THE BADEN-POWELL STORY

1965

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 21st century. For reasons of historical accuracy they have been preserved in their original form.

If you find them offensive, we ask you to please delete this file from your system.

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FOREWORD

Here’s a booklet about Baden-Powell’s “two lives”. His boyhood and exciting career as a soldier as “life number one” and his “second life” the period of founding and organizing the Boy Scout Movement.

It was not possible to show in pictures all the things he did in these “two lives” of his; however, you will find all the highlights.

After you have read this booklet, you will have a better appreciation and understanding of Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell – the Founder of the Boy Scout Movement.

BOOKS WRITTEN BY BADEN-POWELL

1883 On Vedette. An easy Aide-memoire. (This is a folded card.)
1884 Reconnaissance and Scouting
1885 Cavalry Instruction
1889 Pigsticking or Hoghunting (Revised edition, 1924)
1896 The Downfall of Prempeh
1897 The Matabele Campaign
1899 Aids to Scouting for N.C.O.s and Men
1900 Sport in War
1907 Sketches from Mafeking and East Africa
1908 Scouting for Boys, Parts I to VI (Complete edition, 1908)
1909 Yarns for Boy Scouts
1910 Scouting Games
1912 The Handbook for Girl Guides. (In collaboration with Agnes Baden-Powell)
1913 Boy Scouts Beyond the Seas
1914 Quick Training for War
1915 Marksmanship for Boys
   My Adventures as a Spy
   (Re-issued as The Adventures of a Spy – 1924)
   Indian Memories
1916 Young Knights of the Empire
   The Wolf Cub’s Handbook
1917 Girl Guiding
1919 Aids to Scoutmastership
1921 An Old Wolf’s Favourites
   What Scouts Can Do
1922 Rovering to Success
1927 Life’s Snags, and How to Meet Them
1929 Scouting and Youth Movements
1933 Lessons from the ‘Varsity of Life
1934 Adventures and Accidents
1935 Scouting Round the World
1936 Adventuring to Manhood
1937 African Adventures
1938 Birds and Beasts in Africa
1939 Paddle Your Own Canoe
1940 More Sketches of Kenya
1941 B.-P.’s Outlook (Selections from The Scouter)

His father, who was a distinguished clergyman & professor at Oxford, died when B.-P. was 3 years old.
HE DEVELOPED HIS DRAWING TALENT AND WAS AMBIDEXTROUS. HE HAD A FLAIR FOR WRITING ALSO.

HIS FIRST PREPARATORY SCHOOL WAS AT TUNBRIDGE WELLS.

B-P SATT FOR SCHOLARSHIPS TO PRIVATE SCHOOLS WHEN HE WAS 13 & WAS SUCCESSFUL IN WINNING A SCHOLARSHIP TO CHARTERHOUSE IN 1970.
On school holidays, B.-P. and his brothers travelled far and wide on camping trips, boating and cruising. Here, we learned much of outdoor life.

He entered into many activities during his school life... acting, singing, cadet corps, sports, art and the orchestra.
In 1873, Charterhouse School moved to Godalming, Surrey. It was in a nearby wood that B-P. furthered his knowledge of nature and outdoor lore.

Dr. Haig Brown, headmaster at Charterhouse, encouraged him to sit for army exams. He was successful and was commissioned as lieutenant in the 1879 Hussars.
B-P Sailed directly to join his regiment in Lucknow, India on December 16, 1876.

Here he took courses in surveying & reconnaissance. B-P was a good soldier & took every opportunity to better himself in his army career.

In 1879, he was sent home to England on sick leave.

He rejoined his regiment in 1880 on the northwest frontier of India.
B-P. Lost no time in training his men in military scouting.

He was promoted to Captain in 1883. He won the Kadir Cup for pig-sticking.

In 1884, the regiment was sent to Durban, South Africa. B-P carried out 640 mile reconnaissance of Natal Frontier.
Following the campaign, B.-P. spent 4 years in England and was again posted to Africa to assist in quelling a Zulu rebellion.

Dinizulu the chief surrendered and the uprising put down. For his work in this campaign, B.-P. was promoted to major in 1888.
Dinizulu surrendered and as a token of surrender presented B-P with his necklace of wooden beads. B-P later used these as a design for the Wood Badge.

In 1891, he was appointed military intelligence officer for the Mediterranean, engaged in many spying missions.

B-P was sent to Africa in 1895 to put down rebellions led by Prempeh, an evil tribal king. He joined Sir Francis Scott and led the expedition into Ashanti country.
HUMAN SACRIFICE

His scouting party arrived at Prempeh’s village ahead of the main force and in so doing prevented Prempeh’s escape.

Prempeh was caught & tried and the human sacrifices and raids ended. B-P confiscated the blood bowl used in the sacrifices.
LT. COLONEL

Back to England in 1895 and promoted to Lt-Colonel rejoining his regiment in Ireland.

In the same year he returned to Southern Rhodesia to assist in putting down the Matebele rebellion.
B.-P. joined General Carrington in Bulawayo. He led many expeditions and raids whittling down the Matabele strength.

He was ordered to capture an important witch doctor, Unwin.

B.-P. did capture him & the natives were ready for peace.
The Baden-Powell Story

The campaign over B.-P.
rode to Capetown with
Cecil Rhodes, the great
explorer.

He returned to England in
1897 and wrote "The Matabele
Campaign." He was appointed
to command the Fifth
Dragoons in India.

Parting with the 13th Hussars
after 21 years was a sad moment.
The demonstration of the regiment
was a great honour to B.-P.
BACK TO INDIA

HE INTRODUCED NEW TRAINING METHODS, HEALTH & FITNESS PROGRAMMES, & EMERGENCY DRILLS TO HIS NEW COMMAND.

REGIMENTAL SCOUT PATROLS WERE ORGANIZED & TRAINED. THEY WERE AWARDED BADGES OF PROFICIENCY OF THE ARROWHEAD DESIGN.

HE WROTE AN OUTLINE OF AN ARMY TRAINING MANUAL — “AIDS TO SCOUTING.”
He was returned to England in 1899 & left immediately for South Africa where war threatened with the Boers.

In three months Colonel Baden-Powell had recruited and trained two regiments in Bechuanaland.
He was posted to Mafeking with his regiment to guard army storage depots.

With only 1,000 men, he set up a network of forts and trenches, by bluff and quick sorties kept the Boers off-balance.

While here he mailed proofs of his new book, "Aids to Scouting," just before war was declared on Oct. 11, 1899. Over 3,000 Boers advanced on Mafeking.
HE USED AN IMPROVISED ARMOURED TRAIN & MADE BISCUIT TIN SEARCHLIGHTS.

OLD TIN CAN GRENADES WERE THROWN BY USING A FISHING ROD.

HE GAVE ORDERS BY A MEGAPHONE TO IMAGINARY TROOPS.

ON SUNDAYS, A DAY OF TRUCE, THE BOERS WATCHED WHILE THE BRITISH STEPPED OVER "BARBED WIRE". IT WAS A BLUFF.
HE ORGANIZED BOYS INTO THE MAEKENING CADET CORPS. B-P. WAS IMPRESSED BY THEIR EFFICIENCY.

ON MAY 17, 1900, AFTER 217 DAYS OF SIEGE, MAEKENING WAS RELIEVED. B-P.'S BROTHER WAS IN THIS FORCE.

B-P. BECAME A NATIONAL HERO. SHE SENT A CONGRATULATORY TELEGRAM. BY QUEEN VICTORIA, SHE PROMOTED HIM TO MAJOR GENERAL.
Later in 1900 he was asked to form the South African Constabulary. He was greeted in Cape Town by vast cheering throngs.

By June 1901, the Constabulary was organized & trained. B.P. was sent to England for a rest.

On leave he found that his book "Aids to Scouting" was being used by thousands of boys & teachers.
AT THE END OF 1901 B-P. WAS BACK AGAIN IN JOHANNESBERG. THE WAR ENDED IN 1902 & THE CONSTABULARY BEGAN ITS REAL WORK OF MAINTAINING LAW & ORDER.

I've been offered the Inspector Generalship of Cavalry.

Accept. It's the Blue Riband.

IN 1903, HE WAS APPOINTED INSPECTOR GENERAL OF CAVALRY. HE TOURED MANY COUNTRIES INCLUDING CANADA.

He was fond of Canada. On his many tours of our country he took time to fish and camp.
THE WORK BEGINS...

In 1907, he drafted out ideas for training boys from his experiences with Mafeking Cadets and his wide travels.

After an inspection of the boys' brigades, Sir William Smith, the founder, encouraged him to write a boys' edition of "Aids to Scouting."

In 1907, he sent his first outline of the book to youth leaders throughout England. Mr. Arthur Pearson, the influential publisher, encouraged him in his work.
Brownsea Island

He held a successful week's experimental scout camp July 25-Aug. 1, 1907 at Brownsea Island. He used the patrol system.

Following the camp he was sure that his ideas for the training of youth were sound.

Boys wrote Scouting for Boys in a windmill on Wimbleton Common & in Jan., 1908 the book appeared in six fortnightly parts. This year scouting started in Canada.

Scouting caught on boys across the country formed patrols. They asked men to become their scoutmasters & troops began in schools & clubs.
The Scout magazine started on April 14, 1908. It was soon obvious that there was need for a special scout organization.

1909 was the year of the first rallies. Over 11,000 scouts attended at Crystal Palace and 6,000 at Glasgow.

Girls were interested too. B-P realized that a similar organization was needed.
KNIGHTED-1909

Later in 1909, B.-P. was knighted by King Edward VII. On this occasion the King's Scout rank was established with the Sovereign's approval.

B.-P. resigned from the Army on King Edward's advice so that he could devote all his time to the growing youth movement.

King Edward VII died in 1910. He had been a great patron of Scouting and had encouraged B.-P. in many of his endeavours.
Canadian Tour - 1910

August 1910 found B-P in Canada. Two English Scout Patrols also arrived. They gave displays in Quebec City, Toronto, Winnipeg, and Banff. Although Scouting had already been established in Canada, this tour added impetus to its growth in this country.

In 1910 the Girl Guides were begun and in the same year, the Sea Scouts were introduced.

He visited U.S.A. & offered ideas for Scouting there. He also visited Russia & discussed Scouting with the Czar.
On July 4, 1911 a Royal Scout Review was held by King George V. Over 30,000 Scouts including a Canadian contingent assembled at Windsor for this historic inspection. Lord Grey, Governor-General, became Canada's first Chief Scout.

In 1912 B-P began an 18-month world tour of scouting in the West Indies, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Canada, Japan & the U.S.A. It was on this trip that he met his future wife.
ON OCTOBER 30, 1912 B-P. WAS MARRIED TO OLAVE ST-CLAIR SOAMES AT PARKSTONE, DORSET.

SCOUTS COLLECTED A FUND IN ORDER TO BUY THE COUPLE A CAR FOR THEIR WEDDING PRESENT.

AN ACT OF PARLIAMENT INCORPORATED BOY SCOUTS IN CANADA. THERE WERE 13,565 SCOUTS IN CANADA.
He developed the proficiency badge system to encourage hobbies & handicrafts.

In the first hours, scouts were guarding bridges, telegraph lines & other strategic locations.

B.P. put his mobilization plan into action when war was declared in 1914.
B.P. volunteered for active service but was told that the Boy Scouts were important and that he should remain with them.

In 1914, Sea Scouts took over Coast Guard stations and carried out duties until 1920.
IN 1916 LADY B-P BECAME CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF GUIDING IN THE EMPIRE.

EARLY IN 1916, B-P ORGANIZED THE WOLF CUB SECTION E. THE WOLF CUBS HANDBOOK WAS PUBLISHED. CORRESPONDENCE COURSES & TRAINING CAMPS FOR THE LEADERS WERE STARTED.

THE WAR ENDED ON NOV. 11, 1918. OVER 150,000 SCOUTS HAD SERVED EARNING 11 VICTORIA CROSSES.
In 1910 Gilwell Park was opened as an international training centre & camp. The site had been presented by Mr. W. D. Bois-Murray.

The first Jamboree was held at Olympia, July 29, 1920. B.P. was proclaimed Chief Scout of the World. The World Bureau started.
Rovering to Success was published in 1922 to assist Rovers in that section of the Movement which had been started in 1917.

B-P. visited Canada in 1919 and 1923 on nation-wide tours.
From now on the Scout Symbol of Peace is the Golden Arrow. Carry it fast and far so that all men may know the Brotherhood of Man.

The coming-of-age of the movement was celebrated in 1929 at Arrowe Park, Birkenhead, England. The scouts presented B.P. with a Rolls Royce car & camp trailer.

This is a wonderful atmosphere high above man-made Jazz and the squalor of town.

I regard this as an honour to Scouting. I should like it if the title Baden-Powell of Gilwell.

He was elevated to the peerage and took the title Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell.

In 1931, the 1st World Rover Moot was held at Kandersteg, Switzerland. Lady B.P. was elected Chief Guide of the World. – 1933 – the 25th Anniversary of Scouting & the 3rd World Jamboree, Hungary.
In 1934, he set off on a world tour of organization.

In 1938, he visited Canada. La Fédération des Scouts Catholiques de la Province de Québec and Salvation Army Scouts affiliated with association.
In August 1937 the 4th World Jamboree was held in Holland. B-P spoke to the great assembly realizing that this was to be his last public appearance to the Scouts of the World.

B-P had worked hard and on medical advice he retired to Kenya, in South Africa, in 1938. He spent the last years of his life here in the Africa he loved.
On Jan 8, 1941, he died peacefully and was buried at Nyeri, Kenya. A memorial tablet was placed in Westminster Abbey honouring his great work for youth.