



May

THE BRITISH-POLISH  
GUIDE AND SCOUT FRIENDS  
45, Belgrave Square, London, S.W.1

1945



*The Rownica mountain, as seen from the Guiders' Training School at Bucze,  
in Silesia.*

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## EDITORIAL

Dear Friend;

The many friends of Poland who have enjoyed these bulletins from Polish Scout and Guide Headquarters may be interested to know that their publication has now been taken over by the British-Polish Guide and Scout Friends, and they will in future give news of the activities of the Friends as well as of Polish Scouting and Guiding.

Further details of the British-Polish Scout and Guide Friends will be found on the next page, and all Scouts and Guides interested are welcome to join.

We are very proud to take over the editing of "Czuwaj—Be Prepared" and will do our best to keep up the high standard set by the Polish Scouts and Guides Association.

Copies will be sent to all the members, as well as to those who have hitherto received them, and we hope you will still want to read them. If not, please let us know. We shall also be glad to know of any changes of address.

Finally, contributions and suggestions will be welcomed from members of the British-Polish Scout and Guide Friends, and should be sent to the British secretary.

THE EDITORS.

## THANK YOU—DZIEKUJE

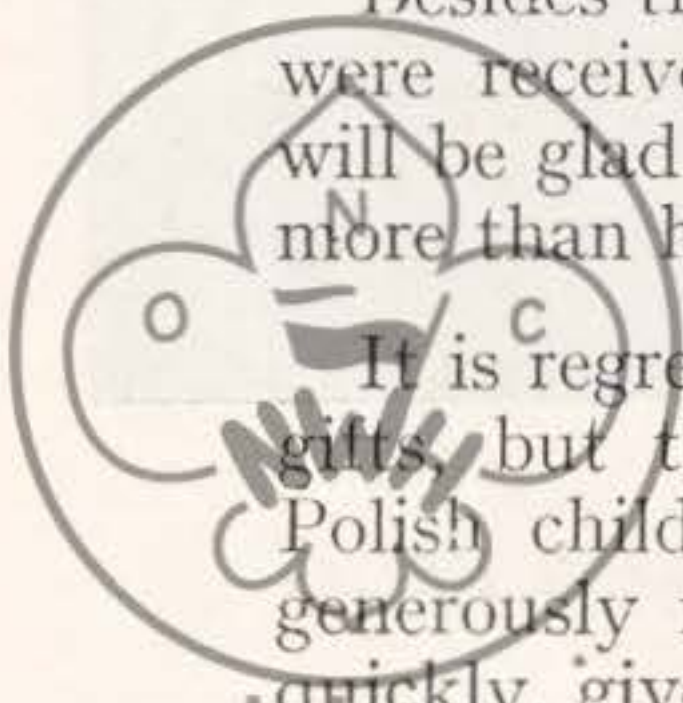
Despite the very short notice there was a splendid response to the Christmas Parcels scheme, showing that keen desire to help which will always overcome difficulties.

The parcels contained a wonderful variety of articles—dozens of cakes of soap being an outstanding feature! Guides and Scouts had given up their sweet rations to send chocolate for their Polish brothers and sisters, and had sent soft toys for the babies—Guide Headquarters also sent a lovely parcel of toys of all sorts—and there were even some uniforms amongst the clothing sent, and many other useful things. In spite of transport difficulties, the parcels all reached France safely.

But even more than the parcels themselves, much needed and appreciated though we know they would be, most of all the Polish Guides and Scouts were gratefully cheered by the thoughts of Scout friendship—British-Polish friendship indeed.

Besides the gifts in kind, generous donations for the Christmas parcels were received by the surprised and delighted Treasurer. The donors will be glad to know that through their help it was possible to do much more than had been expected or even hoped in such a short time.

It is regretted that it was not possible to acknowledge all the welcome gifts, but the Committee would like now to thank, on behalf of the Polish children, every Guide and Scout friend who so promptly and generously rallied to the first call, remembering that "He who gives quickly, gives twice."





## BRITISH-POLISH SCOUT AND GUIDE FRIENDS

"British-Polish Guide and Scout Friends" has been formed to assist in maintaining and extending the friendships which have grown up between British and Polish Guides and Scouts during the war.

The presence of our Polish friends in this country has given us a unique opportunity of getting to know them, and has given us a much deeper sense of International Sisterhood and Brotherhood than could have been possible through short visits and correspondence which were our means in peacetime.

This new sense of friendship must be maintained and the Guide International Companies and Scout Link-Up Scheme have been devised to bring us into closer touch with friends across the sea. Within this wider framework which embraces all countries, the "British-Polish Guide and Scout Friends" is designed to keep in touch with each other those of us who have "linked-up" with the Guides and Scouts of Poland, and to provide a channel through which our Polish friends may the more easily keep in touch with us.

The restoration of Scouting and Guiding in occupied Europe will be an enormous task, in which we must all take a hand. In the case of Poland, where disruption and disorganisation of the country has been carried out with such brutal and methodical thoroughness, the need will not only be very great, but the work will be seriously complicated by the mass movements of the population which have taken place.

We hope that by our organisation, in which British and Polish members both take part, we can assist greatly in the work. Some of us through personal friendships know which town or district in Poland we want to link up with. Others wait to be told where friends are looking for us, but for the present communications remain closed. Some specific help of an immediate nature can be carried out, such as the parcels recently sent to Polish Scouts in France, so that we have already been able to put our Fourth Law into practical effect.

For the most part, however, our work must be preparatory, getting ready for the day when we can start our main task. Here our Polish members advise us as to the most useful things to collect and prepare, and later, as to their packing and transport, and in the case of smaller gifts, it may be possible for us to arrange a central depot in this country for bulk despatch.

Then you may in your part of Britain have good ideas for helping which others would like to know. We are hoping to send out periodical bulletins with news of our Polish friends and also of Polish Scouting activities, so we hope you will let us know what you are doing.

Looking forward to happier times when new friends from Poland come to Britain for the first time, they will want to see our country, and with a nation-wide network of friends their programme of visits can be easily mapped out.

For the present we have a joint Committee of eighteen members—six British Guides, six British Scouts and six representatives of the Polish Girl Guides and Boy Scouts Association.

The first Committee has been chosen from as many different parts of the country as possible, and if you want any further information, your local representative or the Hon. Secretary will be delighted to supply it.

To cover the expenses of postages, etc., we ask you for a registration fee of 2s. 6d. per year. Companies and groups or Patrols may become corporate members for the same fee, and will receive communications keeping them in touch with what is going on. This, however, does not automatically constitute membership of the official Guide or Scout Headquarters schemes, and companies and groups are accordingly advised to register there also. We hope to hear from you.

W. WILSON M. ROSS,  
Chairman.

## A BRITISH COMPANY AND THEIR POLISH FRIENDS

Some months ago, the Ulverston/Cumberland/District Girl Guides adopted a Polish Guide Company, and have already raised a considerable sum of money to help equip the Company and to help the Guides still left in Poland.

In January the District was honoured by a visit from a Polish Scoutmaster, who told an eager audience of Guides, Brownies and Scouts about the history of the Movement in Poland—of deeds of gallantry performed by some of the youngest members, and of some of the sufferings which their fellow Guides and Scouts are experiencing. He explained that to be a Scout or a Guide in Poland was to carry one's life in one's hand.

He also stressed the vital need for a better understanding between peoples and said that the Scout and Guide Movement was one of the surest means of achieving that.

The Millom Guides and Brownies have received very interesting letters and Christmas cards from the Polish Guides and Brownies living in Balachadi, India. The letters describe how the Polish girls are carrying on their great traditions of Guiding amid many difficulties. Active games are frequently impossible, owing to the heat, and tracking can only be practised in the immediate vicinity of the settlement. Even among such alien surroundings, the Guides and Brownies are cheerful and happy, keenly interested in all their new experiences and anxious to hear all about the British Companies and Packs with which they are affiliated.

The Millom Brownies, very proud of their Polish friends, are busy making a scrap-book to send to India. In this book they are putting everything which is likely to help the Polish Brownies to picture life in Millom—photographs of the district and of the Brownies themselves, pictures and drawings of flowers and birds, descriptions of their meetings, their games, their schools—even scraps of material from their party frocks and from their best hair-ribbons!

MARY LIDSTER.

The Guides and Brownies of this little, scattered district in Cumberland have now raised the grand total of £156 to help their Polish sisters. Cumberland has set the pace—who will follow?

## LIST OF COMMITTEE

Names and addresses of Committee Members are as follows:—

Chairman : W. Wilson M. Ross, 7, The Drive, Crossgates, Leeds.

Vice-Chairman : Dr. Ludwik Bar, 16, Chantrey House, Eccleston Street, London, S.W.1.

Hon. Secretaries : Miss Muriel Wynzar, 15, Eversley Crescent, Osterley, Mddx.

Miss Ewa Karpinska, Harcerstwo, 45, Belgrave Square, London, S.W.1.

Hon. Treasurer : Mrs. F. B. Wood, 29, Gloucester Avenue, Regents Park, London, N.W.1.

### *British Guides.*

Miss P. Powell, 35, West End Avenue, Pinner, Middlesex.

Miss O. Nicholl, Clevis Cottage, Newton, Porthcawl, Glamorganshire.

Miss A. Craig, West Schoolhouse, St. Andrews, Fifeshire.

Mrs. R. Phillips, The Chase, Sible Hedingham, Halstead, Essex.

Mrs. G. Humphrey, Struan Hill, Crown Avenue, Inverness.

### *British Scouts.*

Mr. B. Allan, 1, Gas Cottages, Durham.

Mr. F. Meacock, 5a, Percy Street, Liverpool, 8.

Mrs. D. W. Dodds, 44, Charlotte Square, Edinburgh, 2.

Miss E. Duncan, The Homestead, Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire.

### *Zwiazek Harcerstwa Polskiego.*

Mrs. Anna Frackiewicz, The Haven, Balfour Street, Leven, Fifeshire.

Lt. Czeslaw Paluch, 16, Chantrey House, Eccleston Street, London, S.W.1.

Mr. Jerzy Lerski, 18, Kensington Palace Gardens, London, W.8.

### *Editorial Sub-Committee.*

Miss Ewa Karpinska.

Miss Mary Lidster.

Miss Muriel Wynzar.

Lt. C. Paluch.



## GLIMPSE OF THE POLISH SCOUT RALLY IN SCOTLAND

There was a Polish Scout Conference in Duddingston Camp near Edinburgh, on the 17th and 18th April. About 400 Rovers, Scouts, Rangers and Guiders took part in it, most of them serving in the Forces.

You have often heard about Polish Scouting being active all over the world—and here we had representatives of the movement from Poland itself, from France and Scotland, soldiers, sailors and airmen, Polish A.T.S., and W.A.A.Fs.—in one word, everybody and from everywhere.

It would really be interesting to have an interview with everyone of our brothers and sisters, as they sang at the camp fire. It is not exaggerating to say that a novel could be written about each of them, a real, thrilling story. Let us take just one example—Mira, a Ranger who is just 20. She was very active in the Underground in Poland, carried messages to prisoner of war camps deep into Germany. (She was 15 and 16 at that time!) was caught by the Gestapo and spent two dreadful years in the Oswiecim concentration camp. (You can see the number 27170 tattooed on her arm). Then she was taken into a German factory, from which she escaped to France in the end of 1944. Now she is in the Polish A.T.S., a small, dark-haired girl from Wilno, always laughing and smiling in spite of the unspeakable horror she has gone through.

And there were so many others—those who fought in France, Belgium and Holland, or in Africa and Italy, those who escaped from all sorts of German prisons and camps, and those who were forced to serve in the German Army and took the first opportunity to become prisoners of war and so join the Polish forces, someone who went twice to Poland and back to London, as a messenger to the Underground, the Chief Commissioner for Polish Scouts in France and so on. There is no room even to enumerate them.

General Gluchowski, Chief of the Polish units in Great Britain, Captain E. M'Intyre, Scottish Headquarters Secretary, and Mr. Jack Stewart, International Commissioner for Scotland, were guests at the camp fire, during which Dr. M. Grazynski, President of the Association, addressed the Guides and Scouts.

The weather was simply marvellous—quite un-Scottish, if I may say so without offending my Scottish friends, and the conference was really a great success. We discussed many important problems, such as the contribution of Scouters and Guiders towards the work of the Association, our tasks at the present moment and those we shall have to face in future, and so on.

We hope to tell you more about the rally itself in the next issue of "Czuwaj—Be Prepared."



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## NEWS IN BRIEF



On the 9th March Polish Rover Scouts from the 1st Armoured Division held a Conference at Breda, in Holland, a town which they had liberated from the Germans. About 130 Rovers were present, the representatives of Rover Crews, and they passed the following resolution:—

“At the moment, when two basic principles of Scout work are threatened—

The dignity of man and the liberty of the individual, on which the development of Scout character is based.

The independence of Poland, which country it is the duty of Polish Scouting to serve,

As members of the great family of Polish Scouts in Poland and scattered all over the world, able to express its views freely and fully convinced of the final victory of our ideals, this Meeting of Rover Scouts, soldiers of the First Division, resolves:—

1. To defend the dignity and liberty of the human being by preserving Scout ideals.
2. To defend Poland and the right to be Polish, and to extend those national feelings by constructive work in the Scout Movement.
3. To keep in close contact with the youth of those western countries who have joined us in this war, and who will always remain a pillar of human liberty, no matter what the course of future events might be.”

These Polish Rovers also organized an International Rovers Club in Breda, where Rovers from all Allied Armies used to meet.

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Rovers from the Second Polish Army Corps in Italy at Easter time organised many Camp Fires and meetings, at which they were tested for Scout badges.

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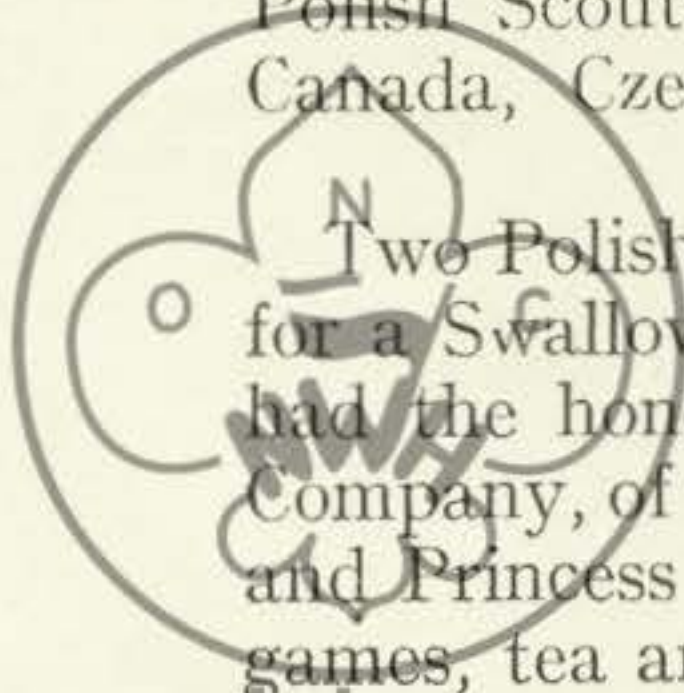
There are many Scouts among the 250 Polish Sea Cadets who have arrived in Great Britain. A troop of Polish Sea Scouts came all the way from India, and another came from Africa, from one of the Polish settlements there. They hope to continue their Scout work, as well as their training, in this country.

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On March 2nd the Harrow and Wealdstone Local Scouts Association organised an International Camp Fire, which from all accounts was a tremendous success. The Polish Chief Commissioner and several other Polish Scouts were present, as well as Scouts from Holland, Norway, Canada, Czechoslovakia and America.

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Two Polish Guides were among the “Golondrinas”—the Spanish name for a Swallow, which is the Guide term for visitors from overseas—who had the honour to be invited to visit the Windsor Castle Sea Ranger Company, of which Princess Elizabeth is Bosun. Both Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret Rose were present at the meeting which included games, tea and a camp-fire.



Lady Baden-Powell wrote as follows to the Polish Chief Commissioner acknowledging a copy of the book "Stones for the Rampart" which he had sent her.

"Thank you very much indeed for so kindly sending me the copy of this book, about your Rover Scouts in Poland.

I shall read it with much interest, and also with a profound sympathy for your Scouts and people, for I am sure that we ALL feel deeply for you, in all that Poland has suffered.

How I do hope that the Scout and Guide Movement may revive again by degrees there, and eventually be the splendid strong organisation for your youth that it was before the tragic days came upon Poland.

I hope that this book will be widely read, and I thank you very much for so kindly sending me this copy."

### DO YOU KNOW . . . ?

How much do you know about Polish Scouting? Do you know what the following words mean? Or what the letters on the Polish Scout Badge stand for?

HARCERSTWO—is the Polish word for Scouting, and includes Guiding as well.

ZUCH—is a Polish word meaning "Young Brave" and is the name for Wolf Cubs and Brownies.

Z.H.P.—stands for "Zwiazek Harcerstwa Polskiego," the Association of Polish Scouts and Guides.

O.N.C.—"Ojczyzna, Nauka, Cnota"—Fatherland, Knowledge, Virtue. This was the motto of Polish youth in Wilno, in the beginning of the 19th Century, when the Poles were struggling hard for their freedom. The most famous Polish poet, Adam Mickiewicz—at that time a student of Wilno University—was one of the leaders of Polish youth.



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