brenin 107/715579.

Walking party consisting of Cross, Webb, Clay & F/O Kendrick were dropped off at Tyn-y-Maes and walked to base by the following route. 107/634643 - 523620 - 631597 - 643580 - 715579

Climbing Parties

McClean - Lilley, - Wilson - Snowdon
climbed the following
1st Pinnacle Rib, East face of Tryfan

French-Paris - Mills & Lewis
climbed ↑ Hope on Idwal Slabs

Sgt Bennett - Cartner climbed Charity on Idwal Slabs.

Broke camp and returned Valley at 21.30 hrs

NCO,s Remarks

Quite a number of the newer members show promise in the rock climbing field which also gives them confidence on stretcher lowers.

156

36 hr Exercise

Snowdon & Glyders

8th - 9th - July 1961

Sgt Bennett + 17 personnel attended weekend exercise. F/S Lees + 15 personnel left camp in Bedford 58AE94 & Austin 75AV07 and L/R Ambulance 08AA20. F/S Lees and Sgt Sykes called on route at Ogwen Cottage sub unit, where Sgt Bennett and Wilson were to be collected. The rest of the team travelled to Bryn Engan to pitch tents and prepare base camp.

Sunday

Walking party consisting of Sgt Sykes, Mills, Clay, Miller, and one guest member (very unfit I'm told) from RAF Stafford MRS. The course was Watkin path to Snowdon summit and returning to Pen-y-Pass via Pig Track.

All the remainder were climbing on Tryfan East Face. Routes done were, Gashed Crag, Pinnacle Ribs 1 & 2 and North Buttress.

Incident Report

Valley MR asked to help with civilian accident while on visit to Ogwen Cottage sub-unit. A Climber named Ralph Whitehead had fallen some twenty five feet to the foot of the Griban Facet. Sgt Bennett + three RAF MR personnel and civilians including members of Ogwen sub unit carried the stretcher to Ogwen Cottage where the RAF L/R Ambulance carried him to C & A Hospital Bangor.

NCO,s Remarks

Climber sustained no serious injuries and was later released from hospital

10 hr Exercise**Glyders**12-7-61

Sgt Bennett + 16 personnel travelled to Ogwen in R/L 58AE94 and L/Rover 65AA44. A temporary base camp was set up in the car park.

All personnel took part in rock climbing on Idwal Slabs, Gribon facet, and the East face of Tryfan. Mills and Lilley both were leading climbs for the first time. After a meal we broke camp and returned to Valley at 22.30 hrs.

72 hr Exercise**Glyders & Carneddau. Snowdonia**14-17-7-61

Sgt Bennett plus 13 members travelled with R/L 58AE94 & L/R 65AA44 and pitched camp at CWM LANARCH. 107/797578.

Sat 15th

Wilson - Mills, McClean - Snowdon ↑ Arête & Slab Bochlwyd Buttress then walking up to the high cliffs of Glyder Fach where they climbed up DELTA on Alphabet Slabs ↑ Spiral Variant ↓ Main Gully Ridge ↑ Alpha.

Sgt Bennett - Cartner, Foster - Lilley ↑ Seniors on Gribon Facet then on to the Fach ↑ Beta. ↑ Spiral Variant ↓ Main Gully ridge.

Sgt Sykes - Cross, England - clay - Thompson walked from Ogwen to base over the following course. PEN-YR-OLEU-WEN, - DAFYD - LLEWELYN - CRAIG-YR-YSFA - CLOGWYN MAWR - BASE. Returning by 18.45 hrs.

Sunday 16th

Sgt Bennett + 12 members travelled to Moelwyns and the day was spent practising stretcher lowers and Tragsit lowers

Monday 17th

Sgt Bennett - Wilson - Foster - French-Paris McClean, Cartner, Lilley went to Ogwen where the weather was very bad with rain & high winds. Many short rock climbs were done on Bochlwyd and Gribon Facet. Sgt Sykes - England - Mills - Clay - Cross and Cpl Snowdon did the Snowdon Horseshoe.

INCIDENT REPORT

Sgt Bennett + 12 were alerted by NRCC. at 21.25 hrs and travelled with R/L & L/R to Nant Gwynant. Everyone piled into the L/R and went up the Watkin Path only to find that the walker had been rescued. Sgt + 3 took the injured walker to BANGOR hospital.

A. Bennett.

5 hr Exercise**Glyders**19-7-61

Sgt Bennett + 3 travelled to Ogwen in L/R 65AA44 where everyone took part in Rock Climbing activities on Milestone buttress. The object being to give two beginners to

mountain Rescue instruction in Rock Climbing. Routes done included The Direct - Rowan - Pulpit. 107/651603.

NCOs REMARKS

I feel that these rock exercises are very useful as owing to the low state of qualified rock leaders in the team, the new people need as much practice as possible.

A. Bennett Sgt.

160

5 hr Exercise

Glyders

20-7-61

Sgt Bennett + 4 travelled to Ogwen 107/651603 in L/R 65AA44. Once again to Milestone Buttress where everyone did Soapgut. Owing to a foothold missing these days on second pitch the climb is much harder.

NCOs Remarks

Everyone present already a rock leader. Sgt Bennett and Wilson climbed first and gave a rope to the next party to ascend. The main object to take these leaders on something far more difficult than normal thereby teaching them to a higher standard.

A. Bennett Sgt.

161

48 hrs
23.7.61

Moelwyns & Arenigs

21-

Sgt + 11 personnel travelled in R/L 58AE94 and L/R 65AA44 and made camp at Trawsfynydd. 116/721319

Sat 22nd

Sgt Bennett + 10 travelled to the Moelwyns where an excellent day was had with everyone taking turn as guide on the Thomas stretcher and also in the lowering. Other methods of lowering a patient down a rock face where taught I/E Tragsit and using the aid of normal climbers equip. Slings & krabs.

Sunday 23

Sgt Bennett + 3 MR personnel + two civilians, Mr John Roberts and Mr Tony Rodgers who are civilian Mountain Rescue organisers from Blaenau Ffestiniog climbed on the Moelwyns. Many good climbs where done. Kirkus direct, Slack, Bent, Slick, Mars, Milky Way Orion.

Sgt Sykes headed the navigation party and with Clay and Thompson did the following course.

Start Point Taihirion 116/811396 - Arenig Fawr - 827369 - Moel Llyfnant 807352 - Base

NCOs Remarks

Although the weather was very heavy and unpleasant a terrific amount of work was carried out this weekend and beginners should have learned a lot.

A. Bennett Sgt

162

8 hrs

Wednesday Afternoon - August - July 26th 1961

Sgt Bennett plus 11 members left Valley at 1330 hours for Holyhead Mountain. Vehicles used were Bedford 58AE94 & L/R 65AA44. Abseiling for new members, basic rock climbing was carried out. Team returned to Valley at 1900 hrs where late teas had been arranged.

162(A)

48 hrs Ex.

Nantlle (Tal y Mignedd) 107/532532
28 AUG 1961

Sgt Bennett plus 12 members left Valley at 1830 hrs for base camp at 107/532632 near old copper mine.

Vehicles:- 58AE94, 65AA44 plus trailer.

29th AUG Saturday

Team spent the day on navigation & familiarisation of the area including a search on Snowdonia for a walker! who had vacated his tent & complete equipment. Nothing was found due to the following reasons:- "The Walker" apparently browned off had vacated his tent, proceeded home (South Wales) where eventually he had had better thoughts on his sudden vacation of camp site & informed the local police This in turn was passed to our area & the incident closed. The search was good for practice.

30 Aug Sunday

Rock climbing as follows:- Sgt Bennett & Costello & Butterworth to Cwm Cylyn; Ordinary Route & Outer Edge.

A navigation party i/c SAC Cross navigator Cpl Snowdon did the following route DOP 107/481521 - to 526504, 553486, 546517, 551527 then to Base. The above route covered the larger base area of Cyrig Cwm Silin. Very good for 'stumping' & navigation. All parties returned to Base Camp by 1830 hrs. Team left for Valley at 2200 hrs

G. Sykes Sgt

163

Wednesday Afternoon - August 2nd 1961

Sgt Sykes plus eight team members did a joint ex. with 22 Sqdn on the airfield. Single winching, double & stretcher lowering & raising was carried out by all members. Sgt Bennett & AC Costello, probationer, went to the Moelwyns, where they climbed "Pinky" on Craig-yr-Oen then returned, made camp at Bryn Engan for the night. Following morning climbing was done on Clogwyn-y-Grochan, climbs done as follows:- The Spectre, Remarks by Sgt Bennett found rather hard, not a very pleasant route. Sgt Bennett & Costello returned Valley 1830 hrs.

G. Sykes Sgt.

164

5 Day exercise

Lake District

August 4th - 8th 61

Sgt Bennett + 12 personnel travelled in B. R/L 58AE94 and L/R 65AA44 arriving at Keswick at 03.30 hrs. Base camp was pitched at Millbeck 82/254263.

Sat 5th

Everyone went by road to Langdale, calling at Frank Davis's climbing shop at Ambleside where many of the team purchased climbing breeches and boots. Many climbs were done on Raven Crag Langdale.

Sunday 6th

Walking party of four personnel walked from Seathwaite, up to Green Gable and Scafell and back to seathwaite.

The rest went climbing on Sheppards Crag. Routes done included Brown Crag wall, Arduis Adam, Eve, Chamonix, Donkeys Ears.

Monday 7th

A walking party of six personnel walked from base over Skiddaw to Saddle back, down to millbeck and returned to base

The rest were climbing on Black Crag where Troutdale pinnacle was climbed but heavy rain stopped further climbing.

Tuesday 8th

Very heavy rain has fallen during the night and there were floods everywhere, As the weather conditions were so bad combined with the fact that the journey back to Valley was along one we packed camp by 1200 hrs and returned to Valley by 20.30 hrs

A. Bennett Sgt

165

48 hr Exercise

Glyders

August 11-13.8.61

Cpl Hughes + 5 personnel travelled in Bedford 58AE94 and L/R 65AA44 to Wern-Gof-Uchaf 107/651603 where base camp was established.

Everyone in the party took part in a night exercise on Friday night 11.8.61 the following course was taken.

Tyn-y-Maes - Carnedd-y-Filiast - Foel Goch - Y Garn Devils Kitchen to base.

Sat was then spent as a rest day.

Sunday 13th.

All members practised abseiling and climbing on Little Tryfan.

A.B.

166

8 hr Exercise

Glyders Carneddau

August 16th 61

Sgt Bennett + 11 personnel travelled in Bedford 58AE94 and L/R 65AA44 to Ogwen 107/651603 where cooking tent was erected in the car park.

The following navigation courses were carried out.

4 personnel. Tyn-y-Maes to Mynydd Perfedd, Y-Garn Devils Kitchen to base

4 to Glan Dena, Ffynnon Llugwy, Craig-Yrysfa. Carnedd Llewelyn, Carnedd Dafydd, Pen-y-oleu-wen to base.

3 from Dolwyddelan - Moel Siabod to Capel Curig and then over the Roman Road to Base.

A.B.

167

36 hour Exercise

Glyders Carneddau

19-20/8/61

Sgt Bennett + 11 personnel left Valley at 1400 hrs on 19.8/61 and travelled in Bedford 58AE94 and L/R Ambulance 08AA20 to base at Bryn Engan 107/724577

After setting up base camp everyone had instruction on the use of Prussic knots and were able to put their knowledge into practical form. In a very short time all the trees surrounding base were festooned with ropes each of which had a body attached the result being rather like the big top in a circus. A rope was also set up from a tree down and across the river to the bridge and river crossings were also carried out.

Sunday 20th.

A walking party consisting of Costello - Mills - England and Cartner were dropped at Llanfairfechan and they walked over the Carneddau calling at the emergency phone near Llyn Eigiau and on to base.

A climbing party went to Ogwen where the following personnel did the following climbs.

Butterworth & Snowdon. Clogwyn y Bustach ↑ ZIG-ZAG ↑ MONOLITH

French-Paris & Webb. Milestone ↑ Rowan ↑ Pulpit

Bennett & Burnley ↑ Rowan ↑ Direct ↓ Rowan ↑ Pulpit

Very bad rain set in and two final climbers were obviously not happy on Rowan so we assisted them to finish there climb.

Returned to Valley at 21.30 hrs.

A. Bennett Sgt.

10 hour Exercise

Glyders & Carneddau

23.8.61

Sgt Bennett + 13 personnel travelled to Ogwen 107/651603 where temporary base was set up to car park. vehicles used were B. 58AE94 and L/R 08AA20

One walking party set off from Base via Devils Kitchen - Glyder Fach Glyder Fawr - Base.

Climbing as follows.

Foster - Clay } Gribin Facet ↑ Seniors Climb ↑ Home
French-Paris - Snowdon } ↑ ZIG-ZAG.

Sgt Bennett & Butterworth went to Blaenau Ffestiniog to check the hut at Cwmorthin kindly offered for use by Bangor Climbing Club.

A. Bennett Sgt.

Sgt Bennett - Cartner and Burley left early 1400 hrs for Cwmorthin Cottage 107/681464 in L/R AMB 08AA20. This party ferried the food up to the Hut, some 1/4 mile walk from the waggon park, in very heavy rain.

Owning to the breakdown of B. 58AE94 the other 10 personnel had to transfer all the equipment to B. - 59AE05 which resulted in these very late arrival at Cwmorthin where in very heavy rain and the track flooded underfoot they carried their equipment to the hut.

Sat 26th.

The weather was still terribly bad with heavy rain and all the rivers had burst there banks and there were floods everywhere. I took the opportunity to foster good relations with Bangor Club who had kindly lent us the hut, by carrying out a few repairs and giving the hut a good clean out.

Sunday 27

The weather had completely changed and a perfect days summer climbing was had by everyone on Clogwyn-yr-Owen. RAF Stafford M.R.T. turned up to climb on the crags later in the morning.

Returned to Valley at 21.30 hrs.

NCOs REMARKS.

I was very shocked to find that most of Staffords so called rock leaders were far more inefficient than many stupid civilian climbers we met. In fact I had to ascend Clogwyn-yr-Owen and lower two people to the ground as they could not abseil and their leader who was climbing beyond his standard didn't know what to do when his party (complete beginners) failed to follow him. I expect to see a little more common sense and certainly better climbing & rope technique from Mountain Rescue personnel where ever they are from.

A. Bennett Sgt.

9 personnel attended a lecture on ejection seats and breaking into crashed aircraft and the rescue procedure.

A. Bennett.

Sgt Bennett + 11 members travelled to Nat Gwynant in B. R/L 58AE05 and L/R 45AA03 & TRAILER. MAP REF 107/627509.

Sat 2.9.61.

A climbing party did Route II on Llewedd.
Bennett - French-Paris
Mills - Foster

A walking party consisting of Cartner - Lilley - Snowdon walked the Snowdon Horseshoe.

Sunday 3rd.

Sunday was an awful day with very dense clagg and heavy rain. Everyone had a wet miserable walk over the Glyders.

A.B.

3 hr Exercise

Holyhead

6.9.61

Eight personnel travelled in R/L 59AE05 to M.C.U. at Holyhead. They took part in an exercise helping to throw in and pull out ATC Cadets from the sea. The rest of the team members were studying in the MR Section for their badge test.

Mills, Lilley and Snowdon passed successfully.

A.B

48 hr Exercise

Carneddau - Moelwyns

8-109-61

Sgt Bennett + 13 personnel travelled Cwm Lanarch 107/797578 in R/L 59AE05, L/R 45AA03, SIGS WAGGON AUSTIN 75AV07

Sat 9th

To be completed on Sgt Bennett's return from leave 9/10/61
G. Sykes Sgt

15th Sept 1961 48 hr Ex.

Bryn Brethym

107/737572

Friday. Sgt Bennett + 20 departed Valley at 1700A/15 in vehicles 94AE94, 75AV07, 65AE44, 08AA20 with trailer. Base was established at Campers Barn in preparation of standby for Battle of Britain Display.

Saturday 0600Z

Communications were established with NRCC on 4728 Kcs on R/T & W/T.

0740Z W/T & R/T with team members .

Vacated Base camp & became mobile at Ogwen. W/T & R/T contact re-established & continued watch opened up on 4728 Kcs with NRCC. Weather, very heavy winds & rain with gusts of 40 - 50 knots on tops. R/T exercise was carried out by members in the immediate readiness state due to Signal-OP- received of Royal Flight.

1400Z Signal received from NRCC to say A/C Kilo - Delta Flight cancelled, & also Royal Flight.

1410Z W/T & R/T returned to base camp & W/T contact once again established.

Sunday 0800Z Brilliant day; Sgt Sykes + 4 to Snowdon to verify position for 14 peaks trip next week. One party engaged in R/T Ex. from summit of Moel Siabod, further parties rock climbing.

Decamped 1900Z & returned to Valley.

8 hr Exercise

Glyders & Carneddau

20. Sept. 1961

This took part as a special exercise to prove communications over the 14 peak areas in readiness for a Mr Dai Rowlands who had requested our assistance as markers, pacers & time keeping over the route.

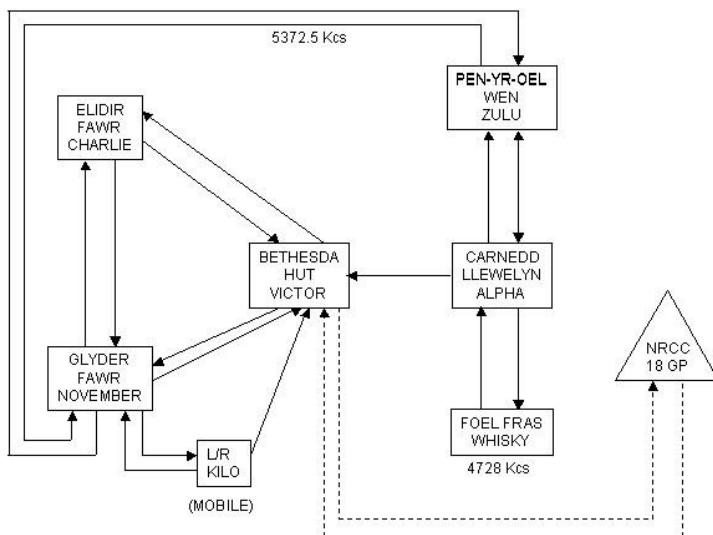
1100A Sgt Sykes + W/OP & one Telegraphist borrowed from Sigs Sqd, proceeded to Bethesda Hut where a Tx1154 & Rx1155 were installed (this also borrowed from Sigs Sqdn due to our W/T vehicle been U/S - one shock absorber!). Comm was established with NRCC within 20 minutes of arrival on W/T & R/T - very good clear reception reported by NRCC.

1330 L/R Ambulance departed Valley for Aber where two members climbed Foel Fras with R/T set C/S ALPINE WHISKY.

L/R departed Valley also with 4 members to Nant Peris two proceeded to summit of Elidir Fawr & two to summit of Glyder Fawr. C/S respectively ALPINE CHARLIE, ALPINE NOVEMBER.

RL departed Valley for Ogwen where two parties were to climb Pen-yr-oelwen, C/S ALPINE ZULU & Carnedd Llewelyn, C/S ALPINE ALPHA.

The L/R was also installed as Mobile R/T C/S ALPINE KILO.



Report on Communications 5372.5 Kcs

As will be noticed in the diagram, peak to peak working was quite reasonable between CHARLIE & NOVEMBER on the Glyders side of the valley & also between ZULU, ALPHA & WHISKY, with ALPHA acting as link man, on the Carnedd side of the valley. Comm was reasonable from Bethesda Hut VICTOR to both CHARLIE & NOVEMBER but only ALPHA could be heard by VICTOR on the Carnedd side.

Comm with NRCC on 4728 Kcs was very good, R/T & W/T/

Remarks NCO i/c

Everyone enjoyed this R/T peak to peak exercise & familiarisation of the Glyders & the Carneddls should prove very helpful for the newcomers, Topham & Robinson.

A severe shortage of rations was noticed; such as one 18oz tin of bacon for 17 men, 17 sausages, 17 small tomatoes. Sqd/Ldr Steele was informed of this & once again came to our help with rations. To the new members of the team & the borrowed Telegraphist this was quite a morale booster.

G. Sykes Sgt
NCO i/c MRT

Remarks Officer i/c.

Letter of appreciation was received from O.C 6/7 RWF over the Dai Rowlands effort,

72 Hours Ex.Snowdon, Glyders, Carneddi22-25 Sept 1961Friday 22nd.

- 1330 Sgt Sykes + 11 members left Valley for base camp at Bryn Engan 107/724578. Vehicles all were taken & the W/T vehicle was left at Ogwen Cottage in readiness for the weekend exercise.

Saturday 0800 The day was spent transporting food, tents, R/T equipment to the summits of Snowdon & Elidir Fawr where two parties were to spend the night. Appreciation must be given here on the wonderful help given by the Snowdonia Railway people. In the evening parties set off for Snowdon & Elidir Fawr in readiness to assist, pace & guide a Mr Dai Rowlands of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers (T.A. Conway) for his second of the 14 peaks attempt.

Sunday 0530 Very early rise & in pouring rain with cloud very low. Thoughts of "they may cancel it again"!! Sgt Sykes in L/R made contact with summit of Snowdon from Peny Pass, good reception despite the weather. Topham & Robinson the two new members reporting from the summit, "wet & cold" but already for attempt.

- 0630 Departure of Rowlands from Snowdon summit.
 0640 Was met by Sgt Sykes at Nant Peris, with hot cup of tea & informed Rowlands of weather on the Glyders as contact had been made with L/R at Nant Peris & party on Elidir Fawr (French-Paris & Mills). Rowlands was paced by French-Paris up to Elidir Fawr & then due to Army slip ups Mills took over & paced him to Y Garn.
 1215 Rowlands was met again by us - more hot tea - & he reported having lost 20 minutes due to the Army once again not being

able to fulfil their commitments on the summit of Glyder Fawr & Trifan.

- 1230 A further party left our Base camp for Foel Fras with R/T to cover the last of the peaks.
 1605 Rowlands arrived summit of Foel Fras making the time of 9hrs 35 minutes.

- 1815 All parties returned to Base.

Monday 0900 Sgt Sykes, Mills, Topham, Robinson did the Carneddys from Bryn Engan via Llyn Crafnant, finishing at Pen-y-oel wen East Ridge. Clay, French-Paris, & England did reciprocal. Good weather & ideal for showing the new members the route for the 14 Peaks.

Team returned to Valley 2100 hrs.

Remarks NCO i/c

A weekend of variation & enjoyed by all including the members encamped on Snowdon & Elidir Fawr during Saturday nights bad weather. The visit of Officer i/c Sqd/Ldr Steele at the early hour of 0800 Sunday morning in Kit asking for a 'cuppa' was appreciated. Liaison was further established then with the Army Staff. The Sunday Times took photo's of party on Snowdon & details of Exercise.

G. Sykes Sgt
NCO i/c

Remarks Officer i/c

Sqn Ldr 2 Oct 61

Afternoon Ex.

Snowdon

27 Sept 1961

1330 Sgt Sykes, Cpl Tunnah (2 week probationer) Topham Robinson & Cross proceeded to summit of Snowdon via the Rangers path. Only the L/R was used & the mess had been able to provide us with a pack meal & we also took a flask of tea. This being a full working day rations were not really required due to the smallness of the party.
Thanks were given to the Snowdonia Railway people & a hasty retreat back to the L/R & hot tea made. Time for descent was 48 minutes. Weather, heavy rain & windy.
Party was back at Valley by 1915hrs.

G.Sykes Sgt
NCO i/c

48 hour Exercise

Carneddus

29 Sept 1961

Friday 1330 Sgt Sykes + 6 left Valley to establish Base camp at Cym Llamarch in RL 59AE05
The remainder left Valley at 1830 hours

Saturday 0715 Early rise & party to Llanberis Pass where J/T Tomlinson gave novices their initiation to Rock Climbing on Spiral Stairs. Other Parties walk the Moelwyns including Moel Siabod.

Sunday Further familiarisation of the Carneddus with the probationers. Cpl Tunnah, Stafford MRT who were visiting our area were met & general exchange of team efficiency & deficiency passed. Team decamped at 1900 hours & proceeded back to Valley.

Remarks NCO i/c

XXX Stafford had a night exercise on the Carneddus & ended up at Bethesda Hut instead of Aber Falls. They requested assistance of Bangor Police to return them to Capel Curig (Base camp). Stressed with their NCO i/c that that I hoped they made it clear it was Stafford MRT not Valley!!

G. Sykes Sgt
NCO i/c (Temp.)

Wg Cdr

Gp Capt

48 hr Ex.

Glyders & Carneddau

6/8-10-61

Sgt Bennett + 12 personnel travelled to Bethesda where the Hut was used as our weekend base. Vehicles used were L/R 14AA84 - Bedford R/L 58AE94 and L/Rover Ambulance 08AA20.

Sat

A walking party where dropped at Ogwen from where they proceeded to Devils Kitchen and over the Glyders to base.
The remainder spent a full days climbing on Milestone buttress and Gribin Facet.

Sunday

Owing to Royal standby we were unable to get onto the hills until 12.00 hrs. One party were then dropped off at Gerlan and walked the Carneddau and returned to base.

N.B. Weather bad and very claggy, but no-one was lost, because they were Valley MRT.

The remainder once again were climbing in the Ogwen area this time on Braich-tu-dy.

A. Bennett Sgt

8 hr Exercise

Carneddau

11.10.61

Sgt Bennett + 11 members travelled to Ogwen in L/R 14AA84 and Bedford R/L 59AE05.

Sgt + 3 went onto Braich -ty-du where they climbed B Buttress II and Pinnacle ridge.

The remainder of which many where beginners where taught how to abseil by Sgt Sykes and J/T Thomlinson on the wall at the top of Pinnacle Ridge.

A. Bennett Sgt

36 hr Exercise

Berwyns

14/15-10-61

Sgt Bennett + 12 personnel travelled to base camp Sheet 117/033.

Vehicles used L/R 14AA84 and Bedford R/L 59AE05

Sat Sgt Sykes and myself left a sealed message to be opened half an hour after our departure at 16.40 hrs with Sqn/Ldr Walker who had asked to spend a weekend with the team. The message said that Sgt Sykes had a broken leg and gave approx map ref. The team came out and rescued and were returned to base at 20.00 hrs.

Sunday

Two parties set out and covered the following courses with a view to teaching Nav and also familiarising a new area.

Course (I)

D.O.P. Ludiart - Cae Hir, Carnedd-Wen, Rhos Mynydd-Tarw, Foel-Wen, Tomle, Cader Bronwen Moel-yr-Henfaes, Stone Circle - Base.

Course II

Base, Stone Circle, Cadair Bronwen, Tomle, Moel Sych, Carnedd-y Ci Stone Circle to Base.

NCO's Remarks

We were made very welcome at the farm and given farm buildings to use instead of tent space.

A. Bennett Sgt

5 Day Exercise

Exercise Tafkider

Mid Wales

18/23-10-61

The Royal Navy from RN Station Brawdy were holding an Escape & Evasion exercise and asked for us to standby in the area in case of emergency. We based in out buildings belonging to the Abernant Lake hotel, Llanwrtyd Wells. 141/886464.

Most of the weekend was spent standing by for long periods. During this time Mr Stett, the Hotel manager kindly allowed us the use of the boats on the lake, the games room in the Hotel and generally gave us the run of the whole place.

There were three incidents however which although in each case were false alarms were very useful from a training point of view.

1

A naval officers rang giving map ref having twisted left knee. Sgt Bennett plus one member as navigator collected him and returned with him to base.

2

One member missing somewhere in area of about twelve miles by six. After sweep searching all of this area thoroughly the police contacted us to say he had checked in further along the course.

3

Another missing member but this time he checked in before we started to search.

8 hr

Glyders & Carneddau

25.10.61

Sgt Bennett + 17 members travelled to Ogwen where we held a W/T exercise. Each party carried a W/T set and covered the following courses.

1 Tyn-y-Maes, Carnedd-y-Filiast, Y-Garn, D/Kitchen, Base

2 Gerlan, yr Elen, Llewelyn, Dafydd, Pen-yr-Oleu-Wen, Base.

3 Bronheillog, Pen-Llithrig, Penyr-Helygdu, Craig-yr-Ysfa, Base.

4 PYG Hotel - Glyder-Fach, North Ridge Tryfan, Base.

Remarks Exercise carried out in terrible conditions. Heavy freezing cold rain and thick mist

A. Bennett

48 hr

Glyders & Carneddau & Moelwyns

28.29.10.61

Travelled in RL 59AE05 and L/R 14AA84 to Base Bethesda Hut. F/S Bennett + 9 personnel.

Sat

4 personnel rock climbing on Clogwyn Cyrau and the rest navigation walk on Carneddau.

Sunday

6 personnel climbing and abseiling instruction on Clogwyn Cyrau and the remainder walking he Glyders. F/S Bennett climbing on Moelwyns with Mr. Roberts i/c sub unit and team leader Blaenau Ffestiniog.

A. Bennett

48hr Exercise

Carneddau & Moelwyns

3-5/10/61

F/S Bennett plus 11 members left to make a base camp at Bryn Engan. As it was flooded and all alternative camp sites in the same condition we finally arrived in Bethesda hut. Vehicles used R/L 59AE05, 75AV07 (SIGS) and L/R 14AA84.

Sat

F/S Bennett + 5 personnel left to find a suitable stretcher lower on the Moelwyns, Having found same on Clogwyn-yr-Owen we spent the remainder of the day climbing. The remaining personnel walked from Bethesda over Yr-Elen, Carnedd Llewelyn, Dafydd and down the ridge to Bethesda.

Sunday

The day was spent doing stretcher lowers over Clogwyn-yr-Owen.

A. Bennett

8hr

Carneddau

10.11.61

The afternoon was a full working day, however several members turned out with the P. Staff to help with the Co???? tests. These proved very successful and most worthwhile.

A. Bennett

4hr

Valley

15.11.61

As many of the team members were new the afternoon was spent giving instruction in ropes technique and showing them where all the emergency kit was stored in the waggons.

A. Bennett

48 hr Exercise

Moelwyns

15.17.61

F/S Bennett + 11 members travelled in Bed. R/L 50AE05 and Austin 75AV07 and L/R AMB 08AA20 to base at Cwm Penamnen.

Sat 6 members climbing and abseiling on the moelwyns crags, while the remainder followed a nav course in the same area.

Sunday Once again stretcher lower practice as most of the team are quite new and definitely lack experience in this style of work.

A. Bennett

72 hr

Glyders & Carneddau

24.27/11/61

F/S Bennett travelled to Ogwen in L/R 14AA84 to meet a party of student Officers from South Cerney. The evening was spent lecturing on mountain craft and rope & rock techniques.

The rest of the team travelled in R/L 59AE05 and made camp at Cwm Penamnen.

Sat

F/S Bennett & the student Officers set off early for Ogwen from Bethesda Hut and met five more leaders from Valley MR. The day was spent giving them instruction in rock climbing until darkness stopped play. They seemed to be very pleased with their day out with us, and gave many thanks.

Sunday

Group Captain Macmullen OC ops 400 ft.

Stretcher lower planned for the press with the C.O. as victim went off very smoothly (as always) and fortunately the weather proved good enough for 22 Sqn to take part.

Incident report

1

17.50 Cwm Penamnen.

Police! call out to Cwm Glas. Travelled with all speed to Llanberis and arrived in time to carry down the deceased who had fallen some 200 ft of Main Wall Climb on Cyn-Las. His two companions were shocked but unhurt. This case is particularly nasty for us for this time the victim was an ex MRS member who served with MR in Cyprus in 1957-8.

20.00 hrs

2

Having finished the above mentioned incident we were just turning off the track onto

the Llanberis road when a car drew up and asked for our assistance. Three student two female and one male were stuck in bad weather about a hundred feet down from the Crib Goch ridge on the south side. As this job called only for the fully trained and skilled members, I selected a team of five + myself and the rest returned to base. We reached the search area by roughly 21.30 hrs and climbed up the side of Crib Goch until we found the three trapped people, cold but unhurt. I lowered them one by one down the first steep difficult part to where my party waited to help them and give them extra warm clothing. We carried on safely down until we reached the PYG Track and from here we walked to the Pen-y-Pass Hotel, and finally Cwm Penamnen and bed! We arrived back at Pen-y-Pass hotel at the end of the second incident at 00.30 hrs.

NCO Remarks

A hard long day but every man in the team whatever happened gave me his best and more. They may not be crack individual climbers, but as a team they made me proud to say I was their leader

A. Bennett

48 hr

Glyders & Snowdon Area

1-3/12/61

F/S Bennett + 10 members travelled to RAF Llanberis where we spent the weekend in the Guard Room. Vehicles used were R/L 59AE05 and L/R 14AA84.

As Mr C Briggs "The Mountain Expert"! from the P-Y-G Hotel was on holiday in Spain Llanberis police were rather worried in case of incidents happening with which they could not cope with themselves. As snow conditions were present we spent the whole period in

Llanberis pass practicing snow techniques on the lower slopes, fully prepared and on the spot to meet any emergencies.

A. Bennett F/S

8 hr

Incident on Snowdon Horseshoe

4/12/61

Team called out 0800 hrs by tannoy after distress call from Sgt. Jones civil police Llanberis.

F/S Bennett + 15 members left the station 8.30 and travelled to Pen-y-Pass Hotel. As other civilian and Royal marine parties were searching certain areas we undertook the most difficult. One party of three over Crib Goch ridge in snow conditions and the rest doing a sweep search of the broken craggy slopes on the South side. After searching for 2 1/2 hours we were called off as the two missing people had found their way off unhurt after spending the night on Lliwedd.

The weather during the search was the worst I have experienced for many years. Gale force winds, sleet & hail with very poor conditions snow underfoot.

NCO's Remarks

Despite the awful weather conditions the teams morale remained as always, high.

The missing people were good mountaineers who showed good sense, which undoubtedly saved their lives

A. Bennett

8 hr Ex

South Snowdon & Mydd Drws-y-Coed

6 Dec 61

Sgt Sykes + 10 left Valley 1345 in RL 59AE05. Base camp was the car park at Rhydd Ddu. One party of four under Cross ascended Mydd-Drwsy - Coed.

The other party of six under Sgt Sykes attempted the South Ridge of Snowdon but when 500 feet from the summit conditions were rather severe & a general retreat was made to Base camp.

Conditions mainly encountered:- Fresh soft snow covering a thin surface of ice ~~making~~. Severe winds & snow with darkness falling at 1630. Five members of the party had not been on snow conditions before.

All Parties returned to Base by 18.50 hrs, arrived Valley 2100 hrs

G. Sykes Sgt

36 hr Ex.

Carneddus

9/12/61

Flight Sgt Bennett + 12 members left Valley at 1345 hrs for base camp at Dolgarrog Army Cadet Drill Hall in R/L 59AE05 & L/R 14AA54 arriving 1545 hrs. A lecture by F.S. Bennett was given to cadets on general safety precautions, use of the Thomas Stretcher & equipment required when on the hills.

10/12/61 One party left for Conway with Cadets for a practical demonstration on Stretcher lowering & the use of ropes. The remaining members left for a general stomp over the Carneddus.

Both parties re-assembled at Dolgarrog at 1830 hrs & returned to Valley at 2130hrs.

N.C.O. i/c A Bennett F.S.

8 hr Ex.

PEN LLITHRIG-Y-WRACH

13 DEC 1961

F.S. Bennett + 13 members left Valley at 1345 hrs to Base camp at Cwm Llanarch. Routes were made over Llyn Crafnant, including Pen-Llithrig-y-Wrach - Llyn

Cowlan - Clogwyn Mawr - Trefriw.
All parties had returned by 1839 hrs & proceeded to return to Valley.

48 hr Ex

PEN-Y-PASS

16 DEC 1961

- 15 Dec 61 F.S. Bennett + 16 established Base camp in Glyn Barn - 107/751575 on Friday evening where upon all members proceeded to the Pen-y-Pass Hotel for the annual Christmas dinner. A most enjoyable time was had by all & the team was joined by Sqn Leader Steele on a 'flying visit' to partake in a glass of ale.
- 16 Dec 61 With rather heavy heads a party left Base camp & did the Snowdon Horseshoe from Lliwedd, while another party did the reciprocal from Pen-y-Pass.
- 17 Dec 61 One party to Cuffty to inspect an old base camp. Another party to Crafnant & the remainder to Caer Llugwy. Quite a large area being covered this pre-Xmas weekend.
Note:- On our return journey we were informed at Bethesda that a climber was lost on the cliffs at Penmaen-Mawr. Whilst collecting details - informed climber had returned safely. NRCC informed & incident closed.

NCO i/c A. Bennett F.S.

8 hr Ex.

Carnedd / Glyders

20 DEC 1961

F.S. Sgt Sykes + 12 proceeded to Bethesda Hut where base camp was established. Parties were dispatched to the Carnedd & the Glyders, all parties returned by 1800 hrs & returned to Valley at 2200 hrs. Preparations were also made for the Duty teams stay at the hut over the Xmas Grant.

G. Sykes Sgt

Xmas Grant

Bethesda

22-28 DEC 1961

- Friday F.S. Bennett + 11 members left Valley at 1830 hrs for Bethesda Hut where base camp was established for the Xmas Grant.
- Saturday Three parties left to cover the Glyders, Carnedd. Frost on tops & very sunny.
- Sunday Two parties went to Carnedd Dafydd returning via Gerlan, while two members 'stomped' up the valley to Ogwen.
- Monday X Christmas Day was held in the traditional manner. Chicken, Boast Pork, Apple sauce, Brussels etc. was enjoyed by all at 1500 hrs. This was considered a 'rest' day for all, bar the cooks. Sykes & Hamon.
- Tuesday Weather still fine & sunny but very cold. Parties went to Ogwen & Llanberis pass but called off their climbs due to the severe cold weather & did general familiarisation of the Glyders.
- Wednesday General tidy up of the Hut was made in preparation for departure at 1800 hrs.
Team returned Valley at 2200 hrs.

48 hrs

Moelwyns

29-31 DEC 1961

- Friday F.S. Bennett + 9 members established Base camp at Garth Barn. Snow had been falling all day, even at Valley.

- Saturday More snow during the night & still falling. L/R had to be dug out of snow drifts. Parties were dispatched to Pen-y-Pass for general survey of Snowdon area. Strong winds & heavy snow storms. Tops not recommended. All parties returned by 1630 hrs.
- Sunday Still snowing & an attempt on Moel Siabod was made. Due to severe weather conditions & visibility down to zero a retreat was made down the ridge to Capel Curig,
All parties had returned by 1615 hrs.
-