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THE TRANSVAAL NEWS LETTER.
THE CENTENARY JAMBOREE:
SUTTON PARK, ENGLAND

TELEGRAM FROM DEPUTY CHIEF SCOUT

The following telegram was sent by the Deputy Chief Scout, Lt-Colonel A.H. Johnstone, D.S.O., E.D., on the occasion of the departure of the South African J.I.M. contingent from Cape Town:

CHIEF SCOUT STIRLING CASTLE DOCKS CAPE TOWN
THE DAY OF HIGH ADVENTURE HAS ARRIVED STOP WE WISH YOU AND YOUR CONTINGENT A HAPPY JOURNEY AND GOD'S BLESSING ON THIS JOYOUS ADVENTURE STOP WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT ONE AND ALL WILL BE GREATLY STRENGTHENED AND WILL RETURN WILLING AND ANXIOUS TO GIVE TO US THE BENEFITS OF YOUR GREAT EXPERIENCE STOP BON VOYAGE AND GOOD CAMPING

From JOHNSTONE, DEPUTY CHIEF SCOUT AND ALL RANKS IN SOUTH AFRICA AND SOUTH WEST AFRICA

NEWS FROM OUR CONTINGENT

A letter from Mr. J. Montwedi

The Journey from Johannesburg to Capetown

Our departure from Johannesburg Station was a very roaring one. Present at the station were Divisional Commissioner Mr. Wallace, Mr. Rees, Dep. Div. Commissioner Mr. J.R. Rathebe, Mr. Sereme and the two organizers Mr. Marivate and Mr. Mokgako. Few District Commissioners were present.

The Divisional Commissioner repeated his words that "The African Contingent is expected to behave well because the world is going to study an African through the ten boys who represent the African Boy Scouts".

The Mayor of Johannesburg addressed the African Scouts and also said: "Scouts you are going out to a different country and you will meet strange people; you should, therefore, behave as Scouts".

The press had enough to do that evening. I have not had a chance of seeing any of the papers but I believe that there were many photographs. Some parents took photographs too. It was a very lovely time.

When the train was about to leave, Mr. Marivate led the Scouts who were there in "Nkosi Sikelele". Then the train pulled out and hands waved and shouts followed the train, which left at 9.15 p.m. It was a very rainy evening.

So far you have been in Park Station the whole time and I shall now tell you briefly about our journey to Cape Town.
When we left Johannesburg Mr. Blie and I started arranging boys into compartments. There were three empty compartments, one a small one for two people and the other two big enough for six people each. We thought all the empty compartments were ours but we were mistaken because, when the ticket examiner arrived, he told us that we had not booked and would have to get off at Kimberley and catch the next train. Having seen our Secretary, Mr. Sereme, with a booking card, I objected and told him that we had booked, and I was right because I saw "Boy Scouts" written on his paper, but he really expected another name because he said to me: "Nee, is nie julle nie". We then all shared one compartment. On Thursday evening we got another examiner who drew our attention to the wrong date of our ticket, which was the date of returning to Johannesburg, i.e. 10.10.57, the day we shall be arriving in Cape Town. However, this is receiving the attention of Mr. Raynor of Cape Town who kept our tickets. Boys had three meals on the train.

Arrival in Cape Town

We arrived on the 5th July at 6 a.m. and immediately received first class treatment from the Coloured section of Scouting. Mr. Williams and Mr. Philenda were sent to attend to us. They gave us breakfast and then took us to the Town Hall, where we met many other Scouts from the different sections.

Reception

At 11 a.m. we went into the Town Hall for a reception which was actually a tea party. We mixed with our brother European Scouts and everyone was very happy. The Mayor of Cape Town gave a farewell speech and the Chief Scout replied. Then we went to the Customs offices and from there on to the boat where we had our lunch. Here we were told that non-Europeans were to occupy Tables 15, 11 and 21, i.e. Africans, Coloureds and Indians. Everyone was in high spirits.

I shall continue from here when I have a chance.

Edward J. Montwedi

African Scouts Honoured

One of the highlights of the Jamboree was the visit of Her Majesty the Queen on the 3rd August. On this occasion African Scouts were honoured and the following report appeared in the Rand Daily Mail:

"Raphael Wessels of Cape Town and Paulus Tsotitsa of Johannesburg, two of the 18 non-European Scouts under Lager Leader Thebus of Cape Town, took part in the token march-past before the Queen.

Gumboot Dance

Union Scouts at the world Jamboree yesterday rehearsed their parts in a "pageant of South Africa" display they are to perform on Friday.

The display will be in the Jamboree arena and a crowd of more than 20,000 is expected to watch.

It will depict scenes from the arrival of Jan van Riebeeck at the Cape up to the opening of the Reef gold mines."
The Scouts will also erect signal towers and bridges in quick time while three Africans in the Union contingent perform the Gumboot dance which originated on the mines.

(From The Star, 6th August)

WORLD JAMBOREE - AN UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE

(Extract from an article in The Star by Jolyon Nuttall on the Jamboree's final day)

The South African Scout bent over his billycan, added two spoons of tea and stirred vigorously. "That stuff looks like dishwater", shouted an American Scout from a near-by tent. The South African poured the tea into a tin mug and sipped it, hesitantly. Then he grimaced. "I wish it was dishwater", he said.

The scene was the world jubilee Jamboree at Sutton Park, Birmingham. All over this vast mushroom patch of a camp Scouts from 84 countries were making tea, 34,000 cups of it. Some drank it without milk, some put the milk in before the tea, others after. All used the methods they were used to. Each contingent has established its own little section of home in the camp. The Scots have brought their bagpipes and the Japanese their lanterns. The American Indian Scouts are living in wigwams and the Icelandic Scouts in a plastic version of an igloo.

The South Africans - 380 in all - have their Springbok heads, their lion skins and assegais. They have been split up into four laagers - Orange, Vaal, Tugela and Limpopo - and placed each in a different sub-camp.

In this way they are meeting an array of Scouts as varied as a woman's shopping list, living with them, talking with them, cementing friendships, exchanging badges and belts and woggles and hatbands.

Special Message

In a special message, the Union's Chief Scout, Mr. E. Percy Fowle, said: "When we leave this Jamboree we shall return home with the thought that Scouting's message to a divided world is a bridge to peace over the years to come".

The camp covers 750 acres and is as big as a medium-sized town. It has a theatre costing £5,000 and a huge arena where march-pasts and contingent displays are held. There is a post office with its own Jamboree stamps, a chemist shop, the largest open-air cinema in Britain and a camp newspaper with a daily circulation of 10,000.

TV

There are seven banks and five swimming pools, a laundry and a dry cleaning service, two television-viewing tents in each of five sub-camps and a shortwave radio station which reports the camp's activities to many parts of the world.

An unfortunate necessity is the camp hospital which has averaged about 170 patients a day, nearly all with minor ailments.
Huge water tanks have been erected to supply the 500,000 gallons of water used daily.

If the sausages that are being consumed were placed end to end they would stretch four times round the camp. The food bill totals £160,000.

Displays

Each afternoon the larger contingents give displays in the arena. South Africa's display included pitching tents to form the letters "S.A." and then, by moving four or five tents, the number "50" to commemorate the first Scout camp ever held; the formation of the Union flag by groups wearing various coloured hatbands; and, for the non-European Scouts, Zulu war dances as performed on the Johannesburg mines. The accent of the display was placed on speed and efficiency.

Half-a-Million

The Jamboree is costing £500,000 to stage. The cost of sending Scouts to the camp has been borne chiefly by their own Scouting associations at home. To help balance the budget will be the gate money received from the 1,000,000 visitors expected at the Jamboree, the sale of programmes, car park fees, rents for shops and the sale of grandstand seats.

Camp-fire tea may taste like dishwater - or worse - and the ground may be a hard place to sleep on for a fortnight, the sausages may be burnt and dust may get into everybody's eyes, but I doubt whether you could find a single Scout among the 34,000 at the Jamboree who would not say, "This has been an unforgettable experience".

HONOUR FOR LORD ROWALLAN

Lord Rowallan, Chief Scout of the British Commonwealth and Empire, has been honoured by her Majesty the Queen with the Knighthood of the Most Ancient and Most Noble Order of the Thistle. Our Deputy Chief Scout, Lt-Col. A.H. Johnstone, D.S.O., E.D., has sent him the following telegram:

ROWALLAN CARE SCOUTCRAFT LONDON
DELIGHTED TO READ OF YOUR WELL MERITED HONOUR
FROM HER MAJESTY STOP SINCEREST CONGRATULATIONS

From: JOHNSTONE, DEPUTY CHIEF SCOUT AND ALL RANKS
IN SOUTH AFRICA AND SOUTH WEST AFRICA
REPORT ON THE FIRST CUB WOOD BADGE COURSE
(PART II)

It is with great pleasure that I report that the Cub Wood Badge Course, which always failed to take place because of a lack of sufficient numbers of applicants, was held, for the first time, this year at Morakeng, Irene, in the Pretoria District. It started on the 29th May, had a break on the 2nd June, resumed again on the 7th and came to a stop on the 9th. There were 20 trainees:

Green Six
Mr. E. Leeuw, C/M, 4th Lady Selborne, Pretoria
Mr. L. Seepe, D/C, Western Johannesburg
Mrs. A. Scori, A/C/M, 6th Atteridgeville, Pretoria
Mrs. S. Mohlabe, C/M, Tshwane Troop, Vlakfontein
Mrs. E. Bambisa, C/M, Nigel
Miss F. Malale, C/M, 5th Vlakfontein, Pretoria
Miss G. Lakajie, Student at Thabong, Sophiatown.

Yellow Six
Mrs. S. Buda, S/M, 5th Vlakfontein, Pretoria
Mrs. C. Matime, C/M, 6th Atteridgeville, Pretoria
Mrs. L. Sebata, C/M, 9th Vlakfontein, Pretoria
Mr. S. Mukou, S/M, 1st Sterkfontein, Pretoria
Mr. N. Sono, D/C/M, Lady Selborne, Pretoria
Mrs. M. Cindi, C/M, 1st Atteridgeville, Pretoria

Black Six
Mrs. P. Motuba, Vulamehlo Troop, Vlakfontein
Miss J. Nogoane, C/M, 6th Atteridgeville
Mr. A.L. Sithole, S/M, 1st Wierda, Irene, Pretoria
Mr. D. Masia, S/M, 1st Eersterust, Vlakfontein
Mrs. E. Khoza, S/M, 2nd Vlakfontein
Miss L. Zondi, Student, Thabong Nursery School, Jhb.
Rev. A. Makgahlela, S/M, 7th Atteridgeville

FEES
Every trainee was asked to pay £1 for the duration.

TRAINERS
The following were members of the staff:
Col. H.C. Juta, Akela in Charge of Training
Miss J. Braybrooke
Mr. R.J.C. Haupt of Pretoria
Mr. D.C. Marivate, D/C/C, African Scouts

CAMPING SITE
Tents were pitched in the open veld to the south of Morakeng Hostel. By the kindness of Mr. Blie, Principal of the Hostel, there was no lack of wood. Boys from his school helped collecting as much firewood as was required.

WATER
Irene is full of water. There is a big furrow which runs across the school grounds. At the school itself there are many taps of cold and hot water, and nearby there is a stream of fresh water running northwards to lose itself somewhere at Roberts Heights.
ACCOMMODATION

With the exception of our European staff, all camp personnel put up under canvas. Miss Braybrooke found herself a place at an Anglican home in Irene. Mr. Haupt always went home, and Colonel Juta went to Johannesburg.

WEATHER

The weather was cold, especially towards sunset and during the night. With the advent of June, things became worse. From the east there came very cold wind. In the afternoon it changed its course and blew from the West. Lecture places had to be changed again and again so as to get shelter from the wind. Personally I thought that our lady Cubbers would complain, but they braved the inconvenience without a word of grumbling. I thought perhaps they would not come to the Campfire, but I was mistaken. They came and they danced and sung so cheerfully that I began to wonder whether women were able to withstand cold better than men.

DAILY PROGRAMME

At 6 a.m. activities started every day. At 9 p.m. everything stopped. Every night there was a campfire. The programme for this was more or less of a mixed kind, such as singing, dancing, story-telling and sketches. Sometimes the campfire would end with a talk by the African D/C/C.

TRAINING

As is usual with all Wood Badge training, everybody was kept busy the whole day. The lecturers were all well prepared. The leader, Col. H.C. Juta, had brought with him six boxes containing all sorts of things, such as scissors, coloured chalk, coloured wool, coloured balls, coloured paper, coloured patches, twine, rope, etc. Along with these he brought the Wolf’s Head stuck on a thick stick. The whole atmosphere was nothing else but Cubbing. I must report that at the end of the Course Col. Juta donated to the African Boy Scouts of this Division three of these boxes, together with all their contents, and the Wolf’s Head also. That was very kind of him was it not? I think our Council will write a letter to thank him for this.

In addition to what I have said above, our lecturers brought with them a kind of spirit which accompanied their words and which marked this Course as nothing else but Christian in every respect. Everything was satisfactory. Long after the Course was closed, whenever I met any of the trainees, they would ask me, "When is there another Course?" and say "We want to come again". This shows appreciation on the part of those who were there.

On the 30th May, just as everybody was happy at games, an accident befell one of the trainees. It was Mrs. Mohlabane, who fell over a stone and cut herself very badly below the knee. She had to be taken to hospital at once. I took her, together with Mrs. Elianor Bambisa who had sprained her ankle, to the General
Hospital, Pretoria, where they were treated and sent back. The women doctors who treated them teased them by asking them what they had been trying to do. Scouting, they said, was not for women but for men. (Of course, they were just joking.) Mrs. Mohlabane could not sleep that night. We took her in to the hostel where she was looked after by Mrs. Blie, the wife of the Principal of the school.

When the first portion of the camp came to an end, I did not expect Mrs. Mohlabane to return for the second weekend, but she came. Her husband brought her by car. It was really wonderful; everybody liked to come back to this Course.

VISITORS

We did not get many visitors, but the one who came was a very important man. It was Mr. McNally, the D.C.C. who is in charge of training for all sections. He came on the 9th June and, although he had left a sick wife at home, he went with us for the Expedition, but after that he had to rush back home. He was the only visitor who came to look us up. We were glad to see him and to feel that he was taking a keen interest in us.

JUNGLE NAMES

At this Course, some of our friends gave themselves jungle names; for instance Mr. Haupt was called Bagherra, and Miss Braybrooke Baloo, and so on. But the one that beat me was Stanley Mukou who called himself Bandarlog. Why Bandarlog (the monkey folk whose job was just to imitate and achieve nothing) I can't understand. But there it is, we had Bandarlogs in our Camp!

RESULTS

With the exception of the Rev. A. Makgahlela, who owing to Church duties had to leave Camp before time, all have passed and will be awarded Part II Certificates next Session.

EXPENSES

It cost us £18.10s. to run this Course, i.e. 2/2d per day for seven days for each one who had meals at the Camp. We were 24 in all, including the trainers.

THE END OF THE COURSE

The Course ended on Sunday, 9th June, at 3 p.m. Some drove away, others went to the trains.

I thank all who helped me to run this Course, particularly Col. Juta, Mr. Haupt and Miss Braybrooke. I thank also Mr. McNally who found the trainers for me. I wish to thank also Mr. W. Blie and the Governor of the Hostel, Mr. Kriel, who put their school at our disposal, and also Pretoria District for lending us their tents, buckets, lamps, etc.

D.C. Marivate, D/C/C
MESSAGE TO PARENTS

Your boy should be a Scout because:

1. Scouting fills a boy's spare time with healthy occupations in healthy company.
2. Scouting gives a boy character - essential to success in any career.
3. Scouting gives a boy opportunities for service, to God and to his neighbour.
4. Scouting is not a military movement; the object is good citizenship.
5. Scouting makes a boy "handy". His hobbies are useful at home as well as interesting to himself.
6. Scouting gives a boy a sense of honour and loyalty.
7. Scouting develops a boy's self-reliance so that he can fend for himself and help others.
8. Scouting gives a boy health. Through open-air exercise and self care he gains a sound mind in a healthy body.
10. Scouting stimulates a boy's natural gifts - helps to find "square holes for square pegs" in choice of career.
11. Scouting will help make a man of your boy - the sort of man you want him to be.

You can help your boy by:

(a) taking an interest in his Scout work.
(b) encouraging him to attend all parades and meetings.
(c) visiting the Troop and getting to know the Scouters and the Group Committee who are taking so much interest in your boy. They are your neighbours.
(d) helping him to prepare for his tests and enjoying the fun yourself.
(e) remembering that the Boy Scout Movement has the interest of all boys at heart and is not conducted for personal gain. All Scouters and Commissioners are unpaid.
(f) studying the Scout Law and Promise yourself and seeing that your boy understands them, remembers them and tries to put them into daily practice.
(g) encouraging your boy, when old enough, to go hiking and to go to camp. Scouting is an outdoor game, and the healthy outdoors is a splendid antidote to unhealthy city attractions. Scouting is not costly - and the boy himself should be encouraged to earn money for the small Troop fees and to pay for his uniform; likewise he should be encouraged to make a lot of his own equipment.

(Adapted with acknowledgments from "Vaal Area")
HEADQUARTERS NOTICES

To all District Officers

ANNUAL CENSUS - 30TH SEPTEMBER, 1957

I wish to remind all District Officers that their Census Forms should be completed and returned to Divisional Headquarters before 30th August, 1957. You are also reminded of the 1/- registration fee from each Troop and Pack which should accompany these forms.

Please advise the Divisional Headquarters immediately if you require more forms.

I appreciate the difficulty you have in getting the figures for these forms but I know you will all co-operate by sending them in as soon as possible.

S.J. Sereme
Assistant Divisional Secretary

APPOINTMENTS

The following appointments have been passed by the Council:

Mokoa, Wallace            S.M.  2nd Alexandra
Mohutsioa, Zachariah A.   S.M.  4th Roodepoort
Tsagae, McCall Ben        S.M.  3rd Western
Sithole, Simon            A.S.M. 1st Pietersburg
Matsemela, Ayliff         A.S.M. 3rd Western
Magasa, Lucas-Pholo       A.S.M. 1st Leeuwardenstad
Dlamini, Godfrey          A.S.M. 4th Roodepoort
Matlhare, Amos Duke       A.S.M. 1st Blyvooruitzicht
Mthethwa, Arthur          C.M.  4th Boksburg
Shabangu, Elias           C.M.  4th Roodepoort
Matshoba, Julius          A.C.M. 4th Roodepoort

OUR LITTLE SHOP

Equipment Depot

Cub Caps                  5/9d each
Belts (Boy's type)        2/6d each
Belts (Officer's type)    12/6d each
Tenderfoot Badges         8d each
Tenderpad Badges          8d each

Stationery Depot

Camping Standards         9d each
The Cub Book              1/3d each
Maps                      1/3d each
Prayers                   1/3d each
The Scout Law             1/3d each

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