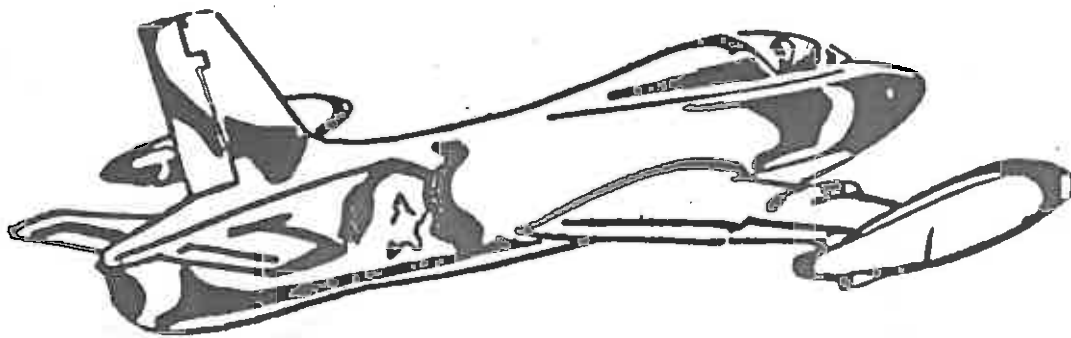


FILE

Handwritten notes in a box, possibly containing the name "Hoselo" and other illegible text.



# AIR TRAILS



the magazine of the 9<sup>th</sup> pretoria (irene) group

NOVEMBER 1987

## WHO'S WHO IN 9TH IRENE

Group Scoutmaster	:	Mossie Mosdell	:	632695
Assistant Scoutmasters	:	Brian (Hawkeye) Ross	:	632766
	:	Iain (Falcon) Meyer	:	632269
Pack Scouter	:	Kathleen (Akela) Wallis	:	65818
Assistant Pack Scouter	:	Marion (Baloo) Olver	:	628757
Group Committee				
Chairman	:	Bryan Wallis	:	65818
Treasurer	:	Mike Crosbie	:	65885
Secretary	:	Gill Smith	:	631536
	:	Ronnie Brueton	:	65602
	:	Gladys Griffiths	:	65264
	:	Michelle Irvine	:	631978
	:	Howard Brinkworth	:	65408
	:	John O'Mahony	:	65517
	:	Jo Vowles	:	632953
Thrift Shop	:	Cookie Kershaw	:	632565
Editor, Air Trails	:	Marion Olver	:	628757

### A WORD OF THANKS:

THANK YOU LIZ FOR YOUR MANY YEARS OF SERVICE ON THE 9TH IRENE COMMITTEE.  
(LIZ HARRIS SERVED FOR 5 YEARS ON THE COMMITTEE - A GOOD INNINGS!)

### STOP PRESS!

THE EDITOR HAS JUST RECEIVED THE GOOD NEWS THAT IAIN MEYER HAS ONCE AGAIN  
AGREED TO HOLD THE FORT AS SCOUT MASTER.

THIS OFFER IS VERY MUCH APPRECIATED. THANK YOU FALCON.

THIS EDITION OF AIR TRAILS HAS BEEN SPONSORED BY-

SCHAMOTTE HOLDINGS PTY LTD.

In committee .....

Our 1987 Annual General Meeting was held on 4 November 1987.

Although the uniformed side and the committee were well represented, this year's AGM was particularly poorly attended by parents with no direct involvement in the Group. Only eight of the forty such families in the Group were there. This must inevitably lead the Scouters to question whether their efforts on behalf of your boys are truly appreciated. Thank you to those who did attend.

For those of you who were not there, I will repeat the gist of the most important matter of business discussed. Our Scoutmaster, Dave (Phantom) Gemmell will be leaving the Troop at the end of November 1987 and Gabriel (Bagheera) Levy has resigned from the Pack.

YOUR GROUP, BOTH TROOP AND PACK, IS  
THEREFORE IN BIG TROUBLE. IT DESPERATELY  
NEEDS SCOUTERS AND PACK SCOUTERS IF IT IS  
TO SURVIVE.

We must, each one of us, do our best to find suitable people for the task. They need not necessarily have Scouting backgrounds because excellent training is offered to the right people.

If you have any thoughts or suggestions to offer, please contact one of the uniformed members or committee member.

The incoming Group Committee elected at the AGM comprises:

Howard Brinkworth  
Ronnie Brueton  
Mike Crosbie  
John de Kock (co-opted, special projects)  
Gladys Griffiths  
Michelle Irvine  
John O'Mahoney  
Jo Vowles  
Bryan Wallis

Thanks to these people for their willingness to serve.

My best wishes to all of you for a peaceful and blessed Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Good Hunting for those new Scouters.

Yours in Scouting

Bryan Wallis

## MOSSIES MUSES.

In the last few issues of Air Trails we have appealed for uniformed staff. Since the last Air Trails Dave Gemmell has resigned as well as Gabriel Levy. We are sorry to lose both these Scouters. This leaves a vacuum in both Troop and Pack which must be filled.

As can be seen from the following article the training of a Scouter is a lengthy process and will take a minimum of 3 months. We need recruits URGENTLY, so anyone interested please contact either myself, one of the Scouters or one of the committee members.

## TO THE PROSPECTIVE SCOUTER.

Before you are authorised to act as a Scouter, you are required to serve a three-month probationary period under the guidance of an experienced Scouter. This period of probation serves a double purpose: It enables us to gauge your suitability for the work. It enables you to decide whether the work is to your taste, and to gain some basic experience of what being a Scouter implies. In order to give you a jumping-off place, you are required to study the contents of this booklet during the first few weeks of your probation and to complete the questionnaire which accompanies it.

This questionnaire is intended not as an examination, but as an act of good faith. It enables both parties, the Boy Scouts of South Africa, and yourself, to assess whether you are starting off with a reasonable knowledge of the fundamentals of the task which you hope to undertake. For this reason, the questionnaire merely requires you to put into your own words some of the statements made in the booklet.

The questionnaire, when completed, should be returned to the address given to you by the Area authorities.

It must be clear that neither the serving of a probation, nor the reading of the booklet, nor the completion of the questionnaire, places the Boy Scouts of South Africa under any obligation to issue you with authority to act as a Scouter. **YOU MAY NOT, THEREFORE, TAKE UNSUPERVISED CHARGE OF ANY BRANCH UNTIL SUCH AUTHORITY IS ISSUED.** At the discretion of the District Commissioner you may be attached to a Branch as an Assistant, or you may fulfil the functions of a Scouter-in-charge under the supervision of an experienced Scouter appointed by the District Commissioner.

The Movement, for obvious reasons, seeks a high standard of qualifications in its adult leaders; these qualifications are defined as: The candidate must be fully fitted by character and previous history to be entrusted with the care of boys, and in particular must: (i) Have the necessary qualifications for the rank in question (these vary in respect of age and particular abilities); (ii) Have a full appreciation of the religious and moral aim underlying the scheme of Scouting (this is dealt with in the booklet); (iii) Have personal standing and character such as will ensure a good moral influence, and sufficient steadfastness of purpose to carry out the work with energy and perseverance.

When finally you are offered and accept authority to act as a Scouter, you will, in addition to accepting the obligation to carry out the work with energy and perseverance, be accepting two specific obligations:

- ( i) To accept and put into practice the principles of the Patrol System.  
(As described in the previous Air Trails)
- (ii) To avail yourself of the facilities for Training appropriate to your rank.

These facilities for the Training of Adult Leaders are provided by the Gilwell Training Team on a basis which has world-wide acceptance. The facilities are of two main kinds: The Wood Badge Training Scheme and Specialist Training.

Acknowledgement - "What is Scouting?"

MOSSIES MUSES CONTINUED.

We have been extremely lucky in getting a prospective Scouter in Dave Alt. Dave whose Scouting name will shortly be announced is a Springbok Scout from the Cape and we wish him well and hope that lots of his ideas come to fruition.

I would also like to congratulate Charles Ross on being accepted for the World Jamboree to be held in Australia next month. Only a limited number of boys can go and the selection criteria are strict.

It would possibly be an idea to have specific fund raising activities in the future in order to send one or two boys to the Jamborees which are held every four years, and costs approximately R5 500 per boy. The bulk of this expense is for travelling and not because they are accomodated at the Hilton.

I have mentioned the two Scouters who have resigned and I would like to thank Dave especially for his contribution. He has been in uniform for the last 4 years and before that he assisted with maintenance at the hall. Relax and enjoy your retirement Dave, but don't forget that you have still offered your services for badge training and testing.

Gabriel was only with us for a year but we are also sorry to see him go. This is more or less the time it takes to find ones feet and settle in.

A very important event took place on Friday 16th October 1987.

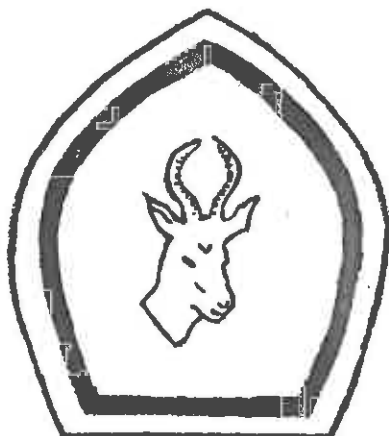
On this day two of our Scouts were awarded their Springbok Scout Badges. The boys concerned were: CHARLES ROSS and JAMES GEMMELL. Congratulations on this achievement which entailed getting 14 Master Grade Proficiency Badges.

Only the boys themselves and their parents know the tremendous amount of work that was required.

During October Iain (Falcon) Meyer had to have an operation and was off for a few weeks. Iain is back in circulation again and when he attended Fridays meeting looked as though he was a patient from a First Aid Stunt. Iain all the best for a full recovery and convalescence, and we hope the bandages are off next time we see you.

To all Parents. Scouters, Scouts and Cubs may I wish you all the best for the Holiday Season. Drive safely and have a memorable Christmas and New Year.

MOSSIE. (Group Scout Master).



THE GROUP SALUTES:

JAMES GEMMELL  
AND  
CHARLES ROSS

CONGRATULATIONS.

**Springbok Scout Badge**

WHAT THE CUBS HAD TO SAY AFTER THEIR "GOOD TURN" VISIT TO THE S.P.C.A.

ON 20/11/1987.

I enjoyed the S.P.C.A. very much. We saw three little puppies suckling on their mother. Then there were these special powders which you spread over a dogs meal; they said we could take them for free but then Baloo made us give them back. When we got there we first watched two little puppies getting vaccinated and they de-wormed them. Most of the boys went to a section where security dogs were kept. And a big thank you to Baloo and all the people that gave us transport.

JOACHIM VON BERGMANN.

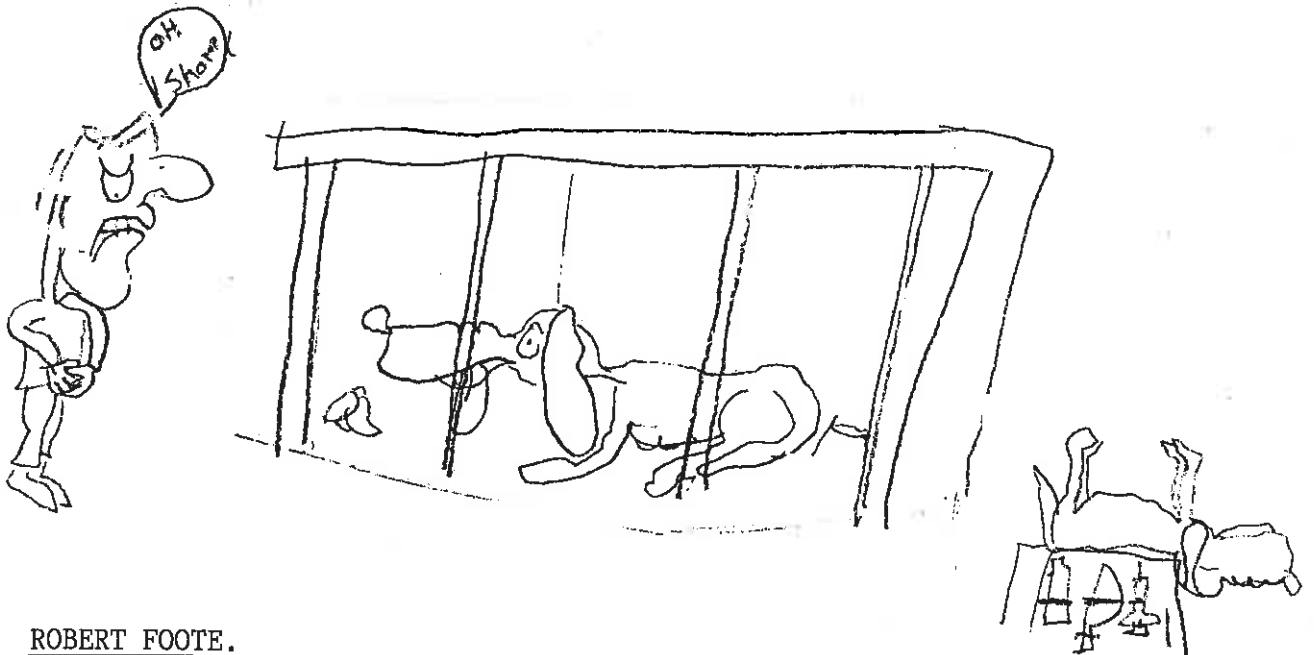
At the S.P.C.A. there were many stray dogs and cats. I enjoyed looking at the animals, stroking the cats and cuddling the puppies. At the S.P.C.A. there was also a duck some tortoises a rabbit and a peahen. In the surgery we saw two puppies being vaccinated and de-wormed. It was really great to see all the animals.

ROBERT BRINKWORTH.

I enjoyed going to the S.P.C.A. although it was sad to see some of the poor animals. We saw how they gave two puppies injections and pills for worms. After that we went and saw where they kept sick animals. There were many different animals such as dogs, cats, birds, rabbits, peacocks and a tortoise. It was really interesting and I enjoyed it.

ANTHONY SCEALES.

On Friday we went to the S.P.C.A. We saw lots of rejected dogs, puppies, cats, kittens. I felt very sorry for the rejected and unwanted pets. We also saw two puppies being vaccinated and dewormed. There are stax of dogs dumped at the SP.C.A. There was also a very vishos dog!



ROBERT FOOTE.

On Friday 20 November we went to the S.P.C.A. We saw lots of unwanted dogs, cats, puppies, and kittens. We also saw two puppies having a vaccination. We also saw a peahen and five pigeons. The puppies always made anoies.

PETER CAIRNS.



The first part of our third term was busy as promised. Area Cub Day on the 22nd August was very well attended and a full and thoroughly enjoyable day was had by all. We succeeded in making not only the Pack Scouters tired but also the Cubs.

District Sports Day was fun and rewarding, as Peter Cairns gained the Sixers Steeplechase trophy for the Pack. Thanks to the parents who supported us and assisted on the day. Thanks too to Bagheera and Phantom for erecting the Steeplechase course and to Newton Pellatt for dismantling it. Obstacle courses are tremendous fun for the Cubs but take time to put up and take down.

The highlight of the third term has definately been our camp. The "Pirates" set sail for Cullinan Scout Grounds on 26th September and though the weather was fair that day it changed overnight. Oh well! What's a Cub camp without rain, besides, with the theme we had, there had to be water somewhere. The "Pirates" experienced many adventures such as Walking the Plank, finding treasure, if you knew your compass bearings and making jewelled swords to take home as mementoes.

Cubs, those of you who have obtained badges this term, congratulations! Well done. There are still a few weeks left this term to work hard chaps, so those of you who haven't yet gained an Interest badge this year - go for it!

Baloo has now completed her Woodbadge Theory, Practical and Observation. We await the results in the near future. Thank you Baloo for all your hard work which will benefit our Cubs.

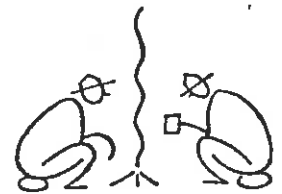
Now a sad note. It is with regret that we say Goodbye to Bagheera this term. Thank you for all the help you've given the Pack Bagheera. We hope Scouting hasn't lost you altogether.

Finally, Baloo and I would like to wish you all a very happy and blessed Christmas, and hope that in the new year some parents will offer to assist us either in uniform or as a Pack Helper on a regular basis on Fridays because we, but especially the CUBS NEED YOU!

AKELA.

I enjoyed watching the rabbits and the dogs and the cats. The S.P.C.A. is youseful to us. They save the animals.

RICHARD ROBILLIARD.



## PHANTOM'S PAGE

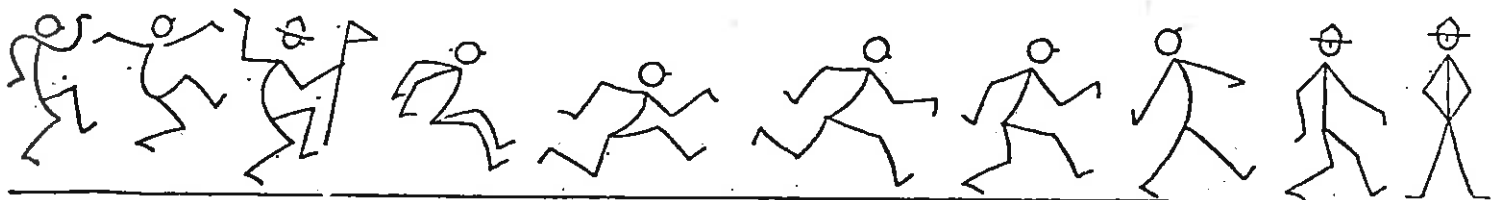
The second half of this year seems to have passed by with the same rapidity of the first. Nevertheless the Troop has been busy and we have seen Charles Ross and James Gemmell receive their Springbok Scout badges. Well done chaps. Several other boys will, hopefully, do lots of badge passing in the new year and receive theirs as well. The Troop is well into the second badge book this year! So I can safely say we have filled up one badge book in 12 months!! Many thanks to Falcon and Hawk-Eye for all the many hours that they have put in to help the boys.

The subject of badges raises the point that a lot of us, scouts as well as scouters, seem to have overlooked in the years gone by; that is the Patrol System as laid down by B-P. This system is unique and does appear in other youth groups or sporting bodies. It seems to me that else where everything is organised and controlled by adults. All that is necessary is for the boys and girls to attend the functions with their sports gear or musical instruments and away they go.. Scouting is different in that the boy should have a BIG voice in the programming and the running of the Troop. This does not mean that rules and regulations must be ignored or that scouters can take it easy. In fact, sometimes it takes a effort to straighten things out before everyone knows exactly where his duty lies. at present, it is important that every scout knows exactly how many buckles or badges he requires to acheive the next point stage in his scouting career, so keep your green books and the Troop Progress Chart up to date. Check them regularly. Remember that your record chart is always available on Friday nights for you to check. In the near future, so we are told, the present scout badge system is going to change. At the moment it seems as though this change may be towards the end of 1988. Many of you scouts can earn your Airman's Cord or Bushman's Thong or even your Springbok Scout Badge before July 1988. This will mean an effort on your part but ask any of those who have acheive these awards, the preparation can be lots of fun. YOU must make the effort. Nobody else can do it for you.

An important thing to remember is that work you have learnt to pass a buckle or badge must be put into practice. It is a rather selfish scout who passes his cooks or campers badge only to take it easy on the very next camp he attends and allows his patrol standards to slip. So, remember to do you best at all times. You only get out what you put in. This not only applies to scouting but in all walks of life.

Here's wishing all of you a very blessed Christmas and prosperous 1988.

*Phantom*





## NEWS FROM THE PATROLS.

### IMPALA PATROL.

The year started off reasonably well for us. But just like a roller-coaster, Impala also had their ups and downs. At one stage we were last by 15 points but now we're second. This is mainly due to the fact that everybody passed quite a few badges and test achievements.

At the end of August Michael, Grant and I went on a Backwoodsman badge camp. We were all rewarded with our badges but I was invalidated for awhile after being burnt by a pot of hot water. Michael received his first stripe and I my second.

On a weekend in October, there was a JOTA camp at Smut's Farm. I was unfortunately unable to attend and for details of the camp, I hand over to Michael.

The JOTA Camp was a very enjoyable camp for Impala. As there were only three of us, Craig, Allen (on his very first Scout Camp), and myself we decided to join up with Spits. The food was nice and we all had a lot of fun. I did my Standard Campers Badge on this camp and passed.

DARRYL BARTIE. (Patrol Leader)

### SABRE PATROL.

As you may or may not know the previous P.L. of Sabres had to leave. This caused a major reshuffle in the troop; I left Jaguars and became the P.L. of Sabres. Mark Crosbie became my reliable (acting) seconder. Sadly, aside from Llewellyn, we lost three other scouts. One was lost to school (Michael Sinclair) and two others (Darryl Schörnborn and Morné de Bruyn) were "stolen" by other patrols. Another plus for us is the uninvested Scout Luke Meyers, who will hopefully be invested soon.

Although the patrol is basically starting anew we have already had a camp, which was a moderate success. It was only a moderate success because the boys and I were weighing each other up, but as we now know each other we can look forward to many more fun-filled activities.

All that is left for me now is to wish everybody a MERRY CHRISTMAS and a SCOUTING NEW YEAR.

MARK MOSDELL. (Patrol Leader)

## SPITFIRE PATROL

During the last two months our patrol has been creeping up in the points system. Mark Brueten has passed his first blue buckle in First Aid. Congrats Mark. I have been going all out for my Bushman's Thong and have one badge to go.

This last October camp at Irene Smuts Farm was a big success for the Spits and I trust that everyone enjoyed it tremendously. Our food was great.

On behalf of my patrol I would like to say thank you to Phantom, Dave Gemmel for being our Scout Master and the best of scout luck to him for the future.

Its the Spitfires wishing you all a safe holiday, a blessed Christmas and a very happy New Year for 1988.

Good scouting.



Paul Bernhardt

P/L Spitfires:

---

## MIRAGE PATROL '87

The highlight of the last term this year was the JOTA camp. Our patrol was the only one which had all its members present - the other patrols were all combined. It's nice to see such great support. At the moment we are building a miniature campsite out of dowl sticks and polystyrene. Brian Dean put in a really magnificent effort by building the tent. I was very pleased to see such enthusiasm from our latest recruit. We are still leading in points, but let's not start slacking off now. We only have to hold out a few more weeks if we want our flash on the flag. Just a reminder to the whole troop that on the last Friday, we are having a party, so please bring a plate of eats, chips or cooldrink etc. That is all for now, keep up the good work.

Mirage Patrol forever.

Newton Pellatt (P1 Mirages)

# JAGUAR PATROL

JAGUAR PATROL HAS BEEN QUITE BUSY THIS YEAR. STUART WALLIS HAS BEEN ON P.L.T.U. AND PROMOTED TO PATROL SECOND. MARK SUTHERLAND AND STUART HAVE ALSO GAINED THEIR AIR CONTROLLER BADGES. I HAVE FINALLY RECEIVED MY SPRINGBOK BADGE AND WILL BE GOING ON THE WORLD JAMEOREE TO AUSTRALIA SHORTLY. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO WELCOME A NEW MEMBER TO OUR PATROL, MORNE DEBRUYN

CHARLES ROSS (PATROL LEADER)

## AN ARTICLE FROM AN EX-IRENE SCOUT ON HIS SELECTION FOR PILOT TRAINING IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN AIR FORCE.

On Monday 27th July I arrived at the Air Force Recruiting Centre. I was extremely anxious, but one thing I soon learnt was that the SAAF is never on time. In the end they spoke to us for about 20 minutes and sent us home. On the following day the tests started. One of the first tests we wrote was a Maths. test. About two thirds of the applicants failed and were sent home. After that people fell out only occasionally. The next day we went to the Institute for Aviation Medicine where I spent the next 7 days. During this time we did co-ordination tests, a full medical, spoke to a Psychiatrist and went in a decompression chamber. The talk with the Psychiatrist was very important in your final selection. On the 5th August I returned to the Air Force Recruiting Centre for my interview. I waited eight and a half hours before appearing before the selection board. I was so nervous that when they asked me to name the fighters in the air force I named them, but completely forgot about the Cheetah. They spoke to me for about 20 minutes, then sent me out for a minute or two. When I was called back in I hadn't even sat down and the Brigadier just said, "Kershaw pilot". I was extremely relieved and happy. The next day we completed the last thing which was a brain scan. It was all over then. All I have to worry about now is getting through my two years training.

NICHOLAS KERSHAW.

## CAMPS.

### BACKWOODSMAN CAMP.

It was a very enjoyable camp for all of us except Darryl. Newton "cooked" his feet by mistake! The night hikes were fun even though we kept walking into things. We all learnt alot and we all passed both Standard and Master Grade Badges - thanks to Falcon.

### SPRINGS CAMP.

Some of us went to Springs during the October holidays to learn more about Air Navigation. We camped at the Springs Scout Hall.

On the Friday we went to the Dunnottar Flying School, which was very interesting. On the Saturday we worked very hard plotting air routes and working out the amount of fuel needed etc. On the last night we watched movies.

Thank you Falcon for making this experience possible.

### EDITORS NOTE.

A very worthwhile experience. What a pity only 5 Scouts accompanied Falcon on this Camp.

### JOTA CAMP.

The Jota camp was a very enjoyable camp for all who went on it. We had a lot of fun! On Saturday morning we went out to experiment with the heliograph and that afternoon most of us went down to the river to have a mud fight, but then we decided to hike down the river. In some places you could walk easily, others it was hard and in some places you had to swim. As the river got deeper more people got out and went back. At the end there were only about 6 of us. That night we had a camp fire led by Paul Bernhardt. On Sunday we had Scouts Own. After that we packed up and went home.

### MICHAEL OLVER.

