

*in
Kent-Messenger*

3.1.58

'EXPLORERS' CUT OFF BY TIDE

PERILOUS JOB FOR A FIREMAN

A FIREMAN was lowered down the sheer 50-ft. chalk cliffs at Birchington on Saturday to snatch three boys from the waves.

They were found huddled together on a ledge after being cut off by the tide. They had been exploring.

The eldest, Elgin Diaz, 12, helped the other two on to the ledge and started yelling for help.

A passing visitor heard his cries and called the fire brigade.

To the scene raced an ambulance, a ladder pump, turntable appliance and a water tender.

Under the direction of Station Officer A. Divers, of Margate, the rescue operation began.

A fireman brought to the clifftop Elgin, his younger brother Bernard, seven, both of Alfred Road, Birchington, and Nicholas Campbell, nine, of Minnis Road, Birchington.

The boys were unhurt, though badly frightened and damp. They were taken to their homes by ambulance.

On Monday, Station Officer Divers received letters of appreciation from each of the boys.

Minnis Bay "Explorers"!

1958

Firemen to the Rescue

This newspaper cutting was passed to us by an ex-fireman from Birchington – Bill Cox – which he had found in the archives of the Maidstone Fire Museum collection.

It would appear that both the Diaz and the Campbell families were staying down in Minnis Bay on holiday, as neither family is listed in the Kelly's Directory at that date.

The date (3rd January 1958) seems a little odd, as there were not many holiday makers here at that time of year, although it was the Christmas holiday time. If they were holiday makers, this makes their action more understandable, as they would have been unaware of the dangers of the cliffs and the fairly rapid rise of the tides against the cliff face.