

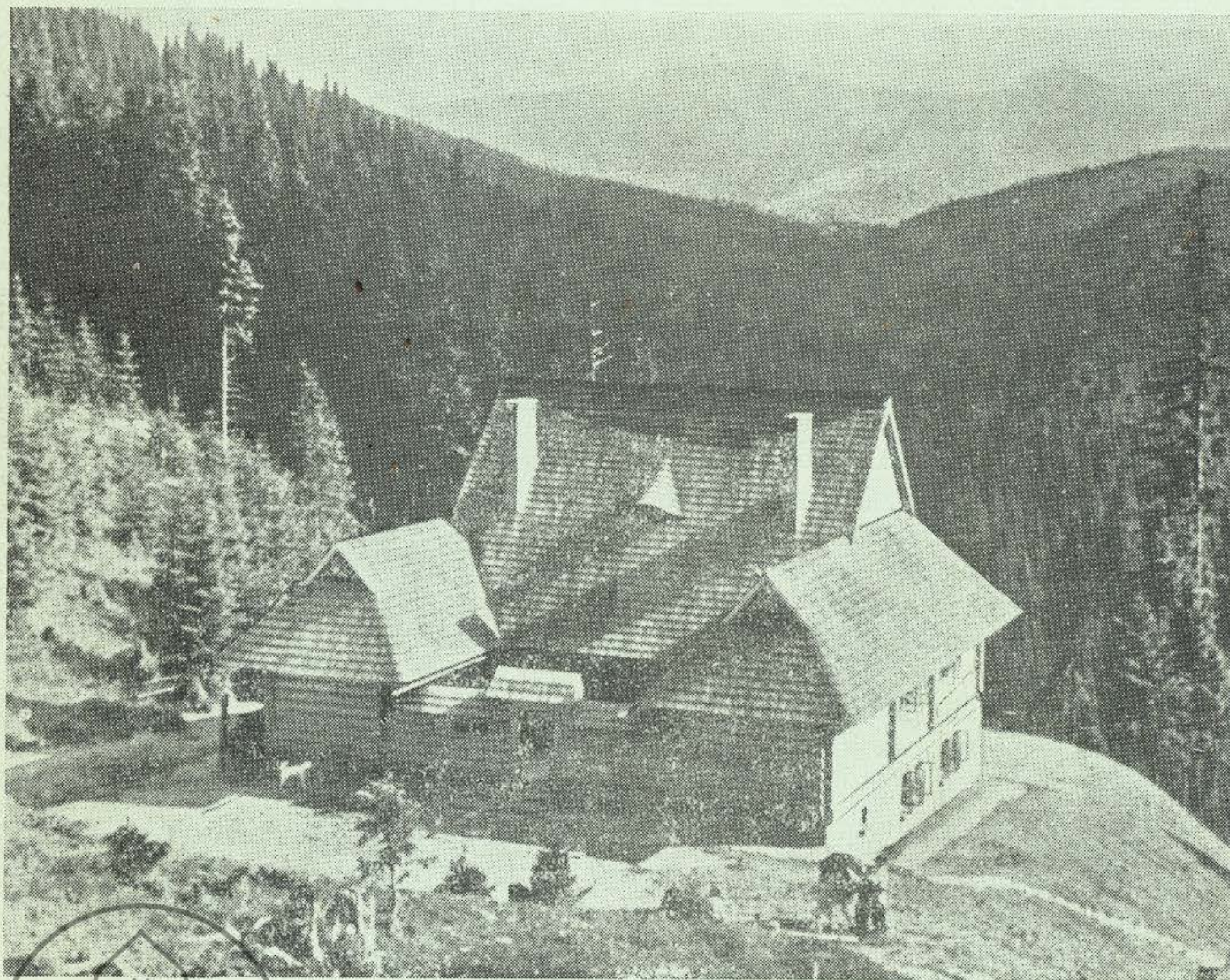
Guides Be prepared



JANUARY

THE ASSOCIATION OF POLISH
BOY SCOUTS AND GIRL GUIDES
45, Belgrave Square, London, S.W.1.

1945.



Two well equipped hostels in the Polish Mountains belonged to the Polish Boy Scouts and Girl Guides Association. The above photograph represents one of them, situated in the Eastern Carpathians, on the Kostrzyca mountain. Many Scouts and Guides enjoyed mountain-climbing in summer and ski-ing in winter in this picturesque part of the country. This hostel provided a very comfortable shelter for them.

A MESSAGE FROM THE POLISH PRIME MINISTER

Mr. Arciszewski, the Polish Prime Minister, has sent recently a special message to Polish Scouts and Guides. Mr. Arciszewski arrived in the U.K. in the middle of last year from Poland, where until his departure he was playing an outstanding part in the Underground movement as a member of the Polish Government. His message runs as follows:

"Polish Scouting takes a prominent place in the life of Poland. Its part in Poland's fight for freedom, and the efficient services it has rendered in bringing up the new generation during Poland's independence, are well known to all.

During this war, Polish Scouting especially in Underground Poland, faithful to its ideals and traditions continues its Service to the country—first of all by bringing up the youth, and by fighting against the enemy. By its efficiency and self-sacrifice, it took one of the foremost places in the underground movement.

Polish Scouting has nowadays an important duty to perform outside its own country. In all refugee settlements it has to care for the development of character and physical fitness of our youth. It has to spread among them the love of the Motherland.

When after this war Poland regains freedom, Scouting will have to face great tasks to be dealt with, in the sphere of bringing up the new generation, and in rebuilding the country. The principle of an unselfish Service for the Country and her Community should be the principle of all Polish youth.

The Scout movement which proclaims and puts into practice in every day life the idea of the world-wide scout brotherhood, should contribute to achieve and consolidate social justice, and a just, and lasting peace.

I send my most sincere greetings to all Polish Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, at home, in the Forces, and the refugee centres, wishing them a most fruitful service for Poland."

Mr. GLAD BINCHAM TO POLISH SCOUTS

Mr. Glad T. Bincham, International Commissioner of the Imperial Boy Scouts Association has sent the following Christmas greeting to the Polish Scouts:

Dear Brother Scouts,

I welcome the opportunity to send to you on behalf of all your British Brother Scouts our warmest greetings and sincere wishes that before long you will all be back in your native land, which I know you love and respect like good sons of Poland.

As International Commissioner at the British Imperial Headquarters, it has been my great pleasure to work in close co-operation with your Association of Polish Scouts and Guides operating in Great Britain. On the International side my work has been considerably helped by the unfailing support given in all International matters by your International Commissioner Monsieur H. Kapiszewski and your Chief Commissioner, Lieut. K. Sabbat.

Polish Scouts in Great Britain have done much to strengthen the bonds of international brotherhood, and I am looking forward to the days of peace when we can add to the bonds of friendship by the interchange of scouts through our linking-up scheme which has just been launched.

You have all suffered much through these terrible years, but your faith in Scouting is undimmed, and with such unshakable belief as you hold, then you cannot fail to rise to that previous proud position of being one of the strongest scouting countries in Europe.

Blessings on you all.

Czuwaj.

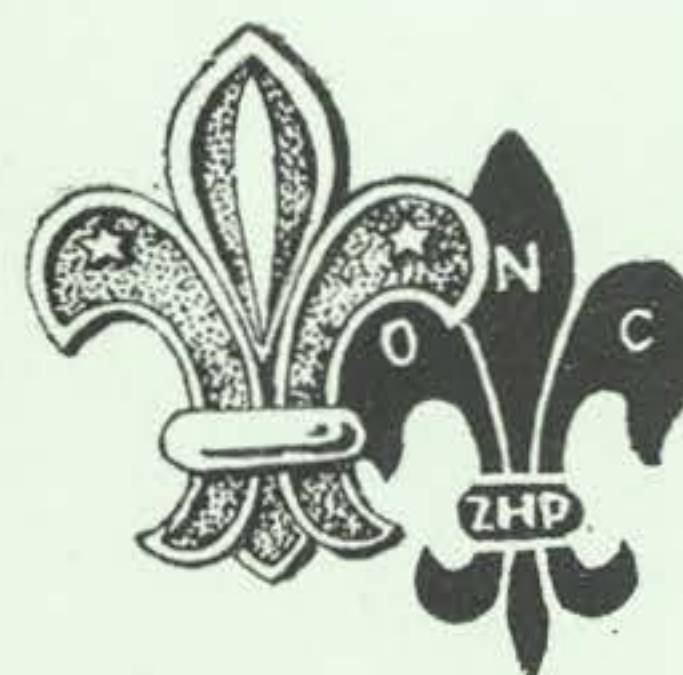
Sincerely Yours,

GLAD BINCHAM,

International Commissioner
Imperial Boy Scout Association,

Polish Scouts accepted the wishes from their great friend with deep gratitude, and in return, most heartily wish the British Scouts full prosperity and success in 1945.

News in Brief



Scouts and Guides in Warsaw Rising. When, in August last, the Red Army reached the suburbs of Warsaw, and Moscow radio urged the citizens of the Polish Capital to raise arms against the oppressor, the insurrection broke out and lasted for 63 days. During the uneven struggle Polish Scouts and Guides rendered many valuable services. Among others they organised the delivery of post and newspapers, which was maintained until the tragic end.

On the 25th August a wireless message was received from Warsaw, sent by a British Air Force officer, who took part in the fight for Warsaw. It read:

"The Boy Scouts organisation in Warsaw is doing work that is beyond all praise. Many young boys have given their lives in service of their country. The boys are well disciplined, keeping up the international tradition of the scouts."

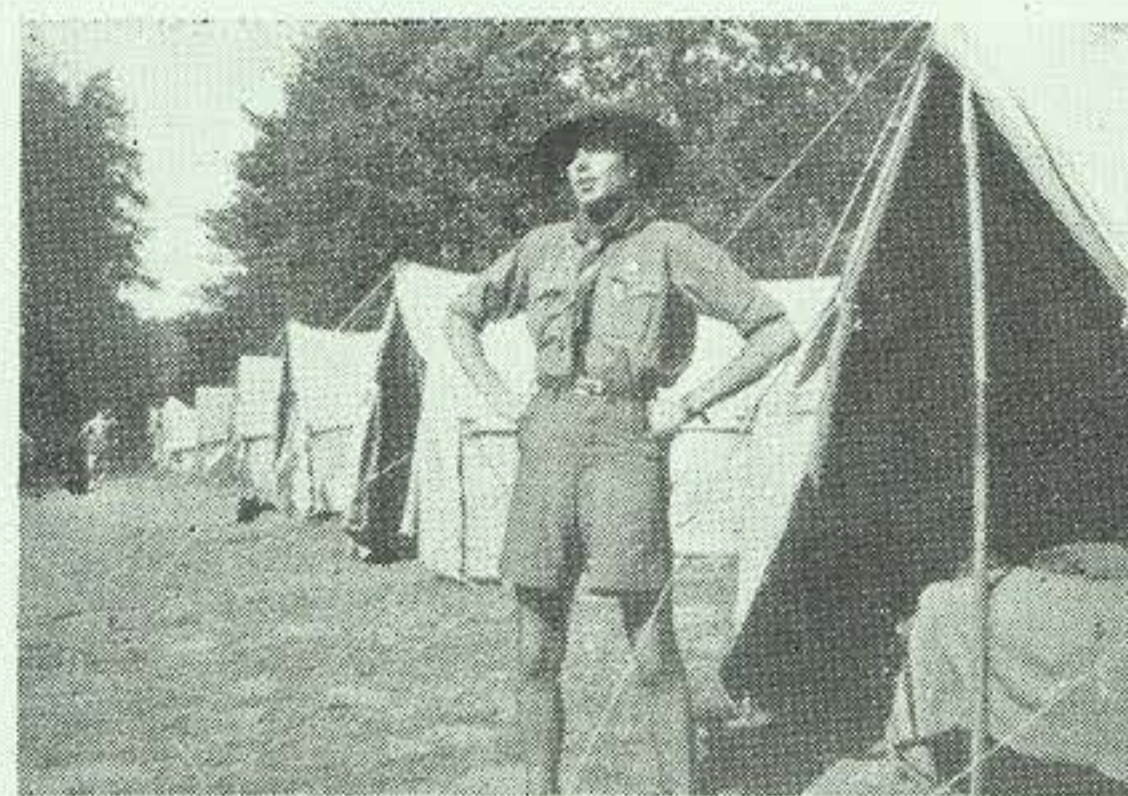
Polish Scouts took part in the Storming of Monte Cassino: Within the Polish units which captured the famous Cassino Monastery were some Polish Rover Crews. They used to meet, whenever off duty, for short talks and other activities. They wore their scout badges on their military uniforms at the moment of the main attack on the Monastery, and with them reached the top of Monte Cassino.

Africa. The Polish Scouts from the Belgian Congo were camping in September last by the Victoria Falls. One day, they paid a visit to the Belgian Scouts camp, where they met also British Scouts. The merry camp-fire changed soon into a real manifestation of British—Belgian—Polish friendship.

Yesterday in the German Forces—To-day, in the Rover Crew. The Allied troops have liberated on the Continent large numbers of Poles, who were forced by the Germans to labour in the Todt organisation, or even to serve with the German Army. These Poles have taken the first opportunity to join the Allies, and then the Polish Forces. In such a way new

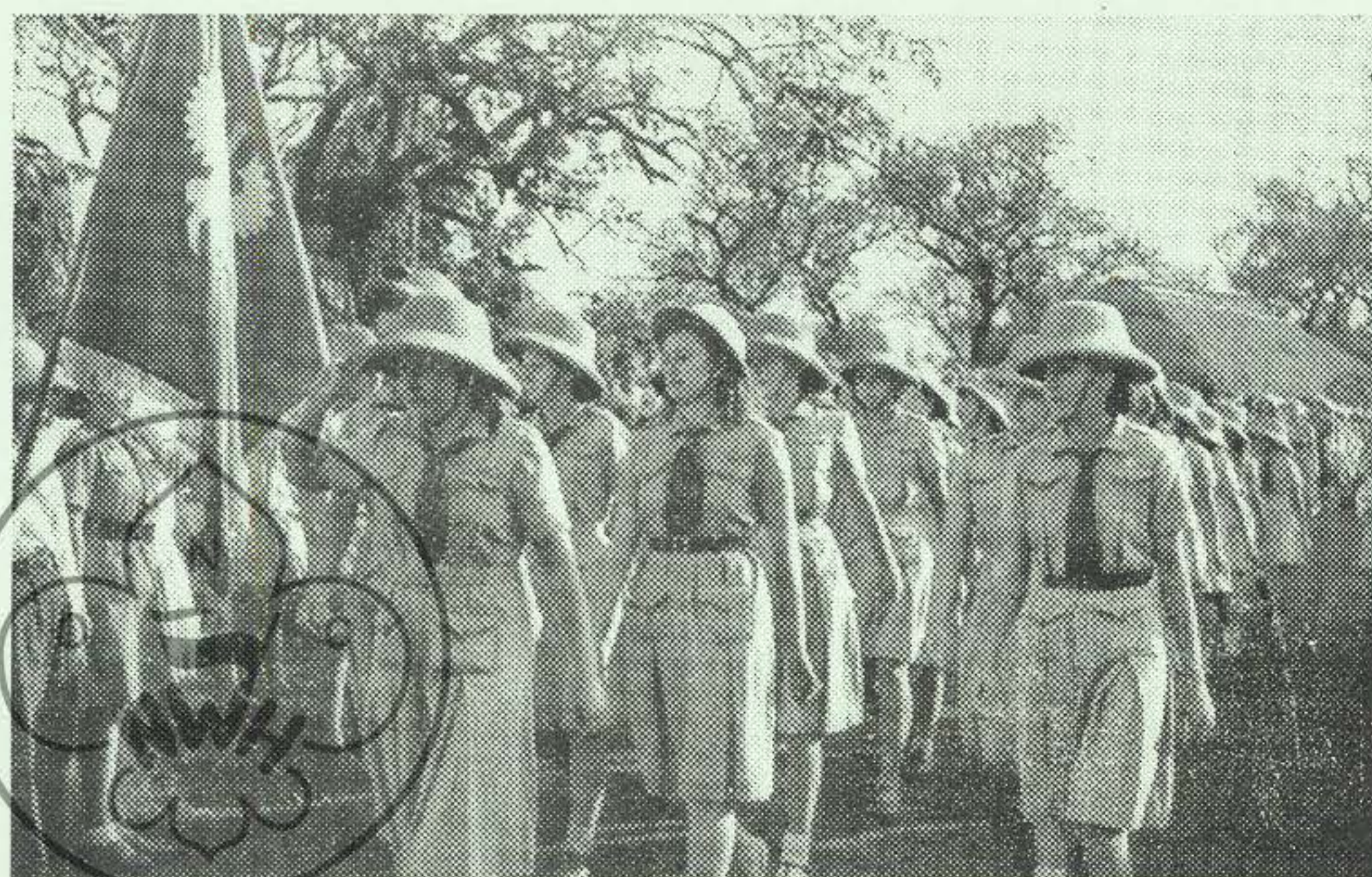
Rover Crews were formed within the Army, sets of young men, who only a few months ago regained their freedom. In the first days of December last, some of them met in London, as guests of the Supreme Council of Polish Scouts and Guides.

Polish Scouts in Liberated France. Before the war several thousand Polish Scouts and Guides were residents in France, mostly in industrial districts, where very many Polish workmen and miners lived. The Polish



Scouting in France not only survived the occupation, but also took part in the underground movement. To-day when France is free again, great enthusiasm for the Scout movement is felt among Polish Youth in France. They join up troops and companies in large numbers. Alas! their training meets with big difficulties. Nearly all the Scouters and Rovers have joined the Polish army; it

created an acute shortage of Scout leaders. Troops and companies completely lack equipment, uniforms, Polish scouting books, etc. The situation is still more difficult because of the presence in France of several thousand children deported, with their families, by the Germans from Poland. These families have been on the verge of starvation, the children were deprived of schools and tuition for several years, and they do not possess even the minimum of necessary clothing. Any help which could be provided must first satisfy their essential needs.



archiwum

Polish Guides in Uganda, 1943

We learn that the British Girl Guides Association has offered for those children several boxes with clothing. This news has filled us with great joy and deep gratitude towards the Girl Guides for such truly guide-like service.

In December, 1944, British members of the British-Polish Guide and Scout Friends also collected different small things for the use of Polish youth in France. Six parcels of useful things have been sent to Northern France. Also the sum of £50 has been collected for this purpose. We wish to thank wholeheartedly all those who contributed.

Polish Scouts at St. George's Tomb. Polish Scouts in the Middle East offered a votum in the Church in Lidda on the day of St. George, the Patron of Scouts. About 300 Scouts and Guides from Palestine took part in this celebration. They went first to Ramleh, where St. George used to live. A church parade was held, and during the mass the votum was blessed. Next they went to Lidda to visit St. George's tomb. The votum was placed at the altar in the Patron's chapel. To memorise this celebration a document was handed over, purporting what follows:

"In the year nineteen hundred and forty four, on the twenty third of April, on the day of St. George—the Patron of youth and Scouts of the whole world, in the year of heroic struggle of the Polish nation for independence of the Polish State and integrity of its frontiers, the Polish Boy Scouts from the Middle East offer this votum and pay a deep homage, on behalf of the whole Polish Boy Scouts Association, to their celestial Patron in Lidda, in the place where he was born, where he lived and died.

With assurance of endeavouring to bring up the youth on Christian principles, and maintain national chivalrous tradition,

With the belief that the world's peace may be built up on faith, morality, law, and friendship of youth, based on them."

"STONES FOR THE RAMPART"

By J. GORECKI

This book is not a story . . . it is much more even than a fine portrayal of Polish youth under Nazi rule . . . it is, for the reader, a journey into the real life of Poland in the war years, the Poland of so many sorrows; the land of a glory built by human courage and transcendent faith . . .

"Stones for the Rampart" tells, with a simplicity which mirrors the clear light of truth, the story of a group of boys, a real "band of brothers." We learn how this happy comradeship, born in years of freedom, welded together with bands of tried and tested steel these boys growing to manhood. We see their motto "Noblesse Oblige" leading them to paths harder than the forest ways of their boyhood, steeper and more dangerous than Poland's mountain heights. We see their young strength tested by the brutalities of Nazi warfare, rising triumphant even to death, fortified by the faith that

"He who puts himself under the guardianship of the Lord and trusts Him sincerely with his whole heart may boldly say: 'God is my defender—I shall have no fear.'"

In these pages we learn to know these boys, and the two leaders especially—Wojtek and Czarny—boys in 1939, men with courage born of faith at the end of the story. Clever, sensitive, full of that gift for living so closely allied with acceptance of death, these boys grow to reality as we read. Out of the shadows of our ignorance we see how the living youth of Poland flames like a torch in the dark of war and kindles to life the embers of hope in a desolate world. Now, we feel, we know what life in Poland means to-day. For the space of the story, our own comfortable surroundings fade and we live through the brief years of Czarny's manhood . . . We feel the chill of the deserted streets of Warsaw before dawn; our fingers are cold with Czarny's as he draws his final tortoise—the "slow down production" sign—on the German poster . . . We look over our own shoulders, hearing with the boy the step of the German policeman—we chuckle in boyish triumph over a good job done and the police outwitted.

With these boys we learn the inward control which may mean the lives of our friends—we know the stiffening of resistance to evil—the tautening of every nerve in the face of danger.

"Stones for the Rampart" . . . human stones, these, the finest of Poland's sons, building a wall of fortitude, of human courage and endeavour that transcend all imaginings when we read, in the foreword, that "at the end of the story, Wojtek and Czarny were only 23 . . ."

Only 23—and how far is the end of the story from the glowing woods where the boys of the Beech Patrol banded themselves, voluntarily, in comradeship and service. How far from the "long, long thoughts of youth" are the decisions and experiences thrust upon them by the impact of war. The thought comes that these boys might have been our brothers, indeed are our brothers, if we ourselves earn the right to such brotherhood.

We should all read this "Testament of Youth" who believe or search for belief in the true brotherhood of man, who work for Freedom . . .

Through these pages, through the short lives of the boys who have become our friends, we know that there *is* hope for the future; that Truth and Justice are not mere words but living symbols for which men die. Truth and Justice, won for the youth of To-morrow by boys like Wojtek and Czarny to-day . . . truly, with them we may repeat Slowacki's "My Testament":

"I implore the living not to lose hope,
But, when the time comes, to go to their death
Like stones thrown by God
Upon a great cairn . . ."

MURIEL WYNAR



archiwum

NEW PUBLICATIONS

obtainable through the Book Department of the Polish Boy Scouts and Girl Guides Association, 17, Chantrey House, Eccleston Street, London, S.W.1.

SCOUT POSTCARDS

Price 1s. 6d.

A series of six different cards with witty verses, drawn by Walentynowicz.

CZUWAJ—LOOK FOR FRIENDS

Price 1s. 6d.

A summary of British-Polish Boy Scouts' and Girl Guides' co-operation during 1940-1943. With photographs and map.

ZUCHY—POLISH WOLF CUBS

Price 3s. 6d.

By A. Kaminski, Commissioner for Wolf Cubs at the Polish Boy Scouts Headquarters. Polish methods and ideas in cubbing. With illustrations by W. Czarnecki.

STONES FOR THE RAMPART

Price 3s. 6d.

True story of two Polish Rovers from the Polish Underground Movement in Warsaw, fighting against the Germans during 1939-1943. With many drawings by W. Horowicz.

The proceeds from the sale of these books and postcards are for the Polish Boy Scouts and Girl Guides Relief and Reconstruction Fund.



archiwum