

Twss story 05

Castlefort school

We had an invitation no doubt triggered by one of the cubs talking/writing about the Rocket Life Saving Equipment . This was shortly after the camp at the Cabin!

A date was arranged and a cost agreed to cover the fireworks. At the meeting before the event I asked for firm numbers. There were nine cubs stepping forward for this event. It was just enough to make up the two teams.

One Shore based managing he trailer hawse and tripod end.

The second team managing the Mast End .

On the Saturday morning Bernard and I loaded the trailer with all the equipment not really noticing how many cubs were arriving. Parents were coming and going with a perfunctory Hi! Griff, dropping the boy, leaving to attend to their own business.

When it came time to leave Killock there were more cubs than seats in our two cars. Castlefort Schol is only a short distance away, by Streets Corner Walsall Wood. On the A461. Bernard crammed three more cubs into his car and similarly so did I, and we had four cubs left-over. I sat these surplus cubs in the rear of the box trailer with a tarpaulin type sheet to cover them, leaving only their heads sticking out. A couple of passes with lorry rope over their laps and chest and they looked quite snug. Killock was locked and we slowly motored along the Aldridge Road passing the traffic lights, stopping here to see if everything was alright.

It was, the cubs thought it daring and were happy. We motored on not much above walking pace. The Bye-Pass around Aldridge had not been built, so we were obliged to pass in front of the Police Station, just in time for a Police Car to emerge, from the drive.

The policeman waited for us to pass and then passed us and pulled up.

“What’s going on here then?”

I explained what had happened, extending the tale to tell him about the R.L.S. gear

“And where do you think you are going?”. The Policeman really wanted to know.

“Just to Castlefort School” I answered. “It’s not very far; and I could leave the boys behind. “It’s all for Charity you know”

Apparently, someone along the Walsall Road had rung through to the station to warn them of our arrangements, with cubs in a trailer. The Policeman in his car was waiting for us.

“Your going to Castlefort Schoo! Then I had better take a few lads with me”

The four Cubs were overjoyed to ride in a police car

The only other memorable item with this display was, it started to lightly rain at the beginning of the display. We had a little difficulty in lighting the rocket. Otherwise it was one of the more successful displays.

When the event was completed parents turned up to collect their progeny a Bernard and I had plenty of room in our cars for the return to Killock

Oh Yes !

There was another story at St. Michaels School Pelsall

Castlefort

I was fed up digging holes to bury the Signal Maroons. They needed a hole a foot diameter and eighteen inches deep. This is unacceptable in the average Arena, so I welded together a stout metal tube onto a steel plate that could be nailed down in the corner of the trailer...It worked a treat, no more holes to dig..

This display was again on a Saturday morning. It was better planned, we had firm numbers and enough seats in cars. The general plan was to be executed on the playing field right by the school. The mast was erected at the furthest point from the school so that we fired the rocket way from the buildings. The car with the trailer lurked behind the Gym Annexe.

When it was time, I instructed themy Senior Sixer to light the Answering Coast Guard Maroon once the car had come to a halt.

He was a bit premature

He lit the fuse as soon s the car started to move. At the corner of the Gym Building, the road and property narrowed, the corner of the house fence allowed a pleasant 15' or so to drive through, no problem there, but as we passed the fence the maroon shot skywards. The force of the explosion blew the corner off the fence. This slowed the projectile considerably ascend to about 200 feet instead of 500 feet. Consequently the final bang was louder than usual. Amen