

## The Stalker October 1913

18 page booklet  
green cover  
21x13 cm (approx)

Refers to the August inspection (see photo) in the grounds of the Old Brewery House. This is now known as the Dial House Hotel in Reepham Market Place.

A favourite quote from the Scoutmaster's report:

"Mothers, just think of your boys being able to darn their own socks!"

Reports on Empire Day, cricket & football.

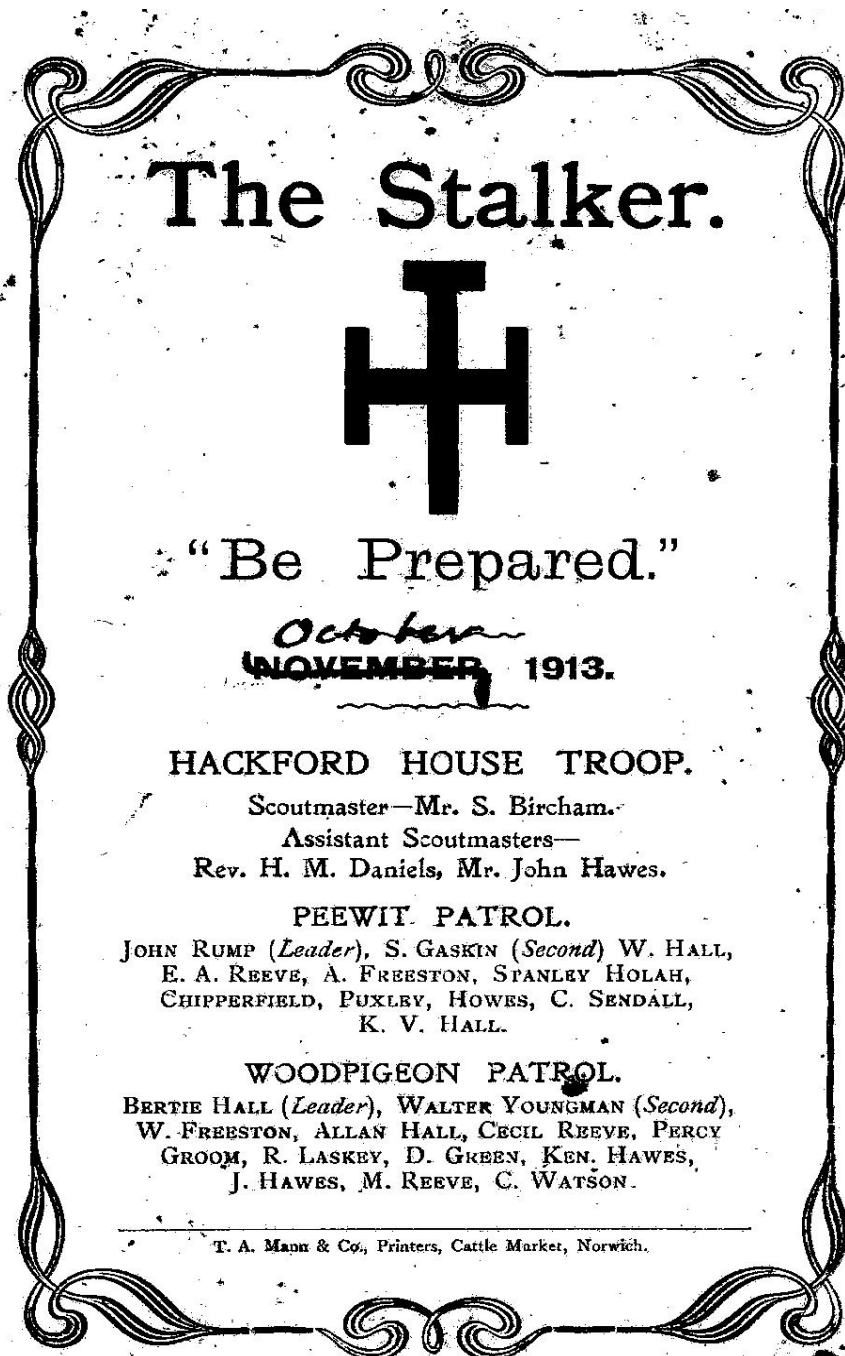
Frank Rump is now in Ontario.

Two rather lengthy & verbose passages promoting the National Service League, one by Donald Kendall-Chapman

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# The Stalker.

The Official Journal of the Hackford House Troop.

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NOVEMBER, 1913.

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## HACKFORD HOUSE TROOP.

**B**EYOND our Inspection by Col. Barclay on August 6th not much has occurred since the April issue of "The Stalker" so far as indoor instruction is concerned. The summer is not a time when one either expects or indeed offers much of the indoor kind, but the cricket field has been freely used, and a report on our cricket season will be found later on. Unfortunately, from one cause or another, the idea of a "performance" had to be abandoned: a little more seriousness on the part of the boys might have had a more practical result. As I tried to explain, "No performance — no funds for an Outing," and so it proved, for it seems the boys will have to help themselves almost entirely.

By hoarding the boys' pence and paying expenses incident to the use of the Club Room (oil, lamps, firing, rates, taxes, etc.), I was enabled to show a balance in the hands of the Treasurer of £10 wherewith to commence the year 1913. At the end of the Magazine will be found a statement of our finances up to date, i.e., end of September. The item £2 17s. 9d. needs explanation. The boys, under an entire misapprehension, in my absence and unknown to me, set to work to collect for their Football Fund and got from all sources £2 17s. 9d. Directly I heard of it I sent for the Leaders and explained to them that not under any circumstances would I permit solicitation for money. I had my reasons for this, endorsed by very capable authority, and I at once returned the money, explaining in a letter to each donor my reason, and that canvassing for subscriptions to any separate or particular object might lead to inconvenience and trouble and was not permitted. I added my hope that residents would have recognised and appreciated the value of the Scout Movement and have helped it forward by contributing towards expenses which are inseparable from it, that such subscriptions would be very welcome and would be gratefully acknowledged by the Treasurer, Dr. Perry. We

Scouts are not beggars, we exist by our own exertions assisted by voluntary kindnesses. That the boys' fund should not lose the amount of money which they had under a misapprehension collected, I paid a sum equal to the amount collected to the Treasurer out of my own pocket, hoping that the donors to the Football Club might see fit to repay the amount returned to them to the General Fund in the hands of the Treasurer. We shall see!

And now a word as to our Inspection by Col H. A. Barclay, C.V.O., A.D.C., Assistant County Commissioner, who after inspections at Thetford and elsewhere came on here, renewing his acquaintance with the Troop which was initiated at Sheringham last year. I had intended to have held the Inspection on the Cricket Ground, but the threatening weather compelled us to be near shelter, and so with the aid of tents, etc., we had to be content with the shrubbery and lawn tennis ground at the Old Brewery House, but our weather fears were fortunately not realised and the day was all that could be wished. It is true the boys had taken a good deal of trouble to prepare for this inspection: they remembered the kindly words addressed to them by Col. Barclay last year and had determined to show him that what he then said was not lost upon them. Patriotic songs, stave and physical drills, as well as the ordinary drills were well rendered, and to Mrs. Daniels, who had undertaken the physical exercises, the greatest praise is due. Knot tying, first aid and signalling quite satisfied Col. Barclay, who expressed himself as well pleased, and that the Hackford House Troop was the best he had yet seen in Norfolk. The Band of the 4th Battalion Norfolk Regiment under Bandmaster Maidment was in attendance and added to the general enjoyment. The boys were delighted by Col. Barclay's flattering words, and after "God Save the King" the boys with hats on staves gave Col. Barclay a hearty "send off."

I am glad to say that I have a very loyal and efficient Assistant Scoutmaster in Mr. John Hawes, who in the dark days of South Africa volunteered and saw active service there. He brings his experience to our aid now, and we thank him.

I am glad too that the Rev. H. M. Daniels has received his warrant as Assistant Scoutmaster, and to him and Mrs. Daniels the Troop owes much: we thank them.

Our thanks too are due to Miss Kendrew who is taking much pains to organise a Play, and we really do hope not far hence to be able to announce a performance when we trust our friends will rally round us.

We have just commenced a Knitting, Netting and Darning Class, which is up to now well attended. Mothers,

just think of your boys being able to darn their own socks! See that your boys attend these classes regularly, and see for yourselves that they profit by them.

SAM BIRCHAM, *Scoutmaster.*

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### REPORT OF THE PEEWITS.

THE Peewit Patrol is rather larger since our last issue. We have C. Sendall, who is a Second Class Scout, and J. Howes, who at present is a Tenderfoot but will soon be a Second Class Scout.

Miss Scotton has again been giving the Tenderfoot First Aid Classes.

During the coming winter we hope to work hard at badges, etc.

Ex-Assistant Scoutmaster F. Rump and Ex-Scout C. Laskey are in Ontario and hope to go West next Spring. It is nearly seven months since they bade us good-bye on March 21st. The following day they sailed for Canada on the White Star Liner "Dominion." After a prolonged voyage through rough weather, they landed at Portland on April 7th. They then took train to Ottawa, where they received employment on farms at Hazledean. Both are getting along first rate.

J. H. RUMP, *Leader.*

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### REPORT ON THE WOODPIGEON PATROL.

SINCE our last issue we have had more recruits and have still several tenderfeet in the Troop, but all are well on the way for their badge. Of the Cricket XI we provided six men, and for this season's Footer XI four men, C. Watson being Captain.

Our Patrols, by acquisition, are too full, but we are to have a third shortly.

B. HALL, *Leader.*

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### AROUND THE CAMP FIRE CHATS.

By an Ex-Patrol Leader.

THE subject on which I propose to address you this time appeals very strongly to me, for two reasons. First, the fundamental principals are very similar to those of your own splendid movement, and secondly, it instils irrevocably a

patriotic spirit. I refer to the proposals of the National Service League.

The principles of the League (to be brief) are:—(1) That every able-bodied man should defend his country in time of need; and (2) That to do this he must be trained in time of peace. Surely these must appeal to you! Whom does the "every" include? Not only the poor but the rich too. All would have to go through the ropes, all would have to do their allotted task. No class against class but one united body with one thought, the defence of the Motherland. That is the theoretical side of the argument, but let us now look at the practical side. The League urges that every one should defend, and it would also provide (by Act of Parliament) that every male should be made proficient in the arts of war in time of peace. It proposes that every able-bodied youth between the ages of 18 and 21 shall be compelled to undergo a four months continuous training, to be followed up by a fortnight's training in camp in the ranks of the Territorials and a course of musketry with such further drills as may be prescribed by that Force, annually for the next three years. And precautions would be taken, as in the Colonies, to prevent any man from being penalised in any way by his employer while doing his duty to his country. By that means a fully competent and confident citizen army would be established; by that means the Territorial Force would be firmly established with a full complement; by that means a healthier race would be built up and the effeminate "young blood" and the loafer would be entirely swept away. The ranks would be officered by men who had served in the ranks, and ability only would ensure a man an officership. The citizen army would be regulated as the Territorial Force is now with the exception that it would be on a compulsory basis. It would not be used to suppress strikes or strikers. It would only be used in Home Defence, not in the quelling of internal domestic upheavals, and although a man would be eligible to help his country abroad no one could be compelled to serve beyond his Motherland.

Apart from the knowledge that one had done his share towards the upkeep of our Empire the knowledge that the race would benefit physically must surely have its bearing upon you. Four months' discipline, four months' physical culture, the large range of companions, they all would have a beneficial result on the national outlook. Fine splendidly built men would take the place of the hunchbacked, sunken-chested loafer which disgrace our towns and cities of the present day, and the day of the effeminate swank will have gone. Oh! that England would wake up to these facts! Having served

the four months' continuous training with its accompanying discipline would not the youth be better fitted for his ordinary work. The discipline enforced in training would make itself obvious at his work: it would make for punctuality, and it would have the tendency to frustrate the remarkable growth of incivility with which young men of to-day are so prolific. Even the small body of Scouts (which happily now permeate every village) have that effect. How much more so in a large universal body as this League proposes? There are certainly some defects (or rather weak places) in these proposals which its opponents make the most of. The one of which most consideration must be taken is, of course, compulsion. This is not appreciated in anything but it is most essential that a different state of affairs should reign with England's youth to-day. They have not time for something for which a certain amount of inconvenience is entailed. But just look at them in their leisure hours; what are they doing? Chiefly yelling themselves hoarse at football matches or sucking chocolates and sweets at picture palaces. These are chiefly the opponents of compulsory service.

If you have any sense of patriotism you must see the immense good such a movement would do for the British Empire. Let me tell you what our Colonies think of the Mother Country on this matter: "Canada with its greatly under-populated Dominion has arranged for the defence of its shores and provided for its fleet. Australia and New Zealand have their citizen armies and they are under-populated, yet England with all her wealth and her vast teeming population have neither the heart nor the stomach for the proposals so staunchly advocated by Field-Marshal Lord Roberts." Is not that a severe reproof?

So you Scouts remember this. You have promised to do your duty to your country, the King and God. You can still do that duty more acutely by aiding and assisting the work of this League. Your Scoutmaster would doubtless be pleased to advise you on any point on which you are doubtful and should you desire to join the League Major Hugh Beck, 14, Stracey Road, Thorpe, Norwich, will give you all the necessary information.

### ANOTHER STRAIGHT TALK.

By an Ex-Patrol Leader.

BEFORE reverting to the subject on which I propose writing I wish to extend my heartiest congratulations to those who made the fourth issue of your official journal such

a success. I say "those," in the hope that ALL helped. If this is not so may I commend you to take to heart the keynote of my last Talk. Your official journal must not be a one-man show any more than your Troop, so if you have neither helped in this or the last issue it behoves you to do your share at least for the next. So start preparing something, all of you, then you will have the satisfaction of knowing that you have taken your place when your services were required.

This little township of ours was offered a unique opportunity of embracing the principles of the National Service League last April. I am glad to note that Reepham, and especially her young men, accepted that chance, and also that you Scouts attended in very fair numbers. It is upon this subject that I propose to address you this time.

Despite signs of marked antagonism in some quarters towards this League I cannot help thinking that in the main issue everyone is in favour of its proposals. The bitterest opponents towards it affirm their willingness to assist this Empire in time of need. Well, so far so good, but how can they help? By fighting, certainly. Yes, by fighting, but cannot this country be assisted without fighting? I think so. Fighting can be and is avoided by being prepared to fight. Are you Scouts being prepared! To a certain extent we are prepared, but in the matter of home defence we are woefully lacking. What I am now about to say is a second-hand theory, but nevertheless it is just as good and true as whenever it was first uttered. The National Service League proposes to create, by an Act of Parliament, an efficient defensive Army. To those of my readers who were present at the meeting I apologise for the following re-iteration, but I repeat it for the benefit of those who may read this and were not there. Of the three lines of defence which we possess the one of which most consideration must be taken is the home army, at present the Territorials. The navy is principally engaged in keeping our trade routes open, but should occasion require of course it would meet, and we hope defeat, the foe on the high seas, but while it was doing this it would still be possible for the enemy to effect a landing and bang would go our prestige and social reforms in no time. An invasion of our shores must never happen. To those who say that we have a regular army I would say that that is an offensive force whose business is to engage and attack, not to be engaged and defend. Besides, where is it quartered? Mainly in the barracks around the forts ready to embark to the seat of the war. The one alternative is the home defence army, at present the Territorials. Now two alternatives are offered here. The voluntary scheme is clearly not what it should be.

I was about to say "a failure," but that would not do justice to those patriotic fellows who give up their time to perform their privilege. One is to ameliorate the conditions of service by introducing various inducements, such as bonuses, etc., and the other is to dispense with the voluntary system and substitute a compulsory one. Of course there is something for and against the latter. To some a martial career offers no attractions and the compulsory part is not pleasant. However, I don't propose to state the dismerits or the system as they are so small in comparison with the benefits likely to be obtained therefrom that I can't find them. The benefits which are likely to accrue from this, to commence with the smallest, would include:—

The blessings of companionship. I speak with experience on this matter. Even the Scouts offer a larger range of companions and their effect is soothing to troubled spirit, helpful when help is needed, and a large amount of pleasure and amusement is certain to be derived from them. How then, when all the young fellows round you are, as it were, a large Troop of Scouts? All jolly and gay, ready and willing to help and comfort a lonely fellow and ready to accept another chap's sympathy and pleasures. Does not that rank as a benefit?

The amount of moral good that would accrue after a period with a large body of happy and bright young men too would not be slight. What does even a small body of Scouts do towards a fellow's moral being. It is discipline that is responsible for this. How much more so then in a large body? It would make a restless spirit quiet down, fortify that of the shy one, and the influence of one's comrades would inspire each one to do his best. Then, would there be room for the slacker? Scouting has done much to relieve the nation of this demoralising thing. Would not a firmly established citizen army have a much greater effect in the weeding out of this pest?

Each one would benefit in no uncertain degree physically as well as morally. Look at the hundreds of weed-sucking wretches who huddle together on the city hoardings. Poor, slouching, unhealthy-looking beggars! Would England have any room for such slurs on the nation then? No! everyone of those unfortunates would have to take his place in the ranks and no doubt would do his nation excellent service instead of remaining a waster—or even worse! The strong would become stronger, the weak strong, and the whole nation would benefit. Gone would be the sickening sight of the large number of ragged hooligans who lounge in the dark corners, gone would be the large army of weed-suckers

who stick their hands in their pockets all day. Oh! what a different England that would be then!

Another benefit would be the knowledge of the fact that everyone had helped to keep the nation where it was. Everyone had worn His Majesty's uniform, everyone had helped. The grave disaster which appeared imminent had given place to a renewed and sweeter feeling of peacefulness among the nation. The young men would be much more self-reliant, they would become men again. No more rainbow socks and ties, no more effeminate duffers. England would again hold her head up high and say as she used to do, "I'm a man."

Well, I guess I had better say no more to Mr. Editor will be showing me the door, and I am taking up too much valuable space. But a word in conclusion: let your patriotic principles assert themselves when you hear another person crabbing the principles of the National Service League. They are good, but of course they can be made better. I don't know exactly how this will be received, but as the motive of this League is founded on patriotism I thought it would be appropriate in your magazine, for the objects of both the League and Scouting are so similar and there is such a crying need of something to shake off the apathy which is holding this dear old country of ours with such a vice-like grip that I consider this privilege a duty.

DONALD K. CHAPMAN.

#### HOW WE CELEBRATED EMPIRE DAY.

WE Scouts at Reepham conducted our celebrations on Empire Day on a larger scale than we have done before, although all Empire Days since our formation have been recognised. We met at the Club Room at 2.30, collected various things as food, crockery, cooking utensils, etc., and adjourned to the cricket field, where preparations were made for tea. At 4 o'clock we received our guests amongst whom were the Cawston Troop of Scouts under Miss A Marsh. When our kettle boiled tea was made and handed round to the company. Tea finished we cleared up and prepared for the event of the day. Our guests included Miss Wilkinson, Mrs. Owen, Mr. and Mrs. Berry, Mrs. Duncombe-Anderson and two boys, Dr Perry, Miss Kendrew, and many residents in the neighbourhood, mothers and families of Boy Scouts, and we numbered perhaps fifty. Then came the order to "fall in," and being formed in open order

we gave a series of physical exercise. That done we were formed up in Patrols with our friends from Cawston on the left, and after our Scoutmaster had said a few words and explained the glorious and serious meaning of "saluting the flag," with staves presented and one hand at the full salute, we marched past the flag twice, after which we sang the National Anthem. Then our Scoutmaster told us that on behalf of the Troops he had sent a message of congratulation to our King, then in Berlin and had received a reply from the British Ambassador. The following were the messages despatched and received, and which now adorn the walls of the Club Room:—"To the British Ambassador in Berlin: The Reepham Boy Scouts on Empire Day assembled send respectful congratulations." Received: "Have communicated your message to the King who commands me to thank you for your congratulations.—Goschen." A game of cricket brought a most enjoyable day to a close.

(Scout) W. HALL.

#### CRICKET REPORT OF 1913.

LAST season was a fairly successful one for the Scouts, considering the strong teams we played. The following are the teams we played:—Sall Youths three times, C. R. Pask's XI three times, and Heydon Juniors twice. Of these five were won, three lost and one drawn. Our heaviest defeat was by 11 runs and our best win by 98 runs. C. Watson and S. Holah were the best in batting and S. Gaskins and J. Rump in bowling. In one match C. Watson made 40 runs and J. Rump took 9 wickets for 5 runs. The ground all through the season has been in very good condition. The following were the Committee:—Messrs. J. Hawes, J. Rump, W. Gaskin, B. Hall, W. Hall, A. Hall, P. Groom.

(Captain) J. RUMP.

#### OUR FOOTBALL SEASON 1913-14.

OUR football team has been a matter needing much consideration and we have determined not to confine it to those who still attending school can give more time to classes, drills and so on, but to include those who having entered some employment can only attend now and then, it being understood that all are bona-fide Scouts acknowledging and obeying the Scout Law though not actual

active members of any Patrol of the Troop, to which they have in times past or now, by allegiance, belong. By this means we shall get better games, be able to meet neighbouring teams on more equal terms and at the same time be the means of giving better education in the game to the younger members of the Troop. Each member pays 6d. into the General Scout Fund, of which Dr. Perry is Treasurer, and this provides for the purchase of balls and other requisites and for the expenses attendant on match playing whether out or at home.

We have joined the Norwich and District Church League and so shall get a continuity of matches regularly. We opened our football season by defeating S. Barnabas, of the Norwich and District Church League, by 6 goals to 2. It was a fine game and we deserved our win. But in our second match S. Margarets outplayed us, and beat us by 7 goals to 1. It was an "off-day" for us Scouts who could not find our form. However, it was an enjoyable match and the better and by far the bigger and heavier side won. Our next match in the League is with S. Marks, at Norwich on October 25th, a stiff match for us, but if we are in anything like form we shall give them a good game.

The team loses the services of Stanley Holab who has undergone a severe operation, but we are thankful to say he is now convalescent, and from his chair is able to watch our games with interest. CLIFF. WATSON, *Captain.*

#### FOUR POINTS ON FIRST AID.

1. If you find your neighbour's gate open, shut it.
2. When you eat an orange don't throw the peel about, and if you see peel lying about kick it out of the way and so perhaps save someone a nasty fall.
3. Always carry a knife, a good piece of string, and a bit of rag, so as to be ready for any First Aid requirement.
4. Say a prayer on your knees, however short, every morning and evening.

#### THE STARFISH.

WHEN you have been on the sea-shore and picked up a live starfish have you ever considered whether it could see? At the end of each arm there is a little red eye sheltered

at the base of the end tube foot. You have seen these "tube-feet" underneath. The eye or eye cushion has a number of little cups closed by a "lens" and containing a transparent watery substance. How much can this eye see! Well not much. It can't see an image nor perceive a moving object, but it is very sensitive to different degrees of light and shade. Even the skin is sensitive to different degrees of illumination. Look for this eye next time you come across a starfish.

#### FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

	£	s.	d.
Brought forward from 1912	10	0	0
Football Subscriptions, returned to donors but recouped to fund by Scoutmaster as explained on page 1	2	17	9
Boys' Pence for 1913 up to end of September	1	11	9
W. Allen	0	5	0
Mr. Freestone	0	3	6
J. A. Kendrew, Esq.	1	1	0
E. V. Perry, Esq.	1	1	0

