

FEBRUARY

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

1944

THINKING DAY



With Best Greetings and Good Wishes
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MESSAGE TO POLISH GUIDES

I want to send a special message to all of you Guides of Poland who have been away from your own country now for so long. You have been scattered far and wide, waiting and biding your time patiently and bravely, until the day comes when you can return to your own land once more.

As Chief of Guides of all countries I want to express the hope that you have been happy—as happy as possible—during the time when you have been living amongst people of different nationality and race, and that you have found and made many friends amongst those who have welcomed you in their midst.

You will have found and made friends with many Guides I hope, and, through their friendship, you will I trust gain a new courage, and a great strength for the time that is to come.

We know only too well that it is impossible to be really content whilst others are suffering, and in misery, and our hearts ache in anxiety and with sympathy for them.

But we have got each one of us to be strong, vigorous and wise, and courageous in mind, and make the best of things, and make the most of our opportunities to be helpful; and we know that you people of Poland have got those qualities in full measure.

I hope that the Guides who have met you in the various places where you have stayed awhile will have shown you how proud we are of you, and, when you go back to Poland again, you will carry good memories of the contacts you have made, and will remember—won't you—that all your Sister Guides care deeply for your well-being.

CZUWAJ!

Olave Baden-Powell



LADY OLIVE BADEN-POWELL WITH POLISH GUIDES



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TO OUR FRIENDS . . .

The time is not so far away when we will be saying "good-bye" to all our British Friends, but before this happens we would like, and when I say "we" I mean all our Polish Guide and Scout People who live on this Island, to tell you that although the new responsibilities which await us might be absorbing and thrilling, we will never forget these years spent in your beautiful country.

We will not forget the first dark days after the collapse of France, when the world seemed to come to an end. England was the last bulwark of freedom.

What did we know about the British? That they were cold, reserved, that they look down with contempt on every foreigner, that they are difficult to get on with and so on.

Our boys, after their trying experiences in France, looked with anxiety at the distant shores of this Island. Would it bring them more suffering and more disappointments?

We will never forget the way you received us. The cold and reserved Britisher opened his home and his heart to the unknown foreigner. Our boys were treated not as guests, but as sons of the family. How much it meant to them you will never fully realise.

We will never forget the joined meetings, the camp fires and sing-songs and the "Spirit of Auchengillan". Nor shall we forget the way you helped our School for Polish Refugee Children, first in Devon and then in Lanarkshire. It was your generosity and kindness that the School could exist and become a true home to so many Polish Children as well as Polish Rovers and Scouters and for which we thank you.

How patient you were with our poor attempts in acquiring your language. As soon as we managed to put a few words together you seemed to hear about how lovely Poland was and how fine our past was. You heard all about our families left behind, our Sons, Daughters, Wives, Sisters and Brothers. We unburdened our hearts. The intense longing for the sight of the familiar landscape or face found its outlet in those conversations. You understood and were never tired of listening.

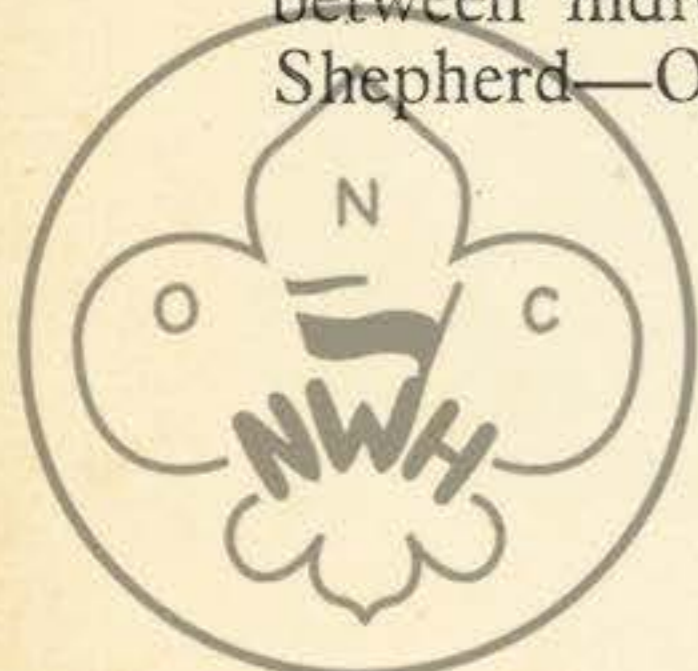
It would be very inadequate to say just "Thank You" for all you have done for us. These are things which cannot be thanked for in words. They are too deep.

I feel that what was started here on this Island must be continued. It must grow even stronger and spread wider still.

We will need your help in the future. I know it and others might need our help in turn. I see a give-and-take in an ever widening scale between individuals, movements and nations, until the prophecy of "One Shepherd—One Flock" is fulfilled.

BE PREPARED!

Olyallalkowska



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POLISH AND BRITISH GUIDES AT CONISTON CAMP, CUMBERLAND