

# SCOUTING ROUND THE WORLD

JOHN S. WILSON

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Editor's Note:

The reader is reminded that these texts have been written a long time ago. Consequently, they may use some terms or express sentiments which were current at the time, regardless of what we may think of them at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. For reasons of historical accuracy they have been preserved in their original form.

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‘We aim to teach, in a definite and practical way, brotherhood between the oncoming citizens of the different countries.

We teach not so much by precept and instruction as by personal leadership and example.’

B.-P.

### AUTHOR'S NOTE

In my younger days it was my good fortune to captain many a Rugby Football XV and Hockey XI. I realised to the full the importance and value of team play, but I also recognised that leadership was essential if the side was to be knit together. That leadership succeeds best when, while firm, it gives encouragement to the whole side, individually and collectively, whether losing or winning.

It is the same with the game of Scouting – a game of a more serious purpose for its leaders, and of a more lasting character for all its players. Its success depends on personal leadership as well as on team work. The Patrol still remains one of its main strengths. The gang of six or eight boys, with one of themselves as Patrol Leader, educate themselves in leadership, team work and responsibility for others. The Patrol method, to a greater or lesser degree, applies to the whole of Scouting in its various branches of Cubs, Rover Scouts and others, in its administration under districts, counties, provinces, countries and also in its international aspect.

For thirty-eight years it was my good fortune to be a Patrol Leader in the game of Scouting as District Commissioner in Calcutta, as Camp Chief of Gilwell Park, as Director of the Boy Scouts International Bureau and, more remotely perhaps, as Honorary President of the Boy Scouts

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International Committee. During the greater part of that time my duties were intimately connected with the growth and development of International Scouting, and that is why I have been asked to write this book.

I express my gratitude to many Scout friends for providing me with material which has helped me to give a wider picture of how Scouting grew in its early days. I am also grateful to Mrs. A. G. (Eileen) Wade for her help in checking the earlier chapters, with their many references to the Founder of Scouting and Guiding, the late Lord Baden-Powell, to Mr. William Hillcourt for his suggestions in regard to later chapters, and to Mr. E. E. Reynolds for reading it all and giving me his informed advice.

I repeat with added emphasis a sentence from the 'Envoi' which the Boy Scouts International Committee permitted me to add to the last Biennial Report that I wrote on their behalf for presentation to the International Scout Conference of 1953:

'It is difficult for me adequately to express my gratitude for the many courtesies and kindnesses extended to me on visits and at world gatherings and conferences. I have a rich possession in memories of international Scout events and of my brother Scouts.'

J. S. WILSON

### FOREWORD

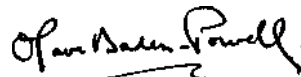
This is a book which will surely have its interest for, and give delight to, all those who speak *Jamborese*, the language of Scout friendship and understanding.

It tells of a small 'acorn' of an idea which developed in a few years into an immense 'tree' with branches spreading all across the world.

I can think of no one more fitted to tell the story than 'Belge' Wilson, who has served the Movement for so long, both in the Founder's life-time and ever since; first as a Scouter in India, then as the world-known Camp Chief of Gilwell Park, and eventually as Director of the Boy Scouts International Bureau. It is of the Committee of this Bureau that we gratefully count him as our 'President' – in thought, if not still in fact.

It is a history book, but – unlike some history books – it makes happy and constructive reading, and will bring to many of its readers the happiest of memories of good days in the open air shared with good comrades of other lands, of other creeds, of other colours, all linked by the magic names of 'Scouting' and 'B.-P.'.

Here within these pages the romantic plan unfolds itself as something that brings all peoples together, for indeed 'A Scout is a Brother to every other Scout'; and what a promise this can hold in the days to come for better understanding and goodwill in the world.



*World Chief Guide  
Vice-President of the Boy Scouts  
International Committee.*

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## Fifty Years of Scouting

*When did Scouting begin? – an idea in B.-P.'s mind in the 1890's – an article in 'The Boys' Brigade Gazette', 1906 – two pamphlets, 1907 – Scouting's spectacular growth – girls included – a natural growth – including younger and older boys – Sea Scouts – Air Scouts – handicapped Scouts – Scouters – old Scouts – effect of Scouting on adult life – Sir Winston Churchill's summary*

**T**HOUGH Scouting was presented to the world through the experimental camp that B.-P. conducted on Brownsea Island in August 1907, it had been a long time in the making. It is difficult to fix on any precise date when the idea first entered the Founder's mind. His schooldays at Charterhouse, his holidays with his brothers, his early days with the army in India, his activities in various small campaigns in South Africa, his defence of Mafeking, his loyalty, his sense of service, his attraction to and for young people, all played their part in the conception of the Boy Scouts. He always asserted that it was others who, having read his small military text-book *Aids to Scouting* (1899), urged him on; but we have the evidence of the American Frontier Scout, Major Frederick Burnham, that B.-P. talked of his ideas round their camp-fires in the veldt; and that was in the 1890's.

Again, B.-P. always insisted that he had merely put together the ideas and practices of men in many other countries, from the days of the Knights of King Arthur's Round Table up to the twentieth century. Be that as it may, *The Boys' Brigade Gazette* in June 1906 contained an article on 'Scouting for Boys' by Major-General R. S. S. Baden-Powell, Hon. Vice-President of the Boys' Brigade. In May 1907 B.-P. issued two pamphlets headed *Boy Scouts*. These were more objective. The first, 'A Suggestion', contained the pregnant sentence: 'The following scheme is offered as a possible aid towards putting on a *positive* footing the development, *moral* and *physical*, of boys of *all creeds* and *classes*, by a means which should *appeal to them* while offending as little as possible the susceptibilities of their elders.' The italics are mine, to emphasise the all-embracing character which made the scheme a new departure in the training of 'the rising generation on to the right road for good citizenship'.

The second pamphlet, 'Summary of Scheme', opened with 'Men Scouts are of two kinds: War Scouts and Peace Scouts', and went on to enumerate the qualities essential to both. In B.-P.'s mind the scheme was a natural sequel to what men of all nations had done in the past to fit themselves for responsibility and service. *Scouting for Boys* (1908) is full of illustrations of their deeds and sayings. No one foresaw Scouting's spectacular growth in Great Britain and in British Possessions overseas, and its spread within a couple of years to many other countries in all five continents.

At Brownsea Island the Boy Scouts started with twenty-five boys and men, and the Movement has now grown into a World Brotherhood of well over eight million, not counting former Scouts and present and past members of the Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. It was natural that girls, seeing their brothers go out scouting in the open, insisted on going too. B.-P. wrote in *Aids to Scoutmastership* (1920):

The term 'Scouting' has come to mean a system of training in citizenship, through games, for boys or girls . . . The girls are the important people, because when, the mothers of the nation are good citizens and women of character, they will see to it that their sons are not deficient in these points. As things are, the training is needed for both sexes, and is imparted through the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides Movements. The principles are the same for both. It is only in the details that they vary.

This may mark a natural development in B.-P.'s own outlook. In 1907 he was a bachelor. In 1920 he was a married man with two daughters! He always claimed that Scouting developed and expanded along natural lines; there was no forced, artificial growth. That is true geographically and internally. Sixty-six self-governing countries voluntarily accept its aims, principles and methods. From the original age group of 11 to, say, 17 or 18, the training has been expanded to include boys of from 7 or 8 to young men of 24 or 25. The first expansion was due to the younger brothers of Boy Scouts, who clamoured to be allowed to join in the game. A great deal of time, care and experiment was devoted to the problem before any settled scheme was launched. The Wolf Cub section started in Great Britain in 1916 for boys of from 8 to 11 years. The idea soon caught on in other countries. Now there are two Cubs in the world for every three Scouts. It is important to remember what B.-P. said in 1928:

A very essential point is to keep Cubbing as different as possible from Scouting, so as to make the Cub eager to pass on to become a Scout when he reaches the age. A growing boy wants change and variety, and if Scouting becomes to a boy's mind a further step of Cubbing he will get tired of it. He wants to find new practices and new ideas when he comes to be a Scout.

Naturally, too, Boy Scouts grew older, and many wanted to remain in the society that had given them health, happiness and good companionship, and had benefited them morally and spiritually. Many, however, dropped out on leaving school. Varying experiments were made with senior Scouts, and are being carried on today, some successful, some not.

After the First World War, too, attention was drawn to the differing needs of the over 17's. A Rover Scout section was formed in Great Britain in 1918, and almost simultaneously in various countries in Western Europe. It is the part of Scouting that has seemed most troublesome to the tidy-minded, who may overlook the fact that at the age of 17 or 18 the individual tends naturally to become more individual and has less need for group or gang training. From the start it was recognised that Rover Scouts should not be fettered by a rigid system of training. It is noteworthy that while B.-P. published *The Wolf Cub's Handbook* in 1916, simultaneously with the start of the Wolf Cub section, *Rovering to Success* did not appear until 1922, and was addressed to the individual Rover Scout.

Statistics show the number of Rovers to be comparatively small. Various events, such as the Second World War, have interfered with their growth. But one should not expect more than a small percentage of Boy Scouts to become Rover Scouts.

When a young fellow feels the need for some kind of community life, we should be glad that he has had a sound training as a boy and youth, and that *he can now stand on his own feet as a responsible person – for that is the purpose of Scouting.* (E. E. Reynolds.)

It is this point of view, principle if you like, that has influenced several Scout countries to reject a Rover Scout section.

Other natural developments have been Sea Scouts – from the beginning; and Air Scouts – when man conquered the laws of gravity. Both provide additional training and activities as supplementary – and not in opposition – to normal Scout training. Both demand more expense and expert leadership; so both, particularly Air Scouts, remain small in numbers and aim at quality rather than quantity.

B.-P.'s initial insistence on the daily Good Turn has led to a notable development. Boys with a physical and slight mental handicap are encouraged to become Scouts. The work for blind, deaf, crippled, spastic and boys with other disabilities, even lepers, has been intensified since 1930 with remarkable results. Such Scouts feel that they are the same as other boys, and have immense pride in their membership of the World Brotherhood of Scouts. Similarly Scouting has

achieved success among the under-privileged and in under-developed countries because of its appeal to self-help.

There have been developments, too, in regard to Scouters (the generic name for all adult leaders). B.-P. and others realised before the First World War that some provision for their training in Scout leadership was essential. While leadership comes naturally to some, it doesn't to many. Gilwell Park was started in 1919 as a "Scoutmasters' Training School", and has year by year expanded in its scope and in its influence on the general concept of Scouting internationally. Outsiders have acclaimed it as one of the marks of B.-P.'s genius, providing the cement that has helped to bind Scouting together throughout the world, despite the Second World War and the Founder's death.

A further natural development has been the association together of Old Scouts linked with their former Scout Group and on a district, national and international basis. It was only in the 1930's, however, that any concerted efforts were made to secure representative bodies of Former Scouts. Internationally, Former Scouts and Former Guides are linked together, following up their Founder's desire for closer co-operation between the two movements. As with Revering, one cannot expect every man who has been a Scout to join a B.-P. Scout or St. George's Guild. Numbers alone would sink the ship.

The test is not whether the individual remains in, or returns to, the Movement, but whether he is really carrying his training into his life as a citizen, whether as a married man, or as a member of his church, or into politics, or into the daily routine of ordinary life, and is *doing these things all the better because he was a Boy Scout*. (E. E. Reynolds.)

There are many indications in many countries that Scouting in the past fifty years has stood that test to an appreciable degree. Let me sum it up in the words of that great Englishman, Sir Winston Churchill. Writing many years ago of Lord Baden-Powell, 'the most famous general I have known', he said:

It is difficult to exaggerate the moral and mental health that our nation has derived from this profound and simple conception. In those bygone days the motto 'Be Prepared' had a special meaning for our country. Those who looked to the coming of a great war welcomed the awakening of British boyhood. But no one, even the most resolute pacifist, could be offended: for the movement was not militaristic in character, and even the sourest, crabbedest critic saw in it a way of letting off useful steam.

Nationally and internationally, the past fifty years have proved the full truth of B.-P.'s foresight in providing 'a means which should appeal to (boys) while offending as little as possible the susceptibilities of their elders'.

This chapter was first printed in *World Scouting*, January 1957.

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## Early Personal Connections

*My own personal connections with Scouting – experimenting in India – in the Calcutta Police Training School – untoward incidents – the fight to include Indian boys – ‘Pickie’s’ help – ‘this Pickford and his band of rebels’ – union of many Scout organisations – my first meeting with B.-P. – ‘Pickie’ and I take a course at Gilwell in 1921 – first Wood Badge course, in Bengal, 1922 – a visit from the Prince of Wales – a quick change – last days in India – a bishop’s preparations to take the Scout Promise – breaking down caste prejudice – back in Britain – helping B.-P. to write ‘Scouting for Boys in India’ – appointed Camp Chief at Gilwell, 1923 – hooked and landed for life*

**I**N my boyhood days, the Boy Scouts had not yet been started. With my brothers and others, in the holidays and at school in central Scotland, I was accustomed to traverse streams, fields, hills and woods, and to explore on foot or bicycle the whole of Perthshire. So it was no wonder that the outdoor life of Scouting appealed to me later.

Towards the end of 1908 I went out to India at about the same age as B.-P. did, not to the army, however, but to the Indian Police, a service of infinite variety. It was my duty to deal at times with floods, famine and plague. My first year was devoted to the study of law and languages, but my first district, Mymensingh, where I was Assistant Superintendent of Police, gave me other opportunities.

When I left home, my godmother sent me a copy of *Scouting for Boys*. I was now able to put some of its suggestions into practice in the training of the men of the Armed Police, some the sons of head-hunters in the Naga Hills. These ideas developed their powers of observation and deduction and provided a liberal education. I added Rugby football as an aid to the training of their characters. I took a side down to Dacca, the headquarters of the province, to play an all-white XV drawn from Dacca and the neighbouring jute centre of Narayangunge. The betting against us was 15 to 2, suggested by the numbers of pairs of boots on the opposing sides. We won. In the next game back at Mymensingh there was no holding my men. A heavy tackle broke my leg, and that ended the season.

I was introduced to the art of tracking in the Madhapur jungle, in tiger shoots held to thin out the beasts that were attacking cattle in surrounding villages. When Bengal was again united and regained its title of the Presidency, I was transferred to Calcutta on special duty, and remained there, except for a few months in the West Bengal district of Bankura, where I learnt more about tracking from the aboriginals in the jungles there.

In 1916, having been listed as ‘not allowed to leave India during the war’, I was appointed Senior Deputy Commissioner of Police in Calcutta. *Scouting for Boys* was introduced as a text-book in the Calcutta Police Training School. On morning parades the Duty Squad had to be very much on the alert, for they were required to deal with and report on any untoward incident that might be staged. A boy would fall out of a mango tree into the tank (artificial pond) and shout for help. He had to be rescued and resuscitated. Or a car would suddenly appear and knock someone over. On one occasion the horse I was riding got out of control, and I barely escaped with my life in the rush to my aid!

Having got settled into my job, I saw an opportunity to help the Anglo-Indian boys of the city through Scouting. My offer was welcomed by the District Commissioner, Sir Alfred Pickford, and in 1917 I became an Assistant Scoutmaster in the Old Mission Church Troop, composed of orphans of very mixed blood indeed. Shortly I was acting as Cubmaster and Scoutmaster, and succeeded ‘Pickie’, as he was known to all, as District Commissioner in May 1919. Together we had been struggling for the admission of Indian boys into the Boy Scouts Association. There was a Government of India order against it, because, as was bluntly stated, ‘Scouting might train them



to become revolutionaries'. The less said about this order the better; but I fought it both as a Police Officer and a Scout. As a way of getting round it, the Boy Scouts of Bengal was founded, with identical aims and methods. 'Pickie' was now Chief Commissioner for India, and three years later went home and was appointed Overseas Commissioner at the Headquarters of The Boy Scouts Association in Buckingham Palace Road, London. Great was his delight in looking up some old papers to come across a letter he had written, and scribbled across it the pregnant sentence: 'We must do all we can to get rid of this Pickford and his band of rebels in Calcutta.'

To return to India: many different Scout organisations had sprung up: the Indian Boy Scouts Association, headed by Mrs. Annie Besant, the Boy Scouts of India, Boy Scouts of Mysore, Boy Scouts of Baroda, Nizam's Scouts, Seva Samiti Scouts, as well as the Boy Scouts of Bengal and probably others. A conference was held in Calcutta in August 1920. I declined to be a member, as I was afraid that my official position might act as a deterrent; but I did stage a Scout Rally for them all to witness. One result of this conference was an invitation sent by the Viceroy asking B.-P., by this time Chief Scout of the World, to visit India. He and Lady B.-P. arrived in Bombay at the end of January 1921, and had a very strenuous month's tour before leaving Calcutta for Rangoon. Sir Alfred Pickford accompanied them and became one of their closest friends, despite his fears beforehand.

The result of this visit was a union of all the Scout organisations, except the Seva Samiti (afterwards the Hindustan Scouts), as The Boy Scouts Association in India. In Calcutta, we entertained the Chiefs on their joint birthday and showed them what we could do of Scout (and Guide) activities and practices. That was my first meeting with B.-P., and I fell for him at once.

I have mentioned my official position as a possible deterrent. That was not so in the case of Bengal. It was accepted and understood that my official position was one thing and my Scout work another. It is true that the two at times reacted favourably on each other. Possibly I was regarded as being more human than other officials. Here is a point that some people cannot grasp: in a free country a man or woman who holds any official position is not called upon to account for what he or she does out of office hours. He is not questioned or asked to report on his leisure activities. In that conference in Calcutta there were at least two political Scout organisations represented, and I did not wish to add a possible third complication, or cause any misunderstanding.

Pickie and I were both home in Great Britain in the summer of 1921, and attended a Scoutmasters' Training (technically known as a Wood Badge) Course at Gilwell, he in the Woodpeckers and I in the Owls: an inter-Patrol rivalry that seems still to exist in Gilwell. However, we pooled our resources, and in February 1922 conducted the first Wood Badge Course to be held in Bengal.

Previous to that, Calcutta had received a visit from H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, Chief Scout for Wales. Officially I had a great deal to do with his protection. Unofficially I lent him my police horse to ride in a paper-chase, and also helped to welcome him at a Scout and Guide gathering at Government House. That morning well illustrated my dual role. Representatives of the Calcutta Police, the Calcutta Fire Brigade, with which I was also concerned, the British Legion, Red Cross and St John Ambulance also paraded. On the right of the line and on the west side of Government House, I was ready in full-dress police uniform to escort the Prince with my Chief along the lines of the Police and the Fire Brigade. Having done so, I then dashed into the Military Secretary's office, hurriedly changed into Scout kit, and was ready to receive him as the Scout District Commissioner on the east side of the House. He expressed his astonishment at the quick change. His Royal Highness was genuinely interested in Scouting, and I met him again at the Wembley Empire Jamboree in 1924, at Gilwell in 1926, and at the Coming-of-Age Jamboree in 1929. Each time he recalled Calcutta and my quick change, having the Windsor family ability to remember people, even after an interval of many years.

I retired from service in India at the end of 1922. I spent the first three months of 1923 helping Scouting in both Bengal and Madras in running courses for Patrol Leaders and Beginners in Scoutmastership as well as holding Scout Wood Badge Courses. The Principal of the Theological

College in Calcutta, nominated to a Bishopric in South India, attended one of the Beginners' Courses in order to find out more about the practical side of Scouting. Along with others, he had asked to be allowed to take the Scout Promise on the last morning. The previous evening, wandering round the camp, I found him squatted by the side of a tank, washing his shirt and shorts. I asked him why he was doing this, as he would be going home in the morning and the *dhobie* could then do the job. 'Tomorrow,' he replied, 'I am making my Scout Promise, and I should hate to think that I did so without making every effort to be clean both inwardly and outwardly.' His shirt and shorts had an honourable place by the camp-fire that night.

In the second course in Madras, my two Indian helpers asked if we might have Patrol cooking, whereas in the first course we had had separate messes for Europeans, Brahmins, other Hindus, etc. I said, 'Won't you get into trouble?' They replied, 'We've already got there, after you talked last week about the Patrol system, and the Patrol doing everything together.' I told them the decision was theirs.

A few days later one of the Patrols asked me to join them at supper. I dipped my hand into the same dish as did the Brahmin with the Siva caste-mark on his forehead who sat next to me. When we had finished, he turned to me and said, 'Sir, if I had known that I was going to do this, I don't think I should have come, but having come and having done it, I don't see what harm there is in it.'

'Are you going home to tell your people?'

'No, sir, it will be some time before they can understand.'

Quietly, and without saying anything about it, Scouting was helping to break down the caste system which, in Mahatma Gandhi's opinion, was being harmful to the future development of India.

Back in Great Britain, determined on a long holiday before I looked for a job, I took a Cub Wood Badge Course at Gilwell, helped with a Scout course there, and also helped B.-P. to write *Scouting for Boys in India*, with examples and anecdotes taken from Indian history. His foreword was written round a quotation from the Koran – 'For God we are, to God we go.'

In the autumn, administrative troubles blew up at Gilwell Park, and B.-P. made a personal request to me to take charge there as Camp Chief for a year. I took over on November 15th, 1923. Little did I realise that B.-P., good fisherman as he was, had hooked and landed me for life.

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## How Scouting Spread

*Two Rallies in 1909 – Scouting spreads overseas – London Scout's 'good turn which started Scouting in America, 1910 – award of the Silver Buffalo to this 'unknown Scout' – how a book falling began Scouting in Sweden in 1909 – developments in Norway and Denmark – difficulties with the hat – Scouting in Japan – a determined seeker – an unexpected visit – Scouting in Holland, Belgium and Turkey – Catholic interest in Scouting increases – Belgian Scouting during the First World War – the fiftieth anniversary of Scouting in Brussels, 1957 – King Baudouin's address – B.-P.'s report on his tour, 1912*

**T**HERE is no need to set down the progress of the Scout Movement in the United Kingdom. It is all chronicled in full in E. E. Reynolds' books.\* B.-P. personally held two more Scout camps, at Humshaugh in Northumberland, August-September 1908, and Buckler's Hard, Hampshire, August 1908. The latter marked the start of Sea Scouts, although they

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\* *Baden-Powell*

*The Scout Movement*  
*Boy Scout Jubilee*

| by E. E. Reynolds, Oxford University Press.

were not officially named as such until 1912.

Growth in numbers was emphasised by two Rallies in 1909 – Crystal Palace, at which some 10,000 Scouts and a Patrol of Girl Scouts' were present, and Glasgow, with 6,000 Scouts gathered from Scotland.

During 1908 and 1909, Scouts sprang up in many of the British possessions overseas, led to a great extent by army officers, who, like General Gordon before them, felt a desire to help boys to develop themselves. All this forced B.-P. to organise The Boy Scouts Association and, on the advice of King Edward VII, who had knighted him at Balmoral Castle the previous October, to retire from the army in May 1910 and devote himself completely to the Boy Scouts, a service he rendered for thirty years until his death.

In his original ideas, B.-P. had in mind only the boys of his own country. He felt that Scouting would appeal to them and to their national characteristics. He did not anticipate that his suggestions would also appeal to men and women, boys and girls of other nationalities. 'No propaganda was sent to foreign countries when we were busy with this Scouting at home, but within a short time many countries took up Scouting.'

The ways in which they did so were many and various, and some of great interest. The most well known is the Good Turn done by a London Scout which led to the idea being carried across the Atlantic to the United States of America. William D. Boyce was lost in a London fog in the autumn of 1909. A boy bumped into him and took him to his hotel, refused a tip and told him he was a Boy Scout. The next morning, by request, the boy called for him and took him to Scout Headquarters in Victoria Street, where he was given information about these Boy Scouts and what little literature was available. Boyce returned to the States, told his friends of the incident, and with them secured the incorporation of the Boy Scouts of America in February 1910. (The place of the Boy Scouts of America in the United States is so important and its growth so prodigious that I devote a separate chapter to it later.)

When in 1926 the Boy Scouts of America introduced their premier award of the Silver Buffalo, the first presentation was made to B.-P., and the second – in the form of a bronze statuette – to this 'Unknown Scout'. At a ceremony at Gilwell Park the American Ambassador handed the statuette over to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, who received it, in the Chief's presence, on behalf of The Boy Scouts Association. As Camp Chief I was responsible for the arrangements, and it is interesting to record that that Ambassador's son, Amory Houghton, is a former President of the Boy Scouts of America, a former member of the Boy Scouts International Committee and a holder of the international Scout decoration of the Bronze Wolf. He is now the American Ambassador in Paris. H.R.H. the Prince of Wales was attended by Sir Godfrey Thomas, who was in attendance on H.R.H. the Duke of Gloucester when he opened the World Jubilee Jamboree in 1957. I had first met him with the Prince of Wales in Calcutta. These continued personal links are one of the delights of Scouting.

It is impossible to tell of how Scouting started in all the sixty-six countries which are now members of the Boy Scouts International Conference. Those which are part of the British Commonwealth of Nations owe the origin of their Scout Movements to Great Britain. Gradually their Scouting has developed on lines which suit their climatic and national characteristics, although a very close tie is still maintained with the old Mother Country. Lord Rowallan, the Chief Scout of The Boy Scouts Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, is also Chief Scout of the British Empire and Commonwealth, as was his immediate predecessor, Lord Somers.

As regards the rest, I have had to make a selection to prove the truth of B.-P.'s statement that 'the whole thing is a natural growth, and therefore a natural Movement'.

On a windy and rainy evening in the autumn of 1909, a Swedish Army Reserve Captain, a teacher of Swedish Drill at the Gothenburg Boys' College, was sitting in the smoking-room of a coastal steamer returning to Gothenburg. A book fell from the shelf above his head on to the table in front of him. He picked it up, and the more he read, the more was he fascinated by it. When he landed, he took the book with him, by permission, and did not sleep until he had finished it. The

captain's name was Ebbe Lieberath, and the book was *Scouting for Boys*. He started a Scout Patrol in the school that November, and the game of Scouting spread rapidly within Gothenburg and to other parts of Sweden. He translated *Scouting for Boys* into Swedish, and two printings of 10,000 copies each were sold in ten days. Patrols and Troops sprang up in all parts of the country. The Y.M.C.A. included Scouting in their youth activities, and formed the Y.M.C.A. Scout Association in December 1911. A few days later the Sveriges Scoutförbund was formed, with Ebbe Lieberath as the Chief Scout, a position he continued to fill until his death in 1937.

The early history of Scouting in Norway illustrates the difficulties caused by men who accepted the activities of Scouting without its proper methods and ideals. For over fifty years Norway had had loosely-knit organisations somewhat similar to the Boys' Brigade in Great Britain. These were more or less independent groups in which a number of boys banded themselves together from the spring to the autumn, when they dispersed. The 'buekorps' in Bergen was an exception, since it has now had a continuous existence for over a century, and the 'Urania Garde' in Kristiania (Oslo) continued throughout the years until Scouting replaced it. Information about the Boy Scouts filtered across the North Sea in 1908 and 1909, but made little impression until E. Le Breton Martin's books *The Otters* and *The Otters to the Rescue* were translated into Norwegian. Then, Scouting was taken up by the boys themselves in many different places.

Captain Grøttum instituted the 'Norske Gutteres Speiderkorps' in 1909, of which the advertised activities were of a Scout character. Its promise was worded in the negative – 'to do my best that Norway is not ashamed of me'. There was no promise of Duty to God and no Patrol system. Some 800 boys attended a meeting in Kristiania, and were told by the Rittmester at the end: 'Now you are all Scouts.' It was as easy as that!

Fortunately, Christian Dons came to the rescue. He had been working in England, and was associated with the Boy Scouts there. On his return to Norway, he started the 1st Kristiania Troop in May 1910. In January 1911 Pastor H. Møller-Gasmann, a master at the Frogner School, started another Troop. The two men got together, realised that they were working along the same B.-P. lines, and founded the 'Norsk Speidergutt-Forbund' on March 25th of that year.

That summer B.-P. came to Norway on a fishing trip. When he got back to Kristiania from up-country, the two organisations – 'Gutteres Speiderkorps' and 'Speidergutt-Forbund' – held a joint parade for him; he spoke at a public meeting and had a conference with Grøttum and Dons, when it was decided to bring the two organisations together. Grøttum made no move, his following began to fade away, and 'Norsk Speidergutt-Forbund' became the sole national Boy Scout movement, with Christian Dons as Chief Scout. He retained this position until 1920, when he was succeeded by Møller-Gasmann, who retired in November 1945, old in years but still very young in heart.

From 1911 to the present day, Norwegian Scouting has preserved a simplicity which is becoming almost unique. Organisation – national and local – is straightforward. The boys themselves do most of the work. Scout training and activities are carried out mostly in Patrol meetings. Camping has nothing in the way of luxury, and is described as 'primitive'. Full use is made of the advantages of mountains, woods, streams and fjords. Scouts were the forerunners in slalom (ski-ing) and orienteering (finding one's way by compass). In fact, Norwegian boys live their Scouting in principle and practice.

In Denmark it was even more pronounced that the boy is father to the man. During a visit to Great Britain in 1909 a Danish Professor of Education had got to know something of this new movement for boys. Being an intimate friend of Dr Hartvig-Møller, headmaster of a Copenhagen school, he offered to speak to the boys about Scouting. The following day one of the boys, Ove Holm, persuaded a comrade to go with him to the headmaster to ask that Scouting should be started in the school. But when young Ove knocked at the door, his comrade funk'd it and ran off. However, the headmaster listened to the proposal and agreed to form a Patrol with Ove as Patrol Leader and seven others some two years younger. They got hold of a copy of *Scouting for Boys*, coping with English as best they could. This inspired them to order Scout uniforms with axes

and other equipment. Not having specified the sizes they needed, they had some trouble in getting the uniforms to fit, apart from collecting the money to pay for them. The Scout hat exposed them to the accusation that it was not carnival time all the year round, and many a fight ensued in consequence. This was a common experience in the early days of Scouting; but, as I heard a Portuguese pastor say in a sermon in 1950: 'Despite the stone throwing, I was not ashamed of being a Scout, of being seen dressed as a Scout.' Such difficulties bred a determination that I wish survived more strongly today.

To return to Copenhagen, two Troops were formed early in 1910 with the eight members of the first Patrol as Patrol Leaders. Dr Hartvig-Møller became Scoutmaster of one and Carl Lembcke of the other. Lembcke, who was a cavalry lieutenant, translated *Scouting for Boys* and managed to have it published. Many boys read the Danish edition; Troops were formed all over the country, and so 'Det Danske Spejderkorps' was founded. B.-P. paid a visit the following year, when there was a Rally at the Deer Park, north of Copenhagen. Soon afterwards King Christian X visited a Scout Display in one of the Copenhagen parks, and his two sons, the present King Frederik IX and H.R.H. Prince Knud, became Scouts in the Troop of which Ove Holm was now Assistant Scoutmaster. Both retain a close interest in Scouting.

Meanwhile in 1910 the Y.M.C.A. in Copenhagen, on the initiative of Jens Grane, had also started to use Scouting in its boys' programme, and two years later its Troops joined Det Danske Spejderkorps. Unfortunately there arose a disagreement on the full application of the promise of Duty to God. The Y.M.C.A. Troops withdrew in 1916 and formed the 'K.F.U.M. – Spejderne i Danmark'. The step was justifiable, and in 1924 Det Danske Spejderkorps sponsored the separate recognition and registration by the International Bureau of the second Association. An agreement between the two provides for a joint committee and a joint International Commissioner.

It was in this manner of natural growth that Denmark became one of the leading Scout countries. Jens Grane became Chief Scout of the K.F.U.M. in 1916, and in the same year Lembcke was elected Chief Scout of the D.D.S. He retired in 1923, and his place was taken by Ove Holm under the title – at first – of Chief Headquarters Commissioner. But we shall hear more of young Ove later.

To turn to another seafaring country. A Japanese translation of *Scouting for Boys* was published as early as 1910, and a few sporadic Troops sprang up, without any cohesion and without a proper grasp of the principles and aims of Scouting. The Boy Scout Troop that B.-P. was surprised to find in Yokohama in 1912 consisted of non-Japanese boys under a British merchant of the name of Griffin. B.-P. did, however, see something of the 'Kenji-n-sha', an old-time youth movement founded on the spirit of the 'Bushido'. The previous year, General Maresuke Nogi went to England in attendance on Prince Yorihiro Higashifushimi for the coronation of King George V. He, as the Defender of Port Arthur, was introduced to B.-P., the Defender of Mafeking, by Lord Kitchener, whose expression 'Once a Scout, always a Scout' remains a slogan to this day.

At the time of the coronation of Emperor Taisho in 1914, Scouts were organised in Tokyo, Shizuoka, Kyoto and Hokkaido, but still without any cohesion or proper understanding. It was not until 1920 that the Movement began to take shape, as a result of three Japanese Scouts being present at the Olympia Jamboree. The same year Crown Prince Hirohito, the present Emperor, visited Great Britain. He saw something of Scouting and was greatly attracted to it, and he expressed the hope that the Boy Scout Movement would be developed in Japan and join the International Brotherhood.

The Boy Scouts of Japan were founded in April 1922 by Count Yoshinori Futara and Viscount Miciharu Mishima, the present Chief Scout. The Tokyo earthquake of 1923 brought the work of the Scouts of that city and of Kobe to the notice of the general public. Count Shimpei Goto, the first Chief Scout, a doctor and a statesman, was entrusted with the task of rebuilding, and the Scouts were given their part in the work for several years. As Minister of Railways, Count Goto also travelled round the country, and was able in his spare time to do a great deal to promote the

Movement in different parts of the country. His pince-nez and white beard attracted the boys' attention, just as 'Pickie's' eye-glass did in other countries.

A contingent of twenty-five Japanese Scouts under Rear-Admiral Count Tsuneha Sano attended the Copenhagen Jamboree in 1924, and, on their return, set the standard for the Boy Scouts of Japan to follow. Sano's entry into Scouting was characteristic of the man. He had just retired from the Navy, and wished to devote the rest of his life to some form of social service, following in the steps of his father, who had founded the Japanese Red Cross when he retired from the Diplomatic Service. A Scoutmaster, Chuhachi Nakano, owned a drug store near the Gojo Bridge in Kyoto, the old capital of Japan. One day a middle-aged man entered his shop. 'I should like to learn something about Scouting from you,' he said. 'Scouting is not at all an easy task,' replied Nakano, 'and it is impossible for one who has retired, as you have, to learn how to practise it.'

But this only strengthened Sano's resolve to take up the service to which he devoted the rest of his life.

After Copenhagen he and some of the others came on a Scout Course at Gilwell. Later they toured through Great Britain. One afternoon my father was standing in the porch of the house in the Highlands of Scotland, to which he had retired, when, to his amazement, he saw a little Japanese figure coming up the steep drive towards him. Count Sano was making a pilgrimage to the father of the Camp Chief. Such was the spirit of the man whom thousands of Scouts of many countries came to regard with real affection. Such was the spirit he instilled into the Boy Scouts of Japan, when, together with Chuhachi Nakano, he led the first National Training Course. Almost all the present-day leaders of Japanese Scouting came under their influence. Hidesaburo Kurushima, the present Chairman of the National Board, is Nakano's younger brother.

Back in Europe, I detail at some length the start and the development of Scouting in the Netherlands and in Belgium, as illustrating how Scouting can overcome religious and linguistic differences through the use of some form of federation which helps to preserve unity and co-operation.

For the last thirty years and more, Scouting in Holland has been closely following the British pattern; but in its early days there were a number of different organisations, with different views as to whether the methods advocated by Baden-Powell should be adopted or not.

The two main organisations were the 'Nederlandsche Padvindere Organisatie' (N.P.O.), founded in Amsterdam, with eight hundred members in January 1911, and the 'Nederlandsche Padvindere Bond' (N.P.B.), founded in March 1912. The former traced its origin to a visit to Amsterdam in August 1910 of a small group of Scouts from the 16th Oxford Troop under their Scoutmaster, Bernard Blythe. They were the guests of a journalist, Gos de Voogt, who, together with Dr G. W. S. Lingbeek, published before the end of the year a pamphlet, *Padvindere Beweging* (Pathfinders' Movement), which was distributed to Government and Education Offices, the clergy, parents and boys. A few months later Dr Lingbeek started the weekly *De Padvinder* on the lines of *The Scout*. Of this B.-P. wrote: 'I am very glad to hear that you are starting a Scout Journal in Holland. I feel sure that such a paper will do much to develop a knowledge of the Movement and of its educative value, and at the same time will spread the feeling of comradeship amongst the members and bring them more closely in touch. In doing this I wish it every success.'

The N.P.O. encouraged the starting of Patrols which later developed into Scout Troops, and also the formation of Local Associations for the encouragement of Scouting all over the country. In these and other ways, it showed in practice a complete understanding of B.-P.'s methods, and in February 1911 adopted B.-P.'s original Scout Promise and Law.

The 'Nederlandsche Padvinder Bond' was an amalgamation of several small movements which used the general idea of Scouting and sought to give it a separate national significance. Large units were formed: eight boys were a Section, four Sections a Company, four Companies a Troop and four Troops a Legion under a Chief Scoutmaster.

In the summer of 1911, B.-P. visited the Netherlands and 'inspected' Scouts in Amsterdam and The Hague. His speech at The Hague was interpreted by Baron van Pollandt van Eerde who,

together with Jan Schaap, was in the forefront of the struggle to maintain the Dutch Scout Movement on strict B.-P. lines.

In 1912 N.P.O. published a slightly adapted translation of *Scouting for Boys*, under the title *B.-P.'s Padvindiersboek*. This influenced many of the leaders of N.P.B., and particularly a Britisher, Griffin Moriarty, who came over to the N.P.O. and started the 2nd The Hague Troop. Returning to Britain shortly afterwards, he handed the Troop over to Jan Schaap, who then decided to co-operate with Van Pollandt; and the Baron van Pollandt Troop was founded, which for many years set an example of good Scouting, and from which Patrol Leaders went out to form other Troops in the best missionary spirit.

In 1912, not only were there 4,000 Scouts in the Netherlands itself, but several Troops had been started in the then Dutch East Indies and in the Dutch colonies in the West Indies. In 1913, on the initiative of Dr J. W. Boissevain of the O.P.B., an international Camp was held at Ymuiden attended by representatives of Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Great Britain, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the U.S.A. The Camp was visited by Queen Wilhelmina and her husband, Prince Henry, and was instrumental in bringing the N.P.O. and the N.P.B. closer together, with the result that their weekly Scout papers were amalgamated in June 1914. Van Pollandt and Jan Schaap were also continuing their missionary work, translating English Scout publications and emphasising the true meaning of the Promise and Law, and the aims and methods of Scouting as suggested by its Founder. In July 1914 the N.P.O. appointed Van Pollandt and A. Fens as District Commissioners, both still active today.

The outbreak of the First World War and work with the Belgian refugees pointed to the need for amalgamation. The initiative was taken by H.R.H. the Prince Consort in bringing the N.P.O. and N.P.B. together as 'Vereniging de Nederlandsche Padvindiers' – N.P.V. (The Association of Dutch Scouts). Prince Henry was himself enrolled as a Scout in 1918, and a start made with Wolf Cubs and Rover Scouts.

In 1920 Admiral J. J. Rambonnet, a Privy Counsellor and former Minister of Naval Affairs, became President of N.P.V., and afterwards Chief Scout. He reorganised the whole movement along its present lines, and consolidated it as both a national and international institution.

The 1920's were marked by an increasing interest in the value of Scouting by the Roman Catholic Church as a whole. In Holland, as in other countries, separate R.C. Troops began to spring up, with the result that in April 1930 a Roman Catholic Scout Association (V.K.J.B.) was formed. The two Associations, however, co-operate closely through a National Scouts Council (Nationale Padvindiersraad), of which H.R.H. Prince Bernhard as Royal Commissioner is the President, and which is the one Dutch body registered as a member of the International Conference.

In Belgium linguistic differences were added to those of religion, but the start of Scouting followed the pattern of individual interest and persistence. Harold Parfitt, the young organist of the Anglican church in Brussels, formed a small Scout Troop in 1909 from amongst Anglo-Belgian and British boys. The following Easter, the youngest of the three sons of the famous surgeon to the King, Antoine Depage, watched the Scouts at work in the park of Saint-Gilles. He tried in vain to interest his parents in this new enterprise. That summer, while they were on holiday at Folkestone, he found a Scout camp and insisted on taking his mother to see it. She was impressed by the possible educational value of the new movement, bought a copy of *Scouting for Boys* and converted her husband to her and Henri's view. It is sad to record that Madame Marie Depage lost her life in the sinking of the *Titanic*.

Returning to Brussels, Dr. Depage used his influence to secure the formation of the 'Boy Scouts de Belgique' (B.S.B.) with the stated aim of national unity based on tolerance and respect for the convictions of other people. The President of the General Council was General Comte de t'Serclaes de Wommerson, the Chairman of the Executive Committee Dr. Depage and the Secretary M. Pierre Graux, Barrister in the Court of Appeal, whose two sons were amongst the first Scouts. Harold Parfitt was appointed Chief Scout, and the first camp was held under him at Christmas

1910. A large tent had been pitched, but everyone slept in the 'orangerie' of the house of the family of Solvaj a la Hulpe.

Scouting gradually spread in Brussels and to several of the larger towns. In 1912 the Scouts attracted public attention and support by their active help in controlling a widespread bush-fire in Fagne. As in every country, the practice of the Good Turn paved the way to success. Royal approval was signified, through the holding of a large National Rally at the Palace in 1913.

Dr. Depage, with his eldest son Pierre, also a Scout and a surgeon, founded and took charge of the Belgian Ambulance in the Balkan War. He was instrumental in starting Scouting in Turkey, where Harold Parfitt, who accompanied him, became Chief Scout, being replaced in Belgium by M. Robert Lutens. However, it was not until 1950 that 'Turkic Izcileri' became a recognised member of the Boy Scouts International Conference.

To go back, Abbe Petit had founded a welfare centre in his parish in Brussels in 1910. Walking in the Sognes Forest with some of his boys, he met a Scout Patrol who attracted the interest of them all. By enquiry he learnt of the existence of *Scouting for Boys* and of the B.S.B., and determined to found a similar movement for Catholic boys. Troops were started at St Louis' and St Michael's Colleges. A master at the latter, Jean Corbisier, became Chief Scout of the 'Association of Baden-Powell Belgian Boy and Sea Scouts' (1912) and a protagonist of Catholic Scouting. Father Melchior became the first Aumonier General.

The 1914 invasion drove Scouting underground. Officially it was banned, but Troop and other meetings continued in secret, and even new Local Associations – B.S.B. and Catholic – were formed, and only disclosed after the Armistice in 1918. A second Open (or Neutral) Association had sprung up, but was soon merged with the B.S.B., which adopted, in place of their five-pointed star with the motto 'Honour', the fleur-de-lis with the heraldic Belgian lion superposed and the motto 'Toujours Pret'.

In 1919 two Girl Guide Associations – Open and Catholic – were started, and a second Catholic Association, 'Belgian Catholic Scouts', with Abbé J. D. Mercier as Aumonier.

The B.S.B. was considered in official educational circles as a conservative organisation with military tendencies, while in Catholic circles it was suspected of a Masonic and Protestant bias. On the other hand, Catholic Scouting was looked at askance by the majority of the clergy, who were suspicious of Scouting as a whole. In 1927 Cardinal Mercier secured the amalgamation of the two Catholic Associations as the 'Baden-Powell Catholic Scouts'. This was subdivided into the French-speaking 'Federation des Scouts Catholiques' (F.S.C.) and the Flemish-speaking 'Vlaams Verbond der Katholieke Scouts' (V.V.K.S.).

The Catholic and Open Associations continued to go their separate ways, but by a fortunate circumstance Abbé Lamy of the Cardinal Mercier College, M. Valentin Brifaut, Commissioner General of the F.S.C., and M. Louis Picalausa, National Commissioner of the B.S.B., found themselves in 1932 on the same Cub Training Course at Gilwell Park. I well remember the circumstances, and the hopes of unity that Hubert Martin, Director of the International Bureau, and I, as Camp Chief, expressed beforehand. The atmosphere of unity and co-operation within the course brought the three together in sympathy. The immediate result was an agreement between the B.S.B. and the F.S.C. to throw their Gilwell Training Courses open to the Scouters of both Associations.

Five years later Raphael Bruyneel, who was associated with Picalausa in the Red Cross, put the latter in touch with Leon van der Beeken, Federal Commissioner elect of the F.S.C. This led to the creation of the 'Bureau Interfédérale Beige du Scoutisme' in order 'to create a permanent link between the two Associations: Royal Association of Belgian Boy Scouts and the Royal Association of Baden-Powell Scouts, the latter combining the Federation of Catholic Scouts and the Flemish Union of Catholic Scouts, all of which use the Baden-Powell method. . . . The Belgian Inter-federal Bureau of Scouting has no intention of attacking in any way the autonomy and independence of each of the above Associations and Federations, nor their respective positions as regards the International Bureau and foreign associations'. The offices of President and of Secretary-Treasurer



were to be held for a year and interchanged between the two Associations. The first President was Antoine Cols (F.S.C.) and the second Louis Picalausa; both, incidentally, Deputy Camp Chiefs linked to Gilwell Park.

An important and far-reaching step was the registering of an Interfederal Cub Pack and then a Scout Troop, of which the heir to the throne, Prince Baudouin, was the first member.

The Second World War again paralysed all open Scout activities in the country. Belgian Scouting was preserved in the refugee camps in Free France, in prisoner-of-war camps in Germany, amongst men in the Belgian armed forces and the Belgian children at school in Great Britain. Memorial services for B.-P. were held in all these outposts and even within Belgium itself.

After the liberation, Scouting came into its own again with redoubled energy and enthusiasm and almost doubled numbers; but, as in other formerly occupied countries, there were not sufficient trained leaders to meet the demand.

In 1945, Pierre Depage, now Chairman of the Executive Committee of B.S.B., Paul Mesureur, Federal Commissioner of F.S.C., and Maurice van Haegendoren, Federal Commissioner of V.V.K.S., were instrumental in securing that 'Interfederale Beige du Scoutisme' should be regarded as the sole authority in Belgium as far as the International Conference and Bureau and all foreign relations were concerned. M. Pierre Graux was honoured as Founder-President; his son Charles became Secretary-Treasurer.

When I retired as Director of the International Bureau in 1953, I was acclaimed as Honorary Vice-President of the Interfederal, and the hope was expressed in my certificate of appointment that 'Colonel Wilson who, being in Calcutta in 1914, was given the nickname "Beige", will frequently use the opportunity of taking his seat amongst the National Council in his new capacity.' On such a slender basis does fame rest!

In that capacity I was present in the Brussels Stadium in October 1957 to attend the celebration of the fiftieth Anniversary of Scouting. H.M. King Baudouin addressed the 50,000 Guides and Scouts and hundreds of Former Scouts and Guides:

*Je garde un tel souvenir de mes années du Scoutisme, que c'est pour moi une fête personnelle de venir aujourd'hui les revivre avec vous pour rendre hommage au génie de Baden-Powell, créateur de l'étonnante méthode dont on peut dire qu'elle a transformé la vie des jeunes de notre époque . . . Je sais qu'à votre âge on se donne sans compter, même et surtout si c'est dur, même et surtout si c'est héroïque. Je sais que vous êtes capables de vivre vous-même et de répandre autour de vous un idéal de franchise, de fidélité absolue à vos chefs et aux grandes idées qui menent ce monde.*

*C'est cela que je vous demande de vouloir avec toute l'énergie d'un vrai scout, d'une vraie guide.*

*A une époque où Ton ne songe généralement plus qu'à ses droits, vous devez être ceux qui ne pensent qu'à leurs devoirs.*

*(For translation of this passage see last page of book.)*

In the Belgian colonies, and more particularly in the Congo, Scouting is being intensively used to further the development of the people in character, in capability, and in understanding.

This has been a lengthy example of progress, but Belgium does demonstrate how the purpose of Scouting has gradually been achieved despite problems of religion, language and personalities. As King Baudouin also said:

*Je me réjouis de sentir vibrer autour de moi cette fraternité scout qui peut aussi efficacement mêler en un même toutes les diverses classes sociales, les diverses races, les tendances humaines les plus variées.*

Now I must turn back to before the First World War. In September 1912 B.-P. wrote a report of his eight months' 'tour of inspection among the Boy Scouts in the West Indies, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa'. He also saw Scouts in the United States, British Columbia, Japan and China. The report illustrates the then attitudes and ideas and the gradual

evolution of Scouting and of B.-P.'s thinking. 'Imperialism' was at its height. He wrote as follows:

I found on the whole that the Movement had reached much the same standard in each of the Dominions, though still behind that of Canada as regards number and organisation . . . There was generally an attitude of 'waiting to see' what would be the new system for Cadet Service before taking further steps in development, since on this point depended the further need or possibilities for the Scout Movement.

It seemed to me that in each Dominion, making due allowance for the difference of local conditions, the Scout training could be of real value.

The overseas boy is generally more forward and self-reliant for his age than the English boy, and though he does not require the bringing out that is inculcated by Scouting, he is in greater need of some restraining force and sense of duty. This can be supplied by Scouting.

The direct lines on which Scouting may be of value in the overseas Dominions appeared to me to be these:

EDUCATION for good citizenship through character training.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE MARINE SERVICE through Sea Scouting.

PRELIMINARY TRAINING for the Cadet Service in discipline, etc.

EXTINCTION OF RACE FEELING between Boers and British boys in South Africa, French and British Canadians in Canada.

PROMOTION OF IMPERIAL BROTHERHOOD among the rising generations of overseas.

PROMOTION OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE through the brotherhood of the Scouts in all countries.

No one – not even B.-P. – had at that time visualised the possibilities of the impact of Scouting on the coloured races. That was to come to the fore ten years later. But commenting on the European Scouts he saw in China and Japan, B.-P. says: 'The Government in both countries are enquiring into the methods of our training with a view to testing its value for their own education departments.'

The First World War was to change many things, including, I believe, the general attitude and outlook of the Scout Movement towards the potentialities of World Scouting.

- 4 -

### The First World War and its Aftermath

*Effect on Scouting of the First World War – first International Camp, Birmingham, 1913 – B.-P.'s dramatic arrival – wartime difficulties – the Patrol system justified – post-war revival of international understanding – first Jamboree to celebrate the tenth anniversary of Scouting at Olympia, 1920 – the Archbishop of York's sermon – B.-P. acclaimed Chief Scout of the World – Boy Scouts International Conference established – its London headquarters – Second International Scout Conference, Paris, 1922 – B.-P. and 'the night life of Paris'*

**E**. E. REYNOLDS has written in *The Scout Movement*:

The war years put a severe strain on a very young movement; it had still to be proved that the popularity of Scouting was something more than a temporary enthusiasm of high-spirited boys. The period was, in fact, the adolescence of Scouting; by the end of the war the Movement had grown up.

What was true of the United Kingdom from the boyhood angle was equally true of all the other countries to which the Movement had spread, except that its trials in Belgium and France were even greater.

## SCOUTING ROUND THE WORLD

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In 1913 an International Camp, the first ever, was held in Birmingham, England. Jacques Guerin-Desjardins, who was to be B.-P.'s interpreter at all International Scout Conferences from 1920 to 1937, has written of his memories of this first purposeful international gathering:

I am now a Patrol Leader in our small French delegation. Coming out of the station, we read on a large fence: 'What's B.-P. doing here? Come and see.' Crowds came to visit this first big camp, and the wonderful exhibition of things made and collections assembled by the first Scouts. On Sunday we are 30,000, forming a tremendous circle round the Chief. He, in the centre, is on horseback. In his strong voice he shouts to us: 'The weather has been wonderful. We have been happy amongst brother Scouts. Let us thank God for that.' He bares his head with a large gesture, Scout hat at the end of his extended arm. His gesture is so large, so noble, so powerful that it carries us all away, and spontaneously 30,000 boys take their hats off and 30,000 boys keep a few seconds of perfect silence in the invisible presence of God – and then afterwards 30,000 hats are hoisted on 30,000 staffs.

In later Jamborees, B.-P. was often to ride through the camp on horseback, so as to be better seen and heard, and also to see better himself and be above the shouts and yells of his Scouts of many nations. He was not always so fortunate in the weather.

The war brought its difficulties and its criticisms. How was it if 'a Scout was a brother to every other Scout' that Scouts should face each other in opposing armies? There can be no simple and all-embracing answer to the question of divided loyalties, but the general agreement is that a Scout's first duty is to God, his second to his country. Scouting was started to improve the physique and well-being of boys so that they might become better citizens of their own country. B.-P. was obviously a loyalist. Those who started Scouting in other countries were also loyalists. All of them regarded their national obligations as overriding any international connections that they may have had – in Scouting or outside it.

My information of the work done by Scouts in and near the war areas is only second-hand. From all accounts, however, individually and collectively, they did their best to assist their country in non-combatant duties, while those in the armed forces showed an aptitude and steadfastness beyond the average.

One of the outcomes of the war was the proof of the wisdom and success of the basic method of Scouting – the Patrol system. Of it, B.-P. said:

I always considered the Patrol as the important body in the Scout Movement, but since the war it has shown more than ever that it is the unit that can be relied upon to do its duty well.

I want you Patrol Leaders to go on and train your Patrols in future entirely yourselves, because it is possible for you to get hold of each boy in your Patrol and make a good fellow of him. It is no use having one or two brilliant boys and the rest no good at all. You should try to make them all fairly good. The most important step to this is your own example, because what you do yourself your Scouts will do also.

This is an injunction to good leadership of which the grown-up people in the Movement need constant reminding, whatever their nationality may be.

It is not always remembered that the *Scout Headquarters Gazette* of October 1911 contained B.-P.'s first notice of the establishing of a 'Foreign Department', as well as details of his visits to Continental Scouts and the names of their early leaders.

When the uneasy peace was restored, B.-P. set about to see what he could do to revive international understanding in the Scout Movement. His closest helpers in London were not all with him; but his persistence won them round. It had been intended to celebrate the tenth anniversary of Scouting in 1917, but the war had prevented that, and it was realised that the celebration could not be held until 1920, when communications had been restored. It was decided to make it an occasion for international as well as national rejoicing, and the first Scout Jamboree was planned. This was no sudden thought on B.-P.'s part, for as early as July 28th, 1916, he wrote to Percy Everett:

- '1. Imperial and International.
2. I don't like Chelsea Gardens –
  - 1st because of weather.
  - 2nd expense of tents.
  - 3rd inconvenience of do. No place for conferences, theatricals, concerts, exhibitions, displays, if weather is wet.
  - 4th very out of the way – no buses, no tube.
  - 5th no camping accommodation.

Why not Olympia, or Crystal Palace, or White City – for Sea Scout shows?'

In this way B.-P. followed one of his own favourite precepts: Look Wide. To the doubters he said: 'The Movement has plenty of vitality under the surface, and is quite capable of doing a very big thing in promoting international amity – and, what is more, it is going to do it.' There was no gainsaying his enthusiasm and his optimism.

Major A. G. Wade, lately returned from active service, was the Organising Secretary for the Jamboree. He was bombarded by notes from B.-P. written in the very early hours and on any old scrap of paper. A typical one was, 'Wade, provide a river in the arena for building bridges over, also timbers, ropes, etc., for same.' But Wade was accustomed to such demands. He was in joint charge of the two Patrols of Boy Scouts who toured Canada with B.-P. in 1910, and was the Organising Secretary in Northern England and afterwards at Headquarters until the outbreak of the war.

Despite the camp at Birmingham, the whole idea of a Jamboree was something new. No one had any experience of gathering a large number of boys of different nationalities together for a week. The promoters visualised an indoor display and exhibition, so that the Scouts could show each other of what they were capable and the public could be entertained. The financial outlay involved required that the public should pay an entrance fee and come in large numbers. These thoughts finally determined the selection of Olympia in London as the site of the display, and the setting up of a 'rest' camp in the Old Deer Park at Richmond, where 5,000 boys could be bedded down for the night. The real Jamboree pattern was to be set four years later, but Olympia could be characterised as a triumph of organisation, an eye-opener to the public and the forerunner of Scouting as an international and practically world Movement for boys.

Special displays were staged, including a pageant written by B.-P., called 'The Genesis of Scouting' and giving the story of Captain John Smith and Princess Pocahontas in Virginia. There was a series of competitions of almost a military tattoo character, including a tug-of-war for the *Daily Mail* cup, won by Denmark, and retained by them ever since, as being the one and only time it was competed for. Exhibits illustrated the work done in connection with Scout Proficiency (or Merit) Badges. Gilwell Park was in its first year of full operation, and was presented to the public by means of a booth and a tracking strip, where stories were set each day for elucidation by budding Sherlock Holmeses. A daily newspaper was printed, a custom maintained at Jamborees ever since. The Archbishop of York (Cosmo Gordon Lang) preached at the special service held in the arena on Sunday, August 1st:

I am almost awed by the huge power of the boys assembled here. How is such a solemn trust as is implied in this Movement to be used? There is only one answer – to make a new and better world. You are out not to claim rights, but to do your duty; not to care for yourselves, but for others; not to work for the class but for the commonwealth; not to suspect and fight other nations, but to make comrades and brothers.

The same might be said today, and not only to Scouts, not only to boyhood, but to men and women the world over.

The Dominions were represented, except Canada, curiously enough, as well as India and four Crown Colonies. More important still was the representation of twenty-one foreign

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countries: sixteen from Europe; China, Japan and Siam; Chile and the United States of America.

On August 6th, 1920, Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell was acclaimed Chief Scout of the World. This tribute was spontaneous, and not a part of the official programme. As the days passed, it became abundantly clear how strong a hold B.-P. had on the hearts and loyalties of the Scouts of all countries. Chief Scout of the World he remained until his death in 1941, an ever-increasing family giving him their allegiance and their affection. His Scout title lives with him still. World Scouting tacitly approved the International Committee's decision that to appoint or elect any other Chief Scout of the World was neither advisable nor feasible.

Other results emerged from Olympia, where, in fact, International Scouting as such was born. This was no formal and public presentation. The leaders of the different national contingents came together from time to time and had informal talks about the international future of Scouting. It was decided to establish a Boy Scouts International Conference, to meet every two years, with a Committee to act between its meetings and an International Bureau to carry out the work of the Conference and Committee. All the countries represented at the First Jamboree became Founder Members of the Conference, and were registered as such. On B.-P.'s nomination, Hubert S. Martin, the British International Commissioner, was appointed Honorary Director of the Bureau, an appointment he held with great distinction and self-sacrifice until his death in 1938. It was possible to set up the Bureau at once as a separate entity because Mr. F. F. Peabody, a well-wisher from the U.S.A., provided funds to see it through its first year. A room in British Scout Headquarters at 25 Buckingham Palace Road was leased, and a small staff engaged. One of the early members of the Bureau staff was a youngster, Richard T. Lund, now Deputy Director of the Boy Scouts International Bureau, who has served World Scouting faithfully and well for nigh on forty years.

Mortimer L. Schiff and Dr. James E. West of the Boy Scouts of America were entrusted with the drafting of a Constitution and Bye-Laws. It is a tribute to their understanding that their draft was accepted and remained in being for twenty-five years, until B.-P.'s death made some amendments necessary. As it is now set out:

The purpose of the International Conference shall be through cooperation to promote throughout the world unity of purpose and common understanding in the fundamental principles of Scouting, as founded by the late Chief Scout of the World, Lord Baden-Powell.

On this basis, too, it is decided whether any country's application to become a member of the Conference should be accepted.

There is no need to set out the constitutional duties of the International Committee, which acts for the Conference between its biennial meetings, or of the Director of the Bureau, who is an *ex officio* member and its Secretary and Treasurer. Increasingly these duties have become more of an executive character, since world affairs have become more complicated, but in the main they consist in giving advice and assistance to member countries, in providing more active help to those countries where Scouting is in its early stages or weak, and also in safeguarding the fundamental aims, principles and distinctive methods of the Boy Scout Movement.

The Constitution was formally adopted at what was designated the Second International Scout Conference, held in Paris in July 1922. The first International Committee was elected, and it is of interest to record the names and to indicate the countries from which they came. It is important to note, however, that a member of the Committee is not a representative of his country, but elected because of his interest in and knowledge of International Scouting and its needs and problems. At the same time it has proved valuable to the Committee that its members are drawn from different parts of the globe and have a more intimate knowledge of Scouting in those parts. The first Committee consisted of: Count Mario di Carpegna (Italy), Lord Hampton (Great Britain), Hon. Myron T.

Herrick (U.S. A.), Major Ebbe Lieberath (Sweden), Count H. Marty (France), Sir Alfred Pickford (British Empire), Mortimer L. Schiff (U.S.A.), Dr. A. B. Svojsik (Czechoslovakia), Emmerich Teuber (Austria).

Mr. Herrick was unable to accept election, and the Committee subsequently appointed Frank Presbry (U.S.A.) in his place.

Three of these men served on the Committee almost continuously for a great number of years: Count Marty until his death in 1945; Lord Hampton and my old friend Pickie until they determinedly retired in 1947.

This original Committee, with B.-P. as its permanent Chairman, was a strong body, and worthily represented International Scouting in the Movement and outside it.

To return to the Second International Conference in Paris: the Bureau's Report showed the number of registered Scouts of all ages in 1922 to be 1,344,360, an increase of 325,155 since 1920, partly due to the admission of other countries to the Conference, but mostly to the growing popularity of Scouting in the minds of the public. At the end of 1956 the World Scout population was 7,589,183, an increase of 1,228,421 from 1954.

The Paris Conference lasted for five days, and the subjects discussed were many and various. B.-P. gave the final talk on the Future of Scouting, as was the custom up to his last Conference in 1937. No record exists of the prophecies he made, but the following story of him has been preserved. Two of the delegates were anxious to see something of the night life of Paris. They were hesitant lest their desire for knowledge might be misinterpreted. B.-P. overheard them, and said, more or less: 'Scouting divorced from life is an impossibility.' He offered to come with them to one of the more reputable music halls. They shuddered at the thought that the Chief Scout of the World should be seen in such a place. To calm them, he said he would go disguised, which he did. When telling the tale many years afterwards, he laughed heartily at the memory of dining in the same room with many of the delegates without being recognised, and added that after dinner he had found it all rather tame.

So in an atmosphere of thankfulness, serious intent, interchange of information and experience, friendly cheerfulness and faith in the future – whatever betide – the International Scout Movement was well and truly launched and fitted out for its voyaging over the seven seas.

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**International Scout Centres –  
Gilwell Park, Kandersteg,  
Roland House**

*B.-P.'s plan for training leaders – purchase of Gilwell Park – first Cubmasters' Wood Badge Course, 1922 – three steps in policy in 1924 – daughter Gilwells develop – how B.-P. became Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell – the first 'outside' Wood Badge Course in Switzerland – I win a bet – my travels increase – Gilwell during the Second World War – Gilwell Park becomes the property of the whole world – preserving the Scout spirit and B.-P.'s ideas and methods – how Gilwell is run – 'Jim' and 'Jab' – unity a first essential – 'Kandersteg': how the chalet was acquired – maintenance – conferences – 'Roland House': purchase in 1913 by Roland Philipps – its effect on Scouting and the East London area*

URING the First World War, B.-P.'s thoughts turned frequently to the future welfare of Scouting when peace was attained. He realised that, because of the different, and not always good, ways in which Scouting had come to be practised, some provision would

have to be made for the training of the leaders, so that the enthusiasm of the boys was not damped by dull routine nor the value of personal leadership lowered. The opportunity came when a Scottish Commissioner, W. de Bois Maclaren, expressed his wish to donate a camping site easy of access to the Scouts of East London. The two met and agreed that a place should be sought for, in order to provide both camping for Scouts and a centre for the training of Scouters. A derelict estate, Gilwell Park on the borders of Epping Forest, was found and acquired, much necessary work started and the place opened in 1919.

Captain Francis Gidney was appointed Camp Chief, and E. E. Reynolds was his first Assistant for a short time. Gidney was a man of great enthusiasm, who had the ability to communicate that enthusiasm to others. He was skilled in many of Scouting's activities, and had a sincere belief in its aims and principles. The first few courses caused quite a sensation, and undoubtedly helped to revivify the practice of Scouting in a number of Troops and Districts. Gidney was in attendance at the Paris Conference, and was a great success. Afterwards a number of the delegates came to Gilwell and went through a Scout Course. And so, early on, Gilwell's place in International Scouting was indicated.

Ill-health and other reasons caused Gidney to resign, and I was asked to take his place.

My task in the early days was eased by having as my colleague Dr. Frederick R. Lucas, who had travelled widely and was already well versed in International Scouting. He had found in Scouting the ideal setting for the exercise of his qualities and characteristics: the open-air life, singing and folk-dancing, the training of boys and men, loyalty and discipline. He passed on to others something of his gay and endearing personality. Don Potter, too, added his artistic abilities in carving and music, roping and other skills beyond my compass. Later I was to have E. E. Reynolds as my Deputy for five years, with his profound knowledge of the history of Scouting and its fundamentals. I had a good team both at Gilwell and in Great Britain, and in other countries too. It was all this that made for success, a success that has been bettered since my own time.

The first Cubmasters' Wood Badge Course took place in 1922. A Rover Scout Course was not added until 1927. Since then, and particularly in the past fifteen years, several complementary and specialist courses over shorter periods have been held from time to time.

I would mention here the great value of having the boys' camping fields alongside the Scouters' Training Centre. The two are kept separate; the Scouts do not see what is going on on the other side of the dividing bridle path, although they may hear 'noises off'. The Scouters have more latitude, particularly at weekends when they join in combined Camp Fires and Scouts' Owns (interdenominational religious services). They can see how the Scouts, especially those camping in their own small patrols, set about the job. The association of the two is even more important to the Training Staff, who are continually reminded of the object of all their plans and endeavours – the Boy.

It may not be out of place to mention three steps in policy which were taken in 1924, as approved by B.-P. *One*, more emphasis was placed on Wood Badge Courses in the provinces, so as to make practical training more available, and an endeavour made to bring all together by visits from the Camp Chief and the Gilwell staff. This policy of decentralisation and at the same time linking up has been developed on to an almost world-wide basis. *Two*, emphasis was laid on the importance of preliminary or district training, and also on the position of the District Commissioner as the leader of his Scouters. *Three*, more stress was laid on the fact that Akela Leaders (for Cub Training) and Deputy Camp Chiefs (for Scout and, later, Rover Scout Training) were members of the Gilwell Training Team, and also on the value of combined, co-operative work.

This last resulted in the gradual development of the International Gilwell Training Team, recognised as such by the 11th International Scout Conference in France in 1947. It has also resulted in a gradually increasing number of visits being paid by the Camp Chief to countries outside the United Kingdom.

On the more factual side, the Empire Jamboree at Wembley in 1924 brought 161 Scouters from British possessions overseas to Gilwell for training, 70 others being distributed amongst similar courses in Devon, Hampshire, London, Kent, Somerset, Scotland and Ulster. Many of the daughter Gilwells in the Dominions and elsewhere were conceived by men on these courses who had been specially appointed Deputy Camp Chiefs – a natural growth, as B.-P. would put it.

So the influence of Gilwell gradually spread. By 1929 Gilwell had not only found itself, but had also found a not unimportant place in International Scouting. The seal was put on its work by B.-P.'s decision to include its name in his title when he was raised to the peerage at the Coming-of-Age Jamboree, 1929.

I told the following story about it to the International Scout Conference at Cambridge in August 1957, when I gave a talk about the Founder.

I remember the night at Arrowe Park when, with his wife and Mrs. Wade, his personal secretary for twenty-seven years, we discussed the invitation for him to accept a peerage – something he did not want to do. He thought it too much of an honour for himself, and too much of a burden to place upon his son. We had a lot of argument, and he was in tears before we had persuaded him to accept. When he finally did so, he said: 'This is for Scouting and not for me.' There was an interlude when, to cheer him up, we started to suggest various titles he might adopt, the most absurd coming from him. Then, turning serious, he said: 'The place name cannot be Mafeking, or anything connected with my life other than Scouting. I would like it not necessarily to be connected with Scouting in my own country, but with Scouting the whole world over. We have Gilwell Park as an international centre, and I think I should like to be called Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell; but it is not for me to decide, but for the International Committee to tell me what title they would like me to adopt.' The Committee were meeting on the other side of the hall, and I went over and told Hubert Martin of the Chief's decision and request. When I returned half an hour later, he placed a piece of paper in my hand which conveyed the congratulations of the members of the International Committee, and their pride at being informed in advance of others that he was to receive a peerage, and in being consulted by their Chief. It also carried their humble suggestion that he should adopt as his title: Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell; and so it was.

After the Jamboree, 248 Scouters from foreign countries and overseas came on courses of training at Gilwell. This number faded into insignificance when in 1957, in connection with the Centenary-Jubilee Jamboree, no less than 420 Scouters from 73 different parts of the world came to Gilwell Park to add to their store of Scout knowledge, and to receive added inspiration from the place where so many thousands had camped before them, each leaving something of his own aura behind him.

The first 'outside' Wood Badge Course numbered and included in the Gilwell Park series was the 50th Scout Course held at Kandersteg in Switzerland after the 4th International Scout Conference in 1926. I had as my helpers Pere Sevin of the Scouts de France, T. Egidius ('Giddy') of Holland, Renneft of the (then) Dutch East Indies, and Ernest Scott of England. Walter de Bonstetten, Chef Suisse, and Louis Blondel, who succeeded him, were also most useful. The forty-two members of the course came from twelve different countries. Instructions and lectures were given in English and French, but directions for games and results of inter-Patrol competitions had also to be given in German, and then translated from German into Spanish for one Scouter. This slowed things up, but we got through all we wanted and everyone seemed to enjoy it. The camp-fire programmes were particularly good, Mario Mazza of Italy being most entertaining in songs and stunts.

This idea for the development of the international training scheme was not repeated, partly because of its difficulties and partly because of the expansion, both numerically and geographically, of the Training Team. In 1954, however, the Gilwell Camp Chief conducted two All-Australia Wood Badge Courses – Cub and Scout – on which nine different nationalities were represented amongst the 'New Australians'.

Starting with the Kandersteg Conference, *The Training of Scouters* figured as a subject for presentation and discussion at no less than five International Conferences before 1939. It was my



duty to present the subject on each occasion – not a very easy task, for variety had to be produced if interest was to be maintained. I had been taught to accomplish this during my first training season at Gilwell in 1924. A Scots doctor was staying in the Gilwell Hostel while he was studying Public Health in London. He insisted on coming to the opening and closing talks of every course that was held that summer. We had a side bet of sixpence that I would put over what was required each time, but never in quite the same way. I won the bet, despite the fact that he was an Aberdonian; but then both my father and mother were Aberdonians too!

As years went on, my own travelling increased, both in Great Britain and abroad. All these visits were connected with training in one way or another, but some of those abroad were also for other purposes, at the request of the International Bureau. When on the outbreak of the Second World War I summed up my main activities during the previous fifteen years, I found that some 10,000 Scouters had been on Training Courses of which I was personally in charge, and that I had paid visits to seventeen different countries: Canada, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, France, Holland, Hungary, India, Latvia, Malta, Norway, Palestine, Rumania, Sweden, Switzerland, the U.S.A. and Yugoslavia.

John Thurman, my successor as Camp Chief, travelled even more extensively in his first fifteen years, in keeping with the remarkable growth in the Scout world population, and with the continued expansion of Gilwell Training.

When the Second World War broke out, part of the British Headquarters Staff were evacuated to Gilwell, and I myself became a regular Poo-Bah – Camp Chief, Director of Scout War Service, Editor of *The Scouter* – as well as Hon. Director of the International Bureau. The Headquarters' invasion only lasted a few months, but in the autumn of 1940 Gilwell Park was requisitioned by the Army and remained in military occupation until the end of 1944. I had been called up for special service in July 1940, but A. M. ('Tiny') Chamberlain carried on the training work from Youlbury, the Scout camping and training ground on Boars Hill, Oxford. Quite a number of men in the armed services – British and Allied – found recreation in a Wood Badge Course there.

I retired as Camp Chief on June 30th, 1943, after being virtually 'non-effective' for three years, and Thurman took over. To him fell the task of restoring Gilwell to proper order and of re-starting Training and Camping.

In the immediately succeeding years, doubts were expressed whether Gilwell should remain as the International Training Centre. B.-P. had died, and it was no longer directly associated with him. This was a period of stress and strain for all concerned, including myself as ex-Camp Chief and as Director of the Bureau, but the belief in the continuing value of the Chief Scout of the World's ideas gradually triumphed and was reaffirmed at the International Conference in France in 1947. Pierre Delsuc, International Commissioner of Scoutisme Francais, and himself a Deputy Camp Chief, opened the discussion. His resumé was to this effect:

The death of B.-P. has modified to some extent the aspects of World Scouting. Gilwell Park and the creation of D.C.C.'s have felt it gravely.

In the beginning Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell made this site into a training ground and personally supervised the general plan of the training of leaders. To the best of them he awarded the Wood Badge and the Gilwell Scarf.

Soon the development of Scouting entailed in the British Empire the multiplication of these courses, and, as the Founder through the person of the Camp Chief of Gilwell Park could not himself take charge of them all, he appointed Deputy Camp Chiefs. This title well explains their function. They were the Camp Chief's and therefore his (B.-P.'s) personal delegates for the conducting of courses whose oral substances were condensed into small manuals known as Handbooks. Thus uniformity of instruction was assured.

The institution of the Wood Badge proved itself so efficient that foreign countries adopted it. It was agreed that Training Courses, replicas of Gilwell Park, held in other countries could only be directed by leaders appointed on the authority of B.-P., as was the case in Great Britain. From this came the custom for Associations in all countries to send their prospective training leaders to take a

course at Gilwell Park. B.-P. then gave them an Honourable Charge which authorised them to act as Deputy Camp Chiefs.

The institution of Deputy Camp Chief thus became international. Its benefits were immense. World Scouting owes to it, in large measure, its unity of spirit and method, this happy blend of theory and practice which is its distinctive mark.

The fact that Gilwell Park was also the Training Centre of the (British) Boy Scouts Association troubled no one's susceptibilities because it was dominated by B.-P.'s personality in his unique combination as British Chief Scout and Chief Scout of the World.

Already, however, during the last years of his life, it became perceptible that the appointment of D.C.C.'s was founded on something of a fiction. The presence of B.-P. at Gilwell Park became more and more rare. Captain Gidney and later John Wilson replaced him almost completely. But, for all that, they worked in his name, and it was always he himself who signed the Honourable Charge.

In the discussion that followed, Lord Rowallan showed the way: 'As Chief Scout of the country in which Gilwell Park is situated, I should like to place on record that my Association continues to consider this camp as the property of the whole world.' The resultant resolution welcomed 'the assurance from the Chief Scout of the British Commonwealth and Empire that Gilwell Park will continue to be maintained as an international as well as a national Training Centre, and that the International Bureau will be associated with its international functions'. Gilwell had proved itself in the eyes and minds of World Scouting.

It is fair to add that, although B.-P. was not able to be very much at Gilwell, he was present, generally with his wife and family, at every Annual Gilwell Reunion when he was at home. He was also kept closely informed of everything that was happening, and approved personally any change of policy or principle. I continued to receive many notes and suggestions from him. These were never couched as orders. He had heard of this or that; he had seen this or that; he had thought of this or that. Would I try it out and see if it worked, and if so, whether it was worth while?

As I quoted at the 1957 Cambridge Conference, from Lionel Johnson's poem *A Friend*:

'Yes, I have seen him live,  
And owned my friend, a king:  
All that he came to give  
He gave: and I who sing  
His praise, bring all I have to bring.'

Pierre Delsuc's resume illustrated the natural growth of Scouting on which B.-P. had insisted. That has not been so entirely. Gradually Gilwell has filled an increasingly important part in the field of World Scouting; and this has been a deliberate expansion. That part is not solely concerned with Wood Badge training and other courses for the training of Scouters, nor with the increasing number of non-British Scouts who take advantage of the Boys' Camping Field. It is also concerned with ideas in respect of the practice of Scouting and with various trends, both national and international. It is not too much to claim that Gilwell had been privileged to preserve and display in practice that quality which we call the Scout spirit.

Continually, on courses and otherwise, Scouters are reminded that Gilwell or Wood Badge training is nothing new, and teaches nothing different from the Scouting originally suggested by its Founder. It aims, still, to show his ideas and methods and to be guided by his inspiration. Sometimes it fails with the individual, but on the vast majority of Scouters it has an effect which is lasting. The fact that in the forty years of its existence there have been only three Camp Chiefs is in itself an indication of the real value of continuity both in training and in Scouting.

These last two paragraphs vary only slightly from something I wrote a few years ago. Then I added: 'The same day as I had reached this point in my argument, I attended a meeting of the Governors of a Physical Training School in London. After the meeting four of us were chatting

informally together. The other three were “high-ranking” leaders in other voluntary movements – Boys’ Clubs, Boys’ Brigade and Sea Cadets. One of them remarked: “The start of Gilwell Park is a striking illustration of B.-P.’s imaginative genius.” All three, devoted to their own form of work for Boys, agreed that it was their considered opinion that Gilwell, more than anything else, had been the means of securing the continuity and development of Scouting and had contributed equally to the unity of Scouting in the world. Who was I to say them nay?

This cannot be a history of Gilwell Park as such, but it is only right to add certain details. The place has developed in every way – in scope, in the number of Courses and the number of Scouters attending them, and in the number of working hours that keep the staff occupied. So long as I have known it, there has existed a 2nd Gilwell Park Troop (the 1st comprising all holders of the Wood Badge wherever they may be). The 2nd is virtually a Rover Scout Crew – I prefer the old time-honoured name – small in numbers, but great in the service it renders to the camping side of Gilwell’s activities. Down the years, week-end after week-end, its members turn up to help in ways too numerous to mention. Such stalwarts as ‘Jim’ and ‘Jab’ started at Gilwell when I did, and still survive. Truly theirs is a Brotherhood of Service.

The size of the estate has been increased. Several acres to the west were acquired in 1939, after the outbreak of war – in itself an expression of faith. Other acres to the north-west were added shortly after the war was over. Then in 1953 the neighbouring property of Gilwellbury to the north fell vacant, and was immediately and wisely bought in by The Boy Scouts Association for use as a Scouters’ Hostel, It had always been a danger to privacy. Now the estate is self-contained, and almost surrounded by the lands of Epping Forest, owned by the City of London, which is legally bound to keep it in its natural state in perpetuity.

In 1938 Gilwell was the site of the First International Cub Conference. In 1952 it accommodated the First World Indaba – a kind of Jamboree for Scouters only. It has also opened its gates to two International Patrol Camps organised by the London Scout Council. Obviously, many other gatherings of a more national character have been staged there.

An International Training Team Conference was held in the late summer of 1954. It was attended by fifty Deputy Camp Chiefs and Akela Leaders from twenty-one countries – a formidable body of Scouters, carrying great weight and responsibility, physically and otherwise. I quote the present Camp Chief, John Thurman:

We shall never keep Scouting unified through rules and regulations, however high-sounding: it cannot be unified in any other way than through the unity of its leaders, unity of purpose, unity of ideal, and, whenever possible, unity of method and approach. Unity can only be achieved through the spirit of the men who lead, and through the spirit of the men and women who run the Troops and Packs. I would be the last to pretend that there should not be differences between one country and the next, and the exact following of a detailed pattern is not what I mean by unity. I am concerned that, through Training, we preserve the essential one-ness of B.-P.’s teaching, otherwise we shall degenerate into a well-meaning but ineffective movement, and the whole majesty of the vision that the Chief Scout of the World bequeathed to us will be lost, thrust aside for some narrow nationalistic point of view, or, still worse, for the pure selfishness of a few individuals . . . We are a very significant part of the pattern of any conception of a world-wide Scout Brotherhood.

That is the mission with, which. Gilwell Park has been entrusted.

There is another International Scout Centre which is allied to Gilwell Park in certain particulars, but is totally different in others. When the work on the Lotschberg tunnel near Kandersteg, in the Bernese Oberland of Switzerland, was finished, the large building near its mouth which had been used to house the labourers stood empty. The keen and imaginative mind of Major Walter de Bonstetten, Chief Scout of Switzerland, realised what a useful Scout alpine home the dilapidated chalet might become. With the backing of B.-P., the Swiss, Dutch and British Scout Associations, the International Bureau, and several individual Scouters together founded the International Scout Chalet Association. The building was bought, put into

some kind of repair and opened in 1923 as a hostel for the Scouts of all countries who wished to make use of it. In 1929 generous donors, notably Mortimer L. Schiff of the Boy Scouts of America, enabled the Chalet Association to buy a large tract of land on which the debris from the tunnel had been spread. Gradually, under the guidance of Andre Lombard of Frutigen, this stony ground has been covered with earth and trees and provides a variety of camp sites and also a Training Centre for the Federation des Eclaireurs Suisses.

The Chalet Association is the landlord of the property. The tenants are the Scouts' Alpine Club, which has the responsibility for keeping the chalet and grounds in order and for their use by Scouts of different nationalities, predominantly British. A devoted band of Swiss Scouters, mostly from Berne, have looked after the chalet and seen to its improvement and development year after year. Apart from my many visits to Kandersteg from 1926 on, as a Vice-President of the Scouts Alpine Club since 1939, I have some inner knowledge of the work involved. As was the case with Gilwell, the property was requisitioned by the military authorities in 1940 and required extensive repairs after the war.

Up to recent years the chalet was closed during the winter months, but now it is open for older Scouts who wish to use it for winter sports. Climbing courses under Alpine guides are organised each year, and arrangements made for tours in the neighbourhood. Apart from this, visiting Scouts are expected to be self-supporting and to fend for themselves. The chalet and club have become increasingly known and used. Many different countries have adopted rooms and furnished them in a characteristic manner. A memorial to the chalet's founder, Walter de Bonstetten, stands in the camping grounds.

Kandersteg has been the site of many World Scout gatherings. The 4th International Conference was held there in 1926. It was the meeting-place of the International Committee in 1930. The First World Rover Scout Moot was centred on the chalet and camping grounds in 1931, and the Fifth Moot in 1953. Again breaking new ground, the First International Commissioners' Get-together made grateful use of the Training Centre in 1948. So far as World Scout gatherings are concerned, Kandersteg outrivals Gilwell Park.

I must not omit mention of Roland House as an international home-from-home. Roland Philipps, younger son of Lord St. Davids, is known to the Scout world as the author of *The Patrol System* and *Letters to a Patrol Leader*, books which, next to *Scouting for Boys*, did more in the early days for a proper conception of the Scout method than any others. He became Commissioner for East London, and in 1913 bought a house in Stepney Green as a centre for his Scout work. He was killed in the 1914-18 war, and in his will bequeathed the house to East London Scouting. It was named Roland House, and, with subsequent extensions, has been used as a settlement for Scouters wishing to help the Movement in the area, and as an International Hostel for visiting Scouters (and Scouts) of other countries. It also contains a small residential boys' dormitory.

To many, Roland House is a place of pilgrimage. Associated with it as Hon. Wardens have been Percy B. Nevill, the present Chairman, who over a period of forty years has held many Commissioners' appointments at British Scout Headquarters, and the late Stanley Ince, a close friend of Roland, who devoted the whole of his Scout service to the East End of London. The area has changed much for the better since Roland's days, and Scouting may claim some part in this. Since my first year at Gilwell I have constantly remarked on the high standard of Scouting shown by the boys from the neighbourhood of Stepney Green. From first to last, Roland House stands as an example of good Scouting to the world.



Kandersteg

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## Scouting Grows Up

*Difficulties in the development of Scouting – existence of several bodies in one country – emigré Scouts – British Empire Jamboree, Wembley, 1924 – Second World jamboree, Ermelunden – ‘Three Musketeers’ – World Scout Championship – Third International Conference, Copenhagen – two important resolutions – Fourth International Conference, Kandersteg, 1926 – resolution on minorities – talk on ‘Scouting as a game’ – ‘Jamboree’ – B.-P.’s world visits – a startling dream – set-backs in Russia and Italy – Scouting inconsistent with totalitarianism*

**A**FTER the Olympia Jamboree the original Boy Scouts had grown to manhood, but the Movement as a whole had not as yet attained its full strength of body, mind and spirit. The Founder Members of the Boy Scouts International Conference had not necessarily accepted the full implications of the aims, principles and methods of Scouting. This in itself raised certain difficulties, the surmounting of which led to future complications. In more than one country the original national Scout Promise omitted the first clause of Duty to God, not necessarily purposely, but because the originators may have thought that it would not appeal to their boys. This meant the start of other Scout organisations with a more precise religious objective. I have referred to the founding of the K.F.U.M. (Y.M.C.A.) Spejderne i Danmark to supplement Det Danske Spejderkorps, although the two now work closely hand-in-hand together.

The register shows that two or more separate Founder Member Scout Associations were given recognition in Austria, Belgium and France. In the next seven years separate Associations were also recognised in Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Portugal, as well as Denmark. All these precedents added to the difficulties in after years in attempts to get different Scout bodies to co-

operate together before their country was registered with the International Bureau and became a member of the Conference.

Another problem was the existence of emigré Scouts in countries other than their motherland. The 'National Association' of the Russian Scouts was represented at Olympia and became a Founder Member. Before the Revolution there was a fairly strong Russian Boy Scouts Association, with the Czar as Patron. Many of the Scouters, if few of the Scouts, escaped from the country and were centred mostly in Paris. In 1929 the Association of Armenian Scouts, also centred in Paris, was given recognition as a member of the Conference. Fifteen years later this problem of emigré Scouts became very acute, as we shall see.

Great Britain held an Imperial Jamboree at Wembley, Middlesex, at the beginning of August 1924, in connection with the great Empire Exhibition. Over 1,000 Scouts from 25 parts of the Commonwealth and Empire accepted the invitation. Ten thousand Scouts were present from the United Kingdom. The displays and ceremonies took place in Wembley Stadium. The Scouts were camped nearby in Wembley Paddocks in very cramped quarters. H.R.H. the Prince of Wales witnessed the displays in the stadium, presided at a Camp Fire and stayed the night in a tent in the Paddocks. On different days the chief guests at the Stadium were H.R.H. the Duke of York (to become King George VI) and Rudyard Kipling, on the Wolf Cubs' Day, when he saw how parts of his *Jungle Books* were dramatised and used to bring atmosphere and interest into the Cub programme.

Although the Wembley Jamboree had a smattering of foreign Scout visitors, it was not a part of the world Scout history. It did, however, help to provide a wider variety of members at the Second World Jamboree in Denmark which immediately succeeded it. The site of the Jamboree was at Ermelunden, a few miles north of Copenhagen. Denmark is a comparatively small country with a comparatively small Scout population. Doubts were expressed beforehand as to whether it would be possible for the Danish Scouts to make a success of the undertaking. The main host was Christian Holm, President of Det Danske Spejderkorps, whose daughter became known as 'Kim', Friend of all the World. The three Scouters responsible for the preparation, organisation and administration had barely come to full manhood, but they made a brilliant success of a World Jamboree, through its atmosphere, friendliness and spirit. It could be characterised as a World Scout Party enjoyed by all. Ove Holm was the Organising Secretary and Administrator, Jens Hvass the Camp Chief, and Tage Carstensen in charge of all international aspects.

I christened them the 'Three Musketeers', and we have remained close friends ever since. Ove Holm, of whom I have already written, is the Chief Scout of Det Danske Spejderkorps. He was for many years a Member of the International Committee and Chairman of its Finance Sub-Committee, and was awarded the Bronze Wolf in 1949. Jens Hvass, a State forester, is Divisional Scout Commissioner in North Jutland, and was for many years Commissioner for Training and a Deputy Camp Chief for that purpose. He conceived the idea of Jamborettes, and was awarded the Bronze Wolf in 1957. Tage Carstensen has retired from the legal profession and is a landowner in Jutland: he remained International Commissioner for many years and founded the Scout Blood Transfusion Service, which celebrated its Jubilee in 1957 and of which he continues to be Chairman. This is a record of which any country can be proud, and illustrates that Scouting is not just an incident in a man's life, but, as often as not, continues with him for the whole of his lifetime.

The Second World Jamboree was officially opened on August 10th by Rear-Admiral Carl Carstensen, acting as the personal representative of King Christian X. Although not connected with the Scout Movement before, he took to it as a duck to water. B.-P. said of him at the end that daily he had watched his blue naval trousers getting shorter and shorter. The two struck up a personal friendship, and it is reported that when B.-P. was on the Baltic cruise in 1933 he sent a telegram to the Admiral asking him to meet him. Carstensen was in attendance on King Christian. He showed him the telegram, and said: 'My other Chief has sent for me.' He went.

At the Paris Conference it had been arranged that Francis Gidney should act as Chief Judge of the International Scout Competition that was to be staged during the Jamboree. When the time

came, I was asked to take his place, and arrived at Ermelunden on the night before the opening to find everyone working at full pressure and visualising a sleepless night. In the morning everything was ready. Compared with subsequent Jamborees, numbers were small, just over 5,000, but this is perhaps why it was all so successful. Fourteen countries had entered composite Troops for the World Scout Championship. It carried on right through the whole week of the camp and was a good test of scoutcraft and stamina. The items consisted of turn-out (including camp equipment), camp-craft, camp hygiene, camp routine (discipline, punctuality, good behaviour, etc.), camp-fire entertainment, songs and yells, folk-dancing, swimming, two separate individual Scout contests in handcraft and ingenuity, a Patrol obstacle race and a 24-hour Patrol hike. It was a good all-over test of Scout ability and training, and of great value as a demonstration, particularly at this period of Scouting's life. Everything was carried out in the best possible spirit; but it was decided, on my recommendation, at the 1926 Conference that the Championship should not be repeated, as it carried with it the possible dangers of over-nationalisation, the reverse of international goodwill and Scout Brotherhood. As is only too apparent from time to time, international sporting competitions suffer from these same dangers.

The Championship was deservedly won by the Boy Scouts of America, whose Troop – in modern parlance – consisted of Scouts with a higher I.Q. than the others. Great Britain came second and Hungary third, with a good record of practical scoutcraft. My duties as Chief Judge were of a supervisory character, and as a referee when the Danish judges disagreed. I found I had also to watch some of their awards to the British Troop, so as to offset their natural assumption that British Scouting must be the best, as the Movement started in that country, and B.-P. was born there. All this meant that I was continually about the camp and its neighbourhood all day, and most of the night at times. The Cambridge University Rover Scout crew observed this, and told me that any time I passed by their little camp there would always be something for me to eat and drink. And it was so. When I landed at Rangoon in 1952 I was met by a Burmese barrister who had been part of the Rover Scout crew at Ermelunden; he said that his job there had been to see that there was always a clean knife, fork and spoon ready for me. Others of that little band are also still connected with Scouting in one way or another.

B.-P. arrived in Copenhagen a day or two after the Jamboree opened. He was received by a welcoming parade of all the Scouts in the Stadium. Just as he began to speak, the rain came down in torrents and everyone was soaked. The nickname given him of *Baden Mester* (the Danish for Bath Superintendent) was only too descriptive then and afterwards. We returned to the camp to find it a lake, with tents down and standing water everywhere. The people of Copenhagen came to the rescue spontaneously, and practically everyone was carried off to a dry house for the night. My hike tent in the competition area was still standing. I slung my bedding out of a puddle on to the drier side and disappeared between the blankets, to wake twelve hours later with the sun shining and practically everything dry again.

On the final Sunday the Scouts were inspected near the Royal Hunting Lodge by King Christian in pouring rain, and that afternoon the Chief Scout of the World presented the Competition prizes (held by their winners for all time). 'I have seen great numbers of Scouts in my life,' B.-P. said, 'but I have never seen any as wet as you are!'

Other memories are of the Gilwell Reunion – the first at an international gathering – of being carried off uncomfortably shoulder-high by the Egyptians, of the splendidly tuneful and colourful camp-fires under the beech trees in Ulvedalen, led so brilliantly in many different tongues by Sven Knudsen, and of the friendliness of everyone, Scouts, Scouters and visitors. It was a demonstration, more even than Olympia could have been, of the Law that 'A Scout is a Friend to all and a Brother to every other Scout.' If I have dealt at such length with the Second World Jamboree, it is because it was a prophecy of things to come, and well merited B.-P.'s final judgment:

Copenhagen 1924 will always stand out in my mind as a tangible example of the Scout spirit in practice; as a big step forward in-International Scouting; and – above all – as a straw showing that the wind is blowing quietly, but none the less surely, in the right direction.

The Third International Conference was held in the Town Hall in. Copenhagen, when the Scouts were enjoying the hospitality of their Danish hosts in their homes. This, again, has been a feature of most, if not all, subsequent Jamborees, and adds greatly to their educational value. Thirty-two countries were represented at the Conference, which was also opened by Rear-Admiral Carstensen in his breezy manner.

Two important resolutions were passed which were to guide and guard World Scouting down the years. These signposts still stand.

First, and all-important:

The Scout Movement has no tendency to weaken, but, on the contrary, to strengthen individual religious belief. The Scout Law requires that a Scout shall truly and sincerely practise his religion, and the policy of the Movement forbids any kind of sectarian propaganda at gatherings of mixed faiths.

The second outlined an important matter of policy and procedure:

This Conference desires to emphasise that in pursuance of the main object of the International Bureau, applications from national Boy Scout organisations for registration are not only welcomed, but cordially invited. To preserve the essential unity of the world Boy Scout Movement and to ensure that the world Movement shall have as its unalterable foundation the recognition of Scout Brotherhood, regardless of race, creed or class, certain conditions are essential. It is the sense of this Conference that the International Committee, in adjudicating on applications for registration, apart from compliance with ordinary conditions, should in so far as possible insist:

(a) that where more than one organisation exists there shall be a federation based on the common Scout objective;

(b) that there should be no discrimination as to admission to membership to fellow subjects or citizens for any reason of race, creed or politics.

In the wording may be detected the hand or voice of James E. West, Chief Scout Executive of the Boy Scouts of America from its foundation. He acted as Chairman of the Conference Resolutions Committee right through to 1939, when he was elected a Member of the International Committee.

The Fourth Conference was held at Kandersteg towards the end of August 1926. It had not been preceded by a World Jamboree, but the mountains and valleys of Switzerland contributed their own effective atmosphere, and the country's age-long traditions of tri-national unity and peace were an effective background to any Scout Conference.

I travelled out with B.-P. and Hubert Martin and the staff of me Bureau. I had the special task allotted to me of looking after the Chief Scout, to safeguard him both from others and from himself. He was full of good spirits, and his pencil was often in his hand. He was looking out of the train window as we passed up the Bernese Oberland, when suddenly he gave a shout of joy: 'Just look at old----!', naming a hard-working British Headquarters Commissioner. Walking on the road alongside the railway line was a Swiss, bowed down by the heavy rucksack on his back. In a few minutes a perfect caricature of the said Commissioner was on the sketch-book in front of B.-P.

At Kandersteg there may not have been an Admiral of the Swiss Navy present, but there were three others: Vice-Admiral A. V. Campbell, Sea Scout Commissioner of Great Britain, Vice-Admiral J. J. Rambonnet, Chief Scout of Holland, and Rear-Admiral Tsuneha Sano, Deputy Camp Chief of Japan. The three old salts were continuously together, and added an extra tang to the mountain air. There was a visit from the President of the Swiss Confederation, and from H.R.H. Prince Chichibu of Japan.



One night there was to be a meeting of the various Balkan delegations to thresh out some vexed question. Hubert Martin wanted the Chief to be present. I said that he might be required to act as an arbitrator at the end, and that he shouldn't be there when the squabble was going on.

'No, I want him there now,' said Hubert, 'I'm going up to fetch him.'

'You can go,' I retorted, 'but you won't get him. I've locked the door and the key is in my pocket.'

This was the only difference I ever had with my predecessor as Director of the International Bureau.

As to the Conference itself, I fall back upon what I wrote of it shortly after the end of the Second World War and as a preparation for future Conferences.

B.-P. opened it with a stirring claim and a sturdy principle:

Since the war there have been numbers of international conferences of many kinds, but I think that we can justly claim that ours is unique in at least two particulars.

First, we aim to teach, in a definite practical way, brotherhood between the oncoming citizens of the different countries.

Secondly, we teach not so much by precept and instruction as by personal leadership and example.

People will tell us that character and behaviour are entirely matters of heredity. But experience tells some of us that this is not altogether the case, and that boys also largely follow the lead given them by their elders. In one country they watch with admiration the prowess of their fathers and elder brothers in a ball game, and in their turn they become ball players. In another, if they see their fathers adept in thieving or brave as soldiers, they will themselves shape their careers in similar directions. We are told 'they have it in their blood', but I think they gain the example equally through the eye. And that is why and where we make our success with Scouts. What the Scouter does, his boys will do. The Scouter is reflected in his Scouts.

Let us, therefore, be careful how we go. As a first step, let us be clear in our own minds as to what exactly is our aim and what we are here for.

We are gathered here to consider ways and means of developing our movement on the most practical lines. It is incumbent on us, therefore, in our deliberations, ourselves to extend that mutual goodwill and consideration towards one another which we would wish our Scouters and Scouts in their turn to practise.

There were three days of discussions and two days of excursions. On the first excursion day the Chief went fishing in a mountain lake, going up and down on horseback whilst I carried his fishing gear on foot. He caught nothing, but enjoyed the solitude. I caught a much better view, after leaving him by the side of his lake, from a neighbouring mountain. On the second day – a trip to Interlaken – he could not play hookey, as the delegates were the guests of the Swiss Federal Council at an official luncheon. In his welcome to them, Dr Hiberlin, the President, said of B.-P.: 'In his person we greet the Chief and – more even – the spirit itself, the very soul of the Boy Scout Movement. Youth needs not only a chief, youth needs a hero. Here he is!'

B.-P. in reply emphasised and developed his constant conference theme:

The Scout in his Promise undertakes to do his duty to his king or country only in the second place. His first duty is to God. It is with this idea before us, and reckoning that God is the one Father of us all, that we Scouts count ourselves a brotherhood, despite the differences among us of country, creed or class. We realise that in addition to the interests of our own particular country there is a higher mission before us, namely, the promotion of the Kingdom of God—that is, the rule of peace and goodwill upon earth. In the Scouts each form of religion is respected and its active practice encouraged, and through the spread of our brotherhood in all countries we have the opportunity of developing the spirit of mutual goodwill and understanding ... With these noble mountains around us, standing high and looking unmoved over centuries of men's petty affairs, they warn us with a new sense of proportion to aim high and to look wide.

This Conference did a great deal in connection with the business and administrative side of Scouting. There were questions of Scouting's recognition as an Institution of Public Utility, of the Unification of Badges (never even now achieved), of the Legal Protection of Titles, Uniforms and Badges (in which some considerable advance has been made), and of developing Conference and Jamboree arrangements. There was a discussion on the pressing and difficult problem of Minority Scouts (not necessarily to be identified with Emigré Scouts). This led to an important resolution:

The Conference earnestly exhorts the National Boy Scout Associations in countries where there are minorities to give these minorities the right to form Scout Troops, which, while belonging to the National Association and subject to their statutes, have the right to use their own language in their inner life and to nominate their own Scoutmasters and leaders, who, however, must be citizens of the State. The Conference further resolves that in its opinion any difficulty concerning Scouts belonging to a nationality in a minority in a State should be dealt with directly between the Boy Scout Association of their original State and that of the State in which they are citizens. In the event of the two Associations after serious consideration being unable to agree, the question should be submitted to the International Committee through the International Bureau for definite solution and decision.

This may, thirty years later, need some explanation. After the First World War, national boundaries had been changed in no small measure. I may instance Austria and Hungary, the Balkan States and others. Count Paul Teleki, an eminent geographer, had been on some of the various boundary commissions. He had been elected a member of the Boy Scouts International Committee, and was in a position to add informed opinion to any such questions as might be referred to them. The problem, in a variant form, was to become more acute after the Second World War.

But the Conference, apart from Minority Scouts, was not solely concerned with the machine – always a danger as an organisation grows and takes form – but, more important, with the product. Sessions of an educative Scout character were not neglected. The best came from Guérin-Desjardins, who had enough to do, as it was, in his habitual function as Official Interpreter. His subject was *How to Run Scouting as a Game*, and he opened by saying that he was on a Cub Course at Gilwell when his International Commissioner wrote and asked him to talk on the subject. 'I believe,' Guérin said, 'he imagines there is almost nothing to do at Gilwell Park, and that he wanted to make sure that I would get at least one "spare-time activity"'. My first thought was that a Training Centre is not a suitable place to prepare a talk. I had quite enough to do with my knots, my cooking, my songs, my jungle dances, and . . . what not. But after further consideration, I thought that I was doing nothing else than "playing the game" myself. ... At Gilwell Park they came to the conclusion that the best way to show how Scouting should be run as a game was not to treat it as a theory, but go straight to the point and show how we should carry it out ourselves. I have tried it, and I found when the course was over that I had, at the same time, prepared my paper.'

This is as good an exposition of the Gilwell training method as any.

It might be thought that, apart from the growing number of Scout countries and of Scouts in the world, the development of 'unity of purpose and common understanding' was left to Jamborees and Conferences, with help from Gilwell Park as an International Training Centre. This was far from the case. Interchanges of visits and correspondence between Scouts of different countries were going on continuously. The first record of a Scout visit abroad is of a party of British Scouts who went to Germany in April 1909 at the invitation of the Wandervögel. Later, before the First World War, other visits were made from and to the United Kingdom. There were interchanges of Scouts between the Scandinavian countries and in other parts of Western Europe. After the Olympia Jamboree these practices continued in an increasing degree. Many who at Olympia had got to know each other started to correspond and kept it up, some for life. This, again, was greatly extended after the Copenhagen Jamboree, the hospitality given being an added

incentive. International Commissioners, too, were appointed in every Boy Scouts Association, and it was their duty to encourage and make arrangements for the exchange of visits, correspondence, and camps abroad. Foreign Scouts from neighbouring countries were invited as guests to any national Scout camps that might be held.

Hubert Martin, besides being Hon. Director of the Bureau, remained also as the British International Commissioner and did a very great deal to foster these interchanges in that capacity. As a young man he had done the European tour, at his father's behest, and thus early acquired an international outlook. In 1911, as a Scoutmaster, he was one of the first to take his Troop to Belgium. He repeated the visit in 1914, and was actually in Ghent with his Scouts on August 2nd at the outbreak of war, and had considerable difficulty in getting them safely home. After 1920, in one or other of his joint capacities, he paid visits to no less than twenty-one European countries – from Finland to Greece, from Spain to Rumania – and to Egypt, North Africa, Palestine and Madeira. In 1928 he was invited to the United States to make a short tour and to receive the award of the Silver Buffalo from the Boy Scouts of America. He had also after the First World War started an S.O.S. (Save Our Scouts) Fund. Thousands of Scouts in the devastated areas were in need, and he felt that it would be in the real spirit of brotherhood if their brother Scouts could help them in their distress. This fund was continued by him personally and he used it for the benefit of many foreign Scouts.

I have never been able to understand how, in addition to his professional duties, Hubert Martin was able to carry on not only as British International Commissioner and Director of the Bureau, but also as County Commissioner for Middlesex. The only solution I, as a married man, can find is that he was a bachelor! But that explanation does not suffice, for my wife for some thirty years could frequently describe herself as a grass-widow.

One of the original duties of the Director was to arrange for 'the publication of *Jamboree* and the collaboration therein of correspondents throughout the world'. For the first twenty years of its existence *Jamboree* was bi-lingual, all its contents being printed in both English and French, the official languages of the International Conference. It also had an illustrated inset on art paper which was specially useful to decorate the notice boards of Scout headquarters and Patrol corners. Despite the good turns rendered by several French translators, this quarterly publication was a great strain on the staff of the Bureau, and it was difficult to print up-to-date news. But the journal did provide a valuable link and a means of disseminating information and trends of thought. B.-P. himself was a frequent contributor, and many of 'Gilcraft's more technical writings were reproduced. The contents of *Jamboree* had to be cut drastically in July 1940 because of shortage of paper, and for the same reason the first number for 1941 was published in English only. The run-down continued, and in 1942 the first number of a 'special issue' appeared as a four-page leaflet which was distributed free to those countries and former subscribers with whom correspondence could be maintained, no matter what delays occurred.

In 1946 the International Committee took its courage in both hands and decided to publish a new series of *Jamboree* to come out monthly, the first number appearing in May of that year with the subtitle *Journal of World Scouting*. Any idea of producing a bi-lingual magazine had to be abandoned on financial grounds, but throughout the new series occasional articles and items of news appeared in French.

I was fortunate enough to prevail on my old colleague, E. E. Reynolds, to edit *Jamboree*, a task which he carried through for ten years. His great knowledge of the fundamental principles of Scouting and his researches into the life of the Founder were invaluable in restoring old traditions and in steering World Scouting along well-proved paths.

In January 1955 another change took place, and *World Scouting* was issued in a new format as a 'Sequel to *Jamboree* (1920-1954)'.

This one of the Director's duties has been maintained without a break, despite many and various difficulties, and has contributed very greatly to the purpose of the Boy Scouts International Conference.

Another very important factor in development during this adolescent period was the visits paid by the Chief Scout of the World. It was fortunate that he and his wife were both fond of travelling. He tells of a dream he had that he had died and was received at the gate by St Peter, who asked him what he had done to deserve admittance to Heaven. He did his best to put his own case, but was met by the rejoinder: 'Have you ever been to Japan?' and had to answer, 'No, but\_\_\_\_\_'. He woke up and decided that he must visit Japan, which he did in 1912. I have told of the importance of his visit to India in 1921 and something of its outcome. He and Lady Baden-Powell then went on to visit Burma, Ceylon, Palestine and Egypt before returning home. In 1922 he was in Belgium.

In 1923 B.-P. went to Canada to attend an International Education Conference, and with his wife saw many Scouts and Guides at various centres, returning via the United States. As a result, perhaps, the Boy Scouts of America invited them both to pay a return visit as their guests in 1926. It was publicly acknowledged many times during this visit that it was B.-P. who was the Founder of the Boy Scout Movement, but that both Thompson Seton and Dan Beard had made valuable contributions to its national aspect. He came back to the Kandersteg Conference, and then with the whole family sailed to South Africa for a period of seven months. The children were sent to school there, and he and Lady Baden-Powell travelled extensively. As well as promoting Scouting and Guiding in South and Central Africa, B.-P. spent a happy time renewing old acquaintances and visiting the places he had known in his other life as a soldier.

He returned from South Africa in time to attend a National Jamboree in Sweden, and in 1928 went to Hungary to attend the Girl Guides International Conference. In that year he also paid a visit to the Irish Free State. One would have imagined that the Coming-of-Age celebrations would have sufficed his energy for 1929. Not a bit of it! Earlier in that year he saw Scouts in Belgium, France, Portugal and Spain.

There were many critics of Scouting who accused B.-P. of drawing a large salary and going off on world tours out of monies contributed by and for the Scouts themselves. Nothing could be further from the truth. He drew no salary as Chief Scout; it was always an honorary or unpaid office. At times, when he was specially invited as a welcome guest, his hosts insisted on paying all his expenses. In the main, however, he paid for his own travelling by writing a book. The royalties on *Scouting for Boys* and other foundation books on Scouting went to The Boy Scouts Association. His books on travel and personal reminiscences enabled him to see the world and the world's Scouts and Guides, and, what was equally important, to be seen and heard by them.

The rise of International Scouting was not always a gradual ascent. There were set-backs. I have already alluded to the fact that the Revolution of 1917 inevitably meant the disappearance of Scouts from Russia. Italy withdrew from the Scout Movement in 1928, after Mussolini had assumed complete power. Two Scout Associations had been formed in Italy in the early period after 1910; one was Catholic and its membership confined to Catholic boys, the other was without any particular Church connection. Both flourished, and there were no serious quarrels between them. Italian Scouts were represented at the Olympia and Copenhagen Jamborees and at the four International Conferences. Their last official appearance was at Kandersteg, when Mussolini's *Balilla* had already been started as a selective youth movement to bolster up the Party. Scouting continued to exist on sufferance until 1928, when it was abolished and forbidden by edict. Certain Scout Troops and Rover Scout Crews continued to meet in secret, but it was a dangerous practice and no encouragement was given from outside. A few personal connections were still maintained and correspondence exchanged, but without mention of Scouting. B.-P. had an audience with Mussolini in 1933, when on a visit to Rome; but it was then made clear that Scouting as such could not be allowed, although Mussolini insisted that he had incorporated a number of the Scout ideas and practices into his *Balilla*. Their theoretical training was, however, entirely on political and military lines, and designed to fit them for membership of the Party and as faithful followers of the Duce alone.

Italy was the forerunner of many subsequent disappointments. It is obvious, to me at any rate, that no form of totalitarian government can possibly tolerate Scouting with all its aims and principles. It would be completely illogical to do so. Scouting aims to train a boy to be self-reliant and self-supporting. There is need for both in what are known as free democratic countries. Scouting believes in the sanctity of the individual soul. In the main, the democratic state exists for the benefit and welfare of its individual members. They do not exist to serve and obey the dictates of the state. The ideas, or ideals if you like, of Scouting are in opposition to any form of totalitarian government. The two cannot exist side by side. So Mussolini, and those who followed in his steps in other countries, were in my opinion logical, if utterly mistaken. I myself cannot see any hope of bridging this gulf, rather would I believe the suppression of the Scout Movement by all forms of totalitarian government to be a tribute to its efficacy and its principles. Scouting is not *anti-anyone* or -anything; but it is most definitely pro-religions, pro-stability, pro-loyalty to one's fellow men. It takes its stand on the first part of the Promise, and on its belief that the individual gradually develops himself to take a right and proper place in his family, his neighbourhood, his country and the world, without missing any of these stages.

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### Coming-of-Age

*The date – 1907 or 1908? – a 21st birthday party for those who camped on Brownsea Island – Sir Percy Everett – his recollections of B.-P. – a characteristic letter from the Chief – planning the Coming-of-Age Jamboree – a formidable pair – visit of the Prince of Wales – a missing badge – message from King George V – the ‘Jam Roll’ gift – other gifts – ‘a funny old man in knickerbockers’ – B.-P.’s closing message – post-Jamboree developments*

LOOKING back, I wonder why it was that the Coming-of-Age of the Movement was dated from the publication of *Scouting for Boys* in 1908 – the first part appeared in January – and the subsequent founding of The Boy Scouts Association. I might liken the latter to the baptism of a somewhat precocious infant that was born on Brownsea Island in August 1907. It is true also that some Patrols and Troops of Boy Scouts started off on their own before the end of 1907. I was present at both the 1924 and 1926 Conferences, at which it was decided and confirmed that the 21st anniversary should be celebrated in 1929 in England, as the country of Scouting's origin. I don't remember anyone questioning the date, although it meant postponing the quadrennial Jamboree for a year and also the normal biennial Conference. The point is somewhat academic, but it is important that the age of Scouting should be certain. In after years I had to use some strong arguments to ensure that the Golden Jubilee should be celebrated in 1957. One of the strongest was that it coincided with B.-P.'s Centenary.

B.-P. himself was wiser. He held a 21st birthday party in July 1928 for those who had camped at Brownsea Island with him. Twelve were present on this memorable occasion at his home, Pax Hill in Hampshire. Amongst them was Sir Percy W. Everett, who had assisted B.-P. at the Brownsea Island camp, and who even before then was his liaison officer, so to speak, with Pearsons, the publishers of *Scouting for Boys* and many other of B.-P.'s Scout books and those of other writers, including the mysterious 'Gilcraft', who represented the literary side of Gilwell Park.

Although he did not come to the fore in the international field of Scouting, to omit mention of Percy Everett would be a grave error, since he backed B.-P. up in all his plans and endeavours for both Scouting and Guiding, and was for thirty years Treasurer of The Girl Guides Association. He was also the moving spirit behind the 'Goodwill' cruises in 1933,

1934 and 1938, represented B.-P. at a Corroboree in South Australia in 1936, and made a Scout tour in Canada and the U.S.A. in 1939. He was then Deputy Chief Scout in Great Britain. Particularly in my first few years at Gilwell Park I had a good deal to do with him, and realised his worth. His forty-five years' devotion to B.-P. is best illustrated by what he himself wrote of his memories of Brownsea Island:

I can see B.-P. still as he stands in the flickering light of the fire – an alert figure, full of the joy of life, now grave, now gay, answering all manner of questions, imitating the call of birds, showing how to stalk a wild animal, flashing out a little story, dancing and singing round the fire, pointing a moral, not in actual words but in such an elusive and yet convincing way that everyone present, boy or man, was ready to follow him wherever he might lead.

Percy Everett, too, was responsible for one of the many characteristic letters that I received from the Chief. We were together at a Conference at which I had talked on Leadership. I had said that a Scouter's warrant, signed by the Chief Scout, was his commission, and demanded loyalty and obedience to him. Jokingly I added that as I did not then possess a warrant, I was less bound than my audience were. P.W., as he was commonly known, passed on the tale to the Chief, who went into action immediately:

I hear that, in speaking the other day on the subject of loyalty being due to the Chief Scout by those who held his warrant, you mentioned, incidentally, that you were not one of these. I hasten, therefore, before you rebel, to put the collar on you by sending you – better late than never – a warrant in the shape of the Honourable Charge as Camp Chief. May you live long to exercise it with success.

The celebration of Scouting's Coming-of-Age laid a heavy weight of responsibility on The (British) Boy Scouts Association, but they were as equal to the occasion then as they were to prove in 1957. Colonel Granville Walton, on retirement from India, was roped in as Hon. Organising Secretary of the Coming-of-Age Jamboree. Although he had not previously been actively connected with the Movement, he was known to be an able administrator, and to be anxious to take up honorary work of a social character. Brigadier-General E. G. Godfrey-Faussett – a 'find' on a course at Gilwell – was later appointed Jamboree Camp Chief. He and Walton were a formidable pair, and once they had made up their minds, few could say them nay. G.-F. became Commissioner for Training, as was also his son later in Ceylon. 'Gran' Walton too, having made his mark, was not allowed off the hook. He became Headquarters Commissioner for Rovers, and afterwards Overseas Commissioner. He and his wife accompanied the Chief and Lady Baden-Powell on a tour in Australia. He presided at the discussions during the First World Rover Moot at Kandersteg. On his retirement from active Scout service in 1955, he was awarded the Bronze Wolf by the International Committee.

World Scouting had grown considerably since 1920, and it was obvious that the Coming-of-Age Jamboree would entail the presence of far larger numbers than at Olympia and Copenhagen. A Scout census taken at the end of 1928 showed that there were practically 400,000 Scouts, including Cubs, Boy Scouts, Rovers and Scouters in the United Kingdom, and getting on for 300,000 more in the British Dominions and colonies. The International Bureau gave the all-over world total as 1,871,316. This showed an increase in numbers of over half a million since 1922 – almost forty per cent. The Movement had certainly grown in strength and stature.

A site for the Jamboree was offered by the Corporation of Birkenhead, and most gratefully accepted. Arrowe Park was fortunately named, and gave B.-P. the idea for the Jamboree symbol: the Golden Arrow.

It would take too long to chronicle the Coming-of-Age Jamboree as a whole. *The Jamboree Story* contains a full account of all the World Jamborees from 1924 to 1955. The official opening was performed by H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, President of the Boy Scouts

## SCOUTING ROUND THE WORLD

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Association and one of B.-P.'s personal friends and advisers. As a token of the esteem in which he had been held in Canada as Governor-General, the 'Connaught' Troop of the Canadian contingent formed a guard of honour on his arrival. I had been fortunate enough to safeguard H.R.H. when he came to Calcutta in 1920 to open the Bengal Legislative Assembly. At Arrowe Park my sole duty was to safeguard the Chief Scout, no mean task considering the occasion.

Two sentences from the Duke's opening speech must be mentioned:

The future historian will add the name of Scouting's Founder to the roll of the world's reformers. Few men have rendered greater service to the cause of humanity than Robert Baden-Powell, and none deserve a higher place in the Temple of Fame, and in the esteem of their fellow men.

A liberal estimate gives the total number of Scouts in camp as 50,000, drawn from seventy different parts of the world. The world-famous journalist, Sir Philip Gibbs, summed up his impressions thus:

As I write, I still hear the storms of cheers which are rising up to the Chief Scout, as the homage of the young knights of all nations to the veteran who knew their secret, their passwords, and the game of life. Tonight, round the camp-fires, they will sing their national songs and dance their old folk dances. It is a fairy-tale come true.

That last thought was echoed by His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury (Cosmo Gordon Lang who, when Archbishop of York, preached at the First World Jamboree in 1920). In his sermon at the great Thanksgiving Service on August 4th, the anniversary of the start of the First World War, he said:

Twenty-one years ago a soldier dreamed a dream . . . His dream was that the spirit of the good Scout might make the boys of his own nation healthy, happy and helpful, and fit them for loyal service to their country and their God. Today, 'Behold this dreamer cometh', and he cometh not alone, but with a comradeship of nearly two million boys belonging to forty-two countries. His dream has become one of the great realities of the world.

H.R.H. the Prince of Wales spent the night of August 1st in camp. His valet came to me in a great state: 'I've forgotten to bring the Prince's Scout badge to wear with his uniform. Can you please let me have one?' I gave him the one presented to me by Sir Alfred Pickford when he enrolled me as a Scout in Calcutta twelve years before, with strict injunctions to let me have it back. I never recovered it.

His Royal Highness took the march past in front of the royal box in the vast stadium the next afternoon. Everyone was tense when he read out a message from His Majesty King George V:

I am keenly disappointed that it is impossible for me to be present on this memorable occasion, but I am glad that my eldest son is with you all as my representative.

It has given me great pleasure to mark this signal event in your history by conferring a peerage on the Chief Scout. Ever since its inception he has been the mainspring of this Great Adventure, from its small and almost humble beginning until today, when you number nearly two million in your ranks. The recognition of his valuable services to the cause will be welcomed by all who realise the importance of training the world's youth both in mind and body . . .

I wish God speed to you all. May the Boy Scout Movement go from strength to strength in development and prosperity.

What one might describe as disciplined pandemonium then broke loose.

The Scouts of the World had contributed a penny each to provide B.-P. with a Coming-of-Age gift. Never were pennies so cheerfully given; the difficulty was to refuse their offers of more. The birthday fund was devoted to a portrait of B.-P. by David Jagger and to a Rolls-Royce and caravan. Lady Baden-Powell, Peter, Heather and Betty were present with the Chief Scout in the arena when the presentation was made by Christian Holm, the host of the Copenhagen Jamboree, in the midst of all the Scouts in camp. The family drove off in the 'Jam Roll' through the massed assembly. I was seated in front with the driver, prepared to jump out and do battle with the mob of excited, enthusiastic and hero-worshipping Scouts who hemmed us in on all sides. Eventually we got safely away without any damage to anyone – or to the car.

Two other gifts had important results. On the night of his arrival Mortimer L. Scruff, over a cup of coffee, presented H.R.H. the Prince of Wales with a cheque for £10,000 to be used on behalf of The Boy Scouts Association. I carried the cheque, with the endorsement 'Edward P.', in my Scout shirt pocket for a couple of days before I could bank it. I have a note in B.-P.'s handwriting: 'Schiff's Gift: £10,000. I spend the interest in promoting International Scouting. Martin keeps the account. After my death the Chief Commissioner of the B.S. Asscn. to administer the fund in consultation with the Director International Bureau.'

When the International Bureau was divorced from the British International Department, I surrendered the right of the Director to be consulted. This World Friendship Fund is of great service in promoting the interchange of Scouts and Scouters between Britain and other countries, and making possible the attendance of Scouters from abroad at Courses at Gilwell.

One afternoon, when I was with B.-P. watching the displays in the arena, a Rover Scout came up to me and said: 'There's a funny old man in knickerbockers who insists that he must see the Chief, as he has something to give him.' I went down to the entrance to the stands, and at first glance the description seemed to be correct; but a study of the man's face showed character and breeding, as well as determination. I took him up and he had a cup of tea with B.-P. in the royal box. He was Mr. T. H. Whitehead, head of the aircraft factory bearing his name, and what he had to give was a cheque for £5,000 to help Scouts to migrate and settle in the Dominions and Colonies. He and B.-P. became firm friends, and on his death the B.S. A. became residuary legatees of his estate to the extent of over £40,000, as a further aid to Scouts desiring to migrate. On small incidents depend mighty issues.

Came the closing day on August 13th, when B.-P. distributed replicas of the symbol of the Jamboree – the Golden Arrow – to the leaders of all the different contingents: 'Now I send you forth to your homeland, bearing the sign of peace and goodwill and fellowship to all your fellow men. Carry that arrow on and on, so that all may know of the brotherhood of men.'

The Coming-of-Age celebration was over, and Scouting had grown up.

There is an interesting commentary on the Jamboree in that the same summer no less than 475 parties of British Scouts, totalling over 9,000, camped and hiked in Algeria, Austria, Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, Holland, Hungary, Norway, Poland, Sweden and Switzerland. And so it was to go on year after year, without fuss or bother, without headlines in the Press. The arrow was indeed carried on and on in a spirit of friendliness and brotherhood.

B.-P. himself was quick to seize the opportunity. Immediately after the Jamboree, he wrote:

The standing which Scouting has attained through the Jamboree gives us a unique opportunity for making a bold advance; but this should be on well-established lines, and should be set in train without delay before the inspiration of the Jamboree has died down.

In Great Britain a Development Committee, under Sir Alfred Pickford, was appointed, and similar steps were taken in other countries. A new stage was reached in the evolution of Rover Scouts; enquiries were made to see how the potential power of Old Scouts could be effectively harnessed. At Gilwell we were concerned with the standards of camping, and,



taking a leaf out of Canada's book, drew up *Camping Standards*. We also set out to plan a 'Gilcraft' series of books that would cover most phases of Scouting, be a help to the thousands of Scouters who could not get to Training Camps, and so ensure that B.-P.'s interpretation of Scouting was more firmly and more widely established.

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### The 1930's – I (1930-1935)

*World problems and dangers – but Scouting develops – First World Rover Moot, Kandersteg, 1931 – International Conference in Austria – 'Scouts malgre tout' – election of World Chief Guide – 1932 a great year for Guides – Lady B.-P. Dame Grand Cross of the British Empire – 1933 – Chiefs visit Gibraltar, Malta, Italy – audience with the Pope – World Jamboree and International Conference in Hungary – B.-P.'s operation in 1934 – convalescent voyage – I revisit India – 'primitive' Scouting in Madras – Rovers' work in the villages – Second World Rover Moot and Eighth International Conference in Sweden – a welcome letter – appointment of Lord Somers – South African Jamboree*

**T**HIS decade was fraught with world problems and dangers, and with a rising tide of nationalism, all of which had a considerable impact on Scouting, both nationally and internationally. Yet the Movement continued to develop in numbers and in usefulness and standing.

Economic depression and unemployment drew attention to the special needs of older boys. In many countries closer attention was paid to the Rover section, and more intensive programmes of activities devised. At the same time attention was also directed towards leisure-time pursuits, and more emphasis laid on the Scout Proficiency or Merit badges and on the benefits of hand-craft generally. In Great Britain, under the dynamic enthusiasm of Miss Musette Majendie, a centre was opened at Hedingham Castle for the training of unemployed Rovers and others for various domestic and other occupations. Five other centres were opened, through which many hundreds of young men found work and were restored to self-confidence. Scouting in many countries played its part in important social work of this nature.

The First World Rover Moot was held at Kandersteg in August 1931. The discussions at the Moot were on these various problems and some possible remedies were suggested. The Moot was attended by 2,500 Rover Scouts from twenty-two different countries, and from fifteen different parts of the British Commonwealth and Empire. Physical activities were not neglected, and B.-P. himself continually urged them as a means of alleviating individual depression. Of the Moot he wrote:

To myself, possibly, the most imposing part of their varied programme was when one saw the endless succession of those splendid specimens of the young manhood of all nations setting out in comradeship together with heavy packs on their backs and ice-axe in hand to tackle the neighbouring mountains.

Before the Moot, an International Conference had been held at Baden-bei-Wien in Austria. There was an obvious desire to get down to the practical details of the relationships of Scouting to modern trends and inventions – Radio, Modern Education, School Curriculum, Local Institutions – on the principle, as voiced by B.-P. in Paris, that 'Scouting divorced from life is an impossibility'. An important addition to the technical sessions was the subject of Scouting amongst disabled (or handicapped) Scouts, whom the Swiss had so splendidly named *Scouts malgre tout*. This work became of increasing effect with the approval and encouragement of doctors and nurses.

As a guide to countries where internal political problems were becoming increasingly acute, an important resolution was passed: 'The Conference desires to make it clear that in the Scout's Promise the promise of duty to "my country" means duty to the constituted authority of the country concerned.'

Previous to attending these two gatherings, B.-P. with his wife had been travelling in Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. It is noteworthy that Lady Baden-Powell was that year elected enthusiastically as World Chief Guide. During his journeys, B.-P. – never idle – wrote *Lessons from the Varsity of Life* which was published two years later. This indicates how much his thoughts were then directed towards the older boy and his needs.

I was at neither the Conference nor the Moot, as I deemed that Gilwell demanded my whole time and attention that Training season. I did, however, accompany the Chief in the autumn to Cambridge, when, at a special convocation, he was awarded the Honorary Degree of LL.D. to add to his many other academic honours. He was in Scout uniform under his robes, as were many in the Senate House, including several dignitaries. Not to be outdone by their seniors, the Cambridge University Rover Scout Crew gave B.-P. a dinner that night, and with mock ceremony awarded him a Doctorate of Scouting. He enjoyed the ceremony immensely, and drew a wonderful picture of it afterwards.

The year 1932 was a great one for the Guides. Lady Baden-Powell became a Dame Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire, and 'Our Chalet', the counterpart of the Scout Kandersteg Chalet, was opened at Adelboden in Switzerland in the presence of both the Chiefs. This was the gift of Mrs Storrow of the Girl Scouts of America, a woman of great character and understanding.

I spent January and February of that year in Egypt and Palestine, looking in at Malta on the way home. My reception in Egypt was wonderful, but after some days of sight-seeing among the antiquities, I had to insist on seeing something that was alive! The Egyptian Scouts were under royal patronage, and that meant considerably more than it did in other countries. There was too much of palace control, exercised mainly through the Ministry of Education, but sometimes direct. Scouting was almost divided into two sections, the Schools Department and the Open Department; but Scouting was not a real part of the national life, and nothing was being done for the *fellahin*. What I write now I said then, and it was accepted with courtesy, although nothing very much was done about it. Yet a lot of good work was being done, and there was a good grasp of Scout principles and methods. One distinguishing feature in Egypt was the existence and acceptance by the Egyptians themselves of very strong branches of foreign Scout Associations – Armenian, British, French, Greek, Italian. Their numbers were appreciable, and their Scouting of a high standard. They were invited to all Egyptian Scout gatherings, and yet were regarded as completely independent. It was a demonstration of World Scouting in miniature which I found quite encouraging.

In Palestine, Scouting was undisguisedly a child of the Education Department, with only a handful of Troops not in schools. But a start had been made to take it to the villages. I attended a rally near Ramleh, two or three hundred Scouts coming from surrounding villages. All the villagers had turned out to witness the proceedings, and in the middle the women broke out spontaneously into a chant: 'Look at our boys! How happy they are! We give thanks to Scouting for giving them this happiness.' It was one of those moving occasions which help to confirm one's belief in the good that Scouting can do.

Another great encouragement was a visit to a Troop and Pack of Arabian boys, with their headquarters in a small Christian school in Jerusalem. The three Scouters were British Service Rovers from the R.A.F. Their knowledge of Arabic was very sketchy. 'We use mostly English and a few words of not-so-good Arabic that we know. If we can't make ourselves understood, we use signs, and everything is all right.' The proof lay in the fact that both Pack and Troop were well above the average in standard. In addition, one of the Patrol Leaders was a deaf and dumb Burmese. Where there's a will, there's a way!

In the spring of 1933 the Chiefs visited Gibraltar, Malta and Rome. They had an audience with the Pope (Pius XI) at what was a critical time, since there had been suggestions that a separate organisation should be set up for Roman Catholic Scouts. His Holiness had a clear understanding of the position, and expressed his full appreciation of the work that was being done by Scouting and Guiding, and of their inter-denominational standing. At B.-P.'s interview with Mussolini, nothing was said of the Italian Scouts still carrying on in Egypt and Jerusalem. As an Italian priest said to me in Jerusalem the year before, 'Mussolini's arm is long, but it is not as long as all that.'

The 1933 World Jamboree and International Conference were held concurrently at Godollo in Hungary – the former, as is proper, distracting attention and importance from the latter. It was a sign of the times that the Conference passed this resolution: 'This Conference again invites attention to the fact that political propaganda of any character, direct or indirect, national or international, must not be permitted in any camp or Scout gathering in which representatives of other nations are invited to attend.'

Many other problems were discussed. The question of handicapped Scouts again came to the fore. Louis Picalausa, the present head of the Junior Red Cross in Belgium, challenged us to 'apply ourselves to this work with the assurance that in so doing we shall not only serve our beloved Movement, but also the cause of those unfortunate children'. Dr Svojsik, Chief Scout of Czechoslovakia, spoke with great force and sincerity on 'Once a Scout, always a Scout'; 'What significance an association of ex-Scouts scattered today throughout the world would have for the ultimate aims of the great work initiated by our Chief, Lord Baden-Powell!' Lord Hampton gave an outline of the 'Old Scout' scheme under consideration in Great Britain. The fruition of this scheme was long delayed, owing to lack of suitable leadership and to misgivings as to its reactions on Scouting for boys.

Count Paul Teleki, of whom I shall have more to say later, was the Camp Chief of the Jamboree, and proved a most able and courteous host. He was aided by the Hungarian International Commissioner, Dr Fritz de Molnar. The Regent, Admiral Horthy, was in residence at the Royal Hunting Lodge, and presided at the opening ceremony, riding round the ranks of the 25,000 Scouts from some fifty different parts of the world on his big white horse. B.-P. was crippled with rheumatism, and we had to hoist him on to his brown charger. But the ride did him good, and, despite the shorts, he often rode round the camp the following days accompanied by Paul Teleki, Fritz and myself.

On the journey through Europe, many of the contingents had felt a little embarrassed by the welcoming attentions shown them by parties of the *Hitler Jugend*. The Jamboree itself was visited by many of them, and also by parties of Mussolini's *Ballila*. They were all received in a friendly fashion, as becomes the first part of the 4th Scout Law: 'A Scout is a Friend to All...'

The language of our hosts, Magyar, is known to very few outside Hungary, with the possible exception of Estonia and Finland. Language difficulties were overcome by 'Jamborese', by a Scout dictionary in English, French, German and Hungarian, and by an interpreters' corps of 'Cousins' attached to each contingent and available day and night.

It is recorded in *Jamboree Story*:

The Chief was struck with the picturesque beauty of the gateways erected, particularly those of the Hungarian Troops. It was difficult at times to get him to tear himself away from some of these, and his sketch-book carried many pages of drawings. Family pride was aroused when his son Peter dashed up one morning, full of joy, because he had been selected to carry the flag of St George in front of the English contingent at that afternoon's march past.

There was a more poignant moment to come:

One day positions were reversed, and the people of Hungary paraded on the rally ground before the Scouts. The *Scout Jamboree Book* of the Boy Scouts of America records the final scene:

‘The unforgettable demonstration was over, and B.-P. stepped down from the platform. He was about to step into his car, when a simple peasant woman made her way through the crowd around him and presented him with a tremendous spray of flowers. As he received it with a smile and a “Koszonom” – the Hungarian word for “Thank you” – she bent down, impulsively seized his hand in her coarse hands and kissed it again and again, as tears streamed down her cheeks.’

I have heard the Chief laugh off many a tribute, but he was completely silent in the car for a long time after that one, for he recognised sincerity when he saw it.

The reference to the *Hitler Jugend* demands explanation. They were the counterpart of the *Ballila* in Italy, and the organisation was in no sense voluntary, but to a certain extent selective, since those boys who seemed unlikely to make good party members when grown-up were rejected. It was a pre-military movement, as well as being political, and when established by the Fuhrer eliminated all other youth organisations. Since 1910 many efforts had been made to establish Scouting in Germany, but there was a complete misunderstanding of its real purpose, and a number of rival bodies sprang up, each claiming to represent B.-P.’s true ideas. In 1924 an application by one of these bodies was made to the International Bureau for recognition, but three objections were not overcome: a tendency towards military methods; training in political ideas; interference with Scouting in Austria. Count Paul Teleki paid a visit to Germany in 1929, but came reluctantly to the conclusion that internal rivalries and political implications made the recognition of Scouting in Germany impossible. As a gesture of friendship a party of 200 German boys was invited to attend the Arrowe Park Jamboree that year, only to demonstrate the rivalry of which Count Teleki had complained. A dozen or so German Scout leaders attended courses at Gilwell Park by invitation, and did well. When 1933 came, however, most of them fled the country.

Early in 1934 B.-P. had a serious operation, and was laid up for five months. This came as a great shock to the Scout world, accustomed as it was to lean on him for guidance, and to accept his word as an arbiter in national as well as international Scout problems. Few could conceive of the continuance of the Movement without him. To the boys his age did not seem to matter. Whatever their nationality, he was *their* Chief. His picture hung in their headquarters and had a place of honour in Patrol corners. His writings had been translated into their language, and his articles and sketches appeared frequently in their national Scout magazines. I emphasise that B.-P. was never a commander or controller. He always left executive action to those whose responsibility it was. His illness came as a stern warning, however, that some time in the future Scouting must continue without his inspiring presence. That year and ever after, I was accustomed to include in my final farewell talks on training courses at Gilwell a reminder that the best memorial that could be raised to the Chief Scout of the World, when the time came, would be the continuance and continued development of the two Movements that he had founded.

As part of his convalescence, B.-P. and his wife sailed on the second of the Scout and Guide Cruises to the Mediterranean on the *S.S. Adriatic*. In the autumn they voyaged to Australia, accompanied by their daughters Heather and Betty and by Colonel and Mrs Granville Walton. The ostensible cause of this trip was the All-Australian Jamboree at Frankstone, near Melbourne; but on the way they saw Scouts and Guides in Ceylon, Malaya, Java, Port Darwin and Thursday Island, and returned the following spring by way of New Zealand, the South Sea Islands, Canada, Newfoundland and the U.S.A.

From mid-November 1933 to mid-March 1934 I was in India, with instructions to recommend what modifications were required to the existing machinery in order to deal successfully with the growing needs of the Movement. My suggestions were accepted, with but slight alterations, at an All-India Conference held in Viceroy House, Delhi, at which I presided, and at which, incidentally, the previously banned song *Bande Mataram* was played and adopted as the national song of the Association!

This visit, during which I travelled over 12,000 miles by rail, road and steamer, was a home-coming, although previously I had only served in the Presidency of Bengal. The pace was set from

the beginning. Half an hour before I landed at Bombay, I received a message that I was to be the guest of the Bombay Rotary Club at their lunch two hours later. Arrived at the Taj Mahal Hotel and at the table, I asked what the microphones were for. 'Oh! what you are going to say is to be broadcast throughout India.'

The Viceroy and Governor-General was Lord Willingdon, a most faithful servant of the British Commonwealth. I had met him in Madras, where he was Governor, on my way home in 1923, and had conducted three Training Courses in the grounds of Guindy Park, the Governor's country residence outside Madras City. Even the Scandinavians could have described them as 'primitive' Scouting. When the Wood Badge course was out on hike, I returned alone to the camp. Looking round in the early morning before going off to follow them up again, I found the half-devoured carcass of a deer in one of the Patrol tents. I was thankful that the leopard who had left it there had not visited my tent. A few days before, while talking to the course on Stalking, I looked up to see a deer and her hind within 100 yards. One is not often presented with such an opportunity for practical demonstration. Another night we were all disturbed by shrieks from the Woodpeckers' tent: an unfortunate member of the Patrol had been stung by a scorpion. And all this happened in the grounds of Government House!

Lord Willingdon was the Chief Scout for India, but to him this was not just an *ex officio* position. His interest was real and sincere, and he was convinced that Scouting was already contributing to the welfare and development of India, particularly in the villages. At his request, and at my own desire, I paid special attention to the co-operation of Scouting with village development, and saw it in operation in Bombay, the Central Provinces, Madras, Mysore, the North-West Frontier Province, the Punjab and Travancore. I wrote an appendix on this subject in my Report to the Viceroy, from which the following extract is taken:

In Mysore I visited a village – one of a circle of thirteen – that had been adopted by a Rover Scout Crew composed of mill-workers in Bangalore City. The Rovers had hiked about in this part of the country; had talked to and become friendly with the villagers; had started a night school; and had in eighteen months secured the following remarkable results. They had brought these villages together in a friendly fashion, whereas before they had been at enmity – this was admitted to me by the thirteen separate village headmen; they had secured a plot of ground and collected sufficient money to build a small school and pay for the services of a full-time teacher; they had built a hut alongside the school for one of their own number to live in, so that they could supervise the development work that was going on; and they were engaged in building a shed in which weaving could be taught. Three of the village headmen told me that they were not going to rest until they had a school established in their own villages, and that they had already set aside the land for the purpose.

I have been honoured in Scouting in many ways, but amongst the highest honours I place the request to open this village school. The night before, I had seen that Rover Scout Crew in Bangalore. I asked them what they did. 'Not as much as we should like, sir, but we do a bit of hiking.' This serves as an illustration of what the Scout Movement aims to do, and has accomplished in many Asiatic and African countries.

One of my most important and far-reaching duties was to conduct three Wood Badge Training Courses – Cub, Scout, Rover – at Pachmarhi in the Central Provinces. I drove up there from Nagpur, past the traditional Council Rock of Rudyard Kipling's *Jungle Book*. My host and driver, who had selected the site for the camp, was the present National Commissioner of the Bharat (India) Scouts and Guides, Mr Justice Vivian Bose. The Scouters came for training from all the provinces in India, and from Burma. In 1956 the Madhya Pradesh Government made a grant of land in Pachmarhi to the Bharat Scouts and Guides for use as an All-India Training Centre.

This Indian tour was most strenuous and interesting. In the course of it I met many old friends, and made many more, with whom I have continued to remain in touch, and who, despite political and other changes, continue to write to me as their 'Guru'. In the Scout world these personal connections are of the utmost importance, and afford practical examples of the Scout gospel of

friendship, goodwill and understanding. I returned to Gilwell greatly encouraged and reinvigorated, and, as my custom always was, free to resume my normal duties at once. My Report to the Viceroy was printed in Madras while I spent a final week in Travancore, and was ready for me to pick up and sign before I finally sailed from Bombay. It ran to ninety-six octavo pages, and I have been sorry ever since that I did not score a century!

That autumn I was back in Denmark to conduct a Scandinavian Rover Wood Badge Course. I went on to Sweden to see and approve the site selected for the World Rover Moot to be held the following year, and also paid my first visit to Norway, not foreseeing the very close connection I was to have with that country a few years later, and for the rest of my life.

B.-P. was back from the Antipodes, greatly refreshed, in time to attend the Second World Rover Moot and the Eighth International Scout Conference. It was my good fortune to accompany him again. The Moot was held during the last week of July 1935 at Ingaro, one of the islands of the Stockholm Archipelago.

Instead of mountains and climbing, there were the sea and bathing. The British contingent of twelve hundred sailed over in the *S.S. Nevasa*, which anchored out in the bay to take them home again. Although they numbered a third of all those present, they were careful not to overshadow the rest. It would have been difficult to do so in that typical Scandinavian atmosphere and when the morning camp dress was a pair of bathing pants.

The Moot Camp Chief was H.R.H. Prince Gustaf Adolf, Chairman of the Swedish Scout Council, with Count Folke Bernadotte as his Chief of Staff. They set the tone and atmosphere of as happy a camp as I have ever attended. We had a select little camp to ourselves where B.-P. could enjoy peace and quiet when he wished, and that was very seldom. He preferred to be up and about in the camp with his cine camera.

One morning the mail had been delivered, and he jumped up with a shout of joy. There was a letter from Lady Clarendon saying, 'If you ask Arthur again, I think he will say "yes".' Arthur was her brother, Lord Somers, Governor of Victoria and Chief Scout of the State; but, as in the case of Lord Willingdon, the latter was no mere *ex officio* appointment. He had identified himself with Scouting, wore Scout uniform and led a Christmas hike in the mountains each year. B.-P. had marked him down when he was in Victoria in 1931, and had been angling for him ever since, hoping to land him as Deputy Chief Scout for Great Britain. Lord Clarendon, in his turn, was Chief Scout in South Africa when Governor-General, but Lady Clarendon's interest was on account of her son, Lord Hyde, killed accidentally in South Africa only two months before. When George Hyde went up to Oxford University in 1925, he joined the Oxford Toc H Rover Crew and also became Rover Instructor in a village Scout Troop nine miles out of the city, regularly bicycling there and back every week during term. He later came on a course at Gilwell, and was on the staff of the Oxford contingent at the Coming-of-Age Jamboree. He was actively concerned with Scouting in South Africa, where he was A.D.C. to his father. George Hyde had been marked down as a future Chief Commissioner, at least, of The Boy Scouts Association, and his mother realised what a loss his death had been to the Scout Movement.

Lord Somers was in fact appointed Deputy Chief Scout in 1936, and on B.-P.'s death became Chief Scout of the British Commonwealth and Empire.

The Conference was held in the Riksdag (Parliament) Building in Stockholm. Prince Gustaf Adolf presided at the opening, when B.-P. restated his beliefs:

I think, as Scouts, it is our business to find out the other fellow's point of view before we actually press our own . . . We want a great, broad-minded outlook in every direction . . . I am sure that you must have seen that feeling in active operation in these last few days at the Moot.

It was in ways such as these that he strove to link theory and practice together. The Rev. Dr A. Sik gave a talk on 'Adults in the Scout Movement'. He instanced the effect of the Godollo Jamboree on the citizens of Hungary.

If you ask what it is they are wanting, these men and all the others who have grown too big for Scouting, it is not very difficult to give the answer. It is the *atmosphere* of Scouting which attracts them, the society of picked men whom they will meet or whom they hope they will meet, the possibilities of a healthy life in the open air, and, lastly, a fine work that will help to reconstruct both society and the nation, which they believe we are capable of doing.

Great Britain capped this with the remark:

It is interesting to find that as long ago as September 1912 the London *Spectator* published an article eulogising the work of the Boy Scouts under the title of 'Why not an Old Scout Movement?'

Superficially speaking, in the light of these hopes and aspirations Scouting has failed, but it cannot be gainsaid that it has contributed in some small measure to preparation for a better state of things. B.-P. expressed it thus in his final talk:

The upheaval of war, the monster depreciation of money values, the advance of machine over manpower, over-production, the interdependence of nations through industries and modern development in communications, these and many other details of social evolution have come rapidly upon humanity. Education has been hard put to it to keep pace with the ever-changing conditions of life. It is up to us Scouts as assistants to education to look ahead and train the youth to Be Prepared for what is coming to them.

This was in 1935.

Shortly afterwards B.-P. left for Kenya, Uganda, Tanganyika, Zanzibar and Rhodesia. He and Lady Baden-Powell attended a South African Jamboree at East London and, after a visit to Mafeking with its stirring memories, returned to a Welcome Home dinner, presided over by H.R.H. the Princess Royal, and their younger daughter Betty's wedding.

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### The 1930's – II (1935-1939)

*Paris, 1936: Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of Scouting in France – B.-P. invested with Grand Cordon of the Legion of Honour – off again to Delhi – back for the coronation – B.-P. receives the O.M. – Fifth Jamboree in Holland – the Queens opening speech – an awkward moment – B.-P.'s last message – Ninth International Scout Conference at The Hague – Bronze Wolf presentations – resolution on 'peace and goodwill' – B.-P.'s closing talk – the B.-P.'s leave for Kenya – International Cub Conference at Gilwell, 1938 – Austrian Scouts suppressed – Scouting and Civil Defence – death of Hubert Martin – I take his place as Director of the International Bureau – Third World Rover Moot, 1939 – the International Committee meets and dines – haggis – Tenth International Conference in Scotland – Rover Moot Rally – war breaks out*

IT was obvious that B.-P. wanted to get in as much travelling as he could while he was able, and so in December 1936 he and the World Chief Guide paid a formal visit to Paris on the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the start of Scouting in France. I was fortunate enough to be with them, and to witness the tumultuous welcome they received. The President of the Republic invested B.-P. with the Grand Cordon of the Legion of Honour.

'I am particularly glad,' said B.-P. to the thousands of Scouts and Guides assembled to greet him, 'to see the different branches of the Movement here, working together in friendly harmony. I

know that this fact will also give satisfaction to His Holiness the Pope. Three years ago the Chief Guide and I paid a visit to him, and the Holy Father told us that he was fully interested in our Movement, no matter to which form of religion its members belonged: he wanted – as he expressed it – to see them all working together “as one great family”. Well, that is what you are doing here in France.

‘Your past year,’ he continued, ‘has been shadowed by the deaths of four of your great and distinguished leaders: Marshal Lyautey, General Gayot de Salins, Chanoine Cornette and Dr Charcot. But do not lament them, rather be happy that they have been promoted to higher service above, leaving a good example behind them. At the same time this gives to you the opportunity and the duty of raising a living monument to their memory. It need not be a monument of stone or bronze, but the proof shown by your own actions that their interest in you has not been thrown away.’

Listening to him, I was acutely conscious that he was conveying the same message as I was already attempting to do in regard to B.-P. himself.

In January 1937 B.-P. and his wife were off again to India to attend an All-India Jamboree at Delhi. He celebrated his 80th birthday with his Regiment, the 13/18th Hussars. He was present at the Kadir Cup (Pig-sticking) Competition, which he himself had won in 1883. His book *Pig-sticking or Hog Hunting* had been published in 1889, and in 1922 I had helped him to bring the statistics up-to-date for a revised edition. This was dedicated to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales ‘who in the pig-sticking field proved himself in the fuller sense of the word a prince among sportsmen’. There was a full account of how His Royal Highness had won the Hog Hunter’s Cup in March that year, a point-to-point race over some 4½ miles run after the Kadir Cup.

The Chiefs returned home to attend the coronation of H.M. King George VI, and accompanied the King and Queen in the inspection of the Scouts at Windsor. B.-P.’s highest honour came to him in the award by King George of the Order of Merit. Shortly afterwards he received the Wateler Peace Prize.

I have left the history of World Scouting between the Second World Rover Moot in Sweden and the Fifth World Jamboree in Holland, and the two successive International Conferences in order to give this short account of its Founder’s travels. His movements were followed anxiously, and he himself was aware that his active Scout days were drawing to a close. But he never lost his enthusiasm, his anxiety to be of service and his command over his pen and paint-brush. In fact, the water-colours of his closing years were amongst the best he ever painted.

The Fifth Jamboree was held in Holland, at Vogelenzang (Song of Birds), near Haarlem. It was opened by Queen Wilhelmina, who was accompanied by H.R.H. Prince Bernhard. They were received by Vice-Admiral Rambonnet, Chief Scout of Holland, B.-P., and H.R.H. Prince Gustaf Adolf of Sweden who, the previous year, had been appointed the first Honorary President of the Boy Scouts’ International Committee. The opening words of Her Majesty’s speech were:

May you always now, as in after life, remain true to the Scout spirit, which, in the words of your Chief, whom we gladly welcome here today, is characterised by its broad and selfless outlook, its loyal friendship, its active love and sense of cheerful service.

Her Majesty returned a few days later to witness the Pageant of Nations and the Wolf Cub Display – always an invigorating sight and an opportunity for the Cubs of the home country to visit a Jamboree *en masse*. There was no satisfying Prince Bernhard; he was back with the Queen that day and returned again two days later to tour round the whole camp on foot with his friend Prince Gustaf Adolf. This gave B.-P. an opportunity to persuade him to become Royal Commissioner of the Dutch Scouts. The Prince brought Princess Juliana, the present Queen of the Netherlands, to the closing Camp Fire the last night, despite the imminent arrival of their



first child. Camp Fires were held in a sizeable hollow in the dunes. I arranged for the Royal Party to withdraw at least two items before the close, as there was some distance to walk across the sand to their cars. We left together with B.-P., Prince Gustaf Adolf and Hubert Martin, who had already had a slight heart attack. On leaving the circle, I snatched two powerful electric torches from a party of American Scouts and gave one to Prince Gustaf Adolf. The Camp Fire closed before we had got to the cars and a whole mob of Scouts charged across the sand. By flashing the torches in the eyes of the front ranks, we just managed to halt them in time. I still shudder to think what might have happened without this American aid.

The Camp Fire had been held after the official closing ceremony, a happy arrangement so as to relieve the tension caused by the last verbal message the Chief Scout of the World was to give to his boys. 'Now the time has come,' said B.-P., 'for me to say good-bye. I want you to lead happy lives. You know that many of us will never meet again in this world. I am in my eighty-first year and am nearing the end of my life. Most of you are at the beginning, and I want your lives to be happy and successful. You can make them so by doing your best to carry out the Scout Law all your days, whatever your station and wherever you are ...'

'Now, good-bye. God bless you all.'

And again, taking off his hat, 'God bless you.'

It was the patriarch's blessing to those on whom his duties and his leadership were to devolve. I confess my eyes were dim when I went in front of him to clear the way through the serried mass of Scouts of many lands.

After the Jamboree, the Ninth International Scout Conference was held at The Hague. B.-P. was wearing the Bronze Wolf, as the first recipient of the recently instituted award for 'outstanding international services'. He presented three others on behalf of the International Committee – to Walter de Bonstetten for the founding and supervision of the International Scout Chalet at Kandersteg; to Hubert S. Martin for his indefatigable work since 1920 at the International Bureau; and to John S. Wilson for the work done at Gilwell Park in promoting an international understanding of Scouting. In the following twenty years only fourteen other awards were made, six of them in the Centenary-Jubilee Year (1957).

The discussions at the Conference were of an important and searching nature: 'Is Scouting up-to-date?'; 'The most important problem of Scouting' – curiously enough, 'Old Scouts'; 'Scouting and Nationalism'. The last raised the problems of totalitarianism and militarism. The contribution of Hugo Cedergren of Sweden, a famous figure in the World Y.M.C.A., is worthy of record. He said:

I had last year an opportunity of studying this question, as I was asked to write an essay for a book somebody was editing on Peace and War. I got from Mr Martin some material and studied it with great interest. Especially I tried to go through the documents which contained utterances from our beloved Chief. I found again and again this expression, 'Peace and Goodwill'. That is the red line running through all this man has been saying to us as a movement and as individuals ... I can in the very simplest way express my outlook on Scouting as a movement for promoting peace and goodwill. Anything that goes contrary to that ideal should be left on one side or, if it has been taken up, immediately abolished.

This led to a resolution which continues to represent the considered opinion of World Scouting.

The Conference resolves that the International Committee be requested to do all that it can to ensure that Scouting and Rovering in all countries, while fostering true patriotism, are genuinely kept within the limits of international co-operation and friendship, irrespective of creed or race, as has always been outlined by the Chief Scout. Thus, any steps to the militarisation of Scouting or the introduction of political aims, which might cause misunderstanding and thus handicap our work for peace and goodwill among nations and individuals, should be entirely avoided in our programmes.

At lunch-time on the last day, B.-P. said to me: 'I have no idea what I can usefully say to these men in my closing talk.' I answered, "There's an open session before then and you'll have an hour and more to think it over.' No questions were put forward at the open session, and B.-P. had to speak at once and, seemingly, unprepared. He gave one of the best talks I had ever heard from him. These extracts are typical of his steadfast line of thought:

Our ultimate object is to breed manly men for our respective countries, strong in body, mind and spirit; men who can be trusted; men who can face hard work and also hard times; men who can make up their own minds and not be led by mass suggestion; men who can sacrifice much that is personal in the greater good of the nation.

And when they have done that, their patriotism must not be narrow, but with widened outlook they must be able to see with sympathetic eyes the ambitions of the patriots of other countries.

I want to remind you... that all the steps in our history have been of automatic growth – not merely the problems, but the steps in growth and development. For instance, you can remember that it was not I who urged Scouting to the boys. It was only suggested to me to write a book, and the boys took it up for themselves.

And so it is for us to go forward yet further, with full confidence, to do as the Cubs say – to do our best – and carry on and develop Scouting to the best of our ability.

On the call of Prince Gustaf Adolf, everyone rose and gave 'the most hearty cheers that anybody can give for the Chief Scout of the World'. B.-P. led the saying of the Scout Promise, each in his own tongue, and the Conference closed with the singing of 'Auld Lang Syne'.

Such was the farewell of International Scouting to its Founder. When the Conference met in Edinburgh two years later B.-P. was in Kenya.

Before the end of 1937, the Chiefs had sailed for Kenya, returning home only for a few months the following year, during which they went on the third Scout and Guide Cruise on the *S.S. Orduna* to Denmark, Norway, Iceland and Belgium. B.-P. did not land at any of the ports the cruise touched.

One of the results of The Hague Conference was the holding of a special International Cub Conference at Gilwell Park in July 1938. It was attended by representatives of fourteen different countries, including Japan, and a most happy five days were spent together. Amongst those at the opening was Dr Tadeusz Strumillo, a former Chief Scout of Poland and a member of the International Committee. Poland's contribution was a valuable one, as opening out fresh lines of thought in the training of the younger boys. But, as I said in my summing up, 'We have seen that small difficulties are easy to overcome. We have obtained some more faith in the work which we do, realising that other people in other parts of the world are doing the same kind of things in the same kind of way. It must inevitably be an encouragement to us all – "After all, I cannot be quite so mad as my own family tell me I am."'

As a result of the German *Anschluss* in March 1938, Scouting in Austria had been suppressed and many of the leading Scouters sent to internment camps. This was the first of the many shocks that the Movement was to suffer within the next five years. The Open and the Catholic Associations, Oesterreichischer Pfadfinderbund and Oesterreichisches Pfadfinderkorps St Georg, were both Founder Members of the International Conference. Those who saw the Austrian contingents at successive World Jamborees and Rover Moots and those who were present at the 1931 Conference were able to realise the high standard of Scouting which the two Associations had reached. I reported to the 1939 Conference:

The International Bureau and Scout Associations in many countries have received numbers of requests for assistance from former Austrian Scouts who have been compelled to leave their homes. "Wherever possible, material help has been given, but restrictions as to the entry of foreigners into most countries have made this a very difficult matter, and it has been possible to deal only with a small number of the requests received in any permanent effective fashion. Where Scouts were able to

obtain permits to live in other countries, they have been put in touch, with Scouting in their new domicile. Cases of distress have also been relieved by financial assistance.

I record the thanks of the Bureau to those many Scouters who have rendered assistance in this delicate matter. Most of them carry on their work of friendship and brotherhood anonymously, but they must realise to the full the benefit it has been to hundreds of their brother Scouts.

I have reproduced these paragraphs in full because they outline the policy and the action that Scouting took in the immediately succeeding years to try and help in other and more numerous and all too similar circumstances.

The mid-European crisis became acute, and war seemed imminent. The reaction on Scouting was twofold. First, there was a stepping up of Scout training so that the movement in many countries could be of more effective assistance in various forms of civil defence. In Great Britain I was closely concerned in this, correlated the reports of the action being taken and spoke in many parts of the country. Secondly, every Scout country laid even more emphasis on the 4th Scout Law of friendship and brotherhood. The members of the International Committee were especially concerned. As Walter de Bonstetten expressed it, 'I need not dwell upon the importance and necessity of keeping up and tightening the bonds of international friendship.'

In October 1938 Hubert Martin became seriously ill, and asked me to relieve him of some of his work and responsibilities in the International Bureau, and to deputise for him during his illness and afterwards. He made it clear that the International Committee had discussed this possibility at their meeting in June, and had unanimously approved of my nomination as his prospective successor. Lord Hampton, a member of the Committee, confirmed this, and the Chief Scout of the World personally assured me that the suggestion met with his complete approval. The Executive Committee of The (British) Boy Scouts Association, whose servant I was, authorised me to accept the invitation in a voluntary and honorary capacity, on the understanding that my work at Gilwell Park and the standard of training there should not suffer. I did not foresee that in less than a month's time Hubert would die, and that I should have to assume office as Hon. Acting Director, again at the unanimous request of B.-P. and the International Committee. I was consoled by the fact that Dick Lund was there at the Bureau to help me, with his vast knowledge of International Scouting and of the many personalities connected with it.

I wrote of Hubert Martin in my Report to the International Conference the following year:

It is true to say that the Bureau owes whatever position and influence it may have to 'Uncle', as he was familiarly called by thousands of Scouts of many different countries. He gave himself wholeheartedly to Scouting, and had an influence on it second only to that of the Founder and Chief Scout himself. It is impossible adequately to record the immense debt of gratitude which World Scouting owes to his self-sacrificing labours. His memory will live.

When I accepted Hubert Martin's invitation, I told him that I was convinced that it was wrong for the Boy Scouts International Bureau to be in the same office and share the same staff as the International Department of The (British) Boy Scouts Association, and that on principle I would strive for a separation of the two. He agreed that the principle I held was right, and that he had left a division too long. Richard A. Frost, who had accompanied me to the U.S.A. in 1936, as I shall mention later, was the British Assistant International Commissioner. He became the International Commissioner, and remained on in the same room at 25, Buckingham Palace Road. I secured rooms in 38, Buckingham Palace Road, across the way, and took with me not only Dick Lund but also Percy Siebold, still with the Bureau as Executive Commissioner, Liaison, and Harry Griffin who left in 1941. We made play with the fact that the new office was more international in character, as it was situated above the premises of a ladies' hairdresser which were owned by a Frenchman!

So came the fateful year of 1939. I paid a visit to Paris in April for the tenth anniversary of the recognition of the Armenian Scout Association, and to meet the three French Associations – Catholic, Evangelical and Open – in order to discuss the preliminary arrangements for the next World Jamboree, then dated for 1941. Meanwhile the normal work at Gilwell Park and at the Bureau continued, as did the arrangements for holding the Third World Rover Moot in Scotland in July. This took place for a week at Monzie Castle in Perthshire.

In camp, the ordinary activities of camping were maintained at the highest standard I had yet seen, and fraternisation was the order of the day. Outside camp, visits had been arranged to places of interest not too far afield, and also a variety of walks and climbs which tested wind and sinew and showed what Scotland could provide in the way of scenery – and mist. Outside, too, all kinds and conditions of men and women vied with each other in their desire to entertain their visitors. In a small shop in a back-street in Crieff nearby, a kettle was always kept simmering on the hob to make a cup of tea for any Rover who dropped in to buy a gift for his best girl or to have a talk, and the verdict of the old lady who kept the shop was: ‘They Rovers are all gentlemen.’

During the Moot the International Committee met one day at my old school, Trinity College, Glenalmond, only eight miles away. I had merely approved the site: it was the Scottish Scouts who selected it! After the business was over, we attended the short evening service in the school chapel – I take pride in the fact that my great-grandfather consecrated it. We then entertained the Warden to dinner in his own house. The menu was Scots and included that mysterious dish, the haggis, piped round the table by the pipe-major of the cadet corps. My cousin Eric was the Bursar and saw to it that the boy piper could give the appropriate gaelic toast and down his glass of sherry behind my chair. The Warden at the other end of the table looked as if he thought that it was the real stuff – whisky!

The Moot adjourned to Edinburgh for three days of sightseeing and hospitality, while the Tenth International Conference met and was welcomed by Lord Rowallan, as President of the Scottish Scout Council. Lord Somers was also there, and made as magnificent a speech at the final dinner as he had made at the closing camp-fire of the Moot. Unfortunately, neither was recorded. B.-P. had sent a message to the Conference, as he had to the Moot; both were worded in familiar terms, and showed that his hopes for future peace and goodwill had not dimmed. Always he pointed towards the light.

War is a man-made infliction upon himself, bringing nothing but human misery in its train. It is therefore up to man to provide the remedy, and to restore to himself the blessing of peace, with its prosperity and happiness for all.

Prince Gustaf Adolf presided and paid a graceful tribute to the memory of Hubert Martin. China, South Africa and India were welcomed as new members of the Conference. The invitation to hold the next Jamboree and Conference in France in 1941 was formally accepted. The Conference commended ‘the efforts being made in national associations to mobilise former Scouts to further the practice of the Scout ideals by such former Scouts, and for the purpose of strengthening the spirit and leadership of Scouting for Boys’, and expressed sympathy and extended ‘greetings to fellow Scouts and Scouters who, through no fault of their own, have been forced to leave their native land’.

A final Rover Moot Rally was held at Murrayfield, where Rugby football international matches are played, in the presence of H.R.H. the Duke of Gloucester, who had succeeded his uncle, the Duke of Connaught, as President of The Boy Scouts Association. The members of the Moot and Conference then dispersed to their homes, some returning there just before hostilities broke out. They took with them memories which gave them strength to endure the dangers which so many had to suffer, even death itself.

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## The Second World War

*Double duties – the Fourth Scout Law in wartime – decision to remain in London – Mrs Wade joins my staff – coffee, sandwiches and an egg – maintaining world contact – Scouting goes underground – war sufferings – death of B.-P., January 8th, 1941 – mourning under difficulties – more links – caring for refugee Scouts – tragic deaths – the darkness begins to lift – Scouting revives – help from Canada, Britain and America – Scouts’ aid to the relieving forces – a greeting card that opened the way – Scouting tested and tempered in the fires of war*

**I**N July 1939 the International Committee had appointed me as Honorary Director of the Bureau for the ensuing biennial period, and later severally requested me to remain in *office* as long as was possible. The other duties imposed on me during the war years did not prevent me from carrying on as Director, although the time that I could devote to the work was very limited. From the outbreak of the war I was engaged in Scout war service until July 1940 on behalf of The (British) Boy Scouts Association, with a break of six weeks towards the end of 1939 when I was on a special mission to Yugoslavia. Then I was called up for service with the Army and exchanged my Scout shirt and shorts for military uniform until the autumn of 1945.

During the whole of this period, my immediate Commanding Officers were fully alive to my Scout obligations; they never gave me any instructions in regard to them: they never asked me any questions as to what I was doing, although occasionally there were sympathetic enquiries as to how the international side of Scouting was standing the strain. This democratic attitude cannot be understood by those accustomed to any form of totalitarian rule. My work with the Bureau did not interfere in any way with my more important immediate work on behalf of my country. The latter, so far as I could judge at the time and since, did not adversely affect International Scouting. On both counts I felt in all sincerity that I was carrying out the duty for which my Scout training had prepared me.

I wrote an editorial for the special issue of *Jamboree* for the third quarter of 1943 on the Fourth Scout Law:

One of the subjects for discussion before the Conference of the Hungarian Boy Scouts Association, in December 1940, was the repeal of this Law of Brotherhood. It was argued that a Hungarian Scout could not consider the enemies of his country as his brothers. Paul Teleki (then Premier of Hungary) settled the matter to the satisfaction of those present thus: In 1914, he said, ‘I entered Macsva with the Kraus Army, I was by the first military bridge thrown over the Sava. Behind me were some old Hussars, men of the Frontier Guard. I heard one say to his comrades, his pipe between his teeth: “These Serbs are really brave enemies. It is a pleasure to fight against them.” So it is that when I face a man who is righting for his country honestly and conscientiously, I feel there is some kind of a spiritual bond between us. I look on him in a curious kind of way as my comrade and my brother. In the same way the old Hussar spoke from the depths of his Hungarian soul of the enemy worthy of him. When we say that every other Scout is our brother, we presuppose that those who are our present enemies are faithfully serving their own country, in all honour, as their Scout duty. He who does not so serve is not a Scout, and not our brother. I esteem as myself him who is honestly serving the needs of his country. I subscribe wholeheartedly to this Scout Law.’

It is beyond the bounds of possibility that all will be satisfied with this argument, but it is one which appeals to us, and which makes it possible for us to look forward to the time when former enemies will be reunited in the Scout Brotherhood, and make a further, and this time more determined effort to achieve a more lasting peace. It is not infrequently that brothers in the human family fight each other; they compose their quarrel; they unite together for the honour of the family. So with the Scout family, brothers can quarrel, they can compose that quarrel and they can unite together for the honour of their Brotherhood. But they must be both honest in their quarrel and equally sincere in their belief in Scouting.

I have given voice to my personal feelings in this matter, as did Count Paul Teleki, but I also believe that Scouting, internationally and nationally, accepts the same kind of principle.

On September 4th, 1939, I sent out a letter to all member Associations of the Boy Scouts International Conference to the effect that the activities of the Bureau would be maintained as far as possible in the circumstances, although – obviously – some would have to be curtailed. If in the future I found it impossible to be of service to the Bureau and to them, I would endeavour to secure the Bureau's transfer to a neutral country. Offers to house the Bureau came from H.R.H. Prince Gustaf Adolf of Sweden, Hon. President of the International Committee, and from Dr James E. West, Chief Scout Executive of the Boy Scouts of America, who had been elected a member of the International Committee at the Edinburgh Conference. I consulted on each occasion the three other members of Committee with whom I was able to keep in touch, and they agreed with me that, in the interests of the future welfare of World Scouting, the Bureau should remain in London so long as it was physically able to do so.

Percy Siebold joined up in the Royal Artillery; Dick Lund followed him shortly afterwards, but into the R.A.F. Young Harry Griffin continued for a time as the sole member of the Bureau Staff before joining the Royal Naval Air Service. Early in 1941 I was most fortunate to secure the services of Mrs A. G. (Eileen) Wade, B.-P.'s Personal Secretary for twenty-seven years. She carried the work of the Bureau on her broad shoulders until Dick Lund returned on September 1st, 1945. She travelled up to London from her home in Bentley, Hampshire, and no difficulties or dangers ever deterred her. I was fortunate enough to have my military headquarters in London; and so, unless absent somewhere or other, I was able to look in at the Bureau once a week for an hour or two, and was sustained by Eileen with a cup of coffee and sandwiches, and, as a great treat, with a real country-laid egg.

Considering the difficulties of communication, it was surprising how much correspondence continued to come into the Bureau, giving information and asking advice. Even after the summer of 1940, the pages of *Jamboree* contained information received direct from over thirty different countries. It is interesting, too, that even during that time two countries were admitted to membership of the International Conference – El Salvador and Haiti, the latter for the second time.

Monthly international meetings were held alternately at British Scout Headquarters or at the Bureau, with the Director presiding. When Dick Frost went off in his turn to the R.A.F., he was succeeded as the British International Commissioner by T. Glad Bincham who, in his big-hearted way, acted as host at these meetings. These friendly gatherings were attended by representatives of Belgium, China, Czechoslovakia, France, Holland, Luxembourg, Norway, Poland, the U.S.A., and – occasionally – Denmark and Hungary. Information was exchanged as to what was happening about Scouting in the various countries, and plans made for the future. Reports were made, too, of the activities of the Scouts of the different nationalities temporarily in Great Britain. H.R.H. Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands showed his continued interest by attending a couple of times.

Eileen Wade wrote of these days:

News of European Scouting came to us in various ways; through members of the Forces, through the temporary governments of the countries concerned, and through the Director of the Bureau in the course of his other work. The trouble was that most of it could not be published. Any reference to Scouting in the occupied countries, or of Scouters of those countries who were carrying on in England, might lead to trouble for their relatives and Scouts at home, and we could not risk it. The news interchanged at our monthly meetings, news both of movements and of individuals, would have been of the greatest general interest, but was usually referred to as 'strictly off the record'. We could not be too careful not to endanger still further the lives of our brother Scouts.

Paradoxically, now and then I had to remind those meetings that, although I wore the King's uniform, in my Scout capacity I considered myself to have still some responsibility not only to Allied Scouts but also to Neutral Scouts and even to some 'Enemy' Scouts.

An International week-end at Auchengillan, the Glasgow Scout Camp, under Jack Stewart, became an annual event.

When Western Europe was overrun, Scouting in each country, except in Denmark for a time, was suppressed by the occupying authority. In some it continued to be practised on the quiet. As the Resistance forces developed, it became necessary for me to give a ruling in response to enquiries. The following message from me was broadcast, and also sent into each country in other ways:

So far as is possible, it is hoped that the character training of boys as Cubs and Scouts will be continued quietly and conscientiously.

Scouting being what it is, national Scout Associations as such are not entitled to become members of Resistance Movements.

It is left to each Rover Scout and Scouter to follow the lead which his conscience dictates.

We were able at about the same time to publish in *Jamboree* some of the very wise words that Pastor H. Møller-Gasmann, Chief Scout of Norway, had written in the May-June number of *Speideren*, the last issue, I believe, published for some years:

I never had the faintest idea that the time would come when I should have to write to you under such serious conditions as now. Now war is here, and there is no use asking 'Why? For how long?' What counts is to make the best of conditions as they are. The more difficult lessons have yet to be learned, and we might as well get going with them.

First comes Renunciation. We have been well off in a number of ways. Now the time has come when we shall know adversity, and everything depends upon your meeting it as Scouts – with cheerfulness and an undaunted spirit. But that is not enough. There will be need for self-sacrifice and for helpfulness. However difficult things may be for us, there will always be those who will be worse off.

I ask all of you to continue your Scout work as well as it is possible. Now you can show what it means to be a Scout.

Be prepared, and keep in mind that you are a Scout.

This was the attitude that the Scout leaders in all countries adopted, coupled with the determination that I expressed for them at the same time: 'When war is over, Scouting will, if it wills, have a great and important part to play in the re-establishment of friendships, in the restoration, work that will immediately be of supreme importance, and in the levelling and heightening of standards of living.'

No useful purpose can be served by detailing the grievous suffering of members of the Scout Brotherhood in the occupied countries. These may be forgiven, but not forgotten. Many stories of bravery and sustained courage were told in *The Left Handshake* by Hilary St George Saunders, published in 1949.

There is one incident that went to my heart. The censorship authorities sent me an extract from a letter written by a mother in Norway to her sister in Canada:

Knut (her son aged twelve) has been crying all day. Last night the Gestapo came and took away his Scout uniform, his rucksack, his Scout axe and his Scout knife. Knut has been crying all day.

B.-P. died at Paxtu in Kenya on January 8th, 1941, in his eighty-fourth year, after devoting the last thirty-three years of his life to the Boy Scout and Girl Guide Movements which he had founded. H.M. King George VI's tribute summed up the feelings of the Scout world:

As the founder and leader of a great movement which has been of incalculable value to boys and girls in so many countries, the Chief Scout will always be remembered with affectionate admiration and gratitude.

He was buried at Nyeri in the country which he loved and which had given solace to his last few years. Memorial services were held at Westminster Abbey and all over the world, even in prisoner-of-war and concentration camps. As E. E. Reynolds writes in *The Scout Movement*:

It was not possible for the Scouts in the occupied countries to express publicly all that the news meant to them, but they devised their own ways of mourning their loss. In Holland, for instance, a photograph of B.-P. was secretly printed on a small card with a prayer on the back, and copies were circulated amongst the Scouts. It was not until after liberation that these followers of B.-P. were allowed to see the message he left to all Boy Scouts.

Nor was it until St George's Day, 1947, that it was possible to unveil the memorial to B.-P. in Westminster Abbey, the national shrine of the British Commonwealth and Empire. A simple stone on the floor of the south-west corner of the nave is guarded by the Scout and Guide flags affixed to the screen behind the altar of St George's Chapel. This is symbolic, for – as has been said – the best memorial his Scouts and Guides can raise to him is to maintain the honour and effectiveness of the Movements that he founded, inspired and served.

It was learnt later that eight days after the Founder's death, the Japanese Government had ordered the dissolution of the Boy Scouts of Japan. Admiral Isamu Takeshita, the then Chief Scout, and Count Yoshinori Futara, Chairman of the National Board and the International Commissioner, succeeded in transferring the property and funds of the Boy Scouts to another foundation, believing that the day would come when the Boy Scouts of Japan would be restored. For the same reason they did not inform the International Bureau of the Government order. They and others, such as Count Sano, withdrew from public life as much as possible and kept themselves unseen and unheard.

Communications became even more difficult: it took over two years for a letter and its reply to go from London to China. Yet, despite this, I was able to continue to send copies of my confidential Monthly Reports regularly to five of the nine members of the International Committee elected in Edinburgh in 1939, and intermittently to one or two others. These reports gave more information than it was desirable for *Jamboree* to publish – from no less than forty-four of the Scout Associations registered with the Bureau. It is true that four were only mentioned once, but the others had frequent mentions, amounting to a total of twenty-six in the case of France.

The three French registered Associations – Eclaireurs de France (Open), Eclaireurs Unionistes (Protestant), Scouts de France (Catholic) – who for some time had had an Interfederal Bureau, decided at a meeting held at Vichy to come even more closely together and work in co-operation. This was the forerunner of what is now known as Scoutisme Français. A fourth Association, separately registered in 1957 – Les Eclaireurs Israelites de France – was at that time incorporated under Les Eclaireurs Unionistes, but was not represented at the Vichy meeting. In Great Britain, however, all four French Associations were much more closely knit together under the dynamic leadership of Alfred Renou, originally a Scout of the Eclaireurs Unionistes, but a Swiss national. One united Federation was formed, grouping together French Scouts of all religions. A Rover Crew – Clan Lyautey – was formed in Camberley. In 1941 a national Work Camp was held in Cumberland, where the Lycée Français de Londres was evacuated, and received honourable mention in *The Times* in London. A Maison du Scoutisme was an immense asset. 'There, week after week, young soldiers, sailors and airmen come and spend a few days or a few weeks in a house that is their own. It is a real Scout life, and every week-end a growing number of our members come and stay there, doing their own cooking and making themselves at home. We have one Rover Crew and one Troop..... We have had most pleasant relations with the Scouters and Troops of the Ealing District.'



The Scouts and Scouters of other nationalities, temporarily domiciled in the United Kingdom, and mostly serving in their own national Armed Forces, were similarly being reminded of their Scout training and comradeships, but not to the same extent.

In Europe, H.R.H. Gustaf Adolf and the Swedish Scouts, and also the Swiss Scouts, were doing their best to maintain contact with different Scout countries, and to care for the thousands of refugee Scouts who crossed their borders. In Sweden a temporary Danish-Swedish Association was established. In his Red Cross work Count Folke Bernadotte was able to see and cheer up Scouts in prisoner-of-war camps. It was typical of the trust and confidence placed in him that he could fly almost direct from visiting a P.O.W. camp in Germany to a P.O.W. camp in the United Kingdom. On these visits he generally had supper with me in my London flat, and my daughter always made a point of saving a tin of coffee for him to take back to Stockholm. She took a pride in being able to supply this commodity to a neutral capital from war-beleaguered London.

From time to time we heard of the deaths of noted Scout leaders. Admiral George Panas, International Commissioner of the Greek Association for many years, had died in September 1939. Daniel Carter Beard, that great American and great Scout, died shortly after B.-P, Count Paul Teleki ended his life in March – a sacrifice to the honour of Hungary. General Coppers, Chief Scout of Latvia, was killed some time that same year. ‘Papa’ Emmerich Teuber, one of the founders of Oesterreichischer Pfadfinderbund and a member of the International Committee from 1922 to 1929, died as a result of the sufferings he had endured in a concentration camp. Tony Noesen, International Commissioner and D.C.C. of the Scouts du Luxembourg, was shot with a number of his Rover Scouts in February 1944. The leader of the Straja Tarii of Roumania, Teofil Sidorovici, also met a tragic death.

Lord Somers had served as a Red Cross Commissioner in Egypt. There he picked up some infection which gave him great suffering, and which led to his death in July 1944. He had proved himself as a true man and a real Scout.

Many others, Scouters, Rovers and Scouts, gave their lives in the cause which they served, in the Armed Forces or as civilians. Equally, they left gaps in the ranks of the leaders which it took time to fill. The casualties were not so heavy as in the First World War, but leadership was weakened at a time when Scouting needed it most.

As the tide of war turned, the darkness began to lift. It was noticeable that communications came to the Bureau from parts of the world still untouched by the physical and, perhaps, mental effects of war. We had always endeavoured to sustain those in occupied countries with messages, broadcast or delivered by hand, showing that they were not forgotten, and trying to give them hope and encouragement. Many a message went to France to the effect that the invitation to hold the next World Jamboree in that country still held good.

*Jamboree* proclaimed midway through 1944: ‘Scouting will rise again of its own free will and accord. There is no need to force the growth. The plant is indigenous in almost every country in the world. Here and there it may – it will – need tending and strengthening.’ Three months later it was recorded: ‘This truth has since been proved conclusively. The dark curtain of oppression has been lifted from many parts of Europe. The scene disclosed is as we expected; Scouting lives and has been revitalised. It has continued to flourish despite – perhaps because of – opposition.’

The first and most telling example came from Italy, where Scouting had been banned in 1928. Sixteen years later, as the Allied Armies landed in Sicily and began to move north up Italy itself, former Scouts, their younger brothers and their sons brought out the old Scout flags, wore the old treasured Scout badges, and without the need for any prompting from outside started to re-create the Scout Movement throughout Italy. Both the former Scout Associations in the country – Catholic and Open – were revived, and were again recognised as co-equal parts of the Federazione Esploratori Italiani!

In other countries the lesson learned by the sufferings of war, that in unity lies strength, was reflected in the arrangements made for the redevelopment of Scouting; and steps were taken to

implement still more faithfully the lead given by the 1924 Copenhagen Conference 'that where more than one organisation exists there shall be a federation based on the common Scout objective'.

As liberation came, the International Bureau invited contributions of material and of badges for the Scouts of Europe. 'Money is not wanted, except to purchase material. Financial assistance is not helpful to self-respect. There is no need to pity the poor Scouts. Rather they are to be glorified and almost envied. The Scouts of Europe have kept their spirit; they are masters of their own souls.'

The Boy Scouts Association of Canada, through their Chins-Up Fund, had copies of translations of *Scouting for Boys* and other Scout books published for immediate delivery in several countries. The (British) Boy Scouts Association sent Scout International Relief Service Teams to Europe and the Far East, and gave other material assistance. The Boy Scouts of America, through their World Friendship Fund, gave a strong helping hand to Scouting in various European countries and in Asia, as they still continue to do. Immediately it became possible, the Danish Scouts raised a special fund for the development of World Scouting, and sent a substantial sum to the International Bureau as a thank-offering for their own liberation.

The relieving armies were full of praise for the way in which Scouts gave them help as guides and in many other ways. Unknown to me, Eileen Wade had had printed, as a greeting card for Christmas 1944 and the New Year, a snapshot taken of B.-P. and me seated at the camp-fire circle in Gilwell during the last reunion he had attended. I sent one of these to an officer who had been on my staff, and who was then with the 1st Canadian Army. A few weeks later he asked for another copy. 'The first card has been worn out, as I use it as a passport. The others are very jealous of me because my truck arrives first at our various destinations.' He remarked, too, on the number of little parties of Scouts he saw hiking about the country looking for good turns, and at the way in which he, a non-Scout, was made welcome at their little camp-fires.

As country after country was liberated, it was patent to all that the spirit of Scouting had not suffered, but rather had been tested and tempered in the fires of war.

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### Linking Up Again

*Revivals and many new enquiries – The British Scout International Relief Service – the 'Bob-a-Job' scheme – relief teams cover the globe – Belgian Scout stretcher-bearers – leading overseas Scouters visit London – I find a 'lost' Scout – a 'linking up' scheme – 'Jamborettes' – appointment of Lord Rowallan – Gilwell Park reopened – revival of Scouting in Scandinavia – a meeting with Montgomery – visits to Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg and France – a Scout Troop in the ruins – the International Committee meets after six years – thankfulness and sorrow – many topics to discuss – plans for the Sixth Jamboree in France – received by King George VI – a lighter moment – new premises – high hopes*

URING 1944 and 1945 there were so many threads to pickup and so many engaged, officially and individually, in making contacts with Scouting in different countries, that it was, and still is, difficult to get a clear picture of the whole. At first the renewal of Scout friendships was of a very spontaneous character, and statements of policy made by individuals were not always correct; moreover, as it took time for the news to filter back to the International Bureau, it was hard to correct any mistakes made by self-appointed ambassadors.

However, all this was of little importance compared with the real worth of the work of more responsible people. The Rev. V. K. C. Logan, while a chaplain in the Forces, had been commissioned by Lord Somers to 'find out how Scouting was rising as the war receded, and where possible to render assistance and encouragement'. I also invited him to act as a liaison officer on behalf of the International Bureau. His parish, so to speak, was the Mediterranean littoral, in Libya, he said, the Senussi were making urgent enquiries about 'this Scouting, about which they had heard so much from British soldier and airmen Rover Scouts who had passed through their country'. The Egyptian Scouts were always ready to lend practical help to any Arab country making enquiries about Scouting. Enquiries came from Iraq, where Scouting had existed before, because of the activities of the Assyrian Group at the R.A.F. Station, Habbaniya. The Lebanon appealed for Arabic Scout literature, a need now being increasingly met by the burly Mustafa Bey Fatalla, well known at many post-war Conferences. As Mr Logan wrote:

In the British Armed Forces, Rover Scout Crews increased beyond imagination, and to whatever country they went, they either helped in the revival of local Scouting or left behind them a strong desire on the part of the inhabitants to know what it was all about. This was particularly evident in North Africa, where for a long time there was an Anglo-American inter-Service International Crew. With the capitulation and occupation of the greater part of Italy, the bulk of the members of this Crew found themselves separated and scattered all over the place. They immediately set to work, and from encouraging Anglo-French Scouting and Anglo-French friendship in Africa, they went on to help with the revival of Italian Scouting.

The British Scout International Relief Service (S.I.R.S.) deserves more than the bare mention they have received. It was E. E. Reynolds who conceived the idea. The funds of The Boy Scouts Association could not be used for the purpose under its charter of recognition; however, F. Haydn Dimmock, Editor of *The Scout* for so many years and a prolific writer of Scout stories, proposed a work-day for the purpose, and coined the slogan 'Bob-a-Job'. A sum of £30,000 was raised – this in the midst of war austerity – and men and women Scouters recruited for relief work. The first teams went to the Middle East to help with refugee camps in that area, and then crossed into Greece and Italy. One team went as far as Hong Kong. Another landed on the Normandy beaches not long after 'D-Day', and with others followed the Allied forces as they advanced northwards and eastwards. Their work and that of other voluntary organisations were co-ordinated under the British Red Cross. Reynolds himself headed up the work in Western Europe until he suffered a serious motor accident, when J. R. Monnet took over.

I am conscious that somewhat similar work was done by the Scouts of other countries in Europe and the Far East, but I can only speak of that with which I was personally acquainted or informed, and London was more than ever a Scout centre in these days. That the good turns were not one-sided was shown by the Belgian Scouts who from September 1944 worked for six months as stretcher-bearers in a British hospital in Brussels. 'When on duty the Rover Scouts were in charge of all the transportation of the wounded in the hospital, taking entering casualties to their beds, evacuating those leaving, taking patients to and from the operating and X-ray theatres. It was also possible for them to help the wounded in many different ways: help them to unclouthe and dress, wash them, shave them and try to give them some distractions.' An International Scout Club was set up at Breda in Holland.

Towards the end of 1944 and early in 1945, many visits were paid to London by leading Scouters from other countries. The most important of these, perhaps, were Lt.-Gen. Kwei Yun Chin, Member of the National Council of the Boy Scouts of China, and General Lafont and Pierre Delsuc from France. 'Scoutisme Francais' had been established on a permanent basis. The united emigre body in Great Britain had handed their example, their publications and their assets to the now parent body. General Lafont had been appointed Chief Scout of Scoutisme Francais – a most admirable choice – and Delsuc acted as Commissioner General, and a few months later was appointed International Commissioner. He held that position for ten years, was awarded the Bronze

Wolf by the International Committee in 1951 and served two terms as a member of the Committee.

Alfred Renou, responsible for Scoutisme Francais in Great Britain, resumed his own nationality and paid a visit to Switzerland on my behalf to inform Walter de Bonstetten and Louis Blondel, Chef suisse, of the Bureau's past and present policy. I added the instruction: 'Find out the Swiss Scouter who was the Hike Patrol Leader of the Ravens on the Wood Badge Course at Kandersteg in 1926, and tell him I want him to help on the international side of Scouting. I've forgotten his name, and my records are not available.' This was sufficient clue for him to discover Jean Salvaj in Geneva, and pass on my message. Salvaj became the Swiss International Commissioner the following year, served two terms as a member of the International Committee and was awarded the Bronze Wolf in 1953.

Glad Bincham, the British International Commissioner, worked out a 'linking up' scheme for British Groups to establish contact with one or more Scout Troops in other countries, and form a close alliance with them through correspondence, exchanging ideas, providing practical help with literature and equipment, if necessary; all leading to the exchange of visits and camps. The scheme was not limited to Europe, and early contacts were made with Troops in Australia, Canada, Egypt, South Africa and the U.S.A. In the first three months of 1945, over two hundred British Groups were working out the idea. For this, for his warm-hearted hospitality and for his active personal help to many Scouts and Scouters, Glad received the Bronze Wolf in the Jubilee awards of 1957. In 1946 Jack Stewart staged his first biennial International Patrol Camp at Blair Atholl in Perthshire. The following year Jens Hvass, one of the 'Three Musketeers' in Denmark, had another idea. I put it in his own words:

To join in a Jamboree is a wonderful experience. The impressions of the first days are overwhelming and exciting. Arid figures about the development of the Scout Movement on a piece of paper are one thing, such a tangible argument for the immense extent of the Brotherhood is quite another thing. Indeed, you cannot help being impressed and being strengthened in your faith in the cause, and you return to your own country with new enthusiasm and a fine addition to your circle of friends. However, only every fourth year there is a Jamboree, and, unfortunately, only less than one per cent of our boys get during their Scouting time the possibility to join in a Jamboree. The necessary limitation of the number of participants alone sets the limit. Something ought to be done to give a greater proportion of the young Scouts of the world the chance to get the feeling of so many having in common the same Laws and the same Promise. I have come to the conclusion that many small Jamborees – (*Jamborettes*) – should be organised in various countries every year, based upon the experience we have had in North Jutland. Participants should not exceed 800, preferably 400 to 500. The Scouts of the host country must not number more than half of the total. A Troop in the host country is linked with a Troop in the visiting country, and the former makes all the preparatory and other arrangements for the latter. Visiting Scouts should be in Scout homes for at least three days *before* the Jamborette. In the camp the two Troops should camp side by side, or even be mingled together.

Many such Jamborettes have since been held, but the idea is capable of much more expansion. For this idea, for his part in the Copenhagen Jamboree in 1924, for the spirit and adventure he had infused into Scandinavian Scouting, Jens Hvass was another of the recipients of the Bronze Wolf in 1957.

But I must get back to 1945. A most important event was the appointment on the auspicious date of February 22nd of Lord Rowallan to succeed the late Lord Somers as Chief Scout of the British Commonwealth and Empire. He threw himself wholeheartedly into his task, and his enthusiasm and energy was of immense help in restoring Scouting to its former prominence throughout his wide-flung parish. He also showed an example in the question of foreign relations, and visited Belgium for the St George's Day Rally, his kilt making a great impression on the women in the market-place.

Gilwell Park was reopened officially for camping in May, and the series of Training Courses resumed there the following month.

I was fortunate enough to be in Oslo when H.M. King Haakon VII returned to his country on June 7th. Before he stepped ashore, I was able to see the Scouts and Guides who lined a part of the triumphal route from the jetty to the Palace. Buried Scout uniforms had been dug up, so that a number of the Scouts were now happily in uniform again. The following morning I attended the first meeting since liberation of the Norwegian Scout Council at the home of the Chief Scout, Pastor Møller-Gasmann. In subsequent tours throughout South Norway and up the west coast, as far north as Bødo within the Arctic Circle, I met Scouts and Guides in every important place and heard their tales of the past four years. The most pleasing meeting was in a remote part of the north, where two Guides and two Scouts were waiting for me by the roadside and presented me with a bunch of flowers and a small silver greeting cup. Unfortunately by that time I had run right out of chocolate and coffee.

On June 19th I flew from Oslo to Copenhagen, and was received at Kastrup airport by a posse of Scouts under the veteran Jens Grane. My military staff had allotted June 21st to the Scouts, who kept me on the go from 9 a.m. until midnight. I met the 'Three Musketeers' and many other friends, and finished up by giving a long talk on Scouting, past, present and future, to over 700 Scouters. Beforehand I asked Ove Holm, 'Who is interpreting?'

'No one; practically all of them know English, and those who don't will have to learn it so that they can read B.-P. in the original.'

I went on to Stockholm, to be met by Sten Thiel, International Commissioner of the Swedish Scout Union, which comprises no less than five separate Associations. He also received the Bronze Wolf in 1953, having served as International Commissioner for thirty-three years, represented Sweden at all International Conferences, World Jamborees and World Rover Moots, and acted more or less as Scout personal secretary to both Prince Gustaf Adolf and Count Folke Bernadotte. We were able to get each other up-to-date with Scout affairs. I also had a long session with Folke Bernadotte before returning again to Norway. Prince Gustaf Adolf was away in North Sweden. However, by breaking my journey back to London, I was able to see him on July 30th. Ove Holm and I took the ferry over from Elsinore to Helsingborg. His Royal Highness met us on the quay and piloted Ove through the Passport Control, as he had been unable to get a Swedish visa in the time. The Prince then drove us to the Crown Prince's estate at Sofiero, where we discussed the many problems that faced the International Committee. He showed the greatest interest in the future development of Scouting, and promised to continue to support it as much as he possibly could.

On my return home I found a letter from Lord Rowallan. He wrote that Field Marshal Lord Montgomery had asked for a meeting with him about Scouting in the British Zone in Germany. If I was in London, would I attend? The meeting took place at 25 Buckingham Palace Road on August 15th. The cessation of hostilities in the Far East had just been announced. I was in battle-dress, and the Field Marshal arrived in all his glory on his way to receive the Freedom of the Borough of Lambeth. He talked of the difficulties being encountered in bringing good order into the British Zone, and the trouble caused by bands of German boys wandering about without discipline. He proposed to issue an Army Order to the effect that the boys should be collected and formed into Scout Troops with British Officers and N.C.O.'s as their leaders. Lord Rowallan rightly said that the development of Scouting in foreign countries was my responsibility on behalf of the International Committee. The thought flitted through my mind, 'How on earth does an amateur Colonel tackle a professional Field Marshal?' Inspiration came. 'I take it, sir, that yours is a short-term plan to tide the British Zone through the coming winter. We have a long-term plan that in time – three years, five years, seven years, we don't know how long – we will be able to get a natural and national Scout Movement established in Germany which we hope will not only benefit the country but perhaps the world as a whole. If you start Scouting as a part of the Occupying Army, then there is little, if any, hope of our plan succeeding.'

Then, feeling very bold and knowing that I could be demobilised whenever I had completed my war-time task, I added: 'If you will forgive me for saying so, this field is mine and not yours.' There was a heavy and seemingly long silence. Then, to give the Field Marshal full credit, he said: 'Well, I suppose if that is the case I must give up my idea.'

It was many months before we felt that it was advisable to launch the long-term plan of which I had spoken.

Glad Bincham and A. W. (Fred) Hurl, then General Secretary of The Boy Scouts Association, paid a visit to Belgium, Holland, Luxembourg and France in October. They were able to make valuable first-hand contacts with the leaders of the Movements in these countries, and to learn more of how Scouting had played its part during the occupation, and how it proposed to meet the future. At Echternach in Luxembourg, they were received by the Scout Commissioner, Robert Schaffier, who had proved his courage and his Scout spirit in a remarkable fashion. He had been elected Mayor of the ruined town the day before, and was already drawing up plans for its reconstruction. At the time Fred Hurl wrote:

Bastogne is the town the American Airborne Troops held, despite several invitations to surrender, during the Rundstedt offensive. The damage is extensive. After a search, the proprietor of a place that was once a restaurant kindly gave us some food. We were just finishing our meal when a Padre accompanied by a young Assistant Scoutmaster walked in. They told us they had heard we might be travelling that way, and that their Group had been waiting for us for an hour and a half. Would we come at once, please? We found a Group of about sixty Cubs, Scouts and Rovers drawn up outside a much damaged building to welcome us. This was their Scout headquarters, and a splendid place it must have been before the battle, a two-storey building with a number of fine rooms. It has no roof now, and only one room on the ground floor is habitable, but it is still their Scout headquarters ... It is difficult to convey the setting; the ruined town, the signs of recent battles, the not long since enemy occupation. We were astounded to find Scouts there at all, let alone so live and happy. The Bastogne Group is the complete answer to the Jeremiahs who find it so hard to do this and that because of the difficulties of uniform, travel, war-weariness and so on. The majority of these children have no real homes; many of them have no Scout uniform, but such is their enthusiasm that all have done something about it. Two of the Scouts were wearing shirts made from mattress covers and they were as proud of them as if they were the most elegant to be found in the Scout shop. Their scarves were made from Nazi arm-bands, left behind in the hasty retreat.

After an interval of six years, the Boy Scouts International Committee met in London on November 14th and 15th. There were present:

Prince Gustaf Adolf of Sweden, Hon. President;

The Lord Hampton (Great Britain);

Ing. Ove Holm (Denmark);

General J. Lafont (France), co-opted in the place of Count Henri Marty (France) who had died in

June after many years of devoted service to the Eclaireurs de France and to the Committee;

Sir Alfred D. Pickford (Great Britain);

Dr James E. West (U.S.A.);

Colonel J. S. Wilson, Hon. Director, with Mr R. T. Lund, Secretary of the Bureau, in attendance.

Four other members had been elected at the Edinburgh Conference in 1939. Dr W. de Bonstetten (Switzerland) was unable to attend owing to ill-health. Pastor H. Møller-Gasmann had recently resigned for the same reason. The Committee were relieved to hear of the well-being of one of their number, Dr Anton Papp of Hungary, and to have news at third hand of Dr Strumillo of Poland. I repeat what I wrote in *Jamboree* shortly after the meeting:

The feelings of the members were mixed: there was a natural thankfulness that at long last they could come together, but there was also deep sorrow that some who had served the Movement so faithfully in the past were not there. First and foremost their thoughts were of the Founder; then of

his successor in Great Britain, Lord Somers; two others in particular were in the minds of the Committee – Count Paul Teleki and Count Henri Marty . . .

The Committee had many important matters to consider. A selection of the topics will indicate the scope of the discussions: The “World Youth Council, Scouting in Germany, Scouting for Displaced Persons, the proposed ‘Temporary Inter-American Scout Committee’, literature and equipment for liberated countries, and, of course, that perennial topic – finance. The news that Scouting is reviving in so many countries was most heartening, and there was much discussion of how best this could be furthered. Two matters of special interest call for longer comment. The Sixth World Jamboree is to be held in France in July-August 1947; General Lafont was able to report on the preliminary plans for the site and for other preparations. There will be much hard work before all of us to make the Sixth Jamboree a landmark in the history of Scouting. The members of Scoutisme Franc.ais have already rolled up their sleeves and are on the job; they may be assured that every possible support will be given them. The second special matter was the future of this journal, *Jamboree*; it was decided that it should become a monthly as soon as the necessary arrangements can be made. Mr E. E. Reynolds will be the Honorary Editor. If this new venture is to succeed, it will call for the support of Scouts in every country where the Movement exists . . .

The Hon. President and members of the Committee were honoured by being presented to H.M. King George VI at Buckingham Palace on November 16th. The presentations were made by the Lord Rowallan, Chief Scout of the British Commonwealth and Empire. H.M. the King further honoured the Committee by being photographed with them in the grounds of Buckingham Palace.

Two of the Committee’s decisions affected the position of Director of the Bureau. The first was that it now demanded the Director’s full-time attention, and could no longer be adequately filled in an honorary capacity. So it was that I dropped my amateur status on April 1st, 1946 – obviously a suitable date! The second decision was that the Director should spend a considerable amount of his time in travelling, firstly in Europe, and secondly in those parts of the world which were not in such close touch with the Committee and which deserved closer attention and encouragement. The conduct of the office of the Bureau would remain in the competent hands of Dick Lund.

Fortunately the Committee meeting had its lighter moments, as I have recorded in *Jamboree Story*:

The possibilities and problems of the Sixth World Jamboree were discussed at length. General Lafont talked of shortage of supplies, and particularly of food. Dr James E. West, now Hon. Chief Scout of the Boy Scouts of America and a stout supporter of World Scouting right from 1921, remarked that the parents of his Scouts would expect that they had a pint of milk a day. From the General there came a *sotto voce* ‘Oo! là! là!’ The meeting adjourned for lunch. When coffee was passed round, in reply to the query, ‘Black or white?’, the General said chirpily, ‘Black! I save all my milk for Dr West.’ None laughed more heartily than Dr West himself.

Shortly after the meeting, by a stroke of good luck considering the housing situation in London at the time, the Bureau was able to secure a long-term lease of 132 Ebury Street, Westminster, for its offices. The building had been damaged by bombs, and at first there were restrictions on using parts of it, but year by year it was put in better repair, so that the whole of it could be used, and an expanding staff more adequately housed.

So 1945 came to an end in high hopes that Scouting would recover from its wounds, grievous though they had been in many countries, and that 1946 would be a period of convalescence devoted primarily to the building up of the health and strength of national associations. Those men, women and boys who throughout the years of war maintained their faith in Scouting, who drew from its ideals and traditions strength of mind and firmness of purpose, who leant on the Scout Promise and Law for courage and steadfastness, who found their Scout training and practices a present help in times of trouble: all were determined that their younger brothers should receive the help they themselves had received.

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## The International Bureau Goes on the Road

*My new role as Travelling Director – I fly to Munich – meeting of the Scouts' Alpine Club – planning the 1947 Jamboree – to Luxembourg – to Belgium – memories of Edith Cavell – to Holland – to the U.S.A. and Canada, via Mexico for an Inter-American Scout Conference – first monthly number of 'Jamboree' – Denmark – Sweden – a National Camp – a very select meeting – camp highlights – Norway – Denmark – Austria – a Rugby football link – a conference with the Allied Control Commission – new editions and reprints – a Christmastide conference in Belgium – Luxembourg and Paris again – death of Prince Gustaf Adolf of Sweden – 'conversion' of a Foreign Minister – a visit to Central Europe – Prague – Austria – Italy – a speech from a gondola – the story of 'Bad Boy' – a private audience with Pope Pius XII*

IN accordance with my new role as a Travelling Director, I flew to Zurich on February 19th, 1946, to be met by Manfred de Wattenwyl, the Secretary – apparently in perpetuity – of the Federation of Swiss Scouts. Before motoring to Berne, he showed me the films of the World Rover Moot at Kandersteg in 1931, and of the Swiss National Camp at Zurich. Next day was held the first meeting since 1939 of the Scouts Alpine Club and of the Association of the Scouts International Chalet at Kandersteg. Their Founder, Walter de Bonstetten, was unable to attend through illness, but recovered sufficiently to entertain me to dinner three days later and to discuss the business of the International Committee. By his enthusiasm and imagination and his long years of service for the Chalet he had fully merited the ride of President d'Honneur of the Scouts Alpine Club.

With a merry party of Swiss, two Luxembourgers and a Frenchman, I arrived at the Chalet by rail and sleigh to be welcomed by Etra Trachsel, the new President, and Franz Moser, the Secretary, a bit of an explorer in his own right. They detailed their plans for re-opening and improvements, and Andre Lombard, the Forester, talked of trees and tradition.

Dick Lund joined me in Paris so that he, too, could have an idea of the arrangements for the Jamboree and Conference the following year. All the directorate of the 'Association du Jamboree' took us out to the selected site at Moisson. All were determined that the Jamboree should be a success, and both a fitting celebration of peace and also a proud remembrance of B.-P. and all of his following who had 'gone home' since France's invitation was accepted in 1939. Yet all the requirements were still very short – especially milk.

March came in like a lion, camouflaged in the white snowy fleece of a lamb. We arrived at Luxembourg late at night to a warm welcome from Trausch, the International Commissioner, the indomitable Robert Schafriher and Georges Schommer, who had been the mainstay of the Luxembourg Scouts in Great Britain during the war. I recorded: 'Two small Cubs, allowed to sit up long past their bedtime, shyly presented two mementoes of the fact that the Cubs of Luxembourg had undertaken the Good Turn of caring for the graves of all those left behind by the Allied Expeditionary Force, including that of General Patton.'

On the Sunday we drove over snowy roads to Föschbach, where we were received in audience by H.R.H. the Grand Duchess, her Consort, Prince Felix, and the Chief Scout of Luxembourg, Prince Jean. The royal patronage continues to be well deserved. Scouting permeates the life of the people, and over twenty per cent of Luxembourg's necessarily small population was and is connected in one way or another with the Scout and Guide Movements.

That night we were in Brussels. Again there were reunions with old friends. Mention must be made of our meeting with Pierre Graux, Founder President of the Interfederale, and Madame Graux. Edith Cavell had been her governess. She showed us a diary dated 1896, in the handwriting of that heroine of the First World War and over her signature, containing the answers to a game of



## SCOUTING ROUND THE WORLD

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questions, a nursery game of those days and a radio game today. They were remarkable as showing the character of a girl still in her teens:

What do you admire in women?	Reverence.
What do you dislike in women?	Restlessness.
What is your favourite motto?	Right is Might.
What is your ambition?	To be buried in Westminster Abbey.

In the Netherlands we found that numbers had bounded up since the liberation; a rough estimate put them at between 120,000 and 150,000 all told. But intercommunication was still difficult; and Scouters of all kinds were still scarce. Forty Scourers' Training Courses were to be run that summer, and with all this planning there was only one typewriter in the N.P.V. Headquarters! All Scout assets, equipment and property had been lost and were not recoverable. Yet every Scout one met was full of enthusiasm, and determined that Scouting should make good and stand on its own legs. The time for encouragement and assistance from outside had almost ceased. Great gratitude was expressed for the help given by Scouts in the Allied Forces and by neighbouring Scout Associations, but self-reliance was now the keynote of Dutch Scouting.

On our first morning in The Hague we were awakened by the strains of a barrel-organ. Surely we recognised the tune? Yes, it was the Jamboree song from 1937, written and composed by Jan Schaap. Several times we passed through Vogelenzang, site of the 1937 Jamboree. The hateful years of war had been bridged.

Early in 1941 a proposal had been made by Senor Juan Laine, Chief Scout of Mexico, that an Inter-American Scout Committee should be formed with the object of promoting a closer link among the Scouts of the countries in the American continent. At the time, the general consensus of opinion was against the formation of a separate continental organisation. Personally, I was conscious that Scouting in Central and South America had not received the encouragement from outside to which it was entitled, apart from a visit or two from the Boy Scouts of America and temporary representatives of the Bureau. In 1945 the question was revived, Dr John Stiles, Chief Executive Commissioner of the Boy Scouts of Canada, and Dr Elbert K. Pretwell, Chief Scout Executive of the Boy Scouts of America, taking an interest in it. A representative meeting was held at the Schiff Scout Reservation of the Boy Scouts of America, and a decision taken to hold an Inter-American Conference at Bogota in Colombia in January 1946. At my request the Conference was postponed until May, to enable me to attend and represent the International Committee. Following on this I received invitations to visit Canada, the United States and Mexico on the way.

Imagining that I would get some kind of rest on the voyage, I sailed from Liverpool on April 18th, but the boat carried a double complement of passengers and was delayed by fog and ice, so that we reached Montreal two days late. This decided me to make all my future journeys by air – a decision which I stuck to firmly and which must have saved many months of time. The delay meant that I had missed the quarterly meeting of the Canadian General Council, held in Ottawa, at which Major-General D. C. Spry was appointed Chief Executive Commissioner with effect from the following September, and at which the Governor-General, Lord Alexander of Tunis, had accepted office as Chief Scout.

In the week available I met scores of Council and Committee members, hundreds of Scouters, and many Scouts. I was struck by the patent determination to develop Scouting in both numbers and standards, and by the number of ex-servicemen coming forward to take out warrants as Scouters. Special training courses were being arranged for them. I was received by the Cardinal Archbishop of Toronto, who showed an enlightened interest in Scouting and expressed his strong support for a single, united Movement. In Toronto, too, the international Scout, Robbert Hartog, came to my aid. In the latter years of the war he had represented Dutch Scouting at our monthly

meetings, and had acted as Scout aide to H.R.H. Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands. In Hamilton many of the leading Scouters had apparently migrated from Scotland, so I was at home.

In New York, Commander Thomas J. Keane took charge of me. We first met in Sweden in 1935. He is now the International Bureau's representative in New York. There were important conversations with Dr Fretwell and Dr James E. West, and also with Mr John Schiff, Vice-President of the B.S.A. Later, at the Schiff Scout Reservation, there was the usual warm welcome from William Hillcourt and his wife Grace, and a special meeting of the 1st Mendham Troop, of which I had been the sponsor ten years before.

The Annual Meeting of the Boy Scouts of America was held at St Louis on May 16th-17th. The keynote was, 'Scouts of the World – Building Together', but this was overshadowed by the honouring of the retiring President, Mr Walter E. Head, who had served as such for twenty years and had been a member of the International Committee for several terms.

On arrival at Mexico City, having broken the flight at Dallas to see a Camporee, I was met by Jorge Nunez, former Chief Scout, and Dr Paul Loewe, one of the German leaders who came to a Scout Course at Gilwell in 1934. In one of the parks I was received by the Chief Scout, Juan Laine, and a posse of Scouts. Jorge Nunez carried on with me as interpreter-secretary. We touched down at Ecuador, San Salvador, Managua and San Jose, being met by the leading Scouters of each country at the airports. At Balboa we met up with Gunnar Berg and Ray Wyland of the B.S.A., also on their way to Bogota, and had a conference about the question of the coloured Scouts in the Canal Zone, who claim British and not Panamanian nationality. It was agreed that they should be taken under the wing of the Canal Zone Council of the Boy Scouts of America, but ten years later they were transferred directly under the International Bureau as the International Boy Scouts of the Canal Zone.

The first Inter-American Scout Conference in Bogota was a success, the rising tide of the Scout spirit during the week being most noticeable. Many subjects were discussed and ventilated, particularly the association of Scouting with home, school, church and state. The needs of training and of Scout literature in Spanish were emphasised and an Inter-American Advisory Committee appointed to meet these needs, and to arrange for another conference in two years' time. The Conference was important, too, as bringing to notice Ing. Salvador Fernandez Bertram of Cuba, who acted as its General Secretary and entered into a long and valuable service in the cause of Latin-American Scouting.

The first monthly number of *Jamboree* had appeared in May. Its policy was to present current Scout news from as wide an area as possible, but, more important, to stress the fundamentals of Scouting and the aims and ideas of the Founder. It was felt that the post-war Scouters must have a solid background of history and tradition from which to advance. Josh Reynolds, as Editor, provided all this background material, and I, by my 'travelogues', endeavoured to widen the view of the readers in the different countries and to get them to appreciate the difficulties and triumphs of others. From the stern businessman's angle *Jamboree* was a loss, but its educational, public relations and moral value to World Scouting was immense.

On July 13th I flew from London to Copenhagen and motored down to Sonderborg, near the German border, in a car placed at my disposal by Major Floyd Oles of the Allied Commission, who had been a Scouter in Seattle, Washington, and Westminster, London. The K.F.U.M. i Danmark were holding a National Camp under Kolthoft Nielsen, who was on the spot waiting for me when I arrived at 3 a.m. It had not been an easy task to organise a camp for 11,000 and to make a real success of it. Owing to war privations, camping standards were not high, and there were large numbers of young inexperienced Scouters, but their training was one of the reasons for the camp, and they improved greatly as the days went by. H.R.H. the Crown Prince paid a formal visit, and was given a somewhat typical back-slapping welcome by a Lancashire Troop in the British camp.

Five days later I crossed over into Sweden, and was taken by Sten Thiel to the National Camp of the Sveriges Scoutforbund at Granso. Count Folke Bernadotte, as Camp Chief, gave me a warm welcome, and Prince Gustaf Adolf was there for a couple of days. It was remarkable

that there were foreign contingents from Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Great Britain, Holland, Iceland, Norway and Switzerland, and a small group of Scouters from Czechoslovakia.

There was a very select meeting of the International Committee with Prince Gustaf Adolf in the chair and Ove Holm, General Lafont and myself as members. It was concerned mainly with next year's Jamboree and International Conference. It is not out of place to record part of what I wrote at the time:

Of the camp itself, several memories stand out; the cross-country races, graded from 1,000 metres to 5,000 metres according to age groups, in which over 5,000 started; the football match between the Scouts and Vestervik with Prince Gustaf Adolf as centre-forward and Folke Bernadotte in goal; the final leg of the Rover competition at the stadium, with each pair of Rovers carrying rucksacks of a minimum weight of fifteen kilo over a succession of obstacles, finishing with a double water jump; the finals of the Gränsö competition which had been going on for a year; the Indian Camp Fire at which much ingenuity was shown in costumes; the arrival of the Camp Chief in full Indian chief's costume and astride a horse; a Scout forum at which I was the only speaker, between 11 p.m. and midnight in a remote place arrived at through woods and rocks. Above all, I value the memory of the supper in the Staff Mess after the final Camp Fire, when Folke Bernadotte, in a Cub cap and standing on a table, led the singing and the fun.

I went over to Norway on a mixture of Scout business and wartime reunions. I saw the Norwegian Gilwell at Sverveli, where the Gilwell Camp Chief was to run a Scandinavian Course in 1958, and got well acquainted with the new Chief Scout, Pastor Birger Brekke, and called on his predecessor, my old friend Pastor Moller-Gasmann.

I flew back to Copenhagen. It was Copenhagen Day for the 8,000 Scouts from the National Camp of Det Danske Spejderkorps, held at Ermelunden on the site of the 1924 World Jamboree. The city was full of Scouts, who eventually converged on the square in front of the Town Hall to be addressed by the Mayor, who aptly pointed out that they concealed the air-raid shelters with which the square was still strewn. Was this a happy augury for the future? In the camp I rejoined the 'Three Musketeers'. Prince Knud paid several visits as the 'Royal Protector'.

This series of Northern Countries' National Camps was held as a matter of training policy, for Scouts as well as Scouters, and to demonstrate practical scoutcraft in the open after years of restrictions and concealment. The camps admirably fulfilled their purpose, as was shown by the keenness and enthusiasm of the boys and the marked friendly spirit of everyone.

The two Scout Associations in Austria, disbanded after the *Anschluss* in 1938, came together through their surviving leaders at Salzburg in April 1946, after many months of hard preparatory work. Resolutions were passed agreeing that there should be one united Austrian Scout Movement, and also agreeing on the statutes, regulations and principles that should be adopted. As was written in *Jamboree*, 'After dinner we had a camp-fire on a hill close by the Castle of Salzburg, and after eight long and hard years of prohibition we were privileged once again to sit round the fire as real Boy Scouts and sing under a night sky of glittering stars.'

An application for the recognition of 'Pfadfinder Oesterreichs' was submitted to the International Bureau, and the necessary enquiries instituted. On November 1st I flew out to Vienna by a somewhat circuitous route which took me 7½ hours. The following day I had lunch with the British High Commissioner, General Sir James Steele. He recognised me at once as an opponent on the Rugby football field in Calcutta. This opened the door to all kinds of facilities, including transport. That evening there was a gathering to which representatives from the Educational Branches of the Allied Control Commission had been invited. Of the four occupying powers, America, Britain and France were all represented, but not the U.S.S.R., although the invitation had been accepted. George von Reininghaus was in the chair as President of the new Association, supported by Robert Ulrich, Chief Scout, and Colonel Willi Teuber, Deputy Chief Scout and a brother of 'Papa' Teuber. The Chairman made an excellent speech, tracing the history of Scouting in Austria and acknowledging the help given by the three Allied powers represented.

Next day, Sunday, there was a conference of County Presidents and County Commissioners at the Ministry of Education. All the nine Provinces, except Styria and Upper Austria, were represented. The contentious subject of 'Confessional' Scout Groups was raised, political-religious feeling in Austria running high. I explained that the example of the U.S.A. and Great Britain and of other countries could not lightly be brushed aside as unrelated to the Austrian problem, since, certainly in the two named, the permission given to churches and other authorities to sponsor Groups had undoubtedly helped the continuance of one single National Scout Association. The rule drafted in favour of sponsored groups was then passed unanimously, and everyone seemed pleased that a straightforward decision had been made.

In the afternoon the Conference was thrown open to all Scouters, and I was able to announce, after being assured of complete unity and co-operation, that from that day, November 3rd, 1946, the Boy Scouts of Austria under the name of Pfadfinder Oesterreichs had been registered by the International Bureau as a member of the Boy Scouts' International Conference. This caused quite a furore. Adolf Klarer, a Deputy Camp Chief from before 1938, interpreted for me in a first-class manner, just as he has translated several of B.-P.'s foundation books on Scouting.

In those difficult times, Austrian Scouting had been greatly helped by the encouragement and practical assistance of Major Murphy of the U.S.A. and by Lt-Col. A. D. Williamson and – in Salzburg – Major Pat Gardner of the U.K. Captain Vernon Gifford, on leave from Italy, gave me a very full account of the progress of Scouting in Italy, and I commissioned him as the Bureau's representative there.

It is sad to have to mention that a few years later there was a split away from Pfadfinder Oesterreichs on the part of some of the more extreme non-clerical Scouters, who re-formed the old Oesterreichischer Pfadiinderbund. Despite many efforts on the part of members of the International Committee and others, this breach has not yet been healed.

To help in the reconstruction of Scouting after the war, the Boy Scouts of America had published a World Brotherhood Edition of *Aids to Scoutmastership*, originally brought out by B.-P. in 1920. The work had been done by Mr William Hillcourt, Director of Scoutcraft and an Assistant Editor of *Boys' Life*, and – incidentally – my 'dogsbody' at the Gilwell Courses which I conducted at the Schiff Scout Reservation in 1936. At the end of 1946 the B.S.A. published a World Brotherhood Edition of *Scouting for Boys*. In editing this, Bill Hillcourt had voluntarily undertaken a much more arduous, important and difficult task, and made a complete success of it. In an Introduction, I wrote:

This follows the last edition supervised by Baden-Powell; but a special effort has been made to present it in the style B.-P. himself would have used for a World Brotherhood Edition. The international aspect, rather than the purely national, has been the dominating influence . . . The two hundred drawings by Baden-Powell which illustrate this edition have been gathered from a great number of his books and articles. They constitute the largest selection of representative illustrations by the Chief Scout ever assembled in a single volume.

This edition has been translated into several languages and has been reprinted by The Boy Scouts Association of Canada.

Similarly, the Bureau published a pamphlet, written by E. E. Reynolds, entitled *The Fundamentals of the Scout Method*.

A special pamphlet was also prepared for particular use in Germany, on *The Game of Scouting for Boys*, as a preliminary to the more practical organisation of Scouting in that country when the time was suitable. The reason for this publication was expressed in it:

Some of the principles of the Scout method may be found at work, or in various combinations, in other forms of boy training; it is the synthesis of these principles which distinguishes Scouting from all other Movements. The loss of one or more would result in a new Movement, and not be in keeping

with the ideas formulated by B.-P. in *Scouting for Boys* and expanded and developed by him in his subsequent writings and speeches.

I finished 1946 by flying to Brussels on December 27th to meet the Interfederal Council and attend the Christmastide Conference of the Federation des Scouts Catholiques, as Hubert Martin had done several times before. Then on to Luxembourg, where 'Les Diables Mauves', Georges Schommer's old Scout Group and the then contributors to the 'Voice of Scouting' programme on Radio Luxembourg, provided a New Year's Eve supper of great magnitude. I paid a visit to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, M. Joseph Bech, a recent convert to Scouting. M. Bech and I were the guests to dinner of the newly formed National Council of the Luxembourg Boy Scouts, under the Chairmanship of H.R.H. the Chief Scout Prince Jean. Another success had been achieved in the straggle for unity and co-operation.

I went on to Paris for a full week of meetings, discussions and visits, and of conferences with Scoutisme Francais about the Jamboree, and various aspects of their own Scouting and of their relations with other peoples and bodies, D.P. Scouts, Germany, UNESCO, with which last, under Pierre Delsuc, they were in liaison on behalf of International Scouting.

Sweden in particular and the Scout world in general suffered a grievous loss in the death of H.R.H. Prince Gustaf Adolf of Sweden in an air crash at Kastrup Airport, Copenhagen, on January 26th, 1947. Prince Gustaf Adolf had a sincere desire in everything he did to master the details as well as the presentation, whether it was in his royal duties, his soldiering or his social and his many sporting activities. Like others of his blood, he was not content with the position rank gave him; he had to see for himself, to hear for himself. The Scout method attracted him because it aimed at the same virtues for ordinary boys and men. As he had responded to the call for service from the Swedish Scout Union in 1932, so he responded readily to the invitation the Boy Scouts' International Committee extended to him in 1937 to become their first Honorary President. He was not satisfied with a purely honorary position, he regarded himself as an active officer of the Committee and worked assiduously on its behalf. I received a personal letter from him written six days before he died. He spoke fully of his hopes for the introduction of Scouting into Germany, and for the recovery of Scouting in Hungary and in Poland. He wrote, too, of the plans for the Jamboree and Conference in France, and asked what would be required of him so that he could Be Prepared.

He had led the Swedish contingent to Hungary in 1933 and to Holland in 1937. On the day of the opening of die Jamboree he had been invited to lunch with Queen Wilhelmina, and appeared in his Scout shirt and shorts, much to the consternation of an elderly member of the Court, who commented afterwards: 'Bare knees! Once, and never more!'

Those who were brought into contact with the Prince at the International Conferences in Hungary, Sweden, the Netherlands and Scotland realised that he took a real, practical and lively interest in International Scout affairs. When in the chair, he controlled the Conference courteously but firmly.

Withal, he showed a natural simplicity; he looked to, and spoke of, B.-P. as his Chief. He did all that he could in a difficult time to lighten the burden imposed by B.-P.'s death. He agreed that B.-P. could have no successor as Chief Scout of the World, but, on a slightly lower plane, he was prepared to do all that he could to preserve the trust that B.-P. had handed on to the International Committee.

It had long been determined that it was my duty to pay a visit to Central Europe and to take to the Scouts of Czechoslovakia, of Austria and of Italy a message of goodwill and understanding from their brother Scouts in other parts of the world. Circumstances beyond my control, but none the less regrettable, made it impossible for me to pay a flying visit to Budapest to meet the new leaders of the Hungarian Boy Scouts Association. Count Folke Bernadotte, now President of the Swedish Scout Union in Prince Gustaf Adolf's place, kindly deputised for me, and secured the promise of the attendance of a large contingent of Hungarian Scouts at the coming Jamboree.

On St George's Day, after attending the B.-P. Memorial Service at Westminster Abbey, I flew off to Prague. Of the visit to Czechoslovakia and of the future of the Hungarian Scouts I shall have something to say in a later chapter. On May 5th I had seen Vienna on the horizon from a Scout camp above Bratislava, but I had to return to Prague and fly to Vienna, and (because of fog in Newfoundland), I did not get there until three days later. A formidable programme had been arranged for me by the Education Division, British Element, and Adolf Klarer as International Commissioner. Fortunately my Rugby football background provided me with a truck and driver – Paddy Murphy of Killarney. We toured throughout the American, British and French Zones, having interviews with educational and youth authorities, seeing Cubs, Scouts and Scouters, and visiting several displaced persons' camps where we talked to the Scouts and Guides there. Everywhere I met old friends, amongst the Control authorities as well as amongst the Scouts and the Guides too.

In Italy Captain Vernon Gifford joined me as my interpreter and aide. Venice was our first port of call, but I can only chronicle our departure by gondola from St Mark's Square to the railway station with an accompanying escort of fifteen boats of different kinds and sizes, decorated, lighted by lanterns and manned by Scouts, whose songs and yells brought people to windows and balconies. I made my farewell speech from the gondola. It was quite a unique occasion for me, and a good finale to my Venice visit, where the Scout spirit was undoubtedly alive and at a high level.

Near Milan, 300 Catholic Scouts were in camp for the weekend to assist in the policing and care of the people assembled for an important religious festival. They were drawn up to meet me on an open plain. As we approached one large group, obviously of a high standard, the Regional Commissioner said: 'These are the "Aquile Randagie", whose leader kept them together right through the Mussolini era. During the fighting, he and others helped over 100 Allied airmen and soldiers to escape.' I was forthwith introduced to the leader, Giulio Cesare Uccellini. What could I say to him? Any excessive praise would be out of character. Inspiration came: 'I hear you have been a very bad boy these last years.' There were roars of laughter and cheers behind him, and I breathed again. It appeared that Uccellini had visited the 1937 Jamboree at Vogelenzang, secretly, and that I had introduced him to B.-P. In 1954 he wrote:

You know that I continued to hold a group of Scouts together for seventeen years and also during the war. We lived secretly, and only when we were well hid in the mountains and in the forest would we don our uniforms. In 1936 I went to Lourdes... I asked for Grace to have Scouting anew in Italy, promising that I would conduct a Pilgrimage of Italian Scouts to Lourdes in thanksgiving. Various circumstances delayed my fulfilling my promise to make the pilgrimage, but this year I have been able to release myself. We were more than 400 Scouts who made the trip to Lourdes, where we camped on a site arranged for us by the French Scouts. Cardinal Lercaro addressed us and we prayed before the shrine. And one night I returned alone to the shrine, and at 2 o'clock in the morning I knelt in the very same spot where I knelt eighteen years ago, and released myself of the promise I had made.

Every Christmas after I had met him in Milan, Giulio sent me a Milan cake. His cards and all his letters to me were invariably signed, 'Bad Boy'. I last met him at the World Jamboree in Canada in 1955, where he conducted the splendid Italian Scout Choir. Proudly he showed me the silver identity disc on his right wrist. Engraved on it was – 'Bad Boy'. He died in March 1957, and the In Memoriam card, with a picture of Christ the Saviour and his own photograph in shirt and shorts, carried the words 'Giulio Cesare Uccellini ("Bad Boy").'

It is men like Bad Boy who are the backbone of Scouting – men who lead Scout Groups, men who act as advisers to Rover Scout Crews, men who inspire and set an example to Scout Troops, men – and women too – who instil into Wolf Cub Packs something of imagination and wonder, and of a desire to do their best.

We went on to Bologna, Florence, Naples, Bari and Rome. Mario Mazza, last seen on the Gilwell Course at Kandersteg in 1926, had joined us in Venice and travelled all the way with us.

His sense of fun had not left him, although he had become a headmaster. In Rome I was received by Osvaldo Monads, President of the Catholic side of the Federation, and by Luigi Pirota, Chief Scout of the Open side, an old friend from 1924.

The culmination of the whole visit was my reception in private audience by His Holiness the Pope (Pius XII). I wrote that night in my diary:

Gifford accompanied me, but no one else, and, after passing through a series of Chamberlains and audience chambers, we were received by the Holy Father in his study. He expressed his great appreciation of Scouting and the work that it was doing in strengthening the characters of boys and girls, particularly as this work was more than ever necessary today. I explained that my duty was to secure co-operation and unity between all Scouts, whatever their religion or denomination, and asked if I could give his message of appreciation to them all. He readily consented, and added his blessing on World Scouting as a whole. Three times he returned to the moral qualities of the Scout principles. He is a man of great simplicity and sincerity. After a fifteen minutes' audience, we withdrew with his benediction. He himself took us to his study door, and he laid his hand on my shoulder as we said farewell.

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### On to the 'Jamboree de la Paix'

*Refugee Scouts and Scouters – Harry K. Eby's tour of the U.S. Zone of Germany – his report on the vitality of Scouting – informing a new generation about past history – final arrangements for Jamboree in France – relations with UNESCO – settling in – official opening – Sea Scouts on the Seine – visit of the French President – a historic day – Eleventh International Scout Conference – its unusual character – changes in the Constitution and Bye-laws – death of Sir Alfred Pickford – 'Pickie's' qualities – Sir Winston Churchill's tribute to Scouting on its fortieth anniversary*

AS soon as hostilities had ceased in Europe, public attention was drawn to the very large numbers of refugees who had been driven, or deported, or had departed from their native countries. The task of looking after these unfortunate people gradually devolved on UNRRA (United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration), helped out by various voluntary societies such as the Red Cross. It was soon apparent that amongst the Displaced Persons were large numbers of Scouters and Scouts, also Guiders and Guides, and that the Scout programme of training was being used in many of the camps as an effective aid to the education of the younger people. Some of the Scouters of S.I.R.S. carried over into UNRRA their practical experience in the field.

While not taking any very active share in the supervision of Scouting in D.P. Camps and Centres, owing to lack of funds and personnel, the International Bureau did its best to give encouragement and moral support. All national Scout Associations were asked to supply literature and other scout material. Communication was soon established, direct and through UNRRA and others, with the Scout leaders of the different nationalities, many of them known to me personally and members of the Gilwell Training Team. There were one or two set-backs owing to political demonstrations, but in the main it was abundantly clear that Scouting was being used solely for educational purposes. Its value, too, was that it gave all those interested common ground with others. It linked the traditions of the past with the hard facts of the present and the hopes of the future.

The International Committee was, however, of opinion that while D.P. Scouts should continue to be recognised as members of the World Brotherhood, it would not be fitting to recognise a

number of separate *national* D.P. Scout Associations. The position was further complicated in the early months of 1947 by the standing down of UNRRA and the delay in deciding on the principles and methods – and financing – of the International Refugee Organisation (IRO). The Committee drew up recommendations to place before the Eleventh International Conference. I shall comment on these later.

Harry K. Eby of the Boy Scouts of America, representing both the B.S.A. and the International Bureau, did a tour of four months' duty in the U.S. Zones at the end of 1946 and beginning of 1947. His experiences were typical. He wrote:

I am filled with admiration and pride in the vitality of Scouting as an international influence, and admiration for the vitality of people who, under great handicaps and difficulties, express such devotion to their youth. I found seven major nationality groups actively using Scouting in D.P. camps – Latvians, Lithuanians, Estonians, Poles, Ukrainians, White Ruthenians, and Russian emigrants. Today these groups have between twelve and fifteen thousand Scouts and about an equal number of Guides in the U.S. Zone. In many of the camps seventy-five or eighty per cent of the boys and girls are Scouts and Guides. Just as automatically as they set up their schools, kindergartens, churches, infirmaries, and workshops, they establish their Troops for Scouts and Guides . . . Several of the nationalities have the benefit of leaders who have completed training at Gilwell, and were qualified instructors in their own countries. One nationality has thirty-two Wood Badge men in the Zone.

By request, Harry Eby also interested himself in Scouting for German boys. He wrote:

Scouting has the approval and co-operation of the military in the U.S. Zone, but they insist, rightly so, that it must be a German programme, built upon German desire and interest. There are also some restrictions, for the moment, against uniforms, badges, marching and drilling.

There were numerous other questions and problems to occupy the minds and activities of the Bureau staff. There were also the preparations for the Jamboree and for the International Conference. After the lapse of so many years these were still more important, and the present Scout generation had to Be Prepared and informed of past history. *Jamboree* fully proved its value as a conveyor of information. A series of articles on the geography, history, products and social conditions of France was published. Josh Reynolds wrote accounts of the five previous World Jamborees. (These were later published in booklet form as *From Jamboree to Jamboree*. In 1956 the whole series was brought up-to-date to include the three post-war Jamborees in France, Austria and Canada in a book entitled *The Jamboree Story*.) I contributed five articles, *From Conference to Conference*, setting out the important features and results of the ten International Scout Conferences held between 1920 and 1939. In this way World Scouting had a complete record of the past, together with a very comprehensive picture of the Founder's original ideas and his gradually increasing conviction of the contribution that Scouting could make towards peace and goodwill.

Early in July I paid a short visit to Paris to discuss the final arrangements for both the Jamboree and the Conference. General Lafont was having a little difficulty in driving the four-in-hand of Scoutisme Francais, but as a cavalryman was quite obviously the right man in the right spot. He was continuing to set an example of vitality, high spirits and humour that was infectious. With Pierre Delsuc I had a long discussion with the Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Section of UNESCO. Scouting's particular contribution was apt to be buried and overlooked in UNESCO's general needs. I put it this way: we had our part to play, but it was better played in our own way, and not as part and parcel of a wider general scheme; it was better for Scouts to help other Scouts with Scout kit and literature than to contribute rulers and pencils to a common store. The lack of pencils in the world had too often been used as an illustration in the discussion. On their side, UNESCO greatly appreciated the work that Scouting had been doing so long for international understanding.



I arrived at Moisson, the site of the Jamboree, five days before the official opening. I was thus able to see the leaders of the different national contingents and most of the Scouts as they were settling in, and to get a very much better personal contact with them than might otherwise have been the case. The Bureau staff for both Jamboree and Conference consisted of Dick Lund, Josh Reynolds and Percy Siebold, and I also had as my attaches Bob Steward, a French pastor, and Bill Hamilton, a Scots Catholic priest. Both had been connected with the Resistance in France, but had not met before. I never saw two men come quicker to a complete understanding and appreciation of each other. They constituted themselves as my 'Consciences', and have acted as such – in part – ever since. We all constituted a very happy little team, and were helped in this by Glad Bincham, whose British International Commissioner's H.Q. was pitched nearby.

The official opening took place at dusk on Saturday, August 9th. In his message of welcome, General Lafont said:

\*La France est heureuse de vous accueillir pour ce sixième Jamboree. Vous savez quels tragiques événements en ont différé de dix ans la réalisation. Nous l'avons appelé le Jamboree de la Paix, et, par ce nom même, nous le plaçons sous l'égide, le patronage, de notre fondateur et toujours Chef, Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell. Que son esprit nous imprègne tous au cours de ce Jamboree, le premier qu'il n'animerait pas de sa prestigieuse présence, mais où nous le sentirons tout de même parmi nous, heureux de notre joie, heureux surtout de notre esprit fraternel.

\* For translation of this passage see end of book.

The official roll-call gave the number of campers as 24,152 from 70 different countries, including Belgian, British, French and Dutch colonies. In addition, 6,000 Rovers and 1,200 Cheftaines, Rangers and Guides provided all the necessary services. Rover Police, for instance, had to regulate the traffic over a radius of ten kilometres from the camp itself. Supplies of food were ample, although the bread made of maize flour by an Army field bakery was not to everyone's liking. It was said that the mistake was made, in securing flour from the United States, of using the word corn.

The Jamboree followed the normal pattern. The *décor* was on a more grandiose scale than many anticipated, and than the simplicity of the Scout programme normally permits; but the greater part of the decorations, archways, towers, stages, avenues, and so on, were the work of Scouters, Rovers and Scouts labouring at week-ends for months on end, and devoting their holidays to the service of the Jamboree. The artistic ability, ingenuity and workmanship displayed were amazing.

As had been the custom, massed displays took place in the Arena each afternoon. These were of pageantry or scoutcraft, or merely fun and games. In a sense, these displays appeal mainly to the public, whose entrance fees are an essential asset, and who are frequently astonished at seeing that boys can really fend for themselves in camp and enjoy doing it. The main activity, however, was the fraternisation of everyone in camp. There were some touching reunions, and many new friendships were struck up.

Two hundred Scouts from Hungary and almost 500 Scouts from Czechoslovakia were attending a World Jamboree for the last time – a circumstance fortunately not known to anyone. Another important contingent was that of the 200 D.P. Scouts from Austria and Germany. This camp was organised under John R. Monnet, as the result of a special decision of the International Committee. The Sea Scout Camp on the Seine nearby had its own programme of activities, in addition to those in the main Jamboree. French Sea Scouts were naturally most numerous, but five Hungarians were there with their kayaks; twenty Scouts from Czechoslovakia constructed two improvised boats; twenty-three Sea Scouts arrived from the Thames in two 'Little Boats', one of which had seen service at Dunkirk in 1940. As General Lafont had emphasised in the invitation

conveyed to the Edinburgh Conference eight years before, emphasis was laid on the Patrol. It was the normal unit for cooking and camping; Patrol challenged Patrol to the exercise of Scout skills or feats of agility and ingenuity; Patrol hikes from camp were arranged, with or without French Scouts to act as guides.

The President of the French Republic, M. Vincent Auriol, paid an official visit on August 14th. He saw a special arena programme, which included massed Highland dancing by the Scots, always a popular item. He toured round the camp, partly on foot and partly on the unique little railway, brought from the Maginot line, that circled round amongst the sub-camps. His visit was also marked by clouds of dust – Moisson was the ‘Dustboree’ – and by hordes of Press photographers who seemed to make a point of getting in everyone’s way, including the President’s. It was then that General Lafont made his famous *sotto voce* remark to me: ‘God save the King!’

Friday, August 15th, had an added special significance for both France and India. It was the Feast of the Assumption, and a National Day in France since Louis XIII dedicated his country to *Notre Dame*. The Feast was celebrated by Pontifical Mass said by Cardinal Griffin, Archbishop of Westminster, who reminded those present that his predecessor, Cardinal Bourne, had been consulted by B.-P. in the early days of Scouting, so as to ensure a sound religious policy for the new Movement.

For India it was the historic day when the sub-continent achieved independence, and the two self-governing States of India and Pakistan were inaugurated. The contingent from India numbered a hundred and fifty. It contained Scouters and Scouts from both the new countries, as well as some British Scouts and Scouters. What was going to happen? Would the contingent split into two? Would its British members withdraw? The answer was easy: all were Scouts. The contingents fell in as a whole for the morning flag parade. The flags of India and Pakistan were hoisted for the first time – side by side – together with the Scout flag. The Scouts re-dedicated themselves to the service of their respective countries. The joint camp resumed its normal daily duties. Next evening a special tea-party was given to their friends from other countries, their British guests outnumbering all the others.

At the closing ceremony on August 18th the Scouts from each sub-camp, all mingled together whatever their nationality, weaved in and out in the pattern of the carrick-bend – the symbol of the Jamboree. It fell to me, at the request of the International Committee and of our French hosts, to voice the thanks of the Scouts of the World to the Scouts of France:

We salute you and your country. As M. le President of the Republic enjoined on us, we will take back to our homes the happiest memories of our stay with you.

It was fitting that the final message should be given by General Lafont, to whom the Jamboree owed so much. He ended by saying:

\*Dans un monde qui cherche de nouvelles formules de vie communautaire, le scoutisme est conscient d’avoir trouvé un juste équilibre entre les exigences de la vie collective, le souci constant du service d’autrui et le respect intangible de la personne humaine. Mais notre idéal, il ne servirait à rien de le proclamer, si nous ne le vivons pas nous-même dans la vie courante. C’est ainsi que chacun de nous contribuera à le faire connaître et apprécier, pour établir dans le monde une atmosphère de fraternité et de paix.

\* For translation of this passage see end of book.

The Eleventh International Scout Conference was held at Chateau de Rosny during the four days after the Jamboree, one day being given to a visit to Versailles and a reception at the Hotel de Ville in Paris. The unusual character of this Conference was marked by the fact that only three members of the existing International Committee were present – Ove Holm, General Lafont and

## SCOUTING ROUND THE WORLD

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the Director of the Bureau. The interval of eight years and all that had happened in these years meant that much important business had to be done, and decisions vital to the welfare of Scouting taken. A hundred and fifty delegates attended from thirty-two member countries. Representatives were present by invitation from the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, the World Association of the Y.M.C.A., and UNESCO.

As a result of the Founder's death, certain changes had to be made in the Constitution and Bye-laws of the International Conference. Its purpose was amended to read:

The purpose of the International Conference shall be through cooperation to promote throughout the world unity of purpose and common understanding in the fundamental principles of Scouting, as founded by the late Chief Scout of the World, Lord Baden-Powell.

Nine members of Committee had previously been elected at each Conference to serve for a two-year period. It was felt important that the term of office should be extended to six years so as to give more continuity, but that the opportunity should be provided for the infusion of new blood. It was decided, therefore, that the number of members should be raised to twelve, four retiring every two years and not being eligible for re-election until after a period of at least two years. It was also agreed that not more than one person from the same country should serve on the Committee at the same time. In order to make a start on the new form of the Committee, the voting had to be for the full period, for four years and two years respectively, with this result:

To serve for 6 years:	Count Folke Bernadotte (Sweden) Ing. Ove Holm (Denmark) The Lord Rowallan (Great Britain) Herr Robert Ulrich (Austria)
To serve for 4 years:	M. Pierre Delsuc (France) Dr Velen Panderhk (Czechoslovakia) Mr Walter Head (U.S.A.) M. Jean Salvaj (Switzerland)
To serve for 2 years:	Mr Justice Vivian Bose (India) Mr Jackson Dodds (Canada) Señor Juan Laine (Mexico) M. André Woronoff (Belgium)

It was also decreed that the Director of the International Bureau shall serve as an *ex officio* member of the Committee and as an additional *ex officio* member of any emergency committee.

In the outgoing Committee's report to the Conference a very full reference was made to the problem of Displaced Persons Scouts. This concluded with the statement:

D.P. Scouts are regarded as being in a state of transition. In some cases they have returned to their country of origin, and the immediate Scout problem has *ipso facto* been solved. In other cases there is little likelihood of their returning to their country of origin, and they have still to be settled in what will be the country of their adoption. It is these latter who are our present concern. The Committee has therefore decided to recommend to the Conference the following procedure:

1. Scout organisations which have at present no territorial national status, and whose members are domiciled in countries where Scout Associations are already recognised, should not be recognised and registered with the Bureau as members of the Boy Scouts' International Conference.

2. The Conference is, however, determined that the Fourth Scout Law of Brotherhood must not be neglected in the case of D.P. Scouts, and that Scouting has a moral and educational value which must not be denied to them. For these reasons:

3. A separate division of the Boy Scouts International Bureau shall be opened, with which all Associations and Groups of D.P. Scouts now in Austria and Germany shall be registered after due enquiry as to their *bona fides*.

4. Registration will not give right of membership of the Boy Scouts International Conference, but will give recognition as Scouts under the Bureau's protection.

5. The Bureau will do its best to help all D.P. Scouts with advice and suggestions, and will, in consultation with the Control Authorities, I.R.O., and other responsible bodies, ensure that the aims, methods and principles of Scouting are accepted and practised, and that no political propaganda is permitted.

6. All D.P. Scouts who eventually take up residence in a country where there is a Registered Scout Association shall have the choice of becoming members of that Association or of relinquishing their Scout membership. On settlement, they cease to be in a state of transition, and are bound by the laws of the country of their adoption.

7. It is earnestly recommended that the Scout Association of the country of adoption allows such Scouts to belong to Groups sponsored by the leading men of the nationality of origin, and, until citizenship of the country of adoption is achieved, to take a modified form of Promise to include some expression of loyalty to the laws of the country of their present domicile.

The Committee's proposals were accepted without discussion. I have reproduced them in full because of their importance at the time, and in succeeding years. With the exception of paragraphs 3, 4 and 5, they still represent present policy. An appeal against this policy was made two years later at the Conference in Norway by the London Headquarters of the Polish Scouts in Exile. After a very full discussion, the appeal was rejected. It is right to say that the position of the Armenian Association, registered and recognised in 1929, was used as an argument in favour of the appeal. At its meeting in 1945, the International Committee had considered the standing of the two non-territorial Associations – Association des Scouts Armeniens and Association National des Scouts Russes. It was proved that the former was very much alive, and that it had members in various countries, some of whom could not be recognised as Scouts without the existence of the Armenian Association. The same did not appear to be the case with the Scouts Russes, whose membership had dwindled and seemed to be confined to D.P. camps. The Committee felt that the continued registration of the Association National des Scouts Russes was not justified.

The policy adopted in 1947 and reaffirmed in 1949 remained as it was until 1957, when the Committee decided to set up a Study Group to reconsider the whole question of policy in view of changed conditions. Members of the Council of Scout Associations in Exile (in the U.S.A.) were present at the Jubilee Jamboree and International Conference that year as guests.

To return to the Chateau de Rosny, the discussion and resolution in regard to Gilwell Park and the Training of Scouters has already been mentioned in Chapter 5. Ove Holm presented a paper on 'Old Scouts – St George's Guild', which dealt with the steps taken in Denmark. This resulted in a resolution recommending 'that the fortieth anniversary of the beginning of Scouting presents an excellent opportunity for launching and developing the formation of Old Scouts branches'. I shall deal with this subject later at much greater length.

In its final plenary session, the Conference recorded 'its heartfelt gratitude for the life, leadership and example of the late Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell, Chief Scout of the World and Founder of the Boy Scout Movement'. It reaffirmed 'its steadfast loyalty to the aims, principles and methods of Scouting for boys, as inaugurated by the late Lord Baden-Powell, and its belief in the value of International Scouting in the promotion of understanding and goodwill among all peoples'.

So ended the Eleventh International Conference. Much important business was done, and the gap in time was bridged; once again all could feel that the Movement was consolidated and could go forward with confidence. There was, too, the great joy in meeting old friends again, though this was moderated by the thought that so many of our leaders and Scouts had 'gone

home' since the Conference in Edinburgh. The foundations of many new friendships were laid between the older generation and those who must now take up the work.

It remained for the new Committee and the Bureau to implement and make good all the work done and the decisions made in France.

We were all deeply affected by the death in October of Sir Alfred Pickford, for so many years a member of the International Committee and a stalwart upholder of Scouting throughout the British Commonwealth and Empire. The arrival of 'Pickie' at a Scout gathering was like a gale of fresh air; it was impossible to resist his high spirits, and his ready wit and boyish laugh would disperse any threatening depression.

To end the year on a happier note: the Committee appointed Olave, Lady Baden-Powell, World Chief Guide, and Dr Walter de Bonstetten, President of the Federation of Swiss Scouts, as their Honorary Vice-Presidents, leaving the office of Honorary President vacant for the time being.

Sir Winston S. Churchill honoured the Fortieth Anniversary of Scouting with this tribute:

In time of war as in peace, the Scouts have always been ready to serve their country in any capacity available to them. I knew that great man who wrote *Scouting for Boys* forty years ago, and I have viewed with pleasure and approbation throughout the years the results of the training he laid down. Now, as never before, our country needs that integrity of character, that loyalty, and those many and various skills which Scouting teaches.

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## Absent Friends

*Scouting a voluntary organisation – cannot exist in 'totalitarian' countries – former high standards of Scouting in these countries – shorts at the palace – Rumania withdraws – the same story in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania – Scouting bides its time in Spain – rapid development of Scouting in Poland – between 1910 and 1939 – its prohibition – Polish Scouts in exile – Czechoslovakia – 'Junak' – a post-war visit – Czech Scouts at the Jamboree de la Paix – Soviet 'protection' in 1948 – beginnings of Scouting in Hungary – the inter-religious principle – hat trouble – 'pusztagrass' – first visit to a Jamboree, 1924 – the curtain descends – Hungarian Scouts in exile – 'remember and pray'*

o say that Scouting is world-wide would be untrue today, it covers all the continents of the world, but not all its countries. In the past forty years there have been many changes in political outlook and in the ideologies imposed or accepted in different countries. To put it shortly, Scout principles are based on the freedom of the individual to make his own choice of action, his own decisions, after – it is hoped – he has become alive to the consequences for himself and others. The Scout is trained to be self-supporting, but not self-sufficient. In what are known collectively as 'totalitarian countries' the state is the supreme ruler, and 'voluntary organisations' as known in Western countries do not exist. This has affected the Scout Movement in no small measure, and I should be failing in my duty if I did not devote this chapter to the story of our absent Scout friends. By that expression I mean those people and countries that were formerly members of the Boy Scouts International Conference, but are not now counted physically in its membership. I use the word 'physically' advisedly. We know that many former Scouts in these countries are still with us in thought and in the hope that they may be able openly to be in our family circle again one day. That, too, has been and remains always our hope.

In the countries no longer on our list of members, Scouting was strong and of a high standard, and only disappeared under orders of the State authority or under the political conditions that prevail. Scouting in Russia was abolished after the Revolution. In Italy, as we have seen, Mussolini abolished the Scout organisation as such, but could not kill the Scout spirit. Hitler forbade Scouting in Germany.

I visited Rumania in June 1937 to represent B.-P. at the Youth Day celebrations in Bucharest, and very impressive they were. I had the embarrassing experience of attending a levee at the palace in Scout uniform, shorts and all, and of being kept talking to King Carol in the middle of the ballroom floor surrounded by dignitaries in their levee uniforms and confronted by the King in his flowing white cloak. This was at the time when King Carol founded the 'Straja Tarii' (Guardians of the Country) as a united Rumanian Youth Movement, founded on the same basic ideas and system as the Boy Scout Movement, which he himself had initiated in the country when he was Crown Prince and only fifteen years old. The Straja Tarii co-ordinated all the youth movements in the country, boys and girls. Rumania withdrew from the International Conference, but acknowledged its debt of gratitude to B.-P. and to Scouting. In March 1939 I signed an agreement on behalf of the International Committee which provided for interchange of visits, and permitted officers of the Straja Tarii to participate in Scout Conferences as observers and to attend courses at Gilwell Park, in the hope that the two might be enabled to work together in a common cause. Subsequent events cancelled this agreement, and Rumania together with Bulgaria and Yugoslavia were lost to Scouting.

The fate of Scouting in the Baltic States has been even more tragic. Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania are all lost to Scouting and most of their nationals have 'migrated', or been deported. I trust that I am not a stormy petrel, but I was on a Scout mission to Estonia in July 1938 and was present at the Latvian National Camp afterwards, meeting a large Lithuanian contingent there. The Scout leaders were enthusiastic and first-class material, but already they were having difficulties to contend with.

In Estonia the same processes were being followed as in Rumania. The 'Young Eagles' had been established as a State Youth Movement, embracing the Estonian Boy Scout Movement with whose Chief Commissioner I stayed in Tallin; he later accompanied me in my journeyings. Herbert Michelsen and his wife suffered terribly in the war years, losing their son but preserving their young daughter. Our next meeting was in the D.P. camp in 1948 at Augsburg-Hochfeld in Germany, where they were the mainstay of the D.P. Scouts and Guides of all nationalities. The last time I was together with the three of them was in 1955, in Philadelphia, where Herbert is the Warden of the Breyer Scout Training Area. In Scouting friendships last, whatever happens.

But to return: in the International Committee's report to the Conference held in Edinburgh towards the end of July 1939 I wrote:

I found in Estonia, as I have found elsewhere, that it was difficult to persuade those in authority that Scouting adapted itself to local and national circumstances, and that there was every freedom within it to allow for the development of national characteristics. There seemed to be an impression that the International Committee sought to impose on all Scout Associations registered with the International Bureau a rigid system which it was necessary for them to follow. Nothing can be further from the truth than this particular idea. Under Article VI of the Constitution, it is the duty of the International Committee to secure publicity for and to develop the Scout Brotherhood, but it has no power of any kind to dictate to any registered Association how its affairs should be conducted. Since, however, the Committee has power to recognise only such Associations as subscribe to the Scout Promise and Law and to the Scout method of training, so it has power to withdraw such recognition if these particulars do not continue to be observed.

Twenty years later that still stands true. The danger of hyper-nationalism is still apparent, and the position has to be watched. The same report carried the sentence:

In Spain the Scout Movement is being kept alive by former Scouts and Scouters in the hope that at some future date Scouting may again be permitted to be fully active.

That hope has not yet been realised, but the statement continues to be correct. Curiously enough, here is a case somewhat similar to that in Rumania and Estonia, where self-protection seemed to call for a State Youth Movement to the detriment and practical exclusion of any voluntary movement.

Another three countries have been lost to Scouting, all of which formerly took a prominent position in the Scout Brotherhood – Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary.

Although Poland as a nation did not then exist, the first Scout Troops were formed in the country by Dr A. Malkowski in 1910, and *Scouting for Boys* was translated into Polish, the Movement flourishing particularly in the Austrian-occupied area. At the end of the First World War a separate and independent Polish State was established under the Treaty of Versailles. Both Scouting and Guiding developed rapidly under a joint national committee. Geographical and national conditions demanded that Scout training should assume more of a pre-military character than was normal, and there was a close connection between Scouting and the Army and Government. I could see the necessity for this, but I confess that I looked on it with some apprehension when I became Hon. Director of the Bureau. However, Poland was well and worthily represented at all international Scout gatherings – Jamborees, Moots, Conferences – from 1924 to 1939, by which year the Polish Boy Scouts numbered 130,000 Cubs, Scouts and Rovers, with a high proportion of those of older years. The Polish contingent to the World Rover Moot in Scotland in July 1939 had hardly got back home when their country was invaded and occupied by Germany and Russia; Scouting was immediately prohibited. Scout Headquarters, under Dr Grazynski, was moved to Paris with the Polish Government, and I had talks with Dr Grazynski there in December 1939 in the blue ‘black-out’. A few months later a further move had to be made to London. In spite of the ban, within Poland itself Scouting still continued. Scout Patrols and Troops and even some Cub Packs continued to meet underground, and the training of Patrol Leaders and Scouters proceeded almost normally. At the end of the war ‘Zwiazek Harcestwa Polskiego’ came into the open again. Its independence came under suspicion, and it was necessary for the International Committee to institute searching enquiries as to whether the fundamental principles of Scouting were still maintained. Representatives of the organisation were seen in France in 1947, and again in Kandersteg in 1948, but two important points of principle still remained to be clarified. It became evident that the Polish regime were playing a cat and mouse game with Scouting. Technically, Zwiazek Harcestwa Polskiego continues to exist in Poland, but it does not accept all the international Scout principles, and is not, and does not now ask to be, a member of the International Conference.

The Polish Scouts in Exile still have a headquarters in London and are spread over many different countries. Their faith is expressed in the words of the Polish Scout Song: ‘All that we are to Poland we give.’ One has every sympathy with them.

The story of Scouting in Czechoslovakia is somewhat similar. Scouting had taken a hold on the country as early as 1909, when it was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The First World War brought independence to Bohemia, Moravia and Slovakia. Scouts from there were present at Olympia in 1920. Scouting and Guiding were merged in one association, but leadership and training were kept distinct. The threat of Hitlerism induced a tightening up of all voluntary organisations. I reported in 1939:

The Scout Movement in Bohemia still continues to exist as a voluntary and independent Association under the new-old name of ‘Junak’. My information is that the reorganisation of extra-mural education will probably be divided between Junak and Sokol (the Gymnastic Association) with a Central Association composed of these two independent sections, each with its own statutes, property, uniform and

training courses. In the meanwhile the activities of Junak go on normally, and preparations are in hand for the camping season.

Less than two months after this report was given, the country was invaded and both Junak and Sokol banned. Dr Velen Fanderlik, later President of the Scout and Guide Association, escaped to Great Britain with many other Scouts.

When the war ended, freedom was restored and Junak came into being again. I visited Czechoslovakia for two weeks in April-May 1947. My first, and proper, duty was to lay a wreath on the tomb of Dr Anton B. Svosjik, the Founder of Scouting in the country and for many years a member of the International Committee. Accompanied mostly by Velen Fanderlik, whose wife Slavka was most solicitous of my needs when in Prague, I covered some of Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia and Slovakia, being received everywhere with the greatest cordiality, as far as the Eastern industrial town of Kladno. I quote from my diary as printed in *Jamboree*:

Subsequently I visited the bleak, desolate site of the former village of Lidice. This was – I freely confess – a shattering experience. I was received by three of the women who had lost all the male members of their families, had had their children dispersed throughout Germany, and had themselves spent four years in concentration camps. One – a miner's widow – read me a speech of welcome which ended with the heartfelt plea that Scouting would continue to teach love and not hate, friendship and not enmity. My wreath was laid on the communal grave of 173 men and two boys, shot without trial, and – as is now known – without reason of any kind.

Some 500 Scouts from Czechoslovakia were present at the Jamboree de la Paix in France in August 1947, and attracted great attention with their Scout qualities and their characteristic camp residences called 'podsada'. The walls are made of wooden boards (scantlings) reinforced with reeds, straw or grass. On top of these a square pyramid-shaped tent is pitched. Velen Fanderlik was in charge of the contingent, and at the subsequent International Conference was elected a member of the International Committee for four years.

Early in 1948 a *volte-face* took place, and Czechoslovakia fell under Soviet 'protection'.

I next met Velen and Slavka Fanderlik in November 1948 at a Scout Rally from the Valka and Fischbach D.P. camps in Germany. They had only recently crossed the mountains, rucksack on back, refugees from their own country for the second time in ten years. It was a joyful and yet sad occasion. After a time spent in London, they are now happily settled in Trail, British Columbia, and I had a very short but very happy reunion with them in 1955 after the Niagara Jamboree and International Conference.

I devote even more attention to the story of Scouting in Hungary, from its early beginnings to its present tragic end.

If somewhere there still lives the Boy Scout who was instrumental in having *Scouting for Boys* taken to the United States of America, so perhaps there still lives a Scouter who, unwittingly, helped to introduce Scouting to Hungary. He was the Patrol Leader of a small party of British Scouts from the – then – 10th Westminster Troop (Duke of Bedford's Own), who went to Sweden to join with their Swedish brother Scouts in giving assistance as messengers and in many other ways at the Olympic Games of 1912. He presented a copy of *Scouting for Boys* to a young Hungarian student, Fritz de Molnar, who expressed curiosity about these British boys and their strange uniforms. Returning to Budapest, the boy communicated his enthusiasm about this Scout game to some of his friends at the Piarist College. They induced a young teacher, the Rev. Alexander Sik, to become their Scoutmaster. Some years later Professor Sik wrote the Hungarian *Handbook for Scouters*, which was translated into several other languages, and became the President of Magyar Cserkeszszovetseg', the Hungarian Boy Scouts Association.

But even before this, Dr Aladar de Silazzy of the Budapest Y.M.C.A. had visited England and read *Scouting for Boys*. With the support of the National Secretary of the Hungarian Y.M.C.A., the Rev. Bela Megyericsy, training classes for prospective Scouts were started at the Y.M.C.A. and a



Troop formed, which called itself the 'Pathfinders'. As a grateful acknowledgment, this Troop later became No. 1 – Budapest, and the Troop at the Piarist College, No. 2. This is one of the many instances in different countries, including Great Britain, of the help and encouragement that the Y.M.C.A. gave to Scouting in the early days.

The inter-religious principle of Scouting was illustrated in a remarkable manner in an overwhelmingly Roman Catholic Hungary. The two sons of the Protestant Regent, Admiral Horthy, were Scouts in a Catholic Troop. The Hungarian Roman Catholic Bishops' Conference set an example in permitting priests to wear shorts while engaged in their voluntary Scout work. The original request was put forward by the Hungarian Deputy Camp Chief – a Lutheran, and supported by the Bishop of Szekesfehervar – a Scoutmaster. Incidentally, the D.C.C. (Fritz de Molnar, again) held a Commissioner's warrant for fifteen years before anyone at Scout Headquarters asked to what faith he belonged.

The right spirit prevailed in Magyar Cserkesszovetseg, but for many years it was a struggle against misunderstandings and graver difficulties. There came the war and its aftermath, the reduction of Hungarian territory by two-thirds, the Communist attack in 1919, and, as a touch of bathos, the Scout hat. This conveyed nothing in the way of appeal or tradition to the boys or the public, except as a symbol of the Boer war in South Africa. Public indifference was completely overcome in 1924 by two highly dissimilar and unrelated facts.

A Scout Troop was returning on a summer evening from camp in the meadows by the Danube. The boys had picked bunches of 'pusztagrass' – the orphan maidenhair prolific in that area. They stuck the bunches in their hat-bands, just as Hungarian peasant boys had stuck bunches of it in their hats for many centuries when going to church, a dance or a celebration. The rays of the setting sun shining through the waving bunches of pusztagrass transformed these strange Scout hats into a part of the Hungarian landscape. The hats were no longer foreign: they became a national symbol. Henceforth all Hungarian Scouts carried pusztagrass in their hats on festive occasions and whenever abroad. It became the well-known hallmark of Hungarian Scouting.

The other circumstance was the Copenhagen Jamboree in 1924, the first occasion on which Hungarian Scouts had met with Scouts of other countries. A representative Troop was entered for the International Scout Championship, but some of the items were utterly strange to them. What were 'Yells'? As for canoeing, no Hungarian Scout had ever sat in a canoe. A letter was sent to Denmark to find out what a 'Yell' was! As already recorded, Hungary came third in the competition, which said much for the spirit of the boys and for their training. The Hungarian Press picked up the story and made it front news. The Hungarian people awoke to the fact that the Scout Movement was something of world importance, and Budapest gave the returning Troop a tremendous welcome. With this impetus, it was possible for Hungary to be the host of the Fourth World Jamboree at Godollo in 1933. By then canoes had come into their own on the Danube. There was a Sea Scout Regatta which I visited in attendance on B.-P. Drawn up on the bank were a row of canoes, bottoms up, waiting to be launched. On that owned by a small Hungarian Sea Scout was painted his name and address, and the pregnant words: 'Tell Mother'.

There was another proof of B.-P.'s contention that in Scouting acorns grow into oaks. Hungarian Sea Scouts were present at a Sea Scout Rally held in the summer of 1927 at Helsingø in Denmark. On a sailing cruise one of them, Geza Teleki, was inclined to ignore a reprimand from his Scoutmaster for failure to carry out a small but necessary exercise of seamanship. His Scoutmaster (yet again, Fritz de Molnar!) tried to drive home his point by threatening – not in the best Scout fashion, perhaps – to tell the boy's father on their return to Budapest.

'Oh,' said young Geza airily, 'Dad's not interested in Scouting.' This roused the Scoutmaster's mettle, and he determined to take up the subject of Scouting with the boy's father. He did, and 'Dad' became interested, and thus Scouting in Hungary was fortunate to obtain the wholehearted support and encouragement of one of the country's most noted citizens. Count Paul Teleki, Professor of Budapest University, a geographer of international eminence, several times Prime Minister, became Chief Scout, Hon. Chief Scout, a member of the International Committee for many years,

Camp Chief of the Godollo Jamboree and a faithful friend and disciple of B.-P. His influence and inspiration were a major factor in the success of Scouting in Hungary, and contributed to its success in other countries as well. His tragic death in March 1941 set an example of loyalty to his country and of the first Scout Law: 'A Scout's honour is to be trusted'. In him, World Scouting lost one of its well-beloved members and best-informed upholders. I have a letter from him, written at the beginning of December 1938, when he was Minister of Education. He wrote:

Besides my work as Minister, my participation in the negotiations with the Czechs and in the delimitation of the frontier, the details of which are still under discussion, I had to take part in the political discussions and actions of these last weeks during which we have two crises of the Cabinet, but which after all remained in its place. But you know that I was with my heart with you. (This was in connection with Hubert Martin's funeral.) You surely will understand how much I would like to see you and the others now, but for the moment I am bound with the multiplicity of chains to this place, and though I am invited by friends to Oxford to lecture there and to have talks with important people, I do not know how and when this can happen. But after all, ministerial chairs are happily rocking-chairs, and may easily turn over, and so I feel some hope that I may nevertheless be able to come in the course of this winter.

As events proved, we never saw Paul Teleki in Great Britain again. When the Edinburgh Conference took place, he was Prime Minister of Hungary, and felt compelled to resign his membership of the International Committee, to his infinite regret.

A few more highlights of Hungarian Scouting may be mentioned. Gilwell training was introduced in 1924. The first National Jamboree was held in 1926. The Girl Guides' Pax-Ting (Peace Parliament) was held at Godollo in July 1939. A Sea Scout Headquarters was built on the Danube. Air Scouts were introduced to gliders, and set up world records. Hungary was represented at the International ski-ing events at Kandersteg, at all World Jamborees, Moots and Conferences, 852 being present at Arrowse Park.

By 1937 Scouting had become the leading Youth Movement in the country, and a considerable number of Old Scouts were also registered. The two allied movements of Scouting and Guiding attracted and retained as many boys and girls as they could possibly absorb. Hungarian Scout literature was prolific. Hungarian Scout artists were famous throughout the Scout world. Then the shadows began to fall. The activities that Paul Teleki had mentioned to me were but a sign of what was to come. Finally, when Nazi domination was complete after Teleki had gone, Scouting was banned.

It was allowed again in 1945, but not as a free and independent movement. As in Poland, special enquiries had to be held by the International Committee. 'Magyar Cserkeszfiuk Ssovetsége', as the organisation was now named, was given the benefit of the doubt, and its recognition by the International Conference recommended. A contingent of 200 was present at the Jamboree de la Paix, wearing the familiar pusztagrass in their hats. But it was too apparent that all its members, and particularly the leader, were under surveillance. Gestures were made on behalf of 'Peace', including the presentation of a Silver Staff to be awarded by the International Committee to the country which had contributed most to peace and goodwill through Scouting in the preceding two years. The staff has remained in France ever since. International competitions in Scouting, particularly of this invidious nature, are not approved. Eventually, in April 1948, the Hungarian Boy Scouts Association, so-called, cancelled its membership of the International Conference on the plea that 'the policy of the Conference threatened the independence and liberty of their country'. One knows that the Scouters and Scouts had nothing to do with this *démarche*.

The seed continued to lie dormant, and on the third day of the Hungarian Revolution in October 1956 the government of the day passed a decree re-establishing the Scout Movement and restoring all its property previously confiscated. A hurriedly assembled but supremely cheerful Scouters' meeting resolved to resume Scout activities immediately. Within a very few days these activities were again stopped; within a very few weeks those who had displayed their connection with Scouting were picked up for 'questioning'. The curtain then descended.

Eighty Hungarian Scouts in exile from their country were present at the Centenary-Jubilee Jamboree in 1957. Their present places of residence ranged from Austria to Australia. Amongst them was that same Dr Fritz M. de Molnar, acting as my attache. He is now Chairman of the Melbourne District Scout Executive Committee.

It is difficult to write without extreme sadness of these 'absent friends'. Many were my personal friends for years. I had watched many grow up from boyhood. I had stayed in their homes. I confess to a feeling of helplessness. I ask myself whether the Scout Brotherhood could have done more to help them. Yet, common-sense tells me that more active help was impossible and probably dangerous – to them. Even letters from a Scout friend outside their own country have signalled persecution, imprisonment, and on occasions a still worse fate. When it was possible and safe for them, some contacts were established; general messages of encouragement and friendship were broadcast.

One can but remember and pray.

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## Boy Scouts of America

*The trail blazed by the 'Unknown Scout' in 1910 – Dan Beard – I become his blood brother – help from the Y.M.C.A. – the American Scout Oath – a visit from B.-P. – Dr James E. West – American organisational system – National Office – hiking and camping – Cub Scouting – centred on the home – 'Dens' – and 'Den Mothers' – President Roosevelt's interest – Second National Jubilee, 1950, at Valley Forge – an amusing situation – Third Jamboree 1953 – Fourth 1957 – training of Scouters – 'Schiff' – publications – my own association with American Scouting from 1924 – tour in 1936 – debt of International Scouting*

THE Unknown Scout of 1910 could have had no idea of the trail he had blazed. His one good deed to one American in the early days of Scouting had multiplied by 1957 into over twenty-eight million Good Turns done to that many American boys and men, who had come under the influence of Scouting during this forty-seven-year period.

When William D. Boyce, in consultation with his friend, Colin H. Livingstone of Washington, D.C., was promoting the idea he had brought back from London, many men of note were brought into the establishment of the Boy Scouts of America. Prominent among them were Ernest Thompson Seton and Daniel Carter Beard. Seton, an expert naturalist, woodsman and camper, had been experimenting in boys' work, had written many books and had organised the 'Woodcraft Indians' in a number of localities – even a few in Europe. Dan Beard was a pioneer outdoorsman, and an artist and writer. He, too, had organised a programme for boys, known, as the 'Sons of Daniel Boone'. It says much for co-operation and goodwill that both of these men were willing to have their ideas incorporated into this new movement. Both of them joined in it enthusiastically and actively, Seton as the first Chief Scout and Dan Beard as the National Scout Commissioner of the Boy Scouts of America.

There was a marked similarity between them and B.-P.: all three were artists and writers and interested in the development of boys' characters. But each had his own particular traits and ideals. Dan Beard especially was a most picturesque figure. I shall never forget how he made me his blood brother when I visited his home in 1936. The ceremony consisted in my repeating the Scout Oath with my hand on an Indian's scalp. Half-way through, I was almost overcome to see a gold ring in the Indian's ear! By this I mean no disparagement to Dan – it was his way.

Much of the credit for the early organisation of American Scouting goes to the Y.M.C.A. The first small office, with a staff of seven, was provided by it, and continually the Association gave

encouragement and active help when the movement began to grow in all the big cities, small towns and rural areas throughout all the States.

Many American educators of note took an interest. A Commission under Dr Jeremiah Jenks and other prominent men in the educational field drew up the American Scout Oath (or Promise) and Scout Law. The principal differences from the originals suggested by B.-P. were the addition to the Scout Oath of the sentence 'To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight', and of three Laws: 'A Scout is brave; A Scout is clean; A Scout is reverent'. In 1912 B.-P. adopted 'A Scout is clean in thought, word and deed' as a tenth law to his own nine.

A visit from B.-P. in September 1910 gave tremendous impetus to the infant movement. A dinner was given in his honour in New York City. In the records of the Boy Scouts of America, the graceful acknowledgment is made that 'Baden-Powell was of the most valuable assistance to those responsible for the establishment of Scouting in America. His advice was sought in many ways, and he was most helpful to American officials in those pioneer days. His numerous other visits were an inspiration to Scouters everywhere, and did much to further the understanding, goodwill and friendship of Scouters in the United States and Great Britain' – and, I might add, the world. It is noteworthy that increasingly as years went by Baden-Powell was acknowledged in America as the Founder of Scouting, and how wholeheartedly the Boy Scouts of America furthered the idea of the International Scout Movement. This was greatly due to Dr James E. West, their first Chief Scout Executive.

After a tragic boyhood as an orphaned cripple, West had managed to work his way through Law School, and had, by 1911, become a promising Washington lawyer. His interest in youth had caused him to throw his energy into the establishment of playgrounds and a juvenile court in the capital of the United States. This work had come to the attention of Boyce and Livingstone, with the result that they offered him the job of organising the new movement. West agreed to attempt it for a six-month period. But the six months became thirty-two years of devoted service as Chief Scout Executive, and five more years as Honorary Chief Scout. Despite physical handicaps and much suffering, he left a permanent memorial in the organisation he had achieved. He was great as an administrator, and also had a sincere belief in the value of Scouting to his own country and to the world.

The strength of the Boy Scouts of America today is the result of the firm foundation laid by West. He quickly realised that for the Movement to grow into a major force in America, it was necessary to organise a strong body of volunteer workers in each community, and to establish a corps of trained executives who could devote their full time to Scouting.

Today, 537 Local Councils throughout the United States carry out the programme of Scouting according to certain fixed standards and conditions. These Local Councils, chartered by the National Council, are composed of citizens representing religion, education, business, labour and other interests in the community. Each Council has a Scout Executive, with a varying number of Assistants and Field Executives, who carry out the policy of the Council and of its Committees and the day-to-day work. The Local Council charts all the Scout units in its area, all of which are sponsored by some church, school, adult organisation or neighbourhood group. Every Local Council is represented on the National Council, and shares, therefore, in the democratic policy of the Movement as a whole. Additionally, the country is divided into twelve Regions, so as to provide advice and supervision to the Local Councils within the territory of each.

The final development of this Regional and Local Council organisation was carried out under the leadership of Mortimer L. Schiff, who later became President of the Boy Scouts of America, and of Dr George J. Fisher, then Deputy Chief Scout Executive.

The National Office, for twenty years located in New York City, at the familiar address of 2 Park Avenue, moved in 1954 to its own building in New Brunswick, New Jersey. The size of the National Office of the Boy Scouts of America, and the amount of work it has to do, have to be seen to be believed – but, after all, it is responsible for the Scout welfare of almost 5,000,000 souls.

Hiking and camping were from the very beginning and still are of tremendous importance in American Scouting. To be sure that wilderness areas would always be available for real Scouting, the Local Councils scattered throughout the United States have succeeded in acquiring more than a thousand permanent sites, where camping is carried out all year round – mostly on a Patrol and Troop basis. In addition, the Philmont Scout Ranch near Cimmaron, New Mexico, provides mountain camping and treks for explorers, and has played host to many parties of foreign Scouts. The 126,000 acres of which Philmont consists were given to the National Council by Waite Phillips of Oklahoma, with property in the city of Tulsa to endow his scheme for providing a frontier type of camping to the Scouts of America.

The Boy Scouts of America has a vigorous programme for its older boys. Sea Scouting was started in 1911, and became a very popular branch of the Movement in almost all places where there was access to ocean or lake. Later, Explorer Scouting was added for boys particularly interested in hiking and camping, and Air Scouting for boys interested in aviation. In 1949 the term ‘Explorer’ was adopted for all Scouts over the age of fourteen.

Possibly the most successful venture was the launching of Cub Scouting in 1930, after a very careful study of the needs and desires of boys from eight to ten years old. The Cub Scout programme differs from that in other countries in that it is deliberately centred on the boys’ homes. The basic unit is the Den, under the leadership of a Den Mother. Several Dens make up a Pack, which meets once a month under the leadership of a male Cubmaster. In this way the Boy Scouts of America have done their bit towards preserving family life in the United States. Fathers and mothers are very interested in Cub Scouting, and help in many ways. Den Mothers have won for themselves a place in the ranks of Scouters, and an attractive uniform. I have watched the development of it all since I was first questioned in the course of the original study, and have the greatest appreciation of what has been achieved.

Ever since 1910, when President William Howard Taft accepted office as Honorary President of the Boy Scouts of America, there has been an unbroken chain of Presidents of the United States of America filling that Scout office, and becoming Honorary Vice-Presidents when leaving the White House. No President was more interested in the Boy Scout Movement and more aware of its importance than Franklin D. Roosevelt. I had the opportunity personally to find out about President Roosevelt’s knowledge of Scouting, during a half-hour’s interview with him in 1936. There was nothing that I could tell him about the Boy Scouts of America – he knew all of it, and told me about it for twenty-five minutes. All I needed to do was to confirm his clear understanding of Scouting’s methods and principles. It was at the special invitation of President Roosevelt that The Boy Scouts of America held its First National Jamboree in the country’s capital in August 1937. The President personally followed the planning of the Jamboree, and reviewed the 33,000 participating Scouts and Scouters.

It was my good fortune to be present at the Second National Jamboree in July 1950. This was held at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, and was attended by 50,000, including representatives of several other countries. The whole camp was run on the Patrol system, with Patrol camps, Patrol cooking and all the other attributes of good Patrol work. I took a rather fiendish delight in the sympathy expressed by quite a number of American Scouters:

‘You must find it a little trying being here’ they suggested.

‘Why?’ I asked.

‘It was here at Valley Forge that George Washington trained his army to defeat the English.’

‘So what? I am a Scot, and not English. Besides, I happen to be an officer in General George Washington’s Legion of Merit!’

A third Jamboree was held in 1953 near Santa Ana, California, and a fourth, again at Valley Forge, in 1957, with a record attendance of 53,000. World Jamborees fall almost into insignificance before these numbers, but all have been well supported by the Boy Scouts of America.

In the training of Scouters, the Boy Scouts of America is practically unsurpassed; 57.2 per cent of its Scouters have received basic training in Local Council Courses. Many have taken more

advanced and sustained forms of training, including Gilwell or Wood Badge Courses. I led a couple of these Courses at the Schiff Scout Reservation in 1936, but it took about twelve years for the seed to sprout. The main reason for the eventual adoption of Wood Badge training was the realisation of its educational soundness, its emphasis on the Patrol system, and its demonstration of the spirit of Scouting.

The training of Scout Executives, who totalled 3,432 in 1957, is carried on at the National Training Centre at the Schiff Scout Reservation at Mendham, New Jersey. This magnificent estate was given to the National Council by Mrs. Jacob Schiff in memory of her son, Mortimer L. Schiff, who died in 1931 while holding office as President of the Boy Scouts of America. Interestingly enough, Mortimer Schiff's son, John Schiff, was elected to the same office from 1951 to 1956.

All men who desire to enter the professional service of Scouting must graduate from a 45-day course at 'Schiff'. This course covers the fundamentals of Scouting, Local Council administration, community relationships, camping, leadership training, finance and so on. National Training Conferences for the entire professional personnel are held every four years, circumstances permitting. The problems and successes of the past are summed up; stock is taken of the present; the theme and policy for the future is disclosed. I was present at such a Training Conference at French Lick, Indiana, in 1936, and also at the latest, at Ann Arbor, Michigan, in 1955. Both times – and in other visits to the States – I have been greatly struck by the high standard of the Scout Executives, and by their feeling of dedication to the aims, principles and methods of Scouting.

The power of the written word is of great value in the promotion of Scouting in any country. With the area and numbers that the Boy Scouts of America has to cover, Scout books and magazines are a vital necessity. *The Cub Scout Handbook*, the *Boy Scout Handbook*, the *Patrol Leader's Handbook*, the *Explorer Manual*, are amongst the most wanted books on the market. During Boy Scout Week in 1957, the fifteen millionth copy of the *Boy Scout Handbook* was presented to President Dwight D. Eisenhower. There are a hundred Merit Badge pamphlets, filled with technical information. Leadership Training material is made available to Local Councils. *Boys' Life*, published by the Boy Scouts of America for all boys – Scouts or not – is now the world's largest magazine for youth, with a record circulation of 1,654,000. *Scouting*, the monthly magazine for Leaders, is mailed to 1,250,000 subscribers. The *Scout Executive* goes out monthly to all members of the professional staff.

My own personal association with Scouting in the United States began at the World Jamboree in Copenhagen in 1924, where the American Troop under William Wessel, Assistant National Director of Camping, made a magnificent showing and won the International Championship. I met Bill Wessel again in 1929, when he and several other American Scouters came to Gilwell for a Wood Badge Course. I admit that it surprised me when I encountered him for the third time in the States, to find him as National Director of Cub Scouting, seven years later. But he was as popular with Den Mothers as he had been with Scouts, and as proficient in Cub activities as in adventure camping.

My most extensive visit to the United States took place in 1936, when I was invited to tour the country during March, April and May, to see as much of the different aspects of the Boy Scouts of America as was possible in the time, and to make a report to the Chief Scout Executive. I took with me as an aide Richard A. Frost, who had attended Harvard after graduating at Oxford. We had allotted to us, as a kind of 'bear leader', E. de Alton Partridge, now President of the State Teachers' College, Montclair, New Jersey; and a very happy little party we were. Within the three months we travelled 12,000 miles by rail, 2,800 by road and 800 by air. This proved excellent training for the trips I had to take later.

Throughout our travels, I was extraordinarily impressed by the remarkable goodwill the Boy Scouts of America enjoyed with all classes of the community, and by the number of men of high business ability and high standing in the community who were associated with the Boy Scouts of America as counsellors, nationally and locally. This popular acceptance of Scouting as part of the national life is at the same time a valuable tribute and a tremendous responsibility.

It has made it possible for Scouting to achieve results which otherwise could not have been accomplished.

Our experiences were many, and humorous incidents not a few. Harvard trained as he was, Frost was somewhat disconcerted when a Scout of one Patrol followed him round to the next Patrol and said: 'Do talk some more English, sir. It is so funny.' Oxford had triumphed over Harvard.

Before leaving the United States, I was honoured with the award of the Silver Buffalo, which, I trust, I may have done something to deserve in my subsequent visits in 1946, 1948, 1950 and 1955.

Frost and I travelled home on the *Queen Mary*, on the return stage of her maiden voyage. In saying farewell at the dock, Dr West expressed the hope that I would let him have my report in, say, two or three months' time. This was a challenge to speedy action which I was still young enough to accept. Apart from meals, a game of squash each afternoon, and a modicum of sleep, I spent the whole voyage in the Press cabin – now deserted, as the eastern passage was not news – typing furiously (incidentally, on the same machine as I type now). Before landing at Southampton, I posted on board a report of some 30,000 words. I was told that its arrival at 2 Park Avenue a few days later almost shook the building to its foundations!

I was a little surprised – and also very proud – when, on my next visit to the United States in 1946, Dr Elbert K. Fretwell, who had succeeded James E. West as Chief Scout Executive in 1943, read out a number of paragraphs of this report at the welcome luncheon given to me. It was most gratifying to realise that my remarks of 1936 were regarded as equally applicable ten years later.

In his turn, Dr Fretwell was succeeded in 1948 by the present Chief Scout Executive, Dr Arthur A. Schuck, who had been for many years Assistant to the Chief Scout Executive, and, on James E. West's retirement, had been called to Los Angeles as Scout Executive, where he had been a wonderful success.

On his return to the National Council, Arthur Schuck threw all his vigour and enthusiasm into the Movement. In his nearly ten years in office, the membership of the Boy Scouts of America has almost doubled. Many developments have taken place, but through them all Arthur Schuck has adhered to B.-P.'s basic idea of Scouting as a movement for boys, activated by boys and led by boys.

The International Scout Movement owes a great deal to the Boy Scouts of America, and can continue to learn possibly more from it than from any other Scout organisation.

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### **1948-1950 – I**

*Three crowded years – my own travels – losses and gains – death of Count Folks Bernadotte – new members – registration of D.P. Scouts – D.P. Scout Travelling Commissioner appointed – his duties – repatriation and resettlement – meeting the cost – Scout activities in the D.P. camps – my first visit to Germany – Scouting's influence on adults – the work of Girl Guides – the Scout Movement in Germany – difficulties to be overcome – the fight for independence and federation – federation achieved, 1950 – Scandinavian Chief Scouts meeting in Finland – visits to Uppsala, Stockholm and Oslo – International Commissioners' Get-together – at the Swiss National Day – the International Committee meets – a recommendation on finances – a national camp in Iceland – a united Association for Scouts and Guides – other joint associations*

I SHALL endeavour to deal with these three years as a whole. It is no easy task, as international Scouting expanded greatly in its scope and in its activities. For instance, my own travels included visits to 38 countries in America, Asia and Europe. I logged 375 flying hours, irrespective of the time spent in rail and road travel, and was away from London for approximately 30 per cent of the three years. The visit to Latin America in 1948 I shall deal with in a separate chapter.

The period covered both losses and gains in leaders and in countries. Dr James E. West of the U.S.A. died in May 1948. The new Pakistan Association suffered a severe loss in the death of the Chief Scout, H. E. Mohammed Ali Jinnah, in September 1948. Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, Chief Commissioner in India since 1935, died in January 1949. Dr Walter de Bonstetten died in November, after holding office as Hon. Vice-President of the International Committee for only a year.

These are only a few of those whose deaths were a loss to Scouting in all parts of the world. But the severest blow was the assassination of Count Folke Bernadotte in Jerusalem in September 1948. In the eyes of the world Count Bernadotte was the obvious choice of the United Nations as their mediator in Palestine. His acceptance of the task was characteristic. In a sense he had failed as a mediator in Europe in 1944-45, although his conversations hastened the end of hostilities. This time he realised that his chances of success were even less. Yet he felt it his duty to accept, knowing full well the difficulties and dangers involved, and, in fact, having a premonition that it might mean the sacrifice of his own life. The evidence of this lies in his talks with his wife, Countess Estelle Bernadotte, the present Chairman of the Girl Guides' World Committee, and with the Scout Pastor Frithiof Dahlby, whom he had asked to conduct the funeral service. This is how a London paper summed up the lessons of Folke Bernadotte's life: 'He has shown that a strong belief in what is right inhumanity and in goodness really matters, even in the world of today.'

Jean Nieuwenhuys, who had kept an eye on the Belgian Scouts and Guides in Great Britain during the war, was at the time the Belgian Consul-General in Jerusalem and had witnessed the attack on Count Bernadotte from the following car. He placed his own Scout hat on the coffin, where it remained until the aircraft carrying the body reached Stockholm. I flew over from London for the funeral to represent the Committee (with Ove Holm) and the Scout world. During the long procession from the church to the cemetery through the crowded streets, I have never felt silence so acutely. On my return to London next day, there was a letter awaiting me from Folke, written two days before his death, asking me to go over to Paris the following month so that he could tell me what he had seen of Scouting in Palestine and the neighbouring countries.

After the Tenth International Conference, India, Pakistan, the Lebanon and Syria were registered separately as members of the Conference, and Bolivia, Burma, Germany, Ireland, Panama, Turkey and Uruguay were registered as new members, bringing the total to fifty countries and one non-territorial Association. This was a record number, and yet it did not take into account many parts of the British Commonwealth and Empire, nor of the Belgian, Danish, Dutch, French, Portuguese and U.S.A. overseas possessions and certain Mandated Territories, all of which were covered through their parent country's registration. The Scouts of the D.P. Division and of the small Group formed under the aegis of United Nations in New York were registered direct with the Bureau. During the three years 1948-50, the total number of Scouts of all ranks had advanced by 26 per cent to 5,160,147.

In accordance with the resolution passed at Chateau de Rosny at the 1947 Conference, steps were taken to arrange for the registration of Scouts amongst the Displaced Persons Camps in Germany and Austria. Negotiations with the Preparatory Commission of the International Refugee Organisation resulted in the appointment of a Scout representative who could act as the D.P. Scout Travelling Commissioner. I selected John R. Monnet for this task, because of the experience he had gained with the Scout International Relief Service. After working on the project for some time, he set up the Headquarters of the D.P. Division at Munich in April 1948. The nationalities of origin



represented in the Division were: Czechoslovak, Estonian, Hungarian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Polish, Russian, Slovene, Ukrainian, White Ruthenian, Yugoslav.

In the agreement signed with I.R.O., Monnet's duties were set out as Liaison; Training of Scouts; Training of Scouters; Education Services – to help secure instructors in languages, handicrafts, etc.; Recreational Services – to collect and distribute any material help received from Scout sources; Camping and physical training; International contact – between the different nationalities of D.P.'s, with American, Austrian, British, French and – eventually – German Scouts in the different Zones, further afield by correspondence, etc.; Repatriation Services; Resettlement Services.

On the Scout side, special emphasis was laid on repatriation and resettlement. The chief Scouters of seven nationalities had already been in touch with the Bureau, and a great deal of work was done through them, through other voluntary D.P. Scouters and through nineteen paid Field Workers, seventeen in the U.S. and two in the French Zone, who had all been voluntary workers beforehand. Although the highest total of D.P. Scouts was put at 25,000, the highest total registered at any one time in the D.P. Division was only slightly over 11,000. The main reason for this discrepancy was that before the Division was set up, large numbers of Scouts and Scouters had already emigrated, particularly from the British Zone. Also, no D.P. Scouts were registered until they were proved to be genuine Scouts following the aims, principles and methods of international Scouting. In a number of cases, even Groups were not registered until after Monnet and the chief Scouter had visited the camp and satisfied themselves that the Group was properly led. Latvians were the most numerous, 3,000, followed closely by Lithuanians and then Ukrainians. The numbers of all nationalities sank proportionately until towards the end of 1949, except for an influx of Czechoslovakians, some 800, in the late summer. When the D.P. Division closed down on June 30th, 1950, only a mere handful of D.P. Scouts were left in Austria and Germany, having decided to remain where they were rather than either repatriate or resettle.

Thanks to special donations received from various National Associations, the total cost to the Bureau of the D.P. Division was only £1,768. To meet this, £1,600 had been drawn from the Reserve Fund in 1948, but the following year the Boy Scouts of America gave a generous donation to replace this amount. The Scouts of Canada, the United States and Switzerland were also particularly helpful in sending uniforms, civilian clothing, food parcels, seed parcels, Scout books and magazines, and in providing paper for the production of D.P. Scout magazines. These were all distributed from Munich.

The Division helped by obtaining travel warrants for camps and training courses, camping equipment from I.R.O. and Army sources, and additional food for Scout camps so as to bring food values up to 3,500 calories; and in a few cases by obtaining employment for Scouters and Rovers with one or other of the organisations dealing with Displaced Persons. To show something of the activities which helped the morale and physical and mental condition of the Scouts in the D.P. Camps, here is the record for 1949:

Scouters' Preliminary Courses 16; Wood Badge Courses 4; other Courses 25; Patrol Leaders' Courses 24; Scouts' Proficiency Badge Courses 14; Cubs' summer camps 5, Scouts' 56, Rovers' 4. During the summer, D.P. Scouts put in 30,000 camp days.

Owing to the energy, interest and initiative displayed by John Monnet, and that of the chief Scouters of the various nationalities who worked with him, the work done by the D.P. Division was a real achievement. At the time it had not the publicity it deserved, but it is not Scouting's custom to boast about its good turns. At the end we did make the claim, however, that Scouting was able to – and did – do probably more than any other single agency for the resettlement of Displaced Persons, thanks to the support and provision of work by the Scout Associations in the receiving countries.

Following up the visit of Harry Eby, the Boy Scouts of America deputed William C. Wessel to the U.S. Zone for three months towards the end of 1948, primarily to advise about Camping; but he was also of great help in encouraging the D.P. and German Scouts. The services of R. B. Herbert, a Travelling Commissioner of The (British) Boy Scouts Association, were placed at the disposal of

the Bureau for a period of nine months from July 1st, 1948, as Scout Adviser in the British Zone. In the French Zone, Marcel Beck had acted as representative of Scoutisme Francais, but at the end of December 1948 Florent Holveck, with the consent of Scoutisme Francais, was appointed the Bureau's representative in that Zone.

I paid my first visit to Germany in November 1948, and was met on my arrival in Munich by John Monnet, Bob Herbert and Bill Wessel. All travelled round with me, Bill Wessel dropping out when we left the U.S. Zone. It was good to be with Bill again – for the last time, as he died when on tour in the States only a year later.

My three weeks' visit not only confirmed the value of the D.P. Division, but showed how Scouting could influence grown-ups as well as boys and girls. Frequently tributes were paid by I.R.O. officials, and by the Red Cross and other organisations to the influence that Scouting had on the D.P. Camps as a whole, in helping to create a better atmosphere. The enthusiasm of the Scouts and Guides was self-evident. The corresponding work done by the Girl Guides must not be overlooked. Sometimes they were the first in the field; and everywhere they were encouraging the girls and brightening both the present and the future for them.

This, too, was my first personal contact with the growing Scout Movement in Germany. Many difficulties had had to be overcome – with the would-be German Scouts themselves, with the German people, whose understanding of Scouting had naturally been prejudiced by the activities of the *Hitler Jugend*, and with the occupying authorities in the three zones, the various members of which were apprehensive of political and even moral dangers. All had to be educated to a better understanding of the real principles and aims of the Scout Movement. So far as the occupying authorities were concerned, this was not needed at the top, but in the lower staff grades. The Heads of the three Zonal Youth Departments were favourably disposed, but none more so than Lt.-Col. Alan Andrews in the British Zone, later Head of the Youth Department of the World Affiance of Y.M.C.A.'s at Geneva. His understanding, help and support were of the greatest importance.

On this visit I saw a total of 5,000 German Scouts in different parts of the American and British Zones. Half of this number were gathered together in the Planetarium at Dusseldorf on Sunday, November 14th. They represented all the three Associations that were being encouraged throughout Western Germany – *Bund Deutscher Pfadfinder* (Open), *Deutsche Pfadfinderschaft St Georg* (Catholic) and *Christliche Pfadfinderschaft Deutschlands* (Evangelical). There was a strong feeling that the support of the churches, who had encouraged Scouting before and even during the Hitler regime, was essential to future success, but that Scouting could not become a national movement unless an Open Association was also permitted. The intention from the beginning was that all three must join together in a Federation before international recognition could be given. At the end of the Rally I called the leaders of the three Associations, Karl Pläcking (B.D.P.) – later replaced by Kajus Roller; Heinrich Karsch (C.P.); and Hans Fischer (St G.), on to the platform with me, where we all joined hands as a symbol of unity. I spoke of the possibilities of recognition, and gave them the charge: 'By their deeds shall ye know them.'

Six days later, at Bad Rothenfelde, we had a conference, under the chairmanship of Alan Andrews, with the British and German Youth Officers and the leaders of the three German Associations, when a preliminary draft constitution for the Federation was agreed, as well as the policy to be adopted during the next several months.

In November 1949 a two-day Conference was held at Vlotho, also under the chairmanship of Alan Andrews. The Youth Departments of the three zones were represented, together with John Monnet, Florent Holveck and Marcel Beck from the French Zone, and Walter W. Kunkel, who had been deputed to the American Zone in September by the Boy Scouts of America and remained there for the next two years. As representing the International Committee, Ove Holm came from Copenhagen, and Sten Thiel, who had been co-opted to the Committee in the place of Folke Bernadotte, from Stockholm. They were a great support to me in presenting the Scout case, with the result that the Scout Movement in Western Germany was freed from Allied Control and the responsibility for its supervision handed over to the International Committee. It had taken four

years to achieve this result, but much had had to be done. Not the least important task had been to secure trained leaders. Denmark, France, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland had all helped in accepting German leaders for training, either on Courses – as at Gilwell Park – or in enabling them to see Scouting in action in Districts and Groups.

I went on to Altenberg for a Conference with the Executive Commissioners of the three Associations and three other members of each. We discussed the Statutes of the Federation (*Ring Deutscher Pfadfinderbuntle*), and agreed on their final form. To put it shortly, while the three Associations were self-governing, the Ring assumed responsibility for the preservation of the aims, principles and methods of Scouting throughout Western Germany and West Berlin, represented German Scouting to the State, was responsible for all contacts and correspondence with the Bureau and with other Scout Associations, and supervised the training of Scouters. On this understanding, the Ring was finally recognised and registered as a member of the Boy Scouts International Conference on August 21st, 1950. I had paid a fourth visit to Germany in March 1950, and in two weeks visited twenty-eight places, from Hamburg to Munich; and I was particularly struck by the rise in the standard of Scout practices, by the use made of the Patrol System and by the co-operation achieved between the three Associations. International Scouting *had* done a good turn to Germany, and, through Germany, to the world. There must now be nigh on 150,000 German Scouts trained in self-reliance and in responsibility for each other.

The Scandinavian countries had instituted a custom of periodic meetings between Chief Scouts of the region so as to achieve more of a common purpose in Scouting. In March 1948 the meeting was held in Helsinki, Finland, which gave me an opportunity to make a first visit to that country. On the way there, I attended a Conference of the Swedish K.F.U.M.'s Scoutförbund at Uppsala, the University town. I flew on from Stockholm with Folke Bernadotte and others. We were received by President Passikivi of Finland at a time when political tension was high. The President expressed his belief in the value of Scouting, nationally and internationally, and emphasised that Finland had lost a whole generation of leaders whom it was necessary to replace, Scouting being one of the agencies for doing so.

Back in Stockholm, I stayed a night with Count and Countess Bernadotte at Dragongården, laid a wreath on Prince Gustaf Adolf's grave next morning and had lunch with Princess Sibylla. That night I spoke to large gatherings of Patrol Leaders and Scouters, Folke insisting on interpreting for me. He saw me into the train for Oslo, and that was the last time I was to see him.

At the Rosny Conference it had been agreed that an International Commissioners' Get-together should be held in the years when there was no International Conference. The first was held at Kandersteg in Switzerland for three days at the end of July 1948, and proved very useful in the interchange of ideas and experiences. The team of International Commissioners was likened to an orchestra with the Director of the Bureau as their conductor. The American International Commissioner, the late Thomas J. Watson of International Business Machines fame, was a most welcome member, and, despite his age, joined in all the fun and games. The first of August is the Swiss National Day, and the party motored down to Lugano, near where the Swiss National Camp was being held. The President of the Swiss Federation was in Lugano, and, as is the custom, spoke to the people in the stadium where all the Scouts had also assembled. I had the misfortune to have to speak before him in English only, whilst the President spoke in all three Swiss languages – French, German and Italian.

The International Committee held its annual meeting for two days afterwards. Business was of a fairly routine character; but a very important recommendation on the finances of the Bureau had been made by the International Commissioners.

From the beginning, the Bureau had been supported by a *per capita* contribution from each member Association. This had been fixed at £2 per 1,000 Scouts (roughly one halfpenny a head). The Committee, as empowered by the Constitution, decided to increase the annual registration fee to £4 per 1,000 Scouts. The Committee also decided to appeal to each member Association to make an *ex gratia* payment of an amount equal to their fee for 1948, on the basis of £2 per 1,000 Scouts.

This came as a great relief to me as Treasurer of the Committee. Despite the rise in numbers during the years, there had been more than a corresponding rise in expenditure. At one time I had had to borrow £500 to keep the Bureau going. A Finance Sub-Committee was also appointed, consisting of Jackson Dodds, a banker of fifty years' standing, Ove Holm and the Director of the Bureau.

In 1955 it was again found necessary to raise the annual registration fee: this time to £5 per 1,000 Scouts.

Apart from America, the only other 1948 visit which is important to chronicle was a fortnight spent in Iceland in August to attend the very interesting and successful National Camp. *Bandalag Islenskra Skata* controls both Boy Scouts and Girl Guides. In the camp the two were separated by a considerable distance, with the headquarters camp in between. Iceland was the first country after Finland to grant full emancipation to women. In the island, women are eligible for all jobs and positions, and often do men's work when the latter are off fishing. A complete separation of Scouts and Guides would be contrary to all national custom and outlook. On committees of almost all kinds the proportion of men to women is equal, and small communities, such as exist in Iceland, could not carry two separate organisations. Having been there, one can but agree that the argument for a united Association is sound. So far as is possible, the Scouts and the Guides are trained separately under their own leaders.

The Boy Scouts International Conference only recognises the boys' side of joint Associations such as in Iceland, leaving the girls to the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, although admittedly this leads to a certain amount of difficulty between the Guides World Bureau and the Scouts International Bureau. Before the war both the Polish and Czechoslovakia!! Associations were of a joint character, and joint associations now exist in Israel and India, and, to all intents and purposes, in the 'Open' Associations in Belgium and France.

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### 1948-1950 – II

*Scouting's liaison with world organisations – an international camp for Handicapped Scouts – International Conference, Norway, 1949 – an adult Jamboree – visit to Middle East – a personal questionnaire – Jordan – Israel – the Lebanon – Baghdad – Iraq – Egypt – a 'royal progress' from East to West – Scouting's history in Greece – a 'Boys' Village' – rescue work in town sacked by bandits – National Camp – Scouting in Italy – first Italian Wood Badge Course – a permanent Catholic Scout camp – Second International Cub Conference at Edinburgh, 1950 – Second International Commissioners' Get-together in Portugal – draft Constitution for International Fellowship of Former Scouts and Guides – the International Committee meets in strength – I announce my intention to resign – the two Portuguese Scout Associations prove admirable hosts*

PART from the natural and close co-operation with the Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, the scope of Scouting's relationships with world organisations widened considerably. Liaison with UNESCO and I.R.O. has been mentioned. The Boy Scouts International Bureau was given consultative status by the Economic and Social Council of United Nations, as representing a non-governmental organisation. This conveyed recognition of the value and competence of Scouting in the social field. When I visited Lake Success, then the location of UN, I was not surprised to find a number of Former Scouts working in the Economic and Social Council. A representative of the Boy Scouts of America was the link between International Scouting and UN, as was Scoutisme Fransais with UNESCO in Paris.

There, Scouting became an active member of the Temporary International Council for Educational Reconstruction.

Scouting played a not inconsiderable part in the United Nations' Appeal for Children – Canada, Chile, Cuba, Denmark, Great Britain, Greece, Guatemala, India, Italy, Nicaragua, Norway, Switzerland and the U.S.A. making praiseworthy contributions. In acknowledging the full report of the work prepared by the Bureau, this tribute was paid: 'Your fine co-operation in the campaign of the United Nations' Appeal for Children has helped us to make it the success it already is, and the lives you have helped to save will bear eloquent witness to your work.'

Friendly relations were maintained from year to year with a number of voluntary international organisations, and with the Y.M.C.A. in particular. The Salvation Army announced that it was now possible for Salvation Army Boy Scout Troops to be affiliated to Member Associations of the Boy Scouts International Conference, and appointed a Liaison Officer for Scouting. From the beginning of 1948, too, the Bureau had a Liaison Scout Officer with the Vatican, the first two holders of that office becoming the Papal Nuncios in Bolivia and Chile respectively.

On the initiative of Miss Nel Lind of Holland and Mrs Ursula Richardson of Great Britain, a small international camp for Handicapped Scouts was held at Lunteren in the Netherlands in July 1949. Apart from their two countries, only Belgium and France were represented, but Scouters of the *Scouts Malgre Tout* of Switzerland were also present. The camp was largely of an experimental character, and necessarily of a restricted nature. It was visited by H.M. Queen Juliana, and also by many of the delegates to the Second International Congress for the Education of Maladjusted Children, whom I had the privilege of addressing on the corresponding work that Scouting had been doing for so many years. They all seemed struck by the amount of work that the Scouts were able to do for themselves, and the evident pleasure they took in doing it.

The camp was given the name 'Agoon' from the Greek *ΑΓΩΝ* (pronounced Agon). There are several meanings of this word, but generally speaking it means a struggle, a special effort or working hard for a successful purpose, and as such is a most appropriate word for a gathering of Handicapped Scouts. A second Agoon was held at Gilwell Park at the end of July 1958.

As a preparation for the 1949 International Conference, the Bureau – as a result of questionnaires sent out to all member countries – prepared three surveys on *Senior Scouts*, *Rover Scouts* and *Old Scouts*. *Ad hoc* sub-committees had also been formed to consider the two latter subjects. These surveys formed the basis for discussion groups in the Conference, which was held at Elvesaeter in Norway for three days in August 1949.

A discussion on Scouting and Religion, while it led to no resolution, made it clear that the necessity for 'Duty to God or to Religion' as the first part of the Scout Promise would be strictly adhered to in considering applications for recognition from any country not already a member of the Conference.

By comparison with two years before, the Conference may have seemed a little tame, despite the ruggedness of the surrounding country – Elvesaeter is on the slopes of Gollapiggen, Norway's highest mountain – but the Movement was back again on its well-established lines, and there was no need for any very important decisions or advances. As has been mentioned, the Poles' impassioned appeal against the D.P. policy was regretfully rejected, mainly if not entirely in the interests of the boys, 'to encourage them to settle in and become citizens of the country of their adoption whilst still retaining their memories of the culture of their forefathers'.

Sten Thiel's co-option to the Committee was confirmed for a further four years, and those elected for the full term of six years were: Antony Benaki, Chief Scout of Greece; Amory Houghton, President of the Boy Scouts of America; and Major-General D. C. Spry, Chief Executive Commissioner of the Boy Scouts of Canada.

One evening the Conference was shown the original film of the 'Kon-Tiki Expedition' by one of its members, Knut Haugland, who acted as my attache. (While I was at the Moisson Jamboree I received from him a wireless message to say that the expedition had reached its destination.) The

Conference was thrilled to know that he and four more of the six-men expedition were Scouts, and to see them, so to speak, in the raw.

While the Conference was in session, the Rovers, who were attending the Fourth World Rover Moot at Skjaak nearby, were hiking in international parties in the Juttenheimen, and experiencing very cold and wet weather. It was in a sense remarkable that there were no casualties of any kind during this hike. The Moot, the first for ten years, was attended by only 2,500, but from forty different parts of the world. It had been opened on August 2nd by H.R.H. Crown Prince Olaf, who took the salute at the March Past, made an informal speech welcoming the Rovers to Norway and then spent the night in camp. Next day a telegram was sent to H.M. King Haakon VII congratulating him on his seventy-seventh birthday, thanking him and his people for their hospitable welcome, and expressing gratitude for his example of steadfastness and uprightness. The Chief Scout of Norway, Pastor Birger Brekke, gave the address at the Sunday Protestant Service, and the local church choir, in national costumes, sang an anthem. A member of the International Committee described the Moot in these words:

The Rover Moot at Skjaak was an adult Jamboree. There was no large staff looking after the camp, no sub-camp leaders. Rovers of different countries ran their Moot themselves. The time was spent in the Scandinavian way. It was devoted almost entirely to Scouting and woodcraft, or Rovering and hiking . . . Right from the start, rambles and hikes were organised in groups composed of Rovers of different nationalities, led by Norwegians who knew the country, the lie of the ground and the dangers of the mountains. The camp sites of each Crew were near to each other. Everyday life in camp brought people close together. There was just one main Camp Fire for the public and the village people, who arrived by every variety of carriage from the local farms to see and hear the strange crowd of Rovers. But there were many small informal camp fires every night. The closing ceremony was not just a symbol. There were crowds of Rovers – not contingents – sitting in a clearing of trie wood and listening to Colonel Wilson bringing them the message and blessing of B.-P.

In 1950 I broke new ground for the Committee in paying a significant visit to the Middle East during six weeks of April and May. Landing at Damascus, I was met by Ali Bey Dandachi, afterwards a member of the International Committee, and the Syrian International Commissioner, Zouher Dalati, afterwards the Syrian Minister at Athens. They presented me with a document on which were typewritten three personal questions. I reproduce them, and my answers, because they illustrate a foresight that international travellers very seldom encounter:

Q. What do you like to eat?

A. Not too rich.

Q. What do you like to drink?

A. Not too much.

Q. When do you like to go to bed?

A. Not too late.

One morning was devoted to seeing the Guides of Damascus in five separate centres. Theirs was a comparatively recent revival, and their dress, discipline and cheerfulness were impressive. Brownies are called Antelopes – such a graceful name. Scouting also was on the upgrade, becoming more of a national movement and spreading into the villages. At Farouge, for instance, near Horns, we found 130 Cubs and Scouts out of a total population of 900. I also had the privilege of enjoying a night of Bedouin hospitality at Talkalaks at the hands of Ali's father, in his prime a horseman of international repute.

Before this I had gone straight to Amman by taxi from Damascus. Scouting in Jordan was not a recognised movement, and was just being restarted, with the help of former Palestinian Scouters, and with the advice of Bill Beale of the British Council, who had previously been the Bureau's Adviser in Turkey. Easter Sunday was spent in Jerusalem, where, by using two passports, I was able

to cross into the Israel sector and spend two hours with the leaders of the projected Israel Boy and Girl Scouts Federation, and question them as to their precise aims and methods.

I returned to Israel for ten days a year later, and was able to recommend the recognition of the Association to the Committee and Conference. I realised then something of the spirit and intensity of purpose which all the older boys and girls seemed to possess, from whatever part of the world they might have come as immigrants, as for instance a Canadian Rover from Toronto and a South African Ranger from Cape Town. I was also astounded to see flourishing settlements in the desert I had seen twenty years before. The Israel Association is open to all, no matter what their religious belief. The very small contingent to the 1955 Jamboree in Canada included an Arab and two Christians, and all three religions were represented in the Israel contingent to the 1957 Jamboree.

I return to 1950. In Lebanon I had two conferences at the Ministry of Education. The General Commissioner of the 'Eclaireurs du Liban', Selim Lahoud, was to be a future Minister of Education and later of Foreign Affairs. The encouraging signs in Lebanon as a whole were a desire for greater co-operation and unity in Scouting between the different Associations, the increasing number of Cub Packs led by lady Cubmasters, and the development of Guiding for girls. The expected unity into one Association has not yet been achieved, unfortunately, and a Bill to this effect still gathers dust in a parliamentary office. At the time I write, Arab-Christian tension is still more acute.

Mustafa Bey Fatalla took me back from Beirut to Damascus, and later drove me over the desert route from Damascus to Baghdad, and in Iraq as far north as Niniveh and Mosul, returning to Beirut a week later. Scouting in Iraq had lapsed during the war, and it was not until 1956 that it was recognised again nationally and internationally. The Ministry of Education was favourably disposed, but political changes caused delays. The Assyrian Group at the R.A.F. Station at Habbaniya was still in existence, and was doing a certain amount of missionary work in Baghdad, as were also several Iraqi Scouters, and a Palestinian who had been through courses at Gilwell Park in the 1930's. I left Baghdad on King Feisal's birthday, and was able to be present at the Schools' Display in his honour and to be received by him and H.R.H. the Regent, in the Royal Box. Both were assassinated in 1958.

The whole of this trip was in the nature of a reconnaissance, and followed the pattern of 1948 in Latin America in linking up with Scout Associations with whom the International Committee and the Bureau had not been very much in touch. It opened the way to a better knowledge of local conditions and feelings.

On our return to Beirut, I was received by the President of the Republic, who expressed his intense desire for Scouting to give a lead in forming one single united Association. This desire I passed on to the Minister of Education, and, next day, to the Editor of the *Beyrouth Newspaper*, who had led the Lebanese-Syrian contingent at the Jamboree in Hungary in 1933. But it was all seemingly to no effect.

I flew to Cairo. The Egyptian Association was well known, and always in the forefront at International Conferences, Jamborees and Rover Moots. Many of the Scouters I had met at these gatherings or during my visit in 1932. Something had been done in taking Scouting to the *Fellahin*, but it was still on somewhat of a royal basis. A surprise awaited me at the Kafr El Dawar Textile Factory near Alexandria, subsequently damaged in the various troubles. The factory was the Headquarters of 300 Rovers, all mill-workers, with twelve Scouts and forty Cubs, the sons of workers. The manager spoke enthusiastically of the benefits of Scouting to the atmosphere and tone of the factory.

The finale of this tour was thus recorded: 'Our arrival (at Farouk Airfield) to catch the plane which flies from the Belgian Congo to Brussels was almost a royal progress. Two policemen (Old Scouts) immediately took charge; two customs officers (Old Scouts) took over my bags and papers; two air hostesses (Ranger Guides) took us over to the restaurant for coffee and sandwiches, which they insisted were on the house. They had both been pleased to see the World Chief Guide, Olave, Lady Baden-Powell, a few weeks before.'

These days, East and West very nearly do meet. A month later I flew to Montreal, to be received by Jackson Dodds and Dan Spry, and discussed the coming Jamboree and Conference in Austria with them. I also had talks with Mr Justice Vivian Bose, Chief Commissioner of the Boy Scouts Association in India, on the merger between his Association and the Hindustan Association of the Congress Party, which had been brought about at the end of 1950 as 'The Bharat Scouts and Guides'. This time I was able to visit Ottawa to discuss questions at Dominion Scout Headquarters and be received by the Governor-General, Lord Alexander of Tunis, who was particularly anxious to know what was happening about Scouting in the Arab world. After too few days' rest in Rochester, N.Y., I went on to Philadelphia for the 40th Annual Meeting of the Boy Scouts of America, at which I presented a portrait of B.-P. as a token of goodwill from their Scout friends in other countries. At the subsequent Second National Jamboree at Valley Forge, I again had talks with the small contingent from India on the merger, all of which goes to show how universal Scouting would seem to be.

In August I was back east in Greece, on my first visit to the country and to attend the National Camp. I was welcomed by Antony Benaki, the donor of the Benaki Museum and the Yacht Club to Athens, and by the International Commissioner, Dem Alexatos, commonly known as 'Rann', who is now the National Commissioner and a member of the International Committee. I have purposely left the story of Scouting in Greece until now, partly because I was only able to grasp its full significance when I was in Greece itself.

The start was curiously similar to that in the U.S.A. In August 1908, Athenasios Lefkaditis was in London as trainer of the Greek Olympic Team to the 4th Olympiad. He was shown his way when in doubt by a boy who was alert and cheerful, and made the somewhat mysterious remark that as a Scout he was just doing his Good Turn. Lefkaditis did precisely as William D. Boyce did. He visited the Scout Headquarters Office, collected literature and took it back to Athens. There he formed a study group of the older pupils in the school at which he was the gymnastic instructor. He visited London again in 1910 to secure further information and advice, and in November that year formed the first Greek Scout Troop. The following February, a Committee was formed to develop Scouting in Greece and organise it as a regular Movement. Constantine Melas was the first General Secretary and later the first National Commissioner, and devoted his whole life to Scouting.

On Independence Day, March 25th, 1912, the Scouts made their first public appearance at a Parade before the King, and in May the formation of the Scout Association, 'Soma Hellinon Proskopon' was recognised by Royal Order. On account of services rendered in the Balkan Wars, it was awarded a Royal Charter in October 1917. The Headquarters flag of S.H.P. has been decorated with several medals, including that of the Red Cross.

Right through from 1912 to 1922, again in 1928, 1931, 1938, from 1941 to 1949, and yet again in 1953, the succour rendered by Greek Scouts in wars, earthquakes, fires and famine, in camps for the rehabilitation of children and returned prisoners-of-war, has been of a remarkable character. It would take a whole book to recount the story – frankly, I am dumbfounded by the summary I have read. Who would believe that, at the risk of imprisonment and worse, over a thousand Scouts attended the funeral of Athenasios Lefkaditis in Athens in 1944? Who would credit it that a young naval lieutenant suggested that a reformatory camp in Egypt for 300 young naval ratings – technically mutineers – should be run on Scout lines, with the result that in a very few months they would seek, and be granted, permission to return to their ships and again serve their King and the Allied cause? That lieutenant was Dem Alexatos.

My first day I visited one of the 'Boys' Villages' started under the Queen's patronage for the rehabilitation of boys captured by the enemy or from ruined villages. At the time they were being used for the education of boys in agriculture as a part of the Village Development Schemes. The Special Scout Commissioner had seen over 5,000 pass out from the courses to their villages. Of the 140 I saw, 50 had elected to be Scouts.



With Alex Comninos, Commissioner for National Service, as my friend and interpreter, I visited Rhodes, the Peloponnese and Macedonia, seeing Cubs and Scouts almost everywhere. At Thessaloniki I met Macredis, the Deputy Camp Chief, who played an important part in subsequent years in leading training courses for Turkish Scouters both in Greece and Turkey. One cannot but emphasise the friendly help given by the Greek Scouts to Turkish Scouts. Alex and I crossed the Plain of Thessaloniki into the mountainous area only recently freed from bandits. Up to then, Scouts had not been able to get out and about in the open. Camping had been impossible. It was our good fortune, therefore, to visit a camp of the Verria District some 4,000 feet up. Although centralised for the reasons I have given, the day's activities in the woods were all on a Patrol basis. The District Commissioner had achieved fame by the service he had rendered to the neighbouring town of Naoussa after it had been captured by bandits in January 1949. Immediately on their retreat, he and a party of Scouts, armed with food and hospital supplies, had helped to restore some of the damage. Incidentally, the Town Hall in Naoussa was the Scout Headquarters, built before 1941, but fortunately not roofed, so that it had not been demolished. Until a new town hall was rebuilt, the Scouts were making do with a shack built of packing cases.

Back in Thessaloniki, Theodor Litsas (Gilwell 1928) took us out to the American Farm School, of which he is Administrative Officer. The school was founded in 1903 by the father of the present Head, Charles House, a former Scout Commissioner in New York. The school had regenerated agriculture almost throughout Greece, teaching strip and contour ploughing, introducing better stocks in cattle, pigs and poultry, and teaching the care of farm machinery and co-operative canning. A girls' school under the auspices of the British Society of Friends was attached.

On August 19th, Alex, Macrides and I flew to Athens in time for the opening of the National Camp at Dionysius. The Jamboree Flame was lit in traditional style. There were some 4,000 Scouts in camp, including 30 from Great Britain and smaller numbers of American and French Scouts. The Headquarters camp was appropriately named Olympus. An inter-Patrol competition was held, each Troop in camp entering a Patrol. The preliminaries were held by sub-camps and lasted most of one day, incorporating in an imaginative way handicrafts, nature study, signalling, cooking and pioneering. There were also observation practices, such as to name the fattest man in camp and estimate his weight, and to describe and sketch what appealed most in camp. This last achieved many interesting results, varying from 'B.-P.'s Tower' to Hsu's Guide daughter. Seven Patrols appeared for the finals, and set up tents, erected flag-staffs, lit fires, dealt with injuries, made and shot arrows, and disappeared into trees up rope ladders of their own manufacture.

H.M. King Paul, Supreme Chief of Soma Hellinon Proskopon, accompanied by the Crown Prince in the uniform of a Cub Sixer, arrived one afternoon, had dinner in camp and attended the Camp Fire held in a most joyful and merry atmosphere.

Great gratitude was expressed to the Scouts of Canada, the United States and Great Britain for their aid in the past few years. Canada headed the list, possibly because Jackson Dodds, their Deputy Chief Scout, was also Consul-General for Greece in Montreal. Canada had published a 15,000 Greek edition of the World Brotherhood Edition of *Aids to Scoutmastership*. The Canadian Ambassador made a token presentation of the 3,500 Scout staffs which Canadian Scouts had cut and sent over.

One of the best Patrols was a lone Patrol from a small village right on the Albanian border. The Patrol Leader was fifteen and with only a copy of *Scouting for Boys*, and without any adult help, he had collected and trained his Patrol of seven others younger than himself.

A guest in camp was Mehmet Arkan, the representative of the embryo Boy Scouts of Turkey. I was able to have a long talk with him, which eventually resulted in the recognition of Turkey as a member of the International Conference on December 1st, 1950.

In the spirit of friendship, cheerfulness, endeavour and teamwork, the forty years of Greek Scouting had been celebrated; and one saw the truth of Plato's words: 'Do not use force upon the children, but let their education be a game for them.'

Meanwhile, the Movement in Italy had been gathering strength and effectiveness. Corpo Nazionale Giovani Esploratori – the Open Association – had naturally encountered greater difficulties than the Catholic Association, which had the support of the Church, although carrying out its own reconstruction as befitted its President, and later Chief Scout, Osvaldo Monass, a constructional engineer. The G.E.I. (Giovani Esplorati Italiani), however, had gathered sufficient strength to be able to hold their first National Jamboree in August 1949, near Turin amongst the Piedmont hills. Camp ceremonies, prayers and services were held in natural settings against the background of the hills. Patrol hikes explored forests and streams. The Troops from Rome seized the opportunity to try out their pioneering skill – always a feature of Italian Scouting – in the hill country.

The G.E.I., too, were also largely responsible, with the help of American and British Service Scouts, for the restoration of Scouting in the Trieste Free Territory. Scoutmasters and Cubmasters were slowly being found, or were growing up from the Scout Troops and Rover Crews. A 1950 report read:

With the Carnic Alps and the Dolomites within four or five hours' journey, successful summer camps have been held amid splendid scenery. Most of the older boys are keen mountaineers, and large numbers of all ages are accomplished ski-ers. Almost all are good swimmers. As regards winter activities, handicrafts are well developed, and most Patrol dens and corners are excellently equipped and fully used. The Patrol System is emphasised as the basis of all activity, and Patrol Leaders' courses are periodically run. Here is proof that the revival of Scouting was on the right lines, despite the eighteen years' interregnum. When the agreement between Italy and Yugoslavia about Trieste was accomplished, Scouting in the Italian province became a regular part of Federazione Esploratori Italiani with both Associations working together.

The Federation had an opportunity, too, at the Fourth International Congress for Open-Air Education, of staging very effective displays at its International Exhibition. At the Congress reports were given on 'Scouting as a Formative Activity in Families, School and Society' and 'Scouting and Physical Education'. One of the speakers was Professor Mario Mazza, Chief Commissioner of A.S.C.I., who later showed his belief in the value of Scouting to education by founding a Technical Institute in Verona, organised along Scout lines.

The first Italian Wood Badge Training Camp was held at the end of September 1949 under E. E. Reynolds, in the Roman hills above Frascati. The Scourers on the Course were mostly Commissioners, coming from towns as far apart as Trieste and Naples. This step was followed up by the attendance of Italian Scouts from both Associations at Gilwell itself, and the accrediting of Italian Deputy Camp Chiefs and Akela Leaders.

The year 1950 was Holy Year, and the Catholic Scouts established a permanent camp at Tre Fontane, three kilometres from St Paul's Basilica, with facilities for 1,000 tents, beds and linen all being made available. In the same locality a camping ground to accommodate 2,000 was prepared with lighting, water and sanitation, for those who could bring their own camping equipment. Even then the campers could avail themselves of the dining service in the permanent camp. This proved to be an all-the-year-round Good Turn.

The First International Cub Conference had been held at Gilwell Park in 1938, the second was held in Edinburgh in August 1950. For me it was a happy coincidence that I was in charge of both conferences: of the first when Camp Chief, at the special request of the International Committee; and of the second as Director of the Bureau. The twenty countries represented included Canada, Pakistan, New Zealand, Mexico and the U.S.A. The last made a most interesting and educative contribution in describing the policy of Cub Scouting in the States, founded primarily on the need to restore the family as the most important part of a young boy's development. The Conference was a marked success, as befitted its setting, with views of Edinburgh Castle and King Arthur's Seat, and its division into Clans: Stewart (after the Royal House); Cameron (Lord Rowallan, Chief Scout of the British Commonwealth and Empire); Graham (Sir Ian Bolton, President of the Scottish

Council of The Boy Scouts Association); Gunn (myself and Mrs D. Wilson Dodds, the imaginative organiser and warm-hearted hostess); Rose (Sir Hugh Rose, Scout Commissioner for Edinburgh). This atmosphere was enhanced the first evening by a reception at City Chambers by the Lord Provost's Deputy and Aldermen of the City of Edinburgh, surrounded by the Civic Guard in their ancient uniforms. There was a display of Highland dancing, interspersed with Scots songs.

Lord Rowallan opened the Conference, and Lord Clydesmuir, Honorary President of the Scottish Council, also spoke. Lord Rowallan's speech at the final dinner was replied to by the one who had travelled farthest – from New Zealand – and who was also the youngest Lady Cubmaster present. There could not have been one of us there who did not, at some time or other, find some fresh appeal, some new inspiration to brighten the vision of our Cubbing, and make us determined to multiply our endeavours to *do our best* with and for our Cubs.

What differences there are in the Cub method are due to differing national conditions, or to the particular needs of some countries. Scouting is fortunate in its Cub leadership, since the Cub age can be equally well served – sometimes better served – by women. The Cub is not too young to want to know about Cubs in other countries, and a good foundation for international understanding and goodwill can be, and still is, laid in Wolf Cub Packs.

The Second International Commissioners' Get-together was held in September at Monte Estoril, near Lisbon, Portugal. It proved still more representative than the one at Kandersteg, Canada and Brazil joining in with the U.S.A., together with Germany and thirteen other European Scout countries. This family gathering discussed and exchanged views on every question concerning the duties of the International Commissioner and his team of specialists, translators and so on. A tribute was paid to the value of the first Get-together:

Ideas and knowledge are spread more widely than before, and Scouts in many countries who are not very interested in Scouting abroad have become more internationally-minded.

The Old Scouts' Sub-Committee met at the same spot for a day, and rapidly reached full agreement on a draft Constitution for an International Fellowship of Former Scouts and Guides. I shall detail the history and vicissitudes of this project when three years later the Fellowship was officially inaugurated.

The International Committee also met at Monte Estoril for a couple of days, there being only two absentees out of the twelve members. This speaks very highly for the devotion to duty and self-sacrifice of the Committee as a whole, all of whom save one attended entirely at their own expense, as, in fact, has normally been the case at these meetings. The Committee accepted unanimously the recommendations of the Old Scouts Sub-Committee. The Director of the Bureau formally informed the Committee that he would not be available for reappointment after 1953, as he felt very strongly that his duties should be assumed by a younger man. It was perhaps an anomaly that from the beginning the custom had been to reappoint the Director every two years, although this was not enjoined by the Constitution. A Sub-Committee consisting of Ove Holm, Amory Houghton and Jean Salvaj, with the Director in an advisory capacity, was appointed to consider the selection of a successor, who might act as Deputy Director for a time before Colonel Wilson finally retired. The Sub-Committee was also asked to make recommendations as to the period of appointment, the financial problems involved and all other questions relating to the office of Director of the Boy Scouts International Bureau. On the last day the Committee were received by the President of the Republic, and also by the Cardinal Archbishop of Lisbon.

The two Portuguese Scout Associations – Associacio dos Escoteiros de Portugal (Open) and Corpo Nacional de Escutas (Catholic) – proved admirable hosts so far as visits and receptions were concerned. On the other hand, these three successive gatherings gave them an opportunity of emphasising the international character of Scouting, so that they were benefited in their turn. I was able to spend another week in the country, travelling north as far as Oporto and elsewhere with

Major (now General) Leo Borges Fortes, International Commissioner for Brazil and now a member of the Inter-American Scout Advisory Committee. There was a large gathering of the Catholic Scouts attended also by the Archbishop of Oporto, who is almost the hereditary Chaplain-General of the Association, since his predecessor was the Founder of the Corpo Nacional. Previously I had seen a large camp of the Open Association outside Lisbon, where the camping standards were good and the various sites very decorative.

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## The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts

*The Girl Guides come of age – early days in Calcutta – my connections with Guiding over 25 years – Miss Agnes Baden-Powell – royal support – growth and development – Guide leaders at the First International Conference, Oxford, 1920 – First World Camp, Foxlease, 1924 – World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts formed, 1928 – Constitution – its differences from that of Scouting – Our Ark – Our Cabana – World Bureau set up in London, 1926 – Dame Katherine Furse – Thinking Day Fund – plans for a future home – a temporary one – World Flag – World Badge – badge for ‘world staff’ – Scout badges and flags – New York branch office – personal contacts*

**T**HE year 1932 was celebrated as the Coming-of-Age of the Guide Movement, although the Girl Guides started in 1910, and the date should therefore have been 1931. This is another similarity with the Scout Movement, which also celebrated its Coming-of-Age a year late, but set the correct date for its Golden Jubilee, as the Guides are doing.

I have made many references to the Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, and have had the privilege of seeing them in all parts of the world, even from my Calcutta days when I used to provide them with transport for their Rallies. The girls themselves were never quite sure whether they preferred to ride in police vans or in the riot trucks. The former concealed them from the public view, but were very hot; the latter, being cages of expanded metal, were cooler, but reminiscent of the Calcutta Zoo! However, I feel that the World Association is worthy of a chapter to itself so that I can fill in the gaps and pay the girls a more graceful tribute. I state unequivocally that I have always been a firm believer in the value of co-operation between the two movements, so far as their policies are concerned, and in the realisation of their aims.

In 1933 I wrote in Gilcraft's *Rover Scouts*:

The Boy Scouts Association and the Girl Guides Association have a common Founder in Lord Baden-Powell. The foundation of the Guides was the direct result of the founding of the Scouts. In the first years of Scouting, many girls were attracted to it, and were accepted as Scouts, so that it became obvious that the same aims and methods appealed almost as much to girls as to boys. It was decided, therefore, to found a separate organisation on similar lines to deal with girls. The Guide and Scout Promises and Laws are identical in spirit and practically identical in words. The organisation and methods used by the two Associations are very similar, and a close liaison has always existed between them.

Training for citizenship cannot be completed unless that part played by the other sex in life and the community is understood. The forwarding of this understanding appears to me to be one of the peculiar duties and privileges of both Guiding and Scouting.

I went on to say, as I was dealing specifically with the Rover Scout age:

This can be done so long as all our joint gatherings and activities are maintained on a high plane, and it is for this reason that I suggest that a joint 'Rangers'-Rovers' Own' (a simple, family religious service) might be a necessary and valuable addition to any scheme of co-operation that is worked out locally. If Rangers and Rovers can be brought purposely together on that plane, great encouragement can be given them to carry out the first part of their Guide and Scout Promise.

In the intervening twenty-five years I have attended many such joint gatherings, not only in Great Britain, and have had proof of their value. It was some such similar aim that lay behind the founding of the International Fellowship of Former Scouts and Guides. I take a pride also in having spoken at many Guide gatherings. I remember acutely my first Guide Commissioners' Conference, when I saw with alarm from the platform, as the only male in the hall, that the whole of the front row were knitting furiously as if in competition with each other. My mind was set more at rest when Madame Chairman told me, 'Just talk over their heads, but not over the heads of those behind them.' Then there was a Diploma'd Guiders' (Trainers) Conference at Foxlease, the Guide equivalent of Gilwell Park, which I conducted for a week as a Scout Wood Badge Course.

Agnes Baden-Powell, the Founder's only sister, became President of the new Movement in 1910. Her personality and interest in nature and art were of the greatest influence in the early years. She resigned in 1920, and became Vice-President, so that H.R.H. the Princess Royal – Princess Mary as she then was – could become President of the British Girl Guides Association. The connection between Guiding and royalty in monarchical countries has always been very strong. Queen Elizabeth and Princess Margaret were Girl Guides and Sea Rangers; the Queens of Denmark and Greece are enthusiastic supporters. In January 1953, *Jamboree* greeted the betrothal of H.R.H. Prince Jean of Luxembourg, Chief Scout of Luxembourg, and H.R.H. Princess Josephine Charlotte, Chief Guide of Belgium.

Guiding spread at a somewhat less speedy rate than Scouting to different parts of the world. There were greater difficulties to overcome until the emancipation of women was as complete as it is today. Interchanges of visits between Guides in neighbouring countries started in the early years. After the First World War, Lady B.-P. set out to discover where the Movement was in existence. Enlisting a number of friends who had connections with various countries, she formed an International Council in London in February 1919, a member of which was Hubert S. Martin, shortly to become Director of the Boy Scouts International Bureau. Mrs Mark Kerr, who had particularly close links with Greece, was the Vice-Chairman, and later became Commissioner for Tenderfoot Countries.

It was in 1920 that two leaders from each known Guide country were invited to the British County Commissioners' Conference held at St Hugh's College, Oxford. This gathering became known as the First International Conference. The Thirteenth World Conference was held in the same college in 1950, when I was privileged to be present. The First World Camp was held at Foxlease in 1924, at the same time as the Third International Conference. The Fourth Conference was held at the Girl Scouts' Camp Edith Macy in 1926, when returning delegates suggested the formation of a World Association to take the place of the informal International Council. With the approval and active help of the Founder, the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts was formed in 1928, and a simple constitution drawn up, which was ratified two years later.

There were twenty-eight Founder Member countries whose Guide membership gave a total of 886,627. In 1957 the total membership included forty-two countries and 4,500,000 active Girl Guides and Girl Scouts and their leaders. The present constitution lays down two grades of membership: Tenderfoot Members are countries which have been accepted by the World Conference as being on the right lines and having attained a satisfactory standard; Full Members are those where satisfactory progress has been maintained and in which the central organisation has become more fully developed. In this there is a difference from the Boy Scouts International Conference, which provides for one form of membership only. The fundamental principles, as laid

down by the Founder, are the same. The confining of membership to the one sex is the same, except for Lady Cubmasters. There are small differences in regard to the World Committee of nine members, to be increased to twelve in 1963, when the period of service will be nine years. At present a Chairman is appointed for the three-year period between meetings of the World Conference. Sub-Committees exist for Finance, Constitutions, Training, the Western Hemisphere Region, Our Chalet, Our Ark, Our Cabana.

I was present at the opening of Our Ark, a hostel for Girl Guides and Girl Scouts visiting London, in May 1939. My daughter Margaret was on the staff as a kind of cook-caterer until shortly after the Second World War broke out, when she joined the Red Cross, as so many Guides and Guiders did. Our Cabana was opened at Cuemavaca in Mexico in 1957, as a Western Hemisphere counterpart to Our Chalet in Switzerland and also as a B.-P. Centenary Memorial.

The World Bureau, the Secretariat of the World Association, was set up in 1928 in London. The main reason advanced was that 'it was important that it should be near enough to Lord and Lady Baden-Powell to profit by their advice and guidance'. From 1930 to 1939, a room was found for it at the Headquarters of the British Girl Guides Association, but in 1939 it migrated out of the back door and across the road to 9 Palace Street, with Our Ark next door to it.

The World Bureau and the World Association were fortunate in their first Director, Dame Katharine Purse, who had drafted the constitution. Again, I was fortunate enough to be a friend of hers from my first arrival at Gilwell Park, to which she was a frequent visitor, and where her two sons stayed from time to time. She served as Director from 1928 to 1938. She moulded the world organisation and left her print indelibly on it. Her interest in Scouting as well as Guiding was informed and intense. She was a firm believer in the aims, principles and methods advocated by the Founder. Her last public appearance was at the Conference of Former Scouts in London in September 1952. She wrote an account of it for the November 1952 issue of *Jamboree*, from which I quote some characteristic passages:

When I write this, I am reminded of an old coloured print which, as a child living in Switzerland, I used to see hanging in the *Stubs* or sitting-room of my peasant friends. It showed a pyramid of three steps on either side, each trodden by child, boy or man of various ages. On top was a very old man, who puzzled me as he seemed to be so detached.

And now, being on the pinnacle myself, I realise the aspirations of old age – the hurry to finish one's job in all directions and the conviction that, though wearing out, one still has certain qualities to offer for the benefit of young people, without in any way wishing to boss and thereby to usurp their rights – grandparents have functions as well as parents.

All this was forcibly brought out during the conference, and I was specially interested in the practical approach of the men – especially the fact that one heard little talk of what men themselves could gain by uniting as Old Scouts, except, of course, what comes out of comradeship of endeavour on behalf of the young.

It never seemed to be forgotten that the fundamental *raison d'être* of Old Scouts is what they can do for the benefit of boys, both in well-being and in development of character through outdoor activities, and self-independence . . .

Surely Scouting has everything to gain by having a background of men experienced in the ways of the world Jinked together in the common cause, but apart from the actual organisation of the Boy Scouts . . .

Again I express my gratitude for taking part in the world of Scouting.

Dame Katherine died the same month, which makes her impressions all the more poignant. She died happy in the knowledge that the proposed International Fellowship was to include Former Guides as well as Former Scouts. She had always both preached and practised co-operation between the two Movements, which had so much in common.

The second Director of the World Bureau was Mrs Leigh-White, whose nine years in office ended in 1947. She had the difficult years of the war to contend with, spending some time in the Western Hemisphere. The immediate post-war reconstruction in Europe came under

her guidance, and she and I naturally had to adjust policies, particularly in regard to Germany, Austria, Displaced Persons and all the hundred and one questions that cropped up. By this time, liaison between the World Bureau and the Boy Scouts International Bureau was an established factor, and continued under the next two Directors – or should I say three, since the untiring and ever helpful Miss Elizabeth Fry held the fort for eight months in 1948-49?

The present Director of the World Bureau is Dame Leslie Whateley, with whom I have been happy to share many experiences and beliefs. The first Director had been head of the Women's Royal Naval Service during the First World War, and Dame Leslie had been head of the Women's Royal Army Corps at the end of the Second World War. They had a practical knowledge of women and girls, and had also worked with men.

I have no wish to draw any distinctions between World Guiding and International Scouting, but there are some particulars in which the former rises superior to the latter. The most important is its Thinking Day Fund. At the International Conference in 1926, the suggestion was made that the joint birthdays of the Founder and of his wife – February 22nd – should be set aside as Thinking Day – a day when Guides should think of each other in all quarters of the globe. The suggestion was enthusiastically received, as a most fitting way of celebrating the anniversary and of rendering thanks to the B.-P.'s. Six years later, a Belgian girl had an idea – were not birthdays an occasion for presents? She spoke of her idea to the World Chief Guide, who published it in *The Council Fire*, the World Association's quarterly journal: 'Does not thinking with us usually lead to action?' Lady B.-P. wrote, 'and wouldn't it be nice if we could perhaps give something as well as our thoughts to help develop the world friendship which is growing slowly each year, and which we hope to see growing larger and larger all the time?'

Guides and Girl Scouts in twenty-four different countries agreed that the idea was a good one, and before the end of the first year, £300 in small sums had arrived at the World Bureau. Year by year the total has grown until it amounts to five figures. The whole amount is used for the promotion of Guiding and Girl Scouting, wherever the need is known and the call for help can be answered. Immediately after the Second World War, the Fund was invaluable, and was supplemented by special gifts to enable personal and material service to be rendered in D.P. and Refugee Camps.

Apart from this fund, the financing of the World Conference, Committee and Bureau is met, as in the Scouts, by an annual quota from each Member Country. Before leaving the subject, however, I would mention that the Sixteenth World Conference in Brazil in 1957 resolved that an effort be made to raise £150,000 within the Movement by the end of 1959, to procure adequate accommodation in London to house both the World Bureau and Our Ark in the same building. Number 9 Palace Street having proved totally inadequate for the Bureau's needs, a temporary move was made to 132 Ebury Street, also in Westminster, when the Boy Scouts International Bureau vacated it at the beginning of 1958. And very glad I was to have the long lease transferred from my own name jointly to the Chairman of the World Committee and the Director of the World Bureau.

I am told that women go much more into details than men. Sometimes it is a waste of time; sometimes it is beneficial. Amongst the details in the latter category I would mention symbols, in which Scouts have lagged behind. A World Flag was designed by Froken Kari Aas of Norway, and adopted at the Sixth World Conference in 1930. The design is of a gold trefoil on a bright blue field. The World Flag is flown at Girl Guide and Girl Scout Centres, at the World Bureau, and at all international gatherings. Troops and Companies are permitted to carry the World Flag in addition to their own national flag.

A World Badge was eventually formally adopted in 1948. It is of similar design, and can be worn by anyone in a Member Country who has taken the Guide Promise. The younger girls were not to be left behind, whether they were called Brownies or Bluebirds or Antelopes or whatnot, so a World Brownie Badge was proposed in 1950 and the design agreed to four years later. The badge shows a golden hand, raised in the two-fingered salute, on a blue background.

There is also a special badge of blue enamel edged with silver, embodying the World Trefoil included with a ring. This is worn by the World Committee and its Sub-Committee Members, the World Bureau Staff and World Association Representatives. The ring signifies that they work for the 'world'.

I was a bit late off the mark in these particulars. I did not introduce an International Scout Badge until 1939 – a silver fleur-de-lis or arrowhead badge on a purple ground surrounded by the names of the five continents in silver within a circular frame. The wearing of it is not universal, however, but is confined to past and present members of the International Committee and of the Staff of the Bureau. A flag of a similar design automatically followed, the flying of which is restricted to International Scout gatherings. To complete the subject, the International Fellowship of Former Scouts and Guides has adopted a universal badge and a flag. The design is the Scout fleur-de-lis in red superposed on a white trefoil, signifying the union of the two Movements at adult age. To return to Guiding and Girl Scouting: since 1940 the World Bureau has had a Branch Office in New York. It is supervised by an Assistant Director, Mrs Rusk-Dermady, who has continuously shown a spirit of helpfulness to Scouting. She works together with the Western Hemisphere Region Sub-Committee and in close co-operation with the Director. On the staff of the World Bureau and its Branch Office there are Travelling Commissioners, who work in the field in specific areas to promote Guiding and Girl Scouting on the right lines, by visiting, by training, and by giving every assistance possible to countries where there are new Associations or where the Movement is just beginning. Needless to say, one of the most important and valuable contributions to the success of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts is through the personal contacts that the Director and her Assistant have in their offices, and even more so from the constant travelling in which they are engaged. I have very much of a fellow feeling for them. They have both my sympathy and my felicitations.

### - 19 - 1951-1952

*More travel – Israel – 'Pioneering' – Switzerland – I am 'rescued' – Germany – Norway – National Camps in Denmark and Sweden – Orienteering – why Austria was chosen for the Seventh Jamboree – 'Jamboree of Simplicity' – preparations – homeliness the keynote – Thirteenth International Conference – Lady B.-P. present for first time – new members – one magic word – various appointments – religious considerations – visits to France and Eire – 'Mixite' – an audience with King Baudouin – Switzerland and Liechtenstein – Norway – Third International Commissioners' Get-together in Italy – the First World Scouters' 'Indaba', 1952*

**A**LTHOUGH 1951 was a World Jamboree and International Conference year, the Director of the Bureau was not absolved from a fair amount of travelling both before and after these events. On the way to Israel I spent four days in Rome at the end of March. There the memory is of the Cubs and Scouts in the Catholic Orthopaedic Hospital who displayed the normal cheerfulness and friendliness of Scouts with a handicap. Beyond that, through the sale of their own handicrafts, they had helped an able-bodied Rover Scout to go to the World Rover Moot at Skjaak.

About Israel I would only add this: a Scout 'Tribe' is divided into age 'Groups' of some thirty members, which again are subdivided into Patrols. Up to 15 plus, boys and girls are in separate 'Groups'. After that, they come together for their more intensive and theoretical training and for 'Pioneering'. At 18 two years' national service for both sexes is compulsory. Put shortly,



'Pioneering' is the expression of the word *Halutzit*. This does not simply mean settlement on the land, but stems from the ideas of the writer A. D. Gordon. The Jews had lost their association with the land. They had to learn to work on and with it. There is a spiritual association with the turning of desert places into fertile areas. This is the main purpose of the 'Pioneering' programme.

A fortnight later, I spent ten days in Switzerland, accompanied by Jean Salvaj. The programme was varied as to places, altitudes and activities. In Davos I saw a Scout demonstration of winter activities on skis and of rescue work, and was myself taken down the mountainside strapped to a Canadian rescue sledge. In Berne I viewed the normal Saturday afternoon activities of Cubs and Scouts. Every Swiss town seems to have foreseen the needs of Scouting and made sure that their woods were easily accessible. This makes open-air Scouting the normal way in which to practise it. The 'Scout Homes', as their name implies, provide more for theoretical and social discussions and for the practice of the arts. I witnessed wide games, tracking, estimations, field sketching, nature study, pioneering, rescue work, signalling, etc., all with the Patrol as the unit of instruction or relaxation. The Swiss Scouts know that the ability to signal is an art on which human lives may depend in a sudden emergency. Its difficulties must therefore be overcome with a will. The ability to tap out morse and to give visual signals had proved helpful in a recent series of serious avalanches.

In Germany I had talks, again, with the Allied Education Authorities and met many German and American Scouts. The numbers of potential American Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts in Western Europe were increasing rapidly, and the Boy Scouts of America were making arrangements to depute a Scout Executive to organise a Local Council for the area, in much the same way as their British and French Allies had already done.

Denmark claimed me for an important Representative Meeting of Former Scouts to which I shall refer in a later chapter.

Then on to Norway on a long-promised visit for their National Day, May 17th. The processions of cheering and colourful schoolchildren past the Palace in the morning were a unique spectacle.

In July Det Danske Spejderkorps held a National Camp at Grenaa in North Jutland, with the irrepressible Jens Hvass in charge. The first night a Gilwell Reunion of 160 welcomed me in the cellars of the castle, at which messages were given from England, Finland, Norway, Scotland and Sweden. There was an 'etnografisk lejr' where primitive camping was continuously demonstrated – Stone Age, African, Red Indian, Eskimo. Canoes had been hollowed out of logs by fire, using shells as scrapers, and a miniature Kon-Tiki raft built. Preparations had lasted for months in the Troops to which the various tasks were allotted.

Thence, with Sten Thiel, to the National Camp of the Swedish K.F.U.M.'s Scoutförbund, near Oresund, where Count and Countess Ian Hamilton were my hosts. The Count was descended from a Scots officer in Gustavus Adolphus' army. It was fitting that the camp should be visited by King Gustav VI, who was accompanied by Princess Sybilla in her Guide uniform, and who showed a continued interest in international Scout affairs. Orienteering had become a popular activity amongst Scandinavian Scouts and a serious sport amongst their elders. A miniature Orienteering competition was held over a 3-kilometre course with 12 points to be found. It was graded in three age-classes, the two younger having handicaps of 5 and 10 minutes. It was creditable that an English Scout from Newcastle came in fifth in the senior event.

At the 1949 International Conference in Norway, invitations for the 1951 Conference and quadrennial World Jamboree were presented by Austria and Denmark. It is possible that the surrounding mountains influenced the vote, which was overwhelmingly in favour of Austria. But in fact, the Conference accepted the Austrian invitation for much more important reasons. Austria was a small country; a World Jamboree had never been staged there before; Austrian Scouts had been forbidden in 1938, and had made their own come-back in 1946; the majority of the countries represented at the Conference had been at war with the then Austrian State only five years before; there was an intense desire to show that the Brotherhood of Scouts was a reality and not just an expression.

In voicing the invitation, the Austrian International Commissioner, Adolf Klarer, had said that the Seventh Jamboree 'would have to put up with great simplicity'. This in itself appealed to the Conference as suiting the primary purpose of World Jamborees: 'to bring Scouts together from all over the world and so strengthen the feeling of unity and fellowship'. At the same time there was a desire that the next Jamboree should not be too large. So the 'Jamboree of Simplicity' was welcomed by all.

As previously in France, so in Austria to an even greater extent there were manifest and manifold difficulties to be overcome by the 10,000 Austrian Scouts. Although the Austrian Government administered the country, it did so under foreign control, the country still being divided into four occupation Zones – American, British, French and Russian. Preparations were started immediately, and the site near Bad Ischl in the Salzkammergut selected in November 1949, while snow lay on the ground.

The fee was fixed, after I had added 15 per cent to the Austrian estimate. This was as well, for just before the Jamboree opened the price of milk shot up by 50 per cent. Those who have not planned a Jamboree, or even a National Camp or Jamborette, do not know of the thousand and one details that have to be gone into beforehand, of the policies to be decided, of the courtesies to be observed, of the plans to be made, of the anxieties experienced, financial and otherwise, and the headaches incurred. Before, during and after the Jamboree, the Austrian Scouts allowed nothing to shake their faith or their equanimity.

Doubts had been expressed from outside Europe because Bad Ischl, while in the American Zone, was not very far from the Russian Zone. In all fairness it must be stated conclusively that no suggestion was made from the East to interfere with the Jamboree or its preparations. Austrian Scout Troops had been permitted to start and to carry on quietly in the Russian Zone, and no attempt was made to interfere or adversely influence them. Members of these Troops were at the Jamboree.

The attendance was almost 13,000 from 61 different parts of the world, 675 German Scouts being given a warm welcome as proud participants in a World Jamboree for the first time. All the Members of the British Commonwealth were represented and 12 British and 9 French possessions overseas. The Austrian Scouts, including the service staff, were outnumbered, if only slightly, by Great Britain and her overseas possessions. This disparity would have been greater if the minimum age for the Austrian Scouts had not been reduced from 14 to 13 – 14 to 17 is the normal Jamboree age – since the revived Austrian Association had been in existence for five years only. These young Austrians were particularly keen and interested, and set quite a good standard of camping, despite their lack of equipment.

The keynote of simplicity was indicated from the opening ceremony, performed at the Austrians' request by the Director of the Bureau. There was no grandstand, and visitors, including the American and British High Commissioners, stood or squatted on the hillside. Seven towers were speedily erected to depict the seven World Jamborees, and the Jamboree Song of each sung as its flag was broken. The united efforts of the Jamboree Camp Chief, Adolf Klarer, and the Director failed to break the flag of the 'Jamboree of Simplicity' until it had been refolded. This was the only untoward event, apart from two heavy thunderstorms which washed out one or two camp sites and raised memories of the mud at the Coming-of-Age Jamboree in 1929. There were certain special features, such as a mass presentation of King's Scout badges by Lord Rowallan, Chief Scout of the British Commonwealth and Empire, as an indication to others of the importance of this ceremony; a most well-informed talk by Ambassador Walter J. Donnelly, the American High Commissioner, at a breakfast given by the Boy Scouts of America and cooked by their Scouts; an evening concert by the Mozart Orchestra of Salzburg in one of the large marquees to a packed and most appreciative audience; the Camp Fire, which was led by Axi Stachowitzch (who had helped me many times in Germany with transport and interpreting), in the presence of the Austrian Chancellor, who had two sons in camp; and crowded and inspiring Catholic and Protestant Services on the Sunday.

The whole is best summed up in the words of a Scouter attending his first World Jamboree:

My own impression is that the title 'Jamboree of Simplicity' is not so apt as 'Jamboree of Homeliness'. Against a background of a high standard of camping, of cheerfulness in spite of the vagaries of the weather, I found a warmth of friendship, sincere sentiment and an absence of sentimentality, an understanding, an appreciation and a real Scout spirit . . . I felt how surprised certain people who are always advocating solidarity, unity and brotherhood of the peoples would have been if they could have seen this assembly of youth, representative of the greatest voluntary youth movement of the world, getting to know each other and enjoying themselves . . . The idea, too, of small groups of Scouters sitting round the glow of an evening fire, smoking their pipes and drinking mugs of cocoa, discussing the workaday problems of World Scouting, is so simple, so real and so full of sincerity. To me, this intimate character was the keynote of the Jamboree, and so long as the Movement preserves such intimacy it must flourish.

Here we see something of the fulfilment of the purposes of World Jamborees, World Rover Moots, and other international Scout gatherings.

Before the Jamboree, the Thirteenth International Conference had been held at Salzburg under equally simple conditions despite the beauty and fame of its surroundings, just as the mountains of the Salzkammergut made a frame for the camp. This was the first *Scout* Conference which the Hon. Vice-President of the International Committee, Olave, Lady Baden-Powell, had been able to attend, on account of her constant travels as World Chief Guide. Introduced by Georg Reininghaus, President of Pfadfinder Oesterreichs, she expressed her thankfulness at the thought that the Scouts and Guides should always be moving forward together.

They were both founded by my husband, and I should like to see full and valuable co-operation when it seems wise to do so. I feel very deeply about Scouting – as deeply as I do about Guiding. I have seen Scouts as well as Guides in most corners of the globe, and wherever I have gone to see my girls, to whom I am both a leader and a servant, I also see my brother Scouts.

Since 1949, Bolivia, Germany, Panama and Turkey had been admitted to the Conference. The registration of Japan had also been reaffirmed, and that country was represented by Viscount Michiharu Mishima, Chief Scout and one of the founders of the Boy Scouts of Japan. He was its sole representative at the Conference; but one Japanese Boy Scout joined him afterwards in camp, knowing only the one English word 'Jamboree', which was sufficient for him to reach there alone. His expenses were paid for by contributions by other individual Japanese Boy Scouts.

Various subjects found their place on the Conference programme – 'Scouting in Rural Areas', introduced by Greece; 'Making Scouting Known', means and ways being set out by Dan Spry; and the Reports of the Rover Panel and the Translation and Public Rights Subcommittee, dealing with Scout literature. Lord Rowallan delivered an inspiring address on 'Scouting in the World Today'.

Pierre Delsuc, Velen Fanderlik, Dr Rogelio Pina (Cuba) and Jean Salvaj retired from the Committee; Ali Bey Dandachi (Syria), Juan Laine (Mexico), Osvaldo Monass (Italy) and Senator Jorge B. Vargas (Philippines) were elected in their places. Delsuc and Salvaj were re-elected in 1953 after two years' rest.

The Rover Panel's Report ended by quoting from the 'Editor's Postscript' to the May 1949 number of *Jamboree*:

It was not until 1922 that B.-P. published *Rovering to Success*. The fact that he did not give in its pages a detailed scheme of training, but was content to set an aim and create an atmosphere, suggests to me that Rovering should be as adaptable and flexible as possible. Since then many schemes have been produced for Rovers; some have been given a good trial, but the discussion and argument about Rovers has gone on *ad nauseam*. Why did not B.-P. assert his authority in this problem? Partly because he was not by

inclination a dictator, and partly because he felt that these older fellows should work out their own salvation. From time to time he recalled to our minds the simple objectives he had set for the Rovers, yet time and again a few enthusiasts have managed to capture attention and have given the impression that their favourite ideas were the essence of Rovering. Fortunately, all the time, many have gone on hiking and camping, and doing jobs of service, unperturbed by the noise of conflicting voices.

At two short meetings held at Salzburg, before and after the election of the new members, the International Committee requested Major-General D. C. Spry to consider appointment as part-time Deputy Director of the International Bureau, while still retaining his position as Chief Executive Commissioner of the Boy Scouts Association of Canada, who consented to the offer being made. It was understood that this would enable both parties to satisfy themselves that he should succeed the retiring Director in two years' time. The appointment took effect from October 1st, 1951, when the Committee expressed its deep sense of obligation to the Canadian Association for their co-operation and to the Boy Scouts of America for setting up a special fund to meet a large proportion of the salary and travelling expenses of the Deputy Director. Dan Spry's duties were to undertake 'complete responsibility, under the Committee and Director, for International Scouting in North, Central and South America and the Caribbean, and for enquiries into and study of such special subjects as might be assigned to him by the Director'.

The Committee also expressed its gratitude to the Boy Scouts of Canada for continuing to pay their annual registration fee at the old rate of exchange, which represented a substantial donation, and to Denmark for a further special donation. By these means it was possible for the Bureau to expand its activities and to take on to its staff the following year Herr Franz Tros of the Netherlands for a period of some eighteen months, after which he was called up for national military service.

The religious policy of the Scout Movement had been drawn up on broad yet sound lines, and had met with the approval of those responsible for religious leadership, not only in Great Britain but in most other countries also. It was perhaps sad that Christian inter-denominational differences had to be guarded against lest separatism occurred. In Europe periodical 'Catholic International Conferences' had been held, all attended by a member or a special representative of the International Bureau. The Sixth was held at Gilwell Park in June 1951 with representatives from fifteen countries, including Australia and Tanganyika. Pere Forestier, Chaplain-General of the Scouts de France, took a leading part in directing the deliberations, as these were in part based on some pertinent questions he put to the delegates on the methods used in promoting the religious life of Scouts. Some wanted a more formal and scholarly approach, while others emphasised the importance of the example of Scouters. I visited the Conference by special request, and pointed out the need for keeping our feet on the ground in the training of boys, and added that Scout Groups sponsored by Catholic Associations or Churches had a twofold responsibility – that of promoting the religious life of the boys, and that of maintaining the practical methods and ideals of the Founder of the Movement.

Seven months later I was present at the first Protestant International Conference, or – to give it its full title – 'European Conference of Boy Scout Leaders related to Churches collaborating with the World Council of Churches', held at Genval, near Brussels. Both the discussions and my remarks were of a similar character to what I had said to the Catholics, but sectarian views seemed to me to be more extreme, perhaps because this was the first conference of its kind.

Both Conferences have continued to meet from time to time. While they have no executive powers, they are of value in bringing together like-minded Scouters having special problems of their own; the discussions help to disseminate ideas, and the informal talks are a means of strengthening a feeling of common purpose and common ideals. As time passes the danger of extremism has seemed to become lessened, and wiser heads have helped to temper more youthful enthusiasm.

I closed the year 1951 with two visits of some general importance – to France and to the Republic of Ireland (Eire). Scouting in both is affected, owing perhaps to national characteristics, by political and religious feeling.

Outwardly, Scoutisme Franc.ais had secured a unity, but was not entirely in a position to speak for French Scouting as a whole. The Eclaireurs Unionistes (Protestant), although the smallest in numbers, provided a kind of bridge between the Eclaireurs de France (Open) and the Scouts de France (Catholic), which outnumbered the other two together by about two to one. At the 14th National Council of the Eclaireurs Unionistes, I quoted from *The Times* of London:

It may be more easy to respect and admire a religious tradition which appears widely unlike one's own than to countenance one which has many similarities but certain subtle differences. The very fact of these differences appears to be not a denial, but a criticism of one's own convictions. Yet if that feeling turns to self-criticism, it may be creative. There is too much of self in everyone's religion, and the differences in another's discipleship may help to point this out.

Since the Eclaireurs Unionistes had taken under their wing and so provided international recognition to the Eclaireurs Israelites, they would seem to have shown the way in this particular, as well as in Scouting in France.

I spent a day in France with the Eclaireurs Israelites, now recognised as a fourth part of Scoutisme Francais, at one of their schools which illustrate the sincere efforts being made to educate more purposively the bodies, minds and spirits of the young Jewish generation. I invited them to be of particular service to the newly recognised Boy Scouts of Israel, and to help them with literature, equipment, advice and Trainers. I was received in their usual hospitable way by the Armenian Scouts under their Chief, Dr Kourkene Medzadourian.

With the Scouts de France I attended the Memorial Mass to the late Pere Jacques Sevin, who had played an important part in the founding of the Catholic Association and had been the Camp Chief of the Chamarande Training Centre where the Mass was celebrated. It was in this manner that the official closure of Chamarande took place, before the Training Centre migrated to the Chateau de Jambville, an estate of 135 acres of well-wooded land, interspersed with open spaces, which had lately been purchased.

With the E. de F. and the Israelites, Bob Steward was my interpreter, as he had been at the Edinburgh Cub Conference and in Austria. With the S. de F. Pierre Peroni undertook this task. Pierre had served International Scouting well and truly for many, many years, translating articles in *Jamboree*, Biennial records of International Conferences, and interpreting Reports for me time and again – in fact, right up to 1957, when he was attached to the Bureau staff for the Jubilee Jamboree and Cambridge Conference. Pierre was one of the many who served the cause of World Scouting quietly and effectively behind the scenes.

Pierre Delsuc, as International Commissioner of Scoutisme Francais, accompanied me to very important conversations with the Eclaireurs de France. The previous day I had had the pleasure of presenting him with his Bronze Wolf in the presence of the Troop he had founded in 1923, the 5th Paris of the Scouts de France, and of Jean Beigbeder who, although almost totally blind, had become President of Scoutisme Francais on the retirement of General Lafont as Chief Scout. The E. de F., somewhat to the dismay of the International Committee and of the World Committee of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, had introduced 'Mixite' (boys and girls together), in co-operation with the Eclaireuses de France. The reasons for this were many. There was also the sincere desire to popularise Scouting in the industrial centres. Scouting *populaire* had been the subject for discussion at more than one International Conference. As I wrote at the time, 'A Director of the Bureau has to be a diplomat, but he has also to be a stern defender of the fundamental principles of Scouting. The two roles are not by any means opposed to each other, but all the time one has to keep in mind our Founder's advice to "Look Wide and then Look Wider still."'

The subject was not only discussed theoretically; Andre Poussiere, the recently appointed National Commissioner, took me to the woods between St Cloud and Versailles to see something of the practice of Cubbing and Scouting along the experimental lines being tried out. Mixite predominated in the Cub Packs: it was not practised at Scout and Guide age, but was prevalent at Rover and Ranger age. What heartened me most was to find a good, imaginative three-Patrol Scout Troop engaged in their monthly outdoor reunion with a Troop of similar size composed of boys who were mentally handicapped. The Scoutmaster of the first Troop spoke of the value of this to his own Scouts in teaching them responsibility for and courtesy to those less fortunate than themselves. The benefits to the others were obvious. We also visited the *Clan Nautique*, a kind of mixed club built around the core of E. de P. Rovering. There was a lot on which to congratulate the promoters – the building of headquarters and workshops out of bomb-damaged shops, the construction of scores of canoes, the films which showed adventurous canoe journeys, the shooting of rapids and the exploring of caves. It was a good note on which to end a visit of considerable interest and importance.

The Boy Scouts of Ireland were given separate recognition at the 1949 Conference. Previously they had been a Branch of The Boy Scouts Association of the United Kingdom. The Minister for Education of the Republic had certified that the Association had functioned in Ireland without interruption since 1908, and had been recognised by law as an educational charity. In making their application, the Eire Scout Council expressed the hope that there would be no bar to the subsequent recognition of the Catholic Boy Scouts of Ireland, and subscribed without reserve to the policy of federal organisation in any country and non-discrimination of membership. From this it may be gathered that the vast majority of the Boy Scouts of Ireland were Protestants, although the Association did contain a few Catholic Troops. The Catholic Boy Scouts of Ireland had claimed recognition to cover both the Republic and Northern Ireland, that is, to have one Association under two separate constitutional Governments, a departure from precedent which the International Committee were not able to countenance, and which they themselves admitted was based on political considerations.

Although my visit in November was officially to the Boy Scouts of Ireland under the guidance of Viscount Powerscourt, the Chief Commissioner, and Percy Scott, the Hon. Secretary of many years' standing, I did meet the representatives of the Catholic Boy Scouts and had an interview with the Catholic Archbishop of Dublin. I achieved no more success than did Archbishop O'Hara, a keen supporter of the Boy Scouts of America, when later on he became Papal Nuncio. Time may heal the differences, but meanwhile Paddy Hughes, the National Secretary of the Catholic Boy Scouts, is always welcomed at the periodical Catholic Scout Conferences that are held in Europe. It was something, however, to have Sean T. O'Kelly, President of the Republic, and Eamon de Valera, Prime Minister, both express to me their favourable opinion of Scouting and stress the benefits of its training as a strictly non-military movement.

I must pass quickly over the greater part of 1952. In April Dick Lund completed thirty years of service with the Bureau. It is a tribute to his abilities to say that I could be away on tour from the Bureau for several months each year without any qualms of conscience. In February I was again in Belgium and Holland. I had the honour of a private audience with H.M. King Baudouin. His continued interest in and appreciation of Scouting was obvious, and best illustrated by his first question: 'Is the *esprit de B.-P.* still as strong as ever?' In April I was in Switzerland and Liechtenstein in connection with preparations for the following year's World Rover Moot and International Conference. In July and part of August I was in Norway, primarily for the National Camp at Verdahl, heralded by a special Scout Service in Trondheim Cathedral. Four years before, I had been at the Norwegian National Camp at Mandal in the South, and four years later I was to be at the National Camp at Voss, almost midway between the two. The importance of these camps is that they bring Scouts together from different parts of the country, just as in the same way Jamborees bring them together from different countries. Some of the Scouts in the far North had to travel for a week before getting to the camp.

In September, Federazione Esploratori Italiani was the host, through its two Associations, to the Third International Commissioners' Get-together at Tremazzo. Eighteen countries, including Burma, were represented. A presentation was made to their retiring doyen, Sten Thiel. The procedure for dealing with camps and visits abroad and the exchange of correspondence was examined with minute care, and certain recommendations made to the International Committee which met in London the following week. This latter meeting lasted for three days, and was attended by seven of the twelve elected and co-opted members and by the Director and Deputy Director.

The outstanding event of the year was a new venture. At the 1949 Conference, Great Britain submitted a paper recommending 'A World Moot for Scouters of the Group'. This argued that of the great number of Scouters working in a Pack, Troop or Crew only a very small percentage were ever able to take part in a major international Scout gathering. The Conference strongly supported the proposal, and in 1951 accepted the invitation from Great Britain to organise the first 'Indaba' the following year, in order 'to provide Scouters of the Group with an international Scout camp, so that individually they can exchange ideas and information'. The suggestion for the title came from Lord Rowallan after one of his African tours, the word's general meaning being a tribal conference. So the First World Scouters' Indaba took place at Gilwell Park for a week in July 1952. The organisation was in the hands of Fred Hurll, Chief Executive Commissioner, and of J. F. Colquhoun, Commissioner for Relationships at British Scout Headquarters. The latter, as Headquarters Commissioner for Wolf Cubs, had been the organiser of the First International Cub Conference at Gilwell in 1938.

Lord Rowallan, as Chief Scout of the host country, opened the Indaba, expressing the hope that it would be looked upon as an historic occasion in the story of Scouting. The numbers attending were far below any estimate worked out beforehand, and amounted to only 500 men and women. But this had its compensations, since the comparatively small number made for a cheerfulness and friendliness that would have been difficult to achieve otherwise. Gilwell itself provided the right atmosphere for both enjoyment and advancement. Separate discussion groups were held for Wolf Cubs, Boy Scouts, Handicapped Scouts, The Older Scout – including Rovers and Commissioners. Interesting and useful reports from each group were given at a plenary session attended by the whole Indaba.

H.R.H. the Duke of Gloucester, as President of the Boy Scouts Association, brought the Indaba to a close with these words: 'Let it be the determination of all who have been here at Gilwell to spread the Scout spirit wherever they go, that spirit of peace and friendliness which is so sorely needed in the world today.'

The experiment had been a success, and the International Committee recommended a continuance of these gatherings every four years, and a limitation of participants to, say, a thousand.

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### *Latin America*

*Start of Scouting in Latin America through B.-P.'s visit in 1909 – Chile the first country outside the British Commonwealth to establish Scouting – registration of other countries in the region – Cuban Scout Movement – Mexico – two separate groups – eventual unity – similar story in Venezuela – Inter-American Scout Advisory Committee – a six weeks' tour – my total 'bag' – a high standard in Brazil – all well in Cuba – training of Scouters – literature in Spanish and Portuguese – visits by Major-General Spry, 1952-3 – Fourth Inter-American Scout Conference, Brazil, 1957 – further expansion*

**T**HE twenty Republics in Central and South America and in the Carribean have a population of 175,000,000 and an area of 8,600,000 square miles. Paraguay is the only country which does not possess a national Scout Association which is a member of the Boy Scouts International Conference. Within the region there are also a number of British, Dutch and French overseas dependencies containing branches of their respective European Scout Associations.

The inhabitants of the twenty Republics are predominantly Catholic in religion, but there is no Established Church, and, in fact, state and church have been frequently at variance. This had its effect on the growth and even the principles of Scouting in the early stages, partly because its leadership in some of the countries seems to have been in the hands of non-Catholics, or of members of Masonic orders regarded as being of a political character. Frequent changes of government were also not helpful to a movement that aims to stand for continuity and stability. Latin America has, however, an important possession in a common language – Spanish – except in Brazil, where Portuguese is spoken.

The start of Scouting in the region can be traced direct to Baden-Powell, who visited the Argentine, Brazil and Chile in 1909 on what was a kind of military mission. He was welcomed in Buenos Aires by a small group of Scouts from St George's College, where the boys of the British community were educated. A Scout Troop continued to exist there and to have a considerable influence on Argentine Scouting until President Peron came to power, when all foreign organisations were abolished, irrespective of their objects or membership. In Santiago de Chile, B.-P. gave a public address on the Scout Movement, as a result of which the Boy Scouts de Chile was started on May 21st, 1909. A copy of the address has been preserved, and makes interesting reading.

I have heard in Chile a characteristic expression: 'It is necessary for a man to be a man.' These words are a noble inspiration, and point the way to the formation of character – the development of an energetic spirit which is strong and healthy in every way. Many institutions have said that this is the aim of forming men, but many have taken a wrong road and crumbled away. They have said to the young men: 'Come and be good.' I confess to you that if somebody said these words to me, I would have felt an irresistible desire to be bad. We understand this question in a different way, and we proceed like the fisherman who, in order to catch fish, offers them those things which they like – the bait, say, of a fly or a worm . . .

I have set myself the target of attracting young boys and men, and of teaching them to become true men. We invite them to be Scouts and explorers like the heroes of romance, and we give them practical exercise to develop in them confidence and the spirit of sacrifice. Fishing "with this bait, boys in their thousands are joining the Movement, and, without knowing it, are joining it joyfully, as in a game, and so learning to be men.

I am sure the idea will develop in Chile, and that your work here will be fruitful.

Chile takes a legitimate pride in being the first country outside the British Dominions and Empire to establish a Boy Scouts Association, and it was the only Latin American country to be represented at the Olympia Jamboree in 1920. However, not only Chile but also the Argentine, Brazil, Ecuador and Peru were registered amongst the original members of the International Conference in 1922. Mexico followed their example in 1926, and Cuba in 1927. Dominica and Guatemala were registered in 1930. In the middle 'thirties, Colombia, Costa Rica and Venezuela joined up. El Salvador and Haiti came into the international orbit in 1940, Nicaragua in 1946, Bolivia, Panama and Uruguay not until 1950. One of the three small separate Scout organisations in Haiti had been given international recognition earlier, but it was dissolved under Government orders in 1939, and the fresh recognition covered the one single organisation of the 'Scouts d'Haiti' which emerged.

It is not unfair to say that comparatively little was known of the Scout organisations in the smaller Latin American countries when they were originally recognised. Some contained warring



elements, and it proved difficult to distinguish between rival organisations and to determine which, if any, had both a sound appreciation of what Scouting meant – theoretically and practically – and also public approval. Enquiries had to be made at third hand, and not always from well-informed advisers. As an example, after many years of investigation, the recognition of Ecuador had to be transferred from the ‘Boy Scouts of Ecuador’, based on Guayaquil, to the ‘Asociacion de Scouts Ecuatorianos’, as late as 1955.

In the majority of the different countries a great deal depended in the early years on the initiative of foreigners, British and French in particular, and this in some cases resulted in a background and atmosphere which was not of a character suited to the country and its conditions and people.

I have selected Cuba, Mexico and Venezuela to illustrate the ways in which Scouting started in Latin America, representing as they do the Caribbean, Central America and South America.

The existence and influence of Scouting in Europe was the subject of an address delivered by Gabriel Ricardo Espana in 1913 at the ‘Centra de Dependientes’ in La Habana, Cuba. The magazine *Bohemia* sponsored the suggestion to introduce a similar movement into Cuba, the editor being greatly influenced by his father, Miguel Angel Quevedo. Others who backed it up were Dr Carlos Alzugaray, Felix Barthe and Jules Loustalot. The last had studied what was happening in England, France, the U.S.A., the Philippines, and particularly in Spain, where he was present at a rally of the Scouts of Gijon to welcome King Alfonso to the city. These gentlemen and many others assembled in the Conference Room of *Bohemia* under the chairmanship of Dr Alzugaray on February 20th, 1914, and the Cuban Scout Movement was officially launched. It spread too quickly, becoming the fashion, but without the necessary knowledge of principles and methods on the part of the majority of the, generally self-appointed, leaders. Chaos ensued, public confidence was lost, and the new Movement rapidly degenerated from a civil organisation to train boys in good citizenship into a kind of juvenile militia under men who sought their own gain or political prestige.

It was perhaps unfortunate that both national and international recognition was accorded to the Scouts de Cuba in 1927. The revolutionary period beginning in 1930 sounded the death knell of it all. The crisis past, however, men of goodwill got together again and re-formed the Asociacion de Scouts de Cuba on more correct lines, taking advantage of what they themselves had seen and even experienced in Canada, France, Great Britain, the U.S.A., and other countries. The present President, Serafin Garcia Menocal, and the present Chief Scout, Alberto Joffre, were amongst those responsible for the reformation.

Scouting in Mexico is said to have started in 1914, but in a very haphazard and sporadic manner. The year 1920 is given as the date of the official founding of Los Scouts de Mexico; but again there seems to be no record of facts or personalities. In 1926, however, Andres Gomez Orejan gathered a few boys together in Vera Cruz, trained them, along Scout lines, and, under the auspices of the Rotary Club of the City of Vera Cruz, applied for and was granted registration by the International Bureau. Unaware of this, two men in Mexico City, Edelmiro Traslesberos and Jorge Nunez, were looking for some kind of youth movement which could help the youngsters along better paths. After much study, and encouraged by what Nunez had seen of Scouting in London during the First World War, they decided to establish a similar movement in Mexico. With the approval of the Knights of Columbus in the different provinces of Mexico, they founded the Boy Scouts of Mexico on October 12th, 1929. They then learned of the existence of the group in Vera Cruz and tried to link up with it, but with no success. Their request to be regarded as a Catholic sponsored group was rejected, and they were told by the International Bureau that only one Association in each country could be recognised. This did not deter them, and their movement began to grow, while that in Vera Cruz began to languish, until eventually Orejan turned the registration over to their Asociacion de Scouts de Mexico. By then, the Asociacion had twenty-five Scout Groups in the north, centre, east and south of the country. It was fortunate that Jorge Nunez had a good knowledge of English and was able to translate *Scouting for Boys* and others of B.-P.’s books into Spanish, retaining the spirit behind the printed word.

In 1937 a Mexican contingent attended the National Jamboree of the Boy Scouts of America in Washington and the World Jamboree in Holland. Between the two, the contingent camped at Gilwell Park under Jorge Nunez as Chief Scout and Paul Loewe as the technical leader. We were struck with the good spirit of the boys and the efficiency of Paul Loewe. I readily agreed to his appointment as a Deputy Camp Chief, and he conducted the first Wood Badge course in Mexico in 1939. The previous year Nunez had started a Mexican Scout magazine, *Escultismo*. It was he, too, who had first suggested the formation of an Inter-American Scout Committee to foster Scouting in Latin America, an idea carried on by his successor as Chief Scout, Juan Laine.

The Asociacion de Scouts de Mexico encountered the same misunderstandings as cropped up in other countries. It was difficult to get the public to appreciate the real aims and methods of Scouting. By most it was regarded as a kind of sporting association that encouraged expeditions and camps and had no educational aims. It was apt, also, to be regarded – this applies to Mexico but not necessarily to the other Latin-American countries – as a religious movement tied to the Catholic Church. Gradually these misunderstandings were obviated, due mainly to the translation work carried out by Nunez right through to 1957 and the training given to Scouters by Paul Loewe. The German leader, who came on a course at Gilwell in 1934, had proved his worth in a new country, both as a Scout and as a radiologist.

'*Editorial Escultismo*', established in 1947, has been of immense benefit to Scouting in Latin America in producing Scout magazines and books. I shall have more to say on that score later.

Scouting in Venezuela began in 1913 with a Patrol organised by Walter Raleigh Douglass in Maracaibo City; but the Patrol had a very short life. In 1917, however, Ramon Ocando Perez, a former Scout in the Patrol and Editor of *Campamento*, founded the 'San Sebastian' Troop in Maracaibo, which still exists as the First Scout Troop of Venezuela, Perez being regarded as the Founder of Venezuelan Scouting. Yet, in 1913, Enrique Sapene and others founded the 'San George' Troop at Caracas. The two Troops led eventually to the Asociacion de Scouts de Venezuela. Progress was slow, but in 1936 Captain Santos M. Rausseo was elected as Chief Scout. He interested some of the public administration officers in Scouting, and got them to realise the importance of B.-P.'s programme in training boys for citizenship. As a result, General Eleazer Lopez Contreras, President of the Republic, included the encouragement of Scouting as part of his governmental plans.

The Movement began to grow, but there was a great shortage of trained leaders. Enrique Tejera Paris, Federico Diaz Legorburu and Horacio A. Carias R. formed a Scouters' Patrol to follow Gilwell methods in the training of Scouters and to provide the Scout literature that the Association needed so urgently. 'Circulo Tecnico de Escultismo' worked hard; several training courses for Patrol Leaders and Scoutmasters were held, and several Scout books translated into Spanish. Enrique Paris later became the Chief Scout, and was followed by Federico Legorburu, the present Chief Scout. Horacio Carias has been the International Commissioner for several years. *Campamento* is the official magazine of the Association. Under Federico Legorburu as Chief Scout and Jose A. Mayoral as President, the Association is one of the best organised in the region. An Executive Commissioner, a former Swiss Scout, has been appointed, a camping and training centre acquired and the standard of Scouting raised to a high level.

I have detailed in Chapter 12 the steps that led up to the First Inter-American Scout Conference in Bogota, Colombia, in May 1946, and the formation of the Inter-American Scout Advisory Committee. Eighteen countries were represented at the Conference, including Canada, through John Stiles, the Chief Executive Commissioner, the U.S.A., through Ray Wyland and Gunnar Berg, Curacao, and Jamaica, through Leslie Mordecai. Observers were also present from the Western Hemisphere Committee of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, the National Catholic Welfare Conference of the United States, and the Y.M.C.A. Juan Laine was appointed President of the Conference and I, as Honorary President, gave the opening address on 'The Signposts of Scouting' at the Solemn Inaugural Session in the presence of the President of the

## SCOUTING ROUND THE WORLD

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Republic. The host was the Chief Scout of Colombia, General Delfin Torres Duran, who died tragically two years later, after becoming Head of the Police.

The following were unanimously elected members of the Inter-American Scout Advisory Committee:

North America .. Gunnar Berg, Director of Professional Training, Boy Scouts of America;

Central America Juan Laine, Chief Scout of Mexico;

Caribbean Sea Salvador Fernandez, Commissioner for Administration, Boy Scouts of Cuba;

S. America (North) .. Horacio A. Carias R., International Commissioner, Boy Scouts of Venezuela;

S. America (South) .. Max Boucher, Technical Director-Secretary, Argentine Boy Scouts.

The Committee appointed Juan Laine as its Chairman, Salvador Fernandez as Secretary and Gunnar Berg as Treasurer. Finance was a problem, and the main contributions were expected to come from North America, although I had stressed that the term 'Inter-American' was really a misnomer and that 'Latin-American' was more correct. Whilst Canada and the United States could help in many ways, the main purpose of the Committee was to further Scouting in the twenty Latin-American Republics, with particular reference to literature and training, and to preserve co-operation between the different Associations. It was stressed that the Committee had no executive powers over Scouting in the American continent, and that it worked under the International Committee and in consultation with the International Bureau. So a start was made in the setting up of a regional advisory body, and the principle laid down firmly that International Scouting was one whole, and must not be divided into separate parts, and also that no form of Regional Scouting could interpose itself between National Scouting and International Scouting.

An important advance was made by the appointment of Salvador Fernandez as the Bureau's Travelling Commissioner for Latin America in November 1947. The funds for the first twelve months were made available through the kind offices of a member of the National Board and a member of the National Staff of the Boy Scouts of America. At first his headquarters were in Mexico City, but later he moved to La Habana in his own country of Cuba, which proved a more convenient centre. He retained what amounted to an *ex officio* duty – that of Secretary of the Inter-American Advisory Committee.

The second Inter-American Scout Conference was held in May 1948 in Mexico City. Juan Laine was again in the chair, with me at his side. His report of the last two years' work of the Committee was as encouraging as Gunnar Berg's financial report was the reverse. In addition to observers from the Guides, Red Cross, U.S. and French Scouts in Mexico and other bodies, only Colombia, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru and Venezuela were represented. The cost of travel to Mexico had proved a deterrent. I quote from an article I wrote for *Jamboree* while still in Mexico:

The First Conference at Bogota was devoted to principles and the Second, properly, to methods. Commissions were appointed to go into the details of the papers read on Wolf Cubs, Scouts, Rover Scouts, Old Scouts, etc. This involved hard work, but did give an opportunity to the different delegations to learn from each other by the interchange of ideas. Each delegation, too, reported on progress made since the First Conference, pride of place going to Father Louis Fernandez of Colombia for his statement of the efforts made under most difficult circumstances to secure the right development of Scouting in that country. The recent destruction caused to Scout Headquarters at Bogota during the riots brought out the qualities of the present Scouts in no small measure. Assistance in kind through money and books was generously promised to the Colombian Scouts to make good their losses, and in several cases these promises were put into action during the week.

A Solemn Mass in memory of General Delfin Torres Duran was held on the Wednesday morning, and a Thanksgiving Mass conducted by the Archbishop of Mexico on the Saturday, when as Papal Delegate the Archbishop read a message from His Holiness the Pope.

The new Committee elected consisted of Juan Laine – Chairman; Adolfo Amado Padilla of Guatemala – Vice-Chairman; Federico Diaz Legorburu – Treasurer; Rogelio Pina Estrada of Cuba and Jose Florez-Leon of Peru – Members.

Salvador Fernandez and I then set out on a tour which lasted six weeks. (From London via Canada and the U.S.A. and back via New York, I calculated that I covered 23,000 miles in 110 hours of flying time.) We were to have started with Costa Rica, but serious disturbances in that country dictated discretion and we made for Balboa, with a stop of five hours in Guatemala City to see the President and members of the National Board of Scouts Guatemaltecos. In the Canal Zone we visited No. 801 Council of the Boy Scouts of America and the ‘International’ Scouts of the Zone. I paid a call on the U.S. Commander-in-Chief in the Caribbean, Lieut-General Willis N. Crittenberger, whose admiration for Scouting almost equalled his admiration for the Chief Scout of Canada, Lord Alexander.

Our friends from the Mexico Conference, Jose Florez-Leon, Chief Scout, and Father Gustavo Habersperger, Chaplain-General, met us at Lima, together with General Jose Marin, President of the Scout Council and former Minister of War. The last had been in Bogota during the riots, and had a sad tale to tell. I had decided beforehand that it was essential for me to pay a large number of courtesy calls in each country, in order to secure more support for Scouting from both the state and the church, in addition to seeing as much of Scouting in action as was possible. In Lima this meant a call on the Cardinal Archbishop, who was anxious to see a wider and deeper development of Scouting in Peru, and on the Ministry of Education, and an audience with the President of the Republic. So far as was possible this routine was followed in all the countries we visited. I admit that I was surprised at the obvious knowledge of Scouting and what it meant displayed by the Catholic Bishops, Archbishops and Cardinals.

Apart from Canada and the U.S.A., my total bag, if I can put it that way, was ten countries visited, six more where I had touched down and seen the leading Scout representatives for an hour or so, five Presidents of Republics, three Ministers of Education, two Ministers of Defence, two Governors, two Commanders-in-Chief, five Cardinals, five Archbishops, three Bishops and many lesser civil and ecclesiastical dignitaries. The Cardinal Archbishop of Rio de Janeiro neatly summed up the opinion of church, state and public in Latin America: ‘I am ready and anxious to back Scouting when and where Scouting is real and according to B.-P. and not according to someone else.’

In Chile, I had to bring the President of the Boy Scouts de Chile and the Cardinal Archbishop of Santiago together for the first time, and to initiate a policy of co-operation which, I trust, has lasted. The President of the Republic, H. E. Gabriel Gonzalez Videla, proved to be an Old Scout. Again, I quote myself:

One of the important needs of Scouting in Chile is for the various differing organisations to be united together. I did what I could to preach B.-P.’s gospel of goodwill and brotherhood and also moderation in all things. He personally started Scouting in the country, and he would wish to see it still more widespread.

Subsequent visits from Salvador Fernandez and Dan Spry have proved that considerable progress has been made.

As in Chile, so in the Argentine there were different organisations using the Scout method and name. The Union Scouts Catholicos Argentines were not part of the recognised Association, but certainly had the right Scout ideas. Under the Peron regime there were naturally difficulties, and it was something that Scouting was permitted to exist at all.

Quoting again from my article:

I cannot do justice to Brazil. We were befriended by both Guides and Scouts, shown round and entertained royally. They were all obviously rejoicing to be able to renew their world contacts after an interval of

many years. We saw a great deal of Scouting both in Rio and San Paulo. The Uniao dos Escoteiros is at a disadvantage inasmuch as it came into being after Scouting had been started and had been going for some time in different parts of the vast country, and separate Associations had been started for Land, Sea and Air Scouts. Everything possible is being done to unify both the geographical and the 'elemental' divisions, and success will undoubtedly be achieved. The standard of Scouting in Brazil, nevertheless, is higher than in the rest of South America, and that speaks for itself.

I am happy to have been proved a true prophet as a great amount of unification had been achieved.

The forty-eight hours in Trinidad were a relief to both Salvador and myself. He was relieved of translating anything I said into Spanish or Portuguese, and I was amongst relations and several old friends. We found the Boy Scouts of Venezuela most anxious to improve their standards and to develop their scope and influence. This would seem to have been achieved of late, under the dynamic leadership of Federico Legorburu. I regret that we despaired of the Exploradores Dominicanos, centred on San Pedro, but since then the situation has been changed by the transfer of recognition to the Asociacion de Scouts Dominicanos with its headquarters in the capital. Haiti presented a brighter picture, particularly the Don Bosco Rover Crew, which was doing excellent social service in a very poor neighbourhood; the Industrial School Troops, which were bringing something of freedom, order and discipline of the Scout kind into the lives of a large number of boys more sinned against than sinning; and two excellent Troops in Cap Haitian.

I completed my reconnaissance of Scouting in Latin America in Cuba. All was well with Scouting there, and it was in a position to forge ahead, and strong enough, too, not to be too much affected by subsequent civil troubles. I had been fully confirmed in my opinion that the choice of Salvador Fernandez as the Bureau's first Travelling Commissioner was the right one, as his ten years of service in and to Latin America have proved.

Fernandez's primary duty was to lead and encourage the training of Scouters as the best way of securing development on the right lines. Before 1947 only two Wood Badge courses had been held in the region, both in Mexico. From that year until 1957, thirty-eight such courses have been held and in addition 131 Preliminary Courses, 5 Commissioners' Courses and a Professional Executives' Training Course held in Mexico, with help from the Boy Scouts of America. The Canadian Commissioner for Training conducted the first Cub Wood Badge to be held in the region in Mexico towards the end of 1949, the Canadian General Scout Council paying all the expenses incurred, in this same decade, too, eleven countries have held annual or biennial National Camps. Seven Camporees, Regional International Camps or Jamborees have been held in Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Guatemala, El Salvador, Brazil and Uruguay. From these, over 10,000 boys from all the Latin-American countries have benefited and widened their outlook.

*Editorial Escultismo*, thanks to the enthusiasm of Augustin G. Lemus and to Jorge Nunez's wonderful gift as a translator, has rendered a very great service to the whole region. Amongst the books it has published in Spanish are the World Brotherhood Editions of *Scouting for Boys* and *Aids to Scoutmastership*, *The Wolf Cubs' Handbook*, *Rovering to Success*, Gilcraft's *Letters to a Wolf Cub*, *Wolf Cubs*, *Boy Scouts*, *Rover Scouts*, and Reynolds' *Scouting for Catholics and Others*.

*Editorial Escultismo* of Brazil published Scout literature in Portuguese, and has also been able to make use of some of the publications of the Corpo Nacional de Escutas of Portugal, with whom General Leo Borges Fortes set up a close liaison.

Altogether it is calculated that since 1947 some hundred Scout publications have appeared in Spanish or Portuguese. In addition, the Inter-American Scout Advisory Committee was responsible for a monthly magazine first in mimeographed and then in printed form. This appeared first as *Boletin Scout de las Americas* in 1952, and now has a circulation of 1,600 as *Revista Scout de las Americas*, with the indefatigable Fernandez as editor.

Major-General D. C. Spry's appointment as part-time Deputy Director meant that the International Committee was able to devote still closer attention to Latin America and, through him, to add to the encouragement given to Scouting in the region. In February-April 1952 he visited Mexico, Cuba, Jamaica, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Chile, the Argentine, Uruguay, Brazil, Trinidad, Venezuela and Haiti, and in February-March 1953, Panama, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras (where no recognised Scout Association yet existed), El Salvador, Guatemala and the Dominican Republic.

Dan Spry was also present at the Third Inter-American Scout Conference held at La Habana, Cuba, in February 1953, where fourteen Latin-American countries were represented, and also Jamaica and the United States. After eight years as Chairman of the Inter-American Scout Advisory Committee, Juan Laine retired and was appointed Honorary President. The Scout Movement as a whole owes him a deep debt of gratitude for the inspiration and leadership he gave to Scouting in Latin America. Romeu Jaime of Cuba was elected the Chairman of the Committee in his place, and Augustin Lemus of Mexico, Leo Borges Fortes of Brazil, Federico Legorburu of Venezuela and Amado Padilla of Guatemala elected as members for the next four years.

Thanks to a handsome donation made by Mr Peter Grace of the United States, assistance was given to Scouting in Ecuador after its reorganisation. This assistance took the form of a special mission for training purposes conducted by Federico Legorburu and Eugenic Pfister, the Executive Commissioner in Venezuela, the provision of adequate literature and the supply of Scout badges. Fernandez continued his travels, visiting camps, holding courses, and stimulating interest amongst civil and church authorities. Other members of the Advisory Committee also paid visits to countries other than their own. As always, the work was hampered by lack of finance, despite generous contributions from Juan Laine and Federico Legorburu.

The Fourth Inter-American Scout Conference was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in February 1957, and attended by delegates from sixteen Latin-American countries. The Boy Scouts of America were represented, and there was an observer from Japan. Jean Salvaj represented the International Committee and spoke on 'The Personality of the Founder, Baden-Powell'. Other subjects for talks and discussions were: 'The Place of Adults in the Scout Movement', 'Extension and Recruitment Campaign for the Scout Associations of Latin America', 'Latin-American Plan for the Conservation of Natural Resources', and 'Consolidation and Expansion of the Inter-American Scout Advisory Committee.'

The number of members of the Advisory Committee was increased to eight, with an additional member from Canada or the U.S.A. if nominated. Juan Laine remained as Hon. President, Federico Diaz Legorburu was appointed Chairman, and a new member elected was Leslie R. Mordecai of Jamaica, in recognition of the work he had done in the Jamaica Jamboree and of his continued interest in Scouting in Latin-American countries.

The story of Scouting in Latin America must be left there. A great deal has been accomplished; much more remains to be done. The total number of active Scouts in the region is under a hundred thousand. As an essential to future further success, emphasis must be laid on quality. The training team, under the leadership and supervision of Salvador Fernandez, has been greatly increased. Fifteen professional leaders have been appointed in seven parts of the region. Relationships with the Guides and with United Nations, UNESCO, the Organisation of American States and the Organisation of Central American States have been improved. The Governments of the different States have been kept fully informed about Scout activities and plans for the future. Excellent relations have been maintained with the Catholic Church as well as the Protestant Churches, Monseigneur Muller being appointed as Religious Adviser to the Advisory Committee. Contacts have been maintained with Rotary and Lions' and other similar clubs. Finances have improved, if not sufficiently to meet all needs. All these measures and improvements, it is to be hoped, will ensure that in future years the needs of many hundreds of thousands of boys in Latin America will be more adequately met through the Boy Scout Movement.

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## The Far East and the Pacific

*A tour of Australasia – a week in Turkey – the Lebanon – Pakistan – I invest the Governor at Peshawar – a feu de joie – ancient feuds reconciled in camp – a merger in India – Girl Guides too – ‘the Brownie-Wolf Cub dual act’ – a combined Rally – flight to Dacca – Burma – Scouting in the Delta – a keen Troop in a monastery compound – Scouting in Thailand – three days in Hong Kong – Japan – Korean Scouts – China (Formosa) – Viet-Nam – the Philippines – Scouts save the water supply – Second Pan-Pacific Jamboree – Australia and New Zealand accorded independent international recognition, 1953 – Indonesia – federation as ‘Ipondo’ – Singapore and Malaya – Scouts in a leper settlement – a unique Troop yell – Committee for a Free Asia – Ceylon – general conclusions from the tour*

**A**T its meeting in 1951, the International Committee had agreed that I should conclude my tours of the past six years by paying a visit to South and South-East Asia and the Pacific, or – as we prefer to call the last continent on the International Scout seal – Australasia. This involved being on tour for five months from the beginning of October 1952. On the way I spent a week in Turkey, visiting Istanbul and Ankara, and Packs, Troops and Guide Companies in both cities. Ahmet Khan, the Director of Scouting, and Muhettin Akdik, Director of Education in Istanbul, had visited France, Great Britain and Switzerland in 1946 to study Scouting and its administration. They had returned determined to build up the movement on both fundamental and modern lines. Another helper was Sitki Sanoplu, who was mainly responsible for starting Cubbing in 1950. Cub Packs existed only in the co-educational primary schools, and contained both boys and girls, but they were placed in separate sixes. Practically all the Cubmasters were women, and showed themselves to be very keen on this new enterprise. The children had taken to the game like ducks to water. Their happiness in it was self-evident and their pride in their appearance prodigious. It was the Cubbing that struck me most forcibly as a prophetic note of what Turkiye Izcileir would become in the future.

I stopped off for three days in Beirut, and under the tutelage of Mustafa Fatalla paid a courtesy call on the newly-elected President, M. Chamoun. The British Minister was giving a reception to a UNESCO Medical Congress, where I met four Old Scouts, the Minister himself, one of his staff, Holbrook of the British Council, and Dr Critchley from Baghdad, who had in the early days helped on the Scout Wood Badge Courses conducted in Somerset by Harry Strachey (the artist responsible for the murals in the Refectory at Gilwell Park). This was a prelude to the great numbers of Old Scouts in important positions whom I met in every country during the five months.

The Commander of the Karachi Airport was one such, and this gained me V.I.P. treatment there. J. D. Shuja, the General Secretary of the Pakistan B.S.A., took charge. Scouting in Pakistan had taken over from the All-India B.S.A. immediately after partition, without any fuss or bother, and was given separate international recognition in April 1948. It undoubtedly owes a great deal to Shuja, whose persistence led to the acceptance of Scouting as both a national and an international advantage to the country. In the nine days in West Pakistan I was able to see a great deal of the developments that were taking place. Bhit Island, off Karachi, contained a fishing community, mostly refugees. It had been adopted by a Karachi Scout Group. I was reminded of the Rover Crew in Mysore eighteen years before. The Rovers and Scouts of the Group were staffing a school until a regular teacher could be appointed, had started a Cub Pack and a Scout Troop and were themselves obtaining real and continued training in service.

In Bahawalpur I was welcomed by the Prince, Brigadier M. A. Abbasi, now Deputy Chief Commissioner, who had been at the Austrian Jamboree and was to lead the Pakistan contingent at the Jubilee Jamboree. The high spot in Lahore was provided by the Scouts and Bluebirds

(Brownies) at the Deaf and Dumb Institute. In Lahore I met three old Scout friends – A. R. Sardar Hussain, now the Camp Chief for Pakistan, Squadron-Leader H. V. Bhatti, the Provincial Secretary and Deputy Camp Chief, and Mir M. Mohsin, who has now succeeded Shuja as General Secretary. Bhatti motored Shuja and me up the Great North Road – not so picturesque as in Kim's days – as far as Cambellpur, seeing Cubs and Scouts at every place of any size, and the annual camps of the North-West Railway Rover Scouts and of the Cambellpur District. In Peshawar I was privileged to invest the Governor, Khawaza Shahabuddin, as a Scout, so that he could assume his functions as Chief Scout of the Province.

We then set off up the Khyber Pass, visiting the school at Jamrud, across the tribal barrier, and being welcomed by all the boys as well as the Cubs and Scouts. The tribal leaders were there too, up to the age of eighty, and the younger men fired a *feu de joi*. Near the Afghanistan border we again saw Cubs and Scouts in the tribal school at Landi Kotal. The work done by Scouting in the tribal areas was worthy of every praise. The year before, a Scout Camp had brought together as Scouts the sons of those who had been at deadly enmity with each other for generations. I flew down from Peshawar back to Lahore, and then on to Delhi.

In India, as it now is, the transition from old to new had not been so easy. I have mentioned my talks in Canada and the U.S.A. concerning the merger between The Boy Scouts Association in India and the Hindustan Association. This had been achieved after many discussions and great difficulty. At the end came the unexpected merger of the Girl Guides as well into The Bharat Scouts and Guides. The World Committee of the Guides was in grave doubts as to this step, and had asked that the Director of the World Bureau, Dame Leslie Whately, should pay her first visit to India so as to coincide with mine, in order that together we could go into the whole question and see if the doubts could be resolved. The First All-India Guiders' and Scouters' Conference was held in camp, and opened by the President of the Republic, Dr Rajendra Prasad. Jointly Dame Leslie and I attended, and spoke to the Conference; jointly we were present at various meetings; jointly we laid a wreath on Mahatma Gandhi's Place of Remembrance, had lunch with the Prime Minister, Pandit Nehru, and attended a reception by the President. We visited the camp of the West Punjab at Tara Devi, on the opposite hillside from Simla. We flew to Jaipur, she to a Guide Rally and I to visit several hundred Scouts camping in the State Scout Camp. We were labelled the Brownie-Wolf Cub dual act, but struck when we found ourselves allotted bunks in the same coupé in the night train to Allahabad! There the late Pandit Bajpai, leader of the Indian contingent to both the Austrian and the Canadian Jamborees, welcomed us.

The National Commissioner of the Bharat Scouts and Guides, from its inception up to 1957, was Dr Hridayanath Kunzru, who was one of the leaders in the social regeneration of India. As a very important question of principle was concerned, I quote from a note that I handed to the National Commissioner:

As Director of the Boy Scouts International Bureau, I am, officially, only concerned with the Bharat Scouts as such. The Boy Scouts International Conference has accorded them recognition on that basis, and registered with the Bureau only the male side of the joint organisation. This important distinction is still maintained. The Boy Scouts International Conference and the International Committee have offered no objection to the merger of the Guides and Scouts for purposes of all-over administration, but are firmly opposed to any joint leadership, training and camping of Boy Scouts and Girl Guides. In these particulars they support the expressed views of the World Committee of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

Dr Kunzru accepted these views in principle, leaving matters of detail to be adjusted later.

The merger of Scouts and Guides had, however, one unfortunate effect. Shortly afterwards there was a split amongst the Scouters, and those who objected to the merger formed 'The All-India Boy Scouts Association'. I saw their leaders in New Delhi, but could not hold out any hopes of international recognition being extended to them. This Association, which has some



strength in numbers and prestige, still exists. There would seem to be no hope of any amalgamation between it and The Bharat Scouts and Guides.

From Allahabad I went on to Calcutta, where I was amongst old friends. I again visited the Scout Group at the Calcutta Blind School, and I laid the foundation stone of a new H.Q. for the South Calcutta District, the Commissioner of which was Satta Bose, who thirty years before described himself as 'Personal Scout Assistant to Sir Alfred Pickford'. We had a Gilwell Reunion in the garden of Bishop's Lodge, Barrackpore. The Bishop of the new Diocese is R. W. Bryan, who had written Gilcraft's *Wolf Cubs* at my request when he was a student at Cuddesdon Theological College, near Oxford.

There was a combined Guide and Scout Rally at Raj Bhavan (Government House), which brought 4,000 together. This was held on precisely the same spot as the Prince of Wales' Rally in 1921. The State Secretary, Saroj Ghosh, during my six days in Calcutta and its neighbourhood, was my constant aide and companion. Now he is the General Secretary at the headquarters in Delhi of The Bharat Scouts and Guides.

In the middle of my Calcutta visit I flew to Dacca, the capital of East Pakistan, forty-four years, almost to the day, since I was first posted there. The two parts of Pakistan are divided from each other by almost one thousand miles. They differ in language, culture, products and almost every other way, save that the population of both is Moslem. Previous to the partition, the majority of the Scouters in East Bengal had been Hindus who had now migrated to West Bengal. Difficulty was experienced in getting the right kind of men in their places, and in securing an adequate standard of Scouting, but the will to conquer this was evident. I admit to taking some pride in being invited to visit the East Bengal Police Training College and to address the cadet officers, utilising the words that are inscribed on the reverse of the King's (now Queen's) Police Medal – 'To Guard my People'.

Burma had been part of the Boy Scouts Association in India up to 1922, when it became a separate Branch of the British Headquarters in London, but shared the same Chief Scout as India, the Viceroy. Its political separation came many years later. After the Second World War it became an independent State, and the Burma Boy Scouts became a member of the International Conference in its own right early in 1948. Because of the war and its aftermath, Scouting had, in fact, practically disappeared; but strenuous efforts were being made by former Scouters and Old Scouts to revive it.

Travel in Burma still had its dangers, and my sole journey outside Rangoon was to fly to Myaungmya in the Delta. Scouting in the district was due to the enthusiasm and energy of one man, a Gurkha by blood and a Preventive Officer by profession. Remembering the Himalayas from which he had sprung, he had built to last. All the influential men in the town, official and non-official, had been formed into a Local Association. Many of them had been given preliminary Scout training to let them understand what it was all about. Scouters (and Guiders) had had more intensive training. His own successor as District Commissioner was undergoing his apprenticeship. Such an example could well be followed by those inclined to constitute themselves a one-man band. In my twenty-four hours I saw a great deal: Bluebirds and Guides, Cubs and Scouts at a refugee village rapidly becoming a co-operative settlement; Guides and Scouts in their own locale; a keen little band of Scouts in the compound of a Buddhist Monastery across the river. Already this small Troop was influencing the village towards a civic sense in place of the former discontent and unrest. This is Scouting at its best and most useful, even if the uniform is only a scarf, a staff and a loin-cloth.

On my arrival at the very modern and up-to-date Dommuang Airport outside Bangkok, I was met by Swang Vichak Khana, lately returned from the Indaba, and leader of the Thailand contingent to the Jubilee Jamboree in his new office as Director of Scouting. For several years in the late 1920's and early 1930's, some six or eight Siamese studying in London had been specially accepted each year on courses at Gilwell Park. I met quite a number of them, although hardly one was an active Scouter. However, as headmasters, bankers, officials and businessmen, they were still interested and anxious to do what they could to help the National Boy Scouts Organisation of

Thailand to recover from the military regime under which it had suffered. Although the Organisation was one of the Founder Members of the International Scout Conference, it had always been under official guidance, and it was still difficult to make a complete break and transform it into a voluntary and non-official movement.

Scouting had been started by King Rama VI (1910-1925) whose aim was to consolidate and develop what had been achieved for the country in the past forty years. Popular education had been started at the same time, and autonomy in the matters of jurisdiction and customs secured. The Chief Scout is a personal friend of the present reigning King, and with elder statesmen and younger Scouters desired to see a return to the more original forms of Scouting, as introduced by King Rama VI at the commencement of his reign. My visit was, therefore, timely.

I paid a surprise visit to the 'foreign' Scout Group at Christ Church. The Padre was the Cubmaster, and had been at Gilwell in 1928 before joining the Bush Brotherhood in Queensland. When, after the welcoming Grand Howl of the Cubs, I turned to thank the Senior Sixer, he said accusingly: 'You don't remember meeting me in Amman two years ago!' He was John Hilton, son of the British Council's representative in Jordan, now transferred to Bangkok. The Christ Church Group was decidedly international in its membership, America, Australia, Austria, Great Britain, China, Germany, Norway, all being represented. The Brownies, meeting in the same compound, were under the leadership of two Swiss girls.

I touched down in Hong Kong for three days, again meeting both British and Chinese who had been at International Scout gatherings. The important feature – to me – was the intensive effort being made to start Cubs and Scouts in the 'New Territories'. Hong Kong as a whole is fortunate in the support it receives from the public. This secures both stability and continuity.

The rise of Scouting in Japan has been described in Chapter 3. It suffered almost complete eclipse in the Second World War, and took some time to recover. The occupying authorities had blacklisted all ex-Service officers, no matter what their age or sympathies. This held our friend Count Sano and many others back from their sincere desire to restore the Boy Scouts of Japan to its former correct basis. Gradually, military supervision was relaxed and the old team began to take over, with beneficial results. To make everything shipshape, the Association was formally re-recognised in July 1950 as a Member of the International Conference.

My first duty in the country, having arrived late on a Saturday night, was to attend the American Episcopalian service in St Luke's Hospital Chapel, accompanied by Paul Furuta, a Deputy Camp Chief of many years' standing. Afterwards came the necessary talks and discussions, an official reception and a short, snappy and tuneful camp-fire with some 300 Tokyo Scouts.

A Training Reunion was held at the National Training Camp at Lake Yamanaka on the slopes of Fujiyama. The fifty Scouters present were housed in the commodious hut, which was as well, as there was a foot of snow on the ground. I presented the Chief Scout with his Wood Badge, earned at Gilwell after the Austrian Jamboree. This is sufficient to indicate the keenness and sincerity of him and his colleagues. Next night I met Count Sano at Hakore Hot Springs, discovered by Hidesaburo Kurushima, Chairman of the National Board and International Commissioner.

Mention must be made of the thousands of Scouts of the Boy Scouts of America, and of the hundreds of 'Guest' Scouts of other nationalities not Japanese, which were under the leadership of Captain Harry Rand, U.S.A.F., Scout Executive of the Japanese Advisory Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

Before South Korea was invaded, a good start had been made to establish Scouting with the assistance of several experienced American Scouters. The outbreak of hostilities had dealt the new movement a severe blow, but some of the Scout Groups and some of the leading Scouters survived, and were determined to build up the movement again. While in Japan I received requests to go over to Korea, but – wisely or not – I felt that this might be a tactical error. Chang Ho Lee, Chief Scout Executive of the Boy Scouts of South Korea, and William J. Rhee, a member of the Executive Committee, flew over from Seoul specially to see me and to report on their work and progress. Following the example set by Greece, the Korean Scouts were helping with Rehabilitation Camps

for Korean ex-prisoners-of-war, and bringing back to the men, mostly still boys, a sense of stability and a growing belief in positive values. As a result of the favourable reports received, international recognition was granted to the Boy Scouts of Korea in January 1953, since when they have developed considerably in numbers and effectiveness, under Rhee as Chief Scout Executive. The World Friendship Fund of the Boy Scouts of America printed in Korean 15,000 copies of the World Brotherhood Edition of *Scouting for Boys*. Korean Scouts were also invited to the United States for training, and an American Scout Executive sent to Korea to act as adviser.

At this stage mention should be made of the Boy Scouts of China and Viet-Nam. Scouting was started in China as a whole in the mid-1930's. The General Association of Boy Scouts of China was recognised at the end of 1937. It was represented in London by Kenneth Eng, a friend of the Bureau since 1922. It soon became evident that the training given in the Association was of a pre-military character, particularly as the Japanese invasion developed. One could hardly expect otherwise, and the International Committee decided not to interfere. After the war, the headquarters of the Association was withdrawn to Taiwan, and the recognition was maintained in the name of the Boy Scouts of China (Formosa). Proofs were offered that there was no government control and no pre-military training, and the Scout practices were shown to be of a good standard. Since 1953 the Boy Scouts of China (Formosa) have been represented at World Jamborees and International Conferences. I found that there were naturally many contacts between Hong Kong and Formosa, and the Scouts in the former have been able to help those in the latter with advice, equipment and other commodities.

Scouting had been started in Viet-Nam about 1932, with branches of the three major French Associations. After passing through many difficulties and vicissitudes it emerged under the name of Hoi Huong-Dao Viet-Nam, and was given separate international recognition at the beginning of 1957. One result of the division of the country at the 17th parallel was that the Scouts lost their former training ground, but soon established a new one near Dalat. The present Constitution was drawn up in 1952, with the approval of the Ministry of Youth Affairs. The movement is open to all, and is well organised in each province. It was represented by a small contingent at the Jubilee Jamboree. As in South Korea, an excellent job has been done in helping with the care of refugees.

From Tokyo I flew down to Manila, to a tremendous welcome and a lunch presided over by Jorge Vargas, President of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines and also a member of the International Committee. Scouting in the Islands had started under the Boy Scouts of America, of which it was a not unimportant Local Council. It suffered under Japanese occupation, but quickly reorganised after the war and became a member of the International Conference in October 1946. It is difficult to get a fully comprehensive view of the country, divided as it is into so many islands, large and small. Scouting therefore takes on very much of a local pattern, but seems none the worse for that. Two National Jamborees have been held, which have helped to bring Scouts together, and the Philippine contingents have proved most popular at World Jamborees. The purpose and spirit of the Movement owes a great debt to the late Judge Camus, who might almost be termed the Philippines' B.-P.

I had three days in the Southern islands, flying from place to place and seeing rallies, torchlight processions and various enterprises in poultry farming, market-gardening, fish-stocking and reforestation, in which Scouts have been the pioneers for further efforts by schools and adults. The water supply of Cebu has been saved by a reforestation scheme devised by the Scout District Commissioner, and carried out by relays of Scouts over the week-ends, although the temperature and humidity is not favourable to hard work. One might say that afforestation has become a feature of the services rendered by the Philippine Scouts all over the country. Here one can record a very pleasant gesture by the Boy Scouts of Japan, when in 1955 a thousand cherry trees were presented to the Boy Scouts of the Philippines in appreciation of the services rendered to the Japanese contingent at the First National Camp of the latter. Ten years before, their two peoples were at bitter enmity.

'Service' is more than a motto in the Philippines. I travelled by road 250 kilometres north of Manila to Baguio, a mountain resort. On the way we had several advertised stops to see Scouts and their supporters, and as many unannounced stops to talk to Scouts who had gathered by the wayside, some coming from as much as 15 kilometres across the fields. I asked one youngster of eleven why he had become a Scout. His answer was genuine and complete: 'So as to learn to be helpful.' It is no wonder then that the Boy Scouts of the Philippines were the hosts of the Tenth World Jamboree in July 1959.

I flew down from Manila to Sydney in the company of thirty Australian servicemen returning from Korea. My next-door neighbour was an Assistant Scoutmaster in Victoria, and talked enthusiastically about Scouting, and about the Indian Ambulance Company in Korea. Bruce H. Garnsey, Commissioner for Training in New South Wales and later the leader of the Australian contingent at the Jubilee Jamboree, welcomed me, safeguarded me from the Press, and together with Major E. A. Lloyd, Chief Commissioner, and Colin Watson, Cub Commissioner, kept me company until my plane left for Melbourne. There I was met by Colonel A. Gordon Oldham, who holds me responsible for his post-war Scout activities, which are many and various. We spent Christmas Day together, and visited Gilwell-Gembrook, which was founded by Archie Hoadley, an Antarctic explorer who was at Gilwell in 1924. Oldham motored me via Canberra to the Second Pan-Pacific Jamboree at Greystanes near Sydney. All the Australian States were represented and also, mostly in small numbers, Brunei, Great Britain (11), Hong Kong (26), Iceland (1), Indonesia, French Indo-China, Japan (the solitary Kurushima!), Malaya (82!), New Guinea (58), New Zealand (101), North Borneo, Noumea, Singapore (56), the Solomon Islands, Suva and Viet-Nam. Pan-Pacific was the right description. J. P. Colquhoun represented the Chief Scout of the British Commonwealth and Empire.

Each state in Australia was still registered as a branch of The Boy Scouts Association of Great Britain. There was a long and somewhat argumentative meeting of the Chief Commissioners of the Australian States, when both Colquhoun and I tried to persuade them to combine and register Australia as a separate, independent member of the International Conference. Traditional and sentimental ties held them to Great Britain, despite the fact that Australia was a self-governing country and co-equal with Great Britain in the Commonwealth. However, our efforts and those of others bore fruit, and Australia was accorded international recognition on August 1st, 1953, New Zealand beating them to it by sixteen days.

The week spent in New Zealand included a special meeting of the Dominion Scout Executive Committee, at which it was resolved to recommend an immediate application for New Zealand's recognition as a separate member of the International Conference.

I reached my farthest point from London, and a difference of twelve hours in Greenwich Mean Time, at the 5th Dominion Sea Scout Regatta held at the Bluffs, almost the most southerly point of the South Island. With its coastal and inland waters, New Zealand is admirably suited to the water activities in which Sea Scouts are privileged to indulge, in addition to the normal Scout activities of camping, hiking, and so on, which the country as a whole provides for in rich measure. It is natural that the number of Scouts is high in proportion to the population, and that the standard of Scouting, as proved repeatedly at World Jamborees and Moots, is equally high.

As the Dutch East Indies, Indonesia had been a branch of the Netherlands Scout Associations. Although under foreign control, Scouting had been very popular, and had achieved more than reasonable heights in numbers and standards. As in the Philippines, but more so, the thousands of islands comprising the country make administration and supervision difficult in the extreme. The Japanese occupation and the subsequent fighting had tended to destroy old traditions. As a result, some twenty separate Scout organisations had sprung up, and it took time for them to orientate themselves and begin to coalesce together. This was not helped by the many and various influences at play on a national level – political, religious, social, educational. In September 1951 thirteen of the stronger Scout organisations met and decided to found a federating body to satisfy both national and international needs. *Ikatan Pandu Indonesia* – Ipindo for short – came into being. Tuan

Soemardjo was elected Chief Commissioner, and Dr Bahder Djohan, an Old Scout and Minister of Education, became Hon. President. Government approval of Ipindo was granted on February 22nd, 1952, and the President of Indonesia, Dr Soekarno, consented to become Patron of the unifying and co-relating national Scout Council.

I had known Soemardjo since the World Jamboree of 1937 and his subsequent Wood Badge Course at Gilwell. We had corresponded since 1945. During my fifteen days in the country, he was my constant companion. His services to Scouting were invaluable, and most of the burden of responsibility for Ipindo was being carried on his broad shoulders. My visit had two main purposes: one, the normal one of Scout brotherhood and goodwill; and the other, to ascertain whether Ipindo was strong enough to undertake the responsibility to the country and to International Scouting of preserving unimpaired the fundamental aims, principles and methods as suggested by B.-P. Before I left, I was able to make a public announcement that Ipindo had become a member of the International Conference as from January 31st, 1953.

One would wish to say a great deal about the Cubs, Scouts, Scouters and Old Scouts whom I met, the last including three members of the Government and four Governors of Provinces. I confine myself to one incident. Shortly before I left, we heard of the disastrous floods in the Netherlands. A Scout Group decided to divert the money raised by an entertainment from their own Headquarters Building Fund to Holland. At the farewell Camp Fire, an appeal was made for contributions of clothing and other materials to be sent from the Scouts of Indonesia to the Scouts of Holland. This confirmed the conclusion I had already reached – that the Scout spirit was well in evidence.

The ten days I spent in Singapore and Malaya were not of as strenuous a character as in Indonesia. Each territory had its branch of The (British) Boy Scouts Association, extending down the years under a succession of able Commissioners and Scouters. In Singapore the great majority of Scout Groups contain boys of Chinese origin. I came in for the 22nd Rover Scout Crew's annual birthday dinner, coinciding with the Chinese New Year, at which Chinese food was *de rigeur* and some Chinese customs were demonstrated. The Crew had started a Scout Troop in its neighbourhood – not always a peaceful one – and was about to start a Cub Pack. It had undertaken volunteer service with the police radio cars. The Cubs and Scouts in the Children's Orthopaedic Hospital were as cheerful and lively as those I saw in Rome.

Scouting was also making its mark in a Malayan orphanage. Of even more personal interest to me, as having been connected with the Calcutta Leper Hospital for seven years, was a visit to the Scouts in the Leper Settlement fourteen miles outside Kuala Lumpur. Their spirit was typified by their Troop yell: 'Hydro-carpus Oil. Down! Down!! Down!!! Sulphone Compounds. Up! Up!! Up!!! A Specific! A Cure! A Discharge! Rah! Rah!! Rah!!!' How many hale and healthy persons would in such a way speculate as to their future?

Boys may be physically and mentally able, but their immediate past may have been difficult and dangerous, and their present surroundings strange and new. This was the case with all kinds of D.P. and Refugee Camps. It was so, too, with those Chinese brought together in the resettlement or 'new' villages in Malaya. People who had 'squatted' in the jungle and were in touch with or endangered by the bandits had been displaced, and were learning to become law-abiding citizens in these new villages. Being an Old Scout as well as Chief Scout of the Federation, General (now Field Marshal) Sir Gerald Templer was naturally keen that Scouting should play its part in this plan. A Resettlement Officer – not an Old Scout – paid his tribute, when he said that an important factor was that Rover Scouts and others came out from Kuala Lumpur from time to time to help the new Scouts, run camp-fires, and so on. This greatly helped the atmosphere of the village as a whole.

Separate recognition as from Independence Day, 1957, was granted to Malaya by the 1957 International Conference at Cambridge.

It was in Kuala Lumpur that I had my last meeting with a representative of the Committee for a Free Asia, an association of business men in California seeking to secure stability. I had met up with

other representatives in Japan and the Philippines. All were men of high standing who agreed with the Committee's opinion that Scouting was a movement that should receive their support. Both Dan Spry and I had satisfied ourselves that the Committee was entirely non-political and unprejudiced in its efforts, and had put its representatives in touch with the Scout Movements in the Far East. As a result, among the help rendered was the financing of a monthly paper for Scouters in Japan; the publication of a Sinhalese translation of *Scouting for Boys*; and the granting of bursaries for the study of Scouting in the United States and elsewhere.

Like Singapore and Malaya, Ceylon had also been a branch of The Boy Scouts Association and had set as good a standard of Scouting as any. The Chief Commissioner, Colonel C. P. Jayawardana, welcomed me, together with his two Assistants, Senator E. W. Kannangara, now Chief Commissioner, and Charles Dymoke Green, son of the former General Secretary of The Boy Scouts Association in London. At the large welcoming Rally, I was privileged to present several Queen's Scout Certificates, two to Scouts in the Reformatory, who had been given Government employment as instructors. Scouting in Ceylon pioneered many years back in social service work in prisons, a work which has produced very fine results. My last duty was to attend the Scout Corroborée at Galle. There, on Sunday, February 22nd, it was Founder's Day, and it was my privilege to speak of B.-P. and then to make the announcement that from that day Ceylon was registered, in its own right, as a Member of the Boy Scouts International Conference.

On the way home I stopped off at Bombay for a couple of days, to find that Scouting there continued to maintain its high standard. In Karachi I had only thirty-six hours. I had an interview with the Governor-General, Al Haj Ghulam Mohammed, in his capacity of Chief Scout. His Excellency had shown his personal interest in Scouting in many ways, and particularly on his visit to the Pakistan National Jamboree held the previous month. This had achieved its object in bringing Scouts together from different parts of West and East Pakistan, in stimulating public interest, and in strengthening the Scout co-operation between Pakistan and India.

On landing in Beirut, Ali Bey Dandachi and Zouher Dalati took me back into Syria to visit four Scout camps the following day, and a possible site for a World Jamboree in the future. A further day was spent with Mustafa Fatalla in Beirut, when I again saw the Director of the Ministry of Education and had a long talk about future prospects with Selim Lahoud, Secretary of the Federation Libanaise du Scoutisme.

On returning to London on March 5th, 1953, my considered opinion was that the five months' tour had been well worth while. I calculated that I had seen over a hundred thousand Scouts in the process. All this has had to be written in even more of a personal vein, in order to give a rough sketch of Scouting in these particular parts of the world. The tour completed my seven years' mission to bring Scouting together, to enable the International Committee to have as full information about it as possible, and to see where the support and strengthening already envisaged for the future was most necessary. My final recommendation was that Travelling Commissioners should be appointed for the Middle East and for South-East Asia and the Far East, on the lines of the Travelling Commissioner already established in Latin America, whenever the resources were available.

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## **On to a New Phase and New Horizons**

*Fifth World Rover Moot, 1953 – Community service in land clearance – Fourteenth International Scout Conference, Liechtenstein – a floodlit castle – I resign as Director of the International Bureau – Major-General D. C. Spry appointed – International Fellowship of Former Scouts and Guides inaugurated, 1953 – History of the Fellowship – General Assembly*

*and Fellowship Camp, Denmark, 1953 – a new phase – more forceful methods – a round of visits – publications – Fourth International Commissioners' Get-together, Finland – Regional jamboree for the Arab world – seventeen countries hold international gatherings – hospitality in homes – Jamboree becomes World Scouting – Eighth World Jamboree in Canada first held outside Europe: the Jamboree of New Horizons – Hurricane Connie – World Chief Guide's address – Fifteenth International Conference – International Night*

**A**S a preparation for the Fifth World Rover Scout Moot, to be held at Kandersteg in Switzerland from July 29th to August 8th, 1953, *Jamboree* published a series of four articles on the principles of the Rover Scout section of the Movement. The first article stated:

All-round development, then, is the Rover ideal. We come far short of that ideal if we concentrate too much on any one part of our natures, or on one particular interest or ability ... The principle of balance is fundamental to Scouting, though it is one that has not been frequently expressed ... A boy's vision is limited, and his desires do not range very widely, but one of the characteristics of the young man is that his vision broadens and he becomes more aware of the possibilities offered to him by life. It is just then that the danger of developing lopsidedly or unevenly is most acute. The training of a Rover Scout is designed to help the young man keep his balance and see the ideal of wholeness, of the full life.

The last article concluded:

These separate articles on Body-Mind-Spirit tend to give the impression that these are distinctive parts of our nature. This is not so. The study of psychology increasingly shows how intimately the three are linked together, and how dangerous it is to concentrate too much on one and neglect the others. So we come back to that principle of balance. The training of a Rover should be governed by this principle: too much attention to one part, or to part of a part, means uneven and frustrated development. If we wish to enjoy life to the full, we must give each part of it proper attention. They are not, however, of equal importance; they have been discussed in the ascending order of value, Body as the least important, and Spirit as the highest and dominating element.

Kandersteg naturally brought back memories of the First World Moot, held there twenty-two years before, and the two Moots demonstrated in practice the truth of this principle. This time over 4,000 Rovers came together, from thirty-three countries which were members of the International Conference. The British Empire was represented by 800, the French Union by 400, Germany by over 200 and Switzerland by 1,000. More striking, both in numbers and performance, were the 64 from Canada, the 18 from New Zealand and the 77 from Australia, the last under Bill Waters, who had led the Australian contingent at the 1924 Empire and World Jamborees, and had been responsible for several strenuous Moots and Hikes in Victoria. Physical development was met by the need to combat adverse weather in camp and by hikes in the mountains. Broadening of the mind was provided by the organised discussions, but even more by the more intimate talks round the small camp-fires and during the hikes. The aspirations of the spirit were helped by the Sunday services, that of the Protestants being introduced by the Bishop of St Albans, Michael Gresford-Jones, who in his younger days had been the leader of the Cambridge University Rover Scout Crew and a Deputy Camp Chief. The Catholic Bishop of Basle proved to be equally Scout-minded.

The Moot was visited by the President of the Swiss Federation, Dr Philipp Etter, the day after the Swiss National Day had been adequately and colourfully celebrated, despite the rain. The Moot Camp Chief was the burly Manfred de Wattenwyl, the Secretary of the First Moot; and the honours were done by Arthur Thalmann, Chief Scout of Switzerland, and Dr Louis Blondel, President of the Federation of Swiss Scouts. At the formal opening, held in front of the International Scout Chalet, the Director of the International Bureau said:

In these surroundings we cannot but recollect the conquest by man of the highest mountain of the world. Everest gives us, as does Nanga Parbat, an example of co-operation and teamwork of an international character over a number of years. This year's success has been built on the experience gained by successive expeditions. Two men reached the summit, but as the representatives of all mountaineers, and as the pioneers of all mankind.

A further demonstration of the principles of Rover Scouting was given by the community service rendered voluntarily by all the 4,000. A large piece of land on the mountainside was cleared of juniper bushes to render it fit for grazing. Other grazing land was cleared of stones washed down by the winter snows. Many tons of shale were removed from the bank of the River Kander opposite the Chalet so as to provide more camping sites, the shale being used to build up a permanent path from one part of the camping grounds to another. All was unskilled work, but calling for a considerable amount of physical exertion; tasks which, if carried out by professional labour, would have been beyond the means of the small community of Kandersteg.

Several of those who were present at the Moot in an advisory or organising capacity, or just to benefit from the experience, journeyed into Liechtenstein to take part in the Fourteenth International Scout Conference at Vaduz, August 8th-12th. The Principality of Liechtenstein is the smallest country in Europe. Its whole population, from the reigning Prince down to the small girls and boys, welcomed the Scout invasion with a friendliness and cheerfulness beyond compare. H.S.H. Prince Emanuel, Chief Scout of Liechtenstein, had been a well-known figure at Conferences, Jamborees and Moots down the years. He and the Mayor of Vaduz welcomed the delegates the first night, after which the Mayor handed over the Town Hall, including the Mayor's Parlour, to the Conference. The next day being Sunday, the Conference was not formally opened until the afternoon, when His Serene Highness the reigning Prince, accompanied by the Princess, made a much appreciated speech. Sten Thiel, Jean Salvaj and Dick Lund were presented with the Bronze Wolf for their special services to World Scouting. Lt.-Gen. Baron van Voorst tot Voorst, elected to the International Committee in 1949, acknowledged the generous help given and the sympathy shown to Holland by the Scouts of other countries at the time of the disastrous floods, when 630,000 acres of fertile land were overwhelmed by the sea.

The discussions centred mainly round the problem of retaining Scouts over the age of fifteen, to which there was no one solution; whether the Conference needed a Chairman of the International Committee, which ended in an indeterminate fashion; and the oft-mooted question of an international alliance of Former Scouts, which this time was given a final blessing. 'What can the Scout Movement do for under-developed countries?' led to an expose of what Scouting had already done in no small measure. Sweden presented a well-thought-out paper on 'Co-operation with the Girl Guide Movement', about which a thorough study was recommended.

The reigning Prince and Princess gave a reception at the castle, which was floodlit each night; the Government entertained the Conference to a dinner, at which their Serene Highnesses were present, as they were also at a farewell party and entertainment given by the Liechtenstein Guides and Scouts in the neighbouring town of Schaan. This last summed up the goodwill and spirit of friendliness that had been experienced throughout the whole period of the Conference.

At the end of the Conference, I relinquished my position as Director of the International Bureau. The International Committee, of which the new and hitherto untried members were Niels Engberg of Denmark and General Sir Rob Lockhart, in place of Ove Holm and Lord Rowallan respectively, were kind enough to appoint me as their Hon. President, an office that had remained vacant since H.R.H. Prince Gustaf Adolf's death. The appointment of Major-General D. C. Spry to be Director was formally announced, and he was given a very warm, welcome. Dan assumed his full duties in London in November.



A direct and speedy outcome of the Vaduz Conference was the inauguration of the International Fellowship of Former Scouts and Guides at Lucerne, Switzerland, at midday on Sunday, October 25th, 1953.

It is not given to every man or woman to have the ability, time and opportunity to take up active work again with the Scouts and Guides as Leaders, although many hundreds of thousands do. Others find an outlet in serving on Scout and Guide Committees. Millions of others, however, like their more fortunate brethren, still retain the desire to have a feeling of possession in Scouting and Guiding. Old Scout Clubs, usually connected with a single Scout Troop, were started way back in 1912 in Great Britain, other countries having similar ideas. It is on record that 'Old Guides' were formed in England in 1920. 'This venture was not very successful: it was said at the time that no woman likes to be called "Old", and there was not sufficient interest or object in its inception.' It was not until 1943 that the idea was revived in the 'Trefoil Guild'.

Meanwhile, in 1930, The (British) Boy Scouts Association purposely encouraged the formation of Old Scout Clubs and appointed a Headquarters Commissioner for Old Scouts, but in their case it was not until 1948 that the 'B.-P. Scout Guild' was founded, and a purposeful effort made not only to associate Old Scouts with the active movement, but also to encourage them in their adult lives to live up to the spirit of the Scout Promise and Law. Denmark was well ahead; the St George's Guild was founded in March 1934, membership being open both to former Scouts and former Guides.

The subject of Old Scouts was discussed at Scout International Conferences in 1933, 1935, 1937 and 1939, Czechoslovakia and Hungary in particular showing both interest and enterprise in what was being done for former members of their Scout and Guide Associations.

The Second World War came and went, and from Denmark came a call for some means of linking up Former Scouts and Former Guides within their own countries and between country and country. This idea was mooted at successive Scout International Conferences and Guide World Conferences. It was looked at with a certain amount of suspicion, in the fear that any grownup international organisation would tend to lord it over the international and national organisations for the character training of Guides and Scouts. There was no evidence to support the suspicion, and gradually those responsible for the active movements in the different countries were able to realise that they would, rather, derive help and encouragement from the former Guides and Scouts.

Informal meetings of the leaders of Old Scouts' organisations interested in international co-operation were held in Montreux, Walk and Venice in 1948, 1949 and 1950 respectively. These did a great deal to promote the idea. As a result, more formal and larger conferences were held under the auspices of the Boy Scouts International Bureau in Denmark in May 1951, and in London in September 1952, at which a draft constitution of an International Fellowship for both Former Scouts and Former Guides was discussed and approved.

As has been mentioned, this draft Constitution had been drawn up by the Old Scouts' Sub-Committee at a meeting in Portugal in 1950, and had been approved by the International Committee. The Sub-Committee consisted of J. F. Colquhoun (Great Britain), Pierre Delsuc (France), Hr Erik Sjøqvist (Denmark), Professor Mario Mazza (Italy), Sten Thiel (Sweden), with myself, as Director of the Bureau, as its Chairman. Its members put in a great deal of hard work during the three years it was in existence, and considered every aspect of the question.

At the Conference in Denmark, Madame Ada Cornil was present as representing the World Committee of the Girl Guides and Girl Scouts Associations, and stated that the World Committee was open to consider joint action in establishing an international fellowship to include Former Guides as well as Former Scouts. At the London Conference this statement was reaffirmed by Dame Leslie Whateley, Director of the World Bureau, who said that the Guides wanted to be in from the beginning.

There came an unexpected setback at the 1951 Scout Conference, but the idea was given unanimous approval at Vaduz. At the same time the Guides' World Committee gave their approval, and this was confirmed by the World Guide Conference in 1954. It was because this last

formal approval had not yet been given that it was decided at the Lucerne Conference that the Constitution should be adopted provisionally, and that only an interim Council should be elected. Those selected were Lord Baden-Powell (Great Britain), M. Werner Barblan (Switzerland), Mme Ada Cornil (Belgium), l'Abbé Paul Lambot (Belgium), Dr Josef Mieggl (Austria), M. Michel Rigal (France), Fru Lis Starcke (Denmark), Ing. Sten Thiel (Sweden), Dr Alberto Vaghi (Italy). Two places were left, to which the Council co-opted Mrs P. R. Davies-Cooke (Great Britain) and Fraulein Elisabeth Lotz (Switzerland).

At the inaugural meeting, Colonel J. S. Wilson was elected as an extraordinary member of the Council – unconstitutionally, as I pointed out – and was requested by the Council to act as Honorary Adviser of the Fellowship and to take over its secretarial duties for the first few years. The Council appointed Erik Sjøqvist as its Chairman, and Mme Cornil as its Deputy Chairman. Dame Leslie Whateley and M. Pierre Delsuc were nominated by the World and International Committees respectively as the Additional Members provided by the Constitution to secure the necessary liaison between the three bodies.

The Founder Members of the International Fellowship were Austria, Belgium, Costa Rica, Denmark, Finland, France, Great Britain, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Portugal, Sweden and Switzerland, to which list only Colombia, Ireland and New Zealand have since been added.

Denmark were the hosts to a General Assembly and Fellowship Camp at Horsens in August 1955. The Constitution was there confirmed. The interim Council, including the co-opted members, were re-elected for a further period of four years, with the exception of Fraulein Lotz, who was eventually replaced by Mrs E. C. Peereboom-Kikkert of the Netherlands. In June 1957 Michel Rigal was replaced by André Schneider, also of France. The Chairman, Deputy Chairman and Hon. Adviser were reappointed. Again unconstitutionally, the General Assembly elected me an Additional Member of the Council for life!

Membership of the International Fellowship is granted to a country as such, which means that there must be some form of federation between any representative body of Former Guides and Former Scouts within that country. These representative bodies must also have the approval of their respective active Guide or Scout Associations. These provisions have secured an appreciable amount of unity and co-operation in several countries.

But what is the idea behind this new addition to International Scouting and Guiding? It is stated quite simply:

To help former Scouts and Guides to keep alive the spirit of the Scout and Guide Promise and Law in their own lives; to bring that spirit into the communities in which they live and work; whilst remembering their other responsibilities, actively to support Scouting and Guiding in their communities, their countries and the world.

In theory all this may sound not so difficult, but it is far otherwise in actual practice. It is curious that these aims were stated in almost precisely the same terms at the International Scout Conference in Edinburgh in 1939, but after all, they are merely the expression of the good citizenship which is the stated objective of both the Guide and Scout Movements.

With the change of Directors, the work of the International Bureau entered on a new phase, which had already been foreshadowed. The policy decided on by the International Committee after the Second World War – to re-establish co-operation, to secure unity and to preserve the fundamentals of Scouting – had been brought to a successful conclusion. The personal authority of the Founder had been replaced by a strengthened International Committee, although in Scouting, as in almost everything else, it is not easy to substitute committee leadership for personal leadership, particularly when the person was the Chief Scout of the World. The necessary reconnaissances had been made to probe the weak spots and to find out where and how they could be strengthened. Now came the need to develop International Scouting still further

on the most practical lines, to secure more forceful methods of presenting Scouting to the boys and to the world.

Through the progressive steps he had taken in his Scout life, through the experience he had gained in the course of his brilliant army career, and through the knowledge he acquired as Chief Executive Commissioner of the Boy Scouts of Canada and as a part-time Deputy Director, Dan Spry was admirably suited to plan and to carry through the measures that were necessary to secure this further advance.

An additional member, L. F. Jarrett, was added to the Staff of the Bureau, to take charge of administration. A part-time Public Relations Officer and an Hon. Legal Adviser were appointed. To the increasingly important Finance Sub-Committee, consisting of Jackson Dodds, Ove Holm and Amory Houghton, three Advisory Committees were added to deal with Scouting with the Handicapped, Publications, and Public Relations. As a side-line, a Stamp Scheme was introduced to arouse interest amongst the Scouts themselves, and, incidentally, to add to the income of the Bureau.

During his first two years in office, the Director was able to pay visits to the Scout organisations in Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Norway, Great Britain, France, Italy, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Germany and Holland, and thus to gain a comprehensive picture of European Scouting, and to pay visits also to Greece, Turkey, Syria, the Lebanon, Jordan, Kuwait, Iraq and Egypt.

The Publications Committee supervised a reprint of *Fundamentals of the Scout Method*, the production of a pamphlet on *The Structure of World Scouting*, a folder on the *Boy Scouts International Bureau*, and a sheet of *Scout Badges of the World*. A more elaborate publication was *Boy Scouts in Five Continents*, giving an outline of the expansion of Scouting and a directory of Member Associations with their badges.

The Fourth International Commissioners' Get-together was held at Helsinki, Finland, where the Finnish Scout Union, under the Rev. Verner Louhivuori, the Chief Scout, and Edwin Tormala, the International Commissioner, had made excellent arrangements. Various recommendations for still further broadening the scope of International Scouting were forwarded to the International Committee, which met shortly afterwards for three days in London in September 1954.

The Committee made a careful study of a paper prepared by the Director and the Staff of the Bureau on the subject of the Future Expansion of the Scout Movement. This paper examined in detail the problems which hindered Scouting's wider and more rapid development throughout the world, and made suggestions as to how these problems might be dealt with and overcome. These suggestions were accepted on the understanding that they could only be put into effect step by step, as and when conditions permitted. Finance was obviously a governing factor. The Committee were firmly convinced that the mainstay of their finances must always be the annual registration fee paid by Member Associations, but welcomed various schemes for the raising of additional funds by other means as approved by the Finance Sub-Committee. Her Majesty's Government gave an official reception at the Foreign Office for the Committee, who were also entertained to dinner by the Council and Deputy Chief Scout of the Boy Scouts Association, Lord Rowallan having departed on one of his many strenuous Empire and Commonwealth tours.

The International Training Team Meeting at Gilwell Park has been mentioned earlier on. The Director had paid several visits to courses there. A new departure was the holding of a Regional Jamboree, also in August for the ten countries of the 'Arab World', on the site near Damascus in Syria which I had inspected eighteen months before. In no less than seventeen different countries various gatherings of an international character were held. One important aspect of some of these camps was the hospitality given in Scout homes to those coming from abroad. This more intimate contact with family life is a most valuable additional benefit to all, as had already been proved in connection with Jamborees and Jamborettes. The Boy Scouts of America, with the co-operation of the U.S. Air Force, invited sixteen older Scouts to visit the United States and spend some days at

the Philmont Scout Ranch. Air transport was provided, and the whole operation was carried out at little cost to the Scouts (or their parents). They came from Denmark, Finland, Great Britain, the Netherlands, Norway and Sweden. This Goodwill Operation has been repeated in subsequent years.

The year 1955 led to new horizons. The title and format of *Jamboree* were changed, and from the January number it was entitled *World Scouting – Scoutisme Mondial*. The Eighth World Jamboree at Niagara-on-the-Lake in Canada, in August 1955, was the first World Jamboree to be held outside Europe. A World Jamboree in another continent was long overdue. There had been a reluctance on the part of non-European countries to voice their claim to be hosts. They may have given too much weight to the difficulties and costs of travelling, since the majority of the world's Scout population were in Europe. But the pendulum had now swung, and the number of Scouts in the New World had become larger than the number in the Old World. Canada's invitation, presented at Vaduz in 1953, was accepted and welcomed, as giving a better opportunity in countries in Central and South America to be present at a World Jamboree. In all fairness, however, it must be mentioned that far-away countries such as Australia and New Zealand had been enthusiastic supporters of World Jamborees and Rover Moots, even at the cost of six months' absence from home, and the saving of money for a couple of years beforehand.

Amongst the 11,000 in camp, the countries not previously represented at a Jamboree were Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, and various of the British, French and Dutch possessions in the Caribbean. Israel and Kuwait were made welcome as new Members of the International Conference, although Kuwait was not accorded recognition (together with Iran and Jordan) until the last days of the subsequent Conference Meeting.

The Camp Chief of the Jamboree of New Horizons, as it was named, was the veteran Jackson Dodds, with Eli Boyaner of New Brunswick as his Deputy. Their disparity in heights was a novelty not hitherto experienced, and with such a pair, the Jamboree could not help but be a success in these important factors of cheerfulness, goodwill and spirit. But, when the occasion demanded it, they could be firm. This was the case with the practice of 'swopping', which had degenerated from a friendly exchange of badges and suchlike for friendship's sake into a kind of commercialised barter.

The pendulum had swung again in another direction, and there was a marked contrast between the Jamboree of Simplicity and Homeliness and the Jamboree of New Horizons; but Scouting can adapt itself to circumstances, and so make the best of both worlds. No other World Jamboree had had to contend with a hurricane, only heat or dust or rain or mud or a combination thereof. Five days before the opening, Hurricane Connie came whipping up Lake Ontario and swept across the Jamboree Campsite, playing havoc with tents, roads and equipment. While the situation was grim for many hours, the Jamboree staff, under the executive leadership of Fred Finlay, who had succeeded Dan Spry as Chief Executive Commissioner of the Boy Scouts of Canada, and George Simmons, were never in any doubt that order would be restored, as it was in fact before the opening day.

I myself followed Connie across Lake Ontario. I had been in the States to see the new Headquarters of the Boy Scouts of America at New Brunswick, and had spent a couple of days with my old friends in Rochester. That international Scout figure, Robbert Hartog, came across with his Sea Scout Patrol Leaders from Toronto in his motor-yacht and ferried me over.

The Governor-General and Chief Scout of Canada, the Rt Hon. Vincent Massey, performed the opening ceremony, speaking in both English and French, and stressing three attributes which he regarded as of immense importance – self-discipline, good manners, and the feeling of responsibility. The World Chief Guide, Olave, Lady Baden-Powell, was present on the platform and visited the camp on several occasions.

There was a full programme of huge arena displays, but as the days went by, it was evident that the usual Jamboree spirit prevailed, the Scouts mixing together and inviting their friends to share a meal or join a camp-fire, the Scouters talking informally of their problems and of their triumphs. On August 26th nearly all those in camp were taken to Toronto by road, rail or

steamer to visit the Canadian National Museum. Lord Rowallan opened this great national exhibition with a magnificent address, as B.-P. had done many years before.

The closing ceremony had a welcome simplicity under the genial leadership of the Jamboree Camp Chief. The World Chief Guide stole the show in an impromptu speech as she stepped forward to say a few words of thanks. Rex Hazlewood, Editor of *The Scouter* (Great Britain), described the scene: 'Undirected, spontaneously as though they were one, as though some great and mighty spirit moved them, every Scout of the thousands of Scouts in the arena, as sudden as sunshine pouring out of a rift in a storm cloud, leapt to his feet in an acclamation of greeting to the World Chief Guide and to the everlasting magic of the name she bears. Cheers and hats were hurled towards the steel-blue sky. It was moving and wonderful – and *that* we shall remember.' It was a remarkable, if indirect, tribute to the Chief, their Founder, whom none of them had ever seen. It was an answer to some of their elders, who are inclined to say: 'The B.-P. era is over.'

I add the 'Postscript' which closed *The Jamboree Story*, a book enlarging on *From Jamboree to Jamboree* and bringing it up-to-date, which was published by the International Bureau in 1957 as a tribute to B.-P.:

The Eighth World Jamboree achieved an all-out record – financially! In 1947 the International Scout Conference passed a resolution, optimistically, so many thought, 'that any substantial profits on Jamborees or Moots should be shared between the host country and the International Bureau, in a proportion to be decided at the discretion of the host country'. There was a small profit from the Fourth World Rover Moot held in Norway in 1946, of which equal shares went to the Norwegian Boy Scouts Association and the International Bureau. Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of the Federal and Ontario Governments, and of Canadian trade and industry, and to the splendid support given by the Canadian public to the Eighth World Jamboree, and *not* to any high Jamboree fees, there was a net profit of \$16,000 from Niagara. The Executive Committee of the Canadian General Council handed half of this sum to the International Bureau. The greater part of this most generous gift has been placed in the Reserve Fund, so that World Scouting may Be Prepared to meet and defeat any sudden and unexpected hurricane that may blow up in the future.

The support given by the Canadian public was demonstrated in a more personal way by the warm welcome to their homes given to thousands of the Scouts from abroad, both before and after the Jamboree. The boys themselves were very struck by and greatly appreciated the friendly hospitality and welcome they received.

The Fifteenth International Conference followed on at Niagara Falls, Canada, for three days. The entertainments given by the Federal and Ontario Governments, the Mayor and Corporation of the City and the Canadian General Council were on a par with the welcome being given to the boys, if of a more formal character. Jackson Dodds was the Master of Ceremonies at all these occasions; and it was a personal pleasure to me to present him and Amory Houghton with the Bronze Wolves awarded to them by the International Committee for their exceptional services to Scouting. A third award to Colonel Granville Walton of Great Britain was presented later in London. The four new members of the International Committee were Eli Boyaner (Canada), Bengt Junker (Sweden), Paul Koenig (Germany) and John M. Schiff (U.S.A.). The last became Chairman of the Finance Sub-Committee.

The Conference adopted the Report of The Boy Scouts International Bureau covering the period of Major-General Spry's first two years of office, and complimented him on the vigorous effectiveness of his leadership. In order that the development of International Scouting and the necessary work of the Bureau should not be hampered by lack of funds, the Conference agreed that the Committee should raise the annual registration fee to the rate of £5 per 1,000 active members, and approved the institution of a Development Fund and the efforts being made to secure corporate and individual donations.

An invitation from the organisers of the Geophysical Year for Scouts to assist in their work and with their field teams was warmly welcomed as a most useful form of training for older Scouts and Rovers.

A most welcome innovation was the simultaneous translation system provided by the International Business Machines Corporation through the generosity of Mr Thomas J. Watson, whose presence at Kandersteg in 1948 and Vaduz in 1953 had been a great encouragement, and whose death in 1956 was a severe loss both to the Boy Scouts of America and to the cause of International Scouting.

Lady Baden-Powell was present throughout the Conference, and gave, as usual, a remarkable and inspiring address. Before this, the appointments made by the Committee had been announced:

Colonel J. S. Wilson has been reappointed Hon. President for the next two-year period. He has asked that he should not then be again appointed, so that the way might be clear should the Committee wish to honour some other person in this way. Olave, Lady Baden-Powell has been reappointed for another two years as an Hon. Vice-President. The Committee has also decided to appoint a second Hon. Vice-President, Mr Jackson Dodds, as a tribute to his services to International Scouting.

The final resolution was:

The Conference looks forward to B.-P.'s Centenary in 1957, and urges all Associations to strive for a standard in their Scouting which will be a worthy memorial to our great Founder Lord Baden-Powell in the Jubilee Year of the Movement. Let this objective be our New Horizon.

After the Conference, the Boy Scouts of America invited a leading representative of each delegation to attend their National Training Conference at Ann Arbor University, Michigan. The International Night of the Conference, with the whole of their foreign Scout guests massed on the platform, was a surprise to many. Dan Spry and I shared the presentation of 'World Scouting', I gave the story up to 1953, and he carried on from there into the future.

From Ann Arbor I flew to British Columbia, and started off on a strenuous but most interesting tour by road and rail, visiting the principal centres in that province and in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and back to Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal. This occupied seven weeks, and enabled me to appreciate the difficulties and the triumphs that the Boy Scouts of Canada had experienced in their progress. As in the United States, great support is given by the numerous Service Clubs, such as Rotary, Lions, Kiwanis. It was only on this tour that I was able to realise the great extent of the country and the vast areas that the provincial and district staffs have to cover.

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### The Centenary and Golden Jubilee

*A year of anticipation – new members – impressive list of national Jamborees – Staff reorganisations – Far East Advisory Committee established – International Committee meets in The Hague – a royal reception – International Training Team Meeting for the Western Hemisphere in America – importance of Wood Badge training – B.-P. Centenary celebrations in all five continents – functions in London – wreath laid on B.-P.'s grave – Service of Thanksgiving in Westminster Abbey – at Nyeri in Kenya – a year of world celebrations – World Scout Gathering at Sutton Coldfield, England, celebrates both B.-P. Centenary and the Golden Jubilee of Scouting – the 'Jamborain' – 'Jamboree of all sorts' – the Queen's Day – Lady B.-P.'s*

*closing talk – Sixteenth International Scout Conference – office of the International Bureau moves to Canada*

THE year 1956 was one of anticipation, but there was no question of marking time. The Sudan and Iraq became new Members of the Conference, followed early in 1957 by Honduras. The list of national Jamborees was impressive – Brazil, China (Taiwan), Costa Rica, Cuba, Germany, India, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Japan, Kuwait, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland and the U.S.A.: Rover Moots in Canada and Ceylon; and Jamborettes or International Patrol Camps in Denmark, England, Luxembourg and Scotland. At all of these there were guest contingents from neighbouring countries. It is remarkable how visits and hikes abroad continued to increase year by year, as a kind of natural consequence, and without too much in the way of advertisement or propaganda. It was all taken very much as a matter of course, and without in any way neglecting national ties and advantages.

In August several thousands of Scouts from all over the Arab world, including Libya, Saudi Arabia and Tunisia, attended a Jamboree at Abukir in Egypt. Ali Bey Dandachi, during his term of office as a member of the International Committee, had done a great deal to encourage Scouting throughout the Middle East, and had visited practically every country. Later, an Arab Scout Bureau was established, with Mohammed Ali Hafez of Egypt as Secretary-General.

The Niagara Conference had decided that International Commissioners' Get-togethers should continue to be held in years when there was no International Conference, but that they should in future be held on a regional basis. Thirteen European countries were represented at a gathering in Altenburg in Germany, and six Arab countries at Ramleh in Egypt. Among the many subjects discussed at these meetings were the planning and programme of Jamborees; co-operation in the training of Scouters; the procedures involved in their work; and the examination of new ideas and schemes for spreading the spirit of international understanding. The Bureau brought out a loose-leaf *International Commissioners' Handbook* as an aid in the various aspects of their work at home and abroad. A list of Port Liaison Officers was also issued by the Bureau, so that Scout travellers by sea and air could know to whom to apply for help or advice.

The Staff of the International Bureau was reorganised. R. T. Lund became Deputy Director, in due recognition of his many years of devoted service; L. F. Jarrett became Executive Commissioner for Administration; and P. A. Siebold, Executive Commissioner for Liaison with the Member countries of the Conference. The Staff of the Latin-American office under Salvador Fernandez at La Habana, Cuba, was increased, and, more important still, a Far East office was set up at Manila, Philippines, under Guillermo R. Padolina.

For some time the International Committee had been considering the establishment of an Advisory Committee in the Far East on the lines of that already in being in Latin America. Padolina, National Director of the Boy Scouts of the Philippines, was released by his Association to become the Bureau's Travelling Commissioner. His territory covered an area of 16,690,000 square miles, with a population of 1,300,000,000 from West Pakistan right throughout the Pacific. Percy Siebold had made a Far East tour towards the end of 1955, and Dan Spry made a three-months' tour of the Middle East and Far East regions early in 1957. As a result of the attention paid to the Far East Region, the Scout membership rose by 32 per cent from 1954. Obviously the main credit for this must belong to the countries concerned, but the stimulation from outside was undoubtedly helpful.

The International Committee met for three days at The Hague, Netherlands, in September 1956, preceded by a whole-day meeting of the Finance Sub-Committee. The seven members present, together with the Director, Deputy Director and the two Executive Commissioners of the Bureau, gave special attention to plans for the development of World Scouting. They were received by Her Majesty the Queen of the Netherlands and H.R.H. Prince Bernhard.

As an extension of the periodic International Training Team Meetings, one for the Western Hemisphere was held in October at the Schiff Scout Reservation in the U.S.A. This was well

attended by representatives from the U.S.A., Canada, the Caribbean, Central and South America, under the triple leadership of William E. Lawrence, Director of Volunteer Training, Boy Scouts of America, John Thurman, Camp Chief of Gilwell Park, and Eli Boyaner, Chairman of the Canadian Training Committee and representing the International Committee.

It is not because of bias that I stress again the very important part that Wood Badge Training continued to play in the International Scout Movement. From the beginning it had proved a unifying and stabilising factor, directing the leaders of Scouting in practically every country along the B.-P. way. Many thousands of Scouters have been trained at Gilwell Park; and this number could be multiplied many times over by those who have been trained in centres and courses in different lands, all coming under the influence and inspiration of Gilwell.

At the end of 1956 the total active membership of the International Scout Movement had risen to 7,589,183 – an increase of 56 per cent since 1938, and of 43 per cent since 1948. Yet the fact remains that in many parts of the world Scouting is only able to accept a small proportion of the boy population that could be attracted to and benefit from it. There is an immense number of boys, even in old-established Scout countries, to whom the attraction of Scouting's simple, open-air and self-developing activities is as strong and fascinating as ever it was. The duty still remains to overcome whatever difficulties lie in the way of satisfying their desires. In some countries it is lack of manpower; in others it may be lack of freedom for the boys to carry through more for themselves and without too many adult restrictions. National and international organisation plays its part, but it is only a part. In over-organisation lies a real danger.

The Centenary of the birth of Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell, First Baron Baden-Powell of Gilwell, Chief Scout of the World, Founder of the Boy Scout and Girl Guide Movements, was celebrated by Scouts and Guides throughout the five continents, even in those countries where the Movements were no longer allowed to exist. It is impossible to detail all these celebrations, and I must confine myself to the important functions in London that were held on February 22nd, 1957. At a simple ceremony in the presence of the Dean of Westminster, an Old Scout, I was privileged as Hon. President of the International Committee to lay a wreath on the B.-P. Memorial in Westminster Abbey on behalf of the Scouts of the world; wreaths were also placed there on behalf of the Boy Scouts International Bureau and the Guides World Bureau, and, jointly, by the B.-P. Scout Guild, the Trefoil Guild and the International Fellowship of Former Scouts and Guides.

At midday, the Director of the International Bureau held a reception at the Goldsmiths' Hall. Olave, Lady Baden-Powell, was the guest of honour, and among other guests were many members of the diplomatic corps. The Girl Guides Association entertained to tea in Westminster Hall the 2,000 Guiders and Scouters with twenty-five years' service or more, before they attended the service of thanksgiving in Westminster Abbey, at which were present H.R.H. the Duke of Gloucester and H.R.H. the Princess Royal, Presidents of the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides Associations respectively, and the World Chief Guide and her family. The Dean of Westminster, the Very Reverend A. C. Don, pronounced the Bidding:

“We are gathered here in the presence of God on the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Robert Baden-Powell, to pay honour to his memory and to give thanks for his life and work.

His body is buried in peace in a distant land beyond the seas, but as long as this Abbey stands his name will be found inscribed on a stone beneath the screen of the Chapel of St George.

We come to honour one who both as a soldier and a citizen served his country well in many and varied fields.

But above all, we are to commemorate his life's crowning achievements in founding the Boy Scout and Girl Guide Movements, which by God's providence have spread to many countries throughout the world.

His Grace the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury (Dr Fisher), preached the sermon, which ended:



So Baden-Powell being dead yet speaks, and from a simpler age brings our hot and hasty generation a message of simplicity. 'I can tell you how to be good. You must pray to God whenever you can; but you cannot be good with only praying. You must also try very hard to be good.'

His Grace quoted that last sentence from words B.-P. wrote when he was eight years old.

That same day and on the following Sunday, talks went out on the radio, and thanksgiving services were held throughout the world. After Westminster Abbey, the most impressive gathering was the graveside ceremony at Nyeri in Kenya. Three thousand six hundred Scouts and Guides from all parts of Kenya, Tanganyika and Somalia marched past and saluted B.-P.'s simple grave. Among them was a small contingent of twenty-five Italian Scouts from Mogadiscio, who had travelled a thousand miles in a lorry, complete with tents and equipment, to render homage to their Chief.

The celebrations lasted throughout the year, through camps and rallies, talks and services, radio and television, articles and books about B.-P., Conservation Good Turns – given a lead by Canada, Philippines and the U.S.A., in the issue of special stamps, contributions to the Appeal to complete the Baden-Powell Memorial House in London, the B.-P. Centenary Fund of the Boy Scouts International Committee and the appeal for funds for the Headquarters of the Guides World Bureau and World Hostel. While the opening ceremony of the Fourth National Jamboree of the Boy Scouts of America at Valley Forge, held in July, illustrated the example and tradition of George Washington, the closing ceremony illustrated that of Robert Baden-Powell.

Then there came the World Scout Gathering at Sutton Park, in Warwickshire, in England, to celebrate both the Founder's Centenary and the Golden Jubilee of the Scout Movement. By common consent this consisted of an extra Scout Jamboree, the Sixth (quadrennial) World Rover Moot and the Second World Indaba, all three of which were held adjacent to each other, with the Jamboree as the central feature. This vast undertaking was under the triple leadership of Sir Rob Lockhart, Deputy Chief Scout, as Camp Chief; A. W. Hurll, Chief Executive Commissioner, as Deputy Camp Chief; and K. H. Stevens, Camp Chief's Deputy at Gilwell Park, as the Executive Commissioner. The Jamboree-Indaba-Moot (known as J.I.M.) was opened by H.R.H. the Duke of Gloucester on August 1st, in the presence of some 30,000 members of the Scout brotherhood from 85 different parts of the world, who camped at Sutton Park, and of the 17,000 other British Scouts in organised camps within a fifteen-mile radius.

By some the twelve days were named the period of *Jamborain*. It is true that the rainfall exceeded in volume and duration anything I had previously experienced at a World Jamboree or Moot; but the reports of thousands of Scouts being evacuated from Sutton Park were based on wild rumours and no ascertained facts. I believe the severe thunderstorm on August 5th raised the spirit of the Scouts, and certainly provided them with an opportunity to get to know each other and to help each other more intensively. Rather would I call it the *Jamboree of all sorts*: all sorts of weather; all sections of Scouting – Scouts, Rovers, Scouters, including Lady Cubmasters, Companions of the International Fellowship of Former Scouts and Guides – all were represented; all sorts of activities; all sorts of support – local, national, international, royal, political, commercial; all sorts of activities and displays; all sorts of campcraft and camp decorations; all sorts of interchanges of ideas – especially in the Moot and the Indaba.

The Queen's Day on Saturday, August 3rd, was the first time that a reigning monarch had graced a World Scout gathering in Great Britain with his or her presence. Her Majesty played her part nobly, and was ably supported by H.R.H. Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, whose keenness and desire for knowledge caused him to stray occasionally from the set path. He proved again that he was an explorer, and she that she was a gracious lady. Amongst the other guests of honour each day were the Prime Minister, Harold Macmillan, Sir John Hunt of Everest fame, the present Lord Baden-Powell (Peter), and – naturally – the World Chief Guide.

The arena displays were many and varied, historical, picturesque, musical; and the most active were those of the Wolf Cubs on *their* day. Pre-eminent was the story of B.-P. enacted

by the United Kingdom Scouts – his boyhood, Zululand, Mafeking, Brownsea Island, and the successive World Jamborees from Olympia 1920 to his last at Vogelenzang in 1937. B.-P. in his boyhood was portrayed by his grandson Michael, and in his manhood by his son Peter, whose resemblance to his father was remarkable. The premiere of the film on the life of B.-P. was given at Sutton Coldfield and in the J.I.M. theatre.

And so to the closing talk by Olave, Lady Baden-Powell, in the arena on the night of Monday, August 12th. Speaking alternately in English and French, she summed up the spirit of J.I.M. and projected our minds into the future.

You go back to your everyday life in the world outside, your own home, your own Groups, taking with you some of the happiness and health, the handiness and helpfulness and the spirit of friendship which you have imbibed here, taking it away not just for yourself but in order that you may give it and spread it around you, whoever and wherever you may be . . . Your Founder was one of the happiest of men because he knew the great truth that happiness comes not from what we have but from what we give and what we share . . . Then when your time comes to go hence you, too, will be able to say: 'The end was only the beginning.'

The stillness of the many thousands listening to her was sufficient tribute. The moment of silence after the Scout Promise had been repeated by each Scout in his own tongue, was in itself a promise to do better in the future. Then the storm broke, the Scouts rushed forward cheering and waving, and I rushed the World Chief Guide off the dais, through the royal box and into her car at the back of the grandstand, for it had been my privilege to act as her 'nurse' throughout the Jamboree, as I had done for her husband so many times in the years gone by.

I resumed these and my other more formal duties at the Sixteenth International Scout Conference, held at Cambridge on August 14th-16th. Most of the delegates were accommodated in Trinity College, with its mixture of austerity, tradition, and friendliness – from the Master of Trinity and Vice-Chancellor of the University, Lord Adrian, to the College servants. The Conference was opened by Lord Rowallan, as the Chief Host both at J.I.M. and now: 'What a tremendous heritage we have! What a tremendous power for good! What a tremendous power for happiness! Let us have faith in what B.-P. gave us. Let us try to see the vision that should be before us.'

The tracker's adage, 'Take your landmarks when you start and look back occasionally as you go along', was carried out in two talks: one by myself with some personal recollections of B.-P., and the other by Jean Salvaj on Scouting's Half-Century. Michel Rigal, General Secretary of Scoutisme Francais, brought us to the present in an erudite and comprehensive talk on 'Scouting in the World Today'. Later Dan Spry, Director of the Bureau, projected our minds ahead with 'Scouting Tomorrow'. There were short talks on Successful International Scout Projects – the Swedish Scout Mix (exchanges of visits), Inter-American Camporees, American Air and Sea Lifts, International Scout Exchanges, International Scout Clubs, People to People Project, International Fellowship of Former Scouts and Guides, Scouts Alpine Club and Kandersteg Chalet. Guillermo Padolina added a very informative account of Scouting in the Far East, as Salvador Fernandez had done at a previous conference for Latin America. John Thurman, Camp Chief of Gilwell Park, spoke encouragingly on the Future Training of Leaders. The delegates certainly got full measure, running over, for they were also able to attend discussion groups on 'Training and Role of Laymen', 'Telling the People', and 'Programme Projects'.

On the more routine side, perhaps, there was the election of four new members of the International Committee – Demetrios Alexatos (Greece), Mohammed Ali Hafez (Egypt), Federico Diaz Legórburu (Venezuela), M. V. de los Santos (Philippines). It was decided that the regular quadrennial World Jamboree should take place in the Philippines in 1959, followed by the Seventeenth International Scout Conference at Delhi, India. So the pendulum swung back from North America through the country where Scouting had started to the Far East.

Ceremony had its part, too. The Master and Fellows of Trinity College entertained the delegates to dinner, the Mayor and Councillors of the City of Cambridge gave a welcoming reception at the Guildhall, Her Majesty's Government another at the University Combination Rooms, and The (British) Boy Scouts Association a farewell dinner, with Lord Rowallan in the chair.

On the honours side, the International Committee had decided to mark B.-P.'s Centenary by the award of the Bronze Wolf to six most deserving people. First, to Olave, Lady Baden-Powell, their Hon. Vice-President since 1947, for her untiring efforts on behalf of both the Scout and Guide Movements. The last sentence of the citation read: 'The first award of the Bronze Wolf was made to Robert Baden-Powell, Chief Scout of the World, in 1937, and World Scouting is honoured in the acceptance by his Lady Wife of the same decoration – awarded to her as a sign of affection and admiration for her person and her unstinting service.' Then, to Lord Rowallan – 'Despite manifold other interests, his Scout mission has been carried out regardless of his personal health and family ties, and is worthy of the highest praise.' The four others went to Jens Hvass (Denmark), Salvador Fernandez Bertram (Latin America), Herman van Voorst tot Voorst (Netherlands) and T. Glad Bincham (Great Britain) – 'For outstanding work accomplished during and after the Second World War in assisting the restoration of Scouting in many countries and in saving and sustaining individual Scouts and Scouters.'

The World Chief Guide was also presented with a specially bound book containing the signatures of the Chief Scouts or Presidents of the Member Associations of the Conference, together with the badge of each Association in full colour.

The one vitally important decision of the Conference was the acceptance, after a lengthy, but always friendly, discussion, of the International Committee's recommendation that the office of the International Bureau should be moved from London to Ottawa, Canada. The main reasons given for this proposed move were that additional resources and organisational contacts were to be found in North America, and that it was advisable to have the Bureau in a country not too exposed to world politics. It is better to state the bare fact of the decision than to go into all the pros and cons put forward.

At the closing session I bade farewell to the Conference which I had endeavoured to serve to the best of my ability for over thirty years, and quoted from an unknown source, "Tradition is not so much a matter of what those who went before have done, as of what those who come after make of their heritage." We have a great heritage. It is up to you to make of it what you will.'

Olave, Lady Baden-Powell concluded by saying:

Thus, as a Movement in full success, we can achieve the greater value for the greater good of the greater number of the youngsters we are serving today. We look to the past with joyous thankfulness. We look round today with great pride and happiness at the achievements and the way we have overcome all those difficulties which are a test of our skill. We look forward with tremendous confidence in the Tightness of our task and the perfection of the tool which we have in our hands. May I remind you of what I said at the end of that great gathering at Sutton Park: 'The end is only the beginning.'

So ended another phase in the first fifty years of the Scout Movement. On January 1st, 1958, the office of the Boy Scouts International Bureau opened in the Commonwealth Building, Ottawa, Canada.

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**Tradition**

*My trail through the past forty years – three tracking rules – the missionary spirit – a summary of the Scout idea – an allegory*

**I**N bringing this story of Scouting round the world to an end, I retrace my own personal trail through the past forty years. My last words to the Boy Scouts International Conference were: 'We have a great heritage. It is up to you to make of it what you will.'

In the main I have been following three well-known tracking rules:

*Take your landmarks when you start and look back occasionally as you go along.*

Anyone who desires to make a success of Scouting as a leader – be it on a local, national or international basis – must have a clear idea of what Scouting stands for, and also of what he himself proposes to do through it. The Movement's aims, principles and methods are clearly stated, and have been proved sound in the past fifty years. I know from what I have seen, heard and experienced that the three rules have made for success. At times and in places, various departures and exceptions have been made, and have produced a set-up quite foreign to Scouting, which have ultimately met with little, if any, success. Mussolini claimed that he had improved on the Boy Scouts. What was the result? Compulsion of any kind is contrary to the Scout idea.

My own endeavours have been to emphasise the soundness of B.-P.'s original ideas, both from my own personal convictions and following the fixed determination of the Boy Scouts International Conference from the time of its inception. This is not a matter of extreme conservatism or of failure to move with the times; rather is it a proof that the basic outlook of Scouting is true for all time. Conditions and circumstances may differ and change, but the track goes on just the same, even if at times interfered with or obscured. One has only to read some of B.-P.'s early talks and writings, as for example one on disarmament in 1905, to realise that they contain fundamental truths. The more I have travelled, the more have I realised that Scouting is for yesterday, for today and for tomorrow.

*Get a comprehensive view of the whole track.*

Scouting cannot be examined and regarded in bits and pieces, but only as a whole. It is because of its comprehensiveness that it has spread so widely and appealed to so many different kinds and conditions of men – and boys. Aims, principles, methods, all must be taken together.

The Promise and the Law are the governing factors, and that is Scouting's strongest link internationally. My belief is that the introduction of the Good Turn was a stroke of genius. One sees evidence of that throughout these pages. Fifty years ago it seemed absurd to many that young people should wish to be helpful, not merely destructive. The idea not only appealed to boys – and girls – but it hit the public imagination and attracted attention and support. That is still the case today – witness the young Philippine Scout's reply: 'So as to learn to be helpful.'

As organisation has grown in each country, there has developed an almost inevitable tendency for the machine to be regarded as more important than the product. This is apt to lead down a false trail. Adventure and fun must not be eliminated from a Scout's training. Both are essential to his voluntary self-development, to attract his interest and to preserve the proper balance of body, mind and spirit. Mankind has always set out to conquer difficulties and dangers, and still does. The climbing of Everest and the crossing of the Antarctic continent are not attempted for solely scientific reasons, but so that man can pit himself against forces known and unknown. So it is with boys, too, on a smaller but none the less important scale. Happiness was perhaps the keynote of B.-P.'s message.

So, if we are to follow the right trail, we must preserve the elemental simplicity of Scouting, and not obscure it with too many rules and regulations – which can only lead to regimentation.

*Look into the eye of the sun.*

‘Tradition is not so much a matter of what those who went before have done, as of what those who come after make of their heritage.’

When one looks into the eye of the sun, the track becomes clearer, each little detail sharper. The future of Scouting is bright indeed, if we take our landmarks when we start and get a comprehensive view of the whole idea. In fifty years the experiment has grown into an International Movement, containing twelve million boys and girls, and, say, fifty million men and women who have followed the trail and, please God, continue to do so.

I earnestly hope that the missionary spirit so evident in the early days will never be lost. It is that more than anything, perhaps, which has helped the spread of Scouting. I know that that spirit still lives. I have seen it in action, particularly in those parts of the world which are less developed than others. I have by me a letter from a Scouter in Sarawak, who started a Scout Troop and a Cub Pack in a Japanese concentration camp during the last war. He writes of the Dyak and Chinese Troops and Packs he has recently started off, and of his immediate future plans. ‘If this comes off,’ he writes, ‘it will be the twenty-fourth Cub Pack I have started in the last twelve years.’ While that kind of spirit remains, Scouting will continue to grow and prosper – *naturally*, as B.-P. persisted in saying.

The whole of the Scout idea – the sun to which we look – was summed up in a resolution of the Boy Scouts International Conference at its meeting in Cambridge in August 1957, a meeting which was in its way the climax to the celebrations for the Centenary of the birth of the Chief Scout of the World, and the Golden Jubilee of the Boy Scout Movement:

The Conference reaffirms its faith in the fundamental principles of Scouting, as founded by the former Chief Scout of the World, the late Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell:

Duty to God.

Loyalty to one’s own country.

Faith in world friendship and brotherhood.

Accepting, freely undertaking and practising the ideals set forth in the Scout Law and Promise.

Independence of political influence.

Voluntary membership.

The unique system of training, based on the Patrol System, activities in the open air and learning by doing,

Service to others.

The Conference firmly believes that these principles, which have proved so successful, strongly contribute towards the formation of character in the boy of today, the man of tomorrow, to the great benefit of any nation and, through the spread of understanding and unity of purpose, of the world as a whole.

May this be our endeavour in the strengthening of freedom and peace.

If we will, we can all – Scouts or not – capture the thought that lay behind an allegory I wrote shortly after my son had taken his Promise as a Wolf Cub:

And the sun shone on the mountain which lay ahead, and whose top was lost in the clouds.

But Jamie knew in his heart that he would not attain to the very top in his present life, although he was determined to climb as high as was possible.

And Jamie awoke from his dream, and he saw a ray of the early morning sun falling athwart his green Cub jersey, which he had laid last night across the back of his chair, and the ray lit up the “Wolf Cub badge which his mother had so lately sewn thereon.

‘What was it,’ he mused, ‘Akela said last night when I had made the Promise?’

‘You are now a “Wolf Cub and one of the Great World-wide Brotherhood of Scouts.’

‘Hurrah!’

## APPENDIX

### *Translations of Passages appearing in French*

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The memories I have of my years with the Scouts make it a very special and personal pleasure for me to come today and to relive them here among you, and to pay homage to the spirit of Baden-Powell, the Founder of the wonderful movement which can be said to have transformed the life of the young people of our time. I know that at your age one gives without counting the cost, the more so if it is hard, and above all if it is heroic. I know that you are capable of living your own personal lives and of spreading around you an ideal of sincerity and absolute loyalty to your leaders and to the great ideas which lead the world.

This is what I ask you to aim at with all the energy of true Scouts and of true Guides.

In an age when so many think only of their rights, you should be among those who think only of their duties.

I am delighted to feel around me this spirit of Scout fraternity, which can equally well embody in one movement every social class, every different race, and the most varied human tendencies.

Page 148.

France is happy to welcome you to this sixth Jamboree. You know what tragic events have delayed its taking place for ten years. We have named it the Jamboree of Peace, and by this name we place it under the care, the patronage of our Founder and Chief for all time, Leader Baden-Powell of Gilwell. May his spirit imbue us all during the course of this Jamboree – the first which will not be inspired by his noble presence – but where we shall nevertheless feel him among us, happy in our joy, happy above all because of our brotherly spirit.

Page 151.

In a world searching for new forms of communal life, the Scout movement is conscious of having found the right equilibrium between the demands of collective life, the constant care for the welfare of others, and the intangible respect for mankind. But it would be useless to proclaim our ideal unless we ourselves practise it in our daily life. In this way each one of us will contribute to make it known and valued, in order to establish in the world an atmosphere of brotherhood and of peace.

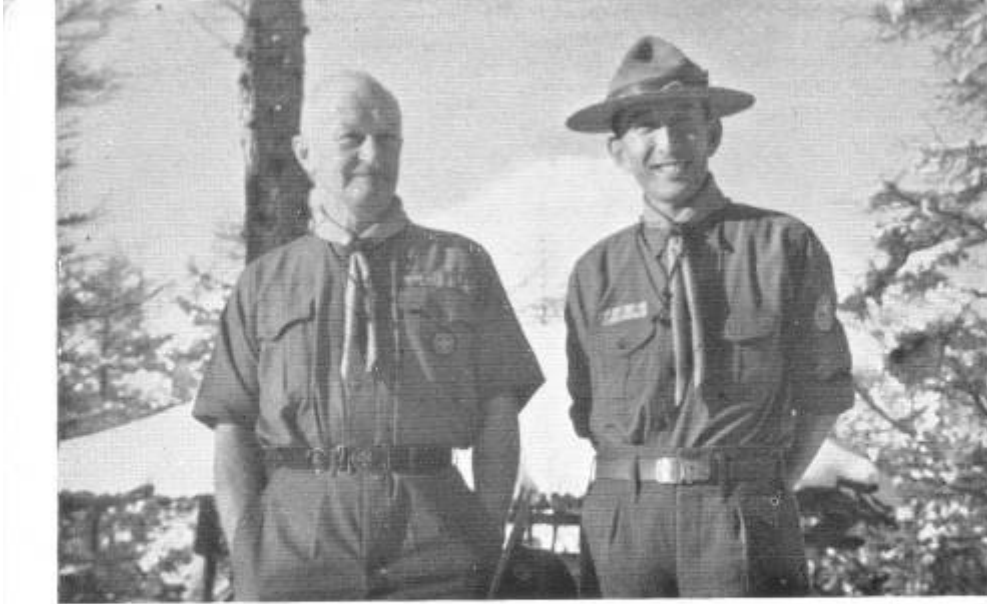
B.-P. and Lord Somers watching display of Scottish dancing with Jack Stewart, the producer, at the Vogeleisang Jamboree, 1937.



*(Below)*

The Boy Scouts International Committee at Buckingham Palace, November 1945. L. to R.: Sir Alfred Pickford, General Lafont, Dr James E. West, H.M. King George VI, Prince Gustaf Adolf, J.S.W., Lord Rowallan, Ove Holm, Lord Hampton.





J.S.W. with Michiharu Mishima, Chief Scout of Japan, at the National Training Camp, Lake Yamanaka, on the slopes of Mt Fujiyama, December 1952.

Australian Scouts in camp,







A British Scouter welcomes Philippine Scouts on their way to a Jamboree.

A welcoming party in Singapore, 1953.



J.S.W. off on an inland flight in Indonesia, 1953.





The President and Vice-President of the Boy Scouts International Committee with the Chief Scout for South Africa, at the Centenary-Jubilee Jamboree, 1957.



Father Gustavo Habersperger, Salvador Fernandez and J.S.W. with the Colegio Recoleta Scout Group, Lima, in 1948.



Dan Beard, National Commissioner of the Boy Scouts of America, with U.S. Scouts.

Trinidad Scout Steel Band at the Eighth World Jamboree, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Canada, 1955.





Greek Sea Scout greets J.S.W. at the Sea Scout Base shortly after his arrival at Athens airport, 1950.

Work in Patrol Corners at Tel Aviv, Israel, 1951.



J.S.W. greets the Scouters of the Group at the Kafr El Dawar Textile Factory near Alexandria, 1950.





A Patrol of German Scouts making a camp mattress.  
*Photo by Arthur Hamer.*

International Commissioners from all over the world meet during the Seventh World Jamboree at Bad Ischl, Austria, 1951.



J.S.W. is informally introduced to Czechoslovak Scouts on arrival in Prague, April 1947.





Pathfinder Scouts off on a hike in South Africa.



A Muslim Boy Scout from Northern Nigeria.