

MOCNIEJSZY JESTEM

PODAJCIE MI ZBROJĘ.

CIEŻSZA

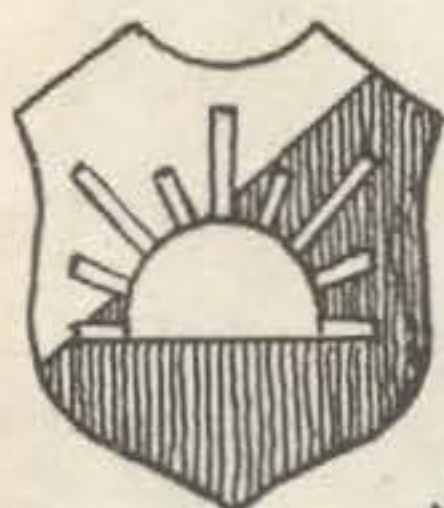
BRĄDZ GOSPOD

MIESIĘCZNIK MURCERZY.

SIERPIEŃ

1955

Rok VIII N°8.



Introduction.

Dear Brother Scouts,



Scouts from all over the world are meeting at a Jamboree, to be held this time in Canada.

It is a great event for all the boys who belong to the Scout movement founded years ago by Robert Baden Powell, a great friend of young people.

The Jamboree this year has for its pass-word - New Horizons. But these new horizons are not opening for all.

At your evening fires at the Jamboree this year your brothers from behind the Iron Curtain will be missing. We can assure you that they are absent, not because they do not wish to, but because they cannot come.

"Be Prepared" is a monthly magazine of the Polish scouts, published in London in Polish for Polish scouts living in the free world. They also cannot go to the Jamboree for reasons beyond their control.

On the occasion of the Jamboree we have decided to publish our magazine in English and French in order to manifest our deep attachment to the Scout ideals and to let you know that, although in the countries under Soviet occupation the Scout movement is proscribed, it is still alive among the Polish boys staying in the free world.

Czuwaj!

The Editor.



Pioneers at work.





Si Pi to Poles.

..... I hope and expect that you will have found my contrymen fully sympathetic to you and yours. Even away out here we all have felt shocked and enraged at the brutalities which your nation has suffered, coupled with an immense admiration for the bravery and endurance of your men: and we look forward with hope to your day of deliverance - to "Polonia Restituta" once more. I hope that those of the Scouts and Guides who succeeded in getting out of Poland are finding help and hospitality from their brother Scouts in France and elsewhere.

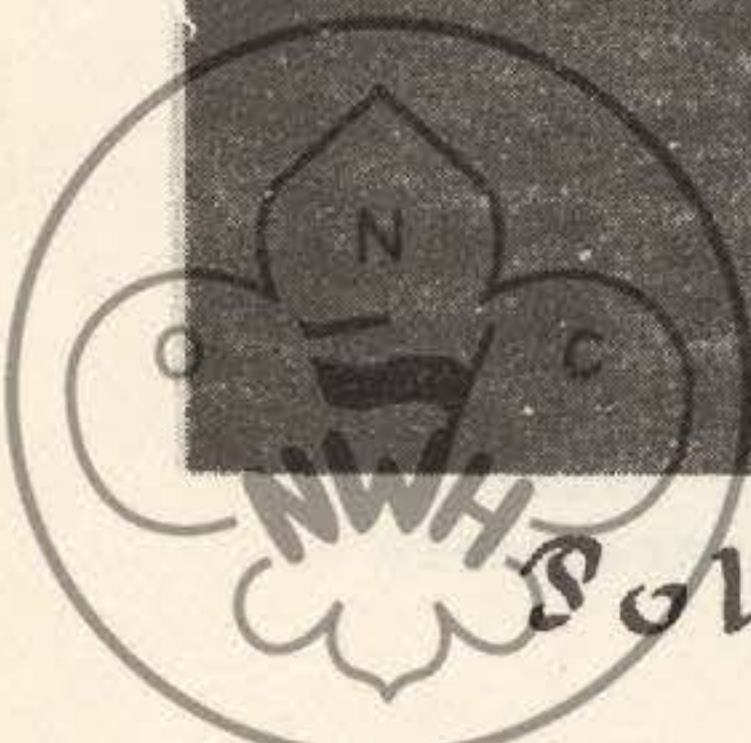
With cordial good wishes.

Yours truly,

BADEN-POWELL



Polish troop ~ Birmingham 1913.





Malkowski.

occupation clandestine Scout units were formed.

The scout movement in Poland.

The first news of the beginning of the Scout movement in England reached Poland in 1909. There appeared then a press article, the author of which obtained his information directly from Baden Powell, the founder of the new method of education.

The first Scout units were formed in 1910. This year will be the 45th anniversary of the joining in the Scout movement of Polish Youth.

Scout ideals began to spread among the Poles at a time when their country was still enslaved, being partitioned by the three Powers of that time: Russia, Germany and Austria-Hungary.

The Scout movement flourished particularly in the part of Poland under Austrian occupation, because it was able to develop in the open there. Under the Russian and German occupation clandestine Scout units were formed.

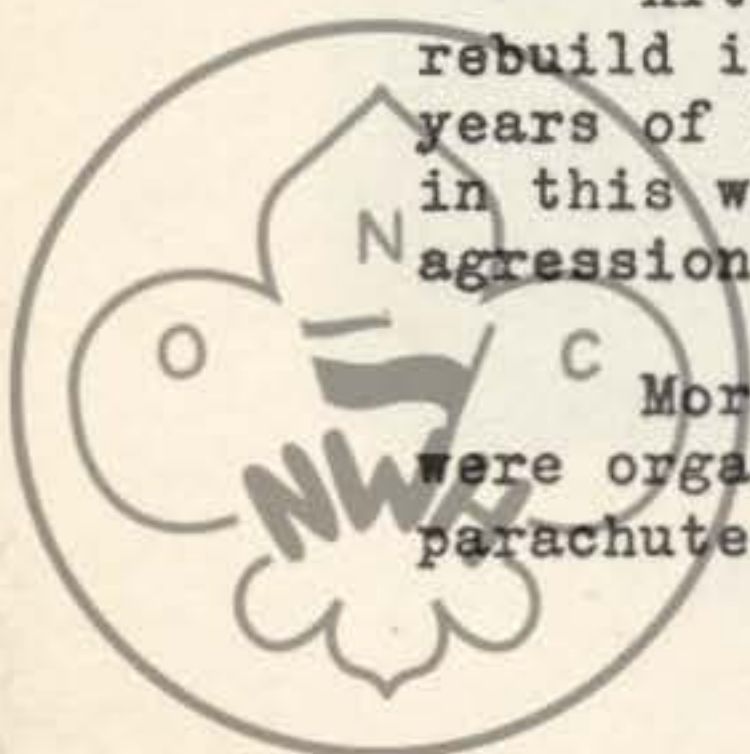
In 1912 Andrzej Malkowski, one of the principal promoters of the Scout movement in Poland, went to London in order to acquaint himself with Scout activities on the spot and to collect material for a new edition of a book entitled "Scouting". He returned from this journey with an invitation to the Jamboree at Birmingham. This invitation was accepted, and the Poles were represented at the Birmingham Jamboree in 1913. This delegation, numbering 54 persons, included scouts from all three sections of Poland. In spite of the protests of the diplomatic representatives of Austria-Hungary, Germany and Russia, the Polish delegation hoisted its national flag and rectified the mistaken view that it was an Austrian delegation. In local papers numerous photographs appeared with the inscription "From Poland to Birmingham".

The camp of the Polish scouts was visited by The Duke of Connaught, cousin of the King, who devoted particular attention to it. Baden Powell also visited the camp, conveying his best wishes to our scout movement and also to our country, Poland, as he emphasised several times. In spite of the fact that our delegation came apparently from Austria, it behaved like a delegation representing the whole of Poland. The scout movement kept spreading and reached more and more groups of young people.

The Polish scouts took a very active part in the struggle for freedom, both during the First World War and the Polish-Soviet War. Some thousands of Scouts reinforced units at the front, and several thousand younger boys and girls served with auxiliary forces, as signallers, in hospitals, canteens, offices and guard detachments. In 1920 the Bolshevik forces pushed as far as the very gates of Warsaw, and the whole nation took up arms to repel the enemy who had decided upon the destruction of the independence won by Poland in 1918. The Polish delegation about to go to a Jamboree was disbanded and its members enlisted in the Army. A telegram was sent to London stating that "the Polish scouts are unable to go to London as they have to help in the defence of civilisation".

After the victorious war against the Bolsheviks, the Polish nation had to rebuild its country devastated by war and to make good the consequences of 150 years of foreign domination. The Polish Scout movement took a very active part in this work, which went on unremittingly until 1939, that is until the German aggression.

More and more boys joined the Scout troops; numerous camps and courses were organised, fresh-water and sea sailing was developed, gliding, aviation, parachute training, mountaineering and hiking. Permanent scout centres were



created. Troops of Wolf Cubs were developed on a big scale. We also took an active part in the international Scout movement.

At the moment of the outbreak of the last World War there were 127,000 boys in the ranks of the Scout troops.

Polish scouts took a very active part in the struggle against the German and Bolshevik invaders, joining the auxiliary services and air defence. After the catastrophe in September 1939 a new period of work started, clandestine units operated in the home country, carrying out educational tasks side by side with scout units entrusted with purely military tasks. Outside the home country Scout activity was carried on under the control of our Scout authorities. The headquarters of the Polish Scout movement were established first in Paris, then in London, where they still remain.

C Z U W A J !

Z.S.



archiwum



Friend in need - a friend indeed!

22 September 1939 - War in Poland approaching its bitter end. Thousands of Poles crossed the Hungarian and Roumanian border. Every day held in store terrible ordeals for us. Turned out of our homes, away from our families and finally from our country itself, we tasted the bitter bread of the refugee.

On this chaotic day by sheer chance I met our Chief Scout. After few words we then got the idea of gathering all our scouts and guides in a special camp run in a scout movement way.

Thanks to prewar friendship and connection with Hungarian Scoutmasters our Chief Scout Mr. Z.T. was able to bring all boy scouts and girl guides, especially those orphaned into one camp where he organized schools for them.

Billeted in an old castle first at Samloselles - and later moved to huts at Szikszó - we started regular teaching.

Programmes for each form and textbooks were reproduced by the teachers at the beginning. Within two months I had all the necessary textbooks for my subject /Polish and Literature/ supplied by Hungarian booksellers, who bought them from the Germans / Of course they were stolen in Poland and sold to Hungarians/, but the important fact was that we could use them.

Each hut was organised as a patrol and classes formed troops. The teachers - mostly scout or scoutmasters - applied scout methods in teaching and guiding their forms. Homework was eased by scout games and activities.

All our needs and troubles were met gallantly by Hungarian Scouts. We all prize especially D.G. - the most beautiful character I ever met.

The top form, of which I was classmaster, after matriculation left the camp with me and went to Budapest, to the Polish recruiting office.

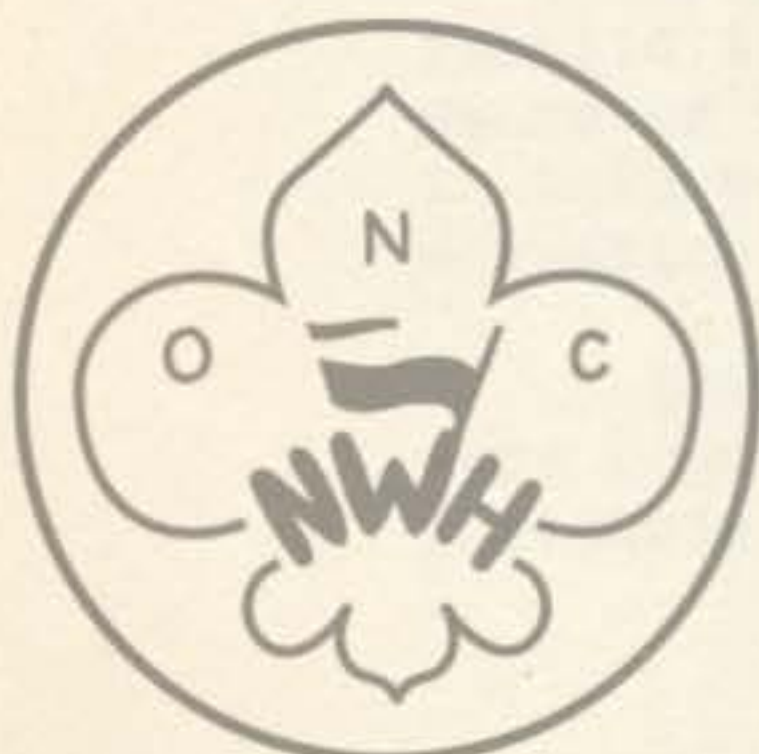
Speaking little Hungarian, I succeeded in passing through the station control and met friend of mine with whom I left some military objects / pistols, field glasses, some rounds of ammunition etc/. Having nothing suspicious on me I went back to free my party which had been stopped at the control point. While checking our pass the Hungarian constable joked in his language: " You want to see our capital and then France"? 3.6.1940 - all our smuggling routes led to France till 10.6.1940 when Italy declared war and stopped all our transport to France/.

Smiling I answered: "Perhaps , - you never know in these days what may happen".

Of course we saw the sights in Budapest and after that reported at the Polish recruiting centre. Within two days we left the Hungarian capital for the Yugoslavian border.

17.9.1940 all of our party reached Palestine.

I. PLONKA



The Polish Scout Movement among the Exiles.



After the occupation of Poland in September 1939 by the Germans, assisted by the Russians, many Poles went to Rumania and Hungary. In all the Polish settlements in those countries numerous Scout troops were established. Also in France a Polish Scout organisation was active at that time. Owing to the progress of the German armies, the Polish Scout organisation in Rumania and Hungary had to be wound up, but new units were organised in Palestine, Cyprus, Algeria and Rhodesia.

After the occupation of France by the Germans, Polish Scouts carried on clandestine activity. In 1940 Polish scout troops were also organised in Great Britain.

Some young Poles, banished to Russia with their families in 1939, 1940 and 1941, having been saved and transported to the Free World, formed numerous new Polish units in Persia, Lebanon, India, New Zealand, Egypt, Mexico and East Africa.

In 1945, after the defeat of Germany, many Polish Scout troops were organised in Germany, numbering 25,000 members. These were the boys who, staying in Germany with their parents, were sent to forced labour or concentration camps.

At present the Polish Scout movement spreads to all the countries of the Free World in which Poles are settled. Its work is making great progress and the number of members is increasing every year. This work is based on the Scout principles established by Baden Powell.

The Headquarters of the Polish Scout Movement are set up in London, controlling the activities of Polish Scouts all over the world, numbering 11,000 boys and girls within the framework of three independent organisations, that is to say Boy Scouts, Girl Guides and Rovers. Each organisation is headed by Chiefs elected every year, that is to say Chief Scout, Chief Guide, and Chief Rover. These three organisations together constitute the Polish Boy Scout and Girl Guides Association.

W.M.



1st class hike ~ 1913.

- 7 -



archiwum

In a struggle.

The Second World War, which ended just 10 years ago, had most tragic consequences for the Polish Scout Movement.

When the attack on Poland began in 1939, Polish Scouts were on duty helping to defend their country. They played an important part in the information Service and Traffic Control, greatly hampered by masses of troops and population withdrawing from regions overrun by the enemy. They were most helpful in the First Aid, Red Cross and food distribution posts.

Many of these young boys lost their lives during the bombing of our cities and villages by enemy aircraft. Others took their place and carried on until the whole country was occupied by the enemy.

Then it was no longer possible to work in the open. The Scout uniforms were forbidden and those who wore them were punished and treated as criminals.

So officially the Polish Scout Movement ceased to exist. But almost immediately a new and powerful organisation began to take shape underground.

The Headquarters were moved first to Paris and then to London where they were given every assistance by the International Scout Organisation.

In the meantime in occupied Poland, Gestapo and Russian Secret Police were doing their best to stamp out all signs of Scout activity.

In these conditions new methods had to be devised. Polish Youth wanted to take its place by the side of the Polish Armed Forces fighting in Norway, Africa, Italy and Normandy.

Two new separate organisations were formed under the direct authority of London Headquarters.

Such was the loyalty and devotion of the Scouts that these organisations were never disclosed, although their existence must have been well known to the enemy police.

Patrols and troops met regularly, the training of Patrol Leaders and Scoutmasters proceeded almost normally.

Innumerable devices were used to foil the police and overcome their bans. This time it was not merely playing scouts - it was scouting taken seriously.

The ways used to combat the forces of nature had to be readapted to fight the brutal and ruthless enemy.

The Older Scouts underwent military training. Their Pioneer training helped them to blow up dozens of German trains carrying ammunition and vital supplies to the front.

Communications was another field in which scouting activity played a major part.

Because all recognized means of communication were in the hands of the enemy the scouts had to invent their own: there were some splendid opportunities for acquiring a Signallers Proficiency Badge.

The road and rail patrols of the occupying forces made travelling from one county to another a difficult and dangerous task. A train passenger would find himself doing forced labour in Germany, or if he looked suspicious - in a concentration camp. Despite all this hundreds of scouts crossed the country carrying important messages and orders.

The oldest boys served in combat units defending the nation which seemed to be doomed to extermination. An instance of this is to be found later. It is an extract from a book written by a distinguished Scoutmaster and published by the Underground Press.

Younger boys refused to be left out. There was a ban on boys under a certain age using arms, so they had to be content with propaganda and welfare work.

Day after day the Germans would find walls marked with "V" for victory and an Anchor, the sign of the Fighting Underground of Poland.

A troop of very young scouts would look after a family whose father had been sent to a Concentration Camp. They would share with them their own rations and food snatched from Germans.

Living conditions during the occupation were very difficult. Nevertheless constant terror did not prevent the final preparations. As soon as the sound of the Russian guns was heard in Warsaw, the Polish capital openly rose against the enemy. The Scout Battalions fought alongside their older colleagues. Younger boys maintained essential services. The insurgents were completely cut off from outside help, arms and ammunitions were in very short supply.

The Soviet Army halted on the outskirts of Warsaw and without offering any assistance watched the city being reduced to rubble by German planes and tanks.

In extremely adverse conditions the defence of Warsaw lasted longer than some of



the best equipped strongholds during the war.

When all was over thousands of Polish Scouts had given their lives for their country either on battlefields or in concentration camps.

To mention but a few - St. Sedlaczek, one of the chief organisers of the Polish Scout Movement killed in the infamous camp of Oświęcim.

Scoutmaster F. Marciniak murdered by Germans in Gross Rosen.

L. Domański and scores of scouts and scoutmasters perished in Minak, Katyn and other German and Russian concentration camps. Their only crime was that they were Poles and Scouts.

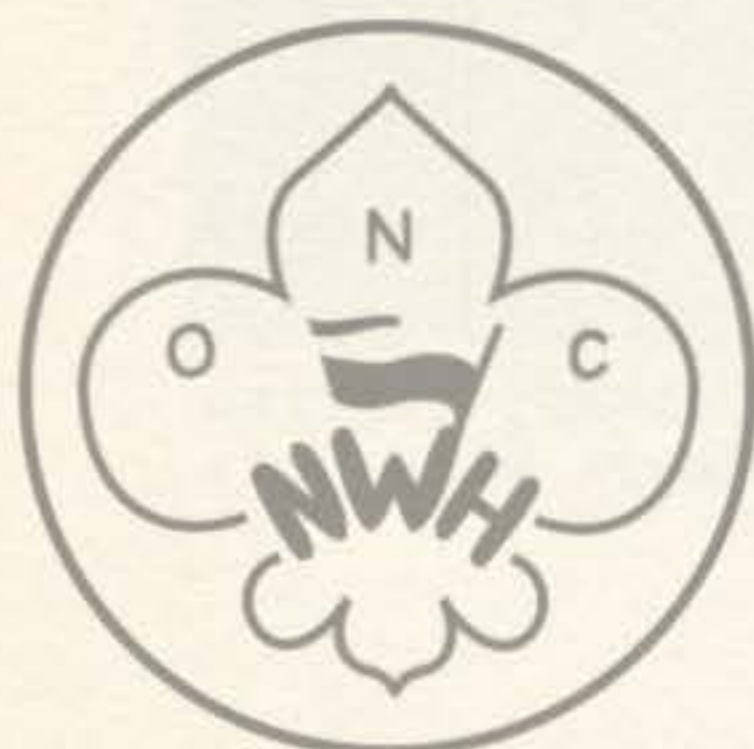
To the last of their days they were faithful to the Scout Law and Promise.

They gave their lives so that one day we shall be able to live in an era of universal brotherhood and good will and not one nation will be missing a Jamboree.

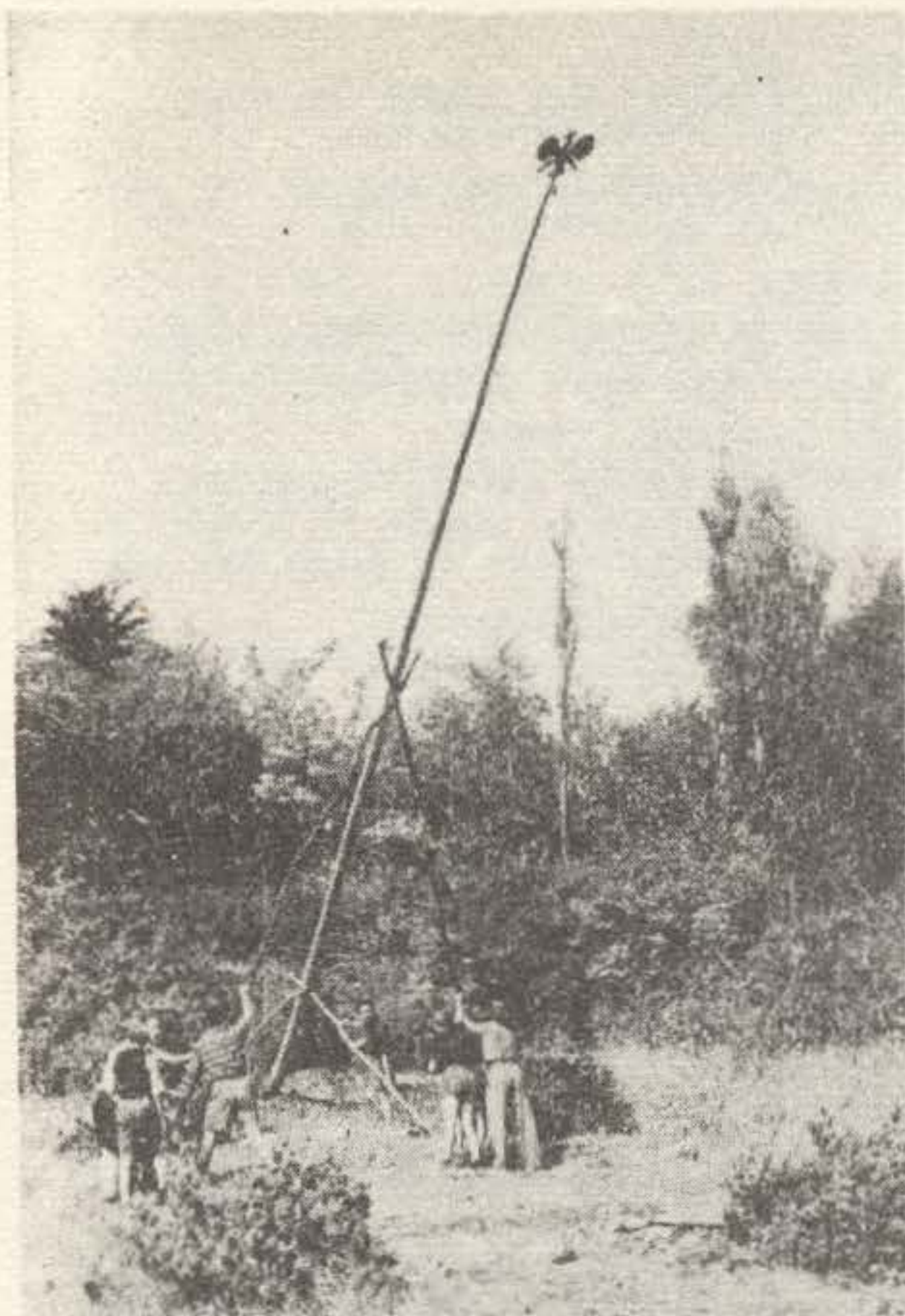
R. Kaczorowski



When in Africa.



archiwum



Under The Soviet occupation.

After the last war Soviet Russia imposed on Poland a Communist regime which remains there only owing to the ruthless police organisation and to the use of force. Under the Communist regime there is no place for free associations, as is the case in the West. According to the Communist doctrine there can exist only such organisations as are subjected to the Communist Party and carry out its orders.

Trying to convert the Polish nation to Communism, and aware of the resistance of the older members of the community to Communist ideas, the present rulers of Poland turned their eyes to the young people. The IV Congress of the Communist Youth International, held in Moscow in 1945, stated the following:

"As it will be much more difficult to win over the adults, we must make every effort in the work among the young men and children."

From the very beginning of their rule in Poland the Communists started to wind up the pre-war youth organisations, at the same time founding in 1948 a totalitarian organisation called the Association

of Polish Youth. Nowadays it is the only youth organisation in Poland.

The Scout organisation was also liquidated. In its place was put a co-educational organisation of boys and girls up to the age of 14, which serves the purpose of preparing them for the Association of Polish Youth. Although this organisation is called Scouting, it has nothing in common with the Baden Powell Scout Movement except the name.

Before the final liquidation of the Polish Boy Scouts and Girl Guides Association, within the framework of which the separate autonomous organisations of boy scouts and girl guides had pursued their activities, a campaign on a large scale against Scout ideals was launched in the country.

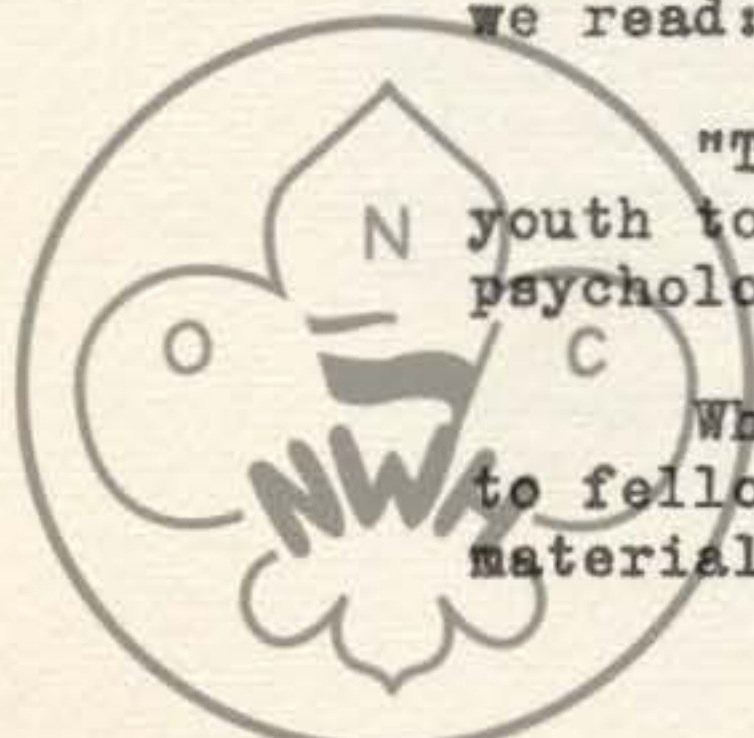
We quote some examples:

In "New Thought", the issue of 7th November 1947, a magazine for officers, there was an article entitled "Problems of the Scout Movement", a passage of which runs:

"Actually the English Scout Movement prepared English boys to gain knowledge as to how to dominate much more numerous coloured nations in the vast territories of Asia and Africa....On the soil of an imperialist-colonial State the Scout Movement becomes distinctly reactionary and anti-social, serving to train future soldiers in the colonies." Up to now anti-scout declarations have not ceased. Victoria Dewitz, a woman editor of the "World of Youth", in the magazine "New Ways", No. 2/1955 (an official theoretical and political organ of the Communist Party) published an article on the scout problems in the home country in which we read:

"The evil force of the scout movement consisted in the fact that it led youth towards false ends, being based on an accurate observation of its psychological features".

What were these "false ends"? Service to God, service to Poland, service to fellow creatures. In the place of these "false ends" these others were put: materialism, service to the invader, hatred and class warfare.



At the second assembly of the Association of Polish Youth, Bierut closed his speech to the delegates with the words: "Long live the Association of Polish Youth - the closest companion of our Party". The woman chairman of the Central Committee of the Association of Polish Youth stressed several times in her report this role of the Association as "assistant" of the Communist Party. "In its whole activity", said Mrs. Jaworska, "the Association is guided by the ideology of the Party, fighting for the attainment of its ends". The Secretary of the said association in his report, following that of Mrs. Jaworska, referring to the resolutions of 1948, asserted: "Being an independent and party-less organisation, we take our bearings in our activity from the policy of the party and we educate youth in the spirit of the United Polish Workers' Party". He then quoted the following passage from the Statute of the Party: "The United Polish Workers' Party (headed by Bierut, a Moscow agent) controls the activity of the Association of Polish Youth - a mass organisation of political education in towns and in the country. The Association of Polish Youth is an active assistant of the Party. The Policy of the Party guides the Association of Polish Youth in all spheres of its activity."

It is a strange "independent" and "party-less" organisation.

Youth in Poland, like the youth in all the countries occupied by the Russians, is shut off from the world.

The representatives of youth there are not allowed to go abroad.

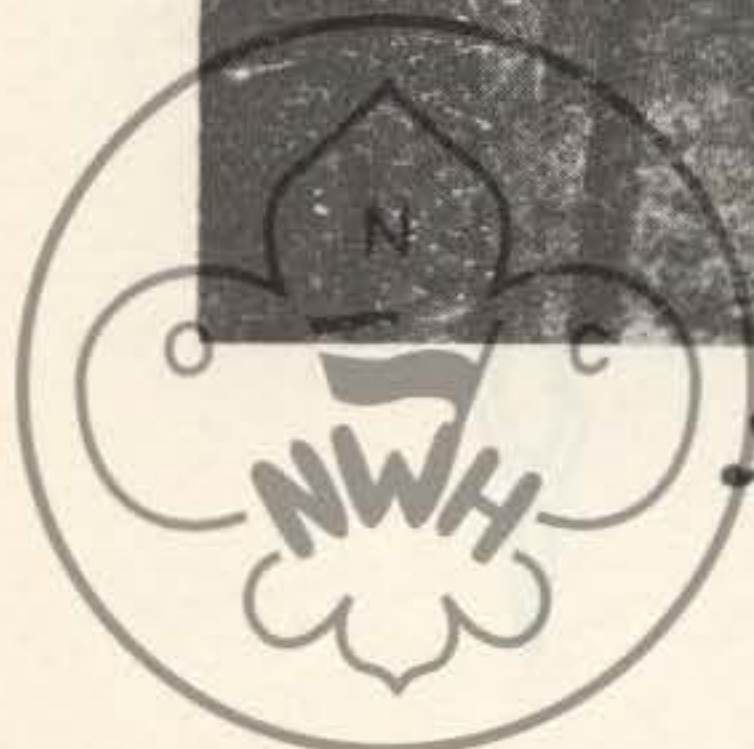
In all the countries of the Soviet Block the Scout organisations have been liquidated. So also the Scout organisation in Poland, founded in 1910, which survived even the German occupation, continuing as an underground organisation, was liquidated in allegedly free Poland.

Youth in the countries in the Russian zone of influence, as in Russia itself, is deprived of happy childhood and lives under most appalling material and moral conditions.

Z. Szadkowski.



A camp in the woods.



Kazik zastepowego

it stands for "Patrol Leader's Corner" and is a regular feature of "Bądź Gotów".



Well at last there you are, in Canada on the 8th World Jamboree!!! Hip, hip, hurrah!

You stand on the Jamboree cross roads looking towards hundreds of Scouts and thousands of boys of all nationalities. They look at you and your patrol.

Do you represent your troop, your district or country really well? You have to, since this is what they expect you to do back home.

But that is not all. They also expect you to have your eyes and ears open and bring from Jamboree as many "what I have seen, heard or done" as you can.

I remember my troop-leader Kazik. Even years after the Jamboree at Vogelenzang /Holland/ he was able to produce on each troop meeting some new and exciting stories from the Jamboree. / By the way: He made himself a name as the best Jamboree whistler on his ... toes !!!/

Happy jambing and Look out!

"Open Eyes"



Stefan.

Jamboree Badge

This badge is issued to Polish Scouts who took part in a national or international Jamboree and fulfilled following conditions:

1. Will tell his troop or write to scout magazine about Jamboree. Will show that he took part in at least one main event of Jamboree.
2. Will record his observations in a note book, sketch-book or by means of photos. Can tell a difference in camping between his troop and one of other nations.
3. Will make a demonstration /with help of others/ of something he has seen on Jamboree or will teach the troop a Jamboree song.
4. During the troop camp will use one of camping ideas from Jamboree.
5. Has made friends during Jamboree and continues this friendship by correspondence.

If you want to start correspondence with a Polish scout in any part of the world/ - just write to the Editor of "Bądź Gotów" 30, Anson Rd. LONDON N.W.2.



What is what ?



- Polish scout badge worn by all scout on the front of their hats. Letters O N C stand for

O - Country

N - Study

C - Virtue

Z.H.P. - Polish Scouts and Girl Guides Association.



- Called Scout cross. Received individually after making scout promise and passing proficiency test. Has a number and can not be changed.

- Polish scouts hat. Its shape is based on the Polish Army field cap. It was the most sought for "change" on all Jamborees.

- This is a typical uniform of a Polish boy scout

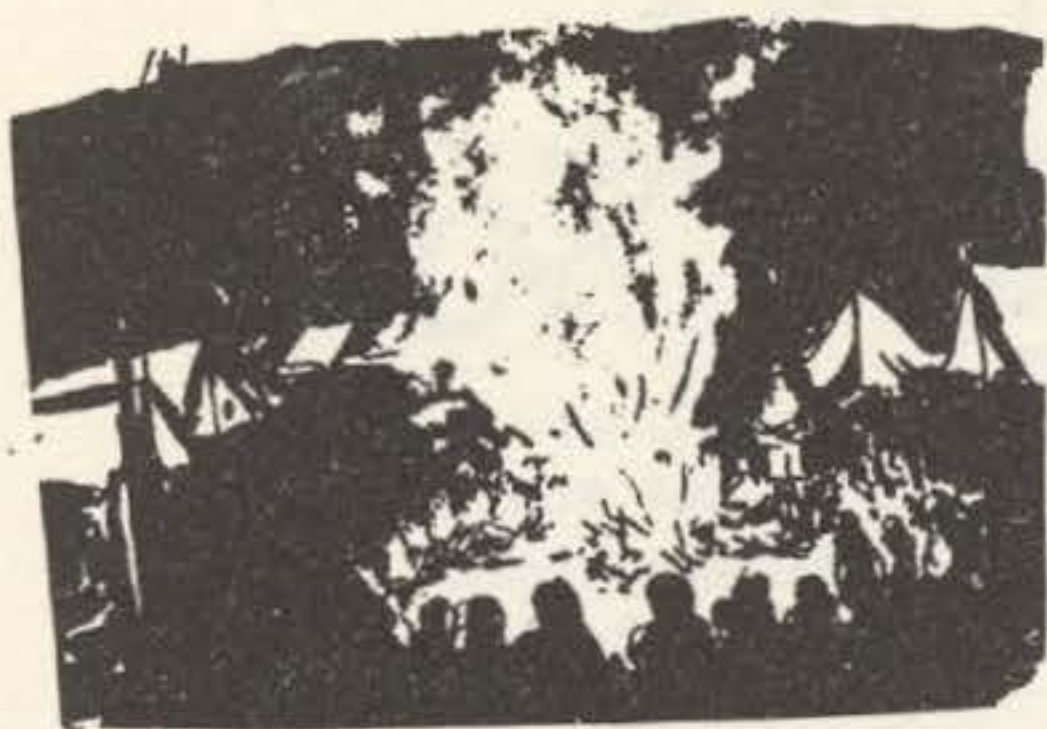


Kalendarzyk historyczny

These "dates from past" are normally in Polish. For your benefit they are in English.

- 1910 - Formation of first scout troops in Poland. A. Małkowski translates "Scouting for boys" into Polish.
- 1913 - "C Z U W A J" becomes the greeting of Polish scouts. Polish representation takes part in rally at Birmingham.
- 1914 - Expansion of scout movement across the whole Poland.
- 1919 - Dies A. Małkowski - founder of Polish scouting.
- 1920 - There are 419 troops, 1977 patrols, 20,410 scouts. Scouts joined the army or auxiliary forces to fight against Russian invasion. One scout represents Poland on Jamboree.
- 1924 - Polish representation is placed as fifth, in general classification of national contingents during the 2nd Jamboree in Copenhagen.
- 1926 - First regular radio programme for scouts in Poland.
- 1927 - Formation of sea and air branches of Polish scouting. Three magazines for scouts appear monthly, one weekly.
- 1929 - 500 scouts take part in III Jamboree at Birkenhead.
- 1933 - 1126 contingent goes to Gödöllo /Hungary/, including special gliders troop. B.P. visits Polish scout camp.
- 1935 - Jubilee national Jamboree in Spala. 25000 participants.
- 1937 - 750 scouts take part in V Jamboree at Vogelenzang including: cyclists troop, kayaks troop air and sea troops.
- 1939 - War. Polish scouts begin their fight against enemy;





The Law of the forest

After the troop gathered around the fire had sung to their hearts desire Zygmunt asked:

- "Are you ready, White Fox? "
- "I am ready, Silver Fox. "
- "And you, Forest Reptile?" - "I am ready too."

- Zdzisek, read to us "The Law of the Forest". And Zdzisiek read:

"The forest is our omnipotent Lord's making. Your joy and gladness persevere there. You and the forest are one. Listen daily to the forest's voices. Do not walk but your own paths. Be respectful to your friends in the forest and ruthless to your enemies. Evil is your greatest enemy. Guard your nest. Be trustful so as to be trusted. Do not disturb the forest's solemn meditation. It is a temple in which God can be found sooner than anywhere."

- Said the chief: "Is Edek among us?"

- The White Fox replied: "there is not such a one among us. But we have here "The Lord of the Sunny Lion". He, the steward of the scouts gathered far from their homeland in the country whose escutcheon bears a lion and the sun, has the duty to heed that they hold high their nation's name. This is his first and main commandment."

- The chief ordered: "Forest Reptile, fulfil your duty!"

- Kazik approached him, cut off a tuft of his hair and spoke throwing it in the fire:

"Let all your faults burn down and all your evil thought fly off with the smoke, let the fire's heat kindle your soul. Come near the chief!"

- Zygmunt asked: "Do you know the Law of the Forest?"

- The answer was positive, so he handed him a piece of bark with his forest name on it and said: "From now on you will be known among the brother-scouters by your new name. Go and sit down in the circle".

- And again the chief asked: "Is Zdzisiek among us?"

- And the White Fox replied: "There is not such a one among us. But there is the Brownie-Lynx. He is as nimble, quick-eyed and cunning as a lynx. And as he loves brownies, he obtains their name.

- "And is Michał here?"

- "No, there is not such a one, there is but "The Whispering Oak". Persevering like the oak, constant in his endeavours, he imparts an atmosphere of things everlasting, and he has a fine way of telling us stories of the past. Let him join our circle of forest brothers."

- "And where is Franek?"

- "There is but "The Swift Deer", ever watchful and solicitous to his company, ever ready for a kind act, far from selfish subterfuge. The patrol is his first care, and in thought and act he has the deer's swiftness."

- "And is Romek among you?"

- "No, there is but "The Building Beaver". He creates and builds without a pause, true to his beaver customs. In him we place great economic hopes."

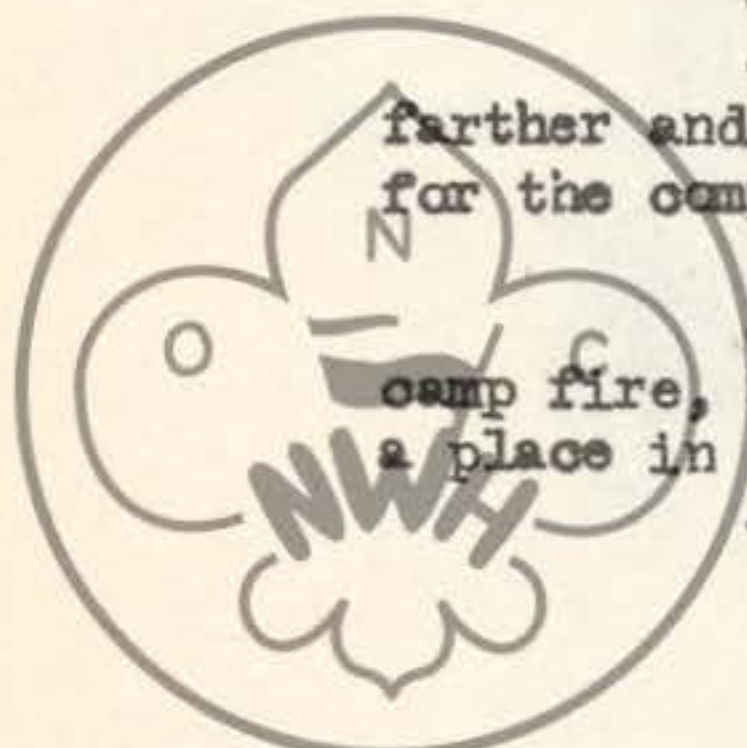
- "Let him sit down in the circle and inuse the youngsters in husbandry".

- "Call Staszek here".

- "Only "The Shrewed Eagle" can appear. His thought soars sky-high, and it can see farther and better from above than we can. His planning is wise and we are happy to have him for the company's captain."

- And so "The Forest Reptile" cut off tufts of hair one by one and burnt them in the camp fire, and the chief handed out slabs of bark with their forest names and made them take a place in the circle. And each of the newly-admitted to the forest circle spoke.

- One said that one ought to look deep into the flames and find oneself there



- either as the smoke which drifts high, or as a spark apt to kindle a fire, or else as a glimmer which can burn down all evil.

- Another said that out of this camp fire one ought to take a firebrand to start a new camp fire with in Poland, the home country.

- Others said, goodness and charity were the greatest virtues, loneliness in life was terrible, and a company contained joy and strength and the gold of true friendship.

- To close the camp fire a fervid prayer was sung, its last words fading into the forest's silence:

"Find rest in a calm sleep,
God is nigh"

Taken down by J. Brzezinski



No loafers, please.

A camp is a roomy place, but there is no room in it for one chap, and that is the fellow who does not want to take his share in the many little odd jobs that have to be done; there is no room for the shirker or the grouser well, there is no room for them in the Boy Scouts at all, but least of all when in camp

- said Baden Powell, and every member of a camp should know it.

He is also bound to remember - from the first days of camping up to the last camp fire with its flames and smoke rising among the whispering trees - that:

A boy-scout obeys his elder brothers and follows their orders willingly.

He performs one kind act a day so as to be entitled to kindness from others.

He cares for the company's health no less than for his own; whether in sunny or in rainy weather he is eager to train his muscles; he maintains his body clean and does not pollute the source which serves everyone.

He does not complain when his meal is badly cooked, but when the steaming kettles come under his care he sees to it that his brothers do not break their teeth on hard beef nor pickle their tongues in oversalted soup.

He does not slumber when his brothers make a huge fire and sit around - he shares their high spirits, roaring like a bison, showing tricks like a squirrel and being wise like a beaver.

He watches diligently when his brothers are resting in a deep sleep, and the camp's peace and property are entrusted to him. He does not tremble in his shoes when entering unknown paths in search of the Great Adventure.

His eyes, inspecting the life of the forest, look to the four parts of the world simultaneously, and see the ant on his nose and the deer speeding among the trees; his ears placed, as even no god has them, under his heels, hear at once the voice of silence and the deep thunder in the clouds.

Whether pursuing the swift wind or trailing the fox's winding track, whether swimming boisterously or basking in the sun, he remembers his parents and sends his news home.

"The Old Falcon".



OUR TRACXS.

The timber, soaked with the August rains of Canada, refuses to burn. Józek Wilkoyé cunningly feeds the weak flame with bundles of brushwood, and soon long tongues of fire embrace the humid logs.

We are on a fleeting visit at Józek's farm as it lies quite near the route of the roving camp of the Independent Patrol Jana z Kolna from Chicago. Józek, a scout and colonel of the airforce, has settled in the vicinity of the Niagara Falls; we camped at his place and soon made friends with his dog "Budrys".

The song "Our camp fire burns..." floats in firm notes over the Canadian fields; the growing flames light the faces of host and guests alike. We ask Mr. Wilkoyé to tell us his story.

Across Sweden.

In pre-war Wilno "The Black Thirteen" march through the town. Józek is among them. The passers-by greet the marching boys with friendliness and even with pride. Small boys run in the company's rear. When they have grown up they too will be boy-scouts.

September, 1939. Józek, an officer of the airforce, is in the heart of the action. The Polish airforce multiplies its efforts in the face of an enemy five times so strong.

The end of military activities - demobilization - Latvia - Sweden. From Sweden it is easy to get to England where the Polish Forces are being reconstructed.

Józek serves with the heavy Wellington bombers which go on bombing raids over Germany from their bases in England. Hence he has no time for scouting.

Still he can watch the gradual growth of the Polish scouting movement in England, and the heart of this pre-war scout warms with joy.

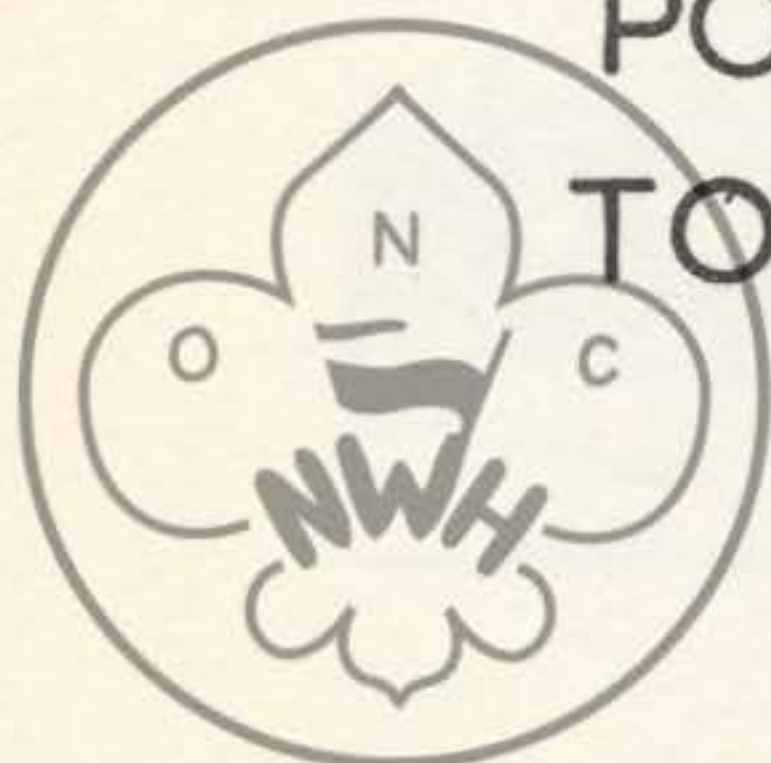
... It is pleasant to listen to stories at this camp-fire: our hosts would like to hear us relate our experiences. So Stach / scout Kuś / relates his story.

Across Hungary.

September, 1939 : fires, blitzes, fights - triumph and defeat. The Army withdraws. We finally understand that we are beaten. With a small group of soldiers, student-volunteers, Stach forces his way through to Hungary. Our friends the Hungarians receive us with an open heart at this hour of supreme tragedy for the Polish people. Our youngsters are given an opportunity to study. The first scouting centre in Szikszó for refugee boy scouts is run by Mr. Zbyszek Trylski. Its existence is short: it does not survive the German conquest of Hungary. After a period of tension the Poles are arrested. Stach and other boys are deported to Germany for forced labour. The work is hard - much too hard for young hands the more so because it serves to strengthen the enemy.

1945 - the liberation.... Innumerable youngsters, whole families, lonely children, flock from farm work and the digging of trenches to the camps organized for the freed Poles. Stach, a trained young scout, is deep in work. The deported youngsters soon form companies, divisions, districts.

POLISH SCOUTS LOOK FORWARD
TO THE DAY WHEN THEY WILL BE
ADMITTED TO JAMBOREE



Across Siberia, . .

And now Szczepciu begins. The spring of 1940 in Lwów. The thawing snow unveils the scars and ruins of the city. The bolshevist occupation.

The bell suddenly rings in the night. Slanting eyes, bayonets.... A 12 days' journey eastwards in a cattle train - Siberia...

At that time Szczepciu was two years old. He managed to survive though hundreds of Polish children around him died from starvation. With his parents who joined the Polish Forces he had the luck to leave Russia for free Persia in 1942.

The Polish boy-scouts march in Teheran. Those boys, emaciated by hunger, malaria and other diseases, enthusiastically join divisions and revive in this work. They soon disperse, and in the countries of resettlement they form new districts: the Indian, Mexican, African, Palestinian and the Young Soldiers' district.

Szczepciu was too young to be one of them. But as soon as his age made it possible he became a boy-scout in Palestine.

It was the golden era of the Polish scouting abroad. The hope of returning to Poland was high. The scouting movement flourished, generously helped by the Army.

The Yalta Agreement destroyed our hopes. No going back now. In 1948 Szczepciu goes to England. England is now a kind of transitory resettlement camp: Poles from all over the world flock there to be transformed into true emigres. From here they gradually wander to their places of settling.

Szczepciu joins the Polish scouts in England, and then he leaves for Chicago.

From the German Camps . .

Zbyszek is a "war-time scout". His tenderfoot test consisted in forcing his way through under the eye of the German police with a load of helmets and bayonets in German-occupied Warsaw. Military training, "the small sabotage", the attacking groups of the "Grey Ranks"...

August, 1944 - the Insurrection of Warsaw. The boy-scouts' battalions "Zoska" and "Parasol" gain their military glory in active duty. Zbyszek is with them in the front-line.

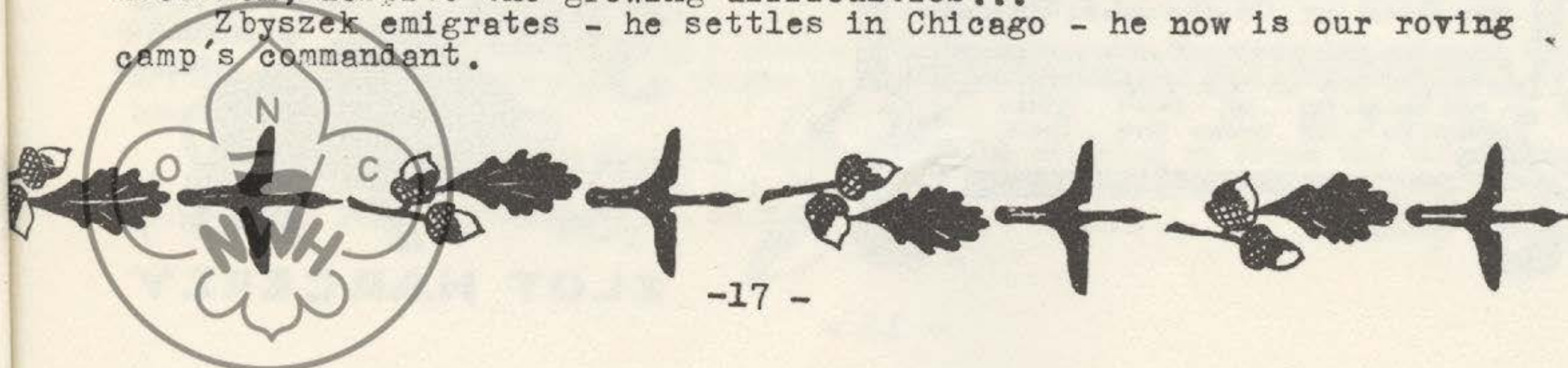
The Russian troops take their time and watch the fall of Warsaw from the other shore of Wisła..

Zbyszek is taken to Germany as a P.W. After the liberation he returns to scouting work in Polish camps in Germany.

The first scouts jamboree after the war took place at Moisson in France in 1947. The Polish scouts in exile sent their delegation. Alas - at the order of the International Scouts Bureau the doors were closed to them. Through the mean decision of politicians sitting around the green table those who as often as not gained their proficiency badges at the cost of blood, suddenly were scouts no more.

With hundreds of Polish scouts Zbyszek did not submit to that decision. Now that in Poland the Polish scouting movement is transformed under the communist regime into Soviet "pioneers", the Polish scouting abroad must outlast the crisis. The 45 years old tradition of service to God, Poland and the neighbour cannot be wasted; the enemy's triumph cannot be complete; one must hold on - despite the International Bureau's decision, despite the growing difficulties...

Zbyszek emigrates - he settles in Chicago - he now is our roving camp's commandant.



The stories follow one another. Mietek was deported to Germany with his parents. Rysiek managed to join his father in the West across the "green frontier". Genius travelled legally through Sweden to America after the war. They are all of them too young to remember the pre-war scouting; still some deep-set instinct makes them join the Polish scouts abroad - in order to survive, to take back to Poland some day the scout Law which their elder brothers took with them on their hard pilgrimage.

The stories follow one another. The light of the diminishing fire wanders over the faces of the boys from Warsaw, Wilno, Lwów, Poznań. They might never have met had they lived a normal life in Poland. Here, in the other hemisphere, the refugee's life and the scouting have brought them together, uniting them into one close group. The various tracks, the recollections they exchange today around the camp-fire, form the story of the wanderings of Polish scouts. The scout Law travelled in the scouts' hearts so as to resound today, at this year's jamboree, in the same words which were spoken at all the camp-fires in Poland when Poland was free:

"... It is my sincere will with all my life ..."

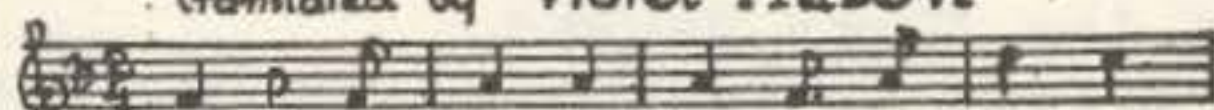
The Grey Crane.



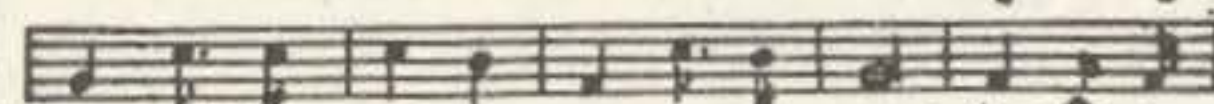
Polish Scout's Song

"Wszystko co nasze"

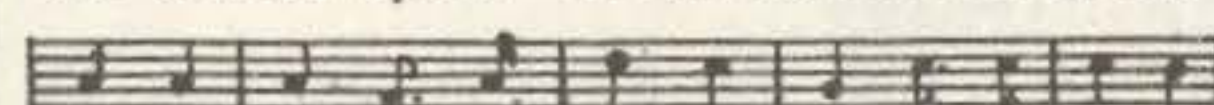
translated by Violet Mason



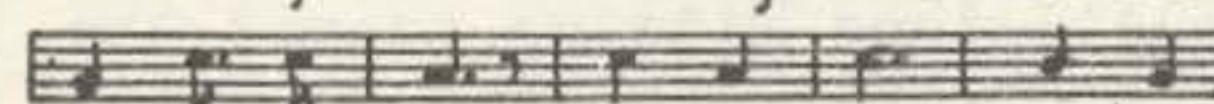
Wszystko co na-sze Pol-sce od-da-my.
All that we have to Po-land we're gi-ving



W niej tyl-ko ży-cie więc i-dziem żyć Świ-ty się
In her our life is For her we live Out in the



bie-lą roz-twór-zmy bra-my Ha-sto wy-da-ne
sun-shine glad to be li-ving All that we are to



wstą-n wstą-nce idź Ra-mie przeź sta-bość
Po-land we give Stron-g of arm Weakness



krusz Du-cha też oj-czy-znie mi-tej służ Na jej
fled Spirit firm Rules heart a hand a head Joy or



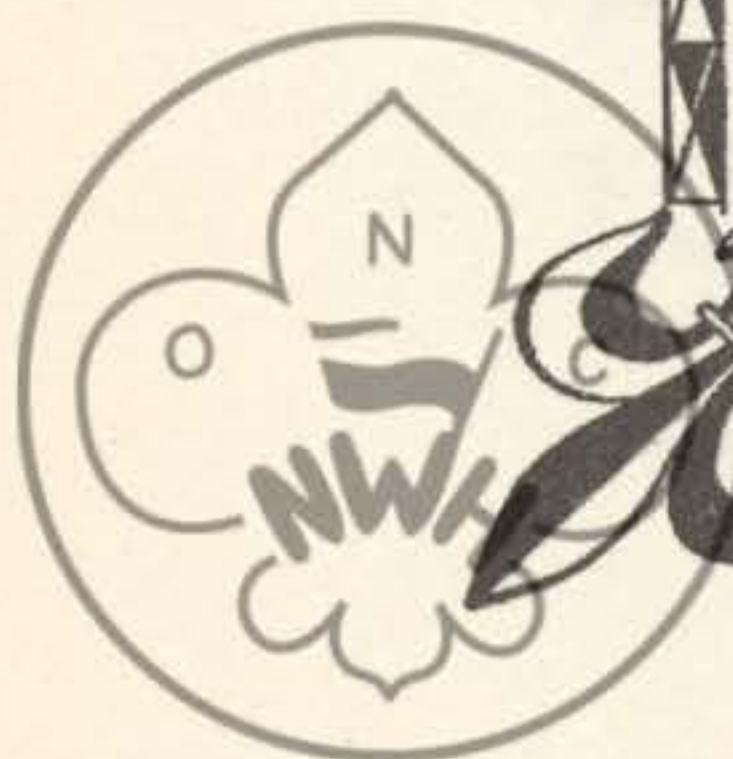
zew w bój czy w trud Pójdziem wraz harce-rzy pol-skich
pain Storm or fair On with a smile the Polish scouts are



ród har-ce-rzy pol-skich ród.
here the Po-lish guides are there.



rys. V. Gross



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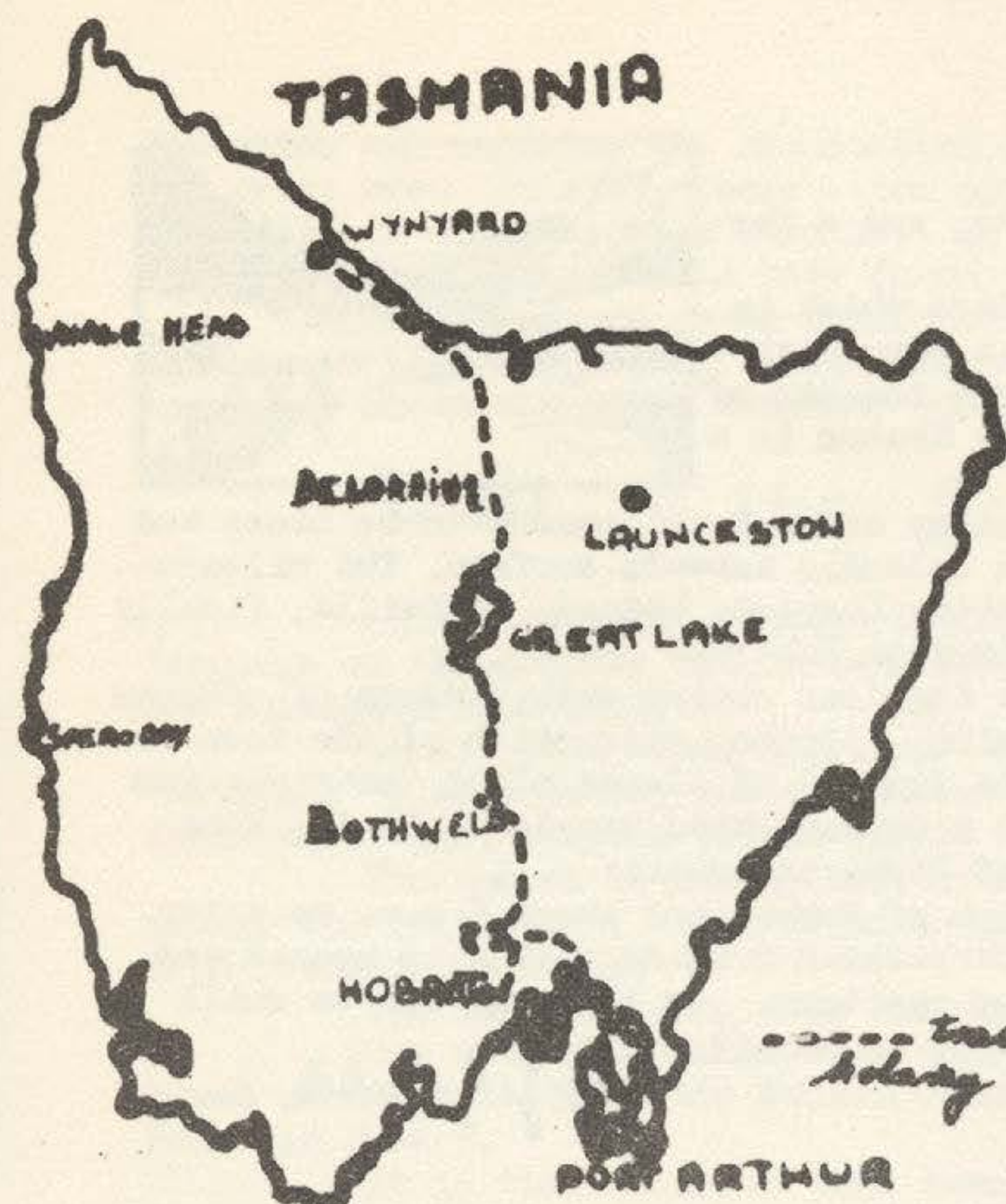
SPAKA

DULVERTON
6-11.VIII.54
ANGLIA

1935
1954



ZLOT HARCERZY



First Polish B.S. Troop from Melbourne cycling through Tasmania.

The Roving Camp of the 1st Boy Scouts' Troop. Cycling through Tasmania -Wynyard - Port Arthur. 28.12.1954 -

Plans.

The plan of an expedition to Tasmania was born at our Troop's summer camp in 1953/54 at Mount Bouffalo, Victoria.

Thus we had ample time for preparations, and during the following year we gathered every possible information on Tasmania. Among others we read Count P.E. Strzelecki's "Physical Description of New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land", published in 1845 in London, and his biography: "The Count", written by an Englishman, Geoffrey Rawson. We contacted Queen Victoria's Museum in Launceston and the Tasmanian Museum in Hobart.

On the basis of the information from these sources we decided on the following route: landing on the northern coast, one day's cycling along the coast to the east, veering south into the heart of the island and wading across central Tasmania to Hobart. A difficult but interesting route. We booked seats for the plane four months in advance and from then on we made our preparations. We sent our bicycles to Melbourne - the central point of our route. On December 28th, at 8 a.m. we were at the A.N.A. office.

At 9.15 our DC4 took off, made half a circle over the town and flew swiftly southwards.

Landing.

Strzelecki ho

We were unexpectedly detained at Burma for two days, the airline having failed to supply our bicycles in time. We finally started on December 30th. The local people we came across were very nice and polite. We believe that we owed our popularity on this journey partly at least to the "Advocate" reporter's note and the broadcast message from Hobart.

The road, easy at first, gradually becomes difficult. The north-easterly coast is beautiful.

The 31st December - the last day of 1954. We are in Elisabeth Town and spend the night in a farmer's meadow.

On the morning of New Year's day 1955 we have our meeting in the shade of a spreading tree. Zdzioho makes the promise.... His eyes shine with joy; we are all moved and happy - it is the second camping adventure we share with him; he is known for coming to the meetings most punctually in spite of the considerable distance he has to cover.

After breakfast we start again. We rest at Deloraine and bathe in the river. In the afternoon we leave that town; the asphalt road soon changes into a sandy and dusty country road, full of stones. There was no road whatever here one hundred years ago, when Strzelecki walked exactly here to the Great Lake.

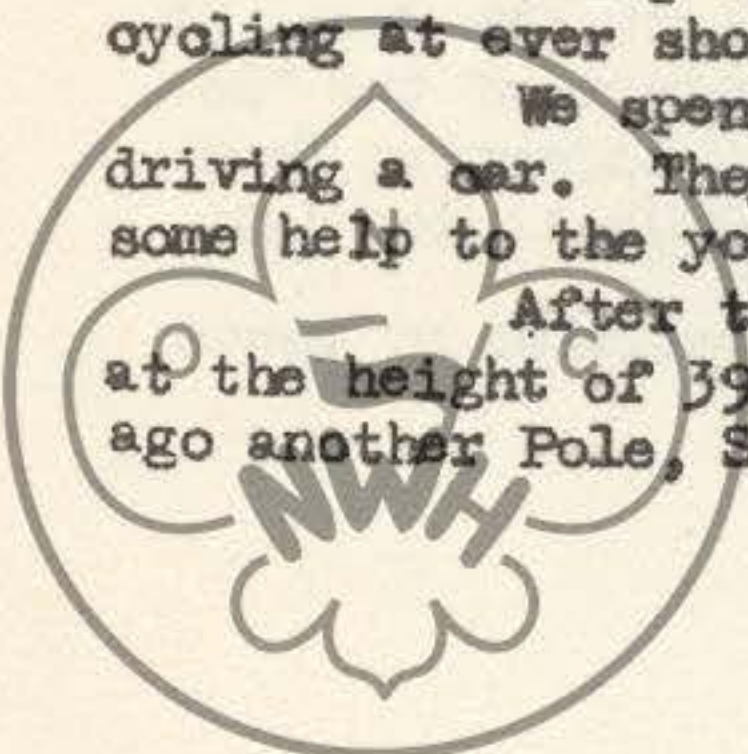
Stop; Andrew's both tube and tyre burst. This first repair will serve him for his biking proficiency badge. On the opposite side of the road a tourist is repairing his car; we help each other.

Steep hills occur more frequently and we have to push our bicycles instead of cycling at ever shorter intervals.

We spend the night in a chalet off the road. On the next day we meet two Poles driving a car. They identify us thanks to the white and red flags on our bikes and they give some help to the youngest.

After two days of really hard riding and climbing we reach the Great Lake which is at the height of 3965 feet. While looking at its waters we realize that one hundred years ago another Pole, Strzelecki, was admiring it.

Anding almost in



Cycling

It takes us four hours to ride along the lake, and a few showers mar this part of the journey.

On the 3rd of January we are at Niena - a place which is neither town nor village and consists of an hotel and a farm disposed on the southern shore of the lake, at the spot where the dam of a large electric plant clasps the estuary of the river Shannon in a frame of concrete.

As we move forward, the road, though still stony and uneven, ceases to be steep and we gain speed until near Apsley we are once more on a splendid asphalt surface. The milestones succeed each other at ever shorter intervals: Melton, Kempton, Bagdad, Pontville, finally Bridgewater. It is hard to believe we are only 22 miles from Hobart.

On January 5th we visit New Norfolk - a fine Anglican church with windows of stained glass, made 100 years ago by the famous Meyer from Munich. Another attraction of the town is the Old Colony Cafe Inn. Its European style reminds me vividly of places along the river Inn in Austria. The pictures, bronzes, and Furniture form a concentrated sample of Paris, Rome and Vienna. And no wonder: the owner was a director of UNRRA in Austria

In the afternoon we turn back in the direction of Hobart and about 5 p.m. we enter the suburb Moonah. As it happens our hosts from the Carpathian Brigade reside in Moonah and we spend the evening in making ourselves at home at our quarters. On the next day we shall ascend Mount Wellington and pay a visit to the Lord Mayor of Hobart.

A. J. Golombek sr.

At the Lord Mayor's.

The morning sky is heavy with clouds.

On our way to the Town Hall we buy our tickets for Mt Wellington.

The Lord Mayor of Hobart Mr. Alderman A. Park receives us with great courtesy and kindly signs his name in our chronio; after five years of our company's existence this precious book contains the signatures of coln. J.S. Wilson from London, the Governor of New South Wales Sir John Northcott, and many French, Malay, New Zealand and Australian signatures.

When leaving the Town Hall we are photographed by the Mercury's reporter, and on the next day we can see our pictures in the local paper.

The sky clears - we start for Mount Wellington. The bus ascends the mountain slowly, the motor working very hard. Higher and higher ... at last we stop at the height of 4165 ft - and we find that Strzelecki has preceded us here also.

The view from the mountain top is imposing. To the left lies Bridgewater with its bridge, then Clermont known for Mc Robertson's chocolate. Down below winds the thin thread of Hobart's pontoon bridge and the wavebreaks which shield it from the attacks of the water.

Slightly to the right is the aerodrome - we shall start from it on Saturday on our journey home. Our photographers make good use of their Centax, Retinas and Leicas.

The way back does not take so long. We pass aged trees, the oldest brewery in Australia, and then we enter the town and find our way to the hospitable homes of former soldiers of the Carpathian Brigade whom destiny brought as far as Hobart.

To-morrow we shall visit Port Arthur - a place of deportation in exile.

K. Curypho

To Port Arthur.

The bus of the state tourist office takes us at good speed over the pontoon bridge; we turn to the south, pass the airport and speed on and on to the farthest south-eastern nook of the isle. On our way we pass Blowhole: The Tasman Arch carved in the coast by water. Here the prisoners of Governor Arthur, driven to despair, threw themselves into the deep. At present it is a charming tourist-spot, remarkably quiet. Nearby boil the waters of the "Devil's kitchen"; at a distance one discerns the "Three Sisters", three rocks projecting from the sea. Over Eaglehawk Neck, the narrowest part of land joining the peninsula to the isle, we proceed on to the nearby Port Arthur.

There a guide tells us the story of the penal colony up to its abolition by Queen



Victoria, and explains the destination of the buildings: here are the ruins of a church that has never been finished, there - the prison-cells, and there - the administration buildings. He speaks of the prisoners' hard lot, of the severe discipline and the causes of imprisonment. Many a judge nowadays would have found those men innocent.

In the afternoon we return to Hobart. We pass a very modern hotel and aged trees, the oldest in Tasmania, our guide maintains. Deeply impressed we go to our quarters. Tomorrow we shall visit the Saturday school.

Visit to the Polish school.

At the catholic school of Moonah the Polish children learn during the week in the language of the country but on Saturdays they spell out of the same ABC which we remember from our childhood in Poland.

We are told after entering the school that to-day there will be a rehearsal of the "Nativity" play acted by the children. A nine-year-old devil is already moving with buoyancy about the stage, playing tricks on the sleeping shepherds.

The school is run by Mrs. Wielebinska who devoted to this task a great amount of her energy and initiative. When we meet the actors after the rehearsal it appears they know us from yesterday's paper.

The children sing many carols and we easily teach them some brownie songs.

Our national anthem ends this unforgettable meeting. From the school we go to the house of Mr. Polacik of the Polish Combatants' Association where we meet the president of the Poles in Hobart.

It is time to leave this town; our plane takes off at 1.45. In two hours' time we shall land in Melbourne.

Airborne impressions.

Impressions of the Flight.

This is my first flight. At first it is O.K. We fly at 6000 feet. The sky is cloudless, no wind. No signs of seasickness, pleasant impressions. On the return journey it is much worse. Over Tasmania the weather is bad. At 9000 feet the plane undergoes some strange vibrations. It bends to one side .. we feel it is pushed by the wind ...

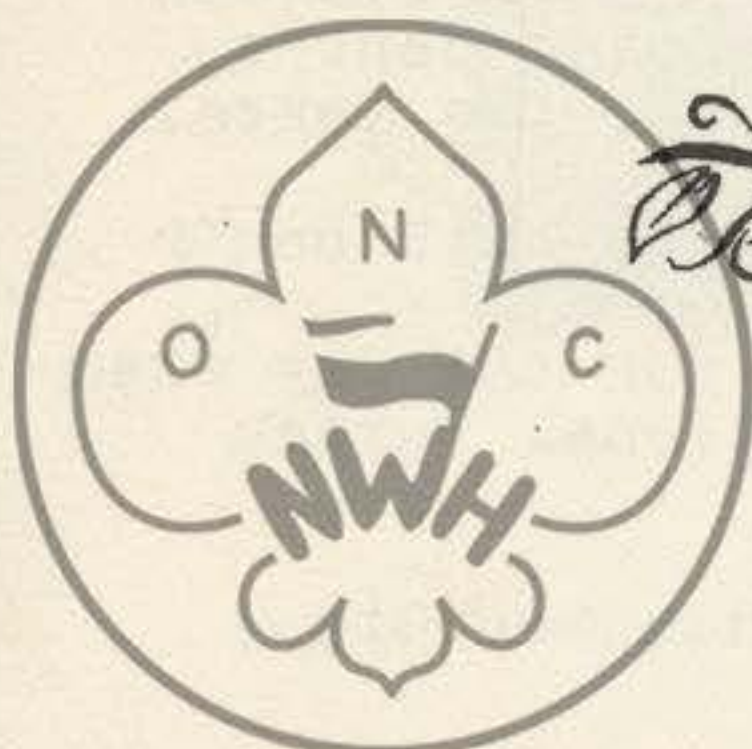
The earth is concealed by clouds, every now and then we see a scrap of land. A couple of days ago we were cycling there on undulating ground.

We approach the northern coast of Tasmania. The weather has improved and the plane flies without jerks. Our moods have improved too. We shall be at home within an hour. In the meantime we eat up all that is served. The captain had a whispered conversation with the plane's stewardess in consequence of which we went by twos to the pilot's cabin to have a look at his "driving business".

Innumerable apparatus, instruments, mysterious hands and indicators in front and in the rear, radar and what not ... Wherever you cast a look, some mechanism gives you mysterious signs ... Still, as the pilot's expression shows that everything is in order, we feel safe.

In twenty minutes we shall be at the Essendon airport. Mommy will be waiting there.

Zdzisław Kuchner, m.l.



Polish Scouting in Canada.



The history of Polish scouting in Canada goes back to early twenties, when there were several groups of Polish Scouts formed in the centres of Polish communities. They were not very active for the simple reason, that there were not enough leaders.

Just before the outbreak of the 2-nd World War, one scout, former school teacher was sent to Canada by the Polish H. Q. in Warsaw to reorganize the existing groups of our scouts and to help in forming new ones.

During the war most troupes ceased to exist because all eligible men went to fight for freedom. After the 2-nd World War many Polish emigrants came to Canada. This exodus outnumbered any previous emigration and its character was different. It was formed largely of ex-service people who came over here with their families to start life anew and to give their knowledge and abilities to their new country of adoption. Many professionals and high educated people came here: doctors, engineers, dentists, lawyers, teachers and many others.

Among them there were many scouters too, who could not give up scouting. All our scouters are ex-service men who passed concentration camps in Soviet Russia or Germany, fought in Narvik, France, N. Africa, Monte Cassino and Falais together with British and Commonwealth soldiers.

They started to organize new troupes. At first there were only two active troupes in Montreal and Toronto. The great and enthusiastic scout Stefan was the first Commissioner for Polish Boy Scouts in Canada.

The great day came: our scouts had their first camp during the summer in 1952. In the beautifully situated park in North Hutley, Quebec, property of Mr. Groszówka stood tents of Polish scouts. Every night their voices could be heard far and wide as they gathered by the camp fire.

Since then they had three more camps and one training camp for leaders. In the summer 1953 our scouts went to Gananoque. More scouts gathered this time round the camp fire each night and many tents stood in the clearing in woods. There were several articles about our scouts in local press. A pack of cubs from Gananoque paid visit to Polish camp "Katowice".

The scouters conference elected new Commissioner for Polish Boy Scouts in Canada, scout Stan, a young architect who came to Canada in 1952.

We have more troupes now so Stan divided his district into three: Montreal as a H.Q., Toronto and the West.

In 1954 each district had own camp. Ontario went to Barry's Bay, the Catholic Youth Centre, to put their camps among woods and lakes of a beautiful district inhabited by Polish emigrants from the last century. The Director of C. Y. C. is father Ignatius, great friend of youth, scout very popular in the neighbourhood. Quebec had its camp at North Hutley.

Both camps were visited by scout Victor, professor of Ottawa University and scout Stan. The Commissioners were delighted by the progress in camping and the appearance of the boys. A training camp for leaders was a milestone of our movement in Canada.

Like previous years, special programme was broadcasted from our camps to Poland for Polish boys who are deprived of the joy which brings the scout movement. This year three camps gathered 217 boys altogether.

The conference of our leaders which was held in November 1954 in Kingston, discussed many problems, especially courses for the leaders. These courses will last the whole year and will be finished during holiday camps.

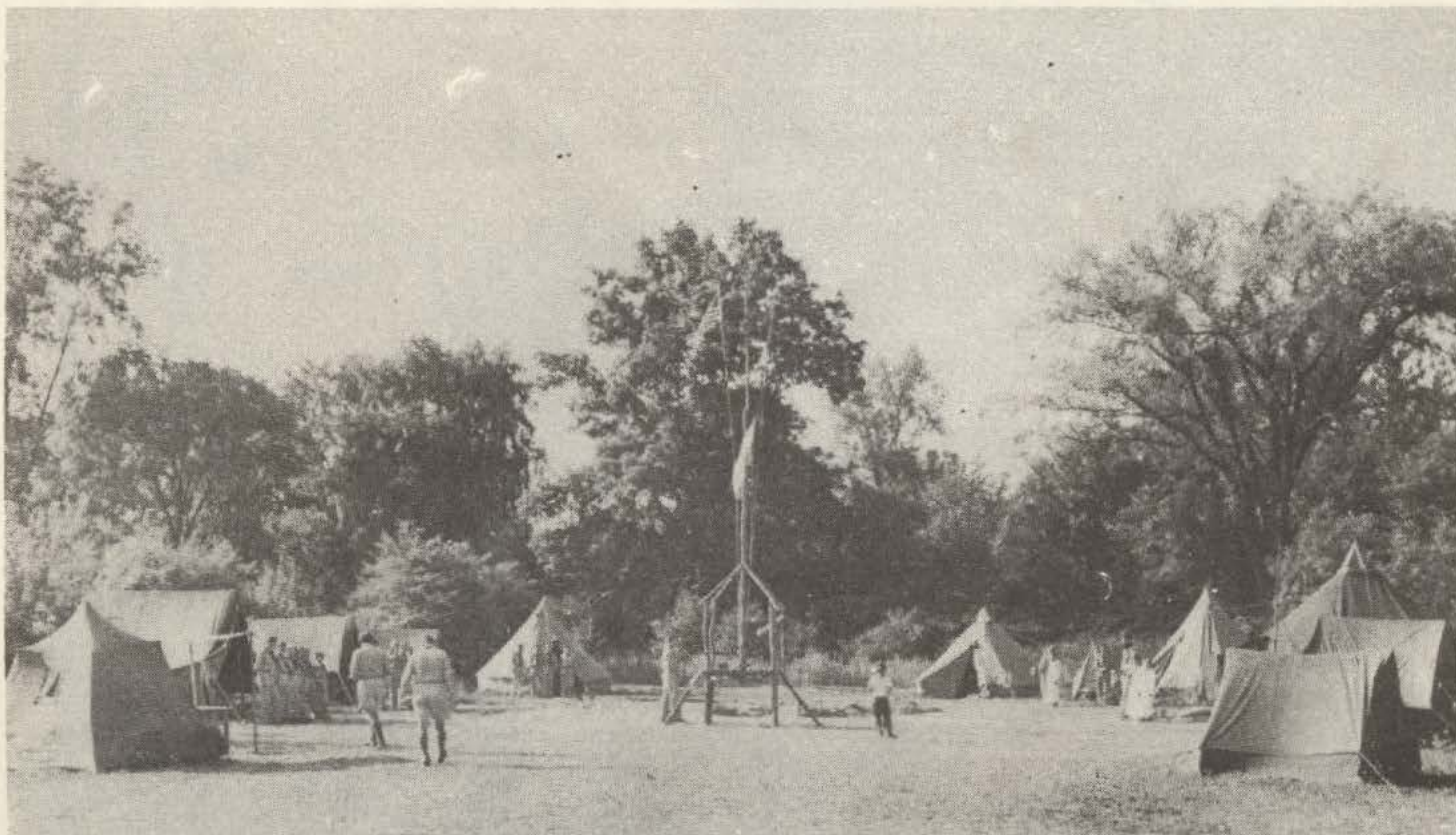
In January we started to duplicate a monthly periodical for leaders. Special Committee of Friends of Polish Scouts is formed in Toronto and the chairman, scout W., former professor of Lwow University despite of his age, he is 62, takes part in all scout activities.

Our achievements during few years are positive: we have 21 troupes, own tents, camping equipment, camping site; Quebec group bought a camping centre, 62 miles from Montreal, 105 acres of land with woods and access to two lakes. Some huts and a swimming pool for cubs attract the youngsters.

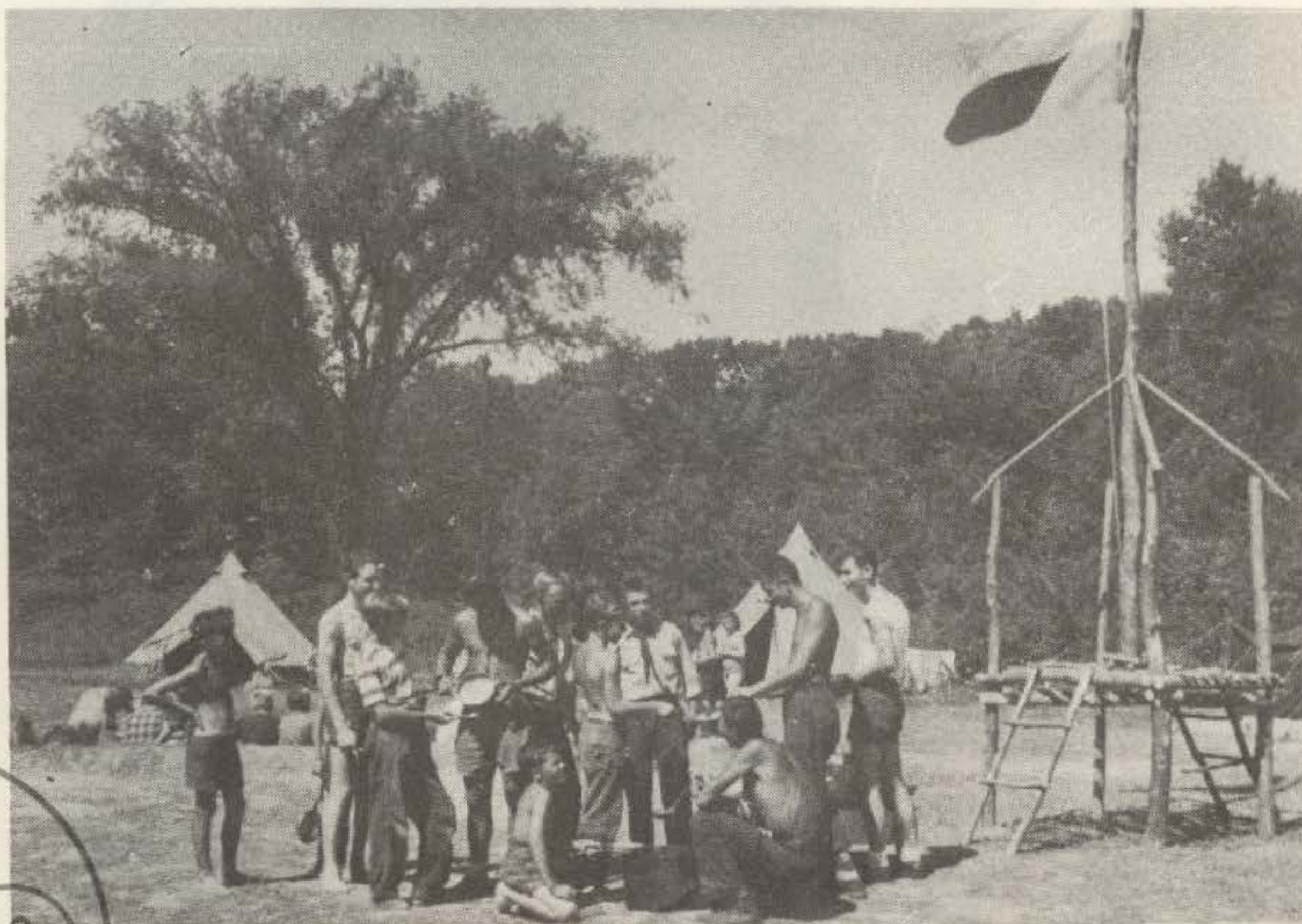
Ontario group build own house at Barry's Bay. We built two sail boats and one motor boat.

We will continue our good work and we all look forward for the day when Polish Scout Movement will be recognized again by the International Bureau and we will belong to the great family of Scouts.

Polish troop in DETROIT.



Ogólny widok obozu.



Repeta.



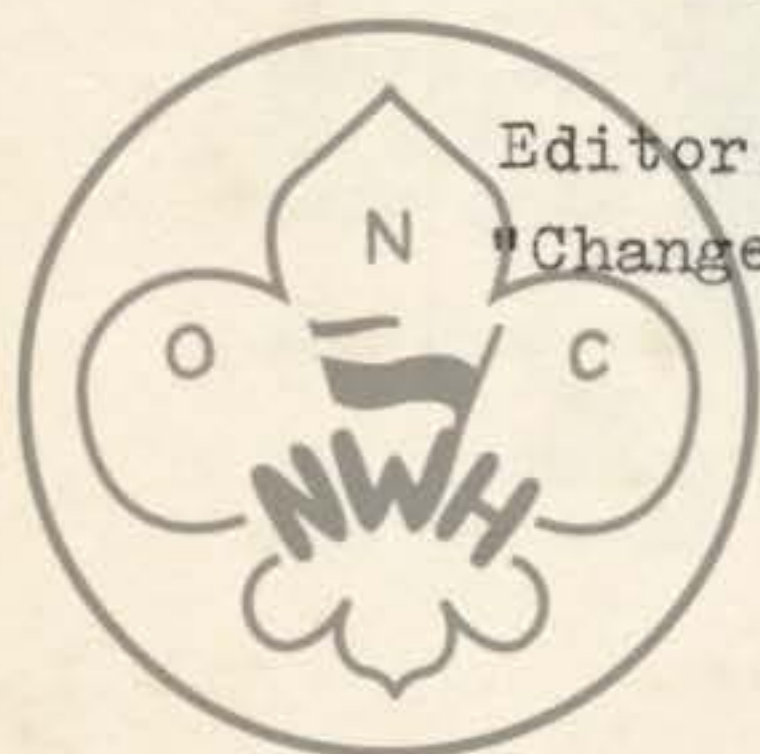
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Poland

with parts lost in East and returned in West.



"Be Prepared" = Bądź Gotów Polish monthly magazine for Boy Scouts
Headquarter: Polish Boy Scouts Association
47 Rutland Gate, London S.W.7.
Editor: I. Plonka, 30 Anson Rd, London N.W.2.
"Change" for foreign magazines for boy scouts welcomed.



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