

## Baden-Powell

The name Baden-Powell is well known and respected throughout the world. He was a man who, in his 83 years of life, devoted himself to the service of his country in two different ways. One as a



soldier fighting for his country, and the other as a worker for peace through the brotherhood of the Scout Movement.

B-P was born at 6 Stanhope Street, Paddington, London the 22nd of February, 1857. When B-P was only 3 his Father died and the family weren't left well off.

B-P's first School was Rose Hill School where he gained a scholarship for Charterhouse School, it was in London when he first started going but later moved to Godalming, Surrey. This was a factor which had great influence in his later life.

B-P was always eager to learn new skills. He played the piano and fiddle, he acted and he even practised bricklaying. It was while he was at Charterhouse he began to exploit his interests in the arts of Scouting and woodcraft.

In the woods around school B-P would, unofficially, stalk his masters as well as catch and cook rabbits. He and his brothers were always looking for adventures and in the holidays they would do activities such as camping, sailing and canoeing. These skills would prove extremely useful professionally.

At school B-P was certainly not a 'swot' as his reports revealed. Nevertheless, he gained second place in a cavalry examination and was taken straight into the army. He became a colonel in the 13th Hussars for 30 years. From the start his army career was outstanding, in 1899 he became Major-General at only 43.

He published a book called 'Aids to Scouting.'. When he returned, in 1903, to England after being in South Africa he found youth leaders all over England had been using the book. At a meeting Sir William Smith (the founder of the Boys Brigade) asked him to work out a scheme for giving boys a greater variety of training.

### The Start of the Movement

B-P set to work rewriting 'Aids to Scouting' this time for a younger audience.

He held an experimental camp on Brownsea Island in Poole, Dorset in 1907 for 22 boys he had brought together. Some from public schools and some from working class homes and put them in camp under his leadership. The whole world now knows the results of that camp.

In 1908 'Scouting for Boys' was published in six fortnightly parts costing four old pennies a copy. The book sold tremendously. Boys formed themselves into Scout patrols to try ideas. What B-P had intended for existing organisations had become the handbook for a new, worldwide movement. B-P's great understanding of boys obviously caught

the eye of boys in this and other countries.

Scout troops began forming all over the country. Eventually, in 1908, B-P had to set up an office to deal with all the enquiries about the movement.

Scouting spread through the British Commonwealth and into other countries, like the plague spread through England, until it was set up in practically all part of the free world.

Even the few countries where scouting is not allowed to exist readily, admit they use it's methods for their own youths' development.

As Inspector General of Cavalry, B-P thought he had reached the height of his career. The post of Field Marshall was within his grasp but in 1910 he retired when he was 53. The King suggested he should concentrate on the Boy Scout Movement (now the Scout Movement). As he said, 'this would be more valuable to the country than being a soldier'.

So, now all his energy and enthusiasm was directed towards Scouting and its development also its sort of sister, Guiding. He started travelling all over the world, wherever he was needed most, encouraging the growth of the movement and giving inspiration that only he could give.

He married a woman called Olave Soames in 1912. She was his constant help and companion in his work. They had 3 children, Peter, Heather and Betty. Olave, Lady Baden Powell, was known as World Chief Guide until she died in 1977. B-P sadly died in 1941 on the 8th of January.

## Chief Scouts of the UK

The people who were Chief Scouts of the UK were very important as they were the people who directed all or most of the national activity in the UK. These are their names listed in order of when they were Chief Scout:

Lord Baden-Powell.

Chief Scout, 1908-1941



Lord Somers.

Chief Scout, 1941-1944



Lord Rowallan.

Chief Scout, 1945-1959



Lord MacLean.

Chief Scout, 1959-1971



Sir William Gladstone.

Chief Scout, 1972-1982

Major General Michael J.H. Walsh.

Chief Scout, 1982-1988

William Garth Morrison.

Chief Scout, 1988-1996

George Purdy.

Chief Scout, 1996-2003

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Chief Scout, 2003-present.

