



2nd Ruishlip Boys' Brigade Company



Expedition Report

Friday 2nd June

Travelled up to Cwm Pennent Mountain Centre by minibus arrived 4pm. On the way we got lost turning onto the wrong section of the M42 and headed up towards Tamworth, fortunately this was not a precedent for things to come. Set about pulling together all our kit and food with it laid out all over the dining hall floor, we worked well as a team of 4 in not carrying or duplicating any of items of kit required.

Saturday 3rd June

After a monster breakfast we left the Mountain Centre at 8.50am. The weather was bright and hot and by all reports was due to be okay for 2 to three days. We walked through an area blighted with access problems arriving at the base of the high ground, after a climb of about 550m we stood on the top of Garnedd Goch at the start of the Nantlle Ridge, which consists of 5 individual peaks of average height of 700m, with drops and rises between each peak. We traversed this for the day through Craig Cwm Silyn, Mynydd Tal-y-mignedd, Trum y Ddysgl and Y Garn. But as we ran out of drinking water along this ridge (no streams at this level) we started to suffer a bit in the heat. By about 5.30pm we started to descend Y Garn a drop of 400m at 40 degrees on grassy banks to Rhyd Ddu, we found a stream and finally quenched our thirst. The last leg of the route on day one took us part way up the Snowdon track past Ffridd Isaf farm to a campsite just off the track by a stream. We made camp and cooked the evening meal we saw no one till next morning.

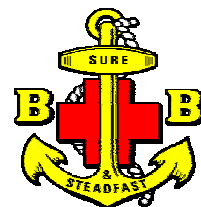
Sunday 4th June

Woke at 6.30am. We knew it was going to be hot as the tent had no dew and was hot to touch. Cooked breakfast and broke camp by 9am. Walked up the head of the pass between Snowden and Yr Aran through some old slate mines and took the path down the valley on the far side to lake Gwynant. Very hot morning. Traversed the lake and climbed 250m from the valley floor through Bwlch Rehediad and on through open heath land to a forest enclosure which gave us some welcome cover from the sun. Reaching Dolwyddelan, Nr Roman Bridge Station later in the afternoon. From Bertheos Farm we climbed another 200m to the crest of a valley and descended to day two campsite. The original location we couldn't use as the stream was all fenced off so we walked to the end of the valley and found a spot out of the way by another stream. Made camp and cooked the evening meal. Unfortunately the sun set earlier behind the valley crest and being in amongst trees we got munched by the swarms of midges.

PATRON: HM THE QUEEN • *BRIGADE PRESIDENT:* THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF STRATHMORE AND KINGHORNE

OBJECT: THE ADVANCEMENT OF CHRIST'S KINGDOM AMONG BOYS AND THE PROMOTION OF HABITS OF OBEDIENCE, REVERENCE, DISCIPLINE, SELF-RESPECT AND ALL THAT TENDS TOWARDS A TRUE CHRISTIAN MANLINESS.

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Monday 5th June

Woke again at about 6.30am a little cooler to start with as the sun hadn't got up over the valley crest, had breakfast and broke camp by 8.30am, walked out of the valley through the trees and climbed a further 300m across open ground to the Blaenau Ffestiniog slate mines, we followed the track down through past Manod Mawr through Ffestiniog and Hafod Fawr to the general direction of Llyn Trawsfynydd and the decommissioned Nuclear Power station beside it. Still a very hot day but which had a little cloud cover in the early afternoon. We knew the original campsite had water supply issues so we looked around for a suitable alternative. In the end we made camp in a secluded wood with a stream running through it, Ceunar Geifr about a mile earlier than intended. We built a small camp fire to keep the midges at bay (they hate smoke) and set about cooking the evening meal.

Tuesday 6th June

Woke earlier at 5.15am still hot this early with the sun breaking through the trees creating shafts of sunlight on the forest floor. Cooked our last breakfast and broke camp at 7.30am. Walked on past the original campsite and past Llyn Llennyrch up towards Nant Pasgan-Bach, past the farms at Tallin and Yr Onen, the descent to Nant Pasgan-Bach was followed by our last major ascent of 160m in the heat but this gave us a view across the estuary towards Portmadog and our original start point beyond. Now we are on the open plain with a clear hike through this heath. In places it is very marshy and onto to the final descent to Harlech. Probably the hottest day so far. Came off the heath and through Rhyd y Eirin farm to the final road track which winds it's way into Harlech, down down down descending some 300m we go till we past the Castle. We finally hit sealevel and meet our support team for the last time at a Pub, a few beers later we get to our hotel for the night, clean ourselves up go for a walk on the beach (another walk are we mad) and enjoy an evening meal that someone else cooked with a few more beers.

Wednesday 7th June

After a breakfast cooked by others we all piled into the minibus and left North Wales. Driving back through Birmingham we popped into see and surprise Richard Wallis an old friend who manages a pub near the National Indoor Arena. Dropped Paul off home in Hemel Hempstead and Mark at his brothers in Harefield I also got out and left Bill to run the van back to the church. Nice to be home but it certainly bought back some wonderful memories most of which had been forgotten from the original expedition 25 years ago.

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