



# ADMIRALTY

*holiday crowd at Poole*

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NEWS RELEASE

NO. 101/61

## ROYAL MARINE FRENCH CANOE CAMP FOR BOYS

Fourteen days for 70s.

Fifty boys from youth organisations all over the country will leave the Joint Services Amphibious Warfare Centre, Poole, Dorset, for France at the weekend to begin a 14 days canoe and camping expedition organised by frogmen of the Royal Marines Special Boat Section. The fortnight's expedition will only cost the boys £3.10s.0d. each.

The boys have been picked from over 300 applicants and will supply their own canoes and tents. They will embark in the tank landing craft H.M.S. RAMPART at Poole on Sunday and sail for Rouen in company with a torpedo recovery boat and another landing craft. After travelling by road to Vernon, 160 kilometres south of Paris (where they will have a sightseeing tour), the boys will canoe down the Seine for 166 kilometres, camping each night.

All those going on the expedition must have had at least one season's canoeing experience and must be able to swim. They will begin arriving at Poole on Friday and for the next two days will be exercised by Royal Marine specialists in canoe handling and capsizing drill in Poole Harbour before being split into six groups determined by ability. Each group will be closely supervised by Royal Marine swimmer-canoeists and a Royal Naval surgeon will accompany the expedition.

### NOTE TO NEWS EDITORS AND PICTURE EDITORS:

Press representatives are invited to cover training and embarkation for the expedition at Poole: Canoeists will exercise capsizing drill in Poole Harbour at 2 p.m. on Saturday, and general canoe handling at 9 a.m. on Sunday. Boys will embark in H.M.S. RAMPART at 4 p.m. on Sunday. Those wishing to attend at any of these times are asked to contact the Press Liaison Officer at the J.S.A.W.C. (Captain J.A. Savill, R.M., Telephone: Poole 1826).

1st August, 1961

*Practic in harbour  
of us & 50 rowing  
tugboat. Putty boat  
embarkation at about 8 boys a day.*

From: Michael Gannon,  
Command Public Relations Officer  
HQ Southern Command  
SALISBURY, Wilts.

Salisbury 6222 Ext 323

26th July, 1961.

News Editor  
Pictures Editor

TO FRANCE IN H.M.S. RAMPART

Schoolboys' Expedition

Fifty boys from schools and youth organisations in England and Wales (names and addresses on separate sheet) are sailing to France in H.M.S. Rampart for a twelve-day canoeing and camping expedition on the Seine.

Rampart, a tank-landing craft, embarks the lads, some thirty canoes and a baggage vehicle at Hamworthy, POOLE, on Sunday 6th August (4 p.m.). It will be their "base ship" throughout the trip which has been organised by the Joint Services Amphibious Warfare Centre, Poole. The boys will be accompanied by canoe experts of the Centre under the leadership of Major H.J. Powell, DSO, Royal Marines.

At Havre on Monday, 7th August, the youngsters take to the canoes, and paddle upstream to Rouen, Vernon, Moulin and Orival, camping on the river bank each night. A day in Paris, by train from Vernon, is included. On Thursday, 17 August, Rampart picks up the party again at Tanquaville and returns them to Poole.

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The boys assemble at the Joint Services Amphibious Warfare Centre, Hamworthy, Poole, Dorset, on Friday, 4th and Saturday 5th August. They go aboard HMS Rampart at the Centre at 4 p.m. on Sunday, 6th August, and the vessel sails at 6 p.m.

The date of their return to Poole may be either Thursday, 17th or Friday 18th August.

If you wish to visit the Centre on either 5th or 6th August, please telephone Major Powell at POOLE 1826.



The undermentioned are the youth organisations represented:-

Wellingborough Boys' Club  
The Boy Scouts Association - Rednal Nr. Birmingham.  
Wolverhampton and District Boys' Clubs.  
YMCA - Wellington, Salop.  
18th Truro Sea Scouts.  
Castle Donnington Secondary School.  
Peterborough Council of Boys' Clubs  
Haberdashers' Aske's School.  
The Boys' Brigade  
Boys' Clubs of Wales  
3rd Plympton Boy Scouts  
ICC Children's Department  
Forest School Camps  
Devon County Education Committee  
National Association of Boys' Clubs.  
66th Croydon Sea Scouts  
Lilliput Sea Scouts - Poole  
The British Red Cross Society  
Cornwall Education Committee  
7th Cheadle Sea Scout Group  
Newport Canoe Club  
Newport Boy Scouts Association  
Scarborough YMCA Special Appeal Fund  
1st Pinhoe (Exeter) Troop  
Shaftesbury Boys' Club.

75  
75  
9

Captain J.A. Savill, RM;  
Joint Services Amphibious Warfare Centre,  
Poole,  
Dorset.

Poole 1826 Ext 65.

AC PRO 20/7/32.

August, 1961.

The Editor,

14 DAY CANOE CAMPING HOLIDAY IN FRANCE FOR £3.10s.

Dear Sir,

The Royal Marines are sponsoring a 14 day holiday, for over 60 boys between the ages of 16 and 19 years, in France. They are members of Youth organisations from all over Britain and have been selected from over 300 applicants.

On Friday 4th August they arrive at the Joint Services Amphibious Warfare Centre at Poole in Dorset. They are bringing their own two man canoes and tents. On Saturday and Sunday they are given training Paddles in Poole Harbour exercise capsize and safety drill, in case of accidents, and are grouped into parties of five canoes according to ability and experience. Each team will be under the experienced guidance of two operators (frogmen) of Number One Special Boats Section Royal Marines.

On Sunday evening 6th August the boys embark in HMS RAMPART (a Landing Ship Tank) and sail for France. In company will be a torpedo recovery speed boat and Landing craft (Mechanized) manned by Royal Marines Crews.

The craft sail up the River Seine to Rouen and then the boys will be taken by road to Vernon (150 Km south of Paris). After a days sightseeing tour of Paris the expedition leaves Vernon on the morning of Thursday 10th August. In their groups the boys canoe down the Seine camping each night at selected sites. The TRS Boat will act as safety boat and a naval doctor is embarked in case of emergencies.

By the time they have reached Le Havre, where they re-embark in HMS RAMPART, the boys will have paddled 115 miles. The Seine has fast currents and there are a certain amount of hazards to be negotiated.

The charge of £3.10, which is an inclusive charge is to cover the cost of food.

Last year a similar expedition was organised by the Royal Marines to Holland.



I am attaching a pro-forma of the boys from your area that are taking part and also a picture. If this is of interest to you please use it. I am taking a naval photographer with me and if you would like any particular pictures and/or further copy whilst we are in France perhaps you would let me know.

I am enclosing a sixpenny stamp and would be grateful, if you decide to use the story, if you would send me a copy of the paper.

Yours faithfully,

(J.A. SAVILL)  
CAPTAIN, ROYAL MARINES  
Public Relations Officer

ROYAL MARINES CANOE EXPEDITION TO FRANCE 1961

NAME:..... AGE:.....  
ADDRESS:..... PARENTS:.....  
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YOUTH ORGANISATION:.....  
SCHOOL/OCCUPATION:.....  
PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE:.....  
AMBITION:.....  
ATTACHED PHOTO: LEFT .....  
CENTRE .....  
RIGHT.....

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ADDRESS: ..... PARENTS: .....  
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